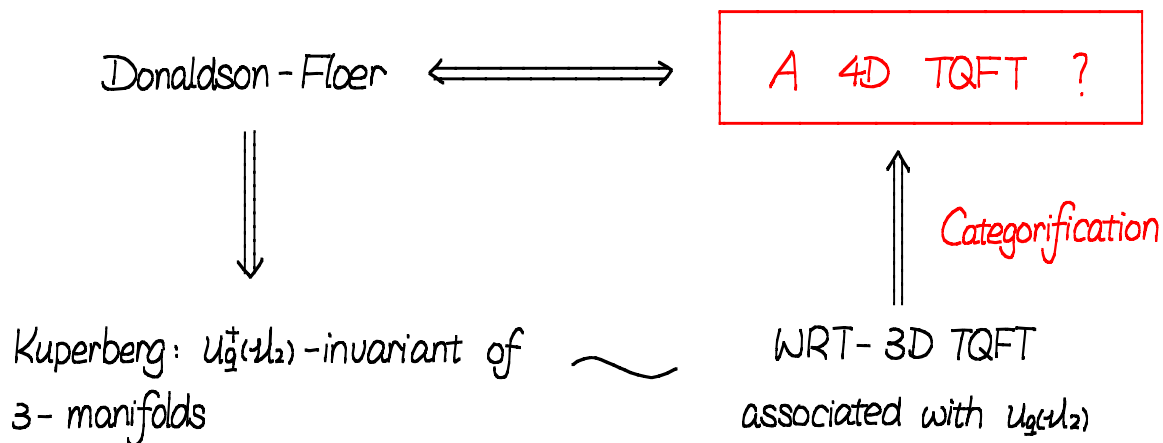


## §1. Hopfological algebra

In 1994, Crane and Frenkel published their seminal paper "Four-dimensional topological quantum field theory, Hopf categories, and the canonical bases". There they proposed a program called "categorification", hoping to lift the combinatorially defined 3-manifold invariant constructed by Kuperberg to a 4d TQFT



- $q$ : a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity

### Digression: Homological algebra

Assume, for simplicity, that we work over a ground field  $k$ . Homological algebra has the following features.

- (0). Chain complexes and their cohomology groups

$$(K^\bullet, d): d: K^\bullet \rightarrow K^{\bullet+1}, \quad d^2 = 0;$$

- (1). Direct sums of chain complexes;

- (2). Tensor products of chain complexes:  $K^\bullet \otimes L^\bullet$

- (3). Inner homs between chain complexes:  $\text{HOM}^\bullet(K^\bullet, L^\bullet)$

$$\begin{aligned} \parallel \text{HOM}^i(K^\bullet, L^\bullet) &:= \{f: K^\bullet \rightarrow L^\bullet \mid f(K^k) \subseteq L^{k+i}\} \\ \parallel d(f) &= d \circ f - (-1)^{|f|} f \circ d. \end{aligned}$$

(4). Triangular structures.

Homological shifts / cone constructions / s.e.s. leading to d.t.  
 TR1 — TR4 etc.

Homological algebra plays a fundamental role in categorification since it gives a systematic lifting of abelian structures

$\mathcal{D}^b(k)$	$\xrightarrow{\chi(K_0)}$	$\mathbb{Z}$
$K^*$	$\mapsto$	$\sum (-1)^i \dim_i K^i$
$\oplus$	$\mapsto$	addition
$\otimes$	$\mapsto$	multiplication
tensor unit	$\mapsto$	1
$[1]$	$\mapsto$	multiplication by $(-1)$ .

Rmk: If we replace vector spaces by graded vector spaces, we get a systematic lifting of "quantum" abelian structures:

$$K_0(k\text{-gvect}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$$

The grading shift  $\{1\}$  decategorifies to multiplication by  $q$ .

• Observation: Feature (1)–(3) are reminiscent of some basic constructions in representation theory: If  $G$  is some group,  $H = kG$  is a Hopf algebra so that its category of modules  $H\text{-mod}$  has:

(1)'.  $K \oplus L \in H\text{-mod}$

(2)'.  $K \otimes L \in H\text{-mod}$   $h(k \otimes l) := \sum (h_{(1)}k) \otimes (h_{(2)}l)$ .

