

Advanced topics in algebra:
Hochschild (co)homology, and the
Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg decomposition

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Introduction

What you are reading now are the lecture notes for a course on Hochschild (co)homology, taught at the University of Bonn, in the Sommersemester of 2017–2018. They are currently being written, and regularly updated. The table of contents is provisional.

The goal of the course is to give an introduction to Hochschild (co)homology, focussing on

1. its applications in *deformation theory* of algebras (and schemes)
2. and the role of the *Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg* decomposition in all this.

There are by many several texts on various aspects of Hochschild (co)homology. In particular the following books dedicate some chapters on Hochschild (co)homology:

1. chapter IX in Cartain–Eilenberg’s *Homological algebra* [4],
2. the first chapters of Loday’s *Cyclic homology* [13],
3. chapter 9 of Weibel’s *An introduction to homological algebra* [17],
4. chapter 2 by Tsygan in Cuntz–Skandalis–Tsygan’s *Cyclic homology in noncommutative geometry* [5],
5. chapter II by Schedler in the Bellamy–Rogalski–Schedler–Stafford–Wemyss’ *Noncommutative algebraic geometry* [1].

There are also the following unpublished lecture notes:

1. Ginzburg’s *Lectures on noncommutative geometry* [7]
2. Kaledin’s Tokyo lectures [10] and Seoul lectures [11].

There is also Witherspoon’s textbook-in-progress called *An introduction to Hochschild cohomology* [18], which is dedicated entirely to Hochschild cohomology and some its applications. So far this is the only textbook dedicated entirely to Hochschild (co)homology, and it is a good reference for things not covered in these notes.

Compared to the existing texts these notes aim to focus more on Hochschild (co)homology in algebraic geometry, using derived categories of smooth projective varieties. This point of view has been developed in several papers [2, 3, 12] and applied in many more dealing with semiorthogonal decompositions. But there is no comprehensive treatment, let alone starting from the basics of Hochschild (co)homology for algebras. These notes aim to fill this gap, where we start focussing on smooth projective varieties starting in the second half of chapter 2.

Now that we know what is supposed to go in this text, let us mention that the following will not be discussed: the relationship with algebraic K-theory via Chern characters, support varieties, deformation theory of abelian and dg categories, applications to Hopf algebras, topological versions of Hochschild (co)homology and related constructions, ...

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Chapter 1

Algebras

Conventions Throughout these notes we will let k be a field. It is possible to develop much of the theory in the case for algebras which are flat over a commutative base ring without much extra effort, but we will not do so explicitly. The interested reader is invited to do so. There are also versions which are valid in a more general setting, but will refrain from discussing these.

At some points we will take k of characteristic zero, or algebraically closed. This will be mentioned explicitly.

If A is a k -algebra we will denote the *enveloping algebra* $A \otimes A^{\text{opp}}$ of A by A^e , so that A -bimodules are the same as left A^e -modules.

1.1 Definition and first properties

1.1.1 Hochschild (co)chain complexes

We start with a seemingly ad hoc definition.

Definition 1. Let A be a k -algebra. The *bar complex* $C_{\bullet}^{\text{bar}}(A)$ of A is the cochain complex

$$(1.1) \quad \dots \xrightarrow{d_2} A \otimes_k A \otimes_k A \xrightarrow{d_1} A \otimes_k A \rightarrow 0,$$

of A -bimodules, where we have $C_n^{\text{bar}}(A) := A^{\otimes n+2}$, hence $A \otimes_k A$ lives in degree 0, and the differentials $d_n: C_n^{\text{bar}}(A) \rightarrow C_{n-1}^{\text{bar}}(A)$ are given by

$$(1.2) \quad d_n(a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}.$$

The A -bimodule structure (or equivalently left A^e -module structure) on $C_n^{\text{bar}}(A)$ is given by

$$(1.3) \quad (a \otimes b) \cdot (a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) = aa_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \otimes a_{n+1}b.$$

We will also consider the morphism $d_0: A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$, which by the formula for d_n is nothing but the multiplication morphism $\mu: A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$.

Remark 2. The terminology “bar complex” originates from the fact that an element $a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}$ is sometimes denoted $a_0[a_1] \dots [a_n]a_{n+1}$.

Before we start studying the bar complex (for instance, at this point we haven't proven it is a complex), we introduce the following morphisms:

$$(1.4) \quad s_n : A^{\otimes n+2} \rightarrow A^{\otimes n+3} : a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1} \mapsto 1 \otimes a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}.$$

Given that this is the first proof we will give details. We will see many similar proofs throughout the beginning of the notes, we will leave some of them as exercises.

Lemma 3. We have that

$$(1.5) \quad d_{n+1} \circ s_n + s_{n-1} \circ d_n = \text{id}_{A^{\otimes n+2}}.$$

Proof. One computes that

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{aligned} & s_{n-1} \circ d_n(a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i 1 \otimes a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}, \\ & d_{n+1} \circ s_n(a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) \\ &= a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} (-1)^i 1 \otimes a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i-1} a_i \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

so everything but the identity cancels after reindexing. \square

We can check that the d_i 's indeed turn $C_\bullet^{\text{bar}}(A)$ into a chain complex.

Lemma 4. We have that $d_{n-1} \circ d_n = 0$.

Proof. Let us consider $n = 1$ first. Then $d_0 \circ d_1(a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes a_2) = (a_0 a_1) a_2 - a_0 (a_1 a_2)$, which is zero as A is associative.

For $n \geq 2$ we use induction, using (1.5). We have

$$(1.7) \quad d_n \circ d_{n+1} \circ s_n = d_n - d_n \circ s_{n-1} \circ d_n = s_{n-2} \circ d_{n-1} \circ d_n = 0,$$

but as the image of s_n generates $A^{\otimes n+3}$ as a left A -module we get that $d_n \circ d_{n+1} = 0$. \square

The bar complex didn't include A , but if we use the morphism $d_0 : A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$ as defined above we get the following proposition.

Proposition 5. The bar complex of A is a free resolution of A as an A -bimodule, where the augmentation $d_0 : A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$ is given by the multiplication.

Proof. By lemma 3 we see that the s_i 's provides a contracting homotopy, hence the bar complex is exact, as a complex of A -bimodules.

We also check that the cokernel of d_1 is indeed the multiplication $A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$. For this it suffices to observe that

$$(1.8) \quad d_1(a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes a_2) = a_0 a_1 \otimes a_2 - a_0 \otimes a_1 a_2,$$

and that there exists a map $\text{coker } d_1 \rightarrow A$ mapping the class of $a_0 \otimes a_1$ to $a_0 a_1$. By the definition of d_1 it sends elements of $\text{im } d_1$ to zero, so it is well-defined. Its inverse is given by the morphism which sends a to $1 \otimes a$.

That $C_n^{\text{bar}}(A)$ is free as an A -bimodule follows from the isomorphisms of A -bimodules

$$(1.9) \quad A^{\otimes n+2} \cong A^e \otimes A^{\otimes n} \cong \bigoplus_{i \in I} A^e \cdot 1 \otimes 1 \otimes a_i$$

where $\{a_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a vector space basis of $A^{\otimes n}$, and the first isomorphism is

$$(1.10) \quad a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1} \mapsto (a_0 \otimes a_{n+1}) \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n.$$

□

Definition 6. Let A be a k -algebra, and M an A -bimodule. The *Hochschild chain complex* $C_\bullet(A, M)$ is $M \otimes_{A^e} C_\bullet^{\text{bar}}(A)$, considered as a complex of k -modules, with differential $\text{id}_M \otimes d_n$.

Its homology is the *Hochschild homology of A with values in M* , and will be denoted $\text{HH}_\bullet(A, M)$. If $M = A$, we'll write $\text{HH}_n(A)$.

