

Deformation Theory of 3-Algebras

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Last October in Japan, one Taichi Takashita launched a campaign for the right to marry manga characters.

Telegraph.co.uk

Japanese launch campaign to marry comic book characters

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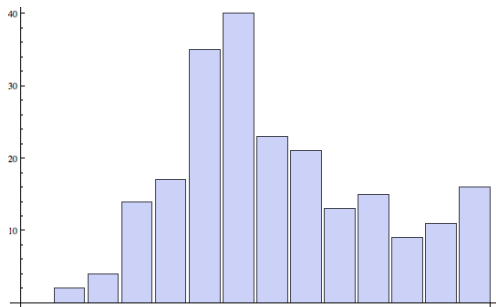
Telegraph.co.uk

Japanese launch campaign to marry comic book characters

His main reason:

"I am no longer interested in three dimensions."

For a while it seemed he was not alone:



Motivation

“One can learn a lot about a mathematical object by studying how it behaves under small perturbations.”

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Motivation

“One can learn a lot about a mathematical object by studying how it behaves under small perturbations.”

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Metric 3-Lie algebras have entered the collective consciousness as a result of the work of Bagger–Lambert and Gustavsson.

They are a natural language in which to formulate superconformal Chern–Simons + matter theories in 3 dimensions.

This talk will be about 3-algebra **deformations** in the sense of Gerstenhaber.

Deformations are always controlled by a cohomology theory — in this case, that of a **Leibniz algebra**.

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- 2 Cohomology of Leibniz algebras
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- 4 An explicit example

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Metric Lie algebras

Definition

A (real) **Lie algebra** is a real vector space \mathfrak{g} together with a bilinear alternating bracket $[-, -] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ satisfying the **Jacobi identity** for all $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{g}$:

$$[x, [y, z]] = [[x, y], z] + [y, [x, z]] .$$

It is said to be **metric** if \mathfrak{g} possesses a symmetric inner product $\langle -, - \rangle : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ obeying

$$\langle [x, y], z \rangle = - \langle y, [x, z] \rangle .$$

Metric 3-Lie algebras

Definition

A (real) **3-Lie algebra** is a real vector space V together with a trilinear alternating bracket $[-, -, -] : V \times V \times V \rightarrow V$ satisfying the **fundamental identity** for all $x, y, z_i \in V$:

$$[x, y, [z_1, z_2, z_3]] = [[x, y, z_1], z_2, z_3] \\ + [z_1, [x, y, z_2], z_3] + [z_1, z_2, [x, y, z_3]] .$$

It is said to be **metric** if V possesses a symmetric inner product $\langle -, - \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ obeying

$$\langle [x, y, z_1], z_2 \rangle = - \langle z_1, [x, y, z_2] \rangle .$$

The fundamental identity

Define $D : \Lambda^2 V \rightarrow \text{End } V$ by

$$D(x \wedge y)z = [x, y, z] .$$

The fundamental identity becomes

$$[D(X), D(Y)] = D(D(X) \cdot Y) ,$$

which says that $\text{im } D < \mathfrak{gl}(V)$. But **why?**

cf. The adjoint representation

The Jacobi identity for \mathfrak{g} may be written as

$$[\mathrm{ad}\,x, \mathrm{ad}\,y] = \mathrm{ad}[x, y] ,$$

where $\mathrm{ad} : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathrm{End}\, \mathfrak{g}$ is defined by $\mathrm{ad}(x)y := [x, y]$.

ad is a Lie algebra homomorphism, hence $\mathrm{im}\, \mathrm{ad} < \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{g})$.

Similarly, the most natural explanation for the image of \mathbb{D} to be a Lie subalgebra would be for \mathbb{D} to be a Lie algebra homomorphism.

Not quite a Lie bracket

It is therefore tempting to define a bracket on $\wedge^2 \mathcal{V}$ by

$$[X, Y] = D(X) \cdot Y ,$$

in terms of which the fundamental identity reads

$$[D(X), D(Y)] = D([X, Y]) .$$

However,

$$[X, Y] \neq -[Y, X] ;$$

although

$$[X, [Y, Z]] = [[X, Y], Z] + [Y, [X, Z]] .$$

In other words, $\wedge^2 \mathcal{V}$ becomes a **(left) Leibniz algebra** and the fundamental identity says that D is a Leibniz algebra homomorphism.

