HOMOTOPICAL RIGIDITY OF THE PRE-LIE OPERAD

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This paper is dedicated to Martin Markl on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday

ABSTRACT. We show that the celebrated operad of pre-Lie algebras is very rigid: it has no “non-obvious” degrees of freedom from either of the three points of view: deformations of maps to and from the “three graces of operad theory”, homotopy automorphisms, and operadic twisting.

INTRODUCTION

Recall that a pre-Lie algebra is a vector space equipped with a bilinear operation $a, b \mapsto a \triangleright b$ satisfying the identity

$$((a_1 \triangleright a_2) \triangleright a_3) - a_1 \triangleright (a_2 \triangleright a_3) = (a_1 \triangleright a_3) \triangleright a_2 - a_1 \triangleright (a_3 \triangleright a_2),$$

known as the pre-Lie identity or the right-symmetric identity. Pre-Lie algebras appear in a wide range of contexts across pure and applied mathematics, from algebra and combinatorics to differential geometry, numerical methods, and theory of renormalisation. In this paper, we study the operad of pre-Lie algebras from the homotopy theory viewpoint.

It is almost immediate from the definition that each pre-Lie algebra may be regarded as a Lie algebra with the bracket $[a, b] := a \triangleright b - b \triangleright a$, each associative algebra may be regarded as a pre-Lie algebra, and, of course, each commutative associative algebra may be regarded as a pre-Lie algebra. These facts correspond to statements on the level of operads: namely, there are maps of the corresponding operads which induce these functors between categories of algebras. The first goal of this paper is to show that deformation complexes of these maps to and from the operad $\text{PreLie}$ are acyclic. Moreover, the deformation complex of the identity map of the operad $\text{PreLie}$ is also acyclic, implying that the only homotopy automorphisms of the operad $\text{PreLie}$ are the intrinsic ones given by re-scaling. Our second goal is to study the result of applying to the operad $\text{PreLie}$ the general construction of operadic twisting due to Thomas Willwacher [Wil15]. We compute the homology of the operad $\text{Tw(PreLie)}$, showing that it coincides with the operad $\text{Lie}$. Our main motivation to study the operad $\text{Tw(PreLie)}$ was coming from search of operations that are naturally defined on deformation complexes of maps of operads. Our theorem shows that the only homotopy invariant structure one may define functorially starting from the convolution pre-Lie algebra structure is that of a dg Lie algebra.

Both results of this paper are strongly connected to Martin Markl’s work on deformation theory. Deformation theory of maps of operads was developed by van der Laan [vdL04] drawing as an inspiration from Markl’s work on models for operads and the cotangent cohomology [Mar96a, Mar96b]. Moreover, it appears that the first time the deformation complex of the identity map of a Koszul operad received substantial attention was in paper [Mar07a] where Markl proposed a general framework for studying natural operations on homology of deformation complexes; in that paper, the deformation complex of the identity map was christened the “soul of the cohomology of $P$-algebras”. That paper also features Markl’s version of the Deligne conjecture for the operad Lie [Mar07a, Conj. 7] stating that the shifted Lie algebra structure is the only natural homotopy invariant algebraic structure defined on cotangent complexes of Lie algebras; this led to a sequel paper [Mar07b] where Markl gave a beautiful but mysterious cohomological description of Lie elements in free pre-Lie algebras. In fact, we found a way to de-mystify that description: the cryptic construction of the operad $rPL$ in [Mar07b] is best understood in the context of the operadic twisting, as a sort of a “soul” of the operad $\text{Tw(PreLie)}$. As a consequence, an earlier related result of Willwacher [Wil17, Th. 3.6] does in fact settle Markl’s version of the Deligne conjecture for deformations of Lie algebras. In view of all these connections, it is only natural that we wish to dedicate our work to Martin for his birthday, wishing him many happy returns of the day.

1A perhaps unfortunate consequence of this terminology is that cohomology of algebras over many important operads ends up being soulless.
Our arguments use filtration arguments that appear quite often when working with graph complexes [Wil15, Wil17], so in addition to furnishing the proofs of several new results, this paper hopefully might serve a pedagogical purpose, giving the reader an insight into several useful tricks that are normally hidden deep inside very condensed papers.

For all the relevant definition from the operad theory we refer the reader to the monograph [LV12]. All vector spaces in this paper are defined over a field $k$ of characteristic zero, and all chain complexes are homological (with the differential of degree $-1$). We use the symbol $s$ to handle suspensions, and the symbol $\mathcal{S}$ for operadic suspensions. When writing down elements of operads, we use small latin letters as placeholders; when working with algebras over operads that carry nontrivial homological degrees, there are extra signs which arise from applying operations to arguments via the usual Koszul sign rule.

1. **Combinatorics related to the pre-Lie operad**

Most of the arguments of this paper rely on the description of the operad $\text{PreLie}$ controlling pre-Lie algebras in terms of labelled rooted trees due to Chapoton and Livernet [CL01] (which was perhaps known to Cayley [Cay57]). In modern terms, the underlying $\mathfrak{S}$-module of the operad $\text{PreLie}$ is the linearisation of the species $\text{RT}$ of labelled rooted trees, and the operadic insertion of trees can be described combinatorially as follows. For a labelled rooted tree $S \in \text{RT}(J)$ and a labelled rooted tree $T \in \text{RT}(I)$, the composition $T \circ_i S$ is equal to the sum

$$\sum_{f: \{i\} \to J} T \circ_i^f S,$$

where the sum is over all functions $f$ from the set of incoming edges of the vertex labelled $i$ to the set $J$ of all vertices of $S$: the labelled rooted tree $T \circ_i^f S$ is obtained by grafting the tree $S$ in the place of the vertex $i$, and grafting the subtrees growing from the vertex $i$ in $T$ at the vertices of $S$ according to the function $f$, so that the set of incoming edges of each vertex $j$ becomes $\text{in}_S(j) \cup f^{-1}(j)$. For example, we have

