



The homology of the Brauer algebras

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Abstract

This paper investigates the homology of the Brauer algebras, interpreted as appropriate Tor-groups, and shows that it is closely related to the homology of the symmetric group. Our main results show that when the defining parameter δ of the Brauer algebra is invertible, then the homology of the Brauer algebra is isomorphic to the homology of the symmetric group, and that when δ is not invertible, this isomorphism still holds in a range of degrees that increases with n .

Keywords Homology · Homological stability · Brauer algebras

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1 Introduction

In this paper we study the homology of the Brauer algebra $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$, interpreted as appropriate Tor groups. We show that it is isomorphic to the homology of the symmetric group if the parameter δ is invertible, and that this holds in a range of degrees that increases with n for general δ . Our methods stem largely from the theory of homological stability for families of groups, but with important and novel adaptations required for the algebraic setting.

1.1 Homological stability and representation stability

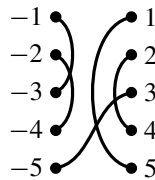
Homological stability is a long-studied notion that concerns the homology and cohomology of sequences of groups or spaces. A sequence $\{X_n\}$ of topological spaces or groups, equipped with maps $X_{n-1} \rightarrow X_n$, is said to satisfy homological stability if for all i the induced maps $H_i(X_{n-1}) \rightarrow H_i(X_n)$ are isomorphisms, when n is sufficiently large compared to i . Homological stability holds for symmetric groups [25], unordered configuration spaces [1,9,24], the automorphism groups of free groups [16,18,19], mapping class groups [15,21,31], diffeomorphism groups of high-dimensional manifolds [14], and general linear groups [8,22,30], among others. Randal-Williams and Wahl [28] recently gave a unified approach to studying homological stability for sequences of groups that assemble into a *homogeneous category*. Their theory covers many of the known examples, and includes a systematic construction of the chain complexes that are commonly used to prove homological stability.

In the past 10 years the closely-related concept of *representation stability* [7] has emerged, with the aim of proving stability phenomena when the terms X_n in the sequence are not simply modules or vector spaces, but representations of some sequence of groups. In [26], the third author built a *stability category*, of the kind appearing in [28], for sequences of *diagram algebras*: the Brauer algebras, the Temperley–Lieb algebras, and the partition algebras. For the Brauer and partition algebras it is shown the associated categories are symmetric monoidal. Furthermore, for all three algebras the notion of representation stability from [7] is generalised and proved for sequences of semisimple representations over these algebras.

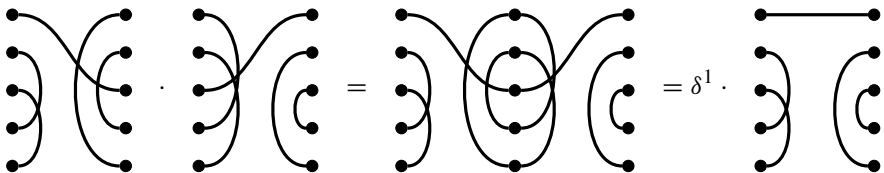
Recent work of the first two authors has demonstrated that the techniques of homological stability can be applied to families of *algebras*, where homology and cohomology are interpreted as appropriate Tor and Ext groups: for Iwahori–Hecke algebras of type A [17] and for Temperley–Lieb algebras [3]. In [17] an adaptation of the classic techniques was sufficient, but in [3] it was necessary to overcome a new technical hurdle, the failure of a flatness condition required for Shapiro’s lemma to hold. To resolve this the authors developed a new technique, which they call *inductive resolutions*. The question of whether this technique could be adapted to prove homological stability results for other diagrammatic algebras, such as the Brauer and partition algebras, was posed in the introduction of [3]. In this work we answer that question in the affirmative.

1.2 Brauer algebras

The Brauer algebra was introduced by Brauer [5] to study representations of the orthogonal and the symplectic groups. It also arises in statistical mechanics, and, together with its variants, has become an important object in representation theory. Given a commutative ring R and a fixed element $\delta \in R$, the Brauer algebra $\text{Br}_n = \text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ is the free R -module over the basis of all perfect matchings of the union of the sets $[-n] = \{-n, \dots, -1\}$ and $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$. We visualize such a matching as a *diagram* by placing n nodes on the left for the negative numbers, n nodes on the right for the positive numbers, and connecting two nodes if they are matched. An example is shown below for the perfect matching $\{\{-1, -3\}, \{-2, -4\}, \{-5, 3\}, \{1, 5\}, \{2, 4\}\} \in \text{Br}_5$.



Observe that a diagram has left-to-left connections if and only if it has right-to-right connections. Given two diagrams b_1 and b_2 , to calculate their product $b_1 b_2$, we place b_1 to the left of b_2 so that the nodes align. We obtain a new diagram b_3 by removing all loops in the middle and replacing each instance of a loop with multiplication by δ . For example, if we replace k loops, then $b_1 b_2 = \delta^k b_3$. Below we show a visualisation of the multiplication in Br_5 .



The Brauer algebra was introduced as the Schur-Weyl dual of the orthogonal group $O(m)$, in which case $\delta = m$. It is also the Schur-Weyl dual of the symplectic group $Sp(2m)$, in which case $\delta = -2m$ (cf. [5,20]). It is closely related to other *diagram algebras*, in particular the *Temperley-Lieb algebra* [29], in which the diagrams are planar, and the *partition algebra* [23], in which the matchings on $[-n] \cup [n]$ are replaced with arbitrary partitions.

By the *homology* of the Brauer algebra $Br_n(R, \delta)$ we mean the Tor groups

$$\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}),$$

where $\mathbb{1}$ denotes the *trivial module* consisting of a copy of R on which a diagram acts as the identity if all nodes on the left are connected to ones on the right, or as 0 if there are left-to-left and right-to-right connections. This is completely analogous to the homology of a group, which is defined to be the Tor groups of the trivial module with itself over the group ring, and is a specific instance of the homology of an arbitrary augmented algebra [2, 2.4.4].

1.3 Results

Diagrams in which every node on the left is connected to a node on the right are called *permutation diagrams*, and are in bijection with elements of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n . This gives rise to inclusion and projection maps

$$\iota: R\mathfrak{S}_n \longrightarrow \text{Br}_n(R, \delta) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi: \text{Br}_n(R, \delta) \longrightarrow R\mathfrak{S}_n$$

where ι sends permutations to permutation diagrams, and π does the reverse, and sends all remaining diagrams to 0. In particular, $\pi \circ \iota$ is the identity map on $R\mathfrak{S}_n$. There are induced homomorphisms ι_* and π_* on homology groups for which $\pi_* \circ \iota_*$ is again the identity, so that the homology of \mathfrak{S}_n appears as a direct summand of the homology of $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$.

Theorem A *Suppose that δ is invertible in R . Then the homology of the Brauer algebra is isomorphic to the homology of the symmetric group:*

$$\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \cong H_*(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}).$$

Indeed, the inclusion and projection maps

$$R\mathfrak{S}_n \xrightarrow{\iota} \text{Br}_n(R, \delta) \xrightarrow{\pi} R\mathfrak{S}_n$$

induce inverse isomorphisms

$$\text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\iota_*} \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\pi_*} \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}).$$

It is well known that $H_1(\mathfrak{S}_2; R) \cong R/2R$, whereas a computation using [32, 3.1.3] shows that $\text{Tor}_1^{\text{Br}_2(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \cong R/2R \oplus R/\delta R$, with ι_* and π_* having the evident effect. Thus the isomorphism of Theorem A fails when δ is not invertible. Nevertheless, the isomorphism does hold within a range of degrees, and this range of degrees increases with n :

Theorem B *The inclusion map $\iota: R\mathfrak{S}_n \rightarrow \text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ induces a map in homology*

$$\iota_*: H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

that is an isomorphism in the range $n \geq 2i + 1$.

An immediate consequence of Theorem B is the following corollary.

Corollary C *The Brauer algebras satisfy homological stability, that is the inclusion $\text{Br}_{n-1}(R, \delta) \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ induces a map*

$$\text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_{n-1}(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

that is an isomorphism in degrees $n \geq 2i + 1$, and this stable range is sharp. Furthermore, $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ and \mathfrak{S}_n have the same stable homology:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_*(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) \cong \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}).$$

The first part of this corollary follows by combining Theorem B with the corresponding homological stability result for the symmetric groups, for which the stable range is sharp [25]. Indeed, stability for the symmetric groups is an important ingredient in our proof of Theorem B.

For the stable homology, the left hand side of this isomorphism is well known by the Barratt-Priddy-Quillen theorem [4, 11]. This situation is reminiscent of the relationship between the \mathfrak{S}_n and the automorphism groups of free groups $\text{Aut}(F_n)$: both families satisfy homological stability, there is an inclusion $\mathfrak{S}_n \hookrightarrow \text{Aut}(F_n)$ that induces an isomorphism in the stable range, and they have isomorphic stable homology [12, 19].

It is interesting to ask whether the range $n \geq 2i + 1$ in which $H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1})$ and $\text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$ are isomorphic can be improved, or whether it is sharp. Sharpness certainly holds in the case $n = 2$ by the computation following Theorem A, but we do not know what happens for $n \geq 3$.

