

Intro to Categorification,
Diagrammatics,
and the Hecke Category

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GENERATORS + RELATIONS : we love 'em

How to define an action of a group? Method 1: Indistinctly. Define $g \cdot (-)$ for all g .
Check whole mult. table!

Ex: $S_n \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ or on size k subsets, function spaces etc.

Know directly how each $g \in G$ acts

quadratic
reln

braid relns

Ex: Gens + Relns $S_n = \langle s_i = (i \ i+1) \mid s_i^2 = 1, s_i s_{i+1} s_i = s_{i+1} s_i s_{i+1}, s_i s_j = s_j s_i \text{ for } |i-j| > 1 \rangle$

Coxeter presentation

Define action of generators + check relations

Not obvious how $g \in G$ acts... but you don't NEED to know

↳ Motivating Ex: Quantum actions of braid groups.

How to define an action of a group? ... on a category?

$g \mapsto F_g$ a functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$

want $F_g \circ F_h \cong F_{gh}$... canonically!

Ex: $B\mathbb{Z}_n$ often acts on categories in geometry via spherical twists / wall crossing / etc.

- Instead of knot invariants (valued in $\mathbb{Q}(q)$) get knot homologies (valued in $g\text{Vect}$)

More powerful invariant, just like $H^*(X)$ vs $\chi(X)$. A complex of v.s has more info than a number.

- For a knot cobordism, get morphism b/w vector spaces.

↑ requires knowing braid canonically and not just up to isomorphism

Classical approach to groups & categories: Need

- F_g for $g \in G$
- $\alpha_{g,h}: F_g \circ F_h \rightarrow F_{gh}$ for $g, h \in G$

satisfying ^{assoc}
 $F_g \circ F_h \circ F_k \begin{matrix} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{matrix} \parallel \Rightarrow F_{ghk}$

This is like the stupid universal presentation Want: effective method!

Want . . . F_g $g \in$ generating set

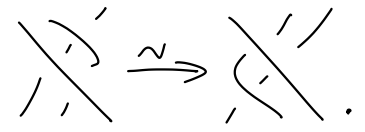
- For each relation $r: (g_1 g_2 g_3 = h_1 h_2 h_3)$ an isom

$$\alpha_r: F_{g_1} F_{g_2} F_{g_3} \xrightarrow{\sim} F_{h_1} F_{h_2} F_{h_3}$$

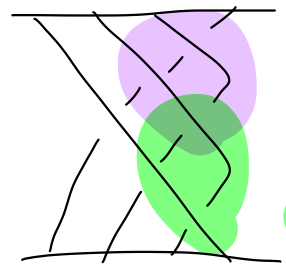
satisfying ???

what do you need to make canonical?

called a 2-presentation of G

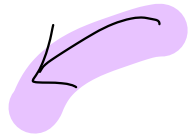
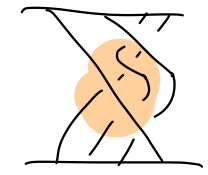
Ex: braid relation 

Zamolodchikov diagram:

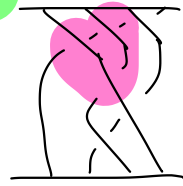
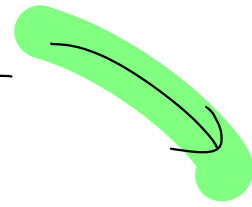
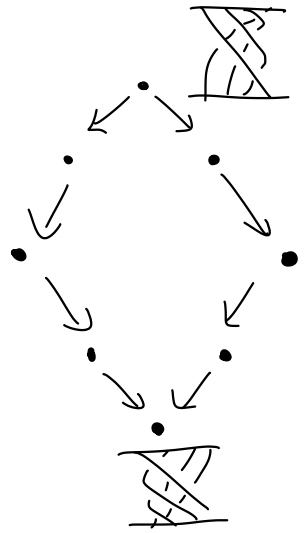


For canonical isom $\begin{matrix} \text{top} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{bot} \end{matrix}$
the two paths must agree

Zamolodchikov reln



Overall:



Thm (E-Williamson): For an action of B_n or S_n by functors defined via gens+rels, only need to check

- cyclicity + bridging \leftarrow some compatibility b/w α_r and F_g^{-1}
- Zam (for $S_4 \subset S_n$) and two more ($S_3 \times S_2 \subset S_n$, $S_2 \times S_2 \times S_2 \subset S_n$)

Rephrased:

