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DG categories of exceptional collections

Praca semestralna nr 2  
(semestr letni 2010/11)

Opiekun pracy: Sławomir Cynk

# DG categories of exceptional collections

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October 3, 2011

## Abstract

Given a full exceptional collection we recall an equivalence between a bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on a smooth projective variety  $X$  and a derived category of modules over a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$ . We propose two explicit ways of calculating the category  $\mathcal{C}$ . The first one uses  $A_\infty$  categories and Massey products. The second is based on mutations of exceptional collections.

## Introduction

The derived category of coherent sheaves  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  on a smooth projective variety  $X$  has been for a long time an object of interest. Full and strong exceptional collections provide probably the easiest known description of it. The next step is understanding the structure of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  given a full exceptional collection with nontrivial higher Ext groups. A structure theorem was proved by Bondal and Kapranov in the beginning of 90's. It requires finding a DG category  $\mathcal{D}$  with finitely many objects. However, we are not aware of any known algorithm allowing to actually calculate the category  $\mathcal{D}$ .

With this paper, we are trying to fill in the gap by proposing two ways of explicit calculations of the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$  associated to a full exceptional collection  $\sigma = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  on  $X$ . One method is based on the existence of the minimal model for a DG category regarded as an  $A_\infty$  category. If due to degree reasons there are not many possibly nontrivial higher multiplications on  $\text{End}(\bigoplus \mathcal{E}_i)$  then the  $A_\infty$  structure on  $H(\mathcal{D}_\sigma)$  can be calculated by means of the Massey products. It is also possible to determine the category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$  via mutations from the collection  $\sigma$  to a collection  $\tau$  for which the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\tau$  is known. In this approach the collection  $\tau$  can either be a strong one or a collection in which the Massey products fully determine the  $A_\infty$  structure.

The paper is organised as follows. In the first section we recall the definitions of DG categories and the theory of enhanced triangulated categories. We state after [BK] the equivalence of a bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on a smooth projective variety and the category of twisted complexes over a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$ . Following [BLL] we also present the category of twisted complexes as a subcategory of the derived category of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

In the second section we recall the definition of an  $A_\infty$  category after [K1] and following [M] we give an algorithm for finding the  $A_\infty$  structure on a cohomology category of a DG category. After [L-H] we describe the bar and cobar construction to obtain for any  $A_\infty$  category a quasi-isomorphic DG category. We end this section with a description of modules over  $A_\infty$  categories.

We state after [L-H] the equivalence of derived categories of modules over  $A_\infty$  and DG categories. This allows to substitute the category  $\mathcal{C}$  described by Bondal and Kapranov with a category  $\mathcal{D}$  in which the morphisms spaces between objects are finite-dimensional.

In the third section we notice the similarity between the  $A_\infty$  operations on  $H(\mathcal{D})$  and the Massey products in  $\text{End}(\bigoplus \mathcal{E}_i)$ . We use it to determine the higher multiplications  $m_n$ 's on  $H(\mathcal{D})$  in some cases. Later, we describe an alternative approach. We recall after [B] mutations of exceptional collections and generalise this notion to mutations of associated DG categories. Finally, we use both methods to calculate the DG category associated to a full exceptional collection on  $\mathbb{P}^2$  blown-up in three points.

**Acknowledgements.** I am grateful to professor Alexey Bondal for many fruitful discussions and helpful comments.

## 1 Equivalence of $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ and $D^b(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$

Let  $X$  be a smooth projective variety over  $\mathbb{C}$ . A coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $X$  is *exceptional* if  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}) = \mathbb{C}$  and  $\text{Ext}^i(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}) = 0$  for  $i > 0$ . An ordered collection  $\sigma = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  of exceptional objects is an *exceptional collection* if  $\text{Ext}^k(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_j) = 0$  for  $i > j$  and  $k \geq 0$ . Moreover the collection  $\sigma$  is *strong* if also  $\text{Ext}^k(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_j) = 0$  for  $k > 0$  and all  $i, j$ .

An exceptional collection  $\sigma$  is *full* if the smallest strictly full triangulated subcategory of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  containing  $\sigma$  is equal to  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ .

A strong full exceptional collection provides a description of the category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ . In [B] Bondal has shown the following theorem

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  be a full strong exceptional collection on a smooth projective variety  $X$ . Then  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ , the bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on  $X$  is equivalent to  $D^b(\text{mod-}A)$  a bounded derived category of finite dimensional right modules over an algebra  $A = \text{End}(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \mathcal{E}_i)$ .*

Moreover the algebra  $A$  can be presented as a path algebra of a quiver  $Q$  with  $n$  vertices and no cycles.

In [BK] Bondal and Kapranov proved an analogous theorem for a collection  $\sigma$  which is full but not strong. Before formulating the result we will recall some definitions after [BK].

**Definition 1.2.** *A DG category is a preadditive category  $\mathcal{C}$  in which the abelian groups  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$  are endowed with a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading and a differential  $\partial$  of degree one. The composition of morphisms*

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B) \otimes \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, C)$$

*is a morphism of complexes and for any object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  the identity morphism  $\text{id}_C$  is a closed morphism of degree zero.*

For an element  $x$  in a graded vector space we will denote by  $|x|$  the grading of  $x$ .

For simplicity we shall write  $\mathcal{C}(A, B)$  instead of  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)$ .

A DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *ordered* if there exists a partial order  $\preceq$  on the set of objects such that  $\mathcal{C}(A, B) = 0$  for  $B \preceq A$ .

To a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  we associate two graded categories. The category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{gr}}$  obtained from  $\mathcal{C}$  by forgetting the differentials on morphisms and the *homotopy category*  $H(\mathcal{C})$  with the same objects as  $\mathcal{C}$  and morphisms  $H(\mathcal{C})(A, B)$  given by cohomology of  $\mathcal{C}(A, B)$ . A further restriction to the zeroth cohomology gives a preadditive category  $H^0(\mathcal{C})$ . Two object  $C, C'$  of a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  are *homotopy equivalent* if they become isomorphic in  $H(\mathcal{C})$ .

A *DG functor* between two DG categories  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{C}'$  is an additive functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$  that preserves the grading and differential on morphisms. DG functors between DG categories form a DG category. Let  $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$  be DG functors. To construct a DG category  $\text{DG-Fun}(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}')$  we put  $\text{Hom}^k(F, G)$  to be the set of natural transformations  $t : F^{\text{gr}} \rightarrow G^{\text{gr}}[k]$ . The differential  $\partial$  is defined pointwise; for  $t_C : F(C) \rightarrow G[k](C)$  we have  $(\partial(t))_C = \partial(t_C) : F(C) \rightarrow G[k-1](C)$ .

The category of contravariant DG functors is denoted by  $\text{DG-Fun}^0(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}')$ . A functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$  is a quasi-isomorphism if  $H(F) : H(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow H(\mathcal{C}')$  is an isomorphism.

The category  $\text{DGVect}_{\mathbb{C}}$  of complexes of vector spaces with homogenous morphisms  $f : V^\bullet \rightarrow W^\bullet$ ,  $f(V^i) \subset W^{i+k}$  and a differential

$$\partial(f)^i = f^{i+1} \partial_V - (-1)^{|f|} \partial_W f^{i+1}$$

is a DG category. Its homotopy category  $H(\text{DGVect}_{\mathbb{C}})$  is the homotopy category of complexes.

A *right DG module* over a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a DG functor  $M \in \text{DG-Fun}^0(\mathcal{C}, \text{DGVect}_{\mathbb{C}})$ . After [K2] we define a derived category  $D(\mathcal{C})$  as a localization of  $H^0(\text{DG-Fun}^0(\mathcal{C}, \text{DGVect}_{\mathbb{C}}))$  with respect to the class of quasi-isomorphisms. By  $D^b(\mathcal{C})$  we will denote the subcategory of  $D(\mathcal{C})$  formed by compact objects. The Yoneda embedding gives a functor  $h : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow D^b(\mathcal{C})$  which assigns to every  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  a free module  $h_C = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(-, C)$ .

For a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  we define the category  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  of formal shifts. The objects of  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  are of the form  $C[n]$  where  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For elements  $B[k]$  and  $C[n]$  of  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  we put  $\text{Hom}_{\widehat{\mathcal{C}}}^l(B[k], C[n]) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}^{l+n-k}(B, C)$ . For appropriate sign convention see [BLL].

Let  $f \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(B, C)$  be a closed morphism of degree zero in a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $B[1]$  is an object of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Then an object  $D \in \mathcal{C}$  is the *cone* of  $f$  iff there exist morphisms

$$B[1] \xrightarrow{i} D \xrightarrow{p} B[1], \quad C \xrightarrow{j} D \xrightarrow{s} C,$$

such that

$$pi = 1, \quad sj = 1, \quad si = 0, \quad pj = 0, \quad ip + js = 1.$$

It is proved in [BLL] that the cone of closed degree zero morphism is uniquely defined up to a DG isomorphism.

