

HOLONOMIES FOR CONNECTIONS WITH VALUES IN L_∞ -ALGEBRAS

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Abstract

Given a flat connection α on a manifold M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} , we construct a morphism $\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty : C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathcal{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$, which generalizes the holonomy map associated to a flat connection with values in a Lie algebra. The construction is based on Gugenheim's A_∞ -version of de Rham's theorem, which in turn is based on Chen's iterated integrals. Finally, we discuss examples related to the geometry of configuration spaces of points in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^d , and to generalizations of the holonomy representations of braid groups.

1. Introduction

In this note we propose an answer to the following question: Assume that M is a smooth manifold, \mathfrak{g} an L_∞ -algebra and α a flat connection on M with values in \mathfrak{g} , i.e., a Maurer–Cartan element of the L_∞ -algebra $\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M)$; what are the holonomies associated to the flat connection α ? Our answer differs from those that have appeared in the literature, such as [24, 26, 27, 32, 34], where various notions of two-dimensional parallel transport are considered. In order to motivate our answer, let us first discuss the case where $\mathfrak{g} = \text{End}V$ is the Lie algebra of endomorphisms of a finite-dimensional vector space. In this case, α is just a flat connection on the trivial vector bundle V , and by solving the differential equation for parallel transport, one obtains the holonomy $\text{hol}(\sigma) \in \text{End}V \subset \mathbf{U}(\text{End}V)$ associated to a path $\sigma : I \rightarrow M$. One can view this whole assignment as an element $\hat{\text{hol}}$ of $\text{End}V \otimes C^\bullet(M)$, the differential graded algebra of $\text{End}V$ -valued smooth singular cochains on M . The flatness of α implies the homotopy invariance of the holonomy. This corresponds to the fact that $\hat{\text{hol}}$ is a Maurer–Cartan element. Indeed, an element $\beta \in \text{End}V \otimes C^1(M)$ is a Maurer–Cartan element precisely if it is homotopy invariant in the sense that for any two-dimensional simplex one has

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$$\triangle - \triangle = 0.$$

Here the bold edges represent holonomies associated to the corresponding paths, and concatenation of paths corresponds to multiplication in the algebra $\text{End}V$. Observe that a Maurer–Cartan element of $\text{End}V \otimes C^\bullet(M)$ corresponds naturally to a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}(\text{End}V)$.

Using the explicit iterated integral formulas for the parallel transport, one can show that this morphism factors through the bar coalgebra of the (completed) universal enveloping algebra of $\text{End}V$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_\bullet(M) & \xrightarrow{\text{hol}_\alpha} & \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbb{U}}(\text{End}V) \\ & \searrow & \downarrow p \\ & & \mathbf{B}(\text{End}V). \end{array}$$

This construction works for any filtered Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , and we conclude that the holonomies of a flat connection with values in \mathfrak{g} can be interpreted as a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $\text{hol}_\alpha: C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$, where $\mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$ denotes the bar construction of the completion of the universal enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$.

The case where the L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is the graded Lie algebra of endomorphisms of a graded vector space V corresponds to holonomies of flat \mathbb{Z} -graded connections. This has been studied recently by Igusa [16], Block and Smith [8], and Arias Abad and Schätz [3], and ultimately relies on Gugenheim’s [13] A_∞ -version of de Rham’s theorem. In turn, Gugenheim’s construction is based on Chen’s theory of iterated integrals [9]. We extend this approach to flat connections with values in L_∞ -algebras. The holonomy of α is a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty: C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$.¹

We first need to explain what the universal enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ of an L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is. Several proposals for a definition of the enveloping algebra of an L_∞ -algebra exist in the literature, e.g., [2, 6, 20]. Following [6], we use the idea of defining the enveloping algebra via the strictification $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ of the L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} . The differential graded Lie algebra $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ is naturally quasi-isomorphic to \mathfrak{g} , and we define the enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} to be that of its strictification. Our main result is as follows:

Theorem 4.11. Suppose that α is a flat connection on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} . Then there is a natural homomorphism of differential graded coalgebras

$$\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty: C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}).$$

In order for this notion of holonomy to be reasonable, it should be consistent with the standard definition in the case of Lie algebras. Indeed, in the case where \mathfrak{g} is a

¹Throughout the introduction, we gloss over the technical issue that one has to work with the completed bar complex $\hat{\mathbf{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ of $\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$, which is not a differential graded coalgebra, because its “comultiplication” does not map into the tensor product, but into the completion. See Appendix A for details.

Lie algebra, the usual parallel transport provides a holonomy map:

$$\text{hol}: C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{U}(\mathfrak{g}).$$

On the other hand, there is a natural map of differential graded coalgebras

$$\mathbf{B}\hat{U}(\rho): \mathbf{B}\hat{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{U}(\mathfrak{g}),$$

and the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_\bullet(M) & \xrightarrow{\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty} & \mathbf{B}\hat{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \\ & \searrow \text{hol}_\alpha & \downarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{U}(\rho) \\ & & \mathbf{B}\hat{U}(\mathfrak{g}). \end{array}$$

The notion of holonomy on which Theorem 4.11 is based admits a rather visual description. Given any filtered differential graded algebra (A, ∂) , a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $\phi: C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\hat{A}$ corresponds to a Maurer–Cartan element $\bar{\phi}$ in the algebra $A \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$, which is an element in the vector space $\text{Hom}(C_\bullet(M), A)$. Thus, ϕ can be interpreted as a rule that assigns to each simplex in M an element of the algebra \hat{A} , which we think of as being the holonomy associated to that simplex.

Since the algebra $A \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$ is bigraded, the condition for $\bar{\phi}$ to be Maurer–Cartan decomposes into a sequence of equations. In degree 0, the condition is that ϕ assigns to every point $p \in M$ a Maurer–Cartan element of \hat{A} . This implies that if we set $\partial_p := \partial + [\phi(p), \cdot]$, then $\partial_p \circ \partial_p = 0$. Let us denote the complex (A, ∂_p) by A_p . Given a simplex $\sigma: \Delta_k \rightarrow M$, we denote the commutator between the operation of multiplying by $\phi(\sigma)$ and of applying the differentials associated to the first and last vertex of σ by $[\partial, \phi(\sigma)]$, i.e., $[\partial, \phi(\sigma)] := \partial_{v_k} \circ \phi(\sigma) - (-1)^{1+|\sigma|} \phi(\sigma) \circ \partial_{v_0}$.

The Maurer–Cartan equation in degree 1 is

$$\left[\partial, \text{---} \right] = 0,$$

which says that multiplication by the holonomy associated to a path is an isomorphism between the complexes A_{v_0} and A_{v_1} . The equation in degree 2 reads

$$\left[\partial, \triangle \right] = \triangle - \triangle,$$

requiring that the two isomorphisms between the complexes A_{v_0} and A_{v_2} are homotopic, with a specified homotopy given by the holonomy associated to the triangle.

Similarly, for the tetrahedron one obtains

$$\left[\partial, \text{tetrahedron} \right] = \text{tetrahedron} - \text{tetrahedron} + \text{tetrahedron} - \text{tetrahedron}.$$

Our main motivation to develop this version of parallel transport is the appearance of certain flat connections on configuration spaces $\text{Conf}_d(n)$ of n points in Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^d . In dimension $d = 2$ these connections were introduced and studied by Ševera and Willwacher in [28]. There, the flat connections mentioned above yield a homotopy between the formality maps for the little disks operad of Kontsevich [19] and Tamarkin [31], respectively, provided that in the second one the Alekseev–Torossian associator is used.

In Section 5, we discuss these connections on configuration spaces. We first explain a link between rational homotopy theory and the theory of flat connections with values in L_∞ -algebras. We then describe Kontsevich’s model $^*\text{Graphs}_d(n)$ of $\text{Conf}_d(n)$ and the corresponding flat connections $\text{SW}_d(n)$, extending the construction of Ševera and Willwacher to higher dimensions. Finally, we demonstrate how to use this machinery to construct actions of the ∞ -groupoid of $\text{Conf}_d(n)$ on representations of quadratic differential graded Lie algebras, generalizing the holonomy representations of the braid groups.

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2. The universal enveloping algebra

2.1. Basic definitions

In order to fix notations and conventions, we review the definitions of some functors and collect relevant facts. We essentially follow [11].

Definition 2.1. Let V be a graded vector space. The suspension of V , denoted $\text{s}V$, is the graded vector space $(\text{s}V)^k := V^{k+1}$. The desuspension of V , denoted $\text{u}V$, is the graded vector space $(\text{u}V)^k := V^{k-1}$.

Definition 2.2. We will make use of the following categories:

- The category $\text{DGA}_{(a)}$ of (augmented) differential graded algebras
- The category $\text{DGC}_{(a)}$ of (co-augmented) differential graded coalgebras
- The category $\text{DGCC}_{(a)}$ of (co-augmented) cocommutative differential graded coalgebras
- The category DGLA of differential graded Lie algebras
- The category L_∞ of L_∞ -algebras

For the relevant definitions please see [20, 12].

Remark 2.3. We will assume that differential graded algebras and differential coalgebras are unital and co-unital, respectively.

Definition 2.4. The symmetric coalgebra $S(V)$ of a graded vector space V is the subspace of elements in the tensor coalgebra TV that are invariant under the action by Σ_\bullet , i.e., the collection of actions of Σ_n on $T^n V$ defined by

$$\Sigma_n \times T^n V \rightarrow T^n V, \quad \sigma \bullet (x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) := (-1)^{|\sigma|} x_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{\sigma(n)},$$

for $x_1, \dots, x_n \in V$ homogeneous. Here $(-1)^{|\sigma|}$ refers to the Koszul sign, which is the character of the representation of Σ_n on $T^n V$ determined by

$$(\cdots \otimes x_k \otimes x_{k+1} \otimes \cdots \mapsto \cdots \otimes x_{k+1} \otimes x_k \otimes \cdots) \mapsto (-1)^{|x_k||x_{k+1}|}.$$

There is a natural projection $p : TV \rightarrow S(V)$ given by

$$p(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) := \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma_n} (-1)^\sigma x_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{\sigma(n)}.$$

The coproduct $\Delta : TV \rightarrow TV \otimes TV$, defined via

$$\Delta(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) := \sum_{k=0}^n (x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_k) \otimes (x_{k+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n),$$

restricts to a graded commutative coproduct on $S(V)$, which we also denote by Δ .

Definition 2.5. The Chevalley–Eilenberg functor $CE : L_\infty \rightarrow DGCC_a$ is defined as follows:

1. To an L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} , the functor CE associates the co-augmented differential graded cocommutative coalgebra $(CE(\mathfrak{g}), \delta_g, \Delta)$, where:
 - (a) $CE(\mathfrak{g})$ is the symmetric coalgebra $S(\mathfrak{sg})$ of the suspension \mathfrak{sg} of \mathfrak{g} . The co-unit and co-augmentation are given by the identification $S^0(\mathfrak{sg}) \cong \mathbb{R}$.
 - (b) The differential δ_g on $CE(\mathfrak{g})$ is obtained from the L_∞ -structure on \mathfrak{g} via the identification $\text{Coder}(S(\mathfrak{sg})) \cong \text{Hom}(S(\mathfrak{sg}), \mathfrak{sg})$.
2. A morphism of L_∞ -algebras $f : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $CE(f) : CE(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow CE(\mathfrak{h})$.

