

Augmentations are sheaves

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We show that the set of augmentations of the Chekanov–Eliashberg algebra of a Legendrian link underlies the structure of a unital A_∞ -category. This differs from the nonunital category constructed by Bourgeois and Chantraine (*J. Symplectic Geom.* **12** (2014) 553–583), but is related to it in the same way that cohomology is related to compactly supported cohomology. The existence of such a category was predicted by Shende, Treumann and Zaslow (*Invent. Math.* **207** (2017) 1031–1133), who moreover conjectured its equivalence to a category of sheaves on the front plane with singular support meeting infinity in the knot. After showing that the augmentation category forms a sheaf over the x -line, we are able to prove this conjecture by calculating both categories on thin slices of the front plane. In particular, we conclude that every augmentation comes from geometry.

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1 Introduction

A powerful modern approach to studying a Legendrian submanifold Λ in a contact manifold V is to encode Floer-theoretic data into a differential graded algebra $\mathcal{A}(V, \Lambda)$,

the Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA. The generators of this algebra are indexed by Reeb chords; its differential counts holomorphic disks in the symplectization $\mathbb{R} \times V$ with boundary lying along the Lagrangian $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda$ and meeting the Reeb chords at infinity; see Eliashberg [18] and Eliashberg, Givental and Hofer [19]. Isotopies of Legendrians induce homotopy equivalences of algebras, and the homology of this algebra is called Legendrian contact homology.

A fundamental insight of Chekanov [5] is that, in practice, these homotopy equivalence classes of infinite-dimensional algebras can often be distinguished by the techniques of algebraic geometry. For instance, the *functor of points*

$$\text{fields} \rightarrow \text{sets}, \quad \mathbb{k} \mapsto \{\text{DGA morphisms } \mathcal{A}(V, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}\} / \text{DGA homotopy},$$

is preserved by homotopy equivalences of algebras $\mathcal{A}(V, \Lambda)$ — see Félix, Halperin and Thomas [21, Lemma 26.3] — and thus furnishes an invariant. Collecting together the linearizations (“cotangent spaces”) $\ker \epsilon / (\ker \epsilon)^2$ of the augmentations (“points”) $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(V, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ gives a stronger invariant: comparison of these linearizations as differential graded vector spaces is one way that Legendrian knots have been distinguished in practice since the work of Chekanov.

As the structure coefficients of the DGA $\mathcal{A}(V, \Lambda)$ come from the contact geometry of (V, Λ) , it is natural to ask for direct contact-geometric interpretations of the algebrogeometric constructions above, and in particular to seek the contact-geometric meaning of the — a priori, purely algebraic — augmentations. In some cases, this meaning is known. As in topological field theory, exact Lagrangian cobordisms between Legendrians give rise (contravariantly) to morphisms of the corresponding DGAs; see Eliashberg, Givental and Hofer [19], Ekholm [10] and Ekholm, Honda and Kálmán [15]. In particular, exact Lagrangian fillings are cobordisms from the empty set, and so give augmentations.

However, not all augmentations arise in this manner. Indeed, consider pushing an exact filling surface L of a Legendrian knot Λ in the Reeb direction: on the one hand, this is a deformation of L inside T^*L , and so intersects L — an exact Lagrangian — in a number of points which, counted with signs, is $-\chi(L)$. On the other hand, this intersection can be computed as the linking number at infinity, or in other words, the Thurston–Bennequin number of Λ : $\text{tb}(\Lambda) = -\chi(L)$. Now there is a Legendrian figure-eight knot with $\text{tb} = -3$ (see eg Chongchitmate and Ng [6] for this and other examples); its DGA has augmentations, and yet any filling surface would necessarily have genus -2 .

This obstruction has a categorification, originally due to Seidel and made precise in this context by Ekholm [10]. Given an exact filling (W, L) of (V, Λ) (where we will primarily focus on the case $V = \mathbb{R}^3$ and $W = \mathbb{R}^4$), consider the Floer homology $\mathrm{HF}_t(L, L)$, where the differential accounts only for disks bounded by L and a controlled Hamiltonian perturbation of L for time $< t$, ie loosely those disks with action bounded by t . There is an inclusion $\mathrm{HF}_{-\varepsilon}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}_{\infty}(L, L)$. The former has generators given by self-intersections of L with a small perturbation of itself, and the latter has generators given by these together with Reeb chords of Λ . The quotient of these chain complexes leads to what is called “linearized contact cohomology” in the literature; for reasons to be made clear shortly, we write it as $\mathrm{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon, \epsilon)[1]$. That is, we have

$$(1-1) \quad \mathrm{HF}_{-\varepsilon}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}_{\infty}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon, \epsilon)[1] \xrightarrow{1}.$$

Finally, since the wrapped Fukaya category of \mathbb{R}^4 is trivial, we get an isomorphism $\mathrm{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon, \epsilon) \cong \mathrm{HF}_{-\varepsilon}(L, L)$. On the other hand, $\mathrm{HF}_{-\varepsilon}(L, L) \cong H_c^*(L; \mathbb{k})$. In particular, taking Euler characteristics recovers

$$-\mathrm{tb}(\Lambda) = \chi(\mathrm{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon, \epsilon)) = \chi(H_c^*(L; \mathbb{k})) = \chi(L).$$

One could try to construct the missing augmentations from more general objects in the derived Fukaya category. To the extent that this is possible, the above sequence implies that the *categorical* structures present in the symplectic setting should be visible on the space of augmentations. An important step in this direction was taken by Bourgeois and Chantraine [2], who define a *nonunital* A_{∞} -category which we denote by Aug_{-} . Its objects are augmentations of the Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA, and its hom spaces $\mathrm{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$ have the property that the self-Homs are the linearized contact cohomologies. The existence of this category was strong evidence that augmentations could indeed be built from geometry.

On the other hand, when $V = T^{\infty}M$ is the cosphere bundle over a manifold, $\Lambda \subset V$ is a Legendrian and \mathbb{k} is a field, a new source of Legendrian invariants is provided by the category $\mathrm{Sh}(M, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ of constructible sheaves of \mathbb{k} -modules on M whose singular support meets $T^{\infty}M$ in Λ ; see Shende, Treumann and Zaslow [52]. The introduction of this category is motivated by the microlocalization equivalence of the category of sheaves on a manifold with the infinitesimally wrapped Fukaya category of the cotangent bundle; see Nadler and Zaslow [44] and Nadler [43]:

$$\mu: \mathrm{Sh}(M; \mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Fuk}_{\varepsilon}(T^*M; \mathbb{k}).$$

In particular, to a Lagrangian brane $L \subset T^*M$ ending on Λ , there corresponds a sheaf $\mu^{-1}(L)$ with the property that

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}(M)}(\mu^{-1}(L), \mu^{-1}(L)) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon(T^*M)}(L, L) = \mathrm{HF}_{+\epsilon}(L, L) = H^*(L; \mathbb{k}),$$

and we write $\mathrm{Sh}(M, \Lambda; \mathbb{k}) := \mu^{-1}(L)$.

Like ordinary cohomology, the category $\mathrm{Sh}(M, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ is unital; like compactly supported cohomology, the Bourgeois–Chantraine augmentation category $\mathrm{Aug}_-(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ is not. In an augmentation category matching the sheaf category, the Hom spaces would fit naturally into an exact sequence

$$(1-2) \quad \mathrm{HF}_{+\epsilon}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)[1] \xrightarrow{1} .$$

Together these observations suggest the following modification to the Bourgeois–Chantraine construction. As noted in [2], Aug_- can be defined from the n –copy of the Legendrian, ordered with respect to the displacement in the Reeb direction. To change the sign of the perturbations, in the front diagram of the Legendrian we reorder the n –copy from top to bottom, instead of from bottom to top. The first main result of this article, established in Sections 3 and 4, is that doing so yields a *unital* A_∞ –category.

Theorem 1.1 (see Definition 4.3 and Theorem 4.20) *Let Λ be a Legendrian knot or link in \mathbb{R}^3 . We define a unital A_∞ –category $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ whose objects are DGA maps $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{R}^3, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$, ie augmentations. This category is invariant up to A_∞ –equivalence under Legendrian isotopies of Λ .*

It turns out that the cohomology $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ of the self-hom spaces in $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ is exactly (up to a grading shift) what is called linearized Legendrian contact homology in the literature; see Corollary 5.6. Moreover, if Λ is a knot with a single basepoint, then two objects of $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ are isomorphic in the cohomology category $H^*\mathrm{Aug}_+$ if and only if they are homotopic as DGA maps $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{R}^3, \Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$; see Proposition 5.19. In particular, it follows from work of Ekholm, Honda and Kálmán [15] that augmentations corresponding to isotopic exact fillings of Λ are isomorphic.

There is a close relation between $\mathrm{Aug}_-(\Lambda)$ and $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda)$. Indeed, our construction gives both, and a morphism from one to the other. We investigate these in Section 5, and find:

Theorem 1.2 (see Propositions 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4) *There is an A_∞ –functor $\mathrm{Aug}_- \rightarrow \mathrm{Aug}_+$ carrying every augmentation to itself. On morphisms, this functor extends to an*

exact triangle

$$\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon') \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon') \rightarrow H^*(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{[1]}.$$

Moreover, there is a duality

$$\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon') \cong \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon', \epsilon)^\dagger[-2].$$

Here, the \dagger denotes the cochain complex dual of a cochain complex, ie the underlying vector space is dualized, the differential is transposed and the degrees are negated.

When $\epsilon = \epsilon'$, Sabloff [50] first constructed this duality, and the exact sequence in this case is given by Ekholm, Etnyre and Sabloff [12]. When the augmentation comes from a filling L , the duality is Poincaré duality, and the triangle is identified with the long exact sequence in cohomology

$$H_c^*(L; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow H^*(L; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow H^*(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{[1]}.$$

That is, there is a map of triangles (1-1) \rightarrow (1-2), so that the connecting homomorphism identifies the inclusion $\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ with the inclusion $\mathrm{HF}_{-\varepsilon}(L, L) \rightarrow \mathrm{HF}_{+\varepsilon}(L, L)$.

The category $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ in hand, we provide the hitherto elusive connection between augmentations and the Fukaya category. We write $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ for the sheaves with “microlocal rank one” along Λ , and with acyclic stalk when $z \ll 0$.

Theorem 1.3 (see Theorem 7.1) *Let $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ be a Legendrian knot, and let \mathbb{k} be a field. Then there is an A_∞ -equivalence of categories*

$$\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}).$$

Via the equivalence between constructible sheaves and the Fukaya category, we view this theorem as asserting that all augmentations come from geometry. In total, we have a host of relations among categories of sheaves, Lagrangians and augmentations. These are summarized in Section 8.

The first four authors [48] have shown that the groupoid of isomorphisms in the truncation $\pi_{\geq 0}\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{F}_q)$ has homotopy cardinality $q^{\mathrm{tb}(\Lambda)/2} R_\Lambda(q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2})$, where $R_\Lambda(z)$ is the ruling polynomial of Λ ; thus the same is true of $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda; \mathbb{F}_q)$, resolving Conjecture 7.5 of [52].

The Bourgeois–Chantraine category $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ can also be identified with a category of sheaves. If we define $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}_-}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}) := \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}}(\mathcal{F}, r_{-\varepsilon}^* \mathcal{G})$, where r_t is the front projection of Reeb flow, then there is a nonunital dg category $\mathrm{Sh}_-(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ whose

morphism spaces are $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}_-}$. We write $\mathcal{C}_1^{(-)}$ for the sheaves with “microlocal rank one” along Λ and with acyclic stalk when $z \ll 0$. Similar arguments (which we do not give explicitly in this paper) yield an equivalence $\mathrm{Aug}_-(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{C}_1^{(-)}(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$. Further properties and relations to existing constructions are discussed in [Section 5](#).

Summary of the paper The preceding gives an account of the main results of this paper and their relevance to the study of Legendrian knots. Since much of the remainder of the paper is technical, a straightforward summary in plain English may be helpful for the casual reader, or as a reference for those who get lost in the weeds. We address only topics not already discussed above.

To create a category whose objects are augmentations, we must define the morphisms and compositions. At first glance, there seems to be little to do beyond adapting the definitions that already appear in the work of Bourgeois and Chantraine [\[2\]](#) to account for the reversal in ordering link components. Yet there is an important distinction. In ordering the perturbations as we do, we are forced to consider the presence of “short” Reeb chords, traveling from the original Legendrian to its perturbation. These short chords were also considered in [\[2\]](#) and indeed have appeared in a number of papers in contact topology; however, Bourgeois and Chantraine ultimately do not need them to formulate their augmentation category, whereas they are crucial to our formulation.

The higher products in the augmentation category involve multiple perturbations and counts of disks bounding chords—including short chords—traveling between the different perturbed copies. The way to treat this scenario is to consider the Legendrian and its perturbed copies as a single link, then to encode the data of which copies the chords connect with the notion of a “link grading”; see Mishachev [\[42\]](#). So we must consider the DGA of a link constructed from a number of copies of an original Legendrian, each with different perturbations—and we must repeat this construction for each natural number to define all the different higher products in the A_∞ -category. As the different products must interact with one another according to the A_∞ relations, we must organize all these copies and perturbations and DGAs coherently, leading to the notion of a consistent sequence of DGAs. We provide this definition and show that a consistent sequence of DGAs with a link grading produces an A_∞ -category, which in the case described above will be the augmentation category $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda)$. To keep these general algebraic aspects distinct from the specific application, we have collected them all in [Section 3](#).

In [Section 4](#), we construct consistent sequences of DGAs for Legendrian knots Λ in \mathbb{R}^3 , resulting in the category $\mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda)$. It is important to note that the consistent sequence

of DGAs that we construct for a Legendrian knot does not apply to Legendrians in higher than one dimension; see [Remark 1.4](#) for some brief discussion of this. Accordingly, as distinct from the category of Bourgeois and Chantraine, a general version of our category in higher dimensions would not be algebraically determined by the DGA of the Legendrian in general, although we show that it is for one-dimensional knots (see [Proposition 4.26](#)). Another complication in the definition of the category is that it includes “basepoints”, additional generators of the DGA which are needed both for the comparison to sheaves, ie to reduce DGA computations to purely local considerations, and in order to prove independence of perturbation. We have so far been vague about what “perturbation” means. We can perturb a Legendrian in a 1-jet bundle with a Morse function, and we do this, but we might also take a copy of the front projection translated in the Reeb direction, and then use the resolution procedure; see Ng [\[45\]](#). (If one were to simply translate a Lagrangian projection in the Reeb direction, every point in the projection would correspond to a chord!) Of course, one wants to show independence of choices as well as invariance of the category under Legendrian isotopy, all up to A_∞ -equivalence. This is done in [Theorem 4.20](#). The reader who wants to see how the definition plays out in explicit examples is referred to [Section 4.4](#). We then establish a number of properties of \mathcal{Aug}_+ in [Section 5](#), including the exact triangle and duality stated in [Theorem 1.2](#).

With the category in hand, we are in a position to compare with sheaves. Of course, Fukaya–Floer-type categories are nonlocal, depending as they do on holomorphic disks which may traverse large distances. Sheaves, on the other hand, are local. Comparison is made possible by the bordered construction of the DGA; see Sivek [\[54\]](#), where locality is proven: the DGA of the union of two sets is determined by the two pieces and their overlap. These results are reviewed and extended for the present application in [Section 6](#). The idea of the bordered construction is simple: holomorphic disks exiting a vertical strip would do so along a chord connecting two strands. By including such chords in the definition of the bordered algebra one shows that the DGA of a diagram glued from a left half and a right half is the pushout of the DGA of the two halves over the algebra of purely horizontal strands.

Now, once we put the front diagram in plat position and slice it into horizontal strips, we can apply the bordered construction and achieve locality as discussed above. Since sheaves are by definition local — this is the sheaf axiom — we are in a position to compare the two categories, and can do so strip by strip. We can further prepare the strips so that each is one of the following four possibilities: no crossings or cusps, one

crossing, all the left cusps, or all the right cusps. Note that to ensure that the gluings are themselves compatible, we also must compare the restriction functors from these cases to the left and right horizontal strip categories. Interestingly, while all these cases are dg categories, the restriction functors are only equivalent as A_∞ -functors, and this accounts for the difference in the glued-together categories at the end: the augmentation category is A_∞ and the sheaf category is dg. All these equivalences and compatibilities are shown in [Section 7](#). The case-by-case nature means the proof is somewhat lengthy, but it is straightforward. And that's it.

Remark 1.4 It should be possible to construct the augmentation category $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ for general Legendrians in arbitrary (and in particular higher-dimensional) 1-jet spaces. Here we explain why we restrict ourselves in this paper to the setting of $J^1(\mathbb{R})$, in contrast to Bourgeois and Chantraine's more general treatment of $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$ in [\[2\]](#). The consistent sequences of DGAs mentioned in the above summary are constructed from the n -copies of Λ , each of which is built by using a Morse function f to perturb n copies of Λ and then further perturbing at the critical points of f to make the xy -projection generic. For Legendrians in \mathbb{R}^3 , the latter perturbation can be done explicitly so that the resulting DGAs are described in terms of $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{R}^3, \Lambda)$ by the algebraic construction of [Section 3.4](#), and this produces the "short" Reeb chords mentioned above. Even with this algebraic description, the proof of invariance of $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ requires substantial effort. In higher dimensions, one can define $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ by making choices for the necessary perturbations, but these choices are noncanonical and proving invariance under all choices of perturbations is much harder. By contrast, the invariance of $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$ is simpler since it omits the short Reeb chords, but as a consequence it fails to be a unital category.

In particular, most of the technical material in [Sections 3 and 4](#) is developed from scratch specifically to deal with the incorporation of the short Reeb chords into the augmentation category. The extra trouble required to do so (in comparison with [\[2\]](#)) is worthwhile in the end, because many interesting properties of $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ are either false or unknown for $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$. Most importantly, $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ satisfies [Theorem 1.3](#) while $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$ does not; in addition, as mentioned above, we give a precise characterization of isomorphism in $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ in [Section 5.3](#), and we show in [\[48\]](#) that the homotopy cardinality of $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{F}_q)$ recovers the ruling polynomial of Λ .

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2 Background

2.1 Contact geometry

To denote a choice of coordinates, we write \mathbb{R}_x to mean the space \mathbb{R} coordinatized by x , and similarly for \mathbb{R}_{xz}^2 , etc. We consider Legendrian knots and links Λ in $J^1(\mathbb{R}_x) \cong T^*\mathbb{R}_x \times \mathbb{R}_z \cong \mathbb{R}_{xyz}^3$ and their front projections $\Phi_\Lambda = \pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$, where $\pi_{xz}: \mathbb{R}_{xyz}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$. We take the contact form for the standard contact structure on $J^1(\mathbb{R})$ to be $\alpha = dz - y dx$ with Reeb vector field $R_\alpha = \partial_z$. In higher dimensions one could take $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R}^n) \cong T^*\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}_z$, in which case $\alpha = dz - \sum_i y_i dx^i$ and $R_\alpha = \partial_z$, but we focus on 1-dimensional knots and links in this paper.

Consider $T^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ with coordinates (x, z, p_x, p_z) and exact symplectic structure $\omega = d\theta$ defined by the primitive $\theta = -p_x dx - p_z dz$. For any $\rho > 0$ the cosphere bundle $S_\rho^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2 := \{p_x^2 + p_z^2 = \rho^2\} \subset T^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ with induced contact form $\alpha = -p_x dx - p_z dz$ defined by restricting θ is contactomorphic to the unit cosphere bundle $S_1^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ via dilation by $1/\rho$ in the fibers. We define $T^\infty\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2 := S_1^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$, thinking of ρ large describing the “cosphere at infinity”. There is a contact embedding of \mathbb{R}_{xyz}^3 as a hypersurface of $T^*\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ by the map $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x = x, z = z, p_x = y, p_z = -1)$. By scaling $(x, z, p_x, p_z) \mapsto (x, z, p_x/\sqrt{p_x^2 + p_z^2}, p_z/\sqrt{p_x^2 + p_z^2})$, this hypersurface is itself contactomorphic to an open subset of $T^\infty\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$, which we call $T^{\infty,-}\mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ or just $T^{\infty,-}\mathbb{R}^2$, the minus sign indicating the downward direction of the conormal vectors. In this way, we equate, sometimes without further mention, the standard contact three-space with the open subset $T^{\infty,-}\mathbb{R}^2$ of the cosphere bundle of the plane. Our knots and links live in this open set.

Given a front diagram Φ_Λ , we sometimes use planar isotopies and Reidemeister II moves to put the diagram in “preferred plat” position: with crossings at different values

of x , all left cusps horizontal and at the same value of x , and likewise for right cusps. The maximal smoothly immersed submanifolds of Φ_Λ are called *strands*, maximal embedded submanifolds are called *arcs* and maximal connected components of the complement of Φ_Λ are called *regions*. A Maslov potential μ is a map from the set of strands to $\mathbb{Z}/2k$ such that at a cusp, the upper strand has value one greater than the lower strand. Here k is any integer dividing the gcd of the rotation numbers of the components of Λ .

2.2 The LCH differential graded algebra

In this subsection, we review the Legendrian contact homology DGA for Legendrian knots and links in \mathbb{R}^3 . For a more detailed introduction we refer the reader, for example, to [5; 45; 20]. Here, we discuss a version of the DGA that allows for an arbitrary number of basepoints to appear, as in [47], and our sign convention follows [17] (which essentially agrees with the one used in [20]).

2.2.1 The DGA Let Λ be a Legendrian knot or link in the contact manifold $\mathbb{R}^3 = J^1(\mathbb{R}) = T^{\infty, -}\mathbb{R}^2$. The DGA of Λ is most naturally defined via the *Lagrangian projection* (also called the *xy-projection*) of Λ , which is the image of Λ via the projection $\pi_{xy}: J^1(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{xy}$. The image $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda) \subset \mathbb{R}_{xy}$ is a union of immersed curves. After possibly modifying Λ by a small Legendrian isotopy, we may assume that $\pi_{xy}|_\Lambda$ is one-to-one except for some finite number of transverse double points, which we denote by $\{a_1, \dots, a_r\}$. We note that the $\{a_i\}$ are in bijection with *Reeb chords* of Λ , which are trajectories of the Reeb vector field $R_\alpha = \partial_z$ that begin and end on Λ .

To associate a DGA to Λ , we fix a Maslov potential μ for the front projection $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$, taking values in $\mathbb{Z}/2r$, where r is the gcd of the rotation numbers of the components of Λ . In addition, we choose sufficiently many basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M \in \Lambda$ that every component of $\Lambda \setminus \{*_i\}$ is contractible, ie at least one on each component of the link.

The *Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA* (C–E DGA), also called the *Legendrian contact homology DGA*, is denoted simply by (\mathcal{A}, ∂) , although we may write $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda, *_1, \dots, *_M)$ when the choice of basepoints needs to be emphasized. The underlying graded algebra, \mathcal{A} , is the noncommutative unital (associative) algebra generated over \mathbb{Z} by the symbols $a_1, \dots, a_r, t_1, t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_M, t_M^{-1}$ subject only to the relations $t_i t_i^{-1} = t_i^{-1} t_i = 1$. (In particular, t_i does not commute with $t_j^{\pm 1}$ for $j \neq i$ or with any of the a_k .)

A $\mathbb{Z}/2r$ -valued grading is given by assigning degrees to generators and requiring that, for homogeneous elements x and y , $x \cdot y$ is also homogeneous with $|x \cdot y| = |x| + |y|$. To this end, we set $|t_i| = |t_i^{-1}| = 0$. A Reeb chord a_i has its endpoints on distinct strands of the front projection, $\pi_{xz}(L)$, and moreover the tangent lines to $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$ at the endpoints of a_i are parallel. Therefore, near the upper (resp. lower) endpoint of a_i , the front projection is a graph $z = f_u(x)$ (resp. $z = f_l(x)$), where the functions f_u and f_l satisfy

$$(f_u - f_l)'(x(a_i)) = 0,$$

and the critical point at $x(a_i)$ is a nondegenerate local maximum or minimum (by the assumption that a_i is a transverse double point of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$). The degree of a_i is

$$|a_i| = \mu(a_i^u) - \mu(a_i^l) + \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f_u - f_l \text{ has a local maximum at } x(a_i), \\ -1 & \text{if } f_u - f_l \text{ has a local minimum at } x(a_i), \end{cases}$$

where $\mu(a_i^u)$ and $\mu(a_i^l)$ denote the value of the Maslov potential at the upper and lower endpoints of a_i . (For this index formula in a more general setting, see [13, Lemma 3.4].)

Remark 2.1 Adding an overall constant to μ does not change the grading of \mathcal{A} . In particular, when Λ is connected, $|a|$ is independent of the Maslov potential and corresponds to the Conley–Zehnder index associated to the Reeb chord a . This can be computed from the rotation number in \mathbb{R}^2 of the projection to the xy -plane of a path along Λ joining the endpoints of a ; see [5].

The differential $\partial: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ counts holomorphic disks in the symplectization $\mathbb{R} \times J^1(\mathbb{R})$ with boundary on the Lagrangian cylinder $\mathbb{R} \times \Lambda$, with one boundary puncture limiting to a Reeb chord of Λ at $+\infty$ and some nonnegative number of boundary punctures limiting to Reeb chords at $-\infty$. For Legendrians in $J^1(\mathbb{R})$, we have the following equivalent (see [20]) combinatorial description.

At each crossing a_i of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$, we assign *Reeb signs* to the four quadrants at the crossing according to the condition that the two quadrants that appear counterclockwise (resp. clockwise) to the overstrand have positive (resp. negative) Reeb sign. In addition, to define (\mathcal{A}, ∂) with \mathbb{Z} coefficients, we have to make a choice of orientation signs as follows: At each crossing, a_i , such that $|a_i|$ is even, we assign negative *orientation signs* to the two quadrants that lie on a chosen side of the understrand at a_i . All other quadrants have positive orientation signs. See Figure 1.

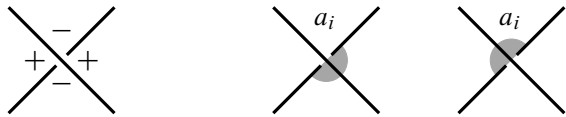


Figure 1: Left: the Reeb signs of the quadrants of a crossing of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$. Right: the two possible choices of orientation signs at a crossing a_i with $|a_i|$ even. The shaded quadrants have negative orientation signs while the unshaded quadrants have positive orientation signs. At a crossing of odd degree, all quadrants have positive orientation signs.

For $l \geq 0$, let $D_l^2 = D^2 \setminus \{p, q_1, \dots, q_l\}$ denote a disk with $l + 1$ boundary punctures labeled p, q_1, \dots, q_l in counterclockwise order. Given generators $a, b_1, \dots, b_l \in \mathcal{A}$, we define $\Delta(a; b_1, \dots, b_l)$ to be the space of smooth, orientation-preserving immersions $u: (D_l^2, \partial D_l^2) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}_{xy}^2, \pi_{xy}(\Lambda))$, up to reparametrization, such that

- u extends continuously to D^2 , and
- $u(p) = a$ and $u(q_i) = b_i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq l$, and the image of a neighborhood of p (resp. q_i) under u is a single quadrant at a (resp. b_i) with positive (resp. negative) Reeb sign.

We refer to the $u(p)$ and $u(q_i)$ as the corners of this disk. Traveling counterclockwise around $\overline{u(\partial D_l^2)}$ from a , we encounter a sequence s_1, \dots, s_m ($m \geq l$) of corners and basepoints, and we define a monomial

$$w(u) = \delta \cdot w(s_1)w(s_2) \cdots w(s_m),$$

where $w(s_i)$ is defined by:

- If s_i is a corner b_j , then $w(s_i) = b_j$.
- If s_i is a basepoint $*_j$, then $w(s_i)$ equals t_j or t_j^{-1} depending on whether the boundary orientation of $u(\partial D_l^2)$ agrees or disagrees with the orientation of Λ near $*_j$.
- The coefficient $\delta = \pm 1$ is the product of orientation signs assigned to the quadrants that are occupied by u near the corners at a, b_1, \dots, b_l . (See also [Remark 5.9](#) concerning sign choices.)

We then define the differential of a Reeb chord generator a by

$$\partial a = \sum_{u \in \Delta(a; b_1, \dots, b_l)} w(u),$$

where we sum over all tuples (b_1, \dots, b_l) , including possibly the empty tuple. Finally, we let $\partial t_i = \partial t_i^{-1} = 0$ and extend ∂ over the whole DGA by the Leibniz rule $\partial(xy) = (\partial x)y + (-1)^{|x|}x(\partial y)$.

Remark 2.2 An equivalent definition with more of the flavor of Floer homology can be made by taking $\Delta(a; b_1, \dots, b_l)$ to consist of holomorphic disks in $\mathbb{R} \times J^1(\mathbb{R})$, modulo conformal reparametrization and vertical translation. If this approach is taken, then the location of the boundary punctures p, q_1, \dots, q_l needs to be allowed to vary along ∂D^2 in a manner that preserves their cyclic ordering. See [20].

Theorem 2.3 [5; 20] *For any Legendrian $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ with basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M$, the differential $\partial: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda, *_1, \dots, *_M) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\Lambda, *_1, \dots, *_M)$ is well defined, has degree -1 and satisfies $\partial^2 = 0$.*

An *algebraic stabilization* of a DGA (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is a DGA $(S(\mathcal{A}), \partial')$ obtained as follows: the algebra $S(\mathcal{A})$ is obtained from \mathcal{A} by adding two new generators x and y with $|x| = |y| + 1$ (without additional relations), and the differential ∂' satisfies $\partial'x = y$, $\partial'y = 0$, and $\partial'|_{\mathcal{A}} = \partial$.

Theorem 2.4 *Let $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ be Legendrian links with basepoints chosen so that each component of Λ_1 and Λ_2 contains exactly one basepoint. If Λ_1 and Λ_2 are Legendrian isotopic, then, for any choice of Maslov potential on Λ_1 , there is a corresponding Maslov potential on Λ_2 such that the Legendrian contact homology DGAs $(\mathcal{A}_1, \partial_1)$ and $(\mathcal{A}_2, \partial_2)$ are stable tame isomorphic.*

The meaning of the final statement is that after stabilizing both the DGAs $(\mathcal{A}_1, \partial_1)$ and $(\mathcal{A}_2, \partial_2)$ some possibly different number of times they become isomorphic. Moreover, the DGA isomorphism may be assumed to be tame, which means that the underlying algebra map is a composition of certain elementary isomorphisms that have a particular simple form on the generators. (We will not need to use the tame condition in this article.)

Allowing more than one basepoint on some components of Λ provides essentially no new information, yet is convenient in certain situations. The precise relationship between DGAs arising from the same link equipped with different numbers of basepoints is given in Theorems 2.21 and 2.22 of [47]. See also the proof of Proposition 4.22 of this article, where relevant details are discussed.

2.2.2 The resolution construction Often, a Legendrian link $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ is most conveniently presented via its front projection. For computing Legendrian contact homology, we can obtain the Lagrangian projection of a link Λ' that is Legendrian isotopic to Λ by resolving crossings so that the strand with lesser slope in the front projection becomes the overstrand, smoothing cusps, and adding a right-handed half twist before each right cusp; the half twists result in a crossing of degree 1 appearing before each right cusp. See Figure 3 for an example. We say that Λ' is obtained from Λ by the *resolution construction*. (See [45] for more details.)

Thus, by applying the resolution procedure to a Legendrian Λ with a given front diagram and Maslov potential μ , we obtain a DGA (\mathcal{A}, ∂) (for Λ') with Reeb chord generators in bijection with the crossings and right cusps of $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$. The grading of a crossing of $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$ is the difference in Maslov potential between the overstrand and understrand of the crossing (more precisely, overstrand minus understrand), and the grading of all right cusps is 1. Moreover, supposing that Λ is in preferred plat position, the disks involved in computing ∂ have almost the same appearance on $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$ as they do on the Lagrangian projection of Λ' . The exception here is that when computing the differential of a right cusp c , we count disks that have their initial corner at the cusp itself, and there is an “invisible disk” whose boundary appears in the Lagrangian projection as the loop to the right of the crossing before c that was added as part of the resolution construction. Invisible disks contribute to ∂c a term that is either 1 or the product of $t_i^{\pm 1}$ corresponding to basepoints located on the loop at the right cusp.

2.2.3 The link grading Assume now that Λ is a Legendrian link with

$$\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Lambda_m,$$

where each Λ_i is either a connected component or a union of connected components. In this setting, there is an additional structure on the DGA $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$, the “link grading” of Mishachev [42].

Definition 2.5 Write \mathcal{R}^{ij} for the collection of Reeb chords of Λ that *end* on Λ_i and *begin* on Λ_j , so that $\mathcal{R} = \bigsqcup_{i,j=1}^m \mathcal{R}^{ij}$. The Reeb chords in \mathcal{R}^{ij} are called *pure chords* if $i = j$ and *mixed chords* if $i \neq j$.

In addition, write \mathcal{T}^{ii} for the collection of generators t_j and t_j^{-1} corresponding to basepoints belonging to Λ_i , and set $\mathcal{T}^{ij} = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$. Finally, put $\mathcal{S}^{ij} = \mathcal{R}^{ij} \sqcup \mathcal{T}^{ij}$. For $1 \leq i, j \leq m$, we say that a word $a_{\ell_1} \cdots a_{\ell_k}$ formed from generators in $\mathcal{S} = \bigsqcup \mathcal{S}^{ij}$ is *composable* from i to j if there is some sequence of indices i_0, \dots, i_k , with $i_0 = i$

and $i_k = j$, such that $a_{\ell_p} \in S^{i_p-1i_p}$ for $p = 1, \dots, k$. Observe that the LCH differential $\partial(a)$ of a Reeb chord $a \in \mathcal{R}^{ij}$ is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of composable words from i to j . One sees this by following the boundary of the holomorphic disk: this is in Λ_i between a and a_{ℓ_1} , in some Λ_{i_1} between a_{ℓ_1} and a_{ℓ_2} , and so forth. Note in particular that a mixed chord cannot contain a constant term (ie an integer multiple of 1) in its differential. That the differentials of generators, $\partial(a)$, are sums of composable words allows various algebraic invariants derived from (\mathcal{A}, ∂) to be split into direct summands. A more detailed discussion appears in a purely algebraic setting in [Section 3](#), and the framework developed there is a crucial ingredient for the construction of the augmentation category in [Section 4](#).

The invariance result from [Theorem 2.4](#) can be strengthened to take link gradings into account. Specifically, if (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is the DGA of a link $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \Lambda_m$ with generating set $\mathcal{S} = \bigsqcup_{i,j=1}^m S^{ij}$, then we preserve the decomposition of the generating set when considering algebraic stabilizations by requiring that new generators x and y are placed in the same subset S^{ij} for some $1 \leq i, j \leq m$. We then have:

Proposition 2.6 [\[42\]](#) *If $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \Lambda_m$ and $\Lambda' = \Lambda'_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \Lambda'_m$ are Legendrian isotopic via an isotopy that takes Λ_i to Λ'_i for $1 \leq i \leq m$, then there exist (iterated) stabilizations of the DGAs of Λ and Λ' , denoted by $(S\mathcal{A}, \partial)$ and $(S\mathcal{A}', \partial')$, that are isomorphic via a DGA isomorphism $f: S\mathcal{A} \rightarrow S\mathcal{A}'$, with the property that for a generator $a \in S^{ij}$ of $S\mathcal{A}$, $f(a)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of composable words from i to j in $S\mathcal{A}'$. (Multiples of 1 may appear if $i = j$.) Moreover, if each Λ_i and Λ'_i contains a unique basepoint t_i and the isotopy takes the orientation of Λ_i to the orientation of Λ'_i , then we have $f(t_i) = t_i$.*

2.3 A_∞ -categories

We follow the conventions of Keller [\[35\]](#), which are the same as the conventions of Getzler and Jones [\[23\]](#) except that in Keller the degree of m_n is $2 - n$ whereas in Getzler–Jones it is $n - 2$. In particular, we will use the Koszul sign rule: for graded vector spaces, we choose the identification $V \otimes W \rightarrow W \otimes V$ to come with a sign $v \otimes w \mapsto (-1)^{|v||w|} w \otimes v$, or, equivalently, we demand $(f \otimes g)(v \otimes w) = (-1)^{|g||v|} f(v) \otimes g(w)$. Note that the sign conventions that we use differ from, say, the conventions of Seidel [\[51\]](#); so, for instance, reading off the multiplication operations from the differential in Legendrian contact homology requires the introduction of a sign; see [\(3-1\)](#).

An A_∞ -algebra A is a graded module equipped with operations $m_n: A^{\otimes n} \rightarrow A$ for $n \geq 1$. These operations have degree $2 - n$ and obey a complicated tower of relations. The first is that $(m_1)^2 = 0$, and the second ensures that m_2 is associative after passing to cohomology with respect to m_1 .

The relations are nicely expressed in terms of the bar construction. This goes as follows. Let $\bar{T}(A[1]) := \bigoplus_{k \geq 1} A[1]^{\otimes k}$ be the positive part of the tensor coalgebra. Let $b: \bar{T}(A[1]) \rightarrow \bar{T}(A[1])$ be a coderivation — ie a map satisfying the co-Leibniz rule — of degree 1. Then, by the co-Leibniz rule, b is determined by the components $b_k: A[1]^{\otimes k} \rightarrow A[1]$.

Let $s: A \rightarrow A[1]$ be the canonical degree -1 identification $a \mapsto a$. Taking m_k and b_k to be related by $s \circ m_k = b_k \circ s^{\otimes k}$, the A_∞ relations are equivalent to the statement that b is a codifferential, ie $b^2 = 0$. It is even more complicated to write, in terms of the m_k , the definition of a morphism $A \rightarrow B$ of A_∞ -algebras; suffice it here to say that the definition is equivalent to asking for a co-DGA morphism $\bar{T}(A[1]) \rightarrow \bar{T}(B[1])$. That is:

Proposition 2.7 [55; 29] *Let A be a graded free module, and let $\bar{T}A = \bigoplus_{k \geq 1} A^{\otimes k}$. Then there is a natural bijection between A_∞ -algebra structures on A and square zero degree 1 coderivations on the coalgebra $\bar{T}(A[1])$. This equivalence extends to a bijection between A_∞ -morphisms $A \rightarrow B$ and dg coalgebra morphisms $\bar{T}(A[1]) \rightarrow \bar{T}(B[1])$, which preserves the underlying map $A \rightarrow B$.*

Because in practice our A_∞ -algebras will be given in terms of b but we will want to make explicit calculations of the m_k , especially m_1 and m_2 , we record here the explicit formula relating their behavior on elements. For elements $a_i \in A$, the Koszul sign rule asserts

$$\begin{aligned} s^{\otimes k}(a_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_k) &= (-1)^{|a_{k-1}| + |a_{k-2}| + \cdots + |a_1|} s^{\otimes k-1}(a_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{k-1}) \otimes s(a_k) \\ &= (-1)^{|a_{k-1}| + |a_{k-3}| + |a_{k-5}| + \cdots} s(a_1) \otimes s(a_2) \otimes \cdots \otimes s(a_k), \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} m_k(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k) &= s^{-1} \circ b_k \circ s^{\otimes k}(a_1 \otimes a_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes a_k) \\ &= (-1)^{|a_{k-1}| + |a_{k-3}| + |a_{k-5}| + \cdots} s^{-1} b_k(s(a_1) \otimes s(a_2) \otimes \cdots \otimes s(a_k)). \end{aligned}$$

In terms of the m_k , the first three A_∞ relations are

$$m_1(m_1(a_1)) = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_1(m_2(a_1, a_2)) &= m_2(m_1(a_1), a_2) + (-1)^{|a_1|} m_2(a_1, m_1(a_2)), \\
 m_2(a_1, m_2(a_2, a_3)) - m_2(m_2(a_1, a_2), a_3) \\
 &= m_1(m_3(a_1, a_2, a_3)) + m_3(m_1(a_1), a_2, a_3) \\
 &\quad + (-1)^{|a_1|} m_3(a_1, m_1(a_2), a_3) + (-1)^{|a_1|+|a_2|} m_3(a_1, a_2, m_1(a_3)).
 \end{aligned}$$

These are the standard statements that m_1 is a differential on A , m_1 is a derivation with respect to m_2 , and m_2 is associative up to homotopy. In general, the A_∞ relations are

$$(2-1) \quad \sum (-1)^{r+st} m_u(1^{\otimes r} \otimes m_s \otimes 1^{\otimes t}) = 0$$

for $n \geq 1$, where we sum over all $r, s, t \geq 0$ with $r + s + t = n$ and put $u = r + 1 + t$. Note that when the left-hand side is applied to elements, more signs appear from the Koszul convention.

The notion of an A_∞ -morphism of A_∞ -algebras $f: A \rightarrow B$ can also be described explicitly, as a collection of maps $f_n: A^{\otimes n} \rightarrow B$ of degree $1 - n$ satisfying certain relations; see [35]. We record the explicit expressions for the first two here:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(m_1(a_1)) &= m_1(f_1(a_1)), \\
 f_1(m_2(a_1, a_2)) &= m_2(f_1(a_1), f_1(a_2)) + m_1(f_2(a_1, a_2)) + f_2(m_1(a_1), a_2) \\
 &\quad + (-1)^{|a_1|} f_2(a_1, m_1(a_2)).
 \end{aligned}$$

These assert that f_1 commutes with the differential, and respects the product up to a homotopy given by f_2 .

The notions of A_∞ -categories and A_∞ -functors are generalizations of A_∞ -algebras and their morphisms. An A_∞ -category has, for any two objects ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 , a graded module $\text{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$. For $n \geq 1$ and objects $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{n+1}$, there is a degree $2 - n$ composition

$$m_n: \text{Hom}(\epsilon_n, \epsilon_{n+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_{n+1})$$

satisfying (2-1), where the operations appearing on the left are understood to have appropriate sources and targets as determined by $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{n+1}$.

Remark 2.8 An equivalent way to formulate the A_∞ condition on a category is as follows. For a finite collection of objects $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n$, let $A(\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n) := \bigoplus \text{Hom}(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j)$ carry compositions M_k defined by first multiplying matrices and then applying the m_k . (That is, form $\text{End}(\bigoplus \epsilon_i)$ without assuming $\bigoplus \epsilon_i$ exists.) The condition that the category is A_∞ is just the requirement that all $A(\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n)$ are A_∞ -algebras.

The definition of an A_∞ -functor F is a similar generalization of morphism of A_∞ -algebras; along with a correspondence of objects $\epsilon \mapsto F(\epsilon)$ we have for any objects $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{n+1}$ a map

$$F_n: \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_n, \epsilon_{n+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(F(\epsilon_1), F(\epsilon_{n+1}))$$

satisfying appropriate relations.

Often, A_∞ -categories are not categories in the usual sense due to the absence of identity morphisms and the failure of associativity of composition (which only holds up to homotopy). However, associativity does hold at the level of the *cohomology category*, which is defined as follows. The first A_∞ relation shows that

$$m_1: \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$$

is a differential: $m_1^2 = 0$. The cohomology category is defined to have the same objects as the underlying A_∞ -category, but with morphism spaces given by the cohomology $H^*(\operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2))$. Composition is induced by m_2 , which descends to an associative multiplication map

$$m_2: H^*\operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes H^*\operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow H^*\operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3).$$

An A_∞ -category is *strictly unital* if for any object ϵ , there is a morphism $e_\epsilon \in \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ of degree 0 such that

- $m_1(e_\epsilon) = 0$;
- $m_2(a, e_{\epsilon_1}) = m_2(e_{\epsilon_2}, a) = a$ for any objects ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 , and any $a \in \operatorname{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$;
- all higher compositions involving e_ϵ are 0.

Proposition 2.9 *For any A_∞ -category, the corresponding cohomology category is a (usual, possibly nonunital) category, and it is unital if the A_∞ -category is strictly unital.*

An A_∞ -functor F induces an ordinary (possibly nonunital) functor between the corresponding cohomology categories. In the case that the two A_∞ -categories have unital cohomology categories, F is called an A_∞ -*equivalence* (or *quasiequivalence*) if the induced functor on cohomology categories is an equivalence of categories in the usual sense, in particular preserving units. The notion of A_∞ -equivalence satisfies the properties of an equivalence relation; see Theorem 2.9 of [51].

To verify that a given A_∞ -functor F is an equivalence, it suffices to check that, on cohomology categories, F is essentially surjective (ie every object is isomorphic to one that appears in the image of F) and fully faithful (ie induces isomorphisms on hom spaces). The property of preserving units in cohomology follows as a consequence.

2.4 Legendrian invariants from sheaves

In this section we review some notions of sheaf theory, and how they are applied in [52] to the study of Legendrian knots.

First we recall the definition; explanations follow. Put $M = \mathbb{R}_{xz}^2$ and let $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \cong T^{\infty,-}M$ be a Legendrian knot. Then $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k})$ is the dg category of sheaves with coefficients in \mathbb{k} , singular support at infinity contained in Λ , and with compact support in M . In fact, we use a slight variant: when we take $M = I_x \times \mathbb{R}_z$ with $I_x \subset \mathbb{R}_x$, we will require only that sheaves have zero support for $z \ll 0$. By [25; 52], a Legendrian isotopy $\Lambda \rightsquigarrow \Lambda'$ induces an equivalence of categories $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k}) \cong \mathrm{Sh}_{\Lambda'}(M; \mathbb{k})$.

2.4.1 Sheaves For a topological space¹ T , we write $\mathrm{Op}(T)$ for the category whose objects are open sets of T and whose morphisms are inclusions of open sets. A presheaf on T valued in some category \mathcal{C} is by definition a functor $\mathcal{F}: \mathrm{Op}(T)^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. In particular, when $U \subset V$ there is a restriction map $\mathcal{F}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)$.

