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# DIFFERENTIAL GRADED CATEGORIES AND DELIGNE CONJECTURE

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ABSTRACT. We prove a version of the Deligne conjecture for  $n$ -fold monoidal abelian categories  $A$  over a field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic 0, assuming some compatibility and non-degeneracy conditions for  $A$ . The output of our construction is a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ , a relaxed version of the concept of Leinster  $n$ -algebra in  $Alg(\mathbb{k})$ . The difference between the Leinster original definition and our relaxed one is apparent when  $n > 1$ , for  $n = 1$  both concepts coincide.

We believe that there exists a functor from weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$  to  $C_*(E_{n+1}, \mathbb{k})$ -algebras, well-defined when  $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}$ , and preserving weak equivalences. For the case  $n = 1$  such a functor is constructed in [Sh4] by elementary simplicial methods, providing (together with this paper) a complete solution for 1-monoidal abelian categories.

Our approach to Deligne conjecture is divided into two parts. The first part, completed in the present paper, provides a construction of a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ , out of an  $n$ -fold monoidal  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian category (provided the compatibility and non-degeneracy condition are fulfilled). The second part (still open for  $n > 1$ ) is a passage from weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebras to  $C_*(E_{n+1}, \mathbb{k})$ -algebras.

As an application, we prove in Theorem 8.1 that the Gerstenhaber-Schack complex of a Hopf algebra over a field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic 0 admits a structure of a weak Leinster  $(2, 1)$ -algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$  extending the Yoneda structure. It relies on our earlier construction [Sh1] of a 2-fold monoidal structure on the abelian category of tetramodules over a bialgebra.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 DELIGNE CONJECTURE

The statement called today “the classical Deligne conjecture” was suggested by Pierre Deligne in his 1993 letter to several mathematicians, and currently has several proofs of it, e.g. [MS], [T2], [KS]. It claims the following.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $A$  be an associative algebra (resp., a dg algebra, a dg category) over a field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic 0. Then the graded vector space  $\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathbf{Bimod}(A)}^{\bullet}(A, A)$  admits a structure of an algebra over the chain operad  $C_*(E_2, \mathbb{k})$  such that the induced action of the homology*

operad  $e_2$  on the Hochschild cohomology  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{B}imod(A)}^\bullet(A, A)$  is the Gerstenhaber's one [G]. The construction can be performed over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Several remarks are in order. The Hochschild cohomology of an associative algebra  $A$  is defined intrinsically as  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{B}imod(A)}^\bullet(A, A)$ , where  $\mathcal{B}imod(A)$  stands for the category of  $A$ -bimodules. Murray Gerstenhaber found [G] a cup-product  $-\cup-$ , and a Lie bracket  $[-, -]$  of degree -1 (called the Gerstenhaber bracket) on the Hochschild complex of  $A$  and proved that the operations  $-\wedge-$  and  $\{-, -\}$  on the cohomology  $H = H(\text{Hoch}^\bullet(A))$  they descent to fulfill the following identities:

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & - \wedge - \text{ defines an associative commutative structure on } H, \\ (2) \quad & \{-, -\} \text{ defines a graded Lie algebra structure on } H[1], \\ (3) \quad & \{a, b \wedge c\} = \{a, b\} \wedge c \pm b \wedge \{a, c\} \text{ (the Leibniz rule)} \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

(for any homogeneous  $a, b, c \in H$ ).

Such data is called a *Gerstenhaber algebra* over  $\mathbb{k}$ , or a 2-algebra. The operad of Gerstenhaber algebras is an operad in  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces, denoted by  $e_2$ .

In 1976, Fred Cohen [C] proved that the operad  $e_2$  is the homology operad of the little discs operad  $E_2$ , for the case of  $\text{char } \mathbb{k} = 0$ :  $e_2 = H_*(E_2, \mathbb{k})$ .

The situation looked as follows: the cohomology operad of the little discs operad acted on the cohomology of the Hochschild complex. It motivated Deligne to claim that the chain operad of little discs acts on the Hochschild complex, for any associative algebra  $A$ .

This claim was highly non-trivial, as the equation (3) of (1.1) fails on the level of Hochschild cochains:

$$[\Psi_1, \Psi_2 \cup \Psi_3] \neq [\Psi_1, \Psi_2] \cup \Psi_3 \pm \Psi_2 \cup [\Psi_1, \Psi_3] \tag{1.2}$$

(for homogeneous  $\Psi_1, \Psi_2, \Psi_3$ ). (Though (2) holds on the Hochschild complex, and (1) holds after the symmetrization).

A proof of Theorem 1.1 was suggested in the Getzler-Jones' 1994 preprint [GJ], but later a mistake in their argument was found.

A new interest to a proof of Deligne conjecture raised up after Tamarkin's 1998 proof [T1] of the Kontsevich formality theorem [Ko], based on operadic methods. In Tamarkin's proof, the Deligne conjecture plays a central role. Since that, many new proofs of the Deligne conjecture appeared, see e.g. [MS], [T2], [KS].

Moreover, it was proven that the chain operad of little discs  $C_*(E_2, \mathbb{k})$  is quasi-isomorphic to the operad Koszul resolution  $G_\infty$  of the (Koszul) operad  $e_2$ , and that both operads are quasi-isomorphic to its cohomology (are formal). However, the latter quasi-isomorphisms require transcendental methods. To perform them over  $\mathbb{Q}$  one needs to choose a Drinfeld associator over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## 1.2

In this paper, we prove a generalization of the Deligne conjecture for an  $n$ -fold monoidal [BFSV] abelian category, which is substantially greater generality (even when  $n = 1$ ) than the statement of Theorem 1.1. The “output” in our main Theorem 1.2 is given by some algebraic structure called here a *weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra*. It is a relaxed version of Leinster monoids introduced in [Le]; more specifically, it is a relaxed version of a Leinster  $n$ -monoid in the category  $Alg(\mathbb{k})$  of dg algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ . We recall the definition of Leinster monoids in Section 2, and give the definition of a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoid (whis is seemingly new) in Section 3.

Morally, Leinster monoids are closed cousins of weak Segal monoids [Se], for categories enriched over an arbitrary, non necessarily a cartesian-monoidal, symmetric monoidal category. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a cartesian monoidal category; then Graeme Segal introduced a concept of a *weak monoid  $M$  in  $\mathcal{M}$* . Take the nerve of the monoid  $M$ , it is a simplicial set  $X_\bullet$  with the additional property that the map

$$X_n \rightarrow X_1 \times X_1 \times \cdots \times X_1$$

$n$  factors

is an isomorphism for any  $n$ , where the map is defined as a successive application of the extreme face maps. The idea was to weaken this property, postulating it to be a “weak equivalence”, in an appropriate sense.

If we liked to give an analogous definition in the category of  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces (of complexes of  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces, of differential graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras,...) we would immediately see that the above map is ill-defined. If we replaced the cartesian product in the nerve by our product  $\otimes$ , and set

$$X_n = M \otimes \cdots \otimes M$$

$n$  factors

the corresponding  $X_\bullet$  would fail to be a simplicial set (vector space,...). Namely, the extreme face maps are ill-defined. For two vector spaces  $V, W$ , there no projections  $V \otimes_k W \rightarrow V$ ,  $V \otimes_k W \rightarrow W$ .

The Leinster definition [Le] generalizes the Segal weak monoids for the case when the monoidal category we take the monoids in is not necessarily cartesian-monoidal.

We prove here a version of Deligne conjecture for arbitrary *monoidal abelian category*, with weak compatibility of the exact and monoidal structures, see Definition 5.1. Moreover, we prove it also for an abelian  $n$ -fold monoidal category, in sense of [BFSV].

The concept of a *weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra*, which we make use of to provide a non-linear structure on  $\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^\bullet(e, e)$  in the statement below, is introduced in Section 3.

Our main result is:

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an essentially small  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian  $n$ -fold monoidal category, where  $\mathrm{char} \mathbb{k} = 0$ . Let  $e$  be the unit object of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Assume the weak compatibility of the exact and the monoidal structures, as in Definition 7.1. If  $n > 1$ , assume as well that the  $n$ -fold monoidal structure is non-degenerate, in the sense of Definition 7.2. Then  $\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^\bullet(e, e)$  is a*

weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra, whose underlying Leinster 1-algebra product is the Yoneda product in  $\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$ .

It is proven in Theorem 5.4 for the case  $n = 1$ , and in Theorem 7.3 for general  $n$ .

Note that the non-degeneracy condition of Definition 7.2 is apparent only for  $n > 1$ .

The category of  $A$ -bimodules  $\mathcal{Bimod}(A)$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian monoidal category, with the monoidal product  $M \otimes_A N$ ,  $M, N \in \mathcal{Bimod}(A)$ , whose two-sided unit is the tautological  $A$ -bimodule  $A$ . Thus the assumptions of Theorem 1.1 is a particular case of those of Theorem 1.2 for  $n = 1$ .

The assumption that  $\mathcal{A}$  is essentially small can be appropriately weaken. It can be replaced, for instance, by the assumption that  $\mathcal{A}$  is a finitely-presentable Grothendieck category, or that the dg category  $\mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{dg}}$  is generated by a set of perfect objects. We impose here our assumptions on essential smallness basically to make the presentation more transparent and the main ideas more clear.

### 1.3

One of the first impacts for the present paper was found in the Kock-Toën's paper [KT].

The authors prove in loc.cit., in a very conceptual way, a sort of Deligne conjecture for  $n$ -fold monoidal categories enriched *over simplicial sets*. The authors work with weak Segal monoids, and do not treat the  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear case. We quote [KT, page 2]:

...It is fair to point out that our viewpoint and proof do not seem to work for the original Deligne conjecture, since currently the theory of Segal categories does not work well in linear contexts (like chain complexes), but only in cartesian monoidal contexts. ... However, our original motivation was not to give an additional proof of Deligne's conjecture, but rather to try to understand it from a more conceptual point of view.

This point can be phrased out as follows. Let  $M$  be a monoid in  $\mathcal{Vect}(\mathbb{k})$ . It is natural to define its "nerve" using the tensor product  $\otimes_k$  instead of the direct product in the set-enriched case. We define

$$X_n = X \otimes_k X \otimes_k \cdots \otimes_k X \quad (n \text{ factors}) \quad (1.3)$$

Then  $X_{\bullet}$  is not a simplicial set. The two extreme face maps are ill-defined, as there are no projections  $X^{\otimes n} \rightarrow X^{\otimes(n-1)}$  along the first (corresp., the last)  $n - 1$  factors. The origin of the trouble is that the symmetric monoidal category  $\mathcal{Vect}(\mathbb{k})$  is not cartesian-monoidal.

In this paper, we show how to adjust the strategy of [KT] to the  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear context by making use the Leinster monoids as substitutes of Segal monoids.

The arguments of [KT] rely on the Dwyer-Kan localization, in particular, on a hard result [DK, Corollary 4.7]. Working in the  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear context, with dg categories over  $\mathbb{k}$  instead of simplicial categories, we replace the Dwyer-Kan localization by the Drinfeld construction of dg quotient. In fact, we need the dg quotient to have some monoidal property, which both

Drinfeld’s and Keller’s constructions of dg quotients fail to have. As a solution, we construct in Section 4.3 a refinement of the Drinfeld dg quotient, having the same homotopy type and improved monoidal properties. Making used the Leinster monoids versus the Segal monoids in [KT], the suitable localization should have a manageable monoidal behavior not only on the level of the homotopy category of dg categories, but as well for the dg categories themselves. A remarkable feature of the Drinfeld dg quotient, comparably with the earlier Keller’s construction of dg quotient, is that it is given by a dg category on the nose, not just an object of the homotopy category of dg categories. Our refinement of the Drinfeld dg quotient, as well as the monoidal property it was designed for, are also defined on the level of dg categories themselves. We would say that the construction of the refined dg quotient in Section 4.3 is technically the main novelty introduced in the paper.

#### 1.4 INTERPLAY WITH THE J.LURIE APPROACH

There is another version of higher Deligne conjecture proven in J.Lurie’s *Higher Algebra* [L1, Ch.5.3], see also [F], [GTZ].

The authors in loc.cit. work with  $\infty$ -categories, and prove a version of Deligne conjecture for  $E_n$ -algebras in  $\infty$ -categories. To the best of our knowledge, the authors in loc.cit. do not discuss the question of assigning an  $E_n$ -algebra in  $\infty$ -categories to a “classical” object, namely, to an abelian  $n$ -fold monoidal category in the sense of [BFSV]. Thus, our main result in Theorem 1.2 seemingly does not follow, at least for  $n \geq 2$ , from Lurie’s approach.

In the same time, we believe that the abelian  $n$ -fold monoidal categories in the sense of [BFSV] “appear naturally” in deformation theory. Our earlier paper [Sh1] shows how to assign a 2-fold monoidal  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian category with a deformation theory of a bialgebra  $B$  over  $\mathbb{k}$ ; however the non-degeneracy (Definition 7.2), which is essential assumption in Theorem 1.2, does not hold in general. It holds e.g. when  $B$  is a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ , as we show here in Section 8. Any construction of  $E_2$ -algebras in  $\infty$ -categories from 2-fold monoidal abelian categories should be sensible to such phenomena.

On the other hand, Theorem 1.2 does not provide a final solution to higher Deligne conjecture; it should be supplemented with a construction of a passage from the weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$  to  $C_*(E_{n+1}, \mathbb{k})$ -algebras, which is also a highly non-trivial question. It may use the theory of  $\infty$ -categories, in particular, on the theory of  $\infty$ -operads [L1, Ch.2]. The only “elementary” solution we know covers the case  $n = 1$ , see [Sh4].

#### 1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

In Section 2 we discuss the Leinster monoids in a symmetric monoidal category, following Leinster [Le]. They substitute the Segal weak monoids [Se] for the case when  $\mathcal{M}$  is not necessary cartesian-enriched category. In particular, this concept is well-defined in the linear context. Nothing here is new.

In Section 3 we introduce weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoids. We arrived to this definition by considering how a based poly-monoidal oplax-functor to  $\mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is specialized to a functor to  $\mathcal{A}lg(\mathbb{k})$ , by taking the Homs from the based object to itself. This link will become more clear in Section 6, which the reader is advised to read in parallel with Section 3.

Section 4 starts with an overview of the Keller and the Drinfeld constructions of dg quotient, as well as of the universal property of a dg quotient. In Sections 4.3 and 4.4 we introduce a refined “monoidal” version of the Drinfeld dg quotient. This construction is the main technical novelty introduced in the paper.

We prove the Deligne conjecture in the form of Theorem 1.2 for  $n = 1$  in Section 5, and in Section 7 for general  $n$ . The main results are Theorem 5.4 and Theorem 7.3, for the case  $n = 1$  and for general  $n$ , correspondingly.

In Section 6 we collect the definitions on monoidal (op)lax-functors, which are necessary for the proof of Deligne conjecture for  $n > 1$ . We also discuss how an  $n$ -fold monoidal  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category gives rise to a strict poly-monoidal (op)lax-functor, see Theorem 6.12.

Section 8 contains an application of  $n = 2$  case of Theorem 1.2 to deformation theory of associative bialgebras. It is a further development of our construction of a 2-fold monoidal structure on the category of tetramodules over a bialgebra  $B$ , established in [Sh1]. We prove in Theorem 8.1 that, when the bialgebra  $B$  is a Hopf algebra, the non-degeneracy condition of Definition 7.2 holds for the 2-fold monoidal category of  $B$ -tetramodules. Then Theorem 1.2 implies that the Gerstenhaber-Schack complex of  $B$  (a.k.a. its deformation complex) is a Leinster  $(2, 1)$ -algebra.

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*Notations:* Throughout the paper,  $\mathbb{k}$  denotes a field of characteristic 0.

## 2 SEGAL MONOIDS AND LEINSTER MONOIDS

Here we recall the definitions of a *Leinster monoid* and of a *Leinster  $n$ -monoid* in a symmetric monoidal category.

Recall that a *Segal monoid* in a symmetric monoidal category  $\mathcal{M}$  is a simplicial object  $A: \Delta^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  such that the natural maps

$$\varphi_n: A_n \rightarrow A_1 \times A_1 \times \cdots \times A_1$$

defined by the successive application of extreme face maps, are *weak equivalences* (in an appropriate sense), where  $\times$  denotes the monoidal product in  $\mathcal{M}$ .

