

Dyer–Lashof–Cohen operations in Hochschild cohomology

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We give explicit formulae for operations in Hochschild cohomology which are analogous to the operations in the homology of double loop spaces. As a corollary we obtain that any brace algebra in finite characteristic is always a restricted Lie algebra.

16E40; 18D50, 55P48, 55S12

1 Introduction

1.1 Homology operations

It is already well known that the Hochschild cochain complex of an associative algebra can be endowed with an action of an operad quasi-isomorphic to the chain operad of little squares. This statement is called “Deligne’s conjecture”. Over \mathbb{Z} this result is due to J E McClure and J H Smith [18; 19], and to M Kontsevich and Ya Soibelman [15], see also the proof of C Berger and B Fresse [1], which appeared later. In characteristic zero there are several proofs; see for example M Kontsevich [14], D E Tamarkin [23; 24] and A A Voronov [28]. This result implies that in Hochschild cohomology one can define the same homological operations as for double loop spaces. Homological operations for the iterated loop spaces are well known [3]: In the case of double loops, one has a Pontryagin multiplication, a Browder operator (degree one bracket), and also two non-trivial Dyer–Lashof operations (following F Cohen we denote them by ξ_1 and ζ_1):

Over \mathbb{Z}_2 :

$$(1-1) \quad \xi_1: H_k(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H_{2k+1}(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_2).$$

Over \mathbb{Z}_p , p being any odd prime:

$$(1-2) \quad \xi_1: H_{2k-1}(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow H_{2pk-1}(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_p),$$

$$(1-3) \quad \zeta_1: H_{2k-1}(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow H_{2pk-2}(\Omega^2 X, \mathbb{Z}_p).$$

Over \mathbb{Z}_2 , operation ξ_1 was introduced by S Araki and T Kudo [16]. Over \mathbb{Z}_p , operations ξ_1 and ζ_1 were introduced by F Cohen [3]. All the other operations are some compositions of the above [3].

The study of \mathbb{Z}_p -homology operations, $p > 3$, for iterated d -loop spaces was initiated by E Dyer and R K Lashof [4]. But they found only part of the homological operations. For example, in our case $d = 2$ their method did not recover operations (1–2), (1–3). A complete list of operations together with all the relations was given by F Cohen, cf [3].

The above homological operations appear via an action of the operad \mathcal{C}_2 of little squares, and correspond to specific cycles of equivariant homology of \mathcal{C}_2 . To be precise, choose a homology class $\alpha \in H_*(\mathcal{C}_2(n)/S_{k_1} \times \cdots \times S_{k_\ell}, W)$, where $k_1 + \cdots + k_\ell = n$,

$$(1-4) \quad W = \otimes_{i=1}^{\ell} (\text{sign}_i)^{\otimes d_i},$$

with each factor sign_i being a sign representation of S_{k_i} . To this cycle we can associate a homological operation

$$\alpha: H_{d_1}(\Omega^2 X) \times H_{d_2}(\Omega^2 X) \times \cdots \times H_{d_\ell}(\Omega^2 X) \rightarrow H_{k_1 d_1 + \cdots + k_\ell d_\ell + \deg(\alpha)}(\Omega^2 X),$$

which we denote by the same letter α . If $k_1 = k_2 = \cdots = k_\ell = 1$, then α is a multilinear operation.

The Pontryagin product $*$, the Browder operator $[\cdot, \cdot]$, ξ_1 and ζ_1 correspond to cycles

$$\begin{aligned} * &\in H_0(\mathcal{C}_2(2)) = H_0(S^1); \\ [\cdot, \cdot] &\in H_1(\mathcal{C}_2(2)) = H_1(S^1); \\ \xi_1 &\in H_{p-1}(\mathcal{C}_2(p)/S_p, \pm\mathbb{Z}_p); \\ \zeta_1 &\in H_{p-2}(\mathcal{C}_2(p)/S_p, \pm\mathbb{Z}_p), \quad p > 2. \end{aligned}$$

For Hochschild complexes, operations $*$, $[\cdot, \cdot]$ are respectively the cup-product and the Gerstenhaber bracket [8]. The aim of this paper is to give explicit formulae for operations ξ_1 and ζ_1 . The author used them in [25] to describe the Hochschild homology of the Poisson algebras operad and of the Gerstenhaber algebras operad in the bigradings spanned by the operad of Lie algebras.

1.2 Results

The results of the paper are given by Theorems 3.1, 4.2, 7.1, 7.2. Theorem 7.1 is also an obvious consequence of a result of B Fresse, see Remark 7.4.

1.3 Notations

The letter p always denotes a prime number.

We suppose that the operads and the homology of spaces are defined over some commutative ring \mathbb{K} , which is sometimes \mathbb{Z}_p .

By $H_*^{\text{lf}}(\cdot, L)$, $H_{\text{lf}}^*(\cdot, L)$ we denote locally finite singular (co)homology with coefficients in a local system L .

By \bar{X} we denote the one-point compactification of a space X .

