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**The homology of a Temperley–Lieb algebra on an odd number of strands**

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# The homology of a Temperley–Lieb algebra on an odd number of strands

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We show that the homology of any Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  on an odd number of strands vanishes in positive degrees. This improves a result obtained by Boyd and Hepworth. In addition, we present alternative arguments for two vanishing results of Boyd and Hepworth: the stable homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras is trivial, and if the parameter  $a \in R$  is a unit, then the homology of any Temperley–Lieb algebra is concentrated in degree zero.

16E40, 20J05; 20F55

## 1 Introduction

Let  $a \in R$  be an element in a commutative unital ring. Intuitively, the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  on  $n$  strands is the  $R$ –algebra whose underlying  $R$ –module has a basis given by isotopy classes of planar diagrams. The multiplication of two planar diagrams is given by gluing them together. Any circles appearing in the resulting diagram correspond to multiplication by  $a \in R$ . This is illustrated in [Figure 1](#), and a precise definition is given in the next section (see [Definition 1](#)).

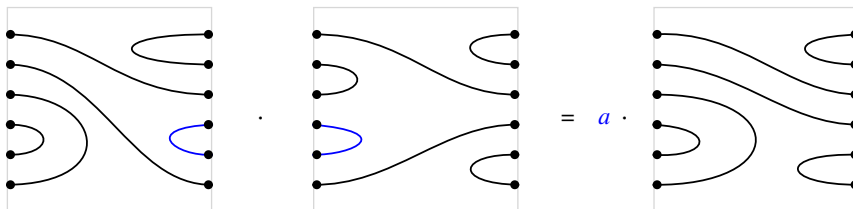
The Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  has a natural augmentation  $\epsilon_n : \mathcal{TL}_n(a) \rightarrow R$  that maps all nonidentity planar diagrams to zero. The augmentation gives  $R$  the structure of a  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ –module, which we call the trivial module and denote by  $\mathbb{1}$ . In this work, we examine the homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras with coefficients in this module:

$$H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = \mathrm{Tor}_\star^{\mathcal{TL}_n(a)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}).$$

Recently, these homology groups have been studied by Boyd and Hepworth [\[2\]](#) and Randal-Williams [\[18\]](#). Our new main finding is the following theorem, which removes all conditions in the vanishing results for the homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras on an odd number of strands obtained by Boyd and Hepworth:

**Theorem A** *Let  $R$  be a commutative unital ring,  $a \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be odd. Consider the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  on  $n$  strands. Then*

$$H_0(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = R \quad \text{and} \quad H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = 0 \quad \text{for } \star > 0.$$

Figure 1: Multiplication of two planar diagrams in  $\mathcal{TL}_6(a)$ .

**Previously known results** Assuming that the parameter  $a \in R$  used to define  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  is of the form  $a = v + v^{-1}$  for a unit  $v \in R$ , Boyd and Hepworth proved that the homology of a Temperley–Lieb algebra on an odd number  $n$  of strands is trivial in homological degrees  $1 \leq \star \leq n-1$  [2, Theorem B]. Theorem D of [2] furthermore establishes that the homology groups  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1})$  are trivial in all positive degrees  $\star > 0$  if  $n = 2k + 1$  is odd, the parameter  $a = v + v^{-1}$  is zero, and  $R$  is a field whose characteristic does not divide  $\binom{k}{r}$  for any  $1 \leq r \leq k$ . In [18], Randal-Williams builds on the work of Boyd and Hepworth and shows that the assumptions on the parameter  $a \in R$  can be removed using base change techniques [18, Theorem B’]. However, an invertibility condition on the binomials  $\binom{k}{r}$  remains [18, item (ii) before Corollary 3.2].

Our proof of Theorem A removes all of these conditions and gives an alternative argument for the vanishing results due to Boyd and Hepworth, as well as the strengthening obtained by Randal-Williams.

In addition to Theorem A, our methods allow us to prove a vanishing line for the homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras on an even number of strands. This vanishing line is weaker than the one obtained by Boyd and Hepworth [2, Theorem B], who prove a slope-1 vanishing line; the one we prove is of slope  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**Theorem B** Let  $R$  be a commutative unital ring,  $a \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be even. Consider the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  on  $n$  strands. Then  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = R$ ,

$$H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = 0 \quad \text{for } 0 < \star < \frac{n}{2}$$

and

$$H_{\star+n/2}(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) \cong H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \text{Cup}(M)) \quad \text{for } \star \geq 0,$$

where  $\text{Cup}(M)$  is a certain  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ –module (see Definitions 7 and 11).

The coefficient  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ –module  $\text{Cup}(M)$  in Theorem B is, in general, not isomorphic to the Fineberg module in the description of the higher homology groups obtained by Boyd and Hepworth [2, Theorem 5.1].

**Remark** In contrast with Temperley–Lieb algebras on an odd number of strands, the homology of a Temperley–Lieb algebras on an even number  $n$  of strands can be nontrivial in positive degrees. This was established in [2, Theorem C], which states that  $H_{n-1}(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1})$  is nonzero if  $n$  is even and  $a = v + v^{-1} \in R$  is not a unit.

