

Defect skein theory,
parabolic restriction and
the Turaev coproduct

Juan Ramón Gómez García
IMJ - PRG (Paris)

Context and motivation: skein theory

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defined in terms of graphs embedded in a 3-wfld.

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$$\text{ev}_A : \text{Rib}_A \longrightarrow A$$

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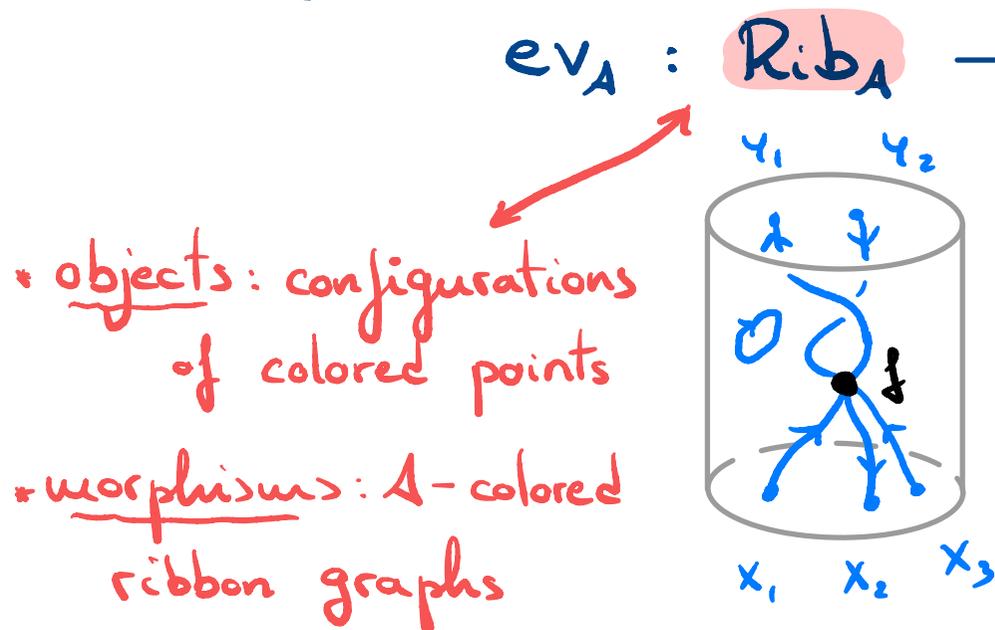
A

- monoidal
- rigid
- braided
- pivotal

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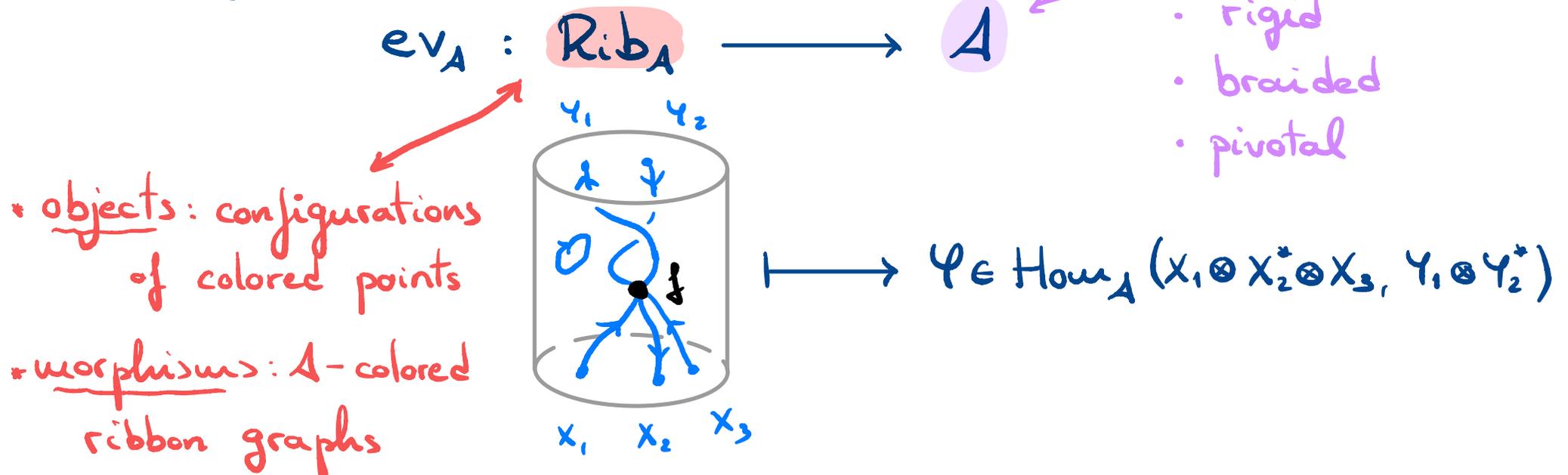