One can formally add cones of closed morphisms to a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  by considering the category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  of one-sided twisted complexes over  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Definition 1.3.** A one-sided twisted complex over a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  is an expression  $(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n C_i[r_i], q_{i,j})$  where  $C_i$ 's are objects of  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $r_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $q_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}^1(C_i[r_i], C_j[r_j])$  such that  $q_{i,j} = 0$  for  $i \geq j$  and  $\partial q + q^2 = 0$ .

One-sided twisted complexes over  $\mathcal{C}$  form a DG category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  with the morphism space between  $C = (\bigoplus C_i[r_i], q)$  and  $C' = (\bigoplus C'_j[r'_j], q')$  given by the set of matrices  $f = (f_{i,j})$ ,  $f_{i,j} : C_i[r_i] \rightarrow C'_j[r'_j]$ . With a differential defined as

$$\partial(f) = (\partial f_{i,j}) + q'f - (-1)^{\deg f} f q$$

the category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  is a DG category. We will denote its zeroth homotopy category  $H^0(\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}})$  by  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{tr}}$ .

Let  $C = (\bigoplus C_i[r_i], q_{i,j})$  be an object of  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$ . The shift of  $C$  is defined as  $C[1] = (\bigoplus C_i[r_i + 1], q_{i,j})$ . The category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  is closed under formal shifts.

Let  $f : C \rightarrow D$  be a closed morphism of degree 0 in  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$ , where  $C = (\bigoplus_{i=1}^n C_i[r_i], q_{i,j})$ ,  $D = (\bigoplus_{i=1}^m D_i[s_i], p_{i,j})$ . The cone of  $f$  is a twisted complex  $C(f) = (\bigoplus_{i=1}^{n+m} E_i[t_i], u_{i,j})$ , where

$$E_i = \begin{cases} C_i & \text{for } i \leq n \\ D_{i-n} & \text{for } i > n \end{cases}$$

$$t_i = \begin{cases} r_i + 1 & \text{for } i \leq n \\ s_i & \text{for } i > n \end{cases}$$

$$u_{i,j} = \begin{cases} q_{i,j} & \text{for } i, j \leq n \\ f_{i,j-n} & \text{for } i \leq n < j \\ p_{i-n,j-n} & \text{for } i, j > n \end{cases}$$

The functor  $\text{Tot} : (\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}})^{\text{pre-tr}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  establishes a quasi-isomorphism between  $(\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}})^{\text{pre-tr}}$  and  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$ . Let  $C_i = (\bigoplus_{j=1}^{n_i} D_j^i[r_j^i], q_{jk}^i)$  be objects of  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  and let  $C = (\bigoplus_{i=1}^n C_i[r_i], q_{ij})$  be a twisted complex in  $(\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}})^{\text{pre-tr}}$ .

Then the convolution  $\text{Tot}(C)$  is equal to  $(\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \bigoplus_{j=1}^{n_i} D_j^i[r_j^i + r_i], q_{jk}^i + q_{ij})$ .

The DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *pretriangulated* if the embedding  $H^0(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{tr}}$  is an equivalence. The category  $H^0(\mathcal{C})$  for a pretriangulated category is triangulated. If for a triangulated category  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a pretriangulated category  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $\mathcal{A}$  is equivalent to  $H^0(\mathcal{C})$  the category  $\mathcal{A}$  is called *enhanced* with the *enhancement*  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Recall, that an additive category  $\mathcal{A}$  is Karoubian if every projector splits. The category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{tr}}$  needs not to be Karoubian. As showed in [BLL] the category  $D^b(\mathcal{C})$  is the Karoubization of  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{tr}}$ .

A standard example of an enhanced triangulated category is the bounded derived category  $D^b(\mathcal{A})$  of an abelian category  $\mathcal{A}$  with enough injectives  $I$ . Its enhancement is  $\underline{\text{Kom}}^b(I)$ , a DG subcategory of  $\text{Kom}(I)$  consisting of complexes bounded from below and with almost all cohomology groups equal to zero.

With these definitions we are ready to state the following theorem after [BK].

**Theorem 1.4.** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a pretriangulated category,  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  objects in  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{D}$  the full DG subcategory on the objects  $E_i$ . Then the smallest triangulated subcategory of  $H^0(\mathcal{D})$  containing  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{tr}}$  as a triangulated category.*

It follows that a full exceptional collection  $\sigma$  on a smooth projective variety  $X$  leads to an equivalence of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  and  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma^{\text{tr}}$  for some DG category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$ . The category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  is a subcategory of the enhancement of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  and thus  $H^i \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}_\sigma}(E, F) = \text{Ext}_{D^b(\text{Coh}(X))}^i(E, F)$  for any elements  $E, F$  of  $\sigma$ .

**Remark 1.5.** The category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  for a smooth projective variety  $X$  is Karoubian. Hence, the category  $D^b(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma^{\text{tr}}$ . We thus obtain an equivalence of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  and  $D^b(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$ .

**Remark 1.6.** As shown in [K2] for two quasi-isomorphic DG categories  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}'$  the derived categories  $D(\mathcal{C})$  and  $D(\mathcal{C}')$  are equivalent. Hence for a full exceptional collection  $\sigma$  on  $X$  the category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  is determined up to a quasi-isomorphism.

**Remark 1.7.** The group  $\mathbb{Z}^n$  acts on the set of exceptional collections in  $D^b(\mathcal{A})$  by translations. For  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  and an exceptional collection  $\sigma = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  the collection  $\sigma[a_1, \dots, a_n] = \langle \mathcal{E}_1[a_1], \dots, \mathcal{E}_n[a_n] \rangle$  is also exceptional. The composition in the category  $\mathcal{C}_{\sigma[a_1, \dots, a_n]}$  is the same as in the category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  and for  $f \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}_i[a_i], \mathcal{E}_j[a_j])$  we put  $\partial_{\sigma[a_1, \dots, a_n]}(f) = (-1)^{a_j - a_i} \partial_\sigma(f)$ .

**Remark 1.8.** Let  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n) = H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n)) \oplus P$  be any decomposition of the vector space  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n)$ . Morphisms in  $P$  form an ideal and  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  is quasi-isomorphic to a DG category  $\mathcal{C}'$  with  $\mathcal{C}'(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n) = H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n))$ . Moreover, let  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}) = H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1})) \oplus P_i$  be such a decomposition for morphisms between adjacent objects. Then the category  $\mathcal{C}''$  with  $\mathcal{C}''(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}) = H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}))$  is a subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  quasi-isomorphic to it. It proves that the category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  is always quasi-isomorphic to a DG category  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma$  with  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n) = H(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{E}_n))$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}) = H(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}))$ .

**Remark 1.9.** If a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  has only zeroth cohomology then it is quasi-isomorphic to  $H(\mathcal{C}) = H^0(\mathcal{C})$ . Indeed, for  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  let  $\mathcal{C}(C_1, C_2) = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{C}^n(C_1, C_2)$  with differential

$$\partial_{C_1, C_2}^n : \mathcal{C}^n(C_1, C_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{n+1}(C_1, C_2)$$

and let  $\mathcal{C}_I$  be a DG category such that  $\text{ob } \mathcal{C}_I = \text{ob } \mathcal{C}$  and

$$\mathcal{C}_I(C_1, C_2) = \bigoplus_{n \leq -1} \mathcal{C}^n(C_1, C_2) \oplus \ker \partial_{C_1, C_2}^0.$$

Then the natural inclusion functor  $\mathcal{C}_I \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is a quasi-isomorphism. Let also

$$J_{C_1, C_2} = \text{Im}(\partial_{C_1, C_2}^{-1}) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{n < 0} \mathcal{C}^n(C_1, C_2) \right)$$

for any  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  and consider a category  $\mathcal{C}_{I/J}$  with  $\text{ob } \mathcal{C}_{I/J} = \text{ob } \mathcal{C}$  and

$$\mathcal{C}_{I/J}(C_1, C_2) = \mathcal{C}_I(C_1, C_2) / J_{C_1, C_2}.$$

Then  $\mathcal{C}_{I/J}$  is isomorphic to  $H(\mathcal{C})$  and the natural functor  $\mathcal{C}_I \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{I/J}$  is a quasi-isomorphism. Hence, Theorem 1.4 is a generalisation of the Theorem 1.1.

The definition of  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  from the theorem 1.4 requires taking injective resolutions and thus is not convenient for calculations. In the remaining part of the paper we will present two ways of finding  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$ . We will always assume that  $X$  is a smooth projective variety and  $\sigma = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  is a full exceptional collection in  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ .

## 2 $A_\infty$ categories

We will use  $A_\infty$  categories. We start by recalling definitions and facts we shall use after [K1] and [L-H].

**Remark 2.1.** The graded Leibniz rule usually has the form  $\partial(ab) = \partial(a)b + (-1)^{|a|}a\partial(b)$ . However, in the case of morphisms in the category  $\text{DGVect}_{\mathbb{C}}$  we have  $\partial(fg) = f\partial(g) + (-1)^{\text{deg}g}\partial(f)g$ . Thus, all the definitions below differ from the ones given in [K1] by an appropriate sign change.