Together, Theorems A and B give an alternative proof of the fact that the family of Temperley–Lieb algebras  $\{\mathcal{TL}_n(a)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  satisfies homological stability and that the stable homology is trivial:

$$\operatorname{colim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = \begin{cases} R & \text{if } \star = 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } \star > 0. \end{cases}$$

This also follows from the work of Boyd and Hepworth and is discussed in [2]. Homological stability questions for groups play a fundamental role in algebraic topology and algebraic K–theory, eg [4; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 14; 21; 22]. This article can be seen as a contribution to the set of ideas formulated by Hepworth [12], Boyd and Hepworth [2] and Boyd, Hepworth and Patzt [3], which aim to extend these techniques to families of abstract algebras.

Building on Theorems A and B, we can formulate an alternative argument for [2, Theorem A], which shows that the homology of any Temperley–Lieb algebra is trivial in positive degrees if the parameter  $a \in R$  is a unit.

**Theorem C** ([2], Boyd and Hepworth) *Let  $R$  be a commutative unital ring,  $a \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Consider the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  on  $n$  strands. If  $a \in R$  is a unit, then*

$$H_0(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = R \quad \text{and} \quad H_\star(\mathcal{TL}_n(a), \mathbb{1}) = 0 \quad \text{for } \star > 0.$$

**Comparison with work of Boyd and Hepworth [2] and Boyd [1]** The general strategy of proof that we employ is similar to the one used by Boyd and Hepworth, ie we construct a certain highly connected  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ –chain complex and study spectral sequences attached to it. The chain complex that we use is different from the complex of planar injective words studied by Boyd and Hepworth [2]. Indeed, we will use the “cellular Davis complex”  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  of the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ . The structure of the complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  is “sensitive” to the question of whether the number of strings of a Temperley–Lieb algebra is even or odd. This is what enables us to prove Theorem A. The chain complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  has a simple diagrammatic description and can be seen as an algebraic analogue of the classical Davis complex of the symmetric group equipped with the “Coxeter cell” CW–structure; see Davis [5, Chapters 7 and 8]. The classical Davis complex of a finite symmetric group  $S_n$  is a contractible CW–complex with  $S_n$ –action. We prove the following Temperley–Lieb analogue:

**Theorem D** *The “cellular Davis complex”  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  of a Temperley–Lieb algebra (see Definition 8) is a contractible  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ –chain complex with  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}) = \mathbb{1}$ .*

From this perspective, the content of this paper is inspired by and in direct analogy with the approach that Boyd employed in [1] to derive formulas for the low-dimensional homology of Coxeter groups. The first two chapters of the author’s thesis [19] make this analogy precise and explain how the chain complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  was discovered via this analogy.

**Outline** In [Section 2](#), we define the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  and its trivial module  $\mathbb{1}$ . At the beginning of [Section 3](#), we introduce a class of left submodules  $\text{Cup}(F)$  of  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  which will play an important role. In [Section 3.1](#), we use these modules to define the “cellular Davis complex”  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  of a Temperley–Lieb algebra and establish that  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  is contractible ([Theorem D](#)). In [Section 3.2](#), we study the homology of the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  with coefficients in  $\text{Cup}(F)$ . These homology groups will appear on the  $E_1$ –page of the spectral sequences that we use in [Section 3.3](#) to formulate the proofs of [Theorems A, B and C](#).

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## 2 Temperley–Lieb algebras

This section contains necessary background knowledge on Temperley–Lieb algebras that we mainly learned from Kassel and Turaev [\[15\]](#) and the exposition of Boyd and Hepworth [\[2\]](#). In 1971, Temperley and Lieb introduced these algebras in their article [\[20\]](#).

**Definition 1** [\[2, Definition 2.1; 15, Definition 5.24\]](#) Let  $R$  be a commutative unital ring,  $a \in R$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  with parameter  $a \in R$  is the  $R$ –algebra with generators  $U_1, \dots, U_{n-1}$  and the relations

- (i)  $U_i U_j = U_j U_i$  if  $|i - j| \geq 2$ ,
- (ii)  $U_i U_j U_i = U_i$  if  $j = i \pm 1$ ,
- (iii)  $U_i^2 = a U_i$  for all  $i$ .

The unit 1 corresponds to the empty product of the generators  $U_i$ . Note that

$$\mathcal{TL}_0(a) = \mathcal{TL}_1(a) = R.$$

Jones [13] used Temperley–Lieb algebras to define the polynomial invariant for knots, which we now call the Jones polynomial. The following diagrammatic interpretation is due to Kauffman [16; 17]. We follow [15, Section 5.7.4] in our exposition.

**Definition 2** A planar diagram of  $n \geq 1$  arcs  $D = \{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n\}$  in  $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$  is a disjoint union of  $n$  smoothly embedded arcs  $\gamma_i : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$  such that

- (i) the images of any two arcs  $\gamma_i$  and  $\gamma_j$  are pairwise disjoint,
- (ii) the points  $\gamma_i(0)$  and  $\gamma_i(1)$  are a subset of the points

$$\{(0, 1), \dots, (0, n), (1, 1), \dots, (1, n)\},$$

- (iii) the tangent vectors at  $\gamma_i(0)$  and  $\gamma_i(1)$  are parallel to the  $x$ -axis  $\mathbb{R} \times 0$ .

