

MAT 552 PROBLEM SET 7

This problem set focuses on the tensor algebra and its important quotients, the symmetric algebra and the exterior algebra. In addition to their familiar properties, these each carry a structure of “graded Hopf algebra”. (**Nota bene.** A graded Hopf algebra is not quite the same as a Hopf algebra whose structure morphisms respect the gradings). For a Lie algebra, the universal enveloping algebra is another quotient of the tensor algebra that has a structure of Hopf algebra. This Hopf algebra structure is the key ingredient in one proof of the Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt Theorem.

**Problems.**

**Problem 1.** (Universal property of tensor algebra.) For every field  $k$ , for every  $k$ -vector space  $V$ , for every integer  $n \geq 0$ , inductively define the  $k$ -vector space  $T_k^n(V)$  by the rule,

$$T_k^0(V) = k, \quad T_k^{n+1}(V) = V \otimes_k T_k^n(V).$$

For every integer  $n$ , denote by  $\beta_{V,n}$  the universal  $k$ -bilinear operation,

$$\beta_{V,n} : V \times T_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^{n+1}(V).$$

Define  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  to be the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -vector space,

$$T_k^\bullet(V) := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} T_k^n(V), \quad q_{V,n} : T_k^n(V) \hookrightarrow T_k^\bullet(V).$$

Denote by  $\beta_V$  the unique  $k$ -bilinear operation

$$\beta_V : V \times T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V),$$

such that for every  $n \geq 0$ , the composition  $\beta_V \circ (\text{Id}_V \times q_{V,n})$  equals  $q_{V,n+1} \circ \beta_{V,n}$ .

(a) For  $n = 0$ , show that  $\beta_{V,0}(v, 1)$  equals  $v$  for all  $v \in V$ , and this gives the (standard) identification of  $V$  with  $T_k^1(V)$ . Via this identification, prove that  $\beta_V$  extends to a unique  $k$ -bilinear pairing,

$$\beta_{T(V)} : T_k^\bullet(V) \times T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V),$$

whose restriction to  $T_k^1(V) \times T_k^\bullet(V)$  equals  $\beta_V$ , such that  $\beta_{T(V)}$  is associative, and such that  $1 \in T_k^0(V)$  is a left-right multiplicative identity for this operation. Thus, with this unique  $k$ -bilinear pairing,  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  is a unital, associative  $k$ -algebra, the **tensor  $k$ -algebra of  $V$** . Also check that the given direct sum decomposition of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  makes  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  into a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -algebra, i.e.,  $\beta_{T(V)}$  maps  $T_k^m(V) \times T_k^n(V)$  to the summand  $T_k^{m+n}(V)$  for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

(b) For every associative  $k$ -algebra,

$$(A, b : A \times A \rightarrow A),$$

a  $k$ -bilinear operation,

$$\alpha_V : V \times A \rightarrow A,$$

is **right  $A$ -associative** if  $\alpha_V(v, b(a, a'))$  equals  $b(\alpha_V(v, a), a')$  for every  $v \in V$  and for every  $a, a' \in A$ . In this case, prove that  $\alpha_V$  extends to a unique  $k$ -bilinear pairing,

$$\alpha_{T(V)} : T_k^\bullet(V) \times A \rightarrow A,$$

whose restriction to  $T_k^1(V) \times A$  equals  $\alpha_V$ , such that this operation is both left  $T_k^\bullet(V)$ -associative and right  $A$ -associative, and such that  $1 \in T_k^0(V)$  acts as the identity on  $A$ . This is the universal property of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  among associative  $k$ -algebras (that are not necessarily unital).

(c) If  $A$  is unital, then prove that every right  $A$ -associative  $k$ -bilinear operation  $\alpha_V$  is equivalent to a  $k$ -linear transformation,

$$\tilde{\alpha}_V : V \rightarrow A,$$

by the rule  $\tilde{\alpha}_V(v) = \alpha_V(v, 1)$ . Moreover, prove that the induced  $k$ -linear transformation,

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{T(V)} : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow A, \quad t \mapsto \alpha_{T(V)}(t, 1),$$

is the unique homomorphism of unital, associative  $k$ -algebras whose restriction to  $T_k^1(V) = V$  equals the  $k$ -linear transformation  $\tilde{\alpha}_V$ . This is the universal property of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  among unital, associative  $k$ -algebras.

(d) Define  $J_s \subset T_k^\bullet(V)$  to be the left-right ideal generated by all elements  $qv_{,2}(v \otimes w - w \otimes v)$  for  $v, w \in V$ . The **symmetric  $k$ -algebra of  $V$** ,  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$ , is defined to be the quotient of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  by the left-right ideal  $J_s$ . Prove that this is also a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebra,

$$\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \text{Sym}_k^n(V), \quad r_{V,n} : \text{Sym}_k^n(V) \hookrightarrow \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V),$$

and the quotient map is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$s_{V,n} : T_k^n(V) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Sym}_k^n(V), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}.$$

Prove that is an isomorphism on the degree 0 and degree 1 summands,

$$s_{V,0} : k \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sym}_k^0(V), \quad s_{V,1} : V \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sym}_k^1(V).$$

(e) Prove that  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  is a commutative  $k$ -algebra, i.e., for every pair of elements  $u, v \in \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$ , the product  $v \cdot u$  equals  $u \cdot v$ . For every associative  $k$ -algebra  $A$  that is commutative and for every right  $A$ -associative  $k$ -bilinear operation  $\alpha_V$ , prove that the  $k$ -bilinear pairing  $\alpha_{T(V)}$  factors uniquely as a composition of  $s_V \times \text{Id}_A$  and a  $k$ -bilinear pairing,

$$\alpha_{\text{Sym}(V)} : \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \times A \rightarrow A.$$

Prove that this pairing restricts on  $\text{Sym}_k^1(V) \times A$  as  $\alpha_V$ , prove that this pairing is left  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$ -associative and right  $A$ -associative, and prove that  $1 \in \text{Sym}_k^0(V)$  acts as the identity on  $A$ . This is the universal property of  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  among associative, commutative  $k$ -algebras.

(f) If the associative, commutative  $k$ -algebra  $A$  above is also unital, formulate and prove the universal property of  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  among associative, unital, commutative  $k$ -algebras.

