# Contramodules: their History, and Applications in Commutative and Noncommutative Algebra

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IM external meeting, Zvánovice, ČR

October 17-19, 2018

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A similar, but more general construction connects algebras with quadratic-linear-scalar relations with what I called quadratic curved DG-algebras.

# Curved DG-algebras



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The CDG-algebras (B, d, h) and (B, d', h') are considered to be isomorphic (the category of CDG-algebras is defined so that they are). The element a is called a change-of-connection element.

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Changing the connection in  ${\mathcal E}$  leads to an isomorphic CDG-algebra.

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The derived category D(A)

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In a somewhat more complicated form, this generalizes to an equivalence between the derived categories of graded modules over a quadratic algebra A and its quadratic dual algebra  $A^{\rm I}$ , provided that A has the so-called Koszul property.

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Back in the Spring of 1999, I also looked through the 1965 AMS Memoir "Foundations of relative homological algebra" of Eilenberg and Moore, which I found in the library. It contained the definitions of two kinds of module objects over a coalgebra: the comodules and the contramodules.

A coassociative coalgebra  ${\mathcal C}$  over a field k

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should be equal to the identity map  $id_{\mathcal{C}}$ .



A left C-comodule M

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The semi-infinite homology

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Thus a C-comodule, for the coalgebra C with  $C^* = k[[t]]$ , is the same thing as a t-torsion k[t]-module.

For the same coalgebra C, a C-contramodule

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Thus the contramodule infinite summation operation cannot be understood as any kind of limit of finite partial sums. This is a new concept of infinite sum in mathematics, quite different from the ones usually studied in analysis.



One can view the abelian category of left  $\mathcal C\text{-contramodules}$  for a coalgebra  $\mathcal C$ 

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In particular, here is a definition of contramodules over the topological ring of p-adic integers  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for a prime number p, based on the analogy between  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  and k[[t]].

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by a cotorsion module people generally mean a left module C over an associative ring R such that  $\operatorname{Ext}_R^1(F,C)=0$  for all flat left R-modules F.

After 1980s, people started to call "Matlis cotorsion" (or "weakly cotorsion", which is a better term) the R-modules C such that  $\operatorname{Ext}_R^1(S^{-1}R,C)=0$  (dropping the condition of Hom vanishing).

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In the generality of regular maximal ideals in commutative Noetherian rings

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How to describe this full subcategory? Following the above terminology, given an element  $s \in R$  we will say that an R-module C is Matlis s-cotorsion if it is Matlis S-cotorsion for the multiplicative subset  $S = \{1, s, s^2, s^2, \dots\}$ . An R-module C is Matlis I-cotorsion if it is Matlis S-cotorsion for all S in S (One can prove that it suffices to check this condition for any given set of generators S1, ..., S1, S2 of the ideal S3.)

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I first looked into Harrison's 1959 paper on cotorsion abelian groups only in 2012, and learned about Matlis' work on cotorsion modules as late as in 2015–16.

What Harrison and Matlis called cotorsion modules

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What I call here "Matlis S-cotorsion" and "Matlis I-cotorsion R-modules", are actually called "S-contramodule R-modules" and "I-contramodule R-modules" in my papers.

The notion of a quasi-coherent sheaf over an algebraic variety

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A narrow class of R-modules to which modules like S belong is called the class of very flat R-modules.

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The Very Flat Conjecture (now theorem)



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The Very Flat Conjecture (now theorem) claims that T is then a very flat R-module.

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# Some Bits of History

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