A presheaf is said to be a sheaf if the corresponding functor takes covers to limits. More precisely, whenever given a collection of opens U_i indexed by $i \in I$, the restriction maps induce a morphism

$$\mathcal{F}\left(\bigcup_{i \in I} U_i\right) \rightarrow \lim_{\emptyset \neq J \subset I} \mathcal{F}\left(\bigcap_{j \in J} U_j\right).$$

One says \mathcal{F} is a sheaf assuming these morphisms are all isomorphisms. When \mathcal{C} is the category of sets or abelian groups, the limit on the right is already determined as the equalizer of the diagram $\prod \mathcal{F}(U_i) \rightrightarrows \prod \mathcal{F}(U_i \cap U_j)$. However, the definition above makes sense in more general settings, in particular for various sorts of homotopical categories, eg the $(\infty, 1)$ -categories of [38]. In particular, this definition of sheaf is appropriate to define a sheaf of categories, or sheaf of dg categories, or sheaf of A_∞ -categories.

¹We always assume our topological spaces are locally compact Hausdorff; in fact in this article we will only be concerned with sheaves on manifolds.

In classical references such as [34], the derived category of sheaves was defined by beginning with the category of sheaves of \mathbb{k} -modules, taking complexes of such objects, and then taking the Verdier localization along quasi-isomorphisms. The well-behavedness of this localization is underwritten by the existence of injective resolutions. One then showed a posteriori that the resulting category was “triangulated”.

From a more modern point of view, the category of complexes of sheaves is a dg category, and thus so is its localization along quasiequivalences [9]. In this dg version, the natural hom space between objects is itself a complex, whose H^0 is the old hom. Some discussion of how to set up various sheaf-theoretic functors in the dg context can be found in [43, Section 2.2].

(From an even more modern point of view, one could just directly consider sheaves valued in an appropriate $(\infty, 1)$ -category of complexes.)

In any event, we write the resulting dg category of sheaves as $\mathrm{Sh}(M; \mathbb{k})$. The extra information in the dg version is crucial in gluing arguments. In addition, we want to prove an equivalence between a category of sheaves and the A_∞ -category of augmentations. As the latter is an A_∞ -category, we certainly need the dg structure on the former.

2.4.2 Microsupport To each complex F of (not necessarily constructible) sheaves of \mathbb{k} -modules is attached a closed conic subset $\mathrm{SS}(F)$, called the “singular support” of F . This captures the failure of F to be locally constant for a sheaf F , or cohomologically locally constant for a complex. This notion was introduced by Kashiwara and Schapira, and extensively developed in [34]. We recall one of several equivalent definitions provided in [34, Chapter 5].

Consider a covector $\xi \in T^*M$. If there is some C^1 function f , locally defined near x , with $f(x) = 0$ and $df_x = \xi$, such that

$$\operatorname{colim}_{U \ni x} H^*(U; F) \rightarrow \operatorname{colim}_{V \ni x} H^*(f^{-1}(-\infty, 0) \cap V; F)$$

is *not* an isomorphism, then we say ξ is singular for F . (The map on colimits is induced by the evident restriction map for $V \subset U$.) The singular support is the closure of the locus of singular covectors.

We define $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}(M; \mathbb{k})$ to be the full subcategory defined by such F with $\mathrm{SS}(F) \subset \Lambda$ for a Legendrian subspace Λ of $T^\infty M$, and similarly for $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k})$.

2.4.3 Constructible sheaves and combinatorial models When Λ is the union of conormals to a subanalytic stratification of M , then $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k})$ consists of sheaves *constructible* with respect to the stratification — ie locally constant when restricted to each stratum. The theory of constructible sheaves in this sense is developed in detail in [34, Chapter 8].

For sufficiently fine stratifications, the category of constructible sheaves admits a well-known combinatorial description.

Definition 2.10 Given a stratification \mathcal{S} , the star of a stratum $s \in \mathcal{S}$ is the union of strata that contain s in their closure. We view \mathcal{S} as a poset category in which every stratum has a unique map (generization) to every stratum in its star. We say that \mathcal{S} is a regular cell complex if every stratum is contractible and moreover the star of each stratum is contractible.

Now if C is any category and A is an abelian category, we write $\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathrm{naive}}(C, A)$ for the dg category of functors from C to the category whose objects are cochain complexes in A , and whose maps are the cochain maps. We write $\mathrm{Fun}(C, A)$ for the dg quotient [9] of $\mathrm{Fun}_{\mathrm{naive}}(C, A)$ by the thick subcategory of functors taking values in acyclic complexes. For a ring \mathbb{k} , we abbreviate the case where A is the abelian category of \mathbb{k} -modules to $\mathrm{Fun}(C, \mathbb{k})$.

Proposition 2.11 [33, Theorem 1.10; 53; 43, Lemma 2.3.3] *Let \mathcal{S} be a Whitney stratification of the space M . Consider the functor*

$$(2-2) \quad \Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}: \mathrm{Sh}_{\mathcal{S}}(M; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{S}, \mathbb{k}), \quad F \mapsto [s \mapsto \Gamma(\text{star of } s; F)].$$

If \mathcal{S} is a regular cell complex, then $\Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}$ is a quasiequivalence.

Remark 2.12 If \mathcal{S} is a regular cell complex, the restriction map from $\Gamma(\text{star of } s; F)$ to the stalk of F at any point of s is a quasi-isomorphism.

We use these constructions as follows. Our Λ is not a union of conormals; but it will be contained in such a union (possibly after a small contact isotopy to make Λ subanalytic), so $\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(M; \mathbb{k})$ can be described as constructible sheaves satisfying certain extra conditions.

Specifically, for us $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \cong T^{\infty, -} \mathbb{R}^2 \subset T^{\infty} \mathbb{R}^2$. If we take \mathcal{S} the stratification of \mathbb{R}^2 in which the zero-dimensional strata are the cusps and crossings, the one-dimensional

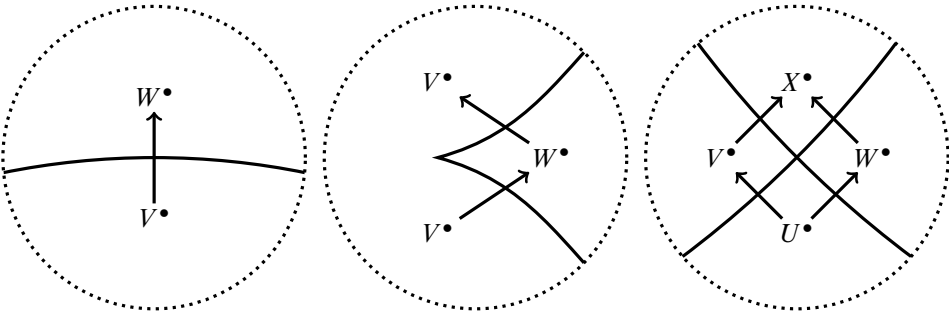


Figure 2: Legible objects in various neighborhoods of a front diagram.

strata are the arcs, and the two-dimensional strata are the regions, and Λ_S the union of conormals to these strata, then

$$\mathrm{Sh}_\Lambda(\mathbb{R}^2; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}_{\Lambda_S}(\mathbb{R}^2; \mathbb{k}) = \mathrm{Sh}_S(\mathbb{R}^2; \mathbb{k}).$$

Because $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \cong T^{\infty, -\mathbb{R}^2}$, every covector with $p_z > 0$ is nonsingular, which means that every local restriction map which is *downward* is required to be a quasi-isomorphism. The easiest objects to describe are those in which all downward morphisms are in fact required to be *identities*. In Section 3.4 of [52], we term such objects *legible*. Such objects can be described in terms of a diagram of maps between the stalks at top-dimensional strata, as depicted in Figure 2 near an arc, a cusp or a crossing.

To recover the sort of diagram described in the equivalence of Proposition 2.11 from such a description of a legible object, one assigns to each stratum the chain complex placed in the region below, and takes the corresponding downward generization map to be the identity. Then the upward generization maps are defined as the composition with this downward equality and the map depicted in the legible diagram.

Using the microsupport conditions, it is calculated in [52, Section 3.4] what additional conditions must be satisfied by the maps indicated in Figure 2 in order that the corresponding sheaf have microsupport in the Legendrian lift of the depicted front. There is no condition along a line, as in the leftmost diagram. At a cusp, the composition of the maps on the cusps is required to be the identity map of V^\bullet . At a crossing, the square around the crossing must commute and have acyclic total complex.

For front diagrams of Legendrian tangles *with no cusps*, it is shown in Proposition 3.22 of [52] that all sheaves with the corresponding microsupport are in fact quasi-isomorphic to sheaves associated to legible objects. The same is not true for arbitrary front diagrams.

2.4.4 Microlocal monodromy Given an object $F \in \mathrm{Sh}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda_{\mathcal{S}}; \mathbb{k})$, there corresponds under $\Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}$ of [Proposition 2.11](#) a functor $\Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}(F)$ from the poset category of \mathcal{S} to chain complexes of \mathbb{k} -modules. Then to a pair of an arc a on a strand and a region r above it (so $r = \text{star of } a$ is an open subset of $\text{star of } a$), we have a morphism $a \rightarrow r$ and there is an associated upward generization map $\rho = \Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}(F)(a \rightarrow r)$ given by $\rho: \Gamma(\text{star of } a; F) \rightarrow \Gamma(r; F)$. If we take a legible representative for $\Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}(F)$ then ρ can also be associated to a map from the region s below a to the region r above, as in [Figure 2](#). The microlocal monodromy will be constructed from the map ρ .

Recall that a Maslov potential μ on the front diagram of a Legendrian knot Λ (with rotation number 0) is a map from strands to \mathbb{Z} such that the value assigned to the upper strand at a cusp is one more than the value of the lower strand. Now let Δ be the unique lift of $\mathcal{S}|_{\pi_{xz}\Lambda}$, ie the induced stratification of the knot Λ itself. Note there is one arc in Δ for each arc of \mathcal{S} , but two points for each crossing. The microlocal monodromy of an object $F \in \mathrm{Sh}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda)$, denoted by $\mu\text{mon}(F)$, begins life as a functor from strata of Δ to chain complexes: $\mu\text{mon}(F)(a) = \text{Cone}(\rho)[- \mu(a)]$. Note the Maslov potential is used to determine the shift. In [\[52, Section 5.1\]](#) it is shown how to treat the zero-dimensional strata of Δ and that μmon maps arrows of the Δ -category to quasi-isomorphisms — see [\[52, Proposition 5.5\]](#). As a result, μmon defines a functor from $\mathrm{Sh}_c(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ to local systems (of chain complexes) on Λ ,

$$\mu\text{mon}: \mathrm{Sh}_c(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \text{Loc}(\Lambda; \mathbb{k}).$$

Definition 2.13 We define $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}_c(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda)$ to be the full subcategory consisting of objects F such that $\mu\text{mon}(F)$ is a local system of rank-one \mathbb{k} -modules in cohomological degree zero.

Example 2.14 Let \equiv_n be the front diagram with n infinite horizontal lines labeled $1, 2, \dots, n$ from top to bottom, and let Λ be the corresponding Legendrian. Let μ be the Maslov potential $\mu(i) = 0$ for all i . The associated stratification \mathcal{S} is a regular cell complex, and therefore every object of $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}_c(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ has a legible representative. To the bottom region we must assign 0 due to the subscript “ c ”. If V^\bullet is assigned to the region above the n^{th} strand, then the microlocal monodromy on the n^{th} strand is the cone of the unique map from 0 to V^\bullet , ie V^\bullet itself. Microlocal rank one means then that V^\bullet is a rank-one \mathbb{k} -module in degree zero. Moving up from the bottom we get a complete flag in the rank- n \mathbb{k} -module assigned to the top region. For details and further considerations, see [Section 7.3](#).

In [Theorem 7.1](#) we show that the category $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ is equivalent to the category of augmentations to be defined in [Section 4](#).

2.4.5 Sheaves of categories As mentioned above, it makes sense to consider sheaves valued in any category \mathcal{C} in which the notion of limit makes sense, in particular in a category of categories. Here we want to work with categories of dg or A_∞ -categories. To do this we need some appropriate homotopical framework for category theory, for instance the $(\infty, 1)$ -categories as developed in [\[38\]](#). It is also possible, and equivalent, to work in the older “model category” framework — the model structures on the category of dg or A_∞ -categories present the corresponding $(\infty, 1)$ -category. The relevant notion of limit is what is called a homotopy limit in the model category setting, and just the limit in the setting of $(\infty, 1)$ -categories.

If X is a locally compact Hausdorff topological space, and A is a 1-category such as sets or \mathbb{Z} -modules, it is a standard result that the assignment $U \mapsto \mathrm{Sh}(U)$ extends to a sheaf on X valued in the $(2, 1)$ -category of categories. (That is, restriction maps do not compose strictly, but only up to a homotopy.) Such sheaves of categories are sometimes called “stacks” in the old literature.

In the $(\infty, 1)$ -categorical framework, there is a similar result for categories of sheaves which themselves take values in a (presentable) $(\infty, 1)$ -category C , for instance in an appropriate $(\infty, 1)$ -category of A_∞ -categories. The fact that a category of sheaves assembles itself into a presheaf of categories is a tautology. One must check that covers are carried to limits; we do not know of a reference for this result in the literature, so provide an argument here in a footnote.²

This fact as stated, in terms of presentable categories, applies directly to the categories of all sheaves of unbounded complexes (localized along quasi-isomorphisms). However, the full subcategories with perfect stalks, or constructible with respect to some

²One way to extract this result from what is written (as explained to us by Nick Rozenblyum, errors in translation due to us): it suffices to check the “universal” example where C is the category of spaces, since in general $\mathrm{Sh}(X, C) \cong \mathrm{Sh}(X, \mathrm{Spaces}) \otimes C$ by [\[40, Proposition 4.8.1.17\]](#); [\[37, Proposition 1.1.12\]](#). For an open inclusion $u: U \subset X$, the restriction $u^*: \mathrm{Sh}(X, \mathrm{Spaces}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Sh}(U, \mathrm{Spaces})$ has a fully faithful left adjoint given by the extension by the empty set, denote it by $u_!$. Note that $u_!(\mathrm{Sh}(U, \mathrm{Spaces}))$ is identified with the overcategory $\mathrm{Sh}(X, \mathrm{Spaces})_{/u_! \mathrm{pt}}$; this is because the point is initial and there are no maps to the empty set. By adjunction, showing that the limit over the restriction maps of the $\mathrm{Sh}(U, \mathrm{Spaces})$ is $\mathrm{Sh}(X, \mathrm{Spaces})$ is equivalent to showing that the same for the colimit over the extension by zero maps. A homotopy cover (ie including overlaps) $u_\alpha: U_\alpha \rightarrow X$ means literally that X is the gluing of the U_α in the category of topological spaces; it follows easily that $\mathrm{colim} u_{\alpha!} \mathrm{pt} = \mathrm{pt}_X$. The fact that the overcategories over these objects obey the same colimit is [\[38, Theorem 6.1.3.9\(3\) and Proposition 6.1.3.10\(2\)\]](#).

prescribed stratification, or with some prescribed microsupport, are all characterized locally, hence form subsheaves of full subcategories.

In fact, we make little essential use of the above generalities, since for the most part we only work with constructible sheaves of categories on \mathbb{R} . One source of these is the following:

Lemma 2.15 *Let $\pi: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the projection to the second factor. Let \mathcal{S} be a reasonable (eg Whitney B) stratification of \mathbb{R}^2 , such that π on each stratum has maximally nondegenerate derivative. Let \mathcal{S}' be a stratification of \mathbb{R} such that the image under π of any stratum in \mathcal{S} is \mathcal{S}' -constructible. Then the assignment $U \mapsto \mathrm{Sh}_{\mathcal{S}}(\pi^{-1}(U))$ extends to a sheaf of dg categories on \mathbb{R} , constructible with respect to \mathcal{S}' .*

To compute with constructible sheaves of categories on \mathbb{R} , we note that [Proposition 2.11](#) holds for sheaves of categories, so long as one understands $\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{C})$ in the appropriate sense, ie as functors of quasicategories from (the nerve of) \mathcal{S} to \mathcal{C} . That is, 2-cells go to homotopies, etc.

However, when \mathcal{S} is a stratification of \mathbb{R} , the corresponding poset looks like $\bullet \leftarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet \leftarrow \cdots \leftarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet$, hence there are no nondegenerate 2-cells in the nerve, so this complication can be essentially ignored for the purpose of describing objects of $\mathrm{Sh}_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbb{R})$.

In describing morphisms between objects of $\mathrm{Fun}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{C})$, it is important to remember that such a morphism is a diagram which commutes up to specified homotopies (the possible homotopies being encoded by the 2-cells in \mathcal{C}). When taking a stratification of \mathbb{R} , one has homotopy-commutative squares in the maps between diagrams, but never nontrivial compositions of such squares, so there is no need to consider higher homotopies. These considerations will arise later when describing maps of sheaves of A_{∞} -categories.

Finally, we will want to compute the global sections of a constructible sheaf of categories on \mathbb{R} , which is given as a functor out of a diagram $\cdots \leftarrow \bullet \rightarrow \bullet \leftarrow \bullet \rightarrow \cdots$. By definition of sheaf (and recalling how this diagram is obtained from the cover by stars in [Proposition 2.11](#)), the global sections is the limit of this diagram. Evidently this can be computed by iterated pullbacks; we recall in the next subsection how to actually compute such pullbacks.

2.4.6 Pullbacks of categories To actually calculate limits in the $(\infty, 1)$ -category of dg or A_∞ -categories, the model structure provided by Tabuada [56] and Toën [57] is useful. In fact we will be only interested in calculating pullbacks, which are given by the following formula.

Let $p: A \rightarrow C$ and $q: B \rightarrow C$ be two functors between dg categories A , B and C . Objects of the fiber product dg category $A \times_C B$ are triples $x = (a, b, f)$, with $f \in \text{hom}_C^0(p(a), q(b))$ a closed isomorphism. Morphisms are

$$\text{hom}^k(x, x') = \text{hom}_A^k(a, a') \oplus \text{hom}_B^k(b, b') \oplus \text{hom}_C^{k-1}(p(a), q(b'))$$

with differential $D = d + d'$, where $d = d_A \oplus d_B \oplus d_C$ and

$$d': \text{hom}_A^k(a, a') \oplus \text{hom}_B^k(b, b') \rightarrow \text{hom}_C^k(p(a), q(b'))$$

is defined by

$$d'(u \oplus w) = f' \circ p(u) - q(w) \circ f.$$

The composition between $(u, w, v) \in \text{hom}(x, x')$ and $(u', w', v') \in \text{hom}(x', x'')$ is

$$u' \circ u \oplus w' \circ w \oplus q(w') \circ v - v' \circ p(u),$$

which lies in $\text{hom}_A^k(a, a'') \oplus \text{hom}_B^k(b, b'') \oplus \text{hom}_C^{k-1}(p(a), q(a''))$, as required. It is associative on the nose.

In our application, we will prefer to require f to be *the identity* rather than an isomorphism. We write $(A \times_C B)_{\text{strict}}$ for the full subcategory of the product whose objects can be obtained in this manner. In general, the inclusion $(A \times_C B)_{\text{strict}} \rightarrow A \times_C B$ is not essentially surjective, and in fact we will see examples where this fails. However, we have the following:

Definition 2.16 A morphism of categories $q: B \rightarrow C$ has the isomorphism lifting property if, whenever there is some isomorphism $\phi: q(b) \cong c$, then in fact there is some $b' \in B$ with $c = q(b')$ and some isomorphism $\tilde{\phi}: b \cong b'$ with $\phi = q(\tilde{\phi})$.

A morphism of dg or A_∞ -categories $q: B \rightarrow C$ has the weak isomorphism lifting property if $\text{ho}(q): \text{ho}(B) \rightarrow \text{ho}(C)$ has the isomorphism lifting property. It has the strict isomorphism lifting property if for any closed degree zero map $\phi: q(b) \cong c$ which becomes an isomorphism in $\text{ho}(C)$, there is some b' with $q(b') = c$ and some closed degree zero map $\tilde{\phi}: b \cong b'$ which becomes an isomorphism in $\text{ho}(B)$ such that $q(\tilde{\phi}) = \phi$.

Remark 2.17 This is evidently some sort of fibrancy condition, but we do not know exactly how it relates to the model structures on dg categories.

Lemma 2.18 *Given $p: A \rightarrow C$ and $q: B \rightarrow C$ morphisms of dg categories, suppose that q has the strict isomorphism lifting property. Then the inclusion $A \times_C^{\text{str}} B \rightarrow A \times_C B$ is an equivalence.*

Proof We need only check essential surjectivity. Consider some object

$$(a, b, \phi: p(a) \cong q(b)) \in A \times_C B.$$

By the lifting property, there must be some $b' \in B$ with $q(b') = p(a)$, and a (closed degree zero quasi-)isomorphism $b \cong b'$ in B . Consider the object

$$(a, b', \text{id}: p(a) = q(b')) \in A \times_C^{\text{str}} B.$$

The map $b \cong b'$ induces an isomorphism

$$(a, b', \text{id}: p(a) = q(b')) \cong (a, b, \phi: p(a) \cong q(b)). \quad \square$$

We end this section by summarizing some properties of constructible sheaves of A_∞ -categories over a line.

Proposition 2.19 *Let \mathcal{C} be a constructible sheaf of categories on a line, with respect to a stratification \mathcal{Z} with zero-dimensional strata z_i and one-dimensional strata $u_{i,i+1} = (z_i, z_{i+1})$. The associated diagram (as in Proposition 2.11) has maps*

$$\mathcal{C}(u_{i-1,i}) \xleftarrow{\rho_L} \mathcal{C}_{z_i} \xrightarrow{\rho_R} \mathcal{C}(u_{i,i+1}).$$

If $z_i < z_{i+1} < \dots < z_j$ are the zero-dimensional strata in the interval (a, b) , then sections are calculated by

$$\mathcal{C}((a, b)) \equiv \mathcal{C}_{z_i} \times_{\mathcal{C}(u_{i,i+1})} \mathcal{C}_{z_{i+1}} \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_{z_j}.$$

Objects of this fiber product are tuples $(\xi_i, \xi_{i+1}, \dots, \xi_j; f_{i,i+1}, \dots, f_{j-1,j})$ where $\xi_k \in \mathcal{C}_{z_k}$ and $f_{k,k+1}: \rho_R(\xi_k) \rightarrow \rho_L(\xi_{k+1})$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{C} .

This fiber product contains a full subcategory

$$(\mathcal{C}_{z_i} \times_{\mathcal{C}(u_{i,i+1})} \mathcal{C}_{z_{i+1}} \times \dots \times \mathcal{C}_{z_j})_{\text{strict}}$$

in which the $f_{k,k+1}$ must all be the identity morphism, ie $\rho_R(\xi_k) = \rho_L(\xi_{k+1})$.

If all ρ_L have the “isomorphism lifting property”, ie that any isomorphism $\phi: \rho_L(\xi) \sim \eta'$ is in fact the image under ρ_L of some isomorphism $\psi: \xi \sim \xi'$. Then the inclusion of the strict fiber product in the actual fiber product is an equivalence.

Proof The only new thing is we have allowed many strata in the strictification; the result follows from [Lemma 2.18](#) by induction. □

3 Augmentation category algebra

In this section, we describe how to obtain a unital A_∞ –category from what we call a “consistent sequence of differential graded algebras”. Our motivation is the fact that if we start with a Legendrian knot or link Λ in \mathbb{R}^3 and define its m –copy Λ^m to be the link given by m copies of Λ perturbed in the Reeb direction, then the collection of Chekanov–Eliashberg DGAs for Λ^m ($m \geq 1$) form such a consistent sequence, as we will see in [Section 4](#). First, however, we present a purely algebraic treatment, defining a consistent sequence of DGAs $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ and using it to construct the augmentation category $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ along with a variant, the negative augmentation category $\text{Aug}_-(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$. We then show that $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ is unital, though $\text{Aug}_-(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ may not be (see [Section 4](#) or [\[2\]](#)).

3.1 Differential graded algebras and augmentations

For the following definition, by a DGA we mean an associative \mathbb{Z} –algebra \mathcal{A} equipped with a \mathbb{Z}/m –grading for some even $m \geq 0$, and a degree -1 differential ∂ that is a derivation. The condition that m is even is necessary for the Leibniz rule $\partial(xy) = (\partial x)y + (-1)^{|x|}x(\partial y)$ to make sense, though many of our results continue to hold if m is arbitrary and \mathcal{A} is instead an R –algebra, where R is a commutative unital ring with $-1 = 1$ (eg $R = \mathbb{Z}/2$).

Definition 3.1 A *semifree DGA* is a DGA equipped with a set $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{R} \sqcup \mathcal{T}$ of homogeneous generators

$$\mathcal{R} = \{a_1, \dots, a_r\}, \quad \mathcal{T} = \{t_1, t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_M, t_M^{-1}\}$$

such that \mathcal{A} is the result of taking the free noncommutative unital algebra over \mathbb{Z} generated by the elements of \mathcal{S} and quotienting by the relations $t_i \cdot t_i^{-1} = t_i^{-1} \cdot t_i = 1$. We require in addition that $|t_i| = 0$ and $\partial t_i = 0$.

We note that our use of “semifree” is nonstandard algebraically but roughly follows [\[5\]](#).

Definition 3.2 Let \mathbb{k} be a field; we view it as a DGA by giving it the zero grading and differential. A \mathbb{k} -*augmentation* of a semifree DGA \mathcal{A} is a DGA map $\epsilon: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$. That is, it is a map of the underlying unital algebras, annihilating all elements of nonzero degree, and satisfying $\epsilon \circ \partial = 0$.

Remark 3.3 An augmentation ϵ is uniquely determined by $\epsilon(a_i) \in \mathbb{k}$ for each $a_i \in \mathcal{R}$, along with invertible elements $\epsilon(t_i) \in \mathbb{k}$.

Given an augmentation $\epsilon: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$, we define the \mathbb{k} -algebra

$$\mathcal{A}^\epsilon := (\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{k}) / (t_i = \epsilon(t_i)).$$

Since $\partial t_i = 0$, the differential ∂ descends to \mathcal{A}^ϵ .

We write C for the free \mathbb{k} -module with basis \mathcal{R} . We have

$$\mathcal{A}^\epsilon = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} C^{\otimes k},$$

and we further define $\mathcal{A}_+^\epsilon \subset \mathcal{A}^\epsilon$ by

$$\mathcal{A}_+^\epsilon := \bigoplus_{k \geq 1} C^{\otimes k}.$$

Note that ∂ need not preserve \mathcal{A}_+^ϵ . A key observation, used extensively in Legendrian knot theory starting with Chekanov [5], is that this can be repaired.

Consider the \mathbb{k} -algebra automorphism $\phi_\epsilon: \mathcal{A}^\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^\epsilon$, determined by $\phi_\epsilon(a) = a + \epsilon(a)$ for $a \in \mathcal{R}$. Conjugating by this automorphism gives rise to a new differential

$$\partial_\epsilon := \phi_\epsilon \circ \partial \circ \phi_\epsilon^{-1}: \mathcal{A}^\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^\epsilon.$$

Proposition 3.4 *The differential ∂_ϵ preserves \mathcal{A}_+^ϵ and, in particular, descends to a differential on $\mathcal{A}_+^\epsilon / (\mathcal{A}_+^\epsilon)^2 \cong C$.*

Proof Write $\mathcal{A}^\epsilon = \mathbb{k} \oplus \mathcal{A}_+^\epsilon$ and denote the projection map $\mathcal{A}^\epsilon \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ by π ; then $\pi \partial_\epsilon(a_i) = \pi \phi_\epsilon \partial(a_i) = \epsilon \partial(a_i) = 0$, and it follows that $\pi \partial_\epsilon$ sends \mathcal{A}_+^ϵ to 0. \square

Let $C^* := \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{k}}(C, \mathbb{k})$. The generating set $\mathcal{R} = \{a_i\}$ for C gives a dual generating set $\{a_i^*\}$ for C^* with $\langle a_i^*, a_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$, and we grade C^* by $|a_i^*| = |a_i|$.

Recall that for a \mathbb{k} -module V , we write $T(V) := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} V^{\otimes n}$ for the tensor algebra, and $\bar{T}(V) := \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} V^{\otimes n}$. The pairing extends to a pairing between $T(C^*)$ and $T(C)$

determined by

$$(a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_k})^* = (-1)^{\sum_{p < q} |a_{i_p}| |a_{i_q}|} a_{i_k}^* \cdots a_{i_2}^* a_{i_1}^*;$$

that is, $\langle a_{i_k}^* \cdots a_{i_2}^* a_{i_1}^*, a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_k} \rangle = (-1)^{\sum_{p < q} |a_{i_p}| |a_{i_q}|}$ and all other pairings are 0. (The sign comes from the fact that we are reversing the order of the a_i , and is necessary for the dual of a derivation to be a coderivation, which in turn we need for the correspondence between A_∞ -algebras and duals of DGAs.) On the positive part $\bar{T}(C^*)$ of the tensor algebra $T(C^*)$, we define ∂_ϵ^* to be the codifferential dual to ∂_ϵ :

$$\langle \partial_\epsilon^* x, y \rangle = \langle x, \partial_\epsilon y \rangle.$$

Shift gradings by defining $C^\vee := C^*[-1]$; then $\bar{T}(C^*) = \bar{T}(C^\vee[1])$. By [Proposition 2.7](#), the codifferential ∂_ϵ^* now determines an A_∞ -structure on C^\vee . We write the corresponding multiplications as

$$m_k(\epsilon): (C^\vee)^{\otimes k} \rightarrow C^\vee.$$

Concretely, $m_k(\epsilon)$ is given as follows. For $a \in \mathcal{R}$, a is a generator of C with dual $a^* \in C^*$. Write the corresponding element of C^\vee as $a^\vee = s^{-1}(a^*)$, where $s: C^\vee \rightarrow C^\vee[1] = C^*$ is the degree -1 suspension map, and note that

$$|a^\vee| = |a^*| + 1 = |a| + 1.$$

Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} m_k(\epsilon)(a_{i_1}^\vee, \dots, a_{i_k}^\vee) &= (-1)^{|a_{i_{k-1}}^\vee| + |a_{i_{k-3}}^\vee| + \cdots} s^{-1} \partial_\epsilon^*(a_{i_1}^* \cdots a_{i_k}^*) \\ &= (-1)^{\sum_{p < q} |a_{i_p}| |a_{i_q}| + |a_{i_{k-1}}^\vee| + |a_{i_{k-3}}^\vee| + \cdots} s^{-1} \partial_\epsilon^*(a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_1})^*, \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$\langle \partial_\epsilon^*(a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_1})^*, a \rangle = \langle (a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_1})^*, \partial_\epsilon a \rangle = \text{Coeff}_{a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_1}}(\partial_\epsilon a).$$

Combining these, and using the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq k} |a_{i_p}| |a_{i_q}| + |a_{i_{k-1}}^\vee| + |a_{i_{k-3}}^\vee| + \cdots \\ \equiv \sum_{1 \leq p < q \leq k} |a_{i_p}^\vee| |a_{i_q}^\vee| + \sum_j (j-1) |a_{i_j}^\vee| + \frac{1}{2} k(k-1) \pmod{2}, \end{aligned}$$

we obtain the following formula for m_k in terms of the differential ∂_ϵ :

$$(3-1) \quad m_k(\epsilon)(a_{i_1}^\vee, \dots, a_{i_k}^\vee) = (-1)^\sigma \sum_{a \in \mathcal{R}} a^\vee \cdot \text{Coeff}_{a_{i_k} \cdots a_{i_1}}(\partial_\epsilon a),$$

where

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2}k(k-1) + \left(\sum_{p < q} |a_{i_p}^\vee| |a_{i_q}^\vee| \right) + |a_{i_2}^\vee| + |a_{i_4}^\vee| + \cdots.$$

For future reference, we note in particular that

$$\sigma = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k = 1, \\ |a_{i_1}^\vee| |a_{i_2}^\vee| + |a_{i_2}^\vee| + 1 & \text{if } k = 2. \end{cases}$$

We write $C_\epsilon^\vee := (C^\vee, m_1(\epsilon), m_2(\epsilon), \dots)$ to mean C^\vee viewed as an A_∞ -algebra, rather than just as a \mathbb{k} -module. In this context, and when there is no risk of confusion, we simply write m_k for $m_k(\epsilon)$.

3.2 Link grading

Here we give several viewpoints on link grading, which is an additional structure on the DGA of a Legendrian link in the case where the link has multiple components; the notion and name are due to Mishachev [42]. We then discuss how it interacts with the A_∞ -structure from Section 3.1.

Definition 3.5 Let (\mathcal{A}, ∂) be a semifree DGA with generating set $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{R} \sqcup \mathcal{T}$. An m -component weak link grading on (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is a choice of a pair of maps

$$r, c: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$$

satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) For any $a \in \mathcal{R}$ with $r(a) \neq c(a)$, each term in ∂a is an integer multiple of a word of the form $x_1 \cdots x_k$ where $c(x_i) = r(x_{i+1})$ for $i = 1, \dots, k-1$ and $r(x_1) = r(a)$, $c(x_k) = c(a)$ (such a word is called “composable”).
- (2) For any $a \in \mathcal{R}$ with $r(a) = c(a)$, each term in ∂a is either composable or constant (an integer multiple of 1).
- (3) For any i , we have $r(t_i) = c(t_i^{-1})$ and $c(t_i) = r(t_i^{-1})$.

The maps r and c form an m -component link grading if they also satisfy:

- (4) $r(t_i) = c(t_i) = r(t_i^{-1}) = c(t_i^{-1})$ for all i .

We write $S^{ij} := (r \times c)^{-1}(i, j)$, and likewise \mathcal{R}^{ij} and \mathcal{T}^{ij} . We call elements of S^{ii} *diagonal* and elements of S^{ij} for $i \neq j$ *off-diagonal*. Note that all elements of \mathcal{T} are required to be diagonal in a link grading.

The motivation for this definition is that if $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Lambda_m$ is an m –component Legendrian link, then the DGA for Λ has an m –component link grading: for each Reeb chord a , define $r(a)$ (respectively $c(a)$) to be the number of the component containing the endpoint (respectively beginning point) of a , and define $r(t_i) = c(t_i) = r(t_i^{-1}) = c(t_i^{-1})$ to be the number of the component containing the corresponding basepoint. More generally, if Λ is partitioned into a disjoint union of m sublinks (where each may consist of more than one link component), then the DGA for Λ similarly has a natural m –component link grading.

Given a DGA with an m –component weak link grading, a related DGA to consider is the “composable DGA” $(\mathcal{A}', \partial')$; see [3, Section 4.1]. Here \mathcal{A}' is generated over \mathbb{Z} by

$$\mathcal{S}' = \mathcal{R} \sqcup \mathcal{T} \sqcup \{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$$

with r and c extended to \mathcal{S}' by defining $r(e_i) = c(e_i) = i$, quotiented by the relations

- $xy = 0$ if $x, y \in \mathcal{S}'$ with $c(x) \neq r(y)$;
- $t_i \cdot t_i^{-1} = e_{r(t_i)}$ and $t_i^{-1} \cdot t_i = e_{c(t_i)}$;
- for $x \in \mathcal{S}'$, $xe_i = x$ if $c(x) = i$, and $e_ix = x$ if $r(x) = i$;
- $1 = \sum_{i=1}^m e_m$.

The differential ∂' is defined identically to ∂ , extended by $\partial'(e_i) = 0$, except that for each Reeb chord a with $r(a) = c(a)$, each constant term $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ in ∂a is replaced by $ne_{r(a)}$; that is, the idempotent e_i corresponds to the empty word on component i . We can now write

$$\mathcal{A}' = \bigoplus_{i,j=1}^m (\mathcal{A}')^{ij},$$

where $(\mathcal{A}')^{ij}$ is generated by words $x_1 \cdots x_k$ with $r(x_1) = i$ and $c(x_k) = j$, and ∂' splits under this decomposition.

It will be useful for us to have a reformulation of the composability properties of $(\mathcal{A}', \partial')$ in terms of matrices. To this end, consider the algebra morphism

$$\begin{aligned} \ell: \mathcal{A}' &\rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m), \\ x &\mapsto x \otimes |r(x)\rangle\langle c(x)| \quad \text{for } x \in \mathcal{S}, \\ e_i &\mapsto 1 \otimes |i\rangle\langle i| \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m, \end{aligned}$$

where $|r\rangle\langle c|$ is the $m \times m$ matrix whose (r, c) entry is 1 and all other entries are 0. Note that $\mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$, ie the $m \times m$ matrices with coefficients in \mathcal{A} , is naturally a

DGA: it is a tensor product of DGAs, where $\text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ carries the 0 differential. (That is, the differential ∂ on $\mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ acts entry by entry.) The weak link grading property now just states that ℓ is a DGA map from $(\mathcal{A}', \partial')$ to $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m), \partial)$.

For a variant on this perspective, and the one that we will largely use going forward, suppose that (r, c) is a weak link grading and that $\epsilon: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ is an augmentation. We say that ϵ *respects the link grading on \mathcal{A}* if $\epsilon(a) = 0$ for all $a \in \mathcal{R}$ with $r(a) \neq c(a)$ (“mixed Reeb chords”); note that $\epsilon(t_i) = \epsilon(t_i^{-1})^{-1} \neq 0$ for all i , so $r(t_i) = c(t_i)$ and thus (r, c) must be an actual link grading. In this case, the twisted differential $\partial_\epsilon = \phi_\epsilon \circ \partial \circ \phi_\epsilon^{-1}$ preserves the link grading, and we can drop the discussion of idempotents e_i since ∂_ϵ contains no constant terms. More precisely, recall that \mathcal{A}^ϵ is the \mathbb{k} -algebra $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{k})/(t_i = \epsilon(t_i))$, and define the \mathbb{k} -algebra map

$$\ell: \mathcal{A}^\epsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^\epsilon \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m), \quad a \mapsto a \otimes |r(a)\rangle\langle c(a)| \quad \text{for } a \in \mathcal{R}.$$

Then the structure of the m -component link grading implies that ℓ is a DGA map from $(\mathcal{A}^\epsilon, \partial_\epsilon)$ to $(\mathcal{A}^\epsilon \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m), \partial_\epsilon)$.³

For the remainder of this subsection, we suppose that (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is a semifree DGA equipped with a link grading.

Proposition 3.6 *The two-sided ideal generated by the off-diagonal generators is preserved by ∂ . More generally, if $\pi: \{1, \dots, m\} = P_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup P_k$ is any partition, let J_π be the two-sided ideal generated by all elements a with $r(a)$ and $c(a)$ in different parts. Then J_π is preserved by ∂ .*

Proof Let g be an off-diagonal generator, and $y_1 \cdots y_k$ be a word in ∂g . Then $r(g) = r(y_1)$, $c(y_i) = r(y_{i+1})$ and $c(y_k) = c(g)$. So if moreover $r(y_i) = c(y_i)$ for all i , we would have $r(g) = c(g)$, a contradiction.

The argument in the more general case is similar. □

Note that \mathcal{A}/J_π remains a semifree algebra with generators \mathcal{T} and some subset of \mathcal{R} ; it moreover inherits the link grading.

³For yet another perspective, one can combine the twisted differential with the composable algebra. Consider the path algebra \mathcal{A}'' over \mathbb{k} on the quiver whose vertices are $1, \dots, m$ and whose edges are the Reeb chords a , where edge a goes from vertex i to vertex j if $r(a) = i$ and $c(a) = j$. Then ∂_ϵ descends to a differential on \mathcal{A}'' that respects the splitting $\mathcal{A}'' = \bigoplus_{i,j} (\mathcal{A}'')^{ij}$, where $(\mathcal{A}'')^{ij}$ is generated as a \mathbb{k} -module by paths beginning at i and ending at j . In this context, the idempotent e_i corresponds to the empty path at i .

Definition 3.7 For a partition π of $\{1, \dots, m\}$, we write $\mathcal{A}_\pi := \mathcal{A}/J_\pi$. In the special case where $\pi = I \sqcup I^c$ for some $I \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$, we write \mathcal{A}_I for the subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_{I \sqcup I^c}$ generated by the elements of $\coprod_{i,j \in I} \mathcal{S}^{ij}$ (that is, further quotient by elements a with $r(a), c(a) \in I^c$). Finally, we will write $\mathcal{A}_i := \mathcal{A}_{\{i\}}$.

Proposition 3.8 For any $I \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$, the algebra \mathcal{A}_I is preserved by the differential inherited by $\mathcal{A}_{I \sqcup I^c}$.

Proposition 3.9 For any partition $\pi: \{1, \dots, m\} = P_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup P_k$, we have $\mathcal{A}_\pi = \mathcal{A}_{P_1} \star \dots \star \mathcal{A}_{P_k}$.

In particular, an augmentation of \mathcal{A} which annihilates generators a with $r(a)$ and $c(a)$ in different parts is the same as a tuple of augmentations of the \mathcal{A}_{P_α} .

Let $\epsilon: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ be an augmentation. We write C^{ij} for the free \mathbb{k} -submodule of C generated by \mathcal{R}^{ij} , so that $C = \bigoplus_{i,j} C^{ij}$. Similarly we split $C^\vee = \bigoplus C_{ij}^\vee$. The product then splits into terms

$$m_k(\epsilon): C_{i_1 j_1}^\vee \otimes C_{i_2 j_2}^\vee \otimes \dots \otimes C_{i_k j_k}^\vee \rightarrow C_{ij}^\vee.$$

Proposition 3.10 Assume ϵ respects the link grading. Then the product

$$m_k(\epsilon): C_{i_1 j_1}^\vee \otimes C_{i_2 j_2}^\vee \otimes \dots \otimes C_{i_k j_k}^\vee \rightarrow C_{ij}^\vee$$

vanishes unless $i_k = i$, $j_1 = j$ and $i_r = j_{r+1}$.

Proof Up to a sign, the coefficient of a^\vee in the product $m_k(a_{n_1}^\vee, \dots, a_{n_k}^\vee)$ is the coefficient of $a_{n_k} \dots a_{n_1}$ in $\partial_\epsilon a$. Since $a \in \mathcal{R}^{ij}$, this vanishes unless $i_k = i$, $j_1 = j$ and $i_r = j_{r+1}$. \square

That is, the nonvanishing products are

$$m_k: C_{i_k i_{k+1}}^\vee \otimes \dots \otimes C_{i_1 i_2}^\vee \rightarrow C_{i_1 i_{k+1}}^\vee.$$

Proposition 3.11 Let \mathcal{A} be a semifree DGA with an m -component link grading. Let ϵ be an augmentation which respects the link grading. There is a (possibly nonunital) A_∞ -category on the objects $\{1, \dots, m\}$ with morphisms $\text{Hom}(i, j) = C_{ij}^\vee$, with multiplications m_k as above.

Proof The A_∞ relations on the category follow from the A_∞ relations on the algebra C^ϵ , as per [Remark 2.8](#). \square

Proposition 3.12 *Let $\epsilon: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ be an augmentation respecting the link grading. Let π be a partition of $\{1, \dots, m\}$. Suppose i_0, \dots, i_k are in the same part P of π . Then computing m_k in \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{A}_π and \mathcal{A}_P gives the same result.*

Proof The element m_k is computed using the length k terms of the twisted differential in which the terms above appear. The assumption that the augmentation respects the link grading means that off-diagonal terms will not contribute new things to the twisted differential. \square

3.3 A_∞ -categories from sequences of DGAs

For bookkeeping, we introduce some terminology. We write Δ_+ for the category whose objects are the sets $[m] := \{1, \dots, m\}$ and whose morphisms are the order-preserving inclusions. Such maps $[m] \rightarrow [n]$ are enumerated by m -element subsets of $[n]$; we denote the map corresponding to $I \subset [n]$ by $h_I: [m] \rightarrow [n]$. We call a covariant functor $\Delta_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ a co- Δ_+ object of \mathcal{C} .⁴ For a co- Δ_+ object $X: \Delta_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, we write $X[m] := X(\{1, \dots, m\})$. We denote the structure map $X[m] \rightarrow X[n]$ corresponding to a subset $I \subset [n]$ also by h_I .

For example, Δ_+ itself, or more precisely the inclusion $\Delta_+ \rightarrow \text{Set}$, is a co- Δ_+ set. Another example of a co- Δ_+ set is the termwise square of this, Δ_+^2 , which has $\Delta_+^2[m] = \{1, \dots, m\}^2$.

Definition 3.13 A sequence $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ of semifree DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^{(1)}, \partial), (\mathcal{A}^{(2)}, \partial), \dots$ with generating sets $\mathcal{S}_1, \mathcal{S}_2, \dots$ is *consistent* if it comes equipped with the following additional structure:

- the structure of a co- Δ_+ set \mathcal{S} with $\mathcal{S}[m] = \mathcal{S}_m$;
- link gradings $\mathcal{S}_m \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\} \times \{1, \dots, m\}$.

This structure must satisfy the following conditions. First, the link grading should give a morphism of co- Δ_+ sets $\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \Delta_+^2$. Second, for any m -element subset $I \subset [n]$, note that the map $h_I: \mathcal{S}_m \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_n$ induces a morphism of algebras $h_I: \mathcal{A}^{(m)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_I^{(n)}$. We require this map be an isomorphism of DGAs.

⁴Co- Δ_+ is pronounced “semicosimplicial”. We only use Δ_+ for bookkeeping — while the following construction bears some familial resemblance to taking a resolution of $\mathcal{A}^{(1)}$, we have been unable to express it in this manner.

