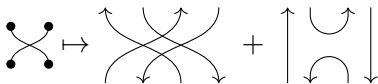


Embedding Deligne's category $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ in the Heisenberg category



Alistair Savage
University of Ottawa

Slides available online: alistairsavage.ca/talks

Preprint: [1905.05620](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05620) (with S. Nyobe Likeng and C. Ryba)

Outline

Goal: Define an embedding from the partition category and Deligne's category $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ into the Heisenberg category.

Overview:

- 1 Strict monoidal categories & string diagrams
- 2 The partition category & Deligne's category $\text{Rep}(S_t)$
- 3 The Heisenberg category
- 4 The embedding
- 5 Future directions

Strict monoidal categories

A **strict monoidal category** is a category \mathcal{C} equipped with

- a bifunctor (the **tensor product**) $\otimes: \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, and
- a **unit object** $\mathbb{1}$,

such that

- $(A \otimes B) \otimes C = A \otimes (B \otimes C)$ for all objects A, B, C ,
- $\mathbb{1} \otimes A = A = A \otimes \mathbb{1}$ for all objects A .

Remark: Non-strict monoidal categories

In a (not necessarily strict) **monoidal category**, the equalities above are replaced by isomorphism, and we impose some **coherence conditions**.

Every monoidal category is monoidally equivalent to a strict one.

\mathbb{k} -linear monoidal categories

Fix a commutative ground ring \mathbb{k} .

A **strict \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal category** is a strict monoidal category such that

- each morphism space is a \mathbb{k} -module,
- composition of morphisms is \mathbb{k} -bilinear,
- tensor product of morphisms is \mathbb{k} -bilinear.

The interchange law

The axioms of a strict monoidal category imply the **interchange law**: For $A_1 \xrightarrow{f} A_2$ and $B_1 \xrightarrow{g} B_2$, the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_1 \otimes B_1 & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes g} & A_1 \otimes B_2 \\ f \otimes 1 \downarrow & \searrow f \otimes g & \downarrow f \otimes 1 \\ A_2 \otimes B_1 & \xrightarrow{1 \otimes g} & A_2 \otimes B_2 \end{array}$$

Strict monoidal categories

Example (Monoids)

A (strict) monoidal category with one object is simply a commutative monoid. More precisely, the endomorphisms of $\mathbb{1}$ form a commutative monoid.

Conversely, every commutative monoid gives rise to a one-object monoidal category.

Example (Associative algebras)

A (strict) \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal category is simply a commutative associative unital \mathbb{k} -algebra.

String diagrams

Let's draw pictures! Fix a strict monoidal category \mathcal{C} .

We will denote a morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ by:



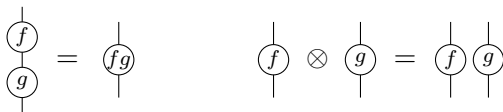
The **identity map** $1_A: A \rightarrow A$ is a string with no label:



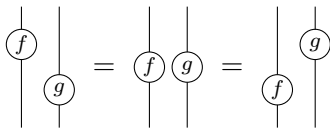
We sometimes omit the object labels when they are clear or unimportant.

String diagrams

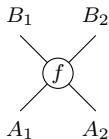
Composition is **vertical stacking** and tensor product is **horizontal juxtaposition**:



The **interchange law** then becomes:



A morphism $f: A_1 \otimes A_2 \rightarrow B_1 \otimes B_2$ can be depicted:



Partition algebras: Motivation

Let $V = \mathbb{C}^n$ be the permutation representation of the symmetric group S_n .

We have a Schur–Weyl type duality

$$\mathbb{C}S_n \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V^{\otimes k}) \xleftarrow{g} P_k(n),$$

where $P_k(n)$ is the partition algebra.

In particular:

- the image of g is $\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}S_n}(V^{\otimes k})$,
- g is injective if and only if $2k \leq n$.

We can describe $P_k(n)$ in terms of partition diagrams.

Partition diagrams

For $k, \ell \in \mathbb{N}$, a **partition** of type $\binom{\ell}{k}$ is a partition of the set

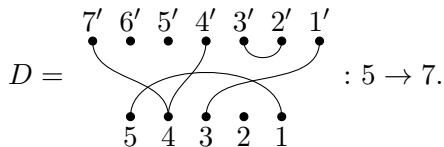
$$\{1, \dots, k, 1', \dots, \ell'\}.$$

Consider the associated **partition diagram**.

