ON BIALGEBRAS AND HOPF ALGEBRAS OF ORIENTED GRAPHS

DOMINIQUE MANCHON
University of Blaise Pascal,
C.N.R.S.-UMR 6620, 63177 Aubière, France
manchon@math.univ-bpclermont.fr

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We define two coproducts for cycle-free oriented graphs, thus building up two commutative connected graded Hopf algebras, such that one is a comodule-coalgebra on the other, thus generalizing the result obtained in [2] for Hopf algebras of rooted trees.

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1. Introduction

Hopf algebras of graphs have been introduced by Kreimer [8, 4-6] in order to explain the combinatorics of renormalization in Quantum Field Theory. Whereas the product is free commutative, the coproduct is defined by suitable subgraphs and contracted graphs, and depends on the type of graphs considered.

We focus on various Hopf algebras of oriented graphs: after giving the basic definitions we detail two examples: oriented graphs in general, and then locally one-particle irreducible graphs. We show on concrete computations that the coproduct of a locally 1PI oriented graph $\Gamma$ depends on whether one takes the local 1PI-ness of $\Gamma$ into account or not.

We also explore a third example, the Hopf algebra $H_{\text{CF}}$ of oriented cycle-free graphs. The associated poset structure on the set of vertices yields still another coproduct which generalizes the coproduct of rooted trees given by admissible cuts [8, 7]. We show that the Hopf algebra $H_{\text{CFc}}$ thus obtained is a comodule-coalgebra on the Hopf algebra $H_{\text{CF}}$. Modulo discarding the external edges, this generalizes the results of [2] on Hopf algebras of rooted trees.
2. Oriented Feynman Graphs

2.1. Basic definitions

An oriented Feynman graph is an oriented (non-planar) graph with a finite number of vertices and edges, which can be internal or external. An internal edge is an edge connected at both ends to a vertex (which can be the same in case of a self-loop), an external edge is an edge with one open end, the other end being connected to a vertex. An oriented Feynman graph will be called vacuum graph, tadpole graph, self-energy graph, respectively interaction graph if its number of external edges is 0, 1, 2, respectively.

A cycle in an oriented Feynman graph is a finite collection \((e_1, \ldots, e_n)\) of oriented internal edges such that the target of \(e_k\) coincides with the source of \(e_{k+1}\) for any \(k = 1, \ldots, n\) modulo \(n\). The loop number of a graph \(\Gamma\) is given by:

\[
L(\Gamma) = I(\Gamma) - V(\Gamma) + 1,
\]

where \(I(\Gamma)\) is the number of internal edges of the graph \(\Gamma\) and where \(V(\Gamma)\) is the number of vertices. We shall mainly focus on cycle-free oriented graphs, for which there exists a poset structure on the set of vertices: namely, \(v < w\) if and only if there exists a path from \(v\) to \(w\), i.e. a collection \((e_1, \ldots, e_n)\) of edges such that the target of \(e_k\) coincides with the source of \(e_{k+1}\) for \(k = 1, \ldots, n - 1\), and such that \(v\) (respectively \(w\)) is the source (respectively the target) of \(e_1\) (respectively \(e_n\)).

The edges (internal or external) will be of different types labeled by a positive integer \((1, 2, 3, \ldots)\), each type being represented by the way the corresponding edge is drawn (full, dashed, wavy, various colours, etc.). Let \(\tau(e) \in \mathbb{N}^*\) be the type of the edge \(e\). For any vertex \(v\) let \(st(v)\) be the star of \(v\), i.e. the set of all half-edges attached to \(v\) (hence a self-loop yields two half-edges). Hence the valence of the vertex is given by the cardinal of \(st(v)\). Finally to each vertex \(v\) we associate its type \(T(v)\), defined as the sequence \((n_1, \ldots, n_r)\) of positive integers where \(n_j\) stands for the number of edges of type \(j\) in \(st(v)\). The orientation does not enter into the definition of the type of a vertex.

A one-particle irreducible graph (in short, 1PI graph) is a connected graph which remains connected when we cut any internal edge. A disconnected graph is said to be locally 1PI if any of its connected components is 1PI.