**Definition 2.2.** An  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  consists of

- objects  $\text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$ ,
- for any two  $A, B \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$  a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space  $\mathcal{A}(A, B)$ ,
- for any  $n \geq 1$  and a sequence  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$  a graded map:

$$m_n : \mathcal{A}(A_{n-1}, A_n) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}(A_0, A_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(A_0, A_n)$$

of degree  $2 - n$  such that for any  $n$

$$\sum_{r+s+t=n} (-1)^{rs+t} m_{r+1+t}(id^{\otimes r} \otimes m_s \otimes id^{\otimes t}) = 0.$$

Note that when these formulae are applied to elements additional signs appear because of the Koszul sign rule:

$$(f \otimes g)(x \otimes y) = (-1)^{|y||f|} f(x) \otimes g(y).$$

An  $A_\infty$  algebra is an  $A_\infty$  category with one object.

An  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is *ordered* if there exists a partial order  $\preceq$  on the set  $\text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$  such that  $\mathcal{A}(A, A') = 0$  for  $A' \preceq A$ .

The operation  $m_1$  gives for any  $A, B \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$  a structure of a complex on  $\mathcal{A}(A, B)$ . The homotopy category with respect to  $m_1$  is denoted by  $H(\mathcal{A})$ .

The  $A_\infty$  category is *minimal* if the operation  $m_1$  is trivial.

Any DG category can be regarded as an  $A_\infty$  category with  $m_1$  given by the differential,  $m_2$  given by composition and trivial  $m_i$ 's for  $i > 2$ .

For any set  $S$  there exists an  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathbb{C}\{S\}$ . The objects of  $\mathbb{C}\{S\}$  are elements of  $S$  and

$$\mathbb{C}\{S\}(s_1, s_2) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & \text{if } s_1 = s_2, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

All operations  $m_n$  in  $\mathbb{C}\{S\}$  are trivial.

**Definition 2.3.** A functor of  $A_\infty$  categories  $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is a map  $F_0 : \text{ob}(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})$  and a family of graded maps

$$F_n : \mathcal{A}(A_{n-1}, A_n) \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{A}(A_0, A_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(F_0(A_0), F_0(A_n))$$

of degree  $1 - n$  such that

$$\sum_{r+s+t=n} (-1)^{rs+t} F_{r+1+t}(id^{\otimes r} \otimes m_s \otimes id^{\otimes t}) = \sum_{i_1+\dots+i_r=n} (-1)^p m_r(F_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes F_{i_r}),$$

where  $p = (r-1)(i_r-1) + (r-2)(i_{r-1}-1) + \dots + 2(i_3-1) + (i_2-1)$ .

Composition of functors is given by

$$(F \circ G)_n = \sum_{i_1 + \dots + i_s = n} F_s \circ (G_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes G_{i_s}).$$

A functor  $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is called a *quasi-isomorphism* if  $F_1$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

An  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is *strictly unital* if for any object  $A \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})$  there exists  $1_A \in \mathcal{A}(A, A)$  of degree 0 such that for any objects  $B, C$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  and any morphisms  $\phi \in \mathcal{A}(A, B)$ ,  $\psi \in \mathcal{A}(C, A)$  we have  $m_2(\phi, 1_A) = \phi$  and  $m_2(1_A, \psi) = \psi$ . Moreover for  $n \neq 2$  the operation  $m_n$  equals 0 if any of its argument is equal to  $1_A$ .

In particular, for any set  $S$  the category  $\mathbb{C}\{S\}$  is strictly unital.

The category  $\mathcal{A}$  is *homologically unital* if there exist units for the homotopy category  $H(\mathcal{A})$ .

Here, we cite the theorem proved by Lefevre-Hasegawa in [L-H] about a connection between strictly and homologically unital categories.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Minimal homologically unital  $A_\infty$  category is quasi-isomorphic to a minimal strictly unital  $A_\infty$  category.*

**Remark 2.5.** A minimal  $A_\infty$  category is equal to its homotopy category. Hence, a quasi-isomorphism  $F$  given by the above theorem satisfies  $F_1 = \text{id}$ .

An  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is *augmented* if there exists a strict unit preserving functor  $\epsilon : \mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{A})\} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  decomposes as  $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{A})\} \oplus \bar{\mathcal{A}}$ .

## 2.1 Minimal model

Any  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is quasi-isomorphic to its homotopy category  $H(\mathcal{A})$  as stated in [K1].

**Theorem 2.6.** *If  $\mathcal{A}$  is an  $A_\infty$  category, then  $H(\mathcal{A})$  admits an  $A_\infty$  category structure such that*

1.  $m_1 = 0$  and  $m_2$  is induced from  $m_2^A$  and
2. there is an  $A_\infty$ -quasi-isomorphism  $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow H(\mathcal{A})$  inducing the identity on cohomology.

Moreover, this structure is unique up to a non unique  $A_\infty$ -isomorphism.

The  $A_\infty$  category  $H(\mathcal{A})$  is called the *minimal model* of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a DG category then its minimal model  $H(\mathcal{C})$  is quasi-isomorphic to a strictly unital  $A_\infty$  category. Indeed, the category  $\mathcal{C}$  is strictly unital and hence homologically unital. It follows that its homotopy category is also homologically unital and the Theorem 2.4 guarantees that there exists a strictly unital minimal category quasi-isomorphic to  $H(\mathcal{C})$ .

Following [M] we describe an explicit construction of a minimal model for a DG category.

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a DG category with differential  $\partial$  and composition  $\mu$ . In order to calculate its minimal model, the  $A_\infty$  structure on  $H(\mathcal{C})$  one has to define



maps  $p : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow H(\mathcal{C})$  and  $i : H(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that both  $p$  and  $i$  are identities on objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  and for any  $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}$  maps  $p : \mathcal{C}(C, C') \rightarrow H(\mathcal{C})(C, C')$  and  $i : H(\mathcal{C})(C, C') \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(C, C')$  are morphisms of complexes of degree 0. Also a homogeneous map  $h : \mathcal{C}(C, C') \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(C, C')$  of degree -1 is needed. These have to satisfy the following conditions

$$pi = \text{id}, \quad ip = \text{id} - \partial(h), \quad h^2 = 0.$$

The choice of  $i$ ,  $p$  and  $h$  satisfying the above conditions is equivalent to the choice of splittings of the following exact sequences:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker}\partial^n & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}^n(C_i, C_j) & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} \overline{\mathcal{C}^n(C_i, C_j)} \\ \xleftarrow{ij s_1^n} \end{array} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C}^{n-1}(C_i, C_j) & \xrightarrow{\partial^{n-1}} & \text{Ker}\partial^n & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad} H^n\mathcal{C}(C_i, C_j) \\ \xleftarrow{ij s_2^n} \end{array} & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

for all  $C_i, C_j \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$  and all  $n$ .

**Definition 2.7.** *The triple  $i : H(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ ,  $p : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow H(\mathcal{C})$ ,  $h : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is compatible with a finite family  $\{ij s_1^{n_k}, ij s_2^{m_l}\}$  of splittings if  $i|_{H^{m_l}(C_i, C_j)} = ij s_2^{m_l}$  for all  $m_l$ ,  $h|_{\text{Im}s_2} = 0 = h|_{\text{Im}s_1}$  and  $\text{Im}(h) = \text{Im}(s_1)$  for all  $s_1$  in the family.*

We define the operations  $\lambda_n$  of degree  $2 - n$  on the category  $\mathcal{C}$  as follows. We put  $\lambda_1 = -h^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda_2 = \mu$  and

$$\lambda_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{k+1} \mu(h(\lambda_{n-k}), h(\lambda_k)).$$

For  $n > 1$  the higher multiplications  $m_n$  on  $H(\mathcal{C})$  are defined as

$$m_n = p\lambda_n i^{\otimes n}.$$

## 2.2 The universal DG category

For any  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a DG category  $U(\mathcal{A})$  and an  $A_\infty$  quasi-isomorphism  $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow U(\mathcal{A})$ . To define the category  $U(\mathcal{A})$  we need the following definitions (see further [L-H]).

**Definition 2.8.** *A DG cocategory  $\mathcal{B}$  consists of*

- *the set of objects  $B_i \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})$ ,*
- *for any pair of objects  $B_i, B_j \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})$  a complex of  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector spaces  $\mathcal{B}(B_i, B_j)$  with a differential  $d^{ij}$  of degree 1 and*
- *a coassociative cocomposition – a family of linear maps*

$$\Delta : \mathcal{B}(B_i, B_j) \rightarrow \sum_{B_k \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})} \mathcal{B}(B_k, B_j) \otimes \mathcal{B}(B_i, B_k).$$

*These data have to satisfy the condition*

$$\Delta \circ d = (d \otimes \text{id} + \text{id} \otimes d) \circ \Delta.$$

For any set  $S$  the  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathbb{C}\{S\}$  is also a DG cocategory.