(g) Define  $J_a \subset T_k^\bullet(V)$  to be the unique left-right ideal generated by all elements  $qv_{,2}(v \otimes v)$  for  $v \in V$ . The **exterior  $k$ -algebra of  $V$** ,  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$ , is defined to be the

quotient of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  by the left-right ideal  $J_a$ . Prove that this is also a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebra,

$$\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \bigwedge_k^n(V), \quad t_{V,n} : \bigwedge_k^n(V) \hookrightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V),$$

and the quotient map is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$e_{V,n} : T_k^n(V) \twoheadrightarrow \bigwedge_k^n(V), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}.$$

Prove that is an isomorphism on the degree 0 and degree 1 summands,

$$s_{V,0} : k \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sym}_k^0(V), \quad s_{V,1} : V \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Sym}_k^1(V).$$

(h) Assume that the characteristic is different from 2. Prove that the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative  $k$ -algebra  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$  is **graded commutative**, i.e., for every pair of homogeneous elements  $u \in \bigwedge_k^m(V)$  and  $v \in \bigwedge_k^n(V)$ , the product  $v \wedge u$  equals  $(-1)^{mn} u \wedge v$ . For every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative  $k$ -algebra  $A^\bullet$  that is graded commutative and for every right  $A^\bullet$ -associative  $k$ -bilinear operation that is homogeneous of degree +1,

$$(\alpha_{V,n} : V \times A^n \rightarrow A^{n+1})_{n \geq 0},$$

prove that the  $k$ -bilinear pairing  $\alpha_{T(V)}$  factors uniquely as a composition of  $e_V \times \text{Id}_A$  and a  $k$ -bilinear pairing,

$$\alpha_{\bigwedge(V)} : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \times A^\bullet \rightarrow A^\bullet.$$

Prove that this pairing restricts on  $\bigwedge_k^1(V) \times A^\bullet$  as  $\alpha_V$ , prove that this pairing is left  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$ -associative and right  $A^\bullet$ -associative, and prove that  $q \in \bigwedge_k^0(V)$  acts as the identity on  $A^\bullet$ . This is the universal property of  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$  among  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras. Formulate and prove the analogous universal property when  $A^\bullet$  is also unital. (**Challenge problem.** Formulate the correct analogue in characteristic 2.)

**Problem 2.** (Functoriality of tensor algebras and direct sum decompositions.) Prove that the tensor algebra, the symmetric algebra, and the exterior algebra are each covariant in  $V$ , and thus the graded components give  $k$ -linear representations of  $\mathbf{GL}_k(V)$  and  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$ .

(a) For every short exact sequence of  $k$ -vector spaces,

$$0 \rightarrow U \xrightarrow{\iota} V \xrightarrow{\pi} W \rightarrow 0,$$

for every integer  $n \geq 0$ , prove that the induced morphisms

$$T_k^n(\iota) : T_k^n(U) \rightarrow T_k^n(V), \quad \text{Sym}_k^n(\iota) : \text{Sym}_k^n(U) \rightarrow \text{Sym}_k^n(V), \quad \bigwedge_k^n(\iota) : \bigwedge_k^n(U) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^n(V),$$

are injective, and prove that the induced morphisms

$$T_k^n(\pi) : T_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^n(W), \quad \text{Sym}_k^n(\pi) : \text{Sym}_k^n(V) \rightarrow \text{Sym}_k^n(W), \quad \bigwedge_k^n(\pi) : \bigwedge_k^n(V) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^n(W),$$

are surjective.

(a) Denote by  $I_\pi$  the left-right ideal that is the kernel of the morphism  $T_k^\bullet(\pi)$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras. For every integer  $r \geq 0$ , denote by  $I_\pi^r$  the left-right ideal generated by  $r$ -fold products of elements of  $I_\pi$ , so  $I_\pi^0 = T_k^\bullet(V)$ ,  $I_\pi^1 = I_\pi$ , etc. Prove that every two-sided ideal  $I_\pi^r$  is a homogeneous ideal, i.e.,

$$I_\pi^r = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} I_{\pi,n}^r, \quad I_{\pi,n}^r := I_\pi^r \cap T_k^n(V).$$

Describe the components  $I_{\pi,n}^r$  and prove that the multiplication map gives a  $k$ -isomorphism of the associated subquotients,

$$I_{\pi,n}^r / I_{\pi,n}^{r+1} \cong \bigoplus_{\Sigma \subset \{1, \dots, n\}, \#\Sigma=r} T_k^r(U) \otimes_k T_k^{n-r}(W).$$

In particular, this is zero if  $r > n$ , so this decreasing filtration is exhaustive on each graded component  $T_k^n(V)$ . Finally, prove that these  $k$ -isomorphisms assemble into an isomorphism of the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebra

$$\mathrm{Gr}_\pi^\bullet T_k(V) := \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} I_{\pi,n}^r / I_{\pi,n}^{r+1},$$

with the free product of  $T_k^\bullet(U)$  and  $T_k^\bullet(W)$ , i.e., the coproduct in the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras.

(b) For every integer  $r \geq 0$ , denote by  $I_{s,\pi}^r$ , resp.  $I_{e,\pi}^r$ , the image of  $I_\pi^r$  in  $\mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$ , resp. in  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$ . Prove that the  $k$ -isomorphisms above give  $k$ -isomorphisms of associated subquotients,

$$I_{s,\pi,n}^r / I_{s,\pi,n}^{r+1} \cong \mathrm{Sym}_k^r(U) \otimes_k \mathrm{Sym}_k^{n-r}(W),$$

$$I_{e,\pi,n}^r / I_{e,\pi,n}^{r+1} \cong \bigwedge_k^r(U) \otimes_k \bigwedge_k^{n-r}(W).$$

Prove that these assemble into an isomorphism of the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, commutative, unital  $k$ -algebra

$$\mathrm{Gr}_\pi^\bullet \mathrm{Sym}_k(V) := \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} I_{s,\pi,n}^r / I_{s,\pi,n}^{r+1},$$

and the tensor product of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, commutative, unital  $k$ -algebras  $\mathrm{Sym}_k(U) \otimes_k \mathrm{Sym}_k(W)$ . Similarly, prove that these assemble into an isomorphism of the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, graded commutative, unital  $k$ -algebra

$$\mathrm{Gr}_\pi^\bullet \bigwedge_k(V) := \bigoplus_{r \geq 0} I_{e,\pi,n}^r / I_{e,\pi,n}^{r+1},$$

and the tensor product of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, graded commutative, unital  $k$ -algebras  $\bigwedge_k(U) \otimes_k \bigwedge_k(W)$ .

(c) When  $V$  equals  $k$ , prove that the surjection  $T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  is an isomorphism, and compute that every graded piece is 1-dimensional. Similarly, prove that  $\bigwedge_k^n(k)$  is zero for every  $n \geq 2$ . Combine this with the previous isomorphisms and induction on the dimension of  $V$  to prove that for every  $V$  of finite dimension  $m$ , for every  $n \geq 0$ , the graded component  $T_k^n(V)$  has dimension  $m^n$ , the graded component  $\mathrm{Sym}_k^n(V)$  has dimension  $\binom{m+n-1}{n}$ , and the graded component  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  has dimension  $\binom{m}{n}$ .

(d) With  $V$  of finite dimension  $m$  as above, for every ordered  $k$ -basis  $(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  of  $V$ , prove that one  $k$ -basis of  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  consists of the monomials  $x_1^{n_1} \cdots x_i^{n_i} \cdots x_m^{n_m}$  for all  $(n_1, \dots, n_m) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^m$  with  $n_1 + \cdots + n_m = n$ . Similarly, prove that one  $k$ -basis of  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  for  $n \leq m$  consists of the elements  $x_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{i_n}$  for subsets  $\{i_1, \dots, i_n\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$  of size  $n$  with the usual ordering  $i_1 < \cdots < i_n$ .