Definition 2.6. The universal enveloping algebra functor $\mathbb{U} : DGLA \rightarrow DGA$ is defined as follows:

1. To a differential graded Lie algebra $(\mathfrak{g}, d, [\cdot, \cdot])$, the functor \mathbb{U} associates the differential graded algebra $(\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}), d_{\mathbb{U}})$, where
 - (a) $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is the quotient of the tensor algebra $T\mathfrak{g}$ by the two-sided ideal generated by elements of the form $x \otimes y - (-1)^{|x||y|} y \otimes x - [x, y]$.
 - (b) The differential $d_{\mathbb{U}}$ on $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is inherited from $d_{\mathbb{T}} : T\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow T\mathfrak{g}$, where

$$d_{\mathbb{T}}(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) := \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{|x_1| + \cdots + |x_{i-1}|} x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{i-1} \otimes dx_i \otimes x_{i+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n.$$

2. To a morphism $f : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ of differential graded Lie algebras, the functor \mathbb{U} associates the morphism $\mathbb{U}(f) : \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{h})$ induced by

$$T(f) : T\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow T\mathfrak{h}, \quad T(f)(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n) := f(x_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes f(x_n).$$

The (anti)symmetrization functor $\Sigma : \text{DGA} \rightarrow \text{DGLA}$ maps (A, d, \cdot) to the differential graded Lie algebra ΣA , whose underlying complex is (A, d) and whose Lie bracket is defined by setting $[x, y] := x \cdot y - (-1)^{|x||y|} y \cdot x$. The functor $\Sigma : \text{DGA} \rightarrow \text{DGLA}$ is right adjoint to $\mathbb{U} : \text{DGLA} \rightarrow \text{DGA}$ and \mathbb{U} preserves quasi-isomorphisms.

Definition 2.7. Let (C, d, Δ) be a co-augmented differential graded coalgebra. The *reduced coproduct* $\bar{\Delta}$ is defined on the kernel \bar{C} of the co-unit map via

$$\bar{\Delta}(x) := \Delta(x) - x \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes x.$$

Definition 2.8. The cobar functor $\Omega : \text{DGC}_a \rightarrow \text{DGA}_a$ is defined as follows:

1. To a co-augmented differential graded coalgebra (C, d, Δ) , the functor Ω associates the augmented differential graded algebra $(\Omega(C), \delta, \cdot)$, where:
 - (a) The underlying augmented graded algebra is the tensor algebra $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{u}\bar{C})$ of the desuspension $\mathbf{u}\bar{C}$.
 - (b) The differential δ of $\Omega(C)$ is determined by $\delta(\mathbf{u}x) := \mathbf{u}dx + \partial(\mathbf{u}x)$, where $\partial(\mathbf{u}x) = -\sum_i (-1)^{|x_i|} \mathbf{u}x_i \otimes \mathbf{u}y_i$ if $\bar{\Delta}(x) = \sum_i x_i \otimes y_i$.
2. To a morphism $f : C \rightarrow D$ of augmented differential graded cocommutative coalgebras, the functor Ω associates the morphism $\Omega(f) : \Omega(C) \rightarrow \Omega(D)$ induced by $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{u}f)$.

Definition 2.9. The bar functor $\mathbb{B} : \text{DGA}_a \rightarrow \text{DGC}_a$ is defined as follows:

1. To an augmented differential graded algebra (A, d, \cdot) , the functor \mathbb{B} associates the co-augmented differential graded coalgebra $(\mathbb{B}(A), \delta, \Delta)$, where:
 - (a) The underlying augmented graded coalgebra is the tensor coalgebra $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{s}\underline{A})$ of the suspension $\mathbf{s}\underline{A}$ of the augmentation ideal \underline{A} .
 - (b) The differential δ of $\mathbb{B}(A)$ is the coderivation given by

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_k) := & - \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{n_i} (\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}dx_i \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_k) \\ & + \sum_{i=2}^k (-1)^{n_i} \mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}(a_{i-1}a_i) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_k, \end{aligned}$$

where $n_i := |\mathbf{s}x_1| + \cdots + |\mathbf{s}x_{i-1}|$ on homogeneous elements of \underline{A} .

2. To a morphism $f : A \rightarrow A'$ of augmented differential graded algebras, the functor \mathbb{B} associates the morphism $\mathbb{B}f : \mathbb{B}A \rightarrow \mathbb{B}A'$ induced by $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{s}f)$.

Remark 2.10. In applications the bar complex is not sufficient and it has to be replaced by the completed bar complex; see Appendix A for details.

Definition 2.11. The Lie functor $\mathbb{L} : \text{DGCC}_a \rightarrow \text{DGLA}$ is defined as follows:

1. To a co-augmented differential graded cocommutative coalgebra (C, d, Δ) , the functor \mathbb{L} associates the differential graded algebra $(\mathbb{L}(C), \delta, [,])$, where:
 - (a) The underlying graded Lie algebra is the free graded Lie algebra on the desuspension $\mathbf{u}\bar{C}$ of \bar{C} .

(b) The differential δ on $L(C)$ is the Lie derivation determined by

$$\delta(\mathbf{u}x) := \mathbf{u}dx + \partial(\mathbf{u}x) \in L(C) \subset T(\overline{C}),$$

on homogeneous elements of \overline{C} , where $\partial(\mathbf{u}x) = -\sum_i (-1)^{|x_i|} \mathbf{u}x_i \otimes \mathbf{u}y_i$ if $\overline{\Delta}(x) = \sum_i x_i \otimes y_i$. Note that the cocommutativity of the coproduct guarantees that the right hand side belongs to $L(C)$.

The following theorem will be essential for our construction.

Theorem 2.12 (Quillen [25], Hinich [15]). *The functor $L: \text{DGCC}_a \rightarrow \text{DGLA}$ is left adjoint to $\text{CE}: \text{DGLA} \rightarrow \text{DGCC}_a$. Moreover, the adjunction maps $X \rightarrow \text{CE}(L(X))$ and $L(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})) \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ are quasi-isomorphisms.*

Remark 2.13. The above theorem works under the hidden assumption that we restrict to the subcategory of *connected* differential graded cocommutative coalgebras; see Appendix B of [25]. All the coalgebras to which we will apply the Theorem are of this kind.²

Definition 2.14. The strictification functor $\mathbb{S}: L_\infty \rightarrow \text{DGLA}$ is $\mathbb{S} := L \circ \text{CE}$.

Corollary 2.15. *Let \mathfrak{g} be an L_∞ -algebra. Then the unit of the adjunction between L and CE , applied to $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ gives a map*

$$\eta \in \text{Hom}_{\text{DGCC}_a}(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}), \text{CE}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}))) \cong \text{Hom}_{L_\infty}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})),$$

which is a quasi-isomorphism of L_∞ -algebras.

Remark 2.16. In case \mathfrak{g} is a differential graded Lie algebra, there is also a morphism $\rho: \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ of differential graded Lie algebras obtained by the adjunction

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{DGLA}}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}), \mathfrak{g}) = \text{Hom}_{\text{DGLA}}(L(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})), \mathfrak{g}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{DGCC}_a}(\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}), \text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}))$$

from $\text{id}_{\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})}$. Moreover, $\rho \circ \eta = \text{id}$ holds, hence ρ is a quasi-isomorphism.

Remark 2.17. Let ι denote the inclusion functor $\text{DGCC}_a \rightarrow \text{DGC}_a$. One can check that the functors $\Omega \circ \iota$ and $\mathbb{U} \circ L$ are isomorphic.

We sum up this subsection in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} L_\infty & \xrightarrow{\text{CE}} & \text{DGCC}_a & \xrightarrow{\iota} & \text{DGC}_a & \xrightarrow{\Omega} & \text{DGA}_a \\ & \searrow & \downarrow L & & \uparrow \mathbb{U} & & \\ & & \text{DGLA} & & & & \end{array}$$

Observe that the triangle on the left commutes, while the triangle on the right commutes up to a natural isomorphism.

²In contrast, the coalgebra $C_\bullet(M)$ is not connected. This is what forces us to introduce the completed bar complex; see Appendix A.

2.2. The enveloping algebra

Following [6], we now define the universal enveloping algebra of an L_∞ -algebra. The idea is to use the strictification functor.

Definition 2.18. The universal enveloping functor $\mathbb{U}_\infty: \mathbf{L}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{DGA}$ is given by $\mathbb{U}_\infty := \mathbb{U} \circ \mathbb{S}$. We call $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} .

The universal enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ of a differential graded Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , seen as an L_∞ algebra, is not the same as the usual enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} . However, these two algebras are naturally quasi-isomorphic:

Proposition 2.19. *Let \mathfrak{g} be a differential graded Lie algebra. The map $\mathbb{U}(\rho): \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ induced from $\rho: \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ is a quasi-isomorphism of differential graded algebras.*

Proof. This is immediate from the fact that ρ is a quasi-isomorphism and that the functor \mathbb{U} preserves quasi-isomorphisms. \square

As in the usual case of differential graded Lie algebras, the functor \mathbb{U}_∞ can be characterized as a left adjoint to a forgetful functor:

Proposition 2.20. *The functor $\mathbb{U}_\infty: \mathbf{L}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{DGA}$ is left adjoint to the forgetful functor $\Sigma_\infty := \iota \circ \Sigma: \mathbf{DGA} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_\infty$, where $\iota: \mathbf{DGLA} \rightarrow \mathbf{L}_\infty$ is the inclusion functor.*

Proof. This is a formal consequence of the adjunctions discussed above:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{DGA}}(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}), A) &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{DGA}}(\mathbb{U}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})), A) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{DGLA}}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}), \Sigma(A)) \\ &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{DGCC}_a}(\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g}), \mathrm{CE}(\Sigma(A))) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{L}_\infty}(\mathfrak{g}, \Sigma_\infty(A)). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

The proof of the following lemma will be omitted for brevity.

Lemma 2.21. *The functor $\mathbb{U}_\infty: \mathbf{L}_\infty \rightarrow \mathbf{DGA}$ preserves quasi-isomorphisms.*

3. Complete L_∞ -algebras

3.1. Generalities about complete L_∞ -algebras

The computation of holonomies is an operation that involves infinite sums. For this reason, we have to consider L_∞ -algebras where infinite sums can be treated.

Definition 3.1. An ideal of an L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is a graded subspace $I \subset \mathfrak{g}$ such that

$$[x_1, \dots, x_k] \in I, \text{ if one of the } x_i \text{ belongs to } I.$$

A filtration F on \mathfrak{g} is a decreasing sequence of ideals $F_1(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathfrak{g} \supseteq F_2(\mathfrak{g}) \supseteq F_3(\mathfrak{g}) \supseteq \dots$, such that:

1. $\bigcap_k F_k(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$.
2. If $x_i \in F_{l_i}(\mathfrak{g})$, then $[x_1, \dots, x_k] \in F_{l_1 + \dots + l_k}(\mathfrak{g})$.