Remark 3.14 There is a co- Δ_+ -algebra \mathcal{A} with $\mathcal{A}[m] = \mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ and the structure maps induced from the structure maps on the S_m . This however is generally *not* a co- Δ_+ -DGA — the morphisms do not respect the differential.

Lemma 3.15 Let $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ be a consistent sequence of DGAs. Then, in particular:

- The map $h_i: \mathcal{A}^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_i^{(m)}$ is an isomorphism, and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{\{1\} \sqcup \{2\} \sqcup \dots \sqcup \{m\}}^{(m)} &= \mathcal{A}_1^{(m)} \star \mathcal{A}_2^{(m)} \star \dots \star \mathcal{A}_m^{(m)} = h_1(\mathcal{A}^{(1)}) \star \dots \star h_m(\mathcal{A}^{(1)}) \\ &= \mathcal{A}^{(1)} \star \dots \star \mathcal{A}^{(1)}. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, an m -tuple of augmentations of $\mathcal{A}^{(1)}$ induces an augmentation of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ which respects the link grading.

- The map $h_{ij}: S_2 \rightarrow S_m$ induces a bijection $h_{ij}: S_2^{12} \rightarrow S_m^{ij}$ and hence an isomorphism $h_{i,j}: C_{12}^\vee \rightarrow C_{ij}^\vee$.
- Let $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_m)$ be a tuple of augmentations of $\mathcal{A}^{(1)}$, and let ϵ be the corresponding diagonal augmentation of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$. Let $1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_{k+1} \leq m$ be any increasing sequence. Then the composite morphism

$$(3-2) \quad C_{12}^\vee \otimes \dots \otimes C_{12}^\vee \xrightarrow{h_{i_k i_{k+1}} \otimes \dots \otimes h_{i_1 i_2}} C_{i_k i_{k+1}}^\vee \otimes \dots \otimes C_{i_1 i_2}^\vee \xrightarrow{m_k(\epsilon)} C_{i_1 i_{k+1}}^\vee \xrightarrow{h_{i_1 i_{k+1}}^{-1}} C_{12}^\vee$$

does not depend on anything except the tuple $(\epsilon_{i_1}, \dots, \epsilon_{i_{k+1}})$.

Proof The first part of the first statement holds by definition; the equation following is Proposition 3.9. The second statement again holds by definition. The third statement is Proposition 3.12. \square

We will associate an A_∞ -category to a consistent sequence of DGAs.

Definition 3.16 Given a consistent sequence of DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial)$ and a coefficient field \mathbb{k} , we define the *augmentation category* $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ as follows:

- The objects are augmentations $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$.
- The morphisms are

$$\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) := C_{12}^\vee \subset \mathcal{A}^{(2)},$$

where ϵ is the diagonal augmentation (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) .

- For $k \geq 1$, the composition map

$$m_k \colon \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_{k+1})$$

is defined to be the map of (3-2).

Proposition 3.17 $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ is an A_∞ –category.

Proof The A_∞ relations can then be verified by observing that all compositions relevant to any finite relation can be computed in some fixed A_∞ –category of the sort constructed in Proposition 3.11. \square

Remark 3.18 We emphasize that the A_∞ –algebra $\operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ is *not* the A_∞ –algebra obtained by dualizing $(\mathcal{A}^{(1)})^\epsilon$. In particular, the former can be unital when the latter is not.

Definition 3.19 Given two consistent sequences $(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \partial)$ and $(\mathcal{B}^{(\bullet)}, \partial)$, we say a sequence of DGA morphisms

$$f^{(m)} \colon (\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}^{(m)}, \partial)$$

is *consistent* if:

- (1) Each $f^{(m)}$ preserves the subalgebra generated by the invertible generators.
- (2) The $f^{(m)}$ are compatible with the link gradings in the following sense. For any generator $a_i \in \mathcal{S}_m$, $f(a_i)$ is a \mathbb{Z} –linear combination of composable words in $\mathcal{B}^{(m)}$ from $r(a_i)$ to $c(a_i)$, ie words of the form $x_1 \cdots x_k$ with $c(x_i) = r(x_{i+1})$ for $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$, and $r(x_1) = r(a_i)$ and $c(x_k) = c(a_i)$. Note that constant terms are allowed if $r(a_i) = c(a_i)$.

As a consequence of this requirement, a well-defined DGA morphism of composable algebras arises from taking $(f^{(m)})'(a_i)$ to be $f^{(m)}(a_i)$ with all occurrences of 1 replaced with the idempotent $e_{r(a_i)}$ for generators a_i of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$. Moreover, the following square commutes:

(3-3)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathcal{A}^{(m)})' & \xrightarrow{(f^{(m)})'} & (\mathcal{B}^{(m)})' \\ \downarrow \ell & & \downarrow \ell \\ \mathcal{A}^{(m)} \otimes \operatorname{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m) & \xrightarrow{f^{(m)} \otimes 1} & \mathcal{B}^{(m)} \otimes \operatorname{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m) \end{array}$$

- (3) For any $I: [m] \hookrightarrow [n]$, note that, by the previous axiom, $f^{(n)}$ induces a well-defined homomorphism $f_I^{(n)}: (\mathcal{A}_I^{(n)}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}_I^{(n)}, \partial)$. We require the following diagram to commute:

$$(3-4) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A}^{(m)} & \xrightarrow{f^{(m)}} & \mathcal{B}^{(m)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{A}_I^{(n)} & \xrightarrow{f_I^{(n)}} & \mathcal{B}_I^{(n)} \end{array}$$

where the vertical arrows are the definitional isomorphisms h_I .

A consistent sequence of DGA morphisms $f^{(m)}: (\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}^{(m)}, \partial)$ gives rise to an A_∞ -functor

$$F: \text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{B}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$$

according to the following construction. On objects, for an augmentation $\epsilon: (\mathcal{B}^{(1)}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathbb{k}, 0)$ we define

$$F(\epsilon) = f^* \epsilon := \epsilon \circ f,$$

where $f := f^{(1)}: (\mathcal{A}^{(1)}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}^{(1)}, \partial)$. Next, we need to define maps

$$F_k: \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{B}}(\epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{B}}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{A}}(f^* \epsilon_1, f^* \epsilon_{k+1}).$$

Consider the diagonal augmentation $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ of $\mathcal{B}^{(k+1)}$, and let $f_\epsilon^{(k+1)} := \Phi_\epsilon \circ f^{(k+1)} \circ \Phi_{(f^{(k+1)})^* \epsilon}^{-1}$. Here, we used that $f^{(k+1)}$ passes to a well-defined map $(\mathcal{A}^{(k+1)})^{(f^{(k+1)})^* \epsilon} \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}^{(k+1)})^\epsilon$. Note that $f_\epsilon^{(k+1)}((\mathcal{A}^{(k+1)})_+^{(f^{(k+1)})^* \epsilon}) \subset (\mathcal{B}^{(k+1)})_+^\epsilon$, ie no constant terms appear in the image of generators. We then define F_k , up to the usual grading shift, by dualizing the component of $f_\epsilon^{(k+1)}$ that maps from

$$C^{1,k+1} \rightarrow C'^{1,2} \otimes \cdots \otimes C'^{k,k+1}$$

and making use of the consistency of the sequence to identify the grading-shifted duals $C_{i,i+1}'^\vee$ and $C_{1,k+1}^\vee$ with $\text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{B}}(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_{i+1})$ and $\text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{A}}(f^* \epsilon_1, f^* \epsilon_{k+1})$, respectively.

Proposition 3.20 *If the sequence of DGA morphisms $f^{(m)}$ is consistent, then F is an A_∞ -functor. Moreover, this construction defines a functor from the category of consistent sequences of DGAs and DGA morphisms to A_∞ -categories.*

Proof Using the third stated property of a consistent sequence, we see that the required relation for the map

$$F_k: \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{B}}(\epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{B}}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+^{\mathcal{A}}(f^* \epsilon_1, f^* \epsilon_{k+1})$$

follows from the identity $f_{\epsilon}^{(k+1)} \partial_{(f^{(k+1)})^* \epsilon} = \partial_{\epsilon} f_{\epsilon}^{(k+1)}$. That the construction preserves compositions and identity morphisms is clear from the definitions. \square

3.3.1 The negative augmentation category For a given consistent sequence of DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \partial)$, there is a kind of dual consistent sequence obtained by reversing the order of components in the link grading. That is, for each $m \geq 1$, we form a new link grading, $(r \times c)^*$, as the composition

$$S_m \xrightarrow{r \times c} \{1, \dots, m\} \xrightarrow{\tau} \{m, \dots, 1\},$$

where τ reverses the ordering: $\tau(k) = m - k + 1$. The structure of a consistent sequence for this new link grading is then provided by altering the maps h_I to $h_I^* = h_{\tau(I)}$.

Definition 3.21 Given a consistent sequence of DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \partial)$ and a coefficient ring \mathbb{k} , we define the *negative augmentation category* $\text{Aug}_{-}(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ to be the augmentation category associated, as in Definition 3.16, to the sequence of DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial)$ with link grading $(r \times c)^*$ and $\text{co-}\Delta_{+}$ set structure on the S_m given by the h_I^* .

The category $\text{Aug}_{-}(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ can also be described in a straightforward manner in terms of the original link grading and h_I for $(\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \mathbb{k})$ as follows:

- The objects are augmentations $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$.
- The morphisms are

$$\text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) := C_{21}^{\vee} \subset \mathcal{A}^{(2)},$$

where ϵ is the diagonal augmentation (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) (note the reversal of the order of inputs).

- For $k \geq 1$, let $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ be a tuple of augmentations of $\mathcal{A}^{(1)}$, and let ϵ be the corresponding diagonal augmentation of $\mathcal{A}^{(k+1)}$. Then

$$m_k: \text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) \otimes \text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2) \otimes \dots \otimes \text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_{k+1}, \epsilon_k) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_{k+1}, \epsilon_1)$$

is the composite morphism

$$(3-5) \quad C_{21}^{\vee} \otimes \dots \otimes C_{21}^{\vee} \xrightarrow{h_{12} \otimes \dots \otimes h_{k,k+1}} C_{21}^{\vee} \otimes \dots \otimes C_{k+1,k}^{\vee} \xrightarrow{m_k(\epsilon)} C_{k+1,1}^{\vee} \xrightarrow{h_{1,k+1}^{-1}} C_{21}^{\vee}.$$

Remark 3.22 • In the preceding formulas, objects were indexed in a manner that is reverse to our earlier notation. This is to allow for easy comparison of the operations in $\text{Aug}_{+}(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ and $\text{Aug}_{-}(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}, \mathbb{k})$ that correspond to a common diagonal augmentation $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ of $(\mathcal{A}^{(k+1)}, \partial)$.

- The subscripts of the h maps are *the same* as in (3-2). However, in these two settings, they are applied to different generators from the \mathcal{S}_m .

Proposition 3.23 *The map $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \mapsto \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ underlies the structure of an A_∞ -bifunctor from Aug_- to chain complexes and likewise the map $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \mapsto \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ underlies the structure of an A_∞ -bifunctor from Aug_+ to chain complexes.*

Proof Consider the diagonal augmentation ϵ on $\mathcal{A}^{(3)}$ induced by the tuple $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3)$. Then the composition on C^ϵ gives us, in particular,

$$\begin{aligned} m_2: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) \otimes \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) &= C_{13}^\vee \otimes C_{21}^\vee \rightarrow C_{23}^\vee = \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3), \\ m_2: \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) &= C_{32}^\vee \otimes C_{13}^\vee \rightarrow C_{12}^\vee = \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2), \\ m_2: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \otimes \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_1) &= C_{12}^\vee \otimes C_{31}^\vee \rightarrow C_{32}^\vee = \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2), \\ m_2: \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_1) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) &= C_{31}^\vee \otimes C_{23}^\vee \rightarrow C_{21}^\vee = \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1). \end{aligned}$$

The first two and the analogous higher compositions give Hom_+ the structure of a bifunctor on Aug_- , since the compositions are taking place in an A_∞ -algebra as described in Proposition 3.11. Similarly, the second two and their higher variants give Hom_- the structure of a bifunctor on Aug_+ . \square

Remark 3.24 From the proof of Proposition 3.23, we have maps

$$m_2: \text{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes \text{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3)$$

for all choices of (\pm, \pm, \pm) except $(+, +, -)$ and $(-, -, +)$. These six choices correspond to the six different ways to augment the components of the 3-copy with ϵ_1, ϵ_2 and ϵ_3 in some order. For $(+, +, +)$ and $(-, -, -)$, we recover the usual m_2 multiplication in the A_∞ -categories Aug_+ and Aug_- .

3.4 A construction of unital categories

Let (\mathcal{A}, ∂) be a semifree DGA with generating set $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{R} \sqcup \mathcal{T}$, where $\mathcal{R} = \{a_1, \dots, a_r\}$ and $\mathcal{T} = \{t_1, t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_M, t_M^{-1}\}$. Suppose further that (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is equipped with a weak link grading $(r \times c): \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, l\} \times \{1, \dots, l\}$. (As in Definition 3.5, this means $r \times c$ satisfies all the conditions of a link grading *except* that the elements of \mathcal{T} are not required to be diagonal.)

We will construct a consistent sequence from the above data.⁵

Proposition 3.25 *Let (\mathcal{A}, ∂) be a semifree DGA with a weak link grading as above. We define a sequence of algebras $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ with $\mathcal{A}^{(1)} = \mathcal{A}$, where $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ has the generators*

- a_k^{ij} , where $1 \leq k \leq r$ and $1 \leq i, j \leq m$, with degree $|a_k^{ij}| = |a_k|$;
- x_k^{ij} , where $1 \leq k \leq M$ and $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, with degree $|x_k^{ij}| = 0$;
- y_k^{ij} , where $1 \leq k \leq M$ and $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, with degree $|y_k^{ij}| = -1$;
- invertible generators $(t_k^i)^{\pm 1}$, where $1 \leq k \leq M$ and $1 \leq i \leq m$.

We organize the generators with matrices. Consider the elements of $\text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)})$, $A_k = (a_k^{ij})$, $\Delta_k = \text{Diag}(t_k^1, \dots, t_k^m)$,

$$X_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_k^{12} & \cdots & x_k^{1m} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & x_k^{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_k = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & y_k^{12} & \cdots & y_k^{1m} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & y_k^{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We introduce a ring homomorphism

$$\Phi: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}), \quad a_k \mapsto A_k, \quad t_k \mapsto \Delta_k X_k, \quad t_k^{-1} \mapsto X_k^{-1} \Delta_k^{-1},$$

and a (Φ, Φ) -derivation

$$\alpha_Y: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}), \quad s \mapsto Y_{r(s)} \Phi(s) - (-1)^{|s|} \Phi(s) Y_{c(s)} \quad \text{for } s \in S.$$

Then there is a unique derivation ∂^m on $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ such that (applying ∂^m to matrices entry by entry)

$$\partial^m \Delta = 0, \quad \partial^m Y_k = Y_k^2, \quad \partial^m \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \partial + \alpha_Y.$$

Furthermore, this derivation is a differential: $(\partial^m)^2 = 0$.

Proof The uniqueness of such a derivation follows because taking $s = t_k$ determines $\Delta^{-1} \partial^m \Phi(t_k) = \Delta^{-1} \partial^m (\Delta_k X_k) = \partial^m X_k$, and taking $s = a$ determines $\partial^m \Phi(a_k) = \partial^m A_k$. Existence follows because the above specifies its behavior on the generators, and the equation $\partial^m \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \partial + \alpha_Y$ need only be checked on generators since both

⁵The following construction comes from the geometry of the m -copies of a Lagrangian projection (see Proposition 4.14), but we require it in some nongeometric settings in order to prove invariance. Thus it is convenient to carry out the algebra first. In the geometric case, the identity $(\partial^m)^2 = 0$ is automatic because ∂^m is the differential of a C–E DGA.

sides are (Φ, Φ) -derivations. (Recall that f is a (Φ, Φ) -derivation when $f(ab) = f(a)\Phi(b) + (-1)^{|a|}\Phi(a)f(b)$.)

We turn to checking $(\partial^m)^2 = 0$. Evidently

$$(\partial^m)^2(\Delta_k) = 0, \quad (\partial^m)^2 Y_k = (\partial Y_k)Y_k + (-1)^{-1}Y_k(\partial Y_k) = Y_k^3 - Y_k^3 = 0,$$

and we compute

$$(\partial^m)^2 \circ \Phi = \partial^m \circ (\Phi \circ \partial + \alpha_Y) = \Phi \circ \partial^2 + \alpha_Y \circ \partial + \partial^m \circ \alpha_Y = \alpha_Y \circ \partial + \partial^m \circ \alpha_Y,$$

so it remains only to show, for any $s \in S$, that

$$(3-6) \quad \partial^m \alpha_Y(s) = -\alpha_Y(\partial s).$$

In order to verify this identity, recall from [Definition 3.5](#) the DGA homomorphism $\ell: \mathcal{A}' \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l)$ arising from the weak link grading on \mathcal{A} , where $(\mathcal{A}', \partial')$ denotes the composable algebra and $\mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l)$ has differential $\partial \otimes 1$. We compose the maps $\Phi \otimes 1$ and $\alpha_Y \otimes 1$ with ℓ to define maps

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Phi}: \mathcal{A}' &\xrightarrow{\ell} \mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l) \xrightarrow{\Phi \otimes 1} \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}) \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l), \\ \tilde{\alpha}_Y: \mathcal{A}' &\xrightarrow{\ell} \mathcal{A} \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l) \xrightarrow{\alpha_Y \otimes 1} \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}) \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l). \end{aligned}$$

The identity $\partial^m \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \partial + \alpha_Y$ immediately implies $(\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ \tilde{\Phi} = \tilde{\Phi} \circ \partial' + \tilde{\alpha}_Y$. Moreover, if we can show for any $s \in S$ that

$$(3-7) \quad (\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s) = -\tilde{\alpha}_Y \circ \partial'(s),$$

then (3-6) will follow. This is because we can then compute

$$\begin{aligned} (\partial^m \circ \alpha_Y(s)) \otimes |r(s)\rangle \langle c(s)| &= (\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ (\alpha_Y \otimes 1) \circ \ell(s) = (\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s), \\ (-\alpha_Y \circ \partial(s)) \otimes |r(s)\rangle \langle c(s)| &= (-\alpha_Y \otimes 1) \circ (\partial \otimes 1) \circ \ell(s) = (-\alpha_Y \otimes 1) \circ \ell \circ \partial'(s) \\ &= -\tilde{\alpha}_Y \circ \partial'(s), \end{aligned}$$

and these last two quantities are equal.

To establish (3-7), we define an element of $\text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}) \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l)$ by the formula

$$\mathbb{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^l Y_i \otimes |i\rangle \langle i|$$

and verify the identities

$$\partial^m \mathbb{Y} = \mathbb{Y}^2, \quad \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s) = [\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(s)],$$

where $s \in \mathcal{S}$ and $[x, y] = xy - (-1)^{|x||y|}yx$ denotes the graded commutator. Note that $\tilde{\alpha}_Y$ and $[\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(\cdot)]$ are both $(\tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Phi})$ -derivations from \mathcal{A}' to $\text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)}) \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^l)$. Therefore, since they agree on a generating set for \mathcal{A}' , it follows that $\tilde{\alpha}_Y(x) = [\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(x)]$ holds for any $x \in \mathcal{A}'$.

Now the Leibniz rule $\partial[x, y] = [\partial x, y] + (-1)^{|x|}[x, \partial y]$, together with $|\mathbb{Y}| = -1$, gives

$$\begin{aligned} (\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s) &= [(\partial^m \otimes 1)\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(s)] - [\mathbb{Y}, (\partial^m \otimes 1)\tilde{\Phi}(s)] \\ &= [\mathbb{Y}^2, \tilde{\Phi}(s)] - [\mathbb{Y}, (\partial^m \otimes 1)\tilde{\Phi}(s)]. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we compute that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\alpha}_Y(\partial's) &= [\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(\partial's)] = [\mathbb{Y}, (\partial^m \otimes 1)\tilde{\Phi}(s)] - [\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s)] \\ &= [\mathbb{Y}, (\partial^m \otimes 1)\tilde{\Phi}(s)] - [\mathbb{Y}, [\mathbb{Y}, \tilde{\Phi}(s)]] \end{aligned}$$

and we can verify either directly or using the graded Jacobi identity that the last term on the right is equal to $[\mathbb{Y}^2, \tilde{\Phi}(s)]$. Thus, $(\partial^m \otimes 1) \circ \tilde{\alpha}_Y(s) = -\tilde{\alpha}_Y(\partial s)$ holds, as desired. \square

Proposition 3.26 *The $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ above comes with a m -component link grading given by $(r \times c)(a_k^{ij}) = (r \times c)(x_k^{ij}) = (r \times c)(y_k^{ij}) = (i, j)$ and $(r \times c)(t_k^i) = (i, i)$. Given $I: [m] \hookrightarrow [n]$, we define $h_I(s^{ij}) = s^{I(i), I(j)}$. This gives $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ the structure of a consistent sequence of DGAs.*

Proof By inspection. The fact that the above formula gives a link grading follows because the differential was defined by a matrix formula in the first place. Also, the matrix formulas are identical for all $m \geq 1$, so the identification of generators extends to a DGA isomorphism $(\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial^m) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}_I^{(n)}, \partial^n)$. \square

Remark 3.27 The link grading defined in [Proposition 3.26](#) is unrelated to the initial weak link grading on \mathcal{A} that was used in [Proposition 3.25](#) in defining differentials on the $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$. In particular, for $\mathcal{A}^{(1)} = \mathcal{A}$ the two gradings are distinct if the initial weak link grading has $l > 1$.

Proposition 3.28 *Let \mathcal{A} be a DGA with weak link grading, and $\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)}$ the consistent sequence from [Proposition 3.25](#). Then the A_∞ -category $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)})$ is strictly unital, with the unit given by*

$$e_\epsilon = -\sum_{j=1}^M (y_j^{12})^\vee \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$$

for any $\epsilon \in \text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)})$.

Proof We recall the properties of a strict unit element: we must show that $m_1(e_\epsilon) = 0$, that $m_2(e_{\epsilon_1}, a) = m_2(a, e_{\epsilon_2}) = a$ for any $a \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$, and that all higher compositions involving e_ϵ vanish.

Inspection of the formula for $\partial^2: \mathcal{A}^{(2)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{(2)}$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}\partial^2(a_k^{12}) &= y_{r(a_k)}^{12} a_k^{22} - (-1)^{|a_k|} a_k^{11} y_{c(a_k)}^{12} + \cdots, \\ \partial^2(x_k^{12}) &= (t_k^{11})^{-1} y_{r(t_k)}^{12} t_k^{22} - y_{c(t_k)}^{12}, \\ \partial^2(y_k^{12}) &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

and so if we write $\partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}$ for the differential $\phi_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)} \circ \partial \circ \phi_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}^{-1}$ on $\mathcal{A}^{(2)}$, then for $1 \leq k \leq r$ the coefficient of $(a_k^{12})^\vee$ in $-m_1 e_\epsilon$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\left\langle m_1 \sum_{j=1}^M (y_j^{12})^\vee, (a_k^{12})^\vee \right\rangle &= \left\langle \sum_{j=1}^M y_j^{12}, \partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)} a_k^{12} \right\rangle = \langle y_{r(k)}^{12} + y_{c(k)}^{12}, \partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)} a_k^{12} \rangle \\ &= \epsilon(a_k) - (-1)^{|a_k|} \epsilon(a_k) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

(In the final equality, we used the fact that $\epsilon(a_k) = 0$ unless $|a_k| = 0$.) A similar computation shows that $\langle m_1 \sum_{j=1}^M (y_j^{12})^\vee, (x_k^{12})^\vee \rangle = 0$, and $\langle m_1 \sum_{j=1}^M (y_j^{12})^\vee, (y_k^{12})^\vee \rangle = 0$ holds since $\partial y_k^{12} = 0$. Thus $m_1(e_\epsilon) = 0$.

The formula for $\partial^3: \mathcal{A}^{(3)} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{(3)}$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}\partial^3(a_k^{13}) &= y_{r(k)}^{12} a_k^{23} - (-1)^{|a_k|} a_k^{12} y_{c(k)}^{23} + \cdots, \\ \partial^3(x_k^{13}) &= (t_k^{11})^{-1} y_{r(k)}^{12} t_k^{22} x_k^{23} - x_k^{12} y_{c(k)}^{23} + \cdots, \\ \partial^3(y_k^{13}) &= y_k^{12} y_k^{23}.\end{aligned}$$

Using (3-1), we calculate that

$$m_2(e_\epsilon, (a_k^{12})^\vee) = (-1)^{|a_k^\vee|+1} (-1)^{|a_k|} (a_k^{12})^\vee = (a_k^{12})^\vee$$

and similarly $m_2((a_k^{12})^\vee, e_\epsilon) = (a_k^{12})^\vee$. In the same manner, we find that

$$m_2(e_\epsilon, (x_k^{12})^\vee) = m_2((x_k^{12})^\vee, e_\epsilon) = (x_k^{12})^\vee$$

and $m_2(e_\epsilon, (y_k^{12})^\vee) = (y_k^{12})^\vee$; note that for $m_2((x_k^{12})^\vee, e_\epsilon) = (x_k^{12})^\vee$, we have $e_\epsilon \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ and $x_k^\vee \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon')$ for some ϵ and ϵ' , and the corresponding diagonal augmentation $(\epsilon, \epsilon, \epsilon')$ of $\mathcal{A}^{(3)}$ sends both t_k^{11} and t_k^{22} to $\epsilon(t_k)$.

Finally, all higher-order compositions involving e_ϵ vanish for the following reason: In any differential of a generator in any of the $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$, the y_k^{ij} appear only in words

that have at most two non- t generators. Therefore, when ϵ is a pure augmentation of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$, occurrences of y_k^{ij} in the differential of the other generators must be in words of length 2 or less. \square

Proposition 3.29 *Let $f: (\mathcal{A}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}, \partial)$ be a DGA morphism between algebras with weak link gradings (with the same number of components), which respects the weak link gradings in the sense of (2) from Definition 3.19. Then f extends, in a canonical way, to a consistent sequence of morphisms*

$$f^{(m)}: (\mathcal{A}^{(m)}, \partial^m) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}^{(m)}, \partial^m)$$

inducing a unital A_∞ -morphism of categories $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{B}^{(\bullet)}) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A}^{(\bullet)})$. This construction defines a functor, ie it preserves identity morphisms and compositions.

Proof Given $f: (\mathcal{A}, \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{B}, \partial)$ we produce morphisms $f^{(m)}$ for $m \geq 1$ by requiring that the following matrix formulas hold (again applying $f^{(m)}$ entry-by-entry):

$$f^{(m)}(\Delta_k) = \Delta_k, \quad f^{(m)}(Y_k) = Y_k,$$

and, when $x \in \mathcal{A}$ is a generator,

$$(3-8) \quad f^{(m)} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}(x) = \Phi_{\mathcal{B}} \circ f(x).$$

(Note that taking $x = t_k$ uniquely specifies $f^{(m)}(X_k) = \Delta_k^{-1} \cdot \Phi_{\mathcal{B}} \circ f(t_k)$.) This characterizes the value of $f^{(m)}$ on generators, and we extend $f^{(m)}$ as an algebra homomorphism. Equation (3-8) then holds for all $x \in \mathcal{A}$, as the morphisms on both sides are algebra homomorphisms.

Next, note that the (Φ, Φ) -derivation $\alpha_Y: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}^{(m)})$ satisfies

$$\alpha_Y(w) = Y_i \Phi(w) - (-1)^{|w|} \Phi(w) Y_j$$

for any composable word in \mathcal{A} from i to j . This is verified by inducting on the length of w : if $w = a \cdot b$ with a composable from i to k and b composable from k to j , then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_Y(ab) &= \alpha_Y(a) \Phi(b) + (-1)^{|a|} \Phi(a) \alpha_Y(b) \\ &= (Y_i \Phi(a) - (-1)^{|a|} \Phi(a) Y_k) \Phi(b) + (-1)^{|a|} \Phi(a) (Y_k \Phi(b) - (-1)^{|b|} \Phi(b) Y_j) \\ &= Y_i \Phi(ab) - (-1)^{|a \cdot b|} \Phi(ab) Y_j. \end{aligned}$$

Because f respects the link gradings, if $x \in \mathcal{S}^{ij}$ is a generator of \mathcal{A} then $f(x)$ is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of composable words from i to j in \mathcal{B} , so we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3-9) \quad f^{(m)} \circ \alpha_Y(x) &= f^{(m)}(Y_i \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}(x) - (-1)^{|x|} \Phi_{\mathcal{A}}(x) Y_j) \\
 &= Y_i(f^{(m)} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{A}})(x) - (-1)^{|x|}(f^{(m)} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{A}})(x) Y_j \\
 &= Y_i(\Phi_{\mathcal{B}} \circ f)(x) - (-1)^{|f(x)|}(\Phi_{\mathcal{B}} \circ f)(x) Y_j \\
 &= \alpha_Y \circ f(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

To verify that $f^{(m)}$ is a DGA map, we need to verify that $f^{(m)} \partial^m = \partial^m f^{(m)}$ holds when applied to any generator of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$. For the entries of Δ or Y , this is immediate. For the remaining generators, it suffices to compute using (3-8) and (3-9) that, for $x \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f^{(m)} \circ \partial^m \circ \Phi(x) &= f^{(m)} \circ \Phi \circ \partial(x) + f^{(m)} \circ \alpha_Y(x) \\
 &= \Phi \circ f \circ \partial(x) + \alpha_Y \circ f(x) \\
 &= \Phi \circ \partial \circ f(x) + \alpha_Y \circ f(x) \\
 &= \partial^m \circ \Phi \circ f(x) - \alpha_Y \circ f(x) + \alpha_Y \circ f(x) \\
 &= \partial^m \circ f^{(m)} \circ \Phi(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

The consistency of the $f^{(m)}$ follows since the matrix formulas used for different m all appear identical; we get a morphism of A_∞ -categories by Proposition 3.20. The construction preserves identities by inspection.

That the construction of this proposition defines a functor is clear from the definitions combined with the functoriality of the construction in Proposition 3.20. \square

4 The augmentation category of a Legendrian link

In this section, we apply the machinery from Section 3 to define a new category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda)$ whose objects are augmentations of a Legendrian knot or link Λ in \mathbb{R}^3 . As mentioned in the introduction, this category is similar to, but in some respects crucially different from, the augmentation category constructed by Bourgeois and Chantraine in [2], which we write as $\text{Aug}_-(\Lambda)$. Our approach in fact allows us to treat the two categories as two versions of a single construction, and to investigate the relationship between them.

We begin in Section 4.1 by considering the link consisting of m parallel copies of Λ for $m \geq 1$, differing from each other by translation in the Reeb direction, and numbered sequentially. In the language of Section 3, the DGAs for these m -copy links form a

consistent sequence of DGAs, and we can dualize, using [Proposition 3.17](#), to obtain an A_∞ -category: $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ if the components are ordered from top to bottom, and $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ if from bottom to top.

Associating a DGA to the m -copy of Λ requires a choice of perturbation; the construction of $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ is independent of this perturbation, but $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ is not. For the purposes of defining $\mathcal{A}ug_+$, we consider two explicit perturbations, the Lagrangian and the front projection m -copies. In [Section 4.2](#), we show that the A_∞ -category associated to the Lagrangian perturbation is constructed algebraically from the DGA of Λ using [Proposition 3.25](#), and conclude that $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ is unital.

In [Section 4.3](#), we then proceed to prove invariance of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ under choice of perturbation and Legendrian isotopy of Λ . In [Section 4.4](#), we present computations of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ for some examples.

4.1 Definition of the augmentation category

We recall our contact conventions. For a manifold M , we denote the first jet space by $J^1(M) = T^*M \times \mathbb{R}_z$, the subscript indicating that we use z as the coordinate in the \mathbb{R} direction. We choose the contact form $dz - \lambda$ on $J^1(M)$, where λ is the Liouville 1-form on T^*M (eg $\lambda = y dx$ on $T^*\mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$). With these conventions, the Reeb vector field is $\partial/\partial z$.

Definition 4.1 Let $\Lambda \subset J^1(M)$ be a Legendrian. For $m \geq 1$, the m -copy of Λ , denoted by Λ^m , is the disjoint union of m parallel copies of Λ , separated by small translations in the Reeb (z) direction. We label the m parallel copies $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_m$ from top (highest z coordinate) to bottom (lowest z coordinate).

The m -copy defined above is not immediately suitable for Legendrian contact homology, as the space of Reeb chords is not discrete; we need to perturb the m -copy so that there are finitely many Reeb chords. A standard method for perturbing a Legendrian is to work within a Weinstein neighborhood of Λ , contactomorphic to a neighborhood of the 0-section in $J^1(\Lambda)$. One then chooses a C^1 -small function $f: \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and replaces Λ with the 1-jet of several small multiples of f (along with another small perturbation to make the picture generic; see “Lagrangian projection m -copy” below). In order to apply the algebraic constructions of the previous section, it will be important to perturb the m -copies of Λ in a consistent manner, ie in a way that produces a consistent sequence of DGAs. We will do this only in the 1-dimensional case; see [Remark 4.5](#) for a discussion of issues involved with extending to higher dimensions.

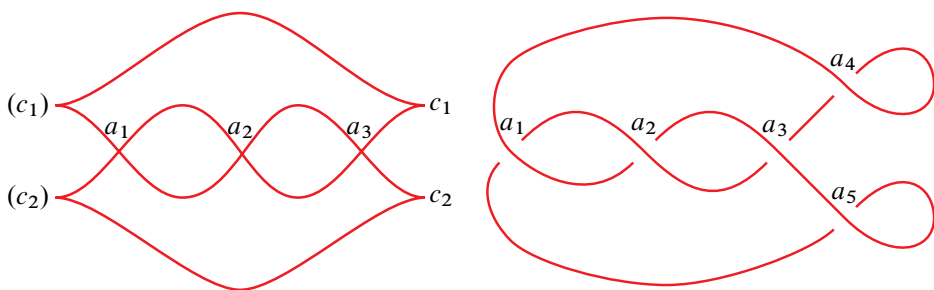


Figure 3: The Legendrian trefoil, in the front (left) and xy (right) projections, with Reeb chords labeled (and a correspondence chosen between left and right cusps in the front projection).

We now specialize to the case of a 1-dimensional Legendrian $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$, where we use coordinates $(x, y, z) \in J^1(\mathbb{R}) = T^*\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$. In this case, we introduce two perturbation⁶ methods for the m -copies of Λ that result in consistent sequences of DGAs, one described in terms of the Lagrangian (xy) projection of Λ and the other via the front (xz) projection of Λ . Recall from Section 2.2 that the resolution procedure [45] gives a Legendrian isotopic link whose Reeb chords (crossings in the xy diagram) are in one-to-one correspondence with the crossings and right cusps of the front.

Here are our two perturbation schemes in more detail:

- **Front projection m -copy** Beginning with a front projection for Λ , take m copies of this front, separated by small translations in the Reeb direction, and labeled $1, \dots, m$ from top to bottom; then resolve to get an xy -projection, or equivalently use the formulation for the DGA for fronts from [45]. Typically, we denote this version of the m -copy by Λ_{xz}^m .
- **Lagrangian projection m -copy** Beginning with an xy -projection for Λ (which eg can be obtained by resolving a front projection), take m copies separated by small translations in the Reeb (z) direction. Let $f: \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Morse function whose critical points are distinct from the crossing points of the xy -projection. Use this function to perturb the copies in the normal direction to the knot in the xy plane. Away from critical points of f , the result appears as m parallel copies of the xy -projection of Λ , while the xy -projection remains m -to-1 at critical points of f . Finally, perturb the projection near critical points of f so that a left-handed (resp. right-handed) half twist appears as in Figure 4

⁶Strictly speaking the resolution construction does not produce a C^0 -small perturbation of the original Legendrian, although we occasionally make this abuse in our terminology.

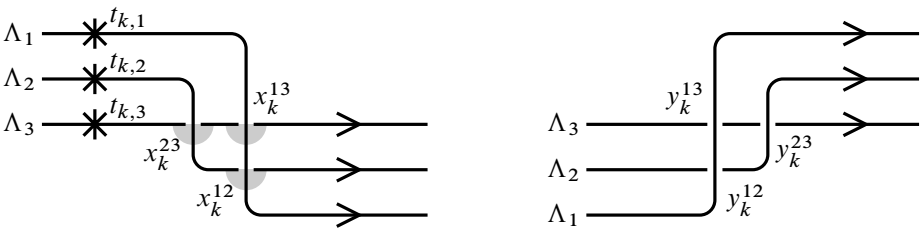


Figure 4: The xy -projection of Λ_f^m pictured near local maxima (left) and local minima (right) of f . The shaded quadrants of the x_k^{ij} indicate negative orientation signs. Note that in intervals bordered on the left by a local minimum of f and on the right by a local maximum of f the components appear from top to bottom (with respect to the oriented normal to Λ) in the order $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_m$, and in the remaining intervals the top to bottom ordering is $\Lambda_m, \dots, \Lambda_1$.

when passing local minima (resp. local maxima) of f according to the orientation of Λ . We denote this perturbed m -copy by Λ_f^m .

An example of this construction where f has only two critical points, with the local minimum placed just to the right of the local maximum, appears in Figure 6. Here, the two half twists fit together to form what is commonly called a “dip” in the xy -projection; see [49].

Associating a Legendrian contact homology DGA to the perturbed m -copy Λ_{xz}^m or Λ_f^m requires a further choice of Maslov potentials to determine the grading, as well as a choice of orientation signs and basepoints. Suppose that a choice of Maslov potential, orientation signs and basepoints has been made for Λ itself. As usual, we require that each component of Λ contains at least one basepoint, and we further assume that the locations of basepoints are distinct from local maxima and minima of f . Then, we equip each of the parallel components of Λ_{xz}^m and Λ_f^m with the identical Maslov potential, and place basepoints on each of the copies of Λ in Λ_{xz}^m or Λ_f^m in the same locations as the basepoints of Λ . Finally, we assign orientation signs as follows. Any even-degree crossing of Λ_{xz}^m corresponds to an even-degree crossing of Λ (the crossings that appear near cusps all have odd degree): we assign orientation signs to agree with the orientation signs of Λ . A similar assignment of orientation signs to Λ_f^m is made, with the following addition for the crossings of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda_f^m)$ that are created near critical points of f during the perturbation process, which do not correspond to any crossing of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$: only the crossings near local maxima of f have even degree, and they are assigned orientation signs as pictured in Figure 4.

Proposition 4.2 *Given a Legendrian $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$, the following collections of DGAs underlie consistent sequences:*

- The “front projection m -copy” algebras $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^m), \partial)$.
- The “Lagrangian projection m -copy” algebras $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m), \partial)$ for a fixed Morse function f .

Proof The data of a consistent sequence is an m -component link grading on the m^{th} algebra, plus the structure of a $\text{co-}\Delta_+$ set on the generators. Writing \mathcal{S}_m for the generators, ie Reeb chords and basepoints, of Λ^m , the data of the link grading is associated to the decomposition $\Lambda^m = \Lambda_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup \Lambda_m$ as discussed in [Section 2.2.3](#). That is, the map $r \times c: \mathcal{S}_m \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\} \times \{1, \dots, m\}$ sends a basepoint on the i^{th} copy to (i, i) , and a Reeb chord that *ends on* the i^{th} copy and *begins on* the j^{th} copy to (i, j) . In both of the m -copy constructions above, the Lagrangian projection of the link resulting from removing any $n - m$ pieces of Λ^n looks identical to Λ^m ; this gives the $\text{co-}\Delta_+$ set structure, and makes the desired isomorphisms obviously hold. \square

Definition 4.3 We write $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ for the A_∞ -category that is associated by [Definition 3.16](#) to the sequence of m -copy DGAs $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^\bullet), \partial)$. Likewise we write $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ for the category associated to $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^\bullet), \partial)$.

Remark 4.4 (grading) If $r(\Lambda)$ denotes the gcd of the rotation numbers of the components of Λ , then recall from [Section 2.2](#) that the DGA for Λ is graded over $\mathbb{Z}/2r$. Later in this paper, when we prove the equivalence of augmentation and sheaf categories, we will assume that $r(\Lambda) = 0$ and thus that the DGA is \mathbb{Z} -graded. For the purposes of constructing the augmentation category, however, $r(\Lambda)$ can be arbitrary; note then that augmentations ϵ must satisfy the condition $\epsilon(a_i) = 0$ for $a_i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2r}$. Indeed, we can further relax the grading on the DGA and on augmentations to a \mathbb{Z}/m -grading where $m \mid 2r$, as long as either m is even or we work over a ring with $-1 = 1$; see the first paragraph of [Section 3.1](#).

In [Proposition 4.14](#), we will show the sequence $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m), \partial)$ arises by applying the construction of [Proposition 3.25](#) to $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$, and deduce that $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ is unital. In [Theorem 4.20](#), we will show that, up to A_∞ -equivalence, the category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ does not depend on the choice of f , and moreover is invariant under Legendrian isotopy. In addition, if Λ is assumed to be in plat position, $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ and $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ are shown to be equivalent. Thus we will usually suppress the perturbation method

from notation and denote any of these categories simply by $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$, which we call the *positive augmentation category* of Λ (with coefficients in \mathbb{k}).

The category $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is summarized in the following:

- The objects are augmentations $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$.
- The morphisms are

$$\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) := C_{12}^\vee,$$

the \mathbb{k} -module generated by Reeb chords that end on Λ_1 and begin on Λ_2 in the 2-copy Λ^2 .

- For $k \geq 1$, the composition map

$$m_k: \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_{k+1})$$

is defined to be the map $m_k: C_{k,k+1}^\vee \otimes \cdots \otimes C_{12}^\vee \rightarrow C_{1,k+1}^\vee$ given by the diagonal augmentation $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ on the $(k+1)$ -copy Λ^{k+1} . (Note that in the Legendrian literature, diagonal augmentations are often called “pure”.)

Here, one of the allowed perturbation methods, as in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, must be used when producing the DGAs of the m -copies Λ^m .

Remark 4.5 It should be possible to define the augmentation category in an analogous manner for any Legendrian submanifold Λ of a 1-jet space $J^1(M)$. Some key technical points that would need to be addressed to rigorously establish the augmentation category in higher dimensions include: producing a consistent sequence of DGAs via appropriate perturbations of the m -copies of Λ (or showing how to work around this point); proving independence of choices made to produce such perturbations; and establishing Legendrian isotopy invariance. The construction of augmentation categories for Legendrians in $J^1(\mathbb{R})$ given in this article is also valid for Legendrians in $J^1(S^1)$. When $\dim(M) \geq 2$, we leave the rigorous construction of the positive augmentation category as an open problem.

Before turning to a more concrete description of the m -copy algebras $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^m), \partial)$ and $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m), \partial)$ underlying the definition of $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$, we consider the corresponding negative augmentation category.

Definition 4.6 Given a Legendrian submanifold $\Lambda \subset J^1(M)$ and a coefficient ring \mathbb{k} , we define the *negative augmentation category* to be the A_∞ -category $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$

obtained by applying [Definition 3.21](#) to any of the consistent sequences of DGAs introduced in [Proposition 4.2](#).

The category $\mathcal{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is summarized as follows:

- The objects are augmentations $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$.
- The morphisms are

$$\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) := C_{21}^\vee,$$

the vector space generated by Reeb chords that end on Λ_2 and begin on Λ_1 in the 2-copy Λ^2 .

- For $k \geq 1$, the composition map

$$m_k: \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_{k+1}, \epsilon_k) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_{k+1}, \epsilon_1)$$

is defined to be the map $m_k: C_{21}^\vee \otimes \cdots \otimes C_{k+1,k}^\vee \rightarrow C_{k+1,1}^\vee$ given by the pure augmentation $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ on the $(k+1)$ -copy Λ^{k+1} .

The key distinction between augmentation categories \mathcal{Aug}_+ and \mathcal{Aug}_- is that \mathcal{Aug}_- does not depend on the choice of perturbation. This is because the short Reeb chords introduced in the perturbation belong to C_{ij}^\vee for $i < j$ but not for $i > j$. Note that C_{ij}^\vee is always a space of homs from ϵ_i to ϵ_j , but is Hom_+ if $i < j$ and Hom_- if $i > j$. One might ask about C_{ii}^\vee ; one can show this to be the same as $\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_i)$.

The negative augmentation category $\mathcal{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is not new: it was defined by Bourgeois and Chantraine [\[2\]](#), and was the principal inspiration and motivation for our definition of $\mathcal{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$.

Proposition 4.7 *The category $\mathcal{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is the augmentation category of Bourgeois and Chantraine [\[2\]](#).*

Proof This is proven in Theorem 3.2 of [\[2\]](#) and the discussion surrounding it. There it is shown that the DGA for the n -copy of Λ , quotiented out by short Reeb chords corresponding to critical points of the perturbing Morse function, produces the A_∞ operation m_{n-1} on their augmentation category. In our formulation for the Lagrangian projection m -copy in [Section 4.2.2](#), the critical points of the perturbing Morse function are of the form x_k^{ij} and y_k^{ij} with $i < j$. It follows the short Reeb chords do not contribute in our definition of $\mathcal{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$, and thence that our definition agrees with Bourgeois and Chantraine's. \square

Remark 4.8 Our sign conventions for $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ differ from the conventions of Bourgeois and Chantraine, because of differing sign conventions for A_∞ operations. See the discussion at the beginning of [Section 2.3](#).

Remark 4.9 To follow up on the previous discussion of short chords, the absence of short chords in \mathcal{R}^{ij} when $i > j$ allows one to describe $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$ algebraically from $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \partial)$ in a manner that is more direct than for $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$, as the extra data of a perturbing function f is unnecessary. In fact, Bourgeois and Chantraine's original definition of $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ is purely algebraic.