If  $M$  is a honest (strict) monoid in  $\mathcal{M}$ , it can be considered as a Segal monoid, with  $A_n = M^{\times n}$  (the nerve construction).

This definition makes sense only when  $\mathcal{M}$  is a cartesian-monoidal category, that is, when the monoidal product is the cartesian product. (For example, the monoidal category  $\text{Vect}(\mathbb{k})$  of vector spaces over a field  $\mathbb{k}$ , with  $\otimes_{\mathbb{k}}$  as the monoidal product, is *not* cartesian-monoidal. Indeed, the cartesian product of two vector spaces  $V, W$  is their direct sum  $V \oplus W$ , not the tensor product  $V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} W$ ).

The matter is that, when  $\mathcal{M}$  is not cartesian-monoidal, and  $M$  is a honest monoid in  $\mathcal{M}$ , the nerve  $N(M)$  is not, in general, a simplicial set. To make it clear, let us recall the simplicial structure on the nerve of a monoid in the category of sets (or in any other cartesian monoidal category).

The  $n$ -simplices of  $N(M)$  is the set  $A_n = M^{\times n}$ . One should define the face maps

$$F_0, \dots, F_n: A_n \rightarrow A_{n-1}$$

and the degeneracy maps

$$D_0, \dots, D_n: A_n \rightarrow A_{n+1}$$

All but the two extreme face maps are defined as the product of two neighbor factors (the face maps  $F_1, \dots, F_{n-1}: A_n \rightarrow A_{n-1}$  are like that; the face map  $F_i$  is defined by the product in  $M$  of the  $i$ -th and  $(i+1)$ -th factors).

The *two extreme face maps*  $F_0, F_n: M^{\times n} \rightarrow M^{\times(n-1)}$  are defined *as the projections* along the rightmost (corresp., the leftmost) factor.

The degeneracy maps are defined as the insertion of the monoidal unit of  $M$  to the corresponding place, as a new factor.

Consider as an example the face maps  $A_2 \rightarrow A_1$ . We have  $A_1 = M$ ,  $A_2 = M \times M$ . There are three face maps  $A_2 \rightarrow A_1$ , corresponding to three possible semi-monotonous maps  $[0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1, 2]$  in  $\Delta$ . The corresponding maps  $A_2 \rightarrow A_1$  are

$$F_0(a \times b) = a, \quad F_1(a \times b) = a * b, \quad F_2(a \times b) = b \tag{2.1}$$

where  $*$  is the monoidal product in  $M$ .

Without the assumption that the monoidal category  $\mathcal{M}$  is cartesian-monoidal, only the map  $F_1$  among the three maps  $F_0, F_1, F_2$  makes sense, as *the projections are ill-defined*.

As a conclusion, the nerve  $N(M)$  is not a simplicial set, for the case when  $\mathcal{M}$  is not cartesian-monoidal. Consequently, the Segal definition of a weak monoid is not an adequate one for this case, as honest monoids fail to be weak ones.

Tom Leinster suggested [Le] the following modification of the Segal definition, which fixes the problem. Let us recall Leinster's definition.

Denote by  $\Delta_f$  (the category of finite intervals) the subcategory of the simplicial category  $\Delta$ , having the same objects  $[0], [1], [2], \dots$  as  $\Delta$ , and whose morphisms are the morphisms of  $\Delta$   $f: [m] \rightarrow [n]$  preserving the end-points:  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(m) = n$ . Morally, it is the sub-category in  $\Delta$ , generated by all degeneracy maps, and by all face maps except the extreme ones.

The category  $\Delta_f$  is *monoidal* (unlike the category  $\Delta$  itself). The product is defined on objects as

$$[m_1] \otimes [m_2] = [m_1 + m_2]$$

where  $[m] = \{0 < 1 < \dots < m\}$  is, as usual, a totally ordered set with  $m + 1$  elements. That is, in the monoidal product we take the quotient-set, by identifying the maximal element of  $[m_1]$  with the minimal element of  $[m_2]$ . Due to the imposed condition on morphisms that they preserve the end-points, the identification extends to gluing the morphisms, making  $\Delta_f$  a symmetric monoidal category.

DEFINITION 2.1. (i) Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a symmetric monoidal category with a class  $T$  of morphisms containing all isomorphisms in  $\mathcal{M}$  and closed under the composition. Such a pair  $(\mathcal{M}, T)$  is called *a monoidal category with weak equivalences* and the morphisms in  $T$  are called *weak equivalences*.

(ii) A *Leinster monoid* in a category  $\mathcal{M}$  with weak equivalences is a colax-monoidal functor  $A: \Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  whose colax maps

$$\beta_{m,n}: A_{m+n} \rightarrow A_m \otimes A_n$$

and

$$\alpha: A([0]) \rightarrow \underline{e}$$

are weak equivalences (here  $e$  is the unit in  $\mathcal{M}$ , and  $\underline{e}$  is a monoid in  $\mathcal{M}$  with single object  $e$ , and with morphisms  $\text{Hom}(e, e)$ ),

(iii) A *Leinster pre-monoid* in  $\mathcal{M}$  is the same data but dropping the condition that the colax-maps are weak equivalences.

DEFINITION 2.2. Let  $A$  be a honest monoid in a monoidal category  $\mathcal{M}$ . The corresponding Leinster monoid  $A^L: \Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is defined as

$$A_n^L = A \otimes A \otimes \cdots \otimes A \quad (n \text{ factors}) \text{ for } n \geq 1, \quad A_0 = e \quad (2.2)$$

where  $e$  is the unit object in  $\mathcal{M}$ .

The boundary maps  $\delta_i: A_n^L \rightarrow A_{n-1}^L$  are defined as the product of the  $i$ -th and  $(i+1)$ -th factors. The degeneracy maps  $\epsilon_i: A_n^L \rightarrow A_{n+1}^L$  are defined as the insertion of the unit  $e$  to the  $i$ -th position. (The ill-defined extreme face maps do not belong to  $\Delta_f$ ).

This functor has natural colax-monoidal structure, with

$$\beta_{mn}: A_{m+n}^L \rightarrow A_m^L \otimes A_n^L$$

and

$$\alpha: A_0^L \rightarrow e$$

to be the identity maps.

One immediately sees

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a monoidal category with weak equivalences, and denote by  $\text{Mon}^L(\mathcal{M})$  the category of Leinster monoids in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Endow  $\text{Mon}^L(\mathcal{M})$  with the monoidal structure defined component-wise, by the monoidal structure in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then  $\text{Mon}^L(\mathcal{M})$  becomes a monoidal category with weak equivalences, whose weak equivalences are the component-wise weak equivalences.*

◇

Consider  $\mathcal{M} = \text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$ , the category of complexes of  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces,  $\mathbb{k}$  is a field. The monoidal product of  $V$  and  $W$  in  $\text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$  is given by their tensor product  $V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} W$ .

DEFINITION 2.4. A *Leinster 1-algebra*  $A^L$  over field  $\mathbb{k}$  is defined as a Leinster monoid  $A^L: \Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$  in the category  $\mathcal{M} = \text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$ .

Based on Lemma 2.3, we define iteratively the category  $\text{Alg}_n^L(\mathbb{k})$  of Leinster  $n$ -algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ :

DEFINITION 2.5. A Leinster  $n$ -algebra  $A$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear Leinster monoid (=Leinster algebra) in the monoidal category  $\text{Alg}_{n-1}^L(\mathbb{k})$  of Leinster  $(n-1)$ -algebras. It is explicitly given as a functor

$$(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k}), \quad [i_1] \times [i_2] \times \cdots \times [i_n] \mapsto A_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}$$

colax-monoidal by each its argument, with

$$A_{11\dots 1} = A$$

(By a Leinster 0-algebra we understand an element of the category  $\text{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$  itself).

### 3 WEAK LEINSTER $(n, 1)$ -MONOIDS

Here we introduce some relaxed version of the special Leinster  $n + 1$ -monoids which are Leinster  $n$ -monoids in strict 1-monoids. To simplify the notations, we give the definition only for the case of monoids in  $\mathcal{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$ .

For  $n = 1$ , the concept of a weak Leinster  $(1, 1)$ -monoid agrees with the concept of usual 1-Leinster monoids in  $\mathcal{Alg}(\mathbb{k})$ , see Definition 2.1. However, it is essentially more relaxed for  $n > 1$ . We had arrived to it in our study of the Deligne conjecture for  $n$ -fold monoidal abelian categories, for  $n > 1$ . The reader will see that the way we make the Definition 2.5 relaxed comes from the categorical concept of a strict poly-monoidal oplax-functor, see Definitions 6.2, 6.3, 6.10 below.

Note that in all our examples the elements  $g(\underline{m})$  (see (4)) are *equal* to the monoid units.

DEFINITION 3.1. A *weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoid* in  $\mathcal{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$  is data which assigns:

- (1) to each object  $[m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n]$  of the category  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n}$  a strict algebra  $X_{m_1, \dots, m_n} \in \mathcal{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$  (that is,  $X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$  is a dg algebra),
- (2) to each morphism  $\alpha: [m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n] \rightarrow [\ell_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n]$  a strict morphism of monoids (that is, a map of dg algebras)

$$\alpha_*: X_{m_1, \dots, m_n} \rightarrow X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}$$

- (3) for any two composable morphisms  $\alpha: [m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n] \rightarrow [\ell_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n]$  and  $\beta: [\ell_1] \times \cdots \times [\ell_n] \rightarrow [p_1] \times \cdots \times [p_n]$  an element

$$g(\alpha, \beta) \in X_{p_1, \dots, p_n}$$

*It is a cycle of degree 0 in the dg algebra  $X_{p_1, \dots, p_n}$ , which descends to the unit of the cohomology algebra  $H^*(X_{p_1, \dots, p_n})$ ,*

- (4) to each object  $\underline{m} = [m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n] \in (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n}$ , an element

$$g(\underline{m}) \in X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$$

*It is a cycle of degree 0 in the dg algebra  $X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$ , which descends to the unit of the cohomology algebra  $H^*(X_{m_1, \dots, m_n})$ ,*

- (5) maps of dg algebras which are quasi-equivalences in  $\mathcal{Vect}^*(\mathbb{k})$

$$\theta_{m_1, \dots, (m_s, m'_s), m_{s+1}, \dots, m_n}: X_{m_1, \dots, m_s + m'_s, \dots, m_n} \rightarrow X_{m_1, \dots, m_s, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, m'_s, \dots, m_n}$$

defined for all  $m_1, \dots, m_s, m'_s, \dots, m_n$ ,

subject to the following conditions:

- (i) for any two composable  $\alpha, \beta$  in  $(\Delta_f^{\text{op}})^{\times n}$  and any  $x \in X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$ , one has

$$(\beta_* \alpha_*(x)) \circ g(\alpha, \beta) = g(\alpha, \beta) \circ ((\beta \alpha)_*(x)) \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\circ$  is the product in the monoid  $X_{p_1, \dots, p_n}$ ,

- (ii)  $g(\alpha, \beta)$  is equal to the unit of  $X_{p_1, \dots, p_n}$  if both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  act on the same factor  $\Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$  in  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n}$ , keeping the remaining  $n - 1$  factors fixed,
- (iii) for any three composable arrows  $\alpha: [m_1] \times \dots \times [m_n] \rightarrow [\ell_1] \times \dots \times [\ell_n]$ ,  $\beta: [\ell_1] \times \dots \times [\ell_n] \rightarrow [p_1] \times \dots \times [p_n]$ ,  $\gamma: [p_1] \times \dots \times [p_n] \rightarrow [q_1] \times \dots \times [q_n]$ , and for any  $x \in X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$ , one has the following equality in  $X_{q_1, \dots, q_n}$ :

$$g(\beta, \gamma) \circ g(\alpha, \gamma\beta) = \gamma_*(g(\alpha, \beta)) \circ g(\beta\alpha, \gamma) \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\circ$  is the product in  $X_{q_1, \dots, q_n}$ ,

- (iv) for any  $\alpha: \underline{m} := [m_1] \times \dots \times [m_n] \rightarrow [\ell_1] \times \dots \times [\ell_n] := \underline{\ell}$  one has:

$$g(\underline{\ell}) \circ g(1, \alpha) = 1_{X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}}, \quad \alpha_*(g(\underline{m})) \circ g(\alpha, 1) = 1_{X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}} \quad (3.3)$$

- (v) the map  $\theta_{m_1, \dots, m_{i-1}, (?), m_{i+1}, \dots, m_n}$  is colax-monoidal for any  $i$  and for any fixed  $m_1, \dots, m_{i-1}, m_{i+1}, \dots, m_n$ ,

- (vi) for any morphisms in  $\Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$   $\alpha_j: [m_j] \rightarrow [\ell_j]$  for  $j \neq i$ , and  $\alpha'_i: [m'_i] \rightarrow [\ell'_i]$ ,  $\alpha''_i: [m''_i] \rightarrow [\ell''_i]$  in  $\Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$ , the diagram below commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_{m_1, \dots, m'_i + m''_i, \dots, m_n} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & X_{m_1, \dots, m_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, m'_i, \dots, m_n} \\ (f^\otimes)_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (f')_* \otimes (f'')_* \\ X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell'_i + \ell''_i, \dots, \ell_n} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \dots, \ell_n} \otimes X_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell''_i, \dots, \ell_n} \end{array} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $f^\otimes, f', f''$  are the morphisms in  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n}$ , given by formulas

$$f^\otimes = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha'_i \otimes \alpha''_i, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad f' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha'_i, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad f'' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha''_i, \dots, \alpha_n)$$

- (vii)  $X_{m_1, \dots, m_n} = \mathbb{k}$ , if  $m_i = 0$  for some  $i$ ,

- (viii) for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and for any  $m_1, \dots, m_n$ , the composition

$$X_{m_1, \dots, m_n} \xrightarrow{\theta} X_{m_1, \dots, m_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, \underset{i\text{-th}}{0}, \dots, m_n} \xrightarrow{\text{(vii)}} X_{m_1, \dots, m_n} \quad (3.5)$$

is the identity map.

REMARK 3.2. One can easily see from (vi), as a very particular case, that the diagram below commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
X_{m_1, \dots, m_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, m'_i, \dots, m_n} & \longleftarrow & X_{m_1, \dots, m_i + m'_i, \dots, m_n} & \longrightarrow & X_{m_1, \dots, m_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, m'_i, \dots, m_n} \\
\text{id}_* \otimes (\alpha'_i)_* \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow (\alpha_i)_* \otimes \text{id}_* \\
X_{m_1, \dots, m_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \dots, m_n} & & (\alpha_i \otimes \alpha'_i)_* & & X_{m_1, \dots, \ell_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, m'_i, \dots, m_n} \\
(\alpha_i)_* \otimes \text{id}_* \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id}_* \otimes (\alpha'_i)_* \\
X_{m_1, \dots, \ell_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \dots, m_n} & \longleftarrow & X_{m_1, \dots, \ell_i + \ell'_i, \dots, m_n} & \longrightarrow & X_{m_1, \dots, \ell_i, \dots, m_n} \otimes X_{m_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \dots, m_n}
\end{array} \tag{3.6}$$

where the horizontal arrows are the maps  $\theta$ 's introduced in (5).

## 4 THE KELLER'S AND DRINFELD'S CONSTRUCTIONS OF DG QUOTIENT

We refer the reader to [K2] for the definition and basic facts on differential graded (dg) categories.

### 4.1 THE DG QUOTIENT OF DG CATEGORIES

The dg quotient  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  of a dg category  $\mathcal{C}$  by an *essentially small* full dg subcategory  $\mathcal{C}_0$  was firstly introduced by Bernhard Keller in [K1, K3]. It is a dg category, defined uniquely up to a quasi-equivalence. When  $\mathcal{C}$  is a pre-triangulated dg category, and  $\mathcal{C}_0$  its full essentially small pre-triangulated dg subcategory, it has the following property.