The associated metric Lie algebra

If V is a metric 3-Lie algebra, the map $D : \wedge^2 V \rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(V)$. Its image is not just a Lie subalgebra of $\mathfrak{so}(V)$, but is actually **metric**, with inner product

$$(D(x \wedge y), D(z \wedge w)) = \langle [x, y, z], w \rangle .$$

In fact, associated to every metric Lie subalgebra of $\mathfrak{so}(V)$ there is a metric 3-algebra, whose bracket need not be alternating.

The Faulkner construction

Let \mathfrak{g} be a metric Lie algebra with inner product $(-, -)$ and V a faithful representation. Transposing the \mathfrak{g} action on V , we obtain a map

$$\mathcal{D} : V \times V^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$$

defined by

$$(\mathcal{D}(v, w^*), X) = \langle w^*, X \cdot v \rangle \quad \text{for all } X \in \mathfrak{g}.$$

This defines a trilinear map $[-, -, -] : V \times V^* \times V \rightarrow V$ by

$$[u, v^*, w] := \mathcal{D}(u, v^*) \cdot w.$$

The unitary case

An important special case is when V is a (real, complex or quaternionic) unitary representation of \mathfrak{g} . This identifies V^* with either V or \bar{V} and hence the bracket defines a map

$$[-, -, -] : V \times \begin{matrix} V \\ \bar{V} \end{matrix} \times V \rightarrow V \quad \begin{matrix} \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{H} \\ \mathbb{C} \end{matrix}.$$

The real case corresponds to the generalised 3-Lie algebras of **CHERKIS+SÄMANN (2008)**, whereas the complex case contains the hermitian 3-algebras of **BAGGER+LAMBERT (2008)**.

These 3-algebras share the fundamental identity as well as the metricity condition, suggesting the following definition.

Metric 3-Leibniz algebras

Definition

A (real, left) **3-Leibniz algebra** is a real vector space V together with a trilinear bracket $[-, -, -] : V \times V \times V \rightarrow V$ satisfying the **Leibniz identity** for all $x, y, z_i \in V$:

$$[x, y, [z_1, z_2, z_3]] = [[x, y, z_1], z_2, z_3] \\ + [z_1, [x, y, z_2], z_3] + [z_1, z_2, [x, y, z_3]] .$$

It is said to be **metric** if V possesses a symmetric inner product $\langle -, - \rangle : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ obeying

$$\langle [x, y, z_1], z_2 \rangle = - \langle z_1, [x, y, z_2] \rangle .$$

The associated Leibniz algebra

Let now $D : V \otimes V \rightarrow \text{End } V$ be defined by

$$D(x \otimes y)z = [x, y, z] .$$

In terms of D , the Leibniz identity becomes

$$[D(X), D(Y)] = D(D(X) \cdot Y) ,$$

for all $X, Y \in V \otimes V$.

We introduce on $L(V) := V \otimes V$ the bracket

$$[X, Y] = D(X) \cdot Y ,$$

which turns $L(V)$ into a left Leibniz algebra.

The Daletskii functor

The assignment $V \mapsto L(V)$ is a **covariant functor** from the category of 3-Leibniz algebras to the category of Leibniz algebras.

Indeed, if $\varphi : V \rightarrow W$ is a homomorphism of 3-Leibniz algebras, so that

$$\varphi[x, y, z] = [\varphi x, \varphi y, \varphi z] ,$$

then $L\varphi : L(V) \rightarrow L(W)$ defined by

$$L\varphi(x \otimes y) = \varphi x \otimes \varphi y ,$$

is a homomorphism of Leibniz algebras.

The metric version

Let V be a **metric** 3-Leibniz algebra. On $L(V) = V \otimes V$ we have a natural inner product:

$$\langle x_1 \otimes y_1, x_2 \otimes y_2 \rangle = \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle \langle y_1, y_2 \rangle .$$

It follows that

$$\langle [X, Y], Z \rangle = - \langle Y, [X, Z] \rangle$$

making $L(V)$ into a **metric Leibniz algebra**.