Definition 3.2. A filtered L_∞ -algebra is an L_∞ -algebra together with a filtration.

If $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}$ are filtered L_∞ -algebras, a filtered morphism is a morphism ϕ such that if $x_i \in F_{l_i}(\mathfrak{g})$ then $\phi_k(x_1, \dots, x_k) \in F_{l_1 + \dots + l_k}(\mathfrak{h})$.

Remark 3.3.

1. If I is an ideal of \mathfrak{g} , then the quotient space \mathfrak{g}/I inherits the structure of an L_∞ -algebra.
2. Given a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} , there is a diagram

$$0 \leftarrow \mathfrak{g}/F_2(\mathfrak{g}) \leftarrow \mathfrak{g}/F_3(\mathfrak{g}) \leftarrow \cdots .$$

The completion of \mathfrak{g} , denoted $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$, is the limit

$$\hat{\mathfrak{g}} := \varprojlim \mathfrak{g}/F_k(\mathfrak{g}).$$

The natural map $\iota: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ given by $x \mapsto (\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots)$ is an injection in view of the first property of the definition of a filtration.

For the sake of brevity, we will omit the proof of the following lemma.

Lemma 3.4. *The completion $\mathfrak{g} \mapsto \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ defines a functor on the category of filtered L_∞ -algebras and filtered morphisms. Moreover, for a filtered morphism $\phi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$, the following holds: $\iota \circ \phi = \hat{\phi} \circ \iota$.*

Definition 3.5. A filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is complete if the canonical injection $\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is an isomorphism.

Remark 3.6.

1. A filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} has the structure of a topological vector space where the sequence $F_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is a local basis for $0 \in \mathfrak{g}$. This topology is Hausdorff, since it is induced by the metric: $d(x, y) := \inf\{\frac{1}{k} : x - y \in F_k(\mathfrak{g})\}$. In particular, any sequence of elements in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} has at most one limit. In case \mathfrak{g} is complete in the sense of Definition 3.5, it is also complete as a topological vector space.
2. Following [12], we observe that there is a natural decreasing sequence of ideals on any L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} , defined recursively as follows: $F_1(\mathfrak{g}) := \mathfrak{g}$ and

$$F_k(\mathfrak{g}) := \sum_{l_1 + \dots + l_i = k} [F_{l_1}(\mathfrak{g}), \dots, F_{l_i}(\mathfrak{g})].$$

In [12] this filtration is called the lower central filtration of \mathfrak{g} . Since it might fail to be a filtration in our sense, because the intersection of the $F_k(\mathfrak{g})$ might not be zero, we refer to the collection $F_k(\mathfrak{g})$ as the lower central series of \mathfrak{g} .

Given any filtration F' on \mathfrak{g} , it is clear that $F_k(\mathfrak{g}) \subseteq F'_k(\mathfrak{g})$, and therefore

$$\bigcap_k F_k(\mathfrak{g}) \subseteq \bigcap_k F'_k(\mathfrak{g}) = 0.$$

Thus, if \mathfrak{g} admits a filtration at all, then the lower central series is a filtration, and it is the minimal one.

Definition 3.7. A Maurer–Cartan element of a complete L_∞ -algebra is an element $\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}^1$ such that $\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k!} [\underbrace{\alpha \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha}_{k \text{ times}}] = 0$. We denote by $\text{MC}(\mathfrak{g})$ the set of all Maurer–Cartan elements of \mathfrak{g} .

Lemma 3.8. *Let $\phi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ be a filtered morphism between complete L_∞ -algebras. There is a map of sets $\phi_*: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$, given by the formula $\phi_*(\alpha) := \sum_{k \geq 1} \phi_k(\alpha^{\otimes k})$. This map is continuous at zero and preserves Maurer–Cartan elements.*

Proof. Since ϕ is a filtered morphism, we know that $\phi_k(\alpha^{\otimes k}) \in F_k(\mathfrak{h})$ and therefore the sum converges. It is clear that if $\alpha \in F_k(\mathfrak{g})$ then $\phi_*(\alpha) \in F_k(\mathfrak{h})$, so that the map is continuous at zero. Let us now prove that $\phi_*(\alpha)$ is a Maurer–Cartan element whenever α is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k!} [\phi_*(\alpha) \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_*(\alpha)] &= \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{l_1, \dots, l_k} [\phi_{l_1}(\alpha^{\otimes l_1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_{l_k}(\alpha^{\otimes l_k})] \\ &= \sum_{p \geq 1} \sum_{l_1 + \dots + l_k = p} \frac{1}{k!} [\phi_{l_1}(\alpha^{\otimes l_1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_{l_k}(\alpha^{\otimes l_k})] \\ &= \phi_* \left(\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k!} [\alpha \otimes \cdots \otimes \alpha] \right) = \phi_*(0) = 0. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.9. Similarly, for A a differential graded algebra, one defines the set of Maurer–Cartan elements to be $\text{MC}(A) := \{\alpha \in A^1 : d\alpha + \alpha \cdot \alpha = 0\}$.

3.2. Compatibility with various functors

The proof of the following lemma will be omitted for brevity.

Lemma 3.10. *Suppose that V is a filtered graded vector space. Then we have the following:*

- *The reduced tensor algebra $\overline{\text{T}}V$ is a filtered algebra with filtration:*

$$F_k(\overline{\text{T}}V) = \sum_{l_1 + \dots + l_r \geq k} F_{l_1}(V) \otimes \cdots \otimes F_{l_r}(V).$$

- *The vector space $\overline{\text{S}}(V)$ is also a filtered graded vector space with filtration:*

$$F_k(\overline{\text{S}}(V)) := \langle \{x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_r \in \overline{\text{S}}(V) : \exists l_1 + \cdots + l_r \geq k \text{ with } x_i \in F_{l_i}(V)\} \rangle$$

- *The free graded Lie algebra $\text{L}(V)$ is a filtered Lie algebra with filtration:*

$$F_k(\text{L}(V)) := \langle \{P(x_1, \dots, x_r) \in \text{L}(V) : \exists l_1 + \cdots + l_r \geq k \text{ with } x_i \in F_{l_i}(V)\} \rangle.$$

Here $P(x_1, \dots, x_r)$ denotes a Lie monomial of length k on x_1, \dots, x_r where all the x_i appear.

We now prove that the strictification of L_∞ -algebras is compatible with filtrations.

Lemma 3.11. *Let \mathfrak{g} be a filtered L_∞ -algebra. Then the differential graded algebra $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ has an induced filtration and the natural morphism $\eta: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ is a filtered morphism.*

Proof. Recall that the Lie algebra $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ is the free Lie algebra on the vector space $V = \mathfrak{u}\overline{\text{S}}(\mathfrak{g})$. In view of Lemma 3.10, we know that there is a filtration on $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ seen as a Lie algebra. We need to prove that this filtration is compatible with the differential, i.e., that $\delta(F_k(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}))) \subset F_k(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}))$. Since δ is a derivation with respect to the Lie bracket,

it suffices to prove the claim for elements of V . The differential δ is the sum of two coboundary operators: one induced from that of \mathfrak{g} and one induced from the coproduct. The claim is clearly true for the first differential. Let us prove it for the differential that comes from the coproduct, given by

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_n) \mapsto - \sum_i (-1)^{|x_1| + \cdots + |x_i| + i} \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_i) \otimes \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{s}x_{i+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_n).$$

Since the right-hand side is the sum of Lie monomials on the same elements, we conclude that if the left-hand side belongs to $F_k(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}))$, so does the right-hand side.

So far, we have seen that the differential graded Lie algebra $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ inherits a filtration; it remains to show that the map $\eta: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ is a filtered map. The components of this map are given by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_k(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_k) &= \pm \mathbf{su}(\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_k) \\ &+ \sum_{k_1+k_2=k} \sum_{\sigma \in (k_1, k_2)} \pm \mathbf{su}(\mathbf{s}x_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_{\sigma(k_1)}) \otimes \mathbf{su}(\mathbf{s}x_{\sigma(k_1+1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_{\sigma(k)}) \\ &+ \cdots, \end{aligned}$$

and therefore if $x_i \in F_{l_i}(\mathfrak{g})$ then $\eta_k(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_k) \in F_{l_1 + \cdots + l_k}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}))$, and we conclude that η is a filtered map. \square

Definition 3.12. A filtration of an augmented differential graded algebra A is a filtration of its augmentation ideal. A filtered augmented differential graded algebra A is an augmented differential graded algebra with a filtration.

Lemma 3.13. *The universal enveloping functor $\mathbb{U}: \text{DGLA} \rightarrow \text{DGA}$ extends to a functor from the category of filtered differential graded Lie algebras to the category of filtered differential graded algebras as follows:*

1. For \mathfrak{g} a filtered differential graded Lie algebra, the augmentation ideal of $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ carries the filtration inherited from $\mathbb{T}\mathfrak{g}$.
2. For $f: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ a filtered morphism of differential graded Lie algebras, the morphism $\mathbb{U}(f): \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{h})$ is a filtered morphism.

Proof. This follows from the definitions and the fact that the expression $x \otimes y - (-1)^{|x||y|} y \otimes x - [x, y]$ lies in $F_{k+l}(\mathbb{T}\mathfrak{g})$ for $x \in F_k(\mathfrak{g})$ and $y \in F_l(\mathfrak{g})$. \square

Corollary 3.14. *The universal enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ of a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is naturally a filtered augmented differential graded algebra.*

Proof. This is a direct consequence of Lemmas 3.11 and 3.13. \square

Remark 3.15.

1. Recall from [12] that if \mathfrak{g} is an L_∞ -algebra and A is a differential graded commutative algebra then the tensor product $\mathfrak{g} \otimes A$ is an L_∞ -algebra with brackets:

$$\begin{cases} [x \otimes a] = [x] \otimes a + (-1)^{|x|+1} x \otimes da, \\ [x_1 \otimes a_1, \dots, x_k \otimes a_k] = (-1)^{\sum_{i < j} |a_i|(|x_j|+1)} [x_1, \dots, x_k] \otimes a_1 \dots a_k, \quad k \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

Observe that $- \otimes A$ extends to a functor: given a morphism γ of L_∞ -algebras,

one defines $\gamma \otimes \text{id}_A : \mathfrak{g} \otimes A \rightarrow \mathfrak{h} \otimes A$ to be given by the structure maps

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma \otimes \text{id}_A)_k((\mathfrak{s}x_1 \otimes a_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes (\mathfrak{s}x_k \otimes a_k)) := \\ (-1)^{\sum_{i < j} |a_i|(|x_j|+1)} \gamma_k(\mathfrak{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathfrak{s}x_k) \otimes (a_1 \cdots a_k), \end{aligned}$$

where we see an element $\mathfrak{s}x \otimes a$ in $\mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A)$ via the map

$$\mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A) \cong \mathfrak{s}\mathfrak{g} \otimes A, \quad \mathfrak{s}(x \otimes a) \mapsto \mathfrak{s}x \otimes a.$$

2. If \mathfrak{g} is filtered, $\mathfrak{g} \otimes A$ is a filtered L_∞ -algebra with filtration: $F_k(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A) := F_k(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A$. Moreover, if $\gamma : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is a morphism of filtered L_∞ -algebras, so is $\gamma \otimes \text{id}_A$.