**Problem 3.** (Representations of the special linear group.) This problem continues the previous problem. Let  $V$  be a  $k$ -vector space of finite dimension  $m$ .

(a) For every nonzero element of  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$ , prove that there exists an ordered  $k$ -basis  $(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  of  $V$  with respect to which the element has nonzero coefficient of  $x_1^n$ . For the maximal torus  $T \subset \mathbf{SL}_k(V)$  corresponding to this basis, prove that the smallest  $T$ -invariant  $k$ -subspace of  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  that contains the element also contains the element  $x_1^n$ . Conclude that the smallest  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$ -invariant  $k$ -subspace also contains  $x^n$  for every  $x \in V$ . Using the multinomial expansion, conclude that also this  $k$ -subspace contains every monomial  $x_1^{n_1} \cdots x_m^{n_m}$  whose multinomial coefficient in  $(t_1 x_1 + \cdots + t_m x_m)^n$  is nonzero. Assuming that the characteristic of the field  $k$  is  $> n$ , e.g., as in the case of  $k = \mathbb{R}$  and  $k = \mathbb{C}$ , show that the  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$ -invariant  $k$ -subspace equals all of  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$ . Conclude that  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  is an irreducible  $k$ -linear representation of  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$  for every integer  $n \geq 0$ . (This fails if the characteristic of  $k$  is positive and less than  $n$ .)

(b) Similarly, for every integer  $n$  with  $n \leq m$ , for every nonzero element of  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$ , prove that there exists an ordered  $k$ -basis  $(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  of  $V$  with respect to which the element has nonzero coefficient of  $x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n$ . For the corresponding maximal torus  $T$ , prove that the smallest  $T$ -invariant  $k$ -subspace of  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  that contains this element also contains the element  $x_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_n$ . Conclude that the smallest  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$ -invariant  $k$ -subspace contains  $x_{i_1} \wedge \cdots \wedge x_{i_n}$  for every subset  $\{i_1, \dots, i_n\} \subset \{1, \dots, m\}$  of size  $n$  with the usual ordering  $i_1 < \cdots < i_n$ . Conclude that  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  is an irreducible  $k$ -linear representation of  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$  for every integer  $0 \leq n \leq m$ . (Note that this holds with no hypothesis on the characteristic of  $k$ .)

(c) For the natural action of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  on  $V^n = V \times \cdots \times V$  by permuting factors, prove that there exists a unique  $k$ -linear action of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  on  $T_k^n(V)$  such that the following set map is  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -equivariant,

$$V^n = V \times \cdots \times V \rightarrow V \otimes_k \cdots \otimes_k V = T_k^n(V), \quad (v_1, \dots, v_n) \mapsto v_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes v_n.$$

(d) Let  $k[\mathfrak{S}_n] \rightarrow A$  be a morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras. Show that the induced left  $k[\mathfrak{S}_n]$ -module,

$$\mathbf{S}_A(V) := A \otimes_{k[\mathfrak{S}_n]} T_k^n(V),$$

is functorial in  $V$ , hence defines a  $k$ -linear (left) representation of  $\mathbf{SL}_k(V)$ . When  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $p > n$ , for the simple algebra factors  $k[\mathfrak{S}_n] \rightarrow A_\lambda = \text{Hom}_k(V_\lambda, V_\lambda)$  associated to an irreducible  $k$ -linear (left) representation  $V_\lambda$  of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ , the corresponding functor  $\mathbf{S}_\lambda$  is a **Schur functor**. The two most familiar examples are the symmetric power  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  corresponding to the trivial 1-dimensional representation of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  and the exterior power  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  corresponding to the sign representation, i.e., the 1-dimensional representation whose associated group homomorphism to  $\{-1, +1\} \subset k^\times$  is the sign homomorphism.

(e) In every characteristic, prove that there are unique  $k$ -linear actions of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$  on  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  and  $\bigwedge_k^n(V)$  such that  $s_{V,n}$  and  $e_{V,n}$  are morphisms of  $k$ -linear representations of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ .

(f) Assuming that  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $p > n$ , prove that there exist morphisms of  $k$ -linear representations of  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ ,

$$s_{V,n}^* : \text{Sym}_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^n(V), \quad v_1 \cdots v_n \mapsto \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} v_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\sigma(n)},$$

$$e_{V,n}^* : \bigwedge_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^n(V), \quad v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_n \mapsto \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} \text{sgn}(\sigma) v_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\sigma(n)},$$

such that  $s_{V,n} \circ s_{V,n}^*$  and  $e_{V,n} \circ e_{V,n}^*$  equal the identity maps. For this reason, often the symmetric algebra and exterior algebra are considered as  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -vector subspaces of the tensor algebra.

**Nota bene.** The maps  $s_V^*$  and  $e_V^*$  do *not* respect the product structures on the respective algebras.

**Problem 4.** (Hopf algebra structure on the tensor algebra.) Please read Problem 4 from Problem Set 5 about the Hopf algebra structure on the group  $k$ -algebra of a finite group  $\Gamma$ . This problem explains the construction of the Hopf algebra structure on the tensor algebra,  $T_k^\bullet(V)$ , which then induces a Hopf algebra structure on the symmetric algebra. When the  $k$ -vector space is a Lie  $k$ -algebra, this also induces a Hopf algebra structure on the universal enveloping algebra. The exterior algebra has a structure of “graded Hopf algebra”. It is typically not a Hopf algebra (“graded Hopf algebras” are *not* the same as Hopf algebras with a grading), and the quotient map from the tensor algebra to the exterior algebra typically does not respect the comultiplication structure.

(a) For associative, unital  $k$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$ , prove that there is a unique structure of associative, unital  $k$ -algebra on the tensor product  $A \otimes_k B$  such that both of the following  $k$ -linear maps are morphisms of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\alpha : A \rightarrow A \otimes_k B, \quad a \mapsto a \otimes 1,$$

$$\beta : B \rightarrow A \otimes_k B, \quad b \mapsto 1 \otimes b,$$

and the images **strictly commute**, i.e.,  $\alpha(a) \cdot \beta(b)$  equals  $\beta(b) \cdot \alpha(a)$  for every  $a \in A$  and for every  $b \in B$ . Prove that the triple  $(A \otimes_k B, \alpha, \beta)$  is universal (i.e., initial) among all triples  $(R, \alpha', \beta')$  of an associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $R$ , and a pair of morphisms of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\alpha' : A \rightarrow R, \quad \beta' : B \rightarrow R,$$

such that  $\alpha'(a) \cdot \beta'(b)$  equals  $\beta'(b) \cdot \alpha'(a)$  for every  $a \in A$  and for every  $b \in B$ . Finally, if  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras, prove that there exists a unique  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading of  $A \otimes_k B$  such that both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are morphisms of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras.