Consider the case where the ground ring R is the complex numbers \mathbb{C} . Then $R\mathfrak{S}_n$ is semisimple, and so the homology of \mathfrak{S}_n vanishes in positive degrees. On the other hand $\text{Br}_n(\mathbb{C}, \delta)$ is semisimple for all n only when δ is not an integer. In the case that δ is a nonzero integer, Theorem A shows that the homology of $\text{Br}_n(\mathbb{C}, \delta)$ still vanishes despite the failure of semisimplicity. In the remaining case $\delta = 0$, the homology $\text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n(\mathbb{C}, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$ vanishes in the stable range $n \geq 2i + 1$ by Theorem B, but not more generally, at least in the case $n = 2$, and again we do not know what happens when $n \geq 3$.

1.4 Method of proof

The proof of Theorem A uses an adaptation of the method of *inductive resolutions* introduced in [3] for the Temperley–Lieb algebras. The method shows that if $J_n \subseteq \text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ denotes the ideal spanned by all diagrams that have at least one left-to-left connection, then $\text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n(R, \delta)/J_n)$ vanishes for $i > 0$, and is R for $i = 0$. This property of the module $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)/J_n$, combined with the fact that it admits the structure of a *free* right \mathfrak{S}_n module, allows us to complete the proof of Theorem A using a novel but elementary homological algebra argument.

The proof of Theorem B begins with the construction of a complex C_n of right $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$ modules. This complex is obtained by adapting the complexes $W_n(X, A)$ of [28] to the setting of Brauer algebras using the stability category developed by the third author in [26]. We prove that C_n is highly acyclic using an intricate diagrammatical argument that features repeated splittings and filtrations of the complexes involved.

The complexes $W_n(X, A)$ were designed to be used in proofs of homological stability for families of groups, and one can analogously attempt to use the C_n in a proof of homological stability for the $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$. This is our approach, however, a technical hurdle presents itself. The resulting spectral sequence features the groups $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1})$. One would like to identify these with the groups $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_m}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$ using Shapiro’s lemma, but that is not possible because Br_n is not necessarily flat over Br_m . Instead, a variant of the previously mentioned inductive resolution method is employed, and shows that the above Tor groups can be identified with $\text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}) \cong H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1})$. Combining all of this with homological stability for symmetric groups allows us to complete the proof.

It is interesting to compare our work here with [3], which gave rather similar results for the Temperley–Lieb algebras. Oversimplifying, the story of [3] is similar to the last two paragraphs, except that instead of finding a ranges of degrees where symmetric groups appear, one finds vanishing ranges. However, the high-connectivity proof in [3] was much more involved than in the present paper: the symmetric groups do not lie inside the Temperley–Lieb algebras, instead one can only find a homomorphism from the braid group, and this homomorphism is not compatible with the basis of diagrams, so in the end an involved algebraic argument is required. Also, [3] features a sharpness result for the analogue of Theorem B, and we have been unable to find such a sharpness result in this case.

1.5 Outline

In Sect. 2, we give background on the Brauer algebras and Tor functors. In Sect. 3, we adapt the inductive resolution approach of [3] to this setting, involving a new approach specific to Brauer algebras. In Sect. 4 we introduce and prove our alternative to Shapiro’s Lemma, which includes the proof of Theorem A. In Sect. 5, we prove the high connectivity result required in any homological stability proof, using the complex built from the stability categories of [26] following [28]. We bring all our results together in Sect. 6, where we prove Theorem B.

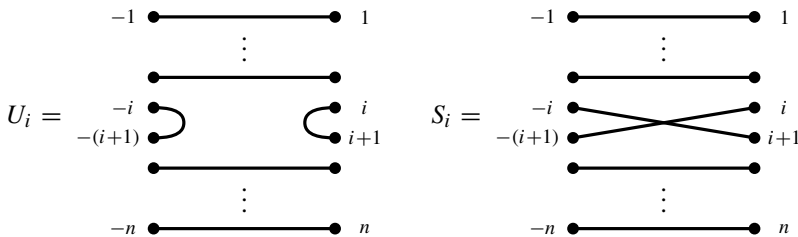
2 Background

2.1 Brauer algebras

In this section we introduce background information on the Brauer algebras, which were introduced by Brauer in 1937 [5]. Other references for Brauer algebras are [6,33].

Definition 2.1 Let R be a commutative ring and let $\delta \in R$. As described in the introduction, the Brauer algebra $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta) = \text{Br}_n$ is the R -algebra with basis given by the diagrams of perfect matchings of $[-n] \cup [n] = \{-n, \dots, -1\} \cup \{1, \dots, n\}$. A perfect matching is a division of this set into n pairs. These matchings are depicted as diagrams from n nodes (labelled by $[-n]$ and drawn on the left) to n nodes (labelled by $[n]$ and drawn on the right) where pairs are connected by an arc, also called a *connection*. Connections are defined up to isotopy. Multiplication corresponds to pasting diagrams side by side and replacing each closed loop with a factor of δ , as illustrated in the introduction. Elements of the Brauer algebra are therefore formal sums of diagrams with coefficients in R .

Remark 2.2 Let U_1, \dots, U_{n-1} and S_1, \dots, S_{n-1} denote the following elements of $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$:



It is not hard to verify that these elements satisfy the following relations.

- *Symmetric group relations*

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_i^2 &= 1 && \text{for all } i \\
 S_i S_j S_i &= S_j S_i S_j && \text{for } |i - j| = 1 \\
 S_i S_j &= S_j S_i && \text{for } |i - j| \geq 2
 \end{aligned}$$

- *Temperley–Lieb relations*

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_i^2 &= \delta U_i && \text{for all } i \\
 U_i U_j U_i &= U_i && \text{for } |i - j| = 1 \\
 U_i U_j &= U_j U_i && \text{for } |i - j| \geq 2
 \end{aligned}$$

- *Mixed relations*

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_i S_i &= S_i U_i = U_i && \text{for all } i \\
 U_i S_j U_i &= U_i && \text{for } |i - j| = 1 \\
 S_i S_j U_i &= U_j U_i && \text{for } |i - j| = 1 \\
 U_i S_j S_i &= U_i U_j && \text{for } |i - j| = 1 \\
 U_i S_j &= S_j U_i && \text{for } |i - j| \geq 2
 \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, the above is a presentation of $\text{Br}_n(R, \delta)$, though we will not need this fact for the present paper.

Remark 2.3 The S_i generators generate the subalgebra $R\mathfrak{S}_n$ of Br_n obtained from the inclusion $\iota: R\mathfrak{S}_n \rightarrow \text{Br}_n$ described in the introduction. Similarly, the U_i generators generate a subalgebra of the Brauer algebra isomorphic to the Temperley–Lieb algebra $\text{TL}_n(R, \delta)$.

We now introduce the modules we will be working with.

Definition 2.4 For any n , we define the *trivial* Br_n -bimodule $\mathbb{1}$ to be the module given by the ring R , and upon which the generators S_i act trivially and the generators U_i act as zero. Equivalently, any diagram with a left-to-left (and therefore a right-to-right) connection acts as zero, and any other diagram acts as 1.

Definition 2.5 For $m \leq n$, we can view Br_m as the subalgebra of Br_n generated by $S_1, \dots, S_{m-1}, U_1, \dots, U_{m-1}$, or equivalently as the subalgebra in which the final $n - m$ nodes on the left are connected, by horizontal connections, to the final $n - m$ nodes on the right. Then, under the action of this subalgebra, Br_n can be viewed as a left Br_n -module and a right Br_m -bimodule, and we obtain the induced left Br_n -module $\text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$.

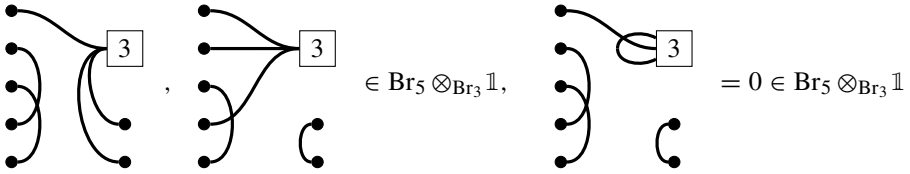
The following proposition is taken from [26], where the above inclusion of $\text{Br}_m \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$ is taken to be the inclusion into the *final* m nodes, as opposed to our convention which uses the inclusion into the *first* m nodes. We adapt the statement of the proposition accordingly.

Proposition 2.6 ([26, Section 2]) $\text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$ is a free R -module (and a quotient of Br_n).

In terms of diagrams a basis for this module is the set of diagrams with n nodes on the left and $n - m$ nodes under an m -box on the right, subject to the following two conditions:

- *Every node must either be connected to exactly one other node or to the box, and the box must be connected to m nodes.*
- *Any diagram with a connection starting and ending at the box is identified with zero.*

Some (non-)examples of diagrams representing elements of $\text{Br}_5 \otimes_{\text{Br}_3} \mathbb{1}$ are given below.



2.2 Tor groups and Shapiro’s lemma

We now recall the definition and functoriality of Tor groups, and Shapiro’s lemma, in order to fix conventions and notation for later.

