

Universal enveloping algebra for vertex algebras $\mathbb{C}[X]$.

This is about a special case of the completed universal enveloping algebra $\tilde{U}(V)$ for a vertex algebra V in the case when $V = \mathbb{C}[X]$ for an affine scheme X/\mathbb{C} of finite type (recall that a commutative vertex algebra is the same thing as the commutative algebra w. a derivation & $\mathbb{C}[X]$ comes w. a natural derivation).

Proposition: $\tilde{U}(\mathbb{C}[X]) = \mathbb{C}[\langle X \rangle]$, where $\langle X \rangle$ is the loop space of X .

Proof by example. Let $X = \mathbb{A}^1$. Then $\mathbb{C}[X] = \mathbb{C}[x_n | n < 0]$ w. derivation T sending x_n to $-nx_{n-1}$. Recall that we first form the Lie algebra $F_V = V \otimes \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}] / \text{im}(T \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \partial_t)$ ($V = \mathbb{C}[X]$)

Then we form the completed universal enveloping algebra $\tilde{U}(F_V)$ and mod it out by the relations

$$(A_{-1} B)_{[k]} = \sum_{n+m=k-1} : A_{[n]} B_{[m]} : , A, B \in V$$

where for $A \in V$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we write $A_{[k]}$ for $A \otimes t^k \in V \otimes \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]$

and its image in F_V . Note that if V is commutative as a

vertex algebra, F_V is an abelian Lie algebra. So $\tilde{U}(V)$ is the quotient of the usual completion of $S(V \otimes \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}])$

($:= \varprojlim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S(V \otimes \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]) / (A_{[i]} | i \geq N)$) by the relations:

$$(TA)_{[n]} = -n A_{[n-1]}$$

$$(A \cdot B)_{[k]} = \sum_{n+m=k-1} A_{[n]} B_{[m]}$$

Here " \cdot " is the product in V . Analyzing these relations for $V = \mathbb{C}[X]$, we see that $\tilde{U}(V)$ is the usual completion of $\mathbb{C}[x_{-1, [n]} | n \in \mathbb{Z}]$, which is exactly what we need to show.

Compare this to Proposition 2.21 in Hamilton's talk.