(b) Prove that there exists a unique morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\tau_{A,B} : A \otimes_k B \rightarrow B \otimes_k A,$$

permuting  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Check that  $\tau_{A,B} \circ \tau_{B,A}$  equals the identity. In particular, when  $B$  equals  $A$ , this defines an automorphism of order 2 of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\tau_A : A \otimes_k A \rightarrow A \otimes_k A.$$

If  $A$  and  $B$  are  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, check that also  $\tau_{A,B}$  respects the induced  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -gradings.

(c) Now consider the case when  $B$  equals  $A$  equals the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $T_k^\bullet(V)$ . Define  $\Delta_{V,1}$  to be the  $k$ -linear transformation from  $V$  to the first graded piece of  $T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V)$  given by

$$\Delta_{V,1} : V \rightarrow (V \otimes_k k) \oplus (k \otimes_k V), \quad v \mapsto v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v.$$

Denote the morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras restricting as  $\Delta_{V,1}$  on  $T_k^1(V) = V$  by

$$\Delta_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V).$$

Prove that the following two morphisms of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras are equal,

$$\begin{aligned} T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\Delta_V \otimes \text{Id}_{T(V)}} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V), \\ T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\text{Id}_{T(V)} \otimes \Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the map  $\Delta_V$  is **coassociative**.

(d) For the associative, unital  $k$ -algebra that equals  $k$  itself, for the zero homomorphism from  $V$  to  $k$ , denote by

$$\epsilon_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow k,$$

the unique morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras whose restriction to  $T_k^1(V) = V$  equals the zero homomorphism. Prove that the following compositions both equal the identity map,

$$\begin{aligned} T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\epsilon_V \otimes \text{Id}_{T(V)}} k \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) = T_k^\bullet(V), \\ T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\text{Id}_{T(V)} \otimes \epsilon_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k k = T_k^\bullet(V). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\epsilon_V$  is a left-right **counit** for the comultiplication  $\Delta_V$ .

(e) Denoting the algebra multiplication on  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  by  $\nabla_V$  and denoting the  $k$ -algebra map by  $\eta_V : k \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V)$ , check that  $(T_k^\bullet(V), \nabla_V, \eta_V, \Delta_V, \epsilon_V)$  forms a **bialgebra**. Explicitly, this means that each of the following diagrams commute,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) & \xrightarrow{\Delta_V \circ \nabla_V} & T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \\ \Delta_V \otimes \Delta_V \downarrow & & \uparrow \nabla_V \otimes \nabla_V \\ T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}_{T(V)} \otimes \tau_V \otimes \text{Id}_{T(V)}} & T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) & \xrightarrow{\nabla_V} & T_k^\bullet(V) \\ \epsilon_V \otimes \epsilon_V \downarrow & & \downarrow \epsilon_V \\ k \otimes_k k & \xrightarrow{\cong} & k \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 k & \xrightarrow{\cong} & k \otimes_k k \\
 \eta_V \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_V \otimes \eta_V \\
 T_k^\bullet(V) & \xrightarrow{\Delta_V} & T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \\
 & & \uparrow \epsilon_V \\
 k & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}} & k \\
 \eta_V \downarrow & & \uparrow \epsilon_V \\
 T_k^\bullet(V) & \xrightarrow{\text{Id}_{T(V)}} & T_k^\bullet(V)
 \end{array}$$

More briefly, it means that  $(T_k^\bullet(V), \nabla_V, \eta_V)$  is an associative, unital  $k$ -algebra, and both of the following maps are morphisms of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\epsilon_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow k, \quad \Delta_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V),$$

where  $T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V)$  is the algebra structure where the two factors *strictly commute* with each other. Equivalently, it means that  $(T_k^\bullet(V), \Delta_V, \epsilon_V)$  is a coassociative, counital  $k$ -coalgebra and the morphisms  $\eta_V$  and  $\nabla_V$  are morphisms of coassociative, counital  $k$ -algebras.

(f) For every associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $(A, \nabla_A : A \times A \rightarrow A)$ , define  $A^{\text{op}}$  to be the  $k$ -vector space  $A$  with the following  $k$ -bilinear operation,

$$\nabla_A^{\text{op}} : A \times A \rightarrow A, \quad \nabla_A^{\text{op}}(a_1, a_2) := \nabla_A(a_2, a_1).$$

Prove that this is also an associative, unital  $k$ -algebra with the same left-right identity as in  $(A, \nabla_A)$ . Check that the following  $k$ -bilinear pairing,

$$\alpha_A : (A \otimes_k A^{\text{op}}) \times A \rightarrow A, \quad (a \otimes c, b) \mapsto a \cdot b \cdot c = \nabla_A(a, \nabla_A(b, c)) = \nabla_A(\nabla_A(a, b), c).$$

defines a structure of *left*  $A \otimes_k A^{\text{op}}$ -module on  $A$ . Prove that this is equivalent to a structure of *right*  $A^{\text{op}} \otimes_k A$ -module on  $A$  (another name for such a structure is a  $A$ - $A$ -bimodule). Check that the multiplication is a map of left  $A \otimes_k A^{\text{op}}$ -modules,

$$\nabla_A : A \otimes_k A^{\text{op}} \rightarrow A, \quad a \otimes c \mapsto a \cdot c = \nabla_A(a, c),$$

and check that the multiplication is also a map of right  $A^{\text{op}} \otimes_k A$ -modules,

$$\nabla_A : A^{\text{op}} \otimes_k A \rightarrow A, \quad c \otimes a \mapsto c \cdot a.$$

(g) Denote by  $S_V$  the unique morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$S_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V)^{\text{op}},$$

whose restriction to  $T_k^1(V) = V$  maps to the summand  $T_k^1(V)$  and equals  $-\text{Id}_V$  (the negative of the identity map). This is the **antipode map**. Prove that both of the following compositions equal  $\eta_V \circ \epsilon_V$  as  $k$ -linear maps from the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -vector space  $T_k^\bullet(V)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{S_V \otimes \text{Id}_{T(V)}} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\nabla_V} T_k^\bullet(V), \\
 T_k^\bullet(V) &\xrightarrow{\Delta_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\text{Id}_{T(V)} \otimes S_V} T_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k T_k^\bullet(V) \xrightarrow{\nabla_V} T_k^\bullet(V).
 \end{aligned}$$

Together with the previous operations, the antipode  $S_V$  makes  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  into a **Hopf  $k$ -algebra**. **Hint.** For the upper commutative square, for  $A = T_k^\bullet(V)$ , first check that the right  $A$ -module structure on  $A$  induced from the right  $A^{\text{op}} \otimes A$ -module structure via  $(S_V \otimes \text{Id}_{T(V)}) \circ \Delta_V$  restricts to a right action on  $A$  by  $V = T_k^1(V)$



as an action by  $k$ -derivations,  $(a, v) \mapsto v \otimes a - a \otimes v$ , which annihilate the span of 1. Next, for the natural right module structure of  $A^{\text{op}} \otimes_k A$  on itself, check that  $\nabla_V$  sends the generator 1 to the element  $1 \in A$  that is annihilated by each of these derivations. Conclude that the upper composition annihilates the left-right ideal of  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  generated by  $V = T_k^1(V)$ .