(3)'.  $\text{HOM}(K, L) \in H\text{-mod}$   $(h \cdot f)(k) := \sum h_{(2)}f(S^{-1}(h_{(1)}(k)))$ .

Thus (1)–(3) above can be viewed as a special case of (1)'–(3)' for the Hopf superalgebra of dual numbers  $H = k[d]/(d^2)$ .

- Question: Are there analogues of the other features of homological algebra for  $H$ -mod? For instance, what is "cohomology"?

Any chain complex  $\mathbb{k}$  decomposes uniquely into direct sums:

$$(\oplus 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow 0) \oplus (\oplus 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow 0)$$

Taking cohomology does nothing but killing the second factor, which is a direct sum of free  $\mathbb{k}[d]/(d^2)$ -modules.

Less obvious is the fact that  $(0 \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow \mathbb{k} \rightarrow 0)$  is also injective. In fact,  $\mathbb{k}[d]/(d^2)$  is a Frobenius superalgebra.

Thm. (Sweedler) A Hopf algebra  $H$  is Frobenius iff it is finite-dimensional.

Our question reduces to asking how one can systematically kill projective- and -injective modules.

### The stable category

Intuitively, the stable category  $H\text{-mod}$  is the categorical quotient of  $H\text{-mod}$  by the class of projective/injective objects.

Def. The category  $H\text{-mod}$  consists of the same objects as  $H\text{-mod}$ , while the morphism spaces between any objects  $K, L$  are given by

$$\text{Hom}_{H\text{-mod}}(K, L) := \text{Hom}_{H\text{-mod}} / \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{morphisms that factor} \\ \text{through pro/injectives} \end{array} \right)$$

Rmk: The notion of stable categories makes sense for any self-injective algebra, not necessarily those coming from finite-dimensional Hopf algebras.

Thm. (Heller) If  $H$  is self-injective, then  $H\text{-mod}$  is triangulated.

In general, the morphism spaces between objects in some stable category are hard to compute. But for a stable category arising from a finite dimensional Hopf algebra, there is a conceptually easy way to compute them. To do this we need the notion of integrals for Hopf algebras.

Def. Let  $H$  be a Hopf algebra /  $k$ . An element  $\Lambda \in H$  is called a left integral in  $H$  if  $\forall h \in H$ ,

$$h \cdot \Lambda = \epsilon(h) \Lambda.$$

Thm. (Sweedler) Any finite dimensional  $H$  has a non-zero integral, unique up to a non-zero constant.

Examples (1).  $H = kG$  ( $G$ : finite group).  $\Lambda = \sum_{g \in G} g$ .

(2).  $H = k[x]/(x^2)$ ,  $\Lambda = x$ .

(3).  $H = k[x]/(x^p)$ , ( $\text{char } k = p > 0$ ),  $\Lambda = x^{p-1}$ .

Prop. Let  $H$  be a finite-dim'l Hopf algebra, and  $K, L$  be  $H$ -modules. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}_{H\text{-mod}}(K, L) &\cong \text{Hom}_H(K, L) / \Lambda \cdot \text{Hom}(K, L) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}(K, L)^H / \Lambda \cdot \text{Hom}(K, L) \end{aligned}$$

We will prove the prop shortly. Before that, we look at a couple of examples.

Examples. (1)  $H = kG$ , a finite group,  $\Lambda = \sum_{g \in G} g$ . Recall that  $H$  is

semisimple iff  $lk$  is a projective module. This is equivalent to requiring that  $\text{Hom}_{H\text{-mod}}(lk, lk) = 0$ . But  $\Lambda \cdot \text{Hom}(lk, lk) = \epsilon(\Lambda)lk = |G|lk$ . Thus  $lk_G$  is semisimple iff  $|G| \in k^*$ .

$$(2) H = k[d]/(d^2) : \Lambda \cdot f = d \cdot f = d \circ f - (-1)^{|f|} f \circ d$$

$$(3) H = k[\partial]/(\partial^{p-1}) \quad (\text{char } k = p > 0)$$

$$\Lambda \cdot f = \partial^{p-1}(f) = \sum_{i=0}^{p-1} \partial^i \circ f \circ \partial^{p-1-i}$$

Lemma. An  $H$ -module map  $K \rightarrow L$  factors through an injective  $H$ -module iff there exists a factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{\quad} & L \\ & \searrow \text{Id}_K \otimes \Lambda & \nearrow \\ & K \otimes H & \end{array}$$