$V \mapsto L(V)$ is also functorial in the metric subcategory.

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Leibniz algebras

Definition

A (real) **Leibniz algebra** L is a real vector space with a bilinear bracket $[-, -] : L \times L \rightarrow L$ satisfying the **Leibniz identity**

$$[X, [Y, Z]] = [[X, Y], Z] + [Y, [X, Z]] ,$$

for all $X, Y, Z \in L$.

If in addition $[X, Y] = -[Y, X]$ then L is a Lie algebra.
(Strictly speaking the above defines a **left** Leibniz algebra.)
Leibniz algebras were introduced by **Loday (1992)**.

The reduced Lie algebra

The subspace $K \subset L$ spanned by elements of the form $[X, X]$ is a 2-sided ideal:

$$[K, L] = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad [L, K] \subset K$$

Therefore $\mathfrak{g}_L := L/K$ is a Leibniz algebra which is Lie by construction. It is called the **reduced Lie algebra** of L .

Representations

The notion of representation of a Leibniz algebra is more subtle than for a Lie algebra.

As [L](#) itself shows, representations admit both left and right actions, which must obey some compatibility conditions.

We follow the treatment in [LODAY+PIRASHVILI \(1993\)](#).

Another look at Lie algebra representations

A representation of a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is the same thing as a short exact sequence of Lie algebras

$$0 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{g} \longrightarrow 0$$

with V abelian.

The Lie bracket in $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ gives an action of \mathfrak{g} on V , by lifting \mathfrak{g} to a *subspace* of $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$.

Abelian extensions of a Leibniz algebra

An **abelian extension** of a Leibniz algebra L is a short exact sequence of Leibniz algebras

$$0 \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow \tilde{L} \longrightarrow L \longrightarrow 0$$

with $[M, M] = 0$.

M admits both left and right actions of L :

$$L \times M \rightarrow M$$

$$(X, m) \mapsto [X, m]$$

$$M \times L \rightarrow M$$

$$(m, X) \mapsto [m, X]$$

subject to the Leibniz identity in \tilde{L} .

Representations

The Leibniz identity implies the following:

$$[[X, Y], m] = [X, [Y, m]] - [Y, [X, m]]$$

$$[[X, m], Y] = [X, [m, Y]] - [m, [X, Y]]$$

$$[[m, X], Y] = [m, [X, Y]] - [X, [m, Y]]$$

A **representation** of L is a vector space M admitting left and right actions of L subject to the above three conditions.

If $[m, X] = -[X, m]$, M is **symmetric** and only the first of the above conditions suffices. M is then induced from a representation of \mathfrak{g}_L .

The universal enveloping algebra

There is a categorical equivalence between representations of L and left modules over its **universal enveloping algebra** $UL(L)$, which is the quotient of the tensor algebra $T(L \oplus L)$ by the 2-sided ideal generated by

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{[X,Y]} - \ell_X \otimes \ell_Y + \ell_Y \otimes \ell_X \\ r_{[X,Y]} - \ell_X \otimes r_Y - r_Y \otimes \ell_X \\ r_Y \otimes (\ell_X + r_X) \end{aligned}$$

where $\ell_X = X \oplus 0$ and $r_X = 0 \oplus X$.

Cohomology

On the graded space

$$CL^\bullet(L, M) = \bigoplus_{p \geq 0} \text{Hom}(L^{\otimes p}, M)$$

we define a differential $d : CL^p(L, M) \rightarrow CL^{p+1}(L, M)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} (d\varphi)(X_1, \dots, X_{p+1}) &= \sum_{i=1}^p (-1)^{i-1} [X_i, \varphi(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, X_{p+1})] \\ &\quad + (-1)^{p+1} [\varphi(X_1, \dots, X_p), X_{p+1}] \\ &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p+1} (-1)^i \varphi(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, [X_i, X_j], \dots, X_{p+1}) \end{aligned}$$

$d^2 = 0$ because M is a representation and L a Leibniz algebra.
 The cohomology is denoted $HL^\bullet(L; M)$.

cf. Lie algebra cohomology

If M is a symmetric representation, then

$$\begin{aligned} (d\varphi)(X_1, \dots, X_{p+1}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{p+1} (-1)^{i-1} [X_i, \varphi(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, X_{p+1})] \\ &\quad + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq p+1} (-1)^i \varphi(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, [X_i, X_j], \dots, X_{p+1}) \end{aligned}$$

which is reminiscent of the Chevalley–Eilenberg differential computing Lie algebra cohomology.