(h) For a Hopf  $k$ -algebra  $(A, \nabla, \eta, \Delta, \epsilon, S)$ , a left-right ideal  $I \subset A$  (for the multiplication  $\nabla$  on  $A$ ) is a **Hopf ideal** if all of the following hold. The kernel of  $\epsilon$  contains  $I$ . The image of  $I$  under the antipode map is contained in  $I$ . The image of  $I$  under  $\Delta$  is contained in the  $k$ -subspace,

$$(I \otimes_k A) + (A \otimes_k I) \subseteq A \otimes_k A.$$

For the quotient algebra homomorphism  $A \rightarrow A/I$ , check that there is a unique structure of Hopf  $k$ -algebra on  $A/I$  making this quotient homomorphism a morphism of Hopf  $k$ -algebras if and only if the ideal is a Hopf ideal.

(i) For the tensor algebra considered as a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -vector space, check that the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structures are homogeneous operations of degree 0. Also check that  $\Delta_V$  is cocommutative, i.e., the composition  $\tau \circ \Delta_V$  equals  $\Delta_V$ . Prove that the quotient of a Hopf  $k$ -algebra  $A$  by a Hopf ideal is commutative, resp. cocommutative, if  $A$  is commutative, resp. cocommutative. For a Hopf  $k$ -algebra with a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading such that all structures are homogeneous operations of degree 0, for a Hopf ideal that is a homogeneous ideal, prove that the quotient algebra has a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading making the quotient map homogeneous of degree 0 and such that all Hopf algebra structures are homogeneous of degree 0. Finally, if  $A$  is **connected**, i.e., the graded piece  $A_0$  equals  $k$ , check that also the quotient is connected.

(j) For every pair  $\ell, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , denote by  $\Delta_V^{\ell, m}$  the graded component of  $\Delta_V$ ,

$$\Delta_V^{\ell, m} : T_k^{\ell+m}(V) \rightarrow T_k^\ell(V) \otimes_k T_k^m(V).$$

Denote by  $P_{\ell, m}$  the set with  $\binom{\ell+m}{m}$  elements that consist of ordered partitions  $(A, B)$  of  $\{1, \dots, \ell+m\}$  into subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of respective cardinalities  $\ell$  and  $m$ , say

$$A = (1 \leq a_1 < \dots < a_\ell \leq \ell+m), \quad B = (1 \leq b_1 < \dots < b_m \leq \ell+m).$$

Prove the formula,

$$\Delta_k^{\ell, m}(v_1 \otimes \dots \otimes v_{\ell+m}) = \sum_{(A, B) \in P_{\ell, m}} (v_{a_1} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{a_\ell}) \otimes (v_{b_1} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{b_m}).$$

If the characteristic  $k$  equals 0 or  $p > \ell+m$ , check the following identity,

$$\Delta_k^{\ell, m}(s_{V, \ell+m}^*(v_1 \cdots v_{\ell+m})) = \sum_{(A, B) \in P_{\ell, m}} s_{V, \ell}^*(v_A) \otimes s_{V, m}^*(v_B),$$

$$v_A := v_{a_1} \cdots v_{a_\ell}, \quad v_B := v_{b_1} \cdots v_{b_m}.$$

Thus, the image of  $\Delta_k^{\ell, m} \circ s_{V, \ell+m}^*$  is contained in the image of

$$s_{V, \ell}^* \otimes s_{V, m}^* : \text{Sym}_k^\ell(V) \otimes_k \text{Sym}_k^m(V).$$

**Problem 5.** (Hopf algebra structure on the symmetric algebra.) Recall that  $J_s$  is defined to be the left-right kernel ideal of the morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$s : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V).$$

(a) Check that the graded left-right ideal  $J_s \subset T_k^\bullet(V)$  is a Hopf ideal that is homogeneous. Deduce that there exists a unique structure of Hopf  $k$ -algebra on  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  for which  $s_V$  is a morphism of Hopf  $k$ -algebras, and every Hopf structure on  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  is homogeneous of degree 0. Also, deduce that this Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure is cocommutative and connected. The symmetric algebra is also commutative.

(b) For this Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure, check that the antipode map equals the unique morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras from  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  to itself (the same as the opposite algebra since the algebra is commutative) that restricts on  $\text{Sym}_k^1(V) = V$  as  $-\text{Id}_V$ .

(c) Via the isomorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras from the previous problems,

$$\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \cong \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V \oplus V),$$

check that  $\Delta$  naturally corresponds to the unique morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras

$$\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V \oplus V),$$

functorially associated to the diagonal embedding of  $V$  in  $V \oplus V$ . If you know algebraic geometry, check that the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure on  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  for a finite dimensional  $k$ -vector space  $V$  equals the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure on the coordinate  $k$ -algebra of the dual  $k$ -vector space  $V^\vee$  considered as a commutative group  $k$ -variety with group operation equal to the usual vector addition. (**Challenge problem.** If we instead identify a 3-dimensional vector space  $V^\vee$  as the group of upper triangular, unipotent  $3 \times 3$  matrices, how does the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure on the commutative  $k$ -algebra  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  “deform”?)

(d) Check that  $\nabla \circ \Delta$  is the unique morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras from  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  to itself that restricts on  $\text{Sym}_k^1(V) = V$  as  $2\text{Id}_V$ . If  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $p > \ell + m$ , check that  $\nabla \circ \Delta^{\ell, m}$  equals the map that restricts on  $\text{Sym}_k^1(V) = V$  as  $\binom{\ell+m}{m}$ .

(e) Assuming that  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $p > n$ , check that the following composite

$$\Delta_V^{\ell, m} \circ s_{V, n}^* : \text{Sym}_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^n(V) \rightarrow T_k^\ell(V) \otimes_k T_k^m(V),$$

equals the bigraded component of the composite for the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure on  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$ ,

$$(s_{V, \ell}^* \otimes s_{V, m}^*) \circ \Delta^{\ell, m} : \text{Sym}_k^n(V) \rightarrow \text{Sym}_k^\ell(V) \otimes_k \text{Sym}_k^m(V) \rightarrow T_k^\ell(V) \otimes_k T_k^m(V).$$

**Problem 6.** (Graded Hopf algebra structure on the exterior algebra.) Let  $A = A_\bullet$  and  $B = B_\bullet$  be  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras. As in **Problem 4(a)**, form the tensor product  $A \otimes_k B$  with the  $k$ -linear maps  $\alpha : A \rightarrow A \otimes_k B$  and  $\beta : B \rightarrow A \otimes_k B$ .

