

Little disks operads and Feynman diagrams

Thomas Willwacher

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Goal

Topology: We want to understand

- Configuration spaces
- Embedding spaces $\text{Emb}(M, N)$ of manifolds
- Diffeomorphism groups $\text{Diff}(M)$

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Physics:

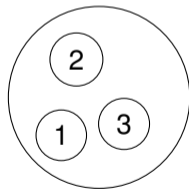
- Perturbative TQFTs (AKSZ type)

Little n -disks operad

- Space of rectilinear embeddings of n -dimensional disks

$$\mathbb{D}_n(k) = \text{Emb}_{rl}(\underbrace{\mathbb{D}^n \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \mathbb{D}^n}_{k \times}, \mathbb{D}^n)$$

with $\mathbb{D}^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid |x| < 1\}$.

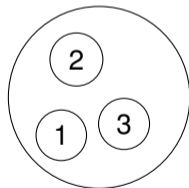


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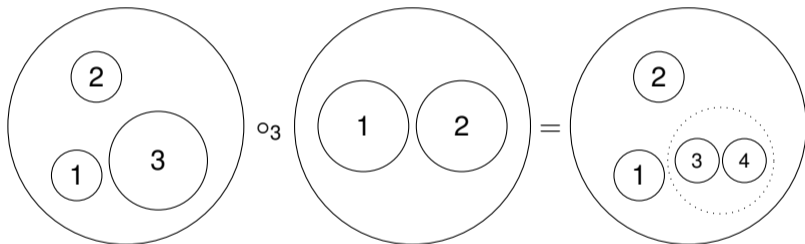
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- Rectilinear: Can scale + translate, but no rotation/deformation

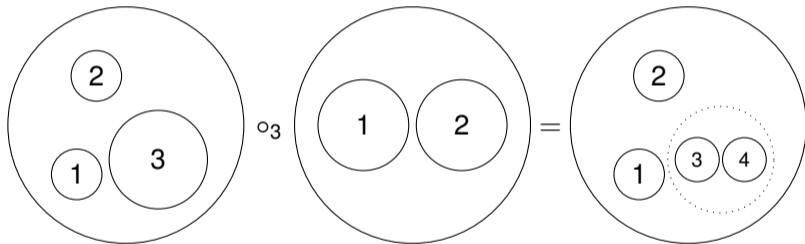
Little n -disks operad

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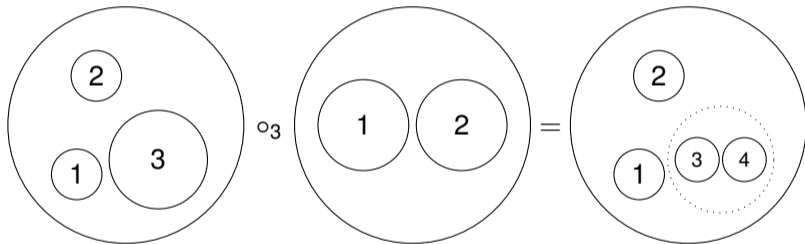
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- Obvious relations:
 - Gluing into different slots commutes
 - Nested gluing associative

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- Obvious relations:
 - Gluing into different slots commutes
 - Nested gluing associative
 - \Rightarrow Operad structure

Little n -disks operad

- More concretely, an operad is:
 - A collection of spaces $\mathcal{P}(r)$, with an S_r action
 - Composition maps $\circ_j : \mathcal{P}(r) \times \mathcal{P}(s) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(r + s - 1)$.
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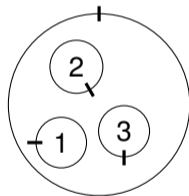
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- D_n : Little n -disks (balls/cubes) operad.
- Very important and long studied in topology

Framed little disks operads

- So far: Have considered D_n , configurations of disks in unit disk.

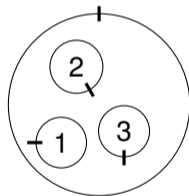
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- Can allow rotation of disks \rightarrow *framed* little n -disks operad D_n^{fr} .