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2 Operad \mathcal{S}_2

There is a natural differential graded operad acting on Hochschild cohomology complexes. This operad was denoted G_∞ by Gerstenhaber and Voronov [9], \mathcal{H} by McClure and Smith [18], and $F_2\mathcal{X}$ by Berger and Fresse [1]. We adopt the notation of McClure and Smith [19] and denote this operad by \mathcal{S}_2 . This operad is generated by brace operations

$$(2-1) \quad \{ \}_n: x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{n+1} \mapsto x_1 \{ x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \}, \quad n \geq 1,$$

augmenting the degree by n , and by an associative cup product $*$. The relations between these operations are standard brace relations, associativity of $*$, and standard relations between $*$ and $\{ \}_n$. We refer the reader to one of the above papers for an explicit description of this operad together with the differential on it. We suppose that the degree zero component $\mathcal{S}_2(0)$ of this operad is trivial. The minimal degree part of this operad is the associative algebras operad: $(\mathcal{S}_2(n))_0 = \text{ASSOC}(n)$. The maximal degree part is the operad of shifted brace algebras: $(\mathcal{S}_2(n))_{n-1} = \text{BRACE}_1(n)$, ie the operad of brace algebras with operations $\{ \}_n$, $n \geq 2$, of degree $n - 1$. We have in particular that $(\mathcal{S}_2(n))_*$ vanishes in degree $*$ $<$ 0 and in degree $*$ $>$ $n - 1$.

Theorem (McClure and Smith [18]) *The operad \mathcal{S}_2 is quasi-isomorphic to the operad $S_*(\mathcal{C}_2)$ of singular chains of little squares.*

It can be easily seen that on each component $\mathcal{S}_2(n)$ the action of the symmetric group S_n is free.

The following lemma is a particular case of [29, Theorem 10.4.8].

Lemma 2.1 *If left-bounded complexes of projective G -modules (G being a finite group) are quasi-isomorphic then they are homotopy equivalent.¹*

As a consequence of the result of McClure–Smith and of Lemma 2.1 we get:

Corollary 2.2 *One has a natural isomorphism*

$$H_*(\mathcal{S}_2(n) \otimes_{S_{k_1} \times \cdots \times S_{k_\ell}} W) \simeq H_*(\mathcal{C}_2(n)/S_{k_1} \times \cdots \times S_{k_\ell}, W)$$

for any representation W of $S_{k_1} \times \cdots \times S_{k_\ell}$.

We will need this corollary only in the case W is of type (1–4).

3 Explicit formulae for ξ_1 and ζ_1

For any element x of a brace algebra, denote by $x^{[n]}$ the following expression:

$$(3-1) \quad x^{[k]} := x \underbrace{\{x\} \dots \{x\}}_{k-1 \text{ times}}.$$

For example,

$$x^{[3]} = x\{x\}\{x\} = \begin{cases} x\{x\{x\}\} + 2x\{x, x\}, & \text{if } \deg(x) - \deg\{ \}_2 \text{ is even;} \\ x\{x\{x\}\}, & \text{if } \deg(x) - \deg\{ \}_2 \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Theorem 3.1 *The following operations are the Dyer–Lashof–Cohen operations induced by the action of the operad \mathcal{S}_2 :*

$$(3-2) \quad \xi_1(x) = x^{[p]}, \quad p(\deg(x) - 1) \text{ being even;}$$

$$(3-3) \quad \zeta_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^i}{i} x^{[i]} * x^{[p-i]}, \quad p \cdot \deg(x) \text{ being odd.}$$

Remark 3.2 For $p = 2$, $\xi_1(x) = x\{x\}$. This result is due to C Westerland [30].

¹By “quasi-isomorphic” and “homotopy equivalent” we understand quasi-isomorphic and homotopy equivalent in the category of complexes of G -modules.

Example 3.3 For $p = 3$,

$$\begin{aligned}\xi_1(x) &= x\{x\}\{x\} = x\{x\{x}\} + 2x\{x, x\}, \\ \zeta_1(x) &= -x * x\{x\} - x\{x\} * x.\end{aligned}$$

Proof of Theorem 3.1 We proved in [25, Section 11], that if x is an odd degree cycle in a Hochschild complex (or of any degree with characteristic $p = 2$), then the following formula holds:²

$$(3-4) \quad \partial(x^{[n]}) = - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \binom{n}{i} x^{[i]} * x^{[n-i]}.$$

It follows from (3-4) that (3-2) defines some cycle α of the complex $\mathcal{S}_2(p) \otimes_{S_p} (\pm \mathbb{Z}_p)$. This cycle defines a non-trivial homology class, since it is in the maximal degree $* = p - 1$ of the above complex. It is well known (see Cohen [3], Vassiliev [27] and Markaryan [17]) that

$$H_*(B(p, \mathbb{R}^2), \pm \mathbb{Z}_p) = H_*(\mathcal{C}_2(p)/S_p, \pm \mathbb{Z}_p) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_p, & * = p - 2 \text{ or } p - 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where $B(p, \mathbb{R}^2)$ denotes as usual the configuration space of cardinality p subsets of \mathbb{R}^2 .

By Corollary 2.2,

$$H_*(\mathcal{S}_2(p) \otimes_{S_p} (\pm \mathbb{Z}_p)) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}_p, & * = p - 2 \text{ or } p - 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It means that operation (3-2) is a multiple of ξ_1 ,

$$\alpha = \lambda \xi_1,$$

for some coefficient $\lambda \neq 0$. We will prove in Section 6 that this coefficient λ is exactly one.

To see that formula (3-3) defines operation ζ_1 , it is sufficient to show that cycle (3-3) is the image of the Bockstein homomorphism β of the cycle (3-2).³ This follows

²This formula can be proved by induction over n , it is also a consequence of equality (4-6), which we prove in Section 4.