The partition diagram of

$$\{\{1, 5\}, \{2\}, \{3, 1'\}, \{4, 4', 7'\}, \{2', 3'\}, \{5'\}, \{6'\}\} \text{ of type } \binom{7}{5}$$

is



We often omit the labels of the vertices.

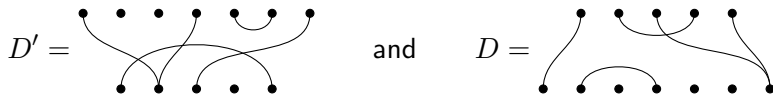
Partition diagrams

We have unique partition diagrams of types $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$:

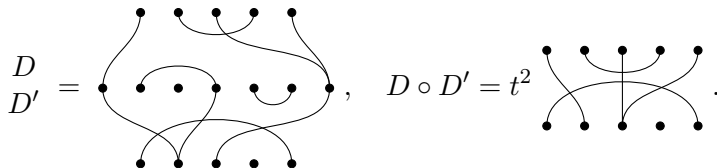
$$\uparrow : 0 \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \downarrow : 1 \rightarrow 0.$$

Fix a commutative ring \mathbb{k} and $t \in \mathbb{k}$.

Composition: We compose partition diagrams by vertical stacking. If



then



The exponent of t is the number of connected components in the “center”.

The partition category

The **partition category** is the strict \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal category $\mathcal{P}ar(t)$ with:

- **Objects:** $k \in \mathbb{N}$
- **Morphisms:** $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}ar(t)}(k, \ell) = \text{Span}_{\mathbb{k}} \left\{ \text{partition diag. of type } \binom{\ell}{k} \right\}$
- **Composition:** \circ (vertical stacking)
- **Tensor product:** horizontal juxtaposition

Then

$$P_k(t) = \text{End}_{\mathcal{P}ar(t)}(k)$$

is the **partition algebra**.

Note: We do not require $t \in \mathbb{N}$.

Presentations of strict monoidal categories

One can give **presentations** of some strict \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal categories, just as for monoids, groups, algebras, etc.

Objects: If the objects are generated by some collection $A_i, i \in I$, then we have all possible tensor products of these objects:

$$\mathbb{1}, \quad A_i, \quad A_i \otimes A_j \otimes A_k \otimes A_\ell, \quad \text{etc.}$$

Morphisms: If the morphisms are generated by some collection $f_j, j \in J$, then we have all possible compositions and tensor products of these morphisms (whenever these make sense):

$$1_{A_i}, \quad f_j \otimes (f_i \circ f_k) \otimes (f_\ell), \quad \text{etc.}$$

We then often impose some **relations** on these morphism spaces.

String diagrams: We can build complex diagrams out of our simple generating diagrams.

Presentation of the partition category

$\mathcal{P}ar(t)$ is generated by the object 1 and the morphisms

$$\mu = \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \delta = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad s = \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \eta = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array}, \quad \varepsilon = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array},$$

subject to the relations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \\ \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \\ \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \\ \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \downarrow \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} = t1_0. \end{array}$$

Consequence: $\mathcal{P}ar(t)$ is the free \mathbb{k} -linear symmetric monoidal category generated by a t -dimensional special commutative Frobenius object.

Action of the partition category

Suppose \mathbb{k} is a field. Let

- $V = \mathbb{k}^n$ be the permutation representation of S_n ,
- $\mathbf{1}_n$ be the one-dimensional trivial S_n -module.

There is a strong monoidal functor

$$\Phi_n: \mathcal{P}ar(n) \rightarrow S_n\text{-mod}$$

given by $\Phi_n(1) = V$ and

$$\Phi_n(\mu): V \otimes V \rightarrow V,$$

$$v_i \otimes v_j \mapsto \delta_{i,j} v_i,$$

$$\Phi_n(\eta): \mathbf{1}_n \rightarrow V,$$

$$1 \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n v_i,$$

$$\Phi_n(\delta): V \rightarrow V \otimes V,$$

$$v_i \mapsto v_i \otimes v_i,$$

$$\Phi_n(\varepsilon): V \rightarrow \mathbf{1}_n,$$

$$v_i \mapsto 1,$$

$$\Phi_n(s): V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V,$$

$$v_i \otimes v_j \mapsto v_j \otimes v_i$$

where v_1, \dots, v_n is the standard basis of $V = \mathbb{k}^n$.

