AMALGAMS OF SYMMETRIC GROUPS AND \mathfrak{H}_n -EXTENSIONS

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ABSTRACT. By amalgamating copies of symmetric group S_n we construct a central extension $S_n(G)$ of a large subgroup of the wreath product $G \wr S_n$. We then establish a connection between this group and the theory of $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ and $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ -extensions developed by K. Dennis and U. Rehmann in 1970's. We also give a topological application of this construction by describing homotopy invariants of blah-blah-blah...

1. Introduction

The aim of this note is to establish a surprising connection between symmetric groups and (certain quotients of) nonabelian tensors squares.

Let G be a group. Denote by $D_n(G)$ the subgroup of G^n consisting of vectors (g_1, \ldots, g_n) for which the product $g_1 \cdot \ldots \cdot g_n$ lies in the derived subgroup [G, G]. Recall from Rehmann's paper [11] that the universal extension of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ is, by definition, a certain (central) extension of $D_n(G)$ explicitly presented by generators and relations (see section 3 below). The extension $H_n(G)$ and its "antisymmetrization" $H_n(G)$ can be characterised by the property that they fit into the following pullback squares:

$$G \widetilde{\wedge} G \longrightarrow [G, G]$$
 $G \wedge G \longrightarrow [G, G]$ \downarrow_{ι_1} \downarrow_{ι_1}

Here $G \wedge G$ denotes the nonabelian exterior square of G and $G \wedge G$ is the a more modern notation for the Dennis group (G, G) defined in [4] (also denoted U_G by Rehmann in [11]). The map ι_1 in the above diagrams is defined by $\iota_1(g) = (g, 1, \ldots, 1)$.

Consider the family of copies of the symmetric group S_n where each copy is indexed by an n-tuple $(g_1, \ldots, g_n) \in G^n$. Denote by $S_n(G)$ the free product of groups from this family amalgamated over single family of relations of the form $s_g = s_h$, where

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 $s \in S_n$, $g, h \in G^n$ are such that hg^{-1} is fixed by the natural action of S_n on G^n (here we denote by s_g a permutation s embedded into the copy with index g).

Our first main result is the following theorem.

thm:summary

Theorem 1. The group $S_n(G)$ is isomorphic to $S_n \ltimes H_n^{\wedge}(G)$.

The proof of Theorem 1 proceeds as follows: The presentation of Theorem is similar in spirit (although much simpler) than the presentation

Unsurprisingly, the presentation from Theorem 1 is obtained via van Kampen theorem and was discovered during the attempt to answer some purely topological question, which we describe in detail below.

For a pointed simplicial set (X, x_0) one denotes by $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ the associated free simplicial abelian group. Define the "alternating" map of simplicial sets $h_n \colon X^{2n} \to \mathbb{Z}[X]$ by the identity:

$$h_n(x_1, x_2, \dots x_{2n}) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} (-1)^i x_i.$$

Denote by X^{∞} the colimit of X^n with respect to the natural embeddings $X^n \hookrightarrow X^{n+1}$ Taking colimit of h_n we get the map $h_{\infty} = \operatorname{colim}_n(h_n) \colon X^{\infty} \to \mathbb{Z}[X]$.

Based on a recent result of S. Podkorytov one can deduce that this map is a quasifibration provided X is fibrant and connected. In particular, the natural map $h_{\infty}^{-1}(0) \to F_{h_{\infty}}$ between the fiber and the homotopy fiber of h_{∞} over 0 is a weak equivalence, see Lemma 4.8.

thm:main

Theorem 2. If X = BG is the classifying space of a group G then for $n \geq 3$ the natural map $h_n^{-1}(0) \to F_{h_n}$ induces an isomorphism of fundamental groups $\pi_1(h_n^{-1}(0)) \cong \pi_1(F_{h_n})$.

The proof of Theorem 2 goes as follows. ???

In the course of the proof we also find a presentation of the universal $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ -extension that is simpler than the original presentation introduced by Rehmann in [11], see Proposition 3.1.

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2. The extension $S_n(G)$

sec:QnG-def

2.1. The definition of $S_n(G)$. Let G be a group. Recall that the wreath product is, by definition, the semidirect product $G^n \rtimes S_n$, in which S_n acts on G^n on the right by permuting its factors.

Consider the family $\{S_n^{(g)}\}_{g\in G^n}$ of isomorphic copies of S_n indexed by elements of G^n and let F be the free product of groups from this family. For $s\in S_n$ and $g\in G^n$ we denote by s_g the image of s in F under the canonical map $S_n^{(g)}\to F$.

Definition 2.1. We define the group $S_n(G)$ to be the quotient of F modulo the following single family of relations:

$$(2.1) s_g = s_h, \text{ where } s \text{ fixes } hg^{-1}.$$

We continue to denote by s_g the image of the element $s_g \in F$ under the canonical map $F \to S_n(G)$.

Remark 2.2. Expanding the definition of the semidirect product we get that

$$s^g = (1_{G^n}, s)^{(g,1)} = (g^{-1}, s)(g, 1) = (g^{-1}g^{(s^{-1})}, s).$$

therefore the equality $s^g = s^h$ holds in $G \wr S_n$ iff $g^{-1}g^{(s^{-1})} = h^{-1}h^{(s^{-1})}$, or what is the same, iff s fixes hg^{-1} .

The last statement immediately implies that the map $\mu: S_n(G) \to G \wr S_n$ given by $\mu(s_g) = s^g = (g^{-1}g^{(s^{-1})}, s)$ is well-defined. We will see shortly that μ is, in fact, a crossed module in the sense of [2, § 2.2].

Observe from the definition of $S_n(G)$ that there is a split exact sequence.

(2.2)
$$1 \longrightarrow \operatorname{Ker}(\pi) \longrightarrow S_n(G) \xrightarrow{\pi} S_n \longrightarrow 1,$$

Here the map $\pi = \pi_{S_n} \circ \mu$ removes subscript g from each s_g and the section $\iota(1)$ sends s to s_1 , where 1 is the identity element of G^n . Thus, if we denote $\operatorname{Ker}(\pi)$ by $HS_n(G)$ we get a decomposition $S_n(G) = HS_n(G) \rtimes S_n$.