³We warn the reader that the cycle $\zeta_1 x$ in Hochschild cohomology is not simply $\beta(\xi_1 x)$, but is related to the above by the following formula of F Cohen [3]:

$$\zeta_1 x = \beta(\xi_1 x) - (\text{ad}^{p-1} x)(\beta x).$$

from (3–4), and also from the equality

$$-\frac{(p-1)!}{i!(p-i)!} \equiv \frac{(-1)^i}{i} \pmod{p}. \quad \square$$

4 Quasi-isomorphism $\mathcal{F}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$

In this section we will give another proof of Theorem 3.1. This construction is interesting in itself.

It turns out that complexes $\mathcal{S}_2(n)$, $n \geq 1$, are too big, and that they contain much smaller quasi-isomorphic subcomplexes $\mathcal{F}_2(n)$, $n \geq 1$. Complexes $\mathcal{F}_2(n)$, $n \geq 1$, do not form an operad, but they are freely acted on by S_n , and so Lemma 2.1 can be applied. These complexes have a geometric origin.

We will first define complexes $\mathcal{B}_2(n, \mathbb{K})$, $\mathcal{B}_2(n, \pm\mathbb{K})$, which are in fact $\mathcal{F}_2(n) \otimes_{S_n} \mathbb{K}$, $\mathcal{F}_2(n) \otimes_{S_n} \pm\mathbb{K}$.

Consider the space $B(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$ of cardinality n subsets of \mathbb{R}^2 . The space $B(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is homotopy equivalent to $\mathcal{C}_2(n)/S_n$. By Pontryagin duality,

$$(4-1) \quad H_*(B(n, \mathbb{R}^2), \mathbb{K}) \simeq H_{\text{lf}}^{2n-*}(B(n, \mathbb{R}^2), \mathbb{K});$$

$$(4-2) \quad H_*(B(n, \mathbb{R}^2), \pm\mathbb{K}) \simeq H_{\text{lf}}^{2n-*}(B(n, \mathbb{R}^2), \pm\mathbb{K});$$

where $H_{\text{lf}}^*(\cdot, L)$ denotes locally finite singular cohomology with coefficients in a local system L .

To compute the right hand side of (4–1), (4–2), one can use the following cellular decomposition of the one point compactification $\overline{B(n, \mathbb{R}^2)}$, [7; 26; 27; 17]. Let $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ be a point of $B(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$. We will assign to A its *index*. This is a system of numbers $(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_\ell)$ satisfying $k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_\ell = n$, where k_1 is the number of elements of A with the minimal value of the first coordinate x ; k_2 is the number of elements of A with next value of x , and so on. . . Points with the same index $(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_\ell)$ form a cell, that we denote by $e(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_\ell)$.

Operator $\text{ad } x$ is the adjoint action $[x, \cdot]$. Surprisingly, the above formula holds on the level of chains, see Proposition 7.5.

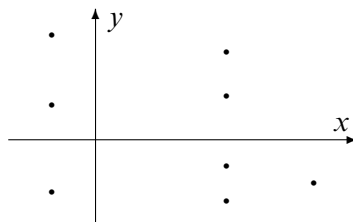


Figure 1: Point of the cell $e(3, 4, 1)$ of $\overline{B(8, \mathbb{R}^2)}$.

All such cells together with the infinite point provide a cell decomposition of $\overline{B(k, \mathbb{C})}$. These cells bound to each other by the rule

$$(4-3) \quad \partial e(k_1, \dots, k_\ell) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} (-1)^{i-1} \binom{k_i+k_{i+1}}{k_i} e(k_1, \dots, k_{i-1}, k_i+k_{i+1}, k_{i+2}, \dots, k_\ell)$$

for twisted coefficients $\pm\mathbb{K}$; and by the rule

$$(4-4) \quad \partial e(k_1, \dots, k_\ell) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} (-1)^{s_i} \binom{k_i+k_{i+1}}{k_i}_{-1} e(k_1, \dots, k_{i-1}, k_i+k_{i+1}, k_{i+2}, \dots, k_\ell)$$

for constant coefficients, where $s_i = i - 1 + k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_i$,

$$\binom{k + \ell}{k}_{-1} = \begin{cases} 0, & k \text{ and } \ell \text{ are odd;} \\ \binom{\lceil \frac{k+\ell}{2} \rceil}{\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \rfloor}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since we are interested not in the homology but in the cohomology $H_{\text{lf}}^*(B(n, \mathbb{R}^2), -)$, we need to consider the *duals* of the above complexes. Let us denote these duals by $\mathcal{B}_2(n, \pm\mathbb{K})$, and $\mathcal{B}_2(n, \mathbb{K})$ respectively. The elements of the dual basis in these dual complexes will be denoted by $\epsilon(k_1, \dots, k_\ell)$.

Now, define complexes $\mathcal{F}_2(n)$. Consider the space $F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$ of n distinct points in \mathbb{C} . Obviously, $F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)/S_n = B(n, \mathbb{C})$. By Poincaré duality,

$$(4-5) \quad H_*(F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)) \simeq H_{\text{lf}}^{2n-*}(F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)).$$

We will consider a cell decomposition of $\overline{F(n, \mathbb{C})}$, which is a preimage of the above cell decomposition of $\overline{B(n, \mathbb{C})}$. Explicitly, each cell $e(\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_\ell)$ of $F(n, \mathbb{C})$ is

encoded by a permutation $\sigma \in S_n$ and a sequence (k_1, \dots, k_ℓ) of positive integers, such that $k_1 + \dots + k_\ell = n$. A point $\bar{A} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \in F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$ belongs to $e(\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_\ell)$ if $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\} \in B(n, \mathbb{R}^2)$ belongs to $e(k_1, \dots, k_\ell)$, and the order of indices is $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n$ when the points a_1, \dots, a_n are lexicographically ordered.