Def: For G a group, the 2-groupoid Ω_G is a monoidal category (has \otimes) with objects $g \in G$, satisfying $g \otimes h \cong (gh)$, and $\text{Hom}(g, h) = \begin{cases} \{\text{id}\} & \text{if } g=h \\ \emptyset & \text{else} \end{cases}$

We give a presentation of Ω_{S_n} w/ generating objects $\{S_i\}$ (generators of group)
 generating morphisms \leftrightarrow relations in group
 relations \leftrightarrow Zam, etc New in 2-presentation

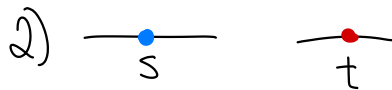
(This theorem is toy example, step en route to main topic: presentation of Hecke category)

It seems fancy but powerful tool, Diagrammatics, makes it straightforward.

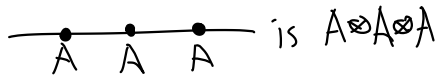
Proof is elementary planar graph theory!!

Brief intro to diag. for monoidal cats) Two running examples: 1) Describing an algebra in Vect 2) S_n

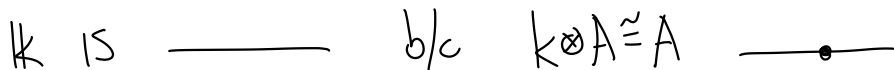
Denote an object as a labeled point on a line segment



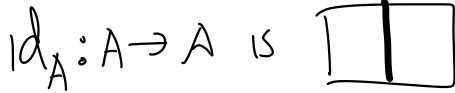
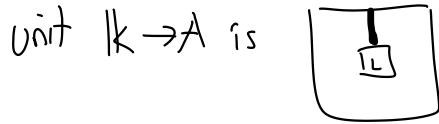
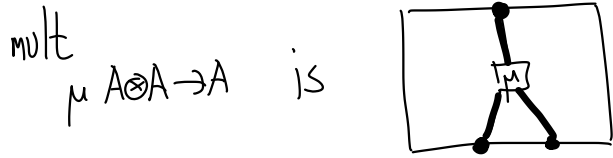
\otimes of objects : concat



monoidal identity \Leftrightarrow no label or point needed

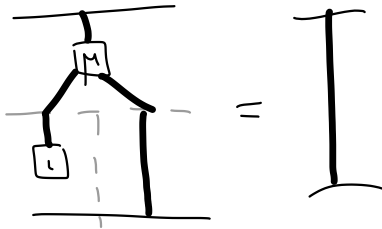


morphism encoded by rectangle with source=bottom target=top

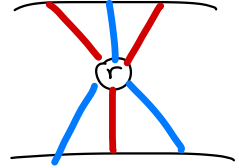


composition: vertical stack

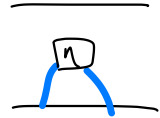
$1 \cdot a = a$
 unit axiom
 $\mu \circ (i \otimes id_A) = id_A$



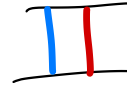
isom $sts \rightarrow tst$ is



isom $ss \rightarrow 1$ is

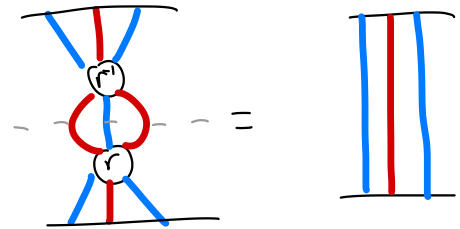


id_{st} is

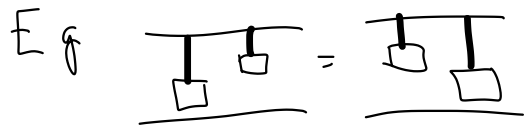


\otimes horizontal concat

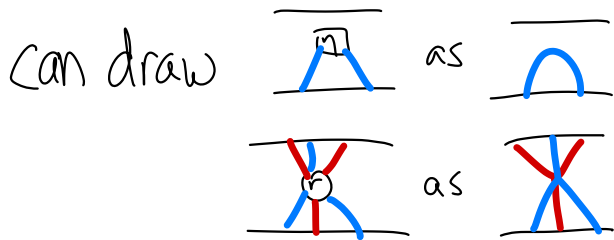
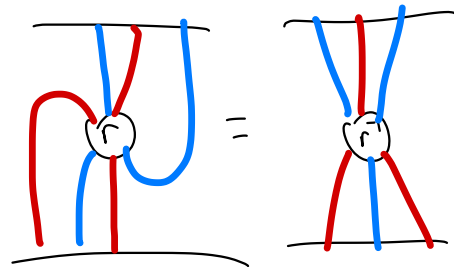
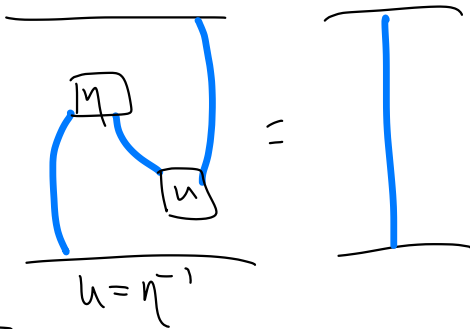
inverse isom



