

(CO)HOMOLOGY OF TRIASSOCIATIVE ALGEBRAS

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We study homology and cohomology of triassociative algebras with nontrivial coefficients. The cohomology theory is applied to study algebraic deformations of triassociative algebras.

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1. Introduction

Triassociative algebras, introduced by Loday and Ronco [8], are analogues of associative algebras in which there are three binary operations, satisfying 11 relations. These algebras are closely related to some very interesting combinatorial objects. In fact, the operad *Trias* for triassociative algebras is modeled by the standard simplices. This operad is Koszul, in the sense of Ginzburg and Kapranov [6]. Its Koszul dual operad *TriDend* is modeled by the Stasheff polytopes [11, 12], or equivalently, planar trees. The algebras for the latter operad are called tridendriform algebras, which have three binary operations whose sum is an associative operation.

The purpose of this paper is to advance the study of triassociative algebras in the following ways: (1) algebraic foundation: when studying (co)homology, the first task is to figure out the correct coefficients. We introduce homology and cohomology with nontrivial coefficients for triassociative algebras. In fact, Loday and Ronco [8] already defined homology with trivial coefficients for these algebras. We will build upon their construction. (2) Deformation: once (co)homology is in place, we use it to study algebraic deformations of triassociative algebras, following the pattern established by Gerstenhaber [5].

We should point out that deformations of dialgebras [7], the analogues of triassociative algebras with only two binary operations, have been studied by Majumdar and Mukherjee [9]. One difference between triassociative algebras and dialgebras is the coboundary operator in cohomology. Specifically, in both cases, the coboundary involves certain products \circ_j^ψ . The definition of this product is more delicate in the triassociative algebra case than in the dialgebra case. This is due to the fact that planar trees, which model

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triassociative algebra cohomology, are more complicated than planar *binary* trees, which model dialgebra cohomology. A more fundamental difference is that the sets of planar trees form a simplicial set, whereas the sets of binary trees form only an *almost* simplicial set [7, Section 3.10]. This is important, since the author intends to adapt the algebraic works in the present paper to study topological triassociative (co)homology, in analogy with topological Hochschild (co)homology (see, e.g., [2, 3, 10]). Such objects should be defined as the geometric realization of a certain simplicial spectrum (or the *Tot* of a certain cosimplicial spectrum), modeled after the algebraic (co)simplicial object that defines (co)homology.

In the classical case of an associative algebra R , the coefficients in Hochschild homology and cohomology are the same, namely, the R -representations. In contrast, in the case of triassociative algebras (and also dialgebras), the coefficients in homology and cohomology are not the same. The natural coefficient for triassociative cohomology is a representation, which can be defined using the 11 triassociative algebra axioms. This leads to an expected algebraic deformation theory. To define triassociative homology with coefficients, we will construct the universal enveloping algebra (UA), which is a unital associative algebra of a triassociative algebra A . A left UA -module is exactly an A -representation. We then define an A -corepresentation to be a right UA -module. These right UA -modules are the coefficients in triassociative homology. In the classical Hochschild theory, the universal enveloping algebra is $R^e = R \otimes R^{op}$.

We remark that all of the results in this paper can be reproduced for tridendriform and tricubical algebras in [8] with minimal modifications.

Organization. The next section is devoted to defining triassociative algebra cohomology with nontrivial coefficients, in which we begin with a brief discussion of representations over a triassociative algebra. The construction of triassociative algebra cohomology requires a discussion of planar trees. We observe that the sets of planar trees form a simplicial set (Proposition 2.1). After that we define the cochain complex $C_{\text{Trias}}^*(A, M)$ for a triassociative algebra A with coefficients in an A -representation M (Theorem 2.2) and give descriptions of the low-dimensional cohomology modules H_{Trias}^* for $* \leq 2$. It is also shown that $H_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, -)$ is trivial for all $n \geq 2$ when A is a free triassociative algebra (Theorem 2.3).

In Section 3, we construct triassociative algebra homology with nontrivial coefficients by using the *universal enveloping algebra* (UA) of a triassociative algebra A . The A -representations are identified with the left UA -modules (Proposition 3.1). We then compute the associated graded algebra of UA under the length filtration (Theorem 3.2). This leads to a triassociative version of the Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt theorem (Corollary 3.3). We then use the *right* UA -modules as the coefficients for triassociative algebra homology, analogous to the dialgebra case [4]. To show that the purported homology complex is actually a chain complex, we relate it to the *cotangent complex* (Proposition 3.4), which can be used to define both the homology and the cohomology complexes. The cotangent complex is the analogue of the bar complex in Hochschild homology. When the coefficient module is taken to be the ground field (i.e., trivial coefficients), our triassociative homology agrees with the one constructed in Loday and Ronco [8]. That section ends with descriptions of H_0^{Trias} and H_1^{Trias} .

Section 4 is devoted to studying algebraic deformations of triassociative algebras. We define algebraic deformations and their infinitesimals for a triassociative algebra A . It is observed that an infinitesimal is always a 2-cocycle in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ whose cohomology class is determined by the equivalence class of the deformation (Theorem 4.1). A triassociative algebra A is called *rigid* if every deformation of A is equivalent to the trivial deformation. It is observed that the cohomology module $H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ can be thought of as the obstruction to the rigidity of A . Namely, we observe that A is rigid, provided that the module $H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ is trivial (Corollary 4.3). As examples, free triassociative algebras are rigid (Corollary 4.4). Finally, we identify the obstructions to extend 2-cocycles in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ to deformations. Given a 2-cocycle, there is a sequence of obstruction classes in $C_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$, which are shown to be 3-cocycles (Lemma 4.5). The simultaneous vanishing of their cohomology classes is equivalent to the existence of a deformation whose infinitesimal is the given 2-cocycle (Theorem 4.6). In particular, these obstructions always vanish if the cohomology module $H_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$ is trivial (Corollary 4.7). We remark that the work of Balavoine [1] gives another approach to study deformations of triassociative algebras.

2. Cohomology of triassociative algebras

For the rest of this paper, we work over a fixed ground field K . Tensor products are taken over K . We begin by recalling some relevant definitions about triassociative algebras and planar trees from [8].

2.1. Triassociative algebras and representations. A *triassociative algebra* is a vector space A that comes equipped with three binary operations, \dashv (left), \vdash (right), and \perp (middle), satisfying the following 11 triassociative axioms for all $x, y, z \in A$:

$$(x \dashv y) \dashv z = x \dashv (y \dashv z), \quad (2.1a)$$

$$(x \dashv y) \dashv z = x \dashv (y \vdash z), \quad (2.1b)$$

$$(x \vdash y) \dashv z = x \vdash (y \dashv z), \quad (2.1c)$$

$$(x \dashv y) \vdash z = x \vdash (y \vdash z), \quad (2.1d)$$

$$(x \vdash y) \vdash z = x \vdash (y \vdash z), \quad (2.1e)$$

$$(x \dashv y) \dashv z = x \dashv (y \perp z), \quad (2.1f)$$

$$(x \perp y) \dashv z = x \perp (y \dashv z), \quad (2.1g)$$

$$(x \dashv y) \perp z = x \perp (y \vdash z), \quad (2.1h)$$

$$(x \vdash y) \perp z = x \vdash (y \perp z), \quad (2.1i)$$

$$(x \perp y) \vdash z = x \vdash (y \vdash z), \quad (2.1j)$$

$$(x \perp y) \perp z = x \perp (y \perp z). \quad (2.1k)$$

Note that the first 5 axioms state that (A, \dashv, \vdash) is a dialgebra [7], and they do not involve the middle product \perp . From now on, A will always denote an arbitrary triassociative algebra, unless stated otherwise.