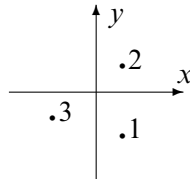


Figure 2: Point of the cell $e(\sigma; 1, 2)$, where $\sigma = (3, 1, 2)$.

The differential of a cell is

$$\partial e(\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_\ell) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} (-1)^{k_1 + \dots + k_i} \sum_{\sigma' \in S(i, i+1)} (-1)^{|\sigma'|} e(\sigma'\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_i + k_{i+1}, \dots, k_\ell),$$

where $S(i, i+1)$ is a subset of S_n of all shuffles of k_i consecutive points starting from $k_1 + \dots + k_{i-1} + 1$, with k_{i+1} consecutive points starting from $k_1 + \dots + k_i + 1$.

We denote by $\mathcal{F}_2(n)$ the dual of the above complex. Its basis elements will be denoted by $\epsilon(\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_\ell)$.

Define an inclusion

$$I: \mathcal{F}_2(n) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{S}_2(n),$$

by the formula

$$I(\epsilon(\sigma; k_1, \dots, k_\ell)) = (-1)^{n-\ell} x_{\sigma_1} \{x_{\sigma_2}\} \{x_{\sigma_3}\} \dots \{x_{\sigma_{k_1}}\} * x_{\sigma_{k_1+1}} \{x_{\sigma_{k_1+2}}\} \dots \{x_{\sigma_{k_1+k_2}}\} * \dots \\ \dots * x_{\sigma_{k_1+\dots+k_{\ell-1}+1}} \{x_{\sigma_{k_1+\dots+k_{\ell-1}+2}}\} \dots \{x_{\sigma_n}\}.$$

Lemma 4.1 *The map I is a morphism of complexes.*

Proof of Lemma 4.1 The differential of the cup-product $* \in \mathcal{S}_2(2)$ is zero. It implies that it is enough to prove the identity⁴

$$(4-6) \quad \partial x_1 \{x_2\} \{x_3\} \dots \{x_n\} = \sum_{\substack{I \sqcup J = \{1 \dots n\} \\ I \neq \emptyset \neq J \\ I = \{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k\} \\ J = \{j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_{n-k}\}}} (-1)^S x_{i_1} \{x_{i_2}\} \{x_{i_3}\} \dots \{x_{i_k}\} * x_{j_1} \{x_{j_2}\} \{x_{j_3}\} \dots \{x_{j_{n-k}}\}.$$

Here $S = |\sigma(I, J)| + k + 1$ with $|\sigma(I, J)|$ being the sign of the corresponding shuffle permutation. The sum is taken over all possible partitions of $\{1 \dots n\}$ into two non-empty subsets I and J . Identity (4–6) can be proven by induction over n . For $n = 1$, it is evident. The inductive step follows from the identities

$$(4-7) \quad \begin{aligned} \partial(A\{B\}) &= (\partial A)\{B\} - (-1)^{\deg(A)-1} A\{\partial B\} \\ &\quad + (-1)^{\deg(A)} (A * B - (-1)^{\deg(A)\deg(B)} B * A), \end{aligned}$$

$$(4-8) \quad (A * B)\{C\} = A * (B\{C\}) + (-1)^{\deg(B)(\deg(C)-1)} (A\{C\}) * B.$$

For example,

$$(4-9) \quad \begin{aligned} \partial(x_1 \{x_2\} \{x_3\}) &= \partial(x_1 \{x_2\}) \{x_3\} - (x_1 \{x_2\} * x_3 - x_3 * x_1 \{x_2\}) \\ &= (x_1 * x_2 - x_2 * x_1) \{x_3\} - x_1 \{x_2\} * x_3 + x_3 * x_1 \{x_2\} \\ &= x_1 * x_2 \{x_3\} + x_1 \{x_3\} * x_2 - x_2 * x_1 \{x_3\} \\ &\quad - x_2 \{x_3\} * x_1 - x_1 \{x_2\} * x_3 + x_3 * x_1 \{x_2\}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

Theorem 4.2 *The morphism I is an S_n -equivariant quasi-isomorphism of complexes, and moreover the following diagram commutes:*

$$(4-10) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} H_{\text{lf}}^{2n-*}(F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & H_*(F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)) \\ \parallel \wr & & \parallel \wr \\ H_*(\mathcal{F}_2(n)) & \xrightarrow{I_*} & H_*(\mathcal{S}_2(n)). \end{array}$$

Theorem 4.2 will be proven in Section 5.

A corollary of Theorem 4.2 is Theorem 3.1. Indeed, operations ξ_1, ζ_1 correspond to some cycles in $H_*(F(p, \mathbb{R}^2), \pm \mathbb{Z}_p)$ of degree $p - 1$, and $p - 2$ respectively.

⁴This formula, applied to the case $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = x$ of odd degree (this affects signs), implies identity (3–4).

Unfortunately there is no proof in the literature of the fact that ξ_1 operation of Fred Cohen corresponds exactly to the cycle $\epsilon(p) \in \mathcal{B}_2(p, \pm\mathbb{Z}_p)$ (in the computations of F V Vainshtein). At least the author failed to find such a reference. So, we suppose that

$$\epsilon(p) = \lambda \xi_1,$$

for some $\lambda \neq 0$. We will prove in Section 6 that $\lambda = 1$.