Let R be a commutative ring. Let A be an R -algebra, M a right A -module, and N a left A -module. Choosing a projective (or free if we wish) resolution P_* of M over A , we may form the tensor product chain complex $P_* \otimes_A N$, and its homology is the corresponding Tor group:

$$\text{Tor}_*^A(M, N) = H_*(P_* \otimes N).$$

Now suppose that A' is a second R -algebra, that M' is a right A -module, and that N' is a left A -module. Suppose further that there is a ring homomorphism $f : A \rightarrow A'$, and homomorphisms of R -modules $f_R : M \rightarrow M'$ and $f_L : N \rightarrow N'$ that are compatible in the sense that

$$f_R(ma) = f_R(m)f(a) \quad \text{and} \quad f_L(an) = f(a)f_L(n)$$

for $m \in M, n \in N$ and $a \in A$. Then there is an *induced map*

$$(f_R, f, f_L)_* : \text{Tor}_*^A(M, N) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{A'}(M', N')$$

or simply

$$f_* : \text{Tor}_*^A(M, N) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{A'}(M', N')$$

defined as follows. Choose projective resolutions P_* of M over A and P'_* of M' over A' . By restricting along f we may regard P'_* as a resolution of M' over A . While P'_* need not be projective over A , it is still acyclic, and we may therefore find a chain map $\tilde{f} : P_* \rightarrow P'_*$ of chain complexes of A -modules, inducing f_R on homology. This induces a chain map $\tilde{f} \otimes f_L : P_* \otimes_A N \rightarrow P'_* \otimes_{A'} N'$, and finally determines a map on homology groups, which is $(f_R, f, f_L)_*$ above. Any such \tilde{f} is determined uniquely up to homotopy, so that the resulting map of Tor-groups is uniquely determined.

Shapiro’s lemma states that if G is a group and H is a subgroup of G , then the natural map

$$H_*(H; \mathbb{1}) = \text{Tor}_*^{RH}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{RG}(\mathbb{1}, RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}) = H_*(G; RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1})$$

induced by the inclusion $RH \hookrightarrow RG$ and the module maps $\text{id}: \mathbb{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{1}$ and $\mathbb{1} \rightarrow RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}, r \mapsto 1 \otimes r$, is an isomorphism. The isomorphism can be realised by choosing a free RG -resolution Q_* of $\mathbb{1}$, and observing that it is also a free RH -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$, so that the induced map above is given by $Q_* \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow Q_* \otimes_{RG} (RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}), q \otimes r \mapsto q \otimes (1 \otimes r)$, which is itself an isomorphism of chain complexes.

3 Inductive resolutions

In this section, we will adapt the *inductive resolutions* of [3] to the setting of Brauer algebras.

Definition 3.1 Suppose that X is a subset of the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Define J_X to be the left-ideal in Br_n that is the R -span of all diagrams in which, among the nodes on the right labelled by elements of X , at least one pair is connected by an arc.

Our aim is to prove the following theorem, which will be used in the next section to understand the Tor groups $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1})$.

Theorem 3.2 *Let $X \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ and suppose that one of the following conditions holds:*

- $|X| \leq n$ and δ is invertible in R .
- $|X| < n$.

Then the groups $\text{Tor}_^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n / J_X)$ vanish in positive degrees.*

The proof of this result will occupy the rest of the section. The material that follows closely parallels [3, Section 3], with modifications to account for the passage from Temperley–Lieb algebras to Brauer algebras. The application of Theorem 3.2 in the next section is entirely new.

Given $a, b \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we write U_{ab} for the element of Br_n represented by the diagram in which each node on the left is joined to the corresponding node on the right, except that nodes $-a, -b$ on the left are joined to one another, and that nodes a, b are joined to one another. Thus $U_{i\ i+1}$ is the element that we earlier denoted by U_i .

Lemma 3.3

- (a) *An element $\beta \in \text{Br}_n$ has the form $\beta = \alpha \cdot U_{ab}$ for some $\alpha \in \text{Br}_n$ if and only if β is a linear combination of diagrams that each have an arc on the right between the nodes labelled a and b .*
- (b) *J_X is the left-ideal of Br_n generated by the elements U_{ab} for $a, b \in X$.*
- (c) *If $a, b \notin X$, then right-multiplication by U_{ab} preserves the left ideal J_X .*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \downarrow \oplus(1-\delta^{-1}U_{xw}) & \\
 & \oplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 3 \\
 & \downarrow \oplus \delta^{-1}U_{xw} & \\
 & \oplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 2 \\
 & \downarrow \oplus(1-\delta^{-1}U_{xw}) & \\
 & \oplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 1 \\
 & \downarrow \oplus \delta^{-1}U_{xw} & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x\}} & & 0 \\
 \downarrow 1 & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_X & & -1
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 1 The complex $C(X, x)$

Proof In (a), the ‘only if’ part is immediate. For the ‘if’ part, consider a diagram β in which nodes a and b on the right are connected by an arc. Then at least one pair of nodes on the left is connected by an arc. Left-multiplying by a permutation (which is invertible), we may assume without loss of generality that nodes $-a$ and $-b$ on the left are also connected by an arc. It is then clear that $\beta = \alpha U_{ab}$ where α is obtained from β by replacing the arcs from $\pm a$ to $\pm b$ on each side with an arc from $-a$ to a and an arc from $-b$ to b .

(b) follows immediately from (a).

For (c), U_{ab} commutes with U_{cd} whenever a, b, c, d are all distinct, so that by (b) it commutes with the generators of J_X . \square

We now introduce two very similar complexes, one for each set of assumptions in Theorem 3.2.

Definition 3.4 (*The complex $C(X, x)$*) Suppose that δ is invertible in R and that X is a nonempty subset of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let $x \in X$. Define a complex $C(X, x)$ as in Fig. 1. Thus $C(X, x)$ is given in degree -1 by Br_n / J_X , in degree 0 by $\text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x\}}$, and in all higher degrees by the direct sum of $\text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}}$ for $w \in X - \{x\}$. Each differential is given on each direct summand by a combination of right-multiplication by elements of Br_n (these are the elements indicated on the arrows of the diagram) and a map that extends the ideal by which we are quotienting (these are clear from the notation).

Definition 3.5 (*The complex $D(X, x, y)$*) Let X be a proper nonempty subset of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let $x \in X$ and let $y \in \{1, \dots, n\} - X$. Define a complex $D(X, x, y)$ as in Fig. 2. Thus $D(X, x, y)$ is given in degree -1 by Br_n / J_X , in degree 0 by $\text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x\}}$, and in all higher degrees by the direct sum of the $\text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}}$ for $w \in X - \{x\}$. And

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \vdots & & \\
 \downarrow \oplus(1-U_{xw}U_{xy}) & & \\
 \bigoplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 3 & \\
 \downarrow \oplus U_{xw}U_{xy} & & \\
 \bigoplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 2 & \\
 \downarrow \oplus(1-U_{xw}U_{xy}) & & \\
 \bigoplus_{w \in X - \{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x,w\}} & 1 & \\
 \downarrow \oplus U_{xw} & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X - \{x\}} & 0 & \\
 \downarrow 1 & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_X & -1 &
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 2 The complex $D(X, x, y)$

as in the previous definition, each differential is given on each direct summand by a combination of right-multiplication by an element of Br_n and a map that extends the ideal by which we are quotienting.

We will see shortly that $C(X, x)$ and $D(X, x, y)$ are acyclic, i.e. they are resolutions of their degree (-1) part. We call them *inductive resolutions* because they are resolving a module Br_n / J_X in degree (-1) , while in all remaining degrees they are built from modules of the form Br_n / J_Y for $|Y| < |X|$. This will facilitate the inductive proof of Theorem 3.2 that appears at the end of the section.

Lemma 3.6 *The differentials of $C(X, x)$ and $D(X, x, y)$ are well defined, and consecutive differentials compose to give 0.*

Proof The differentials are well-defined because we are always right-multiplying by an element that commutes with the ideal appearing in the domain. See Lemma 3.3(c).

In both cases the composite of differentials from degree 1 to -1 vanishes because the elements U_{xw} all lie in J_X .

In $C(X, x)$ the remaining composites all vanish because each $\delta^{-1}U_{xw}$ is an idempotent:

$$(\delta^{-1}U_{xw})^2 = \delta^{-2}U_{xw}^2 = \delta^{-2}\delta U_{xw} = \delta^{-1}U_{xw}$$

In $D(X, x, y)$ the composite of differentials ending in degree 0 vanishes because of the computation:

$$(1 - U_{xw}U_{xy})U_{xw} = U_{xw} - U_{xw}U_{xy}U_{xw} = U_{xw} - U_{xw} = 0.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \vdots & & \\
 \downarrow \delta^{-1}U_{xy} & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}} & 2 & \\
 \downarrow (1-\delta^{-1}U_{xw}) & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}} & 1 & \\
 \downarrow \delta^{-1}U_{xw} & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x\}} & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 3 The complex $C(X, x, w)$

Here the identity $U_{xw}U_{xy}U_{xw} = U_{xw}$ is easily verified, and generalises the familiar identity $U_iU_{i\pm 1}U_i = U_i$ in the Temperley–Lieb algebra. The remaining composites of consecutive differentials in $D(X, x, y)$ all vanish because the element $U_{xw}U_{xy}$ is idempotent:

$$(U_{xw}U_{xy})(U_{xw}U_{xy}) = U_{xw}(U_{xy}U_{xw}U_{xy}) = U_{xw}U_{xy}.$$

□

Lemma 3.7 *The complexes $C(X, x)$ and $D(X, x, y)$ are acyclic.*

Proof We begin with the proof for $C(X, x)$.

In degree -1 the claim is clear since $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x\}} \rightarrow \text{Br}_n / J_X$ is surjective.

In degree 0, we must show that any element of J_X is equal, modulo $J_{X-\{x\}}$, to a sum of left-multiples of the elements $\delta^{-1}U_{xw}$ for $w \in X - \{x\}$. This is an immediate consequence of Lemma 3.3(a).