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A *morphism* of triassociative algebras is a vector space map that respects the three products.

An *A-representation* is a vector space M together with (i) 3 left operations $\dashv, \vdash, \perp : A \otimes M \rightarrow M$, (ii) 3 right operations $\dashv, \vdash, \perp : M \otimes A \rightarrow M$ satisfying (2.1a)–(2.1k) whenever exactly one of x, y, z is from M and the other two are from A . Thus, there are 33 total axioms. From now on, M will always denote an arbitrary A -representation, unless stated otherwise.

For example, if $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ is a morphism of triassociative algebras, then B becomes an A -representation via φ , namely, $x \star b = \varphi(x) \star b$ and $b \star x = b \star \varphi(x)$ for $x \in A, b \in B$, and $\star \in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$. In particular, A is naturally an A -representation via the identity map.

In order to construct triassociative algebra cohomology, we also need to use planar trees.

2.2. Planar trees. For integers $n \geq 0$, let T_n denote the set of planar trees with $n + 1$ leaves and one root in which each internal vertex has valence at least 2. We will call them *trees* from now on. The first four sets T_n are listed below:

$$\begin{aligned} T_0 &= \{\{\}\}, & T_1 &= \{\vee\}, & T_2 &= \{\vee\vee, \vee\vee, \vee\vee\}, \\ T_3 &= \{\vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee, \vee\vee\vee\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Trees in T_n are said to have *degree* n , denoted by $|\psi| = n$ for $\psi \in T_n$. The $n + 1$ leaves of a tree in T_n are labeled $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ from left to right.

A leaf is said to be *left oriented* (resp., *right oriented*) if it is the leftmost (resp., rightmost) leaf of the vertex underneath it. Leaves that are neither left nor right oriented are called *middle leaves*. For example, in the tree $\vee\vee$, leaves 0 and 2 are left oriented, while leaf 3 is right oriented. Leaf 1 is a middle leaf.

Given trees ψ_0, \dots, ψ_k , one can form a new tree by the operation of *grafting*. Namely, the grafting of these $k + 1$ trees is the tree $\psi_0 \vee \dots \vee \psi_k$ obtained by arranging ψ_0, \dots, ψ_k from left to right and joining the $k + 1$ roots to form a new (lowest) internal vertex, which is connected to a new root. The degree of $\psi_0 \vee \dots \vee \psi_k$ is

$$\{(|\psi_0| + 1) + \dots + (|\psi_k| + 1)\} - 1 = k + \sum_{i=0}^k |\psi_i|. \quad (2.3)$$

Conversely, every tree ψ can be written uniquely as the grafting of $k + 1$ trees, $\psi_0 \vee \dots \vee \psi_k$, where the valence of the lowest internal vertex of ψ is $k + 1$.

Before defining cohomology, we make the following observation, which is not used in the rest of the paper but maybe useful in future studies of triassociative cohomology.

For $0 \leq i \leq n + 1$, define a function

$$d_i : T_{n+1} \longrightarrow T_n, \quad (2.4)$$

which sends a tree $\psi \in T_{n+1}$ to the tree $d_i\psi \in T_n$ obtained from ψ by deleting the i th leaf. For $0 \leq i \leq n$, define another function

$$s_i : T_n \longrightarrow T_{n+1} \quad (2.5)$$

as follows: for $\psi \in T_n$, $s_i\psi \in T_{n+1}$ is the tree obtained from ψ by adding a new leaf to the internal vertex connecting to leaf i , and this new leaf is placed immediately to the left of the original leaf i . For example, if $\psi = \vee$, then $s_0(\psi) = \vee\vee$ and $s_1(\psi) = s_2(\psi) = \vee\vee$.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *The sets $\{T_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ form a simplicial set with face maps d_i and degeneracy maps s_i .*

Proof. Recall that the simplicial relations are

$$\begin{aligned} d_i d_j &= d_{j-1} d_i \quad \text{if } i < j, \\ d_i s_j &= \begin{cases} s_{j-1} d_i & \text{if } i < j, \\ \text{Id} & \text{if } i = j, j+1, \\ s_j d_{i-1} & \text{if } i > j+1, \end{cases} \\ s_i s_j &= s_{j+1} s_i \quad \text{if } i \leq j. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

All of them are immediate from the definitions. \square

2.3. Cohomology. For integers $n \geq 0$, define the *module of n -cochains of A with coefficients in M* to be

$$C_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M) := \text{Hom}_K(K[T_n] \otimes A^{\otimes n}, M). \quad (2.7)$$

To define the coboundary maps, we need the following operations. For $0 \leq i \leq n+1$, define a function

$$\circ_i : T_{n+1} \longrightarrow \{-, \vdash, \perp\} \quad (2.8)$$

according to the following rules. Let ψ be a tree in T_{n+1} , which is written uniquely as $\psi = \psi_0 \vee \cdots \vee \psi_k$ in which the valence of the lowest internal vertex of ψ is $k+1$. Also, write \circ_i^ψ for $\circ_i(\psi)$. Then \circ_0^ψ is given by

$$\circ_0^\psi = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if } |\psi_0| = 0, k = 1, \\ \vdash & \text{if } |\psi_0| > 0, \\ \perp & \text{if } |\psi_0| = 0, k > 1. \end{cases} \quad (2.9)$$

For $1 \leq i \leq n$, \circ_i^ψ is given by

$$\circ_i^\psi = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if the } i\text{th leaf of } \psi \text{ is left oriented,} \\ \vdash & \text{if the } i\text{th leaf of } \psi \text{ is right oriented,} \\ \perp & \text{if the } i\text{th leaf of } \psi \text{ is a middle leaf.} \end{cases} \quad (2.10)$$

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Finally, \circ_{n+1}^ψ is given by

$$\circ_{n+1}^\psi = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if } |\psi_k| > 0, \\ \vdash & \text{if } k = 1, |\psi_1| = 0, \\ \perp & \text{if } k > 1, |\psi_k| = 0. \end{cases} \quad (2.11)$$

For example, for the 11 trees ψ in T_3 (from left to right), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \circ_0^\psi &= \dashv, \dashv, \vdash, \vdash, \vdash, \dashv, \perp, \perp, \vdash, \vdash, \perp, \\ \circ_{n+1}^\psi &= \dashv, \dashv, \dashv, \vdash, \vdash, \dashv, \dashv, \perp, \perp, \vdash, \perp. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

Now define the map

$$\delta^n : C_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M) \longrightarrow C_{\text{Trias}}^{n+1}(A, M) \quad (2.13)$$

to be the alternating sum

$$\delta^n = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} (-1)^i \delta_i^n, \quad (2.14)$$

where

$$(\delta_i^n f)(\psi; a_1, \dots, a_{n+1}) = \begin{cases} a_1 \circ_0^\psi f(d_0 \psi; a_2, \dots, a_{n+1}) & \text{if } i = 0, \\ f(d_i \psi; a_1, \dots, a_i \circ_i^\psi a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n) & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq n, \\ f(d_{n+1} \psi; a_1, \dots, a_n) \circ_{n+1}^\psi a_{n+1} & \text{if } i = n+1, \end{cases} \quad (2.15)$$

for $f \in C_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M)$, $\psi \in T_{n+1}$, and $a_1, \dots, a_{n+1} \in A$.