Dual to this we could instead of the tensor product use the Hom-functor, and obtain the dual notion of Hochschild cohomology.

Definition 7. Let A be a k -algebra, and M an A -bimodule. The *Hochschild cochain complex* $C^\bullet(A, M)$ is $\text{Hom}_{A^e}(C_\bullet^{\text{bar}}(A), M)$, considered as a complex of k -modules, with differential $\text{Hom}(d_n, \text{id}_M)$.

Its cohomology is the *Hochschild cohomology of A with values in M* , and will be denoted $\text{HH}^\bullet(A, M)$. If $M = A$, we'll write $\text{HH}^n(A)$.

Remark 8. Observe that one can recover the bar complex from the Hochschild complex:

$$(1.11) \quad C_\bullet^{\text{bar}}(A) = C_\bullet(A, A^e).$$

Reinterpreting the Hochschild cochain complex The Hochschild (co)chain complexes were obtained by considering a specific free resolution of A as an A -bimodule, and constructing a (co)chain complex of vector spaces out of it. We can rephrase this complex of vector spaces a bit, where instead of $\text{Hom}_{A^e}(-, -)$ and $- \otimes_{A^e} -$, we use $\text{Hom}_k(-, -)$ and $- \otimes_k -$. This will be very useful for computations later on.

The proofs of the following two propositions follow from the fact that A^e only involves the first and last tensor factor of a bimodule in the bar complex. The explicit formula for the Hochschild differentials in (1.15) and (1.19) will be important for us in section 1.1.3.

Proposition 9. There exists an isomorphism of k -modules

$$(1.12) \quad \varphi: C^n(A, M) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_k(A^{\otimes n}, M),$$

given by

$$(1.13) \quad g \mapsto [a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \mapsto g(1 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \otimes 1)],$$

whose inverse is given by

$$(1.14) \quad f \mapsto [a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1} \mapsto a_0 f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) a_{n+1}].$$

The differential in $\text{Hom}_k(A^\bullet, M)$ is then given by

$$(1.15) \quad \begin{aligned} & d_{\text{Hoch}} f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) \\ &= a_1 f(a_2 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) \\ &+ (-1)^{n+1} f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) a_{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

for $f \in \text{Hom}_k(A^{\otimes n}, M)$.

Proposition 10. There exists an isomorphism of k -modules

$$(1.16) \quad \psi: C_\bullet(A, M) \xrightarrow{\cong} M \otimes_k A^\bullet$$

given by

$$(1.17) \quad \psi(m \otimes_{A^e} a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n+1}) = a_{n+1} m a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n,$$

whose inverse is given by

$$(1.18) \quad m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \mapsto m \otimes_{A^e} 1 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \otimes 1.$$

The differential $d_{\text{Hoch}}: M \otimes_k A^{\otimes n} \rightarrow M \otimes_k A^{\otimes n-1}$ is then given by

$$(1.19) \quad \begin{aligned} d_{\text{Hoch}}(m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) &= m a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^i m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \\ &+ (-1)^n a_n m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

for $m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \in M \otimes_k A^{\otimes n}$.

Functoriality of Hochschild (co)homology Given an algebra morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$, or a bimodule morphism $g: M \rightarrow N$, we would like to understand how this interacts with taking Hochschild (co)homology. First of all: *Hochschild homology is covariantly functorial in both arguments.*

Proposition 11. Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ be an algebra morphism, and M a B -bimodule (which has an induced A -bimodule structure, denoted $f^*(M)$). Then

$$(1.20) \quad f_*: C_\bullet(A, f^*(M)) \rightarrow C_\bullet(B, M) : m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \mapsto m \otimes f(a_1) \otimes \dots \otimes f(a_n)$$

gives a functor $\text{HH}_\bullet(-, M)$.

Let $g: M \rightarrow N$ be an A -bimodule morphism. Then

$$(1.21) \quad g_*: C_\bullet(A, M) \rightarrow C_\bullet(A, N) : m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \mapsto g(m) \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n$$

gives a functor $\text{HH}_\bullet(A, -)$.

In particular, taking $M = A$ we can use the covariant functoriality in both arguments for Hochschild homology to get the following.

Corollary 12. Hochschild homology $\text{HH}_\bullet(-)$ is a covariant functor from the category of associative k -algebras to the category of k -modules.

For Hochschild cohomology the situation is different: *Hochschild cohomology is contravariantly functorial in the first argument, and covariantly functorial in the second.*

Proposition 13. Let $f: A \rightarrow B$ be an algebra morphism, and M a B -bimodule (which has an induced A -bimodule structure). Then

$$(1.22) \quad f^*: C^n(B, M) \rightarrow C^n(A, M) : \varphi \mapsto \varphi \circ f^{\otimes n}$$

gives a (contravariant) functor $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(-, M)$.

Let $g: M \rightarrow N$ be an A -bimodule morphism. Then

$$(1.23) \quad g_*: C^n(A, M) \rightarrow C^n(A, N) : \varphi \mapsto g \circ \varphi$$

gives a functor $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A, -)$.

Remark 14. So $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(-)$ is *not* a functor (at least when we consider arbitrary morphisms between k -algebras), despite its appearance. We will come back to this in remark 20, and we will partially remedy this deficiency in section 2.3.

At this point it is also important that in some sources it is written that $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(-)$ is a functor, see e.g. [14, §1.5.4]. But this is not the same functor, despite the similarity in notation! Indeed, in those situations one takes $M = A^\vee = \mathrm{Hom}_k(A, k)$ as the second argument. This makes the construction functorial (as the covariant functor in the second argument becomes contravariant), but one does not obtain the interpretation of Hochschild cohomology which will be used in this text. The construction in op. cit. has applications in studying cyclic cohomology and generalisations of the Chern character, which we will not go into here.

In section 2.3 we will greatly extend this functoriality for Hochschild homology, and discuss what can be done in the case of Hochschild cohomology. Remark that in the next section's corollary 16 we will obtain that Hochschild cohomology is a functor for Morita equivalences.

1.1.2 Hochschild (co)homology as Ext and Tor

In these notes we have *defined* Hochschild (co)homology as the (co)homology of an explicit (co)chain complex, which might seem ad hoc at first. But the bar complex of A being a free resolution of A as a bimodule over itself allows us to interpret Hochschild (co)homology in terms of more familiar constructions as explained in section 1.1.3.

Moreover, the definition via the bar complex gives us an explicit description which will prove to be very useful in section 1.2 when we are discussing the extra structure on the Hochschild (co)chain complexes, which can conveniently be described by extra structure before taking cohomology. But it is of course an interesting question to find good intrinsic descriptions of the extra structure, and we will give further comments on this.

Theorem 15. There exist isomorphisms

$$(1.24) \quad \mathrm{HH}^i(A, M) \cong \mathrm{Ext}_{A^e}^i(A, M)$$

and

$$(1.25) \quad \mathrm{HH}_i(A, M) \cong \mathrm{Tor}_i^{A^e}(A, M).$$

Proof. By proposition 5 the bar complex is a free resolution of A as an A -bimodule. In particular it can serve as a flat (resp. projective) resolution when computing the derived functors of $A \otimes_{A^e} -$ (resp. $\mathrm{Hom}_{A^e}(A, -)$). \square

In particular, we have that

$$(1.26) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathrm{HH}^0(A, M) &\cong \mathrm{Hom}_{A^e}(A, M), \\ \mathrm{HH}_0(A, M) &\cong M \otimes_{A^e} A. \end{aligned}$$

But these descriptions are not necessarily very illuminating at this point. In section 1.1.3 we will give more concrete interpretations.

An important observation using theorem 15 is that the Hochschild cohomology of the A -bimodule M only depends on the category of A -bimodules. In this generality it is due to Rickard [15].

Corollary 16. Hochschild (co)homology is Morita invariant.