Axioms of monoidal cat: diagram/rectilinear isotopy unambiguously represents a morphism

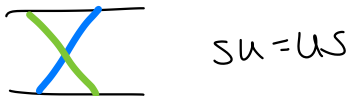


In $\mathcal{Q}S_n$ have more: cyclicity



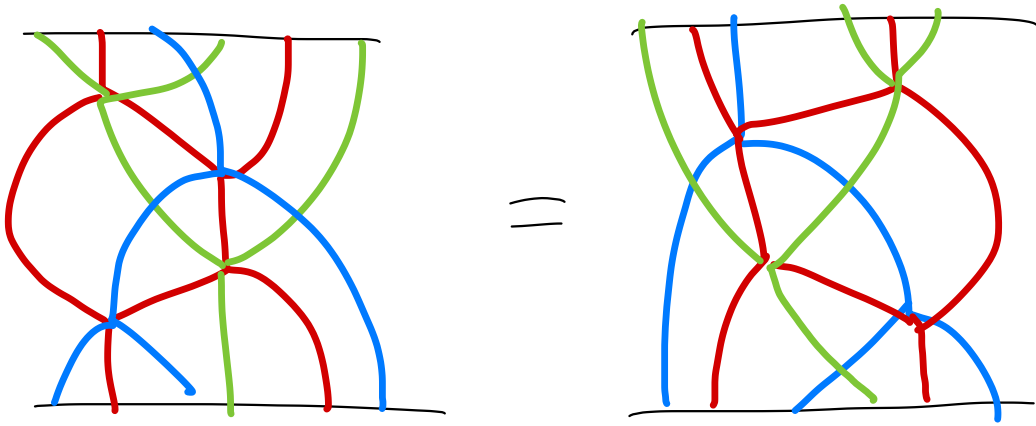
and diagram/isotopy unamb repr a morphism

Any morphism in $\mathcal{Q}S_n$ represented by planar graph w/ boundary, w/ vertices



Zam. in diagrams: two paths $stsuts \rightarrow utsutu$ are equal

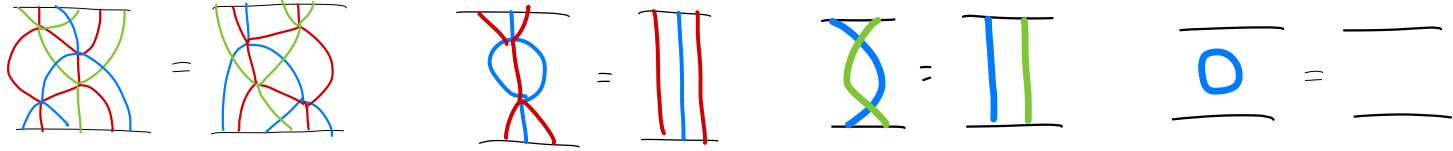
$$s = s_1 \quad t = s_2 \quad u = s_3$$



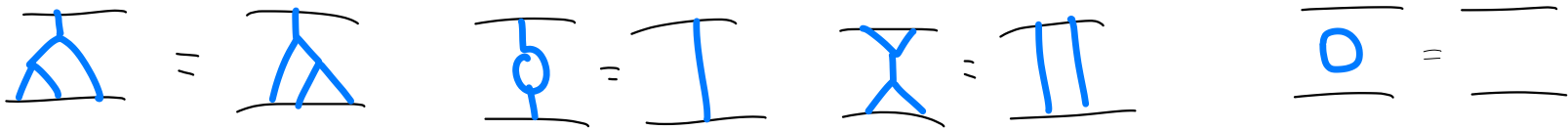
Goal for Ω_{S_n} : find enough relations so that any two graphs w/ same boundary are equal

Then $\# \text{Hom}(s_{i_1} s_{i_2} \dots s_{i_k}, s_{j_1} s_{j_2} \dots s_{j_\ell}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if elts of } S_n \text{ aren't equal (no graphs possible)} \\ 1 & \text{else, since all graphs equal} \end{cases}$

