

2d TQFT's and partial fractions

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Topological Quantum Field Theory Club

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(joint with M.Khovanov and
Y.Kononov)

★ Definition (M. Atiyah): A TQFT is a symmetric tensor functor $\text{Cob}_d \rightarrow \text{Vec}$.

d-dim

Generalization: replace Vec by a symmetric tensor category \mathcal{C}

\mathcal{C} -valued TQFT: symmetric tensor functor $\text{Cob}_d \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$.

Examples: $\mathcal{C} = \text{Vec}$, $s\text{Vec}$, $\text{Rep}(G)$ etc

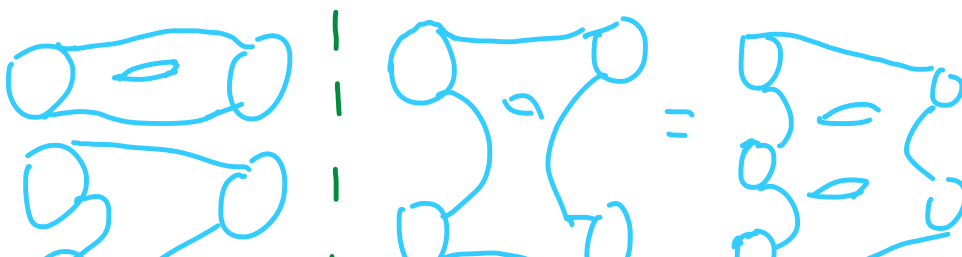
Today: $d=2!$

Category of cobordisms Cob_d : *d=2* *ooj*

Objects: $(d-1)$ -dimensional closed oriented manifolds

Morphisms: d -dimensional oriented cobordisms

Composition: gluing



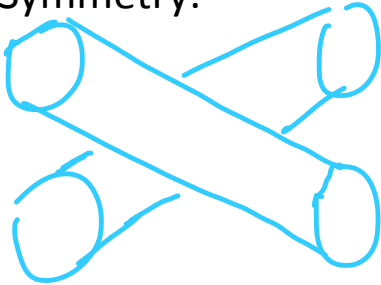


Identity morphisms=?

Tensor product: disjoint union

Unit object=?

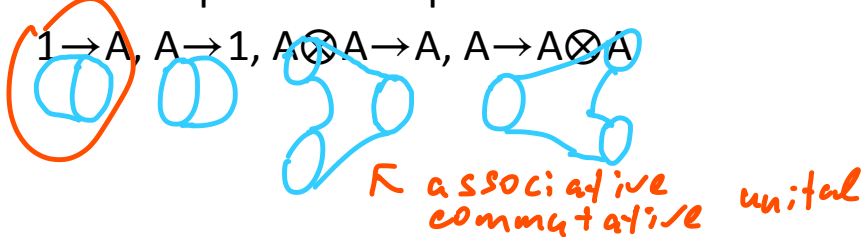
Symmetry:



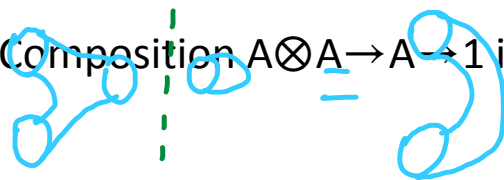
Some important objects of Cob_2:

empty set=1 and circle=A

Some important morphisms:



Composition $A \otimes A \rightarrow A \rightarrow 1$ is non-degenerate $A = A^*$



- ★ Thus A is a commutative Frobenius object in Cob_2 : commutative associative unital monoid equipped with a map $A \rightarrow 1$ such that the composition $A \otimes A \rightarrow A \rightarrow 1$ is a non-degenerate pairing.

Theorem (R.Dijkgraaf + folklore): Cob_2 is free category *dot*

generated by the commutative Frobenius object A .

Corollary: \mathbb{C} -valued 2d TQFT's = Functors $\text{Cob}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ = commutative Frobenius objects in \mathbb{C} .