Proof. Assume that A and B are Morita equivalent through the bimodules ${}_A P_B$ and ${}_B Q_A$. The equivalences of categories are given by $P \otimes_A -$ and $Q \otimes_B -$, and these functors preserve projective resolutions. We obtain isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Ext}_A^n(P \otimes_B -, -) &\cong \text{Ext}_B^n(-, Q \otimes_A -) \\
 \text{Ext}_A^n(-, P \otimes_B -) &\cong \text{Ext}_B^n(Q \otimes_A -, -) \\
 \text{Tor}_n^A(P \otimes_B -, -) &\cong \text{Tor}_n^B(-, Q \otimes_A -) \\
 \text{Tor}_n^A(-, P \otimes_B -) &\cong \text{Tor}_n^B(Q \otimes_A -, -)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{1.27}$$

where we are only using the left module structure, and we have similar expressions when using the right module structure.

Using theorem 15 and these isomorphisms we get for every A -bimodule M that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{HH}^n(A, M) &\cong \text{Ext}_{A \otimes A^{\text{opp}}}^n(A, M) \\
 &\cong \text{Ext}_{A \otimes A^{\text{opp}}}^n(P \otimes_B Q, M) \\
 &\cong \text{Ext}_{B \otimes A^{\text{opp}}}^n(Q, Q \otimes_A M) \\
 &\cong \text{Ext}_{B \otimes B^{\text{opp}}}^n(B, Q \otimes_A M \otimes_A P) \\
 &\cong \text{HH}^n(B, Q \otimes_A M \otimes_A P)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{1.28}$$

and likewise for Hochschild homology. □

In section 2.3 we will greatly extend this Morita invariance to derived Morita invariance.

1.1.3 Interpretation in low degrees

We will now give an interpretation for Hochschild (co)homology in low degrees, where we can explicitly manipulate the bar complex, or rather its reinterpretation as in propositions 9 and 10. For this we observe that the differential of the Hochschild chain complex in low degrees is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 M \otimes_k A \otimes_k A &\xrightarrow{d} M \otimes_k A \xrightarrow{d} M \\
 (1.29) \quad m \otimes a \otimes b &\longmapsto ma \otimes b - m \otimes ab + bm \otimes a
 \end{aligned}$$

$$m \otimes a \longmapsto ma - am,$$

whilst for the Hochschild cochain complex $C^\bullet(A, M)$

$$(1.30) \quad \begin{array}{c} M \xrightarrow{d} \text{Hom}_k(A, M) \xrightarrow{d} \text{Hom}_k(A \otimes_k A, M) \\ m \longmapsto d(m): a \mapsto am - ma \end{array}$$

$$f \longmapsto d(f): a \otimes b \mapsto af(b) - f(ab) + f(a)b$$

and

$$(1.31) \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Hom}_k(A \otimes_k A, M) \xrightarrow{d} \text{Hom}_k(A \otimes_k A \otimes_k A, M) \\ g \longmapsto d(g): a \otimes b \otimes c \mapsto ag(b \otimes c) - g(ab \otimes c) + g(a \otimes bc) - g(a \otimes b)c. \end{array}$$

Using these explicit descriptions in low degrees we can obtain the following.

Zeroth Hochschild homology

Proposition 17. We have that

$$(1.32) \quad \text{HH}_0(A, M) \cong M / \langle am - ma \mid a \in A, m \in M \rangle$$

is the *module of coinvariants*. In particular, we have

$$(1.33) \quad \text{HH}_0(A) \cong A / [A, A] = A_{\text{ab}}.$$

Proof. This is immediate from the description of the morphism in (1.29). \square

Remark 18. The vector space $[A, A]$ is usually not an ideal in A , so there is no obvious algebra structure on $\text{HH}_0(A)$.

There is no one-size-fits-all description for Hochschild homology in higher degrees. But if A is commutative then a description in terms of differential forms is possible. We will come back to this in section 1.3.

Zeroth Hochschild cohomology

Proposition 19. We have that

$$(1.34) \quad \text{HH}^0(A, M) \cong \{m \in M \mid \forall a \in A: am = ma\}$$

is the *submodule of invariants*. In particular, we have

$$(1.35) \quad \text{HH}^0(A) \cong Z(A).$$

Proof. This is immediate from the description of the morphism in (1.30). \square

Remark 20. We can now give a new explanation of the non-functoriality of Hochschild cohomology using the interpretation of $\text{HH}^0(A)$ as the center: taking the center of an algebra isn't a functor.

First Hochschild cohomology

Definition 21. A morphism $f : A \rightarrow M$ is a k -derivation if

$$(1.36) \quad f(ab) = af(b) + f(a)b.$$

We will denote the k -module of derivations by $\text{Der}(A, M)$.

If $f = \text{ad}_m$ for $m \in M$, where

$$(1.37) \quad \text{ad}_m(a) = [a, m] = am - ma$$

then f is an *inner derivation*. We will denote the k -module of inner derivations by $\text{InnDer}(A, M)$.

When $A = M$, we will use the notation $\text{OutDer}(A)$ and $\text{InnDer}(A)$. When A is commutative we will discuss derivations in more detail in section 1.3. For now, observe that in the commutative case there are no inner derivations.

Proposition 22. We have that

$$(1.38) \quad \text{HH}^1(A, M) \cong \text{OutDer}(A, M) := \text{Der}(A, M) / \text{InnDer}(A, M)$$

are the *outer derivations*. In particular we have that

$$(1.39) \quad \text{HH}^1(A) \cong \text{OutDer}(A).$$

Proof. The description of the morphism in (1.30) tells us that Hochschild 1-cocycles are derivations, whilst Hochschild 1-coboundaries are inner derivations. \square

At this point the first Hochschild cohomology $\text{HH}^1(A)$ is just a vector space. But we can equip it with a Lie bracket. This is just a small piece of the extra structure that we will see in section 1.2.

Lemma 23. Let $D_1, D_2 : A \rightarrow A$ be derivations. Then $[D_1, D_2] := D_1 \circ D_2 - D_2 \circ D_1$ is also a derivation. Moreover, if $D_2 = \text{ad}_a$ is an inner derivation, for some $a \in A$, then $[D_1, \text{ad}_a] = \text{ad}_{D_1(a)}$.

Proof. From

$$\begin{aligned} [D_1, D_2](ab) &= D_1(D_2(ab)) - D_2(D_1(ab)) \\ &= D_1(aD_2(b) + D_2(a)b) - D_2(aD_1(b) + D_1(a)b) \\ &= aD_1(D_2(b)) + D_1(a)D_2(b) + D_2(a)D_1(b) + D_1(D_2(a))b \\ &\quad - aD_2(D_1(b)) - D_2(a)D_1(b) - D_1(a)D_2(b) - D_1(D_2(a))b \\ &= aD_1(D_2(b)) - aD_2(D_1(b)) + D_1(D_2(a))b - D_2(D_1(a))b \\ &= a[D_1, D_2](b) + [D_1, D_2](a)b \end{aligned} \tag{1.40}$$

we get that $[D_1, D_2]$ is indeed a derivation.

Similarly we compute

$$\begin{aligned} [D_1, \text{ad}_a](b) &= D_1(\text{ad}_a(b)) - \text{ad}_a(D_1(b)) \\ &= D_1(ab - ba) - (aD_1(b) - D_1(b)a) \\ &= aD_1(b) + D_1(a)b - bD_1(a) - D_1(b)a - aD_1(b) + D_1(b)a \\ &= D_1(a)b - bD_1(a) \\ &= \text{ad}_{D_1(a)}(b). \end{aligned} \tag{1.41}$$

\square

Corollary 24. $\mathrm{HH}^1(A)$ has the structure of a Lie algebra.

