

# Gelfand-Kirillov Dimension of Nonsymmetric Operads

The 3rd Conference on Operad Theory and Related Topics

Zihao Qi

East China Normal University

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This talk is based on a joint work with Yongjun Xu, James J. Zhang and Xiangui Zhao.

- History
- Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of associative algebras
- Nonsymmetric operads
- Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of nonsymmetric operads
- Gap theorem of GKdim of nonsymmetric operads
- Another construction of NS operads with given GKdim

# 1. History

- 1966, Gelfand-Kirillov conjecture



I.M Gel'fand, A.A. Kirillov, *On fields connected with the enveloping algebras of Lie algebras.* (Russian) Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR **167** 1966 503-505.



I.M Gel'fand, A.A. Kirillov, *Sur les corps liés aux algèbres enveloppantes des algèbres de Lie.* (French) Inst. Hautes Études Sci. Publ. Math. No. **31** (1966), 5-19.

- 1968, Milnor, Growth of groups



J. Milnor, *A note on curvature and fundamental group.* J. Diff. Geom. **2** (1968), 1-7.

- 1955, A.S. Švarc



A.S. Švarc, *A volume invariant of coverings.* (Russian) Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR (N.S.) **105** (1955), 32-34.

# 1. History

- 1976, Borho and Kraft showed that GK dimension can be any real number bigger than 2.



W. Borho and H.Kraft, *Über die Gelfand-Kirillov Dimension*. Math. Ann. **220** (1976), 1-24.

- 1978, Bergman proved the Gap Theorem for GK dimension.



G.M. Bergman, *A note on growth functions of algebras and semigroups*. Research Note, University of California, Berkeley, (1978).


- 1984, Warfield gave another construction of algebras with GK dimension any real number bigger than 2.



R. B. Warfield, *The Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of a tensor product*. Math. Zeit. **185** (1984), no.4, 441-447.


# 1. History

- Boardman, Vogt
- May


 J.M. Boardman and R.M. Vogt, *Homotopy Invariant Algebraic Structures on Topological Spaces*, Lecture Notes in Math., vol. **347**, Springer-Verlag, Berlin · Heidelberg · New York, 1973.

 J. P. May, *The geometry of iterated loop spaces*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1972, Lectures Notes in Mathematics, Vol. **271**.

- Ginzburg, Kapranov

 V. Ginzburg and M. M. Kapranov, *Koszul duality for operads*, Duke Math. J. **76** (1994), no. 1, 203-272.

- Kontsevich
- Tamarkin

 M. Kontsevich, *Deformation quantization of Poisson manifolds*. Lett. Math. Phys. **66**(2003), 157-216.

 D. Tamarkin, *Another proof of M. Kontsevich formality theorem*, preprint, arXiv:9803025.

# 1. History

- 2020, Bao, Ye and Zhang defined GK dimension of a finitely generated operad.



Y.-H. Bao, Y. Ye and J.J. Zhang, *Truncation of Unitary Operads*, *Advances in Mathematics*. **372** (2020): 107290.

## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a field. Let  $A$  be a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra and  $V$  be a finite dimensional subspace of  $A$  spanned by  $a_1, \dots, a_m$ . For  $n \geq 1$ , let  $V^n$  denote the space spanned by all monomials in  $a_1, \dots, a_m$  of length  $n$ . Define

$$d_V(n) = \dim(V_n), \text{ where } V_n := \mathbb{K} + V + V^2 + \dots + V^n$$

### Definition

The Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra  $A$  is

$$\text{GKdim}(A) = \sup_V \overline{\lim} \log_n d_V(n)$$

where the supremum is taken over all finite dimensional subspaces  $V$  of  $A$



## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

### Remark

*For a finitely generated  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra  $A$  with finite dimensional generating space  $V$ ,*

$$\text{GKdim}(A) = \overline{\lim} \log_n d_V(n),$$

*which is independent of the choice of  $V$ .*

## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

### Proposition

Let  $A$  be a finitely generated commutative  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra and  $cl.Kdim(A)$  be the classical Krull dimension of  $A$ , then

$$GKdim(A) = cl.Kdim(A).$$

### Proposition

$GKdim(A) = 0$  if and only if  $A$  is locally finite dimensional, meaning that every finitely generated subalgebra is finite dimensional.

$GKdim(A) \geq 1$  if algebra  $A$  is not locally finite dimensional.

