

# On Massey products and triangulated categories

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Workshop on Derived Categories

- Massey products and Heller's theory.
- Cohomology of categories and Massey products.
- Stable Massey products and  $A_\infty$ -enhancements.

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# Preliminaries

Let  $k$  be a commutative ring.

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a  $k$ -linear, additive, idempotent complete category.

A (right)  $\mathcal{T}$ -module  $M$  is a  $k$ -linear functor  $M: \mathcal{T}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Mod-}k$ . It is **finitely presented** or **coherent** if there exists an exact sequence

$$\mathcal{T}(-, X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}(-, Y) \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow 0.$$

Let  $\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}$  be the category of coherent  $\mathcal{T}$ -modules.

## Theorem (Freyd'66)

*If  $\mathcal{T}$  is triangulated then  $\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}$  is a Frobenius abelian category and  $\mathcal{T}$  is the full subcategory of injective-projective objects.*

Assume that  $\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}$  is a Frobenius ...

Let  $\Sigma: \mathcal{T} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{T}$  be a  $k$ -linear equivalence, called **suspension** or **translation**.

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# Massey products

A Massey product or secondary composition sends

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & 0 & & \\ & \swarrow & \text{---} & \searrow & \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z & \xrightarrow{h} & U \\ & \nwarrow & & \nearrow & \\ & & 0 & & \end{array} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{T}$$

to

$$\langle h, g, f \rangle \subset \mathcal{T}(\Sigma X, U),$$

a coset of

$$h \cdot \mathcal{T}(\Sigma X, Z) + \mathcal{T}(\Sigma Y, U) \cdot (\Sigma f) \subset \mathcal{T}(\Sigma X, U),$$

the indeterminacy submodule.

Moreover, given composable morphisms (without vanishing conditions)

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} U \xrightarrow{i} V,$$

the following inclusions hold whenever the Massey products are defined,

$$\langle i, h, g \rangle \cdot (\Sigma f) \subset \langle i, h, g \cdot f \rangle \subset \langle i, h \cdot g, f \rangle \supset \langle i \cdot h, g, f \rangle \supset i \cdot \langle h, g, f \rangle.$$

The set of Massey products is a  $k$ -module,

$$\mathrm{MP}(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma).$$

## Theorem (Heller'68)

If  $\mathcal{T}$  is triangulated there is a unique Massey product such that for any exact triangle

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{i} C \xrightarrow{q} \Sigma X$$

we have

$$1_{\Sigma X} \in \langle q, i, f \rangle \subset \mathcal{T}(\Sigma X, \Sigma X).$$

This defines an inclusion

$$\{\text{triangulated structures on } (\mathcal{T}, \Sigma)\} \subset \text{MP}(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma).$$

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 X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g} & Z & \xrightarrow{h} & U \\
 & \searrow & & \swarrow & \\
 & & 0 & & 
 \end{array}$$

exact

A triangle  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{i} C \xrightarrow{q} \Sigma X$  is exact if and only if

$$\mathcal{T}(-, X) \xrightarrow{f_*} \mathcal{T}(-, Y) \xrightarrow{i_*} \mathcal{T}(-, C) \xrightarrow{q_*} \mathcal{T}(-, \Sigma X) \xrightarrow{(\Sigma f)_*} \mathcal{T}(-, \Sigma Y)$$

is an exact sequence of  $\mathcal{T}$ -modules and  $1_{\Sigma X} \in \langle q, i, f \rangle$ . □



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## When is a Massey product induced by a triangulated structure?

Let  $\underline{\text{mod}}\text{-}\mathcal{T}$  be the **stable category** of coherent  $\mathcal{T}$ -modules,

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{T}}(M, N) = \frac{\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{T}}(M, N)}{\{M \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(-, X) \rightarrow N\}}.$$

The stable category is triangulated. The translation functor

$$S: \underline{\text{mod}}\text{-}\mathcal{T} \longrightarrow \underline{\text{mod}}\text{-}\mathcal{T}$$

is determined by the choice of short exact sequences in  $\text{mod}\text{-}\mathcal{T}$ ,