Proof. By lemma 23 we have that $\mathrm{Der}(A)$ is a Lie algebra (bilinearity and alternativity are trivial, the Jacobi identity is an easy computation), whilst $\mathrm{InnDer}(A) \subseteq \mathrm{Der}(A)$ is a Lie ideal. So $\mathrm{OutDer}(A)$ has the structure of a Lie algebra, and so does $\mathrm{HH}^1(A)$ via proposition 22. \square

Second Hochschild cohomology The following discussion is the first aspect of why we care about Hochschild cohomology in the context of these lecture notes: deformation theory.

Definition 25. Let A be a k -algebra, and M an A -bimodule. A *square-zero extension* of A by M is a surjection $f: E \twoheadrightarrow A$ of k -algebras, such that

1. $(\ker f)^2 = 0$ (which implies that it has an A -bimodule structure),
2. $\ker f \cong M$ as A -bimodules.

To see that $\ker f$ indeed has an A -bimodule structure, let e be a lift of $a \in A$. We will define $a \cdot m = em$ and $m \cdot a = me$ for $m \in \ker f$. If e' is another lift, then $e - e' \in \ker f$, so $(e - e')m \in (\ker f)^2 = 0$ means $em = e'm$ and $me = me'$.

So we have a sequence

$$(1.42) \quad 0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow E \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0.$$

We will impose an equivalence relation on square-zero extensions.

Definition 26. We say that $f: E \rightarrow A$ and $f': E' \rightarrow A$ are *equivalent* if there exists an algebra morphism $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ (necessarily an isomorphism), such that

$$(1.43) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & E & \longrightarrow & A \xrightarrow{f} 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \downarrow \varphi & & \parallel \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & E' & \xrightarrow{f'} & A \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

commutes.

Under our standing assumption on k being a field the sequence (1.42) is split as a sequence of vector spaces. If we choose a splitting $s: A \rightarrow E$ we get an isomorphism $E \cong A \oplus M$ of vector spaces. Using this decomposition the multiplication law on E can be written as

$$(1.44) \quad (a, m) \cdot (b, n) = (ab, an + mb + g(a, b))$$

for $g: A \otimes_k A \rightarrow M$. This morphism is called the *factor set*. The factor set is determined by the splitting s , which is not necessarily an algebra morphism, by $g(a, b) = s(ab) - s(a)s(b)$. One can check that the unit of E corresponds to $(1, -g(1, 1))$ in this description.

If we consider the multiplication $(a, 0) \cdot (b, 0) \cdot (c, 0)$ inside E , then the associativity of E is equivalent to

$$(1.45) \quad ag(b \otimes c) + g(a \otimes bc) - g(ab)c - g(ab \otimes c) = 0,$$

which corresponds to g being a Hochschild 2-cocycle, by (1.31).

But there was a choice of splitting $s: A \rightarrow E$ involved in the definition of g . If $s': A \rightarrow E$ is another splitting, then we obtain a different factor set g' . Comparing them gives

$$(1.46) \quad \begin{aligned} g'(a, b) - g(a, b) &= (s'(a)s'(b) - s'(ab)) - (s(a)s(b) - s(ab)) \\ &= s'(a)(s'(b) - s(b)) - (s'(ab) - s(ab)) + (s'(a) - s(a))s(b). \end{aligned}$$

But this is precisely the Hochschild differential applied to $s - s'$, which is a morphism $A \rightarrow M$ by construction, using the M -bimodule structure on M as discussed above. So the choice of a factor set gives a well-defined cohomology class.

If $g = 0$, then we call E the *trivial extension*.

Theorem 27. There exists a bijection

$$(1.47) \quad \mathrm{HH}^2(A, M) \cong \mathrm{AlgExt}(A, M)$$

such that $0 \in \mathrm{HH}^2(A, M)$ corresponds to the equivalence class of the trivial deformation.

We will mostly be interested in the case where $M = A$. In this case we will call E an *square-zero deformation*. This is a particular case of an infinitesimal deformation, as will be discussed in section 1.5. When $M = A$, we are describing algebra structures on $A \oplus At$ such that $t^2 = 0$, so we can equivalently describe square-zero deformations of A as a $k[t]/(t^2)$ -algebra E , such that $E \otimes_{k[t]/(t^2)} k \cong A$. The notion of equivalence becomes that of a $k[t]/(t^2)$ -module automorphism which reduces to the identity when t is set to 0.

So far we haven't seen any examples of Hochschild cohomology, let alone an example where $\mathrm{HH}^2(A) \neq 0$. The following example gives an ad hoc description of a (non-trivial) infinitesimal deformation of the polynomial ring in 2 variables.

Example 28. Let $A = k[x, y]$. Then we can equip $k[x, y] \oplus tk[x, y]$ with a multiplication for which $y \cdot x = yx + t$, i.e. using the factor set $g(y, x) = 1$. This is an infinitesimal deformation of $k[x, y]$ in the direction of the Weyl plane. We will come back to this.

Third Hochschild cohomology One can show that $\mathrm{HH}^3(A, M)$ classifies crossed bimodules, see [14, exercise E.1.5.1]. We will not discuss this here.

But we should at this point mention that the combination of $\mathrm{HH}^1(A)$, $\mathrm{HH}^2(A)$ and $\mathrm{HH}^3(A)$ will play an important role in the deformation theory of algebras, as discussed in section 1.5. The third Hochschild cohomology group will take on the role of obstruction space.

1.1.4 Examples

Explicit computations with the bar complex are often difficult, and only work in very elementary cases. We will collect a few of these examples, but we will also discuss some examples in which there exists a much smaller resolution that we can use, instead of the bar complex.

From now on we will focus on the case where $M = A$, occasionally we will mention what happens in the general case.

Example 29 (The polynomial ring $k[t]$). Instead of the bar complex we can use a very concrete resolution of $k[t]$ as a bimodule over itself. Observe that $k[t]^e \cong k[x, y]$, and $k[t]$ as a $k[x, y]$ -module has a free resolution

$$(1.48) \quad 0 \rightarrow k[x, y] \xrightarrow{\cdot(x-y)} k[x, y] \rightarrow k[t] \rightarrow 0.$$

From this we immediately see that

$$(1.49) \quad \mathrm{HH}_i(k[t]) \cong \begin{cases} k[t] & i = 0, 1 \\ 0 & i \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

and

$$(1.50) \quad \mathrm{HH}^i(k[t]) \cong \begin{cases} k[t] & i = 0, 1 \\ 0 & i \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

This agreement between Hochschild homology and cohomology is no coincidence: $k[t]$ is a so called 1-Calabi–Yau algebra, so Poincaré–Van den Bergh duality applies, as in appendix B.2.

Example 30 (Finite-dimensional algebras). If A is a finite-dimensional k -algebra, then it is possible to construct a small projective resolution of A as an A -bimodule. For details one is referred to [8, §1.5]¹

Applying this to $A = kQ$, where Q is a connected acyclic quiver, the resolution takes on the form

$$(1.51) \quad 0 \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\alpha \in Q_1} A^e e_{s(\alpha)} \otimes e_{t(\alpha)} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in Q_0} A^e e_v \otimes e_v \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0.$$

From the length of this resolution it is immediate that path algebras do not have deformations. Imposing relations on the quiver yields more complicated finite-dimensional algebras, and the explicit description of the resolution can be implemented in computer algebra, notably QPA².

Example 31 (Truncated polynomial algebras $k[t]/(t^n)$). Again we want to use a small resolution of $A = k[t]/(t^n)$ as a bimodule over itself. We will use a 2-periodic resolution for this, which immediately tells us that the Hochschild (co)homology is itself 2-periodic, i.e.

$$(1.52) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathrm{HH}^i(A, M) &\cong \mathrm{HH}^{i+2}(A, M) \\ \mathrm{HH}_i(A, M) &\cong \mathrm{HH}_{i+2}(A, M) \end{aligned}$$

for any A -bimodule M , and $i \geq 1$. This would of course be impossible to read off from the definition using bar resolution.

