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A FINITE DIMENSIONAL L_{∞} MODULE

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ABSTRACT. We construct a concrete example of an L_{∞} module defined over a finite dimensional L_{∞} algebra. We then explore a canonical L_{∞} algebra defined over the direct sum of these structures.

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1. Introduction

 L_{∞} algebras (or sh Lie algebras) are topics of current research. Concrete examples of these structures facilitate deeper insight into their properties. However these examples still remain elusive. In [1], Daily and Lada constructed an example of a finite dimensional L_{∞} algebra that consists of a Lie algebra in conjunction with with a non-Lie action on a different vector space. Furthermore, this small structure was proved by Kadeishvili and Lada in [3] to be an example of an open-closed homotopy algebra (OCHA), as defined by Kajiura and Stasheff in [4].

 L_{∞} modules provide an alternative but equivalent convention to representations of L_{∞} algebras in a manner that generalizes the relationship between classical Lie algebra representations and Lie modules. Concrete examples of L_{∞} modules are highly nontrivial. Such examples will prove essential for expanding the representation theory of L_{∞} algebras, as evident by the robust nature of the example in [1]. In this article we construct one such example and subsequently explore a new L_{∞} algebra structure that it induces.

2. L_{∞} Algebras and Modules

We will utilize the Koszul sign convention that is common in graded settings. That is, whenever two symbols (objects or maps) of degree p and q are transposed, a factor of $(-1)^{pq}$ is introduced. In general, we denote the total Koszul sign of a permutation σ by $\epsilon(\sigma)$. For brevity, we will also use commas in lieu of tensor or direct sum symbols when convenient.

We first recall the definition of an L_{∞} algebra (see [2], [6], [7]).

Definition 2.1. Let V be a graded vector space. An L_{∞} algebra structure on V is a collection of linear maps $\{l_k : V^{\otimes k} \to V\}$ of degree k-2 which are skew-symmetric in the sense that

$$l_k(x_{\sigma(1)}, x_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(k)}) = \chi(\sigma)l_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$$

for all $\sigma \in S_k$, $x_i \in V$, with $\chi(\sigma) = (-1)^{\sigma} \epsilon(\sigma)$, and are also required to satisfy the generalized form of the Jacobi identity:

$$\sum_{i+j=n+1} \sum_{\sigma} \chi(\sigma)(-1)^{i(j-1)} l_j(l_i(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(i)}), v_{\sigma(i+1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(n)}) = 0$$

where the inner summation is taken over all (i, n-i)-unshuffles, $i \ge 1, n \ge 1$.

This utilizes the chain complex convention. One may alternatively use the cochain complex convention by requiring each map l_k to have degree 2 - k.

It is worth noting that L_{∞} algebras are generalizations of Lie algebras from a homotopy theoretic point of view with l_2 acting as a (graded) Lie bracket. Remarkably, many classical relationships involving Lie algebras generalize to this context. In [6], Lada and Markl defined L_{∞} algebra representations and, equivalently, L_{∞} modules. We now recall the definition of an L_{∞} module.

Definition 2.2. Let (L, l_k) be an L_{∞} algebra and M a differential graded vector space with graded differential k_1 . A *(left) L-module* on M is a collection of skewsymmetric linear maps $\{k_n : L^{\otimes n-1} \otimes M \to M | 1 \leq n < \infty\}$ of degree n-2 such that the following identity holds:

$$\sum_{i+j=n+1} \sum_{\sigma} \chi(\sigma)(-1)^{i(j-1)} k_j(k_i(\xi_{\sigma(1)},\dots,\xi_{\sigma(i)}),\xi_{\sigma(i+1)},\dots,\xi_{\sigma(n)}) = 0$$

where σ ranges over all (i, n - i)-unshuffles, $i \ge 1$, with $n \ge 1, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n-1} \in L$, and $\xi_n \in M$.