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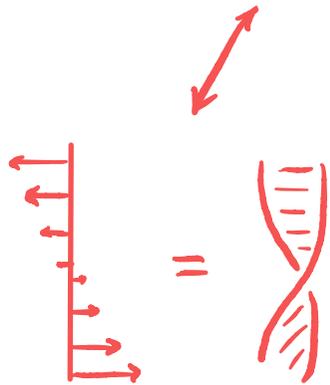
Skein modules: M^3 oriented manifold, A ribbon cat.

$$SK_A(M^3) = \mathbb{K} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{framed oriented} \\ \text{links in } M^3 \end{array} \right\} / \langle \text{skein relations} \rangle$$

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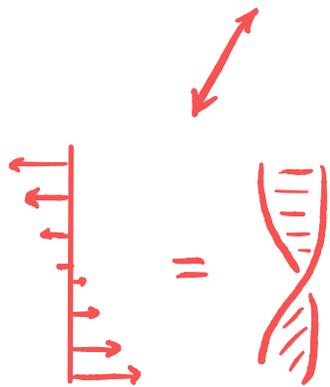
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$$SK_{\Lambda}(M^3) = \mathbb{K} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{framed oriented} \\ \text{links in } M^3 \end{array} \right\} / \langle \text{skein relations} \rangle$$



Kernel of the evaluation functor

$$\text{Diagram 1} - \text{Diagram 2} = (q - q^{-1}) \text{Diagram 3}$$

The equation shows a skein relation between three diagrams enclosed in dashed circles. The first diagram is a crossing with a framing arrow. The second diagram is a crossing with a different framing arrow. The third diagram is two parallel vertical lines with framing arrows. The relation is $(q - q^{-1})$ times the third diagram.

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Skein algebra: $M^3 = S \times [0,1]$ with S oriented surface

↳ multiplication = stacking cylinders

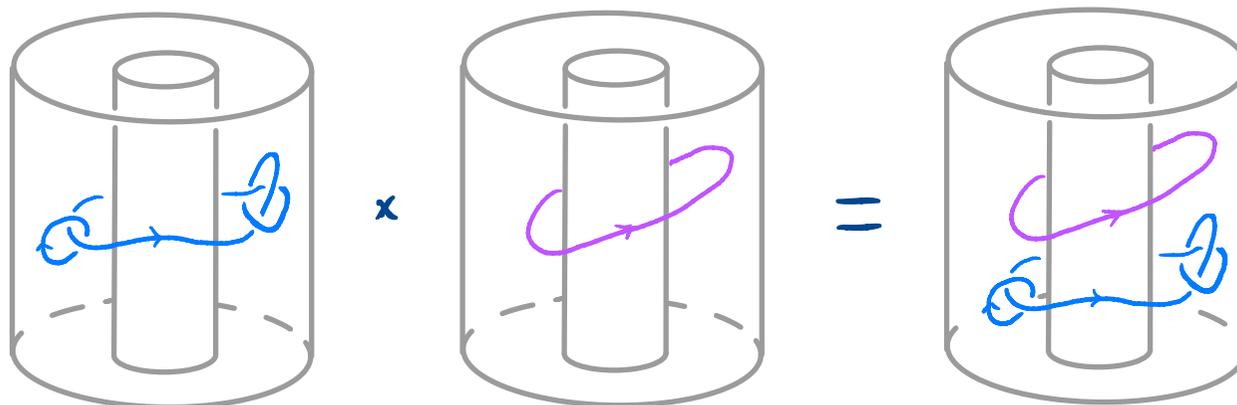
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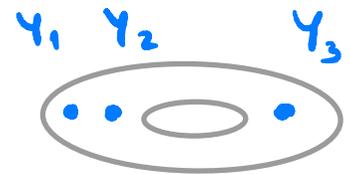
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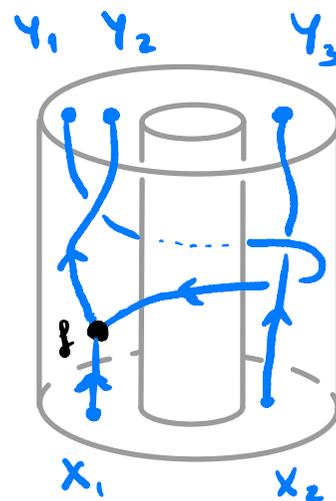
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Skein categories: S oriented surface