Proof. It suffices to show this when  $L$  is injective. Consider the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} K & \xrightarrow{\quad \varphi \quad} & L \\ \text{Id}_K \otimes \Lambda \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Id}_L \otimes \Lambda \\ K \otimes H & \xrightarrow{\quad \varphi \otimes \text{Id} \quad} & L \otimes H \end{array} \quad \uparrow g$$

since  $L$  is injective, the injection  $\text{Id}_L \otimes \Lambda: L \rightarrow L \otimes H$  must split. Choose a splitting  $g$ . Then  $\varphi$  factors as  $g \circ (\varphi \otimes \text{Id}) \circ (\text{Id}_K \otimes \Lambda)$ .  $\square$

Lemma. An  $H$ -module map  $\varphi: K \rightarrow L$  factors through  $\text{Id}_K \otimes \Lambda: K \rightarrow K \otimes H$  iff there is a  $k$ -linear map  $\psi$  s.t.  $\varphi = \Lambda \cdot \psi$ .

Proof. If  $\varphi = \Lambda \cdot \psi$  for some  $\psi \in \text{Hom}_k(K, L)$ , we will extend  $\psi$  to  $\tilde{\varphi}: K \otimes H \rightarrow L$  by

$$\tilde{\varphi}(k \otimes h) := (h \cdot \psi)(k) = h_{(2)} \psi(S^1(h_{(1)})k)$$

Then  $\tilde{\varphi}$  is  $H$ -linear:  $\forall x, h \in H, k \in K$ , we have

$$\tilde{\varphi}(x \cdot (k \otimes h)) = \tilde{\varphi}(x_{(1)}k \otimes x_{(2)}h)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (\chi_{(2)} h)_{(2)} \tilde{\Psi}(S^{-1}(\chi_{(2)} h)_{(1)} \chi_{(1)} k) \\
&= \chi_{(3)} h_{(2)} \tilde{\Psi}(S^{-1}(h_{(1)}) S^{-1}(\chi_{(2)} \chi_{(1)} k)) \\
&= \chi_{(2)} h_{(2)} \tilde{\Psi}(S^{-1}(h_{(1)}) \epsilon(\chi_{(1)} k)) \\
&= \chi h_{(2)} \tilde{\Psi}(S^{-1}(h_{(1)}) k) \\
&= \chi(h \cdot \tilde{\Psi})(k) \\
&= \chi \tilde{\Psi}(k \otimes h)
\end{aligned}$$

Then,  $\varphi$  factors through  $\varphi: K \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes \Lambda} K \otimes H \xrightarrow{\tilde{\Psi}} L$ .

Conversely, given such a factorization of  $H$ -module maps

$$\varphi: K \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes \Lambda} K \otimes H \xrightarrow{\tilde{\Psi}} L.$$

Let  $\psi$  be the  $k$ -linear composition map  $K \xrightarrow{\cong} K \otimes 1 \hookrightarrow K \otimes H \xrightarrow{\tilde{\Psi}} L$ . Then  $\varphi = \Lambda \cdot \psi$ . Indeed,  $\forall k \in K$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
(\Lambda \cdot \psi)(k) &= \Lambda_{(2)} \psi(S^{-1}(\Lambda_{(1)}) k) \\
&= \Lambda_{(2)} \tilde{\Psi}(S^{-1}(\Lambda_{(1)}) k \otimes 1) \\
&= \tilde{\Psi}(\Lambda_{(2)} (S^{-1}(\Lambda_{(1)}) k \otimes 1)) \\
&= \tilde{\Psi}(\Lambda_{(2)} S^{-1}(\Lambda_{(1)}) k \otimes \Lambda_{(3)}) \\
&= \tilde{\Psi}(\epsilon(\Lambda_{(1)}) k \otimes \Lambda_{(2)}) \\
&= \tilde{\Psi}(k \otimes \Lambda) = \varphi(k).
\end{aligned}$$

□

### Relation to categorification

Def. Let  $H$  be the graded Hopf algebra  $k[\partial]/(\partial^p)$ ,  $\deg \partial := 1$ . We call  $H\text{-gmod}$  the category of  $p$ -complexes, while  $H\text{-gmod}$  the homotopy category of  $p$ -complexes.