The operation $- \otimes A$ is functorial and so—see Lemma 3.4—we have a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{g} \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\iota \otimes A} & \hat{\mathfrak{g}} \otimes A \\ \downarrow \iota & & \downarrow \iota \\ \widehat{(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A)} & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\iota \otimes A}} & \widehat{(\hat{\mathfrak{g}} \otimes A)}. \end{array}$$

3. Similar statements apply if one replaces \mathfrak{g} by a (filtered) differential graded algebra and drops the commutativity of A .

The following lemma is straightforward to check:

Lemma 3.16.

- Let V be a filtered graded vector space. Then $\mathbb{T}V$ is dense in $\widehat{\mathbb{T}V}$.
- Let \mathfrak{g} be a filtered differential graded Lie algebra. Then $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is dense in $\mathbb{U}(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$.
- Let \mathfrak{g} be a filtered L_∞ -algebra. Then $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ is dense in $\mathbb{S}(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$. Moreover, if A is a commutative differential graded algebra, then $\mathfrak{g} \otimes A$ is dense in $\hat{\mathfrak{g}} \otimes A$.

Corollary 3.17.

- Let V be a filtered graded vector space. Then $\widehat{\mathbb{T}V}$ is naturally isomorphic to $\widehat{\mathbb{T}\widehat{V}}$.
- Let \mathfrak{g} be a filtered differential graded Lie algebra. Then $\widehat{\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})}$ is naturally isomorphic to $\widehat{\mathbb{U}(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})}$.
- Let \mathfrak{g} be a filtered L_∞ -algebra. Then $\widehat{\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})}$ is naturally isomorphic to $\widehat{\mathbb{S}(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})}$. Moreover, if A is a commutative differential graded algebra, then $\widehat{\mathfrak{g} \otimes A}$ is naturally isomorphic to $\widehat{\hat{\mathfrak{g}} \otimes A}$.

Proof. This follows from Lemma 3.16 and the fact that all the maps $\mathbb{T}V \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{T}V}$, $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})}$, $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})}$, and $\mathfrak{g} \otimes A \rightarrow \hat{\mathfrak{g}} \otimes A$ are inclusions. This is obvious except for $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})}$. We are done if we can prove that for any graded Lie subalgebra $i : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$, the induced map $\mathbb{U}(i) : \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{h}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is injective. But this is the case if

$$\text{gr}\mathbb{U}(i) : \text{gr}\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{h}) \rightarrow \text{gr}\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$$

is injective. Here gr denotes the functor that maps a filtered vector space to its associated graded and $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is seen as a filtered vector space with the filtration

whose members $\mathfrak{F}_k\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ are the images of $\mathbb{T}^{\leq k}(\mathfrak{g})$ under the quotient map.³ However, $\text{gr}\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ is canonically isomorphic to $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$, the graded symmetric algebra of \mathfrak{g} , and $\text{gr}\mathbb{U}(i)$ corresponds to $\mathbb{S}(i)$. It is clear that $\mathbb{S}(i)$ is injective. \square

Definition 3.18. Given a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} and a commutative differential graded algebra A , we denote the completion of the L_∞ -algebra $\mathfrak{g} \otimes A$ by $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} \hat{\otimes} A$.

Given a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} , we denote the completion of the universal enveloping algebra $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ by $\widehat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$.

Definition 3.19. Let V be a graded vector space and W be a filtered vector space.

The graded vector space $\text{Hom}(V, W)$ carries a filtration defined by

$$\phi \in F_k \text{Hom}(V, W) \quad :\Leftrightarrow \quad \text{im}(\phi) \subset F_k W.$$

Lemma 3.20. *Let V be a graded vector space and W a complete vector space. Then $\text{Hom}(V, W)$ is complete.*

Proof. Given a Cauchy sequence ϕ_i in $\text{Hom}(V, W)$, we define $\phi : V \rightarrow W$ via

$$\phi(x) := \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \phi_i(x).$$

By definition of the filtration on $\text{Hom}(V, W)$, the sequence $\phi_i(x)$ will be Cauchy and since W is complete, $\phi(x)$ is well-defined. Because W is a topological vector space with respect to the topology induced from the filtration, the map ϕ is a linear map. \square

Remark 3.21. Given a graded vector space W and a filtered graded vector space V , there is a natural inclusion of filtered graded vector spaces $W^* \otimes V \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V, W)$. The above lemma implies that the completion $\widehat{W^* \otimes V}$ can be naturally identified with a subspace of $\text{Hom}(V, \widehat{W})$.

4. Parallel transport

4.1. A_∞ de Rham Theorem

We briefly describe an A_∞ version of de Rham's theorem that is due to Gugenheim [13]. It is the key ingredient in the definition of higher holonomies in the next subsection. The construction involves a family of maps from cubes to simplices introduced by Chen [9]. We use the maps given by Igusa in [16]. Let us now recall Gugenheim's morphism from [13], following the conventions of [3], where the interested reader can find more details.

Let M be a smooth manifold, and denote by PM the path space of M . The first ingredient for the A_∞ de Rham theorem is Chen's map

$$\mathbb{C} : \overline{\text{B}\Omega(M)} = \bigoplus_{k \geq 1} (\mathfrak{s}\Omega(M))^{\otimes k} \rightarrow \Omega(PM).$$

It is a linear map of degree 0 and constructed as follows: We denote the evaluation

³Strictly speaking, this kind of filtration is opposite to the way we defined them.

map

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}M \times \Delta_k &\rightarrow M^k, \\ (\gamma, (t_1, \dots, t_k)) &\mapsto (\gamma(t_1), \dots, \gamma(t_k)) \end{aligned}$$

by ev and the natural projections $\mathbf{P}M \times \Delta_k \rightarrow \Delta_k$ and $M^k \rightarrow M$ by π and p_i , respectively. Chen's map is

$$\mathbf{C}(sa_1 \otimes \dots \otimes sa_k) := (-1)^{\sum_{i=1}^n [a_i](k-i)} \pi_* (\text{ev})^* (p_1^* a_1 \wedge \dots \wedge p_n^* a_k),$$

where $[a_i]$ is the degree of $sa_i \in \mathfrak{s}\Omega(M)$.

The next step in the construction of the A_∞ de Rham theorem is a special sequence of maps from the cubes to the simplices. We follow a construction due to Igusa [16] and make use of the following definition of the k -simplex

$$\Delta_k := \{(t_1, \dots, t_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k : 1 \geq t_1 \geq t_2 \geq \dots \geq t_k \geq 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^k.$$

Definition 4.1 (Igusa). For each $k \geq 1$, the map

$$\Theta_{(k)} : I^{k-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}\Delta_k,$$

is defined to be the composition

$$I^{k-1} \xrightarrow{\lambda_{(k)}} \mathbf{P}I^k \xrightarrow{\mathbf{P}\pi_k} \mathbf{P}\Delta_k.$$

Here $\pi_k : I^k \rightarrow \Delta_k$ is given by $\pi_k(x_1, \dots, x_k) := (t_1, \dots, t_k)$, with components

$$t_i := \max\{x_i, \dots, x_k\}.$$

The map $\lambda_{(k)} : I^{k-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}I^k$ is defined by sending a point (x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}) to the path which goes backwards through the following $k+1$ points:

$$0 \leftarrow x_1 e_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow (x_1 e_1 + \dots + x_{k-1} e_{k-1}) \leftarrow (x_1 e_1 + \dots + x_{k-1} e_{k-1} + e_k),$$

where (e_1, \dots, e_k) denotes the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^k . In other words, for $j = 0, \dots, k$ we set

$$\lambda_{(k)}(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}) \left(\frac{k-j}{k} \right) = x_1 e_1 + \dots + x_j e_j,$$

where $x_k = 1$, and interpolate linearly.

By convention, $\Theta_{(0)}$ is the map from a point to a point.

We denote the map adjoint to $\Theta_{(k)}$ by $\Theta_k : I^k \rightarrow \Delta_k$.

Definition 4.2. The map $\mathbf{S} : \Omega(\mathbf{P}M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{s}C^\bullet(M)$ is the composition of

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(\mathbf{P}M) &\rightarrow C^\bullet(M), \\ \alpha &\mapsto \left(\sigma \mapsto \int_{I^{k-1}} (\Theta_{(k)})^* \mathbf{P}\sigma^* \alpha \right). \end{aligned}$$

Definition 4.3. Given a smooth manifold M and an integer $n \geq 1$, we define the map $\psi_n : (\mathfrak{s}\Omega(M))^{\otimes n} \rightarrow \mathfrak{s}C^\bullet(M)$, as follows:

1. For $n = 1$, we set: $(\psi_1(sa))(\sigma : \Delta_k \rightarrow M) := (-1)^k \left(\int_{\Delta_k} \sigma^* a \right)$.
2. For $n > 1$, we set $\psi_n(sa_1 \otimes \dots \otimes sa_n) := (\mathbf{S} \circ \mathbf{C})(sa_1 \otimes \dots \otimes sa_n)$.

Remark 4.4. Observe that $\psi_1(\mathbf{s}a)$ coincides with $(\mathbf{S} \circ \mathbf{C})(\mathbf{s}a)$, except for the case when a is of degree 0, i.e., a function. In that case, $(\mathbf{S} \circ \mathbf{C})(\mathbf{s}a) = 0$, while

$$(\psi_1(\mathbf{s}a))(\sigma : \{*\} \rightarrow M) := a(\sigma(0)).$$

Theorem 4.5 (Gugenheim). *The sequence of maps $\psi_n : (\mathbf{s}\Omega(M))^{\otimes n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}C^\bullet(M)$ defines an A_∞ -morphism from $(\Omega(M), -d, \wedge)$ to differential graded algebra of smooth singular cochains $(C^\bullet(M), \delta, \cup)$. Moreover, this morphism is a quasi-isomorphism and the construction is natural with respect to pull backs along smooth maps.*

4.2. Holonomies

Using the constructions given above, it is now a simple task to define holonomies for connections with values in L_∞ -algebras.

Lemma 4.6. *Let \mathfrak{g} be an L_∞ -algebra and A a commutative differential graded algebra. Then there is a natural map of differential graded algebras*

$$\tau : \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A.$$

This map is given on generators of the free algebra $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A)$ by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{u}\left(\mathbf{s}(x_1 \otimes a_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}(x_k \otimes a_k)\right) \mapsto \\ & (-1)^{\sum_{i < j} |a_i|(|x_j|+1)} \mathbf{u}\left((\mathbf{s}x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{s}x_k) \otimes (a_1 \dots a_k)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, if \mathfrak{g} is filtered then τ is a filtered map.

Proof. First recall that there is a natural morphism of L_∞ -algebras η from \mathfrak{g} to its strictification $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$. The adjunction property of \mathbb{U}_∞ yields a morphism

$$\gamma \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGLA}}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}), \Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}))) \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGA}}(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}), \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}))$$

corresponding to the identity of $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$.

