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Introduction and Statement of Main Results

The aim of our work is a parallel study of the two natural graded Lie algebra objects associated to topological spaces S in traditional homotopy theory: $\mathrm{gr}^*\pi_1 S$ (the graded Lie algebra obtained from the lower central series of the fundamental group of a connected S , with bracket induced by the group commutator) and $\pi_*\Omega S$ (the connected-graded homotopy Lie algebra of a 1-connected S , with Lie bracket given by the Samelson product); in the second case it turns out, as suggested by the analysis of the first case, that more accessible, and still valuable information may be gained on the bigraded homotopy Lie algebra $\mathrm{gr}^*\pi_*\Omega S$, associated to the lower central series of $\pi_*\Omega S$. The main problem one immediately faces here is related to the big difficulties raised by the concrete computation of these invariants, even in rational form. For example, the complete knowledge of the relevant homological information would not be of much help: one knows that $H^*(Sp(5)/SU(5); \mathbb{Q}) \cong H^*((S^6 \times S^{25}) \# (S^{10} \times S^{21}); \mathbb{Q})$ as algebras [St], while the rational homotopy Lie algebras have a quite contrasting behavior, the first one being finite dimensional ([St],[GHV]), hence nilpotent and the second one being infinite dimensional and not even solvable ([HL]); similarly the nilmanifold $N_{\mathbb{R}}/N_{\mathbb{Z}}$ ($N_{\mathbb{K}}$ being the group of upper triangular unipotent 3×3 matrices with entries in \mathbb{K}) and the connected sum

$(S^1 \times S^2) \# (S^1 \times S^2)$ have the same rational multiplication table in low dimensions (i.e. the same $\mu: H^1 \wedge H^1 \rightarrow H^2$) and still their fundamental groups are strongly different, the first one being two-stage nilpotent and the other one being free on two generators (see [GM]).

By contrast to these examples we are going to look at some fixed graded-commutative unital \mathbb{Q} -algebra A^* , supposed to be connected ($A^0 \cong \mathbb{Q}$) and finite dimensional in each degree, and use the deformation-theoretic methods of rational homotopy theory, which provide various convenient algebraic parametrizations of the spaces S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ as algebras (see e.g. [HS],[LS],[MP], and many others), in order to exhibit conditions on A^* guaranteeing that the (bi)graded Lie algebra invariants of S described above are constant within A^* .

Various such so called intrinsic properties of A^* have been considered in the literature. For example S is called formal if its rational homotopy type is entirely determined by its rational cohomology algebra and a basic result of the theory says that any (1-connected) algebra (i.e. $A^1 = 0$) is realized by exactly one formal homotopy type [S]; S is called spherically generated if the image of its rational Hurewicz morphism coincides with the primitives of its rational homology coalgebra and a formal space is always spherically generated [HS; 8.13]. Accordingly A^* is said to be intrinsically formal (spherically generated) if any S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ is formal (spherically generated). Various sufficient conditions for intrinsic formality (spherical generation) are known (see e.g. [F],[T1],[MP]), via deformation theory.

Let us say that A^* is graded (respectively 1-graded) intrinsically formal if the bigraded (resp. graded) Lie algebra $\text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ (resp. $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$) is constant within A^* .

Our first goal is to produce examples (both general and concrete classes of them) of natural sufficient conditions for the above mentioned intrinsic properties (and at the same time weaker than those already known for the other two mentioned intrinsic properties, which are generally very restrictive). Secondly we will give explicit computations of homotopy Lie algebras, in the presence of these conditions, and also give bounds for the size of homotopy Lie algebras, some of them quite generally (Propositions 3.3 and 3.4). A unitary frame will be provided by what we call “a deformation method for the fundamental group”. As a consequence of our method the results will be mostly of a rational nature; however, we ought to point out that in the last section, which is devoted to link groups and represents the main application of our ideas, we also succeed to obtain honest integral results, as we shall soon see.

Our hypotheses on A^* are related to the Hopf algebra $\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$, where the first degree is the resolution degree and the second is the total degree, as usual, more precisely to its indecomposables $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ and to its primitives $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$. The explicit description of rational homotopy Lie algebras involves: if A^* is 1-connected, there is the (minimal) Quillen model of the formal space S_A associated to A^* , to be denoted by \mathcal{L}_A , which is a bigraded differential Lie algebra ([Q],[T; III.3.(1)], see also the next section), and thus $H_* \mathcal{L}_A$ becomes

a bigraded Lie algebra (for an even more precise computation, see Theorem B(i) below); to a connected A^* one may associate the dual of the cup product pairing, $\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2$, to be denoted by $\partial: Y \rightarrow X \wedge X$, and then the graded Lie algebra L_A^* , defined as the quotient of the free Lie algebra on X , $\mathbb{L}^* X$, graded by the bracket length, by the ideal generated by ∂Y - under the obvious identification $\mathbb{L}^2 X \cong X \wedge X$ (see also Lemma 1.8(i) for a further construction, related to the explicit computation of the rational nilpotent completion of $\pi_1 S_A$).

Before stating our first results, let us make one more definition: the cup-genus of A^* , to be denoted by $\text{cg}(A)$, is defined to be the maximal dimension of the graded vector subspaces $N \subset A^+$, having the property that $N \cdot N = 0$ and $N \cap (A^+ \cdot A^+) = 0$; the same definition obviously applies to a vector valued 2-form, $\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2$, where $\text{cg}(\mu)$ equals the maximal dimension of the vector subspaces $N \subset A^1$ for which $\mu(N \wedge N) = 0$. In the classical case of the cohomology of a closed oriented surface, the two definitions coincide, their common value being just the genus of the surface, hence the terminology.

THEOREM A. *Let A^* be a 1-connected graded algebra.*

- (i) *If $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ and if A^* is intrinsically spherically generated then A^* is graded intrinsically formal and the constant value of the bigraded homotopy Lie algebra equals $H_*^* \mathcal{L}_A$.*
- (ii) *Suppose A^* is graded intrinsically formal. If $\text{cg}(A) > 1$ then, for any 1-connected S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$, the graded rational homotopy Lie algebra $\pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ contains a free graded Lie algebra on two generators.*

THEOREM A'. *Let A^* be a connected graded algebra, with associated vector-valued 2-form μ .*

- (i) *If $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ then A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal and the constant value of the rational graded Lie algebra associated to the fundamental group equals L_A^* .*
- (ii) *Suppose A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal. If $\text{cg}(\mu) > 1$ then, for any connected S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ and with $H_1(S; \mathbb{Z})$ finitely generated, $\pi_1 S$ contains a free group on two generators.*

We must point out that the condition of intrinsic spherical generation is necessary in Theorem A(i), see 2.3. As for the vanishing of $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$, this condition, while not really necessary (see again 2.3), seems to be a most natural one, as it follows for example from the proof given in Section 2. On the other hand, it is both a familiar condition, being first considered in [P] in connection with the cohomology of the Steenrod algebra and then intensively studied, see [Lo] for the connection with the cohomology of local rings, and there are many other interesting examples (see the next theorems, and also [Pa], as explained in 2.3). Theorem A(ii) should be related to the (yet unsolved) Félix-Avramov conjecture [FT], claiming that, for a space S of finite rational Lusternik-Schnirelmann category, $\pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ contains

a free graded Lie algebra on two generators as soon as it is infinite dimensional. Similarly, the vanishing of $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ in $A'(i)$ above is not necessary (see 2.3) but again most natural (see the proof), and there are also many examples, as we shall see below, including link cohomologies. Theorem $A'(ii)$ should be compared to similar results from [C1],[C2]; the methods are however entirely different and the hypotheses are rather complementary (see the remarks made after the proof of $A'(ii)$ given in 3.2, and Proposition 3.3). Our Theorems A and A' emerged from our belief that the main results of [KS], namely that the cohomology algebras $H^*(VS^1; \mathbb{Q})$ and $H^*((VS^1) \times S^1; \mathbb{Q})$ are 1-graded intrinsically formal - in our terminology (which were proved there "by hand"), ask for a proper generalization in a deformation theoretic framework.

Moving to our more concrete classes of examples of (finitely generated) graded algebras A^* , we shall focus here our attention to two parallel types, namely: 2-skeletal algebras defined by the requirement that $A^{>2} = 0$ (which are plainly uniquely described by a vector-valued 2-form, $\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2$, and here we first have in mind the cohomology algebras arising in link theory), and on the other hand 2-stage (1-connected) algebras, defined by the condition $(A^+)^3 = 0$ (which correspond, by [FH; Corollary 4.10], to formal spaces with rational Lusternik-Schnirelmann category ≤ 2 , an intensively studied case). The resemblance is quite clear; to be more precise, there is a one-to-one onto correspondence between 2-skeletal algebras with $\mu = \text{onto}$ and 2-stage algebras generated in dimension 3, given by just tripling degrees. Given a 2-skeletal algebra A^* , we first associate to it by duality, as above, the map ∂ , then construct a bigraded connected Lie algebra as follows: $E_*^* = \mathbb{L}X/\text{ideal}(\partial Y)$, where the upper degree comes from bracket length and the lower degree is obtained by assigning to X the (lower) degree 2; at the same time we may pick bases $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ for X and $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ for Y and consider the sequence of elements $\partial y_j \in T^2 X$ ($T^* X = \bigoplus T^p X$, $T^p X = X^{\otimes p}$ is the tensor algebra). Similarly, a 2-stage A^* gives rise to a Quillen model of the form $\mathcal{L}_A = (\mathbb{L}(X_* \oplus Y_*), \partial)$, where $\partial X_* = 0$ and $\partial|_{Y_*}: Y_* \rightarrow (\mathbb{L}^2 X)_{*-1}$ (see §1 and §4); we may thus define, exactly as before, a bigraded Lie algebra E_*^* and elements $\partial y_j \in T^2 X_*$ (note that in the correspondence given by tripling degrees these objects are the same).

In the results below we shall make heavy use of Anick's notion of strongly free set of elements in a connected graded associative algebra [A; page 127] and of Halperin and Lemaire's natural specialization to inert sequences of elements of a connected graded Lie algebra [HL; Définition 3.1].

THEOREM B. *Let A^* be a 2-stage algebra.*

(i) *The following conditions are equivalent:*

$$- \mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$$

- $\text{gl dim } E_* \leq 2$

- $\{\partial y_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq n}$ is strongly free in $\mathbb{T}X$

Any of them implies that $H_*^* \mathcal{L}_A \cong E_*^*$ (as bigraded algebras).

(ii) Assume $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$. If $\mathcal{Q}A^*$ is concentrated in odd degrees or in an interval of degrees of the form $[l-1, 3l-1]$, then A^* is also intrinsically spherically generated.

THEOREM B'. Let A^* be a 2-skeletal algebra.

(i) The following are equivalent:

- $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$

- $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,\geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$

- $\text{gl dim } E_* \leq 2$ and μ is onto

- $\{\partial y_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq n}$ is strongly free in $\mathbb{T}X$ (automatically μ must be onto).

(ii) Any of the above implies the equality of formal power series

$$\prod_{p=1}^{\infty} (1 - z^p)^{\dim L_A^p} = 1 - mz + nz^2, \text{ where } m = \dim X$$

The main source of examples for B(i) and B'(i) is provided by Anick's combinatorial criterion [A; Theorem 3.2] for strong freeness in tensor algebras (see 4.3, 5.2). We should also mention that in establishing the formula in B'(ii), where we tackle the difficult problem of computing the ranks $\text{rk gr}^n \pi$ ($\pi = \pi_1 S$), we are not bound by our methods to restrict ourselves to 2-skeletal algebras (see the discussion around the Kohno example [KT] in 4.7).

We finally come to our main application. It is devoted to the computation of the graded Lie algebra $\text{gr}^* \pi$ of link groups π . Unfortunately (as the example of Borromean rings examined in [GM] shows) in general even the ranks $\text{rk gr}^n \pi$ are not a formal consequence of the cohomology algebra of the link. We find out here a possible explanation of this phenomenon, related to the richness of the linking numbers structure.

Consider then $\ell = (l_{ij})_{(i,j) \in I \times I}$, a symmetric matrix with zero on the diagonal, indexed by an m -element set I and with entries in \mathbb{Q} (or \mathbb{Z}), and construct an associated 2-skeletal link-algebra $A^* = A_\ell^*$ as follows: set $A^1 = \mathbb{Q}$ -vector space with basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$, $A^2 = A^1 \wedge A^1$, modulo the relations $e_i \wedge e_j + e_j \wedge e_k = e_i \wedge e_k$, $A^{>2} = 0$, and define $\mu(e_i \wedge e_j) =$ class of $l_{ij}(e_i \wedge e_j)$ in A^2 (of course, if $K \subset S^3$ is an m -component link and ℓ is the matrix of its linking numbers, then $A_\ell^* \cong H^*(S^3 \setminus K; \mathbb{Q})$). Construct then a finite unoriented graph Γ_0 , with vertices labeled by v_1, \dots, v_m and arrows $\{v_i, v_j\}$ introduced if and only if $l_{ij} \neq 0$; for a given prime p we may similarly construct (if all the entries lie in \mathbb{Z}) a graph Γ_p , where $\{v_i, v_j\}$ is an arrow if and only if $l_{ij} \not\equiv 0 \pmod p$. We may now state our result.