This 2-periodic resolution is defined as follows: let $u = t \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes t$ and $v = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} t^{n-1-i} \otimes t^i$. Then we will use

$$(1.53) \quad \dots \xrightarrow{v \cdot} A^e \xrightarrow{u \cdot} A^e \xrightarrow{v \cdot} A^e \xrightarrow{u \cdot} A^e \xrightarrow{\mu} A \longrightarrow 0.$$

In exercise 32 a method of proving the exactness is suggested.

By applying $\mathrm{Hom}_{A^e}(-, M)$ or $- \otimes_{A^e} M$ to this sequence we get

$$(1.54) \quad 0 \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{0} M \xrightarrow{nt^{n-1}} M \xrightarrow{0} M \xrightarrow{nt^{n-1}} M \xrightarrow{0} \dots$$

We always have that

$$(1.55) \quad \mathrm{HH}^0(A, M) \cong \mathrm{HH}_0(A, M) \cong M,$$

which we could also deduce from propositions 17 and 19.

For $i \geq 1$ the description depends on $\mathrm{char} k$. If $\mathrm{gcd}(n, \mathrm{char} k) = 1$ we obtain for i even

$$(1.56) \quad \mathrm{HH}^i(A, M) \cong \mathrm{HH}_i(A, M) \cong M/t^{n-1}M$$

and for i odd

$$(1.57) \quad \mathrm{HH}^i(A, M) \cong \mathrm{HH}_i(A, M) \cong tM.$$

¹I should probably give a self-contained discussion.

²<https://www.gap-system.org/Packages/qpa.html>

On the other hand, if $\gcd(n, \text{char } k) \neq 1$, then the morphism which is multiplication by nt^{n-1} is the zero morphism, so the sequence splits, and we obtain

$$(1.58) \quad \text{HH}^i(A, M) \cong \text{HH}_i(A, M) \cong M$$

for all $i \geq 1$.

1.1.5 Exercises

Exercise 32. Show that (1.53) is exact by showing that the maps s_i give a contracting homotopy, where for $i = -1$ we take $s_{-1}(1) = 1$, whilst for $m \geq 0$ we define

$$(1.59) \quad \begin{aligned} s_{2m}(1 \otimes t^j) &= - \sum_{l=1}^j t^{j-l} \otimes t^{l-1} \\ s_{2m+1}(1 \otimes x^j) &= \begin{cases} \delta_j^{n-1} \otimes 1 & j = n-1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 33. Let us denote $A = A_1(k)$ the *first Weyl algebra*, defined as $k\langle x, y \rangle / (yx - xy - 1)$. It is the ring of differential operators on $\mathbb{A}_k^1 = \text{Spec } k[x]$, where y corresponds to $\partial/\partial x$.

Let V be a 2-dimensional vector space, and choose a basis $\{v, w\}$. Show that

$$(1.60) \quad 0 \longrightarrow A^e \otimes \wedge^2 V \xrightarrow{f} A^e \otimes V \xrightarrow{g} A^e \longrightarrow 0$$

where

$$(1.61) \quad f(1 \otimes 1 \otimes v \wedge w) = (1 \otimes x - x \otimes 1) \otimes w - (1 \otimes y - y \otimes 1) \otimes v$$

and

$$(1.62) \quad \begin{aligned} g(1 \otimes 1 \otimes v) &= 1 \otimes x - x \otimes 1 \\ g(1 \otimes 1 \otimes u) &= 1 \otimes y - y \otimes 1 \end{aligned}$$

gives a free resolution of A . Using this, show that

$$(1.63) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{HH}^i(A) &= \begin{cases} k & i = 0 \\ 0 & i \neq 0 \end{cases}, \\ \text{HH}_i(A) &= \begin{cases} k & i = 2 \\ 0 & i \neq 2 \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

This apparent duality between Hochschild homology and cohomology is not a coincidence in this case, see appendix B.2.

Exercise 34. We have seen that $\text{HH}_\bullet(-)$ is a (covariant) functor. Show that

1. it sends products to direct sums, i.e.

$$(1.64) \quad \text{HH}_\bullet(A \times B) \cong \text{HH}_\bullet(A) \oplus \text{HH}_\bullet(B),$$

2. it preserves sequential limits, i.e. if $A_i \rightarrow A_{i+1}$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$ is a sequence of algebra morphisms, then

$$(1.65) \quad \text{HH}_\bullet(\varinjlim A_i) \cong \varinjlim \text{HH}_\bullet(A_i).$$

Now fixing A , show that $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A, -)$ sends a short exact sequence

$$(1.66) \quad 0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$$

of A -bimodules to a long exact sequence

$$(1.67) \quad \dots \rightarrow \mathrm{HH}_n(A, M') \rightarrow \mathrm{HH}_n(A, M) \rightarrow \mathrm{HH}_n(A, M'') \rightarrow \dots$$

Exercise 35. Prove propositions 11 and 13.

1.2 Extra structure on Hochschild (co)homology

Hochschild homology and cohomology have a rich structure: they are more than just k -modules, which is how we defined them in the previous section. We will discuss the following structure in these notes.

1. Hochschild cohomology has both the structure of an associative algebra and a Lie algebra;
2. Hochschild homology is both a module and a representation over Hochschild cohomology;
3. if A is commutative, then Hochschild homology itself has an algebra structure.

We will take $A = M$ throughout here.

Observe that this is not an exhaustive list of the extra structure. We will not discuss the action of $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$ on $\mathrm{Ext}_A^\bullet(M, N)$ (see [18, §1.6]), the cut coproduct on Hochschild homology, generalisations of the structures discussed here when the A -bimodule has an algebra structure of its own, similar structures on the variations on cyclic homology, ...

1.2.1 Hochschild cohomology is a Gerstenhaber algebra

The first aspect that we deal with is the algebraic structure on Hochschild cohomology (and Hochschild cochains): it is both

- a graded commutative algebra,
- a graded Lie algebra,

and these structures are compatible: we will call such a structure a Gerstenhaber algebra, see definition 50.

For Hochschild cochains the situation is somewhat more complicated, as some properties are only true *up to homotopy*. For now we will not go into many details regarding this, this might change later on in the notes.

Observe that we have already seen a small part of the algebra structure in proposition 19, and of the Lie algebra structure in corollary 24. We will now extend these structures to the entire Hochschild cohomology of A , and discuss their compatibility.

Originally the Lie bracket on Hochschild cochains was introduced by Gerstenhaber in [6] to prove that the multiplication on Hochschild cohomology is graded commutative. But this Lie bracket is also very important for deformation theory, we will come back to this in section 1.5.

Associative algebra structure: cup product We will start with introducing the associative multiplication, both on $C^\bullet(A)$, and by compatibility with the differential, on $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$. The graded commutativity will have to wait for now.

Definition 36. Let $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. The *cup product* of f and g is the element $f \cup g$ defined by

$$(1.68) \quad f \cup g(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n}) = f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_m)g(a_{m+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n}).$$

Lemma 37. The cup product makes $C^\bullet(A)$ into a differential graded algebra, i.e. the cup product is associative and satisfies the *graded Leibniz rule*

$$(1.69) \quad d_{m+n+1}(f \cup g) = d_{m+1}(f) \cup g + (-1)^m f \cup d_{n+1}(g).$$

where $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$.

Proof. Associativity is immediate, as $(f \cup g) \cup h$ and $f \cup (g \cup h)$ involve multiplication inside A , which is associative.