A few remarks are in order:

- If $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in L$, then we define $k_n(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) = l_n(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$.
- By definition of an unshuffle, either $\xi_{\sigma(i)} = \xi_n$ or $\xi_{\sigma(n)} = \xi_n$.
- Since we have $k_n : L^{\otimes n-1} \otimes M \to M$, we must utilize the skew-symmetry of k_n in the case where $\xi_{\sigma(i)} = \xi_n$ as follows:

$$k_j(\underbrace{k_i(\xi_{\sigma(1)},\ldots,\xi_{\sigma(i)})}_{\in M},\xi_{\sigma(i+1)}\ldots,\xi_{\sigma(n)}) = \alpha k_j(\xi_{\sigma(i+1)}\ldots\xi_{\sigma(n)},\underbrace{k_i(\xi_{\sigma(1)},\ldots,\xi_{\sigma(i)})}_{\in M})$$

With $\alpha = (-1)^{j-1}(-1)^{(i+\sum_{k=1}^{i}|\xi_{\sigma(k)}|)(\sum_{k=i+1}^{n}|\xi_{\sigma(k)}|)}.$

One may easily verify that L_{∞} modules can be viewed as generalizations of Lie modules from a homotopy theoretic point of view by interpreting k_2 as a module action.

3. A Finite Dimensional Example

Let L denote the graded vector space given by $L = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} L_i$ where L_0 has basis $\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle$, L_{-1} has basis $\langle w \rangle$, and $L_i = 0$ for $i \neq 0, -1$ with skew-symmetric linear maps $l_n : L^{\otimes n} \to L$ defined by the following:

$$l_1(v_1) = l_1(v_2) = w$$
$$l_2(v_1 \otimes v_2) = v_1$$
$$l_2(v_1 \otimes w) = w$$
For $n \ge 3$: $l_n(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-1}) = C_n w$

where $C_3 = 1$ and $C_n = (-1)^{n-1}(n-3)C_{n-1}$ and $l_n = 0$ when evaluated on any element of $L^{\otimes n}$ that is not listed above. In [1], Daily and Lada proved that this structure forms an L_{∞} algebra.

Remark 3.1. When convenient, the recursive definition of C_n may be recognized more explicitly as

$$C_n = (-1)^{\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}} (n-3)!.$$

Now let M denote the graded vector space given by $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i$ where M_0 is a one dimensional vector space with basis $\langle m \rangle$, M_{-1} is a one dimensional vector space with basis $\langle u \rangle$ and $M_i = 0$ for $i \neq 0, -1$. Define a structure on M by the following linear maps $k_n : L^{\otimes n-1} \otimes M \to M$:

$$\begin{split} k_1(m) &= u\\ k_2(v_1 \otimes m) &= m\\ k_2(v_1 \otimes u) &= u \end{split}$$
 For $n \geq 3: \ k_n(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) = C_n m\\ k_n(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes u) &= C_n u \end{split}$

Extend these maps to be skew-symmetric and define $k_n = 0$ when evaluated on any element of $L^{\otimes n-1} \otimes M$ that is not listed above.

Theorem 3.2. The maps k_n on M, in conjunction with the L_{∞} algebra structure on L defined above, define an L_{∞} module.

Proof. We aim to prove the following:

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$$\sum_{i+j=n+1} \sum_{\sigma} \chi(\sigma)(-1)^{i(j-1)} k_j(k_i(\xi_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \xi_{\sigma(i)}), \xi_{\sigma(i+1)}, \dots, \xi_{\sigma(n)}) = 0$$

where σ ranges over all (i, n - i)-unshuffles, $i \ge 1$, with $n \ge 1, \xi_1, \cdots, \xi_{n-1} \in L$, and $\xi_n \in M$. In shorthand notation, this is equivalent to showing that

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (-1)^{s(n-s)} k_{n-s+1} k_s(\xi_1, \xi_2, \cdots, \xi_n) = 0$$
(1)

where it is understood that k_s will be extended on n > s elements over (s, n - s)-unshuffles.