### Proposition

Let  $A$  be a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra, and let  $B = A[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then

$$GKdim(B) = GKdim(A) + n.$$

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## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

### Problem

*Which real numbers occur as the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra?*

## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

### Theorem (Borho and Kraft 1976)

For any real number  $r > 2$ , there exists a  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra such that  $\text{GKdim}(A) = r$ .



W. Borho and H.Kraft, *Über die Gelfand-Kirillov Dimension*. Math. Ann. **220** (1976), 1-24.

### Theorem (Warfield 1984)

For any real number  $r > 2$ , there exists a two-generator algebra  $A = \mathbb{K}\langle x, y \rangle / I$  with  $\text{GKdim}(A) = r$ .



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## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

For  $1 < r < 2$  the existence problem was open for some years until Bergman showed the following theorem.

Theorem (Bergman 1978, Gap Theorem)

*No algebra has Gelfand-Kirillov dimension strictly between 1 and 2. So*

$$\text{GKdim} \in R_{\text{GKdim}} := \{0\} \cup \{1\} \cup [2, \infty) \cup \{\infty\}.$$



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## 2. GK-dimension of algebras

### Proposition

*If  $r \in R_{\text{GKdim}}$ , then there is a finitely generated monomial algebra  $A$  such that  $\text{GKdim}(A) = r$ .*



J.P. Bell, *Growth functions*, Commutative Algebra and Noncommutative Algebraic Geometry **1** (2015), 1.

### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Definition (partial definition)

A nonsymmetric operad is a collection of vector spaces  $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathcal{P}(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$  ( $n$  is called the arity) equipped with an element  $\text{id} \in \mathcal{P}(1)$  and maps

$$\circ_i : \mathcal{P}(m) \otimes \mathcal{P}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(m+n-1), \alpha \otimes \beta \mapsto \alpha \circ_i \beta, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

which satisfy the following properties for all  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(m)$ ,  $\beta \in \mathcal{P}(n)$  and  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(r)$ :

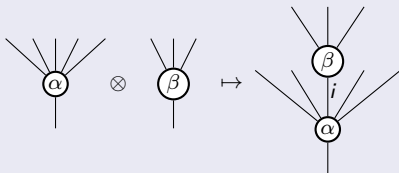
- (i)  $(\alpha \circ_i \beta) \circ_{i+j-1} \gamma = \alpha \circ_i (\beta \circ_j \gamma)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n$ ;
- (ii)  $(\alpha \circ_i \beta) \circ_{j+n-1} \gamma = (\alpha \circ_j \gamma) \circ_i \beta$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ ;
- (iii)  $\text{id} \circ_1 \alpha = \alpha$ ,  $\alpha \circ_i \text{id} = \alpha$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .

### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Remark

$$\circ_i : \mathcal{P}(m) \otimes \mathcal{P}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(m+n-1)$$

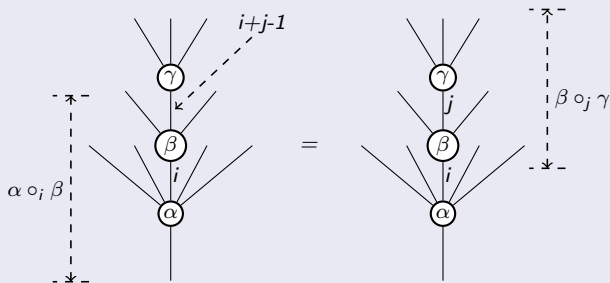
$$\alpha \otimes \beta \mapsto \alpha \circ_i \beta$$



### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Remark

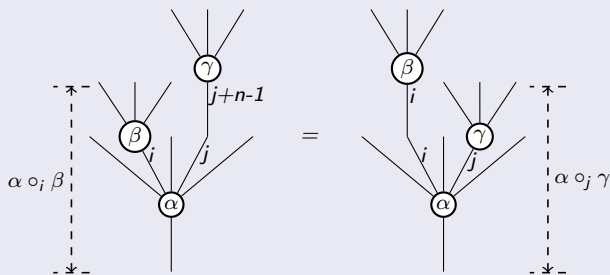
(i)  $(\alpha \circ_i \beta) \circ_{i+j-1} \gamma = \alpha \circ_i (\beta \circ_j \gamma)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq n$



### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Remark

(ii)  $(\alpha \circ_i \beta) \circ_{j+n-1} \gamma = (\alpha \circ_j \gamma) \circ_i \beta$  for  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$



### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

Example (operad of nonunital associative algebras)

Define  $As = \{As(n)\}_{n \geq 1}$ , where  $As(1) = \mathbb{K}id$  and  $As(n) = \mathbb{K}\mu_n$ .

$$\mu_m \circ_i \mu_n := \mu_{m+n-1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m.$$

Example

A unital associative algebra  $A$  can be interpreted as an operad  $\mathcal{P}$  with  $\mathcal{P}(1) = A$  and  $\mathcal{P}(n) = 0$  for all  $n \neq 1$ , and the compositions in  $\mathcal{P}$  are given by the multiplication of  $A$ .