The compatibility with the differential is the following computation, which follows immediately from the definitions. For the left-hand side we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & d_{m+n+1}(f \cup g)(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &= a_1(f \cup g)(a_2 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 (1.70) \quad &+ \sum_{i=1}^{m+n} (-1)^i (f \cup g)(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &+ (-1)^{m+n+1} (f \cup g)(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n}) a_{m+n+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

whilst for the right-hand side we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (d_{m+1}(f) \cup g)(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &= a_1 f(a_2 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+1}) g(a_{m+2} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 (1.71) \quad &+ \sum_{i=1}^m f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i a_{i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+1}) g(a_{m+2} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &+ (-1)^{m+1} f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_m) a_{m+1} g(a_{m+2} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (-1)^m (f \cup d_{n+1}(g))(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &= (-1)^m f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_m) a_{m+1} g(a_{m+2} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 (1.72) \quad &+ \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{m+i} f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_m) g(a_{m+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+i} a_{m+i+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n+1}) \\
 &+ (-1)^{m+n+1} f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_m) g(a_{m+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n}) a_{m+n+1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It suffices to identify the last and first terms of (1.71) and (1.72), and reindex the summation in (1.72) to run from $m+1$ to $n+m$ to get the equality. \square

By taking cohomology of the Hochschild cochain complex we get the following corollary.

Corollary 38. The Hochschild cohomology $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$ is a graded associative algebra.

This is only the first aspect of the algebraic structure of $\mathrm{C}^\bullet(A)$. Before we define the Lie bracket, we should mention that the cup product on the level of cohomology is actually commutative! This is one of the main results of [6].

Proposition 39. The Hochschild cohomology $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$ is a graded commutative algebra, i.e. for $f \in \mathrm{HH}^m(A)$ and $g \in \mathrm{HH}^n(A)$ we have that

$$(1.73) \quad f \cup g = (-1)^{mn} g \cup f.$$

The proof of this result will require the Gerstenhaber bracket which will be defined shortly. We will show that the difference between $f \cup g$ and $g \cup f$ for two Hochschild cochains has a precise description as the differential of the circle product $f \circ g$, so that it vanishes in cohomology.

Observe that in proposition 19 we saw that $\mathrm{HH}^0(A) \cong Z(A)$, so we at least already knew that the degree zero part was a commutative subalgebra. It turns out that in a precise sense Hochschild cohomology can be seen as a *derived center*.

Remark 40. Using theorem 15 we have another graded commutative algebra structure on Hochschild cohomology, given by the Yoneda product on Ext-groups. One can show that the cup product and Yoneda product are actually identified under the isomorphism (1.24). We refer to [18] for details.

Lie algebra structure: Gerstenhaber bracket Next up is a Lie bracket on Hochschild cochains, which like the product is compatible with the Hochschild differential, hence descends to a Lie bracket on Hochschild cohomology.

Definition 41. Let $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. Let us denote³ the element $f \circ_i g$ of $C^{m+n-1}(A)$, for $i = 1, \dots, m$, defined by

$$(1.74) \quad f \circ_i g(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n-1}) = f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i-1} \otimes g(a_i \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i+n-1}) \otimes a_{i+n} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{m+n-1}).$$

The *circle product* of the Hochschild cochains f and g is the element $f \circ g \in C^{m+n-1}(A)$ defined by

$$(1.75) \quad f \circ g := \sum_{i=1}^m (-1)^{(i-1)(n+1)} f \circ_i g.$$

This circle product equips $C^\bullet(A)$ with the structure of a so called *pre-Lie algebra*. In particular, it is not associative. We will not be interested in this structure on its own, as we are only interested in the structure induced by the following definition.

Definition 42. Let $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. Then their *Gerstenhaber bracket* is the element $[f, g] \in C^{m+n-1}(A)$ defined by

$$(1.76) \quad [f, g] := f \circ g - (-1)^{(m-1)(n-1)} g \circ f.$$

Nevertheless, the way Gerstenhaber proves essential properties of his bracket depends greatly on a detailed analysis of $- \circ_i -$ and $- \circ -$, and for details one is referred to [6]. We will only summarise the intermediate steps.

Remark 43. Observe that the definition of the Gerstenhaber bracket did *not* use the algebra structure on A . But one can observe that the multiplication morphism $\mu: A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A$ is the coboundary of the identity, and

$$(1.77) \quad d(f) = [f, -\mu]$$

makes the link between the algebra structure on A , the Hochschild differential and the Gerstenhaber bracket.

Even more is true: the cup product can also be expressed in terms of the $- \circ_i -$, as

$$(1.78) \quad f \cup g = (\mu \circ_0 f) \circ_{m-1} g$$

where $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$.

The skew symmetry and Jacobi identity are discussed in [6, theorem 1]. These follow rather straightforwardly from the pre-Lie structure. Establishing that $C^\bullet(A)$ has a pre-Lie structure is done by using that of a *pre-Lie system*, which takes all the $- \circ_i -$ into account. It is shown in [6, theorem 2] how such a pre-Lie system induces a pre-Lie algebra structure.

³The ambiguity with composition of functions is intentional: indeed, for $m = n = 1$ the circle product really is the composition of Hochschild 1-cochains.

Proposition 44. Let $f \in C^m(A, A)$, $g \in C^n(A)$ and $h \in C^p(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. Then

skew symmetry $[f, g] = -(-1)^{(m-1)(n-1)}[g, f]$

Jacobi identity $(-1)^{(m-1)(p-1)}[f, [g, h]] + (-1)^{(p-1)(n-1)}[h, [f, g]] + (-1)^{(n-1)(m-1)}[g, [h, f]] = 0$

Proof. The skew symmetry follows easily by replacing $[-, -]$ with its definition as the commutator of the circle product, and observing that the four terms appear with opposite signs.

For the proof of the Jacobi identity, one is referred to [6], as explained above. \square

The next step is the compatibility with the Hochschild differential. In other words

Proposition 45. Let $f \in C^m(A, A)$, $g \in C^n(A)$ and $h \in C^p(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. Then

$$(1.79) \quad d([f, g]) = (-1)^{n-1}[d(f), g] + [f, d(g)].$$

Proof. This follows from (1.77) and the Jacobi identity from proposition 44, applying (1.77) to $[f, g]$. \square

From this we get the following corollary, which will be important for the deformation theory of algebras, see section 1.5. Recall that the axioms for a differential graded Lie algebra are precisely given by the results of proposition 44, except that there is a shift in the degree appearing.

Corollary 46. $C^{\bullet+1}(A, A)$ is a differential graded Lie algebra.

Recall that in corollary 24 we saw that $HH^1(A)$ has the structure of a Lie algebra. The following result tells us that it is a Lie subalgebra in degree 0 of a graded Lie algebra. It is clear from the definition of the Gerstenhaber bracket for elements in $C^1(A)$ and the definition of the Lie algebra structure on $HH^1(A)$ that they agree.

Proposition 47. $HH^{\bullet+1}(A)$ is a graded Lie algebra.

Let us consider this graded Lie algebra structure in a special case.

Example 48. The Lie algebra $HH^1(A)$ consisting of outer derivations acts on the Hochschild cohomology space $HH^0(A)$, which we have shown to be the center $Z(A)$ of A . If D is a derivation, and $z \in Z(A)$ a central element, then

$$(1.80) \quad [D, z] = D \circ z - z \circ D = D \circ z = D(z)$$

commutes with every element $a \in A$, as one checks easily.

Commutativity of the cup product We can now prove the commutativity of the cup product on the level of cohomology. The main ingredient is given in proposition 49, which is a computation depending on the notion of a pre-Lie algebra that can be found in [6, theorem 3]. We will not reproduce it here⁴.

Proposition 49. Let $f \in C^m(A)$ and $g \in C^n(A)$ be Hochschild cochains. Then

$$(1.81) \quad f \cup g - (-1)^{mn}g \cup f = d(g) \circ f + (-1)^m d(g \circ f) + (-1)^{m-1}g \circ d(f)$$

But this leads us immediately to the proof of the graded commutativity of $HH^{\bullet}(A)$.