The composition of η and γ is an L_∞ -morphism from \mathfrak{g} to $\Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}))$. Tensoring with id_A yields an L_∞ -morphism

$$(\gamma \circ \eta) \otimes \mathrm{id}_A : \mathfrak{g} \otimes A \rightarrow \Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})) \otimes A.$$

Using the adjunction properties, as well as the natural isomorphism $\Sigma(C \otimes A) \cong \Sigma(C) \otimes A$ for C any differential graded algebra, one obtains natural isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_{L_\infty}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A, \Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})) \otimes A) & \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{L_\infty}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A, \Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A)) \\ & = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGCC}_a}(\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A), \mathrm{CE}(\Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A))) \\ & = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGLA}}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A), \Sigma(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A)) \\ & = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{DGA}}(\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A), \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A). \end{aligned}$$

We define τ to be the image of $(\gamma \circ \eta) \otimes \mathrm{id}_A$ under this sequence of natural isomorphisms. \square

Definition 4.7. Let M be a smooth manifold and \mathfrak{g} an L_∞ -algebra. A connection on M with values in \mathfrak{g} is a degree 1 element α in $\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M)$.

Definition 4.8. A connection α on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} is called flat if $\alpha \in \mathrm{MC}(\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M))$.

Definition 4.9. Suppose that α is a connection on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} . The holonomy $\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty \in \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$ of α is the image of α under the composition

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M) &\xrightarrow{(\widehat{\eta \otimes \text{id}})_*} \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M) \xrightarrow{\hat{\iota}} \hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \Omega(M)) \xrightarrow{\hat{\tau}} \cdots \\ \cdots &\longrightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})) \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M) \xrightarrow{(\widehat{\text{id} \otimes \psi})_*} \mathbb{U}(\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M). \end{aligned}$$

By definition, the last space equals $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$. The maps above are as follows:

- η is the map from \mathfrak{g} to its strictification $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$.
- ι is the inclusion of \mathfrak{g} into its universal enveloping algebra.
- τ is the map defined in Lemma 4.6.
- ψ is Gugenheim's A_∞ quasi-isomorphism between $\Omega(M)$ and $C^\bullet(M)$.

Proposition 4.10. *Suppose that α is a flat connection on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} . Then hol_α^∞ is a Maurer–Cartan element of $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$.*

Proof. All of the maps involved in the definition of hol_α^∞ preserve Maurer–Cartan elements. \square

Recall that there is a natural inclusion $\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes C^\bullet(M) \hookrightarrow \text{Hom}(C_\bullet(M), \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}))$ of filtered differential graded algebras. Completing yields a map

$$\mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(C_\bullet(M), \hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})),$$

which allows us to view hol_α^∞ as a map from $C_\bullet(M)$ to $\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$. It is not hard to see that the image of this map lies in the kernel K of the augmentation map $\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Hence if α is flat, this map corresponds to a twisting cochain on $C_\bullet(M)$ with values in K ; see Appendix A. Such a twisting cochain is equivalent to a morphism of differential graded coalgebras from $C_\bullet(M)$ to $\hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$, where $\hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$ denotes the completed bar complex of $\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$. Hence a flat connection α on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} gives rise to a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$. We have proved our main result:

Theorem 4.11. *Suppose that α is a flat connection on M with values in a filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} . Then there is a natural homomorphism of differential graded coalgebras*

$$\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty : C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}).$$

For a flat connection α with values in a filtered differential graded Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , one could also define the holonomy hol_α as the image of α under

$$\mathfrak{g} \otimes \Omega(M) \xrightarrow{\hat{\iota}} \hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes \Omega(M)) \xrightarrow{\hat{\tau}} \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} \Omega(M) \xrightarrow{(\widehat{\text{id} \otimes \psi})_*} \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M).$$

Hence, if α is flat, one obtains a morphism of differential graded coalgebras

$$\text{hol}_\alpha : C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathfrak{g}).$$

Proposition 4.12. *Let α be a flat connection on M with values in a filtered differential graded Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Then the following diagram is commutative:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_\bullet(M) & \xrightarrow{\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty} & \hat{\mathcal{B}}\hat{\mathcal{U}}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \\ & \searrow \text{hol}_\alpha & \downarrow \mathcal{B}\hat{\mathcal{U}}(\rho) \\ & & \hat{\mathcal{B}}\hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g}). \end{array}$$

Proof. This follows from the fact that the Maurer–Cartan elements $\text{hol}_\alpha^\infty \in \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$ and $\text{hol}_\alpha \in \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$ are related by the map $\mathbb{U}(\rho) \hat{\otimes} \text{id}$. To establish this, let \mathfrak{g} be an arbitrary filtered differential graded Lie algebra and $\phi : A \rightarrow B$ morphism of commutative differential graded algebras. Then the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathfrak{g}^1 & \xrightarrow{\hat{\eta}^*} & \mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g}) & \xrightarrow{\hat{i}} & \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \\ & \searrow \hat{i} & & & \downarrow \mathbb{U}(\rho) \\ & & & & \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \phi} & \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes B \\ \downarrow \mathbb{U}(\rho) & & \downarrow \mathbb{U}(\rho) \otimes \text{id} & & \downarrow \mathbb{U}(\rho) \otimes \text{id} \\ \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g} \otimes A) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes \phi} & \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes B \end{array}$$

are commutative. \square

We saw that in the case of differential graded Lie algebras, the two possible notions of holonomy hol and hol^∞ are related by the quasi-isomorphism $\mathbb{U}(\rho) : \mathbb{U}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$. The following lemma shows that, furthermore, both definitions are consistent with the usual notion of holonomy in the case that \mathfrak{g} is a Lie algebra.

Lemma 4.13. *Let α be a connection on M with values in a filtered Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Then $\text{hol}_\alpha \in \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\bullet(M)$ yields the usual parallel transport of α .*

Proof. By degree reasons, α is an element of $\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega^1(M)$ and hol_α is an element of $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^1(M)$. Let $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$ be a path in M . The pullback of α along γ gives an element of $\mathfrak{g} \hat{\otimes} \Omega^1([0, 1])$, which can be written as

$$\gamma^* \alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \xi^i \otimes a_i(t) dt,$$

where $\deg(\xi^i) \rightarrow \infty$. The degree of an element in a filtered graded vector space V is the integer k such that the element is contained in $F_k V$, but not in $F_{k+1} V$.

We consider $\text{hol}_\alpha \in \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^1(M)$ as a map from $C_1(M)$ to $\hat{\mathbb{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$. By definition, the evaluation of this map on the path γ yields

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} \sum_{i_1 \geq 1, \dots, i_k \geq 1} (\xi^{i_1} \dots \xi^{i_k}) \left(\int_{1 \geq t_1 \geq \dots \geq t_k \geq 0} a_{i_1}(1-t_1) \dots a_{i_k}(1-t_k) dt_1 \dots dt_k \right).$$

Up to a shift by $1 \in \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$, this is the unique solution to the ordinary differential equation

$$H_0 = 1, \quad \frac{d}{dt} H_t = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \xi^i \otimes a_i(1-t) \right) \cdot H_t$$

in $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \hat{\otimes} C^\infty([0, 1])$. Hence, $\text{hol}_\alpha(\gamma)$ encodes parallel transport of α along γ (with reversed orientation). \square

The holonomies defined in Theorem 4.11 satisfy the following naturality conditions:

Lemma 4.14. *Suppose that α is a flat connection on M with values in the filtered L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{g} .*

1. *If $f: N \rightarrow M$ is a smooth map, then $\text{hol}_{f^*(\alpha)}^\infty = \text{hol}_\alpha^\infty \circ f_*$.*
2. *If $\gamma: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$ is a filtered morphism, then $\text{hol}_{\gamma_*(\alpha)}^\infty = \hat{\mathbb{B}}\hat{\mathbb{U}}_\infty(\gamma) \circ \text{hol}_\alpha^\infty$.*

Proof. The first claim follows directly from the naturality of Gugenheim's A_∞ -morphism with respect to the pullback along smooth maps. The second claim is clear since the whole construction is functorial with respect to the coefficient system \mathfrak{g} . \square

5. Flat connections on configuration spaces

So far, we constructed an extension of Igusa's higher holonomies [16] to the framework of flat connection with values in L_∞ -algebras. In this section, we explain how rational homotopy theory provides a vast amount of such connections. We then turn to a specific family of examples, the configuration spaces $\text{Conf}_d(n)$ of n points in \mathbb{R}^d ($d \geq 2$). In [19], Kontsevich constructed explicit models for these spaces and used them to establish formality of the chains of the little d -disks operad. We consider the corresponding flat connections, extending considerations of Ševera and Willwacher [28] to the higher-dimensional situation. Finally, we explain how one can use these flat connections to construct representations of the ∞ -groupoid of $\text{Conf}_d(n)$, generalizing the holonomy representations of braid groups.

5.1. Flat connections and rational homotopy theory

A Sullivan minimal model of a manifold M is a differential graded algebra (A_M, d) that is homotopy equivalent to $\Omega(M)$ and is isomorphic, as a graded algebra, to the free graded commutative algebra $\wedge V$ on a graded vector space V . For more details on the definition, we refer the reader to [30, 11]. For simplicity, we will assume that the homogeneous components of V are finite dimensional. Such a model exists, for instance, if M has vanishing first cohomology and finite Betti numbers.

As was observed in [12], the information of a Sullivan model can be encoded by a flat connection on M that takes values in an L_∞ -algebra: Let \mathfrak{g} be the graded vector

space with $\mathfrak{g}^k = (V^{-k+1})^*$; i.e., \mathfrak{g} is the desuspension of the graded dual V^* of V . Observe that since V is concentrated in strictly positive degrees, \mathfrak{g} is concentrated in non-positive degrees. Recall that $\mathbf{S}(\mathfrak{sg})$ denotes the symmetric coalgebra on \mathfrak{sg} , the suspension of \mathfrak{g} . We equip \mathfrak{g} with structure maps $\mu_n : \mathbf{S}^n(\mathfrak{sg}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{sg}$ of degree $+1$ given by

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathfrak{sg}) = \mathbf{S}(V^*) \hookrightarrow (\mathbf{S}(V))^* \rightarrow (\mathbf{u}V)^* \cong \mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{sg}).$$

Here the arrow in the middle that goes from $(\mathbf{S}(V))^*$ to $(\mathbf{u}V)^*$ is the map dual of the restriction of the differential d of $\wedge V$ to V . The fact that d squares to zero implies that the maps $(\mu_n)_{n \geq 1}$ equip \mathfrak{sg} with the structure of an L_∞ -algebra. The next step is to consider the morphism φ . Since $\wedge V$ is free as a commutative graded algebra, it suffices to know its restriction to V . If we choose a homogeneous basis $(v_i)_{i \in I}$ of V , we obtain an element

$$\alpha_\varphi := \sum_i \varphi(v_i) \otimes v_i$$

of $\Omega(M) \otimes V^*$. We now consider α as an element of $\Omega(M) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$. As such, α_φ has degree $+1$, and the fact that φ is a morphism of commutative differential graded algebras implies that α_φ is a Maurer–Cartan element of the differential graded Lie algebra $\Omega(M) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$. It is clear that one can reconstruct the Sullivan model $(\wedge V, d)$ from \mathfrak{g} and α_φ . To sum up our discussion, we record the following:

Lemma 5.1. *Every finite type Sullivan model of a manifold M corresponds in a natural way to a flat connection on M with values in an L_∞ -algebra.*

Let α_φ be a flat connection on M associated to a Sullivan model $\varphi : \wedge V \rightarrow \Omega(M)$. In order for the holonomy map $\text{hol}_{\alpha_\varphi}^\infty$ from Theorem 4.11 to be well defined, we need the series which define it to converge. In Theorem 4.11, this is guaranteed by the assumption that \mathfrak{g} is filtered. For flat connections associated to Sullivan models, we will circumvent this problem by assuming that M is simply connected. This allows us to assume that V is concentrated in degrees strictly larger than $+1$, which in turn implies that \mathfrak{g} is concentrated in strictly negative degrees. Consequently, the components of α_φ of form degree 0 and 1 are zero and no divergent sums appear in the definition of the holonomy map $\text{hol}_{\alpha_\varphi}^\infty$.