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The Koszul dual operad $\text{PreLie}^!$ is also very easy to describe combinatorially. That operad is usually denoted $\text{Perm}$, and the corresponding algebras are called permutative algebras; a permutative algebra is an associative algebra that additionally satisfies the identity $a_1 a_2 a_3 = a_1 a_3 a_2$. It is clear that the underlying species of the operad $\text{Perm}$ is the species of sets with one marked element (the first element of the $n$-fold product), so the corresponding representation of the symmetric group is the standard permutation representation. While permutative algebras themselves do not often arise naturally, the operad $\text{Perm}$ is used in an important general construction of the operad theory going back to work of Chapoton [Cha01]: for any operad $P$, one may define the operad of $P$-dialgebras as the Hadamard product $P \hat{\otimes} \text{Perm}$. Intuitively, one should think of $P$-dialgebras as of $P$-algebras with one element underlined. In some proofs of this paper, we shall encounter associative dialgebras [Lod01] and pre-Lie dialgebras [Fel11, Kol08].

2. **Deformation theory for maps of Koszul operads**

In this section, we assume each operad $P$ reduced ($P(0) = 0$), connected ($P(1) \cong k$), and with finite-dimensional components. We begin with briefly recalling a particular case of the general results of [MV09, vdL04] that highlight the role of pre-Lie algebras in deformation theory; these instances of pre-Lie algebras serve as a motivation for Section 5 of this paper. Let $P$ be a Koszul operad, and let $f: P \to Q$ be a map from $P$ to a dg operad $Q$. In this case, the general recipe for computing the deformation complex of the map $f$ produces a small and tractable chain complex in several easy steps. First, one should consider the convolution operad between the Koszul dual cooperad of $P$ and the dg operad $Q$: its underlying dg $\mathfrak{S}$-module is $\text{Hom}(P, Q)$, and the operad composition maps $\circ_i$ are computed using the general philosophy behind convolution products: to evaluate the operadic composition $\phi \circ_i \psi$ on $P \alpha$, one applies the cooperad decomposition map $\Delta_\alpha$ of the cooperad $P^!$ to $\alpha$, computes the tensor product of maps $\phi \otimes \psi$ on the result, and computes the composition $\circ_i$ of the operad $Q$. As any operad, the convolution operad can be made into a pre-Lie algebra using the formula

$$\phi \circ_i \psi = \sum_i \phi \circ_i \psi.$$
One can check that invariants of symmetric groups are closed under this convolution product, so one may consider the following convolution pre-Lie algebra

$$\operatorname{Hom}^S(\mathcal{P}^i, \mathcal{Q}) := \prod_{n \geq 1} \operatorname{Hom}(\mathcal{P}^i(n), \mathcal{Q}(n))^\mathbb{S}_n.$$  

Finally, using the Lie bracket $[a, b] := a \cdot b - b \cdot a$ mentioned in the introduction, one may consider that space as a Lie algebra called the convolution Lie algebra; it is a dg Lie algebra (with zero differential if the operad $\mathcal{Q}$ has zero differential). Recall that the Maurer–Cartan equation in a dg Lie algebra is the equation

$$d(a) + \frac{1}{2}[a, a] = 0,$$

and elements $a$ of degree $-1$ satisfying this condition are called Maurer–Cartan elements; it is possible to show that in our case of the convolution Lie algebra, Maurer–Cartan elements correspond to maps of operads from $\mathcal{P}_\infty = \Omega(\mathcal{P})$ to $\mathcal{Q}$. In general, a Maurer–Cartan element in a Lie algebra can be used to twist the differential, letting

$$d_a = d + [a, -].$$

We shall twist the differential in our dg Lie algebra using a particular Maurer–Cartan element $a$ corresponding to the map from $\mathcal{P}_\infty$ to $\mathcal{Q}$ that is obtained from $f$ by the pre-composition with the projection $\mathcal{P}_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{P}$. By definition, the deformation complex of map $f$ is the dg Lie algebra

$$\text{Def}(f: \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}) := (\operatorname{Hom}^S(\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{Q}), d_a).$$

This complex controls the deformation theory of the map $f$ in the following sense: the Maurer–Cartan elements of that differential graded Lie algebra, that is elements $\lambda$ of degree $-1$ satisfying

$$d_a(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}[\lambda, \lambda] = 0,$$

correspond to infinitesimal deformations of the morphism $f$; gauge equivalence of Maurer–Cartan elements corresponds to equivalence of deformations. In fact, one may replace the deformation complex by its homology with the transferred $L_\infty$-algebra structure: that $L_\infty$-algebra is filtered, so one may work with its Maurer–Cartan elements instead, not losing any information [Ber15, DR15].

We remark that it is common to remove the counit from the cooperad $\mathcal{P}_i$ and define the deformation complex as

$$\left(\operatorname{Hom}^S(\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{Q}), d_a\right).$$

Since our operads are assumed to be connected, the difference between the two complexes is a one-dimensional space, so it accounts just for one extra homology class. (If $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{P}$, the corresponding homology class accounts for the inner derivation of $\mathcal{P}$ given by the commutator with the operad unit, or, after exponentiation, to re-scaling operations [KS07, Rem. 6.3.3].) We prefer to work with the bigger complex $\operatorname{Hom}^S(\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{Q})$, since it allows for more elegant results; however, it is important to remember that the abovementioned extra homology class always exists.