⁴It is an interesting exercise to compute things in low degree, to get a feel for the formulas and the role of the Hochschild differential.

Proof of proposition 39. In the notation of proposition 49, if f and g are Hochschild cocycles, then (1.81) becomes

$$(1.82) \quad f \cup g - (-1)^{mn} g \cup f = d_{n+m+1}(f \circ g).$$

So the difference between the commutator of two cocycles is a coboundary, and it vanishes when taking cohomology. \square

Gerstenhaber algebra structure The cup product and Gerstenhaber bracket on Hochschild cohomology define the structure of a super-commutative algebra and a graded Lie superalgebra. They are moreover compatible in the following sense. We assign a name to this structure, because as it turns out, this is *not* the only natural example of such a structure. We will discuss polyvector fields, and their connection to Hochschild cohomology, in section 1.3.

Definition 50. A graded vector space A^\bullet is a *Gerstenhaber algebra* if

1. A^\bullet has an (associative) super-commutative multiplication of degree 0;
2. A^\bullet has a super-Lie bracket of degree -1 ;
3. these two structures are related via the *Poisson identity*

$$(1.83) \quad [a, bc] = [a, b]c + (-1)^{(|a|-1)|b|} b[a, c].$$

Written out in full detail, we have that

$$(1.84) \quad \begin{aligned} |ab| &= |a| + |b| \\ ab &= (-1)^{|a||b|} ba \end{aligned}$$

for the multiplication, and

$$(1.85) \quad \begin{aligned} |[a, b]| &= |a| + |b| - 1 \\ [a, b] &= -(-1)^{(|a|-1)(|b|-1)} [b, a] \end{aligned}$$

for the Lie bracket.

The Poisson identity then tells us that $a \mapsto [a, -]: A^p \rightarrow A^{p-1}$ is a derivation of degree $p - 1$.

Proposition 51. Let A be an associative k -algebra. Then $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$ is a Gerstenhaber algebra.

Proof. In proposition 39 and proposition 47 we have discussed the algebra and Lie algebra structure. The missing ingredient is the compatibility between these two structures through the Poisson identity. The proof of this goes along the same lines as the commutativity of the Gerstenhaber product: one shows that on the level of Hochschild cochains the obstruction to the Poisson identity is a certain coboundary given in [6, theorem 5]. This is a quite technical computation, and we will not reproduce it here. \square

Remark 52. The cup product and Gerstenhaber bracket on the level of Hochschild cochain complexes do *not* satisfy the Poisson identity, nor is the dg algebra structure graded commutative, so they do not give an immediate dg translation of a Gerstenhaber algebra structure. But there are homotopical versions of this structure, such as that of a B_∞ - and G_∞ -algebra, which fixes this incompatibility by introducing higher homotopies.

At this point we should mention that these (and other) homotopical structures form part of the program on the Deligne conjecture⁵). We will not go further into this for the time being, but this operadic picture is an important modern incarnation of the extra structure that we have discussed up to now.

In ?? we will see another example of a Gerstenhaber algebra. These two examples are very closely related, and their story forms one of the main topics of these notes.

1.2.2 Hochschild homology is a Gerstenhaber module for Hochschild cohomology

For arbitrary algebras A there is no internal structure⁶ on $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A)$ or $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A, M)$. But there are interesting *actions* of $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$ on $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A)$, such that $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A)$ is

- a module under the graded commutative multiplication,
- a representation for the Gerstenhaber bracket

which are compatible in a certain way. The combination of these structures will be called a Gerstenhaber module, and they constitute an important part of the so-called Gerstenhaber (pre)calculus on the pair $(C^\bullet(A), C_\bullet(A))$. As we will not discuss this again until the very end⁷ we will content ourselves with giving the definitions.

Observe that there are no good written proofs of the compatibility of these operations with the Hochschild differentials. Feel free to take this up as a challenge.

The cap product First up, the action by multiplication, i.e. the module structure.

Definition 53. Let M be an A -bimodule. Let $f \in C^n(A)$ and $m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p \in C_p(A, M)$. Then their *cap product* is

$$(1.86) \quad f \cap (m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) = \begin{cases} (-1)^n m f(a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) \otimes a_{n+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_p & p \geq n \\ 0 & p < n \end{cases}$$

which is an element of $C_{p-n}(A, M)$.

One can then prove the following result.

Proposition 54. $C_i(A, M)$ is a differential graded module over $C^\bullet(A)$.

From this we get the following.

Corollary 55. $\mathrm{HH}_\bullet(A, M)$ is a graded module for the graded commutative algebra $\mathrm{HH}^\bullet(A)$.

Remark 56. In particular we have that $\mathrm{HH}_i(A, M)$ is a module over $\mathrm{HH}^0(A) \cong Z(A)$.

The Lie derivative The next step is the action by the Lie bracket.

⁵Stated in 1993 in a letter to Gerstenhaber–May–Stasheff, now a theorem with proofs due to Tamarkin, McClure–Smith, Kontsevich–Soibelman, ...

⁶If A is commutative we discuss the shuffle product in section 1.2.3.

⁷At least for now. The interested reader is invited to prove the following properties him- or herself.

Definition 57. Let $f \in C^{n+1}(A)$ and $a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p \in C_p(A, M)$. Then the *Lie derivative* of $a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p$ with respect to f is

$$(1.87) \quad \begin{aligned} L_f(a_0 \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) &= \sum_{i=0}^{p-n} (-1)^{ni} a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i-1} \otimes f(a_i \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i+n}) \otimes a_{i+n+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_p \\ &+ \sum_{j=p-n}^{p-1} (-1)^{p(j+1)} f(a_{j+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_p \otimes a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_{n-p+j}) \otimes a_{p-n+j+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_j \end{aligned}$$

One can then prove the following result.

Proposition 58. $C_i(A)$ is a differential graded Lie representation over $C^{\bullet+1}(A)$.

From this we get the following.

Corollary 59. $HH_{\bullet}(A)$ is a representation of the graded Lie algebra $HH^{\bullet+1}(A)$.

We can combine these into the notion of a Gerstenhaber module, and discuss the notion of a Gerstenhaber (pre)calculus. We will not do this for now.

1.2.3 The shuffle product on Hochschild homology

In general $HH_{\bullet}(A)$ is only a graded $HH^{\bullet}(A)$ -module. But if A is commutative we can equip it with its own product. The algebra structure on $HH_{\bullet}(A)$ for A commutative is actually induced using a pairing

$$(1.88) \quad C_{\bullet}(A, M) \otimes_k C_{\bullet}(B, N) \rightarrow C_{\bullet}(A \otimes_k B, M \otimes_k N)$$

which is defined for arbitrary algebras A and B , and bimodules M and N (unlike in the rest of this section we will use M and N to make the formulas a bit more transparent, but we will have $M = A$ and $N = B$ in applications). This will be the shuffle product from the title of this section.

Definition 60. A (p, q) -*shuffle* is an element σ of Sym_{p+q} such that $\sigma(i) < \sigma(j)$ whenever

1. $1 \leq i < j \leq p$,
2. or $p+1 \leq i < j \leq p+q$.

The subset of (p, q) -shuffles inside the symmetric group is denoted $\text{Sh}_{p,q}$.

We can define an action of Sym_n on $C_n(A, M)$, by setting

$$(1.89) \quad \sigma \cdot (m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n) := m \otimes a_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}$$

for $\sigma \in \text{Sym}_n$ and $m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_n \in C_n(A, M)$.