Modulo the above remark, the cycle $\zeta_1 = \beta \xi_1$ corresponds to $\beta(\epsilon(p))$. But from (4–3),

$$\beta(\epsilon(p)) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(p-1)!}{i!(p-i)!} \epsilon(i, p-i) = - \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^i}{i} \epsilon(i, p-i).$$

5 Proof of Theorem 4.2

The operads \mathcal{LIE} of Lie algebras, \mathcal{PL} of pre-Lie algebras, and \mathcal{BRACE} of brace algebras, are well known. A beautiful description of \mathcal{PL} is given by Chapoton and Livernet [2]. Brace algebras were introduced by E Getzler in [10], and by T Kadeishvili in [13], see also Gerstenhaber and Voronov [9]. One has natural inclusions

$$(5-1) \quad \mathcal{LIE} \xrightarrow{\iota_1} \mathcal{PL} \xrightarrow{\iota_2} \mathcal{BRACE},$$

where $[x_1, x_2]$ is mapped to $x_1 \circ x_2 - x_2 \circ x_1$; $x_1 \circ x_2$ is mapped to $x_1 \{x_2\}$.

Denote by \mathcal{LIE}_1 , \mathcal{PL}_1 , \mathcal{BRACE}_1 the operads of Lie, pre-Lie, and Brace algebras with bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ of degree one, pre-Lie product \circ of degree one, brace operations $\{\}_n$, $n \geq 2$, of degree $n-1$, respectively. One passes from \mathcal{LIE} , \mathcal{PL} , \mathcal{BRACE} algebras to \mathcal{LIE}_1 , \mathcal{PL}_1 , \mathcal{BRACE}_1 algebras by a desuspension of the underlying spaces.

One has inclusions

$$(5-2) \quad \mathcal{LIE}_1 \xrightarrow{\iota_1} \mathcal{PL}_1 \xrightarrow{\iota_2} \mathcal{BRACE}_1 \xrightarrow{\iota_3} \mathcal{S}_2,$$

where ι_1, ι_2 are superanalogues of the inclusions (5–1).

Recall that the homology operad of \mathcal{S}_2 is the operad \mathcal{GERST} of Gerstenhaber algebras, ie graded commutative algebras endowed with a degree one Lie bracket compatible with multiplication

$$(5-3) \quad [a, bc] = [a, b]c + (-1)^{\deg(b) \cdot \deg(c)} [a, c]b.$$

It is well known that $\dim \mathcal{LIE}(n) = (n-1)!$, and $\dim \mathcal{PL}(n) = n^{n-1}$ [2]. Consider an $n!$ -dimensional subspace $\mathcal{VERT}(n) \subset \mathcal{PL}(n)$ (resp. $\mathcal{VERT}_1(n) \subset \mathcal{PL}_1(n)$), which

is spanned by the elements

$$(5-4) \quad (\cdots ((x_{\sigma_1} \circ x_{\sigma_2}) \circ x_{\sigma_3}) \circ \cdots) \circ x_{\sigma_n},$$

where σ is a permutation from the symmetric group S_n .

Lemma 5.1 $\iota_1(\mathcal{LIE}(n)) \subset \mathcal{VERT}(n)$, $\iota_1(\mathcal{LIE}_1(n)) \subset \mathcal{VERT}_1(n)$.

Proof of Lemma 5.1 To avoid the problem of signs we will consider the first situation. The second case is obtained by tensoring with the sign representation $\pm\mathbb{K}$ of the symmetric group.

Decomposition of a bracket from $\mathcal{LIE}(n)$ in the basis (5–4) will be called *vertical decomposition*.

We will prove our lemma by induction over n . For $n = 1$, it is evident. Now, suppose $[A, B] \in \mathcal{LIE}(n)$ is some bracket. Then,

$$(5-5) \quad \iota_1([A, B]) = \iota_1(A) \circ \iota_1(B) - \iota_1(B) \circ \iota_1(A).$$

We will prove that each summand of (5–5) belongs to $\mathcal{VERT}(n)$. To do this, we apply the vertical decomposition for the left factors of (5–5), and then to each summand of the obtained expression, we apply many times the identity

$$(5-6) \quad a \circ [b, c] = (a \circ b) \circ c - (-1)^{|b||c|} (a \circ c) \circ b,$$

which is another form of the standard pre-Lie product identity [2]. For instance, for $[x_1, [x_2, x_3]]$, one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_1([x_1, [x_2, x_3]]) &= x_1 \circ [x_2, x_3] - [x_2, x_3] \circ x_1 = \\ & (x_1 \circ x_2) \circ x_3 - (x_1 \circ x_3) \circ x_2 - (x_2 \circ x_3) \circ x_1 + (x_3 \circ x_2) \circ x_1. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 5.1. □

Now, we are ready to prove Theorem 4.2. Note, that complexes $\mathcal{F}_2(n)$ and $\mathcal{S}_2(n)$ have the same homology. This homology is

$$H_*(F(n, \mathbb{R}^2)) \simeq \mathcal{GERST}(n).$$

So, it is sufficient to prove that the induced homology morphism I_* is surjective. Consider the maximal degree $n - 1$. In this degree the homology group is $\mathcal{LIE}_1(n)$. It follows from Lemma 5.1, that any homology cycle of $\mathcal{S}_2(n)$ is an image of I_* . For smaller degrees, one needs to use the cup-product $*$ to obtain all the homology classes as image of I_* .