THEOREM C.

(i) For a link algebra A^* , the following are equivalent:

- A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal
- $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$
- Γ_0 is connected

Any of them implies that the value of the graded Lie algebra $\text{gr}^*\pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is constant as soon as $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ and equal to $\mathbb{L}_{\mathbb{Q}}^*(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the relations $\sum_{j \in I} l_{ij}[x_i, x_j] = 0$, $i \in I$, where $\deg x_i = 1$; moreover, its Hilbert series $\sum \text{rk } \text{gr}^p \pi_1 S \cdot z^p$ depends only on m , being equal to $\sum \text{rk } \text{gr}^p(\mathbb{F}_{m-1} \times \mathbb{F}_1) \cdot z^p$, where \mathbb{F}_k stands for the free group on k generators.

(ii) Given an m -component link group π , the connectedness of all graphs Γ_p (p -prime) is equivalent to the fact that the abelian group $\text{gr}^2 \pi$ is free of rank $(m-1)(m-2)/2$ and in this case the graded Lie algebra $\text{gr}^* \pi$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}^*(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the above mentioned relations, and it is torsion free as a graded \mathbb{Z} -module.

Similar results for link groups were obtained, by using a completely different method, in [H]. Hain's geometric method used there enables one, in principle, to deal also with links with poor linking numbers structure. As far as the concrete examples are concerned, he is forced to use a theorem in combinatorial group theory due to Labute [La1], which involves the highly nontrivial verification of a certain independence property for the defining relators of a finitely presented group; consequently the concrete examples do not abound, and thus our work may be viewed as complementary to Hain's. (At this point it is interesting to notice the perfect resemblance between Labute's independence property and Halperin-Lemaire's criterion for inertia in a free Lie algebra [HL]!) Our method of proof of Theorem C also gives a (partial) answer to a question in combinatorial group theory raised by Labute in connection with his independence property ([La2; Problem 5])—see 5.7.

Finally, we ought to mention that in general given a connected algebra A^* with associated graded Lie algebra L_A^* , the vanishing of $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*, \geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ provides one with a very convenient framework for “the deformation theory of the fundamental group”. In particular, one has the following (stronger) rigidity result: if moreover $H^{2, \geq 1}(L_A^*; L_A^*) = 0$ (where the first degree of the above Lie algebra cohomology is the resolution degree and the other comes from the grading of L_A^* as usual) then the rational nilpotent completion of $\pi_1 S$ is constant within A^* (for instance Kojima's [KS] rigidity result for $A^* \cong H^*(\mathbb{V}S^1; \mathbb{Q})$ immediately follows, since in this case L_A^* is free). We shall undertake this further step of our theory in a subsequent paper.

Here is the plan of our paper:

1. Algebraic models and deformation theory

2. Rigidity results (proofs of A(i) and A'(i))
3. Bounds for homotopy Lie algebras (proofs of A(ii) and A'(ii))
4. Rigid examples and inert sequences (proofs of B and B')
5. Link groups (proof of C).

A preliminary version of our results was announced by the second author in a lecture given at the Conference OATE 2, September 1989, Craiova, Romania.

1. Algebraic Models and Deformation Theory

In this first section we will purely algebraically reformulate theorems A and A' and prove a deformation-theoretic result which will be the key step in the proofs of A(i) and A'(i) to be given in the next section.

We shall deal with bigraded Lie algebras (bglic) L_* , $L = \bigoplus L_n^p$, $n \geq 0$ and $p > 0$; ignoring upper degrees, we are thus considering just an usual graded Lie algebra (glie) L_* , with the standard sign conventions related to the skew-commutativity and the Jacobi identity [T; 0.4.(1)]; the upper degrees are only required to be compatible with the bracket, i.e. $[L^p, L^q] \subset L^{p+q}$; we shall also frequently have the occasion to meet bigraded Lie algebras whose lower degrees are concentrated in dimension zero; by just ignoring them, we shall speak of a Lie algebra with grading (grlie) L^* (no extra signs!). We shall also consider the lower central series of a (graded) Lie algebra L , the descending chain of (graded) ideals inductively defined by $L^{(1)} = L$ and $L^{(p+1)} = [L, L^{(p)}]$, and the associated (bi)graded Lie algebra $\text{gr}^* L = \bigoplus_{p \geq 1} \text{gr}^p L$, $\text{gr}^p L = L^{(p)} / L^{(p+1)}$; the topological examples we have in mind are the homotopy Lie algebra $\pi_* \Omega S$ of a 1-connected space S , and its associated graded, $\text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S$. Similarly one may consider the lower central series of a group π , denoted by $\pi^{(p)}$, $p \geq 1$, and the associated Lie algebra with grading $\text{gr}^* \pi = \bigoplus_{p \geq 1} \text{gr}^p \pi$, $\text{gr}^p \pi = \pi^{(p)} / \pi^{(p+1)}$, see e.g. [Se; II.2], for example the homotopy grlie algebra of a connected space S , $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S$.

We are going to exploit the duality between Lie algebras and (quadratic free) differential graded commutative algebras (dga's)—see [T; Proposition I.1.(5)] (in particular we shall follow the notation of [T] and constantly denote vector space duals by $\#$). We thus recall that there is a (categorical) equivalence between bigraded Lie algebras, which are of finite type with respect to the lower degree, and free dga's of the form $(\wedge Z_*, D)$, where $Z = \bigoplus Z_p^n$, $n > 0$ and $p \geq 0$, $\dim Z^n < \infty$ for all n and the differential D is quadratic and bihomogeneous, i.e. $DZ_p^n \subset (\wedge^2 Z)_{p-1}^{n+1}$. The equivalence is described by $L \mapsto \mathcal{C}^*(L) = (\wedge Z, D)$ [T; I.1], where $Z_p^n = \#L_{n-1}^{p+1}$ and $D: Z \rightarrow Z \wedge Z$ is dual to the Lie bracket.

Let $(\wedge V^*, D)$ be a free dga, which is of finite type and with quadratic differential, and let

L_* be the dual glie. By a nilpotent filtration on $(\wedge V, D)$ we shall mean an ascending filtration on V^* , $\{F_p\}_{p \geq 0}$, with $F_0 = 0$ and $DF_p \subset \wedge^2 F_{p-1}$, any $p \geq 1$, which will be called exhaustive if $V = \bigcup F_p$. The canonical filtration $\{F_p V\}_{p \geq 0}$ is defined by $F_0 V = 0$ and, inductively, $F_p V = (D|_V)^{-1} \wedge^2 F_{p-1} V$, for $p \geq 1$. By construction, it is nilpotent.

1.1. LEMMA. For any $p \geq 0$, $F_p V$ coincides, by duality, with the space orthogonal to $L^{(p+1)}$, $L^{(p+1)\perp}$.

PROOF: This lemma is both elementary and perhaps well known. For the reader's convenience we are going to sketch a proof.

For $p = 0, 1$, this is obvious. For $v \in V$ and $f, g \in L$ recall the basic duality equation [T; page 26]:

$$(1.2) \quad \langle v, [f, g] \rangle = (-1)^{\deg g} \cdot \langle Dv, f \wedge g \rangle.$$

The induction step will be based on the equation $N^\perp \wedge N^\perp \cong (M \wedge N)^\perp$, where M is a (graded) vector space and $N \subset M$ a (graded) subspace, which follows from elementary multilinear algebra.

Suppose then $F_{p-1} V \cong L^{(p)\perp}$. By definition, $v \in F_p V$ if and only if $Dv \in \wedge^2 F_{p-1} V$. Invoking the above equation (with $M = L$ and $N = L^{(p)}$), we have $\wedge^2 F_{p-1} V \cong \wedge^2 L^{(p)\perp} \cong (L \wedge L^{(p)})^\perp$. But $Dv \in (L \wedge L^{(p)})^\perp$ means, by (1.2), exactly $v \in [L, L^{(p)}]^\perp \cong L^{(p+1)\perp}$, which completes the proof. ■

We are now going to briefly review the algebraic models of rational homotopy Lie algebras. Any connected space S has a so-called (Sullivan) minimal model \mathcal{M}_S : it is a free dga $(\wedge Z^*, d)$, which is both nilpotent, i.e. Z is increasingly filtered by subspaces $\{F_p\}_{p \geq 0}$, with $F_0 = 0$ and $dF_p \subset \wedge F_{p-1}$ for $p > 0$, and minimal, that is $d|_Z = d_2 + d_3 + \dots$, where each d_i takes values in $\wedge^i Z$, where $i = \text{monomial length}$; when S is 1-connected with finite Betti numbers, Z^* is of finite type. In this latter case there is also the Quillen model of S , \mathcal{L}_S ; this is a free dgLie $(\mathbb{L}W_*, \partial)$, which is also minimal, i.e. $\partial W \subset [\mathbb{L}W, \mathbb{L}W]$. The first basic result reads

THEOREM ([Q],[S],[T]). $\pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z^*, d_2) \cong H_* \mathcal{L}_S$ as graded algebras.

For a general connected S one may also consider the 1-minimal model, namely the sub dga $\mathcal{M}_1 \subset \mathcal{M}$ given by $\mathcal{M}_1 = (\wedge V, d)$ (where we put $Z^1 = V$); this will be a 1-minimal algebra, i.e. a free nilpotent dga generated in degree one. For such algebras, one may still define the canonical filtration exactly as above: this will be an exhaustive nilpotent filtration on $(\wedge V, d)$, $\mathcal{F} = \{F_p V\}_{p \geq 0}$. If moreover the first Betti number of S is finite, then it easily follows that

$\dim F_p V < \infty$, for any p , and we may safely dualize. We thus define the associated Lie algebra with grading of a 1-minimal algebra $(\wedge V, d)$, to be denoted by $\text{gr}^*(\wedge V, d)$, by

$$(1.3) \quad \text{gr}^*(\wedge V, d) = \varprojlim_p \text{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge F_p V, d).$$

THEOREM ([S],[CP],[Q]). $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \text{gr}^*(\wedge V, d)$ as Lie algebras with grading.

Given a 1-minimal $(\wedge V, d)$ and assuming $\dim H^1(\wedge V, d) < \infty$ in order to smoothly dualize, we may also start with an arbitrary exhaustive nilpotent filtration $\mathcal{F}' = \{F'_p V\}_{p \geq 0}$. It readily follows by induction that $F'_p \subset F_p$, for any p , hence we have a natural grlie map

$$\text{gr}_{\mathcal{F}'}^*(\wedge V, d) \cong \varprojlim_p \text{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge F_p, d) \rightarrow \varprojlim_p \text{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge F'_p, d) \cong \text{gr}_{\mathcal{F}'}^*(\wedge V, d).$$

1.4 PROPOSITION. For any exhaustive nilpotent filtration \mathcal{F}' the above map $\text{gr}_{\mathcal{F}'}^*(\wedge V, d) \rightarrow \text{gr}^*(\wedge V, d)$ is an isomorphism.

PROOF: For a fixed n and an arbitrary exhaustive nilpotent filtration $\{\mathcal{F}'_p\}$, we have to evaluate the vector space $\varprojlim_p \text{gr}^n \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge F'_p, d)$. By Lemma 1.1 this is naturally isomorphic to $\varprojlim_p \#(F_n F'_p / F_{n-1} F'_p) \cong \#(\varprojlim_p F_n F'_p / \varprojlim_p F_{n-1} F'_p)$. It plainly suffices to show that the natural map $\varprojlim_p F_n F'_p \rightarrow F_n V$ is isomorphic (to be more precise epic). For $n = 1$ this is obvious (recall that $V = \varinjlim_p F'_p$) and the induction goes well on, by the very definition of the canonical filtration. ■

We move to the algebraic models of formal spaces. Given a connected algebra of finite type A^* , it is constructed in [HS; pages 242-243] the bigraded model, $\mathcal{B}_A = (\wedge Z^*, D)$; it is a minimal dga, which also carries a second (lower) graduation, with respect to which D is homogeneous of (lower) degree -1 (it is a minimal bdga). It is uniquely characterized by the existence of a bdga map $\mathcal{B}_A \rightarrow (A^*, 0)$ (where A^* is concentrated in lower degree zero, and is endowed with trivial differential) inducing a cohomology isomorphism; forgetting the lower degrees, it represents the minimal model of the formal space S_A . If A^* is 1-connected, there is also a formal Quillen model (see [T; III.4.(5)]) $\mathcal{L}_A = (\mathbb{L} W_*, \partial_2)$, which corresponds to A^* by duality: $W = \#s^{-1} \overline{A}$, and the quadratic Lie differential ∂_2 is essentially dual to the multiplication; this dg Lie model also carries a second (upper) grading, given by bracket length, and ∂_2 is homogeneous of upper degree $+1$. We have a well-known [T] equality of bglie

$$(1.5) \quad \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z^*, D_2) \cong H^* \mathcal{L}_A.$$

Given a bglie L^* (of finite type with respect to the lower degree) its dual quadratic bdga, $(\wedge Z^*, D)$ also carries a third grading, coming from monomial length; the induced grading on cohomology will be denoted by $H^*(\wedge Z, D) = \bigoplus_{p \geq 1} {}^p H^*(\wedge Z, D)$.