Theorem 5.2. *Let $\varphi : \wedge V \rightarrow \Omega(M)$ be a Sullivan model of a manifold M , and assume that $\wedge V$ is of finite type and $V^1 = 0$. Then the holonomy map associated to the flat connection α_φ on M with values in \mathfrak{g} yields a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $\text{hol}_{\alpha_\varphi}^\infty : C_\bullet(M) \rightarrow \mathbf{BU}_\infty(\mathfrak{g})$.*

Remark 5.3. If one composes $\text{hol}_{\alpha_\varphi}^\infty$ with the projection map $\mathbf{BU}_\infty(\mathfrak{g}) \cong \mathbf{B}\Omega\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$, one obtains essentially the dual to

$$\wedge V \xrightarrow{\varphi} \Omega(M) \xrightarrow{\int} C^\bullet(M),$$

where the last map is the usual integration map. Hence, under mild assumptions (e.g., compactness of M) the holonomy map $\text{hol}_{\alpha_\varphi}^\infty$ will be a quasi-isomorphism of differential graded coalgebras. Since the adjunction morphism $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\Omega\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ is a quasi-isomorphism, we obtain that $\text{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ and $C_\bullet(M)$ are quasi-isomorphic dg coalgebras. Notice that the Baues–Lemaire conjecture [7], which was proven by Majewski

[22, 23], asserts that the strictification $\mathbb{S}(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} is quasi-isomorphic to Quillen’s Lie algebra model L_M of M ([25]). Hence $\mathrm{CE}(\mathfrak{g})$ is quasi-isomorphic—as a differential graded coalgebra—to Quillen’s coalgebra model $\mathrm{CE}(L_X)$.

5.2. Flat connections on configuration spaces

We now turn to a family of specific examples, the configuration spaces of n (numbered) points in \mathbb{R}^d , i.e.,

$$\mathrm{Conf}_d(n) := \{x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d : x_i \neq x_j \text{ for } i \neq j\}.$$

It turns out to be convenient to consider a natural compactification of $\mathrm{Conf}_d(n)$ to a semi-algebraic manifold with corners, the Fulton–MacPherson space $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$. To obtain these compactifications, one first mods out the action of $\mathbb{R}^d \rtimes \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ by translations and scalings on $\mathrm{Conf}_d(n)$ and then embeds the quotient into

$$(S^{d-1})^{\binom{n}{2}} \times ([0, \infty])^{\binom{n}{3}}$$

via all relative angles and cross-ratios. The closure of this embedding naturally admits the structure of a semi-algebraic manifold with corners. We refer the reader to [21, 29] for the details of this construction.

The cohomology ring of $\mathrm{Conf}_2(n)$ was determined by Arnold [5] and in higher dimensions by Cohen [10]: $H^*(\mathrm{Conf}_d(n))$ is the graded commutative algebra with a set of generators $(\omega_{ij})_{1 \leq i < j \leq n}$ of degree $(d-1)$ and the following relations:

$$\omega_{ij} = (-1)^d \omega_{ji}, \quad \omega_{ij}\omega_{jk} + \omega_{jk}\omega_{ki} + \omega_{ki}\omega_{ij} = 0.$$

5.2.1. Kontsevich’s models for configuration spaces

In [19], Kontsevich constructed a family of graph complexes $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$, together with integration maps

$$I : ^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n) \rightarrow \Omega(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)),$$

which are quasi-isomorphisms of commutative differential graded algebras. In dimension $d > 2$, the commutative differential graded algebras $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$, together with the integration map I , define Sullivan models for $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$.⁴

Let us recall the definition of $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$, following [19] and [21]:

Definition 5.4. An admissible graph with parameters (n, m, k) , where $n \geq 1, m \geq 0$, is a finite graph Γ such that:

1. Γ has no simple loops.
2. Γ contains n *external* vertices, numbered from 1 to n , and m *internal* vertices numbered from 1 to m .
3. Γ contains k edges, numbered from 1 to k .
4. Any vertex in Γ can be connected by a path to an external vertex.
5. All internal vertices have valency at least 3.
6. The edges of Γ are oriented.

⁴For dimension equal to 2, the problem is that $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_2(n)$ is not concentrated in positive degrees. Moreover, I does not take values in smooth differential forms, but in piecewise semialgebraic forms; see [14] and [21] for the technical details.

For $n = 0$, there is just one graph with parameters $(0, 0, 0)$, the empty graph \emptyset .

Definition 5.5. For every $n \geq 0$ and $d \geq 2$ define $^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)$ to be the \mathbb{Z} -graded vector space over \mathbb{R} generated by equivalence classes of isomorphism classes of admissible graphs with parameters (m, n, k) . The equivalence relation is generated by the following three conditions:

- $\Gamma \equiv (-1)^{(d-1)}\Gamma'$, if Γ differs from Γ' by a transposition in the labelling of the edges.
- $\Gamma \equiv (-1)^d\Gamma'$, if Γ differs from Γ' by a transposition in the numbering of the internal vertices.
- $\Gamma \equiv (-1)^d\Gamma'$, if Γ' is obtained from Γ by reversing the orientation of one of the edges.

We define the degree of a class $[\Gamma]$ with parameters (n, m, k) to be

$$|[\Gamma]| := (d - 1)k - dm.$$

Thus $^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)$ is the direct sum of homogenous components:

$$^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n) = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} ^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)^i.$$

Remark 5.6. In view of the equivalence relation, we may assume that, for even d , graphs have no multiple edges, are unoriented, and internal vertices are not ordered. Similarly, for odd d , one may assume that the edges are not ordered.

Definition 5.7. The graded vector spaces $^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)$ have a natural structure of commutative dg algebras. The product $\Gamma_1 \bullet \Gamma_2$ of Γ_1 and Γ_2 is their disjoint union, with the corresponding external vertices identified. The order in the edges is such that the order of each of the graphs is preserved and $e_1 < e_2$ if e_i belongs to Γ_i . Similarly, the numbering of the internal vertices is characterized by the fact that the order in each of the graphs is preserved and vertices in Γ_1 have labels smaller than those in Γ_2 . The differential ∂ is given by the sum over all graphs obtained by contracting one of the edges. For more precise details on the signs of the differential, please see [21].

Proposition 5.8 ([19, 21]). *The operations \bullet and ∂ give $^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)$ the structure of a commutative differential graded algebra.*

To a graph Γ in $^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n)$, one can associate a differential form $\omega_\Gamma \in \Omega(\mathbf{FM}_d(n))$ given by the formula

$$\omega_\Gamma := \pi_* \left(\bigwedge_{e \text{ edge of } \Gamma} (\pi_e)^* \text{Vol}_{d-1} \right), \quad \text{where:}$$

- The map $\pi: \mathbf{FM}_d(n+m) \rightarrow \mathbf{FM}_d(n)$ is the natural projection that forgets the last m points on the configuration space.
- For each edge e of Γ , $\pi_e: \mathbf{FM}_d(n+m) \rightarrow \mathbf{FM}_d(2) = S^{d-1}$ is the map that sends a configuration of $m+n$ points to the two points that are joined by e .
- Vol_{d-1} is the rotation invariant volume form of the $(d-1)$ -dimensional sphere, normalized so that its volume is 1.

Theorem 5.9 ([19, 21]). *The formula $\Gamma \mapsto \omega_\Gamma$ defines a quasi-isomorphism of differential graded algebras: $I: ^*\mathbf{Graphs}_d(n) \rightarrow \Omega(\mathbf{FM}_d(n))$.*

5.2.2. The Ševera–Willwacher connections

We next introduce flat connection on the compactified configuration spaces $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$. In the case $d = 2$, these connections were introduced by Ševera and Willwacher [28].

Definition 5.10. We say that an admissible graph Γ is internally connected if it is non-empty and connected after all the external vertices are removed. We denote by $\mathrm{CG}_d(n)$ the graded vector space spanned by equivalence classes of internally connected graphs with n external vertices, and introduce a grading by $\bar{\Gamma} := 1 + dm - (d - 1)k$.

Remark 5.11. As explained in Subsection 5.1, Kontsevich’s model $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$ of the compactified configuration space $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$ corresponds to a certain flat connection with values in an L_∞ -algebra. Since $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$ is the free commutative algebra on the space of internally connected graphs, the graded vector space underlying this L_∞ -algebra is the space of internally connected graphs $\mathrm{CG}_d(n)$. The general machinery from Subsection 5.1 leads to following definition/result:

Definition 5.12. The Ševera–Willwacher connection $\mathrm{SW}_d(n)$ on $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$ with values in the L_∞ -algebra $\mathrm{CG}_d(n)$ is given by

$$\sum_{\Gamma} I(\Gamma) \otimes \Gamma \in \Omega(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)) \hat{\otimes} \mathrm{CG}_d(n),$$

where the sum runs over a set of graphs whose equivalence classes form a basis of the graded vector space $\mathrm{CG}_d(n)$.

Proposition 5.13. *The Ševera–Willwacher connections are flat.*

Remark 5.14. We remark that Kontsevich’s model $^*\mathrm{Graphs}_d(n)$ for $\mathrm{FM}_d(n)$ is concentrated in degrees > 1 and finite-dimensional in each degree if $d > 3$. However, the L_∞ -algebras $\mathrm{CG}_d(n)$ admit filtrations in the sense of Subsection 3.1 for all d , and hence our methods are applicable also in the cases $d = 2$ and $d = 3$. We refer the reader to the forthcoming [4] for details.

Remark 5.15. Applying Theorem 4.11 to the flat connections $\mathrm{SW}_d(n)$ yields holonomy maps

$$\mathrm{hol}_{\mathrm{SW}_d(n)}^\infty : C_\bullet(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)) \rightarrow \hat{\mathrm{B}}\mathrm{U}_\infty(\mathrm{CG}_d(n)) \cong \hat{\mathrm{B}}\Omega\mathrm{CE}(\mathrm{CG}_d(n)).$$

The composition of $\mathrm{hol}_{\mathrm{SW}_d(n)}^\infty$ with the projection to $\mathrm{CE}(\mathrm{CG}_d(n))$ (which is a chain map but not a morphism of coalgebras) are Kontsevich’s formality maps

$$C_\bullet(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)) \rightarrow \mathrm{CE}(\mathrm{CG}_d(n))$$

from [19]. Kontsevich proved that these maps are quasi-isomorphisms and that they assemble into a morphism of operads from $(C_\bullet(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)))_{n \geq 1}$ to $(\mathrm{CE}(\mathrm{CG}_d(n)))_{n \geq 1}$, respectively. It is not hard to verify that the latter operad of differential graded coalgebras is quasi-isomorphic to its cohomology, which can be identified with the homology operad of the compactified configuration spaces $(\mathrm{FM}_d(n))_{n \geq 1}$. This way, Kontsevich established the formality of the chains on the little d -disks operad.

