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THE NON-SYMMETRIC OPERAD PRE-LIE IS FREE

NANTEL BERGERON AND MURIEL LIVERNET

ABSTRACT. We prove that the pre-Lie operad is a free non-symmetric operad.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1. The pre-Lie operad and rooted trees	2
2. A gradation on labelled rooted trees	5
3. The operad pre-Lie is free as a non-symmetric operad	7
References	10

INTRODUCTION

Operads are a specific tool for encoding type of algebras. For instance there are operads encoding associative algebras, commutative and associative algebras, Lie algebras, pre-Lie algebras, dendriform algebras, Poisson algebras and so on. A usual way of describing a type of algebras is by giving the generators and relations. For instance a Lie algebra L is a vector space together with a bilinear product, the bracket (the generator) satisfying the relations $[x, y] = -[y, x]$ and $[x, [y, z]] + [y, [z, x]] + [z, [x, y]] = 0$ for all $x, y, z \in L$. The vector space of all operations one can perform on n distinct variables in a Lie algebra is $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$, the building block of the symmetric operad $\mathcal{L}ie$. Composition in the operad corresponds to composition of operations. The vector space $\mathcal{L}ie(n)$ has a natural action of the symmetric group, so it is a symmetric operad. The case of associative algebras can be considered in two different ways. An associative algebra A is a vector space together with a product satisfying the relation $(xy)z = x(yz)$. The vector space of all operations one can perform on n distinct variables in an associative algebra is $\mathcal{A}s(n)$, the building block of the symmetric operad $\mathcal{A}s$. The vector space $\mathcal{A}s(n)$ has for basis the symmetric group S_n . But, in view of the relation, one can look also at the vector space of all ordered-preserving operations one can perform on n distinct ordered variables in an associative algebra: this is a vector space of dimension 1 generated by the only operation $x_1 \cdots x_n$. So the non-symmetric operad $\widetilde{\mathcal{A}s}$ describing associative algebras is 1-dimensional for each n : this is the terminal object in the category of non-symmetric operads.

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Here is the picture between symmetric and non-symmetric operads. A symmetric operad \mathcal{P} starts with a graded vector space $(\mathcal{P}(n))_{n \geq 0}$ together with an action of the symmetric group S_n on $\mathcal{P}(n)$ for each n . This data is called a symmetric sequence or an \mathbb{S} -module or a vector species. There is a forgetful functor from vector species to graded vector spaces, forgetting the action of the symmetric group. This functor has a left adjoint \mathcal{S} which corresponds to tensoring by the regular representation of the symmetric group. A symmetric operad is an operad in the category of vector species and a non-symmetric operad is an operad in the category of graded vector spaces. The symmetric operad $\mathcal{A}s$ is the image by \mathcal{S} of \star . It is clear that $\mathcal{L}ie$ is not in the image of \mathcal{S} since the Jacobi relation does not respect the order of the variables $x < y < z$ nor the anti-symmetry relation. Still one can regard $\mathcal{L}ie$ as a non-symmetric operad applying the forgetful functor. Salvatore and Tauraso proved in [6] that the operad $\mathcal{L}ie$ is a free non-symmetric operad.

A free non-symmetric operad describes type of algebras which have a set of generating operations and no relations between them. For instance, magmatic algebras are vector spaces together with a bilinear product. There is a well known free non-symmetric operad, built on Stasheff polytopes, see e.g. [7]. Algebras over this operad are vector spaces V together with an n -linear product: $V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V$ for each n . In a homotopy theory point of view, the category of operads is a Quillen category and free operads play an essential role in the homotopy category. One wants to replace an operad \mathcal{P} by a quasi-free resolution, that is, a free operad together with a differential such that its homology gives \mathcal{P} . For instance, a quasi-free resolution of $\widetilde{\mathcal{A}s}$, the non-symmetric operad for associative algebras is given by the Stasheff polytopes and algebras over it are A_∞ -algebras (associative algebras up to homotopy). This gives us the motivation for studying whether a given symmetric operad is free as a non-symmetric operad or not.