Since k_n is linear and skew-symmetric, it suffices to show this equation holds when evaluated only on basis elements and in any string order. Each element of the left hand side of Equation 1 also has degree $(n - s - 1 - 2) + (s - 2) + |\xi_1| + |\xi_2| + \cdots + |\xi_n| = n - 3 + |\xi_1| + |\xi_2| + \cdots + |\xi_n|$, which must equal 0 or -1 in order for the elements to be nonzero. So $(\xi_1 \otimes \xi_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \xi_n) \in L^{\otimes n-1} \otimes M$ must contain either 2 or 3 elements in degree 0. If this tensor product contains v_1 or v_2 twice, then Equation 1 holds trivially since $|v_1| = |v_2| = 0$ and k_n is skew-symmetric. For example,

$$k_{n-s+1}k_s(v_1 \otimes v_1 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) = -(-1)^{|v_1||v_1|}k_{n-s+1}k_s(v_1 \otimes v_1 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u)$$
$$= -k_{n-s+1}k_s(v_1 \otimes v_1 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u)$$

by permuting the first two elements. So $k_{n-s+1}k_s(v_1 \otimes v_1 \otimes w \otimes^{n-3} \otimes u) = 0$. Hence it suffices to prove that Equation 1 holds on the following string choices for $(\xi_1 \otimes \xi_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \xi_n)$:

$$(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) \tag{2}$$

$$(v_1 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) \tag{3}$$

$$(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) \tag{4}$$

$$(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) \tag{5}$$

For String 2, in regards to the summands of Equation 1 we observe the following:

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 k_n (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u)) &= k_1(0) = 0 \\ k_2 k_{n-1} (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) &= (-1)^{n-1} k_2 (k_{n-1} (v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes u) \otimes v_1) \\ &= (-1)^n C_{n-1} k_2 (v_1 \otimes u) \\ &= (-1)^n C_{n-1} u \end{aligned}$$

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 $k_r k_{n-r+1}(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) = 0$ for $3 \le r \le n-2$ since k_r and k_{n-r+1} are only nonzero when they are evaluated on a tensor product containing v_2 .

$$\begin{aligned} k_{n-1}k_2(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) &= -(n-3)k_{n-1} \left(l_2(v_1 \otimes w) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-4} \otimes u \right) \\ &\quad -k_{n-1} \left(k_2(v_1 \otimes u) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \right) \\ &= (n-3)k_{n-1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) \\ &\quad +k_{n-1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) \\ &= (n-2)k_{n-1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) \\ &= (n-2)C_{n-1}u \\ k_nk_1(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) &= k_n \left(k_1(v_1) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u \right) \\ &= k_n(w \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) \\ &= -k_n(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes u) \\ &= -C_nu \\ &= -(-1)^{n-1}(n-3)C_{n-1}u \\ &= (-1)^n(n-3)C_{n-1}u \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (-1)^{s(n-s)} k_{n-s+1} k_s (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes u) = (-1)^{1(n-1)} (-1)^n (n-3) C_{n-1} u + (-1)^{2(n-2)} (n-2) C_{n-1} u + (-1)^{(n-1)(n-(n-1))} (-1)^n C_{n-1} u = -(n-3) C_{n-1} u + (n-2) C_{n-1} u = 0$$

The case where Equation 1 is evaluated on String 3 is trivial by definition of k_n and l_n .

Regarding String 4, we observe the following:

$$k_1k_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-2}\otimes m)=k_1(C_nm)=C_nu$$

 $k_r k_{n-r+1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) = 0$ for $2 \le r \le n-1$ for similar reasons encountered above.

$$k_n k_1 (v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) = (-1)^{n-1} k_n (k_1(m) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2})$$
$$= -(-1)^{n-1} k_n (v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes u)$$
$$= (-1)^n C_n u$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (-1)^{s(n-s)} k_{n-s+1} k_s (v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) = (-1)^{1(n-1)} (-1)^n C_n u + (-1)^{n(n-n)} C_n u$$
(6)

$$= -C_n u + C_n u \tag{7}$$

=0 (8)

For String 5, we observe the following:

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 k_n (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) &= k_1(0) = 0 \\ k_2 k_{n-1} (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) &= (-1)^{n-1} k_2 (k_{n-1} (v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) \otimes v_1) \\ &= (-1)^n C_{n-1} k_2 (v_1 \otimes m) \\ &= (-1)^n C_{n-1} m \end{aligned}$$

 $k_rk_{n-r+1}(v_1\otimes v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-3}\otimes m)=0$ for $3\leq r\leq n-2$ for similar reasons encountered above.