2.2. Connected subgraphs, covering subgraphs and contracted graphs

Let \(\Gamma\) be an oriented Feynman graph, let \(V(\Gamma)\) be the set of its vertices, and let \(P\) be a nonempty subset of \(V(\Gamma)\). The subgraph \(\Gamma(P)\) associated to \(P\) is defined as follows: the internal edges of \(\Gamma(P)\) are the internal edges of \(\Gamma\) with source and target in \(P\), and the external edges are the external edges of \(\Gamma\) with source or target in \(P\), as well as the internal edges of \(\Gamma\) with one end in \(P\) and the other end outside \(P\). The orientations of the edges of \(\gamma_P\) are obviously derived from their orientation in \(\Gamma\). The subgraph \(\Gamma(P)\) is connected if and only if for any \(v, w \in P\) one can go from
v to w by following internal edges of Γ with both ends in \( P \), forwards or backwards. We set by convention \( \Gamma(\emptyset) = 1 \), where 1 is the empty graph. For any \( Q \subseteq P \subseteq \mathcal{V}(\Gamma) \) we obviously have:

\[
\Gamma(P)(Q) = \Gamma(Q).
\]  

(2)

A covering subgraph of \( \Gamma \) is an oriented Feynman graph \( \gamma \) (in general disconnected), given by a collection \( \{ \Gamma(P_1), \ldots, \Gamma(P_n) \} \) of connected subgraphs such that \( P_j \cap P_k = \emptyset \) for \( j \neq k \), and such that any vertex of \( \Gamma \) belongs to \( P_j \) for some (unique) \( j \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \). Covering subgraphs of \( \Gamma \) are in one-to-one correspondence with partitions of \( \mathcal{V}(\Gamma) \) into connected subsets, which refine the partition into connected components. For any covering subgraph \( \gamma \), the contracted graph \( \Gamma/\gamma \) is defined by shrinking all connected components of \( \gamma \) inside \( \Gamma \) onto a point.

The following proposition is straightforward:

**Proposition 1.** Let \( \Gamma \) be an oriented cycle-free Feynman graph. Let \( \gamma \) be a covering subgraph and let \( V = P_1 \sqcup \cdots \sqcup P_n \) be the associated partition of \( V \). If \( \Gamma/\gamma \) is cycle-free, then \( P_j \) is a convex subset of the poset \( \mathcal{V}(\Gamma) \) for any \( j \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \).

Note that the converse is not true, as shown by the following counterexample:
The residue of the graph $\Gamma$ is the contracted graph $\Gamma / \Gamma$, where the covering subgraph is the graph $\Gamma$ itself. The associated partition of $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma)$ is the coarsest possible, i.e. it is given by its connected components. The residue is the only graph with no internal edge and the same external edges than those of $\Gamma$. At the other extreme, the partition of $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma)$ into singletons (i.e. the finest possible) gives rise to the unique covering subgraph $\gamma_0$ without internal edges. The contracted graph $\Gamma / \gamma_0$ is then equal to $\Gamma$. Given two covering subgraphs $\gamma$ and $\delta$, say that $\gamma$ contains $\delta$ if the partition associated with $\delta$ refines the partition associated with $\gamma$. In this case $\delta$ can also be seen as a covering subgraph of $\gamma$.

3. Some Bialgebras and Hopf Algebras of Graphs

3.1. The full bialgebra of oriented Feynman graphs

Let $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ be the vector space spanned by (connected or not) oriented Feynman graphs. The product is given by concatenation, hence $\tilde{\mathcal{H}} = S(V)$, where $V$ is the vector space spanned by connected oriented Feynman graphs. The unit $1$ is identified with the empty graph, and the coproduct is given by:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\gamma \text{ covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma / \gamma.$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

This is obviously an algebra morphism, and we have:

$$(\Delta \otimes I)\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\delta \text{ covering subgraph of } \gamma, \gamma \text{ covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \delta \otimes \gamma / \delta \otimes \Gamma / \gamma,$$

$$(I \otimes \Delta)\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\delta \text{ covering subgraph of } \Gamma, \tilde{\gamma} \text{ covering subgraph of } \Gamma / \delta} \delta \otimes \tilde{\gamma} \otimes (\Gamma / \delta) / \tilde{\gamma}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