1.6. LEMMA. Consider $\mathcal{C}^*(L^*) = (\wedge Z_*, D)$. The following are equivalent:

- (i) $L^{(p)} \cong L^{\geq p}$, any p
- (ii) $F_p Z \cong Z_{< p}$, any p
- (iii) L^* is generated by L^1
- (iv) ${}^1H_+(\wedge Z, D) = 0$
- (v) $\text{gr}^* L_* \cong L^*$
- (vi) $L^* \cong \varprojlim_p \text{gr}^*(L/L^{(p)})$

PROOF: By Lemma 1.1, $F_p Z \cong Z_{< p}$ is equivalent to $L^{(p+1)} \cong L^{\geq p+1}$. Since L^* is strictly positively graded, we have in general an inclusion $L^{(p)} \subset L^{\geq p}$, for any p ; an easy homogeneity argument shows that the equality is in fact equivalent to $L^1 \rightarrow L/[L, L]$ being onto, hence, by duality, to the fact that the canonical projection $\text{Ker}(D|_{Z_*}) \rightarrow Z_0$ is monic; this last condition precisely says that ${}^1H_+(\wedge Z_*, D) = 0$. In general, $\text{gr}^* L$ is always generated by $\text{gr}^1 L$; conversely, assuming L^* is generated by L^1 , it easily follows from (i) that $\text{gr}^* L \cong L^*$. Finally, by an obvious stability argument, one always knows that $\varprojlim_p \text{gr}^*(L/L^{(p)}) \cong \text{gr}^* L$. ■

A convenient set-up for the description of formal 1-minimal models is provided by considering Lie algebras with grading, L^* , which are required to be generated by L^1 , $\dim L^1 < \infty$. Given such L^* , consider the inverse system $\cdots \rightarrow L/L^{(p+1)} \rightarrow L/L^{(p)} \rightarrow \cdots$ of central extensions of finite-dimensional grlie algebras (considered as bglie concentrated in lower degree zero). Set

$$(1.7) \quad (\wedge V_*, d) = \varinjlim_p \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(L^*/L^{(p)*}).$$

It is a 1-minimal dga, by the well-known duality between central extensions of Lie algebras and elementary extensions of dga's [GM], which is also a bdga. It carries a natural (nilpotent exhaustive) filtration \mathcal{F} given by $F_p = V_{< p}$, for which one has by construction and the preceding lemma $\text{gr}_{\mathcal{F}}^*(\wedge V, d) \cong L^*$. Starting with an algebra A^* (connected and of finite type as usual), first construct a gr Lie algebra L_A^* as in the introduction, namely $L_A^* = \mathbb{L}_X^*/\text{ideal}(\partial Y)$, where $\partial: Y \rightarrow X \wedge X \cong \#(\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2)$ (also noticing that L_A^* depends only on $\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow \text{Im} \mu \subset A^2$), and then associate to L_A^* the 1-bigraded model $(\wedge V_*, d)$ as in (1.7). The next lemma seems to be folklore, but we chose to include a proof, being unable to find a reference (not to speak of the fact that the construction (1.7) will be again useful later on, see the proof of Proposition 5.3).

1.8. LEMMA. Let A^* , L_A^* and $(\wedge V_*, d)$ be as above. Then:

- (i) $(\wedge V_*, d)$ is the 1-bigraded model of the formal space S_A
- (ii) $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong L_A^*$.

PROOF: Given the general theory, Proposition 1.4 and the above remarks, (ii) will follow at once from (i).

As far as (i) is concerned, we start by constructing a bdga map $f: (\wedge V_*, d) \rightarrow (A^*, 0)$. We set $f|_{V_+} = 0$, notice that $V_0 \cong \#L_A^1 \cong \#X \cong A^1$, and put $f|_{V_0} = \text{id}$; due to the homogeneity property of d with respect to lower degrees, checking that f commutes with the differentials is reduced to showing that $f dV_1 = 0$, i.e. the composition $V_1 \xrightarrow{d} V_0 \wedge V_0 \xrightarrow{f \wedge f} A^1 \wedge A^1 \xrightarrow{\mu} A^2$ equals zero. Taking duals, this amounts to seeing that $L_A^2 \xleftarrow{[\cdot, \cdot]} L_A^1 \wedge L_A^1 = X \wedge X \xleftarrow{\partial} Y$ equals zero, which is obvious by the construction of L_A^* . By the uniqueness of 1-minimal models we must only verify that $H^1 f$ is an isomorphism and $H^2 f$ is monic [S]. But we know that $H^1(\wedge V_*, d) \cong \varinjlim_p {}^1H(C^{*-1}(L_A^*/L_A^{(p)*}))$ and, by Lemma 1.6, ${}^1H(C^{*-1}(L_A^*/L_A^{(p)*})) \cong {}^1H_0(C^{*-1}(L_A^*/L_A^{(p)*})) \cong V_0$, which takes care of the condition on $H^1 f$. On the other hand $H^2(\wedge V_*, d) \cong H_0^2(\wedge V_*, d) \oplus H_+^2(\wedge V_*, d)$, and $\text{Im} H_0^2 f \cong \text{Im} \mu$, while $\text{Im} H_+^2 f = 0$, by the construction of f . We may thus use a dimension argument: $H^2 f$ is monic is equivalent to $\dim H^2(\wedge V, d) = \dim \text{Im} \mu$. We may notice again that $H^k(\wedge V, d) \cong {}^kH(\wedge V, d)$, and this in turn equals $H^k(L_A; \mathbb{Q})$ - classical Lie algebra cohomology with trivial coefficients via the Koszul resolution, see e.g. [T] - for any k . We are thus led to compute $\dim H_2(L_A; \mathbb{Q})$, and we may use for this purpose the description of the second homology group of a Lie algebra of the form $\mathfrak{f}/\mathfrak{r}$, where \mathfrak{f} is a free Lie algebra and \mathfrak{r} an ideal, given in [HLS; page 238, Exercise 3.2]: $H_2(\mathfrak{f}/\mathfrak{r}; \mathbb{Q}) \cong [\mathfrak{f}, \mathfrak{f}] \cap \mathfrak{r}/[\mathfrak{f}, \mathfrak{r}]$. We infer that $H_2(L_A; \mathbb{Q}) \cong I/[\mathbb{L}X, I]$, where I is the ideal generated by ∂Y . The dimension of the last object plainly equals $\dim \text{Im} \partial$, and finally $\dim \text{Im} \partial = \dim \text{Im} \mu$, by duality. ■

Next we are going to conveniently rephrase the conditions on the Hopf algebra $\text{Ext}_A^{*,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ stated in the introduction.

1.9. LEMMA. *Let A^* be a connected algebra, with bigraded model $\mathcal{B}_A = (\wedge Z_*, D)$ and Quillen model \mathcal{L}_A (in the 1-connected case).*

- (i) $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ if and only if $H^*\mathcal{L}_A$ is generated (as a Lie algebra) by $H^1\mathcal{L}_A$.
- (ii) $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ if and only if $Z_*^2 = 0$.

PROOF: (i) The condition $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ simply means that the Yoneda Ext-algebra of A is generated (as an algebra) by $\text{Ext}_A^1(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$. Consider then the formal space S_A and its formal Quillen dgrlie model \mathcal{L}_A^* , graded by the bracket length. In [A1; Theorem 2] is established a graded isomorphism $\bigoplus_{i \geq 0} \text{Ext}_A^{i,*} \cong \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} H_*^i \mathcal{U}\mathcal{L}_A$ (where \mathcal{U} = universal enveloping algebra functor), which is also compatible with the algebra structures, up to sign. Since $H^* \mathcal{U}\mathcal{L}_A \cong \mathcal{U}H^*\mathcal{L}_A$ as algebras and $\mathcal{Q}\mathcal{U}H^*\mathcal{L}_A \cong \mathcal{Q}H^*\mathcal{L}_A \cong H^*\mathcal{L}_A/[H^*\mathcal{L}_A, H^*\mathcal{L}_A]$ as graded vector spaces [Q], our assertion follows.

(ii) It is proven in [HS; Corollary 7.17] that one has $Z_*^n \cong \# \mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,n-1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ for any n . ■

We describe now the algebraic parametrization of rational homotopy types with fixed cohomology algebra A^* in terms of deformation theory, following [HS] and [LS] (see also [MP]). In the dga setting of [HS], one starts with the bigraded model $B_A = (\wedge Z_*, D)$; it is convenient to set $D = D^1$. Then any space S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ has a free dga model of the form $(\wedge Z_*, D^1 + p)$, where the algebraic parameter, the perturbation p , may be written $p = p^2 + p^3 + \dots$, each p^i being homogeneous of lower degree $-i$; the trouble comes from the fact that this (nilpotent) model may fail to be minimal (this is geometrically related to the collapsing of the Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence of S , see the next section). If A^* is 1-connected, there is the alternative dgLie setting of [LS], where one starts with the Quillen formal model $\mathcal{L}_A = (\mathbb{L}^* W_*, \partial)$; here we set $\partial = \partial^1$. One may represent any S within A^* by a (minimal) dgLie model of the form $(\mathbb{L} W_*, \partial^1 + p)$, where, again, $p = p^2 + p^3 + \dots$, each p^i being homogeneous of upper degree i . Finally, here comes our basic deformation-theoretic result.

1.10. PROPOSITION. *Consider a bigraded Lie algebra L_* (of finite type with respect to lower degrees) and its quadratic bdga dual, $(\wedge Z_*, D)$. Suppose that L^* is generated by L^1 . Then for any quadratic dga of the form $(\wedge Z_*, d)$, where $d = D^1 + p^2 + p^3 + \dots$, $D^1 = D$ and each p^i is homogeneous of degree $-i$ with respect to lower degrees, we have an isomorphism of bigraded Lie algebras:*

$$\text{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z_*, d) \cong \text{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z_*, D).$$

PROOF: Set $\mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z_*, d) = (L_*, [\ ,]_p)$. By just dualizing the decomposition of the perturbed differential, $d = D + p$, one infers that the perturbed Lie bracket $[\ ,]_p$ has the following property: for any $x \in L^m$, $y \in L^n$, $[x, y]_p = [x, y]$ modulo $L^{>m+n}$ (and of course $[x, y] \in L^{m+n}$). By Lemma 1.6 one may precisely describe the lower central series of the original graded Lie algebra $(L_*, [\ ,])$, in terms of the upper graduation. Our assertion will immediately follow, as soon as we prove that the lower central series of the perturbed Lie algebra is the same, or equivalently (by Lemma 1.1) the canonical filtration of $(\wedge Z, d)$, denoted by ${}^p\mathcal{F} = \{{}^pF_n Z\}_{n \geq 0}$ coincides with the canonical filtration of $(\wedge Z, D)$, which is, again by 1.6, $\mathcal{F} = \{F_n Z = Z_{<n}\}_{n \geq 0}$. By (lower) degree inspection, $dZ_n \subset \wedge^2 Z_{<n}$, for any n , and this inductively implies that $F_n Z \subset {}^pF_n Z$, for any n . The remaining inclusion will also be proven by induction, trivially starting with $n = 0$. Assume then $z \in {}^pF_n Z$ and write $z = z_0 + \dots + z_m$, where $z_i \in Z_i$ and $z_m \neq 0$. By the definition of the canonical filtration and by the induction hypothesis, we know that $dz \in \wedge^2 Z_{<n-1}$; writing $d = D + p$ and examining the top component of dz with respect to lower degree, we infer that $Dz_m \in \wedge^2 Z_{<n-1}$, hence $z_m \in F_n Z = Z_{<n}$, therefore $m < n$ and $z \in Z_{<n} = F_n Z$, as desired.

2. Rigidity results

This section contains the (almost simultaneous) proofs of Theorems A(i) and A'(i), and the first examples.