Action of the partition category

Proposition (Comes 2016)

- 1 $\Phi_n: \mathcal{P}ar(n) \rightarrow S_n\text{-mod}$ is full.
- 2 The induced map

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{P}ar(n)}(k, \ell) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}_{S_n}(V^{\otimes k}, V^{\otimes \ell})$$

is an isomorphism if and only if $k + \ell \leq n$.

This is a generalization of the Schur–Weyl duality property of the partition algebra mentioned earlier.

Additive envelope

Suppose \mathcal{C} is some \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal category.

Its **additive envelope** is the category whose:

- **objects** are formal finite direct sums $\bigoplus_i X_i$ of objects X_i in \mathcal{C} ,
- **morphisms**

$$f: \bigoplus_{i=1}^n X_i \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j=1}^m Y_j$$

are $m \times n$ matrices, where the (j, i) -entry is a morphism

$$f_{i,j}: X_i \rightarrow Y_j.$$

Composition is given by matrix multiplication.

Idempotent completion

Definition: idempotent completion (Karoubi envelope)

The **idempotent completion** of a category \mathcal{C} is the category whose

- objects are pairs (A, e) where $A \in \text{Ob } \mathcal{C}$ and $e \in \text{Mor}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, A)$ is an idempotent ($e^2 = e$), and
- morphisms from (A, e) to (B, f) are elements of $f \text{Mor}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, B)e$.

Intuition: One thinks of passing to the idempotent completion as adding in objects such that the idempotents correspond to projections onto direct summands.

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\quad e \quad} \\ \curvearrowright \\ A \cong X \oplus Y \longrightarrow \twoheadrightarrow X^{\mathcal{C}} \longrightarrow X \oplus Y \cong A \end{array} \end{array}$$

We let $\text{Kar}(\mathcal{C})$ denote the Karoubi envelope of the additive envelope of \mathcal{C} .

Deligne's category $\text{Rep}(S_t)$

We define

$$\text{Rep}(S_t) := \text{Kar}(\mathcal{P}ar(t)).$$

Notes

- $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ is semisimple when $t \notin \mathbb{N}$.
- When $t = n \in \mathbb{N}$, $S_n\text{-mod}$ is the quotient of $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ by the negligible morphisms.
- $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ “interpolates” between the categories $\text{Rep}(S_n)$.

Intuition: $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ describes the representation of the S_n in a uniform way, but *with n fixed*.

The Heisenberg category: Motivation

Geissinger (1970s) constructed an isomorphism of bialgebras

$$\bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} K_0(S_n\text{-mod}) \cong \text{Sym}.$$

Multiplication given by

$$[\text{Ind}]: K_0(S_n\text{-mod}) \otimes K_0(S_m\text{-mod}) \rightarrow K_0(S_{n+m}\text{-mod}).$$

Comultiplication given by restriction.

Operators of mult. by $[K] \in K_0(S_n\text{-mod})$, together with their adjoints, defines an action of the **infinite rank Heisenberg algebra**, and

$\bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} K_0(S_n\text{-mod})$ is the **Fock space module**.

Further study of these ideas leads to the **Heisenberg category**.

The Heisenberg category

The *Heisenberg category* \mathcal{Heis} (Khovanov 2014) is the strict \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal category generated by two objects \uparrow, \downarrow , morphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \bowtie: \uparrow\uparrow &\rightarrow \uparrow\uparrow, & \cup: \mathbb{1} &\rightarrow \downarrow\uparrow, & \cap: \uparrow\downarrow &\rightarrow \mathbb{1}, \\ \cup: \mathbb{1} &\rightarrow \uparrow\downarrow, & \cap: \downarrow\downarrow &\rightarrow \mathbb{1}, \end{aligned}$$

and relations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{crossing} &= \uparrow\uparrow, & \text{triple crossing} &= \text{triple crossing}, \\ \text{cup} &= \uparrow, & \text{cap} &= \downarrow, \\ \text{crossing} &= \uparrow\downarrow, & \text{crossing} &= \downarrow\uparrow - \text{cup}, & \text{cup} &= 0, & \text{cap} &= 1_{\mathbb{1}}. \quad (\star) \end{aligned}$$

Here the other crossings are defined by

$$\text{crossing} := \text{cup}, \quad \text{crossing} := \text{cap}.$$

The relations (\star) imply that $\downarrow\uparrow \cong \uparrow\downarrow \oplus \mathbb{1}$.