Before proceeding to higher degrees, we consider the boundary map of $C(X, x)$ from degree 1 to degree 0:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \bigoplus_{w \in X-\{x\}} \text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}} & 1 & \\
 \downarrow \bigoplus \delta^{-1}U_{xw} & & \\
 \text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x\}} & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

According to Lemma 3.3(a), the image of the summand $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}}$ is spanned by linear combinations of diagrams in which the nodes labelled x and w on the right are connected by an arc. In any diagram, the node x on the right is connected to one other node, and no more, so that the images of the summands $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}}$ for different choices of w form a direct sum in $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x\}}$. Therefore, in order to prove acyclicity of our complex in degrees 1 and above, it will be enough to fix $w \in X - \{x\}$ and prove the complex $C(X, x, w)$ shown in Fig. 3 has vanishing homology in degree 1 and above.

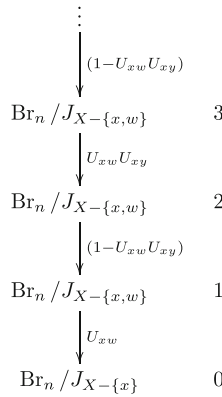


Fig. 4 The complex $D(X, x, y, w)$

We now prove that the homology of $C(X, x, w)$ vanishes in degrees 1 and above. In degree 1, suppose that we have an element $\alpha \in \text{Br}_n$ that represents a cycle in degree 1, so that $\alpha\delta^{-1}U_{xw} \in J_{X-\{x\}}$. Consider a diagram appearing as a summand of $\alpha\delta^{-1}U_{xw}$ with nonzero coefficient. Since there is a factor of U_{xw} on the right, the diagram must have an arc between the nodes on the right labelled x and w . And since αU_{xw} lies in $J_{X-\{x\}}$, there are $a, b \in X - \{x\}$ such that the nodes labelled a, b on the right of the diagram are joined by an arc. Comparing the last two sentences, we see that in fact $a, b \in X - \{x, w\}$, since otherwise the diagram would have two distinct arcs ending at w , and consequently the diagram lies in $J_{X-\{x,w\}}$. Consequently, $\alpha\delta^{-1}U_{xw}$ itself lies in $J_{X-\{x,w\}}$. This shows that $\alpha = \alpha(1 - \delta^{-1}U_{xw})$ in $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}}$, so that α lies in the image of the differential. In degrees 2 and higher exactness is immediate, thanks to the fact that $\delta^{-1}U_{xw}$ is idempotent.

Now we move on to the proof for $D(X, x, y)$. All steps of the proof are closely analogous to the proof above for $C(X, x)$, with the complex $D(X, x, y, w)$ shown in Fig. 4 now playing the role of $C(X, x, w)$. The only point of departure is the proof that $D(X, x, y, w)$ is exact in degree 1, which we prove now. In $D(X, x, y, w)$, suppose that we have an element $\alpha \in \text{Br}_n$ that represents a cycle in degree 1, so that $\alpha U_{xw} \in J_{X-\{x\}}$. Just as for $C(X, x, w)$, it follows that αU_{xw} itself lies in $J_{X-\{x,w\}}$. By Lemma 3.3(c), right-multiplication by U_{xy} preserves the left-ideal $J_{X-\{x,w\}}$, so that $\alpha U_{xw}U_{xy}$ lies in $J_{X-\{x,w\}}$. This shows that $\alpha = \alpha(1 - U_{xw}U_{xy})$ in $\text{Br}_n / J_{X-\{x,w\}}$, so that α lies in the image of the differential. \square

Lemma 3.8 *The complexes $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} C(X, x)$ and $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} D(X, x, y)$ are acyclic.*

Proof If A is any subset of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, then all elements of the ideal J_A act as zero on $\mathbb{1}$. It follows that $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_A$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{1}$.

Under this isomorphism, the differentials on each summand of $(\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} C(X, x))_p$ and $(\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} D(X, x, y))_p$ are given by 0 for p odd and id for p even (they act as the indicated element in Figs. 1 and 2 would act on $\mathbb{1}$). Using this description, one sees immediately that the complexes are acyclic. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.2 We give the proof for $C(X, x)$; the proof for $D(X, x, y)$ is identical.

The proof is by induction on the cardinality of X . The cases where X has cardinality 0 or 1 are immediate because then $J_X = 0$ and $\text{Br}_n / J_X = \text{Br}_n$ is free. Assume that X has cardinality 2 or more, choose $x \in X$, and choose $y \notin X$.

Let $C_{\geq 0}(X, x)$ denote the part of $C(X, x)$ in non-negative degrees. By Lemma 3.7, $C(X, x)$ is acyclic, and so $C_{\geq 0}(X, x)$ is a resolution of Br_n / J_X . In each degree, $C_{\geq 0}(X, x)$ is a direct sum of modules Br_n / J_Y for $Y \subsetneq X$. By the inductive hypothesis the Tor groups of these modules vanish in positive degrees, and it follows that $C_{\geq 0}(X, x)$ is a flat resolution of Br_n / J_X . Therefore $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n / J_X)$ is computed by $\mathbb{1} \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} C_{\geq 0}(X, x)$, which by Lemma 3.8 is zero in positive degrees. \square

4 Replacing Shapiro’s lemma

In this section we discuss the failure of Shapiro’s lemma for Brauer algebras, we provide a replacement for it, and we prove Theorem A.

Recall that Shapiro’s lemma states that if G is a group and H is a subgroup of G , then the natural map

$$H_*(H; \mathbb{1}) = \text{Tor}_*^{RH}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{RG}(\mathbb{1}, RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1})$$

is an isomorphism. The case of interest to us is the following, where $m \leq n$:

$$\sigma : H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1}) = \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_m}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1})$$

In this specific case we will always denote the isomorphism by σ .

If it were possible, we would also be interested in a version of Shapiro’s lemma for the Brauer algebra, identifying $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_m}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$ with $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1})$. The reason we would like this is that the highly-connected chain complex that we will exploit later is built out of precisely the modules $\text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$, as is familiar from proofs of homological stability for families of groups. However no such version of Shapiro’s lemma for Brauer algebras is possible, because Br_n is not necessarily flat as a right Br_m -module. A concrete instance of this is given by the fact that $\text{Tor}_1^{\text{Br}_2}(\text{Br}_3, \mathbb{1}) \cong (R/\delta R)^{\oplus 3}$, which shows that Br_3 is not flat over Br_2 when δ is not invertible. This computation of $\text{Tor}_1^{\text{Br}_2}(\text{Br}_3, \mathbb{1})$ is obtained by considering the short exact sequence of right Br_2 -modules

$$0 \rightarrow J \rightarrow \text{Br}_3 \rightarrow \text{Br}_3 / J \rightarrow 0,$$

where $J = J_{\{1,2,3\}}$ is the ideal spanned by diagrams with a left-to-left connection; one can identify J and Br_3 / J , and then compute their $\text{Tor}_1^{\text{Br}_2}(-, \mathbb{1})$ using the method of [32, 3.1.3].

This absence of Shapiro’s lemma is what prevents us from presenting a ‘traditional’ homological stability proof for Brauer algebras. However, we are able instead to use

the inductive resolutions of the previous section to prove a ‘replacement’ for Shapiro’s lemma, that will turn out to be just as useful, if not more.

To phrase the main result of this section, recall the inclusion and projection maps

$$R\mathfrak{S}_m \xrightarrow{\iota} \text{Br}_m \xrightarrow{\pi} R\mathfrak{S}_m.$$

These are compatible with the inclusions $\text{Br}_m \rightarrow \text{Br}_n$ and $R\mathfrak{S}_m \rightarrow R\mathfrak{S}_n$, and also respect the actions on the trivial module. They therefore induce the following maps of Tor-groups.

$$\text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\pi_*} \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1})$$

Theorem 4.1 *Let $n \geq m \geq 0$. Suppose that δ is invertible in R , or that $m < n$. Then the maps*

$$\iota_* : \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1})$$

and

$$\pi_* : \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1})$$

are mutually inverse isomorphisms.

Proof of Theorem A Taking δ invertible and $m = n$, the result follows immediately using the identifications $R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1} \cong \mathbb{1}$ and $\text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1} \cong \mathbb{1}$. \square

Theorem 4.1 will be proved after some preparatory definitions and lemmas.

Definition 4.2 For $m \leq n$, let J_m be the left-ideal J_X defined in Definition 3.1 for $X = \{1, \dots, m\}$. Thus J_m is the left-ideal spanned by all diagrams that have at least one arc among the nodes labelled $1, \dots, m$ on the right.

Observe that Br_n is a right $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ -module, and that this module structure preserves J_m , so that Br_n / J_m becomes a right $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ -module.

Lemma 4.3 *For $m \leq n$, Br_n / J_m is a free $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ -module.*

Proof Br_n / J_m has basis consisting of the diagrams that have no arc between any two nodes in $\{1, \dots, m\}$. In fact, \mathfrak{S}_m acts freely on this basis. This follows from the observation that multiplying such a diagram with a permutation in \mathfrak{S}_m results again in a diagram with no arc between any two nodes in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ and the stabilizer of any such diagram is only the trivial permutation. \square

Lemma 4.4 *For $m \leq n$, there is an isomorphism of left Br_n -modules*

$$\text{Br}_n / J_m \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1} \cong \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$$

under which $(b + J_m) \otimes r \in \text{Br}_n / J_m \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}$ corresponds to $b \otimes r \in \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$.