2.2. A crossed module structure on $S_n(G)$. Recall from [2, § 2.2] that a crossed module is a morphism of groups $\mu \colon M \to N$ together with a right action of N on M compatible with the conjugation action of N on itself, i. e.

(CM1)
$$\mu(m^n) = \mu(m)^n \text{ for all } n \in N, m \in M,$$

which also satisfies the following identity called *Peiffer identity*:

(CM2)
$$m^{m'} = m^{\mu(m')} \text{ for all } m, m' \in M.$$

In our situation, we let $G \wr S_n$ act on $S_n(G)$ by

(2.3)
$$(s_g)^{(h,t)} = s^t_{(gh)^t}$$
, for $s, t \in S_n$ and $g, h \in G^n$.

The goal of this subsection is to prove the following.

thm:cms

Proposition 2.3. For $n \geq 3$ the map $\mu: S_n(G) \to G \wr S_n$ is a crossed module.

From the fact that μ is a crossed module one can deduce that $\operatorname{Ker}(\mu)$ is a central subgroup of $S_n(G)$ and $\operatorname{Im}(\mu)$ is a normal subgroup of $G \wr S_n$. It is not hard to show that the group $S_2(G)$ is isomorphic to a free product of copies of S_2 (whose center is always trivial). Therefore, the requirement $n \geq 3$ in the statement of Proposition 2.3 is essential.

Verification of the fact that formula (2.3) gives a well-defined action of $G \wr S_n$ on $S_n(G)$ that satisfies (CM1) is lengthy but straightforward. Let us show that (CM2) holds. It suffices to verify Peiffer identities only for the generators of $S_n(G)$, for which it takes the form:

q:Peiffer-gen}

(2.4)
$$t_h^{-1} s_g t_h = s^t_{(gh^{-1})^t \cdot h} \text{ for all } s, t \in S_n, g, h \in G^n.$$

If we act on both sides of the above formula by $(h^{-1}, 1) \in G \wr S_n$ we obtain the equality $t_1^{-1} s_{gh^{-1}} t_1 = s^t_{(gh^{-1})^t}$. Thus, to prove (2.4) it suffices to show the following simpler relation:

eiffer-simple}

$$(2.5) t_1^{-1} s_g t_1 = s_{g^t}^t \text{ for all } s, t \in S_n, g \in G^n.$$

The key step in the proof is the following lemma.

em:transp-deff

Lemma 2.4. The relation (2.5) holds in the special case when s = (ij) and t = (kl) are two nonequal transpositions.

Proof. First of all, we immediately check that (2.5) holds in the special case when t fixes $g' \in G^n$. Indeed, by (2.1) we have $t_1 = t_{g'}$, hence

$$t_1^{-1}s_{q'}t_1 = t_{q'}^{-1}s_{q'}t_{q'} = (s^t)_{q'} = (s^t)_{q'^t}.$$

Without loss of generality we may assume that $l \neq i$ and $l \neq j$. Denote by g' the vector which differs from g only at l-th position, for which we set $g'_l = g_k$. Since the only nontrivial component of $g'g^{-1}$ (resp. $g'g^{-t}$) is located at l-th (resp. k-th) position, it is fixed by s (resp. s^t), hence from (2.1) we conclude that $s_g = s_{g'}$ (resp. $(s^t)_{g'} = (s^t)_{g^t}$). Finally, since g' is fixed by t, we get that

$$t_1^{-1}s_qt_1 = t_1^{-1}s_{q'}t_1 = (s^t)_{q'^t} = s_{q'}^t = (s^t)_{q^t}.$$

Proof of Proposition 2.3. Let us show that (2.5) holds for arbitrary transpositions $s, t \in S_n$. It suffices to consider the case s = t = (ij). After choosing some $k \neq i, j$ and presenting (ij) as (kj)(ik)(kj) we use the lemma:

$$(ij)_1^{-1}(ij)_g(ij)_1 = (ij)_1^{-1}(kj)_g(ik)_g(kj)_g(ij)_1 = (ki)_{g^{(ij)}}(jk)_{g^{(ij)}}(ki)_{g^{(ij)}} = (ij)_{g^{(ij)}}.$$

Proposition now follows by induction on the length of permutations s, t.

2.3. An explicit presentation of $S_n(G)$. In this section we obtain an explicit presentation of $S_n(G)$ similar in appearance to the presentation of parametrized braid groups from [6]. This presentation turns out to be much more economical than the original definition given in section 2.1. An explicit presentation for the subgroup $HS_n(G)$ is derived from this presentation via Reidemeister-Schreier method.

We start with the following simple lemma which is, in essence, a variant of the standard presentation of a Weyl group in terms of reflections with some redundant generators and relations added (cf. [3, Theorem 2.4.3]).

lm:Snpres

Lemma 2.5. For $n \geq 3$ The symmetric group S_n admits presentation with transpositions as the set of generators and the following list of defining relations (in every formula distinct letters denote distinct indices):

$$\begin{array}{lll} \begin{tabular}{lll} \hline \{ \tt Sym1 \} & (S1) & (ij)^2 = 1, \\ \hline \{ \tt Sym2 \} & (S2) & (ij)^{(jk)} = (ik), \\ \hline \{ \tt Sym3 \} & (S3) & [(ij), (kl)] = 1. \\ \hline \{ \tt Sym0 \} & (S4) & (ij) = (ji), \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Now we are ready to formulate the main result of this subsection.

prop:Q-pres

Proposition 2.6. For $n \geq 3$ and arbitrary group G the group $S_n(G)$ admits presentation with the set of generators $\{(ij)_a \mid i \neq j, 1 \leq i, j, \leq n, a \in G\}$ and the following list of relations (as before, distinct letters denote distinct indices):

$$\begin{array}{ll} \{ \text{Q1} \} & (\text{SG1}) & (ij)_a^2 = 1, \\ \{ \text{Q2} \} & (\text{SG2}) & (ij)_a^{(jk)_b} = (ik)_{ab}, \\ \{ \text{Q3} \} & (\text{SG3}) & [(ij)_a, (kl)_b] = 1. \\ \{ \text{Q4} \} & (\text{SG4}) & (ij)_a = (ji)_{a^{-1}} \\ \end{array}$$

Proof. Denote by S' the group from the statement of the proposition. For $1 \le i \le n$ and $x \in G$ denote by x[i] the element of G^n whose only nontrivial component equals x and is located in the i-th position.