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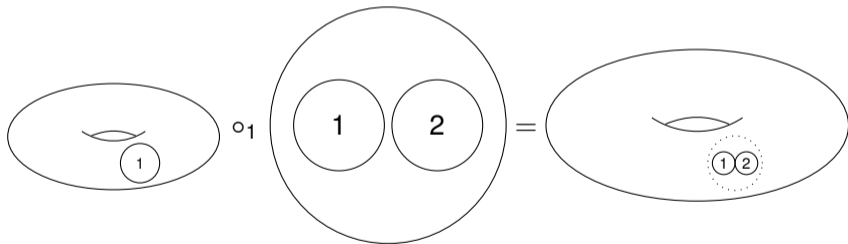
- Operadic composition (gluing) appropriately defined

Configuration spaces as modules

- Consider space $\text{conf}(M)$ of configurations of m -disks in manifold M .

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Goodwillie-Weiss calculus

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⇒ Exploit these maps to understand the left-hand sides

Goodwillie-Weiss calculus

In good cases, this even yields a complete answer:

Theorem (T. Goodwillie, J. Klein, M. Weiss, P. Boavida de Brito)

For M, N manifolds, $\dim(N) - \dim(M) \geq 3$

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But:

$\text{Map}_{D_m^{\text{fr-mod}}}^h(\text{conf}(M), \text{conf}(N)), \text{Aut}_{D_m^{\text{fr-mod}}}^h(\text{conf}(M))$ difficult to compute

Rational/Real Goodwillie-Weiss calculus

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Emb}(M, N) &\rightarrow \text{Map}_{D_m^{\text{fr}}\text{-mod}}^h(\text{conf}(M), \text{conf}(N)) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Map}_{\text{comod}-\Omega(D_m^{\text{fr}})}^h(\Omega(\text{conf}(N)), \Omega(\text{conf}(M))) \\ \text{Diff}(M) &\rightarrow \text{Aut}_{D_m^{\text{fr}}\text{-mod}}^h(\text{conf}(M)) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\text{comod}-\Omega(D_m^{\text{fr}})}^h(\Omega(\text{conf}(M))) \end{aligned}$$

Where $\Omega(\dots)$ denotes differential (or PL) forms

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- **Today:** Discuss a case where everything works

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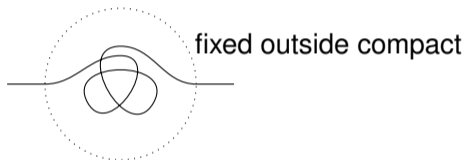
- Spaces above have models built from Feynman diagrams of TQFTs, reflecting all algebraic structures
- \Rightarrow can express (in good cases) rational homotopy type combinatorially through diagrams (graph complexes)
- Similar to invariants from “actual” TQFT, but with control of the strength of the invariants
- \Rightarrow Obtain non-trivial topological statements (Today: examples)

Example

Example: Rational model for spaces of higher dimensional long knots (joint w/ B. Fresse and V. Turchin)

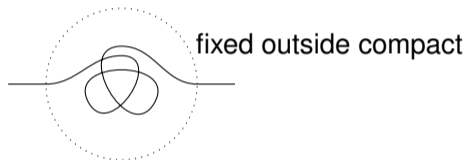
Goodwillie-Weiss embedding calculus

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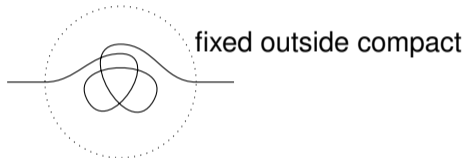


- Commonly, one considers (essentially equivalently)

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- Classical problem: Understand homotopy groups $\pi_k(\overline{\text{Emb}}_\partial(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n))$.

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Theorem (Boavida-de-Brito–Weiss, Dwyer–Hess, Ducoulombier, Turchin)

If $n - m \geq 3$ then

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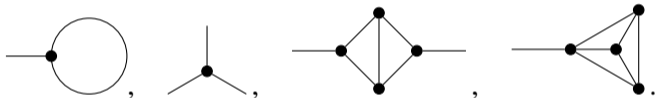
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- $\Omega^r X$ is r -fold loop space, $\pi_k(\Omega^r X) \cong \pi_{k+r} X$.
- Today: Understand the algebraic side rationally, i.e., $\pi_k(\text{Map}_{\text{op}}(D_m, D_n)) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$.