PROPOSITION 4.1 (B.Keller, [K3, Section 4]). *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a pre-triangulated dg category,  $\mathcal{C}_0$  its essentially small full pre-triangulated dg sub-category. Then is a pre-triangulated dg category  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  whose triangulated category*

$$H^0(\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0) \simeq H^0(\mathcal{C})/H^0(\mathcal{C}_0) \tag{4.1}$$

where the quotient in the right-hand side is the Verdier quotient of triangulated categories.

The dg quotient is a functor from the category of pairs of dg categories  $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_0)$  with  $\mathcal{C}_0$  essentially small full subcategory, to the homotopy category of dg categories, which can be characterized by a universal property (see below). In the case when  $\mathcal{C}$  is pre-triangulated, the dg quotient  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  has the same image in the homotopy category of dg categories as the Toën dg localization [To1, Section 8.2]  $\mathcal{C}[S^{-1}]$  where  $S$  is the set of closed degree 0 morphisms  $s$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $\text{Cone}(s) \in \mathcal{C}_0$ .

V.Drinfeld [Dr2] provided another construction of the dg quotient  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  (which we recall in Section 4.2). It is beneficial by being defined as a honest dg category, not just as an object of the homotopy category of dg categories. It has the same objects as  $\mathcal{C}$ , and its morphisms are

obtained as some free envelope of the morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$  with newly added morphisms of degree -1, that kill up to homotopy the objects in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ .

In this Section, we provide a refinement of the Drinfeld construction of dg quotient, which has the same homotopy type, but enjoys a more manageable behavior with respect to the tensor product, see Proposition 4.4 below.

Drinfeld formulated in [Dr2] a universal property, which characterizes a dg quotient uniquely, up to an isomorphism, as an objects of the homotopy category of dg categories  $\text{HoCat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ . Tabuada [Tab] re-considered the question on the universal property of Drinfeld's dg quotient and proved a refined version of it; the result below is due to Tabuada [Tab, Theorem 4.0.1]. Denote by  $[\mathcal{X}]$  the object of the homotopy category (the localization by quasi-equivalences)  $\text{HoCat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , corresponded to a dg category  $\mathcal{X}$ . The universal property of dg quotient reads:

**THEOREM 4.2** (Drinfeld, Tabuada). *Let  $\mathcal{C} \supset \mathcal{C}_0$  dg categories, with  $\mathcal{C}_0$  essentially small. The morphisms  $F: [\mathcal{C}] \rightarrow [\mathcal{D}]$  in  $\text{HoCat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  such that the corresponding functor  $H^0F: H^0[\mathcal{C}] \rightarrow H^0[\mathcal{D}]$  of homotopy categories of dg categories sends the image of  $H^0[\mathcal{C}_0]$  in  $H^0[\mathcal{C}]$  to 0, are in 1-to-1 correspondence with the morphisms  $\bar{F}: [\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0] \rightarrow [\mathcal{D}]$  in  $\text{HoCat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ . (To say that  $H^0(F)$  maps  $H^0(\mathcal{C}_0)$  to 0 means, by definition, that  $H^0F(\text{id}_X)$  for any  $X$  in the image of  $H^0[\mathcal{C}_0]$  in  $H^0[\mathcal{C}]$ , is zero morphism in  $H^0[\mathcal{D}]$ ).*

Drinfeld [Dr2] and Tabuada proved [Tab] proved that both constructions of dg quotient, the one of Keller and the one of himself, fulfil this universal property. Therefore, they define isomorphic objects of the homotopy category  $\text{HoCat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ . We make an essential use of this result; it plays in our paper the role similar to the Dwyer-Kan result [DK, Corollary 4.7] in the Kock-Toën non-linear Deligne conjecture [KT].

## 4.2 DRINFELD DG QUOTIENT

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a dg category over a field  $\mathbb{k}$ , and let  $\mathcal{C}_0$  be its essentially small full dg subcategory. Drinfeld defines [Dr] the dg quotient  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  as follows.

The category  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  has the same objects as  $\mathcal{C}$ , and the category  $\mathcal{C}$  is embedded into  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  as a dg category. Choose an object  $X$  in  $\mathcal{C}_0$  for any class of isomorphism of objects in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ , these objects  $\{X\}$  define a sub-category  $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_0 \subset \mathcal{C}_0$ . The assumption that  $\mathcal{C}_0$  is essentially small guarantees that  $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_0$  is small. For any object  $X$  in  $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_0$ , a new morphism  $\varepsilon_X$  in  $\text{Hom}(X, X)$  of degree -1, with  $d(\varepsilon_X) = \text{id}_X$ , is added, without any relations. By definition,  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  is the category with the objects  $\{\text{Ob}\mathcal{C}\}$ , and whose morphisms are obtained as the free algebraic envelope of  $\{\varepsilon_X\}_{X \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}_0}$  with the morphisms of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

More precisely, for any  $X, Y \in \text{Ob}\mathcal{C}$ , the underlying graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space of morphisms is

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}(X, Y) = \oplus \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}^{(n)}(X, Y)$$

where

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}^{(n)}(X, Y) = \bigoplus_{Y_0, \dots, Y_{n-1} \in \mathcal{C}_0} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y_0) \otimes k[1] \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y_0, Y_1) \otimes k[1] \otimes \dots \otimes k[1] \otimes \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(Y_{n-1}, Y) \quad (4.2)$$

where the  $i$ -th factor  $k[1]$  is spanned by  $\varepsilon_{Y_{i+1}}$ . Here in (4.2) some of the objects  $Y_i$ s may coincide.

The differential maps  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}^{(n)}$  to  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}^{(n-1)}$ , and the category  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  is endowed with an ascending filtration.

The dg category  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0$  does not depend, up to a quasi-equivalence, on the choice of small dg subcategory  $\overline{\mathcal{C}_0}$ . Moreover, different choices of  $\overline{\mathcal{C}_0}$  result in *equivalent* (not just quasi-equivalent) dg categories.

It implies that we have a *functor*

$$\mathcal{P}_1 \mathrm{Cat}^{\mathrm{dg}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Cat}^{\mathrm{dg}} \quad (4.3)$$

from the category  $\mathcal{P}_1 \mathrm{Cat}^{\mathrm{dg}}$  of pairs  $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}_0)$  with  $\mathcal{C}_0$  essentially small, to the category  $\mathrm{Cat}^{\mathrm{dg}}$  (not just to the homotopy category  $\mathrm{HoCat}^{\mathrm{dg}}$ ).

### 4.3 DRINFELD'S DG QUOTIENT: A REFINEMENT

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a dg category, and let  $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k$  be its full essentially small dg subcategories. Here we construct a dg category

$$\mathcal{C}/(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k)$$

called *the refined Drinfeld dg quotient*.

First of all, we replace the essentially small full categories  $\mathcal{C}_i$  by small full categories  $\overline{\mathcal{C}_i}$ , taking an object from each isomorphism class of objects in  $\mathcal{C}_i$ . We take care that the chosen objects agree for all intersections  $\mathcal{C}_i \cap \mathcal{C}_j$ , and thus the categories

$$\overline{\mathcal{C}_{i_1}} \cap \dots \cap \overline{\mathcal{C}_{i_\ell}} \sim \mathcal{C}_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap \mathcal{C}_{i_\ell} \quad (4.4)$$

are equivalent. It is clear that it is always possible to achieve.

For any  $X = X_i \in \overline{\mathcal{C}_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , we add formally an element  $\varepsilon_X^i$  which is a morphism from  $X$  to  $X$  of degree -1, with the differential  $d\varepsilon_X^i = \mathrm{id}_X$ .

For any  $X = X_{ij} \in \overline{\mathcal{C}_i} \cap \overline{\mathcal{C}_j}$ ,  $i < j$ , we introduce formally a morphism  $\varepsilon_X^{ij}$  from  $X$  to itself of degree -2, with  $d\varepsilon_X^{ij} = \varepsilon_X^i - \varepsilon_X^j$ .

For any  $X = X^{ijk} \in \overline{\mathcal{C}_i} \cap \overline{\mathcal{C}_j} \cap \overline{\mathcal{C}_k}$ ,  $i < j < k$ , we introduce formally a morphism  $\varepsilon_X^{ijk}$  from  $X$  to itself of degree -3, with  $d\varepsilon_X^{ijk} = \varepsilon_X^{ij} - \varepsilon_X^{ik} + \varepsilon_X^{jk}$ , and so on.

The sign rule is as in the Čech cohomology theory, which implies  $d^2 = 0$ .

Now the dg category  $\mathcal{C}/(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k)$  has the same objects as the dg category  $\mathcal{C}$ , and the morphisms are freely generated by the morphisms in  $\mathcal{C}$  with the given composition among

them, and by the newly added morphisms  $\varepsilon_X^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_s}$  of degree  $-s$ , with the differentials of  $\varepsilon_X^{i_1, \dots, i_s}$  defined as above and extended to the whole morphisms by the Leibniz rule.

Denote by  $\mathcal{C}_\Sigma$  the full dg subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  having the objects

$$\text{Ob}\mathcal{C}_\Sigma = \bigcup_{i=1}^k \text{Ob}\bar{\mathcal{C}}_i$$

Consider the Drinfeld dg quotient  $\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_\Sigma$ . There is a natural dg functor

$$\Psi: \mathcal{C}/(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_\Sigma \quad (4.5)$$

sending all  $\varepsilon_X^i$  to  $\varepsilon_X$ , for  $X \in \text{Ob}\mathcal{C}_\Sigma$ , and sending all  $\varepsilon_X^{i_1 \dots i_s}$  to 0, for  $s > 1$ .

LEMMA 4.3. *In the above notations, the map  $\Psi$  is a quasi-equivalence of dg categories.*

*Proof.* The assertion easily follows from the two following elementary remarks.

Let  $V$  be a vector space of dimension  $n$ , with fixed basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ . Consider the complex  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(V)$ , having the component  $\Lambda^\ell V$  in degree  $-\ell$ , with the differential of degree  $+1$ , defined as

$$d(e_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i_\ell}) = \sum_{s=1}^{\ell} (-1)^{s-1} e_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \hat{e}_{i_s} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i_\ell} \quad (4.6)$$

Then the complex  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(V)$  is acyclic in all degrees.

The latter claim is clear: there is the homotopy operator  $h: \Lambda^\ell V \rightarrow \Lambda^{\ell+1} V$ ,  $h(\omega) = (e_1 + e_2 + \dots + e_n) \wedge \omega$ , with  $[d, h](\omega) = \pm \omega$ .

Consider the complex  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(U_1)$ , for  $U_1$  the 1-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{k}$ , with a choused basis vector  $e$ . The natural map  $\Psi_V: \Lambda_d^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \Lambda_d^\bullet(U_1)$  which maps  $\Lambda^\ell V$  to 0 for  $\ell > 1$ , and with maps each basis vector  $e_i$  in  $V$  to the basis vector  $e$  in  $U_1$ . It is a quasi-isomorphism of (acyclic) complexes.  $\diamond$

#### 4.4 THE MONOIDAL PROPERTY OF THE GENERALIZED DRINFELD DG QUOTIENT

Define the category  $\text{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  as the category of small  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear dg categories  $\mathcal{C}$ , such that for any  $X, X' \in \text{Ob}\mathcal{C}$ , the graded components  $\text{Hom}^i(X, X') = 0$  for  $i > N(X, X')$ , for some integral number  $N(X, X')$  depending on  $X, X'$ .

The category  $\text{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is a monoidal category. The monoidal product  $\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{D}$  of two categories  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D} \in \text{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  has objects  $\text{Ob}\mathcal{C} \times \text{Ob}\mathcal{D}$ , and

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}}(X \times Y, X' \times Y') = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, X') \otimes_k \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(Y, Y') \quad (4.7)$$

The bounding condition on the morphism complexes is imposed to make the tensor product in the right-hand side well-behaved.

Introduce the category  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , as follows.

An object of  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is a pair  $(\mathcal{C}; \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_\ell)$ , where  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , and the second argument is an ordered  $n$ -tuple of its full essentially small dg subcategories  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n$ , for some  $n \geq 1$ .

A morphism  $f: (\mathcal{C}; \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \rightarrow (\mathcal{D}; \mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_m)$  in  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  requires  $m = n$ , and is given by a dg functor  $f_0: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ , such that  $f_0(\mathcal{C}_i) \subset \mathcal{D}_i$ , for any  $i = 1 \dots m = n$ .

*The category  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is monoidal. Let*

$$X = (\mathcal{C}; \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \text{ and } Y = (\mathcal{D}; \mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_m) \quad (4.8)$$

be two objects in  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ . Define their product as

$$X \otimes Y = (\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{D}; \mathcal{C}_1 \otimes \mathcal{D}, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n \otimes \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C} \otimes \mathcal{D}_m) \quad (4.9)$$

The monoidal product  $\otimes$  on  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  introduced in (4.9) is strictly associative.

Now we are going to formulate the monoidal property of the refined Drinfeld dg quotient.

PROPOSITION 4.4. *The functor*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}r: \mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) &\rightarrow \mathcal{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \\ (\mathcal{C}; \mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) &\mapsto \mathcal{C}/(\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n) \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

*has a natural colax-monoidal structure*

$$\beta_{X,Y}: \mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y) \quad (4.11)$$

*with  $\beta_{X,Y}$  quasi-equivalences of dg categories, for all  $X, Y \in \mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ .*

*Proof.* The maps  $\beta$  can be easily constructed based on the following remark. Let  $V$  be a vector space of dimension  $n$ , and let  $W$  be a vector space of dimension  $m$ . Consider the (acyclic) complexes  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(V)$ ,  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(W)$ , see (4.6). There is a natural map of complexes

$$\beta_{V,W}: \Lambda_d^\bullet(V \oplus W) \rightarrow \Lambda_d^\bullet(V) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(W) \quad (4.12)$$

which is a quasi-isomorphism (of acyclic complexes). In fact,  $\beta_{V,W}$  is an isomorphism of the underlying graded vector spaces, compatible with the differential.

These maps give rise to a dg functor  $\beta_{X,Y}: \mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y)$ , as the refined dg factor is a dg category *freely* generated as the envelope with the morphisms  $\varepsilon_X^{i_1, \dots, i_s}$ . Thus the left-hand side category  $\mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y)$  is a free envelope, which makes possible to define the map  $\beta_{X,Y}$ . (Remark: there does *not* exist any canonical map  $\mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y)$  as the dg category  $\mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y)$  is not a free envelope; the  $\varepsilon$ 's morphism for the different factors commute, see Remark 4.5).

The fact that the map  $\beta_{V,W}$  in (4.12) is a quasi-isomorphism implies that the dg functor  $\beta_{X,Y}$  is a quasi-equivalence of dg categories.

It remains to prove that  $\beta$  defines a colax-monoidal structure. It can be easily seen using the complexes  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(V)$ . Namely, for three vector spaces with chosen bases  $V, W, Z$ , the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda_d^\bullet(V \oplus W \oplus Z) & \longrightarrow & \Lambda_d^\bullet(V \oplus W) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(Z) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Lambda_d^\bullet(V) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(W \oplus Z) & \longrightarrow & \Lambda_d^\bullet(V) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(W) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(Z) \end{array} \quad (4.13)$$

where the arrows are defined as in (4.12), commutes. It implies the corresponding colax-monoidal property for  $\beta_{X,Y}$ .  $\diamond$

REMARK 4.5. Although the map  $\beta_{V,W}: \Lambda_d^\bullet(V \oplus W) \rightarrow \Lambda_d^\bullet(V) \otimes \Lambda_d^\bullet(W)$  is a quasi-isomorphism (of acyclic complexes), the refined Drinfeld dg quotient functor admit only a colax-monoidal but not a lax-monoidal structure. The matter is that  $\mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y)$  is a *free* envelope of the morphisms in  $X \otimes Y$  with the elements in  $\Lambda_d^\bullet(V \oplus W)$  assigned to the corresponding objects. Contrary,  $\mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y)$  is *not* a free envelope, namely the elements of  $\Lambda^\bullet(V)$  and  $\Lambda^\bullet(W)$  do commute in  $\mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y)$ . Therefore, to construct a map  $\mathcal{D}r(X) \otimes \mathcal{D}r(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}r(X \otimes Y)$  one needs to fulfil these relations which hold in the source category. A helpful analogy: for a free dg associative algebra  $A$ , to define an algebra map  $A \rightarrow B$  to another (in general not free) dg associative algebra  $B$ , it is enough to define this map on the generators of  $A$ , in the way compatible with the action of differential.