Historically, the first consideration of  $p$ -complexes and their homotopy category is due to Mayer (1942). In the definition of simplicial homology theory, the differential  $d = \sum_i (-1)^i d_i$  satisfies  $d^2 \equiv 0$ . Mayer noticed that, if we work over

a field of char  $p > 0$ , and set  $\partial := \sum_i d_i$ . Then  $\partial^p \equiv 0$ , and there are the corresponding notions of (Mayer) homology. However, Spanier soon found out that Mayer's homology can be recovered from the usual homology groups ( $d^2=0$ ), and thus are less interesting.

Then, why do we care about  $p$ -complexes? This is due to the following simple observation.

Lemma (Bernstein-Khovanov). If  $H = k[\partial]/(\partial^p)$ ,  $\deg(\partial) = 1$ , then

$$K_0(H\text{-gmod}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$$

$$K_0(H\text{-gmod}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}] / (1 + q + \dots + q^{p-1}) := \mathbb{O}_p.$$

Indeed,  $K_0$  of the homotopy category is generated by the symbol  $[k]$ , subject to the only relation

$$0 = [H] = [k] + [k\{1\}] + \dots + [k\{p-1\}] = (1 + q + \dots + q^{p-1}) [k].$$

In other words,  $H\text{-gmod}$  is a categorical interpretation of the ring of the  $p$ th cyclotomic integers.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H\text{-gmod} & \xrightarrow{K_0} & \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}] / (1 + \dots + q^{p-1}) \\ \oplus \quad \otimes & \longmapsto & +, - \\ [] & \longmapsto & -1 \\ \{!\} & \longmapsto & q \end{array}$$

Here, the homological shift is defined as follows:  $M \in H\text{-mod}$ , then we have the canonical

$$\varphi_M: M \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes \Lambda} M \otimes H\{-\deg \Lambda\}$$

Then

$$M[] := \text{coker}(\varphi_M).$$

To utilize this categorical  $\mathcal{O}_p$ , we need to find interesting "algebras" in  $H\text{-gmod}$ . Then the Grothendieck groups of these "algebras" will be  $\mathcal{O}_p$ -modules. As a motivation, note that many interesting algebra objects in the usual homotopy category of chain complexes ( $H = \text{K}[\text{cd}]/(d^2)$ ) arise as differential graded algebras (DG algebras).

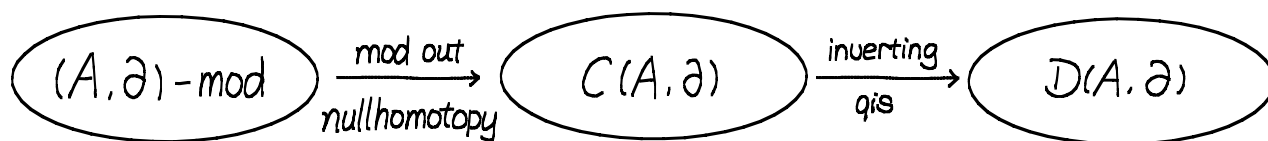
Def. A  $p$ -DG algebra  $A$  over a field of  $\text{char} k = p > 0$  is a graded algebra together with a differential  $\partial$  s.t.  $\forall a, b \in A$ ,

$$\partial(ab) = \partial(a)b + a\partial(b),$$

$$\partial^p(a) = 0.$$

More generally, one has the notion of an  $H$ -module algebra, which in turn gives rise to an algebra object in  $H\text{-mod}$ . We refer to the study of homological properties of algebra objects in  $H\text{-mod}$  as "hopfological algebra."

In analogy with the usual DG-algebras, we have



Much of my thesis is about developing some necessary tools in establishing the following result.

Thm. (Khovanov, Qi) The homotopy and derived categories of a  $p$ -DG algebra are module-categories over  $H\text{-gmod}$ . Under taking Grothendieck groups (in some appropriate sense),  $K_0(D(A, \partial))$  has the structure of an  $\mathcal{O}_p$ -module.



In other words, we have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{H-gmod} \times \mathcal{D}(A, \partial) & \xrightarrow{\otimes} & \mathcal{D}(A, \partial) \\
 \Downarrow K_0 & & \Downarrow K_0 \\
 \mathcal{O}_p \times K_0(A, \partial) & \xrightarrow{\text{mult}} & K_0(A, \partial)
 \end{array}$$

**Question:** Are there other symmetric monoidal categories whose Grothendieck rings are isomorphic to rings of integers in number fields? Or  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{C}$  etc.?