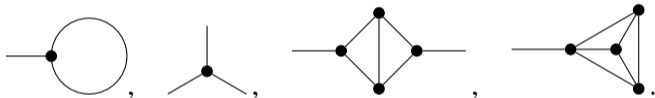
Distraction: Hairy graph complexes $\text{HGC}_{m,n}$

$\text{HGC}_{m,n} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\text{gr}} \{ \text{isomorphism classes of admissible hairy graphs} \}$



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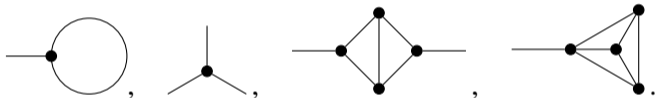
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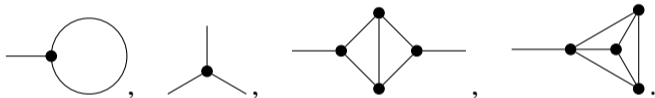
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- *Admissible*: (i) Valence of vertices ≥ 3 . (ii) No odd symmetries.
- Carries natural dg Lie or L_{∞} -algebra structure.

Hairy graph complexes $HGC_{m,n}$

- dg Lie/ L_∞ structure
 - Differential δ is vertex splitting.

$$\delta\Gamma = \sum_{v \text{ vertex}} \pm\Gamma \text{ split } v$$

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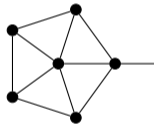
- Lie bracket for $m > 1$

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \Gamma' \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \right] = \sum \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \Gamma' \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \pm \sum \begin{array}{c} \Gamma' \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \Gamma \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}$$

(for $m = 1$ more complicated)

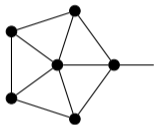
Example for δ

Example for $n = 2$:

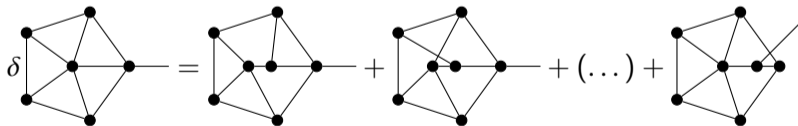


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Differential:



Interlude: dg Lie algebras and Maurer-Cartan spaces

- Maurer-Cartan elements of dg Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}

$$\mathrm{MC}(\mathfrak{g}) = \left\{ x \in \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \mid dx + \frac{1}{2}[x, x] = 0 \right\}$$

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- Maurer-Cartan space (simplicial set)

$$\mathrm{MC}_\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathrm{MC}(\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega_{poly}(\Delta^\bullet))$$

with $\Omega_{poly}(\Delta^k)$ the polynomial differential forms on a k -simplex.

Interlude: Two important results about MC spaces

Theorem (Berglund)

\mathfrak{g} : pro-nilpotent dg Lie (or L_∞ -)algebra, $x \in \text{MC}(\mathfrak{g})$. Then for $k \geq 1$

$$\pi_k(\text{MC}_\bullet(\mathfrak{g}), x) \cong H_{k-1}(\mathfrak{g}^x),$$

where $\mathfrak{g}^x := (\mathfrak{g}, d + [x, -], [-, -])$ is the twisted dg Lie algebra. For $k = 1$ the rhs. is equipped with the PBW group structure.

Recall: Goodwillie-Weiss embedding calculus

Theorem (Goodwillie, Weiss, Boavida-de-Brito, Dwyer–Hess)

If $n - m \geq 3$ then

$$\overline{\text{Emb}}_{\partial}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n) \simeq \Omega^{m+1} \text{Map}_{op}^h(\mathbb{D}_m, \mathbb{D}_n).$$

Long knots

Theorem (Fresse, Turchin, W.)

For $2 \leq n \geq m \geq 1$ we have

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- $D_n^{\mathbb{Q}}$: rationalization of D_n , relation to previous slide:

Lemma

For $n - m \geq 3$ and $k \geq 2$:

$$\pi_k(\mathrm{Map}^h(D_m, D_n^{\mathbb{Q}})) = \pi_k(\mathrm{Map}^h(D_m, D_n)) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}.$$

Consequences/Remarks

- By Goodwillie-Weiss calculus and our result:

$$\pi_k(\overline{\text{Emb}}_{\partial}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q} \cong \pi_{k+m+1}(\text{MC}_{\bullet}(\text{HGC}_{m,n})) \cong H_{k+m}(\text{HGC}_{m,n})$$

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- Expresses rational homotopy type of mapping space and hence knot spaces (codim ≥ 3) through combinatorial data.
- Mind: We don't have complete knowledge of $H(\text{HGC}_{m,n})$.