There is an obvious bijection $\gamma \mapsto \tilde{\gamma} = \gamma / \delta$ from covering subgraphs of $\Gamma$ containing $\delta$ onto covering subgraphs of $\Gamma / \delta$, given by shrinking $\delta$. As we have the obvious “transitive shrinking property”:

$$\Gamma / \gamma = (\Gamma / \delta) / (\gamma / \delta),$$

the two expressions coincide, hence $\Delta$ is coassociative. The co-unit is given by $\varepsilon(1) = 1$ and $\varepsilon(\Gamma) = 0$ for any nonempty graph $\Gamma$. The bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is graded by the number of internal edges (and even multi-graded by the numbers of internal edges of various given types). The elements of degree zero are the residues, i.e. the graphs without internal edges. Any residue graph $R$ is grouplike, i.e. $\Delta(R) = R \otimes R$. As an example of coproduct computation (with only one type of edges), we have:

$$\Delta(\tilde{\Delta}) = \tilde{\Delta} \otimes \tilde{\Delta} + \tilde{\Delta} \otimes \tilde{\Delta} + \tilde{\Delta} \otimes \tilde{\Delta} + \tilde{\Delta} \otimes \tilde{\Delta} + \tilde{\Delta} \otimes \tilde{\Delta}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)
3.2. The Hopf algebra of oriented Feynman graphs

The Hopf algebra $\mathcal{H}$ is obtained from $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ by identifying all degree zero elements with the unit 1, namely:

$$\mathcal{H} = \tilde{\mathcal{H}} / \mathcal{J},$$

where $\mathcal{J}$ is the (bi-)ideal generated by the elements $\Gamma - 1$ where $\Gamma$ is any graph without internal edges. The bialgebra $\mathcal{H}$ is obviously connected graded, hence it is a Hopf algebra, which can be identified as a commutative algebra with $S(W)$, where $W$ is the vector space spanned by connected oriented Feynman graphs with at least one internal edge. The coproduct computation (5) yields:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = 1 \otimes \Gamma + \Gamma \otimes 1 + \sum \Gamma / \gamma,$$

3.3. Locally 1PI graphs

A similar construction holds for locally 1PI graphs: the bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{1\text{PI}}$ is given by $S(V_{1\text{PI}})$, where $V_{1\text{PI}}$ is the vector space spanned by connected oriented 1PI Feynman graphs. The coproduct is given by:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\gamma \text{ locally } 1\text{PI covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma / \gamma,$$

and is coassociative due to the fact that the transitive shrinking property of Sec. 3.1 still makes sense for locally 1PI covering subgraphs. The (multi-) grading given by the number of internal edges is still relevant, but an alternative grading is given by the loop number. The associated Hopf algebra $\mathcal{H}_{1\text{PI}}$ is built up similarly to $\mathcal{H}$ in Sec. 3.2, by identifying the elements of degree zero with the unit 1. Note that, for both gradings, the elements of degree zero are the residues: it comes from the fact that a graph $\Gamma$ with loop number $L(\Gamma) = 0$ which is locally 1PI cannot have any internal edge. Here is an example of coproduct computation, in $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{1\text{PI}}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{1\text{PI}}$ respectively:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = 1 \otimes \Gamma + \Gamma \otimes 1,$$

3.4. Cycle-free graphs

Let $\Gamma$ be a cycle-free oriented Feynman graph. In view of Proposition 1, we say that a covering subgraph $\gamma$ of $\Gamma$ is poset-compatible if the contracted graph $\Gamma / \gamma$ is cycle-free. It implies that all elements of the associated partition are convex subsets
of the poset $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma)$. The bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{CF}}$ is given by $S(\mathcal{V}_{\text{CF}})$, where $\mathcal{V}_{\text{CF}}$ is the vector space spanned by connected oriented cycle-free Feynman graphs. The coproduct is given by:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma/\gamma,$$

and is coassociative due to the fact that the transitive shrinking property of Sec. 3.1 still makes sense for poset-compatible covering subgraphs of a cycle-free graph. The (multi-) grading given by the number of internal edges is still relevant, and the associated Hopf algebra $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CF}}$ is built up similarly to $\mathcal{H}$ in Sec. 3.2, by identifying the elements of degree zero with the unit $1$.