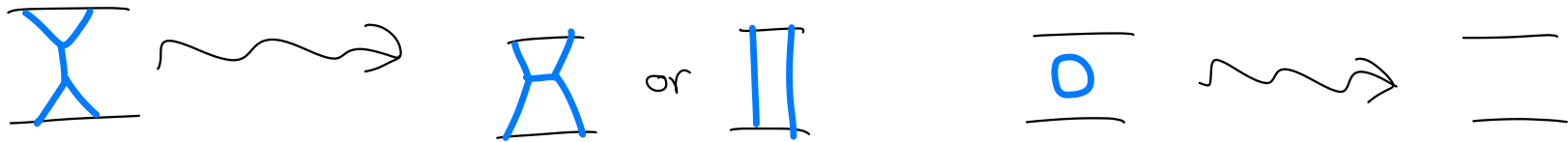
Key step in a proof (not in literature, c.f. E-Khovranov): Have rels like



Let $S = S_1$. Underlying blue graph is trivalent + rels look like this



Conversely, whenever you find  in underlying blue graph, can replace using rels with 



Easy trivalent graph theory: these operations take any trivalent graph w/ empty boundary \rightsquigarrow empty graph

SO ELIMINATE BLUE, repeat Any graph w/ empty bdy \rightsquigarrow empty graph. $\# \text{End}(1) = 1$

A general proof using topology follows ideas of Fenn + Igusa, see beautiful AlgTop textbook by Fenn.

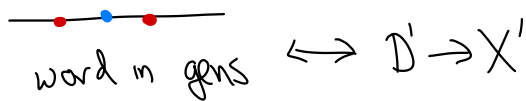
Presentation of $G \rightsquigarrow$ CW complex X w/ one 0-cell

1-cells \leftrightarrow gens

2-cells \leftrightarrow relns

$$\pi_1(X) = G$$

WHAT IS $\pi_2(X)$?



graphs w/ empty bdy $\leftrightarrow \pi_2(X^2)$
 modulo general relations

New relns like Zam \leftrightarrow 3-cells glued in to kill $\pi_2(X^2)$

2-presentation \leftrightarrow 3-skeleton of BG.

Our theorem in a nutshell:
 the Coxeter complex can be modified to provide a nice CW Complex for BG

Many categorical actions of braid groups Wouldn't it be great if they were all

SECRETLY ISOMORPHIC?

How do you show two reps are isomorphic? Holistically: define bijection. Hard when reps have different sources

Or, with structural theorems. E.g. f.d. irred reps of \mathfrak{sl}_2 classified by highest weight. (and isotypic reps classified by h.w. vector space)

If you match the top weight spaces, you get the rest for free

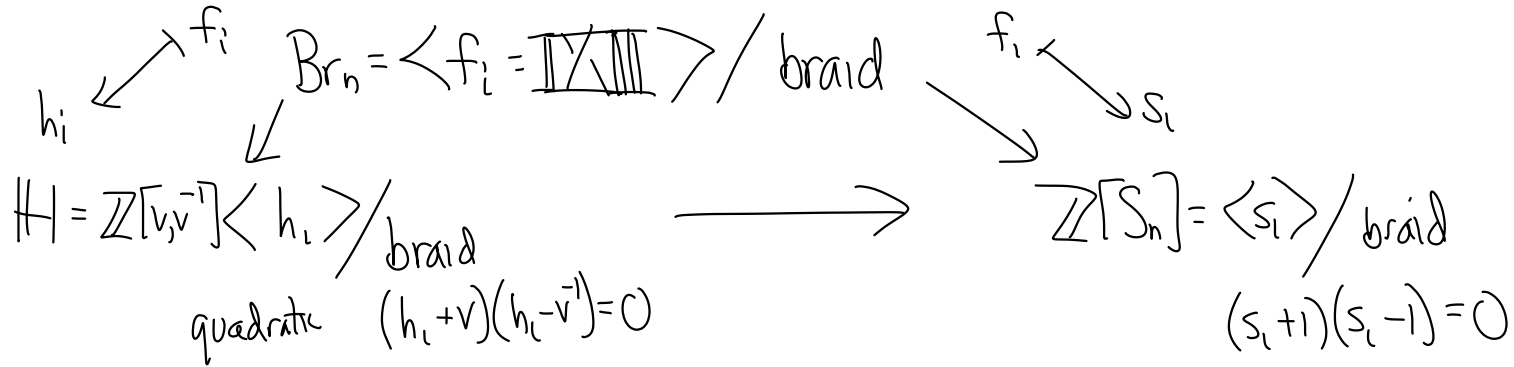
Key idea of Chuang-Rouquier (in context of \mathfrak{sl}_2): rigidity of categorical lifts. If you have functors lifting action of \mathfrak{sl}_2 (i.e. a weak categorification of an \mathfrak{sl}_2 rep), could have two non-isomorphic lifts of the same rep. But if you pin down a particular algebra of nat'l trans. then the cat'fn' is unique. (Generalizations proven by Mazorchuk-Miemietz)

