

A Narrative for Quadraticity

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$$\frac{(I/I^2)^{\otimes p}}{\langle \ker \frac{I/I^2 \otimes I/I^2 \rightarrow I/I^3 \rangle}$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{I^p}{I^{p+1}}$$

$$\ker(A \otimes A \xrightarrow{\mu} A) = \{a \otimes b - a \otimes b\}$$

$$I^p = I^{p-1} : I \rightarrow I^{p-2} : I \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow I : I : I \xrightarrow{p-2} I : I^{p-1} \rightarrow I^p$$

There are three reasons why $I^{\otimes p}$ is not I^p/I^{p+1} :

1. Hot Potatoes: $a \otimes b \leftrightarrow a \otimes b$ "exchanges" } exist even in the free case.
2. Tor: $\ker(I : I \rightarrow A)$ may be non-trivial; that is, $\ker(I \otimes I \rightarrow A)$ may be more than $\{a \otimes b - a \otimes b : a, b \in I\}$.
3. And then the obvious, the presence of I^{p+1} on the right side.

Example for 2: $(x-1) \otimes (y-1) - (y-1) \otimes (x-1)$ in $\mathbb{Q}[x, y]$.

as opposed to $x \otimes y - y \otimes x = (x \otimes y - x \otimes 1) + (y \otimes 1 - y \otimes x)$
 (even simpler: in some ring, take $I = \{p : p(0,0) = 0\}$,
 and then $x \otimes y - y \otimes x$ is in $\ker \mu$, but is not a combination of exchanges.)

Perhaps the trick would be to understand the totality of all "barrier removal" maps:

$$I^{p_1} : I^{p_2} : \dots : I^{p_i} : I^{p_{i+1}} : \dots : I^{p_n} \\ \longrightarrow I^{p_1} : I^{p_2} : \dots : I^{p_i + p_{i+1}} : \dots : I^{p_n}$$