

# Free and cyclic differential calculus and characterizations of gradients

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University of California, Berkeley

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## Example

Let  $n = 2$  and consider again  $p = x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2$ . We already know that

$$\partial_1 p = 1 \otimes x_2 x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_2 \otimes x_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_2 p = x_1 \otimes x_1 x_2 + x_1 x_2 x_1 \otimes 1.$$

Hence, we get that

$$\mathcal{D}_1 p = 2 x_2 x_1 x_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{D}_2 p = 2 x_1 x_2 x_1.$$

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- Formulate **criteria** which completely characterize gradients.

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$$\underline{u} = \partial p \quad \text{for} \quad \partial p := (\partial_1 p, \dots, \partial_n p) ?$$

## Goal in both cases

- Formulate **criteria** which completely characterize gradients.
- Provide some **recipe** to construct an antiderivative  $p$ .



# Number operator and cyclic symmetrization operator

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## Definition

- The number operator  $N : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle$  is defined by

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Put  $\mathbb{C}^{(k)}\langle \underline{x} \rangle := \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} \mid 1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_k \leq n\}$ . With respect to

$$\mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{C}^{(k)}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle = \bigoplus_{k, l \geq 0} \mathbb{C}^{(k)}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}^{(l)}\langle \underline{x} \rangle,$$

both  $N + \text{id}$  and  $N \otimes \text{id} + \text{id} \otimes N + \text{id} \otimes \text{id}$  are diagonal and invertible.

# Characterization of cyclic gradients I

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## Theorem (Voiculescu, 2000)

Let  $\underline{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n) \in \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle^n$  be given. The following are equivalent:

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## Integrability condition of Schwarz type (M., Speicher, 2019)

⑤ For  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ , we have: 
$$\partial_i q_j = \sigma(\partial_j q_i)$$

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### Example

Let  $n = 2$  and consider again  $p = x_1x_2x_1x_2$ . We have checked that

$$\underline{q} = (q_1, q_2) := (2x_2x_1x_2, 2x_1x_2x_1)$$

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$$\partial_1 q_1 = 2 x_2 \otimes x_2,$$

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from where we see that indeed

$$\partial_1 q_1 = \sigma(\partial_1 q_1), \quad \partial_2 q_2 = \sigma(\partial_2 q_2), \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_1 q_2 = \sigma(\partial_2 q_1).$$

# How to find a cyclic antiderivative

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## Lemma

Suppose that  $\underline{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_n) \in \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle^n$  satisfies  $\sum_{j=1}^n x_j q_j \in \text{ran } C$ . Then each  $p \in \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle$  which solves the equation

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of which we know that it is the cyclic derivative of  $p$ , we confirm that

$$x_1 q_1 + x_2 q_2 = 2 x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2 + 2 x_2 x_1 x_2 x_1 = C x_1 x_2 x_1 x_2 = Cp.$$

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We compute

$$u_1 \# x_1 + u_2 \# x_2 = 4x_1x_2x_1x_2 = N(x_1x_2x_1x_2) = Np.$$

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## Free probability motivation

Let  $(\mathcal{M}, \tau)$  be a tracial  $W^*$ -probability space such that  $\mathcal{M} = W^*(\underline{X})$  for some  $\underline{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{sa}}^n$  with  $\Phi^*(\underline{X}) < \infty$ . It is known that the conjugate variables  $\underline{\xi} = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$  of  $\underline{X}$  have the following properties:

- $\sum_{j=1}^n [\xi_j, X_j] = 0$  [Voiculescu, 1999]

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- $\sum_{j=1}^n [\xi_j, X_j] = 0$  [Voiculescu, 1999]
- $\bar{\partial}_{X_i} \xi_j = \sigma(\bar{\partial}_{X_j} \xi_i)$  if  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in \bigcap_{j=1}^n \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_{X_j})$  [Dabrowski, 2014]

# Voiculescu's multivariable GDQ rings

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## Definition (Voiculescu, 2000)

A multivariable generalized difference quotient ring  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  consists of

- a complex (not necessarily unital) algebra  $A$  with the induced multiplication mapping  $\mu : A \otimes A \rightarrow A, a_1 \otimes a_2 \mapsto a_1 a_2$ , and
- a linear map  $\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n) : A \rightarrow (A \otimes A)^n$ , the gradient of  $A$ ,

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- 2 Each  $\partial_i$  is a  $A \otimes A$ -valued derivation on  $(A, \mu)$ , i.e., we have that

$$\partial_i \circ \mu = (\mu \otimes \text{id}_A) \circ (\text{id}_A \otimes \partial_i) + (\text{id}_A \otimes \mu) \circ (\partial_i \otimes \text{id}_A).$$

# Graded and weakly graded multivariable GDQ rings



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Definition (Voiculescu, 2000; M., Speicher, 2019)

A multivariable GDQ ring  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  is called

- **weakly graded**, if there exists a linear mapping  $L : A \rightarrow A$  which is a **coderivation with respect to each  $\partial_i$** , i.e., we have that

$$\partial_i \circ L = (L \otimes \text{id}_A + \text{id}_A \otimes L) \circ \partial_i.$$

In this case, we say that  $L$  is a **weak grading** of  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  and we call  $N := L - \text{id}_A$  the associated **number operator**.