Proof It is sufficient to check that the correspondence described in the statement is a well-defined map in each direction. This holds because elements of $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ act as the identity on $\mathbb{1}$ while elements of J_m act as 0, and because Br_m is spanned by $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ and J_m . \square

Now recall from Theorem 3.2 that, under the hypotheses of Theorem 4.1,

$$\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n / J_m) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{1} & \text{if } * = 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } * > 0 \end{cases}.$$

Proof of Theorem 4.1 Since $\pi_* \circ \iota_*$ is the identity map, it is sufficient to show that ι_* is an isomorphism. To do this, we will directly construct an isomorphism

$$\Theta : \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1}).$$

and show that the composite

$$H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\sigma} \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow[\cong]{\Theta} H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1})$$

is the identity map.

Let us construct the map Θ . Let P_* be a free Br_n -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$. Then the domain of Θ is the homology of the chain complex $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$, and Lemma 4.4 gives us an isomorphism

$$\theta : P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1} \xrightarrow{\cong} P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}.$$

Since $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m$ computes $\text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n / J_m)$, Theorem 3.2 shows that $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m$ is a \mathfrak{S}_m -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$. And since P_* is a free Br_n -resolution and Br_n / J_m is a free \mathfrak{S}_m -module, $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m$ is in fact a free \mathfrak{S}_m -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$. Therefore $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}$ is a chain complex whose homology is $H_*(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1})$. Let Θ be the map induced by θ .

We now show that the composite $\Theta \circ \iota_* \circ \sigma$ is the identity map. If we choose a projective $R\mathfrak{S}_n$ -resolution Q_* of $\mathbb{1}$, then σ is given on the chain level by

$$Q_* \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow Q_* \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_n} R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}, \quad q \otimes r \mapsto q \otimes 1 \otimes r.$$

If we choose a chain map $\tilde{\iota} : Q_* \rightarrow P_*$ that lies over the identity map on $\mathbb{1}$ and respects the inclusion $\iota : R\mathfrak{S}_n \rightarrow \text{Br}_n$, then ι_* is represented by the chain map

$$Q_* \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_n} R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}, \quad q \otimes x \otimes r \mapsto \tilde{\iota}(q) \otimes \iota(x) \otimes r.$$

Finally, we described Θ explicitly on the chain level in the last paragraph. Now we can verify that $\Theta \circ \iota_* \circ \sigma$ is given on the chain level by

$$Q_* \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}, \quad q \otimes r \mapsto \tilde{\iota}(q) \otimes (1 + J_m) \otimes r.$$

This map is obtained by applying $-\otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}$ to the map

$$Q_* \rightarrow P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \text{Br}_n / J_m \quad q \mapsto \tilde{\iota}(q) \otimes (1 + J_m).$$

But this is a map of projective $R\mathfrak{S}_m$ -resolutions of $\mathbb{1}$, lying above the identity map on $\mathbb{1}$, and respecting the module structure. It is therefore a chain homotopy equivalence, and the same therefore holds for our chain-level representative of $\Theta \circ \iota_* \circ \sigma$. This completes the proof. \square

5 High connectivity

In this section, we introduce a chain complex built from the induced modules $\text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1}$ of Proposition 2.6. This chain complex is analogous to the chain complexes used in Randal–Williams–Wahl [28] when considering the stability category \mathcal{C}_{Br} from [26]. Furthermore, as generically required for a homological stability proof, we show that this is highly acyclic.

5.1 The chain complex

Definition 5.1 For n a non-negative integer, we define the chain complex $C_n = (C_n)_*$ of Br_n -modules as follows. The degree p part $(C_n)_p$ is non-zero in degrees $-1 \leq p \leq n - 1$, where it is given by

$$(C_n)_p = \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_{n-(p+1)}} \mathbb{1}.$$

So in degree -1 it follows that $(C_n)_{-1} = \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} \mathbb{1} \cong \mathbb{1}$. For $0 \leq p \leq n - 1$ the degree p differential ∂^p is given by the alternating sum

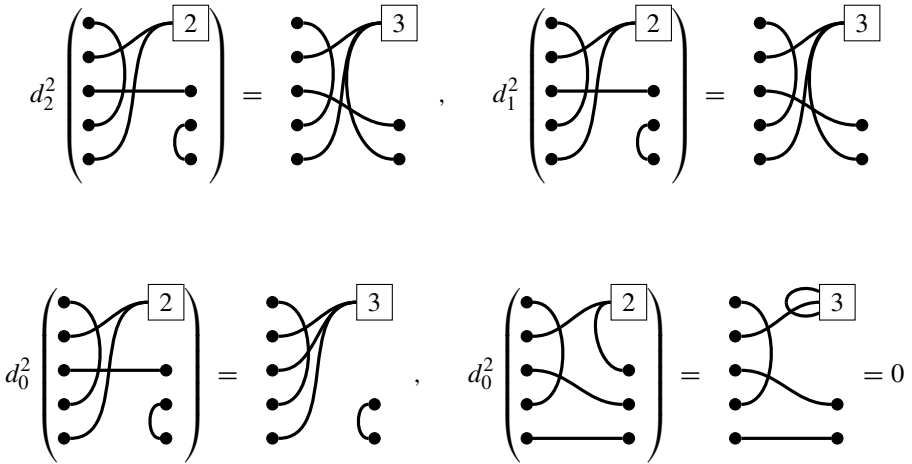
$$\partial^p = \sum_{i=0}^p (-1)^i d_i^p : (C_n)_p \longrightarrow (C_n)_{p-1}.$$

where algebraically, the map d_i^p for $0 \leq i \leq p$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} d_i^p : \text{Br}_n [\text{Br}_{n-(p+1)}] \mathbb{1} &\longrightarrow \text{Br}_n [\text{Br}_{n-p}] \mathbb{1} \\ x \otimes r &\mapsto (x \cdot S_{n-p+i-1} \cdots S_{n-p}) \otimes r. \end{aligned}$$

In terms of diagrams, elements in degree p can be described as in Proposition 2.6, i.e. as diagrams with an $(n - (p + 1))$ -box at the top right. The map d_i^p first connects the $(n - p + i)$ -th node of the right hand side of the diagram with the $(n - p)$ -th node (the top node under the box) and then extends the box over this node, corresponding to the $(n - (p + 1))$ -box growing by one node to form an $(n - p)$ -box. In other words, if the nodes below the $(n - (p + 1))$ -box are labelled $0, \dots, p$ from top to bottom, then d_i^p lifts up node i and plugs it into the box.

Examples of the action of the maps d_i^p when $n = 5$ and $p = 2$ are shown below.



Remark 5.2 The complex C_n is analogous to the semisimplicial set defined in Randal-Williams–Wahl [28], using the symmetric monoidal category C_{Br} introduced by the third author in [26]. However we do not exploit this analogy, as our numbering system opposes that of [26].

Lemma 5.3 $(C_n)_*$ is a chain complex. That is, the boundary maps of $(C_n)_*$ satisfy $\partial^{p-1} \circ \partial^p = 0$.

Proof We show that iterated differentials vanish, by observing that if $p \geq 1$ and $0 \leq j < k \leq p$, then the composite maps $d_j^{p-1} d_k^p, d_{k-1}^{p-1} d_j^p: (C_n)_p \rightarrow (C_n)_{p-2}$ coincide. It follows that $\partial^{p-1} \circ \partial^p = 0$. We have

$$d_j^{p-1} d_k^p(x \otimes r) = [x \cdot (S_{n-i+k-1} \cdots S_{n-i}) \cdot (S_{n-i+j} \cdots S_{n-i+1})] \otimes r$$

and

$$d_{k-1}^{p-1} d_j^p(x \otimes r) = [x \cdot (S_{n-i+j-1} \cdots S_{n-i}) \cdot (S_{n-i+k-1} \cdots S_{n-i+1})] \otimes r.$$

By repeated use of the braiding relations on the S_m , these maps coincide. (For a more detailed proof compare with [3, Lemma 4.8].) \square

The rest of this section is devoted to proving that this chain complex is highly acyclic, which is made precise in the following theorem.

Theorem 5.4 $H_i(C_n) = 0$ for $i \leq \frac{n-3}{2}$.

To prove this theorem, we introduce a number of decompositions, filtrations, and chain isomorphisms, which eventually reduce the theorem to high acyclicity of the complex of injective words.

5.2 A decomposition and a filtration

We first observe that for a single diagram, corresponding to a monomial in Br_n , the number of left-to-left connections (which is equal to the number of right-to-right connections) is invariant under the differential ∂ . This is because the number of left-to-left connections remains invariant under multiplication by any S_i , and under the operation of extending the box over a new node.

Definition 5.5 Fix $0 \leq k \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$. Let $C_n^{(k)} = (C_n^{(k)})_*$ be the subcomplex of the chain complex C_n with basis at degree p consisting of those diagrams in $(C_n)_p$ which have k left-to-left connections.

Thus we can decompose C_n as

$$C_n = C_n^{(0)} \oplus C_n^{(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus C_n^{(\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}.$$

Proposition 5.6 $H_i(C_n^{(k)}) = 0$ for all $i \leq n - k - 2$.

Assuming the above proposition we prove Theorem 5.4 as a consequence.

Proof of Theorem 5.4 If $i \leq \frac{n-3}{2}$ as in the statement of Theorem 5.4, then

$$i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n-3}{2} \right\rfloor = n - \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor - 2 \leq n - k - 2$$

for all $0 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$. Then, by the decomposition of C_n into the $C_n^{(k)}$,

$$H_i(C_n) = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} H_i(C_n^{(k)})$$

vanishes by Proposition 5.6. □

We are left to prove Proposition 5.6. Observe that if there are k left-to-left connections in a diagram, it follows that there are k right-to-right connections. However, on the right hand side of a diagram in $(C_n)_p$ there is a $(n - (p + 1))$ -box, and so the right-to-right connections are split into two sets: singular nodes connected to the box and pairs of nodes connected to each other and not connected to the box. We exploit this in a filtration of $(C_n^{(k)})_*$.