A functor  $\Phi$  between DG cocategories  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{B}'$  preserves the grading and differentials on morphisms and satisfies the condition

$$\Delta \circ \Phi = (\Phi \otimes \Phi) \circ \Delta.$$

A DG cocategory  $\mathcal{B}$  is *counital* if it admits a counit, a functor  $\eta : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{B})\}$ . The category  $\mathcal{B}$  is *coaugmented* if it is counital and admits a coaugmentation functor  $\varepsilon : \mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{B})\} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  such that the composition  $\eta\varepsilon$  is the identity on  $\mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{B})\}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a coaugmented DG cocategory. The category  $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$  has the same set of objects as  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $\bar{B}(B_i, B_j) = \ker \varepsilon$ .

For an augmented  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  one can define its *bar* DG cocategory  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A})$ . Recall that  $\mathcal{A} = \bar{\mathcal{A}} \oplus \mathbb{C}\{\text{ob}(\mathcal{A})\}$ . Then  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A}) = T^c(S\bar{\mathcal{A}})$  is a tensor cocategory of the suspension of  $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ . Here  $S\bar{\mathcal{A}}$  denotes the category  $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$  with a shift in a morphisms spaces  $(S\bar{\mathcal{A}})^n(A, A') = \bar{\mathcal{A}}^{n+1}(A, A')$ .  $S\bar{\mathcal{A}}$  is not an  $A_\infty$  category, however the operations  $m_n$  in  $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$  define graded maps of degree 1 in  $S\bar{\mathcal{A}}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} b_n : S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_{n-1}, A_n) \otimes \dots \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_0, A_1) &\rightarrow S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_0, A_n), \\ b_n &= -s \circ m_n \circ \omega^{\otimes n}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $s : V \rightarrow SV$  is a suspension of a graded vector space  $V$  and  $\omega = s^{-1}$ .

The cocategory  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  has the same objects as  $\mathcal{A}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} B_\infty(\mathcal{A})(A, A') &= S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A') \oplus \bigoplus_{A_1 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})} S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_1, A') \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A_1) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{A_1, A_2 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})} S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_2, A') \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_1, A_2) \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A_1) \oplus \dots \end{aligned}$$

for  $A \neq A'$ . In the case  $A = A'$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} B_\infty(\mathcal{A})(A, A) &= 1_A \oplus S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A) \oplus \bigoplus_{A_1 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})} S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_1, A) \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A_1) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{A_1, A_2 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{A})} S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_2, A) \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A_1, A_2) \otimes S\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A_1) \oplus \dots \end{aligned}$$

where the degree of  $1_A$  is zero. To simplify the notation we shall write  $(\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1)$  for  $\alpha_n \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha_1$ . The differential in  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} d(\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1) &= \\ &\sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{l=1}^{n-k+1} (-1)^{|\alpha_{l-1}| + \dots + |\alpha_1|} (\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_{l+k}, b_k(\alpha_{l+k-1}, \dots, \alpha_l), \alpha_{l-1}, \dots, \alpha_1), \end{aligned}$$

for  $(\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1) \in B_\infty(\mathcal{A})(A, A')$ . The cocomposition is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1) &= \\ &1_{A'} \otimes (\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1) + (\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_1) \otimes 1_A + \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} (\alpha_n, \dots, \alpha_{l+1}) \otimes (\alpha_l, \dots, \alpha_1). \end{aligned}$$

With these definitions  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  is an augmented DG cocategory.

**Remark 2.9.** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an ordered  $A_\infty$  category with finitely many objects, finitely dimensional morphisms spaces and such that  $\bar{\mathcal{A}}(A, A) = 0$  for any object  $A \in \text{ob}\mathcal{A}$ . Then the DG cocategory  $B_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  also satisfies these conditions; i.e. is ordered, has finitely many objects, finitely dimensional morphisms spaces and  $\overline{B_\infty(\mathcal{A})}(A, A) = 0$  for any object  $A$ .

Analogously, to an augmented DG cocategory  $\mathcal{B}$  via a *cobar* construction one can assign a DG category  $\Omega(\mathcal{B})$ . Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a DG cocategory with a differential  $d$  and cocomposition  $\Delta$ . It's cobar DG category is equal to  $T(S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}})$ . Here  $S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}$  denotes the shift of the cocategory  $\mathcal{B}$  and  $T(S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}})$  is the tensor DG category of it. As before the morphisms spaces in  $T(S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}})$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(\mathcal{B})(B, B') &= S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B') \oplus \bigoplus_{B_1 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})} S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_1, B') \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B_1) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{B_1, B_2 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})} S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_2, B') \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_1, B_2) \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B_1) \oplus \dots \end{aligned}$$

for  $B \neq B'$  and by

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(\mathcal{B})(B, B) &= 1_B \oplus S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B) \oplus \bigoplus_{B_1 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})} S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_1, B) \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B_1) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{B_1, B_2 \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{B})} S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_2, B) \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B_1, B_2) \otimes S^{-1}\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B_1) \oplus \dots \end{aligned}$$

for  $1_B$  – a morphism in degree zero. The composition in  $\Omega(\mathcal{B})$  is defined by concatenation and the differential  $\partial$  on the morphisms spaces is

$$\partial = \sum 1 \otimes \dots \otimes 1 \otimes (d + \Delta) \otimes 1 \otimes \dots \otimes 1.$$

**Remark 2.10.** If an ordered DG cocategory  $\mathcal{B}$  has finitely many objects, finitely dimensional morphisms spaces between the objects and satisfies the condition  $\bar{\mathcal{B}}(B, B) = 0$  then the same is true about  $\Omega(\mathcal{B})$ .

For an augmented  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  its universal DG category  $U(\mathcal{A})$  is defined as  $\Omega(B_\infty(\mathcal{A}))$ . There is a natural map  $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow U(\mathcal{A})$ . It is proved in [L-H] that this map extends to a functor and is an  $A_\infty$  quasi-isomorphism (Lemme 2.3.4.3 of [L-H]). Moreover, for an  $A_\infty$  quasi-isomorphisms  $\phi$  the functor  $U(\phi)$  is a quasi-isomorphism of DG categories.

### 2.3 $A_\infty$ modules

**Definition 2.11.** An  $A_\infty$  module over an  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is an  $A_\infty$  functor  $M : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow DGVect_{\mathbb{C}}$ . A morphism of modules  $G : M \rightarrow N$  is given by a family  $\{G_A : M_0(A) \rightarrow N_0(A)\}_{A \in \text{ob}\mathcal{A}}$  of morphisms in  $DGVect_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Moreover, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_0(A_0) & \xrightarrow{M_n(\alpha_{n-1} \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha_0)} & M_0(A_n) \\ \downarrow G_{A_0} & & \downarrow G_{A_n} \\ N_0(A_0) & \xrightarrow{N_n(\alpha_{n-1} \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha_0)} & N_0(A_n) \end{array}$$

has to commute for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $A_i \in \text{ob}\mathcal{A}$  and  $\alpha_i \in \mathcal{A}(A_i, A_{i+1})$ .

The category of  $A_\infty$  modules over an  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  will be denoted as  $\text{Mod}_\infty^{\text{strict}} \mathcal{A}$ . This notation agrees with the notation in [L-H].

The morphism  $G$  of modules is a *quasi-isomorphism* of  $A_\infty$  modules if  $G_A$  is a quasi-isomorphism of complexes for any  $A \in \text{ob} \mathcal{A}$ .

The *derived category*  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  of an  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined as a localization of the category  $\text{Mod}_\infty^{\text{strict}} \mathcal{A}$  with respect to the class of quasi-isomorphisms.

**Remark 2.12** (Lemme 2.4.3.2 of [L-H]). For a DG category  $\mathcal{C}$  the derived categories  $D(\mathcal{C})$  and  $D_\infty(\mathcal{C})$  are equivalent.

**Remark 2.13.** In the case of  $A_\infty$  algebra there can be more morphism between modules, but there is no difference on the level of derived categories; see [L-H].

For an  $A_\infty$  category  $\mathcal{A}$  the derived category  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  is equivalent to the derived category of the universal algebra  $D(U(\mathcal{A}))$  (see [L-H]).