2.1. PROOF OF THEOREM A(i). Represent any S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$ by the free dga model $(\wedge Z^*, D + p)$, as explained before. We claim that it will be enough to show that the Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence of S collapses at the E_2 term. Indeed, we know from [HS; Theorem 7.20] that this is equivalent to the minimality of $(\wedge Z, D + p)$, and also equivalent to $\dim \pi_k S \otimes \mathbb{Q} = \dim \pi_k S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, for any k . Once we may assume this, we know that $C^{*-1} \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong (\wedge Z^*, D_2 + p_2)$ where the subscript 2 indicates that we have taken the quadratic parts. We may now use the previous proposition, by taking $L_*^* = H_*^* \mathcal{L}_A$, with dual $(\wedge Z_*^*, D_2)$, see (1.5); our hypothesis on $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A$ guarantees that L^* is generated by L^1 (Lemma 1.9(i)). We deduce a bglie isomorphism $\text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \text{gr}^* L_*$, the second bglie being isomorphic to L_* , again due to the above-mentioned hypothesis (see Lemma 1.6(v)).

In order to establish the EMss collapse property, we are going to use the numerical criterion in terms of ranks of homotopy groups and the dglike approach. Represent then S by a Quillen minimal model of the form $(\mathbb{L}W_*, \partial + p)$, as described before. The hypothesis that A^* is also intrinsically spherically generated comes now into play and allows us to suppose moreover (see [MP; Proposition 1.8]) that $p|_{\mathcal{P}} = 0$, where the primitive subspace \mathcal{P} equals $\text{Ker}(\partial|_W)$. Filtering $\mathbb{L}W$ by bracket length, we obtain a well-known $[Q]$ spectral sequence of graded Lie algebras, converging to $H_*(\mathbb{L}W, \partial + p) \cong \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ and starting with $E_*^1 \cong (\mathbb{L}W_*, \partial)$ and $E_*^2 \cong H_* \mathcal{L}_A \cong \pi_* \Omega S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. On the other hand we invoke again our assumption on $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A$, recalling that $H^* \mathcal{L}_A$ is generated as a Lie algebra by $H^1 \mathcal{L}_A \cong \overline{\mathcal{P}}$, which consists only of permanent cycles, by the spherical generation property, hence $E^2 \cong E^\infty$ and $\dim \pi_k \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} = \dim \pi_k \Omega S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, as claimed. Our proof is complete. ■

2.2. PROOF OF THEOREM A'(i). This is similar but simpler. Use again the perturbed free dga model $(\wedge Z^*, D + p)$ of S and set $Z_*^1 = V_*$. Since $Z^2 = 0$ (Lemma 1.9(ii)) $(\wedge V, D + p)$ is a subdga of $(\wedge Z, D + p)$, for trivial degree reasons; it is equally trivial to see that the above dga inclusion induces an isomorphism at the H^1 level and is monic at the H^2 level, hence $[S] (\wedge V, D + p)$ represents the 1-minimal model of S (the nilpotence condition is easily checked along the lower degree filtration of V_*). Set then $F_n = V_{<n}$. By Proposition 1.4, $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \varprojlim_n \text{gr}^* C^{*-1} (\wedge V_{<n}, D + p)$.

We may apply Proposition 1.10 to the finitely generated quadratic bdga $(\wedge V_{<n}, D)$. The requirement that the dual Lie algebra L^* be generated by L^1 is now automatically satisfied. Indeed we may check the equivalent condition given by Lemma 1.6(iv) by noticing that

obviously

$${}^1H_+(\wedge V_{<n}^1, D) \cong H_+^1(\wedge V_{<n}^1, D) \subset H_+^1(\wedge Z_*^1, D) \cong H_+^1(\wedge Z_*^*, D)$$

and that the cohomology of the bigraded model $(\wedge Z_*^*, D)$ is concentrated by definition in lower degree zero. We infer that $\mathrm{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge V_{<n}, D + p) \cong \mathrm{gr}^* \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge V_{<n}, D)$, which is independent of p , for any n . Finally, for the formal space S_A corresponding to $p = 0$, Lemma 1.8(ii) tells us that $\mathrm{gr}^* \pi_1 S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong L_A^*$, which was the last assertion to be proved. ■

2.3. REMARKS AND EXAMPLES. First we ought to notice that intrinsic spherical generation is a necessary condition for graded intrinsic formality (in the 1-connected case), indeed, if $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$, the isomorphism $\mathrm{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathrm{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ evidently implies that $\dim \pi_k S \otimes \mathbb{Q} = \dim \pi_k S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, for any k , hence $E_2 \cong E_\infty$ in the EMss, and this in turn forces S to be spherically generated, as shown in [HS; 8.13]. On the other hand the assumption on the Yoneda Ext-algebra of A^* made in A(i), albeit very natural, is not strictly necessary, as shows the following very simple example, namely $A^* = H^* \mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{C}$. This is an intrinsically formal (hence graded intrinsically formal) example – this is very easy, see e.g. [S]. A short direct computation gives that $H_* \mathcal{L}_A$ is a 2-dimensional abelian Lie algebra with basis $a \in H_1^1$ and $b \in H_4^2$, therefore (Lemma 1.9(i)) $\mathcal{Q}\mathrm{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}; \mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$.

As a first natural series of examples where $\mathcal{Q}\mathrm{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}; \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ we may quote $A^* = H^* MG$, where MG is the universal Thom space associated to an arbitrary orthogonal representation of the compact connected Lie group G , see [Pa]. In the other direction, any homogeneously generated algebra A^* is intrinsically spherically generated ([MP; 2.4], see also §4).

We also have to notice that the hypotheses of A(i) are independent. We have just seen that $H^* \mathbb{P}^2 \mathbb{C}$ is intrinsically spherically generated and still the condition on $\mathcal{Q}\mathrm{Ext}_A$ is violated. Let us now define an algebra A^* by describing its Quillen formal model, as in [T]: $\mathcal{L}_A = (\mathbb{L}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x, y), \partial)$, where $\deg x_1 = \deg x_2 = \deg x_3 = 2$, $\deg x = 7$ and $\deg y = 5$, and the only nontrivial action of ∂ is on y , namely $\partial y = [x_1, x_2]$. Anticipating a little (see 4.1 and 4.3), we know that $\mathcal{Q}\mathrm{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$. Defining a perturbation p by requiring that the only nontrivial action is $px = [x_1, [x_2, x_3]]$, we got a space S with $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$, whose minimal Quillen model is $(\mathbb{L}, \partial + p)$ [LS]. Finally, due to the fact that, in $\mathbb{L}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$, $px \notin \mathrm{ideal}(\partial Y)$, a simple computation with the algebraic rational Hurewicz homomorphism as in [T; III.3.(5)] shows that the primitive element of $H_*(S; \mathbb{Q})$ corresponding to x is not spherical, hence A^* is not intrinsically spherically generated.

The first nontrivial examples of 1-graded intrinsically formal algebras are those of [KS], namely $A_m^* = H^*((\vee_{m-1} S^1) \times S^1)$, for $m > 2$; these fit into our theory and satisfy $\mathcal{P}\mathrm{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ (see the remarks made in 5.4).

Finally consider A^* = the cohomology algebra of the 2-skeleton of the m -torus, $m > 2$. Concerning the bigraded model \mathcal{B}_A of [HS], it may be easily seen that the 1-bigraded model is $(\wedge Z_0^1, D = 0)$, with $\dim Z_0^1 = m$, $Z_0^2 = 0$ and $\dim Z_1^2 = m(m-1)(m-2)/6$. Using deformation theory exactly as in the proof of A'(i), it immediately follows that even $\pi_1 " \otimes " \mathbb{Q}$ is constant within A^* , hence A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal, though $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) \neq 0$. However it seems that this is the right kind of condition for having a reasonable "deformation theory" for the fundamental group.

3. Bounds for Homotopy Lie Algebras

Here we give the proofs of A(ii) and A'(ii) and also exhibit two quite general types of bounds for homotopy Lie algebras directly related to the main ideas of the paper.

3.1. PROOF OF THEOREM A(ii). Assuming $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$, we know that $\text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \text{gr}^* H_* \mathcal{L}_A$, by the graded intrinsic formality of A^* . We claim that from $\text{cg}(A) \geq n$ it follows that there exists a bglie onto map $f: \text{gr}^* H_* \mathcal{L}_A \rightarrow \mathbb{L}_n^*$, where \mathbb{L}_n^* is a free graded Lie algebra on n homogeneous generators of strictly positive degrees, which is bigraded by using the bracket length as upper degree. Postponing for the moment the proof of the claim, we finish by observing that a bglie onto map $f: \text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{L}^*(x, y)$ gives rise to a bglie monic section $s: \mathbb{L}^*(x, y) \rightarrow \text{gr}^* \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, which, by freeness of $\mathbb{L}(x, y)$ and by lifting in upper degree one, finally provides a glie map $h: \mathbb{L}(x, y) \rightarrow \pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. Since the free Lie algebra is generated in upper degree one, we know that $\text{gr}^* \mathbb{L} \cong \mathbb{L}^*$ and thus $\text{gr}^* h = s$, therefore h is also monic.

Coming back to our claim, we recall that we have an n -dimensional graded vector subspace $N \subset A^+$, with $N \cdot N = 0$ and $N \subset A^+ \rightarrow QA$ monic. We therefore have a graded algebra map $\mathbb{Q} \cdot 1 \oplus N \xrightarrow{j} A^*$, where the multiplication in the first algebra is defined by $(q \oplus n) \cdot (q' \oplus n') = qq' \oplus (qn' + q'n)$. This gives rise by duality to a bdglie map $g: \mathcal{L}_A \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{Q} \cdot 1 \oplus N} = (\mathbb{L}^* V_*, \partial = 0)$, where $V_* = \#s^{-1} N^* [T]$. We may take then $f = \text{gr}^* H_* g$, and it will be plainly enough to show that $H_* g$ is onto; since g is bihomogeneous and \mathbb{L} is generated by \mathbb{L}^1 , this is equivalent to $H^1 g$ being onto or, by duality, to $Q(j)$ being monic, which is precisely the injectivity condition for $N \subset A^+ \rightarrow QA$. ■

3.2. PROOF OF THEOREM A'(ii). Here we know that $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \text{gr}^* \pi_1 S_A \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong L_A^*$ (see 1.8.(ii)). We now claim that $\text{cg}(\mu) = \text{maximal } n \text{ for which there is a grlie onto map } f: L_A^* \rightarrow \mathbb{L}_n^*$. Temporarily taking this for granted, we are going to complete the proof, in a way similar with the preceding one, by first taking a grlie section of f , $s: \mathbb{L}^*(x, y) \rightarrow L_A^* \cong \text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. Due to the finite generation property of $H_1(S; \mathbb{Z})$ we may also suppose (possibly

after replacing x and y by suitable nonzero multiples) that sx and sy lift to $\text{gr}^1 \pi_1 S$, hence to $\pi_1 S$. We have thus obtained a group homomorphism from the free group on two generators, $h: F_2 = F(x, y) \rightarrow \pi_1 S$, with the property that $\text{gr}^* h \otimes \mathbb{Q} = s$ ($\text{gr}^* F(x, y) \cong L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*(x, y)$, [Se; IV.6, Theorem 1]). Consequently $\text{gr}^* h$ is monic. A rather standard argument shows then h to be monic, by working with the nilpotent quotients: for any n consider the induced map $h_n: F_2/F_2^{(n)} \rightarrow \pi_1 S/\pi_1 S^{(n)}$ which will also have the property that $\text{gr}^* h_n$ is monic; use this, and the natural short exact sequences $\text{gr}^m G \rightarrow G/G^{(m+1)} \rightarrow G/G^{(m)}$ associated to a group G , together with the nilpotence of each $G/G^{(n)}$, to establish inductively the injectivity of h_n ; finally infer that $\text{Ker } h \subset \bigcap_n F_2^{(n)} = \{1\}$.

The truth of the claim may be easily seen, by observing first that the graded Lie maps $f: L^* X/\text{ideal}(\partial Y) \rightarrow L^* V$ are in a bijective correspondence, by duality, with the linear maps $g: N \rightarrow A^1$ with the property that $\mu \circ (g \wedge g) = 0$, and next that f is onto if and only if g is monic. ■

REMARKS. Chen's method of iterated integrals ([C1],[C2]) allows one to obtain results which are of a similar nature with the above A'(ii), but it requires the presence of conditions imposed at the level of differential forms, and not just at the level of the de Rham cohomology; for example our condition $\text{cg}(\mu) > 1$ is replaced by: there exist closed 1-forms ω_1 and ω_2 on the manifold M , representing independent cohomology classes, and such that $\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 = 0$ as a form. From this point of view the two approaches are to be considered as complementary: the manifolds $N_{\mathbb{R}}/N_{\mathbb{Z}}$ and $(S^1 \times S^2) \# (S^1 \times S^2)$ mentioned in the introduction have the same cohomology algebra and $\text{cg}(\mu) = 2$, but in the case of the first (nil)manifold it is impossible to find representatives with $\omega_1 \wedge \omega_2 = 0$ (this would imply by [C2] that its fundamental - nilpotent - group contains an $F_2!$), while in the other case this is easily done geometrically (by taking the two closed 1-forms dual to two disjointly embedded 2-spheres, one in each term of the connected sum), but A'(ii) cannot be used since $Z_0^2 \neq 0$.

