

# TENSOR 2-CATEGORIES OF HALL MODULES

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MARCH 17, 2020

# TENSOR 2-CATEGORIES: WHY?

Tensor categories  $\longleftrightarrow$  3D TQFT

Douglas, Schommer-Pries, Snyder: 2013

**Fusion categories:** fully dualizable in 3-category  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{or}}(\text{Cat})$   
 $\xrightarrow{\text{Cob.Hyp.}}$  fully extended 3D TQFT (Turaev-Viro)

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Tensor 2-categories  $\longleftrightarrow$  4D TQFT

Douglas, Reutter: 2018

**Fusion 2-categories:** 4D state-sum invariant  
Conjecture 1: Extends to fully extended 4D TQFT  
Conjecture 2: Fully dualizable objects in 4-category  $\mathcal{M}or(\mathcal{C}at_2)$

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Douglas, Reutter

Fusion 2-category :=  $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{A}}$  + tensor structure + rigidity  
 $\mathcal{A}$  multifusion category

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2-category of finite semisimple categories with  $\mathcal{A}$ -action

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Fusion 2-category :=  $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{A}}$  + tensor structure + rigidity  
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$\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{A}}$

2-category of finite semisimple categories with  $\mathcal{A}$ -action

Tensor structure: Bimonoidal categories

Succinct:  $\mathcal{H} \in \text{Coalg}(\text{Alg}(\text{Cat}))$

$\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{H}}$  inherits tensor structure:  $\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N} \in \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{H}}, \mathcal{M} \boxtimes \mathcal{N} \in \text{Mod}_{\mathcal{H}}$

$$\mathcal{H} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathcal{H}^2 \longrightarrow \text{End}(\mathcal{M}) \boxtimes \text{End}(\mathcal{N}) \longrightarrow \text{End}(\mathcal{M} \boxtimes \mathcal{N})$$

# Bimonoidal categories and their modules in detail

Tensor category  $\mathcal{H}$  with compatible comonoidal structure:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}^2 & \xrightarrow{\Delta^2} & \mathcal{H}^4 \\ \mu \downarrow & \nearrow \sim & \downarrow \bar{\mu}^2 \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\Delta} & \mathcal{H}^2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{V}\text{ect} & & \\ e \downarrow & \searrow e^2 & \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \mathcal{H}^2 \\ & \Delta & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}^2 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon^2} & \mathcal{V}\text{ect}^2 \\ \mu \downarrow & \nearrow \sim & \downarrow \wr \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathcal{V}\text{ect} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{V}\text{ect} & & \\ e \downarrow & \searrow \sim & \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \mathcal{V}\text{ect} \\ & \epsilon & \end{array}$$

Condition for  $\mathcal{H}$ -action on  $\mathcal{M} \boxtimes \mathcal{N}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathcal{H}^2 & \xrightarrow{\Delta^2} & \mathcal{H}^4 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{M})^2 \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{N})^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{M}\mathcal{N})^2 \\ \mu \downarrow & \nearrow \sim & \downarrow \bar{\mu}^2 & \nearrow \sim & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\Delta} & \mathcal{H}^2 & \rightarrow & \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{M}) \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{N}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{M}\mathcal{N}) \end{array}$$

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These 2-morphisms need not be invertible!



## Lax bimonoidal categories and lax modules

- Tensor category  $\mathcal{H}$  with **laxly** compatible comonoidal structure:

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- $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}\text{nd}(\mathcal{M})$  **lax** monoidal functor.  
Tensor 2-category of lax modules over  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{H}}$ .

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Question: How to construct (lax) bimonoidal categories?