It is not hard to deduce from the definition of $S_n(G)$ and Lemma 2.4 that the formula $(ij)_a \mapsto (ij)_{a[j]}$ gives a well-defined map $\varphi \colon S' \to S_n(G)$.

Now we are going to construct the map $\psi \colon S_n(G) \to S'$ in the opposite direction. Using the presentation of S_n given by Lemma 2.5 we define for a fixed $g \in G^n$ the map $\psi_g \colon S_n \to S'$ by $\psi_g((ij)) = (ij)_{g_i^{-1}g_j}$. It is obvious that ψ_g preserves the defining relations (S1)–(S4) of S_n . It remains to show that the equation $\psi_g(s) = \psi_h(s)$ holds whenever $g, h \in G^n$ and $s \in S_n$ satisfy the requirement of (2.1).

Indeed, if hg^{-1} is fixed by s then for every $1 \le i \le n$ we have $(hg^{-1})_i = (hg^{-1})_{s(i)}$, or equivalently $h_i^{-1}h_{s(i)} = g_i^{-1}g_{s(i)}$. For example, if s is a cycle of length p, i.e.

 $s = (i_1, i_2, \dots i_p)$ with $i_{k+1} = s(i_k)$ we get that

$$\psi_g(s) = \psi_g\left(\prod_{k=1}^{p-1} (i_k, i_{k+1})\right) = \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} (i_k, i_{k+1})_{g_{i_k}^{-1} g_{i_{k+1}}} = \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} (i_k, i_{k+1})_{h_{i_k}^{-1} h_{i_{k+1}}} = \psi_h(s).$$

The proof for a general s is almost the same. Verification of the fact that ψ and φ are mutually inverse is also immediate.

We now obtain a presentation of the subgroup $HS_n(G)$. For every $i \neq j$ and $a \in G$ we define the element $h_{ij}(a) \in HS_n(G)$ as follows:

{eq:h-def} (2.6)
$$h_{ij}(a) = (ij)_a \cdot (ij)_1.$$

It is not hard to show that $h_{ij}(a)$ form a generating set for $HS_n(G)$. In fact, there is an explicit formula how an element of $HS_n(G)$ originally expressed through $(ij)_a$'s can be rewritten in terms of $h_{ij}(a)$. Indeed, if h lies in $HS_n(G)$ and is written as $\prod_{k=1}^{N} (i_k j_k)_{a_k}$ for some $i_k \neq j_k$ and $a_k \in G$ then it can be rewritten as follows:

We briefly recall the notion of a rewriting process given in [7, § 2.3]. If G is a group presented by generators a_{ν} and relations $R_{\mu}(a_{\nu})$ and H is its subgroup with a generating set $J_i(a_{\nu})$ then a rewriting process for H is a function which maps every word u in alphabet a_{ν} to a word v in alphabet s_i such that u and $v[s_i := J_i]$ define the same element of G whenever u represents an element of H.

With this terminology, the mapping (τ) defined above is a rewriting process for the subgroup $HS_n(G)$. Since it does not arise as a rewriting process corresponding to a coset representative function, this process is *not* a Reidemeister rewriting process in the sense of [7, § 2.3]. However, it still satisfies the following two key properties of a Reidemeister rewriting process (cf. with (v) and (vi) of [7, § 2.3]):

- if U and U^* are freely equal words in $(ij)_a$ then $\tau(U)$ and $\tau(U^*)$ are also freely equal words in $h_{ij}(a)$;
- if U_1 and U_2 are two words in $(ij)_a$ which define elements of $HS_n(G)$ then the words $\tau(U_1U_2)$ and $\tau(U_1)\tau(U_2)$ are equal.

Using these two properties and repeating the arguments used in the proof of [7, Theorem 2.8] one can simplify the generic presentation of $HS_n(G)$ given by [7, Theorem 2.6] and obtain the following.

lm:h-gen

Lemma 2.7. For $n \geq 3$ the group $HS_n(G)$ admits presentation on the generators $h_{ij}(a)$ with the following two families of defining relations:

(2.7)
$$h_{ij}(a) = \tau ((ij)_a \cdot (ij)_1);$$

$$\tau(KRK^{-1}) = 1,$$

where R varies over relations of Proposition 2.6 and K is any word in $(ij)_1$, $i \neq j$.

From (2.7) one immediately obtains the equality $h_{ij}(1) = 1$, $i \neq j$. Thus, if we denote by σ the permutation corresponding to a word K and let S_n act on $h_{ij}(a)$'s in the natural way we will get that the word $\tau(KRK^{-1})$ is equivalent to $\sigma \tau(R)$ (modulo relations $h_{ij}(1) = 1$).