Remark

An operad can be viewed as a generalization of an algebra.

### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Example (★)

Suppose  $A = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} A_i$  is a graded algebra with unit  $1_A$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}(0) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{P}(n) = A_{n-1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Define compositions as follows

$$\circ_i : \mathcal{P}(m) \otimes \mathcal{P}(n) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(n + m - 1),$$

$$a_{m-1} \otimes a_{n-1} \mapsto \begin{cases} ca_{m-1} & a_{n-1} = c1_A, \\ a_{m-1}a_{n-1} & a_{n-1} \notin \mathbb{K}1_A, i = 1, \\ 0 & a_{n-1} \notin \mathbb{K}1_A, i \neq 1. \end{cases}$$

Then  $\mathcal{P}$  is an operad with  $\text{id} = 1_A$ .



### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

#### Definition

A collection  $\mathcal{P} = \{\mathcal{P}(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$  of spaces (especially, an operad) is called *finite dimensional* if  $\dim \mathcal{P} := \dim (\oplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{P}(n)) < \infty$ ;  
It is called *locally finite* if  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  is finite dimensional for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

### 3. Nonsymmetric operads

Given a subcollection  $\mathcal{V}$  of operad  $\mathcal{P}$ , let  $\mathcal{V}^0 = (0, \mathbb{K}id, 0, 0, \dots)$  and  $\mathcal{V}^m = \{\mathcal{V}^m(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$  for  $m \geq 1$ , where  $\mathcal{V}^m(n)$  denotes the subspace of  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  spanned by all elements that have the following form

$$((\cdots((a_1 \circ_{j_1} a_2) \circ_{j_2} a_3) \circ_{j_3} \cdots) \circ_{j_{m-1}} a_m), \text{ each } a_i \in \mathcal{V}. \quad (1)$$

We call  $\mathcal{V}$  a *generating subcollection* of  $\mathcal{P}$  if

$$\mathcal{P} = \sum_{m \geq 0} \mathcal{V}^m := \left\{ \sum_{m \geq 0} \mathcal{V}^m(n) \right\}_{n \geq 0}.$$

#### Definition

An operad  $\mathcal{P}$  is called *finitely generated* if it has a finite dimensional generating subcollection  $\mathcal{V} = \{\mathcal{V}(n)\}_{n \geq 0}$ .

## 4. GK-dimension of NS operads

### Definition (Bao-Ye-Zhang 2020)

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a locally finite operad. The *Gelfand-Kirillov dimension* (*GK-dimension* for short) of  $\mathcal{P}$  is defined to be

$$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) := \overline{\lim} \log_n \left( \sum_{i=0}^n \dim \mathcal{P}(i) \right).$$

When we talk about the GK-dimension of an operad  $\mathcal{P}$ , we usually implicitly assume that  $\mathcal{P}$  is locally finite.



Y.-H. Bao, Y. Ye and J.J. Zhang, *Truncation of Unitary Operads*, *Advances in Mathematics*. **372** (2020): 107290.

## 4. GK-dimension of NS operads

### Example

Since  $\dim(As(n)) = 1$  for all  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{GKdim}(As) &= \overline{\lim} \log_n \left( \sum_{i=0}^n \dim(As(i)) \right) \\ &= \overline{\lim} \log_n(n) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

## 4. GK-dimension of NS operads

### Proposition

$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = 0$  if and only if  $\mathcal{P}$  is finite dimensional.

### Proposition

For any  $r \in R_{\text{GKdim}}$ , there exists a finitely generated operad  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = r$ .

Idea of proof:

As in Example  $(\star)$ , we can construct a finitely generated operad  $\mathcal{P} := (0, \mathbb{K}, A_1, A_2, \dots)$  from a monomial algebra  $A$  which is naturally graded, such that  $\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = \text{GKdim}(A)$ .