$$\begin{aligned} k_{n-1}k_2(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) &= -(n-3)k_{n-1} \left(l_2(v_1 \otimes w) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-4} \otimes m \right) \\ &+ (-1)^{n-2}k_{n-1} \left(k_2(v_1 \otimes m) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \right) \\ &= -(n-3)k_{n-1}(w \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-4} \otimes m) \\ &+ (-1)^{n-2}k_{n-1}(m \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3}) \\ &= (n-3)k_{n-1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) \\ &+ (-1)^{(n-2)+(n-2)}k_{n-1}(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) \\ &= (n-3)C_{n-1}m \\ &+ C_{n-1}m \\ &= (n-2)C_{n-1}m \\ k_nk_1(v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) = k_n \left(k_1(v_1) \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m \right) \\ &= -k_n(v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-2} \otimes m) \\ &= -C_nm \\ &= -(-1)^{n-1}(n-3)C_{n-1}m \\ &= (-1)^n(n-3)C_{n-1}m \end{aligned}$$

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Hence,

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (-1)^{s(n-s)} k_{n-s+1} k_s (v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes w^{\otimes n-3} \otimes m) = (-1)^{1(n-1)} (-1)^n (n-3) C_{n-1} m + (-1)^{2(n-2)} (n-2) C_{n-1} m + (-1)^{(n-1)(n-(n-1))} (-1)^n C_{n-1} m = -(n-3) C_{n-1} m + (n-2) C_{n-1} m = 0$$

In all 4 cases, Equation 1 holds. Hence, M is an L-module.

A concrete L_{∞} module will induce another interesting L_{∞} algebra structure in a manner that generalizes the relationship between a classical Lie module and a canonical Lie algebra. This will be addressed in the next section.

4. A Canonical L_{∞} Structure

One of the most fundamental results in the study of classical Lie algebras is that given a Lie algebra L and an L-module M, the vector space $L \oplus M$ forms a Lie algebra via the bracket

$$[(x_1, m_1), (x_2, m_2)] = ([x_1, x_2], x_1 \cdot m_2 - x_2 \cdot m_1)$$

where '·' denotes the module action in M. It is not surprising that a homotopy theoretic version of the classical Lie algebra $L \oplus M$ exists. Given an L_{∞} structure, L, and an L-module, M, we may construct a new graded vector space $L \oplus M$ that can be endowed with its own L_{∞} structure as follows.

Theorem 4.1. ([5]) Let (L, l_k) be an L_{∞} algebra and (M, k_n) be an L-module. Then the graded vector space $L \oplus M$ inherits a canonical L_{∞} structure under the collection of maps $\{j_n : (L \oplus M)^{\otimes n} \to L \oplus M\}$ defined by

$$j_n((x_1, m_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes (x_n, m_n)) = \left(l_n(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n), \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{n-i} (-1)^{m_i \sum_{k=i+1}^n x_k} k_n(x_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \hat{x_i} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_n \otimes m_i) \right)$$

where $\hat{x_i}$ means omit x_i .

Given the newly constructed concrete example of an L_{∞} module in Theorem 3.2, it is natural to investigate the type of L_{∞} algebra structure it induces. Let L

and M denote the L_{∞} algebra and L-module in Theorem 3.2. That is, $L = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} L_i$, where $L_i = 0$ if $i \neq 0, -1$ and

$$L_0 = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle, L_{-1} = \langle w \rangle$$

and $M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_i$, where $M_i = 0$ if $i \neq 0, -1$ and

$$M_0 = \langle m \rangle, M_{-1} = \langle u \rangle.$$

As a graded vector space, elements $(x, m) \in L \oplus M$ must satisfy |x| = |m|. Hence $L \oplus M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} (L \oplus M)_i$, where $(L \oplus M)_i = 0$ if $i \neq 0, -1$ and

$$(L \oplus M)_0 = \langle (v_1, m), (v_2, m) \rangle, (L \oplus M)_{-1} = \langle (w, u) \rangle.$$

Using the definition given in Theorem 4.1, we may explicitly define the structure maps $\{j_n\}$ on $L \oplus M$. As a result of linearity and skew-symmetry, it suffices to define these maps by how they act on any number of basis elements.