(a) Prove that there is a unique structure of associative, unital  $k$ -algebra on  $A \otimes_k B$  such that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are morphisms of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras, and the images **graded commute**, i.e., for every  $\ell, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , for every  $a \in A_\ell$ , and for every  $b \in B_m$ ,

$$\beta_m(b) \cdot \alpha_\ell(a) = (-1)^{\ell \cdot m} \alpha_\ell(a) \cdot \beta_m(b).$$

Prove that the triple  $(A \otimes_k B, \alpha, \beta)$  is universal (i.e., initial) among all triples  $(R, \alpha', \beta')$  of an associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $R$ , and a pair of morphisms of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras

$$\alpha' : A \rightarrow R, \quad \beta' : B \rightarrow R,$$

such that  $\beta'_m(b) \cdot \alpha'_\ell(a) = (-1)^{\ell \cdot m} \alpha'_\ell(a) \cdot \beta'_m(b)$  for every  $\ell, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and for every  $(a, b) \in A_\ell \times B_m$ . If either  $A$  or  $B$  has nonzero graded components only in even degrees, check that this algebra structure is the same as the algebra structure from the previous exercise.

(b) For  $k$ -vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$ , for the natural inclusions

$$\alpha'_1 : V \rightarrow V \oplus W, \quad \beta'_1 : W \rightarrow V \oplus W,$$

by the universal property of the exterior algebra, these extend uniquely to morphisms of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras,

$$\alpha' : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V \oplus W), \quad \beta' : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(W) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V \oplus W),$$

whose restrictions to the degree 1 graded summands equal  $\alpha'_1$  and  $\beta'_1$  respectively. By the universal property in (a), there is a unique morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$e_{V,W}^\bullet : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k \bigwedge_k^\bullet(W) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V \oplus W),$$

such  $e_{V,W}^\bullet \circ \alpha$  equals  $\alpha'$  and such that  $e_{V,W}^\bullet \circ \beta$  equals  $\beta'$ . Check that  $e_{V,W}^\bullet$  is an isomorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras. Check that this is compatible with the isomorphism from **Problem 2(b)**.

(c) This exercise is for those that know about the Künneth formula in algebraic topology. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be topological spaces. Denote the product topological space by

$$(X \times Y, \chi : X \times Y \rightarrow X, \nu : X \times Y \rightarrow Y).$$

Since cohomology  $H^*(-; k)$  is a contravariant functor from the category of topological spaces to the category of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative cohomology algebras, there are induced pullback maps,

$$H^*(\chi; k) : H^*(X; k) \rightarrow H^*(X \times Y; k), \quad H^*(\nu; k) : H^*(Y; k) \rightarrow H^*(X \times Y; k).$$

By the universal property in (a), there is an induced morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative algebras, for the product from (a),

$$H^*(X; k) \otimes_k H^*(Y; k) \rightarrow H^*(X \times Y; k).$$

The Künneth Theorem states that this morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative algebras is an isomorphism (but this is only valid with the product from (a), not for the strictly commuting product).

(d) For  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras  $A$  and  $B$ , check that there is a unique  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading on  $A \otimes_k B$  making both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  into morphisms of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital  $k$ -algebras. For the graded commuting product on  $A \otimes_k B$  and  $B \otimes_k A$  from (a), prove that there exists a unique morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras

$$\tau'_{A,B} : A \otimes_k B \rightarrow B \otimes_k A,$$

permuting  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Note that this does **not** usually equal the morphism from **Problem 4(b)**. The two are related as follows,

$$\tau'_{A,B}(a_\ell \otimes b_m) = (-1)^{\ell \cdot m} \tau_{A,B}(a_\ell \otimes b_m) = (-1)^{\ell \cdot m} b_m \otimes a_\ell,$$

and thus they are equal if either  $A$  or  $B$  has nonzero graded components only in even degrees. Check that  $\tau'_{A,B}$  is an isomorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras, and  $\tau'_{B,A} \circ \tau'_{A,B}$  equals the identity.

(e) If  $A$  and  $B$  are each graded commutative, check that also  $A \otimes_k B$  is graded commutative.

(f) Now consider the case of (b) when  $W$  equals  $V$ . For the natural diagonal inclusion,

$$\Delta'_1 : V \rightarrow V \oplus V, \quad \Delta'_1 = \alpha'_1 + \beta'_1,$$

by the universal property of the exterior algebra, this extends uniquely to a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras,

$$\Delta'_V : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V \oplus V)$$

whose restriction to the degree 1 graded summands equal  $\Delta'_1$ . Thus, there exists a unique morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded, associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras,

$$\Delta_{e,V} : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \otimes_k \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V),$$

such that  $e_{V,V} \circ \Delta_{e,V}$  equals  $\Delta'_V$ . Check that  $\Delta$  is a coassociative comultiplication that is graded cocommutative. Since  $k$ , concentrated in degree 0, is a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebra, prove that the morphism  $\epsilon_V : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow k$  factors uniquely through a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital, graded commutative  $k$ -algebras,

$$\epsilon_{e,V} : \bigwedge_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow k.$$

Altogether,  $(\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V), \nabla_{e,V}, \eta_{e,V}, \Delta_{e,V}, \epsilon_{e,V})$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -bialgebra. Moreover, it is graded commutative and graded cocommutative. Once more, because the graded commuting product is different from the strictly commuting product, a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -bialgebra is not the same as a  $k$ -bialgebra with a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading such that all bialgebra operations are homogeneous of degree 0; these notions are the same, however, if the only nonzero components for the grading occur in even degree.

(g) Since  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$  is graded commutative, the product for the opposite algebra in the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -algebras is the same as the usual product. Define the antipode map  $S_{e,V}$  to be the identity map. Check the analogue of the identities from **Problem 4(g)** for  $S$ . Together with the previous operations, the antipode  $S_{e,V}$  makes  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$  into a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -**graded Hopf  $k$ -algebra**.

(h) By way of caution, check that the projection from  $T_k^\bullet(V)$  to  $\bigwedge_k^\bullet(V)$ , which is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras, preserves the comultiplication  $\Delta$  only if  $\dim(V) \leq 1$ .

**Problem 7.** (Filtered algebras.) A  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -**filtered  $k$ -algebra** is a pair  $(A, (F_n A)_{n \geq 0})$  of an associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $A$  and an increasing, exhaustive filtration of  $A$  by  $k$ -subspaces,

$$\{0\} = F_{-1}A \subseteq F_0A \subseteq \cdots \subseteq F_nA \subseteq F_{n+1}A \subseteq \cdots \subseteq A, \quad \cup_{n=0}^{\infty} F_nA = A,$$

such that for every  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , the image of  $F_mA \times F_nA$  under the multiplication map is contained in  $F_{m+n}A$ . For filtered  $k$ -algebras  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$  and  $(B, E_{\bullet}B)$ , a **morphism of filtered  $k$ -algebras** is a morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$f : A \rightarrow B,$$

such that for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , the  $f$ -image of  $F_nA$  is contained in  $E_nB$ .

(a) Check that the identity  $\text{Id}_A$  is a self-morphism for every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$ . Also, check that every composition of morphisms of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras. Conclude that these operations define a category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras.