Let  $a \in R$  and  $P_n(a)$  be the free  $R$ -module spanned by the set of isotopy classes  $[D]$  of planar diagrams  $D$ . We will now explain how the module  $P_n(a)$  can be equipped with the structure of an associative  $R$ -algebra. Given two isotopy classes of planar diagrams  $[D]$  and  $[D']$ , we obtain a diagram in  $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$  by pasting  $D$  into  $[0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}$  and  $D'$  into  $[\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ . We can choose representatives  $D \in [D]$  and  $D' \in [D']$  such that the resulting diagram consists of a planar diagram  $D \circ D'$  and  $k(D, D') \geq 0$  circles. The product of  $[D]$  and  $[D']$  is defined as

$$[D] \cdot [D'] = a^{k(D, D')} [D \circ D'].$$

The reader is invited to revisit Figure 1, which illustrates this definition.

**Theorem 3** [2, Section 2; 15, Theorem 5.34] The Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  is isomorphic to the  $R$ -algebra of planar diagrams  $P_n(a)$ . The isomorphism is given by mapping a generator  $U_i \in \mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  to the isotopy class of the planar diagram in Figure 2.

**Definition 4** An element  $A \in \mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  is called a planar diagram in  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  if the isomorphism in Theorem 3 identifies  $A$  with the isotopy class  $[D] \in P_n(a)$  of some planar diagram  $D$  of  $n$  arcs.

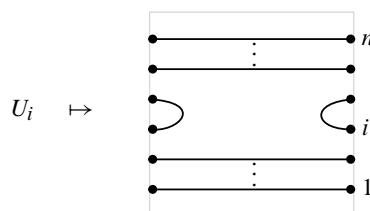


Figure 2: Translating between algebraic and diagrammatic definition of  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a)$ .

Let  $\widehat{\mathcal{TL}}_n$  be the two-sided ideal of  $\mathcal{TL}_n = \mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  generated by the set

$$\{U_i : 1 \leq i \leq n-1\}.$$

In the diagrammatic interpretation (see [Theorem 3](#)),  $\widehat{\mathcal{TL}}_n$  is spanned by all planar diagrams except the identity diagram.

**Definition 5** The *trivial module*  $\mathbb{1}$  of the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}_n = \mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  is defined via the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{TL}}_n \hookrightarrow \mathcal{TL}_n \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{1} \rightarrow 0.$$

Equivalently, the trivial module  $\mathbb{1}$  is the 1-dimensional  $\mathcal{TL}_n$ -module coming from the augmentation  $\epsilon : \mathcal{TL}_n \rightarrow R$  that sends every generator  $U_i$  to zero.

### 3 Vanishing theorems for the homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras

This section builds on ideas contained in [\[1; 2\]](#). We introduce the cellular Davis complex for Temperley–Lieb algebras  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  and prove that it is contractible. We then use it to derive the vanishing results for the homology of Temperley–Lieb algebras, which we stated as [Theorems A, B and C](#) in [Section 1](#).

Throughout this section, let  $\mathcal{TL} = \mathcal{TL}_n(a)$  denote the Temperley–Lieb algebra on  $n$  strands with parameter  $a \in R$  and let  $U_1, \dots, U_{n-1}$  be the standard generators. We sometimes identify  $\{U_1, \dots, U_{n-1}\}$  with the set  $\langle n-1 \rangle = \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ .

**Definition 6** (i) A (possibly empty) subset  $F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle$  is called *innermost* if for any

$$i \neq j \in F \quad \text{we have that} \quad |i - j| \geq 2.$$

(ii) Let  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$  be a planar diagram in the sense of [Definition 4](#), with corresponding isotopy class  $[A] \in P_n(a)$ .  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$  is represented by certain monomials in the generating set  $\{U_1, \dots, U_{n-1}\}$ . We write

$$F(A) = \{U_{i_k} : A = U_{i_1} \cdots U_{i_k}\}$$

for the set of possible last letters in a monomial representing  $A$ . Using the identification in [Theorem 3](#), the set  $F(A)$  has the following diagrammatic interpretation:

$$F(A) = \{U_i : [A] \text{ has an arc connecting } (1, i) \text{ and } (1, i+1)\}.$$

We call an arc connecting  $(1, i)$  and  $(1, i+1)$  an *innermost right cup* at position  $i$  and  $F(A)$  the *set of innermost right cups* of the planar diagram  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$ ; see [Figure 3](#) for an example. Note that  $F(A)$  is an innermost set.

Observe that by [Definition 1](#)(i) all generators in an innermost set commute with each other. The following modules are therefore well defined:

**Definition 7** Let  $F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle$  be an innermost set. Then we write  $\text{Cup}(F)$  for the left submodule of  $\mathcal{TL}$  generated by  $\prod_{i \in F} U_i$ . Using [Theorem 3](#), this is the  $\mathcal{TL}$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{TL}_n(a) \cong P_n(a)$  spanned by all isotopy classes of planar diagrams  $[A] \in P_n(a)$  that have an innermost right cup at position  $i$  for any  $i \in F$ , ie that satisfy  $F \subseteq F(A)$ .

### 3.1 The cellular Davis complex of a Temperley–Lieb algebra

Using the definitions above, we will now introduce and study the  $\mathcal{TL}$ -chain complex that enables us to formulate our proofs for [Theorems A, B and C](#).