Many categorical actions of braid groups Wouldn't it be great if they were all

SECRETLY ISOMORPHIC?

Reps of B_n often factor thru $H(S_n)$ Iwahori-Hecke algebra

A $\mathbb{Z}[v, v^{-1}]$ -alg deforming $\mathbb{Z}[S_n]$, i.e. $H(S_n)/(v-1) \cong \mathbb{Z}[S_n]$.



Rep H is very similar to Rep S_n .

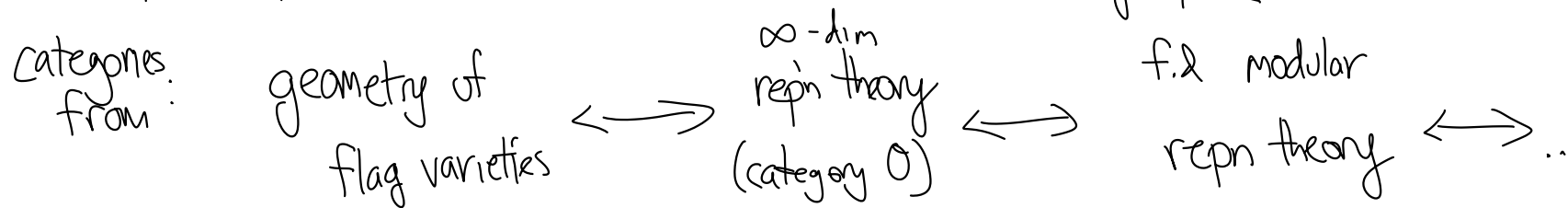
Given \mathcal{C} a graded additive/triangulated category have Grothendieck group $[\mathcal{C}]$
 the "numerical shadow", records the "size" of objects but forgets the flux (morphisms)

$[\mathcal{C}]$ is a $\mathbb{Z}[v, v^{-1}]$ -mod where $\oplus \rightsquigarrow +$ and $(1) \rightsquigarrow v$

If $\text{Br}_n \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2$ induces $\mathbb{Z}[v, v^{-1}][\text{Br}_n] \subset [\mathcal{C}_1], [\mathcal{C}_2]$ giving same repn of H , are $\mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2$ equiv categories??
 No, need more structure. Need to know about nat'l transformations b/w functors.

The Hecke Category \mathcal{H} is a deformation of Ω_{S_n} . If $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{C}_1, \mathcal{C}_2$ induces

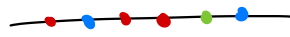
$H \in [\mathcal{C}_1] \cong [\mathcal{C}_2]$ then there are criteria for deducing $\mathcal{C}_1 \cong \mathcal{C}_2$. This relates



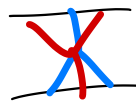
E-Khovanov-Williamson gave gens+rels for \mathcal{H} , building on work of Libedinsky.

Similar to diagrammatics for Ω_{S_n} :

objects are sequences of simple reflections



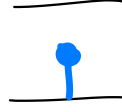
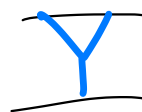
morphisms are certain planar graphs w/ vertices



↳ but also \bullet is an algebra object so have



actually a Frobenius algebra object:



rels: lots. Nastiest ones - Zam's - are just like in Ω_{S_n}

2nd half of talk: more in depth motivation on why it is the way it is + how to prove it!

Major application: Computing multiplicitiest dimensions in Modular RT, previously inaccessible.

Before continuing - while I could continue purely w/ diagrammatics, for many it helps to have an algebraic model to keep grounded

Model generalizes to any Coxeter group, including affine Weyl gps (the ones w/ applications!)

BUT for affine Weyl model is wrong in finite char, need diagrammatics!!