THEOREM 2.2. *The maps δ_i^n satisfy the cosimplicial identities,*

$$\delta_j^{n+1} \delta_i^n = \delta_i^{n+1} \delta_{j-1}^n, \quad (2.16)$$

for $0 \leq i < j \leq n+2$. In particular, $(C_{\text{Trias}}^*(A, M), \delta)$ is a cochain complex.

Proof. First, note that for $1 \leq i \leq n$, the map δ_i^n is dual to the map

$$d_i : C_{n+1}^{\text{Trias}}(A) = K[T_{n+1}] \otimes A^{\otimes n+1} \longrightarrow K[T_n] \otimes A^{\otimes n} = C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A) \quad (2.17)$$

in Loday and Ronco [8], that is, $\delta_i^n = \text{Hom}(d_i, M)$. It is shown there that these d_i satisfy the simplicial identities. Therefore, to prove the cosimplicial identities, it suffices to consider the following three cases: (i) $i = 0$, $j = n+2$, (ii) $i = 0 < j < n+2$, and (iii) $0 < i < j = n+2$.

Consider case (i). Suppose that $\psi \in T_{n+2}$, $a_1, \dots, a_{n+2} \in A$, and $f \in C_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M)$. Let α be the element $(\psi; a_1, \dots, a_{n+2})$ in $K[T_{n+2}] \otimes A^{\otimes n+2}$. Write ψ as $\psi_0 \vee \dots \vee \psi_k$ uniquely

with $k + 1$ being the valence of the lowest internal vertex of ψ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\delta_{n+2}^{n+1} \delta_0^n f)(\alpha) &= \{(\delta_0^n f)(d_{n+2}\psi; a_1, \dots, a_{n+1})\} \circ_{n+2}^\psi a_{n+2} \\
 &= \{a_1 \circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} f(d_0 d_{n+2}\psi; a_2, \dots, a_{n+1})\} \circ_{n+2}^\psi a_{n+2} \\
 &= (a_1 \circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} y) \circ_{n+2}^\psi a_{n+2},
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.18}$$

where $y = f(d_{n+1}d_0\psi; a_2, \dots, a_{n+1})$. Here we used the simplicial identity $d_0 d_{n+2} = d_{n+1} d_0$. On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\delta_0^{n+1} \delta_{n+1}^n f)(\alpha) &= a_1 \circ_0^\psi \{(\delta_{n+1}^n f)(d_0\psi; a_2, \dots, a_{n+2})\} \\
 &= a_1 \circ_0^\psi (y \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi} a_{n+2}).
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

In order to show that

$$(a_1 \circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} y) \circ_{n+2}^\psi a_{n+2} = a_1 \circ_0^\psi (y \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi} a_{n+2}), \tag{2.20}$$

we need to consider 7 different cases.

(1) If $k = 1$ and $|\psi_0| = 0$, then $\circ_0^\psi = \dashv = \circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi}$. In this case, it follows from the triassociative algebra axioms (2.1a), (2.1b), and (2.1f) that

$$(a_1 \dashv y) * a_{n+2} = a_1 \dashv (y *' a_{n+2}) \tag{2.21}$$

regardless of what $*$, $*' \in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$ are.

(2) If $k = 1$ and $|\psi_1| = 0$, then $\circ_{n+2}^\psi = \vdash = \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi}$. It then follows from axioms (2.1d), (2.1e), and (2.1j) that

$$(a_1 * y) \vdash a_{n+2} = a_1 *' (y \vdash a_{n+2}) \tag{2.22}$$

regardless of what $*$, $*' \in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$ are.

(3) For $k \geq 1$, if both $|\psi_0|$ and $|\psi_k|$ are positive, then $\circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} = \vdash = \circ_0^\psi$ and $\circ_{n+2}^\psi = \dashv = \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi}$. Therefore, (2.20) holds by axiom (2.1c).

(4) If $k = 2$ and $|\psi_0| = 0 = |\psi_2|$, then $\circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} = \dashv$, $\circ_{n+2}^\psi = \perp$, $\circ_0^\psi = \perp$, and $\circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi} = \vdash$. It follows from axiom (2.1h) that (2.20) holds.

(5) If $k > 2$ and $|\psi_0| = 0 = |\psi_k|$, then $\circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} = \circ_{n+2}^\psi = \circ_0^\psi = \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi} = \perp$. Thus, (2.20) follows from axiom (2.1k).

(6) If $k \geq 2$, $|\psi_0| = 0$, and $|\psi_k| > 0$, then $\circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} = \perp = \circ_0^\psi$ and $\circ_{n+2}^\psi = \dashv = \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi}$. Therefore, it follows from axiom (2.1g) that (2.20) holds.

(7) If $k \geq 2$, $|\psi_0| > 0$, and $|\psi_k| = 0$, then $\circ_0^{d_{n+2}\psi} = \vdash = \circ_0^\psi$ and $\circ_{n+2}^\psi = \perp = \circ_{n+1}^{d_0\psi}$. Therefore, (2.20) follows from axiom (2.1i).

Therefore, the cosimplicial identity holds in the case $i = 0$, $j = n + 2$.

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Next, we consider case (ii), where $i = 0$, $j = 1, \dots, n+1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta_j^{n+1} \delta_0^n f)(\alpha) &= (\delta_0^n f)(d_j \psi; a_1, \dots, a_j \circ_j^\psi a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{n+2}) \\ &= \begin{cases} (a_1 \circ_1^\psi a_2) \circ_0^{d_1 \psi} z & \text{if } j = 1, \\ a_1 \circ_0^{d_j \psi} x & \text{if } 2 \leq j \leq n+1, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} z &= f(d_0 d_0 \psi; a_3, \dots, a_{n+2}), \\ x &= f(d_{j-1} d_0 \psi; a_2, \dots, a_j \circ_j^\psi a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{n+2}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.24)$$

Here we used the simplicial identity $d_0 d_j = d_{j-1} d_0$ for $0 < j$. On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta_0^{n+1} \delta_{j-1}^n f)(\alpha) &= a_1 \circ_0^\psi (\delta_{j-1}^n f)(d_0 \psi; a_2, \dots, a_{n+2}) \\ &= \begin{cases} a_1 \circ_0^\psi (a_2 \circ_0^{d_0 \psi} z) & \text{if } j = 1, \\ a_1 \circ_0^\psi w & \text{if } 2 \leq j \leq n+1, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2.25)$$

where

$$w = f(d_{j-1} d_0 \psi; a_2, \dots, a_j \circ_{j-1}^{d_0 \psi} a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{n+2}). \quad (2.26)$$

In the cases $2 \leq j \leq n+1$, we have that $\circ_j^\psi = \circ_{j-1}^{d_0 \psi}$ and $\circ_0^{d_j \psi} = \circ_0^\psi$, and hence $a_1 \circ_0^{d_j \psi} x = a_1 \circ_0^\psi w$. In the case $j = 1$, we need to show the identity

$$(a_1 \circ_1^\psi a_2) \circ_0^{d_1 \psi} z = a_1 \circ_0^\psi (a_2 \circ_0^{d_0 \psi} z). \quad (2.27)$$

We break it into three cases.

(1) If $|\psi_0| \geq 2$, then $\circ_0^{d_1 \psi} = \vdash = \circ_0^{d_0 \psi}$. Therefore, it follows from axioms (2.1d), (2.1e), and (2.1j) that

$$(a_1 * a_2) \vdash z = a_1 *' (a_2 \vdash z) \quad (2.28)$$

regardless of what $*$, $*' \in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$ are.