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# Heller's theory

The functor  $\Sigma$  extends in an essentially unique way,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{T} & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\Sigma} & \mathcal{T} \\
 \text{Yoneda} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Yoneda} \\
 \text{mod-}\mathcal{T} & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\Sigma} & \text{mod-}\mathcal{T} \quad \text{exact} \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \underline{\text{mod-}}\mathcal{T} & \xrightarrow[\sim]{\Sigma} & \underline{\text{mod-}}\mathcal{T} \quad \text{triangle}
 \end{array}$$

# Heller's theory

## Theorem (Heller'68)

*There is a bijective correspondence between Puppe triangulated structures on  $(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma)$  and natural isomorphisms  $\delta: \Sigma \cong S^3$  such that for any coherent  $\mathcal{T}$ -module  $M$ ,*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Sigma SM & \xrightarrow{\delta_{SM}} & S^4 M \\ & \searrow \cong \quad \boxed{-1} \quad \nearrow S\delta_M & \\ & S\Sigma M & \end{array}$$

## Theorem

*There is an isomorphism which sends the Massey product of a triangulation on  $(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma)$  to Heller's natural isomorphism,*

$$\text{MP}(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma) \cong \text{Hom}(\Sigma, S^3).$$

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## Idea of the proof.

Let  $\langle -, -, - \rangle$  be a Massey product. We need to define a morphism  $\delta_M: \Sigma M \rightarrow S^3 M$  for any coherent  $\mathcal{T}$ -module  $M$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & T(-, CM) & \xrightarrow{f} & T(-, CSM) & \xrightarrow{g} & T(-, CS^2 M) & \xrightarrow{h} & T(-, CS^3 M) \\ & \nearrow & & \nwarrow & & \nearrow & & \nwarrow \\ M & & & SM & & S^2 M & & S^3 M \end{array}$$



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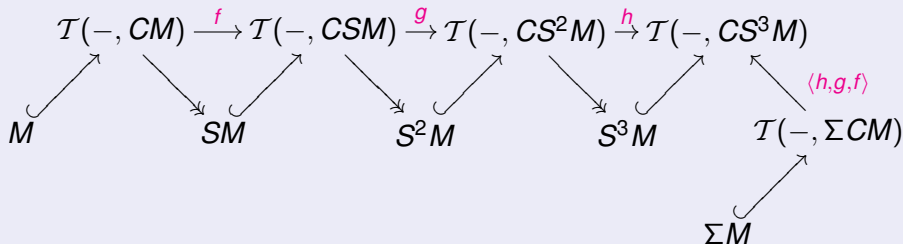
$\langle h, g, f \rangle$



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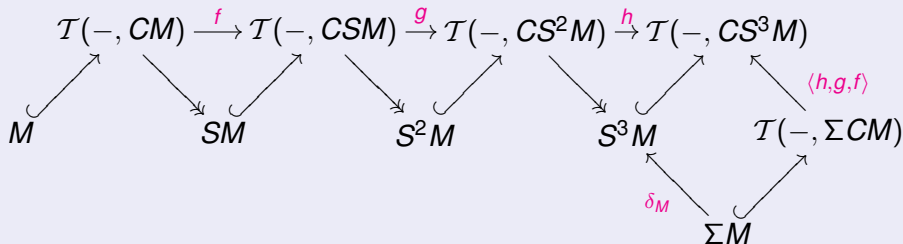
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# An example of Heller's theory

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)$  be the category of finitely generated free  $\mathbb{Z}/4$ -modules and  $\Sigma = 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)}$  the identity functor.

In this case  $\text{mod-}\mathcal{T} = \text{mod-}\mathbb{Z}/4$ ,  $\underline{\text{mod-}}\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)$  and  $S = 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}$ .

$$\text{MP}(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)}) \cong \text{Hom}(1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}, 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

## Theorem (M.-Schwede-Strickland'07)

*The non-trivial Massey product in  $(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)})$  is induced by a Verdier triangulated structure where the triangle*

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*is exact.*

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In this case  $\text{mod-}\mathcal{T} = \text{mod-}\mathbb{Z}/4$ ,  $\underline{\text{mod-}}\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)$  and  $S = 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}$ .

$$\text{MP}(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)}) \cong \text{Hom}(1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}, 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/2)}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

## Theorem (M.-Schwede-Strickland'07)

*The non-trivial Massey product in  $(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)})$  is induced by a Verdier triangulated structure where the triangle*

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# Hochschild-Mitchell cohomology

A  $\mathcal{T}$ -bimodule is a  $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}^{\text{op}}$ -module.