The holonomy maps

$$\mathrm{hol}_{\mathrm{SW}_d(n)}^\infty : C_\bullet(\mathrm{FM}_d(n)) \rightarrow \hat{\mathrm{B}}\mathrm{U}_\infty(\mathrm{CG}_d(n)) \cong \hat{\mathrm{B}}\Omega\mathrm{CE}(\mathrm{CG}_d(n))$$

that we constructed are extensions of Kontsevich’s formality map to a collection of quasi-isomorphisms of differential graded coalgebras. Therefore, it should be possible

to use them to obtain a formality proof that is compatible with the comultiplication on chains. We hope to report on this in the forthcoming [4].

5.3. Drinfeld–Kohno construction in higher dimensions

If \mathfrak{g} is a complex semisimple Lie algebra and V a representation of \mathfrak{g} , then the braid group B_n acts on $V^{\otimes n}$. This action comes from the following construction due to Drinfeld and Kohno: For each $n \geq 2$ there is a Lie algebra $\mathfrak{t}_2(n)$, called the Drinfeld–Kohno Lie algebra, and natural flat connections on the configuration spaces $\text{Conf}_2(n)$ with values in $\mathfrak{t}_2(n)$, the Knizhnik–Zamolodchikov connections [17]. The Lie algebras $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ have the property that for any quadratic Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and any representation V of \mathfrak{g} , there is a morphism of Lie algebras: $\varphi_n: \mathfrak{t}_d(n) \rightarrow \text{End}(V^{\otimes n})$. Pushing the flat connections along the morphism φ_n , one obtains flat connections on the vector bundle $V^{\otimes n}$. The holonomy of the flat connection gives an action of the fundamental group of $\text{Conf}_d(n)$, which is the pure braid group P_n . Since the connection is compatible with the action of the symmetric group, these actions extend to an action of the braid group B_n . We now explain how this construction can be generalized to higher dimensions. Our aim is to show how the compactified configuration spaces $\text{FM}_d(n)$ act via higher holonomies on the category of representations of quadratic graded Lie algebras.

Definition 5.16. For each dimension $d \geq 2$ and each $n \geq 2$, the Drinfeld–Kohno Lie algebra is the graded Lie algebra $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ generated by the symbols $t_{ij} = (-1)^d t_{ji}$ for $1 \leq i, j \leq n, i \neq j$, of degree $2 - d$, modulo the relations

$$\begin{aligned} [t_{ij}, t_{kl}] &= 0 && \text{if } \#\{i, j, k, l\} = 4, \\ [t_{ij}, t_{ik} + t_{jk}] &= 0 && \text{if } \#\{i, j, k\} = 3. \end{aligned}$$

These graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ are closely related to the L_∞ -algebras of internally connected graphs $\text{CG}_d(n)$, which were defined in the previous subsection. In fact, $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ is just the cohomology of $\text{CG}_d(n)$:

Proposition 5.17 (Proposition 6 from [33]). *The map $\phi: \mathfrak{t}_d(n) \rightarrow H(\text{CG}_d(n))$, defined by sending t_{ij} to the cohomology class of the graph that has only one edge going from the i th to the j th external vertices, is an isomorphism of graded Lie algebras.*

The relation between $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ and $\text{CG}_d(n)$ is even stronger [4]:

Proposition 5.18 ([4]). *The L_∞ -algebras $\text{CG}_d(n)$ are formal; i.e., there is an L_∞ quasi-isomorphism between $\text{CG}_d(n)$ and its cohomology $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$.*

Remark 5.19. Because the L_∞ -algebras $\text{CG}_d(n)$ are formal, one can use homological perturbation theory to push forward the Ševera–Willwacher connections $\text{SW}_d(n)$ to flat connection $\widehat{\text{SW}}_d(n)$ with values in the graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$. These induced connections are unique up to gauge equivalence. Ševera and Willwacher showed in [28] that in two dimensions one recovers the Alsekseev–Torossian connections, which were introduced in [1].

We now show that the graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$ naturally act on representations of (a graded version of) quadratic Lie algebras.

Definition 5.20. A quadratic differential graded Lie algebra of degree D is a finite-dimensional differential graded Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} together with a non-degenerate graded symmetric bilinear form $\kappa: \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[D]$, satisfying

$$\kappa([\alpha, \beta], \gamma) = -(-1)^{|\alpha||\beta|} \kappa(\beta, [\alpha, \gamma]) \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa(d\alpha, \beta) = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \kappa(\alpha, d\beta).$$

Example 5.21.

1. A complex semisimple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} endowed with the Killing form is a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra of degree 0.
2. Let \mathfrak{g} be a quadratic Lie algebra and M a closed oriented manifold of dimension D . Let $H^-(M)$ denote the graded algebra $H^-(M)^k := H^{-k}(M)$, and consider the pairing

$$\mu: H^-(M) \otimes H^-(M) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[D],$$

induced by the Poincaré pairing in cohomology. Then the vector space $\mathfrak{g} \otimes H^-(M)$ is a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra with bracket

$$[\alpha \otimes \eta, \beta \otimes \omega] := (-1)^{|\eta||\beta|} [\alpha, \beta] \otimes \eta\omega$$

and bilinear pairing $\kappa(\alpha \otimes \eta, \beta \otimes \omega) := (-1)^{|\eta||\beta|} \kappa(\alpha, \beta) \mu(\eta, \omega)$.

Let us now fix a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of degree D . We denote by $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} . The bilinear form κ defines an isomorphism $\kappa^\sharp: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*[D]$, which induces identifications $\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}[-D] \cong \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}^* \cong \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$.

We will denote by Ω the element of $(\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g})^{-D} \subset \mathbb{U} \otimes \mathbb{U}$ that corresponds to $\text{id} \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$ under the identification above. Explicitly, one can choose a basis (I_μ) for \mathfrak{g} , with the property that each of the basis elements is homogeneous and the basis of $\mathfrak{g}^*[D]$ induced by the isomorphism κ^\sharp is dual to the basis (I_μ) . Then Ω can be written as $\Omega = \sum_\mu I_\mu \otimes \tilde{I}_\mu$, where \tilde{I}_μ is the unique basis element in $\mathfrak{g}^{|\mu|-D}$ with the property that $\kappa(I_\mu, \tilde{I}_\mu) = 1$. In case $D = 4l$, there is a potential problem since the bilinear form restricted to $\mathfrak{g}^{\frac{D}{2}}$ may not be positive definite. In this case, some of the elements \tilde{I}_μ may not be basis elements but negative of basis elements instead.

The Casimir element of \mathfrak{g} , denoted by C , is the image of $\Omega \in \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ in the universal enveloping algebra. Since the bilinear form κ is ad invariant i.e.,

$$\kappa(\text{ad}(x)(y), z) + (-1)^{|x||y|} \kappa(y, \text{ad}(x)(z)) = 0,$$

the map $\kappa^\sharp: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*[D]$ is a morphism of representations of \mathfrak{g} . Since $\text{id} \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$ is an invariant element for the action of \mathfrak{g} , so is Ω . We conclude that C is a central element of $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$. Also, the compatibility between the differential and the pairing in \mathfrak{g} implies that $\kappa^\sharp: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*[D]$ is a morphism of chain complexes. Since $\text{id} \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$ is closed, we conclude that $d\Omega = 0$.

Recall that $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ admits a coproduct $\Delta: \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$, which is the unique algebra homomorphism with the property that $\Delta(x) = 1 \otimes x + x \otimes 1$ for all $x \in \mathfrak{g}$.

The proof of the following lemma is immediate.

Lemma 5.22. *We regard \mathfrak{g} as a subspace of $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ via the obvious inclusion. Then*

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta(C) - 1 \otimes C - C \otimes 1).$$

Let $\iota^{12}: \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ be the map $x \otimes y \mapsto x \otimes y \otimes 1$, and define ι^{23}, ι^{13} analogously. Then, for $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$, we set $\Omega^{ij} := \iota^{ij}(\Omega)$.

Lemma 5.23. *The following relation is satisfied: $[\Omega^{12}, \Omega^{23} + \Omega^{13}] = 0$.*

Proof. First, we observe that since C is a central element in $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$, $1 \otimes 1 \otimes C, 1 \otimes C \otimes 1, C \otimes 1 \otimes 1$ are central elements in $\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})$. In view of Lemma 5.22, we know that for each pair $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$: $\Omega^{ij} = \frac{1}{2}\iota^{ij}(\Delta(C)) + X^{ij}$, where X^{ij} is central. Therefore, it suffices to prove that

$$[\iota^{12}(\Delta(C)), \iota^{23}(\Delta(C)) + \iota^{13}(\Delta(C))] = 0.$$

In order to prove this, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \iota^{23}(\Delta(C)) &= \iota^{23}(1 \otimes C + C \otimes 1 + 2 \sum_{\mu} I_{\mu} \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu}) \\ &= 1 \otimes 1 \otimes C + 1 \otimes C \otimes 1 + 2 \sum_{\mu} 1 \otimes I_{\mu} \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu}, \end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\iota^{13}(\Delta(C)) = 1 \otimes 1 \otimes C + C \otimes 1 \otimes 1 + 2 \sum_{\mu} I_{\mu} \otimes 1 \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu}.$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$\iota^{13}(\Delta(C)) + \iota^{23}(\Delta(C)) = 2 \sum_{\mu} \Delta(I_{\mu}) \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu} + X,$$

with X central. Finally, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}[\iota^{12}(\Delta(C)), \iota^{23}(\Delta(C)) + \iota^{13}(\Delta(C))] &= [\Delta(C) \otimes 1, \sum_{\mu} \Delta(I_{\mu}) \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu}] \\ &= \sum_{\mu} [\Delta(C), \Delta(I_{\mu})] \otimes \tilde{I}_{\mu} = 0. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.24. *Let \mathfrak{g} be a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra of degree $D = d - 2$. For each $n \geq 2$ there is a homomorphism of graded algebras*

$$\hat{\varphi}_n: \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{t}_d(n)) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes n},$$

given by the formula $t_{ij} \mapsto \lambda^{ij}(\Omega) \in \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes n}$, where $\lambda^{ij}: \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}^{\otimes n}(\mathfrak{g})$ is the morphism of algebras given by:

$$x \otimes y \mapsto 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes \underbrace{x}_i \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1 \otimes \underbrace{y}_j \otimes 1 \otimes \cdots \otimes 1.$$