# A TALE OF TWO BIALGEBRAS

Andruskiewitsch, Natale: 2003

**Vacant** double category: unique square for each  $t$  and  $r$

$$A = l \begin{array}{c} t \\ \square \\ b \end{array} r$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Weak bialgebra spanned by squares

Product: Vertical path algebra  $(A, B) \mapsto \begin{matrix} A \\ B \end{matrix}$

Coproduct: Horizontal decompositions  $A \mapsto \sum_{A=BC} B \otimes C$

# A TALE OF TWO BIALGEBRAS

## Hall algebras

**Finitary** exact category  $\mathcal{A}$

$\rightsquigarrow$  (almost) bialgebra spanned by  $\{\text{objects}\}/\text{iso}$

Enumerating extensions

$$\text{Product: } [a] \cdot [c] = \sum_{[b]} \#(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) [b]$$

$$\text{Coproduct: } \Delta([b]) = \sum_{[a],[c]} \#(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) [a] \otimes [c]$$

**Green's Theorem:**  $\mathcal{A}$  hereditary  $\Rightarrow$  braided bialgebra

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**Questions:** Why are they (co)associative?

Why are they bialgebras?

## 2-SEGAL SPACES

Every simplicial space  $\mathcal{X}_\bullet \in \mathcal{S}_\Delta$  defines algebraic structure:

Product as span:  $\mathcal{X}_1^2 \xleftarrow{(d_2, d_0)} \mathcal{X}_2 \xrightarrow{d_1} \mathcal{X}_1$

Associative?

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<sup>1</sup>Dyckerhoff–Kapranov, Galvéz–Carrillo–Kock–Tonks, Stern

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Associative? Generally no!

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \mathcal{X}_2 \times_{\mathcal{X}_1} \mathcal{X}_2 & & \\ & \swarrow & \uparrow & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{X}_1^3 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{X}_3 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \mathcal{X}_1 \\ & \swarrow & \downarrow & \searrow & \\ & & \mathcal{X}_2 \tilde{\times}_{\mathcal{X}_1} \mathcal{X}_2 & & \end{array}$$

### Theorem (P, 2017)

$\{\text{Simplicial spaces}\} \simeq \{\text{Lax algebras in } \mathcal{S}\text{pan}_2 \mathcal{S}\}$

$\mathcal{X} \mapsto \alpha_{\mathcal{X}}$  **“Universal Hall algebra”**

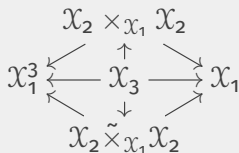
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Associative if and only if  $\mathcal{X}$  satisfies **2-Segal conditions**:<sup>1</sup>

$\mathcal{X}_n \simeq \mathcal{X}_2 \times_{\mathcal{X}_1} \cdots \times_{\mathcal{X}_1} \mathcal{X}_2$

<sup>1</sup>Dyckerhoff–Kapranov, Galv ez–Carrillo–Kock–Tonks, Stern



# BISIMPLICIAL SPACES AND BIALGEBRAS

Every bisimplicial space  $\mathcal{X}_{\bullet,\bullet}$  defines bialgebraic structure:

Product  $\mu$  as span:  $\mathcal{X}_{1,1}^2 \xleftarrow{(d_2^v, d_0^v)} \mathcal{X}_{2,1} \xrightarrow{d_1^v} \mathcal{X}_{1,1}$

Coproduct  $\Delta$  as span:  $\mathcal{X}_{1,1} \xleftarrow{d_1^h} \mathcal{X}_{1,2} \xrightarrow{(d_2^h, d_0^h)} \mathcal{X}_{1,1}^2$

By above, (co)associative  $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is a **double 2-Segal space**

## Theorem (P, 2017)

$\{\text{Double 2-Segal spaces}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Lax bialgebras in } \mathcal{S}\text{pan}_2 \mathcal{S}\}$

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$\mathcal{X} \mapsto \beta_{\mathcal{X}}$  **“Universal Hall bialgebra”**

A bialgebra if and only if  $\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, \bullet}$  satisfies series of pullback conditions

# Recall: lax bimonoidal category

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{H}^2 & \xrightarrow{\Delta^2} & \mathcal{H}^4 \\
 \mu \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \bar{\mu}^2 \\
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 \mathcal{V}\text{ect} & & \\
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## Recall: lax bimonoidal category