In this paper we prove that the operad pre-Lie is a free non-symmetric operad. Pre-Lie algebras are vector spaces together with a bilinear product satisfying the relation $(x * y) * z - x * (y * z) = (x * z) * y - x * (z * y)$. The operad pre-Lie is based on labelled rooted trees which are of combinatorial interest. In the process of proving the main result, we describe another operad denoted \mathcal{T}_{Max} also based on rooted trees and having the advantage to be a set operad. We prove that it is a free non-symmetric operad. The link between the two operads is made via a gradation on labelled rooted trees.

1. THE PRE-LIE OPERAD AND ROOTED TREES

We first recall the definition of the pre-Lie operad based on labelled rooted trees as in [3]. For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$ is denoted by $[n]$ and $[0]$ denotes the empty set. The symmetric group on k letters is denoted by S_k . There are many equivalent definitions of operads and we refer to [5] for basics on operads. Here are the definitions needed for the sequel.

Definition 1.1. A *non-symmetric operad* is a graded vector space $(\mathcal{P}(n))_{n \geq 1}$ together with compositions $\circ_i : \mathcal{P}(n) \otimes \mathcal{P}(m) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(n + m - 1)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ satisfying the

following relations: for $a \in \mathcal{P}(n)$, $b \in \mathcal{P}(m)$ and $c \in \mathcal{P}(\ell)$

$$\begin{aligned} (a \circ_i b) \circ_{j+i-1} c &= a \circ_i (b \circ_j c), & \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq m, \\ (a \circ_i b) \circ_j c &= (a \circ_j c) \circ_{i+\ell-1} b, & \text{for } j < i. \end{aligned}$$

If in addition each $\mathcal{P}(n)$ is acted on the right by the symmetric group S_n and the compositions are equivariant with respect to this action, then the collection $(\mathcal{P}(n))_n$ forms a *symmetric operad*. An *algebra* over an operad \mathcal{P} is a vector space X endowed with evaluation maps

$$\begin{aligned} ev_n : \quad \mathcal{P}(n) \otimes X^{\otimes n} &\rightarrow X \\ p \otimes x_1 \otimes \dots \otimes x_n &\mapsto p(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{aligned}$$

compatible with the compositions \circ_i : for $p \in \mathcal{P}(n)$, $q \in \mathcal{P}(m)$, $x'_i \in X$ one has

$$(p \circ_i q)(x_1, \dots, x_{n+m-1}) = p(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, q(x_i, \dots, x_{i+m-1}), x_{i+m}, \dots, x_{n+m-1}).$$

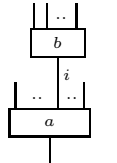
If the operad is symmetric the evaluation maps are required to be equivariant with respect to the action of the symmetric group as follows:

$$(p \cdot \sigma)(x_1, \dots, x_n) = p(x_{\sigma^{-1}(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma^{-1}(n)}).$$

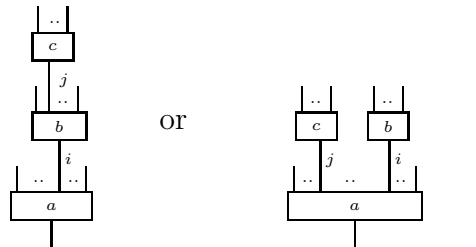
Remark 1.2. *Planar tree of operations:* a convenient way to uniquely represent composition of operations in a non-symmetric operad \mathcal{P} is to use a planar tree. An element $a \in \mathcal{P}(n)$ is represented by a planar tree with a single trunk (outgoing edge), one vertex labelled by a and n leaves (incoming edges):



The n leaves are counted from left to right as $1, 2, \dots, n$. Now if we have $a \in \mathcal{P}(n)$, $b \in \mathcal{P}(m)$ and $1 \leq i \leq n$ we represent the composition $a \circ_i b$ by the planar tree



The resulting tree has $n + m - 1$ leaves (counted from left to right) and represents an element of $\mathcal{P}(n + m - 1)$. The two relations in Definition 1.1 corresponds to the following two trees: for $a \in \mathcal{P}(n)$, $b \in \mathcal{P}(m)$ and $c \in \mathcal{P}(\ell)$ we can have



Each relation is obtained by writing down the two ways of interpreting the tree as a composition of operations. In general a planar tree $\mathbb{T}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$ with k vertices

labelled by elements $a_i \in \mathcal{P}(n_i)$ where n_i is the number of incoming edges at the i th vertex, corresponds to a unique composition of operations in \mathcal{P} independent of any relations. Any full subtree of $\mathbb{T}(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k)$ is completely determined by the position of its leaves; they form an interval $[p, q]$ where $1 \leq p \leq q \leq n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_k - k + 1$.