The Heisenberg category

One can prove that we have the following **bubble slide** relations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft \\ \uparrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circlearrowleft \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft \\ \downarrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \end{array}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft \\ \uparrow \downarrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \\ \circlearrowleft \end{array}.$$

Let $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}$ be the full \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal subcategory of $\mathcal{H}eis$ generated by $\uparrow\downarrow$.

Since the clockwise bubble is strictly central in $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}$, we can define $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(t)$ to be the quotient of $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}$ by the additional relation

$$\begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft \end{array} = t1_{\mathbb{1}}.$$

Action of the Heisenberg category

There is a \mathbb{k} -linear monoidal functor

$$\Theta: \mathcal{H}eis \rightarrow \prod_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \left(\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (S_n, S_m)\text{-bimod} \right).$$

For $0 \leq m \leq n$, we have a natural embedding $S_m \subseteq S_n$. Let

$$(n)_m = \mathbb{k}S_n, \text{ as a } (S_n, S_m)\text{-bimodule,}$$

$$m(n) = \mathbb{k}S_n, \text{ as a } (S_m, S_n)\text{-bimodule.}$$

On objects,

$$\Theta(\uparrow) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} (n)_{n-1}, \quad \Theta(\downarrow) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} n_{-1}(n).$$

On morphisms

$$\Theta \left(\begin{array}{c} \nearrow \searrow \\ \nwarrow \nearrow \end{array} \right) = \left((n)_{n-2} \rightarrow (n)_{n-2}, g \mapsto gS_{n-1} \right)_{n \geq 2},$$

and Θ sends cups/caps to the bimodule homomorphisms making $\Theta(\uparrow)$ and $\Theta(\downarrow)$ into a biadjoint pair (Frobenius reciprocity).

Action of the Heisenberg category

Restricting to $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}$ gives a functor

$$\Theta: \mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} (S_m, S_m)\text{-bimod.}$$

Recall

$$\mathbf{1}_n = \text{trivial } S_n\text{-module.}$$

Consider the composition

$$\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow} \xrightarrow{\Theta} \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{N}} (S_m, S_m)\text{-bimod} \xrightarrow{- \otimes_{S_n} \mathbf{1}_n} S_n\text{-mod.}$$

This factors through $\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(n)$ to give an action functor

$$\Omega_n: \mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(n) \rightarrow S_n\text{-mod.}$$

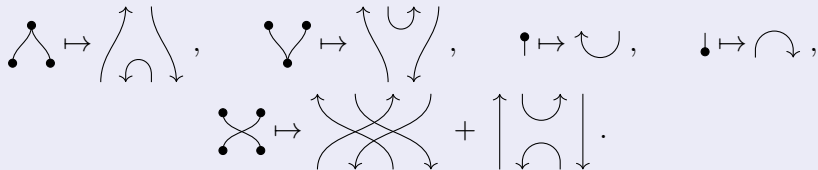
The embedding functor

Theorem (Nyobe Likeng–Ryba–S. 2019)

There is a faithful strict linear monoidal functor $\Psi_t: \mathcal{P}ar(t) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(t)$ defined on objects by

$$k \mapsto (\uparrow\downarrow)^k$$

and on generating morphisms by



The embedding functor

Recall that

$$\mathrm{Rep}(S_t) = \mathrm{Kar}(\mathcal{P}ar(t)).$$

Corollary

There is a faithful strict linear monoidal functor

$$\mathrm{Rep}(S_t) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(t)).$$

When t is generic (i.e. we work over $\mathbb{k}[t]$), we can extend our embedding to

$$\Psi_t: \mathrm{Rep}(S_t) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis).$$

Compatibility of the actions

Recall that

$V = \mathbb{k}^n$ is the permutation representation of S_n ,
 $\mathbf{1}_n = \mathbb{k}$ is the trivial representation of S_n .