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{A}'$  be  $A_\infty$  categories and  $F: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'$  an  $A_\infty$  quasi-isomorphism. Then  $U(F): \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'$  is a quasi-isomorphism of DG categories. It follows that  $D(U(\mathcal{A}))$  is equivalent to  $D(U(\mathcal{A}'))$  (see [K2]) and hence  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  is equivalent to  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A}')$ . Thus, we have proved, after [L-H] the

**Proposition 2.14.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}'$  be quasi-isomorphic  $A_\infty$  categories. Then categories  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A})$  and  $D_\infty(\mathcal{A}')$  are equivalent.*

Let us come back to the case of exceptional collections. Recall, that  $X$  is a smooth projective variety and  $\sigma$  – a full exceptional collection on  $X$ . We know already that there exist a DG category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$  such that the derived category of coherent sheaves on  $X$ ,  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  is equivalent to  $D^b(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$ , where  $D^b(\mathcal{C}_\sigma) \subset D(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  is a subcategory spanned by compact objects. Moreover, the morphisms in the homotopy category  $H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  can be calculated via Ext groups in the category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ . In particular, the minimal model of  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$ ,  $H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  is an ordered  $A_\infty$  category with finitely many objects and finitely dimensional morphisms space. According to the theorem 2.4 and remark 2.5 there exists a quasi-isomorphic strictly unital  $A_\infty$  category  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma$  with the same objects and morphism spaces. By remarks 2.9 and 2.10 the DG category  $U(\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_\sigma)$  is an ordered DG category with finitely many objects and finitely dimensional morphisms spaces. It is  $A_\infty$  quasi-isomorphic to the original category  $\mathcal{C}_\sigma$ . From the proposition 2.14 and the remark 2.12 we deduce the following

**Theorem 2.15.** *Let  $X$  be a smooth projective variety and let  $\sigma = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  be a full exceptional collection on  $X$ . There exists a DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$  with objects  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  and finitely dimensional morphisms spaces such that*

- (i) *the bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on  $X$ ,  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  is equivalent to the bounded derived category of  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$  and*
- (ii) *for any  $i, j$  we have  $H^\bullet(\mathcal{D}_\sigma(E_i, E_j)) = \text{Ext}_X^\bullet(\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_j)$ .*

**Remark 2.16.** The category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma^{\text{pre-tr}}$  is pretriangulated and gives an enhancement of  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ .

In the next sections we will propose two methods of calculating the category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$ .

### 3 Calculating the category $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$ by Massey products

The triangulated category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  might be enough to determine the  $A_\infty$  category  $H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  and hence the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$ . To see it we will use Massey products. We start by recalling some definitions after [GM].

**Definition 3.1.** *Let*

$$X^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} X^1 \xrightarrow{d^1} \dots \xrightarrow{d^{n-2}} X^{n-1} \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} X^n$$

be a complex in a triangulated category  $\mathcal{D}$ . A convolution of this complex is any object  $T$  such that there exists the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X^0 & \xrightarrow{d^0} & X^1 & \cdots & X^{n-1} & \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} & X^n \\ & \searrow \text{id} & \nearrow d_0 & & \searrow & & \searrow \\ & Y^0 = X^0 & & & Y^1 & \cdots & Y^{n-1} & \xleftarrow{+1} & Y^n = T \end{array}$$

where all triangles  $Y^i \rightarrow X^{i+1} \rightarrow Y^{i+1} \rightarrow Y^i[1]$  are distinguished and the composition of  $X^i \rightarrow Y^i \rightarrow X^{i+1}$  is equal to  $d^i : X^i \rightarrow X^{i+1}$ .

Note, that for a convolution  $T$  we have a map of degree 0 from  $X^n$  to  $T$  and a map of degree  $n$  from  $T$  to  $X^0$ .

Knowing convolutions one can define Massey products  $\mu_n$ .

**Definition 3.2.** *For a pair of morphisms*

$$X^0 \xrightarrow{f} X^1 \xrightarrow{g} X^2$$

the double Massey product  $\mu_2$  is defined as  $\mu_2(g, f) = gf$ . Let

$$X^0 \xrightarrow{d^0} X^1 \xrightarrow{d^1} \dots \xrightarrow{d^{n-2}} X^{n-1} \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} X^n$$

be a complex in a triangulated category  $\mathcal{D}$  and let  $T$  be a convolution of  $X^1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X^{n-1}$ . The Massey product  $\mu_n(d^{n-1}, \dots, d^0)$  is defined as a set  $\{qr\}$  where  $q$  and  $r$  are morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} X^0 & \xrightarrow{d^0} & X^1 & \xrightarrow{d^1} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{d^{n-1}} & X^n \\ & \searrow & \nearrow r & & \searrow & & \searrow \\ & & & & T & & \\ & \nearrow [2-n] & & & \nearrow [n-2] & & \nearrow q \end{array}$$

such that the composition  $X^0 \rightarrow T \rightarrow X^1$  is  $d^0$  and  $X^{n-1} \rightarrow T \rightarrow X^n$  is  $d^{n-1}$ . The morphisms  $X^{n-1} \rightarrow T$  and  $T \rightarrow X^1[n-2]$  arise from the definition of the convolution.

**Proposition 3.3** (see [GM]). *If the set  $\mu_n(d^{n-1}, \dots, d^0)$  is not empty then  $0 \in \mu_{n-1}(d^{n-2}, \dots, d^0)$  and  $0 \in \mu_{n-1}(d^{n-1}, \dots, d^1)$ . Moreover, the complex  $X^0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X^n$  has at least one convolution if and only if  $0 \in \mu_n(d_{n-1}, \dots, d_0)$ .*

### 3.1 Massey products and minimal model

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear abelian category with enough injectives  $I$ . The bounded derived category of  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{D} = D^b(\mathcal{A})$  has an enhancement given by the DG category  $\mathcal{C} = \underline{\text{Kom}}^b(I)$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $f_1, \dots, f_n$ , for  $f_i : X_{i-1} \rightarrow X_i$ , be a sequence of morphisms in  $\mathcal{D}$  and let  $v \in \mu_n(f_n, \dots, f_1)$ . Then there exists a choice of  $s_2^{|\lambda_k(f_j, \dots, f_{j-k+1})|}$  and  $s_1^{|\lambda_k(f_j, \dots, f_{j-k+1})|^{-1}}$  for  $1 < k < n$  and  $k \leq j \leq n$  such that for any triple  $i, p, h$  compatible with these splittings we have  $v = p\lambda_n(i(f_n), \dots, i(f_1))$  and  $0 = p\lambda_k(i(f_j), \dots, i(f_{j-k+1}))$ .*

*Proof.* We will show that for a complex

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_0} X_1[n_1] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_1} \dots \longrightarrow X_k[n_k] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_k} X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]$$

of closed morphisms of degree 0 in  $\mathcal{C}$  the convolution  $T$  of it is given by a complex

$$T = X_1[n_1 + k - 1] \oplus X_2[n_2 + k - 2] \oplus \dots \oplus X_k[n_k]$$

with a differential  $\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_k)$ ,  $\partial_l : T \rightarrow X_l[n_l + k - l]$  equal to

$$\partial_l(x_1, \dots, x_l) = \partial_{X_l[n_l + k - l]}(x_l) + (-1)^{k-l} \sum_{i=1}^{l-1} (-1)^{(|\lambda_i|^{-1})n_{l-i}} h\lambda_i(\bar{f}_{l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l-i})(x_{l-i}).$$

A closed morphism of degree 0  $\bar{r} : X_0 \rightarrow T[1 - k]$ ,  $\bar{r} = (\bar{r}_1, \dots, \bar{r}_k)$  is given by

$$\bar{r}_l(x_0) = (-1)^{l+1} h\lambda_l(\bar{f}_{l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_0)(x_0)$$

and a morphism  $\bar{q} : T \rightarrow X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]$ ,  $\bar{q} = \sum_{l=0}^{k-1} \bar{q}_l$ ,  $\bar{q}_{k-l} : X_l[n_l + k - l] \rightarrow X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]$  is equal to

$$\bar{q}_{k-l}(x_l) = (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|^{-1})n_l} h\lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_l).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{q}\bar{r} &= (-1)^{k+1} \bar{f}_{k+1} h\lambda_k(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_1) - (-1)^{(|\lambda_k|^{-1})|\bar{f}_0|} h\lambda_k(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_2) \bar{f}_1 \\ &+ \sum_{i=2}^{k-1} (-1)^{i+1 + (|\lambda_{k-i+1}|^{-1})(|\bar{f}_1| + \dots + |\bar{f}_i|)} h\lambda_{k-i+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{i+1}) h\lambda_i(\bar{f}_i, \dots, \bar{f}_1) \\ &= \lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_1). \end{aligned}$$

$\bar{r}$  and  $\bar{q}$  are closed morphisms of degree 0 in  $\mathcal{C}$  and can be treated as morphisms in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Together with  $T$  they define the Massey product in the category  $\mathcal{D}$ . Maps  $\bar{r}$  and  $\bar{q}$  determine also the value of  $\lambda_l(\bar{f}_{i+l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_i)$  for any  $l \leq k$ . Moreover,  $p\lambda_l(\bar{f}_{i+l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_i) = 0 \in \mu_l(f_{i+l-1}, \dots, f_i)$  as only with such a choice the Massey product  $\mu_{k+1}$  is defined.