Let us record here a homology computation (due to Markl) for deformation complex of the identity map for each of the “three graces of operad theory” which is one of the earliest such computations in the literature; particular cases of this results (for the homology in degrees 1 and 2) have also recently been re-proved in [BWX+20].

**Theorem 2.1** (Mar07a Th. 13 & Ex. 14). The following complexes are acyclic:

1. the deformation complex of the identity map of the Lie operad,
2. the deformation complex of the identity map of the commutative operad,
3. the deformation complex of the identity map of the associative operad.

Suppose that $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{X})/(\mathcal{R})$ and $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{Y})/(\mathcal{S})$ are two Koszul operads, and let us assume for simplicity that these operads are generated by binary operations (the reader is invited to adapt the proof for the general case). Suppose that $f: \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ is a map of operads induced by a map of quadratic data $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{R}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{S})$. It follows that we also have a map of Koszul dual cooperads $f^*: \mathcal{P}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}_i$. Moreover, under finite-dimensionality assumptions, one may dualise and take the Hadamard tensor product of the map $f^*: \mathcal{Y}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{X}^*$ with $s^{-1}S^{-1}$ to obtain a well defined map of operads $f^*: \mathcal{Q}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_i$. We remark that unlike in the case of linear duality, it is not possible to predict what properties the Koszul dual map of a map of operads would have:

\[\text{It would be fair to note that the argument of Mar07a, Ex. 14 needs a minor correction: for } n \geq 3 \text{ the } \mathbb{S}_n\text{-module } \text{Lie}(n) \text{ does not contain the sign representation [Kly74], so the deformation complexes for the identity maps of operads Com and Lie almost completely collapse even before passing to the homology.}\]
• the Koszul dual of the surjection PreLie → Com is the map Lie → Perm which is neither surjective nor injective (in fact, one can prove that the image of that map is isomorphic to the operad of Lie algebras satisfying the identity \([a_1, a_2], [a_3, a_4] = 0\),
• the Koszul dual of the embedding Lie → PreLie is the surjection Perm → Com,
• the Koszul dual of the surjection PreLie → Ass is the surjection Ass → Perm.

However, deformation complexes behave well under Koszul duality, as we shall now show.

**Theorem 2.2.** We have an isomorphism of differential graded Lie algebras

\[
\text{Def}(f: \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{Q}) \cong \text{Def}(f': \mathcal{Q}' \to \mathcal{P}').
\]

**Proof.** Let us use the notation \(f_\ast: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}\) for the map of generators which induces the map \(f: \mathcal{P} \to \mathcal{Q}\). The Maurer–Cartan element \(\alpha\) corresponding to the map \(f\) in the convolution Lie algebra \(\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{P}^!; \mathcal{Q})\) is equal to \(s^{-1}f_\ast\), where

\[
s^{-1}f_\ast \in s^{-1}\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) \cong \text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(s\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) \subset \text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{P}^!, \mathcal{Q}).
\]

Let us examine the formula for the deformation complex a bit closer. Using [LV12, Sec. 7.2.3], we note that the underlying \(\mathcal{S}\)-module of the convolution operad \(\text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}^!, \mathcal{Q})\) is

\[
(\mathcal{P}^!)^* \otimes \mathcal{Q} \cong \mathcal{S} \otimes \mathcal{P}^! \otimes \mathcal{Q},
\]

with the operad structure given by the factor-wise operad structure on the Hadamard tensor product, and that the \(\mathcal{S}\)-module of generators of the Koszul operad dual \(\mathcal{P}^!\) is \(s^{-1}S^{-1} \otimes \mathcal{X}^*\). In particular, the \(\mathcal{S}\)-submodule

\[
s^{-1}\mathcal{X}^* \otimes \mathcal{Q} \equiv \text{Hom}(s\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Q}) \subset \text{Hom}(\mathcal{P}^!, \mathcal{Q})
\]

consisting of maps supported at the cogenerators of \(\mathcal{P}^!\) is identified with the submodule

\[
\mathcal{S} \otimes \left(s^{-1}S^{-1} \otimes \mathcal{X}^*\right) \otimes \mathcal{Q}
\]

of the Hadamard product, and the space \(s^{-1}\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})\) is identified with

\[
(\mathcal{S}(2) \otimes (s^{-1}S^{-1}(2) \otimes \mathcal{X}^*(2)) \otimes \mathcal{Y}(2))^\mathcal{S}.
\]

Let us denote by \(\mu\) the basis element \(s^{-1}e_2 \equiv S(2)\) and by \(\nu\) the basis element \(s \in \otimes s \equiv S^{-1}(2)\). If we denote by \(\{x_i\}\) a basis of \(\mathcal{X}^*(2)\) and by \(\{x_i^\ast = s^{-1}v \otimes x_i^\ast\}\) the corresponding basis of \(\mathcal{X}^*(2)\), the element in the Hadamard product corresponding to the Maurer–Cartan element \(\alpha\) used to twist the differential is

\[
\sum_i \mu \otimes x_i^\ast \otimes f(x_i).
\]

Since the operad \(\mathcal{Q}\) is Koszul, we may use the same techniques for the map \(f'\). The corresponding convolution operad is

\[
\mathcal{S} \otimes \mathcal{P}^! \otimes \mathcal{Q} \equiv \mathcal{S} \otimes \mathcal{Q} \otimes \mathcal{P}^! \equiv \mathcal{S} \otimes (\mathcal{Q}^!)^\mathcal{S} \otimes \mathcal{P}^!.
\]