The first few differentials

$$dm(X) = -[m, X]$$

$$d\varphi(X, Y) = [X, \varphi(Y)] + [\varphi(X), Y] - \varphi([X, Y])$$

$$\begin{aligned} d\theta(X, Y, Z) &= [X, \theta(Y, Z)] - [Y, \theta(X, Z)] - [\theta(X, Y), Z] \\ &\quad + \theta(X, [Y, Z]) - \theta(Y, [X, Z]) - \theta([X, Y], Z) \end{aligned}$$

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Deformations

A complex governing infinitesimal deformations of an n -Lie algebra was successfully defined by GAUTHERON (1996) after an initial attempt by TAKHTAJAN (1994).

DALETSKII+TAKHTAJAN (1997) rewrote Gautheron's work in terms of a subcomplex of $CL^\bullet(L; L)$.

We will see that the proper complex to study deformations is $CL^\bullet(L; \text{End } V)$.

The deformation complex

Let V be an 3-Leibniz algebra and $L := L(V)$ the associated Leibniz algebra. Both algebraic structures are determined by a map $D : L \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$.

A **deformation** of V is an analytic one-parameter family of 3-Leibniz algebras on the same underlying vector space:

$$[x, y, z]_t := [x, y, z] + \sum_{k \geq 1} t^k \Phi_k(x, y, z) ,$$

or equivalent a family D_t of maps

$$D_t = D + \sum_{k \geq 1} t^k \varphi_k ,$$

where $\varphi_k : L \rightarrow \text{End } V$ are defined by

$$\varphi_k(x, y) \cdot z = \Phi_k(x, y, z).$$

Infinitesimal deformations

The fundamental identity for D_t becomes an infinite number of equations for the φ_k , one per power of t .

The equation of order t^0 is the fundamental identity for D .

The equation of order t is a linear equation on φ_1 :

$$[D(X), \varphi_1(Y)] + [\varphi_1(X), D(Y)] - D(\varphi_1(X) \cdot Y) - \varphi_1(D(X) \cdot Y) = 0,$$

which, comparing with the [Leibniz differential](#) is simply $d\varphi_1 = 0$ for $\varphi_1 \in CL^1(L; \text{End } V)$ where

$$[X, \psi] = [D(X), \psi] \quad \text{and} \quad [\psi, X] = [\psi, D(X)] - D(\psi \cdot X),$$

for $\psi \in \text{End } V$. (One checks that $\text{End } V$ becomes a representation of L in this way.)

Trivial deformations

A deformation is **trivial** if it is the result of a one-parameter subgroup g_t of $GL(V)$:

$$[x, y, z]_t = g_t^{-1} [g_t x, g_t y, g_t z]$$

or, equivalently,

$$D_t(X) = g_t^{-1} \circ D(g_t X) \circ g_t .$$

If $g_t(x) = x + t\gamma(x) + \dots$, then at order t^0 the equation is trivially satisfied, whereas at order t^1 , one finds

$$\varphi_1(X) = -[\gamma, D(X)] + D(\gamma \cdot X) = -[\gamma, X] = d\gamma(X),$$

for $\gamma \in CL^0(L; \text{End } V)$.

Deformations and Leibniz cohomology

Theorem

Isomorphism classes of infinitesimal deformations of a 3-Leibniz algebra V are classified by $HL^1(L; \text{End } V)$, with

$$[X, \psi] = [D(X), \psi] \quad \text{and} \quad [\psi, X] = [\psi, D(X)] - D(\psi \cdot X) ,$$

for $\psi \in \text{End } V$ and $X \in L$.