The next result is also complementary to Chen's [C1], but this time concerning its conclusion. It should be noted that there is also an integral version of the result below, claiming, for any connected complex S with $H_1(S; \mathbb{Z}) = \text{free}$, the existence of a natural onto grlie map $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \twoheadrightarrow \text{gr}^* \pi_1 S$, induced by the isomorphism $H_1(S; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \text{gr}^1 \pi_1 S$, where $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$ is the quotient of the free integral grlie algebra generated by $H_1(S; \mathbb{Z})$, graded by bracket length, modulo the ideal generated by the image of the reduced diagonal $\bar{\Delta}: H_2(S; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_1(S; \mathbb{Z}) \wedge H_1(S; \mathbb{Z})$. Since we are not going to use this more precise version here, except in the case of links (where it was established by Chen [C3]), see 5.5, we omit its proof.

3.3. PROPOSITION. *Let A^* be given, with vector-valued 2-form μ and associated grlie algebra $L_{A^*}^*$. If S is any connected space whose cohomology algebra has μ as associated vector-valued*

two-form then there exists a grlie epimorphism $L_A^* \rightarrow \text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

PROOF: Take the 1-minimal model of S , $(\wedge V, d)$, consider the canonical filtration $\{F_n V\}$ and set $L_n \cong \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge F_n V, d)$; we know that $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \varprojlim_n \text{gr}^* L_n$. Fixing the 1-minimal dga $(\wedge F_n V, d)$, we obviously have, by naturality, $F_m(F_n V) \subset F_m V$, for any m ; a straightforward induction, which only uses the definition of the canonical filtration, shows that we have in fact $F_m(F_n V) \cong F_m V$, for $m \leq n$; the general equality $\# \text{gr}^p \cong F_p / F_{p-1}$ following from Lemma 1.1 and the preceding remark show that the inverse limit $\varprojlim_n \text{gr}^p L_n$ stabilizes for $n \geq p$, for any p . For $p = 1$, L_1 is just the abelian Lie algebra on $\# F_1 V \cong \# H^1(\wedge V, d) \cong \# H^1 S \cong \# A^1 \cong X$. By stability we have a tower of grlie maps $g_n: L_A^* \rightarrow \text{gr}^* L_n$, given by $g_n|_X = \text{id}$ (whence they are all onto). In order to check that they all factor through L_A^* giving thus rise to a tower $f_n: L_A^* \rightarrow \text{gr}^* L_n$ (consisting of epic grlie maps), hence to a grlie epimorphism $f: L_A^* \rightarrow \varprojlim_n \text{gr}^* L_n \cong \text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ as desired, it would suffice to check that $g_2 \partial Y = 0$ in $\text{gr}^2 L_2$, again by stability, i.e. that the composition $Y \xrightarrow{\partial} X \wedge X \cong \text{gr}^1 L_2 \wedge \text{gr}^1 L_2 \xrightarrow{[\ , \]} \text{gr}^2 L_2$ equals zero. By duality, this is equivalent to seeing that $F_2 / F_1 \xrightarrow{d} F_1 \wedge F_1 \cong A^1 \wedge A^1 \xrightarrow{\mu} A^2$ equals zero. Denoting by \mathcal{D} the decomposable elements of a graded algebra, plainly $dF_2 = 0$ in $\mathcal{D}H^2(\wedge V, d) \cong \mathcal{D}H^2 S \cong \mathcal{D}A^2$, the last equality coming from our assumption on the vector-valued 2-form associated to $H^* S$. The proof is now complete. ■

The following interesting numerical test for 1-graded intrinsic formality may be immediately deduced.

COROLLARY. A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal if and only if $\text{rk } \text{gr}^p \pi_1 S$ is constant within A^* (and equal to $\dim L_A^p$), for any p .

Our last result in this direction is somewhat surprising, since the other known qualitative numerical results indicate (see [F; Chapitre 7]) that the numerical invariants of the formal space S_A would represent an upper bound for the corresponding numerical invariants of S if $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$.

3.4. PROPOSITION. Let S be a 1-connected space of finite type, with rational cohomology algebra A^* . If the Eilenberg-Moore spectral sequence of S collapses at the E_2 term, then we have inequalities $\text{rk}(\pi_* \Omega S)_n^{(p)} \geq \dim(H_* \mathcal{L}_A)_n^{(p)}$, for any n, p .

PROOF: Represent S by a (minimal !) model of the form $(\wedge Z^*, D + p)$, as in 2.1, and note that $\pi_* \Omega S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z^*, D_2 + p_2)$, and $H_* \mathcal{L}_A \cong \mathcal{C}^{*-1}(\wedge Z_*^*, D_2)$. We thus have a bigraded vector space $L_*^* = \# Z_{*-1}^{*+1}$ and two graded Lie brackets, $[\ , \]_p$ and $[\ , \]$; the second is actually bihomogeneous and the conditions on the perturbation p translate, as in the proof of 1.10, to the fact that, for any $x \in L^m, y \in L^n$, $[x, y]_p = [x, y]$ modulo $L^{>m+n}$. We may

also suppose that $\dim L < \infty$. This can be seen as follows: for any fixed lower degree n , as in our statement, the vector space $L_n^{(q)}$ remains unchanged (for any q) after taking the quotient of L by the graded Lie ideal $L_{>n}$.

Having established this framework, let us denote by $\{F_p^m\}_{m \geq 0}$ respectively by $\{F^m\}_{m \geq 0}$, the lower central series corresponding to $[,]_p$, respectively to $[,]$. We have to show that $\dim(F_p^m)_n \geq \dim F_n^m$, for any m, n . Consider then the (decreasing and finite) filtration on F_p^m defined by $G^k F_p^m =$ vector subspace spanned by $[x_1, [\dots, [x_{m-1}, x_m]_p \dots]_p]$, where $x_i \in L_{s_i}^{r_i}$ and $\sum r_i \geq k$ (and similarly for $G^k F^m$). In the bihomogeneous case we evidently have $G^k F^m \cong F^m \cap L^{\geq k}$.

For fixed m and k , define $f: G^k F_p^m / G^{k+1} F_p^m \rightarrow G^k F^m / G^{k+1} F^m$ by $f(\Sigma_p) = \Sigma$, where Σ_p is a sum of terms of the form $[x_1, [\dots, [x_{m-1}, x_m]_p \dots]_p]$ in $G^k F_p^m$ (modulo $G^{k+1} F_p^m$) and Σ is the sum (in $G^k F^m / G^{k+1} F^m$) which is obtained by replacing the above monomials by $[x_1, [\dots, [x_{m-1}, x_m] \dots]]$. The map f obviously being onto (if well-defined !) and compatible with lower degrees, the desired inequalities will follow (both filtrations being finite).

It remains to be shown that $\Sigma_p = 0$ in $G^k F_p^m$ implies $\Sigma = 0$ in $G^k F^m / G^{k+1} F^m$. By expanding the brackets in Σ_p and replacing them by unperturbed brackets we find out that $\Sigma_p = \Sigma - z$, with $z \in L^{>k}$; if $\Sigma_p = 0$, then $\Sigma = z \in F^m \cap L^{>k} \cong G^{k+1} F^m$ and we are done. ■

4. Rigid examples and inert sequences

We prove Theorems B and B' and we explain our main source of examples, based on Anick's [A; page 133] notion of combinatorial freeness.

4.1. PROOF OF THEOREM B(i). By duality (see [T; III.4.(5) and I.1.(7)]) the condition $(A^+)^3 = 0$ may be rephrased as follows: $\mathcal{L}_A = (\mathbb{L}(X_* \oplus Y_*), \partial)$, where $X_* \oplus Y_* = \#s^{-1}\bar{A}^*$, $\partial X_* = 0$ and $\partial|_{Y_*}$ is monic and takes values in $(\mathbb{L}^2 X)_{*-1}$. The fact that the ideal generated by ∂Y in $\mathbb{L}X$ is inert (in the sense of [HL; Définition 3.1]) is equivalent to the fact that the sequence $\partial y_1, \dots, \partial y_n$ is inert in $\mathbb{L}X$ (which means by definition that the sequence is strongly free - in the sense of [A; page 127] - when viewed in $\mathbb{T}X$), and this is also equivalent to $H^* \mathcal{L}_A$ being generated as a Lie algebra by $H^1 \mathcal{L}_A$ (i.e. $\mathcal{Q}\text{Ext}_A^{>1,*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$, see Lemma 1.9(i)), and further equivalent to the fact that the natural projection $\mathbb{L}X_* \rightarrow E_* = \mathbb{L}X_*/\text{ideal}(\partial Y_*)$ induces a monomorphism on $\text{Tor}_2^{\mathcal{U}(\cdot)}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ and an isomorphism on $\text{Tor}_{\geq 3}^{\mathcal{U}(\cdot)}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$; all these are to be found in [HL; Proposition 3.2, Théorème 1.1]. It is also proven there that if they are fulfilled then $H_* \mathcal{L}_A \cong E_*$. In our case $\text{Tor}_{\geq 2}^{\mathcal{U}(\cdot)}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$, due to the freeness of $\mathbb{L}X$, and thus the above conditions on Tor_2 and $\text{Tor}_{\geq 3}$ simply reduce to $\text{gl dim } E_* \leq 2$. This remark completes our proof. ■

4.2. PROOF OF THEOREM B'(i). Consider the bigraded model of A^* , $\mathcal{B}_A = (\wedge Z^*, D)$. As remarked in the proof of Lemma 1.9(ii) $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ if and only if $Z^2 = 0$ and $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,\geq 1} = 0$ if and only if $Z^{\geq 2} = 0$. By the general uniqueness results for k -stage minimal models (i.e. minimal algebras generated in degree $\leq k$ together with modelling dga maps inducing a cohomology isomorphism up to degree k and a cohomology monomorphism in degree $k+1$) $Z^2 = 0$ is equivalent to the fact that the (b)dga 1-modelling canonical map of [HS], $f: (\wedge Z^*, D) \rightarrow (A^*, 0)$ is isomorphic in cohomology in degrees 1 and 2 and monomorphic in degree 3; similarly $Z^{\geq 2} = 0$ is equivalent to H^*f being an isomorphism.

Since f is a 1-modelling map, H^1f is isomorphic and H^2f is a monomorphism onto the decomposables $\mathcal{D}A^2$; on the other hand $A^3 = 0$, the algebra A^* being 2-skeletal. These remarks show that $Z^2 = 0$ is equivalent to the surjectivity of μ plus $H^3(\wedge Z^*, D) = 0$. As we have already noticed in the proof of Lemma 1.8, $H^k(\wedge Z^*, D) \cong H^k(L_A^*; \mathbb{Q})$, for any k . Now use an innocuous but very useful trick (which will enable us to use freely the results obtained in [A] and [HL] for connected graded algebras): we replace the grlie algebra L_A^* by the connected glie algebra E_* constructed in the introduction. We have changed nothing except doubling upper degrees and then transforming them into lower degrees; consequently $H^k(\wedge Z^*, D) \cong \# \text{Tor}_k^{\mathcal{U}E_*}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$, any k ; since the $\text{Tor}_k^{\mathcal{U}(\cdot)}$ test of [HL] is enough to be checked only for $k = 2$ and 3 (Proposition 3.2 of [HL]), we conclude that $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ is equivalent to μ being onto and $\text{gl dim } E_* \leq 2$ (which implies $H^{\geq 3}(\wedge Z^*, D) = 0$, therefore H^*f is an isomorphism and $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,\geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$) and also equivalent to ∂ being monic and the sequence $\partial y_1, \dots, \partial y_n$ being inert in LX (or strongly free in TX), as before. Noting that the strong freeness of a sequence implies the linear independence of its elements, the surjectivity of μ follows, and our proof is complete. ■

We point out that we have a characterization of the vanishing property for $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ valid for general algebras A^* (as usual, connected and of finite type), similar to the one given in Theorem B'(i). We chose not to give it here, because we are not going to use it here.

