

## ON TRIVIAL EXTENSIONS OF MONOMIAL ALGEBRAS

XIAO-WU CHEN

ABSTRACT. We analyze the quivers and relations of trivial extensions of monomial algebras.

Let  $R$  be a commutative artinian ring with unit, and  $A$  be an artin  $R$ -algebra. Denote by  $D = \text{Hom}_R(-, E)$  the Matlis duality functor, where  $E$  is the injective envelope of  $R/\text{rad}(R)$ . We have the  $A$ - $A$ -bimodule  $DA$ , whose actions are given by

$$(a.f.b)(x) = f(bxa)$$

for any  $a, b, x \in A$  and  $f \in DA$ . We observe that  $R$  acts on  $DA$  centrally.

The *trivial extension*  $TA = A \oplus DA$  of  $A$  is defined such that

$$(a, f)(b, g) = (ab, f.b + a.g).$$

It is a symmetric artin  $R$ -algebra. We observe that  $DA$  is a square-zero ideal of  $TA$ .

**Lemma 1.** *We have  $\text{rad}(TA) = \text{rad}(A) \oplus DA$  and then  $\text{rad}^2(TA) = \text{rad}^2(A) \oplus \{\text{rad}(A).(DA) + (DA).\text{rad}(A)\}$ .*  $\square$

Consequently, we have the following two isomorphisms:

$$\begin{aligned} TA/\text{rad}(TA) &\simeq A/\text{rad}(A); \\ \text{rad}(TA)/\text{rad}^2(TA) &\simeq \text{rad}(A)/\text{rad}^2(A) \oplus DA/\{\text{rad}(A).(DA) + (DA).\text{rad}(A)\} \\ (0.1) \quad &\simeq \text{rad}(A)/\text{rad}^2(A) \oplus D(\text{soc}({}_A A) \cap \text{soc}(A_A)). \end{aligned}$$

They are very useful in computing the Ext-quiver of  $TA$ .

In what follows, we concentrate on monomial algebras. We fix a field  $k$ . Let  $A = kQ/I$  be a finite dimensional algebra given by a quiver  $Q$  and a monomial admissible ideal  $I$ .

A *nonzero path* in  $A$  means a path in  $Q$  which does not lie in  $I$ . These nonzero paths form a standard basis of  $A$ . Then  $DA = \text{Hom}_k(A, k)$  has the dual basis. The  $A$ - $A$ -bimodule action on  $DA$  is given by truncations of paths. More precisely, for two nonzero paths  $a$  and  $p$ , we have

$$a.p^* = \begin{cases} b^*, & \text{if } p = ba \text{ for some nonzero path } b; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Similarly, we have

$$p^*.a = \begin{cases} c^*, & \text{if } p = ac \text{ for some nonzero path } c; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We say that a nonzero path  $p$  is *maximal*, if it is not a proper segment of any nonzero path in  $A$ . We observe that maximal paths form a basis for  $\text{soc}({}_A A) \cap$

---

*Date:* November 3, 2021.

*2010 Mathematics Subject Classification.* 16G20, 16S99.

*Key words and phrases.* trivial extension, quiver with relations.

This paper belongs to a series of informal notes, without claim of originality.

$\text{soc}(A_A)$ . In view of (0.1), we expect that maximal paths are related to the Gabriel quiver of  $TA$ .

We define a new quiver  $Q^{\text{te}}$ , containing  $Q$ , as follows:  $Q_0^{\text{te}} = Q_0$  and

$$Q_1^{\text{te}} = Q_1 \cup \{p^* \mid p \text{ maximal paths in } A\};$$

we set  $s(p^*) = t(p)$  and  $t(p^*) = s(p)$ .

We introduce three classes of new relations on  $Q^{\text{te}}$ :

- (1) the *truncation relation*  $yp^*x$ , with  $x, y$  nonzero paths satisfying  $t(x) = t(p)$  and  $s(y) = s(p)$  and that  $p \neq xzy$  for any nonzero path  $z$ ;
- (2) the *square-zero relation*  $p^*xq^*$ , with  $x$  any nonzero path satisfying  $s(x) = s(q)$  and  $t(x) = t(p)$ ; moreover,  $q$  starts with  $x$  and  $p$  terminates with  $x$ .
- (3) the *overlap relation*  $yp^*x - zq^*w$ , with  $x, y, z, w$  nonzero paths satisfying  $s(x) = s(w)$ ,  $t(y) = t(z)$ ,  $t(x) = t(p)$ ,  $s(y) = s(p)$ ,  $t(w) = t(q)$  and  $s(z) = s(q)$ ; moreover,  $p = xuy$  and  $q = wuz$  for some nonzero path  $u$ .

We emphasize that the paths  $x, y, z, w$  and  $u$  above might be trivial paths. The new ideal  $I^{\text{te}}$  of  $kQ^{\text{te}}$  is defined to be generated by  $I$  and these new relations.

The following result is well known.