$W = S_n \ltimes h = \text{Span}_{\mathbb{K}} \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ $s_i = (i \ i+1)$ is reflection \perp to $x_i - x_{i+1} = \alpha_i$

$W \ltimes R = \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $\deg x_i = 2$. Let $R^i := R^{s_i} = \{f \in R \mid s_i f = f\}$

Thm: $R^i \subset R$ is a Frobenius extension, i.e. 1) R free / R^i finite rank (rank = 2)

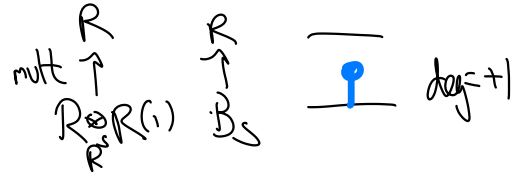
2) $\partial_i: R \rightarrow R^i$, R^i -linear

$\partial_i(f) = \frac{f - s_i f}{\alpha_i}$. "Take $\alpha_i^\vee: h \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ and extend to R via Leibniz rule"

3) $(f, g) \mapsto \partial_i(fg)$ has dual bases

Cor. The R -bimodule $\underline{B}_i := R \underset{R^i}{\otimes} R(1)$ is a Frobs alg object in R -bimodules.

\Leftrightarrow 4 structure maps

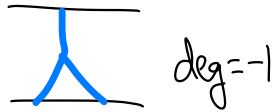


$$B_5 = R \underset{R^1}{\otimes} R(1)$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$B_5 \otimes B_5 = R \underset{R^1}{\otimes} R \underset{R^1}{\otimes} R(2)$$

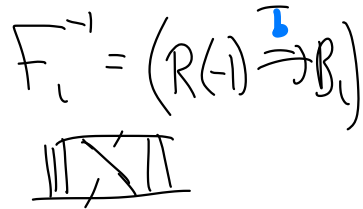
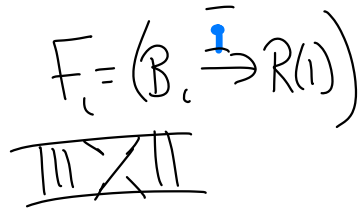
↑ apply ∂_i to middle



etcetera
deg:



Aside: Br_n action comes from \otimes w/ complexes



algebraic Hecke category

Def Scergel bimodules are summands of (sums of shifts of \otimes) of various B_i .

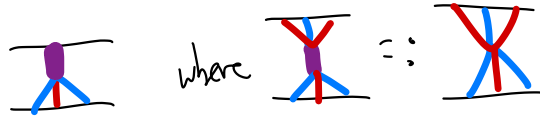
Ex:

$$B_{l+1} \otimes B_i \otimes B_{l+1} \supset R \underset{R^{l+1}}{\otimes} R(3) \overset{\oplus}{\subset} B_i \otimes B_{l+1} \otimes B_i$$

!! $B_{S_1 S_2 S_1}$

In general they're mysterious! Even the map $B_S B_t B_S \rightarrow B_{StS}$ is ugly when written in formulas for polynomials! The worst exercise...

This ugly map is abstracted into a lovely diagram and the relations it satisfies are pretty MUCH EASIER TO COMPUTE w/ DIAGRAMS.



Important theme #1: When doing gens+rels, only try to use easy + combinatorial objects.

$B_S B_t B_S B_u B_v B_t B_S = BS(stsuvts)$ is easy \rightsquigarrow Homs between these are comprehensible

$\bigoplus_{P} B_{stsuvts}$ some mysterious summand, $\bigoplus_{Q} B_{stsuvts}$ summand not

in shorter expressions. *Depends on characteristic!*


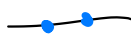
\rightsquigarrow Homs b/w these are unknown + not flat over \mathbb{Z} !

same for any reduced expression

H is diag description of Homs b/w $BS(s_1, s_2, \dots)$ for all sequences $BSBimCR\text{-dim}$

Idea 2: Non-reduced sequences have no new summands Redundant!

Should we ignore them? DEFINITELY NOT.

1) Monoidal structure enables diagrammatics. Can't have  without 

2) Enables better factoring of morphisms. $B_S B_t B_S \cong B_{St} \oplus B_S$ What is projection

map $B_S B_t B_S \rightarrow B_S$?  factors thru $B_S B_S$.

REDUNDANCY IS USEFUL. (People are too obsessed with minimal projective generators.)