Obstructions

Similarly one can show that obstructions to integrating an infinitesimal deformation live in $HL^2(L; \text{End } V)$. For example, to order t^2 , the fundamental identity for D_t says that

$$\begin{aligned} [D(X), \varphi_2(Y)] + [\varphi_2(X), D(Y)] + [\varphi_1(X), \varphi_1(Y)] \\ = D(\varphi_2(X) \cdot Y) + \varphi_2(D(X) \cdot Y) + \varphi_1(\varphi_1(X) \cdot Y) , \end{aligned}$$

which we recognise as

$$d\varphi_2(X, Y) = \varphi_1(\varphi_1(X) \cdot Y) - [\varphi_1(X), \varphi_1(Y)] .$$

The RHS is a cocycle in $CL^2(L; \text{End } V)$ which for the deformation to integrate to second order needs to be a coboundary.

Deformations of V vs. deformations of L

Deformations of V induce deformations of L and vice versa.
However, trivial deformations differ: $GL(V)$ vs. $GL(L)$!

One can study deformations of V in terms of $CL^\bullet(L; L)$, as do Daletskii and Takhtajan, but they are forced to restrict to a subcomplex. Neither do they go beyond infinitesimal deformations.

To consider obstructions it is computationally convenient to exhibit the structure of a graded Lie algebra on the relevant complex. This follows from work of BALAVOINE (1995) for $CL^\bullet(L; L)$ or of ROTKIEWICZ (2005) for a complex isomorphic to $CL^\bullet(L; \text{End } V)$ for V an n -Lie algebra.

The deformation complex as a graded Lie algebra

The following is analogous to the celebrated theorem of
NIJENHUIS+RICHARDSON (1967) for Lie algebra cohomology.

Theorem (Rotkiewicz, 2005)

The complex $CL^\bullet(L; \text{End } V)$ admits the structure of a graded Lie algebra in such a way that $d = [D, -]$ and the fundamental identity becomes $[D, D] = 0$.

The deformation equation

The fundamental identity for D_t is

$$[D_t, D_t] = 0 .$$

Suppose we have found a solution to order t^N , so that we have

$$D_N = D + \sum_{k=1}^N t^k \varphi_k$$

satisfying

$$[D_N, D_N] = t^{N+1} \xi + \dots$$

Then ξ is a cocycle:

$$[D, [D_N, D_N]] = [D - D_N, [D_N, D_N]] + [D_N, [D_N, D_N]] = O(t^{N+2})$$

Obstructions revisited

The deformation can be extended to D_{N+1} provided that $[\xi] = 0$ in $HL^2(L; \text{End } V)$, so that $\xi = -2d\varphi_{N+1}$. This leads to an infinite number of obstructions in $HL^2(L; \text{End } V)$.

Theorem

Infinitesimal deformations of a 3-Leibniz algebra V are classified by $HL^1(L; \text{End } V)$ and the obstructions to integrating an infinitesimal deformation live in $HL^2(L; \text{End } V)$.

3-Lie algebra deformations

If \mathcal{V} is a 3-Lie algebra, $L(\mathcal{V}) = \wedge^2 \mathcal{V}$ is the associated Leibniz algebra.

We again have $CL^\bullet(L; \text{End } \mathcal{V}), \dots$

However not every cocycle in $CL^1(L; \text{End } \mathcal{V})$ gives rise to a deformation of the 3-Lie algebra: the corresponding bracket need not be totally skewsymmetric.

We must restrict to a subcomplex C^\bullet agreeing with $CL^\bullet(L; \text{End } \mathcal{V})$ except in dimension 1, where $C^1 \subset CL^1(L; \text{End } \mathcal{V})$ consists of all $\varphi \in CL^1(L; \text{End } \mathcal{V})$ such that

$$\varphi(x, y) \cdot z = -\varphi(x, z) \cdot y .$$

C^\bullet is indeed a subcomplex.

Theorem

Infinitesimal deformations of a 3-Lie algebra \mathcal{V} are classified by $H^1(\mathcal{C}^\bullet)$ and the obstructions to integrating an infinitesimal deformation live in $H^2(\mathcal{C}^\bullet)$.