4.3. COMBINATORIAL CONDITIONS FOR STRONG FREENESS. We shall describe now, following Anick [A], a very useful combinatorial test for the strong freeness of sequences of elements in graded tensor algebras. Let then TX be the (connected graded) tensor algebra on a positively graded vector space X , $\dim X = m$. Pick an ordered homogeneous basis of X , say $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$, and then extend this order to a total order on the monomials $u = x_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes x_{i_r}$ of TX , having the properties: $\deg u < \deg v \implies u < v$ and $u < v \implies zut < zvt$, for any z and t (we shall explicitly use, on the monomials of the same degree, the lexicographic order from the right). Given any nonzero element $y \in \text{TX}$, write $y = c_1 u_1 + \dots + c_r u_r$, where c_i are constants and u_i are monomials, and define the highest term of y , to be denoted by \bar{y} , by

$\bar{y} = u_i$, where $u_i =$ the largest u_j for which $c_j \neq 0$. For a given monomial $u = x_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes x_{i_r}$, define its origin by $o(u) = i_1$ and its end by $e(u) = i_r$. To simplify matters (having in mind our applications via $B(i)$ and $B'(i)$) we shall only consider sequences y_1, \dots, y_n of tensor degree two, i.e. $y_i \in T^2 X$, for any i . Anick's beautiful result reads then:

THEOREM (see [A; theorems 3.2 and 3.1]). *The sequence y_1, \dots, y_n is strongly free in TX if the monomial sequence of its highest terms $\bar{y}_1, \dots, \bar{y}_n$, is combinatorially free, i.e.*

(*) *the monomials $\bar{y}_1, \dots, \bar{y}_n$ are distinct, and*

(**) *the sets of indices $\{o(\bar{y}_1), \dots, o(\bar{y}_n)\}$ and $\{e(\bar{y}_1), \dots, e(\bar{y}_n)\}$ are disjoint.*

As a first example, both simple and instructive, we shall again follow Anick and take $\{x'_1, \dots, x'_r\} \cup \{x''_1, \dots, x''_s\}$ as basis for X (concentrated in lower degree 2) – in this order – and consider the sequence of Lie elements $\{y_{ij} = [x'_i, x''_j] \in L^2 X \subset T^2 X\}$, $i = 1, \dots, r$ and $j = 1, \dots, s$. Then any subsequence is strongly free, being combinatorially free (since $\bar{y}_{ij} = x'_i \otimes x''_j$, and the combinatorial conditions, (*) and (**), are obviously satisfied).

4.4. PROOF OF THEOREM B(ii). A general sufficient condition for the intrinsic spherical generation of a 1-connected algebra A^* , with Quillen model $\mathcal{L}_A = (L^* W_*, \partial)$, may be found in [MP; 1.9. and 1.10]; it only requires the vanishing of $\text{Hom}_{-1}(H_*^1 \mathcal{L}_A, H_*^{>2} \mathcal{L}_A)$, where $\text{Hom}_{-1}(\quad, \quad)$ denotes linear maps which are homogeneous of lower degree -1. Recall next that we know, by assumption, that $H^* \mathcal{L}_A$ is generated by $H^1 \mathcal{L}_A$ (cf. Lemma 1.9(i)). On the other hand $H_*^1 \mathcal{L}_A \cong \text{Ker}(\partial|_{W_*}) \cong \#Q A^{*+1}$. A simple degree argument (based on our hypotheses on the degrees of $Q A^*$) shows that $\text{Hom}_{-1}(H_*^1 \mathcal{L}_A, H_*^{>2} \mathcal{L}_A) = 0$ and finishes the proof. ■

Here is a slightly more general version of $B'(ii)$:

4.5. LEMMA. *Let A^* be any algebra (connected and of finite type), with associated grlie L_A^* . If $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*, \geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ then we have an equality of formal power series*

$$\prod_{p=1}^{\infty} (1 - z^p)^{\dim L_A^p} = A^*(-z),$$

where $A^*(z)$ is the Hilbert series of A^* , $\sum_{n \geq 0} \dim A^n \cdot z^n$.

PROOF: As indicated in the proof of $B'(i)$, the assumption $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*, \geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ simply means that the bigraded model \mathcal{B}_A coincides with the 1-bigraded model, $(\wedge Z_*^1, D)$. By a general formula of [HS; Proposition 3.10] we know that $A^*(-z) = \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 - z^{n+1})^{\dim Z_n^1}$. On the other hand, Lemma 1.8 tells us that $Z_n^1 \cong \#L_A^{n+1}$ (see (1.7)), which completes the proof. ■

REMARKS. The above formula is in fact quite effective: one may uniquely express $\dim L_A^p$, for any p , with the aid of the Möbius function and of certain universal polynomials in the coefficients of $A^*(z)$, if $\dim A^* < \infty$, see [B].

4.6. PROPOSITION. Given an arbitrary algebra A^* (connected and of finite type), the condition $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_{A^*}^{\geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ is equivalent to the fact that A^* is generated (as a graded algebra) by A^1 , plus the equality of Hilbert series: $\text{Tor}_*^{\mathcal{U}L_A}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})(z) = A^*(z)$.

PROOF: Recall the 1-modelling (b)dga map $f: (\wedge Z_*^1, D) \rightarrow (A^*, 0)$, where $(\wedge Z_*^1, D) \rightarrow (A^*, 0)$ is constructed out of L_A^* as explained in (1.7), see Lemma 1.8. The vanishing of $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_{A^*}^{\geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ is then equivalent to the fact that H^*f is an isomorphism. But we know that $H^*(\wedge Z_*^1, D) \cong H_0^*(\wedge Z_*^1, D) \oplus H_+^*(\wedge Z_*^1, D)$, where $H_0^* \cong \wedge^* Z_0^1 / \text{ideal}(DZ_1^1)$, and $H^*f(H_+^*) = 0$, by construction. Recalling from the proof of 1.8 that $(V_* \cong Z_*^1 !)$ $Z_0^1 \cong A^1$ and $DZ_1^1 \cong \text{Ker } \mu$, H_0^*f being the canonical map, it follows, if H^*f is an isomorphism, that then A^* is generated by A^1 , and we have an equality between the Hilbert series of A^* and of $H^*(\wedge Z_*^1, D)$. On the other hand we already have remarked (again in the proof of Lemma 1.8) that this last Hilbert series equals $H^*(L_A; \mathbb{Q})(z)$, hence also $\text{Tor}_*^{\mathcal{U}L_A}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})(z)$, which completes half of our proof, the other implication being immediate, with a dimension argument. ■

4.7. EXAMPLE [KT]. Denote by P_n the n -th pure braid group and consider $A_n^* = H^*(P_n; \mathbb{Q})$. Then $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_{A_n^*}^{\geq 1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$, for any n . This may be seen as follows: it is known that A_n^* is generated by A_n^1 , for any n ; the Hilbert series $A_n^*(z)$ equals $(1+z)(1+2z)\dots(1+nz)$ (hence A_n^* is not 2-skeletal for $n > 2$). The main result of [KT] also gives the equality $\text{Tor}_*^{\mathcal{U}L_{A_n^*}}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})(z) = A_n^*(z)$, for any n .

5. Link groups

We may now start the proof of Theorem C. Recall from the introduction that we have associated to an $m \times m$ symmetric matrix of rational numbers ℓ two objects: a 2-skeletal algebra A^* (with vector-valued 2-form $\mu_0: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2$) and a finite unoriented graph Γ_0 . If the entries of ℓ are integers we may do the same for any prime p . We just take $A_p^1 =$ the \mathbb{Z}_p -vector space with basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$, $A_p^2 = A_p^1 \wedge A_p^1$ modulo the same relations, and define $\mu_p: A_p^1 \wedge A_p^1 \rightarrow A_p^2$ by the same formula as before, taking of course the mod p residues of the linking coefficients l_{ij} . We also have an associated graph Γ_p , with the same vertices as Γ_0 (which is a subgraph of Γ_0 and in fact coincides with Γ_0 for all but a finite number of primes p); obviously the connectedness of Γ_p implies that of Γ_0 . First we add to the conditions

listed in the statement of C(i) one more convenient reformulation:

5.1. LEMMA. Γ_p is connected if and only if μ_p is onto (p is a given prime, or zero).

PROOF: Write $\Gamma_p = \Gamma_p^1 \cup \dots \cup \Gamma_p^r$ (connected components). This gives a partition of the index set of ℓ , $I = I^1 \cup \dots \cup I^r$, and, for each $k = 1, \dots, r$, a submatrix of ℓ , namely $\ell^k = (l_{ij})_{(i,j) \in I^k \times I^k}$. Obviously the corresponding algebra $A_k^* := A_{\ell^k}^*$ (with associated two-form μ_p^k) is a subalgebra of A^* . It follows from these constructions that $\text{Im } \mu_p = \sum_{k=1}^r \text{Im } \mu_p^k$, hence $\dim \text{Im } \mu_p \leq \sum_{k=1}^r \dim \text{Im } \mu_p^k \leq \sum_{k=1}^r (\text{card}(I^k) - 1) = m - r$ (the second inequality is due to the easily seen fact that we always have $\dim A_p^2 = \text{card}(I) - 1$). Assuming that μ_p is onto, we infer that $r = 1$ and Γ_p must be connected. Conversely, the connectedness of Γ_p gives, for any $(i, j) \in I \times I$, the existence of a sequence of elements of I , i_0, \dots, i_s (with $i_0 = i$ and $i_s = j$), with the property that $\ell_{i_t i_{t+1}} \neq 0$, $t = 0, \dots, s-1$, and consequently $e_{i_t} \wedge e_{i_{t+1}} \in \text{Im } \mu_p$. The defining relations for A_p^2 give the equality $e_i \wedge e_j = e_{i_0} \wedge e_{i_1} + \dots + e_{i_{s-1}} \wedge e_{i_s}$, hence $e_i \wedge e_j \in \text{Im } \mu_p$ for any (i, j) , therefore μ_p is onto and the proof is complete. ■

Our plan of proving C(i) goes as follows: the first (and most serious) step will be the proof of the fact that the connectedness of Γ_0 implies that $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$; here we shall rely upon the strongly freeness criterion for the vanishing of $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ provided by B'(i), together with the result of Anick, relating combinatorial and strong freeness, that we have quoted in the preceding section, and finally upon a basic combinatorial argument (see Proposition 5.2 below). The vanishing of $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_A^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q})$ will then imply that A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal, by A'(i). We shall next prove a result concerning the implications of the property of being 1-graded intrinsically formal, for a general class of 2-skeletal algebras A^* (in Proposition 5.3), and deduce as a corollary that in the case of a link algebra this implies that μ_0 is onto, hence Γ_0 is connected, by the above lemma. After thus completing the chain of equivalences stated in C(i), the remaining assertions may be proved as follows: the equality of Lie algebras with grading, $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong L_A^*$, where $H^*(S; \mathbb{Q}) \cong A^*$, is provided again by A'(i); the equality $L_A^* = \mathbb{L}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the stated relations is just the explicit formulation of the construction defining L_A^* , $L_A^* = \mathbb{L}^*(X)/\text{ideal}(\partial Y)$ where $(\partial: Y \rightarrow X \wedge X) = \#(\mu_0: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2)$; here we only have to take $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ as the basis of X dual to the given basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_m\}$ of A^1 (we may also notice that the m relations $\sum_{j \in I} l_{ij}[x_i, x_j] = 0$, for $i \in I$, are not independent, any of them being a consequence of the $m - 1$ remaining ones). The Hilbert series $L_A^*(z)$ may be computed with the aid of B'(ii); since in our case $A^*(-z) = (1 - (m - 1)z)(1 - z)$ (μ_0 is onto!), the last stated equality, namely $\text{gr}^* \pi_1 S \otimes \mathbb{Q}(z) \cong \text{gr}^*(F_{m-1} \times F_1) \otimes \mathbb{Q}(z)$ follows from the unique determination of the Hilbert series $L_A^*(z)$ by the exponential formula given in B'(ii) and the fact that $\text{gr}^*(F_{m-1} \times F_1) \otimes \mathbb{Q}(z)$

satisfies the same equality, which is an immediate consequence of a classical equality (see [Se]) $\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - z^n)^{\text{rk gr}^n(\mathbb{F}_k)} = 1 - kz$, valid for any free group \mathbb{F}_k .

Let us establish now our combinatorial setting: start with a finite unoriented graph Γ , with vertex set \mathcal{V} , $\text{card}(\mathcal{V}) = m$, and arrow set \mathcal{A} , and fix a total ordering on \mathcal{V} . In all that follows one should bear in mind that we are just reformulating, in a more combinatorial form, Anick's test for combinatorial freeness explained in §4, where X has $\{x_v; v \in \mathcal{V}\}$ as basis, and the sequence we are considering consists of the $m - 1$ elements $(y_v)_{v < \omega}$, where ω is the highest element of \mathcal{V} in the given order, and $y_v = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{V}} l_{uv}[x_v, x_u]$, any v .

