

# Operads for number theory

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Our main source is [HS87]. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a strict monoidal category. Our main example is the category  $\mathbf{Com}(k)$  of chain complexes over a (commutative, unital) ring  $k$ . The main objects of interest will be collections  $O = \{O_n : n \geq 0\}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . To handle these, we introduce some formalism. Note that  $\mathbf{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ .

Let  $\mathbf{tup} = \coprod_{d \geq 0} \mathbf{tup}_d$  be the set of *tuples*. For  $d \geq 0$ ,  $\mathbf{tup}_d$  is the set of pairs  $(m, S)$ , where  $S$  is a finite subset of  $\mathbf{N}^d$  and  $m : S \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . We write  $\dim(m) = d$  if  $m \in \mathbf{tup}_d$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} |\cdot| : \mathbf{tup} &\rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 0} & |(m, S)| &= \sum_{s \in S} m_s \\ l : \mathbf{tup}_{d+1} &\rightarrow \mathbf{tup}_d & l(m, S) &= \left( (s_1, \dots, s_d) \mapsto \sup_{(s_1, \dots, s_{d+1}) \in S} s_{d+1}, \{(s_d, \dots, s_1)\} \right) \end{aligned}$$

We will write  $m = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$  for an  $n$ -tuple of integers; we put  $l(m) = n$  and  $|m| = \sum m_i$ . In general, we say a tuple  $m = (m_{i_1}, \dots, m_{i_d})$  has *dimension*  $d$ , write  $\dim(m) = d$ ,  $|m| = \sum m_{i_1}, \dots, m_{i_d}$  and

**Definition 1.** An operad  $O$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  consists of the following data:

- A family of objects  $\{O_n : n \geq 0\}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . For  $m = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$ , we put  $O_m = O_{m_1} \otimes \dots \otimes O_{m_n}$ .
- Multiplication maps  $\gamma_m : O_{\ell(m)} \otimes O_m \rightarrow O_{|m|}$ .
- A unit  $e : 1 \rightarrow O_0$ .

If  $m$  is a two-dimensional tuple, put  $O_m = \bigotimes_{i_1, i_2} O_{m_{i_1}, m_{i_2}}$ .

This data is required to satisfy the following properties:

## 1 Application

Here our inspiration is from [Bei12]. The fundamental idea is that a ring like  $\mathbf{Z}_p$ , a limit of non-free  $\mathbf{Z}$ -modules, should be “resolved.” More precisely, consider

$$\mathbf{Z}_p^b = \operatorname{holim}_n \operatorname{cone}(\mathbf{Z} \xrightarrow{p^n} \mathbf{Z}).$$

The functor  $F \widehat{\otimes} \mathbf{Z}_p := \operatorname{holim} \operatorname{cone}$

## References

- [Bei12] A. Beilinson.  $p$ -adic periods and derived de Rham cohomology. *J. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 25(3):715–738, 2012.
- [HS87] V. A. Hinich and V. V. Schechtman. On homotopy limit of homotopy algebras. In *K-theory, arithmetic and geomtry (Moscow, 1984–1986)*, volume 1289 of *Lecture Notes in Math.*, pages 240–264. Springer, 1987.