Metric 3-Leibniz algebra deformations

Here $D : L \rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(V)$, so we consider the subcomplex $CL^\bullet(L; \mathfrak{so}(V))$, which is also a graded Lie subalgebra.

Theorem

Infinitesimal deformations of a metric 3-Leibniz algebra V are classified by $HL^1(L; \mathfrak{so}(V))$ and the obstructions to integrating an infinitesimal deformation live in $HL^2(L; \mathfrak{so}(V))$.

Metric 3-Lie algebra deformations

We restrict the complex C^\bullet from $\text{End } V$ to $\mathfrak{so}(V)$. This yields a subcomplex \tilde{C}^\bullet which is also a graded Lie subalgebra.

Theorem

Infinitesimal deformations of a metric 3-Lie algebra V are classified by $H^1(\tilde{C}^\bullet)$ and the obstructions to integrating an infinitesimal deformation live in $H^2(\tilde{C}^\bullet)$.

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The unique simple 3-Lie algebra

Let $V = \mathbb{R}^4$ with the standard euclidean inner product and elementary vectors e_i . Then [FILIPPOV \(1980\)](#) showed that

$$[e_i, e_k, e_l] = \varepsilon_{ijkl} e_l$$

defines a 3-Lie algebra, denoted S_4 . Its complexification is the unique simple 3-Lie algebra, as shown by [LING \(1993\)](#). It is also the unique nonabelian positive-definite indecomposable metric 3-Lie algebra, as shown by [NAGY \(2007\)](#) and also by [PAPADOPOULOS \(2008\)](#) and [GAUNTLETT–GUTOWSKI \(2008\)](#). (This had been conjectured by [FO+PAPADOPOULOS \(2003\)](#).)

The Leibniz algebra

The associated Leibniz algebra is $\wedge^2 \mathbb{R}^4$ with basis $e_{ij} := e_i \wedge e_j$ and bracket

$$[e_{ij}, e_{kl}] = \varepsilon_{ijkm} e_{ml} + \varepsilon_{ijlm} e_{km}.$$

The image \mathfrak{g} of D is all of $\mathfrak{so}(4)$, whence D is an isomorphism. The Leibniz algebra is Lie and isomorphic to $\mathfrak{so}(4)$, but **not** as metric Lie algebras! In \mathfrak{g} the inner product is

$$(D(e_{ij}), D(e_{kl})) = \varepsilon_{ijkl},$$

whereas in L , it is

$$\langle e_{ij}, e_{kl} \rangle = \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} - \delta_{il} \delta_{jk}.$$

Deformations

It follows from an explicit computation that S_4 is **rigid** as a 3-Lie algebra, whereas it admits a one-parameter deformation as a 3-Leibniz algebra

$$[e_i, e_j, e_k]_t = \varepsilon_{ijkl} e_l + t(\delta_{jk} e_i - \delta_{ik} e_j)$$

which is metric and already of Cherkis–Sämman type, whence it can be understood from the Faulkner construction.

Interpretation

The metric Lie algebra in the Faulkner construction of S_4 is $\mathfrak{g} \cong \mathfrak{so}(4) \cong \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(3)$, which is metric relative to a one-parameter family of inner products, up to rescalings.

- $t = 0$ This corresponds to S_4 and to an inner product on \mathfrak{g} which has split signature.
- $t = \pm 1$ This is “singular” from the Faulkner perspective: the inner product on \mathfrak{g} becomes degenerate: it vanishes on one of the $\mathfrak{so}(3)$ factors. Actually the Faulkner Lie algebra should also be $\mathfrak{so}(3)$.
- $t > 1$ inner product is negative-definite
- $t < 1$ inner product is positive-definite
- $t^2 < 1$ inner product is split
- $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ 3-algebra approaches the metric Lie triple system associated to S^4 as the riemannian symmetric space $SO(5)/SO(4)$

Open questions

- We need more computable examples!
- How to compute Leibniz cohomology? Are there analogous results to the Whitehead lemmas and/or the Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence?
- Systematic interpretation of the deformations of metric 3-Leibniz algebras in terms of deformations of their Faulkner data.
- How do these deformations manifest themselves in the corresponding superconformal field theory?