The bar complex  $C_*(\mathcal{T})$  is the complex of  $\mathcal{T}$ -bimodules

$$C_*(\mathcal{T}) = \bigoplus_{X_0, \dots, X_n} \mathcal{T}(X_0, -) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{T}(X_i, X_{i-1}) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{T}(-, X_n),$$

with differential

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The Hochschild-Mitchell cohomology of  $\mathcal{T}$  with coefficients in  $M$ ,

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# Baues-Wirsching cohomology

The **Baues-Wirsching cohomology** of  $\mathcal{T}$  with coefficients in  $M$ ,

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is the cohomology of the ‘**group ring**’  $k$ -category  $k[\mathcal{T}]$  obtained by taking free  $k$ -modules on morphism pointed sets,

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# Massey products and $H^3$

A Baues-Wirsching  $(3, -1)$ -cocycle  $z_{3,-1}$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  sends any three composable morphisms

$$X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z \xrightarrow{h} U$$

to an element

$$z_{3,-1}(h, g, f) \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma X, U),$$

in such a way that

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*The Massey product of a topological triangulated category is in the image of*

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## Idea of the proof.

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a topological or algebraic **model** of  $\mathcal{T}$  such that  $\mathcal{T} \subset D(\mathcal{M})$  as a full triangulated subcategory. There is defined a **derived 2-category**  $D_2(\mathcal{M})$ , and a projection

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The obstruction to the existence of a splitting pseudofunctor is

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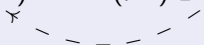
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Theorem (Ulmer'69 + Jibladze-Pirashvili'91, Lowen-van den Bergh'05)

*There is a spectral sequence for any  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,*

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# The example $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)$

## Theorem

*For  $(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)})$  the edge homomorphism is trivial.*

$$\mathbb{Z}/2 \cong HML^3(\mathbb{Z}/4) \cong H^{3,-1}(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)) \xrightarrow{0} H^0(\text{mod-}\mathbb{Z}/4, \text{Ext}_{\mathbb{Z}/4}^{3,-1}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2.$$

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*The triangulated category  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)$  does not have any algebraic or topological model.*

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*The triangulated category  $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)$  does not have any algebraic or topological model.*

**When does a triangulated category have a model?** Is there an obstruction theory for the existence of models of any kind?

# The example $\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)$

## Theorem

*For  $(\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4), 1_{\mathcal{F}(\mathbb{Z}/4)})$  the edge homomorphism is trivial.*

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# Stable Massey products

A Massey product on  $(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma)$  is **stable** if

$$\langle \Sigma h, \Sigma g, \Sigma f \rangle = -\Sigma \langle h, g, f \rangle.$$

Therefore the submodule of stable Massey products  $MP_s(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma)$  is the kernel of

$$MP(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma) \cong HH^0(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{3,-1}) \xrightarrow{\Sigma_*^{-1}\Sigma^*+1} HH^0(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{3,-1}).$$

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# Cohomology of graded categories

Let  $k$  be a field and  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}$  the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $k$ -category with

$$\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}(X, Y)^n = \mathcal{T}(X, \Sigma^n Y), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

A  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}$ -bimodule is a degree 0 functor  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}^{op} \otimes \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma} \rightarrow \text{Mod}^{\mathbb{Z}}\text{-}k$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $k$ -modules.

The bar complex  $C_*(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma})$  is now a complex of  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}$ -bimodules.

Given a  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}$ -bimodule  $M$  the Hochschild-Mitchell cohomology

$$HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}, M),$$

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$\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma} = \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}(-, -)$  is a  $\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}$ -bimodule and  $HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}) = HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}, \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma})$ .