(b) For every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$ , for every integer  $n \geq 0$ , consider the following quotient  $k$ -vector space,

$$\text{Gr}_n^F A := F_nA / F_{n-1}A, \quad \rho_{(A, F_{\bullet}A), n} : F_nA \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gr}_n^F A.$$

For every pair  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , prove that there exists a unique  $k$ -bilinear operation,

$$\mu_{m, n} : \text{Gr}_m^F A \times \text{Gr}_n^F A \rightarrow \text{Gr}_{m+n}^F A,$$

such that  $\mu_{m, n}(\rho_m(a), \rho_n(b))$  equals  $\rho_{m+n}(a \cdot b)$  for every  $a \in F_mA$  and for every  $b \in F_nA$ . Check that these maps assemble to a multiplication rule on the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded  $k$ -vector space,

$$\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \text{Gr}_n^F A.$$

Check that this multiplication rule makes  $\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A$  into a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebra.

(c) For every morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras,

$$f : (A, F_{\bullet}A) \rightarrow (B, E_{\bullet}A),$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , prove that there exists a unique  $k$ -linear map,

$$\text{Gr}_n^{F, E} f : \text{Gr}_n^F A \rightarrow \text{Gr}_n^E B,$$

such that  $\text{Gr}_n^{F, E} f(\rho_{A, F_{\bullet}A, n}(a))$  equals  $\rho_{B, E_{\bullet}A, n}(f(a))$  for every  $a \in F_nA$ . Prove that these  $k$ -linear maps define a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^{F, E} f : \text{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A \rightarrow \text{Gr}_{\bullet}^E B.$$

Also prove that  $\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^{F, E} f$  is surjective if and only if every  $f(F_nA) + E_{n-1}B$  equals  $E_nB$ ; this holds if every  $f(F_nA)$  equals  $E_nB$ .

(d) Check that the operation  $f \mapsto \text{Gr}_{\bullet}^{F, E} f$  sends the identity self-morphism of  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$  to the identity self-morphism of  $\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A$ . Check that the operation preserves compositions. Altogether, the rule associating  $\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A$  to every  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$  and associating  $\text{Gr}_{\bullet}^{F, E} f$  to every  $f$  is a covariant functor from the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered associative, unital  $k$ -algebras to the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras.

(e) For every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra,  $(A, F_{\bullet}A)$ , and for every surjection of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,  $p : A \rightarrow C$ , check that the induced filtration on  $A/I$ ,

$$p_*F_nC := p(F_nA),$$

is a structure of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra on  $C$  such that  $p$  is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras. Moreover, for every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra  $(B, E_{\bullet}B)$ , for every morphism of associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,  $g : C \rightarrow B$ , such that  $f = g \circ p$  is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras,  $f : (A, F_{\bullet}A) \rightarrow (B, E_{\bullet}B)$ , prove that also  $g$  is a morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras,  $g : (C, p_*F_{\bullet}C) \rightarrow (B, E_{\bullet}B)$ . Also, check that the induced morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras is surjective,

$$\mathrm{Gr}_{\bullet}^F p : \mathrm{Gr}_{\bullet}^F A \rightarrow \mathrm{Gr}_{\bullet}^{p_*F} C.$$

Finally, check that  $\mathrm{Gr}_{\bullet}^{p_*F} C$  is commutative if and only if  $I$  is **nearly commuting**, i.e., for every  $\ell, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , for every  $a \in F_{\ell}A$ , for every  $b \in F_mA$ , the commutator  $[a, b]_A := a \cdot b - b \cdot a$  in  $F_{\ell+m}A$  is contained in the  $k$ -subspace  $F_{\ell+m}A \cap I + F_{\ell+m-1}A$ .

(f) Conversely, for every  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $A_{\bullet}$ , for every integer  $n$ , consider the following  $k$ -subspace of  $A_{\bullet}$ ,

$$F_nA := A_{\leq n} = \bigoplus_{m=0}^n A_m \subset A_{\bullet}.$$

Prove that this sequence of  $k$ -subspaces makes  $(A_{\bullet}, F_{\bullet}A)$  into a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra.

(g) For every morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$f_{\bullet} : A_{\bullet} \rightarrow B_{\bullet}, \quad f_n : A_n \rightarrow B_n,$$

check that  $f_{\bullet}$  is also a morphism of the associated  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras. Check that these rules define a covariant functor from the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras to the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebras. Check that the composition of this functor with the previous functor is naturally equivalent to the identity functor on the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras.

**Problem 8.** (Hopf algebra structure on the universal enveloping algebra.) Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie  $k$ -algebra, i.e., a  $k$ -vector space together with a skew-symmetric,  $k$ -bilinear operation,

$$[-, -] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}, \quad (X, Z) \mapsto \mathrm{ad}_X(Z),$$

that satisfies the Jacobi identity, i.e., for every  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ , the following  $k$ -linear self-maps of  $\mathfrak{g}$  are equal,

$$\mathrm{ad}_X \circ \mathrm{ad}_Y - \mathrm{ad}_Y \circ \mathrm{ad}_X = \mathrm{ad}_{[X, Y]}.$$

As usual, denote by  $I_{\mathfrak{g}}$  the left-right ideal in  $T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g})$  generated by all elements  $q_{\mathfrak{g}, 2}(X \otimes Y - Y \otimes X) - q_{\mathfrak{g}, 1}([X, Y])$  for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ . The **universal enveloping  $k$ -algebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$** ,  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ , is defined to be the quotient of  $T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g})$  by the left-right ideal  $I_{\mathfrak{g}}$ ,

$$p_{\mathfrak{g}} : T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{g}).$$

For the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g})$ , denote by  $F_{\bullet}T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g})$  the associated structure of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra,

$$F_nT_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g}) := \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n T_k^{\ell}(\mathfrak{g}), \quad F_{-1}T_k^{\bullet}(\mathfrak{g}) := \{0\}.$$

Denote by  $F_\bullet U(\mathfrak{g})$  the associated structure of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra on the quotient associative, unital  $k$ -algebra,

$$F_n U(\mathfrak{g}) := p_{\mathfrak{g}}(F_n T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})).$$

(a) For the morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$p_{\mathfrak{g}} : (T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}), F_\bullet T_k(\mathfrak{g})) \rightarrow (U(\mathfrak{g}), F_\bullet U(\mathfrak{g})),$$

there exists an associated morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebras,

$$\mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F p_{\mathfrak{g}} : T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F U(\mathfrak{g}).$$

Since each map  $p_{\mathfrak{g}} : F_n T_k(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow F_n U(\mathfrak{g})$  is surjective, conclude that  $\mathrm{Gr}_\bullet p_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is surjective. Since the  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital  $k$ -algebra  $T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$  is generated in degree 1, conclude that  $\mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F U(\mathfrak{g})$  is also generated by the images of the degree 1 elements  $T_k^1(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathfrak{g}$ .

