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DIEUDONNE MODULES FOR ABELIAN HOPF ALGEBRAS

Preliminary Report in Honor of
SAMUEL EILENBERG

Douglas C. Ravenel^(*)

By Abelian Hopf algebra we mean graded connected biassociative strictly bi-commutative Hopf algebra of finite type over a perfect field k of characteristic p . Let \underline{A} denote the category of such objects. \underline{A} is known to be abelian ([12]) and our purpose here is to show that it is isomorphic to a certain category of modules. An analogous theorem for the nongraded case was proved long ago by Dieudonné, and the modules that he used have been studied extensively (see [1], Chapter V, and [4]). I am grateful to Bill Singer for first bringing this work to my attention and suggesting the problem of carrying it over to the graded case.

The ring D in question is a noncommutative power series over $W(k)$ (the Witt ring of k) in two variables F and V subject to the relations

$$FV = VF = p$$

$$Fw = w^\sigma F, \quad Vw^\sigma = wV$$

(*) Research partially supported by N.S.F.

for $w \in W(k)$, where w^σ denotes the action of the Frobenius automorphism of k lifted to $W(k)$.

In our case we will obtain modules over a commutative graded ring $E = W(k)[[F, V]]/(FV-p)$ where $\dim F = 1$, $\dim V = -1$. F will be seen to correspond to the Frobenius endomorphism of a Hopf algebra A which sends $x \in A$ to X^p , while V corresponds to the dual of F , commonly known as the Verschiebung.

The relation between abelian Hopf algebras and E -modules will be described in Theorem 3" below, which is our main result.

Our first result is a decomposition theorem.

Definition. Let n be an integer prime to p . An Abelian Hopf algebra is of type n if each of its primitives and generators has dimension np^i for some i . Let $\underline{T}_n A \subset A$ denote the full subcategory of type n Abelian Hopf algebras.

Theorem 1. There is a canonical categorical splitting

$$A \cong \prod_{(n,p)=1} \underline{T}_n A, \text{ i.e.}$$

- Every Abelian Hopf algebra is canonically a direct product of type n Abelian Hopf algebras.
- There are no nontrivial maps between a type n Hopf algebra and a type m Hopf algebra for $m \neq n$.
- Moreover, $\underline{T}_1 A \cong \underline{T}_n A \bigvee_n$

Such a decomposition is well-known for the Hopf algebra

$H_*(BU; k)$ (see [3] for example) The general decomposition is

established by showing that the endomorphism ring of $H_*(BU; k)$ acts canonically on any abelian Hopf algebra. Part (b) follows from the fact that a Hopf algebra map sends primitives to primitives. Part (c) is trivial.

We now construct a set of projective generators for $\underline{T}_1 A$. Let $B_n \in \underline{A}$ be $k[b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n]$ with $\dim b_i = i$ and coproduct $\psi b_i = \sum_{s+t=i} b_s \otimes b_t$ where $b_0 = 1$. Let W_n be the type 1 factor of B_n . It is a polynomial algebra $k[w_0, w_1, \dots, w_n]$ with $\dim w_i = p^i$. The coproduct is obtained lifting to $W(k)$ and defining the Witt polynomials $f_m(w) = \sum_{i=0}^m p^i w_i^{p^{m-i}}$, $0 \leq m \leq n$, to be primitive.

Theorem 2. W_n is a projective object in \underline{A} , and its dual W_n^* is therefore injective.

Proof. Let S_r be the simple object $k[x_r]/x_r^p$, $\dim x_r = r$. Any Abelian Hopf algebra can be built up out of these simple objects by multiple extensions, so it suffices to show $\text{Ext}_{\underline{A}}^1(W_n, S_r) = 0 \bigvee r$, which is a simple calculation.