(2) If $|\psi_0| = 1$, then $\circ_1^\psi = \vdash = \circ_0^\psi$ and

$$\circ_0^{d_0 \psi} = \circ_0^{d_1 \psi} = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if } k = 1, \\ \perp & \text{if } k \geq 2. \end{cases} \quad (2.29)$$

Therefore, (2.27) holds by axiom (2.1c) if $k = 1$ and by axiom (2.1i) if $k \geq 2$.

(3) Now suppose that $|\psi_0| = 0$. If $k = 1$, then $\circ_0^\psi = \dashv = \circ_1^\psi$. It follows that (2.27) holds by axioms (2.1a), (2.1b), and (2.1f). If $k \geq 2$, then $\circ_0^\psi = \perp$. To figure out what the other three operations are, we need to consider two subcases.

(i) If $|\psi_1| > 0$, then $\circ_0^{d_0 \psi} = \vdash$, $\circ_1^\psi = \dashv$, and $\circ_0^{d_1 \psi} = \perp$. Thus, (2.27) holds by axiom (2.1h).

(ii) If $|\psi_1| = 0$, then $\circ_1^\psi = \perp$ and

$$\circ_0^{d_1\psi} = \circ_0^{d_0\psi} = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if } k = 2, \\ \perp & \text{if } k > 2. \end{cases} \quad (2.30)$$

It follows that (2.27) holds by axiom (2.1g) when $k = 2$ and by axiom (2.1k) when $k > 2$.

This proves the cosimplicial identities for the δ_i^n when $i = 0$ and $1 \leq j \leq n + 1$. The proof for the case $1 \leq i \leq n + 1$, $j = n + 2$ is similar to the argument that was just given. \square

In view of Theorem 2.2, we define the n th cohomology of A with coefficients in the representation M to be

$$H_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M) := H^n(C_{\text{Trias}}^*(A, M), \delta) \quad (2.31)$$

for $n \geq 0$. We describe the first three cohomology modules below.

2.4. H_{Trias}^0 and H_{Trias}^1 . A linear map $\varphi : A \rightarrow M$ is called a *derivation of A with values in M* if it satisfies the condition

$$\varphi(a * b) = \varphi(a) * b + a * \varphi(b), \quad (2.32)$$

for all $a, b \in A$ and $*$ $\in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$. Denote by $\text{Der}(A, M)$ the submodule of $\text{Hom}_K(A, M)$ consisting of all the derivations of A with values in M . For an element $m \in M$, define the map $ad_m : A \rightarrow M$, where

$$ad_m(a) := a \dashv m - m \vdash a \quad (2.33)$$

for $a \in A$. Such a map is called an *inner derivation of A with values in M* . It follows immediately from the triassociative algebra axioms (2.1) that each map ad_m belongs to $\text{Der}(A, M)$. Let $\text{Inn}(A, M)$ denote the submodule of $\text{Der}(A, M)$ consisting of all the inner derivations of A with values in M .

Identify $C_{\text{Trias}}^0(A, M)$ with M and $C_{\text{Trias}}^1(A, M)$ with $\text{Hom}_K(A, M)$. Under such identifications, the coboundary map $\delta^0 : M \rightarrow \text{Hom}_K(A, M)$ is given by $\delta^0(m) = ad_m$. Therefore, the cohomology module $H_{\text{Trias}}^0(A, M)$, which is the kernel of δ^0 , is the following submodule of M :

$$H_{\text{Trias}}^0(A, M) \cong M^A := \{m \in M \mid a \dashv m = m \vdash a \ \forall a \in A\}. \quad (2.34)$$

The image of δ^0 is the module $\text{Inn}(A, M)$. Now if $f \in C_{\text{Trias}}^1(A, M)$, then

$$(\delta^1 f)(\psi; a, b) = a * f(b) - f(a * b) + f(a) * b, \quad (2.35)$$

where

$$* = \begin{cases} \dashv & \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}, \\ \vdash & \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array}, \\ \perp & \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagdown \end{array}. \end{cases} \quad (2.36)$$

In particular, the kernel of δ^1 is exactly $\text{Der}(A, M)$. Therefore, as in the cases of associative algebras and dialgebras [4], we have

$$H_{\text{Trias}}^1(A, M) \cong \frac{\text{Der}(A, M)}{\text{Inn}(A, M)}. \quad (2.37)$$

2.5. $H_{\text{Trias}}^i(A, -)$ when A is free. It is shown in [8, Theorem 4.1] that the operad Trias for triassociative algebras is Koszul. In other words, $H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) = 0$ for $n \geq 2$ if A is a free triassociative algebra. Here $H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K)$ denotes the triassociative homology of A with trivial coefficients defined by Loday and Ronco [8]. It agrees with our triassociative homology defined below. The Koszulness of Trias implies that free triassociative algebras have trivial higher cohomology modules.

THEOREM 2.3. *Let A be a free triassociative algebra. Then*

$$H_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M) = 0 \quad (2.38)$$

for all $n \geq 2$ and any A -representation M .

Proof. The first line in the proof of Theorem 2.2 implies that for any triassociative algebra A ,

$$H_{\text{Trias}}^n(A, M) \cong \text{Hom}_K(H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K), M). \quad (2.39)$$

The theorem now follows from the Koszulness of Trias . □

2.6. Abelian extensions and H_{Trias}^2 . Define an *abelian triassociative algebra* to be a triassociative algebra P in which all three products, \dashv , \vdash , \perp , are equal to 0. In this case, we will just say that P is abelian. Any vector space becomes an abelian triassociative algebra when equipped with the trivial products. Suppose that $\xi : 0 \rightarrow P \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{\pi} A \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence of triassociative algebras in which P is abelian. Then P has an induced A -representation structure via $a * p = e * i(p)$ and $p * a = i(p) * e$ for $* \in \{\dashv, \vdash, \perp\}$, $p \in P$, $a \in A$, and any element $e \in E$ such that $\pi(e) = a$.

Now consider an A -representation M . By an *abelian extension of A by M* , we mean a short exact sequence

$$\xi : 0 \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} E \xrightarrow{\pi} A \longrightarrow 0 \quad (2.40)$$

of triassociative algebras in which M is abelian and such that the induced A -representation structure on M coincides with the original one. An abelian extension is said to be *trivial* if it splits triassociative algebras. Given another abelian extension $\xi' = \{0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow E' \rightarrow A \rightarrow 0\}$ of A by M , we say that ξ and ξ' are *equivalent* if there exists a map $\varphi : E \rightarrow E'$ of triassociative algebras making the obvious ladder diagram commutative. (Note that such a map φ must be an isomorphism.) Denote by $[\xi]$ the equivalence class of an abelian extension ξ and denote by $\text{Ext}(A, M)$ the set of equivalence classes of abelian extensions of A by M .

Suppose that ξ is an abelian extension of A by M as in (2.40). By choosing a vector space splitting $\sigma : A \rightarrow E$, one can identify the underlying vector space of E with $M \oplus A$.