## §2 Categorized Quantum $u_2$ at Prime Roots of Unity

- Why do we want to categorify  $u_2$ ?

- Reshetikhin-Turaev - Witten :

$u_2$  is the quantized gauge group of 3d Chern-Simons theory.

- Crane-Frenkel :

Categorify 3d Chern-Simons to a 4d-TQFT.

$u_2$ : quantized 2-gauge group ?

- Quantum  $u_2$  at roots of unity.

We are interested in the idempotent version of  $u_2$ . It is generated over  $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$  by pictures of the form

$$\begin{array}{c} \lambda+2 \uparrow \lambda \\ \hline E \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \lambda-2 \downarrow \lambda \\ \hline F \end{array} \quad (\lambda \in \mathbb{Z})$$

with the algebra structure

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \lambda \\ \hline \end{array} \cdot \begin{array}{c} \mu \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \mu+2 \\ \hline \end{array} = \delta_{\lambda\mu} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \mu+2 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (\text{etc})$$

Modulo relations (at a  $2k$ -th root of unity,  $k$  odd)

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \lambda \\ \hline E \quad F \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \uparrow \lambda \\ \hline F \quad E \end{array} + [\lambda] \begin{array}{c} \lambda \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (\lambda \geq 0)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \downarrow \uparrow \lambda \\ \hline F \quad E \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \downarrow \lambda \\ \hline E \quad F \end{array} + [-\lambda] \begin{array}{c} \lambda \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (\lambda \leq 0)$$

$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \dots \uparrow \uparrow \lambda \\ \hline \end{array}}_{k\text{-many}} = 0 = \underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \downarrow \dots \downarrow \downarrow \lambda \\ \hline \end{array}}_{k\text{-many}} \quad (\text{Nilpotency relation})$$

• *Categorification of  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$*

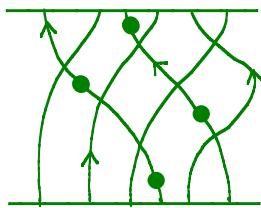
Below we present Lauda's diagrammatic calculus for  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  at a generic  $q$ -value.

The rough idea is that:

- Pictures = Isomorphism class / symbol of some modules
- Sum of pictures = symbol of direct sum of modules
- Equalities of pictures = isomorphisms of modules.

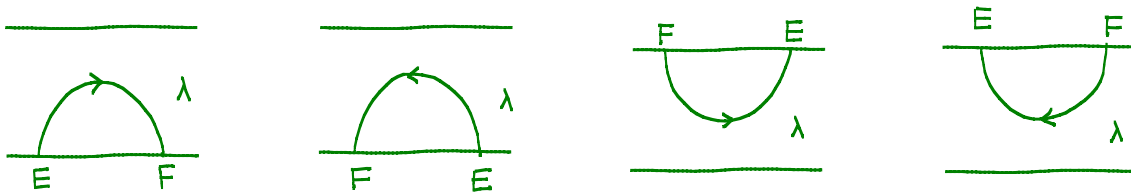
In general, isomorphisms are rare between modules. Instead, study homomorphisms between them. Intuitively, homomorphisms = evolution of pictures, which is not necessarily reversible.

- Maps just among  $E$ 's (or  $F$ 's) (*Khovanov-Lauda-Rouquier*)

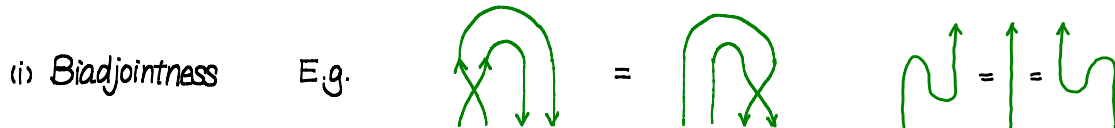


(Nil-Hecke algebra)

- To categorically "Drinfeld-double"  $E$ 's, Lauda introduces cups and caps



Together with the nilHecke algebra generators, cups and caps satisfy certain relations