Since the relations from Proposition 2.6 are respected by the action of S_n , only relations of the form $\tau(R) = 1$ are, in fact, needed for the presentation of $HS_n(G)$. Writing down what $\tau(R)$ is for each of (SG1)–(SG4) we get the following.

prop:HSpres

Proposition 2.8. For $n \geq 3$ the group $HS_n(G)$ admits presentation with generators $h_{ij}(a)$ and the following list of relations:

| {HO} | (R0)
$$h_{ij}(1) = 1$$
,

|{H1}| (R1)
$$h_{ij}(a)h_{ji}(a) = 1,$$

[H2] (R2)
$$h_{jk}(b)h_{ik}(a)h_{ij}(b) = h_{ik}(ab),$$

[
$$h_{ij}(a), h_{kl}(b)$$
] = 1,

::Hnextensions

3. Relationship with extensions of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$

We start by briefly reviewing the material of § 1–3 of [11]. Let $n \geq 3$ be a natural number. By definition, the group $H_n(G)$ is given by generators $h_{ij}(u)$, $u \in G$, $i \neq j$ and the following relations (cf. [11, H1–H5 of § 2]):

[{RH1}] (H1)
$$h_{ij}(u)h_{ji}(u) = 1,$$

[RH2] (H2)
$$h_{ij}(u)h_{ki}(u)h_{jk}(u) = 1,$$

[RH3] (H3)
$$h_{ij}(u)h_{ik}(v)h_{ij}(u)^{-1} = h_{ik}(uv)h_{ik}(u)^{-1},$$
 for $j \neq k$

[{RH4}] (H4)
$$h_{ij}(u)h_{kj}(v)h_{ij}(u)^{-1} = h_{kj}(vu)h_{kj}(u)^{-1},$$
 for $i \neq k$

[RH5] (H5)
$$[h_{ij}(u), h_{kl}(v)] = 1.$$

There is a surjective group homomorphism $H_n(G) D_n(G)$ sending $h_{ij}(g)$ to $d_{ij}(g)$. Here $d_{ij}(g)$ stands for the element of G^n whose *i*-th component equals g, *j*-th component equals g^{-1} and all other components are trivial.

By definition, an extension of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ is an extension H of $D_n(G)$ that is also a quotient of $H_n(G)$, i.e. the extension that fits into the following diagram.

$$H_n(G)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$H \longrightarrow D_n(G)$$

Any $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ -extension is central, see [11, Proposition 2.3].

We now recall the notion of an extension of type $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ introduced by Rehmann in [11, § 1]. Let G be a group. Denote by U(G) the group presented by generators $(u, v), u, v \in G$ and relations:

[{U1}] (U1)
$$({}^{u}v, {}^{u}w)(u, w) = (uv, w),$$

[U2] (U2)
$$(u, vw)(v, wu)(w, uv) = 1.$$

There is a left action of G on U(G) given by $^{x}(u,v) = (^{x}u,^{x}v)$. Equivalently, U(G) can be defined by the following relations, see [4, p. 8].

$$\{U4\} \mid (3.1)$$
 $(u, v)(v, u) = 1,$

$$(u,v)^{v}(u,w) = (u,vw),$$

[409] (3.3)
$${}^{u}(v,w)(w,v) = (u,[v,w]).$$

It is clear from the definition that U(G) is a quotient of the nonabelian tensor square $G \otimes G$ and that the map $(u,v) \mapsto [u,v]$ defines a G-equivariant map $U(G) \twoheadrightarrow [G,G]$. Notice that in the literature one can find alternative notations for U(G) which emphasize its connection with nonabelian tensor products e.g. (G,G) or $G \wedge G$.

By definition, an extension of type $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ is simply a quotient of U(G) that fits into the following commutative diagram with G-equivariant arrows.

$$U(G)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$U \longrightarrow [G, G]$$

There is a correspondence between extensions of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ and $\mathfrak{U}(G)$. One can obtain a $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ -extension from given $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ -extension via restriction. Indeed, let H be an extension of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ and k be arbitrary number $1 \leq k \leq n$. Denote by ι_k the inclusion map $[G,G] \to D_n(G)$ that inserts an element $g \in [G,G]$ at the k-th position. Then the corresponding extension U_H is simply the pull-back of H with respect to ι_k .

In other words, U_H is simply the subgroup of H generated by symbols $c_{kj}(u,v) = h_{kj}(u) \cdot h_{kj}(v) \cdot h_{kj}(vu)^{-1}$ (here j is any index not equal k, $c_{kj}(u,v)$ does not depend

on j, see [11, Proposition 2.1]). It can be shown that U is an extension of type $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ with kernel $\operatorname{Ker}(\pi_U)$ isomorphic to $\operatorname{Ker}(\pi_H)$, see [11, Propositions 2.2–2.3]. In [11, § 3] Rehmann also describes the inverse construction which assign to every $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ -extension $U \to [G, G]$ and a number $n \geq 3$ some extension H_U of type $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ that fits into the pull-back diagram above.

3.1. A simpler presentation of $H_n(G)$. The aim of this subsection is to obtain a presentation of $H_n(G)$ that is simpler than the original presentation: 4 instead of 5 relations that are also shorter. Our main result is the following.

prop:simpler

Proposition 3.1. For $n \ge 3$ relations (R0)–(R4) imply (H1)–(H5). Moreover, for $n \ge 4$ relations (R0)–(R3) are equivalent to (H1)–(H5).

For $u, v \in G$ we define the following two symbols:

$$c_{ij}(u,v) = h_{ij}(u)h_{ij}(v)h_{ij}(vu)^{-1}, c'_{ij}(u,v) = h_{ij}(u)h_{ij}(v)h_{ij}(uv)^{-1}.$$

Notice that (H4) implies $h_{ij}(1) = 1$ therefore $c_{ij}(u, u^{-1}) = c'_{ij}(u, u^{-1})$. Our goal is to show that (H3) can be omitted from the definition of $H_n(G)$ provided $n \ge 4$.

item-lem33

em-lem33-cntr

tem-lem33-comm

tem-lem33-conj

em-lem33-conj2

Lemma 3.2. If one excludes relation (H3) from the list of defining relations for the group $H_n(G)$, $n \geq 3$, the following still remain true:

- (1) The elements $c_{ij}(u, u^{-1})$ are central in $H_n(G)$;
- (2) One has $c'_{ij}(u,v) = [h_{ij}(u), h_{kj}(v)], k \neq i, j;$
- (3) One has $h_{ij}(w)c'_{kj}(u,v) = c'_{kj}(u,w)^{-1}c'_{kj}(u,vw), k \neq i,j;$
- (4) One has $h_{ij}(w)c'_{ij}(u,v) = c'_{ij}(uw,v)c'_{ij}(w,v)^{-1}$.