As usual, there exists a map

$$f_{\xi} : K[T_2] \otimes A^{\otimes 2} \longrightarrow M \quad (2.41)$$

such that the products in E become

$$(m, a) * (n, b) = (m * b + a * n + f_{\xi}(\psi; a, b), a * b) \quad (2.42)$$

for $*$ \in $\{-, \vdash, \perp\}$, $m, n \in M$, and $a, b \in A$. Here $\psi \in T_2$ is given by

$$\psi = \begin{cases} \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} & \text{if } * = -, \\ \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} & \text{if } * = \vdash, \\ \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagdown \end{array} & \text{if } * = \perp. \end{cases} \quad (2.43)$$

Note that this is basically (2.36). We will always identify the 3 trees in T_2 with the products $\{-, \vdash, \perp\}$ like this. It is easy to check that the 11 triassociative algebra axioms (2.1) in E are equivalent to $f_{\xi} \in C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, M)$ being a 2-cocycle. For instance, we have

$$\begin{aligned} ((0, x) \dashv (0, y)) \dashv (0, z) &= (f_{\xi}(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}; x, y), x \dashv y) \dashv (0, z) \\ &= (f_x(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}; x, y) \dashv z + f_{\xi}(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}; x \dashv y, z), (x \dashv y) \dashv z). \end{aligned} \quad (2.44)$$

On the other hand, a similar calculation yields

$$(0, x) \dashv ((0, y) \perp (0, z)) = (x \dashv f_{\xi}(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array}; y, z) + f_{\xi}(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array}; x, y \perp z), x \dashv (y \perp z)). \quad (2.45)$$

These two expressions are equal by axiom (2.1f). By equating the first factors, we obtain

$$(\delta^2 f_{\xi})\left(\begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array}; x, y, z\right) = 0. \quad (2.46)$$

Similar arguments, using the other 10 triassociative algebra axioms, show that $(\delta^2 f_{\xi})(\psi; x, y, z) = 0$ for the other 10 trees $\psi \in T_3$.

Conversely, suppose that $g \in C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, M)$ is a 2-cocycle. Then one can define a triassociative algebra structure on the vector space $M \oplus A$ using (2.42) with g in place of f_{ξ} . Again, the triassociative algebra axioms are verified because of the cocycle condition on g . This yields an abelian extension of A by M ,

$$\zeta_g : 0 \longrightarrow M \xrightarrow{i} M \oplus A \xrightarrow{\pi} A \longrightarrow 0 \quad (2.47)$$

in which i and π are, respectively, the inclusion into the first factor and the projection onto the second factor.

THEOREM 2.4. *The above constructions induce well-defined maps*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}(A, M) &\longrightarrow H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, M), & [\xi] &\longmapsto [f_{\xi}], \\ H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, M) &\longrightarrow \text{Ext}(A, M), & [g] &\longmapsto [\zeta_g], \end{aligned} \quad (2.48)$$

that are inverse to each other. In particular, there is a canonical bijection $H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, M) \cong \text{Ext}(A, M)$.

The proof is basically identical to that of the classical case for associative algebras (see, e.g., [13, pages 311-312] or [4, Sections 2.8-2.9]). Therefore, we omit the details. Note that one only needs to see that the maps are well defined, since they are clearly inverse to each other.

3. Universal enveloping algebra and triassociative homology

The purpose of this section is to construct triassociative algebra homology with nontrivial coefficients. In [8], Loday and Ronco already constructed triassociative homology with trivial coefficients (i.e., K). Our homology agrees with the one in Loday and Ronco [8] by taking coefficients in K . In order to obtain the nontrivial coefficients, we first need to discuss the universal enveloping algebra. The dialgebra analogue of the results in this section is worked out in [4].

3.1. Universal enveloping algebra. Fix a triassociative algebra A . We would like to identify the A -representations as the left modules of a certain associative algebra. This requires 6 copies of A , since 3 copies are needed for the left actions and another 3 for the right actions. Therefore, we make the following definition. For a K -vector space V , $T(V)$ denotes the tensor algebra of V , which is the free unital associative K -algebra generated by V .

Define the *universal enveloping algebra* of A to be the unital associative K -algebra UA obtained from the tensor algebra $T(\alpha_l A \oplus \alpha_r A \oplus \alpha_m A \oplus \beta_l A \oplus \beta_r A \oplus \beta_m A)$ on 6 copies of A by imposing the following 33 relations for $a, b \in A$ (3 relations for each of the 11 triassociative axioms (2.1)):

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_l(b) \cdot \beta_l(a) &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \beta_l(a \dashv b) \stackrel{(2)}{=} \beta_l(a \perp b) \stackrel{(3)}{=} \beta_l(a \vdash b), \\
\beta_l(b) \cdot \alpha_l(a) &\stackrel{(4)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \beta_l(b) \stackrel{(5)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \beta_m(b) \stackrel{(6)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \beta_r(b), \\
\alpha_l(a \dashv b) &\stackrel{(7)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \alpha_l(b) \stackrel{(8)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \alpha_m(b) \stackrel{(9)}{=} \alpha_l(a) \cdot \alpha_r(b), \\
\beta_r(a \vdash b) &\stackrel{(10)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \beta_r(a) \stackrel{(11)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \beta_l(a) \stackrel{(12)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \beta_m(a), \\
\alpha_r(a) \cdot \beta_r(b) &\stackrel{(13)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \alpha_r(a) \stackrel{(14)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \alpha_l(a) \stackrel{(15)}{=} \beta_r(b) \cdot \alpha_m(a), \\
\alpha_r(a) \cdot \alpha_r(b) &\stackrel{(16)}{=} \alpha_r(a \vdash b) \stackrel{(17)}{=} \alpha_r(a \dashv b) \stackrel{(18)}{=} \alpha_r(a \perp b), \\
\beta_l(b) \cdot \beta_r(a) &\stackrel{(19)}{=} \beta_r(a \dashv b), \quad \beta_l(b) \cdot \alpha_r(a) \stackrel{(20)}{=} \alpha_r(a) \cdot \beta_l(b), \\
\alpha_l(a \vdash b) &\stackrel{(21)}{=} \alpha_r(a) \cdot \alpha_l(b), \\
\beta_l(b) \cdot \beta_m(a) &\stackrel{(22)}{=} \beta_m(a \dashv b), \quad \beta_l(b) \cdot \alpha_m(a) \stackrel{(23)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \beta_l(b),
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \alpha_l(a \perp b) \stackrel{(24)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \alpha_l(b), \\
& \beta_m(b) \cdot \beta_l(a) \stackrel{(25)}{=} \beta_m(a \vdash b), \quad \beta_m(b) \cdot \alpha_l(a) \stackrel{(26)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \beta_r(b), \\
& \alpha_m(a \dashv b) \stackrel{(27)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \alpha_r(b), \\
& \beta_m(b) \cdot \beta_r(a) \stackrel{(28)}{=} \beta_r(a \perp b), \quad \beta_m(b) \cdot \alpha_r(a) \stackrel{(29)}{=} \alpha_r(a) \cdot \beta_m(b), \\
& \alpha_m(a \vdash b) \stackrel{(30)}{=} \alpha_r(a) \cdot \alpha_m(b), \\
& \beta_m(b) \cdot \beta_m(a) \stackrel{(31)}{=} \beta_m(a \perp b), \quad \beta_m(b) \cdot \alpha_m(a) \stackrel{(32)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \beta_m(b), \\
& \alpha_m(a \perp b) \stackrel{(33)}{=} \alpha_m(a) \cdot \alpha_m(b).
\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Let M be a K -vector space. Then an A -representation structure on M is equivalent to a left UA -module structure on M .*

Proof. The correspondence is given by $(a \in A, x \in M)$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \alpha_l(a) \cdot x = a \dashv x, & \alpha_r(a) \cdot x = a \vdash x, & \alpha_m(a) \cdot x = a \perp x, \\
& \beta_l(a) \cdot x = x \dashv a, & \beta_r(a) \cdot x = x \vdash a, & \beta_m(a) \cdot x = x \perp a.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

So α_* and β_* correspond to left and right A -actions, respectively, and the subscript indicates where the product points to. In particular, the conditions (1)–(9) above correspond to axioms (2.1a), (2.1b), and (2.1f). Conditions (10)–(18) correspond to axioms (2.1d), (2.1e), and (2.1j). The other 5 groups of conditions correspond to the remaining 5 axioms in (2.1). \square

3.2. Filtration on UA . Each homogeneous element in UA has a length: elements in K have length 0. The elements $\gamma_*(a)$, where $\gamma = \alpha, \beta$, $*$ = l, r, m , and $a \in A$, have length 1. Inductively, the homogeneous elements in UA of length at most $k+1$ ($k \geq 1$) are the K -linear combinations of the elements $\gamma_*(a) \cdot x$ and $x \cdot \gamma_*(a)$, where x has length at most k .