**Definition 8** The *cellular Davis complex*  $(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}, \delta)$  of  $\mathcal{TL}$  is the chain complex whose chain module in degree  $\alpha$  is given by

$$\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha = \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F| = \alpha}} \text{Cup}(F)$$

and whose differential

$$\delta_\alpha: \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_{\alpha-1}$$

factorizes summandwise as

$$\text{Cup}(F) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{s \in F} \text{Cup}(F_s) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_{\alpha-1},$$

where  $F_s = F - \{s\}$  for  $s \in F$ . The first arrow in this factorization is the map

$$A \mapsto \sum_{s \in F} (-1)^{\gamma_F(s)} \iota_F^{F_s}(A),$$

where  $\iota_F^{F_s}: \text{Cup}(F) \hookrightarrow \text{Cup}(F_s)$  is the inclusion and  $\gamma_F(s) = |\{s' \in F : s' < s\}|$ .

In other words, the chain module  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  of the cellular Davis complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  has an  $R$ -module basis consisting of planar diagrams  $A$  with  $\alpha = |F|$  marked innermost right cups  $F \subseteq F(A)$  (see [Definition 7](#)) and the value of the differential  $\delta: \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_{\alpha-1}$  on such a marked planar diagram  $(A, F)$  is an

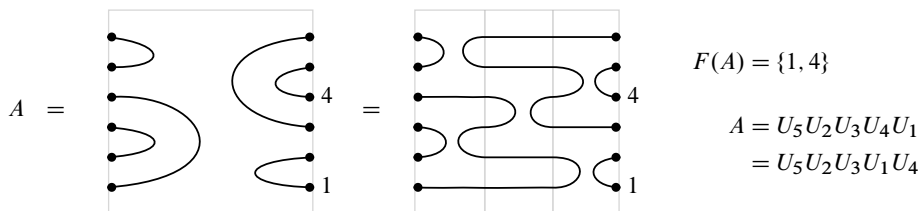


Figure 3: The set of innermost right cups of an element in  $\mathcal{TL}_6$ .



alternating sum of the marked planar diagrams  $(A, F_s)$ , ie copies of the same planar diagram  $A$  with one mark  $s \in F$  erased. See Figure 4 for an example.

We start by verifying that this really defines a chain complex. This argument is standard.

**Lemma 9** *The cellular Davis complex  $(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}, \delta)$  is a chain complex of left  $\mathcal{TL}$ -modules.*

**Proof** Let  $A \in \text{Cup}(F) \subset \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  be a planar diagram. We need to argue that

$$\delta^2(A) = 0 \in \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_{\alpha-2}.$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta^2(A) &= \delta \left( \sum_{s \in F} (-1)^{\gamma_F(s)} \iota_F^{F_s}(A) \right) = \sum_{s \in F} (-1)^{\gamma_F(s)} \left( \sum_{t \in F_s} (-1)^{\gamma_{F_s}(t)} \iota_F^{F_{s,t}}(A) \right) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{(s,t) \in F \times F \\ s \neq t}} (-1)^{\gamma_F(s) + \gamma_{F_s}(t)} \iota_F^{F_{s,t}}(A), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\iota_F^{F_{s,t}}: \text{Cup}(F) \hookrightarrow \text{Cup}(F_{s,t})$  denotes the inclusion. Clearly,  $F_{s,t} = F_{t,s}$ . It therefore suffices to show that if  $s < t$ , then

$$(-1)^{\gamma_F(s) + \gamma_{F_s}(t)} + (-1)^{\gamma_F(t) + \gamma_{F_t}(s)} = 0.$$

This holds because  $s < t$  implies that

$$\gamma_F(t) = \gamma_{F_s}(t) + 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_F(s) = \gamma_{F_t}(s).$$

The  $\mathcal{TL}$ -equivariance of the differential  $\delta$  follows from the  $\mathcal{TL}$ -equivariance of the inclusion maps.  $\square$

**Theorem 10** *The cellular Davis complex  $(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}, \delta)$  is contractible with*

$$H_0(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}, \delta) = \mathbb{1}.$$

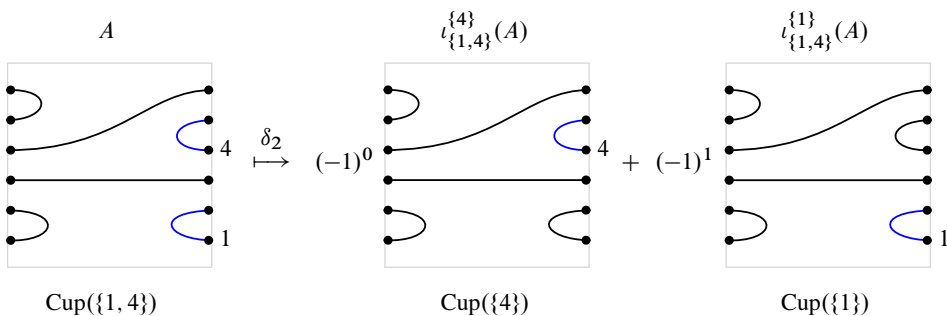


Figure 4: The differential of  $(\mathcal{TL}_6\mathcal{D}, \delta)$  evaluated on an element in  $\text{Cup}(\{1, 4\})$ .