## 5 DELIGNE CONJECTURE FOR ESSENTIALLY SMALL ABELIAN MONOIDAL CATEGORIES

Here we prove the Deligne conjecture for 1-monoidal categories in the case when the abelian category  $\mathcal{A}$  is essentially small. The case of the  $n$ -fold monoidal abelian categories is treated in Section 7. The assumption that  $\mathcal{A}$  is essentially small is not really necessary and can be weakened. We decided to treat this case firstly to make a more clear exposition of the main ideas. In this case we have not any set-theoretical troubles in use of the dg quotient, what has many technical advantages. The general case, when the triangulated category  $H^0\mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  is generated by a *set* of perfect objects, will be considered in our subsequent papers.

The case when  $\mathcal{A}$  is essentially small covers the case of  $\mathcal{U}$ -generated  $C$ -modules, where  $C$  is an algebra whose underlying set is a  $\mathcal{U}$ -set, for a universe  $\mathcal{U}$ . In particular, it covers the “classical” example of the category of  $A$ -bimodules, as well as the category of left modules over a bialgebra  $B$ . It covers many other examples of algebraic origin.

## 5.1 WEAK COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE EXACT AND THE MONOIDAL STRUCTURE IN $\mathcal{A}$

DEFINITION 5.1. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian category, with a monoidal structure  $(\otimes, e)$  on it. Denote by  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  the dg category of bounded from above complexes in  $\mathcal{A}$ , and let  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  be the full dg subcategory of acyclic objects. Consider the full additive subcategory  $\mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A}$  where  $X \in \mathcal{A}_0$  iff  $X \otimes I$  and  $I \otimes X$  are acyclic, for any acyclic  $I \in \mathcal{J}$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  the full dg subcategory of bounded from above complexes in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . We say that the exact and the monoidal structures on  $\mathcal{A}$  are *weakly compatible* if the natural embedding

$$\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$$

is a quasi-equivalence of dg categories.

LEMMA 5.2. *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian monoidal category, whose abelian and monoidal structures are weakly compatible, see Definition above. Let  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  be the full dg subcategory of acyclic objects, and  $\mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{J} \cap \mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}$ . Then the natural embedding  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  (which is a quasi-equivalence) induces a quasi-equivalence  $\mathcal{J}_0 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{J}$ .*

*Proof.* It is enough to show that the induced map  $H^0\mathcal{J}_0 \rightarrow H^0\mathcal{J}$  of homotopy categories is essentially surjective. Let  $X \in H^0\mathcal{J}$ . We know by the assumption that the map  $H^0\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \rightarrow H^0\mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  is essentially surjective. In particular,  $X$  is isomorphic in  $H^0\mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  to some object  $Y \in H^0\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}$ . The isomorphic objects in the homotopy category have isomorphic cohomology, and  $X$  is acyclic. Therefore,  $Y$  is acyclic as well, and thus  $Y \in \mathcal{J}_0$ .  $\diamond$

LEMMA 5.3. *Let  $\mathbb{k}$  be any field, and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category with a monoidal structure  $(\otimes, e)$ . Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  has enough projective objects, and  $\otimes: \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Vect}(\mathbb{k})$  is a right exact bifunctor. Then the exact structure of  $\mathcal{A}$  and the monoidal structure of  $\mathcal{A}$  are weakly compatible.*

$\diamond$

## 5.2 DELIGNE CONJECTURE

Here we prove:

THEOREM 5.4. *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category, with a monoidal structure  $(\otimes, e)$ . Suppose the exact and the monoidal structure on  $\mathcal{A}$  are weakly compatible, and  $\mathcal{A}$  is essentially small. Then the graded  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $\text{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$  has a natural structure of a Leinster 2-algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ , whose second product is homotopy equivalent to the Yoneda product.*

We start with a general Lemma:

LEMMA 5.5. *Let  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}$  be two  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear dg categories,  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  a dg functor which is a quasi-equivalence. Let  $\mathcal{C}_0 \subset \mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_0 \subset \mathcal{D}$  be two essentially small full dg subcategories, such that  $F$  restricts to a quasi-equivalence  $F_0: \mathcal{C}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_0$ . Then the dg functor  $\overline{F}: \mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}/\mathcal{D}_0$  of the Drinfeld's dg quotients, is a quasi-equivalence.*

*Proof.* Let  $X, Y$  be any two objects in  $\mathcal{C}$ . We firstly prove that the map of Hom-complexes

$$\overline{F}(X, Y): \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}(X, Y) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{D}_0}(FX, FY) \quad (5.1)$$

is a quasi-isomorphism of complexes.

To this end, consider the cone  $\text{Cone}(\overline{F}(X, Y))$ ; one needs to prove that it is an acyclic complex.

The complexes  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0}(X, Y)$ ,  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{D}_0}(FX, FY)$  admit natural ascending filtrations, see (4.2). The map  $\overline{F}(X, Y)$  is a map of filtered complexes. Therefore, the cone  $\text{Cone}(\overline{F}(X, Y))$  inherits this filtration. We compute the corresponding to this filtration spectral sequence.

This spectral sequence  $\{E_r^{p,q}, d_r\}$  is non-zero in I and in IV quarters,  $d_r: E_r^{p,q} \rightarrow E_r^{p-r, q+r+1}$ . Therefore, it converges to  $\text{gr}H^\bullet(\text{Cone}(\overline{F}(X, Y)))$  by dimensional reasons.

The term  $E_0 = \bigoplus_p F_{p+1}/F_p$  is easy to describe. Namely, it is a free expression (4.2), with zero values of the differential on objects  $k[1]$ . The cone of the map of complexes  $F(Y_i, Y_{i+1}): \mathcal{C}(Y_i, Y_{i+1}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(FY_i, FY_{i+1})$  is acyclic, as  $F$  is a quasi-equivalence. Therefore, the term  $E_1$  vanishes everywhere, and the map  $\overline{F}(X, Y)$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

It remains to prove that the corresponding map of the homotopy categories,

$$H^0\overline{F}: H^0(\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{C}_0) \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{D}_0) \quad (5.2)$$

is an equivalence of categories. It enough to prove  $\overline{F}$  is essentially surjective, which is clear.  $\diamond$

Now we prove the Theorem.

*Proof.* Recall the category  $\mathcal{P}Cat_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  introduced in Section 4.4. It is a monoidal category.

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be as in the statement of Theorem. In notations of Definition 5.1, denote  $\mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{A}_0 \cap \mathcal{J}$ . We construct, out of  $\mathcal{A}$ , a Leinster monoid  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  in  $\mathcal{P}Cat_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , as follows. Its underlying functor  $F_{\mathcal{A}}: \Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}Cat_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is defined on objects as

$$F_{\mathcal{A}}([n]) = (\mathcal{A}_0^{\otimes n}; \mathcal{C}_1^{[n]}, \dots, \mathcal{C}_n^{[n]}) \quad (5.3)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_1^{[n]} &= \mathcal{J}_0 \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \quad (\text{totally } n-1 \text{ factors } \mathcal{A}_0) \\ \mathcal{C}_2^{[n]} &= \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \mathcal{J}_0 \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \quad (\text{totally } n-1 \text{ factors } \mathcal{A}_0) \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ \mathcal{C}_n^{[n]} &= \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}_0 \otimes \mathcal{J}_0 \quad (\text{totally } n-1 \text{ factors } \mathcal{A}_0) \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

(for the dg category  $\mathcal{C}_i^{[n]}$ , the factor  $\mathcal{J}_0$  is at  $i$ -th place).

The claim that  $F_{\mathcal{A}}: \Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}\mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  is a functor, follows from the fact the  $\mathcal{J}_0$  is a two-sided ideal in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ :  $\mathcal{A}_0 \odot \mathcal{J}_0 \subset \mathcal{J}_0$ ,  $\mathcal{J}_0 \odot \mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{J}_0$ , which follows from Definition 5.1. Then we deduce that the Leinster monoid defined out of a strict monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}_0$  as in Definition 2.2, descends to a Leinster monoid structure on  $F_{\mathcal{A}}$  in  $\mathcal{P}\mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , with the identity colax-maps  $F_{\mathcal{A}}([m+n]) \rightarrow F_{\mathcal{A}}([m]) \otimes F_{\mathcal{A}}([n])$ .

Next, we apply the refined Drinfeld dg quotient functor  $\mathcal{D}r: \mathcal{P}\mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , defined in Proposition 4.4. By this Proposition, the functor  $\mathcal{D}r$  has a natural colax-monoidal structure, whose colax maps are quasi-equivalences of dg categories.

We have the composition of colax-monoidal functors:

$$\Delta_f^{\text{opp}} \xrightarrow{F_{\mathcal{A}}} \mathcal{P}\mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}r} \mathcal{C}at_{-}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \quad (5.5)$$

As a composition of such ones, the total functor is a colax-monoidal functor, whose colax maps are quasi-equivalences.

Next, we notice that for each  $[n]$ , the category  $\mathcal{D}r \circ F_{\mathcal{A}}[n]$  has a distinguished object  $*_{[n]}$ . In fact,

$$*_{[n]} = \mathcal{D}r(e \otimes e \otimes \cdots \otimes e) \quad n \text{ factors } e \quad (5.6)$$

where  $e$  is the unit in  $\mathcal{A}$  (which belongs to  $\mathcal{A}_0$  and is the unit in it). It means that the image of composition (5.6) takes values in the category  $\mathcal{C}at_{-*}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  of the corresponding dg categories *with a marked object*.

There is a natural functor

$$\mathcal{H}om: \mathcal{C}at_{-*}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}on(\mathbb{k}), \quad \mathcal{C} \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(*, *) \quad (5.7)$$

to the category of monoids in  $\mathcal{V}ect(\mathbb{k})$  (that is, to the category of associative dg algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ ).

The functor  $\mathcal{H}om$  is colax-monoidal with the identity colax maps.

Now the composition of (5.6) with the functor  $\mathcal{H}om$  gives a functor

$$\mathcal{H}om \circ \mathcal{D}r \circ F_{\mathcal{A}} : \Delta_0^{\text{opp}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}on(\mathbb{k}) \quad (5.8)$$

As a composition of such ones, it is a colax-monoidal functor, whose colax maps are quasi-isomorphisms of dg algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ .

**KEY-LEMMA 5.6.**  $\mathcal{H}om \circ \mathcal{D}r \circ F_{\mathcal{A}}([1]) = \text{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$

*Proof.* The composition in the statement of Key-Lemma is the Hom-complex  $(\mathcal{A}_0/\mathcal{J}_0)(e, e)$ . By Lemmas 5.5 and 5.2, we know that  $\mathcal{A}_0/\mathcal{J}_0$  is quasi-equivalent to  $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{J}$ . Now the claim follows from Proposition 4.1, which gives the Keller description of the dg quotient for a pre-triangulated dg category  $\mathcal{C}$  and its full pre-triangulated dg subcategory  $\mathcal{N}$ .  $\diamond$

REMARK 5.7. Note that we have not such explicit descriptions for  $\mathcal{H}om \circ \mathcal{D}r \circ F_{\mathcal{A}}([\ell])$  for  $\ell > 1$ . Indeed, the tensor product of two pre-triangulated categories is not pre-triangulated, in general. Consequently, the Keller description of dg quotient given in Proposition 4.1 can not be applied. That is, the higher components in the constructed Leinster monoid in  $\mathcal{A}lg(\mathbb{k})$ , are given rather indirectly.

What we get is the following. We have constructed a Leinster monoid  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}}$  in the monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}lg(\mathbb{k})$  of dg algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ , whose first component  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}}[1]$  is quasi-isomorphic to  $\mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$ . The higher components  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{A}}[n]$ ,  $n > 1$ , are hard to compute, but we do not need to know them explicitly. Only what we need is that for *some* higher components, the dg algebra  $\mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$  can be complemented (as the first component) to a Leinster monoid in the monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}lg(\mathbb{k})$  of dg algebras over  $\mathbb{k}$ . It follows, by Definition 2.5, that  $\mathbf{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$  is a Leinster 2-algebra in  $\mathcal{V}ect^{\bullet}(\mathbb{k})$ .  $\diamond$

## 6 THE POLYMONOIDAL (OP)LAX-FUNCTOR DEFINED BY AN $n$ -FOLD MONOIDAL CATEGORY

### 6.1

Before starting to deal with the Deligne conjecture for  $n$ -fold monoidal [BFSV] abelian categories for  $n > 1$ , we need to recall some definitions on (monoidal) (op)lax-functors. Here we explain why.

Given an  $n$ -fold monoidal category  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $n > 1$ , we want to encode this data in a colax-monoidal functor  $F = F_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}at$ , as we have done for the case  $n = 1$ .

However, for  $n > 1$  it does not work immediately: when we define  $F$  by

$$F([m_1], [m_2], \dots, [m_n]) = \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_1 \cdot m_2 \cdot \dots \cdot m_n)}$$

the morphisms from different factors  $\Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$  *do not commute*, but are expressed through the Eckmann-Hilton maps  $\eta_{ij}$ , though they do commute in the source category. This point was emphasized in [BFSV, Theorem 2.1]. What we get is not a honest functor but a lax-functor (see Definition 6.2 below), as is proven in loc.cit.

[BFSV] deals with the case of set-enriched  $n$ -fold monoidal categories, where such a category gives rise to a lax-functor  $(\Delta^{\text{opp}})^n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}at$ , see loc.cit., Theorem 2.1. Our Theorem 6.12 is a substitute for loc.cit. for the non cartesian-monoidal case.

We need to define what a (poly)monoidal (op)lax-functor is. We are lucky that our problem permits us to restrict ourselves with *strict* morphisms of (op)lax-functors, *strict* morphisms of (strict) (op)lax-bifunctors, etc. Otherwise, we ought to deal with “higher coherence conditions”, see e.g. [DS1,2].

## 6.2 DEFINITIONS

Recall that the difference between (strict) 2-categories and bicategories (the latter is more general than the former) is that in 2-categories the composition of 1-arrows is strictly associative, whence in bicategories it is associative up to 2-arrows (which are invertible and fulfil some coherence, see [ML, XII]). Any bi-category is bi-equivalent to a 2-category, see e.g. [Le2, Sect. 2.3]. This result can be considered as a generalization of the MacLane coherence theorem [ML, XI.3], as a strict (corresp., with relaxed up to a coherent isomorphism associativity) monoidal category gives rise to a 2-category (corresp., to a bicategory) with a single object.

REMARK 6.1. The coherence theorem for *monoidal bi-categories* in its naive form fails, see [GPS], [DS1,2], [Sim]. It is not true in general that a suitably defined lax-monoid in bi-categories [DS2] is equivalent to a strict monoid in 2-categories with its cartesian monoidal product. There is another monoidal product on 2-categories called the Gray product, which is a relaxed version of the cartesian one. The correct coherence theorem [GPS] says that any lax-monoid in bi-categories is equivalent to a strict monoid in 2-categories, but with its Gray product. See also Remark 6.9 below.