More concrete consequences (π_0)

Theorem (essentially Haefliger '62, '66, adapted to $\overline{Emb}(\dots)$)

The $(4k - 1)$ -sphere knots in $6k$ -space. Furthermore, if $n - m \geq 3$:

$$\pi_0(\overline{Emb}_{\partial}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Q} & m = 2k + 1, n = 4k + 3 \text{ for some } k \\ \mathbb{Q} & m = 4k - 1, n = 6k \text{ for some } k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} .$$

More concrete consequences (π_0)

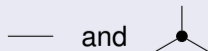
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Proof.

Elementary degree counting exercise: Contributing classes in $H(\text{HGC}_{m,n})$ must have loop order 0. Those are easily listed:



More concrete consequences (π_k)

- Similar degree counting + explicit knowledge of $H(\text{HGC}_{m,n})$ for loop orders ≤ 2 :
 \Rightarrow know $\pi_k(\overline{\text{Emb}}_{\partial}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ for $k \leq 3n - m - 9$.

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- Know large (infinite) families of non-trivial classes in $H(\text{HGC}_{m,n})$ with interesting structure.

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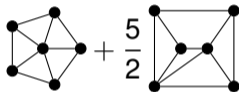
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- ... well

Non-hairy graphs

- To understand $\text{HGC}_{m,n}$, one first needs to consider simpler "non-hairy" variant GC_n

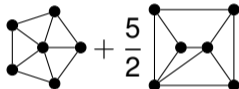
Kontsevich's graph complexes

- differential graded vector spaces of formal \mathbb{Q} -linear series of graphs



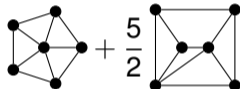
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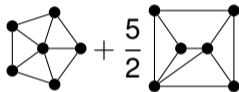


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$$\delta\Gamma = \sum_{v \text{ vertex}} \pm\Gamma \text{ split } v$$

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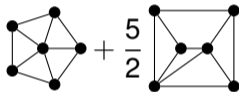
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- $\delta^2 = 0$, \Rightarrow can compute graph homology $\ker\delta/im\delta$.

Kontsevich's graph complexes GC_n

For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ define

$$GC_n = \text{span}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{gr} \{\text{isomorphism classes of admissible graphs}\}$$

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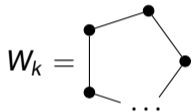
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- \Rightarrow Nontrivial stabilization

Cheap information II

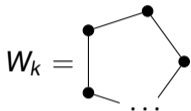
- Have classes in GC_n for $k \equiv 2n + 1 \pmod{4}$



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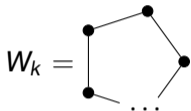
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Lemma (Kontsevich)

$$H(GC_n) = H(GC_n^{\geq 3\text{-valent}}) \oplus \bigoplus_{k \equiv 2n+1 \pmod{4}} W_k$$

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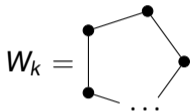
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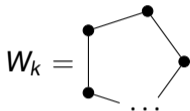
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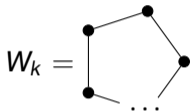
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- \Rightarrow Can obtain degree bounds:
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 - Trivalence condition: $e \geq \frac{3}{2}v$
 - \Rightarrow lower bound on degree in $H(GC_n^{\geq 3\text{-valent}})$: $(\text{degree}) \geq (\#\text{loops})(n - 3) + 3$

Algebraic structures - plain (non-hairy) graphs

GC_n carries a dg Lie algebra structure:

$$[\gamma, \nu] = \gamma \bullet \nu - (-1)^{|\gamma||\nu|} \nu \bullet \gamma$$

with

$$\gamma \bullet \nu := \sum_{x \in V_\gamma} \gamma(\text{insert } \nu \text{ in place of } x)$$

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Note:

$$\delta(-) = [\bullet \text{---} \bullet, -]$$

Not so cheap results ($n=2$)

Theorem (T.W. '14)

$$H_0(\mathrm{GC}_2) \cong \mathrm{grt}_1$$

$$H_1(\mathrm{GC}_2) \cong \mathbb{K}$$

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Theorem (F. Brown '12)

$$\mathrm{FreeLie}(\sigma_3, \sigma_5, \sigma_7, \dots) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{grt}_1$$

Deligne-Drinfeld conjecture: It is an isomorphism

In fact σ_{2j+1} lives in loop order $2j + 1$,

$$\sigma_{2j+1} = \text{Diagram} + (\dots)$$

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$$\sigma_{2j+1} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \\ \vdots \end{array} + (\dots) \quad (2j + 2 \text{ vertices and } 4j + 2 \text{ edges}).$$

... and there is an explicit formula for the terms (\dots) [Rossi-W.]