Proof. First one shows using (H4) that $c_{ij}(u, u^{-1})$ centralizes $h_{kj}(v)$ (cf. with the proof of [11, Lemma 2.1(2)]). Since in any group [a, b] = 1 implies $[a^{-1}, b] = [a, b^{-1}] = [a^{-1}, b^{-1}] = 1$ we get that $c_{ij}(u, u^{-1})$ also centralizes $h_{kj}(v)^{-1} = h_{jk}(v)$ and $c_{ij}(u^{-1}, u)^{-1} = c_{ji}(u, u^{-1})$ centralizes both $h_{kj}(v)$ and $h_{jk}(v)$. Together with (H2) and (H5) this implies that $c_{ij}(u, u^{-1})$ centralizes all the generators of $H_n(G)$ and hence lies in the center of $H_n(G)$.

The second and third assertions are straightforward corollaries of (H4). The fourth assertion follows from the third one:

$${}^{h_{ij}(w)}c'_{ij}(u,v) = {}^{h_{ij}(w)}c'_{kj}(v,u)^{-1} = (c'_{kj}(v,w)^{-1}c'_{kj}(v,uw))^{-1} = c'_{ij}(uw,v)c'_{ij}(w,v)^{-1}.$$

Lemma 3.3. If one excludes relation (H3) from the list of defining relations for the group $H_n(G)$, $n \geq 3$, the following statements are equivalent:

item1

(1) (H3) holds; (2) one has $c'_{ij}(u,v)^{-1} = c'_{ij}(v,u)$; item5

(3) symbols $c'_{ij}(u,v)$ do not depend on i;

item5

(4) one has $c'_{ij}(u, vw) = c'_{ij}(wu, v) \cdot c'_{ij}(uv, w);$

item6

(5) one has $c'_{ij}(u, vu^{-1}) = c'_{ij}(uv, u^{-1})$.

Proof. Implications (1) \Longrightarrow (2) \Longrightarrow (3) \Longrightarrow (4) are essentially contained in the proof of [11, Lemmas 2.1-2.2]. Implication (4) \Longrightarrow (5) is trivial.

We now prove (5) \implies (1). Notice that (H4) implies $h_{ij}(u)^{-1}h_{ik}(v) = h_{ik}(u)^{-1}h_{ik}(vu)$, therefore using Lemma 3.2.(1) we get that $h_{ij}(u)h_{ik}(v) = c_{ij}(u,u^{-1})h_{ij}(u^{-1})^{-1}h_{ik}(v) = h_{ik}(u^{-1})^{-1}h_{ik}(vu^{-1})$. Thus, (H3) is equivalent to the equality

$$h_{ik}(uv)h_{ik}(u)^{-1} = h_{ik}(u^{-1})^{-1}h_{ik}(vu^{-1}),$$

or what is the same

$$c'_{ik}(u^{-1}, uv) = h_{ik}(u^{-1})h_{ik}(uv) = h_{ik}(vu^{-1})h_{ik}(u) = c'_{ik}(vu^{-1}, u).$$

It is clear that the last equality is an equivalent reformulation of (5).

Proof of Proposition 3.1. The assertion of the proposition becomes evident once one notices the following:

- (H2) and (H4) are implied by (R0)-(R2);
- (R0) follows from (H4);
- (R2) follows from (H1), (H2) and (H4);
- (H4) and (H3) are equivalent in the presence of (R4);
- for $n \ge 4$ the third statement of the previous lemma follows from Lemma 3.2.(2).

cor:main

Corollary 3.4. For $n \geq 3$ the group $HS_n(G)$ is the quotient of the extension $H_n(G)$ by (R4) and, in particular, is an $\mathfrak{H}_n(G)$ -extension. The associated $\mathfrak{U}(G)$ extension $U_{HS_n(G)}$ is isomorphic to the quotient of U(G) modulo single family of relations

$$(u,u)=1, u \in G.$$

In particular, we have the following natural isomorphism:

(3.4)
$$\operatorname{Ker}(HS_n(G) \to D_n(G)) = \operatorname{Ker}(S_n(G) \to G \wr S_n) \cong \operatorname{H}_2(G, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Proof. Most of the assertions follow from Proposition 3.1 and [4, Proposition 5]. One also has to use the formula $c_{ij}(u,u) = c_{ij}(u,u^{-1})$ (see [11, p. 87]).

4. Topological applications

sec:main

In this section we prove topological claims made in the introduction.

4.1. **Proof of main results.** Recall that for arbitrary set X one defines the space EX as the the simplicial set whose set of k-simplices EX_k is X^{k+1} and whose faces and degeneracies are obtained by omitting and repeating components. For a group G we denote by π_G the canonical map $EG \to BG$ sending $(g, h) \in EG_1$ to $g^{-1}h \in BG_1$.

Now let N be a group acting on X. We define two simplicial sets U and V as follows:

$$U = \bigcup_{n \in N} E(\Gamma_{n,-}) \subseteq E(X \times X), \quad V = \bigcup_{x,y \in X} E(N(x \to y)) \subseteq EN.$$

Here Γ_{n-} is the graph of the function $(x \mapsto nx)$ and $N(x \to y)$ denotes the subset of elements $n \in N$ satisfying nx = y. With this notation the subset $N(x \to x)$ coincides with the stabilizer subgroup $N_x \le N$.

lm:quillen-a

Lemma 4.1. The simplicial sets U and V are homotopy equivalent.

Proof. First, we define yet another simplicial set W as follows. Its k-simplices W_k are matrices $\binom{x_0}{n_0} \frac{x_1}{n_1} \dots \frac{x_k}{n_k}$, where $x_i \in X$ are $n_i \in N$ are such that all n_i 's act each x_j in the same way, i. e. $n_i x_j = n_{i'} x_j$ for $0 \le i, i', j \le k$. The faces and degeneracies of W are the maps of omission and repetition of columns.