Remark 4.10 Our choice of symbols $+$ and $-$ has to do with the interpretation that, for augmentations which come from fillings, the first corresponds to computing positively infinitesimally wrapped Floer homology, and the second to computing negatively infinitesimally wrapped Floer homology. See [Section 8](#).

Remark 4.11 Bourgeois and Chantraine prove invariance of $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ in [\[2\]](#). One can give an alternative proof using the techniques of the present paper, using the invariance of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ ([Theorem 4.20](#)), the existence of a morphism from $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ to $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ ([Proposition 5.1](#)) and the exact sequence relating the two ([Proposition 5.2](#)), and the fact that isomorphism in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ implies isomorphism in $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ ([Proposition 5.13](#)). We omit the details here.

4.2 DGAs for the perturbations and unitality of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$

We now turn to an explicit description of the DGAs for the m -copy of Λ , in terms of the two perturbations introduced in [Section 4.1](#). The front projection m -copy Λ_{xz}^m is useful for computations (see [Section 4.4.3](#)), while the Lagrangian projection m -copy Λ_f^m leads immediately to a proof that $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ is unital.

4.2.1 Front projection m -copy For the front projection m -copy, we adopt matching notation for the Reeb chords of Λ and Λ_{xz}^m . Label the crossings of Λ by a_1, \dots, a_p and the right cusps of Λ by c_1, \dots, c_q , and choose a pairing of right cusps of Λ with left cusps of Λ . See [Figure 3](#), left, for an illustration. Then each crossing a_k in the front for Λ gives rise to m^2 crossings a_k^{ij} in Λ_{xz}^m , where $a_k^{ij} \in \mathcal{R}^{ij}$; note that the overstrand (more negatively sloped strand) at a_k^{ij} belongs to component i , while the understrand (more positively sloped strand) belongs to component j . Each right cusp c_k for Λ similarly gives rise to m^2 crossings and right cusps c_k^{ij} in Λ_{xz}^m , where $c_k^{ij} \in \mathcal{R}^{ij}$:

- c_k^{ii} is the cusp c_k in copy Λ_i ;

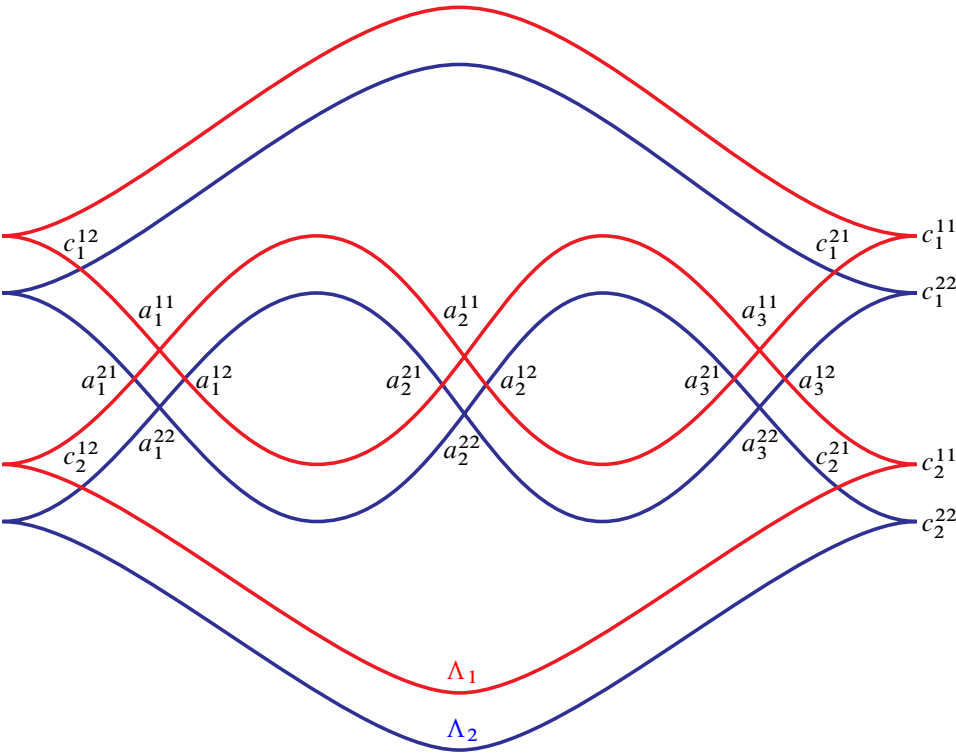


Figure 5: Reeb chords for the double of the Legendrian trefoil, in the front projection.

- for $i > j$, c_k^{ij} is the crossing between components Λ_i and Λ_j by the right cusp c_k ;
- for $i < j$, c_k^{ij} is the crossing between components Λ_i and Λ_j by the *left* cusp paired with the right cusp c_k .

See [Figure 5](#).

4.2.2 Lagrangian projection m -copy Label the crossings in the xy -projection of Λ by a_1, \dots, a_r , and suppose that $f: \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a Morse function with M local maxima and M local minima, enumerated so that the k^{th} local minimum follows the k^{th} maximum of f with respect to the orientation of Λ . Then the xy -projection of Λ_f^m has $m^2r + Mm(m-1)$ crossings, which we can label as follows:

- a_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i, j \leq m$, between components Λ_i and Λ_j by crossing a_k ;
- x_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, between components Λ_i and Λ_j by the k^{th} maximum of f ;

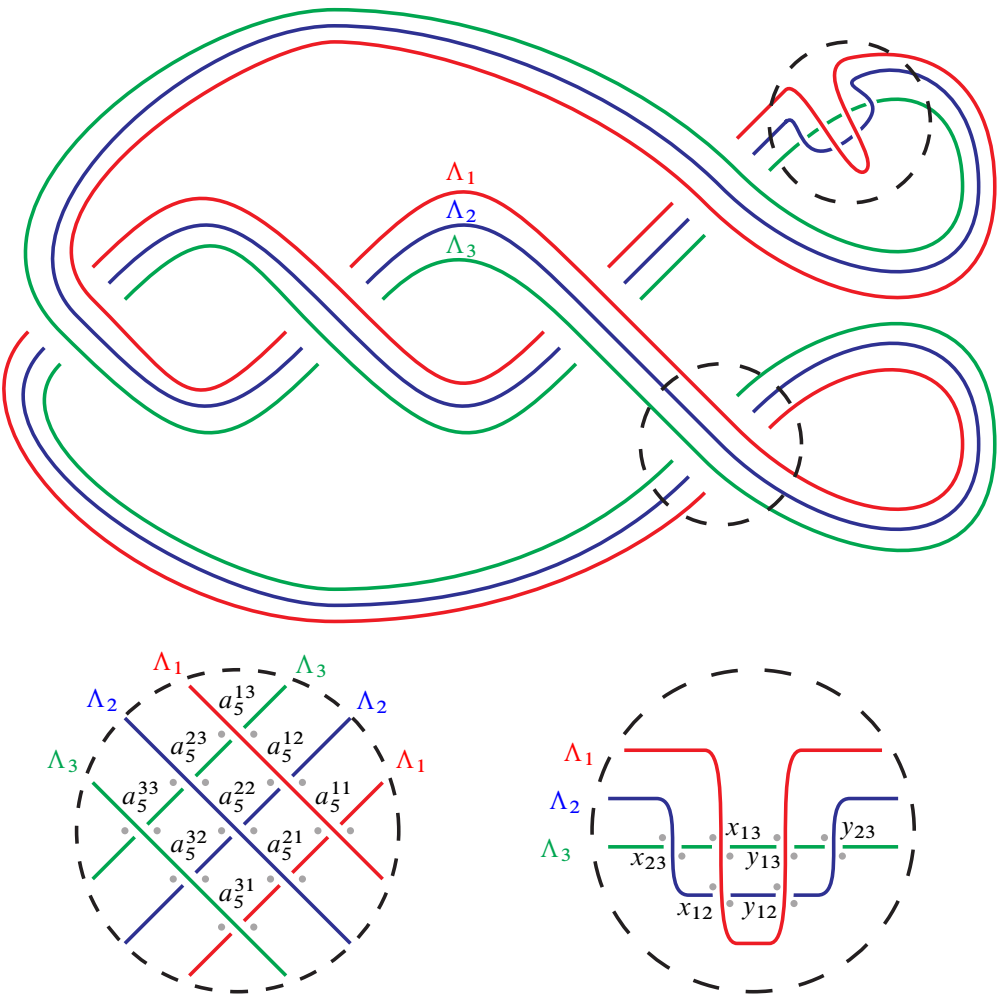


Figure 6: The 3-copy of the Legendrian trefoil, in the xy -projection. Insets, with crossings labeled and positive quadrants marked with dots: a neighborhood of the crossing labeled a_5 in Figure 3, and the dip. The x crossings in the dip correspond to the maximum of the Morse function on S^1 , and the y crossings to the minimum.

- y_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, between components Λ_i and Λ_j by the k^{th} minimum of f .

Here the superscripts are chosen so that $a_k^{ij}, x_k^{ij}, y_k^{ij} \in \mathcal{R}^{ij}$, ie the upper strand belongs to Λ_i and the lower strand belongs to Λ_j . Since the m -copies are separated by a very small distance in the z direction, the length of the Reeb chords x_k^{ij} and y_k^{ij} is

much smaller than the length of the Reeb chords a_k^{ij} , and as a consequence we call the former chords “short chords” and the latter chords “long chords”.

Both maxima and minima of f give rise to Reeb chords of Λ_f^m , but it will turn out that in fact moving the local minima while leaving the locations of local maxima fixed does not change the differential of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$. For this reason, we place basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M$ on Λ at the local maxima of f , and denote the resulting basepointed Legendrian by Λ_f , so that the DGA $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$ has invertible generators $t_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, t_M^{\pm 1}$. For each one of these basepoints, we place basepoints on all of the m -copies of Λ_f^m preceding the corresponding half twist as pictured in Figure 4. We label the corresponding invertible generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ as $(t_k^i)^{\pm 1}$ for $1 \leq k \leq M$ and $1 \leq i \leq m$, with k specifying by the corresponding basepoint of Λ_f and i specifying the copy of Λ where the basepoint appears.

Note that the generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ are related to the generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$ as in the construction of Proposition 3.25. In fact, with respect to a suitable weak link grading, the differentials will coincide as well.

Definition 4.12 Removing all basepoints of Λ_f leaves a union of open intervals $\Lambda \setminus \{*_1, \dots, *_M\} = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^m U_i$, where we index the U_i so that the initial endpoint of U_i (with respect to the orientation of Λ) is at $*_i$. Define $(r \times c): \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$ so that $(r \times c)(a_l) = (i, j)$ for a Reeb chord whose upper endpoint is on U_i and whose lower endpoint is on U_j , and $(r \times c)(t_l) = (i, j)$ if the component of $\Lambda \setminus \{*_1, \dots, *_M\}$ preceding (resp. following) $*_l$ is U_i (resp. U_j). We call $r \times c$ the *internal grading* of Λ_f .

Proposition 4.13 *The internal grading is a weak link grading for $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$.*

Proof We need to check that if $(r \times c)(a_l) = (i, j)$, then ∂a_l is a \mathbb{Z} -linear combination of composable words in $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$ from i to j . This is verified by following along the boundaries of the disks used to define ∂a_l . \square

We now give a purely algebraic description of the DGA of the m -copy Λ_f^m in terms of the DGA $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$ of a single copy of f , as presaged by Proposition 3.25. We note that the algebraic content given here is probably well known to experts, and is in particular strongly reminiscent of constructions in [3] (see eg [3, Section 7.2]).

Proposition 4.14 *The DGA $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ arises by applying the construction of Proposition 3.25 to $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f)$ equipped with its initial grading. More explicitly, $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ is generated*

by

- invertible generators $(t_k^i)^{\pm 1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq M$;
- a_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq r$, with $|a_k^{ij}| = |a_k|$;
- x_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq M$, with $|x_k^{ij}| = 0$;
- y_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq M$, with $|y_k^{ij}| = -1$.

The differential ∂^m of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ can be described as follows. Assemble the generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ into $m \times m$ matrices $A_1, \dots, A_r, X_1, \dots, X_M, Y_1, \dots, Y_M, \Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_M$, with $A_k = (a_k^{ij})$,

$$X_k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_k^{12} & \cdots & x_k^{1m} \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & x_k^{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y_k = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & y_k^{12} & \cdots & y_k^{1m} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & y_k^{2m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

and $\Delta_k = \text{Diag}(t_k^1, \dots, t_k^m)$.

Then, applying ∂^m to matrices entry-by-entry, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \partial^m(A_k) &= \Phi(\partial(a_k)) + Y_{r(a_k)}A_k - (-1)^{|a_k|}A_kY_{c(a_k)}, \\ \partial^m(X_k) &= \Delta_k^{-1}Y_{r(t_k)}\Delta_kX_k - X_kY_{c(t_k)}, \\ \partial^m(Y_k) &= Y_k^2, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Phi: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m))$ is the ring homomorphism determined by the equations $\Phi(a_k) = A_k$, $\Phi(t_k) = \Delta_kX_k$ and $\Phi(t_k^{-1}) = X_k^{-1}\Delta_k^{-1}$.

Remark 4.15 By this result (or by geometric considerations), short Reeb chords form a sub-DGA of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m)$.

Proof The Reeb chords of Λ_f^m are a_k^{ij} , x_k^{ij} and y_k^{ij} as described previously. (See Figure 6 for an illustration for the trefoil from Figure 3, where there is a single basepoint in the loop to the right of a_4 and the knot is oriented clockwise around this loop.) It is straightforward to calculate their gradings, as explained in Section 2.2.

To associate signs to disks that determine the differential of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$, we use the choice of orientation signs given above Proposition 4.2. The sign of a disk is then determined by the number of its corners that occupy quadrants with negative orientation signs. At each even-degree generator, two quadrants, as in Figure 1, are assumed to have been chosen for Λ to calculate the differential on $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$. For even-degree generators of Λ_f^m ,

we have assigned the location of quadrants with negative orientation signs as follows: for a_k^{ij} , we take the quadrants that correspond to the quadrants chosen for a_k ; for x^{ij} , we take the quadrants to the right of Λ^j as we follow the orientation of Λ^j (in Figure 4, these are the bottom two quadrants at each x^{ij}).

We next identify disks that contribute to the differential on $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$. These disks consist of two types, “thick” and “thin”: viewed in the Lagrangian projection of Λ_f^m , thin disks are those disks whose images are entirely in the neighborhood of Λ that contains the m -copies of Λ_f^m , and all other disks are thick; see [42; 47]. It is not hard to see from the combinatorics of Λ_f^m that thick disks limit to disks for $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ in the limit that the m copies of Λ^m approach each other, while thin disks limit to curves along Λ following the negative gradient flow for the Morse function f .

Since the height of Reeb chords induces a filtration on $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m)$, the x_k^{ij} and y_k^{ij} form a differential subalgebra and the differentials of these generators only involve thin disks. An inspection of Figure 4 shows that the only disks contributing to $\partial(y_k^{ij})$ (ie with positive quadrant at y_k^{ij} and negative quadrants at all other corners) are triangles that remain within the half twist, with two negative corners at $y_k^{i\ell}$ and $y_k^{\ell j}$ for some $i < \ell < j$. (See also the right-hand inset in Figure 6, where positive quadrants at crossings are decorated with dots.) The disks contributing to $\partial(x_k^{ij})$, which have a positive corner at x_k^{ij} , are of four types, as follows. There are bigons with negative corner at y_k^{ij} , and triangles with negative corners at $x_k^{i\ell}$ and $y_k^{\ell j}$; both of these types of disks follow Λ from $*_k$ to the local minimum of f that follows $*_k$. In addition, there are bigons and triangles that follow the Λ from $*_k$ to the preceding local minimum (which has the same enumeration as $*_{c(t_k)}$); the bigons have negative corner at $y_{c(t_k)}^{ij}$, and the triangles have negative corners at $y_{c(t_k)}^{i\ell}$ and $x_k^{\ell j}$. It follows that the differentials for X_k and Y_k are as in the statement of the proposition.

The disks for $\partial^m(a_k^{ij})$ can be either thick or thin. The thick disks are in many-to-one correspondence to the disks for $\partial(a_k)$. The negative corners of a disk for $\partial^m(a_k^{ij})$ correspond to the negative corners of a disk for $\partial(a_k)$, with one exception: where the boundary of the disk passes through a maximum of the Morse function, there can be one negative corner at an x (if the boundary of the disk agrees with the orientation of Λ there) or some number of negative corners at x ’s (if it disagrees). More precisely, if the boundary of a disk for Λ_f^m lies on Λ_i before passing the location of $*_k$ and lies on Λ_j afterwards, then the possible products arising from negative corners and basepoints encountered when passing through the half twist are $t_k^i x_k^{i,j}$ if the orientations agree and $(-x_k^{i,i_1})(-x_k^{i_1,i_2}) \cdots (-x_k^{i_l,j})(t_k^j)^{-1}$ for $i < i_1 < \cdots < i_l < j$ when the orientations

disagree. The (i, j) entries of $\Phi(t_k) = \Delta_k X_k$ and $\Phi(t_k^{-1}) = X_k^{-1} \Delta_k^{-1}$ are respectively

$$t_k^i x_k^{i,j} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{i < i_1 < \dots < i_l < j} (-x^{i,i_1})(-x^{i_1,i_2}) \dots (-x^{i_l,j})(t_k^j)^{-1},$$

so we see that the contribution of thick disks to $\partial^m(A_k)$ is precisely the term $\Phi(\partial(a_k))$. (An alternative discussion of thick disks in a related setting may be found in [47, Theorem 4.16], where the presence of the matrices $\Phi(t_k)$ and $\Phi(t_k^{-1})$ is established in a slightly more systematic manner using properties of the “path matrix” proved in [31].)

The thin disks contributing to ∂a_k^{ij} have a positive corner at a_k^{ij} and two negative corners, one at a y and the other in the same a_k region; in the limit as the copies approach each other, these disks limit to paths from the a_k to a local minimum of f that avoid local maxima. When following Λ along the upper strand (resp. lower strand) of a_k in this manner, we reach the local minimum that follows $*_r(a_k)$ (resp. $*_c(a_k)$). The two corresponding disks have their negative corners at $y_{r(a_k)}^{i\ell}$ and $a_k^{\ell j}$, and $a_k^{i\ell}$ and $y_{c(a_k)}^{\ell j}$. This leads to the remaining $Y_{r(a_k)} A_k$ and $A_k Y_{c(a_k)}$ terms in ∂A_k . It is straightforward to verify that the signs are as given in the statement of the proposition. \square

Corollary 4.16 *The augmentation category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ is strictly unital.*

Proof This follows from Propositions 4.14 and 3.28. \square

Corollary 4.17 *The (usual) category $H^* \text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is unital. Thus, in particular, $H^* \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ is a unital ring for any augmentation ϵ .*

Remark 4.18 We will show in Proposition 4.23 that $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k}) \simeq \text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$, whence $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ has unital cohomology category. In fact, $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ is also strictly unital: it is straightforward to calculate directly that there is a unit in the category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$, given by $-\sum_k (c_k^{12})^\vee$, where the sum is over all Reeb chords in $\mathcal{R}^{12}(\Lambda_{xz}^2)$ located near left cusps of Λ . See also the proof of Proposition 4.23 and the example in Section 4.4.3.

Remark 4.19 We expect that Corollary 4.16 holds in arbitrary 1-jet spaces $J^1(M)$ as well, provided one has a suitable construction of Aug_+ , with the unit given by $\pm y^\vee$, where y is the local minimum of a Morse function used to perturb the 2-copy of Λ . By contrast, Proposition 4.14 does not hold in higher dimensions. In general, holomorphic disks $\bar{\Delta}$ for Λ^m are in correspondence with holomorphic disks Δ for Λ together with gradient flow trees attached along the boundary of Δ ; see [16, Theorem 3.8] for a general statement, and [12; 11] for special cases worked out in more detail in

the settings of Sabloff duality and knot contact homology, respectively. Some of the rigid holomorphic disks $\bar{\Delta}$ contributing to the differential in $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m)$ come from rigid disks Δ , but others come from disks Δ in some positive-dimensional moduli space and are rigidified by the flow trees. The disks in this latter case (which do not appear nontrivially when $\dim \Lambda = 1$) are not counted by the differential in $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$.

4.3 Invariance

We now show that, up to A_∞ -equivalence, our various constructions of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$, $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f, \mathbb{k})$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz}, \mathbb{k})$ are independent of choices and Legendrian isotopy. We will suppress the coefficient ring \mathbb{k} from the notation.

Theorem 4.20 *Up to A_∞ -equivalence, $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ does not depend on the choice of f . Moreover, if Λ and Λ' are Legendrian isotopic, then $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda'_{f'})$ are A_∞ -equivalent. In addition, if Λ is in plat position, then $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ are A_∞ -equivalent.*

The proof of [Theorem 4.20](#) is carried out in the following steps. First, we show in [Proposition 4.21](#) that the categories defined using $f: \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with a single local maximum on each component are invariant (up to A_∞ -equivalence) under Legendrian isotopy. In [Propositions 4.22](#) and [4.23](#) we show that for fixed Λ the categories $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ are independent of f and, assuming Λ is in plat position, are A_∞ -equivalent to $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$. In proving [Propositions 4.21–4.23](#), we continue to assume that basepoints are placed on the Λ_f^m near local maxima of f as indicated in [Section 4.2.2](#). This assumption is removed in [Proposition 4.24](#), where we show that both of the categories $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ are independent of the choice of basepoints on Λ .

Proposition 4.21 *Let $\Lambda_0, \Lambda_1 \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ be Legendrian isotopic, and for $i = 1, 2$ let $f_i: \Lambda_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Morse function with a single local maximum on each component. Then the augmentation categories $\mathcal{A}ug_+((\Lambda_0)_{f_0})$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+((\Lambda_1)_{f_1})$ are A_∞ -equivalent.*

Proof Suppose that the links Λ_i have components $\Lambda_i = \bigsqcup_{j=1}^c \Lambda_{i,j}$ and that there is a Legendrian isotopy from Λ_0 to Λ_1 that takes $\Lambda_{0,j}$ to $\Lambda_{1,j}$ for all $1 \leq j \leq c$. Then each DGA $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_i), \partial)$ fits into the setting of [Proposition 3.25](#) with weak link grading given by the internal grading on Λ_i . (The generator t_j corresponds to the unique basepoint on the j^{th} component.) Moreover, by [Proposition 4.14](#) the augmentation category $\mathcal{A}ug_+((\Lambda_i)_{f_i})$ agrees with the category $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_i))$ that is constructed as a consequence of [Proposition 3.25](#).



Figure 7: Locations of the local maxima of f_0 (left) and f_1 (right).

According to [Proposition 2.6](#), after stabilizing both $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_0)$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_1)$ some (possibly different) number of times, they become isomorphic by a DGA map that takes t_j to t_j and generators to linear combinations of composable words, ie it satisfies the hypothesis of the map f from [Proposition 3.29](#). The construction from [Proposition 3.29](#) then shows that the A_∞ -categories associated to these stabilized DGAs are isomorphic. Thus it suffices to show that if $(S(\mathcal{A}), \partial')$ is an algebraic stabilization of (\mathcal{A}, ∂) , then $\text{Aug}_+(S(\mathcal{A}))$ and $\text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A})$ are A_∞ -equivalent.

Recall that $S(\mathcal{A})$ has the same generators as \mathcal{A} but with two additional generators a_{r+1} and a_{r+2} , and ∂' is defined so that (\mathcal{A}, ∂) is a sub-DGA and $\partial'(a_{r+1}) = a_{r+2}$ and $\partial'(a_{r+2}) = 0$. The A_∞ -functor $\text{Aug}_+(S(\mathcal{A})) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\mathcal{A})$ induced by the inclusion $i: \mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow S(\mathcal{A})$ is surjective on objects. (Any augmentation of \mathcal{A} extends to an augmentation of $S(\mathcal{A})$ by sending the two new generators to 0.) Moreover, for any $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \in \text{Aug}_+(S(\mathcal{A}))$ the map

$$\text{Hom}_+(i^* \epsilon_1, i^* \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$$

is simply the projection with kernel spanned by $\{(a_{r+1}^{12})^\vee, (a_{r+2}^{12})^\vee\}$. This is a quasi-isomorphism since, independent of ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 , $m_1(a_{r+2}^{12})^\vee = (a_{r+1}^{12})^\vee$. Thus the corresponding cohomology functor is indeed an equivalence. \square

Proposition 4.22 *For fixed $\Lambda \in J^1(\mathbb{R})$, the A_∞ -category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f)$ is independent of the choice of f .*

Proof In [Proposition 4.14](#) the DGAs $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ are computed based on the location of basepoints placed at local maxima of f . To simplify notation, we suppose that Λ has a single component; a similar argument applies in the multicomponent case.

Fix a Morse function f_0 with a single local maximum at $*$, and begin by considering the case of a second Morse function f_1 that has local maxima located at basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M$ that appear, in this order, on a small arc that contains $*$ and is disjoint from all crossings of $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$. See [Figure 7](#). Then there is a consistent sequence of DGA morphisms

$$f^{(m)}: (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_0}^m), \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_1}^m), \partial)$$

determined uniquely on generators by the matrix formulas

$$\begin{aligned} f^{(m)}(Y) &= Y_M, \\ f^{(m)}(\Delta X) &= (\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M), \\ f^{(m)}(A_k) &= A_k \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq r. \end{aligned}$$

Note that considering the diagonal entries of $f^{(m)}$ shows that $f^{(m)}(\Delta) = \Delta_1 \Delta_2 \cdots \Delta_M$. In particular, $f^{(1)}(t) = t_1 \cdots t_M$. The consistency of the sequence follows as usual from the uniformity of the matrix formulas.

We check that the extension of $f^{(m)}$ as an algebra homomorphism is a DGA map. Note that for a Reeb chord a_i of Λ , the only difference between the differential ∂a_i in $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_0})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_1})$ is that words associated to holomorphic disks have all occurrences of t replaced with $t_1 \cdots t_m$. When comparing ∂A_k in $\text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_0}^m))$ and $\text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_1}^m))$, this results in all occurrences of ΔX being replaced with $(\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M)$. Moreover, the $Y A_k - (-1)^{|a_k|} A_k Y$ term becomes $Y_M A_k - (-1)^{|a_k|} A_k Y_M$ since when approaching the arc containing the basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M$ in a manner that is opposite to the orientation of Λ , it is always $*_M$ that is reached first. Together, these observations show that

$$\partial f^{(m)}(A_k) = f^{(m)}(\partial(A_k)).$$

That $\partial f^{(m)}(Y) = f^{(m)}(\partial(Y))$ is an immediate direct calculation. Finally, note that, using the Leibniz rule,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial f^{(m)}(\Delta X) &= \partial[(\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M)] \\ &= [\partial(\Delta_1 X_1)](\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M) + (\Delta_1 X_1)[\partial(\Delta_2 X_2)] \cdots (\Delta_M X_M) \\ &\quad + \cdots + (\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots [\partial(\Delta_M X_M)] \end{aligned}$$

and the sum telescopes to leave

$$\begin{aligned} Y_M(\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M) - (\Delta_1 X_1)(\Delta_2 X_2) \cdots (\Delta_M X_M) Y_M \\ = f^{(m)}(Y \Delta X - \Delta X Y) \\ = f^{(m)}(\partial(\Delta X)). \end{aligned}$$

We check that the induced A_∞ -functor F , as in [Proposition 3.20](#), is an A_∞ -equivalence. The correspondence $\epsilon \rightarrow (f^{(1)})^* \epsilon$ is surjective on objects: Given $\epsilon': (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_0}), \partial) \rightarrow (\mathbb{k}, 0)$, we can define $\epsilon(t_1) = \epsilon'(t)$ and $\epsilon(t_k) = 1$ for $2 \leq k \leq M$ and $\epsilon(a_k) = \epsilon'(a_k)$ for $1 \leq k \leq r$. The resulting augmentation of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{f_1})$ satisfies $f^* \epsilon = \epsilon'$.

Next, we verify that for $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \in \mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{f_1})$, F gives a quasi-isomorphism

$$F_1\colon \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_+(f^*\epsilon_1, f^*\epsilon_2).$$

We compute from the definitions

$$\begin{aligned} F_1((x_1^{12})^\vee) &= \epsilon_1(t_2 \cdots t_M)^{-1} \epsilon_2(t_2 \cdots t_M)(x^{12})^\vee, \\ F_1((x_2^{12})^\vee) &= \epsilon_1(t_3 \cdots t_M)^{-1} \epsilon_2(t_3 \cdots t_M)(x^{12})^\vee, \\ &\vdots \\ F_1((x_M^{12})^\vee) &= (x^{12})^\vee, \\ F_1((y_k^{12})^\vee) &= 0 && \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq M-1, \\ F_1((y_M^{12})^\vee) &= (y^{12})^\vee, \\ F_1((a_k^{ij})^\vee) &= (a_k^{ij})^\vee && \text{for } 1 \leq i, j \leq 2, \ 1 \leq k \leq r, \end{aligned}$$

so F_1 is clearly surjective. In addition, the differential

$$m_1\colon \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$$

satisfies

$$m_1((y_k^{12})^\vee) = \epsilon_1(t_{k+1})^{-1} \epsilon_2(t_{k+1})(x_{k+1}^{12})^\vee - (x_k^{12})^\vee$$

for $1 \leq k \leq M-1$, and it follows that $\ker(F_1)$ is free with basis

$$\{(y_1^{12})^\vee, \dots, (y_{M-1}^{12})^\vee, m_1((y_1^{12})^\vee), \dots, m_1((y_{M-1}^{12})^\vee)\}.$$

Thus $\ker(F_1)$ is clearly acyclic, and the induced map on cohomology,

$$F_1\colon H^*\operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow H^*\operatorname{Hom}_+(f^*\epsilon_1, f^*\epsilon_2),$$

is an isomorphism since it fits into an exact triangle with third term $H^*\ker(F_1) \cong 0$.

To complete the proof, we now show that the A_∞ -category is unchanged up to isomorphism when the location of the basepoints is changed. Let Λ_0 and Λ_1 denote the same Legendrian but with two different collections of basepoints $(*_1, \dots, *_M)$ and $(*_1', \dots, *_M')$ which appear cyclically ordered. It suffices to consider the case where the locations of the basepoints agree except that $*_i'$ is obtained by pushing $*_i$ in the direction of the orientation of Λ so that it passes through a crossing a_l .

In the case that $*_i$ and $*_i'$ lie on the overstrand of a_l , we have a DGA isomorphism

$$f\colon (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_0), \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_1), \partial)$$

given by

$$f(a_l) = (t_i)^{-1} a_l$$

and $f^{(m)}(x) = x$ for any generator other than a_l , as in [47]. To see that the $f^{(m)}$ are chain maps, note that the holomorphic disks for Λ_0 and Λ_1 are identical, and the words associated to disks change only for disks with corners at a_l . Note also that this isomorphism is compatible with the internal gradings on Λ_0 and Λ_1 which differ only on a_l . Therefore, Proposition 3.29 shows that $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_0)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_1)$ are isomorphic.

When $*_i$ and $*'_i$ sit on the understrand of a_l , similar considerations show that a DGA isomorphism with

$$f(a_l) = a_l t_i$$

leads to an isomorphism of A_∞ -categories. \square

Proposition 4.23 *Suppose that $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ has its front projection in preferred plat position. Then the category $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ is A_∞ -equivalent to $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ for any Morse function f .*

Proof Again, we suppose that Λ has a single component, as a similar argument applies in the multicomponent case.

We compare $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ with $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ for the function $f(x, y, z) = x$ whose local minima are at left cusps and local maxima are at right cusps. Label crossings of $\pi_{xz}(\Lambda)$ as a_1, \dots, a_r . Label left and right cusps of Λ as b_1, \dots, b_q and c_1, \dots, c_q so that, when the front projection is traced according to its orientation, the cusps appear in order, with b_r immediately following c_r for all $1 \leq r \leq q$. Assuming the resolution procedure has been applied, we label the crossings of the xy -projection, $\pi_{xy}(\Lambda)$, as $a_1, \dots, a_r, a_{r+1}, \dots, a_{r+q}$ so that the crossings a_{r+1}, \dots, a_{r+q} correspond to the right cusps c_1, \dots, c_q . We assume that the basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_q$, which are located at the far right of the loops that appear on $\pi_{xy}(L)$ in place of right cusps, are labeled in the same manner as the c_1, \dots, c_q .

Collect generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ as usual into matrices A_k, X_k, Y_k and Δ_k , and form matrices A_k, B_k, C_k and Δ_k out of the generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^m)$. Note that B_k is strictly upper triangular, while C_k is lower triangular with diagonal entries given by the generators c_k^{ii} that correspond to the right cusps of Λ^m .

There is a consistent sequence of DGA inclusions

$$f^{(m)}: (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^m), \partial) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m), \partial)$$

obtained by identifying generators so that we have

$$f^{(m)}(A_k) = A_k, \quad f^{(m)}(B_k) = Y_k, \quad f^{(m)}(C_k) = \pi_{\text{low}}(A_{r+k}), \quad f^{(m)}(\Delta_k) = \Delta_k,$$

where $\pi_{\text{low}}(A_{r+k})$ is A_{r+k} with all entries above the main diagonal replaced by 0. To verify that these identifications provide a chain map, note that the xy -projections of Λ_{xz}^m and Λ_f^m are identical to the left of the location of the crossings associated with right cusps. Moreover, for crossings that appear in this portion of the diagram, all disks involved in the computation of differentials are entirely to the left of the crossings from right cusps as well. Thus $\partial f^{(m)} = f^{(m)}\partial$ follows when applied to any of the matrices A_k or B_k . As in the proof of Proposition 4.14, examining thin and thick disks that begin at generators c_k^{ij} leads to the matrix formula

$$\partial C_k = \pi_{\text{low}}(\widetilde{\Phi}(\partial(c_k)) + B_{k-1}C_k + C_kB_k),$$

where $\widetilde{\Phi}: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \text{Mat}(m, \mathcal{A}(\Lambda_{xz}^m))$ denotes the ring homomorphism with $\widetilde{\Phi}(a_k) = A_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq r$ and $\widetilde{\Phi}(t_k^{\pm 1}) = \Delta_k^{\pm 1}$. (None of the c_k appear in differentials of generators of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ due to the plat position assumption.) Notice that, for $1 \leq k \leq q$, $\pi_{\text{low}}(\widetilde{\Phi}(\partial(c_k)))$ agrees with $\pi_{\text{low}}(\Phi(\partial(a_{r+k})))$ (here Φ is from Proposition 4.14) because the only appearance of any of the t_i in $\partial c_k = \partial a_{r+k}$ is as a single $t_k^{\pm 1}$ term coming from the disk without negative punctures whose boundary maps to the loop to the right of c_{r+k} . Moreover,

$$\pi_{\text{low}}(\widetilde{\Phi}(t_k^{\pm 1})) = \pi_{\text{low}}(\Delta_k^{\pm 1}) = \pi_{\text{low}}((\Delta_k X_k)^{\pm 1}) = \pi_{\text{low}}(\Phi(t_k^{\pm 1})),$$

and $\widetilde{\Phi}$ and Φ agree on all other generators that appear in ∂c_k . Finally, we note that

$$f^{(m)}(\pi_{\text{low}}(B_{k-1}C_k + C_kB_k)) = \pi_{\text{low}}(Y_{k-1}A_{r+k} + A_{r+k}Y_k)$$

because none of the entries a_{r+k}^{ij} with $i < j$ can appear below the diagonal in $Y_{k-1}A_{r+k} + A_{r+k}Y_k$. Combined with the previous observation, this implies that $\partial f^{(m)}(C_k) = f^{(m)}\partial(C_k)$.

We claim that the A_∞ -functor $F: \text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_f) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ arising from Proposition 3.20 is an A_∞ -equivalence. Indeed, since $f^{(1)}$ is an isomorphism, F is bijective on objects. The maps $F_1: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(f^*\epsilon_1, f^*\epsilon)$ are surjections with $\ker(F_1) = \text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{(x_k^{12})^\vee, (a_{r+k}^{12})^\vee \mid 1 \leq k \leq q\}$. Moreover, we have $m_1(x_k^{12})^\vee = \epsilon_1(t_k)(a_{r+k}^{12})^\vee$ (resp. $-\epsilon_2(t_k)^{-1}(a_{r+k}^{12})^\vee$) when the upper strand at c_k points into (resp. away from) the cusp point. It is therefore clear that $\ker(F_1)$ is acyclic, so that F_1 is a quasi-isomorphism. □

Proposition 4.24 *The categories $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_{xz})$ are independent of the number of basepoints chosen on Λ as well as their location, provided each component of Λ has at least one basepoint.*

Proof For simplicity, we assume Λ is connected. Let Λ_0 and Λ_1 denote Λ equipped with two different collections $(*_1, \dots, *_M)$ and $(*_1', \dots, *_M')$ of basepoints. First, we suppose that these basepoints have the same number and appear in the same cyclic order along Λ . We claim that the categories of Λ_0 and Λ_1 are isomorphic. To show this, it suffices to consider the case where $*_k = *_k'$ for $k \geq 2$ and $*_1'$ is obtained by pushing $*_1$ in the direction of the orientation of Λ either through a crossing, past a local maximum or local minimum of f (in the case of the xy -perturbed category), or past a cusp of Λ (in the case of the xz -category). The proof is uniform for all of these cases.

For each $m \geq 1$, we always have some (possibly upper triangular) matrix (w^{ij}) of Reeb chords on Λ^m from the j^{th} copy of Λ to the i^{th} copy, and the movement of $*_1$ to $*_1'$ results in sliding m basepoints t_1^1, \dots, t_1^m through this collection of Reeb chords. As discussed in the proof of [Proposition 4.22](#), we then have isomorphisms $f^{(m)}: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m)$ satisfying

$$f^{(m)}(w^{ij}) = (t_1^i)^{-1} w^{ij} \quad \text{for all } i, j \text{ and } m$$

or

$$f^{(m)}(w^{ij}) = w^{ij} t_1^j \quad \text{for all } i, j \text{ and } m,$$

and fixing all other generators. Clearly, the $f^{(m)}$ form a consistent sequence of DGA isomorphisms, and the isomorphism of the augmentation categories follows from [Proposition 3.20](#).

Finally, to make the number of basepoints the same, it suffices to consider the case where Λ_0 has a single basepoint, $*_1$, and Λ_1 has basepoints $*_1, \dots, *_M$ located in a small interval around $*_1$ as in [Figure 7](#). Then, for $m \geq 1$, we have DGA morphisms $f^{(m)}: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\Lambda^m)$ fixing all Reeb chords and with

$$f^{(m)}(t_1^i) = t_1^i t_2^i \cdots t_M^i \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

The $f^{(m)}$ clearly form a consistent sequence, so there is an A_∞ -functor

$$F: \mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_0)$$

induced by [Proposition 3.20](#). As in the proof of [Proposition 4.22](#), F is surjective on objects. Moreover, F induces an isomorphism on all hom spaces (before taking cohomology), and is thus an equivalence. \square

4.4 Examples

Here we present computations of the augmentation category⁷ for the Legendrian unknot and the Legendrian trefoil, as well as an application of the augmentation category to the Legendrian mirror problem.

These calculations require computing the DGA for the m -copy of the knot. For this purpose, each of the m -copy perturbations described in [Section 4.1](#), front projection m -copy and Lagrangian projection m -copy, has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantage of the Lagrangian m -copy is that its DGA can be computed directly from the DGA of the original knot by [Proposition 4.14](#); for reference, we summarize this computation and the resulting definition of $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ in [Section 4.4.1](#), assuming Λ is a knot with a single basepoint. The advantage of the front m -copy is that it has fewer Reeb chords and thus simplifies computations somewhat: that is, if we begin with the front projection of the knot, resolving and then taking the Lagrangian m -copy results in more crossings (because of the x, y crossings) than taking the front m -copy and the resolving. We compute for the unknot using the Lagrangian m -copy and for the trefoil using the front m -copy, to illustrate both.

Convention 4.25 We recall $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = C_{12}^\vee$ and $\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) = C_{21}^\vee$. Often our notational convention would require elements of C_{12}^\vee to be written in the form $(a^{12})^\vee$, but when viewing them as elements of $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$, we denote them simply by a^+ . Likewise, an element of C_{21}^\vee , which would otherwise be denoted by $(a^{21})^\vee$, we will instead write as $a^- \in \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)$.

This convention is made both to decrease indices, and to decrease cognitive dissonance associated with the relabeling of strands required by the definition of composition, as in [\(3-2\)](#).

4.4.1 The augmentation category in terms of Lagrangian m -copies Since the construction and proof of invariance of the augmentation category involved a large amount of technical details, we record here a complete description of it in the simplest case, namely a Legendrian knot with a single basepoint, in terms of the DGA

⁷For some computations of the sheaf category of a similar spirit, see [\[52, Section 7.2\]](#).

associated to its Lagrangian projection. This is an application of [Definition 3.16](#) to the corresponding consistent sequence of DGAs from [Proposition 4.14](#).

Proposition 4.26 *Let Λ be a Legendrian knot with a single basepoint and let $(\mathcal{A}(\Lambda), \partial)$ be its C–E DGA, constructed from a Lagrangian projection of Λ , which is generated by $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{R} \sqcup \mathcal{T}$, where $\mathcal{R} = \{a_1, \dots, a_r\}$ and $\mathcal{T} = \{t, t^{-1}\}$, with only the relation $t \cdot t^{-1} = t^{-1} \cdot t = 1$. Then the objects of $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ are exactly the augmentations of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$, ie the DGA morphisms $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$. Each $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is freely generated over \mathbb{k} by elements a_k^+ for $1 \leq k \leq r$, x^+ and y^+ , with $|a_k^+| = |a_k| + 1$, $|x^+| = 1$ and $|y^+| = 0$.*

We describe the composition maps in terms of the corresponding DGAs $(\mathcal{A}^m, \partial^m)$ of the m –copies of Λ , which are defined as follows. The generators of \mathcal{A}^m are

- (1) $(t^i)^{\pm 1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$, with $|t^i| = 0$,
- (2) a_k^{ij} for $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq r$, with $|a_k^{ij}| = |a_k|$,
- (3) x^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, with $|x^{ij}| = 0$,
- (4) y^{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq m$, with $|y^{ij}| = -1$,

and the only relations among them are $t^i \cdot (t^i)^{-1} = (t^i)^{-1} \cdot t^i = 1$ for each i . If we assemble these into $m \times m$ matrices A_k, X, Y and $\Delta = \text{Diag}(t^1, \dots, t^m)$ as before, where X is upper triangular with all diagonal entries equal to 1 and Y is strictly upper triangular, then the differential ∂^m satisfies

$$\partial^m(A_k) = \Phi(\partial a_k) + Y A_k - (-1)^{|a_k|} A_k Y, \quad \partial^m(X) = \Delta^{-1} Y \Delta X - X Y, \quad \partial^m(Y) = Y^2,$$

where Φ is the graded algebra homomorphism defined by $\Phi(a_k) = A_k$ and $\Phi(t) = \Delta X$.

To determine the composition maps

$$m_k: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_k, \epsilon_{k+1}) \otimes \dots \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_{k+1}),$$

recall that a tuple of augmentations $(\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{k+1})$ of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ produces an augmentation $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ by setting $\epsilon(a_j^i) = \epsilon_i(a_j)$, $\epsilon((t^i)^{\pm 1}) = \epsilon_i(t^{\pm 1})$ and $\epsilon = 0$ for all other generators. We define a twisted DGA $((\mathcal{A}^{k+1})^\epsilon, \partial_\epsilon^{k+1})$ by noting that ∂^{k+1} descends to $(\mathcal{A}^{k+1})^\epsilon := (\mathcal{A}^{k+1} \otimes \mathbb{k}) / (t^i = \epsilon(t^i))$ and letting $\partial_\epsilon^{k+1} = \phi_\epsilon \circ \partial^{k+1} \circ \phi_\epsilon^{-1}$, where $\phi_\epsilon(a) = a + \epsilon(a)$. Then

$$m_k(\alpha_k^+, \dots, \alpha_2^+, \alpha_1^+) = (-1)^\sigma \sum_{a \in \mathcal{R} \cup \{x, y\}} a^+ \cdot \text{Coeff}_{\alpha_1^{12} \alpha_2^{23} \dots \alpha_k^{k, k+1}} (\partial_\epsilon^{k+1} a^{1, k+1}),$$

where $\alpha_i \in \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_r, x, y\}$ for each i , and $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}k(k-1) + \sum_{p < q} |\alpha_p^+| |\alpha_q^+| + |\alpha_{k-1}^+| + |\alpha_{k-3}^+| + \dots$.

Remark 4.27 The construction of each $(\mathcal{A}^m, \partial^m)$ can be expressed more concisely as follows. Having defined the graded algebra homomorphism $\Phi: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^m \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ and the elements A_k, X, Y and Δ , the differential ∂^m is equivalent to a differential on $\mathcal{A}^m \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ once we know that $\text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ has the trivial differential. It is characterized by the facts that $\partial^m \Delta = 0$; that $-Y$ is a Maurer–Cartan element, ie that

$$\partial^m(-Y) + \frac{1}{2}[-Y, -Y] = 0;$$

and that if we define a map $D\Phi: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^m \otimes \text{End}(\mathbb{Z}^m)$ by $D\Phi = \partial^m \Phi - \Phi \partial$, then

$$D\Phi + \text{ad}(-Y) \circ \Phi = 0.$$

Here $D\Phi$ is a (Φ, Φ) -derivation, meaning that

$$D\Phi(ab) = D\Phi(a) \cdot \Phi(b) + (-1)^{|a|} \Phi(a) \cdot D\Phi(b),$$

and $[\cdot, \cdot]$ denotes the graded commutator $[A, B] = AB - (-1)^{|A||B|}BA$.