Note that, contrarily to the previous examples, the orientation of the edges enters here in an essential way. Our favorite coproduct computation takes the following form, in $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{CF}}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CF}}$ respectively:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible locally 1PI covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma/\gamma,$$

and the associated Hopf algebra $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CF1PI}}$ is obtained by identifying the residue graphs with the empty graph $1$. Details are left to the reader.

3.5. Cycle-free locally 1PI graphs

We can combine Secs. 3.3 and 3.4: the bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{CF1PI}}$ of cycle-free locally 1PI graphs is given by the intersection $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{CF}} \cap \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{1PI}}$. This is the free commutative algebra on the vector space spanned by the space $\mathcal{V}_{\text{CF1PI}}$ of connected cycle-free locally 1PI graphs, and the coproduct is given by:

$$\Delta(\Gamma) = \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible locally 1PI covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma/\gamma,$$

and the associated Hopf algebra $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CF1PI}}$ is obtained by identifying the residue graphs with the empty graph $1$. Details are left to the reader.

4. A Comodule–Coalgebra on the Bialgebra of Oriented Cycle-Free Graphs

4.1. Another Hopf algebra structure on oriented cycle-free graphs

Consider the bialgebra $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CF}} = S(\mathcal{V}_{\text{CF}})$ of Sec. 3.4. We keep the same commutative product, but we define another coproduct as follows. For any cycle-free oriented graph $\Gamma$ we set:

$$\Delta_c(\Gamma) = \sum_{\Gamma(V_1) \otimes \Gamma(V_2)} \Gamma(V_1 \sqcup V_2 = \mathcal{V}(\Gamma), \, V_2 < V_1).$$
The inequality $V_2 < V_1$ means that for any comparable $v_1 \in V_1$ and $v_2 \in V_2$ we have $v_2 < v_1$ in the poset $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma)$. Such a pair of disjoint subsets will be called an admissible cut. It matches the usual notion of admissible cut when the graph $\Gamma$ is a rooted tree [8, 7, 11]. Note, however, that the relation $<$ on the set of subsets of $\mathcal{V}(\Gamma)$ is not transitive. The coproduct is obviously coassociative, as we have:

$$(I \otimes \Delta_c)\Delta_c(\Gamma) = (\Delta_c \otimes I)\Delta_c(\Gamma)$$

$$= \sum_{V_1 \cup V_2 \cup V_3 = \mathcal{V}(\Gamma), \ V_3 < V_2 < V_1} \Gamma(V_1) \otimes \Gamma(V_2) \otimes \Gamma(V_3),$$

(16)

where the notation $V_3 < V_2 < V_1$ means $V_3 < V_2$, $V_2 < V_1$ and $V_3 < V_1$. This coproduct is also an algebra morphism. We denote by $\mathcal{H}_{CFc}$ the connected graded Hopf algebra given by this coproduct. It is naturally isomorphic to $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}$ as a commutative algebra, but the grading is now given by the number of vertices. As an example, we have:

$$\Delta_c(\begin{array}{c}
1
\end{array}) = \begin{array}{c}
1 + 1 \otimes 1 + \otimes + \otimes
\end{array}.$$  

(17)

4.2. The comodule–coalgebra structure on $\mathcal{H}_{CFc}$

The coproduct $\Delta$ on the bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}$ can also be seen as a left (respectively right) coaction $\Phi : \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc}$, respectively $\Psi : \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \otimes \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}$. 