We will proceed by induction. Assume that  $v \in \mu_n(f_2, f_1, f_0)$ . Then, according to the definition  $v = q \circ r$ , for a pair of morphisms in  $\mathcal{D}$ . Let us write  $\bar{f}_j = i(f_j)$  for any inclusion  $i : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . In the category  $\mathcal{C}$  we have

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_0} X_1[n_1] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_1} X_2[n_2] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_2} X_3[n_3].$$

The convolution  $T$  of  $X_1[n_1] \rightarrow X_2[n_2]$  is the cone of  $\bar{f}_1$ ,

$$T = X_1[n_1 + 1] \oplus X_2[n_2]$$

with a differential  $\partial(x_1, x_2) = (\partial_{X_1[n_1+1]}(x_1), \bar{f}_1(x_1) + \partial_{X_2[n_2]}(x_2))$ .

Let  $\bar{r} : X_0 \rightarrow T[-1]$  be a morphism in  $\mathcal{D}$  lifting  $r$ . It is a closed morphism of degree 0 and commutes with  $\bar{f}_0 : X_0 \rightarrow X_1[n_1]$  hence is given by

$$\bar{r}(x_0) = (\bar{f}_0(x_0), \bar{r}_2(x_0)),$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{r}_2 \partial_{X_0} &= -\bar{f}_1 \bar{f}_0 + \partial_{X_2[n_2-1]}, \\ \partial(\bar{r}_2) &= -\lambda_2(\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, one can choose  ${}_{0,2}s_2^{n_2}$  and  ${}_{0,2}s_1^{n_2-1}$  in such a way that for any compatible  $h$  the equality  $h\lambda_2(\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_0) = \bar{r}_2$  will be satisfied.

Analogously, a morphism of degree 0,  $\bar{q} : T \rightarrow X_3[n_3]$  is given by  $\bar{q}(x_1, x_2) = \bar{q}_1(x_1) + \bar{f}_2(x_2)$ . It is closed if  $\bar{q}\partial_T = \partial_{X_3[n_3]}\bar{q}$  which leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{q}_1 \partial_{X_1[n_1+1]}(x_1) + \bar{f}_2 \bar{f}_1(x_1) + \bar{f}_2 \partial_{X_2[n_2]}(x_2) &= \partial_{X_3[n_3]}\bar{q}_1(x_1) + \partial_{X_3[n_3]}\bar{f}_2(x_2), \\ \bar{q}_1 \partial_{X_1[n_1+1]} + \bar{f}_2 \bar{f}_1 &= \partial_{X_3[n_3]}\bar{q}_1, \\ \partial(\bar{q}_1) &= (-1)^{n_1} \lambda_2(\bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_1). \end{aligned}$$

Again, there exists such a choice of  ${}_{1,3}s_2^{n_3-n_1}$  and  ${}_{1,3}s_1^{n_3-n_1-1}$  that for any compatible  $h$  we will have  $h(\lambda_2(\bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_1)) = \bar{q}_1$ .

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_3(f_2, f_1, f_0) &= p(\bar{q}\bar{r}) = p(\bar{q}_1 \bar{r}_1 + \bar{q}_2 \bar{r}_2) \\ &= p((-1)^{n_1} h\lambda_2(\bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_1) \bar{f}_0 - \bar{f}_2 h\lambda_2(\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_0)) = p(\lambda_3(\bar{f}_2, \bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_0)). \end{aligned}$$

Now, let us consider

$$X_0 \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_0} X_1[n_1] \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow X_k[n_k] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_k} X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}] \xrightarrow{\bar{f}_{k+1}} X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}]$$

in  $\mathcal{C}$  lifting a complex in the category  $\mathcal{D}$ .

We have

$$\begin{aligned} T(X_1[n_1] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]) &= \text{Cone}(T(X_1[n_1] \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_k[n_k]) \rightarrow X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]) \\ &= X_1[n_1 + k] \oplus X_2[n_2 + k - 1] \oplus \dots \oplus X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]. \end{aligned}$$

For  $l = 1, \dots, k$  the differential is

$$\partial_l = \partial_{X_l[n+l+k+1-l]} + (-1)^{k+1+l} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{l-1} (-1)^{(|\lambda|_i - 1)n_{l-i}} h\lambda_i(\bar{f}_{l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l-i}) \right).$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{k+1} &= \partial_{X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]} + \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}| - 1)n_l} h\lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_l) \\ &= \partial_{X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}]} + \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_i| - 1)n_{k+1-i}} h\lambda_i(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_{k+1-i}). \end{aligned}$$

A morphism  $\bar{r} : X_0 \rightarrow X_1[n_1] \oplus \dots \oplus X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}-k]$  is given by  $(\bar{r}_1, \dots, \bar{r}_{k+1})$ ,  $\bar{r}_l : X_0 \rightarrow X_l[n_l - l + 1]$ . For  $l = 1, \dots, k$

$$\bar{r}_k = (-1)^{l+1} h \lambda_l(\bar{f}_{l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_0).$$

$\bar{r}$  is closed so  $\bar{r} \partial_{X_0} = \partial_{T[-k]} \bar{r}$ , in particular  $\bar{r}_{k+1} \partial_{X_0} = \partial_{k+1} \bar{r}$ . This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{r}_{k+1} \partial_{X_0} &= \partial_{X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}-k]} \bar{r}_{k+1} + (-1)^k \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_l} h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_l) \bar{r}_l \\ &= \partial_{X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}-k]} \bar{r}_{k+1} \\ &\quad + (-1)^k \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_l+l-1} h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_l) \lambda_l(\bar{f}_{l-1}, \dots, \bar{f}_0), \\ \bar{r}_{k+1} \partial_{X_0} - \partial_{X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}-k]} \bar{r}_{k+1} &= (-1)^k \lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_0), \\ \partial \bar{r}_{k+1} &= (-1)^k \lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_0). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, as before one can choose such splittings  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  that

$$\bar{r}_{k+1} = (-1)^k h \lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_k, \dots, \bar{f}_0)$$

for any compatible  $h$ .

A morphism  $\bar{q} : X_1[n_1 + k] \oplus \dots \oplus X_{k+1}[n_{k+1}] \rightarrow X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}]$  is a sum of morphisms

$$\bar{q}_{k-l} : X_{l+1}[n_{l+1} + k - l] \rightarrow X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}].$$

For  $l = 1, \dots, k$

$$\bar{q}_{k-l} = (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_{l+1}} h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}).$$

To find  $\bar{q}_k$  we again use the fact that  $\bar{q}$  is a morphisms of complexes, that is  $\bar{q} \partial_T = \partial_{X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}]} \bar{q}$ . Writing down this equality for elements of the form  $(x_1, 0, \dots, 0) \in T$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}]} \bar{q}_k &= \bar{q}_k \partial_{X_1[n_1+k]} \\ &\quad + \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_{l+1}+k-l+(|\lambda_l|-1)n_1} h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}) h \lambda_l(\bar{f}_l, \dots, \bar{f}_1), \\ \bar{q}_k \partial_{X_1} - \partial_{X_{k+2}[n_{k+2}-k]} \bar{q}_k &= (-1)^{k+n_1} \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_{l+1}+k-l+(|\lambda_l|-1)n_1} \\ &\quad h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}) h \lambda_l(\bar{f}_l, \dots, \bar{f}_1) \\ &= (-1)^{k+|\lambda_{k-l+1}|n_1+|\lambda_l|n_1+n_1} \\ &\quad \sum_{l=1}^k (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)(|f_1|+\dots+|f_l|)+k-l} h \lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}) h \lambda_l(\bar{f}_l, \dots, \bar{f}_1) \\ &= (-1)^{kn_1} \mu_{k+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_1), \\ \partial \bar{q}_k &= (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k+1}|-1)n_1} \lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_1) \end{aligned}$$



and there exists splittings  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  such that

$$\bar{q}_k = (-1)^{(|\lambda_{k+1}|-1)n_1} h\lambda_{k+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_1)$$

for any compatible  $h$ .

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{k+2}(f_{k+1}, \dots, f_0) &= p(\bar{q}\bar{r}) = p\left(\sum_{l=0}^k \bar{q}_{k-l}\bar{r}_{l+1}\right) \\ &= p\left(\sum_{l=0}^k (-1)^{l+(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)n_{l+1}} h\lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}) h\lambda_{l+1}(\bar{f}_l, \dots, \bar{f}_0)\right) \\ &= p\left(\sum_{l=0}^k (-1)^{l+(|\lambda_{k-l+1}|-1)(|\bar{f}_0|+\dots+|\bar{f}_l|)} h\lambda_{k-l+1}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_{l+1}) h\lambda_{l+1}(\bar{f}_l, \dots, \bar{f}_0)\right) \\ &= p(\lambda_{k+2}(\bar{f}_{k+1}, \dots, \bar{f}_0)). \end{aligned}$$

□

With this lemma we are ready to formulate the

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be an enhanced triangulated category,  $\mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n$  objects in  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$  the full DG subcategory of the enhancement of  $\mathcal{D}$  with objects  $\mathcal{E}_i$ . Let also  $(f_1^1, \dots, f_{n_1}^1), \dots, (f_1^j, \dots, f_{n_j}^j)$  be a family of morphisms in  $H(\tilde{\mathcal{C}})$  such that for all  $i$  and  $1 < l < n_i$  any two of  $\lambda_l(f_{k+l-1}^i, \dots, f_k^i)$  do not lie in the same space  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}^n(\mathcal{E}_{i_1}, \mathcal{E}_{i_2})$  and finally let  $v^i \in \mu_{n_i}(f_{n_i}^i, \dots, f_1^i)$ . Then, up to an  $A_\infty$  isomorphism, in the minimal model for  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$  one has  $v^i = m_{n_i}(f_{n_i}^i, \dots, f_1^i)$  and  $0 = m_l(f_{k+l-1}^i, \dots, f_k^i)$  for  $l < n_i$ .*

*Proof.* The lemma 3.4 tells us that for morphisms  $f_1^k, \dots, f_{n_k}^k$  and  $v^k$  there exists a choice of splittings  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  such that  $v^k = p\lambda_{n_k}(i(f_{n_k}^k), \dots, i(f_1^k))$  for any compatible triple  $i, p$  and  $h$ . The conditions of the theorem imply that for all  $k = 1, \dots, j$  the choice of these splittings is independent. Combining it with the result of Merkulov recalled in 2.1 we obtain the proof of the theorem.