4.4.2 Unknot We first compute the augmentation categories $\text{Aug}_{\pm}(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ for the standard Legendrian unknot Λ shown in [Figure 8](#), and any coefficients \mathbb{k} , using the Lagrangian projection m -copy and via [Proposition 4.26](#). Then the DGA for Λ is generated by $t^{\pm 1}$ and a single Reeb chord a , with $|t| = 0$, $|a| = 1$ and

$$\partial(a) = 1 + t^{-1}.$$

This has a unique augmentation ϵ to \mathbb{k} , with $\epsilon(a) = 0$ and $\epsilon(t) = -1$.

We can read the DGA for the m -copy of Λ from [Proposition 4.26](#). For $m = 2$, there are 6 Reeb chords $a^{11}, a^{12}, a^{21}, a^{22}, x^{12}$ and y^{12} with $|a^{ij}| = 1$, $|x^{12}| = 0$ and $|y^{12}| = -1$, and the differential is

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(a^{11}) &= 1 + (t^1)^{-1} + y^{12}a^{21}, & \partial(x^{12}) &= (t^1)^{-1}y^{12}t^2 - y^{12}, \\ \partial(a^{12}) &= -x^{12}(t^2)^{-1} + y^{12}a^{22} + a^{11}y^{12}, & \partial(y^{12}) &= 0, \\ \partial(a^{21}) &= 0, & \partial(a^{22}) &= 1 + (t^2)^{-1} + a^{21}y^{12}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the differential on Λ^2 can also be read by inspection from [Figure 8](#).

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon, \epsilon) &= \langle y^+ \rangle, & \text{Hom}_+^1(\epsilon, \epsilon) &= \langle x^+ \rangle, \\ \text{Hom}_+^2(\epsilon, \epsilon) &= \langle a^+ \rangle, & \text{Hom}_-^2(\epsilon, \epsilon) &= \langle a^- \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and all other $\text{Hom}_{\pm}^*(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ are 0. The linear part $\partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}^{\text{lin}}$ of the differential $\partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}$ on $C_{12} = \langle a^{12}, x^{12}, y^{12} \rangle$ is given by $\partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}^{\text{lin}}(a^{12}) = x^{12}$ and $\partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}^{\text{lin}}(x^{12}) = \partial_{(\epsilon, \epsilon)}^{\text{lin}}(y^{12}) = 0$,

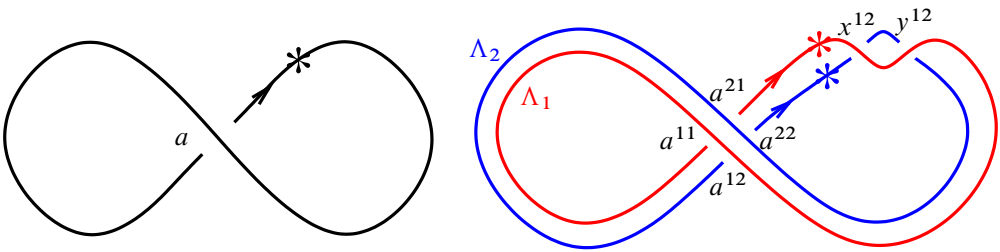


Figure 8: The Legendrian unknot Λ (left) and its 2-copy Λ^2 (right), in the xy -projection, with basepoints and Reeb chords labeled.

while on $C_{21} = \langle a^{21} \rangle$ it is identically zero. Dualizing gives differentials m_1 on Hom^*_{\pm} with $m_1(x^+) = a^+$ in Hom_+ and $m_1 = 0$ otherwise, and $m_1 = 0$ on Hom_- ; thus

$$H^0\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \cong \langle y^+ \rangle, \quad H^2\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon) \cong \langle a^- \rangle$$

and $H^*\text{Hom}_{\pm}(\epsilon, \epsilon) = 0$ otherwise. (Recall from [Convention 4.25](#) that a^+ and a^- represent $(a^{12})^\vee$ and $(a^{21})^\vee$ in Hom_+ and Hom_- , respectively.)

It is evident that the augmentation category $\text{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is nonunital — there are no degree zero morphisms at all. Indeed, all higher compositions m_k with $k \geq 2$ on $\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ must vanish for degree reasons. To calculate the composition maps on $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$, we need the differential for the 3-copy Λ^3 . Again from [Proposition 4.26](#), the relevant part of the differential for Λ^3 is

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(a^{13}) &= -x^{13}(t^3)^{-1} + x^{12}x^{23}(t^3)^{-1} + y^{12}a^{23} + y^{13}a^{33} + a^{11}y^{13} + a^{12}y^{23}, \\ \partial(x^{13}) &= (t^1)^{-1}y^{13}t^3 + (t^1)^{-1}y^{12}t^2x^{23} - y^{13} - x^{12}y^{23}, \\ \partial(y^{13}) &= y^{12}y^{23}. \end{aligned}$$

Augmenting each copy by ϵ sends each t^i to -1 , which by [\(3-1\)](#) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} m_2(x^+, x^+) &= a^+, & m_2(y^+, a^+) &= m_2(a^+, y^+) = -a^+, \\ m_2(y^+, y^+) &= -y^+, & m_2(y^+, x^+) &= m_2(x^+, y^+) = -x^+. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, in $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$, $-y^+$ is the unit, in agreement with [Proposition 3.28](#).

One can check from [Proposition 4.26](#) that

$$m_k(x^+, x^+, \dots, x^+) = (-1)^{\lfloor (k-1)/2 \rfloor} a^+$$

and all other higher products m_k vanish for $k \geq 3$: the only contributions to m_k come from entries of $(\Delta X)^{-1}$.

Remark 4.28 If we instead choose the opposite orientation for Λ (which does not change Λ up to Legendrian isotopy), then the differential for Λ contains no negative powers of t , and no words of length ≥ 2 ; it follows that in the resulting A_∞ -category $\mathcal{A}ug_+$, m_k vanishes identically for $k \geq 3$.

4.4.3 Trefoil Here we compute the augmentation categories to $\mathbb{Z}/2$ for the right-handed trefoil Λ shown in Figure 3, using the front projection m -copy; see Section 4.2.1. Place a single basepoint at the right cusp c_1 (ie along the loop at c_1 in the xy resolution of the front), and set $t = -1$ to reduce to coefficient ring \mathbb{Z} (we will keep the signs for reference, although for our calculation it suffices to reduce mod 2 everywhere). Then the DGA for Λ is generated by c_1, c_2, a_1, a_2 and a_3 , with $|c_1| = |c_2| = 1$ and $|a_1| = |a_2| = |a_3| = 0$, with differential

$$\begin{aligned}\partial(c_1) &= -1 + a_1 + a_3 + a_1 a_2 a_3, \\ \partial(c_2) &= 1 - a_1 - a_3 - a_3 a_2 a_1, \\ \partial(a_1) &= \partial(a_2) = \partial(a_3) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

There are five augmentations, $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4$ and ϵ_5 , from this DGA to $\mathbb{Z}/2$: $\epsilon_i(c_j) = 0$ for all i and j , and the augmentations are determined by where they send (a_1, a_2, a_3) : $\epsilon_1 = (1, 0, 0)$, $\epsilon_2 = (1, 1, 0)$, $\epsilon_3 = (0, 0, 1)$, $\epsilon_4 = (0, 1, 1)$ and $\epsilon_5 = (1, 1, 1)$.

Next consider the double Λ^2 of the trefoil as shown in Figure 5. For completeness, we give here the full differential on mixed Reeb chords of Λ^2 (over \mathbb{Z} , with basepoints at c_1^{11} and c_1^{22}):

$$\begin{aligned}\partial(c_1^{12}) &= 0, & \partial(c_1^{21}) &= a_1^{21}(1 + a_2^{11}a_3^{11} + a_2^{12}a_3^{21}) + a_1^{22}(a_2^{21}a_3^{11} + a_2^{22}a_3^{21}) + a_3^{21}, \\ \partial(c_2^{12}) &= 0, & \partial(c_2^{21}) &= -a_3^{21}(1 + a_2^{12}a_1^{21} + a_2^{11}a_1^{11}) - a_3^{22}(a_2^{21}a_1^{11} + a_2^{22}a_1^{21}) - a_1^{21}, \\ \partial(a_1^{21}) &= 0, & \partial(a_1^{12}) &= c_1^{12}a_1^{22} - a_1^{11}c_2^{12}, \\ \partial(a_2^{21}) &= 0, & \partial(a_2^{12}) &= c_2^{12}a_2^{22} - a_2^{11}c_1^{12}, \\ \partial(a_3^{21}) &= 0, & \partial(a_3^{12}) &= c_1^{12}a_3^{22} - a_3^{11}c_2^{12}.\end{aligned}$$

For any augmentations ϵ_i and ϵ_j , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle c_1^+, c_2^+ \rangle, & \mathrm{Hom}_-^1(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle a_1^-, a_2^-, a_3^- \rangle, \\ \mathrm{Hom}_+^1(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle a_1^+, a_2^+, a_3^+ \rangle, & \mathrm{Hom}_-^2(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle c_1^-, c_2^- \rangle\end{aligned}$$

and $\mathrm{Hom}_\pm^*(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) = 0$ otherwise. The linear part $\partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)}^{\mathrm{lin}}$ of the differential $\partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)}$ on C_{12} sends a_1^{12} to $c_1^{12} + c_2^{12}$ and the other four generators $c_1^{12}, c_2^{12}, a_2^{12}$ and a_3^{12} to 0, while $\partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)}$ on C_{21} sends c_1^{21} to $a_1^{21} + a_3^{21}$, c_2^{21} to $a_1^{21} + a_3^{21}$, and a_1^{21}, a_2^{21}

and a_3^{21} to 0. Dualizing gives

$$\begin{aligned} H^0 \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [c_1^+ + c_2^+] \rangle, \\ H^1 \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [a_1^- + a_3^-], [a_2^-] \rangle, \\ H^1 \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [a_2^+], [a_3^+] \rangle, \\ H^2 \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [c_1^-] \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and $H^* \mathrm{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) = 0$ otherwise. As in the previous example, $H^* \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$ has support in degree 0, while $H^* \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$ does not.

A similar computation with the pair of augmentations (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) gives, on C_{12} ,

$$\partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}^{\mathrm{lin}}(a_1^{12}) = c_1^{12} + c_2^{12}, \quad \partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}^{\mathrm{lin}}(a_2^{12}) = c_2^{12}$$

and $\partial_{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}^{\mathrm{lin}} = 0$ on other generators. On C_{21} , we have $\partial_{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}^{\mathrm{lin}}(c_1^{21}) = a_1^{21} + a_3^{21}$, $\partial_{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}^{\mathrm{lin}}(c_2^{21}) = a_1^{21}$ and $\partial_{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}^{\mathrm{lin}} = 0$ on other generators. Thus we have

$$H^1 \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [a_3^+] \rangle, \quad H^1 \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \langle [a_2^-] \rangle$$

and $H^* \mathrm{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = 0$ otherwise.

Remark 4.29 Either of

$$H^* \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \not\cong H^* \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \quad \text{or} \quad H^* \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \not\cong H^* \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$$

implies that $\epsilon_1 \not\cong \epsilon_2$ in \mathcal{Aug}_+ ; see [Section 5.3](#) below for a discussion of isomorphism in \mathcal{Aug}_+ . Indeed, an analogous computation shows that all five augmentations $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4$ and ϵ_5 are nonisomorphic. (The analogous statement in \mathcal{Aug}_- was established in [\[2, Section 5\]](#).) As shown in [\[15\]](#), these five augmentations correspond to five Lagrangian fillings of the trefoil, and these fillings are all distinct; compare the discussion in [\[2, Section 5\]](#) as well as [Corollary 5.20](#) below.

We now compute m_2 as a product on $\mathrm{Hom}_\pm(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$. For this we use the front projection 3-copy Λ^3 of Λ , as shown in [Figure 9](#). The relevant portion of the differential for Λ^3 (with irrelevant signs) is

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(c_1^{13}) &= c_1^{12} c_1^{23}, & \partial(c_1^{31}) &= a_1^{33} a_2^{32} a_3^{21} + a_1^{32} a_2^{22} a_3^{21} + a_1^{32} a_2^{21} a_3^{11}, \\ \partial(c_2^{13}) &= c_2^{12} c_2^{23}, & \partial(c_2^{31}) &= -a_3^{33} a_2^{32} a_1^{21} - a_3^{32} a_2^{22} a_1^{21} - a_3^{32} a_2^{21} a_1^{11}, \\ \partial(a_1^{13}) &= c_1^{12} a_1^{23} - a_1^{12} c_2^{23}, \\ \partial(a_2^{13}) &= c_2^{12} a_2^{23} - a_2^{12} c_1^{23}, \\ \partial(a_3^{13}) &= c_1^{12} a_3^{23} - a_3^{12} c_2^{23}. \end{aligned}$$

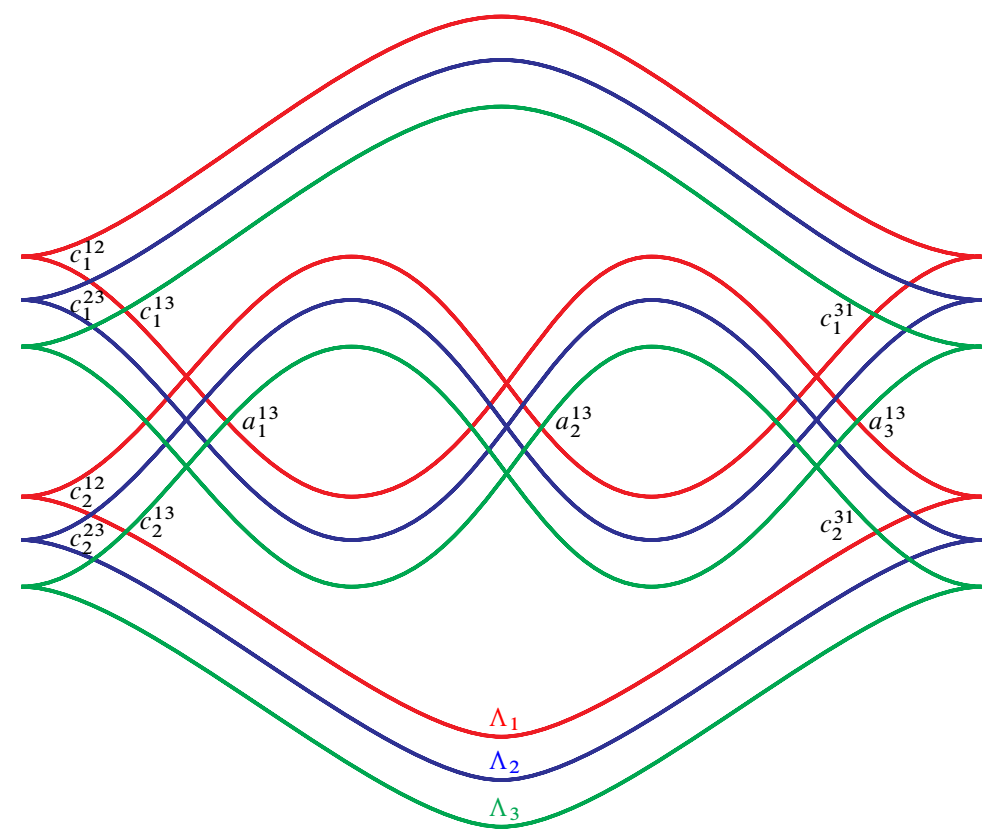


Figure 9: The 3-copy of the Legendrian trefoil, in the front projection, with some Reeb chords labeled.

Linearizing with respect to the augmentation $(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$ on Λ^3 , we find that the nonzero parts of m_2 : $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$ are $m_2(c_1^+, c_1^+) = c_1^+$, $m_2(c_2^+, c_2^+) = c_2^+$, $m_2(c_2^+, a_1^+) = m_2(a_1^+, c_1^+) = a_1^+$, $m_2(c_1^+, a_2^+) = m_2(a_2^+, c_2^+) = a_2^+$ and $m_2(c_2^+, a_3^+) = m_2(a_3^+, c_1^+) = a_3^+$. This gives the following multiplication m_2 on $H^*\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$:

m_2	$[c_1^+ + c_2^+]$	$[a_2^+]$	$[a_3^+]$
$[c_1^+ + c_2^+]$	$[c_1^+ + c_2^+]$	$[a_2^+]$	$[a_3^+]$
$[a_2^+]$	$[a_2^+]$	0	0
$[a_3^+]$	$[a_3^+]$	0	0

Thus $[c_1^+ + c_2^+]$ acts as the identity in $H^*\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$, exactly as predicted in Remark 4.18.

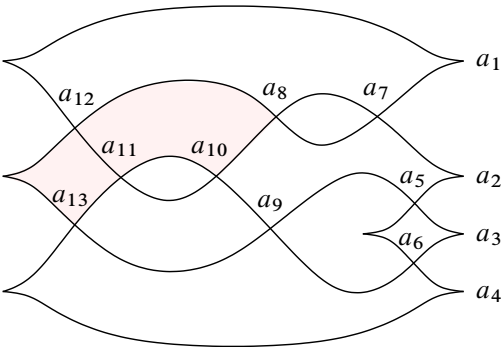


Figure 10: The knot $m(9_{45})$, with one particular disk shaded.

For composition in \mathcal{Aug}_- , the nonzero parts of $m_2: \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \otimes \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$ are $m_2(a_3^-, a_2^-) = c_1^-$ and $m_2(a_2^-, a_3^-) = c_2^-$. This gives the following multiplication on $H^* \text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$:

m_2	$[a_1^- + a_3^-]$	$[a_2^-]$	$[c_1^-]$
$[a_1^- + a_3^-]$	0	$[c_1^-]$	0
$[a_2^-]$	$[c_1^-]$	0	0
$[c_1^-]$	0	0	0

This last multiplication table illustrates Sabloff duality [50]: cohomology classes pair together, off of the fundamental class $[c_1^-]$.

4.4.4 $m(9_{45})$ Let Λ be the Legendrian knot in Figure 10. This is of topological type $m(9_{45})$, and has previously appeared in work of Melvin and Shrestha [41], as the mirror diagram for 9_{45} , as well as in the Legendrian knot atlas [6], where it appears as the second diagram for $m(9_{45})$. In particular, Melvin and Shrestha note that Λ has two different linearized contact homologies (see the discussion following [41, Theorem 4.2]).

We can use the multiplicative structure on \mathcal{Aug}_+ to prove the following, which was unknown until now according to the tabulation in [6]:

Proposition 4.30 Λ is not isotopic to its Legendrian mirror.

Here the *Legendrian mirror* of a Legendrian knot in \mathbb{R}^3 is its image under the diffeomorphism $(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, -y, -z)$. The problem of distinguishing Legendrian knots from their mirrors is known to be quite subtle; see eg [45; 7]. It was already noted

in [7] that the ring structure on $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ for Λ is noncommutative, and we will use this noncommutativity here.

Proof We use the calculation of the augmentation category from Proposition 4.26, where we resolve Λ to produce a Lagrangian projection, and choose any orientation and basepoint. We claim that

- (1) there is an augmentation ϵ from $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ to $\mathbb{Z}/2$ for which

$$m_2: H^{-1}\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \otimes H^2\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow H^1\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$$

is nonzero; and

- (2) there is no such augmentation for the Legendrian mirror of Λ .

Since Λ and its Legendrian mirror have the same DGA over $\mathbb{Z}/2$ but with the order of multiplication reversed, (2) is equivalent to $m_2: H^2\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \otimes H^{-1}\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow H^1\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ being zero for all augmentations ϵ for Λ .

To establish (2), note that the only Reeb chord of Λ of degree -2 is a_{10} , while the Reeb chords of degree 1 are a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 and a_{13} . By inspection, for $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 13\}$, there is no disk whose negative corners include a_{10} and a_i , with a_{10} appearing first, and so $m_2(a_i^+, a_{10}^+) = 0$. Since $[a_{10}^+]$ generates Hom_+^{-1} and $[a_i^+]$ generate Hom_+^2 for $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 13\}$, (2) follows.

It remains to prove (1). There are five augmentations from $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ to $\mathbb{Z}/2$. Two of these are given (on the degree 0 generators) by $\epsilon(a_5) = \epsilon(a_6) = \epsilon(a_7) = 1$, $\epsilon(a_{12}) = 0$ and $\epsilon(a_8) = 0$ or 1. (The other three have $H^2\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) = 0$.) Let ϵ be either of these two augmentations; then

$$\begin{aligned} H^2\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle [a_{13}^+] \rangle, \\ H^1\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle [a_8^+], [a_{12}^+ + (1 + \epsilon(a_8))a_7^+] \rangle, \\ H^{-1}\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)\langle [a_{10}^+] \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Now the fact that $\partial(a_8) = a_{13}a_{10}$ (the relevant disk is shaded in Figure 10) leads to $m_2(a_{10}^+, a_{13}^+) = a_8^+$, and thus $m_2: H^{-1}\mathrm{Hom}_+ \otimes H^2\mathrm{Hom}_+ \rightarrow H^1\mathrm{Hom}_+$ is nonzero. \square

Remark 4.31 It turns out that for either of the two augmentations specified in the proof of Proposition 4.30, $m_2: H^i\mathrm{Hom}_+ \otimes H^j\mathrm{Hom}_+ \rightarrow H^{i+j}\mathrm{Hom}_+$ is nonzero for $(i, j) = (-1, 2), (1, -1)$ and $(2, 1)$, but zero for $(i, j) = (2, -1), (-1, 1)$ and $(1, 2)$; any of these can be used to prove the result. In addition, the same proof also works if we use $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ instead of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$.

5 Properties of the augmentation category

This section explores certain properties of the augmentation category $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ defined in [Section 4](#). In [Section 5.1](#), we give categorical formulations of Sabloff duality and the duality exact sequence, and also explain the relation of the cohomology and compactly supported cohomology of a Lagrangian filling to the $+/-$ endomorphism spaces of the corresponding augmentation. Some of the results from [Section 5.1](#) are very similar if not essentially identical to previously known results in the literature, and in [Section 5.2](#) we provide a dictionary that allows comparison. Finally, in [Section 5.3](#), we discuss relations between different notions of equivalence of augmentations, showing in particular that being isomorphic in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ is the same as being DGA homotopic.

5.1 Duality and long exact sequences

Let $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ be a Legendrian link. Here we examine the relationship between the positive and negative augmentation categories $\mathcal{A}ug_{\pm}(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$; recall from [Proposition 4.7](#) that $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is the Bourgeois–Chantraine augmentation category. We note that many of the results in this subsection are inspired by, and sometimes essentially identical to, previously known results, and we will attempt to include citations wherever appropriate.

5.1.1 Exact sequence relating the hom spaces

Proposition 5.1 *There is a morphism of nonunital A_{∞} –categories $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ carrying the augmentations to themselves.*

Proof In [Proposition 3.23](#), we observed that from the 3–copy, we obtain a map

$$m_2: \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) = C_{13}^{\vee} \otimes C_{21}^{\vee} \rightarrow C_{23}^{\vee} = \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3).$$

Taking $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_3$ and specializing to $\mathrm{id} \in \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3 = \epsilon_1)$, we get a map

$$\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3 = \epsilon_1).$$

The higher data characterizing an A_{∞} –functor and related compatibilities comes from similar compositions obtained from higher numbers of copies. \square

Proposition 5.2 *Let $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ be a Legendrian link, and let $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda_f)$ and $\mathcal{A}ug_-(\Lambda)$ be the positive augmentation category as constructed in [Definition 4.3](#) (with*

some Morse function f chosen on Λ), and the negative augmentation category as constructed in [Definition 4.6](#). Let ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 be augmentations of Λ , and suppose that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 agree on \mathcal{T} (that is, on the t_k). Then the map determined by the functor from [Proposition 5.1](#) fits into a short exact sequence of chain complexes

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow C^*(\Lambda) \rightarrow 0,$$

where $C^*(\Lambda)$ is a chain complex computing the ordinary cohomology of Λ . It follows that there is a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow H^{i-1}(\Lambda) \rightarrow H^i \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow H^i \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow H^i(\Lambda) \rightarrow \cdots.$$

Proof The proof consists of explicitly writing the complex $\mathrm{Hom}_+^*(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ as a mapping cone,

$$\mathrm{Hom}_+^*(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = \mathrm{Cone}(C^{*+1}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_-^*(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)).$$

For simplicity, we assume that Λ is a single-component knot; the multicomponent case is a straightforward generalization. Let Λ^2 be the Lagrangian projection 2-copy of Λ . In the notation of [Proposition 4.26](#), $\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = C_{12}^{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}$ is generated by the a_k^+ as well as x^+ and y^+ , while $\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = C_{21}^{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}$ is generated by just the a_k^- ; that is, if we identify $a_k^+ = a_k^- = a_k^\vee$, then

$$\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) = \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \oplus \langle x^+, y^+ \rangle.$$

The differential m_1^+ on $\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is given by dualizing the linear part of the twisted differential $\partial_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}^2$ on $C_{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}^{12}$, while the differential m_1^- on $\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is given by dualizing the linear part of $\partial_{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}^2$ on $C_{(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)}^{21}$. Inspecting [Proposition 4.14](#) gives that m_1^+ and m_1^- coincide on the a_k^\vee , while $m_1^+(y^+) = 0$ and $m_1^+(x^+) \in \langle a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+ \rangle$ as in the proof of [Proposition 3.28](#). (Note that for $m_1^+(y^+) = 0$, we need the fact that $\epsilon_1(t) = \epsilon_2(t)$, which is true by assumption.) The quotient complex $\langle x^+, y^+ \rangle$ of $\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is then the usual Morse complex $C^*(S^1) = C^*(\Lambda)$, and the statement about the mapping cone follows. □

Remark 5.3 The condition in [Proposition 5.2](#) that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 agree on \mathcal{T} is automatically satisfied for any single-component knot with a Morse function with a unique minimum and maximum: in this case, there is only one t , and $\epsilon_1(t) = \epsilon_2(t) = -1$ by a result of Levenson [\[36\]](#). Here we implicitly assume that the augmentation categories are of \mathbb{Z} -graded augmentations, although the same is true for (\mathbb{Z}/m) -graded augmentations if m is even. However, [Proposition 5.2](#) fails to hold for multicomponent links if we remove the assumption that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 must agree on \mathcal{T} .

5.1.2 Sabloff duality Here we present a repackaging of Sabloff duality [50; 12] in our language. Roughly speaking, Sabloff duality states that linearized contact homology and linearized contact cohomology fit into a long exact sequence with the homology of the Legendrian. In our notation, linearized contact cohomology is the cohomology of Hom_- , while linearized contact homology is the homology of the dual to Hom_- ; see Section 5.2.

For a cochain complex K , we write K^\dagger to denote the cochain complex obtained by dualizing the underlying vector space and differential and negating all the gradings. By comparison, if K were a chain complex, we would write K^* to denote the cochain complex obtained by dualizing the underlying vector space and differential, but leaving all the gradings alone. We now have the following result, which can roughly be summarized as “homology in $\mathcal{A}ug_-$ is cohomology in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ ”.

Proposition 5.4 *There is a quasi-isomorphism $\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)^\dagger[-2] \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$.*

Proof This proof is given in [12] (though not in the language stated here); we include the proof in our language for the convenience of the reader. Let $\Lambda^{(2)}$ be an (appropriately perturbed) 2-copy of Λ . Let $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$ the link with the same xy -projection as $\Lambda^{(2)}$, but with Λ_1 lying very far above Λ_2 in the z direction.

We write \bar{C} for the space spanned by the Reeb chords of $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$. Note that, since these are in correspondence with self-intersections in the xy -projection, which is the same for $\Lambda^{(2)}$ and $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$, the Reeb chords of these links are in bijection. However, in $\Lambda^{(2)}$, all Reeb chords go from Λ_2 to Λ_1 , so $\bar{C}^{21} = 0$. Note that if $r \in \mathcal{R}^{21}$ corresponds to a chord $\bar{r} \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}^{12}$, then $\mu(\bar{r}) = -\mu(r) - 1$ because the Reeb chord is now oppositely oriented between Maslov potentials, and moreover is a minimizer of front projection distance if it was previously a maximizer, and vice versa. We will write $C_{-* -1}^{21}$ to indicate the graded module with this corrected grading. We have explained that, as a graded module,

$$\bar{C}^{12} = C^{12} \oplus C_{-* -1}^{21}.$$

Let ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 be augmentations of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$. We write $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ for the corresponding augmentation of $\Lambda^{(2)}$ and $\bar{\epsilon} = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ for the corresponding augmentation of $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$. If we pass from $\Lambda^{(2)}$ to $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$ by moving the components further apart by some large distance Z in the z direction, then every Reeb chord of $\bar{\Lambda}^{(2)}$ corresponding to a generator of C_{12} has length larger than Z , and every Reeb chord corresponding to

a generator of C_{21}^* has length smaller than Z . Because the differential is filtered by chord length, it follows that we have an exact sequence of dg modules

$$0 \rightarrow (C_{-* - 1}^{21}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}|_{C_{-* - 1}^{21}}) \rightarrow (\bar{C}^{12}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}) \rightarrow (C^{12}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}) \rightarrow 0.$$

Here $(C^{12}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}})$ means the dg module which is C^{12} equipped with the quotient differential coming from the exact sequence.

Now geometric considerations imply that

$$(C^{12}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}) = (C^{12}, \partial_{\epsilon}|_{C^{12}});$$

if $r \in \mathcal{R}^{12} \subset \bar{\mathcal{R}}^{12}$, then $\partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}(r)$ in \bar{C}^{12} counts disks with a negative corner at some $r' \in \bar{\mathcal{R}}^{12}$, which is either in \mathcal{R}^{12} (in which case it contributes equally to ∂_{ϵ} and the quotient differential $\partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}$) or in \mathcal{R}^{21} (in which it does not contribute to either, since in $\Lambda^{(2)}$ it corresponds to a disk with two positive punctures). Additionally, we have

$$(C_{-* - 1}^{21}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}}|_{C_{-* - 1}^{21}})^* = ((C_{21}^*, \partial_{\epsilon}^*|_{C_{21}^*})[-1])^\dagger;$$

this is a manifestation of the fact that when we push the two copies past each other, a disk with a positive and a negative corner at chords in \mathcal{R}^{21} becomes a disk with a positive and a negative corner at chords in $\bar{\mathcal{R}}^{12}$, but with the positive and negative corners switched.

Dualizing and shifting, we have

$$0 \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow (\bar{C}^{12}, \partial_{\bar{\epsilon}})^*[-1] \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)^\dagger[-1] \rightarrow 0.$$

View the central term as a mapping cone to obtain a morphism $\operatorname{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)^\dagger[-2] \rightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$. Since $\bar{\Lambda}^2$ can be isotoped so that there are no Reeb chords between the two components, the central term is acyclic, so this morphism is a quasi-isomorphism. \square

Remark 5.5 Proposition 5.4 holds for n -dimensional Legendrians as well, with $n + 1$ replacing 2.

Corollary 5.6 We have $H^*\operatorname{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \cong H^{*-2}\operatorname{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)^\dagger$: the cohomology of the hom spaces in Aug_+ is isomorphic to (bi)linearized Legendrian contact homology.

Here bilinearized Legendrian contact homology, as constructed in [2], is the cohomology of $\operatorname{Hom}_+^\dagger$; see Section 5.2 below for the precise equality, and for further discussion of the relation of Proposition 5.4 to Sabloff duality.

5.1.3 Fillings As described in the introduction, an important source of augmentations is exact Lagrangian fillings, whose definition we recall here. For a contact manifold (V, α) , the cylinder $\mathbb{R} \times V$ is a symplectic manifold with symplectic form $\omega = d(e^t \alpha)$, where t is the \mathbb{R} coordinate. Let $\Lambda \subset V$ be Legendrian. A *Lagrangian filling* of Λ is a compact $L \subset (-\infty, 0] \times V$ such that $\omega|_L = 0$, $L \cap \{t = 0\} = \{0\} \times \Lambda$, and $L \cup ([0, \infty) \times \Lambda)$ is smooth. The filling is *exact* if $e^t \alpha|_L$ is an exact 1-form and its primitive is constant for $t \gg 0$ and for $t \ll 0$; see [4]. As part of the functoriality of symplectic field theory, any exact Lagrangian filling of a Legendrian Λ induces an augmentation of the DGA for Λ ; see eg [10], and [15] for the special case $V = J^1(\mathbb{R})$.

We now restrict as usual to this special case. For an augmentation obtained from an exact Lagrangian filling, Hom_\pm is determined by the topology of the filling. This is essentially a result of [10] (see also [2, Section 4.1]); translated into our language, it becomes the following:

Proposition 5.7 *Suppose L is an exact Lagrangian filling of Λ in $(-\infty, 0] \times J^1(\mathbb{R})$, with Maslov number 0, and let ϵ_L be the augmentation of Λ corresponding to the filling. Then*

$$H^k \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L), \quad H^k \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L, \Lambda)$$

and the long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow H^{k-1}(\Lambda) \rightarrow H^k \mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \rightarrow H^k \mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \rightarrow H^k(\Lambda) \rightarrow \cdots$$

is the standard long exact sequence in relative cohomology.

Proof This result has appeared in various guises and degrees of completeness in [2; 8; 15; 10] (in [10] as a conjecture); the basic result that linearized contact homology for ϵ_L is the homology of L is often attributed to Seidel. For completeness, we indicate how to obtain the precise statement of Proposition 5.7 via wrapped Floer homology, using the terminology and results from [8].

Theorem 6.2 in [8] expresses a wrapped Floer complex $(CF_\bullet(L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon}), \partial)$ as a direct sum

$$CF_\bullet(L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon}) \cong C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^\bullet(F_+) \oplus C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^{\bullet-1}(f) \oplus CL^{\bullet-2}(\Lambda),$$

where the differential ∂ is block upper triangular with respect to this decomposition, so that ∂ maps each summand to itself and to the summands to the right. In this decomposition, $C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^\bullet(F_+)$, $C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^\bullet(f)$ and $\mathrm{Cone}(C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^\bullet(F_+) \rightarrow C_{\mathrm{Morse}}^\bullet(f))$ are Morse

complexes for $C^\bullet(L)$, $C^\bullet(\Lambda)$ and $C^\bullet(L, \Lambda)$, respectively. Furthermore, inspecting the definitions of [8, Section 6.1.2] (and recalling we shift degree by 1) gives $CL^{\bullet-2}(\Lambda) = \text{Hom}_{-}^{\bullet-1}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$ and $\text{Cone}(C_{\text{Morse}}^\bullet(f) \rightarrow CL^\bullet(\Lambda)) = \text{Hom}_{+}^{\bullet+1}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$.

Now the wrapped Floer homology for the exact Lagrangian fillings $L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon}$ vanishes (see eg [8, Proposition 5.12]), and so the complex $CF_\bullet(L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon})$ is acyclic. It follows from $CF_\bullet(L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon}) \cong C^\bullet(L) \oplus \text{Hom}_{+}^{\bullet-1}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$ that $H^k \text{Hom}_{+}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L)$, and from $CF_\bullet(L, L_+^{\eta, \epsilon}) \cong C^\bullet(L, \Lambda) \oplus \text{Hom}_{-}^{\bullet-1}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$ that $H^k \text{Hom}_{-}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L, \Lambda)$. The statement about the long exact sequence similarly follows. \square

Remark 5.8 Proposition 5.7 relies on the Lagrangian filling L having Maslov number 0, where the Maslov number of L is the gcd of the Maslov numbers of all closed loops in L ; see [10; 15]. However, a version of Proposition 5.7 holds for exact Lagrangian fillings of arbitrary Maslov number m . In this case, ϵ_L is not graded but m -graded; that is, $\epsilon(a) = 0$ if $m \nmid |a|$, but $\epsilon(a)$ can be nonzero if $|a|$ is a multiple of m . The isomorphisms and long exact sequence in Proposition 5.7 continue to hold when all gradings are taken mod m .

Remark 5.9 Here we make an extended comment on signs as they relate to augmentations coming from fillings. For simplicity we restrict our discussion to a Legendrian knot $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ with DGA (\mathcal{A}, ∂) , which we recall for emphasis is generated by Reeb chords of Λ along with $t^{\pm 1}$. Given an exact Lagrangian filling L of Λ , the augmentation ϵ_L as constructed in [15] (see also [10]) is a map to $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Z}/2$. This is lifted to an augmentation $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ by Karlsson [32] by a choice of coherent orientations of various moduli spaces.

More precisely, what is constructed in [32] is an augmentation of the Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA of Λ , but taken with \mathbb{Z} coefficients. A natural way to define such a DGA is to “forget” the homology coefficients $t^{\pm 1}$ in (\mathcal{A}, ∂) , which is to say: Set $t = 1$ in (\mathcal{A}, ∂) to yield a DGA $(\mathcal{A}_1, \partial_1)$, where \mathcal{A}_1 is the tensor algebra over \mathbb{Z} generated by Reeb chords. However, one could also set $t = -1$ in (\mathcal{A}, ∂) to yield another DGA $(\mathcal{A}_{-1}, \partial_{-1})$ with the same underlying algebra $\mathcal{A}_{-1} = \mathcal{A}_1$ but distinct differentials. For example, for the standard unknot, $\mathcal{A}_1 = \mathcal{A}_{-1}$ is generated by a single Reeb chord a with differential $\partial_1(a) = 2$ and $\partial_{-1}(a) = 0$.

To expand on this a bit further, signs in the differential in (\mathcal{A}, ∂) are determined geometrically by a choice of spin structure on the Legendrian Λ [14]. When Λ is topologically S^1 , there are two spin structures, one (called the “Lie group spin structure”

in [14]) coming from the canonical trivialization of TS^1 , and the other (the “null-cobordant spin structure”) from the unique spin structure on D^2 by viewing S^1 as its boundary. As shown in [14, Theorem 4.29], the differentials resulting from the two spin structures are not independent, but are related by the automorphism of \mathcal{A} which sends t to $-t$ and sends each Reeb chord to itself.

The standard combinatorial sign conventions for the Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA, as originally defined in [20] and presented here in Section 2.2, correspond to the Lie group spin structure; see [14, Theorem 4.32; 46, Appendix A]. In the context of fillings, however, it is more natural to choose the null-cobordant spin structure. What Karlsson shows in [32] is that a filling induces an augmentation of the DGA over \mathbb{Z} obtained from forgetting the homology coefficients (setting $t = 1$) in the DGA (\mathcal{A}, ∂) for the null-cobordant spin structure. In light of the preceding discussion about how changing spin structure negates t , this is the DGA $(\mathcal{A}_{-1}, \partial_{-1})$. In other words:

Proposition 5.10 [32] *An exact Lagrangian filling L of a Legendrian knot $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ induces an augmentation of the DGA (\mathcal{A}, ∂) of Λ , $\epsilon_L: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, satisfying $\epsilon_L(t) = -1$.*

Note that this augmentation induces an augmentation to any field \mathbb{k} , also sending t to -1 ; this is in line with the result of Levenson [36] that any augmentation to \mathbb{k} must send t to -1 .

We conclude this remark by comparing with the sheaf picture. As defined in [52], microlocal monodromy does not explicitly depend on the choice of a spin structure on Λ . However, from a more abstract point of view, microlocal monodromy is naturally valued in a category of (in general twisted) local systems on Λ , but the isomorphism with the category of local systems is not entirely canonical. (The autoequivalences of the identity functor of the category of chain complexes over a ring k is naturally identified with k^* . This leads to $H^1(X, k^*)$ acting by autoequivalences on the category of local systems on X . When $k = \mathbb{Z}$, this means that isomorphisms with the category of local systems of X are a torsor over $H^1(X, \pm 1)$, just like spin structures.) The work [52] made a choice at the cusps which in effect fixes this isomorphism. A more abstract discussion of how such “brane structure” choices enter into microlocal sheaf theory can be found in [28], which in turn was partially inspired by an account [39] explaining among other things a homotopical setup well suited to understanding certain orientation choices in Floer theory. See also the discussion of obstruction classes in [24, Part 10].

In any case, under the correspondence we will set up, the filling L of Λ yields a sheaf in $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ microsupported along Λ . Moreover, the microlocal monodromy of the corresponding sheaf will be the restriction of the rank one local system on L to the boundary Λ , hence trivial because this boundary circle is a commutator in $\pi_1(L)$. The correspondence between sheaves and augmentations sends this sheaf to ϵ_L , and the triviality of the monodromy to the condition $\epsilon_L(t) = 1$. This indicates that the choices made in [52] to define microlocal monodromy correspond to the choice of the null-cobordant spin structure on Λ .

5.2 Dictionary and comparison to previously known results

Here we compare our notions and notation with preexisting ones, especially from [2]. We have considered a number of constructions derived from the Bourgeois–Chantraine category $\text{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ that previously appeared in [2] or elsewhere in the literature. For convenience, we present here a table translating between our notation and notation from other sources, primarily [2]:

notation here	notation in other sources	
$\text{Aug}_-(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$	Bourgeois–Chantraine augmentation category	[2]
$\text{Hom}^*_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$	$\text{Hom}^{*-1}(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1) = C^{*-1}_{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}$	[2]
$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$	bilinearized Legendrian contact cohomology $\text{LCH}^{*-1}_{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}(\Lambda)$	[2]
$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)$	linearized Legendrian contact cohomology $\text{LCH}^{*-1}_\epsilon(\Lambda)$	[50; 12]
$\text{Hom}^*_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)^\dagger$	$C^{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}_{-* -1}$	[2]
$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)^\dagger$	bilinearized Legendrian contact homology $\text{LCH}^{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}_{-* -1}(\Lambda)$	[2]
$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)^\dagger$	linearized Legendrian contact homology $\text{LCH}^\epsilon_{-* -1}(\Lambda)$	[5]

Using this dictionary, we can interpret various results from the literature in our language. For instance, Sabloff duality, or more precisely the Ekholm–Etnyre–Sabloff duality exact sequence [12, Theorem 1.1] relating linearized Legendrian contact homology and cohomology, is

⋯ → H_{k+1}(Λ) → LCH_ε^{-k}(Λ) → LCH_ε^k(Λ) → H_k(Λ) → ⋯ .

This was generalized in [2, Theorem 1.5] to bilinearized contact homology and cohomology:

⋯ → H_{k+1}(Λ) → LCH_{ε_2, ε_1}^{-k}(Λ) → LCH_k^{ε_1, ε_2}(Λ) → H_k(Λ) → ⋯ .

Since this long exact sequence is derived from a chain-level argument using mapping cones, we can dualize to give

$$\cdots \rightarrow H^k(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathrm{LCH}_{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}^k(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathrm{LCH}_{-k}^{\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1} \rightarrow H^{k+1}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \cdots .$$

But we have $\mathrm{LCH}_{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2}^k(\Lambda) = H^{k+1}\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$, while, by [Corollary 5.6](#),

$$\mathrm{LCH}_{-k}^{\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1}(\Lambda) = H^{k-1}\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)^\dagger \cong H^{k+1}\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2),$$

and so the last exact sequence now becomes the exact sequence in [Proposition 5.2](#).

When Λ has an exact Lagrangian filling L with corresponding augmentation ϵ_L , the fundamental result that the linearized contact cohomology is the homology of the filling is written in the literature as

$$(5-1) \quad \mathrm{LCH}_{\epsilon_L}^{1-k}(\Lambda) \cong H_k(L).$$

As discussed in the proof of [Proposition 5.7](#), this was first stated in [\[10\]](#) and also appears in [\[2; 8; 15\]](#). Now we have $\mathrm{LCH}_{\epsilon_L}^{1-k}(\Lambda) = H^{2-k}\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$, while $H_k(L) \cong H^{2-k}(L, \Lambda)$ by Poincaré duality; thus [\(5-1\)](#) agrees with our [Proposition 5.7](#) (which, after all, was essentially proven using [\(5-1\)](#)).

To summarize the relations between the various constructions in the presence of a filling,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{LCH}_{1-k}^{\epsilon_L}(\Lambda) &\cong H^k\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L) \cong H_{2-k}(L, \Lambda), \\ \mathrm{LCH}_{\epsilon_L}^{k-1}(\Lambda) &\cong H^k\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^k(L, \Lambda) \cong H_{2-k}(L). \end{aligned}$$

Remark 5.11 With the benefit of hindsight, the terminology “linearized contact cohomology” applied to $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ is perhaps less than optimal on general philosophical grounds: cohomology should contain a unit, and $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ does not. Moreover, in the case when $\epsilon = \epsilon_L$ is given by a filling and so $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ has a geometric meaning, it is compactly supported cohomology (or, by Poincaré duality, regular homology):

$$H^*\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^*(L, \Lambda) \cong H_{2-*}(L).$$

By contrast, we have

$$H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L) \cong H^*(L),$$

and so it may be more suggestive to use “linearized contact cohomology” to refer to $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$ rather than to $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L)$.

To push this slightly further, “linearized contact homology” $\mathrm{LCH}_*^\epsilon(\Lambda)$ is

$$H^{-*-1}\mathrm{Hom}_-(\epsilon, \epsilon)^\dagger,$$

which by [Proposition 5.4](#) is isomorphic to $H^{-*+1}\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$. Thus linearized contact homology, confusingly enough, is a unital ring, and indeed for $\epsilon = \epsilon_L$ it is the cohomology ring of L !

