

# Skein Categories

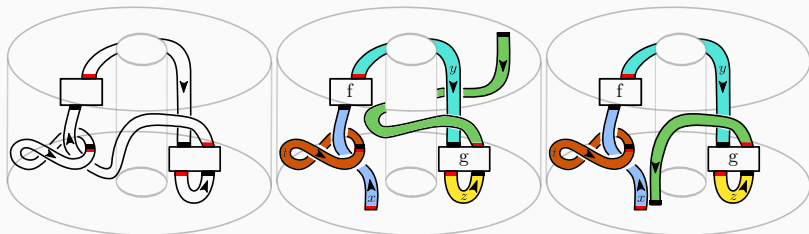
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# Introduction



Skein algebra



Skein categories



Internal  
skein algebras



Factorisation homology

$$\mathbf{Disc}_2^{or, \sqcup} \xrightarrow{F_V} \mathbf{Cat}_k^{\times}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & \nearrow & \\ \mathbf{Mfld}_2^{or, \sqcup} & \text{Sk}_V(\Sigma) & \end{array}$$

# Skein Algebras

The Kauffman bracket skein algebra  $\text{SkAlg}_q(\Sigma)$  of the oriented smooth surface  $\Sigma$  is the  $\mathbb{Q}(q)$  module of formal linear combinations of links up to isotopy modulo the Kauffman bracket skein relations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Crossing} &= q^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Saddle} + q^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{Saddle}, \\ \text{Circle} &= -q - q^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplication is given by stacking.

It is an invariant of framed links and it can be renormalised to give the Jones polynomial.

# Coloured Ribbon Graphs

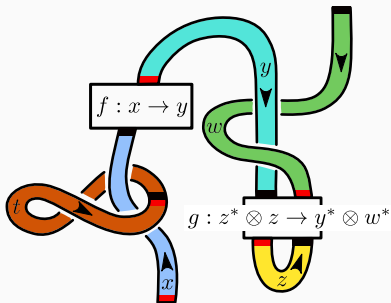
Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a (strict) ribbon category:

**monoidal product**  $\otimes : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$

**braiding**  $\beta : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V}$

**twist**  $\theta : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$

**duals**  $X^*$  with unit  $\eta : 1 \rightarrow V^* \otimes V$  and counit  $\epsilon : V \otimes V^* \rightarrow 1$   
maps



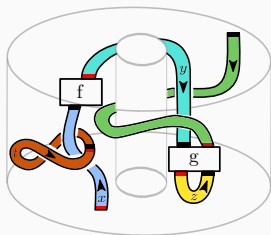
# Category of Coloured Ribbons

A coloured ribbon diagram of the surface  $\Sigma$  is an embedding of a ribbon graph into  $\Sigma \times [0, 1]$  such that unattached bases are sent to  $\Sigma \times \{0, 1\}$ .

$\mathbf{Ribbon}_V(\Sigma)$  is the  $k$ -linear category:

**Objects** Finite collections of disjoint, framed, coloured, directed points in  $\Sigma$

**Morphisms** Finite  $k$ -linear combinations of coloured ribbon diagram which are compatible with the points attached to up to isotopy which preserves ribbon graph structure.

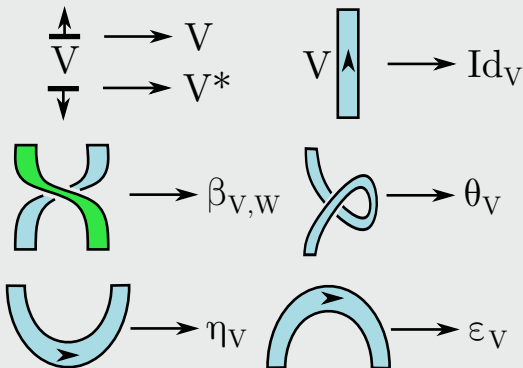


# Evaluation Function

## Theorem (Turaev)

*There is a full surjective ribbon functor*

$$\text{eval} : \mathbf{Ribbon}_{\mathcal{V}}([0, 1]^3) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$$



## Skein Category (Walker, Johnson-Freyd)

The skein category  $\mathbf{Sk}_\nu(\Sigma)$  is the  $k$ -linear category of coloured ribbons  $\mathbf{Ribbon}_\nu(\Sigma)$  modulo the following relation on morphisms

$$\sum_i \lambda_i F_i \sim 0$$

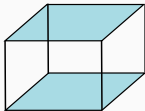
if there exists an orientation preserving embedding

$$E : [0, 1]^3 \hookrightarrow \Sigma \times [0, 1]$$

such that

$$\text{eval} \left( \sum_i \lambda_i F_i|_{[0,1]^3} \right) = 0,$$

the coloured ribbon diagrams  $F_i$  are identical outside the cube, and they only intersect the cube with strands transversely at the top and the bottom.