(ii) Bubble positivity (degrees of  $\textcirclearrowleft_m^\lambda := \textcirclearrowleft_k$   $k = m+1-\lambda \geq 0$   $\textcirclearrowright_m^\lambda := \textcirclearrowright_l$   $l = m+1+\lambda \geq 0$  must be  $\geq 0$ )

(iii). NilHecke relations

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \bullet \\ \searrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \bullet \\ \nearrow \end{array} &= \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \uparrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \bullet \\ \nearrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \bullet \\ \searrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} &= 0 \quad \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

(iv) Reduction to bubbles

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circ^\lambda \end{array} = - \sum_{a+b=-\lambda} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \bullet \\ \circ^a \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circ^\lambda \end{array} = \sum_{a+b=\lambda} \begin{array}{c} \circ^a \\ \bullet \\ \uparrow \end{array} b$$

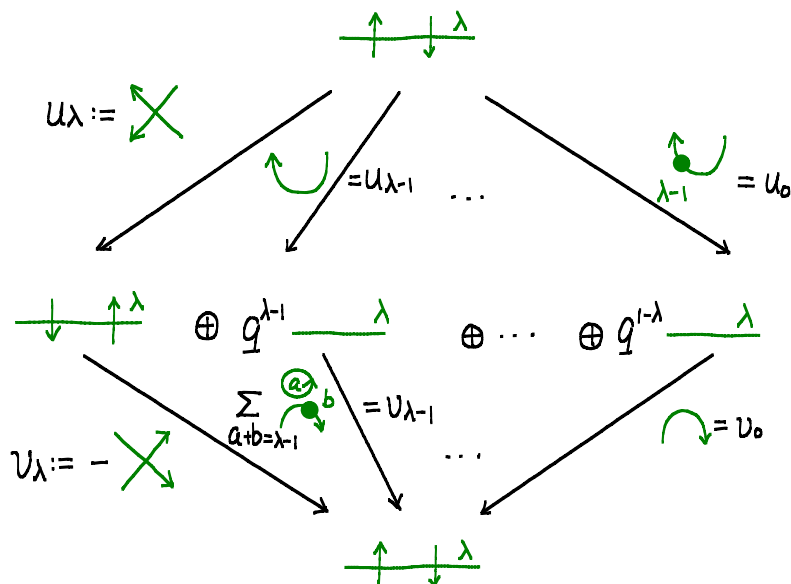
(v). Identity decomposition

$$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{array} = - \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} + \sum_{a+b+c=\lambda-1} \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \bullet \\ \circ^a \\ \bullet \\ \circ^b \\ \bullet \\ \searrow \\ \bullet \\ \circ^c \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \uparrow \end{array} = - \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \nearrow \\ \searrow \\ \nearrow \end{array} + \sum_{a+b+c=\lambda-1} \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \bullet \\ \circ^a \\ \bullet \\ \circ^b \\ \bullet \\ \nearrow \\ \bullet \\ \circ^c \end{array}$$

Thm. (Lauda) This graphical calculus is non-degenerate and categorifies  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  at a generic  $q$ -value.

Rmk: Lauda's calculus is a 2-dim'l idempotented algebra, i.e. it has two compatible multiplication structures (vertical and horizontal). Such idempotented algebras are also known as a 2-category)

To see the plausibility of this categorification, we consider how  $EF1_\lambda$  can "evolve" into  $FE1_\lambda \oplus 1_\lambda^{\oplus \lambda}$



These elements  $\{u_\lambda\}, \{v_\lambda\}$  satisfy

$$\begin{cases} u_i v_i u_i = u_i \\ v_i u_i v_i = v_i \\ v_i u_j = 0 \quad (i \neq j) \end{cases}$$

which follows from the identity decomposition relation. Consequently  $\{u_i v_i \mid i=0, \dots, \lambda\}$  form an orthogonal set of idempotents in  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}}(EF1_\lambda)$

(Factorization of idempotents)

### • Enhancing $\mathcal{U}$ with a p-differential

As we have learnt from §1, if  $A$  is a p-DG algebra, then the derived category of p-DG modules over  $A$  is a module-category over the homotopy category of p-complexes.

$$k[\partial]/(\partial^p)\text{-gmod} \times D(A, \partial) \xrightarrow{\otimes} D(A, \partial)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Downarrow K_0 & \Downarrow K_0 & \Downarrow K_0 \\ \mathcal{O}_p \times K_0(A, \partial) & \xrightarrow{\times} & K_0(A, \partial) \end{array}$$