To see that diagram (4–10) is commutative, one needs to analyze Poincaré duality (4–5) and the isomorphism I_* in more detail. □

6 Coefficient $\lambda = 1$

We have seen in Sections 3 and 4 that our operation $\alpha: x \mapsto x^{[p]}$ defined on odd degree cycles of a Hochschild complex (and on cycles of any degree if $p = 2$) is a multiple of Cohen's ξ_1 :

$$(6-1) \quad \alpha(x) = \lambda \xi_1(x)$$

We need to prove that λ is in fact one.

Notice that $\alpha = \lambda \xi_1$ is a cycle of maximal degree $* = p - 1$ in the complex $\mathcal{S}_2(p) \otimes_{S_p} (\pm \mathbb{Z}_p)$. The same is true for the Gerstenhaber bracket $[\cdot, \cdot] \in (\mathcal{S}_2(2))_1$. It means that each of these two cycles has only one representative in the corresponding complex. Any composition of these two operations is also a cycle of maximal degree in some complex $\mathcal{S}_2(n) \otimes_{S_{k_1} \times \dots \times S_{k_\ell}} W$, where W is of type (1-4), and hence also has a unique representative.

In [3] F Cohen proved the following identity (for the operations induced by \mathcal{C}_2 -action):

$$(6-2) \quad [y, \xi_1(x)] = [\dots \underbrace{[[y, x], x] \dots x}_p]$$

Therefore one has the identity

$$(6-3) \quad [y, x^{[p]}] = \lambda [\dots \underbrace{[[y, x], x] \dots x}_p],$$

for some $\lambda \neq 0$. But note that identity (6-3) is on the level of chains. Indeed, by (6-1), and (6-2) the left-hand side and the right-hand side of (6-3) are representatives of the same cycle in the homology of the complex $\mathcal{S}_2(p+1) \otimes_{S_p \times S_1} \text{sign}_1$, where sign_1 is the sign representation of S_p . But this homology class lies in the maximal degree $\text{deg} = p$ of the above complex, so there exists only one its representative.

As a consequence (6-3) is true for any elements x and y of any \mathcal{S}_2 -algebra (we assume that $p(\text{deg}(x) - 1)$ is even). Hence it is true for any \mathcal{BRACE}_1 -algebra, and hence for any \mathcal{BRACE} -algebra (except that $p \cdot \text{deg}(x)$ is now even).

Because of the natural map

$$\mathcal{BRACE} \longrightarrow \mathcal{ASSOC}$$

(the operation $\{\}_2$ is mapped to the product, all the other braces $\{\}_n$, $n \geq 3$, are mapped to zero), any associative algebra can be considered as a brace algebra. For associative algebras $x^{[k]} = x^k$, and the identity (6-3) is known to be true with the coefficient $\lambda = 1$, cf [12, Chapter V]. We obtain as a consequence that $\lambda = 1$.

7 Some relations that hold in maximal degree

In this section we use grading $|\cdot| = \text{deg} + 1$. So, Lie, pre-Lie and brace operations become of degree zero.

Arguing as in the previous section we can discover many other interesting identities that hold already on the level of chains. For instance, the Gerstenhaber bracket (7–6) satisfies the Jacobi identity

$$(7-1) \quad (-1)^{|a_1|+|a_3|}[[a_1, a_2], a_3] + (-1)^{|a_2|+|a_1|}[[a_2, a_3], a_1] + (-1)^{|a_3|+|a_2|}[[a_3, a_1], a_2],$$

and the identities

$$(7-2) \quad [x, x] = 0 \quad \text{for } p = 2,$$

$$(7-3) \quad [[x, x], x] = 0 \quad \text{for } p = 3.$$

In [25] the author proved the identities

$$(7-4) \quad (a^{[p^k]})^{[p^l]} = a^{[p^{k+l}]},$$

$$(7-5) \quad (b^{[2p^k]})^{[p^l]} = b^{[2p^{k+l}]},$$

whenever $|a|$ is even, and $|b|$ is odd. The proof was a tedious check of some combinatorial properties of planar rooted trees.

All the above relations hold for any brace algebra. The following theorem provides more other relations.

Theorem 7.1 *Any brace algebra in characteristic p is a p -restricted Lie algebra with bracket*

$$(7-6) \quad [a, b] := a\{b\} - (-1)^{|a|\cdot|b|}b\{a\},$$

and restriction operation (defined for elements of even degree $|\cdot|$)

$$a^{[p]} := a \underbrace{\{a\} \dots \{a\}}_{p-1}.$$

The above theorem means that Jacobson’s relations hold (see Jacobson [12, Section V.7]), that is,

$$(7-7) \quad [a, b^{[p]}] = [\dots [a, b], \underbrace{b \dots b}_p],$$

$$(7-8) \quad (c_1 + c_0)^{[p]} = c_1^{[p]} + c_0^{[p]} + \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} d_i(c_1, c_0),$$

where

$$i \cdot d_i(c_1, c_0) = \sum_{\substack{\epsilon_i \in \{0,1\}, i=1 \dots p-2 \\ \epsilon_1 + \dots + \epsilon_{p-2} = i-1}} [\dots [[c_1, c_0], c_{\epsilon_1}], c_{\epsilon_2}], \dots, c_{\epsilon_{p-2}}].$$

The elements b, c_1, c_0 are even.