**Proof** Let  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$  be a planar diagram and  $F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle$  be an innermost set. Recall from [Definition 7](#) that

$$A \in \text{Cup}(F) \iff F \subseteq F(A).$$

Let  $R\{(A, F)\} \subseteq \text{Cup}(F)$  denote the  $R$ -linear summand spanned by the isotopy class of  $A$  in the diagrammatic picture using the convention that  $R\{(A, F)\} = 0$  if  $F \not\subseteq F(A)$ . We think of  $(A, F)$  as a planar diagram with  $|F|$ -marked innermost right cups. Then the  $R$ -module  $\text{Cup}(F)$  admits the decomposition

$$\text{Cup}(F) = \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \mathcal{TL} \\ \text{planar diagram}}} R\{(A, F)\}.$$

Hence, the  $R$ -module  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha$  can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_\alpha &= \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} \text{Cup}(F) = \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \mathcal{TL} \\ \text{planar diagram}}} R\{(A, F)\} \\ &= \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \mathcal{TL} \\ \text{planar diagram}}} \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} R\{(A, F)\} = \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \mathcal{TL} \\ \text{planar diagram}}} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)_\alpha, \end{aligned}$$

where we define

$$\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)_\alpha = \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq F(A) \\ |F|=\alpha}} R\{(A, F)\}.$$

Observe that for any planar diagram  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$ , the sequence of submodules  $\{\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}}$  forms an  $R$ -module subcomplex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)$  of the cellular Davis complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  because the partial differentials in  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  are given by inclusion maps  $\text{Cup}(F) \hookrightarrow \text{Cup}(F_s)$  with  $F_s \subset F$  (see [Definition 8](#)). It follows that, as a chain complex in  $R$ -modules, the cellular Davis complex is a coproduct:<sup>1</sup>

$$\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D} = \bigoplus_{\substack{A \in \mathcal{TL} \\ \text{planar diagram}}} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A).$$

We will calculate the homology of each subcomplex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)$ . If  $A = \text{id}$ , then  $F(A) = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A) = R\{(\text{id}, \emptyset)\}[0]$  is concentrated in degree 0. If  $A \neq \text{id}$ , then  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)$  is exactly the augmented chain complex  $\tilde{C}(\Delta)[+1]$  of the simplex  $\Delta$  on the vertex set  $F(A)$ , where the vertices are ordered using  $F(A) \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  and the chain complex is shifted up by one degree. Therefore the homology of the complex  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}(A)$  is zero in every degree if  $A \neq \text{id}$ . The identification  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}, \delta) = \mathbb{1}$  as a  $\mathcal{TL}$ -module holds because  $\text{im}(\delta_1) = \widehat{\mathcal{TL}}$ , where the right side is as in [Definition 5](#), and  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}_0 = \text{Cup}(\emptyset) = \mathcal{TL}$ .  $\square$

<sup>1</sup>A similar splitting was used by Boyd, Hepworth and Patzt in their work on the homology of Brauer algebras [\[3, Definition 5.5\]](#).

### 3.2 Homology with coefficients in $\text{Cup}(F)$

Let  $F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle$  be an innermost set. The homology groups  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F))$  of the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}$  with coefficients in  $\text{Cup}(F)$  will occur on the  $E_1$ -page of the spectral sequences, which we will use to derive Theorem A, B and C. For this reason, we will now study the modules  $\text{Cup}(F)$  and the homology groups  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F))$ . We begin by collecting several important observations about innermost sets.

The following notion explains why the cellular Davis complex is “sensitive” to the question of whether the underlying Temperley–Lieb algebra is defined on an even or an odd number of strands:

**Definition 11** If  $n$  is even, we call  $M = \{1, 3, \dots, n-1\} \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  the *unique maximal innermost set*.

Note that if  $n$  is even, then  $M = \{1, 3, \dots, n-1\} \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  really is the unique innermost set of maximal cardinality. If the number of strands  $n \geq 3$  is odd, then in contrast to the even case there exist multiple different innermost sets of maximal cardinality (see Figure 5).

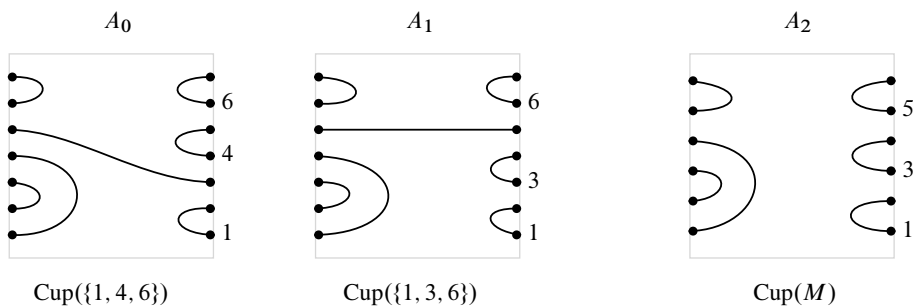


Figure 5: Innermost sets of maximal cardinality for  $\langle 6 \rangle$  (left) and  $\langle 5 \rangle$  (right).

In particular the next observation always applies, if the Temperley–Lieb algebra is defined on an odd number  $n \geq 3$  of strands:

**Observation 12** If  $F \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  is nonempty and innermost, but not the unique maximal innermost set  $M$ , then there exists an index  $1 \leq i \leq n$  such that either  $i-1 \notin F$  and  $s = i+1 \in F$ , or  $i \notin F$  and  $s = i-2 \in F$ .