We note that this operad is isomorphic to the convolution operad corresponding to the morphism \(f\). Consequently, the convolution Lie algebra on \(\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{P}^!, \mathcal{Q})\) is isomorphic to that on \(\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}((\mathcal{Q}^!)^\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{P}^!)\). The canonical isomorphism

\[
\text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) \equiv \text{Hom}^\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{Y}^*, \mathcal{X}^*)
\]

sends \(f_\ast\) to \(f'^\ast\), which easily implies that under our identifications the Maurer–Cartan elements corresponding to \(f\) and \(f'\) are identified. This completes the proof. \(\square\)

In a particular case where \(\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{Q}\) and the map \(f\) is the identity map, this theorem states that the deformation theory of the identity map is the same for a Koszul operad and its dual. In the case of associative algebras (i.e. operads concentrated in arity one), the deformation complex of the identity map of a Koszul algebra \(A\) defined above has the same homotopy type as the Hochschild cohomology complex \(C^{\ast\ast}(A, A)\); for the case of operads it is an appropriate generalisation of the Hochschild complex. The fact that for a Koszul associative algebra the homotopy type of that differential graded Lie algebra is invariant under Koszul duality is due to Keller [Kel03].
3. Deformation complexes of map between the pre-Lie operad and the “three graces”

In this section, we show that the maps between the operad PreLie and the operads Com, Lie and Ass, christened by Jean–Louis Loday the “three graces of operad theory”, are homotopically rigid. It is easy to show that there are, up to re-scaling, just three such maps mentioned in the introduction: the projection from PreLie to Com sending the pre-Lie product to the product in the commutative operad, the map from Lie to PreLie sending \([a, b]\) to \(a \circ b - b \circ a\), and the projection from PreLie to Ass sending the pre-Lie product to the associative product.

3.1. The map to the commutative operad. Our first vanishing theorem uses a simple representation-theoretic argument.

**Theorem 3.1.** The deformation complex of the projection PreLie \(\rightarrow\) Com is acyclic.

**Proof.** In this case, the corresponding convolution dg Lie algebra is

\[
\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{PreLie}^e(n), \text{Com}(n))
\]
equipped with the differential \([\alpha, -]; \) here \(\alpha\) is the map that sends \(s(a_1 \circ a_2)\) to \(a_1 \cdot a_2\). The \(S_n\)-module isomorphism \(\text{PreLie}^e(n) \cong s^{n-1}\text{sgn}_n \otimes \text{Perm}(n)\) implies that

\[
\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{PreLie}^e(n), \text{Com}(n)) \cong \prod_{n \geq 1} s^{1-n} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{Perm}(n), \text{sgn}_n).
\]

Since the \(S_n\)-module \(\text{Perm}(n)\) is isomorphic to the standard permutation representation, it does not contain the sign representation for \(n \geq 3\). It follows that the convolution Lie algebra is concentrated in degrees zero and \(-1\); the differential of the class of degree 0 kills the class of degree \(-1\).

Using Theorem 2.2, we obtain the Koszul dual result.

**Corollary 3.2.** The deformation complex of the map Lie \(\rightarrow\) Perm is acyclic.

3.2. The map from the Lie operad. Our result of this section is the first slightly non-trivial rigidity theorem involving the pre-Lie operad. A similar but much simpler argument shows that the deformation complex of the analogous map from the Lie operad to the associative operad is also acyclic.

**Theorem 3.3.** The deformation complex of the inclusion Lie \(\rightarrow\) PreLie is acyclic.

**Proof.** The corresponding convolution Lie algebra is

\[
\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{Lie}^e(n), \text{PreLie}(n))
\]
equipped with the differential \([\alpha, -]; \) here \(\alpha\) is the map that sends \(s[a_1, a_2]\) to \(a_1 \circ a_2 - a_2 \circ a_1\). Because of the isomorphisms

\[
\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{Lie}^e(n), \text{PreLie}(n)) \cong \prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(s^{n-1}\text{sgn}_n, \text{PreLie}(n)) \cong s \prod_{n \geq 2} \text{PreLie}(n) \otimes_{S_n}(ks^{-1})^{\otimes n},
\]
it is obvious that if we shift the homological degrees by one, that algebra may be identified with the underlying space of the free pre-Lie algebra generated by the element \(s^{-1}\). Elements of that space are combinations of unlabelled rooted trees (or, rather, rooted trees whose vertices are all labelled \(s^{-1}\)). The Maurer–Cartan element \(\alpha\) in this case is the tree \(\square\). The differential \(d_{\alpha}\) is the “usual” graph complex differential [Kon93]: the image of each tree \(T\) is obtained by adding

- the sum over all vertices of \(T\) of all possible ways to split that vertex into two, and to connect the incoming edges of that vertex to one of the two vertices thus obtained, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to operadic insertions of the Maurer–Cartan element at vertices of \(T\)):

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- grafting the tree \(T\) at the new root, taken with the minus sign, and the sum of all possible ways to create one extra black leaf, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to operadic insertions of \(T\) at vertices of the Maurer–Cartan element).
Let us consider the filtration of this chain complex defined as follows. We define the frame of a tree $T$ of a rooted tree as the longest path starting from the root and consisting of vertices that have exactly one child (the last point of the frame is the first vertex with at least two children or a leaf). Consider the filtration by the number of vertices in a tree complementary to the frame. The differential of the associated graded chain complex increases the length of the frame and therefore has a much simpler differential: for a tree $T$ with the frame of even length, the differential just grafts $T$ at the new root, and for a tree with the frame of odd length, the differential is zero. This complex is manifestly acyclic.