All the above relations arise as a manifestation of the fact that homology classes in maximal degree of the complexes

$$S_2(n) \otimes_{S_{k_1} \times S_{k_2} \times \dots \times S_{k_\ell}} W$$

have unique representatives. Composition of operations in maximal degree is also an operation in maximal degree. So, the relations (7-1), (7-2), (7-3), (7-4), (7-5), (7-7), (7-8) follow from the analogous relations for homology operations of double loop spaces (see Cohen [3]), and from Corollary 2.2.

Now, note that to define the above operations we need only pre-Lie product \circ . We define

$$x^{[k]} := (\dots (\underbrace{(x \circ x) \circ x}_{k \text{ times}}) \dots) \circ x.$$

So, it is natural to ask whether these relations hold for pre-Lie algebras. (For brace algebras all the relations hold automatically.)

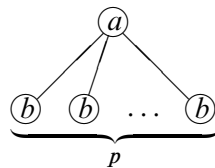
Theorem 7.2 (a) *Relations (7-1), (7-2), (7-3) hold for any pre-Lie algebra.*

(b) *Relations (7-4), (7-5) do not hold for a free pre-Lie algebra with one even generator a , resp. one odd generator b .*

(c) *Relation (7-7) does not hold for a free pre-Lie algebra with two generators a and b (the second one being even).*

(d) *Relation (7-8) holds for any pre-Lie algebra.*

Proof (a) is well known. (b) and (c) are easy to verify if one uses the representation of free pre-Lie algebras in terms of rooted trees [2]. In fact, equality (7-7) holds if one adds to the left hand-side the rooted tree



The proof of (d) is a slight modification of the proof of the same result for associative algebras given in [12, Section V.7]. □

Lemma 7.3 For any even elements a, b of a pre-Lie algebra the following identities hold:

$$[\dots \underbrace{[[a, b], b], \dots b}_N] = \sum_{i=0}^N (-1)^i \binom{N}{i} (\dots \underbrace{(b \circ b) \circ b \dots \circ b}_i \circ a) \circ \underbrace{b \circ b \dots \circ b}_{N-i-1} \circ b.$$

Proof Induction over N . □

In the case of characteristic p and $N = p - 1$, one gets:

$$(7-9) \quad [\dots \underbrace{[[a, b], b], \dots b}_{p-1}] = \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} (\dots \underbrace{(b \circ b) \circ b \dots \circ b}_i \circ a) \circ \underbrace{b \circ b \dots \circ b}_{p-i-1} \circ b.$$

Consider equality (7-9) for $a = c_1, b = c_1 + \lambda c_0$, and differentiate it over λ . Identity (7-8) follows from the obtained expression.

Remark 7.4 (M Livernet) Actually Theorem 7.1 is an obvious consequence of a result of B Fresse [5; 6]. The usual definition of an algebra over an operad \mathcal{O} consists in defining a family of compatible maps

$$(\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes V^{\otimes n})_{S_n} \rightarrow V,$$

where $(-)_S_n$ denotes the space of coinvariants of the symmetric group action. Instead of doing this, B Fresse proposes to define $\Gamma\mathcal{O}$ -action as a family of compatible maps

$$(\mathcal{O}(n) \otimes V^{\otimes n})^{S_n} \rightarrow V,$$

where $(-)^{S_n}$ is now the space of invariants of the symmetric group action. In case \mathbb{K} is not a field of characteristic zero, this defines another algebraic structure, which Fresse calls an \mathcal{O} -algebra with divided symmetries. For example, if $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{COMM}$ is the operad of commutative algebras, then a $\Gamma\mathcal{COMM}$ -algebra is a so called divided system – a commutative algebra with unary divided power operations. Fresse proves that for $char(\mathbb{K}) = p$, the $\Gamma\mathcal{LIE}$ -algebra structure is exactly the restricted Lie algebra structure.

On the other hand, the S_n -action on $\mathcal{BRACE}(n)$ is free. Hence, \mathcal{BRACE} and $\Gamma\mathcal{BRACE}$ are the same structures. But any $\Gamma\mathcal{BRACE}$ -algebra must be $\Gamma\mathcal{LIE}$ due to the morphism of operads:

$$\mathcal{LIE} \rightarrow \mathcal{BRACE}.$$

This proves the theorem.

Note, that this argument does not work for the operad \mathcal{PL} , since $\mathcal{PL}(n)$ are not projective S_n -modules for $n \geq 3$.

The following proposition provides one more relation which holds on the level of chains.

Proposition 7.5 *Consider a Hochschild complex obtained from another Hochschild complex (free over \mathbb{Z}) by tensoring with \mathbb{Z}_p , $p \geq 3$. Suppose x is a representative of an odd degree cycle in this complex. The following identity holds on the level of chains:*

$$\zeta_1 x = \beta(\xi_1 x) - (\text{ad}^{p-1} x)(\beta x),$$

where operator $\text{ad } x$ is the adjoint action $[x, \cdot]$.