Definition 61. The (p, q) -*shuffle product* for A and B is the morphism

$$(1.90) \quad \text{sh}_{p,q}(-, -) = - \times -: C_p(A, M) \otimes_k C_q(B, N) \rightarrow C_{p+q}(A \otimes_k B, M \otimes_k N)$$

which sends $(m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) \otimes (n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q)$ to

$$(1.91) \quad \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}_{p,q}} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \cdot \left((m \otimes n) \otimes (a_1 \otimes 1) \otimes \dots \otimes (a_p \otimes 1) \otimes (1 \otimes b_1) \otimes \dots \otimes (1 \otimes b_q) \right)$$

The next lemma shows that the Hochschild homology differential is a graded derivation for the shuffle product. For a proof, see [14, proposition 4.2.2].

Lemma 62. Let $m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p \in C_p(A, M)$ and $n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q \in C_q(B, N)$ be Hochschild chains. Then

$$(1.92) \quad \begin{aligned} d \left((m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) \times (n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q) \right) \\ = d(m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) \times (n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q) + (-1)^p (m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) \times d(n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let us write the i th summand of the differential as in (1.19) by d_i , indexed by $i = 0, \dots, n$. Let us moreover write

$$(1.93) \quad (m \otimes a_1 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p) \times (n \otimes b_1 \otimes \dots \otimes b_q) = \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}_{p,q}} \text{sgn}(\sigma) (m \otimes n) \otimes c_1 \otimes \dots \otimes c_{p+q}$$

where c_i is in the set $\{a_1 \otimes 1, \dots, a_p \otimes 1, 1 \otimes b_1, \dots, 1 \otimes b_q\}$. Now consider

$$(1.94) \quad d_i((m \otimes n) \otimes c_1 \otimes \dots \otimes c_{p+q}),$$

for $i = 0, \dots, n$. We now explain what happens with (1.94) on a case-by-case analysis.

- If $i = 0$, then $c_1 = a_1 \otimes 1$ (resp. $c_1 = 1 \otimes b_1$), and (1.94) appears in the first summand (resp. second summand) of the right-hand side of (1.92).
- The case $i = n$ is similar.
- If $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ then we distinguish two cases:
 1. If c_i and c_{i+1} are elements of the form $a \otimes 1$ (resp. $1 \otimes b$) then they appear in the first (resp. second summand) of the right-hand side of (1.92).
 2. Otherwise we can permute them, as they will still arise from the application of a different (p, q) -shuffle, in which case we can cancel them, as they appear with opposite signs in the shuffle product.

□

Using the shuffle product we can construct the Künneth formula for Hochschild homology: we will combine the (p, q) -shuffles in the following way

$$(1.95) \quad \text{sh}_n := \sum_{p+q=n} \text{sh}_{p,q} : \bigoplus_{p+q=n} C_p(A) \otimes_k C_q(B) \rightarrow C_n(A \otimes_k B).$$

Proposition 63. The morphism sh_\bullet is a morphism of chain complexes.

Proof. By lemma 62 we can express $d \circ \text{sh}_{p,q}(-, -)$ in terms of $\text{sh}_{p-1,q}(d(-), -)$ and $\text{sh}_{p,q-1}(-, d(-))$, which with the appropriate signs gives the differential in the tensor product of chain complexes. □

But sh_\bullet is not just an morphism of chain complexes: it is actually a quasi-isomorphism. The proof of this result can be found [17, §9.4].

Theorem 64 (Künneth formula). The shuffle product sh_\bullet induces an isomorphism

$$(1.96) \quad \text{HH}_\bullet(A) \otimes_k \text{HH}_\bullet(B) \cong \text{HH}_\bullet(A \otimes_k B).$$

Remark 65. Observe that a similar statement is not true for Hochschild cohomology, at least not without conditions on A and B . In exercise 69 a suggestion for a counterexample is given. In [17, §9.4] the condition that at least one of them is finite-dimensional is used. It is not clear to me whether this can be generalised.

If we now impose commutativity, then the multiplication gives us a morphism of algebras

$$(1.97) \quad \mu: A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A.$$

Using functoriality of the Hochschild chain complex, we obtain a morphism

$$(1.98) \quad C_\bullet(A \otimes_k A) \rightarrow C_\bullet(A).$$

One can then prove that this equips the Hochschild chain complex with the structure of a commutative differential graded algebra [17, proposition 9.4.2], and therefore we have the following.

Proposition 66. $HH_\bullet(A)$ is a graded commutative algebra.

1.2.4 Exercises

Exercise 67. Let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra. Equip $\bigwedge^\bullet \mathfrak{g}$ with the exterior product as multiplication, and the unique extension of the Lie bracket on $\bigwedge^1 \mathfrak{g}$ to all of $\bigwedge^\bullet \mathfrak{g}$. Show that this is a Gerstenhaber algebra.

Exercise 68. Use the definition of the circle product to check remark 43.

Exercise 69. Let K, L be fields of infinite transcendence degree over k . Then

$$(1.99) \quad HH^\bullet(K \otimes_k L) \not\cong HH^\bullet(K) \otimes_k HH^\bullet(L).$$

1.3 The Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg isomorphism

1.4 Variations on Hochschild (co)homology

This will be skipped during the course, unless there is time and interest to revisit the noncommutative calculus of Hochschild (co)homology and cyclic homology at the end of the course.

1.5 Formal deformation theory of algebras

Chapter 2

Differential graded categories

- 2.1 Enhancements of triangulated categories**
- 2.2 Hochschild cohomology for differential graded categories**
- 2.3 Limited functoriality for Hochschild cohomology**
- 2.4 Fourier–Mukai transforms**
- 2.5 Hochschild (co)homology in algebraic geometry**
- 2.6 Semi-orthogonal decompositions**

Chapter 3

Schemes

3.1 Polyvector fields

3.2 Atiyah classes

3.3 The Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg decomposition

3.4 Riemann–Roch versus Hochschild homology

3.5 Căldăraru’s conjecture

Appendix A

Preliminaries

A.1 Differential graded (Lie) algebras

Definition 70. A *differential graded algebra* A^\bullet is a graded algebra A^\bullet together with the structure of a cochain complex $d: A^\bullet \rightarrow A^{\bullet+1}$ satisfying the *graded Leibniz rule*, i.e. for all homogeneous $a, b \in A^\bullet$

$$(A.1) \quad d(ab) = d(a)b + (-1)^{|a|}a \, d(b).$$

We will abbreviate differential graded algebra to *dg algebra*.

Observe that the graded Leibniz rule implies the following.

Proposition 71. Let A^\bullet be a dg algebra. Then $H^\bullet(A^\bullet)$ is a graded algebra.

Definition 72. A *differential graded Lie algebra* L^\bullet is a graded Lie algebra together with the structure of a cochain complex $d: L^\bullet \rightarrow L^{\bullet+1}$ satisfying the *graded Leibniz rule*, i.e. for all homogeneous $l, m \in L^\bullet$

$$(A.2) \quad d([l, m]) = [d(l), m] + (-1)^{|l|}[l, d(m)].$$

We will abbreviate differential graded Lie algebra to *dg Lie algebra*, or even *dgla*.

Remark 73. For graded algebras the axioms do not pick up any signs. For graded Lie algebras there are non-trivial signs involved in the axioms: for all homogeneous $l, m \in L^\bullet$ the graded skew-symmetry is

$$(A.3) \quad [l, m] = (-1)^{|l||m|}[m, l]$$

whilst the graded Jacobi identity is

$$(A.4) \quad [l, [m, n]] = [[l, m], n] + (-1)^{|l||m|}[m, [l, n]].$$

Observe that the graded Leibniz rule implies the following.

Proposition 74. Let L^\bullet be a dg Lie algebra. Then $H^\bullet(L^\bullet)$ is a graded Lie algebra.

Appendix B

Additional topics

B.1 Kontsevich's formality theorems

B.2 Calabi–Yau algebras and Poincaré–Van den Bergh duality

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