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# ON THE HOCHSCHILD HOMOLOGY OF SINGULARITY CATEGORIES

YU WANG, UMAMAHESWARAN ARUNACHALAM, AND BERNHARD KELLER

ABSTRACT. Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field and  $A$  a finite-dimensional  $k$ -algebra. In this note, we determine complexes which compute the Hochschild homology of the canonical dg enhancement of the bounded derived category of  $A$  and of the canonical dg enhancement of the singularity category of  $A$ . As an application, we obtain a new approach to the computation of Hochschild homology of Leavitt path algebras.

## 1. REMINDER ON HOCHSCHILD HOMOLOGY OF ALGEBRAS AND CATEGORIES

Let  $k$  be a field. We write  $\otimes$  for  $\otimes_k$ . Let  $A$  be a  $k$ -algebra (associative, with 1). We write  $\text{Mod } A$  for the category of all (right)  $A$ -modules and  $\mathcal{D}A = \mathcal{D}(\text{Mod } A)$  for its unbounded derived category. Let  $A^e = A \otimes A^{op}$  be the *enveloping algebra* of  $A$  so that  $A^e$ -modules identify with  $A$ -bimodules. The *Hochschild homology* of  $A$  is defined by

$$HH_p(A) = \text{Tor}_p^{A^e}(A, A), \quad p \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Alternatively, we may define it as the  $p$ th homology group of the *Hochschild chain complex*  $HH(A)$  of  $A$ , i.e. the complex  $C_*A$  concentrated in homological degrees  $\geq 0$

$$A \longleftarrow A \otimes A \longleftarrow \dots \longleftarrow A^{\otimes p} \longleftarrow A^{\otimes(p+1)} \longleftarrow \dots$$

with  $C_p A = A^{\otimes(p+1)}$ ,  $p \geq 0$ , and differential given by

$$(1.0.1) \quad d(a_0, \dots, a_p) = \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} (-1)^i (a_0, \dots, a_i a_{i+1}, \dots, a_p) + (-1)^p (a_p a_0, \dots, a_{p-1}),$$

where we write  $(a_0, \dots, a_p)$  for  $a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_p$ . Notice that the first differential takes  $a \otimes b$  to the commutator  $ab - ba$ .

We see that  $HH_0(A)$  is the quotient  $A/[A, A]$  of the vector space  $A$  by its subspace generated by all commutators and that  $HH_p(A)$  and  $HH(A) \in \mathcal{D}k$  are functorial in the algebra  $A$ . The definitions extend from  $k$ -algebras to small  $k$ -categories. For example, the Hochschild complex then becomes the complex

$$\bigoplus \mathcal{A}(X_0, X_0) \longleftarrow \bigoplus \mathcal{A}(X_1, X_0) \otimes \mathcal{A}(X_0, X_1) \longleftarrow \dots$$

whose  $p$ th term ( $p \geq 0$ ) is the sum

$$\bigoplus \mathcal{A}(X_p, X_0) \otimes \mathcal{A}(X_{p-1}, X_p) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}(X_0, X_1)$$

taken over all sequences of objects  $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_p$  of  $\mathcal{A}$  and whose horizontal differential is given by formula (1.0.1). One then shows that the inclusion  $A \rightarrow \text{proj}(A)$  of the one-object category given by  $A$  into the category  $\text{proj}(A)$  of finitely generated projective right

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$A$ -modules induces a quasi-isomorphism

$$HH(A) \xrightarrow{\simeq} HH(\text{proj } A).$$

In particular, this yields *Morita invariance* of Hochschild homology. The definitions further extend to small differential graded (=dg) categories  $\mathcal{A}$ , for example the dg category  $\mathcal{C}_{dg}^b(\text{proj } A)$  of bounded complexes over  $\text{proj } (A)$ . We refer the reader to [9] for more information on this example and dg categories in general. The inclusion  $\text{proj } (A) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{dg}^b(\text{proj } A)$  yields an isomorphism

$$HH(\text{proj } A) \xrightarrow{\simeq} HH(\mathcal{C}_{dg}^b(\text{proj } A))$$

and this yields the invariance of Hochschild homology under *derived equivalences*. We will need the following localization theorem.