Def. Let  $(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$  be Lauda's 2-dimensional algebra equipped with the differential  $\partial$ -action on generators given by

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(\uparrow \bullet) &= \uparrow \bullet & \partial(\begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array}) &= \uparrow \uparrow - 2 \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \nearrow \searrow \end{array} \\ \partial(\downarrow \bullet) &= \downarrow \bullet & \partial(\begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \nearrow \end{array}) &= -\downarrow \downarrow - 2 \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \searrow \nearrow \end{array} \\ \partial(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \lambda \end{array}) &= \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \curvearrowright \\ \lambda \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \lambda \end{array} \textcircled{1} & \partial(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowleft \\ \lambda \end{array}) &= (1-\lambda) \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \lambda \end{array} \\ \partial(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowleft \\ \lambda \end{array}) &= \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowleft \\ \lambda \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \curvearrowleft \\ \lambda \end{array} \textcircled{1} & \partial(\begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \lambda \end{array}) &= (\lambda+1) \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \curvearrowright \\ \lambda \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

Lemma. The above  $\partial$  preserves all relations of  $\mathcal{U}$ , and it is  $p$ -nilpotent over a field of characteristic  $p > 0$ .

Thm. (Elias-Q.) The derived module category  $\mathcal{D}^b(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$  is Karoubian, and it categorifies  $\dot{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  at a  $p$ -th primitive root of unity.

$$K_0(\mathcal{U}, \partial) \cong \dot{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$$

1

• Decomposition v.s. filtration.

In Lauda's abelian categorification, the relations in  $\dot{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  are usually realized as different ways of decomposing projective  $\mathcal{U}$ -modules.

In the realm of triangulated categories, direct sum decompositions are very rare. Instead, a short exact sequence of  $p$ -DG  $\mathcal{U}$ -modules gives rise to a distinguished triangle in  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \\ A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C & \longrightarrow & A \oplus C \end{array} \quad \text{in } (\mathcal{U}, \partial)\text{-mod}$$

$$A \longrightarrow B \longrightarrow C \longrightarrow A \oplus C \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{U}, \partial) \implies [B] = [A] + [C] \in K_0(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$$

More generally, a filtered  $p$ -DG module  $(M, F^*)$  presents  $M$  as a convolution (Postnikov tower) of  $gr F^*$ .

**Example** In the nilHecke algebra  $NH_2$ :

$$NH_2 \cong \text{Sym}_2 \cdot \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} \text{green crossing} \\ \text{green dots} \end{array} & \xrightarrow{1} & - \begin{array}{c} \text{green crossing} \\ \text{green dots} \end{array} \\ -1 \uparrow & & -1 \uparrow \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{green crossing} \\ \text{green dots} \end{array} & \xrightarrow{1} & - \begin{array}{c} \text{green crossing} \\ \text{green dots} \end{array} \end{array} \right)$$

$\Rightarrow 0 \rightarrow P_2\{1\} \rightarrow NH_2 \rightarrow P_2\{1\} \rightarrow 0$  is a s.e.s. of  $(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$ -modules.

$\Rightarrow$  In  $K_0(\mathcal{U}, \partial)$ ,  $E^2 = [(NH_2, \partial)] = q[P_2] + q^{-1}[P_2] = (q+q^{-1})E^{(2)}$

**Prop.** Let  $\{(u_i, v_i) \mid i \in I\}$  be factorization of idempotents in a  $p$ -DG algebra  $R$ .

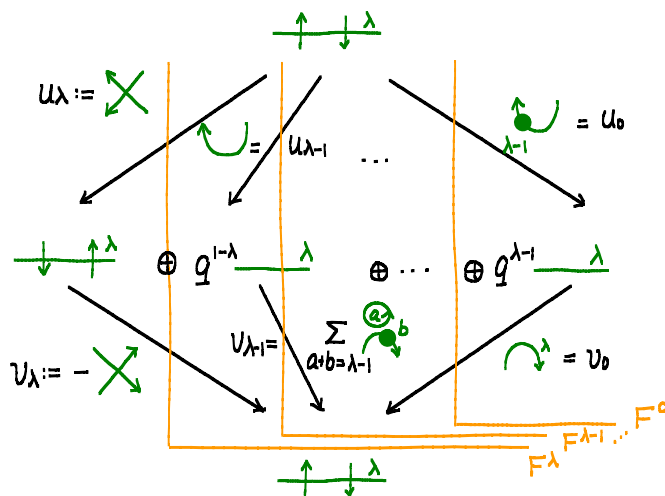
If there is a total ordering on  $I$  such that

$$\begin{cases} v_i \partial(u_i) = 0 \\ u_i \partial(v_i) \equiv 0 \text{ (modulo lower order terms)} \end{cases}$$