For $k \geq 0$, consider the following submodule of UA :

$$F_k UA = \{x \in UA : x \text{ has length } \leq k\}. \tag{3.3}$$

These submodules form an increasing and exhaustive filtration of UA , so that $F_0 UA = K$, $F_k UA \subseteq F_{k+1} UA$, and $UA = \cup_{k \geq 0} F_k UA$. Moreover, it is multiplicative, in the sense that $(F_k UA) \cdot (F_l UA) \subseteq F_{k+l} UA$. Therefore, it makes sense to consider the associated graded algebra $Gr_* UA = \oplus_{k \geq 0} Gr_k UA$, where $Gr_k UA = F_k UA / F_{k-1} UA$. It is clear that $Gr_0 UA = K$. The following result identifies the other associated quotients.

THEOREM 3.2. *In the associated graded algebra Gr_*UA , one always has $Gr_nUA = 0$ for all $n \geq 3$. Moreover, there are isomorphisms*

$$\begin{aligned} Gr_1UA &\cong \alpha_l A \oplus \alpha_r A \oplus \alpha_m A \oplus \beta_l A \oplus \beta_r A \oplus \beta_m A, \\ Gr_2UA &\cong (\alpha_l \beta_l A^{\otimes 2}) \oplus (\alpha_r \beta_r A^{\otimes 2}) \oplus (\alpha_r \beta_l A^{\otimes 2}) \\ &\quad \oplus (\alpha_m \beta_l A^{\otimes 2}) \oplus (\alpha_m \beta_r A^{\otimes 2}) \oplus (\alpha_r \beta_m A^{\otimes 2}) \oplus (\alpha_m \beta_m A^{\otimes 2}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

*In particular, if A is of finite-dimension d over K , then Gr_*UA has dimension $1 + 6d + 7d^2$ over K .*

Proof. The first isomorphism is clear, since $Gr_0UA = F_0UA = K$ and the elements of length 1 are linearly generated by the $\alpha_*(a)$ and $\beta_*(a)$. For the second isomorphism, observe that any other generator of length ≤ 2 is identified with an element of length 1 by one of the 33 conditions, leaving only the 7 displayed generators. For example, $\beta_l(b) \cdot \beta_l(a) \in \beta_l \beta_l A^{\otimes 2}$ is identified with $\beta_l(a - b) \in \beta_l A$ by condition (1) in the definition of the universal enveloping algebra (UA).

Finally, to show that $Gr_nUA = 0$ for $n \geq 3$, it suffices to show that $F_2UA = F_3UA$. It is straightforward to check that multiplying any one of the 7 generators of length 2 with a generator of length 1 always yields an element of length ≤ 2 . For example,

$$\alpha_l(a) \cdot (\alpha_l(b) \cdot \beta_l(c)) = (\alpha_l(a) \cdot \alpha_l(b)) \cdot \beta_l(c) = \alpha_l(a - b) \cdot \beta_l(c), \quad (3.5)$$

which lies in $\alpha_l \beta_l A^{\otimes 2}$, by condition (7) in the definition of UA . □

An immediate consequence of this result is the following.

COROLLARY 3.3 (Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt theorem). *Let V denote the underlying vector space of a triassociative algebra A . Equip V with the abelian triassociative algebra structure ($a * b = 0$ always). Then there exists an isomorphism $Gr_*UA \cong UV$ of unital associative algebras.*

3.3. Corepresentation. By a *corepresentation* of A , or an A -corepresentation, we mean a right UA -module. This definition can be made more explicit as follows. Let N be an A -corepresentation. Set

$$\begin{aligned} a < x &:= x \cdot \alpha_l(a), & a > x &:= x \cdot \alpha_r(a), & a \wedge x &:= x \cdot \alpha_m(a), \\ x < a &:= x \cdot \beta_l(a), & x > a &:= x \cdot \beta_r(a), & x \wedge a &:= x \cdot \beta_m(a) \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

for $x \in N$ and $a \in A$. This gives rise to three left actions $<, >, \wedge : A \otimes N \rightarrow N$ and three right actions $<, >, \wedge : N \otimes A \rightarrow N$. With these notations, the condition that N is an A -corepresentation is equivalent to the following 33 axioms (for $x \in N$ and $a, b \in A$),

corresponding to the axioms for UA in Section 3.1:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (x < b) < a = x < (a \dashv b) = x < (a \perp b) = x < (a \vdash b), \\
& a < (x < b) = (a < x) < b = (a < x) \wedge b = (a < x) > b, \\
& (a \dashv b) < x = b < (a < x) = b \wedge (a < x) = b > (a < x), \\
& x > (a \vdash b) = (x > b) > a = (x > b) < a = (x > b) \wedge a, \\
& (a > x) > b = a > (x > b) = a < (x > b) = a \wedge (x > b), \\
& b > (a > x) = (a \vdash b) > x = (a \dashv b) > x = (a \perp b) > x, \\
& (x < b) > a = x > (a \dashv b), \quad a > (x < b) = (a > x) < b, \quad (a \vdash b) < x = b < (a > x), \\
& (x < b) \wedge a = x \wedge (a \dashv b), \quad a \wedge (x < b) = (a \wedge x) < b, \quad (a \perp b) < x = b < (a \wedge x), \\
& (x \wedge b) < a = x \wedge (a \vdash b), \quad a < (x \wedge b) = (a \wedge x) > b, \quad (a \dashv b) \wedge x = b > (a \wedge x), \\
& (x \wedge b) > a = x > (a \perp b), \quad a > (x \wedge b) = (a > x) \wedge b, \quad (a \vdash b) \wedge x = b \wedge (a > x), \\
& (x \wedge b) \wedge a = x \wedge (a \perp b), \quad (a \perp b) \wedge x = b \wedge (a \wedge x), \quad a \wedge (x \wedge b) = (a \wedge x) \wedge b.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Here are some examples of corepresentations

- (1) UA is an A -corepresentation via the right action of UA on itself.
- (2) K is an A -corepresentation, where the $\alpha_*(a)$ and $\beta_*(a)$ in UA act trivially.
- (3) Let M be an A -representation (= left UA -module). It is straightforward to check that the definitions

$$\begin{aligned}
x \cdot \beta_l(a) &:= a \vdash x, & x \cdot \alpha_r(a) &:= x \dashv a, & x \cdot \beta_m(a) &:= a \perp x, & x \cdot \alpha_m(a) &:= x \perp a, \\
x \cdot \beta_r(a) &:= 0, & x \cdot \alpha_l(a) &:= 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

for $x \in M$ and $a \in A$, give the underlying vector space of M a right UA -module structure, denoted by M^{op} . We call it the *opposite corepresentation of M* . In particular, considering A as an A -representation, we have the opposite corepresentation A^{op} of A .