**Theorem 1.1** ([8]). *Let*

$$\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{F} \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{G} \mathcal{C}$$

*be a sequence of dg categories such that the induced sequence of derived categories*

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{F^*} \mathcal{D}\mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{G^*} \mathcal{D}\mathcal{C} \longrightarrow 0$$

*is exact. Then there is a canonical triangle*

$$HH(\mathcal{A}) \xrightarrow{HH(F)} HH(\mathcal{B}) \xrightarrow{HH(G)} HH(\mathcal{C}) \longrightarrow \Sigma HH(\mathcal{A})$$

*in  $\mathcal{D}k$  and hence long exact sequences in Hochschild (and cyclic) homology.*

Let  $Q$  be a finite quiver and  $I$  an admissible ideal in  $kQ$ , *i.e.* a two-sided ideal contained in the square of the ideal generated by the arrows and such that the quotient  $kQ/I$  is finite-dimensional. Let  $R$  be the quotient of  $A$  by its radical. Thus, as an  $A$ -module, the algebra  $R$  is the direct sum of the simple  $A$ -modules. Following [7], we define the Koszul dual of  $A$  to be the dg algebra

$$A^! = \text{RHom}_A(R, R).$$

Thus, if  $P$  is a projective resolution of the  $A$ -module  $R$ , then the Koszul dual is quasi-isomorphic to the dg endomorphism algebra  $\text{Hom}_A(P, P)$  of  $P$ . The following theorem is a special case of Corollary D.2 of Van den Bergh's [12]. We write  $D$  for the dual  $\text{Hom}_k(?, k)$  over the ground field.

**Theorem 1.2** (Van den Bergh). *We have a canonical isomorphism*

$$HH(A^!) \xrightarrow{\simeq} DHH(A).$$

We refer to [6] for a comparison taking into account much more structure.

## 2. HOCHSCHILD HOMOLOGY OF DERIVED CATEGORIES AND SINGULARITY CATEGORIES

Let  $Q$  be a finite quiver and  $I$  an admissible ideal in  $kQ$ . Let  $\text{mod } A$  be the category of  $k$ -finite-dimensional right  $A$ -modules. Denote by  $\mathcal{D}^b(A) = \mathcal{D}^b(\text{mod } A)$  the bounded derived category of  $A$  and by  $\text{per } (A)$  the perfect derived category, *i.e.* the thick subcategory generated by the free  $A$ -module of rank 1. Following Buchweitz [2] and Orlov [10], one defines the *singularity category of  $A$*  as the Verdier quotient

$$\text{sg}(A) = \mathcal{D}^b(A)/\text{per } (A).$$

Using the canonical dg enhancements of  $\mathcal{D}^b(A)$  and  $\text{per } (A)$ , *cf.* [9], we obtain a canonical exact sequence of dg categories

$$0 \longrightarrow \text{per}_{dg}(A) \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A) \longrightarrow \text{sg}_{dg}(A) \longrightarrow 0 ,$$

where the dg quotient  $\text{sg}_{dg}(A)$  yields a canonical dg enhancement for  $\text{sg}(A)$ . It is not hard to see that, in the homotopy category of dg categories, it is functorial with respect to bimodule complexes  $X \in \mathcal{D}(A^{op} \otimes B)$  such that  $X_B$  is perfect over  $B$  and  ${}_A X$  is perfect over  $A$ . From the localization theorem 1.1, we deduce a triangle

$$(2.0.1) \quad HH(\text{per}_{dg}(A)) \longrightarrow HH(\mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A)) \longrightarrow HH(\text{sg}_{dg}(A)) \longrightarrow \Sigma HH(\text{per}_{dg}(A))$$

in the derived category of vector spaces.

**Theorem 2.1.** *We have a canonical isomorphism  $HH(\mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A)) \xrightarrow{\sim} DHH(A)$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that we have defined  $R$  to be the quotient of  $A$  by its radical and the Koszul dual  $A^!$  as  $\text{RHom}_A(R, R)$ . Since the module  $R$  is a classical generator of the bounded derived category  $\mathcal{D}^b(A)$ , we deduce from the results of [7] that we have a triangle equivalence

$$\text{RHom}_A(R, ?) : \mathcal{D}^b(A) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{per}(A^!).$$

This lifts to a quasi-equivalence

$$\mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{per}_{dg}(A^!).$$

By Morita invariance of Hochschild homology, we have

$$HH(A^!) \xrightarrow{\sim} HH(\text{per}_{dg}(A^!)).$$

By Van den Bergh's theorem 1.2, we have

$$HH(A^!) \xrightarrow{\sim} DHH(A).$$

The claim follows if we combine these isomorphisms. ✓

Define a linear map  $\tau : A \rightarrow DA$  by sending an element  $a \in A$  to the linear form which takes  $b \in A$  to the trace of the linear map