It seems silly, but Ideas 1+2 (Scandal+Kupberg '90s, Khovanov, Lauda, Rouquier, Webster '00s) led to a major revolution

Relationship to Ω_{S_n} : Let R_w be the R -bimodule, $\cong R$ as left module, right action is

$$m \cdot r = w(r)m \quad \text{Then } R_w \otimes R_x \cong R_{wx} \quad \text{and } \text{Hom}(R_w, R_x) = \begin{cases} R & w=x \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$1 \otimes 1 \mapsto 1 \quad (\text{if } W \text{ is faithful})$$

These standard bimodules form a full subcat $\text{StdBim} \subset R\text{-bim}$, isom to the R -linear version of the 2-groupoid Ω_{S_n} . They're NOT Soergel bimodules though.

$$0 \rightarrow R_s(-1) \rightarrow B_s^{\text{mult}} \rightarrow R(1) \rightarrow 0 \quad \left\| \quad 0 \rightarrow R(-1) \rightarrow B_s \rightarrow R(1) \rightarrow 0 \right\| \text{ Soergel bimodules have } \underline{\text{Standard filtrations}}$$

$$\text{sub but not summand} \quad \left\| \quad f \circ g \mapsto f \circ s(g) \right\|$$

Let $Q = ff(R)$. Then over Q , $B_s \otimes_R Q \cong Q \oplus Q_s$

Std filt splits after localizing

Idea: BSBim is a generically semisimple monoidal cat.

$$\text{BSBim} \hookrightarrow \text{BSBim} \otimes_R Q \cong \Omega_{S_n}(\mathbb{Q})$$

General tricks for presenting these!

$$[\mathcal{H}] \cong \mathbb{H}$$

$$[\mathcal{B}_s] \mapsto b_s = h_s + v \xrightarrow{v=1} 1+s \in \mathbb{Z}[S_n]$$

$$(1+s)^2 = 2(1+s)$$

$$b_s^2 = (v+v^{-1})b_s$$

$$\mathcal{B}_s \otimes \mathcal{B}_s \cong \mathcal{B}_s(1) \oplus \mathcal{B}_s(-1)$$

Idea: Categorification equips groth gp with a Hom Form

$$([M], [N]) = \text{gdim Hom}(M, N) \quad \text{or alternatively} \quad \text{grank}_{\mathbb{R}} \text{Hom}(M, N)$$

Pairing on \mathbb{H} $\xrightarrow{v=1}$ orthonormal product on $\mathbb{Z}[S_n] = \text{Hom form for } \mathcal{Q}_{S_n}$
 $(w, x) = \delta_{wx}$

Hom spaces free as \mathbb{R} -mod
 Action comes from

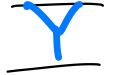

$$\underline{\mathbb{1}} = \text{mult by } \alpha_s$$

- Two key uses:
- 1) Inventing Rehs
 - 2) Finding a basis

Inventing Gens + Relns from Hom form:

Ex: $(b_s, b_s) = 1 + v^2$ so $\text{End}(B_s) \cong \mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}(-2)$
as \mathbb{R} -mod

In deg 0 have identity. In deg -2 have nothing!

$(b_s, b_s) = v^{-1} + \dots$ so \exists map of degree -1, whence . Similarly \exists 

then  = 0 b/c deg = -2

$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\}, \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\}$ both deg -2 in $\text{Hom}(B_s B_s B_s, B_s)$ w/ $\text{gdim} = v^{-2} + \dots$ so must be lin dep!

Similarly deduce $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\}, \text{---}, \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right\}$ all colinear.

The form of all relations is determined this way... but not the coeffs. Can test coeffs by evaluating on bimodules

Constructing a basis | A basis for Homs in \mathcal{O}_{S_n} is easy. Artin-Wedderburn...

(this basis won't lift over \mathbb{R} b/c not semisimple there!)

Ex. Over \mathbb{Q} , $B_S \cong \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S$ (ignore grading shifts)

$\mathbb{Q}_w \otimes B_S \cong \mathbb{Q}_w \oplus \mathbb{Q}_{ws}$ so need projection maps $\mathbb{Q}_w B_S \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_w$ and $\mathbb{Q}_w B_S \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_{ws}$
(+ inclusion maps)

If you have these for all w, S then can iteratively construct a basis for all homs. over \mathbb{Q}

Ex $\text{Hom}(B_S B_t B_S, B_S) = ?$ $B_S B_t B_S = (\mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S)(\mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_t)(\mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S) = \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S \oplus \mathbb{Q}_t \oplus \mathbb{Q}_{St} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_{tS} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_{StS}$
 $B_S = \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S$ $\dim \text{Hom} = 4$

have proj maps $B_S = \mathbb{Q} \oplus \mathbb{Q}_S \begin{matrix} \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} \mathbb{Q} \\ \xrightarrow{\text{blue}} \mathbb{Q}_S \end{matrix}$
incl