DEFINITION 6.2. Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a category and  $\mathcal{X}$  a 2-category. A *lax-functor*  $F: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  consists of functions assigning:

- (1) to each object  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  an object  $F(k) \in \mathcal{X}$ ;
- (2) to each morphism  $t: k_1 \rightarrow k_2$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , a 1-arrow  $F(t): F(k_1) \rightarrow F(k_2)$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
- (3) to each composable pair of morphisms  $k_1 \xrightarrow{t_1} k_2 \xrightarrow{t_2} k_3$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , a 2-arrow  $f(t_1, t_2): F(t_2) \circ F(t_1) \Rightarrow F(t_2 \circ t_1)$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
- (4) to each object  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  a 2-arrow  $f(k): \text{id}_{F(k)} \Rightarrow F(\text{id}_k)$

They must satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) for any three composable morphisms  $k_1 \xrightarrow{t_1} k_2 \xrightarrow{t_2} k_3 \xrightarrow{t_3} k_4$  in  $\mathcal{K}$  one has:

$$f(t_2 t_1, t_3) \circ (F(t_3) \circ f(t_1, t_2)) = f(t_1, t_3 t_2) \circ (f(t_2, t_3) \circ F(t_1)) \quad (6.1)$$

- (ii) for any morphism  $t: k_1 \rightarrow k_2$  in  $\mathcal{K}$  one has

$$f(1, t) \circ (f(k_0) \circ F(k_1)) = \text{id}_{F(t)} = f(t, 1) \circ (F(k_0) \circ f(k_1)) \quad (6.2)$$

We will need as well the dual concept:

DEFINITION 6.3. Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a category and  $\mathcal{X}$  a 2-category. An *oplax-functor*  $F: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  consists of functions assigning:

- (1) to each object  $k \in \mathcal{K}$  an object  $F(k) \in \mathcal{X}$ ;
- (2) to each morphism  $t: k_1 \rightarrow k_2$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , a 1-arrow  $F(t): F(k_1) \rightarrow F(k_2)$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
- (3) to each composable pair of morphisms  $k_1 \xrightarrow{t_1} k_2 \xrightarrow{t_2} k_3$  in  $\mathcal{K}$ , a 2-arrow  $g(t_1, t_2): F(t_2 \circ t_1) \Rightarrow F(t_2) \circ F(t_1)$  in  $\mathcal{X}$ ;
- (4) to each object  $k \in K$  a 2-arrow  $g(k): F(\text{id}_k) \Rightarrow \text{id}_{F(k)}$

They must satisfy the conditions dual to those in the definition of a lax-functor, see Definition 6.2, (i),(ii).

In this paper, we consider only the case when  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{C}at$  or  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ .

REMARK 6.4. The 2-arrows  $f(t_1, t_2)$  and  $f(k)$  are not assumed to be invertible. When all they are invertible, a lax functor is called a pseudo-functor. In this case a lax-functor defines an oplax-functor. As well an oplax-functor with invertible  $g(t_1, t_2)$  and  $g(k)$  defines a lax-functor.

There is a concept of a lax-transform, which extends the concept of natural transformation between honest functors, to the case of lax-functors.

DEFINITION 6.5. (1) Let  $F, G: K \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  be two lax-functors to a 2-category  $\mathcal{X}$ . A (left) *lax-transform*  $\varepsilon: F \Rightarrow G$  consists of functions assigning

- (i) to each object  $k \in K$  a 1-arrow  $\varepsilon(k): F(k) \rightarrow G(k)$ ;
- (ii) to each morphism  $t: k_1 \rightarrow k_2$  in  $K$  a 2-arrow  $\varepsilon(t): G(t) \circ \varepsilon(k_1) \Rightarrow \varepsilon(k_2) \circ F(t)$

subject to a list of axioms which the reader can find e.g. in [Th, Def. 3.1.3]. A lax-transform is called a *2-isomorphism* if  $\varepsilon(t)$  is an isomorphism 2-arrow for any  $t$ ;

- (2) a lax-transform  $\varepsilon: F \Rightarrow G$  between two (op)lax-functors is called *strict* if all 2-arrows  $\varepsilon(t)$ ,  $t$  a morphism in  $K$ , are the identity arrows.

REMARK 6.6. The concept defined in Definition 6.5 may be also called a *left* lax-transform. Similarly, one can define a right lax-transform. In the case when a (left) lax-transform is an isomorphism it can be as well regarded as a right lax-transform.

DEFINITION 6.7. Let  $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{L}$  be ordinary categories,  $\mathcal{C}$  a 2-category. By a *strict* (op)lax-bifunctor  $F: \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  we mean an assignment defining an (op)lax functor of each argument for fixed other argument, such that for  $f: X \rightarrow X'$  a morphism in  $\mathcal{K}$ ,  $g: Y \rightarrow Y'$  a morphism in  $\mathcal{L}$ , one has the strict commutativity:

$$F(\text{id}_{X'} \times g) \circ F(f \times \text{id}_Y) = F(f \times \text{id}_{Y'}) \circ F(\text{id}_X \times g) \quad (6.3)$$

We denote by  $F(f \times g)$  the equal expressions in (6.3).

In this paper, we deal only with *strict* morphisms of (op)lax (bi-,poly-)functors, and the definition below restricts by this case.

DEFINITION 6.8. Let  $\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{L}$  be ordinary categories, and  $\mathcal{C}$  be a 2-category. Let  $F_1, F_2: \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be two strict (op)lax bi-functors, see Definition 6.7. A *strict morphism of strict (op)lax bi-functors*  $\Psi: F_1 \Rightarrow F_2$  assigns to each objects  $(k, \ell)$  of  $\mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{L}$  a 1-arrow

$$\Psi(k, \ell): F_1(k, \ell) \rightarrow F_2(k, \ell)$$

in  $\mathcal{C}$ , such that for any morphism  $f: k \rightarrow k'$  and  $g: \ell \rightarrow \ell'$  the diagram below *strictly* commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F_1(k, \ell) & \xrightarrow{\Psi(k, \ell)} & F_2(k, \ell) \\ F_1(f \times g) \downarrow & & \downarrow F_2(f \times g) \\ F_1(k', \ell') & \xrightarrow{\Psi(k', \ell')} & F_2(k', \ell') \end{array} \quad (6.4)$$

REMARK 6.9. In the following definition we assume that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a *strict* monoidal 2-category (with the product denoted  $\otimes$ ), with respect to the cartesian monoidal structure  $\times$  on the category of all 2-categories. That is, we have a *strict* bifunctor  $\otimes: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , where the strictness means that the morphisms acting on different factors strictly commute (which is granted by considering the cartesian product on the category of 2-categories), and this bifunctor is *strictly* associative. In particular, for an ordinary category  $\mathcal{K}$  and an (op)lax-functor  $F: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , the (op)lax-bifunctor  $F_2: \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , defined on objects as  $F_2(X \times Y) = F_2(X) \otimes F_2(Y)$ , is a strict (op)lax-bifunctor, see Definition 6.7. This bifunctor  $F_2$  is obtained as the composition

$$\mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \xrightarrow{F \times F} \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\otimes} \mathcal{C}$$

The 2-categories  $\mathcal{C}at$  and  $\mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  are monoidal with the monoidal with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ , but they are not, however, strictly associative (they are associative up to a coherent system of isomorphisms). In general, it is *not* true that such a category is 2-equivalent to a strict monoidal category with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ , see Remark 6.1. The 2-categories  $\mathcal{C}at$  and  $\mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  form a lucky exception; they are 2-equivalent by strictly associative categories monoidal 2-categories with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ . It can be provided by an explicit construction mimicking the MacLane construction in his proof of coherence theorem for monoidal 1-categories (which holds in general), see [ML, Section XI.3]. There is a relaxed monoidal product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ , the Gray product, for which the strictification of the associativity is true in general. The price one pays for that is considering the bifunctors for which (6.3) fails to hold on the nose, but holds up to a 2-arrow, which are subject to some coherence, and so on.

The fact that  $\mathcal{C}at$  and  $\mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  are equivalent to strictly associative 2-categories with respect to the cartesian product, makes it possible to work with them as if they were strictly associative 2-categories with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ . By this reason, we can ignore the issue with non-associativity of the monoidal product in  $\mathcal{C}at$  and  $\mathcal{C}at^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ .

DEFINITION 6.10. Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a strict monoidal 1-category, and  $\mathcal{C}$  a strict monoidal 2-category (with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ ). An (op)lax-functor  $F: \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is called a *strict monoidal (op)lax-functor* if there is a strict map of (op)lax-bifunctors (see Definition 6.8),

$$\Theta: F_1 \Rightarrow F_2: \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

(where  $F_1$  is trivially a strict (op)lax-bifunctor, for  $F_2$  see the discussion just above), and a map

$$\eta: F(1_{\mathcal{K}}) \rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{C}}$$

which makes the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(X \otimes Y \otimes Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta(X, Y \otimes Z)} & F(X) \otimes F(Y \otimes Z) \\ \Theta(X \otimes Y, Z) \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id} \otimes \Theta(Y, Z) \\ F(X \otimes Y) \otimes F(Z) & \xrightarrow{\Theta(X, Y) \otimes \text{id}} & F(X) \otimes F(Y) \otimes F(Z) \end{array} \quad (6.5)$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & F(X \otimes 1_{\mathcal{K}}) & & F(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & F(1_{\mathcal{K}} \otimes X) \\ \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \Theta & & \text{id} \downarrow & & \downarrow \Theta \\ F(X) \otimes 1_{\mathcal{C}} & \xleftarrow{\text{id} \otimes \eta} & F(X) \otimes F(1_{\mathcal{K}}) & & 1_{\mathcal{C}} \otimes F(X) & \xleftarrow{\eta \otimes \text{id}} & F(1_{\mathcal{K}}) \otimes F(X) \end{array} \quad (6.6)$$

The last definition in this series specifies what a strict poly-monoidal (op)lax-functor is.

DEFINITION 6.11. Let  $\mathcal{K}_1, \dots, \mathcal{K}_n$  be strict monoidal 1-categories, and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a strict monoidal 2-category (with respect to the cartesian product on  $2 - \mathcal{C}at$ ). An (op)lax-functor

$$F: \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{K}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

is called a *strict polymonoidal (op)lax-functor* if:

- (1) for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$  there is an (op)lax morphism of the (op)lax functors

$$\Theta_i: F_1^i \Rightarrow F_2^i$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} F_1^i, F_2^i: (\mathcal{K}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{K}_i \times \dots \times \mathcal{K}_i \times \dots \times \mathcal{K}_n) &\rightarrow \mathcal{C} \\ F_1^i(k_1, \dots, k'_i, k''_i, \dots, k_n) &= F(k_1, \dots, k_{i-1}, k'_i \otimes k''_i, \dots, k_n) \\ F_2^i(k_1, \dots, k'_i, k''_i, \dots, k_n) &= F(k_1, \dots, k'_i, \dots, k_n) \otimes F(k_1, \dots, k''_i, \dots, k_n) \end{aligned}$$

and  $F_1^i, F_2^i$  are defined on the morphisms accordingly,

(2) for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and any  $\{k_j \in \mathcal{K}_j\}_{j \neq i}$  a morphism

$$U_i(k_1, \dots, k_n): F(k_1, \dots, k_{i-1}, e_i, k_{i+1}, \dots, k_n) \rightarrow e_{\mathcal{C}} \quad (6.7)$$

where  $e_i$  is the monoidal unit in  $\mathcal{K}_i$ , and  $e_{\mathcal{C}}$  is the monoidal unit in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

These maps  $\Theta_i$  should fulfil the following conditions:

(i) for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and any morphisms  $\alpha_j$  in  $\mathcal{K}_j$ ,  $j \neq i$ , and  $\alpha'_i, \alpha''_i$  in  $\mathcal{K}_i$ , the diagram below *strictly commutes*:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F_1(k_1, \dots, k'_i, k''_i, \dots, k_n) & \xrightarrow{\Theta} & F_2(k_1, \dots, k'_i, k''_i, \dots, k_n) \\ (f^\otimes)_* \downarrow & & \downarrow (f')_* \otimes (f'')_* \\ F_1(\ell_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \ell''_i, \dots, \ell_n) & \xrightarrow{\Theta} & F_2(\ell_1, \dots, \ell'_i, \ell''_i, \dots, \ell_n) \end{array} \quad (6.8)$$

where

$$f^\otimes = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha'_i \otimes \alpha''_i, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad f' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha'_i, \dots, \alpha_n), \quad f'' = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha''_i, \dots, \alpha_n)$$

(ii)  $U_i$  agrees with the morphisms in  $\mathcal{K}_1 \times \dots \times \hat{\mathcal{K}}_i \times \dots \times \mathcal{K}_n$ ,

(iii) for any  $i$  and for any  $\{k_j \in \mathcal{K}_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq n}$  the composition

$$F(k_1, \dots, k_n) \xrightarrow{\Theta_i} F(k_1, \dots, k_n) \otimes F(k_1, \dots, e_i, \dots, k_n) \xrightarrow{\text{id} \otimes U_i} F(k_1, \dots, k_n) \quad (6.9)$$

is the identity map,

(iv) for any  $i_1 < i_2$  and for any  $\{k_j \in \mathcal{K}_j\}_{j \neq i_1, i_2}$  one has

$$U_{i_1}(k_1, \dots, \hat{k}_{i_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_{i_2}, \dots, k_n) = U_{i_2}(k_1, \dots, \hat{k}_{i_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_{i_2}, \dots, k_n)$$

### 6.3 THE POLYMONOIDAL (OP)LAX-FUNCTOR ASSOCIATED WITH AN $n$ -FOLD MONOIDAL $\mathbb{k}$ -LINEAR CATEGORY

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear strict  $n$ -fold monoidal dg category. We assign to it a strict monoidal lax-functor

$$F_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{op}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$$

and a strict monoidal oplax-functor

$$G_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{op}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$$

Both functors are defined on objects as

$$F_{\mathcal{C}}([m_1], [m_2], \dots, [m_n]) = G_{\mathcal{C}}([m_1], [m_2], \dots, [m_n]) = \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_1 \cdot m_2 \cdot \dots \cdot m_n)} \quad (6.10)$$

Let  $\alpha^i$  be a morphism in the  $i$ -th factor  $\Delta_f^{\text{op}}$  in the left-hand side of (6.10), corresponded to a map  $[\ell_i] \rightarrow [m_i]$  in  $\Delta_f$ . As in [BFSV, Section 2.1], we let  $\alpha$  to act as

$$F(\alpha^i) = (\alpha^i)^*: \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_1 \dots m_i \dots m_n)} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_1 \dots m_{i-1} \ell_i m_{i+1} \dots m_n)} \quad (6.11)$$

as follows.

Denote by  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_{i+1} \dots m_n)}$ . Regard  $\mathcal{A}$  as a monoidal category, with the factor-wise monoidal product  $\otimes_i$  (the  $i$ -th among the  $n$  monoidal products which figure as a part of the structure of the  $n$ -fold monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$ , see [BFSV, Def. 1.7]).

Then  $\alpha^i$  defines (as for any monoidal category) a functor  $F(\alpha^i)_+ : \mathcal{A}^{\otimes m_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\otimes \ell_i}$ . Then the functor  $F(\alpha^i)$  in (6.11) is defined as

$$F(\alpha^i) = (F(\alpha^i)_+)^{\otimes(m_1 \dots m_{i-1})} \quad (6.12)$$

Define

$$G(\alpha^i) = F(\alpha^i) = (\alpha^i)^* \quad (6.13)$$

by the same formula.

For a morphism  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_n)$  in  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n}$  define

$$F((\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_n)) = F(\alpha_n) \circ \dots \circ F(\alpha_3) \circ F(\alpha_2) \circ F(\alpha_1) \quad (6.14)$$

and

$$G((\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \dots, \alpha_n)) = G(\alpha_1) \circ \dots \circ G(\alpha_{n-2}) \circ G(\alpha_{n-1}) \circ G(\alpha_n) \quad (6.15)$$

(We need to order the actions of morphisms acting in different factors  $\Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$  as they commute in  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^n$  but their actions by (6.12) do not commute).

[BFSV, Section 2] constructs a morphism on functors

$$F(\alpha^i) \circ F(\beta^j) \rightarrow F(\beta^j) \circ F(\alpha^i) \quad (6.16)$$

defined for  $i < j$ , and for any  $\alpha, \beta \in \Delta_f^{\text{opp}}$ , by making use of the Eckmann-Hilton maps  $\eta^{ij}$ .

In fact, [BFSV] constructs only the lax-functor  $F_{\mathcal{C}}$ ; in virtue of (6.16), the oplax-functor  $G_{\mathcal{C}}$  can be constructed simply by inverting the order of the composition, see (6.14) and (6.15).