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## 4. GK-dimension of NS operads

### Remark (Algebra Case)

*For a finitely generated  $\mathbb{K}$ -algebra  $A$  with finite dimensional generating space  $V$ ,*

$$\text{GKdim}(A) = \overline{\lim} \log_n d_V(n).$$

### Proposition

*Suppose  $\mathcal{P}$  is a locally finite operad generated by a finite dimensional subcollection  $\mathcal{V}$ . Let  $d_{\mathcal{V}}(n) = \dim(\sum_{i=0}^n \mathcal{V}^i)$ . Then*

$$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = \overline{\lim} \log_n d_{\mathcal{V}}(n).$$

## 5. Gap theorem of GKdim of NS operads

### Problem

*Which real numbers occur as the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of a nonsymmetric operad?*

### Theorem (Qi-Xu-Zhang-Zhao)

*The range of GK-dimension of nonsymmetric operads is*

$$R_{\text{GKdim}} := \{0\} \cup \{1\} \cup [2, \infty) \cup \{\infty\}.$$



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## 5. Gap theorem of GKdim of NS operads

### Proposition

*No finitely generated nonsymmetric operad has GK-dimension strictly between 0 and 1.*

Idea of proof:

Suppose  $\dim(\mathcal{P}) = \infty$ . We claim that  $\mathcal{V}^{m+1} \neq \mathcal{V}^m$  for every  $m$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $\mathcal{V}^{m+1} = \mathcal{V}^m$  for some  $m$ . Then by induction, one sees that  $\mathcal{V}^n = \mathcal{V}^m$  for every  $n > m$ . So  $\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_{n>m} \mathcal{V}^n = \mathcal{V}^m$ , which is finite dimensional. Therefore  $\dim \mathcal{V}^m \geq m + 1$  for every  $m$ , and consequently,

$$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = \overline{\lim} \log_n \left( \sum_{i=0}^n \dim \mathcal{V}^i \right) \geq \overline{\lim} \log_n(n+1) = 1.$$

## 5. Gap theorem of GKdim of NS operads

Theorem (Qi-Xu-Zhang-Zhao 2020, Gap Theorem)

*No finitely generated nonsymmetric operad has GK-dimension strictly between 1 and 2.*

## 5. Gap theorem of GKdim of NS operads

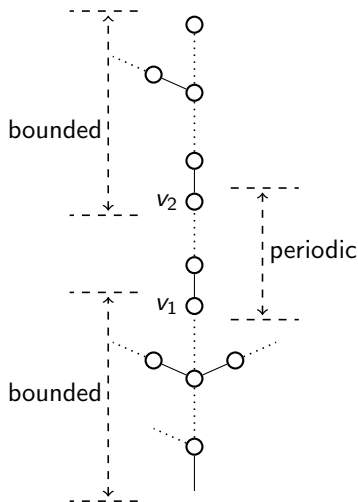
Idea of proof:

- If  $\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) < 2$ , then there exists a positive integer  $d$  such that  $\dim \mathcal{V}^i \leq d$  for all  $i$ .
- So we have that

$$d_{\mathcal{V}}(n) = \dim\left(\sum_{i=0}^n \mathcal{V}^i\right) \leq dn.$$

Consequently,

$$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = \overline{\lim} \log_n d_{\mathcal{V}}(n) \leq 1.$$



## 6. Another construction of NS operads with given GKdim

### Definition

*An operad is called single-branched if it has a  $\mathbb{K}$ -basis that consists of elements of the form*

$$x_1 \circ_{i_1} (x_2 \circ_{i_2} (\cdots (x_{n-2} \circ_{i_{n-2}} (x_{n-1} \circ_{i_{n-1}} x_n)) \cdots)).$$

### Definition

*An operad is called single-generated if it is generated by a single element.*

## 6. Another construction of NS operads with given GKdim

### Theorem (Qi-Xu-Zhang-Zhao)

*If  $r \in R_{\text{GKdim}}$ , then there is a single-generated single-branched locally finite nonsymmetric operad  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = r$ .*

Idea of proof:

If  $r \in R_{\text{GKdim}}$ , then there is a finitely generated monomial algebra  $A$  such that  $\text{GKdim}(A) = r$ .

For any finitely generated graded monomial algebra  $A$ , construct a single-generated single-branched nonsymmetric operad  $\mathcal{P}$  such that

$$\text{GKdim}(\mathcal{P}) = \text{GKdim}(A).$$

Thank you!