Definition 1.3. Let S be a set. An S -labelled rooted tree is a non planar rooted tree whose vertices are in bijection with S . If $S = [n]$, then we talk about n -labelled rooted trees and denote by $\mathcal{T}(n)$ the set of those trees. It is acted on by the symmetric group by permuting the labels.

The set $\mathcal{T}(3)$ has for elements:

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} \begin{array}{c} 2 \quad 3 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 2 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 2 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 3 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ | \\ 2 \\ | \\ 1 \\ \circ \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ | \\ 3 \\ | \\ 1 \\ \circ \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 3 \\ | \\ 2 \\ \circ \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ | \\ 1 \\ | \\ 2 \\ \circ \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ | \\ 1 \\ | \\ 3 \\ \circ \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 2 \\ | \\ 3 \\ \circ \end{array} \end{array}$$

In general $\mathcal{T}(n)$ has n^{n-1} elements (see [1] for more details).

We denote by $k\mathcal{T}(n)$ the k -vector space spanned by $\mathcal{T}(n)$.

Theorem 1.4. [3, theorem 1.9] *The collection $(k\mathcal{T}(n))_{n \geq 1}$ forms a symmetric operad, the operad pre-Lie denoted by \mathcal{PL} . Algebras over this operad are pre-Lie algebras, that is, vector spaces L together with a product $*$ satisfying the relation*

$$(x * y) * z - x * (y * z) = (x * z) * y - x * (z * y), \quad \forall x, y, z \in L.$$

We recall the operad structure of \mathcal{PL} as explained in [3]. A rooted tree is naturally oriented from the leaves to the root, so it makes sense to define the set of incoming vertices of a vertex i denoted by $\text{In}(T, i)$. There is also at most one outgoing vertex of a vertex i depending whether i is the root of T or not. For $T \in \mathcal{T}(n)$ and $S \in \mathcal{T}(m)$, we define

$$T \circ_i S = \sum_{f: \text{In}(T, i) \rightarrow [m]} T \circ_i^f S,$$

where $T \circ_i^f S$ is the rooted tree obtained by substituting the tree S for the vertex i in T . The outgoing vertex of i , if it exists, becomes the outgoing vertex of the root of S , whereas the incoming vertices of i are grafted on the vertices of S according to the map f . The root of $T \circ_i^f S$ is the root of T or the root of S in case i is the root of T . There is also a relabelling of the vertices of T and S in $T \circ_i^f S$: we add $i - 1$ to the labels of S and $m - 1$ to the ones of T which are greater than i . Here is an example:

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 2 \end{array} \circ_2 \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 2 \\ \circ \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 4 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 2 \end{array} \circ_2 \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ | \\ 3 \\ \circ \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 4 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 4 \\ | \\ 3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 4 \\ | \\ 1 \\ | \\ 3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 2 \quad 4 \\ \diagdown \quad / \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \\ 3 \end{array} \end{array}$$



2. A GRADATION ON LABELLED ROOTED TREES

We introduce a gradation on labelled rooted trees. We prove that in the expansion of the composition of two rooted trees in the operad pre-Lie there is a unique rooted tree of maximal degree and a unique tree of minimal degree, yielding new non-symmetric operad structures on labelled rooted trees.