Now let $\underline{W} \subset \underline{T}_1 A$ denote the full subcategory whose objects are the W_n . Let \underline{FW} denote the category of contravariant functors from \underline{W} to the category of finite $W(k)$ modules. This category is abelian. We define a functor

$$\underline{D} : \underline{T}_1 A \rightarrow \underline{FW}$$

by

$$\underline{D}(A)(W_n) = \text{Hom}_{\underline{A}}(W_n, A).$$

Now we can state our main result:

Theorem 3. The functor \underline{D} defined above is an equivalence of abelian categories.

The proof is analogous to that of Theorem V, §1,4.3 of [1].

Theorem 3 can be described in a more useful way by analyzing the structure of \underline{W} . Let $V_n : W_{n-1} \hookrightarrow W_n$ be the inclusion and let $F_n : W_{n+1} \rightarrow W_n$ be defined by $F_n(w_i) = w_{i-1}^p$. Note that $V_n F_{n-1} = F_n V_{n+1} = p$. Then we have

Lemma 4. The endomorphism ring of W_n is $W(k)/p^{n+1}$ and these endomorphisms along with the F_n and V_n generate all of the morphisms of \underline{W} .

Hence Theorem 3 can be paraphrased as

Theorem 3'. A type 1 Abelian Hopf algebra is characterized by a sequence of $W(k)$ modules $W_n(A) = \text{Hom}(W_n, A)$ and maps $F_n : W_n(A) \rightarrow W_{n+1}(A)$ and $V_n : W_n(A) \rightarrow W_{n-1}(A)$ where $V_n F_{n-1} = F_n V_{n+1} = p$.

If we identify $f \in W_n(A)$ with the element $f(w_n) \in A$, we have $(F_n f)(w_{n+1}) = f(w_n)^p \in A$, i.e. F_n corresponds to the Frobenius endomorphism of A , while V_n corresponds similarly

to the dual endomorphism, i.e. the Verschiebung.

To make this more concise let \underline{E}_0^+ denote the where A_0 is projective and A_1 is polynomial. (If A is not finitely generated, one can still construct A_0 and A_1 but they need not be of finite type).

This is a consequence of

Theorem 6. $\text{Ext}_{\underline{A}}^2(B, A) = 0$ for all A iff B is polynomial.

We will conclude by identifying some well-known Hopf algebra functors with standard functors from homological algebra. It is convenient at this point to embed \underline{E}_0^+ in \underline{E} , the full category of graded E -modules and maps of all degrees. Hence for $M, N \in \underline{E}$, $\text{Hom}_{\underline{E}}(M, N)$ is also an E -module. Moreover, if N is nonnegative and M does not have any generators in positive dimensions then $\text{Hom}_{\underline{E}}(M, N)$ will also be nonnegatively graded. Define modules $P = E/VE$, $R = E/FE$.

Theorem 7. Let $A \in \underline{T}_1 A$. Then $\text{Hom}_{\underline{E}}(P, C(A))$ is isomorphic to the abelian restricted Lie algebra of primitives of A (where F corresponds to the restriction), and $\text{Ext}_{\underline{E}}^1(T, C(A))$ is isomorphic to the abelian restrict Lie coalgebra (with V corresponding to the corestriction) of decomposable elements of A .

The functors $\text{Ext}_{\underline{E}}^1(P, C(A))$ and $\text{Hom}_{\underline{E}}(R, C(A))$ are the functors \hat{P} and \hat{Q} respectively defined in [6] and also in [5]

§3. Hence an extension in $T_1 A$ induces six term exact sequences relating these functors as was shown in [6]. (Note that $\text{Ext}_E^2(P, -) = \text{Ext}_E^2(R, -) = 0$). It is evident that the connecting homomorphisms of these sequences must be E-module maps, i.e. they must preserve the restriction and corestriction respectively. Hence the argument of 4.10 of [6] (which leads to contradictions of Theorems 2 and 4) is incorrect.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

N.B. These results were also obtained by C. Schoeller, "Etude de la Catégorie des Algebres de Hopf Commutatives Connexes sur un Corps", Manuscripta Math. 3(1970), 133-155.

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