□

**Remark 3.6.** In the case when a triple Massey product is not defined, one can still deduce something about the operation  $m_3$ . Let

$$A \xrightarrow{\alpha} B \xrightarrow{\beta} C \xrightarrow{\gamma} D$$

be morphisms in  $H(\tilde{\mathcal{C}})$  such that  $\beta\alpha \neq 0$  and  $\gamma\beta = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} m_3(\gamma, \beta, \alpha) &= p\lambda_3(i(\gamma), i(\beta), i(\alpha)) \\ &= p((-1)^{|\alpha|} h(i(\gamma)i(\beta))i(\alpha) - i(\gamma)h(i(\beta)i(\alpha))). \end{aligned}$$

Fixing  ${}_{A,C}s_2^{|\beta|+|\alpha|}$  one can assume that  $i(\beta)i(\alpha) = i(\beta\alpha)$  and hence  $h(i(\beta)i(\alpha)) = 0$ . Then where  $\partial\lambda_3(i(\gamma), i(\beta), i(\alpha)) = (-1)^{|\alpha|} i(\gamma)i(\beta\alpha)$ .

If the category  $\mathcal{C}$  has infinite dimensional morphisms spaces and finite dimensional cohomology groups then there exists a choice of  ${}_{A,C}s_2^{|\alpha|+|\beta|}$  and  ${}_{C,D}s_2^{|\gamma|}$  such that  $\partial\lambda_3(i(\gamma), i(\beta), i(\alpha)) \neq 0$ . Finally, there exists a choice of  ${}_{A,D}s_1^{|\alpha|+|\beta|+|\gamma|-1}$  such that  $\lambda_3(i(\gamma), i(\beta), i(\alpha)) \in \text{Ker}p$  which gives  $m_3(\gamma, \beta, \alpha) = 0$ .

## 4 Calculating the category $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$ via mutations

In the previous section we have proved that in some cases the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$  can be determined by means of Massey products. However, the theorem 3.5 does not determine the  $A_\infty$  category  $H(\mathcal{C}_\sigma)$  for any collection  $\sigma$  and moreover calculating Massey products of arbitrary morphisms in a triangulated category is not always an easy task. Therefore, in this section we will present another algorithm allowing to determine the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\sigma$ . It uses a mutation of the collection  $\sigma$  to a collection  $\rho$  for which the DG category  $\mathcal{D}_\rho$  is known. In particular, it determines the DG categories of all exceptional collections obtained via mutations from a strong one.

We begin with recalling the definitions from [B]. Let  $\langle \mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \rangle$  be an exceptional pair in  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  for a smooth projective variety  $X$ . Then  $\langle L_\mathcal{E}\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{E} \rangle$  and  $\langle \mathcal{F}, R_\mathcal{F}\mathcal{E} \rangle$  are also exceptional pairs for  $L_\mathcal{E}\mathcal{F}$  and  $R_\mathcal{F}\mathcal{E}$  defined by means of distinguished triangles in  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$ .

$$\begin{aligned} L_\mathcal{E}\mathcal{F} &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}) \otimes \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow L_\mathcal{E}\mathcal{F}[1], \\ \mathcal{E} &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})^* \otimes \mathcal{F} \rightarrow R_\mathcal{F}\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}[1]. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$  is treated as a complex of  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector spaces with trivial differential,  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}) = \bigoplus \text{Hom}^k(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$  for  $\text{Hom}^k(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}) = \text{Hom}_{D^b(\text{Coh}(X))}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}[k])$ . For an element  $E$  of a  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  and a complex  $V^\bullet$  the tensor product is defined by  $E \otimes V^\bullet = \bigoplus_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \bigoplus_{i=0}^{\dim V^k} E[-k]$ .

If  $\rho = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  is an exceptional collection in  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  then the left  $i$ -th mutation  $L_i\rho$  and the right  $i$ -th mutation  $R_i\rho$  are defined as follows

$$\begin{aligned} L_i\rho &= \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_{i-1}, L_{\mathcal{E}_i}\mathcal{E}_{i+1}, \mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+2}, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle, \\ R_i\rho &= \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_{i-1}, \mathcal{E}_{i+1}, R_{\mathcal{E}_{i+1}}\mathcal{E}_i, \mathcal{E}_{i+2}, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Twisted complexes provide a description of the categories  $\mathcal{D}_{L_i\rho}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{R_i\rho}$  by means of  $\mathcal{D}_\rho$ . To see it we need to define a tensor product of a twisted complex with a complex of vector spaces.

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a DG category with finitely dimensional vector spaces,  $C \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  be a twisted complex and let  $V^\bullet$  be a finite dimensional complex of vector spaces with the differential  $\partial^i : V^i \rightarrow V^{i+1}$ .  $C \otimes V$  is defined as  $(\bigoplus_{\{i|V^i \neq 0\}} C[-i]^{\oplus \dim V^i}, q_{i,j}) \in (\mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}})^{\text{pre-tr}}$ . The morphisms  $q_{i,i+1}$  are induced by the differential  $\partial^i$  tensored with the identity on  $C$  and  $q_{i,j} = 0$  for  $j \neq i+1$ .

Now, let  $C, D \in \mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}$  be twisted complexes. There exist closed morphisms of degree 0

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : C \otimes \mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}(C, D) &\rightarrow D, \\ \psi : C &\rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{pre-tr}}(C, D)^* \otimes D. \end{aligned}$$

The morphism  $\phi_{i,0} : C[-i]^{\oplus \dim \text{Hom}^i(C,D)} \rightarrow D$  is given by morphisms of degree  $i$  between  $C$  and  $D$  and  $\psi$  is defined analogously. Now we define new twisted complexes over  $\mathcal{C}$

$$\begin{aligned} L_C D &= \text{Tot}(C(\phi)[-1]), \\ R_D C &= \text{Tot}(C(\psi)). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\rho = \langle \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_n \rangle$  be a full exceptional collection on a smooth projective variety  $X$  and let  $\mathcal{D}_\rho$  with objects  $E_1, \dots, E_n$  be the category described in the theorem 2.15. We define two full subcategories of  $\mathcal{D}_\rho^{\text{pre-tr}}$ ;  $\mathcal{D}_\rho^{L_i}$  with objects  $E_1, \dots, E_i, L_{E_i}E_{i+1}, E_{i+2}, \dots, E_n$  and  $\mathcal{D}_\rho^{R_i}$  with  $E_1, \dots, E_{i-1}, R_{E_{i+1}}E_i, E_{i+1}, \dots, E_n$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** *The category  $\mathcal{D}_\rho^{L_i}$  satisfies the condition of the theorem 2.15 for the exceptional collection  $L_i\rho$ . Analogous statement is true for  $\mathcal{D}_\rho^{R_i}$ .*

*Proof.* The theorem 2.15 guarantees that the category  $\mathcal{D}_\rho$  has finite dimensional vector spaces. Hence, mutations of twisted complexes over  $\mathcal{D}_\rho$  are well defined. Furthermore, according to the remark 2.16 the category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  is equivalent to  $(\mathcal{D}_\rho)^{\text{tr}}$ . Under this equivalence the object  $L_{\mathcal{E}_i}\mathcal{E}_{i+1}$  corresponds to  $L_{E_i}E_{i+1}$ . This proves that condition (ii) of the theorem 2.15 is satisfied. Finally, the condition (ii), the theorem 1.4 and the fact that the category  $D^b(\text{Coh}(X))$  is Karoubian show that the condition (i) of the theorem 2.15 is also satisfied.  $\square$

## 5 Example

Let  $X$  be a toric surface with a fan presented in the Figure 1.

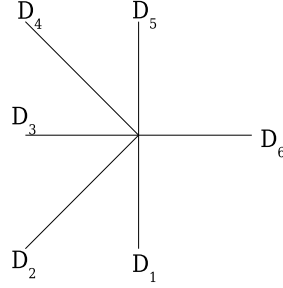


Figure 1: The fan of  $X$ .