Proof. We note that the span of all $e_n$ is an acyclic subcomplex (it is in fact isomorphic to the deformation complex of the map $\text{PreLie} \rightarrow \text{Ass}$), and the quotient by that subcomplex is also acyclic.

Using Theorem 2.2, we obtain the Koszul dual result.

**Corollary 3.4.** The deformation complex of the quotient map $\text{Perm} \rightarrow \text{Com}$ is acyclic.

3.3. The map to the associative operad. The next result can be viewed as a toy model of a deeper result proved in Section 4.

**Theorem 3.5.** The deformation complex of the quotient map $\text{PreLie} \rightarrow \text{Ass}$ is acyclic.

Proof. The corresponding convolution Lie algebra is

$$\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{PreLie}(n), \text{Ass}(n))$$

equipped with the differential $[\alpha, -]$; here $\alpha$ is the map that sends $s(a_1 < a_2)$ to $a_1 \cdot a_2$. The $S_n$-module isomorphism $\text{PreLie}(n) \cong s^{n-1} \text{sgn} \otimes \text{Perm}(n)$ implies that

$$\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{PreLie}(n), \text{Ass}(n)) \cong s \prod_{n \geq 1} (\text{Ass}(n) \otimes \text{Perm}(n)) \otimes_{S_n}(k, s^{-1})^\otimes n,$$

so if we shift the homological degrees by one, this convolution Lie algebra may be identified with the underlying space of the free associative dialgebra generated by the element $s^{-1}$. The Maurer–Cartan element $\alpha$ in this case is binary product $a_1 a_2$ with the first element underlined. If we denote by $e_n^i$ the product of $n$ copies of $s^{-1}$ where the $i$-th factor is underlined, we have

$$d(e_n^i) = e_{n+1}^i + (-1)^{n-1} e_{n+1}^i - \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} (-1)^{k-1} e_{n+1}^{i-k} - \sum_{k=i}^{n-1} (-1)^{k-1} e_{n+1}^i$$

or in other words,

$$d(e_n^i) = \begin{cases} e_{n+1}^i, & i \text{ odd, } n \text{ odd }, \\ e_{n+1}^i - e_{n+1}^{i-1}, & i \text{ odd, } n \text{ even }, \\ e_{n+1}^i + e_{n+1}^i - e_{n+1}^{i+1}, & i \text{ even, } n \text{ odd }, \\ -e_{n+1}^{i+1} - e_{n+1}^{i+1}, & i \text{ even, } n \text{ even }. \\ \end{cases}$$

We note that the span of all $e_n^i$ is an acyclic subcomplex (it is in fact isomorphic to the deformation complex of the map $\text{PreLie} \rightarrow \text{Ass}$), and the quotient by that subcomplex is also acyclic.

Using Theorem 2.2, we obtain the Koszul dual result.

**Corollary 3.6.** The deformation complex of the quotient map $\text{Ass} \rightarrow \text{Perm}$ is acyclic.

4. Deformation complex of the Pre-Lie operad

In this section, we use intuition coming from examples of Section 3 to prove the first “serious” rigidity theorem: the acyclicity of the deformation complex of the operad $\text{PreLie}$.

**Theorem 4.1.** The deformation complex of the identity map $\text{PreLie} \rightarrow \text{PreLie}$ is acyclic.

As we mentioned in the introduction, this result implies that the group of homotopy automorphisms of the operad $\text{PreLie}$ is the one-dimensional group of intrinsic automorphisms that multiply each element of the component $\text{PreLie}(n)$ by $\lambda^{n-1}$ for some scalar $\lambda$.

Proof. In this case, the corresponding convolution Lie algebra is

$$\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\text{PreLie}(n), \text{PreLie}(n))$$
equipped with the differential \([\alpha, -]\); here \(\alpha\) is the map that sends \(s(a_1 \circ a_2)\) to \(a_1 \circ a_2\). Arguing as in the proof of Theorem 3.5, we see that
\[
\prod_{n \geq 1} \text{Hom}_{S_n}((\text{PreLie})^i(n), \text{PreLie}(n)) \cong s \prod_{n \geq 1} (\text{PreLie}(n) \otimes \text{Perm}(n)) \otimes_{S_n} (k s^{-1})^{\otimes n},
\]
so if we shift the homological degrees by one, this convolution Lie algebra may be identified with the underlying space of the free pre-Lie dialgebra generated by the element \(s^{-1}\). For the reader who prefers a more combinatorial viewpoint, we would like to indicate that on the level of species, the set \(RT(n) \otimes \text{Perm}(n)\) represents Joyal’s vertebrates on \(n\) labelled vertices [Joy81]. Elements of that space are combinations of unlabelled rooted trees (or, rather, rooted trees whose vertices are all labelled \(s^{-1}\)) where one of the vertices (root or non-root) is distinguished; we call that vertex “special” and other vertices “normal”. The Maurer–Cartan element \(\alpha\) in this case is the tree \(\bigoplus\), where the black vertex is normal, and the white vertex is special: the distinguished vertex of the tree encoding the identity map of the operad \(\text{PreLie}\) is the root vertex. The differential \(d_\alpha\) is similar to the usual graph complex differential: the image of each tree \(T\) is obtained by adding

- the sum over all normal vertices of \(T\) of all possible ways to split that vertex into two normal ones, and to connect the incoming edges of that vertex to one of the two vertices thus obtained, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to operadic insertions of the Maurer–Cartan element at normal vertices of \(T\)):

- the sum over all possible ways to split the special vertex into two, and to connect the incoming edges of that vertex to one of the two vertices thus obtained, so that the one of the two vertices that is closer to root becomes the special vertex of the new tree (corresponding to the operadic insertion of the Maurer–Cartan element at the special vertex):

- grafting the tree \(T\) at the new root that becomes the special vertex in the new tree, taken with the minus sign, and the sum of all possible ways to create one extra normal leaf, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to operadic insertions of \(T\) at vertices of the Maurer–Cartan element).