Computer results

$n = 2$, degree (\downarrow), loop order (\rightarrow), values $\dim H_j(\mathrm{GC}_2)_k$ loops

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
-7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				
-6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
-3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2				
-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

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- Have many nontrivial classes in $H_3(\mathrm{GC}_3)$ from Chern-Simons theory.

Not so cheap results ($n=3$)

- Have many nontrivial classes in $H_3(\mathrm{GC}_3)$ from Chern-Simons theory.
- (Vogel, Kneissler) Have a map (conjecturally iso)

$$\mathbb{K}[t, \omega_0, \dots, \omega_p, \dots] / \langle \omega_p \omega_q - \omega_0 \omega_{p+q}, P \rangle \rightarrow H_3(\mathrm{GC}_3)$$

Computer results

$n = 3$, degree (\uparrow), loop order (\rightarrow)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
-8	1											
-4	1											
0	1											
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2				
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Other degrees

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- Idea: Deform differential on graph complex.

$$\delta \rightarrow \delta + D$$

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Theorem (A. Khoroshkin, M. Živković, T.W., 2014)

There is a spectral sequence E such that $E^1 \cong H(\mathrm{GC}_n)$ and

$$E \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathbb{Q}[1-n] & n \text{ even} \\ \mathbb{Q}[-n] & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

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"Graph homology classes come in pairs."

Other degrees


More precisely:

Theorem (A. Khoroshkin, M. Živković, T.W.)

$$H(\mathrm{GC}_0^2, \delta + [\text{loop}, \cdot]) = \mathbb{Q}[1]$$

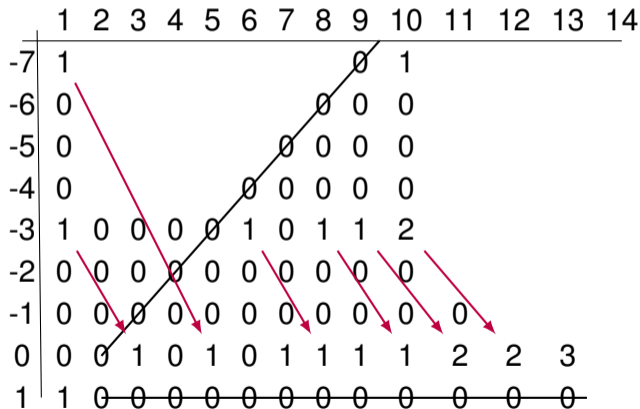
$$H(\mathrm{GC}_1^2, \delta + [m, -]) \cong \mathbb{Q}[-1]$$

where

$$m = \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{1}{(2j+1)!} \text{diagram}$$


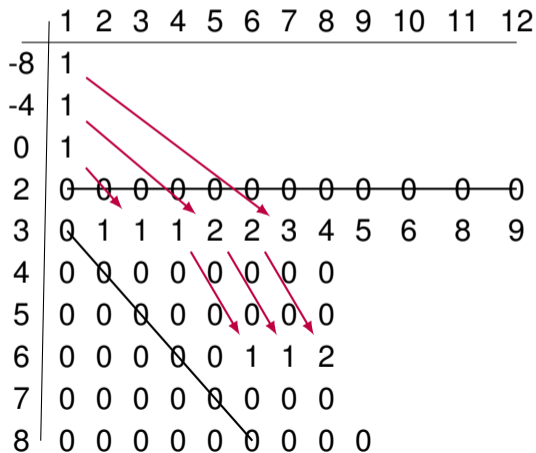
Cancellations in spectral sequence (even case)

$n = 2$, degree (\uparrow), loop order (\rightarrow)



Cancellations in spectral sequence (odd case)

$n = 3$, degree (\uparrow), genus (\rightarrow)



In summary

- Have known series of classes in one degree + their "partners"
- Explains all classes in $H(GC_n)$ in computer accessible regime
- But: Computer cannot see very far

Hairy graphs vs non-hairy

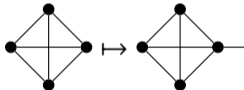
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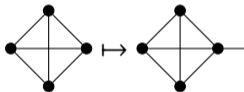
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Theorem (V. Turchin, T.W.)