- objects: configurations of points on S
- morphisms: ribbon graphs in $S \times [0,1]$



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Theorem (Walker) Skein theory forms a 3D-categorified

TQFT

$$SK_A : \text{Bord}_3 \longrightarrow \text{Bimod}_K$$

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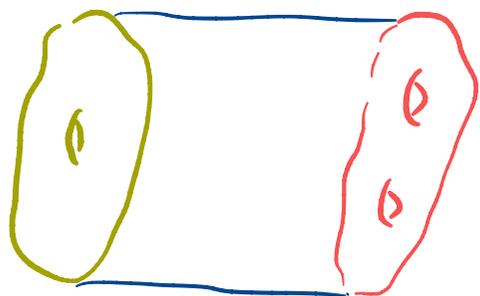


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S_{int}

S_{ext}

$$\longmapsto \left(SKCat_A(S_{\text{int}}) \boxtimes SKCat_A(S_{\text{ext}})^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{K}} \right)$$

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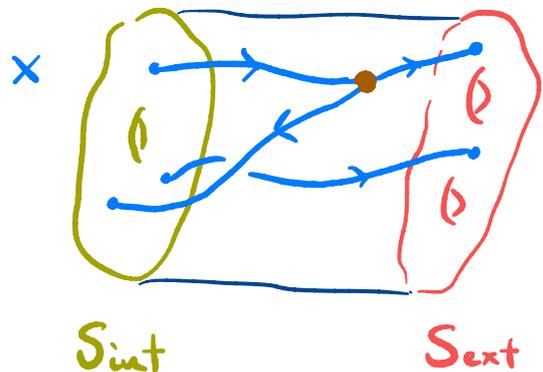


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$$(x, \gamma) \longmapsto SK_A(M^3, x \cup \gamma)$$

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Ribbon categories: G reductive group, $q \in \mathbb{K}^*$ generic

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$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \end{array} = (q - q^{-1}) \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \quad \uparrow \\ | \quad | \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \end{array} \\ \\ \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \circlearrowleft \\ \uparrow \end{array} = q^N \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ | \\ \uparrow \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \circlearrowright \\ \uparrow \end{array} = \frac{q^N - q^{-N}}{q - q^{-1}} \end{array}$$

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HOMFLY
skein relations

Replace N by a formal parameter t

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$$\text{Rep}_q \text{GL}_t = \text{Rib} / (\text{HOMFLY relations})$$

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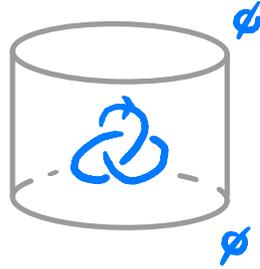
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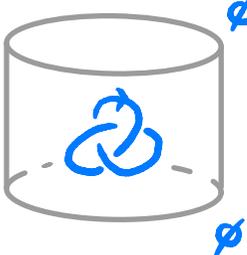
↳ we can recover $\text{Rep}_q \text{GL}_N$ as a quotient (+ some completions) of its specialisation at $t=N$

Context and motivation: Turaev coproduct

HOMFLY polynomial :

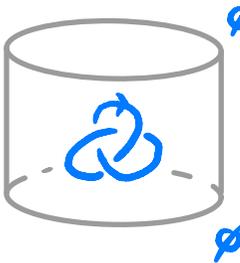
 $\mathbb{C}(q, q^t)$  $\mathbb{C}(q, q^t)$ $\in \mathbb{C}(q, q^t)$