Definition 5.7 For each $0 \leq k \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, we define a filtration

$$F_0 C_n^{(k)} \subseteq F_1 C_n^{(k)} \subseteq \dots \subseteq F_k C_n^{(k)}$$

of $C_n^{(k)}$ as follows. The j th level $F_j C_n^{(k)}$ is generated by diagrams with at most j right-to-right connections that are *not* connected to the box. Note that this is indeed a filtration, since the defining criterion is invariant under ∂ . This is due to the observation that the boundary map can only decrease the number of right-to-right connections not connected to the box.

Proposition 5.8 *The filtration quotient $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ is highly acyclic: its homology vanishes in degrees $i \leq n - k - 2 + j$.*

The proof of this result will be given later. Assuming it for the time being, we may prove Proposition 5.6:

Proof of Proposition 5.6 By Proposition 5.8, the homology of the filtration quotient $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ vanishes in degrees $* \leq n - k - 2$ for all j . The same then holds for $C_n^{(k)}$ itself, either by considering the spectral sequence associated to the filtration, or by considering the long exact sequences associated to the short exact sequences $0 \rightarrow F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)} \rightarrow F_j C_n^{(k)} \rightarrow F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)} \rightarrow 0$. \square

5.3 Injective words with separators

Our goal is now to prove Proposition 5.8. We will do this at the end of this section by identifying the filtration quotients in terms of yet another family of complexes, which we introduce now.

Definition 5.9 (*Injective words with separators*) Let X be a finite set and let $k \geq 0$. An *injective word on X with k separators* is a word with letters taken from the set $X \sqcup \{|\}$ consisting of X and the *separator* $|$, where each letter from X appears at most once, and where the separator appears exactly k times. When $k = 0$, then these are simply the injective words on X .

Example 5.10 For example, if $X = \{a\}$ and $k = 2$, then the possible words are:

$$|| \quad ||a \quad |a| \quad a||$$

And if $X = \{a, b\}$ and $k = 1$, then the possible words are:

$$| \quad |a \quad a| \quad |b \quad b| \quad |ab \quad a|b \quad ab| \quad |ba \quad b|a \quad ba|$$

Definition 5.11 (*The complex of injective words with separators*) Let X be a finite set, let $s \geq 0$, and let R be a commutative ring. The *complex of injective words with s separators* is the R -chain complex $W_X^{(s)}$ concentrated in degrees $-1 \leq p \leq |X| - 1$, and defined as follows. In degree p , $(W_X^{(s)})_p$ has basis given by the injective words on X with s separators with $(p + 1)$ letters from X . Thus such a word $\mathbf{a} \in (W_X^{(s)})_p$ has length $s + p + 1$. Let $r = s + p$ and $\mathbf{a} = a_0 a_1 \cdots a_r$. The boundary operator $\partial^p : (W_X^{(s)})_p \rightarrow (W_X^{(s)})_{p-1}$ is defined by the rule

$$\partial^p(a_0 a_1 \cdots a_r) = \sum_{i=0}^r (-1)^i a_0 \cdots \widehat{a}_i \cdots a_r$$

subject to the condition that if the omitted letter is a separator, then the corresponding term is omitted (or identified with 0). In other words, the boundary is the signed sum

of the words obtained by deleting the letters that come from X and *not deleting any separators*, but with signs determined by the position of the deleted letter among all letters *including the separator*:

$$\partial^p(a_0 a_1 \cdots a_r) = \sum_{a_i \in X} (-1)^i a_0 \cdots \widehat{a}_i \cdots a_r$$

Example 5.12 If we take $X = \{a, b\}$ and $s = 1$, then the elements $a|b$ and $|ba$ both live in degree 1, and their boundaries are

$$\partial^1(a|b) = |b + a| \quad \text{and} \quad \partial^1(|ba) = -|a + |b.$$

Lemma 5.13 $W_X^{(s)}$ is a chain complex. That is, $\partial^{p-1} \circ \partial^p = 0$.

Proof If $a_i, a_j \in X$ are distinct letters of a word $a_0 \cdots a_r \in (W_X^{(s)})_i$, with $i < j$, then $a_0 \cdots \widehat{a}_i \cdots \widehat{a}_j \cdots a_r$ appears in $\partial^{p-1} \partial^p(a_0 \cdots a_r)$ with coefficient

$$(-1)^{i+(j-1)} + (-1)^{j+i} = 0.$$

□

Proposition 5.14 $W_X^{(s)}$ is highly acyclic: $H_i(W_X^{(s)}) = 0$ for $i \leq |X| - 2$.

Proof We prove the statement by induction on s . The base case $s = 0$ is the usual acyclicity statement for the complex of injective words, first proved by Farmer [10].

Let $s \geq 1$ and assume the result holds true for $(s - 1)$. We introduce a filtration $F_j W_X^{(s)}$ which at level j is generated by words $a_0 \cdots a_r$ in which a separator appears among the letters a_0, \dots, a_j , or equivalently, in at least one of the positions $0, \dots, j$. Then the filtration quotient $F_j W_X^{(s)} / F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)}$ is the chain complex defined like $W_X^{(s)}$, but with basis consisting of words in which the first separator appears in position j , and whose differential omits letters taken from X that appear *after* position j .

Next we introduce a degree $-j$ chain map

$$\Psi_* : F_j W_X^{(s)} / F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)} \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\mathbf{x}} W_{X-\mathbf{x}}^{(s-1)}$$

where \mathbf{x} ranges over all injective words on X with exactly j letters (and no separators), and $X - \mathbf{x}$ denotes the set obtained by deleting the letters of \mathbf{x} from X . Observe that if $a_0 \cdots a_r$ is a basis element of $(F_j W_X^{(s)})_p / (F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)})_p$ then $a_0 \cdots a_r = (a_0 \cdots a_{j-1})|(a_{j+1} \cdots a_r)$ where $a_0 \cdots a_{j-1}$ is an injective word on X with no separators, and $a_{j+1} \cdots a_r$ is an injective word of degree $p - j$ on $X - \mathbf{x}$ with $s - 1$ separators. Then Ψ_* is defined by

$$\Psi_p(a_0 \cdots a_r) = (-1)^{(j+1)p} a_{j+1} \cdots a_r \in W_{X-(a_0 \cdots a_{j-1})}^{(s-1)}.$$

It is straightforward to see that Ψ_* is both a chain map and an isomorphism.

Since the homology of each $W_{X-\mathbf{x}}^{(s-1)}$ vanishes in degrees $* \leq |X - \mathbf{x}| - 2 = |X| - j - 2$, it follows that the homology of $F_j W_X^{(s)} / F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)}$ vanishes in the same range. The same therefore holds for $W_X^{(s)}$ itself, either by considering the spectral sequence associated to the filtration, or by considering the long exact sequences associated to the short exact sequences $0 \rightarrow F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)} \rightarrow F_j W_X^{(s)} \rightarrow F_j W_X^{(s)} / F_{j-1} W_X^{(s)} \rightarrow 0$. \square

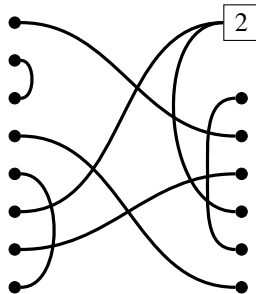
5.4 Identifying the filtration quotients

Recall from Definition 5.5 that $C_n^{(k)} \subseteq C_n$ is the subcomplex spanned by diagrams that have precisely k left-to-left connections, and from Definition 5.7 that $F_j C_n^{(k)} \subseteq C_n^{(k)}$ is the subcomplex spanned by diagrams that have at most j right-to-right connections that are not connected to the box. Our aim now is to prove Proposition 5.8, which states that the filtration quotients $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ are highly acyclic. We will do this by identifying the filtration quotients in terms of complexes of injective words with separators.

To begin, observe that the filtration quotient $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ has basis in degree p consisting of diagrams which have an $(n - (p + 1))$ -box on the right, k left-to-left connections and k right-to-right connections, of which exactly j are not connected to the box. In more detail, such diagrams have the following properties:

- On the left, the diagram has n nodes.
- There are precisely k left-to-left connections.
- On the right, the diagram has an $(n - (p + 1))$ -box, together with $(p + 1)$ nodes.
- There are exactly j right-to-right connections that do not connect to the box, and a further $k - j$ right-to-right connections that connect a node to the box. (There are k left-to-left connections, so there are also k right-to-right connections.)
- Thus $(k - j) + 2j = k + j$ of the right-hand nodes are part of right-to-right connections.
- The remaining $(p + 1) - (k + j)$ right-hand nodes are therefore connected to nodes on the left.

Example 5.15 Here is an example of a diagram in $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ for $n = 8$, $k = 2$ and $j = 1$, lying in degree $p = 5$.



Observe the $k = 2$ left-to-left connections, the $k = 2$ right-to-right connections, the $j = 1$ right-to-right connection that does not involve the box, the $k + j = 3$ nodes involved in right-to-right connections, and the $(p + 1) - (k + j) = 3$ nodes on the right that are connected to nodes on the left.