$X$  is obtained from  $\mathbb{P}^2$  by blowing-up two points and then blowing up one point on an exceptional divisor. The Picard group of  $X$  has basis  $H, E_1, E_2$  and  $E_3$  with

$$\begin{aligned} H^2 &= 1, & E_1^2 &= -1, & E_2^2 &= -2, & E_3^2 &= -1, \\ HE_i &= 0, & E_1E_i &= 0, & E_2E_3 &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

In this basis the toric divisors are:

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 &= E_1, & D_2 &= H - E_1 - E_2 - E_3, & D_3 &= E_2, \\ D_4 &= E_3, & D_5 &= H - E_2 - 2E_3, & D_6 &= H - E_1. \end{aligned}$$

In [HP] Hille and Perling prove that the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H - E_2 - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H - E_2 - 2E_3) \rangle$  is full. It is not strong, there is one nontrivial  $\text{Ext}^1$  group between  $\mathcal{O}(H - E_2 - E_3)$  and  $\mathcal{O}(H - E_3)$ . The quiver of this collection has the form presented in the Figure 2. There is one relation

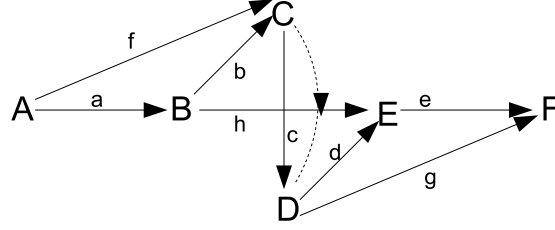


Figure 2: The quiver of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H - E_2 - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H - E_2 - 2E_3) \rangle$  on  $X$ .

$edcba = icf$ . The dotted arrow represents the nontrivial Ext group.

Calculating Massey product for morphisms in this collection requires finding a nontrivial extension

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(H - E_3) \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(H - E_2 - E_3) \rightarrow 0.$$

After one mutation we obtain a collection in which calculating Massey products is significantly easier. We have a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(E_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(H - E_2 - E_3) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3} \rightarrow 0$$

so up to a translation, the 2-nd left mutation of the considered collection is  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H-E_2-2E_3) \rangle$ . This collection has nontrivial first Ext groups from  $\mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}$  to  $\mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H)$  and  $\mathcal{O}(2H - E_2 - 2E_3)$ . The quiver of the this collection is presented in the Figure 3.

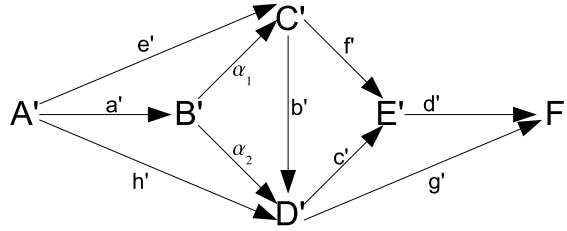


Figure 3: The quiver of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H - E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H - E_2 - 2E_3) \rangle$  on  $X$ .

The arrows  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are of degree 1. The relations in the quiver are

$$\begin{aligned} d'c'b'e' &= g'h', & \alpha_1 a' &= 0, & \alpha_2 a' &= 0, \\ b'\alpha_1 &= 0, & g'\alpha_2 &= 0, & f'\alpha_1 &= c'\alpha_2. \end{aligned}$$

The values of  $m_3(b', \alpha_1, a')$ ,  $m_3(d', f'\alpha_1, a')$ ,  $m_3(f', \alpha_1, a')$ ,  $m_3(g', \alpha_2, a')$  and  $m_3(c', \alpha_2, a')$  determine the  $A_\infty$  structure of the quiver presented in the Figure

3. Using the theorem 3.5 and the remark 3.6 we get that

$$\begin{aligned} m_3(b', \alpha_1, a') &\in \mu_3(b', \alpha_1, a'), & m_3(d', f' \alpha_1, a') &= 0, \\ m_3(g', \alpha_2, a') &\in \mu_3(g', \alpha_2, a'), & m_3(f', \alpha_1, a') &= 0, \\ m_3(c', \alpha_2, a') &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Calculating  $\mu_3$  for morphisms in this collection is not difficult. For example  $h' \in \mu_3(b', \alpha_1, a')$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{O} & \xrightarrow{a'} & \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3} & \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} & \mathcal{O}(E_1)[1] & \xrightarrow{b'} & \mathcal{O}(H-E_3) \\ & & & & \swarrow & \searrow & \\ & & & & \mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3)[1] & & \end{array}$$

$p[-1]$  (arrow from  $\mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}$  to  $\mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3)[1]$ )  
 $q$  (arrow from  $\mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3)[1]$  to  $\mathcal{O}(H-E_3)$ )

In the language of toric divisor the zeros of  $b'$  are  $Z(b') = D_2 + D_3$ . For the map  $p$  we have  $Z(p) = D_4 + D_5$ . Finally, for the zero locus of  $q$  is  $Z(q) = D_3$ . It follows that  $Z(qp) = D_3 + D_4 + D_5$  and hence  $qp = h'$ .

Similarly one can show that  $\mu_3(g', \alpha_2, a') = d' f' e'$ .

Finally we obtain the following  $A_\infty$  structure

$$\begin{aligned} m_3(b', \alpha_1, a') &= h', & m_3(c' b', \alpha_1, a') &= c' h', \\ m_3(d' c' b', \alpha_1, a') &= d' c' h', & m_3(d' f', \alpha_1, a') &= 0, \\ m_3(d', f' \alpha_1, a') &= 0, & m_3(f', \alpha_1, a') &= 0, \\ m_3(d' c', \alpha_2, a') &= 0, & m_3(g', \alpha_2, a') &= d' f' e', \\ m_3(c', \alpha_2, a') &= 0, & m_3(d', f', \alpha_1) &= 0, \\ m_3(c', b', \alpha_1) &= 0, & m_3(d' c', b', \alpha_1) &= 0, \\ m_3(d', c' b', \alpha_1) &= 0, & m_3(d', c', \alpha_2) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The operation having as the last argument  $\alpha_1$  or  $\alpha_2$  are trivial because there are no morphism of degree 0 from  $B'$  to neither  $E$  nor  $F$ .

With these information we can calculate the DG category of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H-E_2-2E_3) \rangle$ . It is presented in the Figure 4.

Again, arrows  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  are in degree 1. The relations and differentials in the quiver are

$$\begin{aligned} d' c' b' e' &= g' b' u_1 - g' u_3 a' (= g' h'), & f' \alpha_1 &= c' \alpha_2, \\ d' f' e' &= g' u_2 - u_4 a', & f' u_1 &= c' u_2, \\ \partial(u_1) &= \alpha_1 a', & \partial(u_2) &= \alpha_2 a', \\ \partial(u_3) &= b' \alpha_1, & \partial(u_4) &= g' \alpha_2. \end{aligned}$$

Now we can mutate the above DG category to obtain the DG category of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H-E_2-2E_3) \rangle$ . Here,  $\mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3)$  is a right mutation of  $\mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}$  over  $\mathcal{O}(E_1)$  and can be written as a twisted complex, where the morphism is  $\alpha_1$ .

$$\mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(E_1),$$

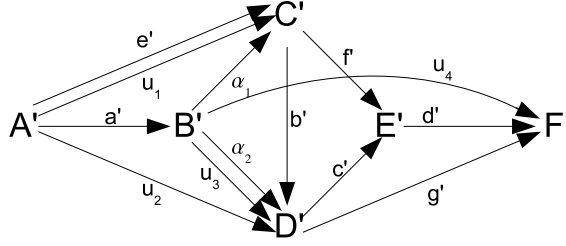


Figure 4: The DG category of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}_{H-E_1-E_2-E_3}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H-E_2-2E_3) \rangle$  on  $X$ .

Up to a quasi-isomorphism we obtain the DG category in the Figure 5.

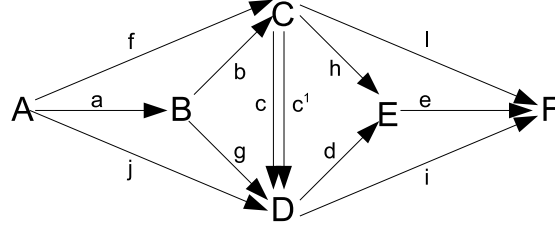


Figure 5: The DG category of the collection  $\langle \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(E_1), \mathcal{O}(H-E_2-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H-E_3), \mathcal{O}(H), \mathcal{O}(2H-E_2-2E_3) \rangle$  on  $X$ .

The arrow  $c^1$  is in degree 1. We have following relations and differentials

$$\begin{aligned}
 ehba &= ij, & edcba &= icf, & edga &= lf, \\
 ig &= lb, & dj &= hf, & edc^1ba &= ic^1f, \\
 \partial(h) &= dc^1, & \partial(j) &= c^1f, \\
 \partial(l) &= ic^1, & \partial(g) &= c^1b.
 \end{aligned}$$

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