Given $u, v \in \mathcal{V}$, we shall say that u and v are neighbours if $\{u, v\} \in \mathcal{A}$, and we shall write this as $u \leftrightarrow v$. Given the ordering on \mathcal{V} , we may also speak of the oriented arrows, $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$: any $a \in \mathcal{A}$ gives rise to an oriented arrow $\bar{a} \in \bar{\mathcal{A}}$; if $a = \{u, v\}$ then we write $\bar{a} = \bar{u}v$, where $u < v$. On $\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$ (and therefore on $\bar{\mathcal{A}}$) we shall consider the right lexicographic order $((u, v) \leq (u', v'))$ if either $v < v'$ or $v = v'$ and $u \leq u'$. Each oriented arrow $\bar{a} = \bar{u}v$ has an origin, $\text{o}(\bar{a}) = u$, and an end, $\text{e}(\bar{a}) = v$. To any vertex $u \in \mathcal{V}$ we shall associate an oriented arrow \bar{a}_u , defined as the highest oriented arrow having u either as an origin or as an end. Recalling how the graph was constructed from the matrix ℓ of linking coefficients, and also that $[x, x'] = x \otimes x' - x' \otimes x$ in $\mathbb{T}^2 X$, for any $x, x' \in X$, it follows that in our case of interest the highest terms are given by $\bar{y}_v = \bar{a}_v$, for each $v \in \mathcal{V}$ where we have identified an oriented arrow $\bar{a} = \bar{s}t$ and the tensor $x_s \otimes x_t$.

Given a fixed vertex $\omega \in \mathcal{V}$ we shall look for total orderings (\mathcal{V}, \leq) with the following properties, which we shall call (P_ω) -orderings:

- $(P_\omega 0)$ ω is the maximal element of \mathcal{V} with respect to \leq ;
- $(P_\omega 1)$ the $m - 1$ oriented arrows $\{\bar{a}_u; u < \omega\}$ are distinct;
- $(P_\omega 2)$ the sets $\{\text{o}(\bar{a}_u); u < \omega\}$ and $\{\text{e}(\bar{a}_u); u < \omega\}$ are disjoint;
- $(P_\omega 3)$ for any $u \in \mathcal{V}$ such that $u \leq \text{o}(\bar{a}_\omega)$, there exists $v \in \mathcal{V}$ such that $v \leftrightarrow u$ and $v > \text{o}(\bar{a}_\omega)$.

Let us notice that $(P_\omega 1)$, respectively $(P_\omega 2)$, are equivalent to the properties (\star) , respectively $(\star\star)$, which represent the test for combinatorial freeness we are interested in. The proposition below will plainly help us to conclude that if a link algebra A^* has a connected associated graph Γ_0 then necessarily $\mathcal{P}\text{Ext}_{A^*}^{*,1}(\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$. This is our key combinatorial argument. The condition $(P_\omega 0)$ above just helps one to make a canonical choice of $m - 1$ linearly independent relations for $L_{A^*}^*$, while $(P_\omega 3)$ is a technical property which enables one to argue by induction.

5.2. PROPOSITION. *If Γ is a connected graph then for any choice of vertex $\omega \in \mathcal{V}$, there*

exists a (P_ω) -ordering on \mathcal{V} .

PROOF: We shall use induction on $m = \text{card}(\mathcal{V})$. If $m = 2$, there is only one possibility, forced by $(P_\omega 0)$, and this choice evidently satisfies all our requirements. Let us describe the induction step. Since Γ is connected, the given vertex ω has neighbours. Let us pick such a neighbour of ω , say v , and also fix it. Define now a graph Γ' by just deleting the vertex v from Γ , and write the connected components of Γ' , $\Gamma' = \Gamma'_1 \cup \dots \cup \Gamma'_r$ (and similarly for the vertices: $\mathcal{V}' = \mathcal{V}'_1 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{V}'_r$). Remember that $\omega \in \mathcal{V}'$ and order the components such that $\omega \in \mathcal{V}'_r$. Due to the connectedness of Γ again, we may pick, in each component Γ'_i , a neighbour of v , say $\omega'_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i$ (we shall take $\omega'_r = \omega$). By the induction hypothesis, there exists a $(P_{\omega'_i})$ -ordering on each Γ'_i , $i = 1, \dots, r$. We shall now extend these orderings to a total order on Γ , as follows: denote by $\mathbf{o}'_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i$, for each i , the vertex $\mathbf{o}(\bar{a}_{\omega'_i})$, and split \mathcal{V}'_i as $\mathcal{V}'_i = \mathcal{OV}'_i \cup \mathcal{EV}'_i$, where $\mathcal{OV}'_i = \{u \in \mathcal{V}'_i; u \leq \mathbf{o}'_i\}$ and $\mathcal{EV}'_i = \{u \in \mathcal{V}'_i; u > \mathbf{o}'_i\}$ (if Γ'_i happens to have only one vertex, ω'_i , set $\mathcal{OV}'_i = \emptyset$ and $\mathcal{EV}'_i = \mathcal{V}'_i$). The order on \mathcal{V} is obtained by arranging first the vertices of \mathcal{OV}'_1 (if any), in the chosen $(P_{\omega'_1})$ -order, then those of \mathcal{OV}'_2, \dots , up to those of \mathcal{OV}'_r ; put next the vertex v , and continue with the vertices of \mathcal{EV}'_1 , arranged in the chosen $(P_{\omega'_1})$ -order, then those belonging to \mathcal{EV}'_2, \dots , ending with \mathcal{EV}'_r . Property $(P_\omega 0)$ is obviously satisfied.

In order to check $(P_\omega 3)$, notice first that, in general, $\mathbf{o}(\bar{a}_\omega)$ (where ω is the highest vertex of a graph) equals the highest neighbour of ω . In our case, one such a neighbour is v , by construction; any other neighbour must belong to \mathcal{V}'_r (which is the connected component of $\Gamma' = \Gamma \setminus \{v\}$ which contains ω !), more precisely to \mathcal{OV}'_r , being therefore smaller than v . Hence $\mathbf{o}(\bar{a}_\omega) = v$. The property $(P_\omega 3)$ is immediately checked for $u = v$, by considering the vertex ω itself. If $u \in \mathcal{V}$ and $u < v$, then u must lie in some \mathcal{OV}'_i , hence, by the inductively established property $(P_{\omega'_i} 3)$ there exists $v_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i$ such that $v_i \leftrightarrow u$ and $v_i > \mathbf{o}'_i$; this means that $v_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i$, hence, by construction, $v_i > v = \mathbf{o}(\bar{a}_\omega)$, as desired.

Passing to the key properties, namely $(P_\omega 1)$ and $(P_\omega 2)$, let us begin by making some preliminary observations on the construction of the highest arrows \bar{a}_u , where u is a vertex of an arbitrary (connected) graph Γ , with highest vertex ω . It turns out that we must consider the following partition of its vertex set, $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{M} \cup \mathcal{N}$, where:

$$\mathcal{M} = \{u \in \mathcal{V}; v \leftrightarrow u \implies v < u\}, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{N} = \{u \in \mathcal{V}; \text{there exists } v \in \mathcal{V} \text{ such that } v \leftrightarrow u \text{ and } v > u\}.$$

If $u \in \mathcal{M}$, then $\bar{a}_u = \overline{vu}$, for some $v \in \mathcal{V}$ (by construction), and $u = \mathbf{e}(\bar{a}_u)$. If $u \in \mathcal{N}$, then $\bar{a}_u = \overline{uv}$, for some $v \in \mathcal{V}$, again by construction, hence $u = \mathbf{o}(\bar{a}_u)$. For example, denoting by \mathbf{o} the origin of \bar{a}_ω , we have: $\mathbf{o} \in \mathcal{N}$, $\omega \in \mathcal{M}$ and $\bar{a}_\mathbf{o} = \bar{a}_\omega = \overline{\mathbf{o}\omega}$. Let us also notice the

equality $\{o(\bar{a}_u); u < \omega\} = \mathcal{N}$. Indeed, we clearly have $o(\bar{a}) \in \mathcal{N}$, for any $\bar{a} \in \bar{\mathcal{A}}$; conversely, if $u \in \mathcal{N}$ then $u = o(\bar{a}_u)$, as already noticed, while $o(\bar{a}_\omega) = o(\bar{a}_o)$. We also have an inclusion $\{e(\bar{a}_u); u < \omega\} \supset \mathcal{M}$, due to the fact that $e(\bar{a}_u) = u$ for any $u \in \mathcal{M}$, as remarked before, plus the observation that $e(\bar{a}_\omega) = e(\bar{a}_o)$. We may thus equivalently reformulate $(P_\omega 2)$ as

$(P_\omega 4) \{e(\bar{a}_u); u \in \mathcal{V}, u \neq o\} \subset \mathcal{M}$, or

$(P_\omega 5) \{e(\bar{a}_u); u \in \mathcal{V}\} \subset \mathcal{M}$.

In our case $(P_\omega 2)$ will be checked by proving that $e(\bar{a}_{u_i}) \in \mathcal{M}$ for any $u_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i, i = 1, \dots, r$. We must first understand the difference between \bar{a}_{u_i} and $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i$, where the second oriented arrow is computed in the subgraph Γ'_i . If $u_i \in \mathcal{OV}'_i$ then, by the inductively established property $(P_{\omega'_i} 3)$, there exists $v_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i$ such that $v_i \leftrightarrow u_i$, and moreover $v_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i$, hence $v_i > v$, by construction; the only possible difference between \bar{a}_{u_i} and $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i$ might be caused, in general, by the fact that $u_i \leftrightarrow v$; in our case that would imply the existence of an additional arrow (in Γ) $\overline{u_i v}$ which might contribute to the computation of \bar{a}_{u_i} – but we know that $\overline{u_i v_i} > \overline{u_i v}$, hence $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i = \bar{a}_{u_i}$. If $u_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i \cap \mathcal{N}'_i$, a similar argument shows that $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i = \bar{a}_{u_i}$ in this case too. If $u_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i \cap \mathcal{M}'_i$ but $u_i \not\leftrightarrow v$, then plainly again $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i = \bar{a}_{u_i}$. Finally if $u_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i \cap \mathcal{M}'_i = \mathcal{M}'_i$ (use $(P_{\omega'_i} 3)!$), $u_i \leftrightarrow v$ but there exists $v_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i$ such that $v_i \leftrightarrow u_i$, the same argument shows again that $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i = \bar{a}_{u_i}$. The only exceptions appear when $u_i \in \mathcal{M}'_i, u_i \leftrightarrow v$ and all the other neighbours of u_i lie in \mathcal{OV}'_i (in short when $u_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i$); in this case the arrows containing u_i in Γ are $\{\overline{v_i u_i}\}$, where $\{v_i\}$ are the neighbours of u_i in Γ'_i , plus $\overline{v u_i}$; clearly $\bar{a}_{u_i} = \overline{v u_i}$, and it is different from $\bar{a}_{u_i}^i$. On the other hand, since $\mathcal{M}'_i \subset \mathcal{EV}'_i$ and $v < v_i$ for any $v_i \in \mathcal{EV}'_i$, we know that $\mathcal{M}'_i \subset \mathcal{M}$, for any i . Finally, if $u_i \notin \mathcal{B}'_i$ then $e(\bar{a}_{u_i}) = e(\bar{a}_{u_i}^i) \in \mathcal{M}'_i \subset \mathcal{M}$, by $(P_{\omega'_i} 5)$ and the induction; if $u_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i$ then $e(\bar{a}_{u_i}) = e(\overline{v u_i}) = u_i \in \mathcal{M}'_i \subset \mathcal{M}$ (where $u_i \in \mathcal{M}'_i$ follows directly from $u_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i$).

As far as $(P_\omega 1)$ is concerned, it may be equivalently reformulated as

$$(P_\omega 6) \text{card}\{\bar{a}_u; u \neq o\} = \text{card}(\mathcal{V}) - 1$$

First of all, the above discussion implies that $e(\bar{a}_{u_i}) = e(\bar{a}_{u_i}^i) \in \mathcal{V}'_i$ for any $u_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i, i = 1, \dots, r$. With this remark $(P_\omega 6)$ will follow from the equalities $\text{card}\{\bar{a}_{u_i}; u_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i\} = \text{card}(\mathcal{V}'_i)$, to be proven for any i . The above arrow set splits as $\{\bar{a}_{u_i}; u_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i\} \cup \{\bar{a}_{u_i}; u_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i \setminus \mathcal{B}'_i\}$. The first set equals $\{\overline{v u_i}; u_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i\}$ and the second equals $\{\bar{a}_{u_i}^i; u_i \in \mathcal{V}'_i \setminus \mathcal{B}'_i\}$. The two above sets are clearly disjoint, the first contains $\text{card}(\mathcal{B}'_i)$ elements and the second contains $\text{card}(\mathcal{V}'_i) - \text{card}(\mathcal{B}'_i)$ elements (due to the inductive hypothesis $(P_{\omega'_i} 1)$ and the remark that $\omega'_i \in \mathcal{B}'_i$). Our inductive proof is thus completed. ■

5.3. PROPOSITION. Let A^* be a 2-skeletal algebra, with associated 2-form $\mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow A^2$ and Lie algebra with grading L_A^* . If A^* is 1-graded intrinsically formal and μ is not onto, then $L_A^{\geq 3} = 0$.

COROLLARY. A 1-graded intrinsically formal link algebra A^* has a connected associated graph Γ_0 .