★ TQFT output: values at closed d -manifolds — elements of $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(1,1)$
 α_0 α_1 α_2 etc

Linear setup: choose a field k

\mathbb{C} — k -linear category

$\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(1,1) = k$

Frobenius object = Frobenius algebra

TQFT output: sequence $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$ of elements of k

★ Answer 1: all sequences appear. Question: which sequences we will observe?

Take $\mathbb{C} = \text{VCob}_\alpha :=$ linearized Cob_2 modulo relations

 = α_0  = α_1  = α_2

etc
 Hom' are so dim'l $\text{Hom}(A,A) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha_i$

★ Realization of sequence $\alpha = (\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots)$: pair (\mathbb{C}, A) such that the corresponding TQFT outputs α .

Realization is finite if Hom spaces in \mathbb{C} are finite dimensional.

eventually recurrent

Answer 2 (M.Khovanov): sequence α admits a finite realization if and only if it is linearly recursive, that is the

generating function $Z(T) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 T + \alpha_2 T^2 + \dots$ is rational.

$X = F(\bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc) \in \text{Hom}_C(A, A)$

★ $1, X, X^2, X^3, \dots$ are linearly dependent

e.g. $X^3 - 2X^4 + 3X^5 = 0$ negligible

hence $X^n - 2X^{n+1} + 3X^{n+2} = 0$ for $n \geq 3$

hence $\alpha_n - 2\alpha_{n+1} + 3\alpha_{n+2} = 0$ for $n \geq 3$

$\alpha_n = F(\bigcirc \mid \bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc \mid \bigcirc) = F(\bigcirc) X^n F(\bigcirc)$

Khovanov - Seidel



Existence: some quotients SCob_α of linearized VCob_2 .

★ Realization is abelian if C is abelian, rigid, with finite dimensional Hom spaces.

Answer 3 (M.Khovanov, Y.Kononov, V.O.): sequence α admits an abelian realization if and only if it is

1) linearly recursive, $Z(T) = \frac{P(T)}{Q(T)}$ with relatively prime $P(T)$ and $Q(T)$. *with relatively prime = alg closure of K*

2) $Q(T)$ has no ~~multiple~~ roots (in K) and $\deg P \leq \deg Q + 1$. *γ_i are distinct*

Thus $Z(T) = \delta_0 + \delta_1 T + \sum_i \frac{\beta_i}{1 - \gamma_i T}$ *end in char $k=0$*

3) If $\text{char } k = p > 0$ then δ_1 and $\beta_i \gamma_i$ (for all i) are in the prime

subfield $F_p \subset k$

Remark: conditions 2) and 3) can be expressed in terms of

1-form $Z(T) \frac{dT}{T^2}$:

- 2. all its poles are simple except, possibly, at $T=0$
- 3. All its residues are in F_p

★ Examples:

$C = \text{Vec}, A = K$
 $A \rightarrow K \text{ id}$

1) $\alpha = 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots$. Thus $Z(T) = \frac{1}{1-T}$ and α has an abelian realization over any field.

2) $\alpha = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$. Thus $Z(T) = \frac{1}{(1-T)^2}$ and α has no abelian realization over any field

3) $\alpha = 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, \dots$. Thus $Z(T) = \frac{1+2T}{1-T^2} = \frac{\frac{3}{2}}{1-T} + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}}{1+T}$

, so α has an abelian realization over any field of characteristic not 2.

4) $\alpha = 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \dots$ Lucas. Thus $Z(T) = \frac{1}{1-T-T^2}$

α has an abelian realization: $p=0, 11, 19, 29, 31, 41,$

α has no abelian realization: $p=2, 3, 5, 7, 13, 17, 23, 37$

$t \in \mathbb{C}$

Note that: $\alpha = -1, 2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, \dots$ has an abelian realization over any field.