The above map is an injection in homology for all m, n .

Hairy case: Spectral sequences

- One can deform the differential on $\mathrm{HGC}_{m,n}$ in two ways, $\delta + D_1, \delta + D_2$.

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Theorem (A. K., V. T., M.Ž., T. W.)

We have two spectral sequences E, F , such that $E^1 = H(\text{HGC}_{m,n}) = F^1$ and

$$E \Rightarrow 0$$

$$F \Rightarrow H(\text{GC}_n)$$

Computer data, $n = m = 2$

$\dim H(\text{HGC}_{2,2})$, number of hairs (\uparrow), genus (\rightarrow)

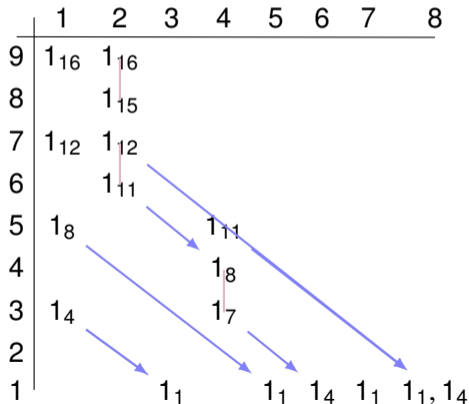
Entry 1_3 means one class in degree -3 .

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	1_{16}	1_{16}						
8		1_{15}						
7	1_{12}	1_{12}						
6		1_{11}						
5	1_8			1_{11}				
4				1_8				
3	1_4			1_7				
2								
1			1_1		1_1	1_4	1_1	$1_1, 1_4$

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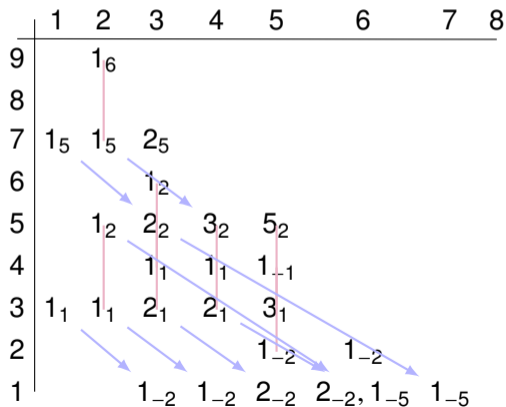
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8								
7	1_5	1_5	2_5					
6			1_2					
5		1_2	2_2	3_2	5_2			
4			1_1	1_1	1_{-1}			
3	1_1	1_1	2_1	2_1	3_1			
2					1_{-2}	1_{-2}		
1			1_{-2}	1_{-2}	2_{-2}	$2_{-2}, 1_{-5}$	1_{-5}	

Computer data, $n = 3, m = 2$

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Final remark: Role of GC_n

Theorem (B. Fresse, V. Turchin, T.W.)

GC_n acts on a model for $D_n^{\mathbb{Q}}$ and

$$H(\text{BiDer}^h(D_n^{\mathbb{Q}})) \cong H(GC_n) \oplus \mathbb{Q}$$

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- Contains obstructions for constructing operad maps

Corollary: Intrinsic formality

Consequence of vanishing Lemmas:

Theorem (Fresse, W., Rational intrinsic formality and rigidity)

C : any dg Hopf cooperad with $H(C) \cong \mathbf{e}_n^ =: H(E_n, \mathbb{Q})$, and $n \geq 3$. Then there is a zigzag*

$$C \xrightarrow{\cong} \cdots \xleftarrow{\cong} \mathbf{e}_n^*,$$

inducing $H(C) \cong \mathbf{e}_n^$ if either (i) $4 \nmid n$ or (ii) there is an involution $J : C \rightarrow C$ inducing on homology the involution sending the bracket to minus itself.*

This morphism is homotopically unique if $4 \nmid n - 3$, and J -equivariantly homotopically unique for all $n \geq 3$ in the presence of an involution J as above.

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with $GC_2^{(g)} \subset GC_2$ the subcomplex of loop order g .

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- \Rightarrow Nonvanishing graph cohomology yields nonvanishing cohomology classes in the moduli space of curves.