We can easily see it for  $n = 2$ . Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ ,  $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)$ ; then  $\beta\alpha = (\beta_1\alpha_1, \beta_2\alpha_2)$ . Using more unified notation  $(\alpha^i)^* = F(\alpha^i) = G(\alpha^i)$ , one has:

$$\begin{aligned} F(\alpha) &= (\alpha_2^*)^*(\alpha_1^*)^*, & F(\beta) &= (\beta_2^*)^*(\beta_1^*)^*, & F(\beta\alpha) &= (\beta_2^*\alpha_2^*)^*(\beta_1^*\alpha_1^*)^* = (\beta_2^*)^*(\alpha_2^*)^*(\beta_1^*)^*(\alpha_1^*)^* \\ G(\alpha) &= (\alpha_1^*)^*(\alpha_2^*)^*, & G(\beta) &= (\beta_1^*)^*(\beta_2^*)^*, & G(\alpha\beta) &= (\beta_1^*\alpha_1^*)^*(\beta_2^*\alpha_2^*)^* = (\beta_1^*)^*(\alpha_1^*)^*(\beta_2^*)^*(\alpha_2^*)^* \end{aligned}$$

(we made use that both  $F$  and  $G$  are strictly functorial for the composition of two morphisms acting on a fixed factor  $i$ ).

Then (6.16) gives morphisms of functors

$$(\alpha_1^1)^*(\beta_2^2)^* \rightarrow (\beta_2^2)^*(\alpha_1^1)^*, \quad (\beta_1^1)^*(\alpha_2^2)^* \rightarrow (\alpha_2^2)^*(\beta_1^1) \quad (6.17)$$

which give rise to morphisms

$$F(\beta)F(\alpha) \rightarrow F(\beta\alpha), \quad G(\beta\alpha) \rightarrow G(\beta)G(\alpha) \quad (6.18)$$

**THEOREM 6.12** (cf. [BFSV, Theorem 2.1]). *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a strict  $n$ -fold monoidal dg category over  $\mathbb{k}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  gives rise to a strict poly-monoidal lax-functor*

$$F_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{op}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$$

and to a strict poly-monoidal oplax-functor

$$G_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{op}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$$

whose underlying (op)lax-functors are defined as above. The 2-arrows of the underlying lax-functor  $F_{\mathcal{C}}$  and of the underlying oplax-functor  $G_{\mathcal{C}}$  are equal to compositions of the Eckmann-Hilton maps  $\eta_{ij}$ .

See Definition 6.11 for strict poly-monoidal (op)lax-functors.

*Proof.* The statements that the constructed assignments are (op)lax-functors follow from the coherence theorem for  $n$ -fold monoidal categories, see [BFSV, Theorem 3.6], similarly to [BFSV, Theorem 2.1].

The statement that the (op)lax-functors  $F_{\mathcal{C}}$  and  $G_{\mathcal{C}}$  are strict poly-monoidal is equivalent to the commutativity of the diagram (6.8), which follows immediately from (6.14) and (6.15).

The monoidal 2-category  $\text{Cat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$  (as well as the monoidal 2-category  $\text{Cat}$ ) is not strictly associative, and its associativity constraints should be implemented in the definition of a strict monoidal functor in the statement of theorem. It does not affect the statement, see Remark 6.9.  $\diamond$

## 7 DELIGNE CONJECTURE FOR ESSENTIALLY SMALL $n$ -FOLD MONOIDAL ABELIAN CATEGORIES, $n \geq 1$

### 7.1 FORMULATION OF THE RESULT

**DEFINITION 7.1.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian category, with an  $n$ -fold monoidal structure  $(\otimes_1, \dots, \otimes_n; e)$  on it, see [BFSV, Section 1]. Denote by  $\mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  the dg category of bounded from above complexes

in  $\mathcal{A}$ , and let  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  be the full dg subcategory of acyclic objects. Consider the full additive subcategory  $\mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A}$  where  $X \in \mathcal{A}_0$  iff  $X \otimes_i J$  and  $J \otimes_i X$  are acyclic, for any acyclic  $J \in \mathcal{J}$ , and for any  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$  the full dg subcategory of bounded from above complexes in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . We say that the exact and the monoidal structures in  $\mathcal{A}$  are *weakly compatible* if the natural embedding

$$\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\text{dg}}$$

is a quasi-equivalence of dg categories.

The next definition did not appear in our discussion of the case  $n = 1$ .

**DEFINITION 7.2.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an abelian  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category, with a weakly compatible  $n$ -fold monoidal structure on it. We say that the  $n$ -fold monoidal structure is *non-degenerate* if for any four objects  $X, Y, Z, W$  in  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}$ , and for any  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , the  $(i, j)$ -th Eckmann-Hilton map  $\eta_{ij}: (X \otimes_j Y) \otimes_i (Z \otimes_j W) \rightarrow (X \otimes_i Z) \otimes_j (Y \otimes_i W)$  is a closed morphism of degree 0 and becomes an isomorphism in the homotopy category  $H^0(\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}})$ .

Now we are ready to formulate our version of Deligne conjecture for  $n$ -fold monoidal abelian categories.

**THEOREM 7.3.** *Let  $\mathbb{k}$  be a field of characteristic 0, and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be essentially small  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian category, endowed with  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear  $n$ -fold monoidal structure. Suppose the abelian and the  $n$ -fold monoidal structures are weakly compatible, see Definition 7.1, and suppose that the  $n$ -fold monoidal structure is non-degenerate, see Definition 7.2. Then  $\text{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$  has a natural structure of a Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ , whose underlying strict 1-algebra structure is given by the Yoneda product. (See Definition 3.1 for weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoids). More precisely, there is a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoid  $X$  in  $\text{Vect}^{\bullet}(\mathbb{k})$ , given by a functor*

$$X: (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \text{Alg}(\mathbb{k})$$

*such that the underlying dg algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$   $X_{1, \dots, 1}$  is quasi-isomorphic to  $\text{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$  with its Yoneda product.*

Theorem 7.3 is proven in Section 7.2 below.

## 7.2 PROOF OF THEOREM 7.3

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $n$ -fold monoidal dg category over  $\mathbb{k}$ .

Recall the poly-monoidal oplax-functor  $G_{\mathcal{C}}: (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \text{Cat}^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , given in Theorem 6.12, with

$$G_{\mathcal{C}}([m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n]) = \mathcal{C}^{\otimes(m_1 \dots m_n)} \quad (7.1)$$

(It fails to be a honest functor from  $(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \text{Cat}(\mathbb{k})$  (where  $\text{Cat}(\mathbb{k})$  stands for the category of small  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear categories), as well as in the set-enriched case, see the discussion above Theorem 6.12).

Let now  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear abelian category with an  $n$ -fold monoidal structure on it. Suppose that the abelian and the  $n$ -fold monoidal structures are weakly compatible, see Definition 7.1, and suppose that the corresponding  $n$ -fold monoidal dg category  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}$  is non-degenerate, see Definition 7.2.

Define the corresponding to the  $n$ -fold monoidal category  $\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}$  strict poly-monoidal oplax-functor

$$G = G_{\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}}} : (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \quad (7.2)$$

$$G([m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n]) = (\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}})^{\otimes(m_1 \cdots m_n)} \quad (7.3)$$

We replace the involved essentially small dg categories by their small dg subcategories, as in Section 4.4, and use the same notations for the corresponding small dg categories.

Lift the strict poly-monoidal oplax-functor  $G : (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , to the strict poly-monoidal oplax-functor  $\hat{G} : (\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \rightarrow \mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k})$ , as in our proof of  $n = 1$  case, see (5.3), (5.4).

More precisely, denote  $\mathcal{J}_0 = \mathcal{A}_0 \cap \mathcal{J}$ , see Definition 7.1. Then

$$\hat{G}([m_1] \times [m_2] \times \cdots \times [m_n]) = \left( (\mathcal{A}_0^{\text{dg}})^{\otimes(m_1 \cdots m_n)}; \{\mathcal{C}_{i_1, \dots, i_n}^{[m_1, \dots, m_n]}\}_{1 \leq i_1 \leq m_1, \dots, 1 \leq i_n \leq m_n} \right) \quad (7.4)$$

with

$$\mathcal{C}_{i_1, \dots, i_n}^{[m_1, \dots, m_n]} = \mathcal{C}_{i_1}^{[m_1]} \otimes \mathcal{C}_{i_2}^{[m_2]} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{C}_{i_n}^{[m_n]} \quad (7.5)$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_{i_j}^{[m_j]}$  are defined as in (5.4).

Recall that  $\mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}$  is a monoidal category of tuples of dg categories, see Section 4.4.

Consider the composition

$$(\Delta_f^{\text{opp}})^{\times n} \xrightarrow{\hat{G}} \mathcal{PCat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}r} \mathcal{Cat}_-^{\text{dg}}(\mathbb{k}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{H}om} \mathcal{M}on(\mathbb{k}) \quad (7.6)$$

where  $\mathcal{D}r$  is the refined Drinfeld dg quotient, constructed in Sections 4.3, 4.4, and  $\mathcal{H}om(\mathcal{C}) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(*, *)$ .

Here, as well as in the proof of Theorem 5.4, we make use of the fact that the categories  $\mathcal{D}r \circ \hat{G}([m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n])$  are “based”, with the based objects (denoted by  $*$ ) equal to the image of  $[0] \times \cdots \times [0]$  by the unique degeneracy morphism  $[m_1] \times \cdots \times [m_n] \rightarrow [0] \times \cdots \times [0]$  in  $\Delta_f^{\times n}$ .

**KEY-LEMMA 7.4.** *The composition*

$$\mathcal{H}om \circ \mathcal{D}r \circ \hat{G}([1] \times \cdots \times [1]) \simeq \text{RHom}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\bullet}(e, e)$$

*as a dg algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ .*

The dg category  $\hat{G}([1] \times [1] \times \cdots \times [1]) = \mathcal{A}_0$ . The rest is analogous to the proof of Key-Lemma 5.6.

◇

To complete the proof of Theorem 7.3, we need to argue that the composition (7.6) gives a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoid in  $\mathcal{Vect}^\bullet(\mathbb{k})$ . In fact, the partial composition of the first two functors  $\mathcal{D}r \circ \hat{G}$  is a strict colax-polymonoidal oplax-functor, as it is a composition of the strict-polymonoidal oplax-functor  $\hat{G}$  with the colax-monoidal strict functor  $\mathcal{D}r$ .

Now we have a “based” strict colax-monoidal oplax-functor. Applying the  $\text{Hom}(*, *)$ -functor to it, we get straightforwardly a weak Leinster  $(n, 1)$ -monoid. (In fact, we composed the definition of the latter concept having this example in mind).

Theorem 7.3 is proven.

## 8 AN APPLICATION: THE GERSTENHABER-SCHACK COMPLEX OF A HOPF ALGEBRA

For any associative bialgebra  $B$  over  $\mathbb{k}$ , there is a concept of a *tetramodule* over  $B$ . Tetramodules form an abelian  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear category, denoted by  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ . We proved in [Sh1], [Sh3] that  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  has a natural structure of a 2-fold monoidal category, in sense of [BFSV]. The deformation complex of a bialgebra  $B$ , the Gerstenhaber-Schack complex  $C_{\text{GS}}^\bullet(B)$ , can be intrinsically defined as  $\text{RHom}$  in the category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ :

$$C_{\text{GS}}^\bullet(B) = \text{RHom}_{\mathcal{Tetra}(B)}^\bullet(B, B)$$

Here we prove the following

**THEOREM 8.1.** *Suppose  $B$  is a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$  (a bialgebra over  $\mathbb{k}$  with antipode). Then the 2-fold monoidal abelian category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  satisfies the assumptions of Definitions 7.1 and 7.2. More precisely, we can take for the additive subcategory  $\mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  which figures in Definitions 7.1 and 7.2, the entire abelian category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ . In particular, Theorem 7.3 is applicable to this category, and  $\text{RHom}_{\mathcal{Tetra}(B)}^\bullet(B, B)$  has a structure of a Leinster 3-algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ .*

We proof the validation of the assumption of Definition 7.1 for  $\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  in Proposition 8.13, and the validation of the assumption of Definition 7.2 in Theorem 8.15 below. More precisely, we prove in Proposition 8.13 that for a Hopf bialgebra  $B$ , the both monoidal products  $\otimes_1$  and  $\otimes_2$  are exact bi-functors, and that the Eckmann-Hilton map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  is an isomorphism for any  $M, N, P, Q \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ . That is, what we prove below gives even stronger conditions than those of Definitions 7.1 and 7.2.

◇

## 8.1 DEFINITIONS

Recall that an *associative bialgebra* over  $\mathbb{k}$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $B$ , endowed with a product  $B \otimes B \rightarrow B$ , a coproduct  $\Delta: B \rightarrow B \otimes B$ , a unit  $i: \mathbb{k} \rightarrow B$ , a counit  $\varepsilon: B \rightarrow \mathbb{k}$  such that:

- (i)  $(m, i)$  defines the structure of an associative algebra with unit on  $B$ ,
- (ii)  $(\Delta, \varepsilon)$  defines a structure of a coassociative coalgebra with counit on  $B$ ,
- (iii) the compatibility:  $\Delta(a * b) = \Delta(a) * \Delta(b)$  (here  $a * b = m(a, b)$ ),
- (iv) the counit is an algebra map, the unit is a coalgebra map.

Recall that an associative bialgebra is called a *Hopf algebra*, if there exists a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear *antipode* map  $S: B \rightarrow B$ , satisfying the following properties:

- (i)  $S$  is a linear isomorphism,
- (ii)  $m(1 \otimes S)\Delta(x) = m(S \otimes 1)\Delta(x) = i(\varepsilon(x))$

One can deduce from this definition that

- (iii)  $S(a * b) = S(b) * S(a)$ ,  $\Delta(S(x)) = (S \otimes S)(\Delta^{\text{op}}(x))$ ,
- (iv)  $\varepsilon(S(x)) = \varepsilon(x)$ ,  $S(i(1)) = i(1)$ .

Recall that a *tetramodule* over a bialgebra  $B$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $M$  such that  $(B \oplus \epsilon M)[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$  is once again an associative bialgebra, over  $k[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$ , such that the canonical maps  $B[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2) \rightarrow (B \oplus \epsilon M)[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$  and  $(B \oplus \epsilon M)[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2) \rightarrow B[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$  are bialgebra maps. It results to four structures:

- T(i) a left  $B$ -module structure  $m_\ell: B \otimes M \rightarrow M$ ,
- T(ii) a right  $B$ -module structure  $m_r: M \otimes B \rightarrow M$ ,
- T(iii) a left comodule structure  $\Delta_\ell: M \rightarrow B \otimes M$ ,
- T(iv) a right comodule structure  $\Delta_r: M \rightarrow M \otimes B$

subject to the following compatibilities:

- TC(i) equipped with  $(m_\ell, m_r)$ ,  $M$  is a bimodule,
- TC(ii) equipped with  $(\Delta_\ell, \Delta_r)$ ,  $M$  is a bi-comodule,
- TC(iii) four “bialgebra compatibilities”:

$$\Delta_\ell(a * m) = (\Delta^1(a) * \Delta_\ell^1(m)) \otimes (\Delta^2(a) * \Delta_\ell^2(m)) \subset B \otimes_k M \quad (8.1)$$

$$\Delta_\ell(m * a) = (\Delta_\ell^1(m) * \Delta^1(a)) \otimes (\Delta_\ell^2(m) * \Delta^2(a)) \subset B \otimes_k M \quad (8.2)$$

$$\Delta_r(a * m) = (\Delta^1(a) * \Delta_r^1(m)) \otimes (\Delta^2(a) * \Delta_r^2(m)) \subset M \otimes_k B \quad (8.3)$$

$$\Delta_r(m * a) = (\Delta_r^1(m) * \Delta^1(a)) \otimes (\Delta_r^2(m) * \Delta^2(a)) \subset M \otimes_k B \quad (8.4)$$

As well, we see that the underlying  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $B$  is a  $B$ -tetramodule. It is the unit of the two-fold monoidal structure on  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ , constructed in [Sh1], [Sh3].

The category of tetramodules is very important because of its relation to the Gerstenhaber-Schack complex [GS], the “deformation complex” of an associative bialgebra. The following result is due to R. Taillefer [Ta1,2] (see also an overview of Taillefer’s results in [Sh1, Section 3]).