Then if  $\varepsilon = \sum_{i \in I} u_i v_i$ , then the  $p$ -DG module  $R\varepsilon$  admits a filtration  $F^*$  whose subquotients are isomorphic to  $Rv_i u_i$ 's

**Cor.** (Fantastic!) In the situation of the Prop.  $[R\varepsilon] = \sum_{i \in I} [Rv_i u_i]$ .

**Cor.** Under the differential defined earlier on  $\mathcal{U}$ , there is a filtration on  $\mathcal{EF}1_\lambda$



• **Uniqueness: a small surprise!**

Lauda's factorization of idempotents, in general, is not unique.

However, in the presence of a diagrammatically local differential (not necessarily the differential we defined here, but any  $\partial$  compatible with the local relations of  $\mathcal{U}$ ), we have, up to conjugation by diagrammatic automorphisms

- The differential we defined here is the unique differential such that the modules  $\mathcal{E}\mathcal{F}\mathbb{1}_\lambda$  ( $\lambda \geq 0$ ) admit filtrations whose subquotients are isomorphic to  $\mathcal{F}\mathcal{E}\mathbb{1}_\lambda, \mathbb{1}_\lambda\{-\lambda\}, \dots, \mathbb{1}_\lambda\{\lambda-1\}$ .
- Lauda's factorization of idempotents is the unique choice that is compatible with the differential. (Fantastic Filtration)

• **Application: categorification of simple  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -modules**

For any weight  $\mu$ , the subcategory  $\mathcal{U}_\mu$ , in which pictures have the right most region labelled by  $\mu$ , forms a natural left  $\mathcal{U}$ -module category by horizontal composition of pictures.

Def. The cyclotomic quotient category  $\mathcal{U}^\mu$  is the quotient of  $\mathcal{U}_\mu$  by the ideal



The ideal is clearly closed under  $\partial$ , so that  $\mathcal{U}^\mu$  inherits the quotient differential.  $(\mathcal{U}^\mu, \partial)$  is called the cyclotomic quotient p-DG category.



The name of the category arises from the relation that

$$\downarrow \bigcirc^\mu = \sum_{a+b=\mu} \downarrow^a \bigcirc^b \Rightarrow \downarrow^\mu = 0.$$

The nilHecke algebra  $NH_n/(x_n^\mu)$  is called the level- $\mu$  cyclotomic quotient.

Thm (Elias-Q) If  $0 \leq \mu \leq p-1$ , then  $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{V}^\mu, \partial)$  categorifies the highest weight- $\mu$  simple  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -module.

Sketch of proof. As a quotient category,  $(\mathcal{V}^\mu, \partial)$  inherits the  $\mathcal{EF}$  and  $\mathcal{FE}$  fantastic filtration. Thus 1-morphisms in this category can be reduced to those of the form  $\mathcal{F}^b \mathcal{E}^a \mathbb{1}_\mu$  for  $a, b \geq 0$ . Since  $\mathcal{E}^a \mathbb{1}_\mu = 0$  and  $\mathcal{F}^b \mathcal{E}^a \mathbb{1}_\mu$  is acyclic if  $b \geq p$ , the category  $(\mathcal{V}^\mu, \partial)$  is generated by  $\{\mathcal{F}^b \mathbb{1}_\mu, 0 \leq b \leq p-1\}$ . The endomorphism  $p$ -DG algebra

$$\text{End}_{(\mathcal{V}^\mu, \partial)}(\mathcal{F}^b \mathbb{1}_\mu) \cong NH_b/(x_b^\mu) \cong \begin{cases} \text{Mat}(b!, H^*(\text{Gr}(b, \mu))) & 0 \leq b \leq \mu \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The result follows from the fact that  $\text{Mat}(b!, H^*(\text{Gr}(b, \mu)))$  has rank-1 Grothendieck group. □