(b) For a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -algebra  $(A, F_\bullet A)$  such that the  $k$ -subalgebra  $F_0 A$  is commutative and such that the  $k$ -subspace  $F_1 A$  generates  $A$  as an  $F_0 A$ -algebra, check that a left-right ideal  $I \subset A$  is nearly commuting if and only if for every  $X, Y \in F_1 A$ , the commutator  $[X, Y]$  in  $F_2 A$  is contained in  $F_2 A \cap I + F_1 A$ . Use this to prove that the ideal  $I_{\mathfrak{g}}$  in  $T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$  is nearly commuting for the natural  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtration on  $T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$ . Thus, there is a unique surjective morphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded associative, unital, commutative  $k$ -algebras,

$$p_{s, \mathfrak{g}, \bullet} : \mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F U(\mathfrak{g}),$$

that factors  $\mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F p_{\mathfrak{g}}$ .

(c) Now assume that  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $p > n$ . Identify  $\mathrm{Sym}_k^n(\mathfrak{g})$  with the image of  $s_{\mathfrak{g}, n}^*$  in  $T_k^n(\mathfrak{g})$ . Conclude that the kernel of  $p_{s, \mathfrak{g}, n}$  equals the inverse image under  $s_{\mathfrak{g}, n}^*$  of  $I_{\mathfrak{g}} \cap T_k^n(\mathfrak{g})$ . Therefore  $p_{s, \mathfrak{g}, n}$  is injective if and only if the following map is injective,

$$p_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}, \leq n}^* : F_n \mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow F_n T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow F_n U(\mathfrak{g}).$$

In particular, in characteristic 0, conclude that

$$p_{s, \mathfrak{g}} : \mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Gr}_\bullet^F U(\mathfrak{g})$$

is an isomorphism (i.e., injective since we already know it is surjective) if and only if the following map is injective,

$$p_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}}^* : \mathrm{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{g}).$$

Injectivity of this second map is the weak formulation of the Poincaré-Birhoff-Witt Theorem.

(d) Assuming injectivity of the map  $p_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}}^*$  so that also  $p_{s, \mathfrak{g}}$  is an isomorphism, use induction on  $n$  to prove that every map  $p_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}, \leq n}^*$  is also surjective. Conclude that the map  $p_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}}^*$  is an isomorphism. Isomorphism of this map is the strong formulation of the Poincaré-Birhoff-Witt Theorem.

(e) For the Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure defined on  $T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$ , check that the left-right ideal  $I_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is a Hopf ideal. Conclude that there is a unique Hopf  $k$ -algebra structure on  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  such that  $p_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is a morphism of Hopf  $k$ -algebras.

(f) For a  $k$ -vector space  $V$ , a left-right ideal  $I \subset T_k^\bullet(V)$  is of **PBW type** if  $I$  is a Hopf ideal, i.e.,  $T_k^\bullet(V)/I$  has a structure of Hopf  $k$ -algebras such that the



surjection  $p_I : T_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow T_k^\bullet(V)$  is a morphism of Hopf  $k$ -algebras, if  $I$  is nearly commuting, i.e., the associated graded  $k$ -algebra  $\text{Gr}_\bullet^{p_*F}(T_k^\bullet(V)/I)$  is commutative, and if  $F_1 T_k^\bullet(V) \cap I$  is the zero subspace. Assuming Ado's Theorem, prove that  $F_1 T_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{g})$  is injective, so that  $I_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is of PBW type.

(g) Let  $I$  be a left-right ideal of PBW type. Let  $n > 1$  be an integer. Assume that  $k$  has characteristic 0 or positive characteristic  $> n$ . By way of induction, assume that for every integer  $1 \leq m \leq n - 1$ , also  $p_I \circ F_m s_V^*$  is injective. Thus, for every  $m = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , the following composite is injective,

$$F^{n-m} \text{Sym}_k(V) \otimes_k F^m \text{Sym}_k(V) \xrightarrow{F_{n-m} s_V^* \otimes F_m s_V^*} F_{n-m} T_k(V) \otimes_k F_m T_k(V) \xrightarrow{p_I \otimes p_I} F_{n-m} T_k(V)/I \otimes_k F_m T_k(V)/I.$$

Use surjectivity of the induced morphism  $p_{s,I} : \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow \text{Gr}_\bullet^{p_*F}(T_k(V)/I)$  and induction on  $m$  to prove that for every  $m = 1, \dots, n - 1$ , also the composite

$$p_I \circ F_{\leq m} s_V^* : F_m \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V) \rightarrow F_m T_k(V) \rightarrow F_m T_k(V)/I$$

is surjective and the following map is a bijection,

$$p_{s,I,m} : \text{Sym}_k^m(V) \rightarrow \text{Gr}_m^{p_*F}(T_k(V)/I).$$

(h) With the same hypotheses as above, by way of contradiction, assume that there exists nonzero  $a \in F_n \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(V)$  that is in the kernel of  $p_I \circ F_{\leq n} s_V^*$ . Use the induction hypothesis to conclude that the component  $a_n$  in  $\text{Sym}_k^n(V)$  is nonzero and maps to zero in  $\text{Gr}_n^{p_*F} T_k(V)/I$ . Since  $p$  preserves the Hopf algebra structures, conclude that also  $\Delta(a)$  is in the kernel of  $p_I \otimes p_I$ . By hypothesis, the components  $a \otimes 1$  and  $1 \otimes a$  map to  $0 \otimes 1 = 0$  and  $1 \otimes 0 = 0$ . Thus, conclude that also  $\Delta(a) - (a \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes a)$  is in the kernel of  $p_I \otimes p_I$ .

(i) Conclude that for every  $1 \leq m \leq n - 1$ , also the  $(n - m, m)$ -component of  $\Delta(s_{V,n}^* a_n)$  maps to zero in  $\text{Gr}_{n-m}^{p_*F} T_k(V)/I \otimes_k \text{Gr}_m^{p_*F} T_k(V)/I$ . Using the induction hypothesis, conclude that every  $(n - m, m)$ -component of  $\Delta^{n-m,m}(s_{V,n}^* a_n)$  equals 0. Finally, use **Problem 5(d)** to conclude that  $a_n$  equals 0, contrary to hypothesis. By way of induction, conclude that also  $p_I \circ F_{\leq n} s_V^*$  is injective. Combined with (g) above, assuming that  $k$  has characteristic 0 and assuming Ado's Theorem, conclude the Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt Theorem for Lie algebras, the induced map

$$p_I \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}}^* : \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{g})$$

is a bijection of  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -filtered  $k$ -vector spaces.

(j) Since the adjoint  $\mathfrak{g}$ -action on  $T_k^n(\mathfrak{g})$  acts through  $\text{Hom}_k(V, V)$ , use **Problem 3** to conclude that  $s_{\mathfrak{g}}^* \text{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -subrepresentation. Conclude that  $p_I \circ s_{\mathfrak{g}}^*$  is a morphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -representations. Thus, by Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt, this is an isomorphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -representations. In particular, the  $k$ -subspace of invariants for the adjoint  $\mathfrak{g}$ -action on  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  is the isomorphic image of the the invariants for the adjoint  $\mathfrak{g}$ -action on  $\text{Sym}_k^\bullet(\mathfrak{g})$ .

**Nota bene.** This proof of Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt is adapted from an answer by David Speyer to a MathOverflow question.