Now suppose that N is an A -corepresentation. Define the *module of n -chains of A with coefficients in N* to be

$$C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) := K[T_n] \otimes N \otimes A^{\otimes n}. \tag{3.9}$$

Define a map

$$d = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i d_i : C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) \longrightarrow C_{n-1}^{\text{Trias}}(A, N), \tag{3.10}$$

where

$$d_i(\psi \otimes x \otimes \mathbf{a}) = (d_i\psi) \otimes d_i^\psi(x \otimes \mathbf{a}) \quad (3.11)$$

for $\psi \in T_n$, $x \in N$, and $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in A^{\otimes n}$. Here $d_i\psi$ is as in cohomology. The maps d_i^ψ are defined as follows. Write ψ uniquely as the grafting $\psi_0 \vee \dots \vee \psi_k$ as before, where the valence of the lowest internal vertex in ψ is $k+1$. Then set

$$d_0^\psi(x \otimes \mathbf{a}) := \begin{cases} (x \cdot \alpha_l(a_1)) \otimes (a_2, \dots, a_n) & \text{if } |\psi_0| = 0, k = 1, \\ (x \cdot \alpha_m(a_1)) \otimes (a_2, \dots, a_n) & \text{if } |\psi_0| = 0, k > 1, \\ (x \cdot \alpha_r(a_1)) \otimes (a_2, \dots, a_n) & \text{if } |\psi_0| > 0. \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

For $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, set

$$d_i^\psi(x \otimes \mathbf{a}) := x \otimes (a_1, \dots, a_i \circ_i^\psi a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n), \quad (3.13)$$

where \circ_i^ψ is as in cohomology. In particular, our d_i coincides with the d_i in Loday and Ronco [8] when $N = K$. Finally, set

$$d_n^\psi(x \otimes \mathbf{a}) := \begin{cases} (x \cdot \beta_l(a_n)) \otimes (a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) & \text{if } |\psi_k| > 0, \\ (x \cdot \beta_m(a_n)) \otimes (a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) & \text{if } k > 1, |\psi_k| = 0, \\ (x \cdot \beta_r(a_n)) \otimes (a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) & \text{if } k = 1, |\psi_1| = 0. \end{cases} \quad (3.14)$$

In order to show that $(C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, N), d)$ is a chain complex, we make use of the cotangent complex.

3.4. Cotangent complex. Consider UA as an A -corepresentation. Then the vector space $C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, UA)$ becomes a left UA -module, where UA acts only on the UA factor. Let M be any A -representation (= left UA -module). There is an isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_K(K[T_n] \otimes A^{\otimes n}, M) &= C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, M) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Hom}_{UA}(C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, UA), M), \\ f &\longmapsto (\bar{f} : \psi \otimes x \otimes \mathbf{a} \longmapsto x \cdot f(\psi \otimes \mathbf{a})). \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

It is clear that under this isomorphism, the map $\delta_i^n : C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, M) \rightarrow C_{n+1}^{\text{Trias}}(A, M)$ corresponds to $\text{Hom}_{UA}(d_i, M)$. Since $C_{\text{Trias}}^*(A, M)$ is a cochain complex, we obtain the following.

PROPOSITION 3.4. $(C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, UA), d)$ is a chain complex.

Now observe that for an A -corepresentation N , there is an isomorphism

$$C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, UA) \xrightarrow[\cong]{N \otimes_{UA} (-)} C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, N), \quad (3.16)$$

under which the d_i in $C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, UA)$ corresponds to the d_i in $C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, N)$. Therefore, we conclude the following.

COROLLARY 3.5. *For any corepresentation N of A , $(C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, N), d)$ is a chain complex.*

3.5. Triassociative homology. For an A -corepresentation N , define the *triassociative algebra homology of A with coefficients in N* as

$$H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) := H_n(C_*^{\text{Trias}}(A, N), d). \quad (3.17)$$

When K is considered as an A -corepresentation, the module $C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) \cong K[T_n] \otimes A^{\otimes n}$ is denoted by $C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A)$ in Loday and Ronco [8]. Observe that the maps d_0 and d_n : $C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) \rightarrow C_{n-1}^{\text{Trias}}(A, K)$ are both trivial. In fact, for an element $\lambda \in K$,

$$d_0^\psi(\lambda \otimes \mathbf{a}) = (\lambda \cdot \alpha_*(a_1)) \otimes (a_2, \dots, a_n) = 0, \quad (3.18)$$

and similarly for d_n^ψ . Therefore, in this case, the differential d reduces to $d = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d_i$, which coincides with the differential $d : C_n^{\text{Trias}}(A) \rightarrow C_{n-1}^{\text{Trias}}(A)$ constructed in [8]. In other words, we have

$$H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) = H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A), \quad (3.19)$$

where $H_n^{\text{Trias}}(A)$ is the triassociative algebra homology (with trivial coefficients) defined in [8].

3.6. H_0^{Trias} . For example, identifying $C_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, N)$ with $N \otimes A$ and $C_0^{\text{Trias}}(A, N)$ with N , we have that $d = d_0 - d_1$, where

$$d_0(x \otimes a) = x \cdot \alpha_l(a), \quad d_1(x \otimes a) = x \cdot \beta_r(a). \quad (3.20)$$

So the image of the differential $d : C_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) \rightarrow C_0^{\text{Trias}}(A, N)$ is the submodule $N \cdot (\alpha_l - \beta_r)$ of N and therefore, we have

$$H_0^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) \cong \frac{N}{N \cdot (\alpha_l - \beta_r)}. \quad (3.21)$$

In particular,

- (1) if $N = K$, then $H_0^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) \cong K$,
- (2) if $N = M^{op}$, the opposite corepresentation of an A -representation M , then $H_0^{\text{Trias}}(A, M^{op}) \cong M^{op}$.

3.7. H_1^{Trias} . Similarly, $H_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) = \ker d^1 / \text{im } d^2$, where $\ker d^1$ is the submodule of $C_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) = N \otimes A$,

$$\ker d^1 = \left\{ \sum_i x_i \otimes a_i \in N \otimes A : \sum_i a_i < x_i = \sum_i x_i > a_i \right\}. \quad (3.22)$$

The image of $d^2 : C_2^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) \rightarrow C_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, N) = N \otimes A$ is the span of the following three types of elements ($x \in N, a, b \in A$):

$$\begin{aligned} & (a < x) \otimes b - x \otimes (a \dashv b) + (x < b) \otimes a, \\ & (a > x) \otimes b - x \otimes (a \vdash b) + (x > b) \otimes a, \\ & (a \wedge x) \otimes b - x \otimes (a \perp b) + (x \wedge b) \otimes a. \end{aligned} \tag{3.23}$$

In particular, when $N = K$, we have

$$H_1^{\text{Trias}}(A, K) \cong \frac{A}{\text{span}\{a * b : a, b \in A, * = \dashv, \vdash, \perp\}}, \tag{3.24}$$

the abelianization of A .

4. Deformations of triassociative algebras

In this final section, we describe algebraic deformations of a triassociative algebra $A = (A, \dashv, \vdash, \perp)$, using the cohomology theory constructed in Section 2. The theory of tri-associative algebra deformations is what one would expect from the existing literature on deformations. The arguments in this section are rather straightforward and are very similar to the cases of associative algebras [5] and dialgebras [9], whose arguments are provided in detail and can be easily adapted to the present case. Also, Balavoine [1] has another way of doing algebraic deformations that can be applied to triassociative algebras. Therefore, we will safely omit most of the proofs in this section.

Thinking of A also as an A -representation via the identity self-map, we consider the cochain complex $C_{\text{Trias}}^*(A, A)$. A 2-cochain $\theta \in C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ will be identified with the triple (λ, ρ, μ) , where each component is a binary operation on A , via

$$\theta(\psi; x, y) = \begin{cases} \lambda(x, y) & \text{if } \psi = \swarrow \searrow, \\ \rho(x, y) & \text{if } \psi = \searrow \swarrow, \\ \mu(x, y) & \text{if } \psi = \vee, \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

for $x, y \in A$.