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Vect} & & \\ e \downarrow & \searrow e^2 & \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\Delta} & \mathcal{H}^2 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}^2 & \xrightarrow{\epsilon^2} & \mathbf{Vect}^2 \\ \mu \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \wr \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathbf{Vect} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Vect} & & \\ e \downarrow & \searrow & \\ \mathcal{H} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} & \mathbf{Vect} \end{array}$$

## Lax bialgebra from double 2-Segal space

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{12}^2 \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{11}^4 & * = * = * & \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{10}^2 \triangleright * & * = * = * \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \parallel & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \parallel \\ \mathcal{X}_{21} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{22} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{21}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{01} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{02} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{01}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{21} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{20} \triangleright * & \mathcal{X}_{01} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{00} \triangleright * \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel \\ \mathcal{X}_{11} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{12} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{11} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{12} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{11} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{10} \triangleright * & \mathcal{X}_{11} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{10} \triangleright * \end{array}$$

Bialgebra  $\Leftrightarrow$  **Top right** and **bottom left** squares are pullbacks

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
\mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{12}^2 \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{11}^4 & * = * = * & \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{10}^2 \triangleright * & * = * = * \\
\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \parallel & \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \parallel \\
\mathcal{X}_{21} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{22} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{21}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{01} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{02} \triangleright \mathcal{X}_{01}^2 & \mathcal{X}_{21} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{20} \triangleright * & \mathcal{X}_{01} \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{00} \triangleright * \\
\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel \\
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\end{array}$$

## Pullback conditions in detail

1.  $\mathcal{X}_{00} \simeq *$
2.  $\mathcal{X}_{0n} \simeq \mathcal{X}_{01}^n$  and  $\mathcal{X}_{no} \sim \mathcal{X}_{10}^n$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
\mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{12}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11}^4 & * = * = * & \mathcal{X}_{11}^2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_{10}^2 \rightarrow * & * = * = * & \\
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\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \parallel & \\
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1.  $\mathcal{X}_{00} \simeq *$
2.  $\mathcal{X}_{0n} \simeq \mathcal{X}_{01}^n$  and  $\mathcal{X}_{no} \sim \mathcal{X}_{10}^n$
3. Three other independent squares:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{X}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21} & \mathcal{X}_{20} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21} & \mathcal{X}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21}^2 \\
\downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
\mathcal{X}_{12} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11} & \mathcal{X}_{10} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11} & \mathcal{X}_{12}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11}^4
\end{array}$$

Number these 3(i), 3(ii), 3(iii)

# BACK TO OUR TWO BIALGEBRAS

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{X}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21} & \mathcal{X}_{20} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21} & \mathcal{X}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{21}^2 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \mathcal{X}_{12} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11} & \mathcal{X}_{10} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11} & \mathcal{X}_{12}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{11}^4 \end{array}$$

## Vacant double category

$\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, \bullet} \in \text{Set}_{\Delta}$  is bisimplicial nerve of double category

- **Theorem:**<sup>2</sup> Every Segal space is 2-Segal  
⇒ (co)associativity
- Condition 3(iii) ⇔ **interchange law** in double category  
Conditions 3(i) and 3(ii) follow from **vacancy** condition  
⇒  $\Delta$  is multiplicative
- Conditions 1 and 2 hold ⇔ single object  
⇒ **weak** bialgebra unless only has a single object

<sup>2</sup>Dyckerhoff, Kapranov 2012; Galv ez-Carrillo, Kock, Tonks 2014

## Hall algebra

$\mathcal{X}_{\bullet,\bullet} = \mathcal{S}_{\bullet,\bullet}(\mathcal{A})$  is the **Iterated Waldhausen S-construction**:

$\mathcal{S}_{n,k}$  = “Space of length n flags of length k flags”