$1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots$
 \uparrow
 $\dim(A)$

★ Remark: abelian realization in characteristic $p > 0$ implies a realization with $C = \text{Vec}$. This is NOT the case in characteristic 0. Deligne categories (like $\text{Rep}(S_t)$) of super-exponential growth are needed.

\dots

1520 i = -1

Example:

1) $\alpha=1,2,1,2,1,2,\dots$ so $Z(T)=\frac{\frac{3}{2}}{1-T} + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}}{1+T}$; realization of α requires $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ with $t=3/2$ and $t=1/2$.

2) $\alpha=3,1,3,1,3,1,\dots$ Here $Z(T)=\frac{2}{1-T} + \frac{1}{1+T}$; realization of α requires $\text{Rep}(S_{-1})$.

★ Answer 4 (well known?) Assume $p=0$ and $Z(T)=\delta_0 + \delta_1 T$

~~$+ \sum_i \frac{\beta_i}{1-\gamma_i T}$~~ *(or $\delta_1=0$ and $\delta_0=0$)*

Sequence α admits an abelian realization of exponential growth if and only if δ_1 is an integer and $\beta_i \gamma_i$ (for all i) are integers >0 .

This implies a realization with $C=\text{sVec}$.

Sequence α admits a realization with $C=\text{Vec}$ if and only if δ_1 is an integer >1 and $\beta_i \gamma_i$ (for all i) are integers >0 .

★ Crucial tool: quotients by negligible morphisms (“gligible” quotients) aka “semisimplifications”.

Theorem of Andre-Kahn (abstract version of Jannsen theorem) implies:

true in general

Corollary: α admits an abelian realization if and only if the gligible quotient Cob_α of SCob_α is semisimple.

Important computation: compute categories Cob_α .

★ Results for α with abelian realization (k algebraically

closed):

 $p=0$

1) if $Z(T)=\text{sum of partial fractions}$ then the gligible quotient is a product of quotients for each summand.

Thus if $Z(T)=\delta_0 + \delta_1 T + \sum_i \frac{\beta_i}{1 - \gamma_i T}$ we need to consider only the following cases:

2) If $Z(T)=\frac{\beta}{1 - \gamma T}$ then the semisimplification of $\text{Cob}_2(\alpha)$

is semisimplification of $\text{Rep}(S_t)$ with $t=\beta\gamma$ (exceptional values of t: non-negative integers) $x^2-1=(x-1)^2$

3) if $Z(T)=\delta_0 + \delta_1 T$ with $\delta_1 \neq 0$ then the semisimplification of $\text{Cob}_2(\alpha)$ is semisimplification of $\text{Rep}(O_t)$ with $t=\delta_1 - 2$ (exceptional values of t: integers)

4) if $Z(T)=\delta_0$ then the semisimplification of $\text{Cob}_2(\alpha)$ is $\text{Rep}(\text{osp}(1|2))$ or, in characteristic p, a semisimplification

Example: $Z(T)=1+2T$. In characteristic $\neq 2$ we get

$C=\text{Vec}$ and $A=k[x]/x^2$. In characteristic 2 we get

$C=\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -graded vector spaces and $A=k[x]/(x^2-1)$.

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n!} = \exp(2 \exp(t) - 2)$$

What about sequences without abelian realization, e.g. 1,2,3,4,5,...?

We can start by finding dimensions of Hom spaces in the gligible quotients Cob_α , e.g. $\text{Hom}(1, A^{\otimes n})=:a_n$.