To compute the homology of this complex, we shall argue in two steps. First, let us consider the space spanned by all trees whose special vertex is the root vertex (the degenerate vertebrates of [Joy81]). It is clear that this space is a subcomplex, moreover, if forgetting about the speciality of the root proves that this subcomplex is isomorphic to the standard graph complex discussed in the proof of Theorem 3.3. Thus, it is acyclic. The quotient by this subcomplex is spanned by the trees whose root vertex is normal. Let us consider the spine of such a tree defined as the path connecting the root to the special vertex. Clearly, the differential is made of terms that preserve the length of the spine and terms that increase it. We may consider the filtration for which the associated graded differential preserves the length of the spine. That associated graded complex splits as a sum of complexes with the spine of given length \(m\), and such summand is the \(m\)-fold tensor product of complexes corresponding to the individual trees attached along the vertices of the spine (this is a homological version of the relationship about vertebrates and rooted trees [Joy81, Ex. 9]). Each factor attached at a normal vertex is the standard graph complex discussed in the proof of Theorem 3.3, and since the root vertex is normal, there is at least one such factor. It remains to use the K"unneth formula to complete the proof.

Using Theorem 2.2, we obtain the Koszul dual result.

**Corollary 4.2.** The deformation complex of the identity map \(\text{Perm} \to \text{Perm}\) is acyclic.

### 5. Twisting of the pre-Lie operad

General operadic twisting was defined by Willwacher [Will15, Appendix I] to work with Kontsevich’s graph complexes; it is an endofunctor of the category of differential graded operads equipped with a morphism from the shifted operad \(L_\infty\). There exists a counterpart of that endofunctor for operads equipped with a morphism from the operad \(L_\infty\), see [DW15, Sec. 3.3]. In particular, the general definition can be applied to a dg operad \((P, d_P)\) equipped with a map of dg operads \(f: (\text{Lie}, 0) \to (P, d_P)\) that sends the generator of Lie to a certain binary operation of \(P\) that we denote \([\cdot, \cdot]\). In this case, the operad \(\text{Tw}(P)\), the result of applying the twisting
procedure to the operad $\mathcal{P}$, is a differential graded operad that can be defined as follows [DSV18]. Denote by $α$ a new operation of arity 0 and degree $−1$. The underlying non-differential operad of $\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$ is the completed coproduct $\mathcal{P}\vee\hat{\mathcal{K}}α$. To define the differential, one performs two steps. First, one considers the operad

$$\text{MC}(\mathcal{P}) = \left\{ \mathcal{P}\vee\hat{\mathcal{K}}α, d_\mathcal{P} + d_{\text{MC}} \right\},$$

where differential $d_\mathcal{P}$ is the differential of $\mathcal{P}$, and the differential $d_{\text{MC}}$ vanishes on $\mathcal{P}$ and satisfies $d_{\text{MC}}(α) = −\frac{1}{2}[α, α]$. An algebra over that operad is a dg $\mathcal{P}$-algebra with a Maurer–Cartan element. The element $ℓ^1_1 \in \text{MC}(\mathcal{P})(1)$ defined by the formula $ℓ^1_1(α_1) = [α, α_1]$ is an operadic Maurer–Cartan element of $\text{MC}(\mathcal{P})$ which we can use to twist the differential of that operad. One puts

$$\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P}) = \left\{ \mathcal{P}\vee\hat{\mathcal{K}}α, d_{\text{Tw}} = d_\mathcal{P} + d_{\text{MC}} + [ℓ^1_1, −] \right\}.$$ 

Note that the differential of $α$ now has a different sign:

$$d(α) + ℓ^1_1(α) = −\frac{1}{2}[α, α] + [α, α] = \frac{1}{2}[α, α].$$

Also, the operation $[−, −]$ inside $\mathcal{P} \subset \text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$ is a cycle: $d_{\text{Tw}}([−, −]) = 0$ since the operation $[−, −]$ is annihilated by $d_\mathcal{P}$ and satisfies the Jacobi identity. This means that there is a map of dg operads from $(\text{Lie}, 0)$ to $\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$.

The reason to be interested in the operad $\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$ is the following. Suppose that $A$ is a dg $\mathcal{P}$-algebra, and suppose that $α$ is a Maurer–Cartan element of the algebra $A$ viewed as a Lie algebra. As discussed in Section 2, one can twist the differential of $A$; the twisted dg Lie algebra $(A, d_α)$ can in fact be extended to a $\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$-algebra structure.

Let us remark that for each operad $\mathcal{P}$ with zero differential, all operations in the image of $d_{\text{Tw}}$ contain at least one occurrence of $α$. Thus, the image of $\text{Lie}$ in $\text{Tw}(\mathcal{P})$ on the level of cohomology is isomorphic to the image of the map $f : \text{Lie} → \mathcal{P}$. In case of the operad $\text{PreLie}$, the map $\text{Lie} → \text{PreLie}$ is injective (even the composite $\text{Lie} → \text{PreLie} → \text{Ass}$ is injective) so the inclusion of dg operads $\text{Lie} → \text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ is injective on the level of homology. We shall now prove that the homology of the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ is exhausted by the image of that inclusion. This result is close to [Will17, Th. 3.6]; its proof, like the one in loc. cit., mimics [LV14, Lemma 8.5].

