

# Koszul Complexes

Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $\mathbf{r} = r_1, \dots, r_m$  be a sequence of elements in  $R$ .

1. The Koszul algebra  $\mathbb{K} = \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{r})$  is defined to be the  $R$ -complex whose underlying graded  $R$ -module is given by

$$\mathbb{K} = \bigoplus_{\sigma \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}} e_\sigma R,$$

where we use the notation  $e_\sigma = \prod_{i \in \sigma} e_i$  and where  $e_\sigma$  is homogeneous with  $|e_\sigma| = \#\sigma$ . The differential  $d$  of  $E$  is defined on the homogeneous basis by  $de_i = r_i$  and extended everywhere else using the Leibniz law. In particular, we have

$$de_\sigma = \sum_{i \in \sigma} (-1)^{\text{pos}(i, \sigma)} r_i e_{\sigma \setminus i}.$$

For example, we haveFor example, if  $m = 3$  then we have

$$\begin{array}{llll} d(1) = 0 & de_1 = r_1 & de_{23} = e_3 r_2 - e_2 r_3 & \\ & de_2 = r_2 & de_{13} = e_3 r_1 - e_1 r_3 & de_{123} = e_{23} r_1 - e_{13} r_2 + e_{12} r_3 \\ & de_3 = r_3 & de_{12} = e_2 r_1 - e_1 r_2 & \end{array}$$

An alternative description of  $\mathbb{K}$  is the the iterated tensor product of complexes:

$$\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \mathbb{K}(r_1) \otimes_R \mathbb{K}(r_2) \otimes_R \cdots \otimes_R \mathbb{K}(r_m).$$

If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, then we set  $\mathbb{K}(\mathbf{r}, M) := \mathbb{K} \otimes_R M$  and we denote its homology by  $H(\mathbf{r}, M)$ .

2. Another Koszul complex we are interested in is called the **dual Koszul complex**: it is given by  $\mathbb{K}^* := \text{Hom}_R^*(\mathbb{K}, R)$ . The underlying graded  $R$ -module is given by

$$\mathbb{K}^* = \bigoplus_{\sigma \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}} R e_\sigma^*.$$

Here  $e_\sigma^*: E \rightarrow R$  is an  $R$ -linear map, graded of degree  $-(\#\sigma)$ , which is defined by

$$e_\sigma^*(e_\tau) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \sigma = \tau \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

The differential  $d^*$  of  $E^*$  is defined by  $d^* e_\sigma^* = e_\sigma^* d$ . In particular, we have

$$d^* e_\sigma^* = (-1)^{\#\sigma+1} \sum_{i \in \sigma^*} (-1)^{\text{pos}(i, \sigma^*)} r_i e_{\sigma \cup i}^*,$$

where  $\sigma^* := \{1, \dots, m\} \setminus \sigma$ . For example, if  $m = 3$  then we have

$$\begin{array}{llll} d^*(1) = -r_1 e_1^* - r_2 e_2^* - r_3 e_3^* & d^* e_1^* = r_3 e_{13}^* + r_2 e_{12}^* & d^* e_{23}^* = r_1 e_{123}^* & \\ & d^* e_2^* = r_3 e_{23}^* - r_1 e_{12}^* & d^* e_{13}^* = -r_2 e_{123}^* & d^* e_{123}^* = 0 \\ & d^* e_3^* = -r_2 e_{23}^* - r_1 e_{13}^* & d^* e_{12}^* = r_3 e_{123}^* & \end{array}$$

Note that the nonzero components of  $E^*$  live in negative homological degree, that is, if  $0 < k < m$ , then  $E_k^* = 0$  and  $E_{-k}^* \neq 0$ . We often think of  $E^*$  as a cochain complex using the upper sign convention  $E_{-k}^* = E^{*,k}$  and  $d_{-k}^* = d^{*,k}$ . Note that the map  $\varphi: \Sigma^n \mathbb{K}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$  defined by

$$\varphi(e_\sigma^*) = \text{sign}(\sigma^*, \sigma) e_{\sigma^*}$$

is an isomorphism of  $R$ -complexes. In particular we obtain  $H_i(\mathbb{K}) \simeq H_{i-m}(\mathbb{K}^*)$ .

3. The **stable Koszul complex**  $\tilde{\mathbb{K}}$  is complex whose underlying graded  $R$ -module is given by

$$\tilde{\mathbb{K}} = \bigoplus_{\sigma \subseteq \{1, \dots, m\}} \tilde{e}_\sigma R_{r_\sigma}$$

For example, if  $m = 3$  then we have

$$\begin{array}{llll} \tilde{\mathbf{d}}(1) = \tilde{e}_1 + \tilde{e}_2 + \tilde{e}_3 & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_1 = \tilde{e}_{13} - \tilde{e}_{12} & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_{23} = \tilde{e}_{123} & \\ & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_2 = \tilde{e}_{23} - \tilde{e}_{12} & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_{13} = -\tilde{e}_{123} & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_{123} = 0 \\ & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_3 = \tilde{e}_{23} - \tilde{e}_{13} & \tilde{\mathbf{d}}\tilde{e}_{12} = \tilde{e}_{123} & \end{array}$$

Observe that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{K}} = \varinjlim \mathbb{K}^*(\mathbf{r}^n),$$

where  $\mathbf{r}^n = r_1^n, \dots, r_m^n$ . In particular, it follows that

$$\mathrm{H}(\mathbf{r}^\infty, M) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \mathrm{H}(\mathbf{r}^n, M) = \varinjlim \mathrm{H}(\mathbf{r}^n, M).$$