**Proof** Since  $F$  is nonempty, there exists a smallest  $z \in F$ . If  $z \neq 1$ , we set  $1 \leq i := z-1 \leq n$ . Then  $i-1 = z-2 \notin F$  by the minimality of  $z$  and  $s = i+1 = z \in F$  by definition. Hence, the first case applies. Assume that  $z = 1 \in F$ . Because  $F \neq M$ , the set  $\{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{j, j+1 : j \in F\}$  is nonempty and contains a smallest index  $i$ . The assumption  $1 \in F$  and the minimality of  $i$  imply that  $i \geq 3$  is an odd number such that  $s = i-2 \in F$ . Therefore the second case applies.  $\square$

In the setting of [Observation 12](#) we can think of the index  $1 \leq i \leq n$  as the vertex  $(1, i)$  on the right side of *any* planar diagram  $A$  in  $\text{Cup}(F)$ . Then, this vertex has the property that it is next to the *marked* innermost right cup at position  $s \in F$  but not itself the start or endpoint of a *marked* innermost right cup.

The following proposition is closely related to [\[2, Section 3\]](#) and replaces the “inductive resolutions”, which Boyd and Hepworth introduced, in our setting:

**Proposition 13** *Let  $F \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  be nonempty and innermost but not unique maximal innermost, and choose  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $s \in \{i-2, i+1\}$  as in [Observation 12](#). Let  $F_s = F - \{s\}$ . Then*

$$\text{Cup}(F) \hookrightarrow \text{Cup}(F_s)$$

*is a retract of left  $\mathcal{TL}$ -modules.*

**Proof** Assume that  $i \notin F$  and  $s = i-2 \in F$ . Consider the map of left modules (see [Figure 6](#))

$$\text{Cup}(F_s) \rightarrow \text{Cup}(F) \quad \text{given by } c \mapsto c \cdot (U_{i-1}U_{i-2}).$$

We need to check that this map is well defined. If  $c \in \text{Cup}(F_s)$ , then  $c = A \cdot \prod_{j \in F_s} U_j$  for some  $A \in \mathcal{TL}$ . Therefore

$$c \cdot (U_{i-1}U_{i-2}) = \left( A \cdot \prod_{j \in F_s} U_j \right) (U_{i-1}U_{i-2}) = (A \cdot U_{i-1}) \left( \prod_{j \in F} U_j \right),$$

where we used that  $U_{i-1}$  commutes with all  $\{U_z\}_{z \in F_s}$  and that  $s = i-2 \in F$ . The commutativity of  $U_{i-1}$  with  $\{U_z\}_{z \in F_s}$  follows from [Observation 12](#) because

$$|(i-1) - z| \geq \min\{|(i-1) - (i-4)|, |(i-1) - (i+1)|\} \geq 2 \quad \text{for any } z \in F_s.$$

We therefore proved that  $c \cdot (U_{i-1}U_{i-2}) \in \text{Cup}(F)$ , and hence that the map is well defined. To see that it defines a retraction, we observe that if  $c \in \text{Cup}(F)$ , then  $c = c' \cdot U_{i-2}$ . Therefore

$$c \cdot (U_{i-1}U_{i-2}) = c' \cdot (U_{i-2}U_{i-1}U_{i-2}) = c' \cdot U_{i-2} = c.$$

The argument for the case where  $i-1 \notin F$  and  $s = i+1 \in F$  is similar. We consider the map of left modules

$$\text{Cup}(F_s) \rightarrow \text{Cup}(F) \quad \text{given by } c \mapsto c \cdot (U_iU_{i+1}).$$

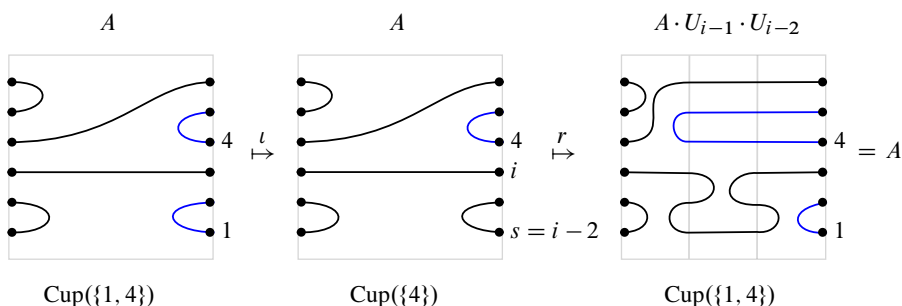


Figure 6: Illustration of the retraction constructed in [Proposition 13](#).

By [Observation 12](#),  $|i - z| \geq \min\{|i - (i - 2)|, |i - (i + 3)|\} \geq 2$  for  $z \in F_s$ . This again implies that the map is well defined. To see that it defines a retraction, we use that if  $c \in \text{Cup}(F)$  then  $c = c' \cdot U_{i+1}$ . Therefore

$$c \cdot (U_i U_{i+1}) = c' \cdot (U_{i+1} U_i U_{i+1}) = c' \cdot U_{i+1} = c. \quad \square$$

**Remark 14** The elements that we use to define the retractions in [Proposition 13](#) are exactly the same elements that Boyd and Hepworth use in [\[2, Section 3\]](#) to define “inductive resolutions”.