A framed  $E_n$ -algebra is symmetric monoidal functor

$$F : \mathbf{Disc}_n^{or, \sqcup} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\otimes} : F(\mathbb{D}) = \mathcal{V}$$

$\mathcal{C}^{\otimes}$  is an  $(\infty, 1)$  monoidal category.

$\mathbf{Mfld}_n^{or, \sqcup}$  is the symmetric monoidal  $(\infty, 1)$ -category:

**Objects**      smooth oriented  $n$ -dimensional manifolds

**Morphisms**    $\infty$ -groupoid  $\mathbf{Emb}_n^{or}(-, -)$

$\mathbf{Disc}_n^{or, \sqcup}$  is the full subcategory of finite disjoint unions of  $\mathbb{R}$



# Factorisation Homology (Lurie, Ayala, Francis, Tanaka)

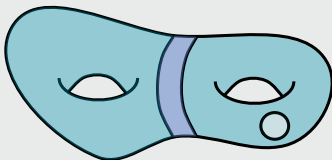
The factorisation homology  $\int_{\square} \mathcal{V}$  is the Left Kan extension

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Disc}_n^{or, \square} & \xrightarrow{F} & \mathcal{C}^{\otimes} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \Upsilon & \\ \mathbf{Mfld}_n^{or, \square} & & \end{array}$$

## Theorem

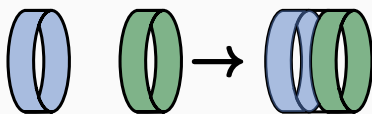
*There is an equivalence of categories*

$$\int M \sqcup_A N \simeq \int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes_{\int_A \mathcal{V}} \int_N \mathcal{V}$$

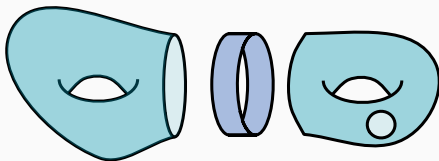


# Relative Tensor Product

Let  $A = \gamma \times [0, 1]$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} := \int_A \mathcal{V}$  is a monoidal category



Assume there are actions  $\int_M \mathcal{V} \curvearrowright \mathcal{A} \curvearrowright \int_N \mathcal{V}$



The relative tensor product  $\int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes_{\int_A \mathcal{V}} \int_N \mathcal{V}$  is the colimit in  $\mathcal{C}^\otimes$  of the 2-sided bar construction:

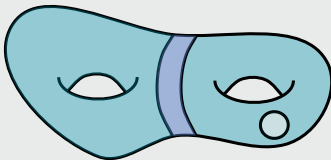
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} \otimes \int_N \mathcal{V} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes \mathcal{A} \otimes \int_N \mathcal{V} \implies \int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes \int_N \mathcal{V}$$

## Theorem (Ayala, Francis, Tanaka)

The functor  $\int_{-} \mathcal{V} : \mathbf{Mfld}_2^{or, \sqcup} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\otimes}$  is characterised by

1.  $\int_U \mathcal{V} \simeq \mathcal{V}$  if  $U$  is contractible
2. if  $A \cong Y \times \mathbb{R}$  for 1-manifold with corners  $Y$  then  $\int_A \mathcal{V}$  has canonical monoidal structure (which does not depend on choice of homeomorphism)
3. Excision

$$\int M \sqcup_A N \simeq \int_M \mathcal{V} \otimes_{\int_A \mathcal{V}} \int_N \mathcal{V}$$



# Skein Categories as Factorisation Homology

$\mathrm{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(\Sigma)$  is a small  $k$ -linear category

An oriented embedding of surfaces  $\Sigma \hookrightarrow \Pi$  induces a  $k$ -linear functor  $\mathrm{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(\Sigma) \rightarrow \mathrm{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(\Pi)$ ,

So have a 2-functor

$$\mathrm{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(-) : \mathbf{Mfld}_2^{\mathrm{or}, \sqcup} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cat}_k^{\times}$$

$\mathbf{Cat}_k^{\times}$  is the symmetric monoidal  $(2, 1)$ -category:

**Objects**      small  $k$ -linear categories.

**1-morphisms**  $k$ -linear functors

**2-morphisms** natural transformations

# Skein Categories as Factorisation Homology

## Theorem (C.)

*The skein category functor is the factorisation homology*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Disc}_2^{or, \sqcup} & \xrightarrow{F_{\mathcal{V}}} & \mathbf{Cat}_k^{\times} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(-) & \\ \mathbf{Mfld}_2^{or, \sqcup} & & \end{array}$$

Using characterisation of factorisation homology the hard part is proving excision:

1. The relative tensor product  $\text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(M) \times_{\text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(A)} \text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(N)$  defined as the colimit of the 2-sided bar construction is equivalent to the standard relative tensor product of  $k$ -linear categories.
2. Using this relative tensor product  $\text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(M) \times_{\text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(A)} \text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(N) \simeq \text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(M \sqcup_A N)$ .