Definition 2.1. Let T be an n -labelled rooted tree. Let $\{a, b\}$ denote a pair of two adjacent vertices labelled by a and b . The degree of $\{a, b\}$ is $|a - b|$. The degree of T denoted by $\deg(T)$ is the sum of the degrees of its pairs of adjacent vertices. For instance

$$\deg(\begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 2 \end{array}) = 2, \quad \deg(\begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 4 \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \circ \\ | \\ \circ \\ | \\ 3 \end{array}) = 4, \quad \deg(\begin{array}{c} 4 \\ | \\ \circ \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 2 \quad 1 \\ | \\ \circ \\ | \\ 3 \end{array}) = 5, \quad \deg(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ \circ \\ / \quad \backslash \\ 2 \quad 4 \\ | \\ \circ \\ | \\ 3 \end{array}) = 3$$

Proposition 2.2. *In the expansion of $T \circ_i S$ in the operad pre-Lie, there is a unique tree of minimal degree and a unique tree of maximal degree.*

For instance, in the equation (1.2) the rooted tree of minimal degree 3 is  and the one of maximal degree 5 is . The other ones are of degree 4.

Proof– Any tree in the expansion of $T \circ_i S$ writes $U_f := T \circ_i^f S$ for some $f : \text{In}(T, i) \rightarrow [m]$. To compute the degree of U_f , we compute the degree of a pair of two adjacent vertices $\{a, b\}$ in U_f . There are 4 cases to consider: a) the pair was previously in S or b) it was previously in T and each vertex was different from i , or c) it was in T of the form $\{i, j\}$ for $j \in \text{In}(T, i)$ or d) if i is not the root of T it was of the form $\{i, k\}$ where k is the outgoing vertex of i .

In case a) the degree of the pair in U_f is the same as it was in S .

In case b), let $\{a', b'\}$ be the corresponding pair in T before relabelling. The degree d of the pair $\{a, b\}$ in U_f is the same as the degree d' of $\{a', b'\}$ except if $a' < i < b'$ or $b' < i < a'$, where $d = d' + m - 1$. Let $\text{gap}(T, i)$ be the number of adjacent pairs of vertices in T satisfying the latter condition.

In case c), let $\{i, j\}$ be the pair in T which gives the pair $\{a, b\}$ in U_f . Let d' be the degree of $\{i, j\}$. If $j < i$ then $\{a, b\} = \{f(j) + i - 1, j\}$. Its degree d is minimal and equals d' if $f(j) = 1$. It is maximal and equals $d' + m - 1$ if $f(j) = m$. If $j > i$ then $\{a, b\} = \{f(j) + i - 1, j + m - 1\}$. Its degree d is minimal and equals d' if $f(j) = m$. It is maximal and equals $d' + m - 1$ if $f(j) = 1$.

In case d), let d' be the degree of $\{i, k\}$. If $k < i$ then $\{a, b\} = \{s + i - 1, k\}$ where s is the label of the root of S . It has degree $d' + s - 1$. If $k > i$, then $\{a, b\} = \{s + i - 1, k + m - 1\}$ and has degree $(m - s) + d'$. Let $\epsilon(T, i, s)$ be $0, s - 1, m - s$ according to the different situations, 0 corresponding to the one where i is the root of T .

As a conclusion

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(T) + \deg(S) + \text{gap}(T, i)(m-1) + \epsilon(T, i, s) &\leq \deg(U_f) \leq \\ \deg(T) + \deg(S) + \text{gap}(T, i)(m-1) + \epsilon(T, i, s) + |\text{In}(T, i)|(m-1). \end{aligned}$$

There is a unique f_{Min} such that $\deg(U_{f_{\text{Min}}})$ is minimal and there is a unique f_{Max} such that $\deg(U_{f_{\text{Max}}})$ is maximal:

$$(2.1) \quad f_{\text{Min}}(k) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k < i, \\ m & \text{if } k > i, \end{cases}$$

$$(2.2) \quad f_{\text{Max}}(k) = \begin{cases} m & \text{if } k < i, \\ 1 & \text{if } k > i, \end{cases}$$

which ends the proof. \square

Theorem 2.3. *There are two different non-symmetric operad structures on the collection $(k\mathcal{T}(n))_{n \geq 1}$ given by the compositions $T \circ_i^{f_{\text{Min}}} S$ on the one hand and $T \circ_i^{f_{\text{Max}}} S$ on the other hand where f_{Min} and f_{Max} were defined in equations (2.1) and (2.2).*