$$\lambda_a \rho_b : A \rightarrow A, \quad x \mapsto axb,$$

where  $\lambda_a$  is left multiplication by  $a$  and  $\rho_b$  right multiplication by  $b$ . Notice that since  $A$  is finite-dimensional, this is well-defined. Moreover, the value of  $\langle a, b \rangle = (\tau(a))(b)$  only depends on the classes of  $a$  and  $b$  in  $HH_0(A)$ , which is canonically isomorphic to  $R$ . It is not hard to check that in the basis formed by the  $e_i$ , the matrix of the induced bilinear form

$$HH_0(A) \times HH_0(A) \rightarrow k$$

is the Cartan matrix of  $A$ , whose  $(i, j)$ -entry is the dimension of  $e_i A e_j$ . Define the *double Hochschild complex* of  $A$  to be the complex

$$\dots \xrightarrow{b} A \otimes A \xrightarrow{b} A \xrightarrow{\tau} DA \xrightarrow{Db} D(A \otimes A) \xrightarrow{Db} \dots,$$

where  $DA$  sits in degree 0, the differentials  $b$  are those of the Hochschild complex and the  $Db$  their duals.

Let us abbreviate  $\mathcal{S} = \text{sg}_{dg}(A)$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** *In  $Dk$ , we have a canonical isomorphism between  $HH(\mathcal{S})$  and the double Hochschild complex of  $A$ .*

Notice that this implies in particular that  $HH_n(\mathcal{S})$  is finite-dimensional for all  $n$ . This is surprising since the singularity category  $\text{sg}(A)$  is usually not Hom-finite (except if  $A$  is Gorenstein), cf. for example [3].

*Proof.* We use the triangle

$$HH(\text{per}_{dg}(A)) \longrightarrow HH(\mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A)) \longrightarrow HH(\mathcal{S}) \longrightarrow \Sigma HH(\text{per}_{dg}(A))$$

obtained from the localization theorem 1.1. We have already seen that it is isomorphic to a triangle

$$HH(A) \rightarrow HH(A^\dagger) \rightarrow HH(\mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \Sigma HH(A),$$

where the first morphism is induced by the inclusion  $\text{per}_{dg}(A) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A)$ . Thus, the complex  $HH(\mathcal{S})$  identifies with the mapping cone over the morphism  $HH(A) \rightarrow HH(A^\dagger)$ . Let us determine this morphism explicitly. Recall that the functor  $HH$ , considered as a functor on the homotopy category of small dg categories with values in the derived category  $\mathcal{D}k$ , commutes with tensor products. We have the following commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{per}_{dg}(A^{op}) \otimes \text{per}_{dg}(A) & \longrightarrow & \text{per}_{dg}(k) \\ \downarrow & & \parallel \\ \text{per}_{dg}(A)^{op} \otimes \mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A) & \longrightarrow & \text{per}_{dg}(k) \end{array}$$

Here, a pair  $(P_1, P_2)$ ,  $P_1 \in \text{proj}(A^{op})$ ,  $P_2 \in \text{proj}(A)$  is taken to  $P_2 \otimes_A P_1$  by the top arrow and to  $(\text{Hom}_A(P_1, A), P_2)$  by the left vertical arrow. It follows from Appendix D in [12] that the lower horizontal arrow induces a non degenerate pairing

$$HH(A) \otimes HH(\mathcal{D}_{dg}^b(A)) \rightarrow HH(k) = k.$$

A direct computation now shows that the morphism

$$HH(A) \rightarrow DHH(A)$$

is the composition

$$HH(A) \rightarrow HH_0(A) \rightarrow DHH_0(A) \rightarrow DHH(A)$$

where the middle morphism is induced by the map  $\tau$ . ✓

**Corollary 2.3.** *For  $n \geq 2$ , we have canonical isomorphisms*

$$HH_n(\mathcal{S}) \xrightarrow{\sim} HH_{n-1}(A) \xrightarrow{\sim} DHH_{1-n}(\mathcal{S}).$$

Moreover, we have

$$HH_1(\mathcal{S}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \ker(HH_0(A) \xrightarrow{\tau} DHH_0(A)) \xrightarrow{\sim} DHH_0(\mathcal{S}).$$