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- **graded**, if  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  admits a weak grading  $L : A \rightarrow A$  for which the number operator  $N$  is an  **$A$ -valued derivation on  $(A, \mu)$** , i.e.,

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Let  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  be a multivariable GDQ ring with gradient  $\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)$  viewed as  $\partial : A \rightarrow (A \otimes A)^n$ . A **divergence for  $(A, \mu, \partial)$**  is a linear map

$$\partial^* := (\partial_1^*, \dots, \partial_n^*) : (A \otimes A)^n \rightarrow A, \quad \underline{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n \partial_j^*(u_j)$$

such that for  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$

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# Divergence for multivariable GDQ rings

## Definition (M., Speicher, 2019)

Let  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  be a multivariable GDQ ring with gradient  $\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)$  viewed as  $\partial : A \rightarrow (A \otimes A)^n$ . A **divergence for  $(A, \mu, \partial)$**  is a linear map

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## Example

For the multivariable GDQ ring  $(\mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \mu, \partial)$  with the free gradient  $\partial$ , we get a divergence by

$$\partial_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \quad u \mapsto u \sharp x_j.$$

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Let  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  be a multivariable GDQ ring with gradient  $\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)$ . Suppose that  $\partial^* = (\partial_1^*, \dots, \partial_n^*)$  is a divergence for  $(A, \mu, \partial)$ . Define

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For the multivariable GDQ ring  $(\mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \mu, \partial)$  endowed with the divergence  $\partial^* = (\partial_1^*, \dots, \partial_n^*)$  defined by  $\partial^*(u) = u \sharp x_j$ , we get a grading  $L = N + \text{id}$  where  $N = \partial^* \circ \partial$  satisfies  $Nx_{i_1}x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k} = kx_{i_1}x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_k}$ .

Proof.



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We show that  $L = N + \text{id}_A$  with  $N = \partial^* \circ \partial = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial_i^* \circ \partial_i$  is a weak grading, i.e.,

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If the equivalent conditions are satisfied for  $\underline{u}$ , then every solution  $a \in A$  of  $Na = \partial^* \underline{u}$  is a free antiderivative of  $\underline{u}$ , i.e., we have that  $\partial a = \underline{u}$ .

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Since  $N \otimes \text{id}_A + \text{id}_A \otimes N + \text{id}_{A \otimes A}$  is injective, we infer  $\partial_j a = u_j$ .



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The cyclic derivatives associated to  $\partial$  are the linear maps

$$\mathcal{D}_j : A \rightarrow A, \quad \mathcal{D}_j := \mu \circ \sigma \circ \partial_j \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n.$$

We call  $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{D}_1, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n) : A \rightarrow A^n$  the cyclic gradient.

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Let  $L : A \rightarrow A$  be a grading on  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  and let  $N = L - \text{id}_A$  be the associated number operator. Then

$$\mathcal{D}_i \circ N = L \circ \mathcal{D}_i \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

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If  $(\mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \mu, \partial)$  is endowed with the divergence  $\partial_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle$  defined by  $\partial_j^*(u) = u \# x_j$ , then we get a compatible cyclic divergence by

$$\mathcal{D}_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \quad b \mapsto x_j b.$$

Indeed:  $\mathcal{D}_j(\mathcal{D}_i^* b) = \mathcal{D}_j(x_i b) = (\tilde{\partial}_j b) \# x_i + (\tilde{\partial}_j x_i) \# b = \partial_i^*(\tilde{\partial}_j b) + \delta_{i=j} b$

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$$\mathcal{D}_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \quad b \mapsto x_j b = \partial_j^*(1 \otimes b).$$

Indeed:  $\mathcal{D}_j(\mathcal{D}_i^* b) = \mathcal{D}_j(x_i b) = (\tilde{\partial}_j b) \# x_i + (\tilde{\partial}_j x_i) \# b = \partial_i^*(\tilde{\partial}_j b) + \delta_{i=j} b$

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Theorem (M., Speicher, 2019)

Let  $(A, \mu, \partial)$  be a multivariable GDQ ring and let  $\partial^*$  be a divergence. To a cyclic divergence  $\mathcal{D}^* = (\mathcal{D}_1^*, \dots, \mathcal{D}_n^*)$  compatible with  $\partial^*$ , we associate the cyclic symmetrization operator

$$C : A \rightarrow A, \quad C := \mathcal{D}^* \circ \mathcal{D} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{D}_i^* \circ \mathcal{D}_i.$$

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On  $(\mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, \mu, \partial)$ , we consider  $\partial_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, u \mapsto u \sharp x_j$  and  $\mathcal{D}_j^* : \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle \underline{x} \rangle, b \mapsto x_j b$ , then  $C = \mathcal{D}^* \circ \mathcal{D}$  satisfies

$$C x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} = \sum_{p=1}^k x_{i_{p+1}} \cdots x_{i_k} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_p}.$$



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The same is true for each  $a \in A$  solving  $Ca = \partial^* \underline{a}$ , where  $C = \mathcal{D}^* \circ \mathcal{D}$  is the **cyclic symmetrization operator**.

Example: Chebyshev polynomials ( $n = 1$ )



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We consider the linear bases of  $\mathbb{C}\langle x \rangle$  given by the Chebyshev polynomials:

$$\text{first kind :} \quad t_0 = 2, \quad t_1 = x, \quad xt_k = t_{k+1} + t_{k-1} \quad (k \geq 1)$$

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