5.3 Equivalence of augmentations

Having formed a unital category $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ from the set of augmentations, we have a natural notion of when two augmentations are isomorphic. Note that the following are equivalent by definition: isomorphism in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$, isomorphism in the cohomology category $H^*\mathcal{A}ug_+$, and isomorphism in the degree zero part $H^0\mathcal{A}ug_+$.

This notion implies in particular that the corresponding linearized contact homologies are isomorphic:

Proposition 5.12 (see [\[2, Theorem 1.4\]](#)) *If ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are isomorphic in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$, then $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) \cong H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3)$ and $H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_1) \cong H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2)$ for any augmentation ϵ_3 . In particular,*

$$H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1) \cong H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \cong H^*\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_2).$$

Proof This is obvious. □

We now investigate the relation of this notion to other notions of equivalence of augmentations which have been introduced in the literature. We will consider three notions of equivalence, of which [\(2\)](#) and [\(3\)](#) will be defined below:

- (1) isomorphism in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$;
- (2) isomorphism in $\mathcal{V}\mathcal{A}ug_-$;
- (3) DGA homotopy.

We will see that [\(1\)](#) implies [\(2\)](#), and that [\(1\)](#) and [\(3\)](#) are equivalent if Λ is connected with a single basepoint; we do not know if [\(2\)](#) implies [\(1\)](#). A fourth notion of equivalence, involving exponentials and necessitating that one work over a field of characteristic 0, usually \mathbb{R} (see [\[1; 2\]](#)), is not addressed here.

Note that [\(3\)](#) has been shown to be closely related to isotopy of Lagrangians in the case where the augmentations come from exact Lagrangian fillings; see [\[15\]](#) and [Corollary 5.20](#) below.

5.3.1 Isomorphism in $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$ In [2], equivalence was defined using Aug_- as follows. While Aug_- is not unital, the category of Aug_- -modules (functors to chain complexes) is, and the Yoneda construction $\epsilon \mapsto \text{Hom}_-(\cdot, \epsilon)$ gives a morphism $\mathcal{Y}: Aug_- \rightarrow Aug_-$ -modules. This morphism is cohomologically faithful but not cohomologically full since Aug_- is nonunital. We write $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$ for the full subcategory on the image objects. In any case, Bourgeois and Chantraine [2] defined two augmentations to be equivalent if their images in $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$ are isomorphic. As noted in [2, Theorem 1.4], essentially by definition, if $\mathcal{Y}\epsilon_1 \cong \mathcal{Y}\epsilon_2$ in $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$, then

$$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) \cong H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \quad \text{and} \quad H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_1) \cong H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2)$$

for any augmentation ϵ_3 .

Proposition 5.13 *If $\epsilon_1 \cong \epsilon_2$ in Aug_+ , then $\mathcal{Y}\epsilon_1 \cong \mathcal{Y}\epsilon_2$ in $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$.*

Proof According to Proposition 3.23, we have a map

$$\mathcal{Y}_-: Aug_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}Aug_-, \quad \epsilon \mapsto \text{Hom}_-(\cdot, \epsilon).$$

The fact that the identity in Hom_+ acts trivially on the space Hom_- under the morphisms in Proposition 3.23 implies that this is a unital morphism of categories. It follows that the image of an isomorphism in Aug_+ is an isomorphism in $\mathcal{Y}Aug_-$. \square

Corollary 5.14 *If $\epsilon_1 \cong \epsilon_2$ in Aug_+ , then*

$$H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3) \cong H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \quad \text{and} \quad H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_1) \cong H^*\text{Hom}_-(\epsilon_3, \epsilon_2)$$

for any augmentation ϵ_3 .

5.3.2 DGA homotopy Another notion of equivalence that has appeared in the literature is DGA homotopy [30; 26; 15; 27]. This arises from viewing augmentations as DGA maps from (\mathcal{A}, ∂) to $(\mathbb{k}, 0)$ and considering an appropriate version of chain homotopy for DGA maps.

Definition 5.15 Two DGA maps $f_1, f_2: (\mathcal{A}_1, \partial_1) \rightarrow (\mathcal{A}_2, \partial_2)$ are *DGA homotopic* if they are chain homotopic via a chain homotopy operator $K: \mathcal{A}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2$ which is an (f_1, f_2) -derivation. This means that

- K has degree $+1$,
- $f_1 - f_2 = \partial_2 K + K \partial_1$, and
- $K(x \cdot y) = K(x) \cdot f_2(y) + (-1)^{|x|} f_1(x) \cdot K(y)$ for all $x, y \in \mathcal{A}_1$.

Note that if K is an (f_1, f_2) -derivation and f_1 and f_2 are DGA maps, then it suffices to check the second condition on a generating set for \mathcal{A}_1 . In addition, if \mathcal{A}_1 is freely generated by a_1, \dots, a_k , then, once f_1 and f_2 are fixed, any choice of values $K(a_i) \in \mathcal{A}_2$ extends uniquely to an (f_1, f_2) -derivation. Although it is not immediate, DGA homotopy is an equivalence relation on the set of DGA morphisms from $(\mathcal{A}_1, \partial_1)$ to $(\mathcal{A}_2, \partial_2)$ (see eg [21, Chapter 26]).

We will show that if Λ is a Legendrian knot with a single basepoint, then two augmentations of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$ are isomorphic in $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ if and only if they are DGA homotopic as DGA maps to $(\mathbb{k}, 0)$. To do this, we compute with m -copies constructed from the Lagrangian projection as described in Section 4.4.1. For any $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \in \mathcal{A}ug_+$, $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is spanned as an \mathbb{k} -module by elements a_i^+ , x^+ and y^+ . The a_i^+ are dual to the crossings a_i^{12} of the 2-copy, which are in bijection with the generators a_1, \dots, a_r of $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$, while x^+ and y^+ are dual to the crossings x^{12} and y^{12} that arise from the perturbation process.

The definition of $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ together with the description of the differential in $\mathcal{A}^m = \mathcal{A}(\Lambda_f^m)$ from Proposition 4.26 lead to the following formulas:

Lemma 5.16 *In $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} m_1(a_i^+) &= \sum_{a_j, b_1, \dots, b_n} \sum_{u \in \Delta(a_j; b_1, \dots, b_n)} \sum_{1 \leq l \leq n} \delta_{b_l, a_i} \sigma_u \epsilon_1(b_1 \cdots b_{l-1}) \epsilon_2(b_{l+1} \cdots b_n) a_j^+, \\ m_1(y^+) &= (\epsilon_1(t)^{-1} \epsilon_2(t) - 1) x^+ + \sum_i (\epsilon_2(a_i) - (-1)^{|a_i|} \epsilon_1(a_i)) a_i^+, \\ m_1(x^+) &\in \text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}} \{a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+\}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we abuse notation slightly to allow the b_i to include the basepoint on Λ as well as the corresponding generators $t^{\pm 1}$. The factor $\sigma_u \in \{\pm 1\}$ denotes the product of all orientation signs at the corners of the disk u , ie the coefficient of the monomial $w(u)$ (see Section 2.2).

If ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are homotopic via the operator K , then $\epsilon_1(t) - \epsilon_2(t) = \partial_{\mathbb{k}} K(t) + K(\partial t) = 0$ and so $\epsilon_1(t) = \epsilon_2(t)$.

We will also need the following properties of composition in $\mathcal{A}ug_+$:

Lemma 5.17 *Assume that the crossings a_1, \dots, a_r of the xy -projection of Λ are labeled with increasing height, $h(a_1) \leq h(a_2) \leq \dots \leq h(a_r)$.*

For any ϵ_1, ϵ_2 and ϵ_3 , the composition

$$m_2: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3)$$

satisfies the following properties:

- $m_2(a_i^+, a_j^+) \in \text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_l^+ \mid l \geq \max(i, j)\}$ for all i and j with $1 \leq i, j \leq r$.
- Each of $m_2(x^+, a_i^+)$, $m_2(a_i^+, x^+)$ and $m_2(x^+, x^+)$ is in $\text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_l^+ \mid 1 \leq l \leq r\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq r$.
- For any $\alpha \in \text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+, x^+, y^+\}$, we have

$$m_2(y^+, \alpha) = m_2(\alpha, y^+) = -\alpha.$$

Proposition 5.18 Consider an element $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ of the form

$$\alpha = -y^+ - \sum_i K(a_i)a_i^+.$$

Then $m_1(\alpha) = 0$ if and only if the extension of K to an (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) -derivation, $\tilde{K}: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$, is a DGA homotopy from ϵ_1 to ϵ_2 .

Proof Note that $\epsilon_1(a_i) = (-1)^{|a_i|}\epsilon_1(a_i)$ for all i , since ϵ_1 is supported in grading 0. Using Lemma 5.16, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} -m_1(\alpha) &= m_1(y^+) + \sum_i K(a_i)m_1(a_i^+) \\ &= \sum_j [\epsilon_2(a_j) - \epsilon_1(a_j)]a_j^+ \\ &\quad + \sum_i K(a_i) \left(\sum_{a_j, b_1, \dots, b_n} \sum_{u \in \Delta(a_j; b_1, \dots, b_n)} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq l \leq n \\ b_l = a_i}} \sigma_u \epsilon_1(b_1 \cdots b_{l-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \epsilon_2(b_{l+1} \cdots b_n) a_j^+ \right) \\ &= \sum_j [\epsilon_2(a_j) - \epsilon_1(a_j)]a_j^+ \\ &\quad + \sum_j \left(\sum_{\substack{b_1, \dots, b_n \\ u \in \Delta(a_j; b_1, \dots, b_n)}} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq l \leq n \\ b_l \neq t^{\pm 1}}} (-1)^{|b_1 \cdots b_{l-1}|} \sigma_u \epsilon_1(b_1 \cdots b_{l-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times K(b_l) \epsilon_2(b_{l+1} \cdots b_n) \right) a_j^+ \\ &= \sum_j [\epsilon_2(a_j) - \epsilon_1(a_j) + \tilde{K} \circ \partial(a_j)]a_j^+, \end{aligned}$$

where \tilde{K} denotes the unique (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) -derivation with $\tilde{K}(a_j) = K(a_j)$. (The innermost sum above is equal to $\tilde{K}(\partial a_j)$ only once we also include the terms where $b_l = t^{\pm 1}$,

but $K(t^{\pm 1}) = 0$ since it must be an element of \mathbb{k} with grading 1, so this does not change anything.) Therefore, $m_1(\alpha) = 0$ if and only if the equation

$$\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2 = \tilde{K} \circ \partial$$

holds when applied to generators, and the proposition follows. \square

We can now state our result relating notions of equivalence.

Proposition 5.19 *If Λ is a knot with a single basepoint, then two augmentations $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ are homotopic as DGA maps if and only if they are isomorphic in $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda)$.*

Proof First, suppose that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are isomorphic in $H^* \text{Aug}_+$. In particular, there exist cocycles $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ and $\beta \in \text{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)$ with $[m_2(\alpha, \beta)] = -[y^+]$ in $H^0 \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_2)$. That is, $m_2(\alpha, \beta) + y^+ = m_1(\gamma)$ for some $\gamma \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_2)$. Using Lemma 5.16, we see that $\langle m_1(\gamma), y^+ \rangle = \langle m_1(\gamma), x^+ \rangle = 0$, where $\langle m_1(\gamma), y^+ \rangle$ denotes the coefficient of y^+ in $m_1(\gamma)$ and so forth. Thus we can write

$$m_2(\alpha, \beta) = -y^+ + \sum_i K(a_i) a_i^+$$

for some $K(a_i) \in \mathbb{k}$. (To see that $\langle m_1(\gamma), x^+ \rangle = 0$, we used the fact that we are working in $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_2)$, hence $\langle m_1(y^+), x^+ \rangle = 0$.) Moreover, Lemma 5.17 shows that both α and β must also have this same form, except that the y^+ coefficients need not be -1 : we have $\langle \alpha, y^+ \rangle = c_\alpha$ and $\langle \alpha, y^+ \rangle = c_\beta$ for some $c_\alpha, c_\beta \in \mathbb{k}^\times$ with $c_\alpha c_\beta = 1$. (Note that $\langle \alpha, x^+ \rangle = \langle \beta, x^+ \rangle = 0$ because α and β are both elements of Hom_+^0 , whereas $|x^+| = 1$.) Replacing α and β with $-c_\alpha^{-1} \alpha$ and $-c_\beta^{-1} \beta$, respectively, preserves $m_2(\alpha, \beta)$ and $m_1(\alpha) = m_1(\beta) = 0$, so we can assume that both α and β have y^+ coefficient equal to -1 after all. Now, since $m_1(\alpha) = 0$, Proposition 5.18 applies to show that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are homotopic.

Conversely, suppose that ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are homotopic, with $K: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ an (ϵ_1, ϵ_2) -derivation with $\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2 = K \circ \partial$. Note that since \mathbb{k} sits in grading 0 when viewing $(\mathbb{k}, 0)$ as a DGA, we have $K(a_i) = 0$ unless $|a_i| = -1$ in \mathcal{A} . As $|a_i^+| = |a_i| + 1$, it follows that

$$\alpha = -y^+ - \sum_i K(a_i) a_i^+$$

defines a cocycle in $\text{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ by Proposition 5.18. We show that

$$[\alpha] \in H^0 \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$$

has a multiplicative inverse in $H^0\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)$. In fact, we prove a stronger statement by showing that there are elements $\beta, \gamma \in \mathrm{Hom}_+^0(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)$ satisfying

$$(5-2) \quad m_1(\beta) = m_1(\gamma) = 0$$

and

$$(5-3) \quad m_2(\beta, \alpha) = m_2(\alpha, \gamma) = -y^+.$$

It will then follow that $[\beta] = [\gamma] \in H^0\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_1)$ is the desired multiplicative inverse. (It is not clear whether $\beta = \gamma$ as cochains, since the m_2 operations may not be associative if m_3 is nontrivial.) We will construct β of the form

$$\beta = -y^+ + \sum_i B_i a_i^+,$$

and omit the construction of γ , which is similar.

Writing $\alpha = -y^+ - A$ and $\beta = -y^+ + B$ with $A, B \in \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+\}$, we note, using [Lemma 5.17](#), that $m_2(\beta, \alpha) = -y^+$ is equivalent to

$$B = A + m_2(B, A).$$

The coefficients B_i can then be defined inductively to satisfy this property. Indeed, assuming a_1, \dots, a_r are labeled according to height, [Lemma 5.17](#) shows that the coefficient of a_i^+ in $m_2(B, A)$ is determined by A and those B_j with $j < i$.

Now that we have found $\beta = -y^+ + B$ satisfying [\(5-3\)](#), we verify [\(5-2\)](#). The A_∞ relations on $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$ imply that

$$m_1(-y^+) = m_1(m_2(\beta, \alpha)) = m_2(m_1(\beta), \alpha) + m_2(\beta, m_1(\alpha)),$$

and the left side is zero since we evaluate $m_1(-y^+)$ in $\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_1)$, while the term $m_2(\beta, m_1(\alpha))$ on the right side is zero since $m_1(\alpha) = 0$; hence

$$m_2(m_1(\beta), \alpha) = 0.$$

We claim that $m_2(X, \alpha) = 0$ implies $X = 0$ for any $X \in \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{y^+, x^+, a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+\}$; in the case $X = m_1(\beta)$, it will immediately follow that $m_1(\beta) = 0$, as desired. Using [Lemma 5.17](#), we have that $m_2(X, A) \in \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_1^+, \dots, a_r^+\}$, so

$$0 = m_2(X, \alpha) = m_2(X, -y^+ - A) = X - m_2(X, A),$$

which implies that $X = m_2(X, A) \in \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{k}}\{a_1^+, \dots, a_n^+\}$ as well. That $\langle X, a_i^+ \rangle = 0$ is then verified from the same equation using [Lemma 5.17](#) and induction on height. \square

Corollary 5.20 *Let L_1 and L_2 be exact Lagrangian fillings of a Legendrian knot Λ with trivial Maslov number, and let ϵ_{L_1} and ϵ_{L_2} be the corresponding augmentations of the DGA of Λ . If L_1 and L_2 are isotopic through exact Lagrangian fillings, then $\epsilon_{L_1} \cong \epsilon_{L_2}$ in $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda)$.*

Proof From [15], given these hypotheses, ϵ_{L_1} and ϵ_{L_2} are DGA homotopic. □

Remark 5.21 As before, we can generalize Corollary 5.20 to exact fillings of Maslov number m as long as we consider $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ to be (\mathbb{Z}/m) –graded rather than \mathbb{Z} –graded.

6 Localization of the augmentation category

A preferred plat diagram of a Legendrian knot in \mathbb{R}^3 can be split along vertical lines which avoid the crossings, cusps and basepoints into a sequence of “bordered” plats. Each of these bordered plats was assigned a DGA in [54], generalizing the Chekanov–Eliashberg construction.

Remark In [54], mod 2 coefficients were used, and the language of cosheaves was avoided. There the vertical lines bounding a bordered plat diagram T on the left and right are assigned “line algebras” I_n^L and I_n^R , and a “type DA” algebra $\mathcal{A}(T)$ was associated to the oriented tangle T along with natural DGA morphisms $I_n^L \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ and $I_n^R \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$. If T decomposes into two smaller bordered plats as $T = T_1 \cup T_2$, with the two diagrams intersecting along a single vertical line with n points whose algebra is denoted by I_n^M , then these morphisms fit into a pushout square

(6-1)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I_n^M & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{A}(T_2) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{A}(T_1) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{A}(T) \end{array}$$

and the corresponding morphisms $I_n^L \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ and $I_n^R \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ corresponding to the left and right boundary lines of T factor through the morphisms $I_n^L \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T_1)$ and $I_n^R \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T_2)$, respectively. In the present treatment, the line algebras are the cosections over a neighborhood of a boundary of the interval in question, the DGA morphisms above are corestrictions, and the pushout square reflects the cosheaf axiom.

Here we generalize the ideas of [54] to yield the following result:

Theorem 6.1 *Let $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R})$ be in preferred plat position. Then there is a constructible cosheaf of dg algebras $\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)$ over \mathbb{R} with global sections $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda)$.*

The sections $\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U)$ are all semifree, and we have a cosheaf in the strict sense that the underlying graded algebras already form a cosheaf.

We will prove this result over the course of this section, but first we interpret it and draw several corollaries.

The statement means the following. For each open set $U \subset \mathbb{R}$, there is a DGA $\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U)$. When $V \subset U$, there is a map (defined by counting disks) $\iota_{VU}: \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(V) \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U)$. For $W \subset V \subset U$, one has $\iota_{VU}\iota_{WV} = \iota_{WU}$. Finally, when $U = L \cup_V R$, one has a pushout in the category of DGAs,

$$\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U) = \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(L) \star_{\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(V)} \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(R).$$

Cosheaves are determined by their behavior on any base of the topology; to prove the theorem it suffices to give the sections and corestrictions for open intervals to open intervals and prove the cosheaf axiom for overlaps of intervals. We give a new construction of these sections, which is equivalent to that of [54] if we restrict to mod 2 coefficients.

Corollary 6.2 *Augmentations form a sheaf of sets over \mathbb{R}_x . That is,*

$$U \mapsto \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGA}}(\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U), \mathbb{k})$$

determines a sheaf.

Proof Given $U = L \cup_V R$, suppose we have augmentations $\epsilon_L: \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ and $\epsilon_R: \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(R) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ such that $\epsilon_L|_V = \epsilon_L \circ \iota_{VL}$ equals $\epsilon_R|_V = \epsilon_R \circ \iota_{VR}$ as augmentations of $\underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(V)$. By the pushout axiom above, there is a unique $\epsilon: \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ such that $\epsilon_L = \epsilon \circ \iota_{LU} = \epsilon|_L$ and $\epsilon_R = \epsilon \circ \iota_{RU} = \epsilon|_R$, verifying the gluing axiom. \square

Corollary 6.3 *Fix a global augmentation $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\Lambda) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$. This induces local augmentations $\epsilon|_U: \underline{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda)(U) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$, which determine A_∞ -algebras $C^\epsilon(U)$. The corestriction maps of the DGA determine restriction maps of the $C^\epsilon(U)$, and the association $U \rightarrow C^\epsilon(U)$ is a sheaf of A_∞ -algebras.*

Proof This follows formally from Theorem 6.1 and Proposition 2.7. Note the statement is asserting the existence of A_∞ restriction morphisms and A_∞ pushouts. \square

One of our definitions of the augmentation category of Λ proceeded by first forming a front projection m -copy Λ^m and then using the corresponding C^ϵ to define and compose homs. Exactly the same construction can be made for a restriction $\Lambda|_{J^1(U)}$ for $U \subset \mathbb{R}$. We note that since we work with the front projection rather than the Lagrangian projection, we do not have to choose perturbations of $\Lambda|_{J^1(U)}$. We also do not require $\Lambda|_{J^1(U)}$ to contain any basepoints.

Corollary 6.4 *There exists a presheaf of A_∞ -categories $\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ with global sections $Aug_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$, given by sending U to the augmentation category of $\Lambda|_{J^1(U)}$. Denoting by $\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})^\sim$ its sheafification, the map*

$$\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})(U) \rightarrow \underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})^\sim(U)$$

is fully faithful for all U .

Proof This follows formally from Corollary 6.2 and from applying Corollary 6.3 to the front projection m -copy for each m . □

Remark 6.5 The presheaf of categories $\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ need *not* be a sheaf of categories. That is, the map $\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})(U) \rightarrow \underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})^\sim(U)$ need not be essentially surjective. In fact, it never will be unless Λ carries enough basepoints. This may seem strange given Corollary 6.2, but the point is that objects of a fiber product of categories $\mathcal{B} \times_{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{D}$ are not the fiber product of the sets of objects, ie not pairs (b, d) such that $b|_{\mathcal{C}} = d|_{\mathcal{C}}$, but instead triples (b, d, ϕ) where $\phi: b|_{\mathcal{C}} \cong d|_{\mathcal{C}}$ is an isomorphism in \mathcal{C} . The objects of the more naive product, where ϕ is required to be the identity, will suffice under the condition that the map $\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ has the “isomorphism lifting property”, ie that any isomorphism $\phi(b) \sim c'$ in \mathcal{C} lifts to an isomorphism $b \sim b'$ in \mathcal{B} . We will ultimately show that this holds for restriction to the left when Λ has basepoints at all the right cusps, and conclude in this case that $\underline{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mathbb{k})$ is a sheaf.

We now turn to proving Theorem 6.1. Let $U \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an open interval, and $T \subset J^1(U)$ be a Legendrian tangle transverse to $\partial J^1(U)$. We will assume that T is oriented, that its front projection is generic and equipped with a Maslov potential μ such that two strands are oriented in the same direction as they cross $\partial J^1(U)$ if and only if their Maslov potentials agree mod 2. Suppose that T also has $k \geq 0$ basepoints, labeled $*_{\alpha_1}, *_{\alpha_2}, \dots, *_{\alpha_k}$ for distinct positive integers α_j .

We require that any right cusps in T abut the unbounded region of T containing all points with $z \ll 0$, which can be arranged by Reidemeister II moves, but which will

certainly be the case if T comes from a preferred plat. We will let n_L and n_R denote the number of endpoints on the left and right sides of T , respectively.

Definition 6.6 The graded algebra $\mathcal{A}(T)$ is freely generated over \mathbb{Z} by the following elements:

- Pairs of left endpoints, denoted by a_{ij} for $1 \leq i < j \leq n_L$.
- Crossings and right cusps of T .
- A pair of elements $t_{\alpha_j}^{\pm 1}$ for each j , with $t_{\alpha_j} \cdot t_{\alpha_j}^{-1} = t_{\alpha_j}^{-1} \cdot t_{\alpha_j} = 1$.

These have gradings $|c| = \mu(s_{\text{over}}) - \mu(s_{\text{under}})$ for crossings, 1 for right cusps and 0 for $t_{\alpha_j}^{\pm 1}$, and $|a_{ij}| = \mu(i) - \mu(j) - 1$. We take the Maslov potential μ to be $\mathbb{Z}/2r$ -valued for some integer r , which may be zero; if T comes from a Legendrian link Λ , as in [Theorem 6.1](#), then we will generally take r to be the gcd of the rotation numbers of the components of Λ .

The differential ∂ is given on the t_{α_j} by $\partial(t_{\alpha_j}^{\pm 1}) = 0$ and on the a_{ij} by

$$\partial a_{ij} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}|+1} a_{ik} a_{kj}.$$

For crossings and right cusps, we define ∂c in terms of the set $\Delta(c; b_1, \dots, b_l)$, which consists of embeddings

$$u: (D_l^2, \partial D_l^2) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, \pi_{xz}(T))$$

of a boundary-punctured disk $D_l^2 = D^2 \setminus \{p, q_1, \dots, q_l\}$ up to reparametrization. These maps must satisfy $u(p) = c$; $u(q_i)$ is a crossing for each i , except that we can also allow the image $u(D_l^2)$ to limit to the segment $[i, j]$ of the left boundary of T between points $i < j$ at a single puncture q_k , and the x -coordinate on $\overline{u(D_l^2)}$ has a unique local maximum at c and local minima precisely along $[i, j]$ if it occurs in the image, or at a single left cusp otherwise. For each such embedding we define $w(u)$ to be the product, in counterclockwise order from c along the boundary of $\overline{u(D_l^2)}$, of the following terms:

- c_j or $(-1)^{|c_j|+1} c_j$ at a corner c_j , depending on whether the disk occupies the top or bottom quadrant near c_j ;
- t_j or t_j^{-1} at a basepoint $*_j$, depending on whether the orientation of $u(\partial D_l^2)$ agrees or disagrees with that of T near $*_j$;
- a_{ij} at the segment $[i, j]$ of the left boundary of T .

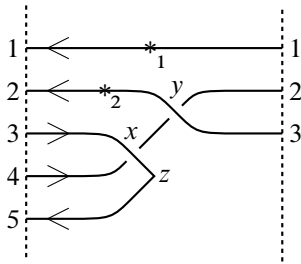


Figure 11: An example of a bordered front T .

We then define $\partial c = \sum_u w(u)$, and note that if c is a right cusp then this also includes an “invisible” disk u with $w(u) = 1$ or $t_j^{\pm 1}$ depending on whether there is a basepoint $*_j$ at the cusp.

We remark that the differential ∂ on $\mathcal{A}(T)$ is defined exactly as in the usual link DGA from Section 2.2, except that we enlarge the collection $\Delta(c; b_1, \dots, b_l)$ of disks by also allowing the x -coordinate of a disk to have local minima along some segment $[i, j]$ of the left boundary of T , in which case it contributes a factor of a_{ij} , rather than at a left cusp.

Example 6.7 The oriented front T in Figure 11 has differential

$$\begin{aligned} \partial x &= a_{34}, & \partial a_{13} &= a_{12}a_{24}, & \partial a_{14} &= a_{12}a_{24} - a_{13}a_{34}, \\ \partial y &= t_2a_{24} + t_2a_{23}x, & \partial a_{24} &= -a_{23}a_{34}, & \partial a_{25} &= -a_{23}a_{35} - a_{24}a_{45}, \\ \partial z &= 1 + a_{35} - xa_{45}, & \partial a_{35} &= a_{34}a_{45}, & \partial a_{15} &= a_{12}a_{25} - a_{13}a_{35} - a_{14}a_{45} \end{aligned}$$

and $\partial a_{i,i+1} = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq 4$. Note that the orientation suffices to determine the signs, since $(-1)^{|c|+1} = -1$ (resp. $(-1)^{|a_{ij}|+1} = 1$) if and only if both strands through c (resp. through points i and j on the left boundary of T) have the same orientation from left to right or vice versa.

Proposition 6.8 The differential ∂ on $\mathcal{A}(T)$ has degree -1 and satisfies $\partial^2 = 0$.

Proof The claim that $\deg(\partial) = -1$ is proved exactly as in [54]. In order to prove $\partial^2 = 0$, we will embed T in a simple (in the sense of [45]) front diagram for some closed, oriented Legendrian link L so that $(\mathcal{A}(T), \partial)$ is a sub-DGA of $(\mathcal{A}(L), \partial)$, and then observe that we already know that $\partial^2 = 0$ in $\mathcal{A}(L)$.

Figure 12 illustrates the construction of L . We glue the n_L -copy of a left cusp to the left edge of T , attaching the top n_L endpoints to T , and similarly we glue the

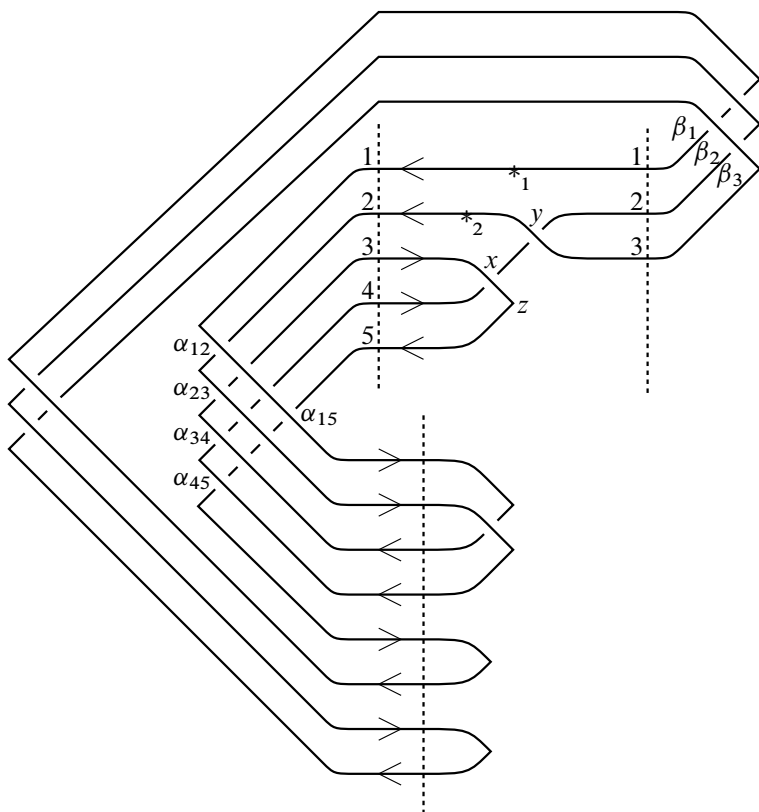


Figure 12: Embedding the bordered front T in a simple front diagram of a closed link.

n_R –copy of a right cusp to the right edge of T along the bottom n_R endpoints. We then attach the n_R –copy of a left cusp, placed to the left of this diagram, by gluing its top n_R endpoints to those of the n_R –copy of the right cusp, as shown in the figure; the resulting tangle diagram has $n_L + n_R$ points on its boundary, which is represented as the dotted line at the bottom, and it is an easy exercise to check that the tangle is oriented to the left at as many endpoints as to the right. Thus we can add some crossings and right cusps to the tangle in any way at all, as long as they intersect the tangle diagram exactly at its endpoints and the resulting link diagram is simple, to produce the desired front for the link L . Since T embeds in L as an oriented tangle, its Maslov potential $\mu \bmod 2$ extends to a potential $\tilde{\mu}$ on the front diagram for L .

The n_L –copy of the left cusp which was glued to the left end of T has $\binom{n_L}{2}$ crossings; we will let α_{ij} denote the crossing between the strands connected to points i and j

on the left boundary of T . Then $|\alpha_{ij}| = \tilde{\mu}(i) - \tilde{\mu}(j) - 1$ since the overcrossing strand has potential $\tilde{\mu}(i) - 1$, so $|\alpha_{ij}| \equiv |a_{ij}| \pmod{2}$ and thus we verify that

$$\partial \alpha_{ij} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}|+1} \alpha_{ik} \alpha_{kj}.$$

Moreover, given a right cusp or crossing c of T , any $u \in \Delta(c; b_1, \dots, b_l)$ which intersected this left boundary between points i and j now extends in L to a unique disk with the same corners as before, except that the puncture along the dividing line is replaced by a corner filling the top quadrant at α_{ij} . Thus the differentials $\partial_{\mathcal{A}(L)} \alpha_{ij}$ and $\partial_{\mathcal{A}(L)} c$ are identical to $\partial_{\mathcal{A}(T)}(a_{ij})$ and $\partial_{\mathcal{A}(T)}(c)$, except that we have replaced each a_{ij} with α_{ij} , and this identifies $\mathcal{A}(T)$ as a sub-DGA of $\mathcal{A}(L)$ (after potentially reducing the gradings mod 2) as desired. \square

Remark 6.9 A particularly important special case occurs when T contains no crossings, cusps or basepoints at all, ie T consists merely of n horizontal strands. The resulting algebra is termed the *line algebra*, and denoted by I_n or $I_n(\mu)$ to emphasize the dependence of the grading on the Maslov potential. It is generated freely over \mathbb{Z} by $\binom{n}{2}$ elements a_{ij} , where $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, with grading $|a_{ij}| = \mu(i) - \mu(j) - 1$ and differential

$$\partial a_{ij} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}|+1} a_{ik} a_{kj} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{\mu(i)-\mu(k)} a_{ik} a_{kj}.$$

If $V \subset U$ is an open interval, $T|_V := T|_{J^1(V)}$ retains the properties assumed above of T , and moreover inherits a Maslov potential. Thus there is an algebra $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$. It admits maps to $\mathcal{A}(T)$, as we explain:

Lemma 6.10 *Let $V \subset U$ be an open interval extending to the left boundary of U . Then $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ is naturally a sub-DGA of $\mathcal{A}(T)$.*

Proof The generators of $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ are a subset of the generators of $\mathcal{A}(T)$, and the differential only counts disks extending to the left, so the differential of any generator of $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ will be the same whether computed in V or in U . \square

In fact, there is a similar map for any subinterval. It is defined as follows. Let $V \subset U$ be a subinterval. Then the map $\iota_{VU}: \mathcal{A}(T|_V) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ takes the generators in $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ naming crossings, cusps and basepoints in $T|_V$ to the corresponding generators of $\mathcal{A}(T)$. The action on the pair-of-left-endpoint generators of $\mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ — denoted

by b_{ij} to avoid confusion — is however nontrivial: $\iota_{VU}(b_{ij})$ counts disks extending from the left boundary of V to the left boundary of U , meeting the boundary of V exactly along the interval named by b_{ij} .

More precisely, we define a set of disks $\Delta(b_{ij}; c_1, \dots, c_l)$ to consist of embeddings

$$u \colon (D_l^2, \partial D_l^2) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, \pi_{xz}(T))$$

which limit at the puncture $p \in \partial D^2$ to the segment of the left boundary of V between points i and j , and which otherwise satisfy the same conditions as the embeddings of disks used to define the differential on $\mathcal{A}(T)$ for crossings. We then define ι_{VU} for the generator b_{ij} by

$$\iota_{VU}(b_{ij}) = \sum_{u \in \Delta(b_{ij}; c_1, \dots, c_l)} w(u).$$

Example 6.11 For the front in Figure 11, let $V \subset U$ denote a small open interval of the right endpoint of U , so that $T|_V$ has no crossings, cusps or basepoints and $\mathcal{A}(T|_V) = I_3$. Then the morphism $\iota_{VU} \colon I_3 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ satisfies

$$\iota_{VU}(b_{12}) = t_1 a_{14} + t_1 a_{13} x + t_1 a_{12} t_2^{-1} y, \quad \iota_{VU}(b_{13}) = t_1 a_{12} t_2^{-1}, \quad \iota_{VU}(b_{23}) = 0.$$

Proposition 6.12 The above map $\iota_{VU} \colon \mathcal{A}(T|_V) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(T)$ is a morphism of DGAs.

Proof It is straightforward to check that $\iota_{VU}(b_{ij})$ has grading $|b_{ij}|$, exactly as in [54]. In order to prove that $\partial \circ \iota_{VU} = \iota_{VU} \circ \partial$ for each of the generators b_{ij} , we embed the leftmost region T_L of $T|_{U \setminus V}$ (ie everything to the left of V) in the closed link L shown in Figure 12, realizing $\mathcal{A}(T_L)$ as a sub-DGA of $\mathcal{A}(L)$ just as in the proof of Proposition 6.8. Let n_R denote the number of endpoints on the right side of T_L , or equivalently the number of left endpoints of $T|_V$. We identify the generator β_i of $\mathcal{A}(L)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n_R$ as the crossing or right cusp of L immediately to the right of T_L on the strand through point i . We note for the sake of determining signs that

$$|\beta_i| = (\tilde{\mu}(n_R) + 1) - \tilde{\mu}(i) \equiv \mu(i) - \mu(n_R) - 1 \pmod{2},$$

hence $(-1)^{|\beta_i| - |\beta_k|} = (-1)^{\mu(i) - \mu(k)} = (-1)^{|b_{ik}| + 1}.$

We will now show that $\partial(\iota_{VU}(b_{ij})) = \iota_{VU}(\partial b_{ij})$ follows from $\partial^2 \beta_j = 0$ for each $i < j$. We first compute

$$\partial \beta_j = \delta_{j, n_R} + \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} (-1)^{|\beta_k| + 1} \beta_k \iota_{VU}(b_{kj}),$$

and then applying ∂ again yields

$$\begin{aligned}\partial^2 \beta_j &= \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} (-1)^{|\beta_k|+1} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (-1)^{|\beta_i|+1} \beta_i \iota_{VU}(b_{ik}) \right) \iota_{VU}(b_{kj}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (-1)^{|\beta_k|} \beta_k \partial(\iota_{VU}(b_{kj})) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{j-2} \beta_i \left(\sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{|\beta_i| - |\beta_k|} \iota_{VU}(b_{ik}) \iota_{VU}(b_{kj}) \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} \beta_i \partial(\iota_{VU}(b_{ij})).\end{aligned}$$

Since this sum vanishes, so does the coefficient of β_i , which is equal to $\iota_{VU}(\partial b_{ij}) - \partial(\iota_{VU}(b_{ij}))$. We conclude that $\iota_{VU} \circ \partial = \partial \circ \iota_{VU}$ on the subalgebra generated by the b_{ij} .

It remains to be seen that $\iota_{VU}(\partial c) = \partial(\iota_{VU}(c))$, where $c \in \mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ is a generator corresponding to a crossing or right cusp of $T|_V$. But we compute $\iota_{VU}(\partial c)$ by taking all of the appropriate embedded disks in $T|_V$, some of which may limit at punctures to the segment of the left boundary of $T|_V$ between strands i and j , and replacing the corresponding b_{ij} with the expression $\iota_{VU}(b_{ij})$. The resulting expressions coming from all terms of ∂c with a b_{ij} factor count all of the embedded disks $u \in \Delta(c; b_1, \dots, b_l)$ in T which cross the left end of $T|_V$ along the interval between strands i and j . Summing over all i and j , as well as the terms with no b_{ij} factor corresponding to disks in $T|_V$ which never reach the left end of $T|_V$, we see that $\iota_{VU}(\partial c)$ counts exactly the same embedded disks in T as the expression $\partial(\iota_{VU}(c))$, hence the two are equal. \square

Finally, we check that the corestriction maps ι_{VU} satisfy the cosheaf axiom.

Theorem 6.13 *Let $U = L \cup_V R$, where L and R are connected open subsets of \mathbb{R} with nonempty intersection V . Then the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}\mathcal{A}(T|_V) & \xrightarrow{\iota_{VR}} & \mathcal{A}(T|_R) \\ \iota_{VL} \downarrow & & \downarrow \iota_{RU} \\ \mathcal{A}(T|_L) & \xrightarrow{\iota_{LU}} & \mathcal{A}(T)\end{array}$$

commutes and is a pushout square in the category of DGAs.

Proof The proof is exactly as in [54]. If $c \in \mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ is the generator corresponding to a crossing, cusp or basepoint of $T|_V$, then both $\iota_{LU}(\iota_{VL}(c))$ and $\iota_{RU}(\iota_{VR}(c))$

equal the analogous generator of $\mathcal{A}(T)$. Otherwise, if $b_{ij} \in \mathcal{A}(T|_V)$ is a pair-of-left-endpoints generator, then $\iota_{VR}(b_{ij})$ is the corresponding generator of $\mathcal{A}(T|_R)$, and if we view $\mathcal{A}(T|_L)$ as a subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}(T)$ as in [Lemma 6.10](#), then $\iota_{VL}(b_{ij})$ and $\iota_{RU}(\iota_{VR}(b_{ij}))$ are defined identically. Thus the diagram commutes.

Now suppose we have a commutative diagram of DGAs of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{A}(T|_V) & \xrightarrow{\iota_{VR}} & \mathcal{A}(T|_R) \\ \iota_{VL} \downarrow & & \downarrow f_R \\ \mathcal{A}(T|_L) & \xrightarrow{f_L} & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

where \mathcal{A} is some DGA. If $f: \mathcal{A}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a DGA morphism such that $f_L = f \circ \iota_{LU}$ and $f_R = f \circ \iota_{RU}$, then f is uniquely determined by f_L on the subalgebra $\mathcal{A}(T|_L) \subset \mathcal{A}(T)$, and since f_L is a DGA morphism, so is $f|_{\mathcal{A}(T|_L)}$. Any generator $c \in \mathcal{A}(T)$ which does not belong to $\mathcal{A}(T|_L)$ corresponds to a crossing, cusp or basepoint of $T|_R$, meaning that $c = \iota_{RU}(c')$ for some generator $c' \in \mathcal{A}(T|_R)$, so we must have $f(c) = f_R(c')$ and

$$\partial(f(c)) = \partial(f_R(c')) = f_R(\partial c') = f(\iota_{RU}(\partial c')) = f(\partial(\iota_{RU}(c'))) = f(\partial c)$$

since f_R and ι_{RU} are both chain maps. It is easy to check that this specifies f as a well-defined DGA morphism, and since it is unique we conclude that the diagram in the statement of this theorem is a pushout square. □

This completes the proof of [Theorem 6.1](#).

7 Augmentations are sheaves

It is known that some augmentations arise from geometry: given an exact symplectic filling (W, L) of (V, Λ) , we get an augmentation $\phi_{(W, L)}$ by sending each Reeb chord to the count of disks in (W, L) ending on that Reeb chord. But not all augmentations can arise in this way; see the introduction. It is natural to hope that more augmentations can be constructed by “filling Λ with an element of the derived category of the Fukaya category”, but making direct sense of this notion is difficult. Instead we will pass from the Fukaya category to an equivalent category $\mathrm{Sh}(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ introduced in [\[52\]](#): constructible sheaves on \mathbb{R}^2 whose singular support meets $T^\infty \mathbb{R}^2$ in some subset of $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3 = T^\infty, -\mathbb{R}^2 \subset T^\infty \mathbb{R}^2$, with coefficients in \mathbb{k} .

In this section we realize this hope, by identifying the subcategory $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \subset \text{Sh}(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ of “microlocal rank-one sheaves” having acyclic stalk when $z \ll 0$ — ie those corresponding to Lagrangian branes with rank-one bundles — with the category of augmentations.

Theorem 7.1 *Let Λ be a Legendrian knot or link whose front diagram is equipped with a \mathbb{Z} -graded Maslov potential μ . Let \mathbb{k} be a field. Then there is an A_∞ -equivalence of categories*

$$\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}).$$

Remark 7.2 As defined in [Section 4](#), the augmentation category $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ depends on a choice of Maslov potential μ on Λ , but we have suppressed μ in the notation up to now. If Λ is a single-component knot, then both categories in [Theorem 7.1](#) are independent of the choice of μ .

Remark 7.3 More generally, one can consider Λ equipped with a (\mathbb{Z}/m) -graded Maslov potential where $m \mid 2r(\Lambda)$, and define the category of (\mathbb{Z}/m) -graded augmentations; see [Remark 4.4](#). There is a corresponding category of sheaves for m -periodic complexes, and we expect that the equivalence in [Theorem 7.1](#) would continue to hold in this more general setting, with proof along similar lines. However, in this paper, we restrict ourselves to the case of \mathbb{Z} -graded Maslov potential; in particular, Λ must have rotation number 0.

Sketch of proof of Theorem 7.1 (A detailed version occupies this entire section.) As both the augmentation category and the sheaf category are known to transform by equivalences when the knot is altered by Hamiltonian isotopy (from [Theorem 4.20](#) and [\[52\]](#), respectively), we may put the knot in any desired form. Thus we take Λ to be given by a front diagram in plat position, say with n left cusps and n right cusps. We stratify the x line so that above each open interval, the front diagram above them contains only one interesting feature of the knot. That is, the picture above this interval must be one of the four possibilities shown in [Figure 13](#).

To facilitate the proof we introduce in [Section 7.1](#) yet a third category, MC. It is a categorical formulation of the Morse complex sequences of Henry [\[26\]](#). We define it locally, so it is by construction a sheaf on the x -line. It is a dg category, and significantly simpler than either the augmentation category or the sheaf category.

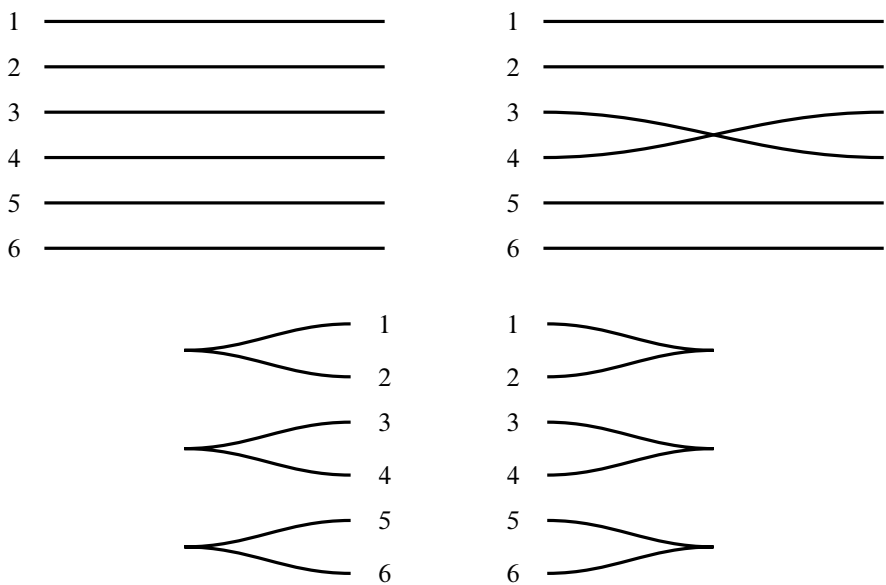


Figure 13: Front diagrams for an n -strand knot, $n = 6$. Clockwise from the upper left: n -lines \equiv_n , crossing $k \overline{\times}$ (with $k = 3$), right cusps \succ and left cusps \prec . The numbers represent strand labels, not Maslov potential values.