Now there are two simplicial maps $f: W \to U$, $g: W \to V$ whose action on 0-simplicies is given by $f\begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ n_0 \end{pmatrix} = (x_0, n_0 x_0)$, $g\begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ n_0 \end{pmatrix} = n_0$. To prove the lemma it suffices to show that f and g are homotopy equivalences. The proof for f and g is similar, let us show, for example, that g is a homotopy equivalence.

In view of Quillen theorem A (cf.[12, ex. IV.3.11]) it suffices to show that for each p-simplex $d: \Delta^p \to V$ the pullback g/(p,d) of d and g is contractible. The simplicial set g/(p,d) can be interpreted as the subset of $\Delta^p \times E(X)$ whose set of k-simplices consists of pairs $(\alpha: \underline{k} \to \underline{p}, (x_0, \dots, x_k) \in X(\alpha, d)^{k+1})$. Here $X(\alpha, d)$ is the subset of X consisting of all x for which $d_{\alpha(i)}x = d_{\alpha(j)}x$ for $0 \le i, j \le k$. Notice that the set $X_d := X(id_{\underline{p}}, d)$ is nonempty and is contained in every $X(\alpha, d)$ (it even equals $X(\alpha, d)$ for surjective α). Now choose a point $\widetilde{x} \in X_d$ and consider the simplicial homotopy

$$H \colon \Delta^p \times EX \times \Delta^1 \to \Delta^p \times EX$$

between the identity map of $\Delta^p \times EX$ and the map $\Delta^p \times c_{\widetilde{x}}$, where $c_{\widetilde{x}}$ is the constant map. More concretely, H sends each triple $(\alpha: \underline{k} \to \underline{p}, (x_0, \ldots, x_k), \beta: \underline{k} \to \underline{1})$ to $(\alpha, (x_0, \ldots, x_{i-1}, \widetilde{x}, \ldots, \widetilde{x}))$, where i is the minimal number such that $\beta(i) = 1$. By the choice of \widetilde{x} the image of H restricted to $g/(p, d) \times \Delta^1$ is contained in g/(p, d), hence g/(p, d) is contractible.

Now suppose that X = H is also a group upon which N acts on the left. It is clear that an element $n \in N$ induces a simplicial map $E(n,-): EH \to EH$. We consider its graph $\Gamma_{E(n,-)}$ as a subset of $E(H \times H) = EH \times EH$.

cor:ker-iso

Corollary 4.2. Consider the following two simplicial sets:

$$S = \bigcup_{h \in H} BN_h \subseteq BN, \quad T = \pi_N(U) \subseteq B(H \times H).$$

There is an isomorphism $\operatorname{Ker}(\pi_1(S) \to N) \cong \operatorname{Ker}(\pi_1(T) \to H \times H)$. Moreover, the higher homotopy groups of S and T are isomorphic.

Proof. The required isomorphism can be obtained from the homotopy long exact sequence applied to left arrows of the following two pull-back squares.

$$V \hookrightarrow EN \qquad U \hookrightarrow E(H \times H)$$

$$\downarrow^{\perp} \qquad \downarrow^{\pi_N} \qquad \downarrow^{\pi_{H \times H}}$$

$$S \hookrightarrow BN \qquad T \hookrightarrow B(H \times H)$$

Now let G be a group. Set $N = G \wr S_n$, $H = G^n$ and consider the left action of N on H given by $(g, s) \cdot h = gh^{s^{-1}}$, $g, h \in G^n$, $s \in S_n$. If one reorders the components of BG^{2n} accordingly, the simplicial subset $T \subset BG^{2n}$ from the above corollary becomes precisely the preimage of 0 under $h_n \colon BG^{2n} \to \mathbb{Z}[BG]$.

It is also easy to compute the map $\pi_1(S) \to N$. Indeed, van Kampen theorem [8, Theorem 2.7] asserts that $\pi_1(S)$ is isomorphic to the free product of stabilizer subgroups $N_h \leq N$ amalgamated over pairwise intersections $N_h \cap N_{h'}$, $h, h \in H$. For $h \in G^n$ the subgroup N_h consists of elements $(g, s) \in N$ satisfying $gh^{s^{-1}} = h$, i.e. elements of the form $(hh^{-s^{-1}}, s)$. Thus, $N_h \cong S_n$, $\pi_1(S)$ is isomorphic to the group $S_n(G)$ and the map $\pi_1(S) \to N$ coincides with the map μ defined in section 2.1.

ex44

Example 4.3. We leave it as an exercise to the reader to check that an element $[h_{12}(x), h_{13}(y)] \in \pi_1(S)$ corresponds to the following element of $\pi_1(T)$ under the isomorphism of Lemma 4.1:

$$(4.1) \quad \gamma_{x,y} = (x[1], x[1]) \circ (x^{-1}[1], x^{-1}[2]) \circ (y[1], y[1]) \circ (y^{-1}[1], y^{-1}[3]) \circ \circ (x[1], x[2]) \circ (x^{-1}[1], x^{-1}[1]) \circ (y[1], y[3]) \circ (y^{-1}[1], y^{-1}[1])).$$

Proof of Theorem 2. Factor h_n as a composition of a trivial cofibration followed by a fibration:

$$(4.2) BG^{2n} \longrightarrow E_{h_n} \xrightarrow{ev_1 \circ \pi_2} \mathbb{Z}[BG]$$

For example, we can define E_{h_n} and the homotopy fiber F_{h_n} via the usual path space construction (here we use the fact that BG and $\mathbb{Z}[BG]$ are fibrant).

$$E_{h_n} \xrightarrow{\pi_2} \mathbb{Z}[BG]^I \qquad F_{h_n} \xrightarrow{} E_{h_n}$$

$$\downarrow^{ev_0} \qquad \downarrow^{ev_1 \circ \pi_2}$$

$$BG^{2n} \xrightarrow{h_n} \mathbb{Z}[BG] \qquad pt \xrightarrow{} \mathbb{Z}[BG]$$

Now write down the starting portion of the long homotopy exact sequence of the fibration $E_{h_n} \to \mathbb{Z}[BG]$ and denote by K the kernel of the map $\nu \colon \pi_1(T) \to G^{2n}$ induced by the embedding $h_n^{-1}(0) = T \subseteq BG^{2n}$. We come to the following commutative diagram:

$$1 \longrightarrow K \longrightarrow \pi_1(T) \xrightarrow{\nu} G^{2n} \longrightarrow H_1(G, \mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow 1$$

$$\downarrow \psi \qquad \qquad \downarrow \psi \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \psi \qquad \qquad \parallel$$

$$1 \longrightarrow H_2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow \pi_1(F_{h_n}) \longrightarrow \pi_1(E_{h_n}) \longrightarrow H_1(G, \mathbb{Z}) \longrightarrow 1$$

We already know by Corollaries 3.4 and 4.2 that K is naturally isomorphic to $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ provided $n \geq 3$.