PROOF OF THE COROLLARY: We must show that μ is onto (Lemma 5.1). If not, the above proposition tells us that $L_A^3 = 0$, i.e. the linear map $f: X \otimes Y \rightarrow L^3 X$ given by $f(x \otimes y) = [x, \partial y]$ is onto. Counting dimensions, this gives the inequalities $(m^3 - m)/3 \leq m \cdot \dim(\partial Y) = m \cdot \dim(\text{Im } \mu) < m(m - 1)$, hence $m = 1$ and $A^2 = 0$, a contradiction. ■

PROOF OF THE PROPOSITION: Assuming that μ is not onto, one has a decomposition $Y = Y' \oplus C$, where $\partial|_{Y'}$ is monic, $\partial C = 0$ and $C \neq 0$, say C has $\{z_1, \dots, z_c\}$ as basis. We must see that $L_A^3 = 0$. Pick then an arbitrary element $p \in L^3 X$; we have to prove that $p \in I$ = the ideal generated by $\partial Y = \partial Y'$. Suppose on the contrary that $p \notin I$ and consider then the (larger) perturbed ideal I_p = ideal generated by ∂Y and p and the natural grlie surjection $f, f: L_A^* = L^* X / I \rightarrow L^* X / I_p =: L_p^*$. Perform then on L_p^* the construction described in (1.7) to obtain a 1-minimal (b)dga $(\wedge V_*, d)$, with the property that $\text{gr}^*(\wedge V, d) = L_p^*$ (see also Proposition 1.4). If we are able to exhibit a dga \mathcal{M} with the property that $H^* \mathcal{M} \cong A^*$ and having $(\wedge V, d)$ as 1-minimal model, then the property of A^* of being 1-graded intrinsically formal may be eventually exploited, giving a grlie isomorphism between L_p^* and L_A^* ; by a dimension argument f must be an isomorphism and consequently $p \in I$, a contradiction.

Construct \mathcal{M} by starting with $(\wedge V, d) \otimes (\wedge(z_2, \dots, z_c), 0)$, where $\deg z_i = 2$ and the second differential is trivial. Consider then $H^{>2}((\wedge V, d) \otimes (\wedge(z_2, \dots, z_c), 0))$ and add new generators, $U_1^* = \bigoplus_{k \geq 2} U_1^k$, so as to kill $H^{\geq 3}$; look next at $H^{>2}(\wedge V \otimes \wedge(z) \otimes \wedge U_1)$ and kill it by adding new generators U_2^* , iterate and obtain \mathcal{M} as the inductive limit of this process. By construction $H^* \mathcal{M}$ will be a 2-skeletal algebra. It is equally easy to see that when killing $H^{\geq 3} \mathcal{M}$ as above one does not change $H^{\leq 2} \mathcal{M}$, hence $(\wedge V, d)$ is indeed the 1-minimal model of \mathcal{M} and $H^* \mathcal{M} \cong H^{\leq 2}((\wedge V, d) \otimes (\wedge(z_2, \dots, z_c), 0)) \cong \mathbb{Q} \cdot 1 \oplus H^1(\wedge V, d) \oplus H^2(\wedge V, d) \oplus \text{span}_{\mathbb{Q}}\{z_2, \dots, z_c\}$. Recalling the construction (1.7), Lemma 1.6(iv) tells that $H^1(\wedge V_*, d) \cong H_0^1(\wedge V_*, d) \cong V_0 \cong \#L_p^1 \cong \#X \cong A^1$. Likewise $H^2(\wedge V_*, d) \cong H_0^2(\wedge V_*, d) \oplus H_+^2(\wedge V_*, d)$, where $H_0^2(\wedge V_*, d) \cong V_0 \wedge V_0 / dV_1$ and the multiplication $H^1(\wedge V, d) \wedge H^1(\wedge V, d) \rightarrow H_0^2(\wedge V, d)$ is by construction the dual of the inclusion $K \hookrightarrow L_p^1 \wedge L_p^1$, where $K = \text{Ker}(L_p^1 \wedge L_p^1 \xrightarrow{[\cdot, \cdot]} L_p^2)$. Because f is an isomorphism in degrees 1 and 2, we may safely replace $L_p^{\leq 2}$ by $L_A^{\leq 2}$ and thus identify $\#(K \hookrightarrow L_p^1 \wedge L_p^1)$ with $\#(\partial: Y' \hookrightarrow X \wedge X) \cong \mu: A^1 \wedge A^1 \rightarrow \text{Im } \mu$. In order to show that $H^* \mathcal{M} \cong A^*$ and thus finish our proof, we only have to see that $\dim H_+^2(\wedge V_*, d) = 1$, or equivalently that $\dim H^2(\wedge V, d) = 1 + \dim Y'$.

This will be accomplished by remarking that in general one has $H^k(\wedge V, d) = H^k(L_p; \mathbb{Q}) = \#H_k(L_p; \mathbb{Q})$, for any k , and the same reasoning as in 1.8 indicates that $\dim H_2(L_p; \mathbb{Q}) = \dim I_p/[LX, I_p]$, and our assumption $p \notin I$ helps to conclude that this last dimension equals $\dim Y' + 1$, as claimed.

5.4. REMARKS. Theorem C(i) considerably enlarges the class of 1-graded intrinsically formal link algebras, whose first examples appeared in [KS], namely the series $H^*(S^1 \times (\vee_{m-1} S^1); \mathbb{Q})$ corresponding to m -component links consisting of $m - 1$ unlinked circles stringed with simple linking on another circle. Let us look at a simple example, by taking $m = 4$ and $l_{ij} = 0$ except $l_{12} = l_{21} = l_{23} = l_{32} = l_{34} = l_{43} = 1$ (a chain of four simply linked circles). This may be handled by our methods (one even knows that Γ_p is connected, for any p , see C(ii)), while the corresponding link algebra A^* is not isomorphic to $H^*(S^1 \times (\vee_3 S^1); \mathbb{Q})$. It is not difficult to see this, by observing that $\text{cg}(H^*(S^1 \times (\vee_3 S^1); \mathbb{Q})) = 3$, while $\text{cg}(A^*) = 2$.

The new two lemmas will finally give the proof of C(ii).

5.5. LEMMA. *If the graphs Γ_p are connected, for any prime p , then $\text{gr}^*\pi \cong L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the ideal generated by $r_i = \sum_j l_{ij}[x_i, x_j]$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, and it is torsion free as a graded abelian group.*

5.6. LEMMA. *The graphs Γ_p are connected, for any prime p , if and only if $\text{gr}^2\pi$ is a free abelian group of rank $(m - 1)(m - 2)/2$.*

PROOF OF LEMMA 5.5: Denote by $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$ the Lie algebra with grading constructed out of the matrix ℓ of linking coefficients, as in our statement. It is well-known that $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$ is torsion free if and only if $L_{\mathbb{Z}}(p, z) = L_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, z)$, for any prime p , where $L_{\mathbb{Z}}(p, z)$ stands for the Hilbert series of the graded \mathbb{Z}_p -vector space $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p$ and likewise $L_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, z)$ denotes the Hilbert series of the graded \mathbb{Q} -vector space $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong L_A^*$ (and of course $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p = L_{\mathbb{Z}_p}^*(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the relations r_i taken mod p). For $p = \text{prime}$ and for $p = 0$, we may double the upper degrees and convert them into lower degrees, as we have already done before (see 4.2), replacing the above power series equality by $\bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(p, z) = \bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, z)$. Thanks to the (version for connected glie) PBW theorem (see [Se; III.4, Theorem 3]) we may check instead the equality $\mathcal{U}\bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(p, z) = \mathcal{U}\bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}}(0, z)$. Since $\mathcal{U}(\bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}} \otimes \mathbb{Q}) = \mathbb{T}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ modulo the relations r_i (where $\deg x_i = 2!$) – and similarly for $\mathcal{U}(\bar{L}_{\mathbb{Z}} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p)$ – we may again appeal to Anick's result [A; Theorem 2.6], which is valid for any field coefficients and says that the Hilbert series of a connected graded algebra, together with the number and the degrees of a strongly free set of its elements, uniquely determine the Hilbert series of the quotient algebra. It only remains to notice that our proof of the fact that the connectedness of Γ_0 implies the combinatorial freeness of $\{r_1, \dots, r_{m-1}\}$ given in Proposition 5.2 applies verbatim to Γ_p (which is known to be connected, by assumption) and

to the sequence $\{r_1 \bmod p, \dots, r_{m-1} \bmod p\}$, for any prime p . It follows that $\{r_1, \dots, r_{m-1}\}$ is strongly free, viewed either with \mathbb{Q} or with \mathbb{Z}_p coefficients, for any p , hence the \mathcal{U} -Hilbert series are equal and $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$ is torsion free. It is now easy to prove that $\text{gr}^*\pi \cong L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$, as grlie, by making use of an old result of Chen [C3], who established the existence of a grlie map $f: L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \rightarrow \text{gr}^*\pi$, which is isomorphic in degree one, hence epimorphic. Knowing that $f \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is epimorphic and also that $\text{gr}^*\pi \otimes \mathbb{Q}(z) \cong L_{\mathbb{Z}}^* \otimes \mathbb{Q}(z)$ (cf. C(i)) we infer that $f \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is also monic, hence, due to the torsion freeness of $L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$, f itself must be monic, giving thus the asserted isomorphism. ■

PROOF OF LEMMA 5.6: At the beginning we shall prove that $\text{gr}^2\pi$ is free if and only if $\dim \text{Im } \mu_p = \dim \text{Im } \mu_0$, for any prime p . The torsion freeness of the finitely generated abelian group $\text{gr}^2\pi$ is equivalent, as before, to the fact that $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, for any p . By Chen's work [C3], $\text{gr}^2\pi$ is isomorphic to the quotient group of the second exterior power of the free abelian group with \mathbb{Z} -basis $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ by the relations r_1, \dots, r_m (and evidently $\text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{K}$ may be similarly presented, $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Q}$ or \mathbb{Z}_p). By elementary duality we infer that $\text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p \cong \#(\text{Ker } \mu_p)$ and $\text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \#(\text{Ker } \mu_0)$, whence our assertion.

Assuming that Γ_p is connected, for any prime p , we deduce from Lemma 5.1 that $\dim \text{Im } \mu_p = \dim \text{Im } \mu_0 = m - 1$, for any p , $\text{gr}^2\pi$ being therefore free; its stated rank is immediately obtained from $\text{gr}^2\pi \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \#(\text{Ker } \mu_0)$. Conversely assume $\text{gr}^2\pi$ free, therefore $\dim \text{Im } \mu_p = \dim \text{Im } \mu_0$, for any p , by the previous discussion. If moreover $\text{rk } \text{gr}^2\pi = (m - 1)(m - 2)/2$, we deduce that this common value must be equal to $m - 1$, hence μ_p must be onto and Γ_p must be connected, for any p , again by 5.1. ■

5.7. REMARKS. An alternative way to prove that if Γ_p is connected, for any p , then $\text{gr}^*\pi \cong L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*$ = torsion free, as stated in C(ii), would be to start with Hain's geometric presentation for π [H] and then try to apply Labute's independence criterion [La1]. This raises the following (difficult) task: given a sequence r_1, \dots, r_n , of homogeneous elements in a free grlie $\mathbb{L} = L_{\mathbb{Z}}^*(x_1, \dots, x_m)$, decide, for a given prime p , whether the following condition is satisfied or not:

($*_p$) $\mathbf{r}(p)/[\mathbf{r}(p), \mathbf{r}(p)]$ is a free $\mathcal{U}(\mathbb{L}(p)/\mathbf{r}(p))$ -module with basis given
by the images of r_1, \dots, r_n

(where \mathbf{r} is the ideal generated by r_1, \dots, r_n in \mathbb{L} , $\mathbf{r}/[\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}]$ is an \mathbb{L}/\mathbf{r} -module in a natural way, via the adjoint action, and $(\) (p)$ stands for taking mod p residues).

In our situation, $n = m - 1$ and $r_i = \sum_j l_{ij}[x_i, x_j]$, and everything would follow if the conditions ($*_p$) were satisfied for any p . For a fixed p , ($*_p$) holds as soon as $r_1(p), \dots, r_n(p)$ is strongly free in $\mathbb{T}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ [HL; Théorème 3.3]. Here we meet the really delicate point: the argument of 5.2, establishing that if Γ_p is connected then $\bar{r}_1(p), \dots, \bar{r}_{m-1}(p)$ is

combinatorially free. Conversely, if $(*_p)$ holds in our case then plainly $r_1(p), \dots, r_{m-1}(p)$ must be linearly independent, hence μ_p is onto and Γ_p must be connected (Lemma 5.1). This connectedness criterion answers (partially) a question of Labute [La2; Problem 5]: if $r_i = \sum c_{ij}^k [x_j, x_k]$, find a necessary and sufficient condition for $(*_p)$ to hold, in terms of the coefficients c_{ij}^k .

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