**Theorem 5.1.** *The inclusion of dg operads $(\text{Lie}, 0) → \text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ induces a homology isomorphism.*

**Proof.** We shall examine the differential more carefully and then argue by induction on arity. The arity $n$ component $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})(n)$ is spanned by rooted trees with “normal” vertices labelled 1, ..., $n$ and a certain number of “special” vertices labelled $α$. The differential in $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ is similar to the usual graph complex differential: the image of each tree $T$ is obtained by adding

- the sum over all possible ways to split a normal vertex into a normal one retaining the label and a special one, and to connect the incoming edges of that vertex to one of the two vertices thus obtained, so that the term where the vertex further from the root retains the label is taken with the plus sign, and the other term is taken with the minus sign (corresponding to the operadic insertions of $ℓ^1_1$ at labelled vertices):

  ![Diagram](image)

- the sum over all special vertices of $T$ of all possible ways to split that vertex into two special ones, and to connect the incoming edges of that vertex to one of the two vertices thus obtained, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to computing the differential of the Maurer–Cartan element; here it is reasonable to note that in our case $\frac{1}{2}[α, α] = α < α$):

  ![Diagram](image)

- grafting the tree $T$ at the new special root, taken with the minus sign, and the sum of all possible ways to create one extra special leaf, taken with the plus sign (corresponding to operadic insertions of the tree $T$ at the only vertex of $ℓ^1_1$).
In particular, we note that $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie}) (0)$ is, as a complex, isomorphic to the deformation complex of the inclusion $\text{Lie} \to \text{PreLie}$ from Theorem 3.3, and as such is acyclic. Consider some arity $n > 0$, and the decomposition $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie}) (n) = V (n) \oplus W (n)$, where $V (n)$ is spanned by the trees where the normal vertex with label 1 has less than two incident edges, and $W (n)$ is spanned by the trees where the normal vertex with label 1 has at least two incident edges. The differential has components mapping $V (n)$ to $V (n)$, mapping $W (n)$ to $V (n)$, and mapping $W (n)$ to $W (n)$. We consider the filtration $F^* \text{Tw}(\text{PreLie}) (n)$ for which $F^p V (n)$ is spanned by trees from $V (n)$ with at least $p$ edges and $F^p W (n)$ is spanned by trees from $W (n)$ with at least $p + 1$ edges. In the associated spectral sequence, the first differential is merely the part of the full differential that maps $W (n)$ to $V (n)$; it takes the normal vertex labelled 1 in $T$, makes this vertex special, and creates a new normal univalent vertex labelled 1 that is connected to $v$:

![Diagram](image)

This map is clearly injective. For $n = 1$ its cokernel is spanned by the single one-vertex tree with its normal vertex labelled 1, proving that $\text{Lie}(1) \to \text{Tw}(\text{PreLie}) (1)$ is a quasi-isomorphism. For $n > 1$, the cokernel is spanned by the trees $T$ for which the normal vertex labelled 1 is univalent and connected to another normal one. It can be thus split into a direct sum of subcomplexes according to the number $k$ of that latter normal vertex; the number of such subcomplexes in arity $n$ is equal to $n − 1$. We may proceed by induction by erasing the normal vertex labelled 1: each of these subcomplexes is assumed to have homology $\text{Lie}(n - 1)$ of dimension $(n - 2)!$, so the total dimension of homology of $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ in arity $n$ is $(n - 1)!$ which is the same as the dimension of $\text{Lie}(n)$, implying that the inclusion of the operad Lie to the homology of the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ is an isomorphism. 

Our main motivation to study the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ was coming from search of operations that are naturally defined on deformation complexes. In the cases discussed in Section 2, those complexes arise from pre-Lie algebras, so for each of them the dg Lie algebra structure is in fact a part of a $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$-algebra structure. Our theorem shows that the only homotopy invariant structure one may define functorially starting from the original pre-Lie algebra is that of a dg Lie algebra.

6. Applications and further results

6.1. Lie elements in pre-Lie algebras. We shall now recall Markl’s criterion for Lie elements in the free pre-Lie algebra $\text{PreLie}(V)$ generated by a vector space $V$ [Mar07b], and discuss its relationship to Theorem 5.1. To state that criterion, one builds the pre-Lie algebra $r\text{PL}(V)$ defined by the formula

$$r\text{PL}(V) := \frac{\text{PreLie}(V \oplus k)}{(\circ \ll a),}$$

where $\circ$ is an additional generator of degree $−1$. It is possible to show that there exists a well defined map $d : r\text{PL}(V) \to r\text{PL}(V)$ of degree $−1$ that annihilates all generators and satisfies

$$d(a \ll b) = d(a) \ll b + (−1)^{|a|} a \ll d(b) + Q(a, b),$$

where $Q(a, b) = (\circ \ll a) \ll b - \circ \ll (a \ll b)$, and that $d^2 = 0$, so the pre-Lie algebra $r\text{PL}(V)$ becomes a chain complex. In [Mar07b], Markl proved the following beautiful result.

**Theorem 6.1** ([Mar07b, Th. 3.3]). *The subspace of Lie elements in $\text{PreLie}(V)$ equals the kernel of the differential $d$ on the space of degree 0 elements $r\text{PL}(V)_0 \cong \text{PreLie}(V)$:

$$\text{Lie}(V) \cong \ker(d : r\text{PL}(V)_0 \to r\text{PL}(V)_1).$$

In fact, as explained in *loc. cit.*, one can define a differential graded operad $r\text{PL}$ and view the chain complex $(r\text{PL}(V), d)$ as the result of evaluating the Schur functor corresponding to differential graded $S$-module $r\text{PL}$ on the vector space $V$.