Proof– For a rooted tree T , let E_T be the set of the oriented edges of the tree: an edge is denoted (a, b) where a, b are the labels of its extremal vertices, and the orientation of the tree is from the leaves to the root. For an integer $a \neq i$ we denote by \tilde{a}_i^m the integer a if $a < i$ or $a + m - 1$ if $a > i$. Given a map $f : \text{In}(T, i) \rightarrow [m]$, the set $E_{T \circ_i^f S}$ has different type of elements:

- $(a + i - 1, b + i - 1)$ for $(a, b) \in E_S$;
- $(\tilde{a}_i^m, \tilde{b}_i^m)$ for $(a, b) \in E_T$ and $a, b \neq i$;
- $(\tilde{a}_i^m, f(a) + i - 1)$ for $(a, i) \in E_T$;
- $(i + s - 1, \tilde{b}_i^m)$ for $(i, b) \in E_T$.

Let $T \in \mathcal{T}(n), S \in \mathcal{T}(m)$ and $U \in \mathcal{T}(p)$. In order to avoid confusion, we denote by $f_{\text{Max}}^{i,p}$ the map sending $k < i$ to p and $l > i$ to 1. We would like to compare the trees

$$V_1 = (T \circ_i^{f_{\text{Max}}^{i,m}} S) \circ_{j+i-1}^{f_{\text{Max}}^{j+i-1,p}} U \quad \text{and} \quad V_2 = T \circ_i^{f_{\text{Max}}^{i,m+p-1}} (S \circ_j^{f_{\text{Max}}^{j,p}} U) :$$

- In V_1 and V_2 , any $(a, b) \in E_U$ converts to $(a + j + i - 2, b + j + i - 2)$.
- In V_1 and V_2 , any $(a, b) \in E_S$ converts to $(\tilde{a}_j^p + i - 1, \tilde{b}_j^p + i - 1)$ if $a, b \neq j$, or converts to $(\tilde{a}_j^p + i - 1, f_{\text{Max}}^{j,p}(a) + i + j - 2)$ if $b = j$ or converts to $(j + i - 1 + u - 1, \tilde{b}_j^p + i - 1)$ if $a = j$.
- In V_1 and V_2 , any $(a, b) \in E_T$ with $a, b \neq i$ converts to $(\tilde{a}_i^{p+m-1}, \tilde{b}_i^{p+m-1})$.
- In V_1 and V_2 , any $(a, i) \in E_T$ converts to $(\tilde{a}_i^{p+m-1}, f_{\text{Max}}^{i,m+p-1}(a) + i - 1)$.

- In V_1 and V_2 , any $(i, b) \in E_T$ converts to $(i - 1 + \text{root}(S \circ_j U), \tilde{b}_i^{m+p-1})$, where $\text{root}(S \circ_j U)$ is the root of $S \circ_j U$. More precisely

$$\text{root}(S \circ_j U) = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } s < j \\ u + j - 1 & \text{if } s = j \\ s + p - 1 & \text{if } s > j. \end{cases}$$

The proof of

$$(T \circ_i^{f_{\text{Max}}^{i,m}} S) \circ_j^{f_{\text{Max}}^{j,p}} U = (T \circ_j^{f_{\text{Max}}^{j,p}} U) \circ_{i+p-1}^{f_{\text{Max}}^{i+p-1,m}} S, \text{ for } j < i$$

is similar and left to the reader. So is the proof with f_{Min} instead of f_{Max} . \square

The two operads on labelled rooted trees defined by the theorem are denoted by \mathcal{T}_{Max} and \mathcal{T}_{Min} . Note that they are set operads, that is, the composition is defined at the level of the sets $\mathcal{T}(n)$ and not only at the level of the vector spaces $k\mathcal{T}(n)$. There is another set operad built on rooted trees: the operad NAP encoding non-associative permutative algebras in [4], in which f_{NAP} is the constant map with value the root of S . This operad has the advantage to be a symmetric operad.