$\mathcal{S}_{n,k} = \mathcal{S}_{k,n}$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_{0,k} \simeq * \simeq \mathcal{S}_{k,0}$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_{1,1} = \text{Obj}(\mathcal{A})$ ,  $\mathcal{S}_{2,1} = \text{SES}(\mathcal{A})$

- **Theorem**:<sup>3</sup>  $\mathcal{S}_{\bullet,\bullet}$  is double 2-Segal  
⇒ (co)associativity
- Conditions 1 and 2 immediate
- Conditions 3(i) and 3(ii) follow from universal properties
- Condition 3(iii) holds  $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A} = 0$   
⇒ **braided** bialgebra

<sup>3</sup>Dyckerhoff, Kapranov 2012; Galv ez-Carrillo, Kock, Tonks 2014



# TRANSFER TO CATEGORIES

Bimonoidal categories: Must transfer examples from spans to categories

Have symmetric monoidal functor<sup>4</sup>  $\Lambda : \text{Span}_2 \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \text{Cat}$   
 $X \mapsto \mathcal{L}OC(X)$ . Pull-push on morphisms

## Theorem

- *Every double 2-Segal space  $\mathcal{X}$  defines a lax bimonoidal category  $\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$   
 $\Rightarrow$  defines a tensor 2-category  $\mathcal{L}Mod_{\mathcal{X}} := \mathcal{L}Mod_{\Lambda(\mathcal{X})}$*
- *If  $\mathcal{X}$  satisfies the pullback conditions then  $\Lambda(\mathcal{X})$  is bimonoidal  
 $\Rightarrow$  defines a tensor 2-category  $\mathcal{M}od_{\mathcal{X}} := \mathcal{M}od_{\Lambda(\mathcal{X})}$*

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<sup>4</sup>Morton 2010; Walde 2016. Finiteness assumptions. Special case of ambidexterity à la Hopkins–Lurie

# OUR TWO BIALGEBRAS A THIRD TIME

Hall algebra:  $\mathcal{X}_{\bullet,\bullet} = S_{\bullet,\bullet}(\mathcal{A})$

$\mathcal{M} \in \mathcal{LMod}_X$  consists of

$a \in \mathcal{A} \rightsquigarrow \rho_a : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  and  $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightsquigarrow \rho_c \circ \rho_a \Rightarrow \rho_b$

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+ action of automorphisms in  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $\rho_a$ 's

Compatibility with automorphisms and exact sequences

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+ action of automorphisms in  $\mathcal{A}$  on  $\rho_a$ 's

Compatibility with automorphisms and exact sequences

**Example:**  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{Vect}_{\mathbb{F}_q}$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{Vect}$

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Compatibility with automorphisms and exact sequences

**Example:**  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{Vect}_{\mathbb{F}_q}$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{Vect}$

Data consists of  $GL_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ -rep  $V_n \forall n$  and

$V_m \otimes V_n \rightarrow V_{n+m}$  ( $P_{n,m}$ -equivariant)

# OUR TWO BIALGEBRAS A THIRD TIME

## Double Segal groupoids

Generalize double category to double Segal groupoid  $\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, \bullet} \in \mathcal{G}rpd$

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Then  $\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, 1}$  is the vertical  $(2, 1)$ -category

Module 2-categories:  $\mathbf{Mod}_{\mathcal{X}} = \mathbf{Fun}(\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, 1}, \mathbf{Cat})$  and

$\mathcal{L}\mathbf{Mod}_{\mathcal{X}} = \mathbf{Fun}_{\text{lax}}(\mathcal{X}_{\bullet, 1}, \mathbf{Cat})$

Tensor structure from horizontal decomposition

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## Theorem (P, 2020<sup>5</sup>)

Let  $\mathcal{X}$  double Segal groupoid satisfying:

- 1) The bialgebra conditions;
- 2) Each  $\mathcal{X}_{n,k}$  is a finite groupoid; and,
- 3) Each row and column is a groupoid object à la Lurie.

Then  $\text{Mod}_{\mathcal{X}}$  is a **spherical fusion 2-category**

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