Theorem. Assume b_2 is nonzero. Then we have

Conjecture: Assume $Z(T) = \frac{1}{(1-T)^2}$ or, more generally, $Z(T) = \frac{\beta}{(1-\gamma T)^2}$. Then the category SCob_α has no negligible morphisms, i.e. $\text{SCob}_\alpha = \text{Cob}_\alpha$. Thus the generating function $h_{\neq 0}$

$-1, -1, -1, \dots \sim \text{Rep}(S-1)$
 $t, t, t, t, \dots \sim \text{Rep}(S+)$

What if $Z(T) = \text{quadratic polynomial} = b_0 + b_1 T + b_2 T^2$. Then the category SCob_α does have negligible morphisms, i.e. $\text{SCob}_\alpha \neq \text{Cob}_\alpha$.



main copy

1. GRAM DETERMINANTS

n	B_n	det
1	1	β
2	2	$\beta^2 (\beta\gamma - 1)$
3	5	$\beta^5 (\beta\gamma - 1)^4 (\beta\gamma - 2)$
4	15	$\beta^{15} \gamma (\beta\gamma - 1)^{14} (\beta\gamma - 2)^7 (\beta\gamma - 3)$
5	52	$\beta^{52} \gamma^{10} (\beta\gamma - 1)^{51} (\beta\gamma - 2)^{36} (\beta\gamma - 3)^{11} (\beta\gamma - 4)$
6	203	$\beta^{203} \gamma^{73} (\beta\gamma - 1)^{202} (\beta\gamma - 2)^{171} (\beta\gamma - 3)^{81} (\beta\gamma - 4)^{16} (\beta\gamma - 5)$
7	877	$\beta^{877} \gamma^{490} (\beta\gamma - 1)^{876} (\beta\gamma - 2)^{813} (\beta\gamma - 3)^{512} (\beta\gamma - 4)^{162} (\beta\gamma - 5)^{22} (\beta\gamma - 6)$

TABLE 1. Determinants of the bilinear form on $A(n)$ for the generating function $Z(T) = \frac{\beta}{1-\gamma T}$.

n	$B_n^{(2)}$	det
1	2	$-\beta^2$
2	6	$-\beta^{10}\gamma^{12}$
3	22	$-\beta^{50}\gamma^{66}$
4	94	$-\beta^{266}\gamma^{376}$
5	454	$-\beta^{1522}\gamma^{2270}$

TABLE 2. Two-colored Bell numbers and Gram determinants for the function $Z(T) = \beta/(1 - \gamma T)^2$.

n	dim	det
1	2	$-(\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1)^2$
2	6	$-\gamma^2(\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1)^{10}$
3	22	$-\gamma^{16}(\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1)^{50}$
4	94	$-\gamma^{110}(\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1)^{266}$
5	454	$-\gamma^{748}(\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1)^{1522}$

TABLE 3. Dimensions and determinants for the function $Z(T) = (\beta_0 + \beta_1 T)/(1 - \gamma T)^2$. The difference with the previous table is $\beta_0\gamma + \beta_1$ taking place of β .

1

2

2. POLYNOMIAL GENERATING FUNCTIONS

n	$B_n^{(2)}$	dim $A(n)$	det
1	2	2	$-\beta_1^2$
2	6	5	$(\beta_1 - 2)\beta_1^8$
3	22	14	$-(\beta_1 - 2)^6\beta_1^{30}$
4	94	43	$(\beta_1 - 3)^2(\beta_1 - 2)^{27}\beta_1^{113}$
5	454	142	$-(\beta_1 - 3)^{20}(\beta_1 - 2)^{110}\beta_1^{440}$
6	2430	499	$(\beta_1 - 4)^5(\beta_1 - 3)^{134}(\beta_1 - 2)^{435}\beta_1^{1774}(\beta_1 + 2)$
7	14214	1850	$-(\beta_1 - 4)^{70}(\beta_1 - 3)^{756}(\beta_1 - 2)^{1722}\beta_1^{7406}(\beta_1 + 2)^{14}$

TABLE 4. Determinants of the bilinear form on $A(n)$ for the generating function $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T$. Notice the appearance of the term $\beta_1 + 2$ in the last two lines.