**PROPOSITION 8.2.** *Let  $B$  be an associative algebra over a field  $\mathbb{k}$ . Then the Gerstenhaber-Schack complex of  $B$  is quasi-isomorphic to  $\mathrm{RHom}_{\mathcal{Tetra}(B)}^\bullet(B, B)$ .*

◇

## 8.2 TETRAMODULES OVER A HOPF ALGEBRA

Recall that a Hopf module over a bialgebra  $B$  over  $\mathbb{k}$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector spaces  $M$ , endowed with a left  $B$ -module structure  $m_\ell: B \otimes M \rightarrow M$ , with a left  $B$ -comodule structure  $\Delta_\ell: M \rightarrow B \otimes M$ , such that (8.1) holds. In particular, any tetramodule over  $B$  defines an underlying Hopf module over  $B$ .

The proof of Theorem 8.1 is based on the following classical result, see [Sw, Theorem 4.1.1]:

**KEY-LEMMA 8.3.**

- (i) *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra, and let  $M$  be a left Hopf module over  $B$ . Then  $M$  is free as left  $B$ -module and is cofree as left  $B$ -comodule. An analogous claim is true also when  $M$  is a right Hopf module over  $B$ . More specifically, let  $M$  be a left Hopf module over  $B$ , denote by  $\Delta_\ell: M \rightarrow B \otimes M$  its comodule map. Denote*

$$M_\Delta = \{m \in M \mid \Delta_\ell(m) = 1 \otimes m\}$$

*Then the map of left  $B$ -modules*

$$\alpha: B \otimes_k M_\Delta \rightarrow M$$

*$b \otimes m' \mapsto b \cdot m'$ , is an isomorphism of Hopf modules. Analogously for right Hopf modules.*

(ii) The inverse to the map  $\alpha$  is a map

$$\beta: M \rightarrow B \otimes M_\Delta$$

is given by

$$\beta(m) = (\text{id}_B \otimes P) \circ \Delta_\ell(m) \quad (8.5)$$

where  $P$  is the composition

$$P: M \xrightarrow{\Delta_\ell} B \otimes M \xrightarrow{S \otimes \text{id}_M} B \otimes M \xrightarrow{m_\ell} M \quad (8.6)$$

and, in fact,

$$P(M) = M_\Delta \quad (8.7)$$

◇

REMARK 8.4. In Key-Lemma above, it is very essential that  $B$  is a Hopf algebra. The claim fails when  $B$  is a general associative bialgebra.

COROLLARY 8.5. Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra, and  $M$  a  $B$ -tetramodule. Then  $M$  is in particular a left Hopf  $B$ -module and a right Hopf  $B$ -module. Therefore, we have isomorphisms:

$$B \otimes_k M_{\Delta_\ell} \xrightarrow{\alpha_\ell} M \xleftarrow{\alpha_r} M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \quad (8.8)$$

where

$$M_{\Delta_\ell} = \{m \in M \mid \Delta_\ell(m) = 1 \otimes m\}, \quad M_{\Delta_r} = \{m \in M \mid \Delta_r(m) = m \otimes 1\} \quad (8.9)$$

Furthermore, one can invert  $\alpha_\ell$  and  $\alpha_r$  explicitly, with  $\beta_\ell = \alpha_\ell^{-1}$  and  $\beta_r = \alpha_r^{-1}$  given by

$$\beta_\ell(m) = (\text{id}_B \otimes P_\ell) \circ \Delta_\ell(m), \quad \beta_r(m) = (P_r \otimes \text{id}_B) \circ \Delta_r(m) \quad (8.10)$$

where

$$P_\ell: M \xrightarrow{\Delta_\ell} B \otimes M \xrightarrow{S \otimes \text{id}_M} B \otimes M \xrightarrow{m_\ell} M, \quad P_r: M \xrightarrow{\Delta_r} M \otimes B \xrightarrow{\text{id}_M \otimes S} M \otimes B \xrightarrow{m_r} M \quad (8.11)$$

The left module structure  $m_\ell$  and the left comodule structure  $\Delta_\ell$  can be recovered from the leftmost term of (8.8) as the product and the coproduct of  $B$  (acting as identity on  $M_{\Delta_\ell}$ ), the right module structure  $m_r$  and the right comodule structure  $\Delta_r$  can be recovered from the rightmost term of (8.8) as the product and the coproduct of  $B$  (acting as identity on  $M_{\Delta_r}$ ).

*Proof.* The statements that  $(m_\ell, \Delta_\ell)$  defines a left Hopf  $B$ -module on  $M$ , and that  $(m_r, \Delta_r)$  defines a right Hopf  $B$ -module on  $M$ , are straightforward (see, however, Remark 8.6). The remaining statements follow directly from Key-Lemma 8.3. ◇

REMARK 8.6. The category of tetramodules over  $B$  fails to be the category of left Hopf modules over  $B \otimes B^{\text{opp}}$ . Indeed, for  $M$  a left Hopf module over  $B \otimes B^{\text{opp}}$ ,  $M$  is endowed with structures of left and right  $B$ -modules (denote them by  $m_\ell$  and  $m_r$ ), and by left and right  $B$ -comodules (denote them by  $\Delta_\ell$  and  $\Delta_r$ ). For these 4 structures,  $(m_\ell, \Delta_\ell)$  and  $(m_r, \Delta_r)$  are compatible as the corresponding structures for a tetramodule, that is, as in (8.1) and (8.4), correspondingly. However, two other tetramodule compatibilities (8.2) and (8.3) fail, as  $m_\ell$  commutes with  $\Delta_r$ , and  $m_r$  commutes with  $\Delta_\ell$ . Yet another way to see it is that the tautological tetramodule  $B$  is not of the form  $B \otimes B^{\text{opp}} \otimes V$  for a vector space  $V$ .

REMARK 8.7. It was mentioned to the author by V.Hinich that the results of P.Schauenburg [Scha] may imply that for the case of Hopf algebras  $B$ , the category of  $B$ -tetramodules is equivalent to the category of left Yetter-Drinfeld  $B$ -modules, where for a Yetter-Drinfeld module  $L$  the underlying vector space of the corresponding tetramodule is  $L \otimes B$ . As the category of Yetter-Drinfeld modules is braided monoidal, it is expected that the category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  is equivalent to the category of Yetter-Drinfeld modules over  $B$ , where the braiding on  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  follows from Theorem 8.15 and the Joyal-Street Theorem 8.17.

We develop the formalism of representing of a tetramodule  $M$  over a Hopf algebra  $B$  as (8.8) a bit further, proving the following Lemma.

LEMMA 8.8. *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra,  $M \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ . The operators  $P_\ell$  and  $P_r$  introduced in (8.11) obey the following identities:*

$$P_\ell(b \cdot m) = \varepsilon(b) \cdot P_\ell(m) \quad (8.12)$$

$$P_r(m \cdot b) = \varepsilon(b) \cdot P_r(m) \quad (8.13)$$

$$P_\ell(b \cdot m) = S(\Delta^{(1)}b) \cdot P_\ell(m) \cdot \Delta^{(2)}b \quad (8.14)$$

$$P_r(m \cdot b) = (\Delta^{(1)}b) \cdot P_r(m) \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b) \quad (8.15)$$

for any  $m \in M, b \in B$ , where we use the Sweedler notation  $\Delta b = \Delta^{(1)}b \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b$ .

*Proof.*

◇

LEMMA 8.9. *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra,  $M \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ ,  $m_{\Delta_\ell} \in M_{\Delta_\ell} = \{m \in M | \Delta_\ell m = 1 \otimes m\}$ . Then, for any  $b \in B$ , the element*

$$P_\ell(m_{\Delta_\ell} \cdot b) = S(\Delta^{(1)}b) \cdot m_{\Delta_\ell} \cdot \Delta^{(2)}b \quad (8.16)$$

and

$$\Delta_r^{(1)}(m_{\Delta_\ell}) \quad (8.17)$$

belong to  $M_{\Delta_\ell}$  as well, where the right coaction is  $\Delta_r m_{\Delta_\ell} = \Delta_r^{(1)} m_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes \Delta_r^{(2)} m_{\Delta_\ell} \in M \otimes B$ .

Analogously, if  $m_{\Delta_r} \in M_{\Delta_r} = \{m \in M \mid \Delta_r(m) = m \otimes 1\}$ , and  $b \in B$ , the element

$$P_r(b \cdot m_{\Delta_r}) = \Delta^{(1)}(b) \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b) \quad (8.18)$$

and

$$\Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \quad (8.19)$$

belong to  $M_{\Delta_r}$  as well, where the left action is  $\Delta_\ell(m_{\Delta_r}) = \Delta_\ell^{(1)}(m_{\Delta_r}) \otimes \Delta_\ell^{(2)}(m_{\Delta_r}) \in B \otimes M$ .

LEMMA 8.10. Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra,  $M \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ . Then there are two decompositions

$$M = B \otimes_k M_{\Delta_\ell} \quad (8.20)$$

and

$$M = M_{\Delta_r} \otimes B \quad (8.21)$$

In the decomposition (8.20), the left action  $m_\ell$  and the left coaction  $\Delta_\ell$  act on the first factor  $B$  as

$$b' \cdot (b \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}) = (b' \cdot b) \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}, \quad \Delta_\ell(b \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}) = \Delta^{(1)}(b) \otimes (\Delta^{(2)}(b) \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}) \quad (8.22)$$

the right action  $m_r$  is

$$(b \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}) \cdot b' = (b \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b') \otimes \left( S(\Delta^{(2)}b') \cdot m_{\Delta_\ell} \cdot \Delta^{(3)}b' \right) \quad (8.23)$$

and the right coaction  $\Delta_r$  is

$$\Delta_r(b \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell}) = \left( \Delta^{(1)}b \otimes \Delta_r^{(1)}m_{\Delta_\ell} \right) \otimes (\Delta^{(2)}b \cdot \Delta_r^{(2)}m_{\Delta_\ell}) \quad (8.24)$$

In the decomposition (8.21), the right action  $m_r$  and the right coaction  $\Delta_r$  act on the second factor  $B$  as

$$(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \cdot b' = m_{\Delta_r} \otimes (b \cdot b'), \quad \Delta_r(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b \quad (8.25)$$

the left action  $m_\ell$  is

$$b' \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = \left( \Delta^{(1)}b' \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b') \right) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}b' \cdot b) \quad (8.26)$$

and the left coaction  $\Delta_\ell$  is

$$\Delta_\ell(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = (\Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b \right) \quad (8.27)$$

To continue with a proof of Theorem 8.1, we recall the construction of the 2-fold monoidal structure on  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ .

### 8.3 THE 2-FOLD MONOIDAL STRUCTURE ON $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$

Recall some constructions of [Sh1]. Let  $B$  be an associative bialgebra, and let  $M, N$  be two tetramodules over it.

One firstly define two their “external” tensor products  $M \boxtimes_1 N$  and  $M \boxtimes_2 N$  (which are  $B$ -tetramodules once again). In both cases the underlying vector space is  $M \otimes_k N$ . The tetramodule structures are defined as follows (where  $a \in B$ ,  $m \in M$ ,  $n \in N$ ):

*The case of  $M \boxtimes_1 N$ :*

$$\begin{aligned}
m_\ell(a \otimes m \boxtimes n) &= (am) \boxtimes n \\
m_r(m \boxtimes n \otimes a) &= m \boxtimes (na) \\
\Delta_\ell(m \boxtimes n) &= (\Delta_\ell^1(m) * \Delta_\ell^1(n)) \otimes (\Delta_\ell^2(m) \boxtimes \Delta_\ell^2(n)) \\
\Delta_r(m \boxtimes n) &= (\Delta_r^1(m) \boxtimes \Delta_r^1(n)) \otimes (\Delta_r^2(m) * \Delta_r^2(n))
\end{aligned} \tag{8.28}$$

*The case of  $M \boxtimes_2 N$ :*

$$\begin{aligned}
m_\ell(a \otimes m \boxtimes n) &= (\Delta^1(a)m) \boxtimes (\Delta^2(a)n) \\
m_r(m \boxtimes n \otimes a) &= (m\Delta^1(a)) \boxtimes (n\Delta^2(a)) \\
\Delta_\ell(m \boxtimes n) &= \Delta_\ell^1(m) \otimes (\Delta_\ell^2(m) \boxtimes n) \\
\Delta_r(m \boxtimes n) &= (m \boxtimes \Delta_r^1(n)) \otimes \Delta_r^2(n)
\end{aligned} \tag{8.29}$$

Next, one defines

$$M \otimes_1 N = M \boxtimes_1 N / \left\{ \sum_i (m_i a) \boxtimes_1 n_i - \sum_i m_i \boxtimes_1 (a n_i), a \in B \right\} \tag{8.30}$$

and

$$M \otimes_2 N = \left\{ \sum_i m_i \boxtimes_2 n_i \subset M \boxtimes_2 N \mid \sum_i \Delta_r(m_i) \otimes_k n_i = \sum_i m_i \otimes_k \Delta_\ell(n_i) \right\} \tag{8.31}$$

In [Sh1], we constructed for any four  $M, N, P, Q \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  the *Eckman-Hilton map*

$$\eta_{MNPQ}: (M \otimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \otimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \otimes_1 P) \otimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q) \tag{8.32}$$

which is proven to satisfy all necessary commutative diagrams (see [BFSV], Section 1) making  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  a 2-fold monoidal category.

In particular, the tautological tetramodule  $B \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  is the two-sided unit for both  $\otimes_1$  and  $\otimes_2$ :

$$B \otimes_1 M = M \otimes_1 B = B \otimes_2 M = M \otimes_2 B = M \tag{8.33}$$

for any  $M \in \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ .

For further reference, we summarize in Lemma below some properties of the map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$ , proven in [Sh1], Section 2.2.3.

LEMMA 8.11. *The map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  is induced by the map*

$$\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}: (M \boxtimes_2 N) \boxtimes_1 (P \boxtimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \boxtimes_1 P) \boxtimes_2 (N \boxtimes_1 Q) \quad (8.34)$$

*defined on the underlying vector spaces as*

$$m \otimes_k n \otimes_k p \otimes_k q \mapsto m \otimes_k p \otimes_k n \otimes_k q \quad (8.35)$$

*for  $m, n, p, q$  elements of  $M, N, P, Q$ , correspondingly. By “induced” is meant the following: starting with  $\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}$ , we firstly consider the projection of the rhs of (8.34) to  $(M \otimes_1 P) \boxtimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q)$  and show that the composition of  $\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}$  with this projection descends to a well-defined map*

$$\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}: (M \boxtimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \boxtimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \otimes_1 P) \boxtimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q) \quad (8.36)$$

*Nextly, we restrict the lhs of (8.36) to its subspace  $(M \otimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \otimes_2 Q)$ , and show that the image of this subspace by  $\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}$  belongs to  $(M \otimes_1 P) \otimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q)$  (which is a subspace of the rhs of (8.36)). The resulting map*

$$(M \otimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \otimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \otimes_1 P) \otimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q)$$

*is the map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$ .*

◇

LEMMA 8.12. *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ ,  $M, N$  two  $B$ -tetramodules. Then both monoidal products  $M \otimes_1 N$  and  $M \otimes_2 N$  have isomorphic underlying vector space, isomorphic to*

$$M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} \quad (8.37)$$

*(in notations of Corollary 8.5). The projection*

$$M \boxtimes_1 N = (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \otimes_k (B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}) \rightarrow M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} = M \otimes_1 N \quad (8.38)$$

*is given by the product map  $B \otimes_k B \rightarrow B$  in the middle, and the identity on the leftmost and the rightmost terms. The inclusion*

$$M \otimes_2 N = M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} \hookrightarrow (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \otimes_k (B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}) = M \boxtimes_2 N \quad (8.39)$$

*is given by the coproduct  $\Delta: B \rightarrow B \otimes_k B$  in the middle, and the identity on the leftmost and the rightmost terms.*

*Proof.* We use the presentations  $M = M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B$  and  $N = B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$ , given by Corollary 8.5. In these presentations, we can recover  $\Delta_r$  and  $m_r$  for  $M$ , and  $\Delta_\ell$  and  $m_\ell$  for  $N$ , as the coproduct and the product on  $B$ .

Now, by (8.30), the equation (8.38) follows as the product  $m: B \otimes_k B \rightarrow B$  is surjective (as  $B$  contains unit). To deduce (8.39) from (8.31), we need to know that the kernel of the map

$$d: B \otimes_k B \rightarrow B \otimes_k B \otimes_k B$$

defined by

$$d(b_1 \otimes b_2) = \Delta(b_1) \otimes b_2 - b_1 \otimes \Delta(b_2)$$

is the image of the coproduct  $\Delta: B \rightarrow B \otimes_k B$ . The latter follows from the acyclicity of the cobar-complex of any coalgebra with counit.  $\diamond$

We can prove now the first part of Theorem 8.1.