Proof. We need to prove that $\hat{\varphi}_n(t_{ij})$ satisfy the defining relations of $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$. It is clear from the definition that $[\hat{\varphi}_n(t_{ij}), \hat{\varphi}_n(t_{kl})] = 0$ if $\#\{i, j, k, l\} = 4$. It remains to prove that $[\hat{\varphi}_n(t_{ij}), \hat{\varphi}_n(t_{ik}) + \hat{\varphi}_n(t_{jk})] = 0$ if $\#\{i, j, k\} = 3$. Clearly, it is enough to consider the case $n = 3$. Thus, it suffices to prove that $[\Omega^{12}, \Omega^{23} + \Omega^{13}]$ vanishes, which is precisely the claim of Lemma 5.23. Since $d\Omega = 0$, we conclude that the map $\hat{\varphi}$ is a chain map. \square

Corollary 5.25. *Let \mathfrak{g} be a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra of degree $D = d - 2$ and V_1, \dots, V_n be representations of \mathfrak{g} . Then there is a natural homomorphism of graded Lie algebras: $\varphi: \mathfrak{t}_d(n) \rightarrow \text{End}(V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n)$.*

Proof. Consider the composition

$$\mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{t}_d(n)) \rightarrow \mathbb{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes n} \rightarrow \text{End}(V_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \text{End}(V_n) \cong \text{End}(V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n),$$

where the first map is $\hat{\varphi}_n$ and the second map is the tensor product of the representations. This is an algebra map that, by the universal property of the enveloping algebra, corresponds to a morphism of Lie algebras $\varphi: \mathfrak{t}_d(n) \rightarrow \text{End}(V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n)$. \square

Let \mathfrak{g} be a quadratic differential graded Lie algebra of degree $D = d - 2$ and V_1, \dots, V_n be finite-dimensional representations of \mathfrak{g} . By Corollary 5.25, there is a morphism of Lie algebras:

$$\varphi_n: \mathfrak{t}_d(n) \rightarrow \text{End}(V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n).$$

Recall that pushing forward the Ševera–Willwacher connection $\check{\text{SW}}_d(n)$ to cohomology results in a flat connection $\widehat{\text{SW}}_d(n)$ on $\text{FM}_d(n)$ with values in $\mathfrak{t}_d(n)$. Pushing forward further along the map φ_n then yields a flat connection $\varphi_n(\widehat{\text{SW}}_d(n))$ on the space $\text{FM}_d(n)$ with values in $\text{End}(V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n)$. Thus, in this way, one obtains flat connections on the trivial graded vector bundle with fiber $V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n$.

Corollary 5.26. *The holonomies of the connections $\varphi_n(\widehat{\text{SW}}_d(n))$ give an action of the ∞ -groupoid⁵ of the space $\text{FM}_d(n)$ on the vector space $V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n$.*

In the two-dimensional case, this action corresponds to the usual representations of braid groups on products of representations of quadratic Lie algebras. In future work, we plan to generalize this construction to cyclic L_∞ -algebras. In fact, it seems plausible that this can be achieved directly on the level of the Ševera–Willwacher connections, which would allow one to bypass the use of homological perturbation theory. Moreover, we expect the resulting construction to be closely related to Kontsevich’s characteristic classes of cyclic L_∞ -algebras from [18].

Appendix A. The completed bar complex

Remark A.1. Let C be a differential graded coalgebra and A a differential graded algebra. Consider the space $\text{Hom}(C, A)$ of graded linear maps from C to A . The differentials on C and A induce a differential on $\text{Hom}(C, A)$. Let us denote the comultiplication on C by Δ and the multiplication on A by m . The convolution product

$$(f, g) \mapsto m \circ (f \otimes g) \circ \Delta$$

makes $\text{Hom}(C, A)$ into a differential graded algebra.

Definition A.2. For C and A as above, a Maurer–Cartan element⁶ of the differential graded algebra $\text{Hom}(C, A)$ is called a twisting cochain on C with values in A . We denote the set of twisting cochains on C with values in A by $\text{MC}(\text{Hom}(C, A))$.

⁵We adopt the convention that an ∞ -groupoid is a Kan simplicial set. The ∞ -groupoid of a space X is the Kan simplicial set of chains $C_\bullet(X)$.

⁶For the definition of Maurer–Cartan elements of a differential graded algebra, see Remark 3.9.

Remark A.3. From now on, we assume that A is an augmented differential graded algebra. Under certain conditions, a twisting cochain f on C with values in the augmentation ideal \underline{A} is equivalent to a morphism of differential graded coalgebras $F : C \rightarrow \mathbf{BA}$. In fact, given a morphism F , one simply obtains a twisting cochain by composition with the projection $\mathbf{BA} \rightarrow \underline{A}$. On the other hand, if we start with a twisting cochain, the natural candidate \hat{f} for the morphism from C to \mathbf{BA} is

$$\hat{f}(c) = \epsilon(c) + f(c) + f^{\otimes 2}(\Delta c) + f^{\otimes 3}(\Delta^2 c) + \dots$$

Here ϵ is the co-unit of C and $\Delta^n : C \rightarrow C^{\otimes n+1}$ is defined iteratively by $\Delta^1 = \Delta$ and $\Delta^{n+1} = (\text{id}^{\otimes n} \otimes \Delta) \circ \Delta^n$. It is not hard to check that, up to convergence issues, \hat{f} is indeed a morphism of differential graded coalgebras (for instance, if $\Delta^N v = 0$ for sufficiently large N). One can make this correspondence precise with the help of the completed bar complex.

Definition A.4. Let (C, d, Δ, ϵ) be an differential graded coalgebra. A filtration on C is a decreasing sequence of subspaces

$$F_0(C) = C \supseteq F_1(C) = \ker(\epsilon) \supseteq F_2(C) \supseteq F_3(C) \supseteq \dots,$$

such that:

1. $\bigcap_k F_k(C) = 0$.
2. If $c \in F_k(C)$, $d(c)$ lies in $F_{k-1}(C)$, and $\Delta(c)$ lies in the linear span of the subspaces $F_i(C) \otimes F_{k-i}(C) \subset C \otimes C$, $i = 0, \dots, k$.

A filtered differential graded coalgebra is an differential graded coalgebra with a filtration.

Remark A.5. Let C be a filtered differential graded coalgebra. We denote the completion of C by \hat{C} . If we equip $C \otimes C$ with the filtration $F_k(C \otimes C)$ given by the linear span of the subspaces $F_i(C) \otimes F_{k-i}(C)$ for $i = 0, \dots, k$, then the comultiplication becomes continuous. Hence we obtain a map

$$\hat{\Delta} : \hat{C} \rightarrow C \hat{\otimes} C.$$

The differential d and the augmentation map ϵ extend to \hat{C} . We denote these extensions by \hat{d} and $\hat{\epsilon}$.

Definition A.6. In the above situation, we refer to $(\hat{C}, \hat{d}, \hat{\Delta}, \hat{\epsilon})$ as the completion of (C, d, Δ, ϵ) .

Remark A.7. Although the completion $(\hat{C}, \hat{d}, \hat{\Delta}, \hat{\epsilon})$ is *not* a differential graded coalgebra, since $\hat{\Delta}$ maps into $C \hat{\otimes} C$ instead of $\hat{C} \otimes \hat{C}$, we will accept the axioms that $(\hat{C}, \hat{d}, \hat{\Delta}, \hat{\epsilon})$ satisfies to be the adequate replacement of what a differential graded coalgebra should be in the completed context.

Definition A.8. Let C and C' be two filtered differential graded coalgebras. A morphism of differential graded coalgebras from C to the completion \hat{C}' of C' is a morphism of chain complexes $\varphi : C \rightarrow \hat{C}'$ that maps $F_k C$ into $F_k \hat{C}'$ and makes the following two diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{c}
1. \quad C \xrightarrow{\phi} \hat{C}' \\
\quad \searrow \epsilon \quad \swarrow \hat{\epsilon}' \\
\quad \quad \mathbb{R} \\
\\
2. \quad C \xrightarrow{\phi} \hat{C}' \\
\quad \downarrow \Delta \quad \downarrow \hat{\Delta}' \\
C \otimes C \xrightarrow{\phi \otimes \phi} \hat{C}' \otimes \hat{C}' \longrightarrow C' \hat{\otimes} C'.
\end{array}$$

Lemma A.9. *If A is an augmented differential graded algebra, then its bar complex $\mathbf{B}A$ is naturally a filtered differential graded coalgebra. The filtration on $\mathbf{B}A$ is defined by*

$$F_k(\mathbf{B}A) := \bigoplus_{l \geq k} \mathbb{T}^l(\mathfrak{s}\underline{A}).$$

Recall that \underline{A} denotes the kernel of the augmentation map.

Definition A.10. Let A be an augmented differential graded algebra. The completed bar complex of A is the completion of the filtered differential graded coalgebra $\mathbf{B}A$. We denote it by $\hat{\mathbf{B}}A$.

Proposition A.11. *Let C be a differential graded coalgebra and A an augmented differential graded algebra. The following maps define a bijection between the set $\text{MC}(\text{Hom}(C, \underline{A}))$ of twisting cochains on C with values in \underline{A} and the set of morphisms from C to the completed bar complex $\hat{\mathbf{B}}A$ of A :*

1. *Given a morphism $F : C \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{B}}A$, the associated morphism $\check{F} : C \rightarrow \underline{A}$ is just the composition of F with the projection $\hat{\mathbf{B}}A \rightarrow \underline{A}$.*
2. *Given $f : C \rightarrow \underline{A}$ a twisting cochain on C with values in \underline{A} , we define $\hat{f} : C \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{B}}A$ to be*

$$\hat{f}(c) := \epsilon(c) + f(c) + f^{\otimes 2}(\Delta c) + f^{\otimes 3}(\Delta^2 c) + \dots.$$

Proof. Observe first that the map \hat{f} associated to $f : C \rightarrow \underline{A}$ is well defined as a map from C to the completed bar complex of A . It is not hard to check that the given assignments map twisting cochains to coalgebra maps and vice versa and that the twisting cochain associated to the morphism \hat{f} is f itself.

It remains to check that the morphism associated to the twisting cochain \check{F} is F itself. This is a consequence of the following lemma: \square

Lemma A.12. *Let $F, G : C \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{B}}A$ be morphisms such that $\check{F} = \check{G}$. Then $F = G$.*

Proof. We denote the projection of an element $x \in \hat{\mathbf{B}}A$ to $\mathbb{T}^k \underline{A}$ by x^k .

By definition, we have

$$F(c)^0 = \epsilon(c) = G(c)^0 \quad \text{and} \quad F(c)^1 = \check{F}(c) = \check{G}(c) = G(c)^1.$$

Now one can proceed by induction: Let $k \geq 1$ and suppose that $F(c)^l = G(c)^l$ holds for all $l \leq k$. Since $\Delta(F(c)) = (F \otimes F)(\Delta c)$ and since $\bar{\Delta} : \bar{\mathbf{B}}A \rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{B}}A \otimes \bar{\mathbf{B}}A$ is injective,

we know that $F(c)^{k+1}$ is determined by $F(c)^l$ for $l \leq k$. Details can be found in [25, Appendix B]. \square

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