In [Section 7.2](#) we calculate the local augmentation categories, and then define locally equivalences of A_∞ -categories $\mathfrak{h} \colon \mathcal{A}ug_+ \rightarrow \mathbf{MC}$. Then in [Section 7.3](#) we calculate the sheaf categories, and produce equivalences of sheaves of dg categories $\mathfrak{r} \colon \mathbf{MC} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1$.

Composing these functors and taking global sections, we learn that there is an equivalence $\mathcal{A}ug_+^\sim \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1$, where $\mathcal{A}ug_+^\sim$ is the global sections of the sheafification of the augmentation category. This has, a priori, more objects than $\mathcal{A}ug_+$. In fact this is already true for the unknot without basepoints—the sheaf category, hence $\mathcal{A}ug_+^\sim$, has an object, whereas $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ does not unless \mathbb{k} has characteristic 2 (see [Remark 5.9](#), where removing basepoints corresponds to setting $t = 1$). However, by checking the criterion of [Lemma 2.18](#) (by computing all local categories and restriction functors), we learn that when Λ has a basepoint at each right cusp, the augmentation category indeed forms a sheaf, giving the desired result.

A more explicit way to describe what is going on is the following. We split the front diagram of the knot into a union of pieces $T_L \cup T_{k_1} \cup \cdots \cup T_{k_m} \cup T_R$, where

- T_L consists of all n left cusps,

- each T_{k_i} contains n strands, with a single crossing between the k_i^{th} and $(k_i + 1)^{\text{st}}$ strands, and
- T_R consists of all n right cusps.

In each case we will determine the augmentation category of that piece, together with the relevant functors from it to the augmentation categories of the associated line algebras. These augmentation categories will form pullback squares dual to the diagram (6-1), so that the augmentation category of K can be recovered up to equivalence from this information. We do the same for the sheaf category, and match local pieces.

More precisely, we must prove a compatibility among the equivalences and restrictions. It suffices to establish for each triple of Maslov-graded bordered plats $(T, \mu_L) \rightarrow (\equiv, \mu) \leftarrow (T', \mu_R)$ the following diagram, commuting up to homotopies indicated by dotted lines:

(7-1)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Aug}_+(T, \mu_L) & \longrightarrow & \text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu) & \longleftarrow & \text{Aug}_+(T', \mu_R) \\ \downarrow \mathfrak{h} & & \downarrow \mathfrak{h} & & \downarrow \mathfrak{h} \\ \text{MC}(T, \mu_L) & \longrightarrow & \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu) & \longleftarrow & \text{MC}(T', \mu_R) \\ \uparrow \tau & & \uparrow \tau & & \uparrow \tau \\ \mathcal{C}_1(T, \mu_L) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}_1(\equiv, \mu) & \longleftarrow & \mathcal{C}_1(T', \mu_R) \end{array}$$

(Note the homotopy may be the zero map.) Here T will be either T_L or one of the T_{k_i} , while T' is either a T_{k_i} or T_R . Remember that each vertical line is an isomorphism. \square

7.1 The Morse complex category

We define a constructible sheaf of dg categories on the x -line, denoted by $\underline{\text{MC}}$, by sheafifying the following local descriptions. In this section “ μ ” should be viewed as providing fictional Morse indices. Throughout we work with a fixed ring \mathbb{k} .

7.1.1 Lines

Definition 7.4 For $\mu: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, we write μ for the free graded \mathbb{k} -module with basis $|1\rangle, \dots, |n\rangle$, where $\deg |i\rangle = -\mu(i)$, and decreasing filtration

$$^k\mu := \text{Span}(|n\rangle, \dots, |k + 1\rangle).$$

That is,

$$^0\mu = V, \quad ^1\mu = \text{Span}(|n\rangle, \dots, |2\rangle), \quad \dots, \quad ^{n-1}\mu = \text{Span}|n\rangle, \quad ^n\mu = 0.$$

Remark 7.5 (to be read only when referring back to this section from the sheaf category section) The correspondence to sheaves takes ${}^k\mu$ to the stalk on the k^{th} line.

Definition 7.6 Fix an integer n (the number of lines) and a function $\mu: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. We define $\text{MC}(\equiv; \mu)$ to be the dg category with:

- Objects: square-zero operators d on μ , which preserve the filtration on μ and are degree 1 with respect to the grading on μ .
- Morphisms: $\text{Hom}_{\text{MC}(\equiv; \mu)}(d, d')$ is $\text{Hom}_{\text{filt}}(\mu, \mu)$ as a graded vector space; ie it consists of the linear, filtration-preserving maps $\mu \rightarrow \mu$ and carries the usual grading of a Hom of graded vector spaces. Only its differential depends on d and d' , and is

$$D\phi = d' \circ \phi - (-1)^{|\phi|} \phi \circ d.$$

- Composition: usual composition of maps.

That is, we allow maps $|j\rangle\langle i|$ for $i \leq j$, ie lower triangular matrices, and

$$\deg |j\rangle\langle i| = \deg |j\rangle - \deg |i\rangle = \mu(i) - \mu(j)$$

and the differential is $D(|i\rangle\langle j|) = d'|i\rangle\langle j| - (-1)^{\mu(i)-\mu(j)}|i\rangle\langle j|d$.

Lemma 7.7 Assume $d \cong d' \in \text{MC}(\equiv; \mu)$. Then, for any k ,

- $\langle k+1|d|k\rangle = 0$ if and only if $\langle k+1|d'|k\rangle = 0$;
- $\langle k+1|d|k\rangle \in \mathbb{k}^*$ if and only if $\langle k+1|d'|k\rangle \in \mathbb{k}^*$.

Proof By assumption, we have $d = s^{-1}d's$ for some lower triangular matrix s . As d and d' are strictly lower triangular, we have

$$\langle k+1|d|k\rangle = \langle k+1|s^{-1}d's|k\rangle = \langle k+1|s^{-1}|k+1\rangle \cdot \langle k+1|d'|k\rangle \cdot \langle k|s|k\rangle$$

and $\langle k+1|s^{-1}|k+1\rangle, \langle k|s|k\rangle \in \mathbb{k}^*$ since s is invertible. □

Remark 7.8 Over a field, Barannikov has classified the isomorphism classes of Morse complexes: each has a unique representative whose matrix in the basis $|i\rangle$ at most one nonzero entry in each row and column, and moreover these are all 1's.

7.1.2 Crossings We now describe the Morse complex category $\text{MC}({}^k\overline{\sqcup}; \mu)$ associated to a crossing between the k^{th} and $(k+1)^{\text{st}}$ strands. It will be built from $\text{MC}(\equiv; \mu)$. To define it we first note some equivalences between conditions.

Lemma 7.9 *Let $d \in \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$, and $z \in \mathbb{k}$. We write*

$$\mu_R := \mu \circ (k, k+1): \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}.$$

We use $|i\rangle$ for the basis of μ , and $|i_R\rangle$ for the basis of μ_R . We identify these vector spaces by

$$|i_R\rangle = |i\rangle \quad \text{for } i \neq k, k+1, \quad |k_R\rangle = |k+1\rangle, \quad |k+1_R\rangle = |k\rangle + z|k+1\rangle.$$

Then the following are equivalent:

- *Under this identification, $d \in \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu_R)$.*
- *We have $z = 0$ unless $\mu(k) = \mu(k+1)$, and we have $\langle k+1|d|k\rangle = 0$.*

Proof The condition $d \in \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu_R)$ means that $\deg |j_R\rangle = -\mu_R(j)$ and that d preserves the decreasing filtration ${}^i\mu_R = \text{Span}(|n_R\rangle, \dots, |i+1_R\rangle)$. The first condition amounts to $z = 0$ unless $\mu(k) = \mu(k+1)$. As ${}^i\mu_R = \text{Span}(|n\rangle, \dots, |i+1\rangle) = {}^i\mu$ for $i \neq k$ but ${}^k\mu_R \neq {}^k\mu$, the second condition is equivalent to $\langle k_R|d|k+1_R\rangle = 0$. Changing basis and recalling that d has square zero, hence $\langle k+1|d|k+1\rangle = 0$, this is equivalent to $\langle k+1|d|k\rangle = 0$. \square

Lemma 7.10 *Let (d, z) and (d', z') satisfy the conditions of [Lemma 7.9](#), and let $\xi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{MC}(\equiv; \mu)}(d, d')$, ie it is a filtration-preserving linear map $\xi: \mu \rightarrow \mu$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- *The map ξ preserves the filtration on μ_R .*
- *$\xi|k+1_R\rangle \in \text{Span}(|n'_R\rangle, \dots, |k+1'_R\rangle)$.*
- *$\langle k+1|\xi|k\rangle = z'\langle k|\xi|k\rangle - z\langle k+1|\xi|k+1\rangle$.*

Proof The first and second are equivalent since by assumption ξ already preserves the filtration on μ , hence all but possibly one of the steps of the filtration of μ_R . To check whether this step is preserved, we need to check $(z'\langle k| - \langle k+1|\xi(|k\rangle + z|k+1\rangle)) = 0$; the fact that $\langle k|\xi|k+1\rangle$ vanishes shows the equivalence of the second and third conditions. \square

Definition 7.11 Fix an integer n (the number of lines), and a function $\mu: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ as before. We write $\mathrm{MC}({}^k\overline{\Sigma}; \mu)$ for the dg category whose objects are pairs (d, z) for $d \in \mathrm{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ and $z \in \mathbb{k}$, satisfying the equivalent conditions of [Lemma 7.9](#), and whose morphisms are those morphisms in $\mathrm{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ which satisfy the equivalent conditions of [Lemma 7.10](#). The composition and differential are the restrictions of those of $\mathrm{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$.

Definition 7.12 There is an evident forgetful dg functor

$$\rho_L: \mathrm{MC}({}^k\overline{\Sigma}; \mu) \rightarrow \mathrm{MC}(\equiv; \mu), \quad (d, z) \mapsto d.$$

We define this to be the restriction map to the left.

Recall $\mu_R := \mu \circ (k, k+1)$, and the element z gives an identification $\theta_z: \mu \rightarrow \mu_R$. Essentially by definition, we also have a dg functor which on objects is

$$\rho_R: \mathrm{MC}({}^k\overline{\Sigma}; \mu) \rightarrow \mathrm{MC}(\equiv; \mu_R), \quad (d, z) \mapsto \theta_z \circ d \circ \theta_z^{-1},$$

and on morphisms is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_R: \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{MC}({}^k\overline{\Sigma}; \mu)}((d, z), (d', z')) &\rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{MC}(\equiv; \mu)}(\theta_z \circ d \circ \theta_z^{-1}, \theta_{z'} \circ d' \circ \theta_{z'}^{-1}), \\ \xi &\mapsto \theta_{z'} \circ \xi \circ \theta_z^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

We define this to be the restriction map to the right.

Remark 7.13 Both restrictions are injective on homs at the chain level, but of course need not be injective on homs after passing to cohomology.

Proposition 7.14 Every object in $\mathrm{MC}(\equiv; \mu)$ isomorphic to an object in the image of ρ_L is already in the image of ρ_L . Similarly, every object in $\mathrm{MC}(\equiv; \mu_R)$ isomorphic to an object in the image of ρ_R is already in the image of ρ_R .

Proof Objects in the image are characterized by $\langle k+1 | d | k \rangle = 0$; by [Lemma 7.7](#) this is a union of isomorphism classes. □

7.1.3 Cusps Let “ \succ ” denote a front diagram with n right cusps. Near the left, it is $2n$ horizontal lines, which we number $1, 2, \dots, 2n$ from top to bottom, and each pair $(2k-1, 2k)$ is connected by a right cusp. We fix a function $\mu: \{1, \dots, 2n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\mu(2k) + 1 = \mu(2k-1)$.

Definition 7.15 The category $\text{MC}(\succ, \mu)$ is the full subcategory of $\text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ on objects d such that $\langle 2k-1|d|2k \rangle \in \mathbb{k}^*$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$. The left restriction map $\rho_L: \text{MC}(\succ, \mu) \rightarrow \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ is just the inclusion.

Proposition 7.16 All objects in $\text{MC}(\succ; \mu)$ are isomorphic.

Proof Let $d \in \text{MC}(\succ; \mu)$; we will show it is isomorphic to $d_0 = \sum |2k\rangle\langle 2k-1|$. Note that to do so means to give an invertible degree zero lower triangular matrix u such that $d_0 u = u d$. We take $u := d_0 d_0^T + d_0^T d$, so that, since $d^2 = d_0^2 = 0$, we have

$$d_0 u = d_0(d_0 d_0^T + d_0^T d) = d_0 d_0^T d = (d_0 d_0^T + d_0^T d)d = u d.$$

Moreover, u has degree zero since $\deg x^T = -\deg x$, and also u is lower triangular since d and d_0 are strictly lower triangular and d_0^T has entries only on the first diagonal above the main diagonal. Finally, u is invertible since its diagonal entries are either 1's or the $\langle 2k-1|d|2k \rangle$, which are invertible by definition. \square

Similarly, for a diagram of left cusps, we define:

Definition 7.17 The category $\text{MC}(\prec, \mu)$ is the full subcategory of $\text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ on objects d such that $\langle 2k-1|d|2k \rangle \in \mathbb{k}^*$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$. The right restriction map $\rho_R: \text{MC}(\prec, \mu) \rightarrow \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ is just the inclusion.

Proposition 7.18 All objects in $\text{MC}(\prec, \mu)$ are isomorphic.

7.1.4 Sheafifying the Morse complex category We note that, comparing [Lemma 7.7](#) to the characterizations of the image maps on the crossing and cusp categories, the condition of [Lemma 2.18](#) is satisfied. Thus, we can discuss sections of the sheaf of Morse complex categories naively.

7.2 Local calculations in the augmentation category

In this section, we determine the local augmentation categories for the line, crossing, left cusp and right cusp diagrams. We define the isomorphisms \mathfrak{h} to the corresponding local categories of MC and study the compatibility with left and right restriction functors to \equiv , as in the diagram [\(7-1\)](#). We conclude by proving that the presheaf of $\underline{\text{Aug}}_+(\Lambda)$ is a sheaf when Λ is a front diagram with basepoints at all right cusps.

Notation 7.19 Recall that if $\mathcal{A}(T)$ is the Chekanov–Eliashberg algebra of a tangle T , and $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2: \mathcal{A}(T) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ are two augmentations, then $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is generated by symbols dual to the names of certain Reeb chords in the 2–copy, specifically those chords from T (viewed as carrying ϵ_2) to its pushoff in the positive Reeb direction (viewed as carrying ϵ_1).

Thus, if x is a Reeb chord of T itself, it gives rise to a “long” chord x^{12} in the 2–copy, and a corresponding generator $x^{12} \in \mathcal{A}(T^2)$. There will however be additional “short” chords y^{12} in the 2–copy, and corresponding generators $y^{12} \in \mathcal{A}(T^2)$. Recall from [Convention 4.25](#) that we write their duals in $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ as $x^+ := (x^{12})^\vee$ and $y^+ := (y^{12})^\vee$ with $|x^+| = |x| + 1$ and $|y^+| = |y| + 1$.

Remark 7.20 We will find that applying the differential to any generator of any of the local DGAs gives a sum of monomials of word length at most 2. It follows that all higher compositions m_k in the respective augmentation categories will vanish for $k \geq 3$ — that is, all the categories will in fact be dg categories. The A_∞ behavior, from this point of view, comes entirely from the right restriction map on the crossing category, $\rho_R: \text{Aug}_+(^k \overline{\times}, \mu) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu)$, which is an A_∞ – but not a dg morphism, ie it does not respect composition on the nose, but only up to homotopy — see [Theorem 7.27](#).

7.2.1 Lines We write \equiv_n or just \equiv for the front diagram consisting of n horizontal lines, numbered $1, \dots, n$ from top to bottom. (See [Figure 13](#), upper left.) Fix a Maslov potential $\mu: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. The algebra $\mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu)$ of this tangle is freely generated by $\binom{n}{2}$ elements a_{ij} , where $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, with $|a_{ij}| = \mu(i) - \mu(j) - 1$ and

$$\partial a_{ij} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{\mu(i) - \mu(k)} a_{ik} a_{kj} = \sum_{i < k < j} (-1)^{\mu(i)} a_{ik} \cdot (-1)^{\mu(k)} a_{kj}.$$

Throughout this section we will let $(-1)^\mu$ denote the matrix

$$\text{diag}((-1)^{\mu(1)}, (-1)^{\mu(2)}, \dots, (-1)^{\mu(n)}).$$

Package the generators into a strictly upper triangular matrix

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_{12} & a_{13} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{23} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{n-1,n} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \sum_{i < j} a_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j|.$$

Then

$$\partial A = (-1)^\mu A (-1)^\mu A.$$

Theorem 7.21 *There is a (strict) isomorphism of dg categories*

$$\mathfrak{h}: \mathcal{A}ug_+(\equiv, \mu) \rightarrow \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu).$$

It is given on objects by

$$[\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}] \mapsto [d = (-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T: \mu \rightarrow \mu]$$

and on morphisms $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}ug_+}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{MC}}(d_1, d_2)$ by

$$a_{ij}^+ \mapsto (-1)^{(\mu(i)+1)\mu(j)+1} |j\rangle\langle i|.$$

In other words:

- ϵ is an augmentation if and only if $(-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T$ is a degree one, square zero, filtration-preserving operator on μ .
- For the i and j for which there's an element $a_{ij}^+ \in \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$, the operator $|j\rangle\langle i|$ preserves the filtration on μ , and this induces an isomorphism on underlying spaces of morphisms.
- Degrees are preserved:

$$\deg a_{ij}^+ = \mu(i) - \mu(j) = \deg(|j\rangle\langle i|).$$

- The differential is preserved: $\mathfrak{h} \circ \mu_1 = d \circ \mathfrak{h}$, where

$$d(|j\rangle\langle i|) = ((-1)^\mu \epsilon_2(A)^T) |j\rangle\langle i| - (-1)^{\mu(i)-\mu(j)} |j\rangle\langle i| ((-1)^\mu \epsilon_1(A)^T).$$

- The composition is preserved, ie the only nonvanishing compositions are

$$m_2(a_{kj}^+, a_{ik}^+) = (-1)^{|a_{kj}^+||a_{ik}^+|+1} a_{ij}^+$$

compatibly with

$$|j\rangle\langle k| \circ |k\rangle\langle i| = |j\rangle\langle i|.$$

Proof First we show that the map makes sense on objects, ie a map $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ is an augmentation if and only if $(-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T$ is a filtered degree 1 derivation on μ . As $\epsilon(A)$ is upper triangular, its transpose is lower triangular, hence preserves the filtration on μ . The term $(-1)^{\mu(j)} a_{ij} |j\rangle\langle i|$ contributes to $(-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T$ only if $|a_{ij}| = \mu(i) - \mu(j) - 1 = 0$, ie only if $\deg |j\rangle\langle i| = \mu(i) - \mu(j) = 1$, so $(-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T$ is degree 1. Finally, the condition $\epsilon \circ \partial = 0$ translates directly into $\epsilon((-1)^\mu A (-1)^\mu A) = ((-1)^\mu \epsilon(A))^2 = 0$, hence $((-1)^\mu \epsilon(A)^T)^2 = 0$.

Given two augmentations $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2\colon \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$, we compute $\mathrm{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ by first building the two-copy, whose algebra we denote by $\mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu)$. Its generator a_{ij}^{rs} represents a segment *to* the r^{th} copy of point i *from* the s^{th} copy of point j ($1 \leq r, s \leq 2$); here we must have either $i < j$ or $i = j$ and $r < s$. There are $\binom{2n}{2}$ such generators.

The Hom space is free on the generators a_{ij}^+ , dual to the a_{ij}^{12} and of degree

$$|a_{ij}^+| = |a_{ij}^{12}| + 1 = \mu(i) - \mu(j).$$

Since $i \leq j$, the image $|j\rangle\langle i|$ of a_{ij}^+ is lower triangular and hence preserves the filtration on μ , so Φ is well defined and an isomorphism of underlying spaces. The grading of $|j\rangle\langle i|$ as an endomorphism of μ is $\deg |j\rangle - \deg |i\rangle = \mu(i) - \mu(j) = \deg a_{ij}^+$, so Φ is a graded map.

The differential on the Hom space is given, according to (3-1), by the formula

$$m_1(a_{ij}^+) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{R}} \alpha^+ \cdot \mathrm{Coeff}_{a_{ij}^{12}}(\partial_\epsilon \alpha).$$

Here, $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ is the pure augmentation of $\mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu)$ defined by $\epsilon(a_{ij}^{11}) = \epsilon_1(a_{ij})$ and $\epsilon(a_{ij}^{22}) = \epsilon_2(a_{ij})$ for $i < j$, and $\epsilon(a_{ij}^{rs}) = 0$ otherwise.

For any generator a_{ij}^{12} of I_n^2 with $i \leq j$, we have

$$\partial a_{ij}^{12} = \sum_{i < k \leq j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{11}|+1} a_{ik}^{11} a_{kj}^{12} + \sum_{i \leq k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{12}|+1} a_{ik}^{12} a_{kj}^{22}$$

and since $\epsilon(a_{kj}^{12}) = \epsilon(a_{ik}^{12}) = 0$, keeping only linear terms in the twisted differential, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [\text{linear part}] \partial_\epsilon(a_{ij}^{12}) \\ &= \sum_{i < k \leq j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{11}|+1} \epsilon_1(a_{ik}) a_{kj}^{12} + \sum_{i \leq k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{12}|+1} a_{ik}^{12} \epsilon_2(a_{kj}) \\ &= \sum_{i < k \leq j} (-1)^{\mu(i)} \epsilon_1(a_{ik}) (-1)^{\mu(k)} \cdot a_{kj}^{12} + \sum_{i \leq k < j} (-1)^{\mu(i)} a_{ik}^{12} (-1)^{\mu(k)} \cdot \epsilon_2(a_{kj}). \end{aligned}$$

Packaging these generators into

$$A^{[12]} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}^{12} & a_{12}^{12} & a_{13}^{12} & \cdots & a_{1n}^{12} \\ 0 & a_{22}^{12} & a_{23}^{12} & \cdots & a_{2n}^{12} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{n-1,n}^{12} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn}^{12} \end{bmatrix}$$

this equation reads simply

$$[\text{linear part}] \partial_{\epsilon} A^{[12]} = (-1)^{\mu} \epsilon_1(A) (-1)^{\mu} A^{[12]} + (-1)^{\mu} A^{[12]} (-1)^{\mu} \epsilon_2(A).$$

We however want to compute m_1 . This is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (7-2) \quad m_1(a_{rs}^+) &= \sum_{i < r} (-1)^{\mu(i)} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) (-1)^{\mu(r)} a_{is}^+ + \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) (-1)^{\mu(r)+\mu(s)} a_{rj}^+ \\ &= - \sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) a_{is}^+ + (-1)^{\mu(r)+\mu(s)} \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) a_{rj}^+. \end{aligned}$$

By comparison, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(|s\rangle\langle r|) &= ((-1)^{\mu} \epsilon_2(A)^T) |s\rangle\langle r| - (-1)^{\mu(r)-\mu(s)} |s\rangle\langle r| ((-1)^{\mu} \epsilon_1(A)^T) \\ &= \left(\sum_{i < j} (-1)^{\mu(j)} \epsilon_2(a_{ij}) |j\rangle\langle i| \right) |s\rangle\langle r| \\ &\quad - (-1)^{\mu(r)-\mu(s)} |s\rangle\langle r| \left(\sum_{i < j} (-1)^{\mu(j)} \epsilon_1(a_{ij}) |j\rangle\langle i| \right) \\ &= \sum_{s < j} (-1)^{\mu(j)} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) |j\rangle\langle r| - (-1)^{\mu(s)} \sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) |s\rangle\langle i| \\ &= (-1)^{\mu(s)+1} \left(\sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) |s\rangle\langle i| + \sum_{j > s} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) |j\rangle\langle r| \right) \end{aligned}$$

since $(-1)^{\mu(j)} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) = 0$ unless $\mu(s) - \mu(j) = 1$. Multiplying both sides by $(-1)^{(\mu(r)+1)\mu(s)+1}$ and recalling that $\epsilon_1(a_{ir}) = 0$ (resp. $\epsilon_2(a_{sj}) = 0$) unless $\mu(i) = \mu(r) + 1$ (resp. $\mu(s) = \mu(j) + 1$), we have

$$\begin{aligned} d((-1)^{(\mu(r)+1)\mu(s)+1} |s\rangle\langle r|) &= (-1)^{\mu(r)\mu(s)} \left(\sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) |s\rangle\langle i| + \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) |j\rangle\langle r| \right) \\ &= \sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) ((-1)^{(\mu(i)+1)\mu(s)} |s\rangle\langle i|) + \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) ((-1)^{(\mu(j)+1)\mu(r)} |j\rangle\langle r|) \\ &= - \sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) ((-1)^{(\mu(i)+1)\mu(s)+1} |s\rangle\langle i|) \\ &\quad + (-1)^{\mu(r)+\mu(s)} \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) ((-1)^{(\mu(r)+1)\mu(j)+1} |j\rangle\langle r|). \end{aligned}$$

So \mathfrak{h} commutes with the differential on Hom spaces. It remains to show that \mathfrak{h} commutes with the composition.

We consider the algebra $\mathcal{A}^3(\equiv, \mu)$ associated to the 3-copy. This is generated by elements $a_{ij}^{r,s}$ as before, but now we have $1 \leq r, s \leq 3$; in particular, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \partial a_{ij}^{13} = & \sum_{i < k \leq j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{11}|+1} a_{ik}^{11} a_{kj}^{13} + \sum_{i \leq k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{12}|+1} a_{ik}^{12} a_{kj}^{23} \\ & + \sum_{i \leq k < j} (-1)^{|a_{ik}^{13}|+1} a_{ik}^{13} a_{kj}^{33}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the differential contains only quadratic terms, the quadratic term of its linearization is the same as the original quadratic term. Only terms of the form $(-1)^{|a_{ik}^{12}|+1} a_{ik}^{12} a_{kj}^{23}$ contribute to m_2 . Each of these terms can only appear in the differential of a single generator of the form a_{ij}^{13} .

By (3-1),

$$m_2(a_{kj}^+, a_{ik}^+) = (-1)^{|a_{kj}^+|+|a_{ik}^+|+1} \cdot (-1)^{\mu(i)-\mu(k)} a_{ij}^+ = (-1)^{|a_{kj}^+|+|a_{ik}^+|+1} a_{ij}^+.$$

If $k \neq k'$, the term $a_{k'j}^{23} a_{ik}^{12}$ does not appear in the differential of any generator of $\mathcal{A}^3(\equiv, \mu)$. It follows then that $m_2(a_{k'j}^+, a_{ik}^+) = 0$. That is,

$$m_2: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_3)$$

is given by the formula

$$a_{kj}^+ \otimes a_{ik}^+ \mapsto (-1)^{|a_{kj}^+|+|a_{ik}^+|+1} a_{ij}^+.$$

This is compatible with composition in $\text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)$ once one checks that the signs are correct, which amounts to verifying the identity

$$\begin{aligned} & [(\mu(k) + 1)\mu(j) + 1] + [(\mu(i) + 1)\mu(k) + 1] \\ & \equiv [(\mu(k) - \mu(j))(\mu(i) - \mu(k)) + 1] + [(\mu(i) + 1)\mu(j) + 1] \end{aligned}$$

modulo 2. Finally, as the differentials of all m -copy algebras have no cubic or higher terms, all higher compositions vanish. \square

7.2.2 Crossings Let the symbol ${}^k \underline{\times}$ denote a bordered plat consisting of n strands, numbered from 1 at the top to n at the bottom along the left, with a single crossing between strands k and $k + 1$. (See Figure 13, upper right.) Fix a Maslov potential μ . We write $\mathcal{A}({}^k \underline{\times}, \mu)$ for the Chekanov–Eliashberg DGA of this tangle with Maslov potential μ .

We will write μ_L and μ_R for the induced Maslov potentials along the left and right of the diagram, respectively. Note that if $s_k = (k, k + 1) \in S_n$, then $\mu_R = \mu_L \circ s_k$. We

write the corestriction maps from the left and right line algebras as

$$\iota_L: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu), \quad \iota_R: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu).$$

We view this as identifying $\mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L)$ and the subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu)$ generated by elements a_{ij} indexed by pairs of left endpoints of lines. The algebra $\mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu)$ has one more generator, c , naming the crossing, with $\partial c = a_{k,k+1}$.

Lemma 7.22 *The map*

$$[\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}] \mapsto [(\epsilon_L: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}, \epsilon(c))]$$

is a bijection between augmentations of $\mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu)$ and pairs of an augmentation of $\mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L)$ carrying $a_{k,k+1} \rightarrow 0$ and an element $\epsilon(c) \in \mathbb{k}$, where $\epsilon(c)$ vanishes unless $|c| = 0$, ie unless $\mu(k) = \mu(k+1)$.

Proof An augmentation of $\mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu)$ is determined by its restriction $\epsilon_L: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ and its value on c . The augmentation must annihilate c unless $|c| = 0$. Finally, the only condition imposed on the restriction ϵ_L is $\epsilon(a_{k,k+1}) = \epsilon(\partial c) = \partial \epsilon(c) = 0$. \square

Lemma 7.23 *Consider a pair of augmentations $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2: \mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\times}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$. The space $\text{Hom}_+(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ has as a basis a_{ij}^+ and c^+ . The differential is given explicitly by*

$$\begin{aligned} m_1(a_{rs}^+) &= -\sum_{i < r} \epsilon_1(a_{ir}) \cdot a_{is}^+ + (-1)^{\mu(r) + \mu(s)} \sum_{s < j} \epsilon_2(a_{sj}) \cdot a_{rj}^+ \\ &\quad \text{for } \{r, s\} \not\subset \{k, k+1\}, \\ m_1(a_{k,k}^+) &= \epsilon_2(c) \cdot c^+ - \sum_{i < k} \epsilon_1(a_{ik}) \cdot a_{ik}^+ + \sum_{k < j} \epsilon_2(a_{kj}) \cdot a_{kj}^+, \\ m_1(a_{k,k+1}^+) &= c^+ - \sum_{i < k} \epsilon_1(a_{ik}) \cdot a_{i,k+1}^+ + (-1)^{\mu(k) + \mu(k+1)} \sum_{k+1 < j} \epsilon_2(a_{k+1,j}) \cdot a_{kj}^+, \\ m_1(a_{k+1,k+1}^+) &= -\epsilon_1(c) \cdot c^+ - \sum_{i < k+1} \epsilon_1(a_{i,k+1}) \cdot a_{i,k+1}^+ + \sum_{k+1 < j} \epsilon_2(a_{k+1,j}) \cdot a_{k+1,j}^+, \\ m_1(c^+) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Proof To compute the Hom spaces, we study the 2-copy, whose algebra we denote by $\mathcal{A}^2(^k\overline{\times}, \mu)$. This has underlying algebra

$$\mathcal{A}^2(^k\overline{\times}, \mu) = \mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu_L) \langle c^{11}, c^{12}, c^{21}, c^{22} \rangle.$$

The differential restricted to $\mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu_L)$ is just the differential there, and

$$\partial c^{12} = a_{k,k+1}^{12} + a_{kk}^{12} c^{22} - (-1)^{|c|} c^{11} a_{k+1,k+1}^{12}.$$

Taking $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$: $\mathcal{A}^2(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ we find the twisted differentials of the a_{ij}^{12} are as in the line algebra, and

$$\partial_{\epsilon} c^{12} = a_{k,k+1}^{12} + a_{kk}^{12}(c^{22} + \epsilon_2(c)) - (-1)^{|c|}(c^{11} + \epsilon_1(c))a_{k+1,k+1}^{12},$$

of which the linear part is

$$\partial_{\epsilon,1} c^{12} = a_{k,k+1}^{12} + a_{kk}^{12}\epsilon_2(c) - \epsilon_1(c)a_{k+1,k+1}^{12},$$

where we have observed that $\epsilon(c) = 0$ unless $|c| = 0$. Dualizing gives the stated formulas. \square

Proposition 7.24 *The only nonzero compositions in the category $\text{Aug}_+(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)$ are*

$$m_2(a_{kj}^+, a_{ik}^+) = (-1)^{|a_{kj}^+||a_{ik}^+|+1} a_{ij}^+, \quad m_2(c^+, a_{kk}^+) = -c^+ = m_2(a_{k+1,k+1}^+, c^+).$$

Proof In the algebra of the 3-copy, the “ a ” generators have differentials as in the line algebra, and we have

$$\partial c^{13} = a_{k,k+1}^{13} + a_{kk}^{12}c^{23} + a_{kk}^{13}c^{33} - (-1)^{|c|}c^{11}a_{k+1,k+1}^{13} - (-1)^{|c|}c^{12}a_{k+1,k+1}^{23}.$$

Since there are no terms higher than quadratic, the quadratic terms are not affected by twisting by the pure augmentation $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3)$. Recalling that $|c^+| = |c| + 1$ and that $|a_{kk}^+| = |a_{k+1,k+1}^+| = 0$ gives the desired formulas. \square

We now study the restriction morphisms. First, on objects:

Proposition 7.25 *Let $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ be an augmentation. Let ϵ_L, ϵ_R be its restrictions to the line algebras on the left and the right. Take $A = \sum a_{ij}|i\rangle\langle j|$ and $B = \sum b_{ij}|i\rangle\langle j|$ to be strictly upper triangular $n \times n$ matrices with entries a_{ij} and b_{ij} in position (i, j) , collecting the respective generators of the left and right line algebras as in Section 7.2.1. Let*

$$\phi := 1 + \epsilon(c)|k+1\rangle\langle k| = \left[\begin{array}{c|cc|c} I_{k-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon(c) & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{n-(k+1)} \end{array} \right]$$

and let $s_k = (k, k+1) \in S_n$. Then

$$\epsilon_R(B) = s_k \cdot (\phi^T)^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_L(A) \cdot (\phi^T) \cdot s_k.$$

Proof Denote the generators of the right line algebra $\mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_R)$ by b_{ij} . The right corestriction morphism is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_R\colon \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_R) &\rightarrow \mathcal{A}(^k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu), \\ b_{ij} &\mapsto a_{ij}, & b_{i,k+1} &\mapsto a_{ik}, \\ b_{ik} &\mapsto a_{i,k+1} + a_{ik}c, & b_{k+1,j} &\mapsto a_{kj} - (-1)^{|c|}ca_{k+1,j}, \\ b_{kj} &\mapsto a_{k+1,j}, & b_{k,k+1} &\mapsto 0. \end{aligned}$$

The sign comes because each downward corner vertex with even grading contributes a factor of -1 to the sign of a disk, so a downward corner at c contributes $(-1)^{|c|+1}$. We rewrite the above formula in matrix form as

$$B \mapsto \left[\begin{array}{c|cc|c} I_{k-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -(-1)^{|c|}c & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{n-(k+1)} \end{array} \right] \cdot A \cdot \left[\begin{array}{c|cc|c} I_{k-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & c & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & I_{n-(k+1)} \end{array} \right] - a_{k,k+1}|k+1\rangle\langle k|.$$

We now apply the augmentation and observe $\epsilon(a_{k,k+1}) = \epsilon(\partial c) = 0$, and $\epsilon(c) = (-1)^{|c|}\epsilon(c)$ because $\epsilon(c) = 0$ unless $|c| = 0$. \square

Proposition 7.26 Suppose we are given an element $\xi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(^k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$. We can restrict to the left or right, obtaining $\xi_L \in \text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_L)}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon'_L)$ and $\xi_R \in \text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_R)}(\epsilon_R, \epsilon'_R)$. We denote by a_{ij}^+ the generators of $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(^k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$ or $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_L)}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon'_L)$, and by b_{ij}^+ the generators of $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_R)}(\epsilon_R, \epsilon'_R)$.

Then the left restriction is just given by $a_{ij}^+ \mapsto a_{ij}^+$; it is a map of dg categories.

On the other hand, the right restriction, despite being between dg categories, has non-trivial A_∞ -structure. (See [Section 2.3](#).) The first-order term $\text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(^k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_R)}(\epsilon_R, \epsilon'_R)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} a_{ik}^+ &\mapsto b_{i,k+1}^+ + \epsilon'(c)b_{ik}^+ \\ a_{kk}^+ &\mapsto b_{k+1,k+1}^+ \\ a_{kj}^+ &\mapsto b_{k+1,j}^+ \\ a_{i,k+1}^+ &\mapsto b_{ik}^+ \\ a_{k+1,k+1}^+ &\mapsto b_{kk}^+ \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{k+1,j}^+ &\mapsto b_{kj}^+ - \epsilon(c) \cdot b_{k+1,j}^+ \\
a_{k,k+1}^+ &\mapsto 0 \\
c^+ &\mapsto \left(\sum_{i < k} \epsilon(a_{ik}) \cdot b_{ik}^+ \right) - (-1)^{|c|} \left(\sum_{k+1 < j} \epsilon'(a_{k+1,j}) \cdot b_{k+1,j}^+ \right)
\end{aligned}$$

for $i < k$ and $j > k + 1$, and $a_{ij}^+ \mapsto b_{ij}^+$ for $i, j \notin \{k, k + 1\}$.

The second-order term

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Aug}_+(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon', \epsilon'') \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Aug}_+(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_R)}(\epsilon_R, \epsilon''_R)$$

is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
c^+ \otimes a_{ik}^+ &\mapsto (-1)^{|c^+| + |a_{ik}^+| + 1} b_{ik}^+ \quad \text{for } i < k, \\
a_{k+1,j}^+ \otimes c^+ &\mapsto (-1)^{|a_{k+1,j}^+| + |c^+| + 1} b_{k+1,j}^+ \quad \text{for } j > k + 1,
\end{aligned}$$

with all other tensor products of generators mapped to zero. There are no higher-order terms.

Proof The statement about restriction to the left is obvious.

Examining the 2-copy of $k\overline{\Sigma}$, we can write the map $\rho_R^2: \mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^2(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
b_{ik}^{12} &\mapsto a_{ik}^{11} c^{12} + a_{ik}^{12} c^{22} + a_{i,k+1}^{12}, \\
b_{kk}^{12} &\mapsto a_{k+1,k+1}^{12}, \\
b_{kj}^{12} &\mapsto a_{k+1,j}^{12}, \\
b_{i,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto a_{ik}^{12}, \\
b_{k+1,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto a_{kk}^{12}, \\
b_{k+1,j}^{12} &\mapsto a_{kj}^{12} - (-1)^{|c|} (c^{11} a_{k+1,j}^{12} + c^{12} a_{k+1,j}^{22}), \\
b_{k,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto 0
\end{aligned}$$

for all $i < k$ and $j > k + 1$, and $b_{ij}^{12} \mapsto a_{ij}^{12}$ when $i, j \notin \{k, k + 1\}$.

Twisting the differential by $\epsilon = (\epsilon, \epsilon')$ and taking the linear part gives

$$\begin{aligned}
b_{ik}^{12} &\mapsto \epsilon(a_{ik}) c^{12} + a_{ik}^{12} \epsilon'(c) + a_{i,k+1}^{12} \\
b_{kk}^{12} &\mapsto a_{k+1,k+1}^{12} \\
b_{kj}^{12} &\mapsto a_{k+1,j}^{12}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_{i,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto a_{ik}^{12} \\ b_{k+1,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto a_{kk}^{12} \\ b_{k+1,j}^{12} &\mapsto a_{kj}^{12} - (-1)^{|c|}(\epsilon(c)a_{k+1,j}^{12} + c^{12}\epsilon'(a_{k+1,j})) \\ b_{k,k+1}^{12} &\mapsto 0, \end{aligned}$$

again with $i < k$ and $j > k + 1$, and $b_{ij}^{12} \mapsto a_{ij}^{12}$ otherwise.

We now recall that $(-1)^{|c|}\epsilon(c) = \epsilon(c)$ and take duals to conclude.

The higher-order term in the restriction functor comes from writing the inclusion of the three-copy of the line algebra into the crossing algebra, then taking linear duals. Explicitly, this inclusion is

$$\begin{aligned} b_{ij}^{13} &\mapsto a_{ij}^{13} && (i, j \notin \{k, k+1\}), \\ b_{ik}^{13} &\mapsto a_{i,k+1}^{13} + a_{ik}^{11}c^{13} + a_{ik}^{12}c^{23} + a_{ik}^{13}c^{33} && (i < k), \\ b_{i,k+1}^{13} &\mapsto a_{ik}^{13} && (i < k), \\ b_{kj}^{13} &\mapsto a_{k+1,j}^{13} && (j > k+1), \\ b_{k+1,j}^{13} &\mapsto a_{kj}^{13} - (-1)^{|c|}(c^{11}a_{k+1,j}^{13} + c^{12}a_{k+1,j}^{23} + c^{13}a_{k+1,j}^{33}) && (j > k+1), \\ b_{kk}^{13} &\mapsto a_{k+1,k+1}^{13}, \\ b_{k+1,k+1}^{13} &\mapsto a_{kk}^{13}, \\ b_{k,k+1}^{13} &\mapsto 0. \end{aligned}$$

Selecting the terms of the form $*^{12}*^{23}$ and dualizing, we conclude that the only higher parts of the restriction functor are the terms stated. □

Consider the general element $\xi = \gamma \cdot c^+ + \sum_{i \leq j} \alpha_{ji} \cdot a_{ij}^+ \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}ug_+(k\overline{x}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$. We want to compare more explicitly ξ_L and ξ_R . To do this, we move to the Morse complex category, and consider $\mathfrak{h}(\xi_L)$ and $\mathfrak{h}(\xi_R)$. Note that these come to us as matrices. Below we often adopt the convention for indices that $i < k < k + 1 < j$, and for convenience we define $\sigma_{pq} = (-1)^{(\mu(p)+1)\mu(q)+1}$, so that in $\mathcal{A}ug_+(\equiv, \mu)$ we have $\mathfrak{h}(a_{pq}) = \sigma_{pq}|q\rangle\langle p|$.

We have

$$\mathfrak{h}(\xi_L) = \left[\begin{array}{c|cc} \sigma_{i_2 i_1} \alpha_{i_1 i_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{ik} \alpha_{ki} & \sigma_{kk} \alpha_{kk} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{i,k+1} \alpha_{k+1,i} & \sigma_{k,k+1} \alpha_{k+1,k} & \sigma_{k+1,k+1} \alpha_{k+1,k+1} & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{ij} \alpha_{ji} & \sigma_{kj} \alpha_{jk} & \sigma_{k+1,j} \alpha_{j,k+1} & \sigma_{j_2 j_1} \alpha_{j_1 j_2} \end{array} \right],$$

where the signs are defined using the Maslov potential $\mu = \mu_L$ on the left. On the other hand, by the above proposition we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) = & \sum_{i \leq j \notin \{k, k+1\}} \sigma_{ij} \alpha_{ji} |j\rangle \langle i| \\ & + \sum_{i < k} \sigma_{i, k+1} \alpha_{k+1, i} |k\rangle \langle i| + \alpha_{ki} (\sigma_{ik} |k+1\rangle \langle i| + \sigma_{i, k+1} \epsilon'(c) |k\rangle \langle i|) \\ & + \sum_{k+1 < j} \sigma_{kj} \alpha_{jk} |j\rangle \langle k+1| + \alpha_{j, k+1} (\sigma_{k+1, j} |j\rangle \langle k| - \sigma_{kj} \epsilon(c) |j\rangle \langle k+1|) \\ & + \sigma_{kk} \alpha_{kk} |k+1\rangle \langle k+1| + \sigma_{k+1, k+1} \alpha_{k+1, k+1} |k\rangle \langle k| \\ & + \gamma \left(\sum_{i < k} \sigma_{i, k+1} \epsilon(a_{ik}) |k\rangle \langle i| - (-1)^{|c|} \sum_{k+1 < j} \sigma_{kj} \epsilon'(a_{k+1, j}) |j\rangle \langle k+1| \right), \end{aligned}$$

where the signs σ_{pq} are defined again in terms of μ_L for consistency; recall that $\mu_R = \mu_L \circ s_k$. In matrix form, we have

$$\mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) = \left[\begin{array}{c|cc} \sigma_{i_2 i_1} \alpha_{i_1 i_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{i, k+1} x & \sigma_{k+1, k+1} \alpha_{k+1, k+1} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{ik} \alpha_{ki} & 0 & \sigma_{kk} \alpha_{kk} & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{ij} \alpha_{ji} & \sigma_{k+1, j} \alpha_{j, k+1} & \sigma_{kj} y & \sigma_{j_2 j_1} \alpha_{j_1 j_2} \end{array} \right],$$

where $x = \alpha_{k+1, i} + \epsilon'(c) \alpha_{ki} + \epsilon(a_{ik}) \gamma$ and $y = \alpha_{jk} - \epsilon(c) \alpha_{j, k+1} - (-1)^{|c|} \epsilon'(a_{k+1, j}) \gamma$. So

(7-3) $(\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi$

$$= \left[\begin{array}{c|cc} \sigma_{i_2 i_1} \alpha_{i_1 i_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{ik} \alpha_{ki} & \sigma_{kk} \alpha_{kk} & 0 & 0 \\ \sigma_{i, k+1} (\alpha_{k+1, i} + \epsilon(a_{ik}) \gamma) & \Psi & \sigma_{k+1, k+1} \alpha_{k+1, k+1} & 0 \\ \hline \sigma_{ij} \alpha_{ji} & \Xi & \sigma_{k+1, j} \alpha_{j, k+1} & \sigma_{j_2 j_1} \alpha_{j_1 j_2} \end{array} \right]$$

with the notation (for layout)

$$\Psi = \sigma_{k+1, k+1} \epsilon(c) \alpha_{k+1, k+1} - \sigma_{kk} \epsilon'(c) \alpha_{kk} \quad \Xi = \sigma_{kj} (\alpha_{jk} - (-1)^{|c|} \epsilon'(a_{k+1, j}) \gamma),$$

where again the Maslov potentials are for the left and not for the right.