Proof It is a consequence of (7-9) applied for $a = \beta x$, and $b = x$. □

8 About higher Dyer–Lashof–Cohen operations and Steenrod powers

Homology operations for iterated d -loop spaces correspond to equivariant cycles of the operad \mathcal{C}_d of little d -cubes. Following F Cohen [3], these operations are generated by the Pontryagin product $*$, the higher Browder operator $[\cdot, \cdot]_{d-1}$, and operations $\xi_i, \zeta_i, i = 1 \dots d-1$:

$$\begin{aligned} * &\in H_0(\mathcal{C}_d(2)) = H_0(S^{d-1}) \\ [\cdot, \cdot] &\in H_{d-1}(\mathcal{C}_d(2)) = H_{d-1}(S^{d-1}) \\ \xi_i &\in H_{i(p-1)}(\mathcal{C}_d(p)/S_p, (\pm\mathbb{Z}_p)^{\otimes i}) \\ \zeta_i = \beta(\xi_i) &\in H_{i(p-1)-1}(\mathcal{C}_d(p)/S_p, (\pm\mathbb{Z}_p)^{\otimes i}), p > 2 \end{aligned}$$

Operations $*$; $\xi_i, \zeta_i, i = 1 \dots d-2$, are inherited from the $(d-1)$ -cubes action. The Browder bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]_{d-2}$ defined for $(d-1)$ -loops becomes trivial for d -loops.

While $d = \infty$, the Browder operator disappears and we have only $*$; $\xi_i, \zeta_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$.

J E McClure and J H Smith defined a differential graded operad \mathcal{S} (*operad of surjections*), which is naturally filtered,

$$(8-1) \quad \mathcal{S}_1 \subset \mathcal{S}_2 \subset \mathcal{S}_3 \subset \dots = \mathcal{S},$$

and whose d^{th} filtration term \mathcal{S}_d is quasi-isomorphic to the singular chains operad of little d -cubes [19].⁵ The operad \mathcal{S}_2 , considered in this paper, acts on Hochschild complexes. The whole operad \mathcal{S} acts on singular cochains of topological spaces. Operations $\xi_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$, in the last situation, are the well known Steenrod powers.

⁵See also [1; 20].

Homology operations induced by an S_d -action correspond to equivariant cycles of $\mathcal{S}_d(n)$,

$$H_*(\mathcal{S}_d(n) \otimes_{S_{k_1} \times \dots \times S_{k_\ell}} W) \simeq H_*(\mathcal{C}_d(n)/S_{k_1} \times \dots \times S_{k_\ell}, W),$$

where W is as usual of the form (1–4).

Cycles $*$, $[\cdot, \cdot]_{d-1}$ are defined as

$$(8-2) \quad \begin{aligned} * &= x_1 \cup_0 x_2, \\ [\cdot, \cdot]_{d-1} &= x_1 \cup_{d-1} x_2 - x_2 \cup_{d-1} x_1, \end{aligned}$$

where \cup_{d-1} denotes the $(d - 1)$ -cup product, see Steenrod [21], and McClure–Smith [19].

In the case $p = 2$, all the operations ξ_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ are also explicit. They were defined by NE Steenrod in his seminal work [21]:

$$\xi_i(x) = x \cup_i x$$

See also [19] for a description of the cup-products $\cup_i \in S_{i+1}(2)$ as elements of the operad of surjections.

In the case $p > 2$, all the constructions are implicit.⁶ One knew only $\xi_0(x)$ which is x^p :

$$\xi_0(x) = \underbrace{x \cup_0 x \cup_0 \dots \cup_0 x}_{p \text{ times}}$$

(\cup_0 -product is associative). The result of this paper permits to define explicitly the operation ξ_1 :

$$\xi_1(x) = (\dots \underbrace{((x \cup_1 x) \cup_1 x) \dots}_{p \text{ times}}) \cup_1 x,$$

which is the last non-trivial Steenrod power defined for odd degree elements:

$$\xi_1(x) = P^{\frac{\deg x - 1}{2}} x,$$

all the higher Steenrod powers P^i , $i > \frac{\deg x - 1}{2}$, are trivial: $P^i x = 0$ (see Steenrod and Epstein [22]).

The question is whether it is possible to find explicit formulae for all the other ξ_i , $i \geq 2$, $p \geq 3$. Note that the main difficulty is to find these formulae, since operations ζ_i , $i \geq 1$, as cycles of $\mathcal{S}(p) \otimes_{S_p} (\pm \mathbb{Z}_p)^{\otimes i}$, are Bockstein images $\beta(\xi_i)$, $i \geq 1$.

⁶Except the construction of González-Díaz and Real [11], that unfortunately does not respect the filtration (8–1).

Unfortunately the methods given in this paper can not be generalized in an obvious way to define explicitly ξ_i , $i \geq 2$, $p \geq 3$.

Of course, one can easily define complexes $\mathcal{F}_d(n)$, for any $d \geq 1$ and $n \geq 1$, taking the so called “lexicographical cellular decomposition” of the one-point compactification of the configuration spaces $F(n, \mathbb{R}^d)$. Operation ξ_{d-1} corresponds to the cycle spanned by the only cell of $B(p, \mathbb{R}^d) = F(p, \mathbb{R}^d)/S_p$: all p points having the same first $d-1$ coordinates. But the author did not manage to define an analogous quasi-isomorphism $\mathcal{F}_d \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_d$ for $d \geq 3$.

The results of Fresse, see Remark 7.4, also can not be applied: higher Browder operators (8–2), $d \geq 3$, satisfy the Jacobi identity only up to a non-trivial homotopy. Hence we can not define a map $\mathcal{LIE}_{d-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_d$, where \mathcal{LIE}_{d-1} denotes the operad of Lie algebras with the bracket of degree $d-1$, the bracket being sent to the Browder operator.

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