# Internal Skein Algebras (Gunningham, Jordan, Safronov)

The internal skein algebra of the punctured surface  $\Sigma^*$  is the functor

$$\text{SkAlg}_{\mathcal{V}}^{\text{int}}(\Sigma^*) : \mathcal{V}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$$

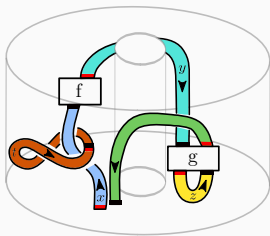
$$V \mapsto \text{Hom}_{\text{Sk}_{\mathcal{V}}(\Sigma^*)}(\mathcal{P}(V), 1)$$



Such a functor is an object in the free-cocompletion

$$\overline{\mathcal{V}} := \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{V}^{\text{op}}, \mathbf{Vect}) \in \mathbf{LFP}_k.$$

It is an algebra internal to  $\mathbf{LFP}_k$ .



# Stated Skein Algebras ( $\hat{L}$ )

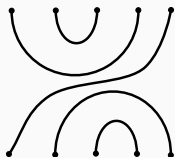
The Stated skein algebra  $\text{StatedSkAlg}_q(\Sigma^*)$  of the punctured oriented smooth surface  $\Sigma^*$  is the  $\mathbb{Q}(q)$  module of formal linear combinations of stated boundary tangles up to isotopy modulo the Kauffman bracket skein relations

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Crossing} &= q^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Saddle} + q^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{Saddle}, \\ \text{Circle} &= -q - q^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Crossing} &= q^2 \text{Crossing} + q^{-1/2} \text{Cup}, \\ \text{Cup} &= q^{-1/2} \text{Cup}, \\ \text{Cup} &= 0 \quad \text{Cup} = \text{Cup} \end{aligned}$$

# Temperley-Lieb Category



The Temperley-Lieb category **TL** is a ribbon category

**objects**  $[n]$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

**morphisms** Temperley-Lieb diagrams modulo linear relation

$$\bigcirc = -q - q^{-1}$$

**composition** of morphism is given by vertical stacking

**monoidal product** is given by horizontal stacking

$$\text{braiding} \quad \beta_{[1],[1]} := \text{crossing} = q^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{cup-cap} + q^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{cap-cup}$$

**duality** caps and cups

$$\text{twist} \quad \theta_{[1]} = -q^{-3}$$



# Relation to Stated Skein Algebras

From now on we shall assume  $q$  is generic.

In this case, the Cauchy completion  $\mathbf{TL}$  is the category  $\mathbf{Rep}_q^{fd}(\mathrm{SL})$  of finite dimensional representations of the quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ .

## Theorem (Gunningham, Jordan, Safronv)

$\hat{T}(\mathrm{SkAlg}_{\mathbf{TL}}^{int}(\Sigma^*))$  is the stated skein algebra  $\mathrm{StatedSkAlg}_q(\Sigma^*)$ .

Have a functor  $F : \mathbf{TL} \rightarrow \mathbf{Rep}^{fd}(\mathrm{SL}_2)$  sending  $[1]$  to standard 2-dimensional representation  $V$ . Compose with the forgetful functor to get a functor  $F : \mathbf{TL} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$  then  $\hat{T} : \hat{\mathbf{TL}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$  is unique colimit preserving extension of this.

## Reflection Equation Algebras (Majid)

Let  $R$  be the  $R$ -matrix of the quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g})$  where  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the Lie algebra associated to the Lie group  $G$ .

The reflection equation algebra  $\mathcal{O}_q(G)$  has generators  $u = \{u_j^i\}$  satisfying the reflection equation

$$R_{21}u_1Ru_2 = u_2R_{21}u_1R$$

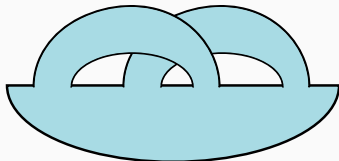
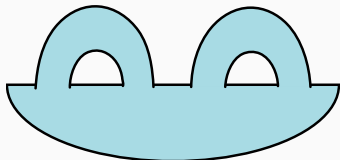
where  $u_1 := u \otimes 1$  and  $u_2 := 1 \otimes u$  and braided versions of the relations associated to  $G$  e.g. for  $G = \mathrm{SL}_2$  we quotient by the braided determinant  $\underline{\det}(u) := u_1^1 u_2^2 - q^2 u_1^2 u_2^1$  is 1.

## Theorem (Ben-Zvi, Brochier, Jordan)

The internal skein algebra  $\text{SkAlg}_{\text{Rep}_q^{\text{fd}}(\text{SL}_2)}^{\text{int}}(\Sigma^*)$  is isomorphic to the Alekseev moduli algebra

$$A_{\Sigma^*} = \underbrace{\mathcal{O}_q(G) \tilde{\otimes} \dots \tilde{\otimes} \mathcal{O}_q(G)}_{\text{number of handles}}$$

where  $\tilde{\otimes}$  depends on the type of the handle.



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**Questions?**