Let us show that ψ is an isomorphism. Assume for a moment that G is an abelian group. In this case a generator $x \wedge y$ of $H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ in Miller's presentation corresponds to the class of 2-cycle c = (x, y) - (y, x) (cf. [9, (14), p. 582]), which, in turn, corresponds to the following normalized 2-cycle:

$$(4.3) c' = c - s_0 d_0 c - s_1 d_1 c + s_1 d_0 = (x, y) - (y, x) - (x, 0) + (y, 0) + (0, x) - (0, y).$$

Since F_{h_n} and $\mathbb{Z}[BG]$ are fibrant, any element of $\pi_1(F_{h_n}, 0)$ can be represented with some 1-simplex $(\gamma, s) \in G^{2n} \times \mathbb{Z}[BG]_2$ satisfying $d_2(s) = h_n(\gamma)$, $d_0(s) = d_1(s) = 0$. It remains to find in F_{h_n} the 1-simplex homotopic to the path $\phi(\gamma_{x,y})$ (cf. Example 4.3).

We use the following inductive procedure. Let γ_0 be an initial segment of a path γ in T for which we have already found such simplex (g^0, s^0) in F_{h_n} and let $g \in T_1$ be the next chain link. Set $s_0 = \sum (a_j, b_j) \in \mathbb{Z}[BG]_2$, $t = h_n(g^0, g) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} (-1)^i (g_i^0, g_i)$ and compute the filler for the 3-horn $(0, s_0, t)$. Denote the 1-st face of this filler by s_1 . It is clear that (g^0g, s_1) is the image of $\gamma^0 \circ g$ via ϕ . The concrete formula for s_1 can be chosen e.g. as follows:

$$s_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{2n} (g_i^0 + g_i, -g_i) - \sum_j (a_j + b_j, -b_j).$$

Applying the above recipe to the path $\gamma_{x,y}$ we get an expression equal to (4.3). This shows that ψ is the identity map for an abelian group G. Since ψ is natural in

eq:normalized}

G, by Lemma 4.4 below we get that ψ is an isomorphism for arbitrary G, therefore ϕ is also an isomorphism, as claimed.

lm:endotr

Lemma 4.4. The only natural endotransformations of the second homology functor $H_2(-,\mathbb{Z})$: **Groups** \to **Ab** are morphisms of multiplication by $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. Denote by η an endotransformation $H_2(-,\mathbb{Z}) \to H_2(-,\mathbb{Z})$. When restricted to the subcategory of free finitely-generated abelian groups $\mathbf{Add}(\mathbb{Z}) \subseteq \mathbf{Ab}$ the second homology functor coincides with the second exterior power functor $A \mapsto \wedge^2 A$.

Recall from [1, Theorem 6.13.12] that the category of quadratic functors is equivalent to the category of quadratic \mathbb{Z} -modules (see Definition 6.13.5 ibid.) The functor $A \mapsto \wedge^2 A$ is clearly quadratic and corresponds to the quadratic \mathbb{Z} -module $0 \to \mathbb{Z} \to 0$ under this equivalence. Thus, we get that η restricted to $\mathbf{Add}(\mathbb{Z})$ coincides with the the morphism of multiplication by $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

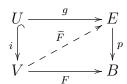
Consider the group $\Gamma_k = \langle x_1, y_1, \dots x_k, y_k \mid [x_1, y_1] \cdot \dots \cdot [x_k, y_k] \rangle$ (the fundamental group of a sphere with k handles). It is clear that the abelianization map $\Gamma_k \to \mathbb{Z}^{2k}$ induces an injective map $H_2(\Gamma_k, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \to \wedge^2 \mathbb{Z}^{2k}$. Consider the following diagrams.

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
\mathbb{Z} & & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{Z} & \mathbb{H}_{2}(G, \mathbb{Z}) \\
\eta_{\Gamma_{k}} & & & & & & & & & & & \\
\eta_{\Gamma_{k}} & & & & & & & & & \\
\mathbb{Z} & & & & & & & & & \\
\mathbb{Z} & & & & & & & & & & \\
\mathbb{Z} & & & & & & & & & & \\
\mathbb{Z} & & & & & & & & & \\
\mathbb{Z} & & & & & & & & & \\
\end{array} \xrightarrow{\chi} & H_{2}(G, \mathbb{Z})$$

From the left diagram it follows that η_{Γ_k} is also the morphism of multiplication by n. For every element $x \in H_2(G, \mathbb{Z})$ there exist an integer k and a map $\chi \colon \Gamma_k \to G$ sending the generator of $H_2(\Gamma_k, \mathbb{Z})$ to x. From the right square we conclude that $\eta_G(x) = nx$, as claimed.

4.2. Concluding remarks. We finish the paper by showing that the map h_{∞} is a quasifibration. In order to do this we use a simplicial version of the so-called "delayed homotopy lifting property", cf. ???.

Definition 4.5. Let C be a class of injective maps in the category of simplicial sets. We say that a map of simplicial sets $p \colon E \to B$ satisfies (simplicial) delayed homotopy lifting property with respect to C if for every commutative square



in which $i \in C$ there exists a map \widetilde{F} so that the lower triangle commutes strictly and the upper one commutes up to homotopy H such that $pH: U \times I \to B$ coincides with the composite $U \times I \xrightarrow{\pi} U \xrightarrow{g} B$.