The role of the following corollary in our arguments is similar to the role of Theorem F in [\[2\]](#).

**Corollary 15** *Let  $F \subseteq \langle n - 1 \rangle$  be innermost, but not unique maximal innermost. Then*

$$\text{Cup}(F) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{TL}$$

*is a retract of left  $\mathcal{TL}$ -modules and  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)) = 0$  for  $\star > 0$ .*

**Proof** If  $F = \emptyset$ , the retraction statement is trivial because  $\text{Cup}(\emptyset) = \mathcal{TL}$ . If  $F \neq \emptyset$ , it follows from [Proposition 13](#) by induction. The fact that  $\text{Cup}(F)$  is a retract of the free  $\mathcal{TL}$ -module  $\mathcal{TL}$  implies that  $\text{Cup}(F)$  is a projective  $\mathcal{TL}$ -module. Therefore  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)) = 0$  for  $\star > 0$ .  $\square$

In the next lemma, we compute the degree-zero homology of the Temperley–Lieb algebras with coefficients in  $\text{Cup}(F)$ :

**Lemma 16** *Assume that  $F \subseteq \langle n - 1 \rangle$  is an innermost set. Then*

$$H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)) \cong \mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \cong \begin{cases} R & \text{if } F = \emptyset, \\ R/a & \text{if } n = 2 \text{ and } F = \{1\}, \\ 0 & \text{if } n > 2 \text{ and } F \neq \emptyset. \end{cases}$$

**Proof** The short exact sequence defining the trivial module  $\mathbb{1}$  ([Definition 5](#)) and the right exactness of  $-\otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F)$  yield an exact sequence

$$\widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \rightarrow \mathcal{TL} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \rightarrow \mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \rightarrow 0.$$

It follows that

$$\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \cong \frac{\text{Cup}(F)}{\widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \cdot \text{Cup}(F)}.$$

We use this to compute  $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F)$  in each case. If  $F = \emptyset$ , then  $\text{Cup}(F) = \mathcal{TL}$  and we find that

$$\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) = \mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL} \cong R.$$

If  $n = 2$  and  $F = \{1\}$ , then  $\text{Cup}(F) = \widehat{\mathcal{TL}} = R\{U_1\}$  and  $\widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \cdot \widehat{\mathcal{TL}} = aR\{U_1\}$ . Hence,

$$\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \cong R/a.$$

For the last case, we assume that  $n > 2$  and  $F \neq \emptyset$ . We will prove that

$$\text{Cup}(F) \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \cdot \text{Cup}(F).$$

Consider an element  $A \in \text{Cup}(F)$ . The definition of  $\text{Cup}(F)$  implies that  $A = A' \cdot (\prod_{j \in F} U_j)$  for some  $A' \in \mathcal{TL}$ . We fix a generator  $U_i$ , whose index  $i$  has the property that  $i \in F \neq \emptyset$ . Because  $\mathcal{TL}$  has  $n - 1 > 1$  generators,  $i - 1$  or  $i + 1$  also indexes a generator  $U_{i-1}$  or  $U_{i+1}$ . By [Definition 1\(ii\)](#), it follows that

$$A' \cdot (U_i U_{i-1}) \cdot \prod_{j \in F} U_j = A' \cdot \prod_{j \in F} U_j \quad \text{or} \quad A' \cdot (U_i U_{i+1}) \cdot \prod_{j \in F} U_j = A' \cdot \prod_{j \in F} U_j.$$

Note in either case,  $B := A' \cdot (U_i U_{i-1})$  or  $B := A' \cdot (U_i U_{i+1})$ , that  $B \in \widehat{\mathcal{TL}}$ . Therefore

$$A = B \cdot \left( \prod_{j \in F} U_j \right) \in \widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \cdot \text{Cup}(F).$$

It follows that  $\text{Cup}(F) \subseteq \widehat{\mathcal{TL}} \cdot \text{Cup}(F)$ , and hence that  $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F) \cong 0$ . □

**Remark 17** The homology with trivial coefficients of the Temperley–Lieb algebra  $\mathcal{TL}$  on one generator has been completely computed by Boyd and Hepworth in [\[2, Proposition 7.1\]](#). For the case  $n = 2$  and  $F = \{1\}$  in [Lemma 16](#), it holds that  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)) \cong H_1(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1})$ . In particular, this case can also be deduced from [\[2, Proposition 7.1\]](#).

### 3.3 Proof of Theorems A, B and C

We will now prove the three main theorems. The following result, stated as [Theorem A](#) in [Section 1](#), generalizes [\[2, Theorem D\]](#) and the “odd” part of [\[2, Theorem B\]](#).