Since $deg(j_1) = -1$, $j_1(w, u) = 0$. Furthermore,

$$j_1(v_1, m) = (l_1(v_1), k_1(m)) = (w, u)$$

$$j_1(v_2, m) = (l_1(v_2), k_1(m)) = (w, u).$$

Hence, j_1 is very simply defined by

$$j_1(v_1, m) = j_1(v_2, m) = (w, u).$$

Examining all combinations of basis elements, we find j_2 to be defined as follows:

$$j_{2}((v_{1},m),(v_{1},m)) = (l_{2}(v_{1},v_{1}),k_{2}(v_{1},m) - (-1)^{v_{1}m}k_{2}(v_{1},m)) = (0,0)$$

$$j_{2}((v_{2},m),(v_{2},m)) = (l_{2}(v_{2},v_{2}),k_{2}(v_{2},m) - (-1)^{v_{2}m}k_{2}(v_{2},m)) = (0,0)$$

$$j_{2}((v_{1},m),(v_{2},m)) = (l_{2}(v_{1},v_{2}),k_{2}(v_{1},m) - (-1)^{v_{2}m}k_{2}(v_{2},m)) = (v_{1},m)$$

$$j_{2}((v_{1},m),(w,u)) = (l_{2}(v_{1},w),k_{2}(v_{1},u) - (-1)^{wm}k_{2}(w,m)) = (w,u)$$

$$j_{2}((v_{2},m),(w,u)) = (l_{2}(v_{2},w),k_{2}(v_{2},u) - (-1)^{wm}k_{2}(w,m)) = (0,0)$$

$$j_{2}((w,u),(w,u)) = (0,0) \text{ since } deg(j_{2}) = 0.$$

Hence,

$$j_2((v_1, m), (v_2, m)) = (v_1, m)$$
$$j_2((v_1, m), (w, u)) = (w, u)$$

with $j_2 = 0$ when evaluated on any other element.

It is apparent that the graded differential j_1 and bracket j_2 are acting in precisely the same manner as their counterparts in L. The homotopies, however, do not. Let $n \geq 3$ and consider $j_n : (L \oplus M)^{\otimes n} \to L \oplus M$. By definition of j_n in Theorem 4.1, the only nonzero action of j_n on basis elements occurs on $(v_2, m) \otimes (w, u)^{\otimes n-1}$ since both l_n and k_n are only nonzero when evaluated on a string containing v_2 when $n \geq 3$. Hence, for $n \geq 3$,

$$j_n((v_2,m)\otimes(w,u)^{\otimes n-1}) = \left(l_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-1}), \\ 0 + \underbrace{k_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-2}\otimes u) + k_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-2}\otimes u) + \dots + k_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-2}\otimes u)}_{(n-1)k_n(v_2\otimes w^{\otimes n-2}\otimes u)}\right)$$
$$= (C_nw, (n-1)C_nu)$$
$$= C_n(w, (n-1)u).$$

These structure maps form a new L_{∞} algebra as follows.

Theorem 4.2. Let $L \oplus M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} (L \oplus M)_i$ where $(L \oplus M)_0$ is two dimensional with basis $\langle (v_1, m), (v_2, m) \rangle$ and $(L \oplus M)_{-1}$ is one dimensional with basis $\langle (w, u) \rangle$ and $(L \oplus M)_i = 0$ for $i \neq 0, -1$. Define a structure on $(L \oplus M)$ by the following linear maps $\{j_n : (L \oplus M)^{\otimes n} \to L \oplus M\}$:

$$j_1(v_1, m) = j_1(v_2, m) = (w, u)$$
$$j_2((v_1, m) \otimes (v_2, m)) = (v_1, m)$$
$$j_2((v_1, m) \otimes (w, u)) = (w, u)$$
$$j_n((v_2, m) \otimes (w, u)^{\otimes n-1}) = C_n(w, (n-1)u),$$

where $C_3 = 1$, $C_n = (-1)^{n-1}(n-3)C_{n-1}$, and $j_n = 0$ when evaluated on any element of $(L \oplus M)^{\otimes n}$ that is not listed above. Then $(L \oplus M, j_n)$ is an L_{∞} algebra.

The proof is an immediate consequence of the previous computations and Theorem 4.1.

It is worth noting that this is not isomorphic to the L_{∞} structure given in [1] due to the extra coefficient, n-1, attached to the higher homotopies j_n . It is also worth noting that this is another example of an L_{∞} structure that is a strict Lie algebra in degree 0. Finding an example that is not strictly Lie in degree 0 remains an interesting question for further investigation.

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