Prediction for $n = 8$ (determinant of size 7193):

$$(\beta_1 - 5)^{14}(\beta_1 - 4)^{630}(\beta_1 - 3)^{3912}(\beta_1 - 2)^{6937}(\beta_1 - 1)^{14}\beta_1^{31931}(\beta_1 + 2)^{133}(\beta_1 + 4).$$

n	$B_n^{(3)}$	dim	det
0	1	1	1
1	3	3	$-\beta_2^3$
2	12	11	$-\beta_2^{20}$
3	57	46	β_2^{118}
4	309	213	β_2^{696}
5	1866	1073	$-\beta_2^{4225}$

TABLE 5. Computation of dimensions and the determinant for $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 T^2$.

n	$B_n^{(4)}$	dim	det
0	1	1	1
1	4	4	β_3^4
2	20	19	$-\beta_3^{35}$
3	116	102	$-\beta_3^{266}$
4	756	604	β_3^{2007}
5	5428	3884	β_3^{15540}

TABLE 6. Computation of dimensions and the determinant for $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 T^2 + \beta_3 T^3$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \beta_2^3 \text{ (cup with 1 dot) } = A + B + C \\
 A &= \beta_2^2 \sum_{(2,1)} \text{ (cup with 1 dot) } \text{ (cup with 2 dots) } & B &= -\beta_2 \sum_{(1,2)} \text{ (cup with 1 dot) } \text{ (cup with 2 dots) } \text{ (cup with 2 dots) } \\
 C &= \beta_1 \sum_{(3)} \text{ (cup with 2 dots) } \text{ (cup with 2 dots) } \text{ (cup with 2 dots) }
 \end{aligned}$$

FIGURE 2.0.1. Relation in $A(3)$ for $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 T^2$. Numbers 1 and 2 show the number of handles (dots) on the component. Summation means symmetrization with respect to permutations of boundary components parametrized by cosets of the stabilizer of the surface in S_3 . Sums A, B, C have 3, 3, 1 terms respectively (7 terms in the right hand side in total).

$$\beta_2^5 \text{ (cup with 4 dots)} = A + B + \sum_{i=1}^3 C_i + \sum_{i=1}^4 D_i$$

$$A = \beta_2^4 \sum_{(3,1)} \text{ (cup with 3 dots, cylinder with 1 dot)}$$

$$B = \beta_2^4 \sum_{(2,2)'} \text{ (cup with 2 dots, cup with 2 dots)}$$

$$C_1 = -\beta_2^3 \sum_{(2,2)} \text{ (cup with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$C_2 = -\beta_2^3 \sum_{(2,1,1)} \text{ (cup with 1 dot, cylinder with 1 dot, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$C_3 = \beta_1 \beta_2^2 \sum_{(2,2)} \text{ (cup with 1 dot, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$D_1 = \beta_2^2 \sum_{(1,3)} \text{ (cylinder with 1 dot, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$D_2 = 2\beta_2^2 \sum_{(2,2)} \text{ (cylinder with 1 dot, cylinder with 1 dot, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$D_3 = -3\beta_1 \beta_2 \sum_{(1,3)} \text{ (cylinder with 1 dot, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

$$D_4 = (3\beta_1^2 - \beta_0 \beta_2) \sum_{(4)} \text{ (cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)}$$

FIGURE 2.0.2. Relation in $A(4)$ for $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 T^2$. Numbers 1 and 2 show the number of handles (dots) on the component. Summation means symmetrization with respect to permuting the boundary components, as described in the proof. Sums $A, B, C_1, C_2, C_3, D_1, D_2, D_3, D_4$ have 4, 3, 6, 12, 6, 4, 6, 4, 1 terms respectively (46 terms in the right hand side in total).

$$\beta_2 \text{ (cup with 2 dots)} = \text{ (cylinder with 2 dots, cylinder with 2 dots)} - \text{ (cup with 3 dots)} = 0$$

FIGURE 2.0.3. Relations in $A(2)$ and $A(1)$ for $Z(T) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 T^2$.

Numbers z and j show the number of handles (dots) on the component.