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## Proposition

*For any  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the complex  $C^*(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma, \mathcal{T}_\Sigma[q])$  is the homotopy fiber of*

$$\Sigma_*^{-1} \Sigma^* + 1: C^*(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}(-, \Sigma^q)) \longrightarrow C^*(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{T}(-, \Sigma^q)).$$

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## Corollary

*There is a long exact sequence for any  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,*

$$\dots \rightarrow HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma) \rightarrow HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{\Sigma_*^{-1}\Sigma^*+1} HH^{p,q}(\mathcal{T}) \rightarrow HH^{p+1,q}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma) \rightarrow \dots$$

*Moreover, there is a commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}) & \xrightarrow{\text{edge}} & HH^0(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{3,-1}) \cong \text{MP}(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma) & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & \text{MP}_s(\mathcal{T}, \Sigma) \end{array}$$

# $A_\infty$ -categories

An element  $\{m_3\} \in HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma)$  is the same as an  $A_4$ -category structure  $(m_1 = 0, m_2, m_3)$  in  $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ , with  $m_2$  the composition in  $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ .

An  $A_\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$  consists of

- Objects  $X, Y, \dots$
- Morphism  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $k$ -modules  $\mathcal{A}(X, Y)$ ,
- Identity morphisms  $\text{id}_X \in \mathcal{A}(X, X)_0$ ,
- $n$ -Fold composition law,  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$m_n: \mathcal{A}(X_1, X_0) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{A}(X_n, X_{n-1}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}(X_n, X_0),$$

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The composition laws must satisfy the following equations,

$$0 = \sum_{\substack{j+p+q=n \\ i=j+1+q}} (-1)^{jp+q} m_i(1^{\otimes j} \otimes m_p \otimes 1^{\otimes q}), \quad n \geq 1.$$

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$$m_1 m_2 = m_2(1 \otimes m_1 + m_1 \otimes 1),$$

i.e.  $m_1$  is a derivation for the product  $m_2$ .

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$$m_2(m_2 \otimes 1 - 1 \otimes m_2) = m_1 m_3 + m_3(1 \otimes 1 \otimes m_1 + 1 \otimes m_1 \otimes 1 + m_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1),$$

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# $A_\infty$ -categories

An  $A_\infty$ -category is **pretriangulated** if the full subcategory of the derived category  $H^0\mathcal{A} \subset D(\mathcal{A})$  is a triangulated subcategory.

An  $A_\infty$ -category is **minimal** if  $m_1 = 0$ .

## Proposition (Lefèvre-Hasegawa'03)

*A compactly generated algebraic triangulated  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{T}$  is  $H^0\mathcal{A}$  of a minimal pretriangulated  $A_\infty$ -category  $\mathcal{A}$ .*

The underlying  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $k$ -category of  $\mathcal{A}$  is actually  $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ , so in order to reconstruct  $\mathcal{A}$  one just has to find  $m_3, m_4, \dots$

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# $A_\infty$ -obstructions for triangulated categories

The existence of  $m_3$  is equivalent to say that the Massey product of  $\mathcal{T}$  is in the image of the composite

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In order to check this fact, one can use the spectral sequence

$$HH^p(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{q,r}) \implies HH^{p+q,r}(\mathcal{T})$$

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## Lemma (Lefèvre-Hasegawa'03)

Let  $n \geq 5$ . Given a minimal  $A_{n-1}$ -category structure on  $\mathcal{T}_\Sigma$ , defined by

$$(m_1 = 0, m_2, m_3, \dots, m_{n-2}),$$

there is a well-defined

$$\theta_{(m_3, \dots, m_{n-2})} \in HH^{n, 3-n}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma),$$

which vanishes if and only if there exists  $m_{n-1}$  such that

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# Summing up the $A_\infty$ -obstruction theory

Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be triangulated  $\iff \delta \in H^0(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{3,-1})$ .

- $\delta$  must be a perm. cycle of  $HH^p(\text{mod-}\mathcal{T}, \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{T}}^{q,-1}) \Rightarrow HH^{p+q,-1}(\mathcal{T})$ ,

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- $\Delta$  must be in the kernel of  $HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}) \xrightarrow{\Sigma_*^{-1}\Sigma^*+1} HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T})$ , so

$$\begin{array}{ccc} HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma) & \longrightarrow & HH^{3,-1}(\mathcal{T}), \\ \{m_3\} & \mapsto & \Delta. \end{array}$$

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$$\theta_{(m_3, \dots, m_{n-2})} \in H^{n, 3-n}(\mathcal{T}_\Sigma), \quad n \geq 5.$$

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