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $A = kQ/I$  be a monomial algebra as above. Then the trivial extension  $TA$  is isomorphic to  $kQ^{\text{te}}/I^{\text{te}}$ .*

*Proof.* For the Gabriel quiver of  $TA$ , one needs to analyze the quotient space  $\text{rad}(TA)/\text{rad}^2(TA)$ . The proof of the precise relations of  $TA$  are more subtle, using the explicit basis and  $A$ - $A$ -bimodule actions of  $DA$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.** *Let  $A$  be the path algebra of the following linear quiver.*

$$1 \xrightarrow{a} 2 \xrightarrow{b} 3$$

*The only maximal path is  $ba$ . Then  $TA$  is given by the following quiver*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1 & \xrightarrow{a} & 2 & \xrightarrow{b} & 3 \\ & & \searrow & \swarrow & \\ & & & (ba)^* & \end{array}$$

*with the relations given by all paths of length four.*

Let us consider the special case where  $A$  is radical square zero, that is, the ideal  $I$  is generated by all paths in  $Q$  with length two. To avoid the trivial cases, we assume that  $Q$  has no isolated vertices. Then maximal paths are precisely arrows in  $Q$ . Consequently,  $Q^{\text{te}} = \overline{Q}$  coincides with the *double quiver* of  $Q$ ; the new relations are as follows:

- (1) the truncation relation  $\beta\alpha^*$ , with  $\beta, \alpha \in Q_1$  satisfying  $s(\beta) = s(\alpha)$  and  $\beta \neq \alpha$ ;  
the truncation relation  $\alpha^*\gamma$ , with  $\alpha, \gamma \in Q_1$  satisfying  $t(\alpha) = t(\gamma)$  and  $\alpha \neq \gamma$ ;  
the truncation relation  $\alpha\alpha^*\alpha$ , with  $\alpha \in Q_1$ ;
- (2) the square-zero relation  $\alpha^*\beta^*$ , with  $\alpha, \beta \in Q_1$  satisfying  $s(\beta) = t(\alpha)$ ;  
the square-zero relation  $\alpha^*\alpha\alpha^*$ , with  $\alpha \in Q_1$ ;
- (3) the overlap relation  $\alpha\alpha^* - \beta\beta^*$ , with  $\alpha, \beta \in Q_1$  satisfying  $t(\alpha) = t(\beta)$  and  $\alpha \neq \beta$ ;  
the overlap relation  $\alpha^*\alpha - \gamma^*\gamma$ , with  $\alpha, \gamma \in Q_1$  satisfying  $s(\alpha) = s(\gamma)$  and  $\alpha \neq \gamma$ ;  
the overlap relation  $\alpha^*\alpha - \eta\eta^*$ , with  $\alpha, \eta \in Q_1$  satisfying  $s(\alpha) = t(\eta)$ .

We observe that  $I^{\text{te}}$  contains all paths of length three in  $\overline{Q}$ .

**Example 4.** Let  $A'$  be the path algebra of the following bipartite quiver.

$$1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} 2 \xleftarrow{\beta} 3$$

Then  $TA'$  is given by the following quiver

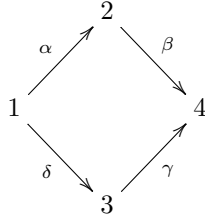
$$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & 2 \xleftarrow{\beta} 3, \\ & \xleftarrow{\alpha^*} & \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \end{array}$$

subject to the relations  $\alpha^*\beta, \beta^*\alpha, \alpha\alpha^* - \beta\beta^*$ . We observe that the set of the new relations listed above is usually not minimal.

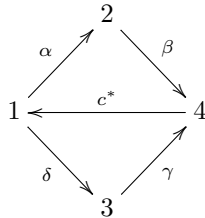
**Remark 5.** By [1, Theorem 3.1 and Corollary 3.2], the above trivial extensions  $TA$  and  $TA'$  in the examples are derived equivalent, and thus stably equivalent.

We end this note with the trivial extension of a non-monomial algebra. For a general result, we refer to [2, Theorem 3.9].

**Example 6.** Let  $A$  be the algebra given by the following quiver



with the relation  $\beta\alpha - \gamma\delta$ . Although  $A$  is not minimal, it still have a canonical basis given by paths. Denote by  $c = \beta\alpha$  and by  $c^*$  the corresponding element in the dual basis. Then  $TA$  is given by the following quiver



subject to the relations  $\{\beta\alpha - \gamma\delta\} \cup \{\delta c^*\beta, \alpha c^*\gamma, c^*\beta\alpha c^*\}$ .

#### REFERENCES

- [1] J. RICKARD, *Derived categories and stable equivalence*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra **61** (1989), 303–317.
- [2] E.A. FERNÁNDEZ, AND M. PLATZECK, *Presentations of trivial extensions of finite dimensional algebras and a theorem of Sheila Brenner*, J. Algebra **249** (2002), 326–344.

Xiao-Wu Chen

Key Laboratory of Wu Wen-Tsun Mathematics, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
School of Mathematical Sciences, University of Science and Technology of China  
No. 96 Jinzhai Road, Hefei, Anhui Province, 230026, P. R. China.

URL: <http://home.ustc.edu.cn/~xwchen>, E-mail: [xwchen@mail.ustc.edu.cn](mailto:xwchen@mail.ustc.edu.cn).