Let v_1, \dots, v_n be the standard basis of V .

The elements

$$g_i := s_i s_{i+1} \cdots s_{n-1}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n,$$

form a complete set of S_n/S_{n-1} -coset representatives.

We have an isomorphism of S_n -modules

$$\mathbb{k}S_n \otimes_{S_{n-1}} \mathbf{1}_n \xrightarrow{\cong} V, \quad g_i \otimes 1 \mapsto v_i = g_i v_n.$$

In other words, $\text{Ind}_{n-1}^n \text{Res}_{n-1}^n \mathbf{1}_n = \text{Ind}_{n-1}^n \mathbf{1}_{n-1} \cong V$.

Compatibility of the actions

More generally, we have an isomorphism of S_n -modules

$$V^{\otimes k} \xrightarrow{\cong} \underbrace{\mathbb{k}S_n \otimes_{S_{n-1}} \cdots \otimes_{S_{n-1}} \mathbb{k}S_n \otimes_{S_{n-1}} \mathbf{1}_n}_{k \text{ factors}}, \quad (\boxtimes)$$

Theorem (Nyobe Likeng–S. 2019)

Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and consider the following functors:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}ar(n) & \xrightarrow{\Psi_n} & \mathcal{H}eis_{\uparrow\downarrow}(n) \\ & \searrow \Phi_n & \downarrow \Omega_n \\ & & S_n\text{-mod} \end{array}$$

The morphisms (\boxtimes) give a natural isomorphism of functors $\Omega_n \circ \Psi_n \cong \Phi_n$.

Grothendieck rings

If \mathcal{C} is an additive linear monoidal category, let

$$\begin{aligned} K_0(\mathcal{C}) &= \text{split Grothendieck ring of } \mathcal{C} \\ &= \text{Span}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\text{isom classes of objects in } \mathcal{C}) / ([X \oplus Y] - [X] - [Y]). \end{aligned}$$

Multiplication in $K_0(\mathcal{C})$ is given by

$$[X][Y] = [X \otimes Y].$$

Our embedding

$$\Psi_t: \text{Rep}(S_t) \rightarrow \text{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis)$$

induces a ring homomorphism

$$[\Psi_t]: K_0(\text{Rep}(S_t)) \rightarrow K_0(\text{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis)).$$

Goal: Describe this ring homomorphism algebraically.

The Heisenberg algebra

Let

$\text{Sym} =$ ring of symmetric functions with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} .

The **infinite-dimensional Heisenberg Lie algebra** \mathfrak{h} is the Lie algebra over \mathbb{Q} with

- generators $c, p_n^\pm, n \geq 1$,
- relations

$$[p_m^-, p_n^-] = [p_m^+, p_n^+] = [c, p_n^\pm] = 0, \quad [p_m^+, p_n^-] = \delta_{m,n} n c.$$

Then **central reduction** $U(\mathfrak{h})/(c+1)$ is the **Heisenberg double** $\text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \#_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ with respect to the pairing

$$\langle -, - \rangle: \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \times \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}}, \quad \langle p_m, p_n \rangle = \delta_{m,n} n.$$

We have

$$\text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \#_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \cong \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \quad \text{as } \mathbb{Q}\text{-modules.}$$

The Heisenberg algebra

We can restrict to obtain a \mathbb{Z} -form

$$\text{Heis} := \text{Sym} \#_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{Sym} \cong \text{Sym} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{Sym} \quad (\text{as } \mathbb{Z}\text{-modules}).$$

For $f \in \text{Sym}$, let

$$f^- := f \otimes 1 \quad f^+ := 1 \otimes f.$$

Then

$$s_{\lambda}^+ s_{\mu}^-, \quad \lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{P},$$

is a \mathbb{Z} -basis for Heis , where

- \mathcal{P} is the set of partitions,
- s_{λ} is the Schur function corresponding to $\lambda \in \mathcal{P}$.

Theorem (Brundan–S.–Webster 2018, Conjecture by Khovanov 2014)

There is an explicit isomorphism of rings

$$\text{Heis} \cong K_0(\text{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis)).$$

Kronecker coproduct

The Kronecker coproduct is

$$\Delta_{\text{Kr}}: \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}} \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{Sym}_{\mathbb{Q}}, \quad \Delta_{\text{Kr}}(p_{\lambda}) = p_{\lambda} \otimes p_{\lambda}, \quad \lambda \in \mathcal{P},$$

where

$$p_{\lambda} = p_{\lambda_1} \cdots p_{\lambda_{\ell}},$$

and p_n is the n -th power sum.