3. THE OPERAD PRE-LIE IS FREE AS A NON-SYMMETRIC OPERAD

We show that \mathcal{T}_{Max} is a free non-symmetric operad. Using Proposition 2.2, we conclude that the operad pre-Lie is free as a non-symmetric operad. To this end we need to introduce some notation on rooted trees.

Definition 3.1. Given two ordered sets S and T , an ordered preserving bijection $\phi : S \rightarrow T$ induces a natural bijection between the set of S -labelled rooted trees and the set of T -labelled rooted trees also denoted by ϕ . A T -labelled rooted tree X is *isomorphic* to an S -labelled rooted tree Y if $X = \phi(Y)$.

Given a rooted tree $T \in \mathcal{T}(n)$ and a subset $K \subseteq [n]$, we denote by $T|_K$ the graph obtained from T by keeping only the vertices of T that are labelled by elements of K and only the edges of T that have two vertices labelled in K . Remark that each connected component of $T|_K$ is a rooted tree itself where the root is given by the unique vertex closest to the root of T in the component. Also, for $c \in [n]$ we denote by $T^{(c)}$ the full subtree of T derived from the vertex labelled by c . For example if $K = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} \subset [7]$ and

$$T = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & & 7 \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & 6 & \\ & / & \diagdown \\ 5 & & 4 \\ & \diagup & \diagdown \\ & 1 & \\ & / & \diagdown \\ & 3 & \end{array} \end{array}, \quad \text{we have} \quad T|_K = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & & \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & 6 & \\ & / & \diagdown \\ 5 & & 4 \\ & \diagup & \diagdown \\ & 3 & \end{array} \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad T^{(1)} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & & 7 \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & 6 & \\ & / & \diagdown \\ & 1 & \end{array} \end{array}.$$

For $1 \leq a < b \leq n$, $T \in \mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n - b + a)$ and $S \in \mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(b - a + 1)$, let $X = T \circ_a S$. Consider the interval $[a, b] = \{a, a + 1, \dots, b\}$, clearly $X|_{[a,b]}$ is isomorphic to S under the unique ordered bijection $[1, b - a + 1] \rightarrow [a, b]$. Let $a \leq c \leq b$ be the label of the root of $X|_{[a,b]}$. Remark that $X^{(c)}$ and $X|_{[a,b]}$ differ only at a and b where there could be subtrees of X that do not belong to $X|_{[a,b]}$. We can then characterize trees X that are obtained from a nontrivial operation $T \circ_a S$ as follows:

Definition 3.2. A tree $X \in \mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n)$ is called *decomposable* if there exists $1 \leq a < b \leq n$ with $(a, b) \neq (1, n)$ such that

- (i) $X|_{[a,b]}$ is a rooted tree. Let c be the label of its root. One has $a \leq c \leq b$.
- (ii) The subtree $X^{(c)}$ contains $X|_{[a,b]}$ and differs from it only at a and b .
- (iii) All subtrees in $X^{(c)} - X|_{[a,b]}$ attached at a have their root labelled in $[b+1, n]$.
- (iv) All subtrees in $X^{(c)} - X|_{[a,b]}$ attached at b have their root labelled in $[1, a-1]$.

It is clear from the discussion above and the definition of the operad \mathcal{T}_{Max} that X is decomposable if and only if it is the result of a non-trivial composition. Consequently, we say that X is *indecomposable* if it is not decomposable. That is there is no $1 \leq a < b \leq n$ such that (i)–(iv) are satisfied. For example let

$$X = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 7 & & 4 \\ \diagdown & & / \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ \diagup & & \diagdown \\ 8 & & 5 \\ \diagdown & & / \\ & 6 & \end{array} \end{array}, \quad X|_{[3,5]} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 4 \\ / \\ 3 \\ | \\ 5 \end{array} \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad X^{(5)} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 7 & & 4 \\ \diagdown & & / \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ \diagup & & \diagdown \\ & 5 & \end{array} \end{array},$$