4.1. Deformation and equivalence. By a *deformation of A* , we mean a power series $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \theta_i t^i$, in which each $\theta_i = (\lambda_i, \rho_i, \mu_i)$ is a 2-cochain in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ and $\theta_0 = (\dashv, \vdash, \perp)$, satisfying the following 11 conditions (same as (2.1)) for all $x, y, z \in A$, where $L_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda_i t^i$, $R_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \rho_i t^i$, and $M_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \mu_i t^i$: (1) $L_t(L_t(x, y), z) = L_t(x, L_t(y, z))$, (2) $L_t(L_t(x, y), z) = L_t(x, R_t(y, z))$, and so forth.

Extending linearly, this gives a triassociative algebra structure on the power series $A[[t]]$. We will also denote a deformation Θ_t by the triple (L_t, R_t, M_t) of power series.

A *formal isomorphism* of A is a power series $\Phi_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi_i t^i$, in which each $\phi_i \in C_{\text{Trias}}^1(A, A) \cong \text{Hom}_K(A, A)$ and $\phi_0 = \text{Id}_A$. Let $\overline{\Theta}_t = (\overline{L}_t, \overline{R}_t, \overline{M}_t)$ be another deformation of A . Then Θ_t and $\overline{\Theta}_t$ are said to be *equivalent* if there exists a formal isomorphism Φ_t such that $\overline{O}_t(x, y) = \Phi_t O_t(\Phi_t^{-1}(x), \Phi_t^{-1}(y))$ for $O = L, R, M$, and for all $x, y, z \in A$. In this case, we write $\overline{\Theta}_t = \Phi_t \Theta_t \Phi_t^{-1}$. Conversely, given a deformation Θ_t and a formal isomorphism Φ_t , one can define a new deformation as $\overline{\Theta}_t := \Phi_t \Theta_t \Phi_t^{-1}$.

4.2. Infinitesimal. Given a deformation $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \theta_i t^i$ of A , the linear coefficient θ_1 is called the *infinitesimal* of Θ_t .

THEOREM 4.1. *Let $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \theta_i t^i$ be a deformation of A . Then the infinitesimal θ_1 is a 2-cocycle in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$, whose cohomology class is well defined by the equivalence class of Θ_t . Moreover, if $\theta_i = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq l$, then θ_{l+1} is a 2-cocycle in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$.*

This theorem allows one to think of an infinitesimal as a cohomology class, instead of just a cochain.

4.3. Rigidity. By the *trivial deformation* of A , we mean the deformation $\Theta_t = (-, \vdash, \perp) t^0$. We say that A is *rigid* if every deformation of A is equivalent to the trivial deformation. The following result will lead to a cohomological criterion for rigidity.

PROPOSITION 4.2. *Let $\Theta_t = \theta_0 + \theta_1 t + \theta_{l+1} t^{l+1} + \dots$, with $\theta_i = (\lambda_i, \rho_i, \mu_i)$, be a deformation of A for some $l \geq 1$ in which θ_l is a 2-coboundary in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$. Then there exists a formal isomorphism of the form $\Phi_t = \text{Id}_A + \phi t^l$ such that the deformation defined by $\overline{\Theta}_t = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \overline{\theta}_i t^i := \Phi_t \Theta_t \Phi_t^{-1}$ satisfies $\overline{\theta}_i = 0$ for $1 \leq i \leq l$.*

Combining Theorem 4.1 and Proposition 4.2, we obtain the following cohomological criterion for rigidity.

COROLLARY 4.3. *If $H_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ is trivial, then A is rigid.*

Using Theorem 2.3 and Corollary 4.3, we obtain a large class of rigid objects.

COROLLARY 4.4. *Free triassociative algebras are rigid.*

Next we want to obtain a cohomological criterion for the existence of a deformation with a prescribed 2-cocycle as its infinitesimal.

4.4. Deformations of finite order. Suppose that $N \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. By a *deformation of order N* of A , we mean a polynomial $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^N \theta_i t^i$, with each $\theta_i = (\lambda_i, \rho_i, \mu_i) \in C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ and $\theta_0 = (-, \vdash, \perp)$, satisfying the 11 conditions for a deformation modulo t^{N+1} .

If $\theta_1 \in C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ is a 2-cocycle, then $\theta_0 + \theta_1 t$ is a deformation of order 1. Thus, given a 2-cocycle θ_1 , in order to determine the existence of a deformation with θ_1 as its infinitesimal, it suffices to determine the obstruction to extend a deformation of order N to one of order $N + 1$ for $N \geq 1$.

4.5. Obstructions. Fix a deformation $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^N \theta_i t^i$, with $\theta_i = (\lambda_i, \rho_i, \mu_i)$, of order $N < \infty$ as above. Define a 3-cochain $\text{Ob}_{\Theta} \in C_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$ as follows. Let x, y, z be elements of A

and ψ be a tree in T_3 . Then $\text{Ob}_\Theta(\psi; x, y, z)$ is the element (where $\Sigma = \sum_{j=1}^N$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum (\lambda_j(\lambda_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \lambda_j(x, \lambda_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\lambda_j(\lambda_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \lambda_j(x, \rho_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\lambda_j(\rho_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \rho_j(x, \lambda_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\rho_j(\lambda_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \rho_j(x, \rho_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\rho_j(\rho_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \rho_j(x, \rho_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\lambda_j(\lambda_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \lambda_j(x, \mu_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\lambda_j(\mu_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \mu_j(x, \lambda_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\mu_j(\lambda_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \mu_j(x, \rho_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\mu_j(\rho_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \rho_j(x, \mu_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\rho_j(\mu_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \rho_j(x, \rho_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}, \\
 \sum (\mu_j(\mu_{N+1-j}(x, y), z) - \mu_j(x, \mu_{N+1-j}(y, z))) & \quad \text{if } \psi = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{array}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

Notice that the definition of the 3-cochain Ob_Θ arises from the coefficients of t^{N+1} in the 11 conditions for a deformation by subtracting the right-hand side from the left-hand side and deleting the 4 terms corresponding to $j = 0$ and $j = N + 1$.

LEMMA 4.5. *The element $\text{Ob}_\Theta \in C_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$ is a 3-cocycle.*

The proof of the lemma is a long but elementary computation. The following result is independent of Lemma 4.5.

THEOREM 4.6. *Let $\Theta_t = \sum_{i=0}^N \theta_i t^i$, with $\theta_i = (\lambda_i, \rho_i, \mu_i)$, be a deformation of order $N < \infty$ of A and let θ_{N+1} be an element of $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$. Define the polynomial $\tilde{\Theta}_t := \Theta_t + \theta_{N+1} t^{N+1}$. Then $\tilde{\Theta}_t$ is a deformation of order $N + 1$ if and only if $\text{Ob}_\Theta = \delta^2 \theta_{N+1}$.*

Combining Theorem 4.6 with Lemma 4.5, one concludes that the obstruction to extend a deformation Θ_t of order N to one of order $N + 1$ is the cohomology class of Ob_Θ , which lies in $H_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$. Therefore, all these obstructions vanish if the cohomology module $H_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$ is trivial.

COROLLARY 4.7. *If $H_{\text{Trias}}^3(A, A)$ is trivial, then every 2-cocycle in $C_{\text{Trias}}^2(A, A)$ is the infinitesimal of some deformation of A .*

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