Restriction gives a coproduct

$$\Delta_{\text{Kr}}: \text{Sym} \rightarrow \text{Sym} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{Sym}.$$

Kronecker coproduct

Assume $\text{char } \mathbb{k} = 0$. There is an isomorphism of Hopf algebras

$$\bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} K_0(S_n\text{-mod}) \cong \text{Sym}, \quad [S_\lambda] \mapsto s_\lambda, \quad (\clubsuit)$$

where S_λ is the Specht module.

Consider the diagonal embedding

$$\mathbb{k}S_n \rightarrow \mathbb{k}S_n \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} \mathbb{k}S_n.$$

Under (\clubsuit) , the functor

$$S_n\text{-mod} \rightarrow (S_n \times S_n)\text{-mod}, \quad M \mapsto \text{Ind}_{S_n}^{S_n \times S_n}(M),$$

corresponds precisely to Δ_{Kr} after passing to Grothendieck groups.

Grothendieck rings

Recall our embedding functor

$$\Psi_t: \text{Rep}(S_t) \hookrightarrow \text{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis).$$

This induces a ring homomorphism

$$[\Psi_t]: K_0(\text{Rep}(S_t)) \rightarrow K_0(\text{Kar}(\mathcal{H}eis)) \cong \text{Heis}.$$

As \mathbb{Z} -modules,

$$\text{Heis} \cong \text{Sym} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \text{Sym}.$$

Theorem (Nyobe Likeng–S. 2019)

The map $[\Psi_t]$ is injective and

$$[\Psi_t](K_0(\text{Rep}(S_t))) = \Delta_{\text{Kr}}(\text{Sym}) \subseteq \text{Heis}.$$

Future directions: Frobenius generalization

To any Frobenius (super)algebra A , one can define a **Frobenius Heisenberg category** (Rosso–S. 2017)

$$\mathcal{H}eis_A.$$

This corresponds to

symmetric groups $S_n \rightsquigarrow$ **wreath algebras** $A^{\otimes n} \rtimes S_n$.

Then

$$K_0(\mathcal{H}eis_A) \cong \text{lattice Heisenberg algebra corr. to } K_0(A).$$

Generalizing above work should relate these to **colored partition algebras** and **wreath Deligne categories**.

Work in progress (S. Nyobe–Likeng).

Connections to Hilbert schemes and quiver varieties

McKay correspondence: finite subgroups $\Gamma \subseteq SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ parametrized by simply-laced affine Dynkin diagrams (affine type ADE).

To Γ , one can associate a **zigzag algebra** A .

Cautis–Licata 2012: $\mathcal{H}eis_A$ acts on derived category of coherent sheaves on Hilbert schemes of points on the resolution $\widehat{\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma}$ of the quotient \mathbb{C}^2/Γ .

Work in progress (Reeks–S.): Compute traces of $\mathcal{H}eis_A$. Should be related to AGT correspondence.

Future directions: Quantum version

There is a **quantum Heisenberg category** (Licata–S. 2013, Brundan–S.–Webster 2018)

$$\mathcal{H}eis(z, t).$$

This corresponds to

symmetric groups $S_n \rightsquigarrow$ **Iwahori–Hecke algebras of type A** .

Still have (conjecturally)

$$K_0(\mathcal{H}eis(z, t)) \cong \text{Heis}.$$

Should be related to q -partition algebras and a quantum analogue of Deligne's category.

Work in progress (Y. Moussaid).

Future directions: General central charge

The Heisenberg categories above are **central charge** -1 .

In general, for a **central charge** $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have Heisenberg categories

$$\mathcal{H}eis_k, \quad \mathcal{H}eis_{A,k}, \quad \mathcal{H}eis_{A,k}(z, t).$$

Corresponds to replacing symmetric groups by

- degenerate cyclotomic Hecke algebras,
- cyclotomic wreath algebras,
- cyclotomic quantum wreath algebras.

It would be interesting to generalize above picture to arbitrary level.