Definition 5.16 A diagram in the basis of $(F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)})_p$ determines a tuple

$$(X, P, Y, \mathbf{a})$$

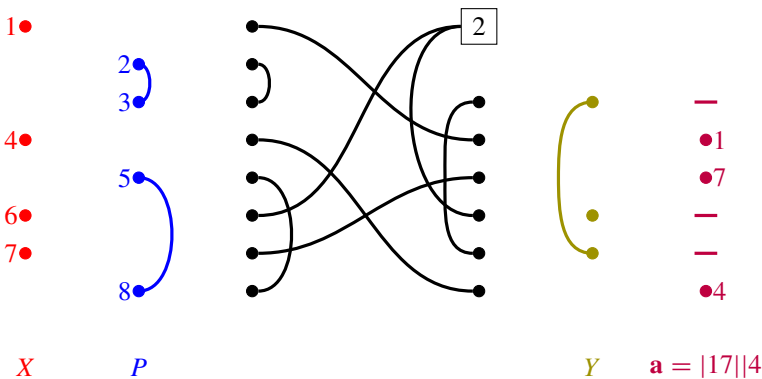
consisting of the following data:

- A subset $X \subseteq [n]$ of cardinality $n - 2k$.
- A partition P of $[n] - X$ into k disjoint pairs.
- An ordered set Y of cardinality $k + j$, with $2j$ of its elements divided into disjoint pairs. This is regarded as an isomorphism class of such ordered sets with pairing.
- An injective word with $k + j$ separators \mathbf{a} , of degree $p - (k + j)$, on the set X .

The diagram determines the tuple as follows:

- $X \subseteq [n]$ is the set of nodes on the left that are part of left-to-right connections.
- P is the partition of $[n] - X$ determined by the left-to-left connections.
- Y is the set of nodes on the right that are part of right-to-right connections, either to other nodes or to the box, with the pairing obtained from the right-to-right connections that do not involve the box.
- \mathbf{a} is the injective word of length $p + 1$ obtained as follows. If the i -th node on the right is part of a right-to-right connection, then the i -th letter of \mathbf{a} is a separator. If the i -th node on the right is part of a left-to-right connection, then the i -th letter of \mathbf{a} is the element of X at the left-hand end of that connection.

Example 5.17 Continuing from Example 5.15, the tuple (X, P, Y, \mathbf{a}) associated to our previous diagram is depicted below:



Thus X consists of all left-hand nodes that are part of left-to-right connections, and P is the pairing obtained from the left-to-left connections on the remaining left-hand nodes. We have equipped X and P with the labelling obtained by labelling the nodes

from top to bottom, in order to indicate that X is a subset of $[n] = [8]$ and that P is a pairing on the complement of X . Next, Y consists of the nodes that are part of right-to-right connections, equipped with the pairing obtained from the right-to-right connections that do not involve the box. We have not labelled Y , in order to indicate that it is only the isomorphism type of Y , as an ordered set with pairing, which is recorded. Finally, \mathbf{a} is drawn by writing the ends of right-to-right connections as a horizontal bar (separator), together with the nodes that are the right-hand ends of left-to-right connections, labelled by the element at the left-hand end of the relevant connection. Rotating this by 90 degrees gives us the word \mathbf{a} , in this case $\mathbf{a} = |17||4$. Note that the letter $6 \in X$ does not appear in \mathbf{a} . This is because in the original diagram, node 6 on the left is connected to the box.

Finally, observe that we can completely rebuild the original diagram from the tuple (X, P, Y, \mathbf{a}) . First, P allows us to recover all left-to-left connections. Next, matching Y to the separators of \mathbf{a} allows us to recover the nodes on the right, together with the right-to-right connections between the nodes. Finally, right-hand nodes that are labelled by an element of X are then equipped with a left-to-right connection to that element, and any remaining right-hand nodes are then connected to the box.

Definition 5.18 The discussion above allows us to define a map

$$\Phi_*: F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)} \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{(X, P, Y)} W_X^{(k+j)}$$

of degree $-(k + j)$, where the direct sum is indexed by all tuples (X, P, Y) of the form considered in Definition 5.16. The map Φ_p is defined as follows: Take a diagram D in the basis of $(F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)})_p$, determine the associated tuple (X, P, Y, \mathbf{a}) as in Definition 5.16, and then define $\Phi_*(D)$ to be \mathbf{a} in the summand $W_X^{(k+j)}$ corresponding to (X, P, Y) .

Lemma 5.19 Φ_* is a chain map.

Proof We suggest that the reader keep in mind the diagram from Example 5.17 throughout this proof.

First, we claim that the triple (X, P, Y) associated, via Φ_* , to a basis diagram D in $(F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)})_p$ is preserved in all diagrams appearing in the boundary of D . Recall from Definition 5.1 that the boundary map ∂^p sends a diagram to the alternating sum of the diagrams obtained as follows: work through the nodes on the right of the diagram, and in each case move the node into the box. This clearly does not change the left-hand end of the diagram, and therefore all of the diagrams in the boundary have the same X and P associated to them. If the node that is moved into the box was part of a right-to-right connection with another node, then the resulting diagram has fewer right-to-right connections between nodes, and therefore vanishes in the quotient $(F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)})_p$. If the node that is moved into the box was part of a right-to-right connection with the box, then after moving it into the box, the resulting diagram has a loop at the box, and therefore again vanishes. The last two sentences show that, under the boundary map, the nodes that are part of the right-to-right connections do

not change, and neither does the data of which are connected to the box and which are not. In other words, the diagrams in the boundary have the same Y associated to them.

The above paragraph demonstrates that $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ splits as a direct sum indexed by the triples (X, P, Y) . It now suffices to show that the assignment that sends a diagram with fixed (X, P, Y) to the corresponding injective word with separators \mathbf{a} respects the boundary map. But this is clear: moving the end of a left-to-right connection into the box corresponds exactly to deleting one of the non-separator letters from \mathbf{a} . \square

Lemma 5.20 Φ_* is an isomorphism.

Proof We work in degree p . The domain of Φ_* has a basis consisting of the diagrams in degree p , while the range has basis consisting of all 4-tuples (X, P, Y, \mathbf{a}) of the kind appearing in Definition 5.16, and the effect of Φ_* is to send a diagram to the associated tuple. It therefore suffices to show that the assignment that sends a basis diagram to a 4-tuple is a bijection.

To see this, we construct an inverse assignment as follows. We again recommend that the reader keeps the diagram of Example 5.17 in mind at this point. Given a tuple (X, P, Y, \mathbf{a}) , we build a basis diagram, as follows. First, P allows us to recover all left-to-left connections on $[n]$. Next, we use the letters of \mathbf{a} — including the separators — as the right-hand nodes of our diagram. We then replace the separators, in order, with the elements of Y (which is linearly ordered), adding connections according to the pairing on Y , and connecting any unpaired elements of Y to the box. The unconnected nodes on the right are then the non-separators of \mathbf{a} , which are in fact distinct elements of X ; adding the corresponding left-to-right connections then completes the diagram.

The assignment described in the last paragraph is indeed an inverse to the one described in the first paragraph, and this completes the proof. \square

Using the isomorphism Φ_* , we can subsequently prove Proposition 5.8.

Proof of Proposition 5.8 We wish to show that the homology of $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ vanishes in degrees $i \leq n - k - 2 + j$. By Lemma 5.20, there is a chain isomorphism of degree $-(k + j)$ between this chain complex and $\bigoplus_{(X, P, Y)} W_X^{(k+j)}$, where in this direct sum the sets X all have cardinality $n - 2k$. By Proposition 5.14, the homology of the $W_X^{(k+j)}$ all vanish in degrees $i \leq |X| - 2 = n - 2k - 2$, so that the homology of $F_j C_n^{(k)} / F_{j-1} C_n^{(k)}$ vanishes in degrees $i \leq n - 2k - 2 + (k + j) = n - k - 2 + j$. \square

6 Proof of Theorem B

In this section, we prove Theorem B. Recall that this states that the inclusion $\iota : R\mathfrak{S}_n \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$ induces maps

$$H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

that are isomorphisms for $n \geq 2i + 1$.

Recall the inclusion and projection maps

$$R\mathfrak{S}_n \xrightarrow{\iota} \text{Br}_n \xrightarrow{\pi} R\mathfrak{S}_n,$$

which satisfy $\pi \circ \iota = \text{id}$. These induce maps of Tor-groups

$$\text{Tor}^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \text{Tor}^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \xrightarrow{\pi_*} \text{Tor}^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

that again satisfy $\pi_* \circ \iota_* = \text{id}$, so that ι_* is injective. It is therefore enough to show that ι_* is surjective.

Recall the chain complex $C_n = (C_n)_*$ from Definition 5.1, and recall this complex is non-zero only when $-1 \leq * \leq n - 1$. Recall from Theorem 5.4 that $H_i(C_n) = 0$ for $i \leq \frac{n-3}{2}$.

Consider the two spectral sequences associated to the double complex $P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} (C_n)_*$, for P_* a projective resolution of Br_n over $\mathbb{1}$. The first spectral sequence converges to zero in a range, since each P_p is projective, and therefore flat, so

$$E_{p,q}^1 = H_q(P_p \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} (C_n)_*) \cong P_p \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} H_q((C_n)_*) = 0 \text{ if } q \leq \frac{n-3}{2}.$$

Therefore the second spectral sequence will also converge to zero in the range $p + q \leq \frac{n-3}{2}$. The E^1 -page of this spectral sequence can be identified as follows

$$\begin{aligned} E_{p,q}^1 &= \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, (C_n)_p) \\ &= \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_{n-p-1}} \mathbb{1}) \\ &\cong \begin{cases} \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) & p = -1 \\ H_q(\mathfrak{S}_{n-p-1}; \mathbb{1}) & p \geq 0. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where the final line uses Theorem 4.1. Our aim now is to identify the differentials, but we include a theoretical Lemma first, to help us do this.