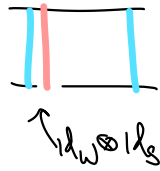
To get proj from $B_S B_t B_S$ to $(\mathbb{Q}_S)(\mathbb{Q})(\mathbb{Q}_S) = \mathbb{Q}$, do

$\mathbb{Q} B_S B_t B_S \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_S B_t B_S \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_S B_S \Rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ (hooray for \otimes)

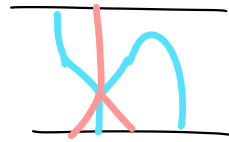
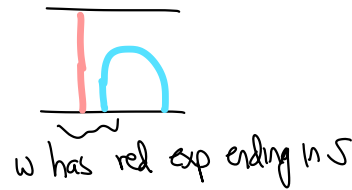
Now compose $B_S B_T B_S \rightarrow Q \hookrightarrow B_S$ to get a matrix entry in A-W basis.

Note: We can construct all $Q_w B_S \rightarrow Q_w$ or w_S in ΩS_n easily. Let's do $\rightarrow Q_{w_S}$
 $n \times \otimes B_S$ ($< B_S$)

If $w_S > w$



If $w_S < w$




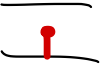

← may need to apply broad reh isoms to reach desired red exp first.

Problem: A-w basis doesn't lift over \mathbb{R}

Solution: Modify in upper triangular fashion until you find a basis which does

New in \mathcal{H} :   $\mathbb{Q} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ agrees w/ $\text{id}_{\mathbb{Q}_s} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ modulo l.t. in p.o. on matrix entries

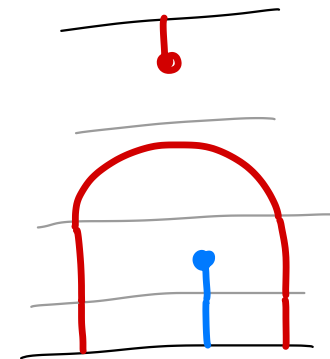
 $\mathbb{Q} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_s^{-1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha_s^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ agrees w/ (0001) up to unit

 $\mathbb{Q} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_s \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  $\mathbb{Q}_s \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_s^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

FOUR ELEMENTARY PROJECTIONS

So $\mathbb{R}_s \mathbb{R}_t \mathbb{R}_s \rightarrow \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_s$ lifts to

which agrees w/ matrix entry met



Result A combinatorial algorithm for morphisms in \mathcal{H} which become a basis of \mathbb{Q}_s after $\leftarrow_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{Q}$ Double Leaves Basis (Libedinsky for bimodules)

Ex basis for $\text{Hom}(B_S B_S, B_S)$

4 dim 4 entries in matrix are zero
by orthogonality of Q, Q_S

↓
↑↑

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 & QQ & QQ_S & Q_S Q & Q_S Q_S \\
 Q & \alpha_S & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 Q_S & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
 \end{array}$$

∩

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 & QQ & QQ_S & Q_S Q & Q_S Q_S \\
 Q & 1 & 0 & 0 & \alpha_S^{-1} \\
 Q_S & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
 \end{array}$$

∩

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 & QQ & QQ_S & Q_S Q & Q_S Q_S \\
 Q & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 Q_S & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0
 \end{array}$$

∩

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
 & QQ & QQ_S & Q_S Q & Q_S Q_S \\
 Q & \alpha_S^{-1} & 0 & 0 & \alpha_S^{-1} \\
 Q_S & 0 & \alpha_S^{-1} & \alpha_S^{-1} & 0
 \end{array}$$

More on localization techniques:

E-W '20

Above argument shows double leaves are linearly indep because they go to a basis

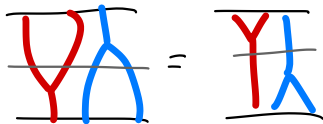
Do they span? How do you simplify ANY crazy diagram into these?

Long story short: Another general argument Essentially rewriting theory

Double leaves always look like this  ← narrowest n middle

If you can take  and rewrite as  then inductively you can handle  anything

Monoidal structure makes it easier b/c so many things commute!



Reduce to finitely many cases: 

Work in progress: Manual/Manifesto so others can USE rather than recreate these nasty proofs

THANKS

The word "THANKS" is written in a colorful, hand-drawn style. Each letter is a different color: 'T' is purple, 'H' is red, 'A' is blue, 'N' is green, 'K' is red, and 'S' is orange. Below the word is a thick, grey, hand-drawn underline that curves slightly upwards at both ends.