### 3. APPLICATION: HOCHSCHILD HOMOLOGY OF DG LEAVITT PATH ALGEBRAS

Let  $Q$  be a finite quiver, for example a quiver with one vertex and a unique loop  $\alpha$ . Let  $A$  be the associated radical square zero algebra, *i.e.* the quotient of  $kQ$  by the square of the ideal generated by the arrows. So for the one-loop quiver, we have  $A = k[\varepsilon]/(\varepsilon^2)$ . Let  $Q^*$  be the graded quiver obtained from the opposite quiver of  $Q$  by assigning each arrow  $\alpha^* : j \rightarrow i$  corresponding to an arrow  $\alpha : i \rightarrow j$  of  $Q$  the degree  $+1$ . For each vertex  $i$  of  $Q$ , consider the arrows  $\alpha_s^* : i \rightarrow t(\alpha_s^*)$ ,  $1 \leq s \leq t_i$ , starting in  $Q^*$  at  $i$ . Let

$$\varphi_i : P_i \rightarrow \bigoplus_{s=1}^{t_i} \Sigma P_{t(\alpha_s^*)}$$

be the morphism with components  $\alpha_s^*$ , where  $P_i = e_i kQ^*$ . For example, for the one-loop quiver, we just have  $\varphi(1) = \alpha^* : P_1 \rightarrow \Sigma P_1$ . Note that if  $i$  is a sink of  $Q$ , then

$$\bigoplus_{s=1}^{t_i} P_{t(\alpha_s^*)} = 0.$$

For each vertex  $i \in Q_0$ , let

$$\varphi(i)^{-1} = [\beta_{i,1}, \dots, \beta_{i,t_i}] : \bigoplus_{s=1}^{t_i} \Sigma P_{t(\alpha_s^*)} \rightarrow P_i$$

be the formal inverse of  $\varphi(i)$ . The *graded Leavitt path algebra* of  $Q$  is obtained from  $kQ^*$  by adjoining all coefficients  $\beta_{ij}$  of all formal inverses  $\varphi(i)^{-1}$ ,  $i \in Q_0$ . We endow  $L_Q$  with the grading inherited from  $Q^*$  and with  $d = 0$ .

**Theorem 3.1** (Smith [11], Chen–Yang [5]). *We have a triangle equivalence  $\text{per}(L_Q) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{sg}(A)$  taking  $e_i L_Q$  to the simple  $S_i$ .*

**Corollary 3.2.** *The Hochschild homology  $HH_*(L_Q)$  of the Leavitt path algebra is computed by the double Hochschild complex*

$$\dots \xrightarrow{b} A \otimes A \xrightarrow{b} A \xrightarrow{\tau} DA \xrightarrow{Db} D(A \otimes A) \xrightarrow{Db} \dots,$$

(with  $DA$  in degree 0). In particular, we have

$$\dim HH_p(L_Q) = 0 < \infty$$

for all  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

A different description of the Hochschild homology of Leavitt path algebras is due to Ara–Cortiñas [1].

#### 4. BEYOND RADICAL SQUARE ZERO

Let  $Q$  be a finite quiver and  $A = kQ/I$  the quotient of its path algebra by an admissible ideal. Let  $J$  be the radical of  $A$  and  $R = kQ_0$  so that we have  $A = R \oplus J$  as  $R$ -bimodules. Let  $A_0 = (T_R J)/(J \otimes_R J)$  be the radical square zero algebra associated with  $A$ . Thus, we have  $A_0 = R \oplus J = A$  as  $R$ -bimodules but we have  $xy = 0$  in  $A_0$  for any two elements of  $J$ . We view  $A_0$  as a degeneration of  $A$  and  $A$  as a deformation of  $A_0$ . As pointed out by Chen–Wang [4], this suggests that the singularity category  $\text{sg}(A)$  is a deformation of the singularity category  $\text{sg}(A_0)$ , which is equivalent to the perfect derived category  $\text{per}(L_{A_0})$  of the graded Leavitt path algebra  $L_{A_0}$ . Hence we can hope for the existence of a dg algebra  $L_A$  obtained from  $L_{A_0}$  by deformation such that  $\text{per}(L_A)$  is equivalent to  $\text{sg}(A)$ . We sum up the situation in the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_0 & \xrightarrow{\text{deformation}} & A \\ \text{sg}(A_0) & \xrightarrow{\text{deformation}} & \text{sg}(A) \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \wr \\ \wr \end{array} \right. & & \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \wr \\ \wr \end{array} \right. \quad ? \\ \text{per}(L_{A_0}) & \xrightarrow{\text{deformation?}} & \text{per}(L_A) \\ L_{A_0} & \xrightarrow{\text{deformation?}} & L_A \quad ? \end{array}$$

The following theorem confirms this hope.

**Theorem 4.1** (Chen–Wang [4]). *The graded algebra  $L_{A_0}$  admits a canonical differential  $d_A$  such that for  $L_A = (L_{A_0}, d_A)$ , we have a triangle equivalence*

$$\mathrm{per}(L_A) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{sg}(A).$$

**Corollary 4.2.** *The Hochschild homology of the dg Leavitt path algebra  $L_A$  is computed by the double Hochschild complex of  $A$ .*

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