Summary

- Problems in several areas of mathematics reducible to (Feynman) graph complexes.
- Computation of graph homology hard and long standing problem.
- But: Partial results and many classes known due to recent work.
- Thanks for listening!

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 - For GC_n done by Živković-W.
 - For $HGC_{m,n}$ done by Arone, Turchin, Songafou Tsopméné.

Theorem (T.W., M. Živković, Adv. in Math. '15)

Define generating functions for numbers of graphs:

$$P^{odd}(s, t) := \sum_{v, e} \dim(\mathrm{GC}_{v, e}^{odd}) s^v t^e$$

$$P^{even}(s, t) := \sum_{v, e} \dim(\mathrm{GC}_{v, e}^{even}) s^v t^e .$$

There exists an explicit formula.

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Define generating functions for numbers of graphs:

$$P^{odd}(s, t) := \sum_{v,e} \dim(\mathrm{GC}_{v,e}^{odd}) s^v t^e \qquad P^{even}(s, t) := \sum_{v,e} \dim(\mathrm{GC}_{v,e}^{even}) s^v t^e .$$

There exists an explicit formula.

$$P^{odd}(s, t) := \frac{1}{(-s, (st)^2)_\infty ((st)^2, (st)^2)_\infty} \sum_{j_1, j_2, \dots \geq 0} \prod_{\alpha} \frac{(-s)^{\alpha j_\alpha}}{j_\alpha! (-\alpha)^{j_\alpha}} \frac{1}{((-st)^\alpha, (-st)^\alpha)_\infty} \left(\frac{(t^{2\alpha-1}, (st)^{4\alpha-2})_\infty}{((-s)^{2\alpha-1} t^{4\alpha-2}, (st)^{4\alpha-2})_\infty} \right)^{j_{2\alpha-1/2}}$$

$$\left(\frac{(t^\alpha, (st)^{2\alpha})_\infty}{((-s)^\alpha t^{2\alpha}, (st)^{2\alpha})_\infty} \right)^{j_{2\alpha}} \prod_{\alpha, \beta} \frac{1}{(t^{\mathrm{lcm}(\alpha, \beta)}, (-st)^{\mathrm{lcm}(\alpha, \beta)})_{\infty}^{\mathrm{gcd}(\alpha, \beta) j_\alpha j_\beta / 2}} ,$$

$$P^{even}(s, t) := \frac{(s, (st)^2)_\infty}{(-st, (st)^2)_\infty} \sum_{j_1, j_2, \dots \geq 0} \prod_{\alpha} \frac{s^{\alpha j_\alpha}}{j_\alpha! \alpha^{j_\alpha}} \frac{1}{((-st)^\alpha, (-st)^\alpha)_\infty} \left(\frac{((-t)^{2\alpha-1}, (st)^{4\alpha-2})_\infty}{(s^{2\alpha-1} t^{4\alpha-2}, (st)^{4\alpha-2})_\infty} \right)^{j_{2\alpha-1/2}}$$

$$\left(\frac{((-t)^\alpha, (st)^{2\alpha})_\infty}{(s^\alpha t^{2\alpha}, (st)^{2\alpha})_\infty} \right)^{j_{2\alpha}} \prod_{\alpha, \beta} \frac{1}{((-t)^{\mathrm{lcm}(\alpha, \beta)}, (-st)^{\mathrm{lcm}(\alpha, \beta)})_{\infty}^{\mathrm{gcd}(\alpha, \beta) j_\alpha j_\beta / 2}} .$$

where $(a, q)_\infty = \prod_{k \geq 0} (1 - aq^k)$ is the q -Pochhammer symbol.

	Even	Odd		Even	Odd
loop order	$\tilde{\chi}_b^{even}$	$\tilde{\chi}_b^{odd}$	loop order	$\tilde{\chi}_b^{even}$	$\tilde{\chi}_b^{odd}$
1	0	1	16	-3	6
2	1	1	17	-1	4
3	0	1	18	8	-5
4	1	2	19	12	-14
5	-1	1	20	27	-21
6	1	2	21	14	-11
7	0	2	22	-25	21
8	0	2	23	-39	44
9	-2	1	24	-496	504
10	1	3	25	-2979	2969
11	0	1	26	-412	413
12	0	3	27	38725	-38717
13	-2	4	28	10583	-10578
14	0	2	29	-667610	667596
15	-4	2	30	28305	-28290

The end

Thanks for listening!