**PROPOSITION 8.13.** *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ . Then both monoidal products  $\otimes_1$  and  $\otimes_2$  on  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$  are exact bi-functors.*

*Proof.* It follows from Lemma 8.10 and Lemma 8.12. By Lemma 8.10, any tetramodule over a Hopf algebra  $B$  is a free left  $B$ -module, free right  $B$ -module, cofree left  $B$ -comodule, and cofree right  $B$ -comodule. Then Lemma 8.12 shows that it implies the exactness of  $\otimes_1$  and of  $\otimes_2$  on the level of underlying vector spaces, and therefore their exactness as bi-functors on the category of tetramodules.  $\diamond$

We pass now to study of the Eckmann-Hilton map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  for the category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ , where  $B$  is a Hopf algebra. The second part of Theorem 8.1 is proven in Theorem 8.15 at the end of this Section.

**PROPOSITION 8.14.** *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ ,  $M, N$  two  $B$ -tetramodules. Then the tetramodules  $M \otimes_1 N$  and  $M \otimes_2 N$  are isomorphic. Using the vector space isomorphisms of both  $M \otimes_1 N$  and  $M \otimes_2 N$  to  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  from Lemma 8.12, the identity map*

$$\varphi = \text{id}: M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} \rightarrow M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} \tag{8.40}$$

*defines an isomorphism of tetramodules*

$$\varphi: M \otimes_1 N \rightarrow M \otimes_2 N$$

*Proof.* We give two different proofs of the Proposition, both of which are instructive.

*The first proof:*

Consider general 2-fold monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$  with unit  $e$  (see [BFSV], Section 1), with the Eckmann-Hilton map

$$\eta_{MNPQ}: (M \otimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \otimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \otimes_1 P) \otimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q)$$

(where  $M, N, P, Q \in \mathcal{C}$ ). It is a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ . Take  $N = P = e$ , then we get the morphism

$$\eta_{MeeQ}: M \otimes_1 Q \rightarrow M \otimes_2 Q \quad (8.41)$$

It is also a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

For the case  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ , we prove that this morphism  $\eta_{MeeQ}$  is an isomorphism (where  $e = B$  is the tautological tetraodule).

We know (see Lemma 8.11) that the map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  is induced by the map  $\hat{\eta}_{MNPQ}$  which is just the transposition of the two middle factors, see (8.35). In the same time, we want to use the presentation for the underlying vector space (8.37) we just found. Our goal is to prove that (8.41) is an *isomorphism of vector spaces* (because it is a map of tetramodules by the above general argument).

The diagram below is not commutative, but becomes commutative after passing  $\boxtimes_i \rightarrow \otimes_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & ((M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \boxtimes_2 B) \boxtimes_1 (B \boxtimes_2 (B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell})) & (8.42) \\ & \nearrow f_1 & \downarrow \hat{\eta}_{MBBN} \\ M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} & & \\ & \searrow f_2 & \\ & ((M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \boxtimes_1 B) \boxtimes_2 (B \boxtimes_1 (B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell})) & \end{array}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(m \otimes b \otimes n) &= ((m \otimes 1) \boxtimes_2 1) \boxtimes_1 (\Delta^1(b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^2(b) \otimes n)) \\ f_2(m \otimes b' \otimes n) &= ((m \otimes 1) \boxtimes_1 \Delta^1(b')) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^2(b') \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n)) \end{aligned} \quad (8.43)$$

where  $m \in M_{\Delta_r}$ ,  $n \in N_{\Delta_\ell}$ ,  $b \in B$ . The maps  $f_1, f_2$  are compatible with the vector space isomorphisms of Lemma 8.12.

◇

*The second proof:*

We write down explicitly the tetramodule structures on  $M \otimes_1 N$  and  $M \otimes_2 N$  identifying the underlying vector spaces with  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  as in Lemma 8.12. We use for that explicit formulas found in Lemma 8.10.

We will show that the left actions are equal and that the left coaction are equal for  $M \otimes_1 N$  and  $M \otimes_2 N$ ; the case of right actions and right coactions goes similarly.

We use the following isomorphisms of  $M \otimes_1 N$  and of  $M \otimes_2 N$  with  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_r}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& & (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \subset M \boxtimes_1 N & (8.44) \\
& \nearrow^{i_1} & & \\
m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} & & & \\
& \searrow_{i_2} & & \\
& & (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \subset M \boxtimes_2 N &
\end{array}$$

*The case of  $M \otimes_1 N$ :*

For the left action, one has:

$$\begin{aligned}
& a \cdot ((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_r})) \stackrel{\text{by (8.28)}}{=} (a \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b)) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_r}) \stackrel{\text{by (8.22)}}{=} \\
& \left( (\Delta^{(1)}a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}a) \otimes \Delta^{(3)}a \cdot b) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) = \right. & (8.45) \\
& \left. i_1 \left( (\Delta^{(1)}a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}a \cdot b) \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \right) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $i_1$  is the upper arrow in diagram (8.44).

For the left coaction, one has:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Delta_\ell((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_r})) \stackrel{\text{by (8.28)}}{=} \\
& \left( \Delta_\ell^{(1)}(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \cdot \Delta_\ell^{(1)}(1 \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \otimes \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) \boxtimes_1 \Delta_\ell^{(2)}(1 \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \stackrel{\text{by (8.24)}}{=} \\
& \left( \Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b \cdot 1 \right) \otimes \left( (\Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b) \boxtimes_1 (1 \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) = \\
& \left( \Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b \right) \otimes i_1 \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{8.46}$$

*The case of  $M \otimes_2 N$ :*

For the left action, one has:

$$\begin{aligned}
& a \cdot \left( (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \stackrel{\text{by (8.29)}}{=} \\
& \Delta^{(1)}a \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \boxtimes_2 \Delta^{(2)}a \cdot (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \stackrel{\text{by (8.23)}}{=} \\
& \left( (\Delta^{(1)}a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}a \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b) \right) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(4)}a \cdot \Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) = \\
& i_2 \left( (\Delta^{(1)}a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}a \cdot b) \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{8.47}$$

where  $i_2$  is the lower arrow in diagram (8.44).

For the left coaction, one has:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \Delta_\ell \left( (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \stackrel{\text{by (8.29)}}{=} \\
& \Delta_\ell^{(1)}(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \stackrel{\text{by (8.25)}}{=} \\
& (\Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes \left( (\Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b) \boxtimes_2 (\Delta^{(3)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) = \\
& (\Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes i_2 \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{8.48}$$

We see that the left action of  $a \in B$  on an element of  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  is  $i_1(X)$  when  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  is considered as  $M \otimes_1 N$ , and is  $i_2(X)$ , for the same  $X$ , when  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  is considered as  $M \otimes_2 N$ ; the similar result holds for the left coaction(s).

The case of the right action and the right coaction is similar.  $\diamond$

**THEOREM 8.15.** *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra over  $\mathbb{k}$ ,  $M, N, P, Q$  be any four  $B$ -tetramodules. Then the Eckmann-Hilton map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* We start with a Lemma:

**LEMMA 8.16.** *Let  $B$  be a Hopf algebra,  $M, N$  be  $B$ -tetramodules. Consider the “right form” of them, see Lemma 8.10:*

$$M = M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B, \quad N = N_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \tag{8.49}$$

Then the “right form” of the tetramodule  $M \otimes_1 N$  is

$$M \otimes_1 N = (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k N_{\Delta_r}) \otimes_k B \tag{8.50}$$

with the standard right action and the standard right coaction (acting only on the rightmost factor  $B$ ), the left action given by

$$a \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = (\Delta^{(1)}a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}a \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(4)}a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(5)}a \cdot b) \tag{8.51}$$

and the left coaction given by

$$\Delta_\ell(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = \left( \Delta_\ell^{(1)}m_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta_\ell^{(1)}n_{\Delta_r} \cdot \Delta^{(1)}b \right) \otimes_k \left( \Delta_\ell^{(2)}m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta_\ell^{(2)}n_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(2)}b \right) \tag{8.52}$$

The map

$$\vartheta_{MN,r}: (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \otimes_1 (N_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \rightarrow (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k N_{\Delta_r}) \otimes_k B \tag{8.53}$$

$$\vartheta_{MN,r}((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_1) \otimes_1 (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2)) = \left( m_{\Delta_r} \otimes (\Delta^{(1)}b_1 \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b_1)) \right) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)}b_1 \cdot b_2) \tag{8.54}$$

is a map of tetramodules. The map  $\theta_{MN,r}$  is an isomorphism for any  $M, N$ .

There are analogous statements for the “left form” presentations  $M = B \otimes_k M_{\Delta_\ell}$ ,  $N = B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$ , and their product  $M \otimes_1 N$ .

*Proof.* By the definition of  $M \otimes_1 N$  as the quotient of  $M \boxtimes_1 N$ , see (8.30), we have the following identity in  $M \otimes_1 N$ :

$$\begin{aligned} ((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \cdot b_1) \otimes_1 (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2) &= (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \otimes_1 (b_1 \cdot (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2)) \stackrel{\text{by (8.26)}}{=} \\ (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \otimes_1 \left( (\Delta^{(1)} b_1 \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} b_1)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)} b_1 \cdot b_2) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (8.55)$$

It is clear therefore that the map (8.54) is an isomorphism of vector spaces.

It only remains to deduce the tetramodule structure from the one on the left-hand side of (8.55). Here we use, first of all, the formulas (8.28) for the tetramodule structure  $M \boxtimes_1 N$ .

Then we find for the left action:

$$\begin{aligned} a \cdot ((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_1) \otimes_1 (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2)) &\stackrel{\text{by (8.28)}}{=} (a \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_1)) \otimes_1 (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2) \stackrel{\text{by (8.26)}}{=} \\ \left( (\Delta^{(1)} a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)} a \cdot b_1) \right) \otimes_1 (n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b_2) &\stackrel{\text{by (8.55)}}{=} \\ \left( (\Delta^{(1)} a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} a)) \otimes 1 \right) \otimes_1 \left( (\Delta^{(1)} (\Delta^{(3)} a \cdot b_1) \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} (\Delta^{(3)} a \cdot b_1))) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)} (\Delta^{(3)} a \cdot b_1) \cdot b_2) \right) &= \\ \left( (\Delta^{(1)} a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} a)) \otimes 1 \right) \otimes_1 \left( (\Delta^{(4)} a \cdot \Delta^{(1)} b_1 \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} b_1) \cdot S(\Delta^{(4)} a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(5)} a \cdot \Delta^{(3)} b_1 \cdot b_2) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (8.56)$$

It follows from (8.56) that, within the identification (8.55), one has:

$$a \cdot (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes n_{\Delta_r} \otimes b) = (\Delta^{(1)} a \cdot m_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)} a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(3)} a \cdot n_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(4)} a)) \otimes (\Delta^{(5)} a \cdot b) \quad (8.57)$$

It is the formula (8.51) for the left action.

The formula (8.52) for the left coaction is deduced analogously.

Finally, the only elements satisfying  $\Delta_r(X) = X \otimes 1$  are the linear combinations of the elements  $m_{\Delta_r} \otimes n_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1$ . That is, (8.53) and (8.54) give indeed the “left form” presentation for the tetramodule  $M \otimes_1 N$ .  $\diamond$

We pass now to the proof of Theorem.

Consider the map

$$\eta_{MNPQ}: (M \otimes_2 N) \otimes_1 (P \otimes_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \otimes_1 P) \otimes_2 (N \otimes_1 Q) \quad (8.58)$$

We use the presentation  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}$  for  $M \otimes_2 N$ , and the presentation  $P_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k Q_{\Delta_\ell}$  for  $P \otimes_2 Q$ , with the corresponding isomorphisms (8.39).

That is, a general element in  $M \otimes_2 N$  is (a linear combination of the elements)  $(m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)} b_1) \otimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)} b_1 \otimes m_{\Delta_\ell})$ , and a general element in  $P \otimes_2 Q$  is (a linear combination of the elements)  $(p_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)} b_2) \otimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)} b_2 \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell})$ .

Due to the  $\otimes_1$ -product, we can assume that  $b_2 = 1$ . Thus, the lhs of (8.58) has form  $M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes_k P_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k Q_{\Delta_\ell}$ , and the corresponding isomorphism is

$$m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes p_{\Delta_r} \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell} \mapsto \left( (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)} b) \otimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)} b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \otimes_1 \left( (p_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \otimes_2 (1 \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \quad (8.59)$$

The map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$ , due to its description in Lemma 8.11, acts as

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes_2 (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \otimes_1 ((p_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \otimes_2 (1 \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell})) \mapsto \\ & \left( (m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes_1 (p_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1) \right) \boxtimes_2 \left( (\Delta^{(2)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \otimes_1 (1 \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell}) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (8.60)$$

We need to prove that this map is an isomorphism.

Now we use the isomorphisms

$$(M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \otimes_1 (P_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k B) \rightarrow (M_{\Delta_r} \otimes_k P_{\Delta_r}) \otimes_k B \quad (8.61)$$

and

$$(B \otimes_k N_{\Delta_\ell}) \otimes_1 (B \otimes_k Q_{\Delta_\ell}) \rightarrow B \otimes_k (N_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes_k Q_{\Delta_\ell}) \quad (8.62)$$

given by Lemma 8.16.

This lemma establishes that these maps *are isomorphisms*, and they map

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta_{MP,r}((m_{\Delta_r} \otimes \Delta^{(1)}b) \otimes_1 (p_{\Delta_r} \otimes 1)) &= m_{\Delta_r} \otimes (\Delta^{(1)}b \cdot p_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b)) \otimes \Delta^{(3)}b \\ \vartheta_{NQ,\ell}((\Delta^{(4)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell}) \otimes_1 (1 \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell})) &= \Delta^{(4)}b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell} \end{aligned} \quad (8.63)$$

Finally, the map  $\eta_{MNPQ}$  acts as

$$m_{\Delta_r} \otimes b \otimes n_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes p_{\Delta_r} \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell} \mapsto \left( m_{\Delta_r} \otimes (\Delta^{(1)}b \cdot p_{\Delta_r} \cdot S(\Delta^{(2)}b)) \right) \otimes \Delta^{(3)}b \otimes (n_{\Delta_\ell} \otimes q_{\Delta_\ell}) \quad (8.64)$$

It is an isomorphism because the map  $\vartheta_{MP,r}$  (see (8.63)) is an isomorphism by Lemma 8.16.  $\diamond$

The situation of the 2-fold monoidal category  $\mathcal{Tetra}(B)$ , where  $B$  is a Hopf algebra, gives an illustration for the following result, due to Joyal and Street [JS]:

**THEOREM 8.17 (Joyal-Street).** *Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $n$ -fold monoidal category, for which all Eckmann-Hilton maps  $\eta^{i,j}$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , are isomorphisms. Suppose  $n = 2$ . Consider the map*

$$\lambda_{MN} : M \otimes_1 N \xrightarrow{\eta_{eMNe}} N \otimes_2 M \xrightarrow{\eta_{NeeM}^{-1}} N \otimes_1 M \quad (8.65)$$

*Then  $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes_1, \lambda)$  is a braided monoidal category.*

*Conversely, the 2-fold monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}'$  whose underlying category is that of  $\mathcal{C}$ , both monoidal products  $\circ_1$  and  $\circ_2$  are equal and equal to  $\otimes_1$ , and  $\eta'_{MNPQ} : (M \circ_2 N) \circ_1 (P \circ_2 Q) \rightarrow (M \circ_1 P) \circ_2 (N \circ_1 Q)$  is defined as  $\text{id}_M \otimes_1 \lambda_{NP} \otimes_1 \text{id}_Q$ , is equivalent as a 2-fold monoidal category to  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

*When  $n > 2$ , an  $n$ -fold monoidal category with all  $\eta_{MNPQ}^{ij}$  isomorphisms, is a symmetric monoidal category.*

Using our proof of Theorem 8.15, we can compute the braiding  $\lambda_{MN}$  explicitly in terms of the antipode  $S$ .

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