**Theorem 2.** The left coaction map $\Phi$ verifies:

$$(\text{Id}_{\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}} \otimes \Delta_c) \circ \Phi = m^{1,3} \circ (\Phi \otimes \Phi) \circ \Delta_c,$$

(18)

i.e. the following diagram commutes:

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{H}_{CFc} & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \\
\Delta_c \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Id}_{\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}} \otimes \Delta_c \\
\mathcal{H}_{CFc} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} & \xrightarrow{\Phi \otimes \Phi} & \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \\
\end{array}
\]

where

$m^{1,3} : \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \otimes \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{CFc}

a \otimes b \otimes c \otimes d \mapsto ac \otimes b \otimes d.$

In other words, $\mathcal{H}_{CFc}$ is a $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}$-comodule coalgebra, i.e. a coalgebra in the category of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{CF}$-comodules.
Proof. This result is a direct generalization of Theorem 8 in [2] and is proved in a similar way: the verification is immediate for the empty graph. We have for any nonempty graph:

\[
(\text{Id}_{\tilde{H}_{\text{CF}}} \otimes \Delta_c) \circ \Phi(\Gamma)
\]

\[
= (\text{Id}_{\tilde{H}_{\text{CF}}} \otimes \Delta_c) \left( \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes \Gamma/\gamma \right)
\]

\[
= \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \sum_{U_1 \sqcup U_2 = V(\Gamma/\gamma), U_2 < U_1} \gamma \otimes (\Gamma/\gamma)(U_1) \otimes (\Gamma/\gamma)(U_2).
\]

On the other hand, we compute:

\[
m^{1,3} \circ (\Phi \otimes \Phi) \circ \Delta_c(\Gamma)
\]

\[
= m^{1,3} \circ (\Phi \otimes \Phi) \left( \sum_{V_1 \sqcup V_2 = V(\Gamma), V_2 < V_1} \Gamma(V_1) \otimes \Gamma(V_2) \right)
\]

\[
= m^{1,3} \left( \sum_{V_1 \sqcup V_2 = V(\Gamma), V_2 < V_1} \sum_{\gamma' \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma(V_1)} \sum_{\gamma'' \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma(V_2)} \gamma' \otimes \Gamma(V_1)/\gamma' \otimes \gamma'' \otimes \Gamma(V_2)/\gamma'' \right)
\]

\[
= \sum_{V_1 \sqcup V_2 = V(\Gamma), V_2 < V_1} \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \sum_{\gamma' \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma(V_1)} \gamma' \otimes \Gamma(V_1)/\gamma' \otimes \Gamma(V_2)/\gamma''
\]

\[
= \sum_{U_1 \sqcup U_2 = V(\Gamma/\gamma), U_2 < U_1} \sum_{\gamma \text{ poset-compatible covering subgraph of } \Gamma} \gamma \otimes (\Gamma/\gamma)(U_1) \otimes (\Gamma/\gamma)(U_2),
\]

which proves the theorem. \(\square\)
5. Discarding External Edges

The whole discussion can be carried out from the beginning, dealing with graphs with only internal edges, leading to a bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}$ and a Hopf algebra $\mathcal{K}$, as well as to their variants $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_{1PI}$, $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_{CF}$, $\mathcal{K}_{CF1PI}$, $\mathcal{K}_{1PI}$, $\mathcal{K}_{CF}$ and $\mathcal{K}_{CF1PI}$. The definition of a subgraph remains the same except that we discard the external edges which could appear. As an example we compute on our favorite example the analog of the coproduct $\Delta$ of Secs. 3.1 and 3.2 respectively in this new framework:

$$\Delta(\begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array}) = \cdots \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} + \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes 2 \cdot \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} + \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array},$$

(19)

$$\Delta(\begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array}) = 1 \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} + \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes 1 + 2 \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} + \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array}.$$  (20)

The computations for the cycle-free variants are the same except that we discard the last term. Locally 1PI variants are straightforward and left to the reader. The admissible cut coproduct of Sec. 4.1 reads on the “triangle” graph:

$$\Delta_c(\begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array}) = \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes 1 + 1 \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} + \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{c}
\circ \\
\end{array}.$$

(21)

The coproduct $\Delta$ of $\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_{CF}$ coincides on rooted forests with the coproduct of the bialgebra $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ of [2], and the coproduct $\Delta_c$ coincides on rooted forests with the Connes–Kreimer coproduct $\Delta_{CK}$. The main difference here is that there are no pre-Lie structures [10] associated with these Hopf algebras of Feynman graphs, which are not right-sided in the sense of [9].

It would be interesting to develop objects similar to B-series such that “composition” and “substitution” of these objects are reflected by this construction, thus generalizing [3] and [2].

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