**Theorem 18** *If  $n$  is odd, then  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = R$  and  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = 0$  for  $\star > 0$ .*

**Proof** Let  $P_\star$  be a free resolution of the trivial  $\mathcal{TL}$ -module  $\mathbb{1}$ , and consider the double complex  $P_\star \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$ , where  $\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  is the cellular Davis complex for Temperley–Lieb algebras (see [Definition 8](#)). The horizontal and vertical filtration of  $P_\star \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}$  give rise to two spectral sequences. The  $vE^1$ -page of the vertical spectral sequence is given by

$$vE_{\alpha, \beta}^1 = H_\beta(P_\alpha \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}) \cong P_\alpha \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} H_\beta(\mathcal{TL}\mathcal{D}).$$

It follows from [Theorem 10](#) that the  $vE^1$ -page is concentrated in degree  $\beta = 0$ , where it is given by the complex  $vE_{\star, 0}^1 \cong P_\star \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathbb{1}$ . Then by definition,

$$vE_{\alpha, 0}^2 = H_\alpha(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}).$$

The collapsing of the vertical spectral sequence on the  $vE^2$ -page implies that the horizontal spectral sequence converges to  $H_{\alpha+\beta}(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1})$ . The  $hE^1$ -page of the horizontal spectral sequence is given by

$$\begin{aligned} hE_{\alpha,\beta}^1 &= H_\beta(P_\star \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL} \mathfrak{D}_\alpha) \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} H_\beta(P_\star \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(F)) \\ &\cong \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} H_\beta(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)). \end{aligned}$$

Because  $n$  is odd, [Corollary 15](#) applies to any innermost subset  $F \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$ . Together with [Lemma 16](#), this implies that

$$hE_{\alpha,\beta}^1 = \begin{cases} R & \text{if } (\alpha, \beta) = (0, 0), \\ 0 & \text{if } (\alpha, \beta) \neq (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

The theorem follows. □

The next vanishing result, stated as [Theorem B](#) in [Section 1](#), is similar to the “even” part of [\[2, Theorem B\]](#). The vanishing line which Boyd and Hepworth obtain is stronger than ours — slope 1 versus slope  $\frac{1}{2}$  — and in fact optimal [\[2, Theorem C\]](#). The description of the high-dimensional homology in terms of homology with coefficients is new in the sense that the coefficient system is different from the one in [\[2\]](#).

**Theorem 19** *If  $n$  is even, then  $H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = R$ ,  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = 0$  for  $0 < \star < \frac{n}{2}$  and*

$$H_{\star+n/2}(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) \cong H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M))$$

*for  $\star \geq 0$  and where  $M = \{1, 3, \dots, n-1\} \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle$  is the unique maximal innermost set.*

**Proof** By the same argument as in the proof of [Theorem 18](#), we obtain a spectral sequence converging to  $H_{\alpha+\beta}(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1})$  with  $hE^1$ -page

$$hE_{\alpha,\beta}^1 \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{F \subseteq \langle n-1 \rangle \text{ innermost} \\ |F|=\alpha}} H_\beta(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(F)).$$

Because  $n$  is even, there exists a unique innermost set  $M = \{1, 3, \dots, n-1\} \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  of maximal cardinality  $|M| = \frac{n}{2}$ . [Corollary 15](#) applies to all innermost subsets  $F \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  except  $M$ . Together with [Lemma 16](#), this implies that

$$hE_{\alpha,\beta}^1 = \begin{cases} R & \text{if } (\alpha, \beta) = (0, 0), \\ H_\beta(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M)) & \text{if } (\alpha, \beta) = (\frac{n}{2}, \beta), \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

If  $n = 2$ , the only possibly nontrivial differential on the  $hE^1$ -page

$$d_1: H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M)) = \mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \text{Cup}(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{1} \otimes_{\mathcal{TL}} \mathcal{TL} = H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \mathcal{TL}), \quad I \otimes A \mapsto I \otimes A = I \cdot A \otimes 1 = 0$$

is the zero map. We conclude that the spectral sequence collapses on the  $hE^1$ -page. □

**Remark 20** In the setting of [Theorem 19](#), [Lemma 16](#) implies that  $H_{n/2}(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = R/a$  if  $n = 2$ , and that  $H_{n/2}(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = 0$  if  $n > 2$ . This is consistent with [\[2, Theorem B and C\]](#) mentioned above.

We finish by presenting an alternative proof of [\[2, Theorem A\]](#), ie [Theorem C](#) stated in [Section 1](#).

**Theorem 21** [\[2, Theorem A\]](#) *If the parameter  $a \in R$  is a unit, then*

$$H_0(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = R \quad \text{and} \quad H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \mathbb{1}) = 0 \quad \text{for } \star > 0.$$

**Proof** By [Theorems 18](#) and [19](#), it suffices to prove that, for  $n \geq 2$  even and  $M \subset \langle n-1 \rangle$  the unique maximal innermost set,  $H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M)) = 0$  for  $\star \geq 0$ . To see this, we consider the innermost set  $M_1 = M - \{1\}$ . There is a map of left  $\mathcal{TL}$ -modules

$$\text{Cup}(M_1) \rightarrow \text{Cup}(M) \quad \text{given by } c \mapsto c \cdot U_1.$$

Observe that the map obtained by precomposition with the inclusion

$$\text{Cup}(M) \hookrightarrow \text{Cup}(M_1) \rightarrow \text{Cup}(M)$$

is multiplication by  $a$ . If  $a$  is a unit, the inclusion induced map

$$H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M)) \rightarrow H_\star(\mathcal{TL}, \text{Cup}(M_1))$$

must therefore be an injection. By [Corollary 15](#), the target of this map is zero if  $\star > 0$ . For  $\star = 0$ , we invoke [Lemma 16](#). □

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