This tree X is decomposable since for $1 \leq 3 < 5 \leq 8$ we have that $X|_{[3,5]}$ is a single tree and the subtree of $X^{(5)} - X|_{[3,5]}$ are attached at 3 and 5 only. Moreover, the subtree attached at 3 has root labelled by $7 \in [6, 8]$ and the subtrees attached at 5 have roots labelled by $1, 2 \in [1, 2]$. Indeed, in \mathcal{T}_{Max} we have

$$X = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 1 & 5 & 2 \\ \diagdown & & / \\ 6 & 3 & 4 \\ \diagup & & \diagdown \\ & 3 & \end{array} \end{array} \circ_3 \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ | \\ 1 \\ | \\ 3 \end{array} \end{array}.$$

The reader may check that the following are all the indecomposable trees of \mathcal{T}_{Max} up to arity 3:

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ | \\ 1 \end{array} \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 2 \end{array} \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 1 & & 3 \\ \diagdown & & / \\ & 2 & \end{array} \end{array}.$$

Theorem 3.3. *The non-symmetric operad \mathcal{T}_{Max} is a free non-symmetric operad.*

Proof. If \mathcal{T}_{Max} is not free, then for some n there is a tree $X \in \mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n)$ with two distinct constructions from indecomposables. In Remark 1.2, a composition of operations is completely determined by a unique planar rooted tree. We then have that $X = \mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r) = \mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$ where $T_1, \dots, T_r, S_1, \dots, S_k$ are indecomposables and $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$ and $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$ are two distinct trees of operations in \mathcal{T}_{Max} with $r, s > 1$.

Since X is decomposable, we can find $1 \leq a < b \leq n$, such that $X|_{[a,b]}$ is isomorphic to a single T_i in position $[a, b]$ in $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$. Moreover $X|_{[a,b]}$ satisfies (i)–(iv) of Definition 3.2.

If $X|_{[a,b]}$ is also isomorphic to a tree S_j in position $[a, b]$ in $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$, then we replace X by the smaller tree in $\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n - b + a)$ that we obtain by removing T_i in $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$ and removing S_j in $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$. Clearly, this new smaller X has two distinct constructions from indecomposables. We can thus assume that $X|_{[a,b]}$ is not isomorphic to a single S_j in position $[a, b]$ in $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$.

We now study how $X|_{[a,b]}$ overlap in the position $[a, b]$ of $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$. Remark first that since all S_j are indecomposables, the interval $[a, b]$ cannot be part of a single S_j of $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$. Indeed, that would imply that S_j would contain a subtree satisfying Definition 3.2 which would be a contradiction.

We may assume that $a > 1$. To see this, assume that the only sub-interval $[a, b] \subset [1, n]$ such that $X|_{[a,b]}$ is isomorphic to a single T_i in position $[a, b]$ in $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$ is such that $a = 1$. Assume moreover that the only sub-interval $[a', b'] \subset [1, n]$ such that $X|_{[a',b']}$ is isomorphic to a single S_j in position $[a', b']$ in $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$ is such that $a' = 1$. Since S_j is indecomposable, we must have $b > b'$. Similarly, since T_i is indecomposable, we must have $b < b'$. This implies that $b = b'$ and $T_i = S_j$. This possibility was excluded above. So we must have $a > 1$ or $a' > 1$. In the case where $a = 1$ and $a' > 1$ we could just interchange the role of $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$ and $\mathbb{Y}(S_1, S_2, \dots, S_k)$ and assume that we have $a > 1$.

Now, since T_j is indecomposable, there is no subinterval $[c, d] \subseteq [a, b]$ such that $X|_{[c,d]}$ is isomorphic to a full subtree of operations $\mathbb{Y}'(S_{j_1}, S_{j_2}, \dots, S_{j_\ell})$. Hence we can find $c < a \leq d < b$ such that $X|_{[c,d]} \cong \mathbb{Y}'(S_{j_1}, S_{j_2}, \dots, S_{j_\ell})$ satisfies the Definition 3.2.

The graph $X|_{[a,d]}$ belongs to both $X|_{[a,b]}$ and $X|_{[c,d]}$. Let e be the label of the root of $X|_{[a,b]}$ and f the root of $X|_{[c,d]}$. The two full subtrees $X^{(e)}$ and $X^{(f)}$ both contain $X|_{[a,d]}$. This implies that either $X^{(f)}$ is fully contained in $X^{(e)}$, or $X^{(e)}$ is fully contained in $X^{(f)}$.