Lemma 6.1 *Let G be a group, H a subgroup of G , and $g \in G$ an element that commutes with H . Right-multiplication by g induces a map $RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}$. The induced map on Tor groups*

$$\text{Tor}_*^{RG}(\mathbb{1}, RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{RG}(\mathbb{1}, RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}).$$

is the identity map.

Proof Let P_* be a projective RG -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$. Then it is also a projective RH -resolution of $\mathbb{1}$. Since g commutes with RH , the map $P_* \rightarrow P_*$, $p \mapsto pg$ is a map of projective RH -resolutions, over the identity map on $\mathbb{1}$. It is therefore chain-homotopic to the identity map of P_* .

$\text{Tor}_*^{RG}(\mathbb{1}, RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1})$ is the homology of $P_* \otimes_{RG} (RG \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1})$, which we identify with $P_* \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}$, and then the map in question is represented by the chain map $P_* \otimes_{RH}$

$\mathbb{1} \rightarrow P_* \otimes_{RH} \mathbb{1}, p \otimes r \mapsto pg \otimes r$. This is chain-homotopic to the identity, by the first paragraph. \square

We now return to considering the differentials. Recall the map σ from the beginning of Sect. 4, which is an isomorphism by Shapiro’s Lemma. Recall also that the map $\iota_* : \text{Tor}_*^{R\mathfrak{S}_n}(\mathbb{1}, R\mathfrak{S}_n \otimes_{R\mathfrak{S}_m} \mathbb{1}) \rightarrow \text{Tor}_*^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_m} \mathbb{1})$ induced by the inclusion ι is an isomorphism by Theorem 4.1.

Lemma 6.2 *Under the isomorphisms*

$$\iota_* \circ \sigma : H_*(\mathfrak{S}_{n-p-1}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_{n-p-1}} \mathbb{1})$$

for $p \geq 0$, the d^1 -differentials in the above spectral sequence are given as follows:

$$d^1 : E_{p+1,q}^1 \rightarrow E_{p,q}^1 = \begin{cases} 0 & p \geq 0 \text{ even} \\ s_* : H_q(\mathfrak{S}_{n-p-2}) \rightarrow H_q(\mathfrak{S}_{n-p-1}) & p \geq 0 \text{ odd} \\ s_* : H_q(\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}) \rightarrow \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) & p = -1 \end{cases}$$

where $s : \mathfrak{S}_{n-p-2} \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_{n-p-1}$ and $s : R\mathfrak{S}_{n-1} \rightarrow \text{Br}_n$ are the inclusion maps.

Proof Recall that the differential of $(C_n)_*$ originating at $(C_n)_{p+1}$ is a composite

$$\text{Br}_n[\text{Br}_{n-(p+2)}]\mathbb{1} \longrightarrow \text{Br}_n[\text{Br}_{n-(p+2)}]\mathbb{1} \longrightarrow \text{Br}_n[\text{Br}_{n-(p+1)}]\mathbb{1}.$$

The first map is the alternating sum of the maps induced by right multiplication by the symmetric group elements $\sigma_i^{p+1} := (S_{n-(p+1)+i-1} \cdots S_{n-(p+1)})$ for $i = 0, \dots, p + 1$. The second map extends the tensor from $\text{Br}_{n-(p+2)}$ to $\text{Br}_{n-(p+1)}$. The d^1 -differential originating at $E_{p+1,q}^1$ is the induced composite, obtained by applying $\text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, -)$ to the differential of $(C_n)_*$.

Let $p \geq 0$. Under the isomorphism ι_* , d^1 becomes the entirely analogous composite with each Br_ℓ replaced by the corresponding $R\mathfrak{S}_\ell$. The first factor in the resulting composite is, by Lemma 6.1, the alternating sum of $(p + 2)$ identity maps, and is therefore the identity for p odd and zero for p even. Applying the isomorphism σ from Shapiro’s lemma now gives us the required description, where s stands for the stabilisation map i.e. s_* is induced by the inclusion $\mathfrak{S}_{n-p-2} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{S}_{n-p-1}$.

Let $p = -1$. Then the differential of $(C_n)_*$ originating at $(C_n)_0$ is simply the map

$$\varepsilon : \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_{n-1}} \mathbb{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{1}, \quad x \otimes r \mapsto x \cdot r.$$

The d^1 differential originating at $E_{0,q}$ is the induced map

$$\varepsilon_* : \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \text{Br}_n \otimes_{\text{Br}_{n-1}} \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_q^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}).$$

Under the isomorphism $\iota_* \circ \sigma$, this map is replaced with the composite $\varepsilon_* \circ \iota_* \circ \sigma$. This can be computed explicitly, and gives the result. \square

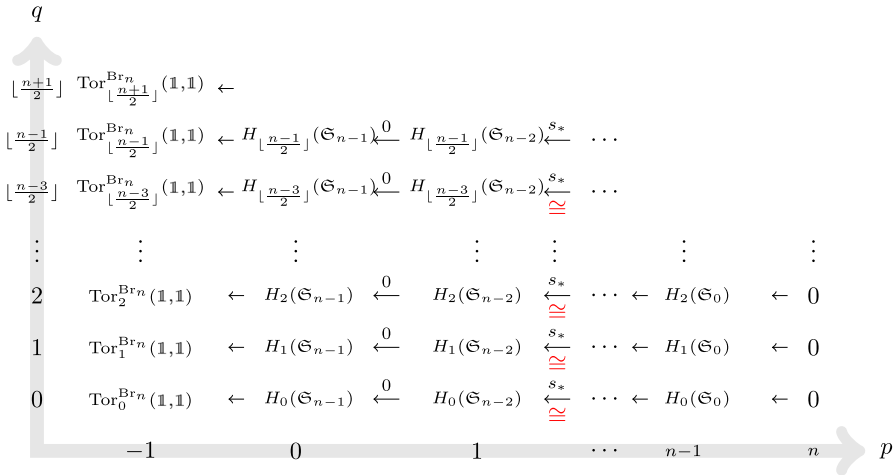


Fig. 5 The \$E^1\$ page of the spectral sequence for the double complex, with differentials labelled as per Lemma 6.2

Theorem 6.3 *In the range \$i \le \frac{n-1}{2}\$, the inclusion map \$R\mathfrak{S}_{n-1} \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n\$ induces a surjection*

$$H_i(\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}).$$

Proof Consider the spectral sequence associated to the double complex \$P_* \otimes_{\text{Br}_n} (C_n)_*\$ as discussed above, for \$P_*\$ a projective resolution of \$\text{Br}_n\$ over \$\mathbb{1}\$. Then the \$E^1\$-page of the spectral sequence is as shown in Fig. 5. By Lemma 6.2, it will suffice to prove that the map \$d^1: E_{0,q}^1 \to E_{-1,q}^1\$ is a surjection in degrees \$q \le \frac{n-1}{2}\$.

Homological stability for the symmetric groups [25] states that the stabilisation map

$$s_*: H_i(\mathfrak{S}_{m-1}; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow H_i(\mathfrak{S}_m; \mathbb{1})$$

is an isomorphism in the range \$i \le \frac{m-1}{2}\$. Lemma 6.2 then tells us that the differential \$d^1: E_{p+1,q}^1 \to E_{p,q}^1\$ is an isomorphism in degrees \$q \le \frac{n-p-2}{2}\$ when \$p\$ is even, and is 0 when \$p\$ is odd. It then follows, exactly as in many proofs of homological stability for the symmetric groups ([22, IV 3.1], [27, Theorem 5.1], [13, Section 3]), that from the \$E^2\$-term onwards, when \$q \le \frac{n-1}{2}\$ all remaining sources of differentials into the \$(-1)\$ column are zero.

Putting this together with the fact that the spectral sequence converges to zero in the range \$p+q \le \frac{n-3}{2}\$ (and noting that \$\frac{n-3}{2} = -1 + \frac{n-1}{2}\$) it follows that the \$(-1)\$-column on the \$E^2\$-page must be zero in the range \$q \le \frac{n-1}{2}\$. Therefore the \$d^1\$-differential into the \$(-1)\$-column is a surjection in this range. \$\square\$

Proof of Theorem B Theorem 6.3 showed that the map

$$H_i(\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

that is induced by the inclusion $R\mathfrak{S}_{n-1} \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$ is surjective when $i \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$. Observe that the inclusion $R\mathfrak{S}_{n-1} \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$ factors as $R\mathfrak{S}_{n-1} \hookrightarrow R\mathfrak{S}_n \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$, so that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_i(\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}; \mathbb{1}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1}) \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) & & \end{array}$$

commutes by functoriality. It follows that the map

$$\iota_* H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

induced by the inclusion $R\mathfrak{S}_n \hookrightarrow \text{Br}_n$ is surjective in the same range $i \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$ as $H_i(\mathfrak{S}_{n-1}; \mathbb{1}) \rightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$.

Together with injectivity of ι_* , this implies that

$$\iota_* H_i(\mathfrak{S}_n; \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow \text{Tor}_i^{\text{Br}_n}(\mathbb{1}, \mathbb{1})$$

is an isomorphism if $i \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$ as required. □

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