To obtain a different interpretation of the $r\text{PL}$ construction, we recall that

$$d(a \ll b) - d(a) \ll b - (−1)^{|a|} a \ll d(b)$$

is simply the operadic differential $\delta(- \ll -) = [d, - \ll -]$ evaluated on the product $a \ll b$, so the differential of the pre-Lie product in the dg operad $r\text{PL}$ is equal to $Q(-, -)$. We now note that in terms of rooted trees one has

$$Q(a, b) = (\circ \ll a) \ll b - \circ \ll (a \ll b) = \bigcirc_{a \ll b}.$$
This brings us very close to the key revelation: in the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$, we have

$$d_{\text{Tw}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 1 \end{array},$$

so one must think of the element $\circ$ as a shadow of the element $\alpha \in \text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$. Now we are ready to make the connection precise. We note that the pre-Lie ideal of $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ generated by $\alpha \triangleright \alpha$ is closed under differential, and so one may consider the filtration by powers of that ideal and the associated graded chain complex. An argument identical to that in the proof of Theorem 5.1 can be used to compute the homology of the associated graded complex is already the operad $\text{Lie}$. In particular, one can prove the following result, confirming the expectation of [Mar07b, Problem 7.6].

**Proposition 6.2.** The quotient dg operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})/\langle \alpha \triangleright \alpha \rangle$ is isomorphic to the dg operad $\text{rPL}$, and we have

$$H_n(\text{rPL}, d_{\text{rPL}}) \cong \text{Lie}.$$ 

We also remark that one can consider [Wil17, Sec. 3.2] a version of the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie})$ where one only allows trees whose special vertices have at least two children. That operad is very close to Markl’s operad $\mathcal{B}_{\text{Lie}_{\infty}}$ of natural operations on deformation complexes of Lie$_{\infty}$-algebras, and to the Lie$_{\infty}$-version of the minimal operad of Kontsevich and Soibelman [KS00]. Thus, the fact that the homology of that operad is also isomorphic to the operad $\text{Lie}$ [Wil17, Th. 3.6] essentially settles Markl’s version of the Deligne conjecture for deformation complexes of Lie algebras [Mar07a, Conj. 7].

### 6.2. Deformation of maps into the brace operad

A natural companion of the pre-Lie operad from the combinatorial viewpoint is the operad $\text{Brace}$ of brace algebras discovered independently by Getzler [Get93], Kadeishvili [Kad88], and Ronco [Ron00]. Algebraically, it is an operad generated by infinitely many operations

$$\{a_0, a_1, \ldots, a_n\}, \quad n \geq 1,$$

satisfying a rather complicated system of identities. However, from the combinatorial point of view, one can realise that operad using labelled planar rooted trees with operadic insertions described by a planar analogue of the Chapoton–Livernet formula, see [Cha02, Foi02]. Let us record here two analogues of our results that can be proved by filtration arguments for graph complexes made of planar trees.

**Theorem 6.3.** The following complexes are acyclic:

1. The deformation complex of the map $\text{Lie} \to \text{Brace}$ sending $[a_1, a_2]$ to $[a_1; a_2] - \{a_2; a_1\}$,
2. The deformation complex of the map $\text{PreLie} \to \text{Brace}$ sending $a_1 \triangleright a_2$ to $\{a_1; a_2\}$.

We note that deformation theory of maps from the brace operad is much harder to study since that operad is not quadratic and therefore not Koszul.

### 6.3. Twisting of analogues of the pre-Lie operad

It is also possible to apply operadic twisting to the brace operad; the result is much more complicated than that for the pre-Lie operad. In fact, according to [DW15, Th. 9.3], the differential graded operad $\text{Tw}(\text{Brace})$ is quasi-isomorphic to the differential graded brace operad that prominently features in various proofs of the Deligne conjecture [GV95, KS00, MS02, VG95], which allows to compute the homology of the operad $\text{Tw}(\text{Brace})$.

**Theorem 6.4** ([DW15]). We have the operad isomorphism $H_0(\text{Tw}(\text{Brace})) \cong S$ Gerst.

In particular, one has

$$H_0(\text{Tw}(\text{Brace})) \cong \text{Lie},$$

and, as indicated in [Mar07b, Sec. 1.4], one can use it to describe Lie elements in free brace algebras. It is natural to ask for which Hopf cooperads $\mathcal{C}$ we have

$$H_0(\text{Tw}(\text{PreLie}_\mathcal{C})) \cong \text{Lie},$$

where $\text{PreLie}_\mathcal{C}$ is the operad of $\mathcal{C}$-enriched rooted trees [CW15, DF20] which coincides with $\text{PreLie}$ for $\mathcal{C} = \text{uCom}^*$ and with $\text{Brace}$ for $\mathcal{C} = \text{uAss}^*$. This question should be compared to a much more general conjecture of Markl [Mar07a, Conjecture 22].
Acknowledgements

We thank Martin Markl for comments on a draft version of this paper. Research of the second author was carried out within the HSE University Basic Research Program and supported in part by the Russian Academic Excellence Project ‘5-100’ and in part by the Simons Foundation. This work started during the second author’s visit to Trinity College Dublin which became possible because of the financial support of Visiting Professorships and Fellowships Benefaction Fund. Results of Section 2 (in particular, Theorem 2.2) have been obtained under support of the RSF grant No.19-11-00275.

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