Let us assume that $X^{(f)}$ is fully contained in $X^{(e)}$, that means $X|_{[a,b]}$ and $X|_{[c,d]}$ are both subtrees of $X^{(e)}$. From Definition 3.2, we know that the difference between $X^{(e)}$ and $X|_{[a,b]}$ is only some subtrees at a and b . The subtree $X|_{[c,d]}$ contains a but does not contain b . Moreover, the point c is not in $X|_{[a,b]}$, so it must be in a subtree of $X^{(e)}$ attached to a . The unique shortest path between a and c in $X|_{[c,d]}$ belongs to that subtree of $X^{(e)}$. Since it is attached at a and is not in $X|_{[a,b]}$, by (iii) of Definition 3.2, it must have a root $r \in [b + 1, n]$. This is a contradiction, the root r is part of any path joining a and c and $r \notin [c, d]$, hence not in $X|_{[c,d]}$. The case where $X^{(e)}$ is fully contained in $X^{(f)}$ is argued similarly, using condition (iv) of Definition 3.2, and leads to a contradiction as well. We must conclude that \mathcal{T}_{Max} is free. \square

Remark 3.4. The non-symmetric operads \mathcal{T}_{Min} and NAP are not free. Indeed, in the operad \mathcal{T}_{Min} one has the following relation:

$$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} \circ_1 \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} \circ_2 \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 2 \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array}$$

And in the operad NAP one has the following relation

$$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} \circ_1 \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 2 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 2 \end{array} \circ_2 \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \bullet \\ 1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \quad 3 \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad / \\ \bullet \\ 2 \end{array}$$

Remark 3.5. Let $k\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}^0(n)$ denote the k -vector space spanned by the indecomposables of $\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n)$ and let β_n be its dimension. Let $\alpha(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \alpha_n x^n$ be the Hilbert serie associated to the free non-symmetric operad generated by the vector spaces $k\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}^0(n)$. It is well known (see e.g. [6]) that one has the identity

$$\beta(\alpha(x)) + x = \alpha(x),$$

where $\beta(x) = \sum_{n \geq 2} \beta_n x^n$. Theorem 3.3 implies that $\alpha_n = n^{n-1}$. As a consequence, we get that the Hilbert series for indecomposable of \mathcal{T}_{Max} is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}^0}(x) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \dim(k\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}^0(n)) x^n = 2x^2 + x^3 + 14x^4 + 146x^5 + \\ &+ 1994x^6 + 32853x^7 + 630320x^8 + 13759430x^9 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Corollary 3.6. *The non-symmetric operad pre-Lie is a free non-symmetric operad.*

Proof. The natural basis of the vector spaces $\mathcal{PL}(n)$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\text{Max}}(n)$ are the same and is given by the set of n -labelled rooted trees $\mathcal{T}(n)$. However the operad compositions differ. Following Section 2, we say that a tree in \mathcal{PL} is indecomposable if it is not the element of maximal degree in any non-trivial composition of trees in \mathcal{PL} . That is to say it is indecomposable in \mathcal{T}_{Max} . From Theorem 3.3, any rooted tree X is constructed from indecomposables in \mathcal{T}_{Max} in a unique way $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$. If we consider the sequence of operations $\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r)$ in \mathcal{PL} , then X would be the unique maximal degree element in the result, by Proposition 2.2. By triangularity, we have that the set (in \mathcal{PL})

$$\{\mathbb{T}(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_r) : T_i \text{ indecomposable and } \mathbb{T} \text{ any planar tree of operations}\}$$

is linearly independent and span \mathcal{PL} . This means \mathcal{PL} is free. \square

Remark 3.7. The Hilbert Series for indecomposables and the operad \mathcal{PL} are the same as in Remark 3.5.

Remark 3.8. In the previous work [2] we have shown that as symmetric operads we have that $\mathcal{PL} = \mathcal{Lie} \circ F$ for some graded vector space F . We have also shown that F is naturally equipped with a structure of non-symmetric operad. One can readily adapt the method developed here to show that F is also free as a non-symmetric operad.

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