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 Corollary 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 $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

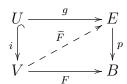
Consider the group $\Gamma_k = \langle x_1, y_1, \dots x_k, y_k \mid [x_1, y_1] \cdot \dots \cdot [x_k, y_k] \rangle$ (the fundamental group of a sphere with k handles). It is clear that the abelianization map $\Gamma_k \to \mathbb{Z}^{2k}$ induces an injective map $H_2(\Gamma_k, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}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

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) continuously 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 $a, a' : D^k \to E$ 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.

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 $p^{-1}(b) \hookrightarrow F_p(0)$ is a weak equivalence.

Proof. It suffices to show that all relative homotopy groups $\pi_k(F_p(b), p^{-1}(b))$, $k \ge 1$ are trivial. If we construct the homotopy fiber via the usual path space construction then one could represent an element of k-th relative homotopy group by a pair of maps (a, A) making the following diagram commute.

$$D^{k} \xrightarrow{a} |X^{\infty}|$$

$$\downarrow^{|h|}$$

$$D^{k} \times I \xrightarrow{p} (D^{k} \times I)/J \xrightarrow{A} |\mathbb{Z}[X]|$$

It is also easy to formulate in these terms what a homotopy of pairs (a, A) and (a', A') is.

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.

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

$$F_{\iota_{0}} \bigvee_{I} \bigcap_{X'} \bigcap_{X'} \bigwedge_{I} \bigcap_{X''} X$$

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

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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