Theorem 7.27 We define a morphism of A_∞ -categories

$$\mathfrak{h}: \operatorname{Aug}_+({}^k \overline{\mathfrak{X}}, \mu) \rightarrow \operatorname{MC}({}^k \overline{\mathfrak{X}}, \mu)$$

on objects by

$$\epsilon \mapsto (\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_L), -\epsilon(c))$$

and on morphisms $\xi \in \text{Hom}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$ by

$$\xi \mapsto (\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi,$$

where $\phi = 1 + \epsilon(c)|k+1\rangle\langle k|$ and $\phi' = 1 + \epsilon'(c)|k+1\rangle\langle k|$. This morphism is a bijection on objects and an equivalence of categories. It commutes with restriction in the following sense:

- At the level of objects, \mathfrak{h} commutes with restriction: $\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon)_L = \mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_L)$ and $\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon)_R = \mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_R)$.
- At the level of morphisms, it commutes with restriction to the right: $\mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) = \mathfrak{h}(\xi)_R$.
- At the level of morphisms, it commutes up to homotopy with restriction on the left:

$$\mathfrak{h}(\xi_L) - \mathfrak{h}(\xi)_L = (dH + Hm_1)\xi,$$

where H is the homotopy given by sending $c^+ \mapsto \sigma_{k,k+1}|k\rangle\langle k+1|$ and all other generators to zero, ie

$$H: \text{Hom}_{\text{Aug}_+(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{MC}(\equiv, \mu)}(\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_L), \mathfrak{h}(\epsilon'_L)),$$

$$\eta \mapsto (-1)^{(\mu_L(k)+1)\mu_L(k+1)+1} (\text{Coeff}_c + \eta)|k+1\rangle\langle k|.$$

Higher-order terms are determined by noting that the functor is just the right restriction map of the augmentation category — which has higher terms (see [Proposition 7.26](#)) — followed by the isomorphism of augmentation and Morse complex line categories.

Proof [Lemma 7.22](#) implies that, on objects, the map is well defined and a bijection. Comparison of (7-3) and [Lemma 7.10](#) reveals that $(\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi$ is in fact a morphism in $\text{MC}(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)$. The map was built from the A_∞ $\epsilon \mapsto \epsilon_R$ by composing with isomorphisms, so is an A_∞ -morphism. Comparison of [Lemma 7.23](#) with [Proposition 7.26](#) shows that the kernel of the map $\xi \mapsto \xi_R$ is exactly the two-dimensional space spanned by $a_{k,k+1}^+$ and $m_1(a_{k,k+1}^+)$; the same is true for $\xi \mapsto (\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi$. Counting dimensions, this is surjective to homs in $\text{MC}(k\overline{\Sigma}, \mu)$. Thus we have a map surjective on the chain level which kills an acyclic piece; it is thus an equivalence.

We next check that \mathfrak{h} commutes with restriction on the right. At the level of objects, by [Proposition 7.25](#), we have $\epsilon_R = s_k(\phi^T)^{-1}\epsilon_L(A)\phi^T s_k$, whence, by [Theorem 7.21](#),

$$\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_R) = (-1)^{\mu_R} s_k \phi \epsilon_L(A)^T \phi^{-1} s_k.$$

On the other hand, since $\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon) = ((-1)^{\mu_L} \epsilon(A)^T, -\epsilon(c))$, we compute from [Definition 7.12](#) that

$$\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon)_R = \theta_{-\epsilon(c)}(-1)^{\mu_L} \epsilon_L(A)^T \theta_{-\epsilon(c)}^{-1},$$

where θ_z is the identity matrix except for the 2×2 block determined by rows k and $k+1$ and columns k and $k+1$, which is $\begin{bmatrix} -z & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Matrix calculations show that $s_k \phi = \theta_{-\epsilon(c)}$ and $(-1)^{\mu_R} \theta_{-\epsilon(c)} = \theta_{-\epsilon(c)}(-1)^{\mu_L}$ (for the latter, note that $\mu_L(k) = \mu_R(k+1)$ and $\mu_L(k+1) = \mu_R(k)$ must be equal if $\epsilon(c) \neq 0$), and so $\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_R) = \mathfrak{h}(\epsilon)_R$. At the level of morphisms, \mathfrak{h} commutes with right restriction essentially by definition:

$$\mathfrak{h}(\xi)_R = ((\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi)_R = \theta_{-\epsilon'(c)}(\phi')^{-1} s_k \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R) s_k \phi \theta_{-\epsilon(c)}^{-1} = \mathfrak{h}(\xi_R).$$

For restriction on the left, note that $\mathfrak{h}(\epsilon_L) = \mathfrak{h}(\epsilon)_L$ by definition. It remains to show that \mathfrak{h} commutes up to homotopy with left restriction on morphisms. From [\(7-3\)](#), we find that

$$\mathfrak{h}(\xi_L) - \mathfrak{h}(\xi)_L = \left[\begin{array}{c|cc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sigma_{i,k+1}\epsilon(a_{ik})\gamma & \Psi' & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \sigma_{kj}(-1)^{|c|}\epsilon'(a_{k+1,j})\gamma & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

with

$$\Psi' = \sigma_{k,k+1}\alpha_{k+1,k} + \sigma_{kk}\epsilon'(c)\alpha_{k,k} - \sigma_{k+1,k+1}\epsilon(c)\alpha_{k+1,k+1}.$$

On the other hand we calculate

$$\begin{aligned} dH(\xi) &= \sigma_{k,k+1}\gamma \cdot d|k+1\rangle\langle k| \\ &= \sigma_{k,k+1}\gamma(-1)^{\mu(k+1)+1} \left(\sum_{i < k} \epsilon(a_{ik})|k+1\rangle\langle i| + \sum_{j > k+1} \epsilon'(a_{k+1,j})|j\rangle\langle k| \right) \\ &= \sum_{i < k} (-\sigma_{i,k+1}\epsilon(a_{ik})\gamma)|k+1\rangle\langle i| + \sum_{j > k+1} \sigma_{kj}(-1)^{|c|}\epsilon'(a_{k+1,j})\gamma|j\rangle\langle k| \\ &= \left[\begin{array}{c|cc|c} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\sigma_{i,k+1}\epsilon(a_{ik})\gamma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \sigma_{kj}(-1)^{|c|}\epsilon'(a_{k+1,j})\gamma & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right], \end{aligned}$$

where we use the fact that $\epsilon(a_{ik}) = 0$ unless $\mu(i) - \mu(k) = 1$ and $\epsilon'(a_{k+1,j}) = 0$ unless $\mu(k+1) - \mu(j) = 1$; and

$$\text{Coeff}_{c+m_1}(\xi) = \alpha_{k+1,k} - \alpha_{k+1,k+1}\epsilon(c) + \alpha_{kk}\epsilon'(c).$$

We note that if $\epsilon(c) \neq 0$ or $\epsilon'(c) \neq 0$ then $\mu(k) = \mu(k+1)$, so $\sigma_{k,k+1}\epsilon(c) = \sigma_{k+1,k+1}\epsilon(c)$ and $\sigma_{k,k+1}\epsilon'(c) = \sigma_{kk}\epsilon'(c)$; thus multiplying this last equation by $\sigma_{k,k+1}|k+1\rangle\langle k|$ yields

$$H(m_1(\xi)) = (\sigma_{k,k+1}\alpha_{k+1,k} - \sigma_{k+1,k+1}\alpha_{k+1,k+1}\epsilon(c) + \sigma_{kk}\alpha_{kk}\epsilon'(c))|k+1\rangle\langle k|.$$

Thus we conclude that $\mathfrak{h}(\xi_L) - \mathfrak{h}(\xi)_L = (dH + Hm_1)\xi$. \square

7.2.3 Right cusps We now consider a bordered plat “ \succ ” which is the front projection of a set of n right cusps. Near the left, it is $2n$ horizontal lines, which we number $1, 2, \dots, 2n$ from top to bottom, and each pair $2k-1, 2k$ is connected by a right cusp; we place a basepoint $*_k$ at this cusp and let $\sigma_k = 1$ if the plat is oriented downward at this cusp or $\sigma_k = -1$ if it is oriented upward. We fix a Maslov potential μ , which is determined by its restriction to the left $\mu_L: \{1, \dots, 2n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. The right cusps enforce that $\mu_L(2k) + 1 = \mu_L(2k-1)$.

The left corestriction

$$\iota_L: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\succ, \mu)$$

identifies $\mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L)$ with a subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}(\succ, \mu)$ with $\binom{2n}{2}$ generators a_{ij} . The algebra $\mathcal{A}(\succ, \mu)$ has n additional generators x_1, \dots, x_n naming the cusps, as well as generators $t_1, t_1^{-1}, \dots, t_n, t_n^{-1}$ corresponding to the basepoints. That is, the generator x_k corresponds to the right cusp connecting points $2k-1$ and $2k$, and has grading $|x_k| = 1$ and satisfies $\partial x_k = t_k^{\sigma_k} + a_{2k-1,2k}$. This ensures that if ϵ is an augmentation of $\mathcal{A}(\succ, \mu)$, then $\epsilon(x_k) = 0$ and $\epsilon(a_{2k-1,2k}) = -\epsilon(t_k)^{\sigma_k}$ for all k ; since t_k is invertible, so is $\epsilon(a_{2k-1,2k})$.

Proposition 7.28 *The restriction $\rho_L: \text{Aug}_+(\succ, \mu) \rightarrow \text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_L)$ is strictly fully faithful and an injection on objects. Its image consists of all $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$ such that $\epsilon(a_{2k-1,2k}) \in \mathbb{k}^\times$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$.*

Proof Injectivity on objects follows from the fact that $\epsilon(x_k) = 0$; the characterization of the image follows from the discussion immediately above the proposition.

To see full-faithfulness, note that the 2-copy of the plat \succ contains no crossings where the overcrossing is on copy 1 (the upper copy) and the undercrossing is on copy 2

(the lower copy). Thus, if ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 are augmentations of \succ , then $\text{Hom}(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)$ in $\text{Aug}_+(\succ, \mu)$ and $\text{Hom}(\rho_L(\epsilon_1), \rho_L(\epsilon_2))$ in $\text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_L)$ are both generated by the same generators a_{ij}^+ , where $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2n$, and ρ_L is an isomorphism on Hom spaces. \square

Corollary 7.29 *The isomorphism*

$$\mathfrak{h}: \text{Aug}_+(\equiv, \mu_L) \rightarrow \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu_L)$$

identifies $\text{Aug}_+(\succ, \mu)$ with $\text{MC}(\succ, \mu)$.

Proof Compare the definition of $\text{MC}(\succ, \mu)$ to the above proposition. \square

We define $\mathfrak{h}: \text{Aug}_+(\succ, \mu) \rightarrow \text{MC}(\succ, \mu)$ to be this restriction.

Corollary 7.30 *All objects in $\text{Aug}_+(\succ, \mu)$ are isomorphic.*

Proof We saw this for the Morse complex category in [Proposition 7.16](#). \square

7.2.4 Left cusps Let “ \prec ” denote the front projection of a set of n left cusps. Near the right, it is $2n$ horizontal lines, which we number $1, 2, \dots, 2n$ from top to bottom, and each pair $(2k-1, 2k)$ is connected by a left cusp. We fix a Maslov potential μ , which is determined by its restriction to the right, $\mu_R: \{1, \dots, 2n\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. The left cusps enforce that $\mu_R(2k) + 1 = \mu_R(2k-1)$.

The algebra $\mathcal{A}(\prec, \mu)$ is simply the ground ring \mathbb{k} , and hence there is a unique augmentation $\epsilon: \mathcal{A}(\prec, \mu) = \mathbb{k} \xrightarrow{\text{id}} \mathbb{k}$.

The right corestriction $\iota_R: \mathcal{A}(\equiv, \mu_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\prec, \mu)$ is given by the formula

$$a_{ij} \mapsto \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i, j) = (2k-1, 2k), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The restriction ϵ_R of the augmentation ϵ is given by the same formula.

To determine the A_∞ -structure

$$m_p: \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_+(\epsilon, \epsilon)$$

on $\text{Aug}_+(\prec, \mu)$, we consider the $(p+1)$ -copy of T_L . Here the k^{th} left cusp (ie the one connecting points $2k-1$ and $2k$ on the line R) gives rise to $\binom{p+1}{2}$ generators y_k^{ij} , each corresponding to a crossing of the i^{th} copy over the j^{th} copy for $i < j$.

Proposition 7.31 *The chain complex $\text{Hom}_{\prec}(\epsilon, \epsilon)$ is freely generated by the degree zero elements y_1^+, \dots, y_n^+ , and has vanishing differential. The only nonvanishing composition is $m_2(y_k^+, y_k^+) = -y_k^+$.*

Proof In the case $p = 1$ above, corresponding to the 2-copy of \prec , it is clear that $\partial y_k^{12} = 0$ for all k ; it follows that the dualized linearized differential also vanishes. We have $|y_k^+| = |y_k^{12}| + 1 = 0$.

For the composition m_p , we study the differential on $\mathcal{A}^{p+1}(\prec, \mu)$, which is

$$\partial y_k^{ij} = \sum_{i < l < j} y_k^{il} y_k^{lj},$$

the dualization of which gives the stated product (note the sign from (3-1)) and no more. \square

Proposition 7.32 *The restriction map is*

$$\rho_L: \text{Hom}_{\prec}(\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\equiv}(\epsilon_L, \epsilon_L), \quad y_k^+ \mapsto a_{2k-1, 2k-1}^+ + a_{2k, 2k}^+.$$

Proof The corestriction map on the two-copies is

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_L: \mathcal{A}^2(\equiv, \mu_L) &\rightarrow \mathcal{A}^2(\prec, \mu), \\ a_{2k-1, 2k-1}^{12} &\mapsto y_k^{12}, \\ a_{2k, 2k}^{12} &\mapsto y_k^{12}, \\ a_{i \neq j}^{12} &\mapsto 0. \end{aligned}$$

Dualizing gives the stated restriction map. \square

7.2.5 The augmentation category is a sheaf

Theorem 7.33 *Let Λ be a front diagram with basepoints at all right cusps. Then the presheaf of categories $\underline{\text{Aug}}_+(\Lambda)$ is a sheaf.*

Proof Given Corollary 6.4, it remains to check that sections have sufficiently many objects, which can be checked using the condition of Lemma 2.18. On objects, the local morphisms to the Morse complex category were literally isomorphisms, so we may check in the Morse complex category. In Section 7.1.4, we noted that the hypothesis of Lemma 2.18 holds for the Morse complex category. \square

7.3 Local calculations in the sheaf category

In this section, we determine the local sheaf categories for the line, crossing, left cusp and right cusp diagrams. We define the isomorphisms τ to the corresponding local categories of MC and study the compatibility with left and right restriction functors $\text{to} \equiv$, as in the diagram (7-1).

In fact, for convenience we use a slight variant MC' on MC . The difference is only at the cusps, and is that $\text{MC}'(<)$ is the full subcategory on the object called d_0 in Proposition 7.16, and similarly for $\text{MC}'(>)$. By the same proposition, the inclusion of this subcategory is a quasiequivalence. Correspondingly, the global sections of the sheafifications of MC and MC' agree. We only distinguish between MC and MC' in the discussion of cusps.

Remark 7.34 The diagram of categories MC' does not satisfy Lemma 2.18; however this is irrelevant here because we will not be interested in directly computing global sections of the associated sheaf of categories. It is possible to avoid the use of MC' , but the construction of sheaves associated to the other objects of $\text{MC}(>)$ which strictly respect the restriction map is somewhat more involved (one adds some auxiliary vertical strata to allow “handle slides”, which however are invisible from the point of view of the microsupport).

In this section, it is essential for the arguments we give that the coefficients \mathbb{k} form a field; this is because we borrow from the theory of quiver representations. It is however conceivable that Theorem 7.1 may hold for more general coefficient rings.

7.3.1 Lines Let $I = (0, 1)$ be the unit open interval and define $\square := I \times \mathbb{R}$. Let \equiv_n be the Legendrian associated to the front diagram consisting of n horizontal lines — see Figure 13, upper left.

Recall that $\text{Sh}_{\equiv_n}(\square)$ denotes the category of sheaves on $\square = I \times \mathbb{R}$ with singular support meeting infinity in a subset of \equiv_n . Objects of Sh_{\equiv_n} can be constructed from representations (in chain complexes) of the A_{n+1} quiver, with nodes indexed and arrows oriented as follows:

$$\bullet^n \rightarrow \bullet^{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \bullet^0$$

To a representation R of this quiver, ie a collection of chain complexes R_i and morphisms

$$R_n \rightarrow R_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow R_0,$$

we write $\text{Sh}_{\equiv_n}(R)$ for the sheaf which has R_0 as its stalk in the upper region, R_i as its stalk along the i^{th} line and in the region below it, downward generization maps identities, and upward generization maps given by the quiver representation. In fact, this construction is an equivalence from the derived category of representations of the A_{n+1} quiver to $\text{Sh}_{\equiv_n}(\square)$. (See [52, Section 3]; essential surjectivity is a special case of [52, Proposition 3.22].)

Here we will prefer A_{n+1} representations of a certain canonical form. We recall that quiver representations admit two-term projective resolutions. Explicitly, the irreducible projectives of the A_{n+1} quiver are

$$P_i := 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k},$$

ie a copy of \mathbb{k} at all nodes $k \geq i$. We have $\text{Hom}(P_i, P_j) = 0$ for $i < j$ and \mathbb{k} otherwise, and $\text{Ext}^{\geq 1}(P_i, P_j) = 0$.

On the other hand, the indecomposables of $\text{Rep}(A_n)$ are [22]

$$S_{ij} := P_i / P_{j+1} = 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0,$$

ie a copy of \mathbb{k} at all nodes k with $i \leq k \leq j$ and all maps identities—and zero elsewhere. These are of course quasi-isomorphic to

$$S'_{ij} := \begin{pmatrix} P_{j+1} \\ \downarrow \\ P_i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \\ \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ 0 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \end{pmatrix},$$

ie zero for nodes $k < i$, \mathbb{k} for nodes $i \leq k \leq j$ and the acyclic complex $[\mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k}]$ for $k > j$.

Since $\text{Rep}(A_{n+1})$ has cohomological dimension one, objects in its derived category split, hence any representation in chain complexes is quasi-isomorphic to one of the form $\bigoplus S_{ij}[s]$, hence quasi-isomorphic to one of the form $\bigoplus S'_{ij}[s]$. (This latter object is just the minimal projective resolution of the original object.) We summarize properties of these as follows:

Lemma 7.35 *Over a field, every representation R in chain complexes of the A_{n+1} quiver is quasi-isomorphic to a representation*

$$R'_n \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow R'_{i+1} \rightarrow R'_i \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow R'_0$$

such that:

- The (vector space) quiver representation R' in each cohomological degree is projective.
- The maps $R'_{i+1} \rightarrow R'_i$ are injections on the graded vector spaces underlying the complexes.
- The differential on R'_i/R'_{i+1} is zero.

Above we employ the convention $R'_{n+1} = 0$. Note in particular that there is an isomorphism of underlying graded vector spaces

$$R'_j \cong \bigoplus_{i \geq j} R'_i / R'_{i+1} \cong \bigoplus_{i \geq j} H^*(\text{Cone}(R'_{i+1} \rightarrow R'_i)).$$

Proof The above construction shows that every object is quasi-isomorphic to some $\bigoplus S'_{ij}[s]$ where $i > j$. The result follows from its validity for each S'_{ij} , which holds by inspection. \square

We now relate this to the category $\text{MC}(=; \mu)$.

Corollary 7.36 *There is a morphism $\text{MC}(=; \mu) \rightarrow \text{Rep}_{\text{ch}}(A_{n+1})$, given on objects by sending the object $(\mu; d)$ to the A_n quiver representation which has the dg vector space ${}^i\mu$ at the node i . The maps are just inclusion of filtration steps. Homs of the quiver representations are literally equal to homs of the Morse complexes.*

This map is fully faithful, and surjective onto the objects of $\text{Rep}_{\text{ch}}(A_{n+1}, \mathbb{k})$ which

- (1) satisfy the conditions of [Lemma 7.35](#), and
- (2) satisfy $R_{i-1}/R_i = \mathbb{k}[-\mu(i)]$.

It is essentially surjective onto the portion of $\text{Rep}_{\text{ch}}(A_{n+1}, \mathbb{k})$ in which

$$\text{Cone}(R_i \rightarrow R_{i-1}) = \mathbb{k}[-\mu(i)].$$

Proof Essential surjectivity follows from [Lemma 7.35](#). \square

We write $\mathcal{C}_1(=; \mu) \subset \text{Sh}_{=; \mu}$ for the full subcategory whose objects have microlocal monodromy dictated by the Maslov potential μ — see [Section 2.4.4](#), or recall briefly in this case that microlocal rank one means that the cone of the upward generalization map from the i^{th} line has rank one in degree $-\mu(i)$.

Corollary 7.37 *The functor $\mathfrak{v}: \text{MC}(\mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1(=; \mu)$ given by composing the functor of [Corollary 7.36](#) with the equivalence of [\[52, Proposition 3.22\]](#) is an equivalence.*

7.3.2 Crossings Fix $n \geq 2$ and let ${}^k\overline{\square}$ be a bordered plat consisting of n strands with a single crossing between strands k and $k+1$ in the infinite vertical strip $\square = I \times \mathbb{R}$. Fix a Maslov potential μ . We write $\mathcal{C}_1({}^k\overline{\square}, \mu) \subset \text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(\square)$ for the category of microlocal rank 1 sheaves with vanishing stalks for $z \ll 0$.

By restriction to the first and second halves of the interval I , a sheaf $F \in \mathcal{C}_1({}^k\overline{\square}, \mu)$ restricts to a pair of objects F_L and F_R of the corresponding n -line sheaf categories, each microlocal rank one with respect to the induced Maslov potentials μ_L and μ_R . These are related by $\mu_R = \mu_L \circ s_k$, where s_k is the transposition of strands k and $k+1$. It is possible to build a sheaf in $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(\square)$ out of the following data:

Definition 7.38 A ${}^k\overline{\square}$ triple on n strands is a diagram $L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R$ of representations of A_{n+1} in chain complexes as below:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L_{k-2} & \xlongequal{\quad} & M_{k-2} & \xlongequal{\quad} & R_{k-2} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L_{k-1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & M_{k-1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & R_{k-1} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L_k & \xleftarrow{\quad} & M_k & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R_k \\ \uparrow & & \parallel & & \uparrow \\ L_{k+1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & M_{k+1} & \xlongequal{\quad} & R_{k+1} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L_{k+2} & \xlongequal{\quad} & M_{k+2} & \xlongequal{\quad} & R_{k+2} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \end{array}$$

such that $\text{Tot} = [M_{k+1} \rightarrow L_k \oplus R_k \rightarrow M_{k-1}]$ is acyclic.

A ${}^k\overline{\square}$ triple determines an element of $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(\square)$. To build the corresponding sheaf, the stalk along the i^{th} line and in the region below is L_i on the left, M_i in the middle and R_i on the right; for $i \neq k$ these are all just equal. The downward generization map is the identity, and the upward generization map is the one pictured. Finally, M_k is the stalk at the crossing and in the region below. We will write $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R)$ for the corresponding sheaf. As a special case of [52, Proposition 3.22], every object of $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(\square)$ is quasi-isomorphic to some $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R)$. We sharpen this result as follows:

Lemma 7.39 Every object of the sheaf $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(\square)$ is quasi-isomorphic to some $\text{Sh}_{{}^k\overline{\square}}(L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R)$, in which L , M and R satisfy the conclusion of Lemma 7.35.

Proof Begin with an object $\mathcal{F} \in \mathrm{Sh}_{k\overline{\Sigma}}(\square)$; pass to the quasi-isomorphic sheaf $\mathrm{Sh}(L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R)$ provided by [52, Proposition 3.22]. We may replace with quasi-isomorphic choices L', M' and R' by Lemma 7.35; then there exist corresponding maps in the derived category $L' \leftarrow M' \rightarrow R'$. Since L', M' and R' are projective resolutions, the maps $L' \leftarrow M' \rightarrow R'$ can be chosen to be maps of chain complexes, so that we have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} L' & \xleftarrow{g_L} & M' & \xrightarrow{g_R} & R' \\ \alpha_L \downarrow \cong & & \beta \downarrow \cong & & \alpha_R \downarrow \cong \\ L & \xleftarrow{f_L} & M & \xrightarrow{f_R} & R \end{array}$$

commutative up to homotopy. Next, choose homotopy operators $K_L\colon M' \rightarrow L$ and $K_R\colon M' \rightarrow R$ with

$$f_L \circ \beta - \alpha_L \circ g_L = \partial_L K_L + K_L \partial_{M'} \quad \text{and} \quad f_R \circ \beta - \alpha_R \circ g_R = \partial_R K_R + K_R \partial_{M'},$$

and consider the mapping cylinder $\mathrm{Map}(\beta) = M' \oplus M'[-1] \oplus M$ which has differential $D(a,b,c) = (\partial_{M'}a - b, -\partial_{M'}b, \partial_Mc + \beta(b))$ and inclusions $i_1\colon M' \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathrm{Map}(\beta)$ and $i_2\colon M \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathrm{Map}(\beta)$ which are quasi-isomorphisms (since β is a quasi-isomorphism). We then arrive at a fully commutative diagram,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} L' & \xleftarrow{g_L} & M' & \xrightarrow{g_R} & R' \\ \alpha_L \downarrow \cong & & i_1 \downarrow \cong & & \alpha_R \downarrow \cong \\ L & \xleftarrow{(\alpha_L \circ g_L) \oplus K_L \oplus f_L} & \mathrm{Map}(\beta) & \xrightarrow{(\alpha_R \circ g_R) \oplus K_R \oplus f_R} & R \\ \mathrm{id} \uparrow \cong & & i_2 \uparrow \cong & & \mathrm{id} \uparrow \cong \\ L & \xleftarrow{f_L} & M & \xrightarrow{f_R} & R \end{array}$$

It remains to show that the maps $L'_i \leftarrow M'_i \rightarrow R'_i$ are (not just quasi-)isomorphisms for $i \neq k$. For $i \neq k, k-1$, we have the maps of exact sequences of complexes

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_i/L'_{i+1} & \xleftarrow{\sim} & M'_i/M'_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & R'_i/R'_{i+1} \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_i & \xleftarrow{\quad} & M'_i & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R'_i \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_{i+1} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & M'_{i+1} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R'_{i+1} \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \end{array}$$

All horizontal maps are quasi-isomorphisms because this was true for the original L , M and R , but now by construction the L'_i/L'_{i+1} , M'_i/M'_{i+1} and R'_i/R'_{i+1} are isomorphic to their cohomologies, hence the maps in the top row are isomorphisms. Thus, if the arrows $L'_{i+1} \leftarrow M'_{i+1} \rightarrow R'_{i+1}$ are isomorphisms, so are the $L'_i \leftarrow M'_i \rightarrow R'_i$.

We also have

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_{k-1}/L'_{k+1} & \xleftarrow{\sim} & M'_{k-1}/M'_{k+1} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & R'_{k-1}/R'_{k+1} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_{k-1} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & M'_{k-1} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R'_{k-1} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ L'_{k+1} & \xleftarrow{\quad} & M'_{k+1} & \xrightarrow{\quad} & R'_{k+1} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ 0 & & 0 & & 0 \end{array}$$

All horizontal maps are quasi-isomorphisms because the same was true for L , M and R . By construction, $M'_{k-1}/M'_{k+1} = M'_{k-1}/M'_k$ is isomorphic to its cohomology. The only way that L'_{k-1}/L'_{k+1} or R'_{k-1}/R'_{k+1} could fail to have the same property is if they contained a summand which was equal to a shift of the object $[P_{k+1} \rightarrow P_{k-1}]$. However the sheaf corresponding to this summand — namely the constant sheaf stretching between the k^{th} and $(k+1)^{\text{st}}$ strands — violates the singular support condition at the crossing, so it cannot appear. We conclude that L'_{k-1}/L'_{k+1} and R'_{k-1}/R'_{k+1} are isomorphic to their cohomologies, hence that the maps in the top row are isomorphisms. Thus, if the maps $L'_{k+1} \leftarrow M'_{k+1} \rightarrow R'_{k+1}$ are isomorphisms, then so too are $L'_{k-1} \leftarrow M'_{k-1} \rightarrow R'_{k-1}$.

By induction, we conclude that $L'_i \leftarrow M'_i \rightarrow R'_i$ are isomorphisms for all $i \neq k$. \square

We now relate this to the category $\text{MC}({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu)$. An element of this category is a differential $d: \mu_L \rightarrow \mu_L$ and an element $z \in \mathbb{k}$, from which we built an identification $\theta_z: \mu_L \rightarrow \mu_R$ such that $\theta_z \circ d \circ (\theta_z)^{-1} \in \text{MC}(\equiv, \mu_R)$. We build a $L \leftarrow M \rightarrow R$ triple by setting $L_k = {}^k\mu_L$ and $R_k = {}^k\mu_R$; the Hom spaces in $\text{MC}({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu)$ can be evidently interpreted as maps between these diagrams of quiver representations. As in [Corollary 7.37](#), we can define a functor $\mathfrak{r}: \text{MC}({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu)$ by composing this with the equivalence of [\[52, Proposition 3.22\]](#).

Proposition 7.40 *The functor $\mathfrak{r}: \text{MC}({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1({}^k\overline{\underline{\mathbb{X}}}, \mu)$ is an equivalence which commutes with the restriction maps.*

Proof Essential surjectivity follows from [Lemma 7.39](#). The equivalence commutes with restrictions by construction. \square

7.3.3 Cusps Let “ \succ ” be the right-cusp diagram on $2n$ strands, carrying a Maslov potential μ . Let $\mathrm{sh}_{\succ}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k})_0 \subset \mathrm{sh}_{\succ}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k})$ be the full subcategory of sheaves with acyclic stalk to the far right.

Let V_i be the locally closed subsets composed of the upper stratum and interior region of the i^{th} cusp (numbered increasing from top to bottom), so that the i^{th} cusp connects the $2i - 1$ and $2i$ strands. Let $v: \coprod V_i \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the inclusion.

Lemma 7.41 *Every object of $\mathrm{sh}_{\succ}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k})_0$ is quasi-isomorphic to the extension by zero of a locally constant sheaf on V .*

Proof The microsupport condition translates directly into the constraint that the sheaf is locally constant on V .

We recall in general that for the inclusion of a locally closed subset $s: S \rightarrow T$, there is the extension by zero functor $s_!: \mathrm{Sh}(S) \rightarrow \mathrm{Sh}(T)$ with the property that

$$s_! \mathcal{F}(U) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{F}(U) & \text{if } U \subset S, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The properties of this functor can be found in any standard reference, eg [\[34, Chapter 2\]](#), and it is always true that sheaves which have zero stalks in the complement of a locally closed subset are extensions by zero under the inclusion. \square

Corollary 7.42 *Choose one point in each component of V , and consider the corresponding map $\mathrm{sh}_{\succ}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k}) \cong (\mathbb{k}\text{-mod})^n$ given by taking stalks. It is a quasiequivalence.*

Proof The extension by zero is fully faithful, so it suffices to restrict attention to the locally constant sheaves on V itself. Since V is a union of contractible components, taking one stalk at each defines an quasiequivalence of categories. \square

Corollary 7.43 *Consider the map left: $\mathrm{sh}_{\succ}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \mathrm{sh}_{\equiv}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k})$ given by restriction to a neighborhood of the left edge. It is fully faithful, and has essential image the category S of sheaves with acyclic stalks except between lines $2i - 1$ and $2i$.*

Proof By the same reason as the previous corollary, the map $S \rightarrow (\mathbb{k}\text{-mod})^n$ given by taking one stalk in each component is an equivalence. We can factor the map of

the previous corollary as $\mathrm{sh}_{>}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow S \subset \mathrm{sh}_{\equiv}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{k}\text{-mod})^n$ by choosing points for stalks near the left edge; it follows that the map $\mathrm{sh}_{>}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow S$ is an equivalence. \square

Corollary 7.44 *The category $\mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ is empty unless $\mu_{2k} = \mu_{2k-1} - 1$. In this case, $\mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ contains up to isomorphism a unique object, whose stalks in the cusp regions are $\mathbb{k}[-\mu_2], \mathbb{k}[-\mu_4], \dots, \mathbb{k}[-\mu_{2n}]$.*

Proof We calculate the microstalks along the top strand of each cusp. The sheaf on V is locally constant; let the stalks in the n cusp regions be V_1, \dots, V_n . Recalling the correspondence between Maslov potential and degree of microstalk, we should have $V_i[1] = \mathrm{Cone}(V_i \rightarrow 0) = \mathbb{k}[\mu_{2i-1}]$ and $V_i = \mathrm{Cone}(0 \rightarrow V_i) = \mathbb{k}[\mu_{2i}]$. \square

Note that when nonempty, $\mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu)$ contains a canonical object, namely the sheaf which is *the* constant sheaf on each component on V , with an appropriate shift. As follows from the above, its endomorphisms are canonically the ring k^n .

Recall that we write $\mathrm{MC}'(>, \mu)$ for the full subcategory of $\mathrm{MC}(>, \mu)$ containing only the object d_0 .

Proposition 7.45 *There is a commutative diagram with vertical diagrams equivalences*

$$(7-4) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{MC}(\equiv, \mu_L) & \xleftarrow{\rho_L} & \mathrm{MC}'(>, \mu) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C}_1(\equiv, \mu_L) & \xleftarrow{\rho_L^c} & \mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu) \end{array}$$

The left vertical arrow is that constructed in [Corollary 7.36](#). If the right categories are nonempty, the right vertical arrow sends the unique object d_0 of $\mathrm{MC}'(>, \mu)$ to the canonical element of $\mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu)$.

Proof We have already seen that the horizontal arrows are fully faithful, and the left vertical arrow is an equivalence. We define the right vertical arrow through the corresponding fully faithful embeddings. (There is in any case no mystery about this arrow, both d_0 and the canonical element of $\mathcal{C}_1(>, \mu)$ have endomorphisms \mathbb{k}^n , where the i^{th} component is canonically associated to the i^{th} cusp.) \square

Remark 7.46 In the proposition we did not say whether we ask for homotopy commutativity or strict commutativity. In fact it is irrelevant for our purposes: as we

only ever consider maps of linear diagrams of categories, and only check that these determine quasi-isomorphisms by checking termwise (as opposed eg to trying to compose morphisms of diagrams), no higher homotopical questions ever arise, so knowing the above square commutes up to some unspecified homotopy suffices. On the other hand, by tracing through exactly how we associate a sheaf to an object of $\mathcal{C}_1(\equiv, \mu_L)$, it is not difficult to describe the homotopy explicitly.

The analogous statement holds for left cusps.

7.4 Augmentations are sheaves

Recall we assume that the right cusps are all equipped with basepoints. We showed in [Theorem 7.33](#) that under this hypothesis, the presheaf $\mathcal{A}ug_+$ is in fact a sheaf. We did this by verifying the hypothesis of [Lemma 2.18](#) by explicitly computing the restriction maps, and then applying [Proposition 2.19](#). (The necessity of doing this was explained in [Remark 6.5](#).)

A morphism of sheaves can be given by giving morphisms on all sufficiently small open sets, compatibly with restriction. The morphism may be checked to be an equivalence also on these sets. We thusly defined morphisms $\mathfrak{h}: \mathcal{A}ug_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{MC}$ and $\mathfrak{r}: \mathcal{MC} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_1$, and showed each was an equivalence. In particular, we obtain an isomorphism of global sections $R\Gamma(\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{h}): \mathcal{A}ug_+(\Lambda) \cong \mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda)$. This completes the proof of [Theorem 7.1](#).

8 Some exact sequences

This paper has established a host of relations among categories of sheaves, Lagrangians and augmentations. Here we briefly discuss the Fukaya-theoretic viewpoint and gather the relationships in the unifying [Theorem 8.4](#) below.

Let X be a compact real analytic manifold. Equip T^*X with its canonical exact structure $\omega = -d\theta$. Recall the infinitesimally wrapped Fukaya category $\mathrm{Fuk}_\varepsilon(T^*X)$ from [\[44\]](#). Its objects are exact Lagrangian submanifolds equipped with local systems, brane structures, and perturbation data. Morphisms of $\mathrm{Fuk}_\varepsilon(T^*X)$, including higher morphisms, involving objects L_1, \dots, L_d are constructed by perturbing the Lagrangians, using a contractible fringed set $R_d \subset \mathbb{R}_{>0}^d$ to organize the perturbations. A fringed set R_d of dimension d is a subset of $\mathbb{R}_{>0}^d$ satisfying conditions defined inductively: if $d = 1$, $R_1 = (0, r)$; if $d > 1$, then the projection of R_d to the first $d - 1$ coordinates is a fringed set, and $(r_1, \dots, r_d) \in R_d \Rightarrow (r_1, \dots, r'_d) \in R_d$ for all

$0 < r'_d < r_d$. Loosely, to compute $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_1, L_2)$ we must perturb L_2 more than L_1 ; to compute compositions from $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_{d-1}, L_d) \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_{d-2}, L_{d-1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_1, L_2)$ and others, we perturb by

$$(8-1) \quad \varepsilon_d > \varepsilon_{d-1} > \cdots > \varepsilon_1 > 0.$$

The d -tuple of successive differences $\delta = (\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_d - \varepsilon_{d-1})$ lies in the fringed set, R_d .⁸ The purpose of introducing this set R_d is two-fold: first, the perturbations bring intersections from infinity to finite space, so that the moduli spaces defining compositions are compact; second, by perturbing in the Reeb direction at infinity, morphisms compose as required for the isomorphism with the category of constructible sheaves. So, for the purposes of simply *defining* a category, we can ignore the second of these purposes. This leaves us with another choice of contractible set organizing the compositions. We simply *reverse* all the inequalities in (8-1) and *negate* the definition of δ — it will then lie in a fringed set. We call the category defined in this way the negatively wrapped Fukaya category, $\mathrm{Fuk}_{-\varepsilon}(T^*X)$.

Let us be a bit more specific and compare the two possibilities. Recall from [44] that we call a function $H: T^*X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a controlled Hamiltonian if $H(x, \xi) = |\xi|$ outside a compact set; now let $\varphi_{H,t}$ denote Hamiltonian flow by H for time t . To compute the hom complex $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L, L')$, first choose controlled Hamiltonians H and H' and a fringed set R_2 such that for all $\delta = (\varepsilon, \varepsilon' - \varepsilon) \in R_2$ we have $\varphi_{H,\varepsilon}(L) \cap \varphi_{H',\varepsilon'}(L')$ is transverse and contained in a compact subset of T^*X . Now put $L_+ = \varphi_{H,\varepsilon}(L)$ and $L'_+ = \varphi_{H',\varepsilon'}(L')$ (we suppress the dependence on ε and ε'). Then $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L, L')$ is defined by computing the Fukaya–Floer complex of the pair (L_+, L'_+) , counting holomorphic strips in the usual way. Alternatively, to study $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_{-\epsilon}}(L, L')$ we choose controlled Hamiltonians (H, H') and a fringed set R_2 and require that for all $\delta = (\varepsilon, \varepsilon' - \varepsilon)$ in R_2 , $\varphi_{H,-\varepsilon}(L) \cap \varphi_{H',-\varepsilon'}(L')$ is transverse and contained in a compact subset of T^*X . Then put $L_- = \varphi_{H,-\varepsilon}(L)$ and $L'_- = \varphi_{H',-\varepsilon'}(L')$ and define $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_{-\epsilon}}(L, L')$ by the usual count of holomorphic strips. Higher-order compositions in $\mathrm{Fuk}_{-\varepsilon}$ are defined exactly analogously to those in Fuk_ε .

Remark 8.1 $\mathrm{Fuk}_{-\varepsilon}$ is not simply the opposite category of Fuk_ε , as no change has been made regarding the intersections between Lagrangians which appear in compact space. In particular, reversing the order of the Lagrangians would have changed the degrees of those intersections.

⁸In fact the condition $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ is not necessary. Only the relative positions of the perturbations are essential.

When X is not compact, we require that Lagrangian branes have compact image in X or are the zero section outside a compact set. With this setup, the following lemma is then true by definition. Let L , L_+ and L_- be as above.

Lemma 8.2 *We have*

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L, L_+) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L, L) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_-, L).$$

Note that the symplectomorphism $\varphi_{H,\epsilon}$ gives an identification $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L_-, L) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon}(L, L_+)$. Further, each of these spaces contains an element isomorphic to the identity of the middle term, and we denote them respectively by id_+ , id and id_- .

Lemma 8.3 *Let M be a real analytic manifold and let \mathbb{k} be a field; let $X = M \times \mathbb{R}_z$, let $F \in \mathrm{Sh}_c(X; \mathbb{k})$ correspond to L above under the microlocalization equivalence [43; 44], and let F_+ and F_- correspond to L_+ and L_- . Then the following quasi-isomorphisms also hold due to microlocalization:*

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}}(F, F_+) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}}(F, F) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}}(F_-, F).$$

Let $\Lambda \in J^1(\mathbb{R}_x) \subset T^{\infty,-}(\mathbb{R}_x \times \mathbb{R}_z)$ be a Legendrian knot (or link) with front diagram basepointed at all right cusps and with Maslov potential μ . First recall that from [52] and Theorem 7.1 of the present paper we have the triangle of equivalences

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon(T^*\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) & \xleftarrow{\hspace{2cm}} & \mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \\ & \swarrow \scriptstyle \mu \cong \quad \nwarrow \scriptstyle \psi \cong & \\ & \mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) & \end{array}$$

The arrow across the top is defined to be the composition, and as usual $\mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \subset \mathrm{Sh}(\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ denotes the full subcategory of microlocal rank-one objects, as determined by μ .

Now let $\Lambda \subset J^1(\mathbb{R}) \subset T^{\infty,-}\mathbb{R}^2$ be a Legendrian knot and let μ be a Maslov potential. Let $\epsilon \in \mathrm{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ be an augmentation. Let $F \in \mathcal{C}_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ correspond to ϵ under Theorem 7.1 and let $L \in \mathrm{Fuk}_\epsilon(T^*\mathbb{R}^2, \Lambda; \mathbb{k})$ be a geometric Lagrangian object corresponding to F . (Not all such L will be geometric.) Write $\mathcal{L} = \mu \mathrm{mon} F$ for the microlocal monodromy local system, defined from the Maslov potential μ (though note $\mathrm{End}(\mathcal{L})_{\mathrm{Loc}(\Lambda)}$ is canonical). Let us write for the moment $(A, B)_{\mathcal{C}} := \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$. Then we have the following:

Theorem 8.4 *The following diagram commutes:*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 (L, L_-)_{\text{Fuk}_\varepsilon} & \xrightarrow{\text{oid}_-} & (L, L)_{\text{Fuk}_\varepsilon} & \longrightarrow & \text{Cone}(\text{oid}_-) \\
 \uparrow \mu \cong & & \uparrow \mu \cong & & \uparrow \mu \cong \\
 (F, F_-)_{\text{Sh}} & \xrightarrow{\text{oid}_-} & (F, F)_{\text{Sh}} & \longrightarrow & \text{Cone}(\text{oid}_-) \cong (\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{L})_{\text{Loc}(\Lambda)} \\
 \uparrow \psi \cong & & \uparrow \psi \cong & & \uparrow \psi \cong \\
 (\epsilon, \epsilon)_{\text{Aug}_-} & \xrightarrow{\text{can}} & (\epsilon, \epsilon)_{\text{Aug}_+} & \longrightarrow & \text{Cone}(\text{can}) \\
 \downarrow \rho \cong & & \downarrow \rho \cong & & \downarrow \rho \cong \\
 C_c^*(L) & \hookrightarrow & C^*(L) & \longrightarrow & C^*(\Lambda)
 \end{array}$$

$\cong \nearrow$

Here μ is short for the microlocalization theorem, which is a triangulated equivalence, ensuring the isomorphism of cones. Further, ψ is the isomorphism $\text{Aug}_+(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k}) \rightarrow C_1(\Lambda, \mu; \mathbb{k})$ proved in [Theorem 7.1](#), and ρ in the bottom row of vertical arrows indicates the isomorphism proved in [Proposition 5.7](#). The map “can” is the inclusion of DGAs and the map \hookrightarrow is inclusion of compactly supported forms. Taking cohomology relates the rows to the long exact sequence $H_c^*(L) \rightarrow H^*(L) \rightarrow H^*(\Lambda) \rightarrow$.

Proof The top line of vertical arrows is microlocalization [\[44; 43\]](#). The middle line is [Theorem 7.1](#). The bottom line is proven in [Proposition 5.7](#). □

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