Denote by C_{pr} the class of retractible inclusions between compact polyhedral simplicial sets. In other words, for polyhedral U and V an inclusion $i: U \to V$ lies in C_{pr} if there is a map $r: V \to U$ such that $ri = id_U$.

lm:dhlp

Lemma 4.6. Let X be a fibrant connected simplicial set. The map $h: X^{\infty} \to \mathbb{Z}[X]$ satisfies the delayed homotopy lifting property with respect to the class C_{pr} .

Proof. Notice first that the original question can be reduced to the special case g = 0. Indeed, since U is finite the image of g is contained in $X^{2N} \subset X^{\infty}$. Set $F_0 = F - hgr$. If we could find a lift \widetilde{F}_0 for a pair of maps $(g = 0, F_0)$ then $\widetilde{F} = gr \oplus \widetilde{F}_0[N]$ would be a solution to the original lifting problem for (g, F).

Now choose a contractible fibrant simplicial set W which maps surjectively onto X (e. g. set $W = \underline{\text{Hom}}(\Delta[1], X)$???). Since $p: W \to X$ is surjective, the associated map between free simplicial abelian groups is a (Kan) fibration and we can choose a lift \widetilde{F} in the following diagram.

$$U \xrightarrow{0} \mathbb{Z}[W]$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad$$

Notice that if the lifting problem for $(0, \widetilde{F})$ and $h_W \colon W^{\infty} \to \mathbb{Z}[W]$ has a solution, then so does the original problem for (0, F) and h_{∞} .

By [10, Lemma 9.1] we can lift \tilde{F} along h_W so that the bottom triangle in the diagram

$$U \xrightarrow{0} W^{\infty}$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow h_{W}$$

$$V \xrightarrow{\widetilde{F}} \mathbb{Z}[W]$$

commutes strictly. It is clear that the image of $G\iota$ sits inside the fiber $F_{h_W,0}$. It remains to see that $F_{h_W,0}$ is contractible (the contracting homotopy for W^{∞} can be restricted to $F_{h_W,0}$). Thus, we get that $H: G\iota \cong 0$ and, moreover, that $h_W H = 0$. \square

Lemma 4.7. Let $p: (E, e) \to (B, b)$ be a map of based topological spaces. Let $p^{-1}(b) \hookrightarrow F_p(b) \subseteq E \times_B B^I$ be the inclusion map of the fiber of p into the homotopy fiber. Denote k-th relative homotopy group $\pi_k(F_p(b), p^{-1}(b), e)$ by G_k .

(1) Maps of triples $(D^k, S^k, pt) \to (F_p(b), p^{-1}(b), e)$ are in one-to-one correspondece with pairs of maps (a, A) making the following diagram commute.

$$D^{k} \xrightarrow{a} E \downarrow^{p}$$

$$D^{k} \times I \xrightarrow{\pi} (D^{k} \times I)/J \xrightarrow{A} B$$

Here J denotes $\partial(D^k \times I) \cup (D^k \times \{1\})$.

- (2) Two pairs (a_0, A_0) and (a_1, A_1) represent the same element of G_k iff there exists a family of maps (a_t, A_t) continously depending on $t \in [0, 1]$ so that $pa_t = A_t \iota_0$ holds for all t (we call such family a homotopy of pairs).
- (3) Assume $A\pi$ lifts with respect to p (i. e. there is \widetilde{A} such that $\widetilde{A}\iota_0 = a$ and $p\widetilde{A} = A$), then the element of G_k represented by (a, A) is trivial.
- (4) Let (a, A) be a pair as above and H be a homotopy between two maps $a, a' \colon D^k \to E$ relative to S^k . Then there exists a map A' such that (a', A') is a pair homotopic to (a, A).
- (5) The claim of the third assertion remains true if we require the weaker condition $\widetilde{A}\iota_0 \cong a$ instead of the corresponding strict equality.

item:weaker

lm:weak-equiv

Lemma 4.8. If a map $p: E \to B$ possesses the delayed homotopy lifting property with respect to C_{pr} then its geometric realization is a quasifibration, i. e. for every point b of B the inclusion $p^{-1}(b) \hookrightarrow F_p(b)$ is a weak equivalence.

Proof. It suffices to show that $\pi_k(F_p(b), p^{-1}(b))$ are all trivial for $k \geq 1$. By Lemma 4.7.(5) it suffices to show the existence of lifting \widetilde{A} for every pair of maps (a, A) in the diagram

$$D^{k} \xrightarrow{a} E$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \tilde{A} \qquad \downarrow \downarrow$$

$$D^{k} \times I \xrightarrow{A} B$$

Notice that that if the bottom arrow lifts along h_{∞} then the class defined by (a, A) is trivial. To show that such lift \widetilde{A} always exists we use the lifting property of Lemma 4.6 and the simplicial approximation theorem.

Indeed, applying [5, Corollary 4.8] twice we replace the pair (a, A) by a pair (a', A') representing the same element of the relative homotopy group in such a way that a' and pA' are geometric realizations of simplicial maps a'', A'' which make the following

diagram commute.

$$F(D^{k}) \xrightarrow{a''} X^{\infty}$$

$$F(D^{k} \times I) \xrightarrow{A''} \mathbb{Z}[X]$$

Here F denotes the subdivision functor $\operatorname{sd}^m \operatorname{sd}^* \operatorname{sd} \operatorname{sd}^*$. It is clear that $F\iota_0$ is still a trivial cofibration (WHY?). Since F is a functor, the map $F\iota_0$ admits a retract and by Lemma 4.6 we obtain a lift \widetilde{A} of A'' and a simplicial homotopy $H: \widetilde{A} \cdot Fi_0 \cong a''$ such that $hH = a'' \times id_I$ It remains to replace A' with the delayed homotopy which stands still for the first half of the time and then use |H| and $|\widetilde{A}|$ to construct the neccessary lifting.

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