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HOMFLY polynomial :  \mapsto $\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{C}(q, q^t) \\ \uparrow \\ \mathbb{C}(q, q^t) \end{array} \in \mathbb{C}(q, q^t)$

Jaeger : composition formula for the HOMFLY polynomial

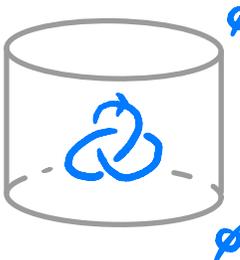
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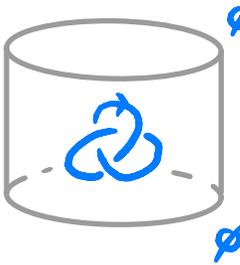
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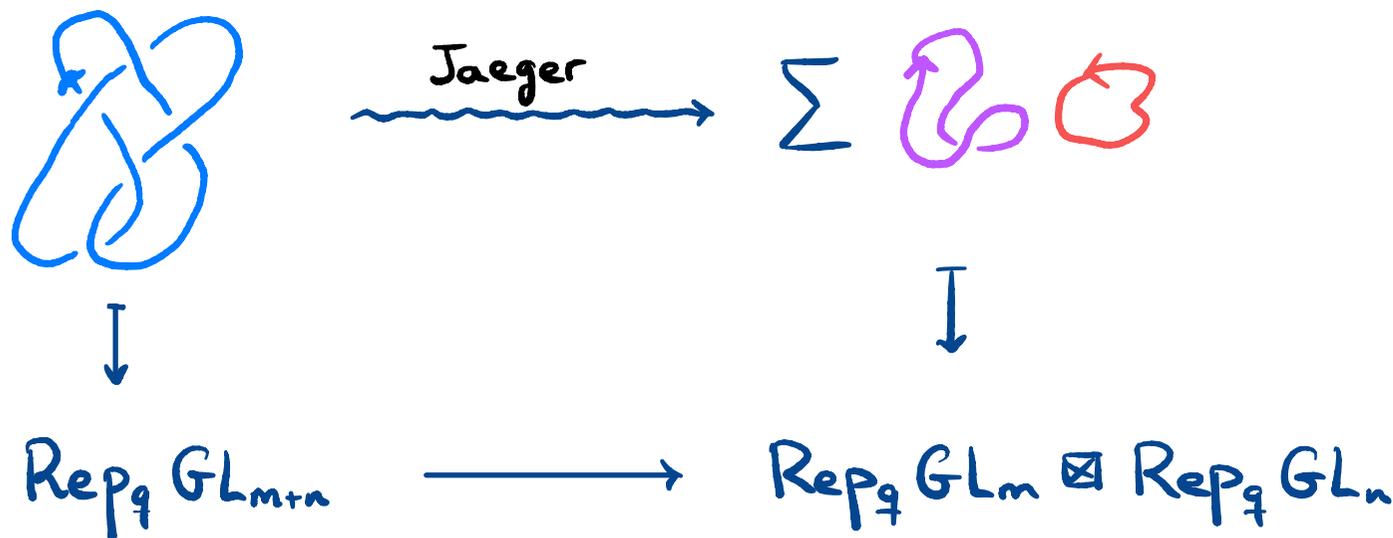
$$GL_m \times GL_n \hookrightarrow GL_{m+n} \rightsquigarrow \text{Rep}_q GL_{m+n} \longrightarrow \text{Rep}_q GL_m \boxtimes \text{Rep}_q GL_n$$

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Context and motivation: Turaev coproduct

Theorem (Turaev) Jaeger's formula extends to a morphism of algebras

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- * Local formula for Δ \rightsquigarrow extension to $\text{SKCat}_{\text{GL}_t}(S)$

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Turaev: $SKAlg_{GL_t}(S)$ quantises the Goldman - Turaev
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$$\mathfrak{g}(S) \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{gr}(\mathfrak{g}(S))$$

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Schedler: combinatorial description of $\mathfrak{gr}(SK_{GL_t}(S))$

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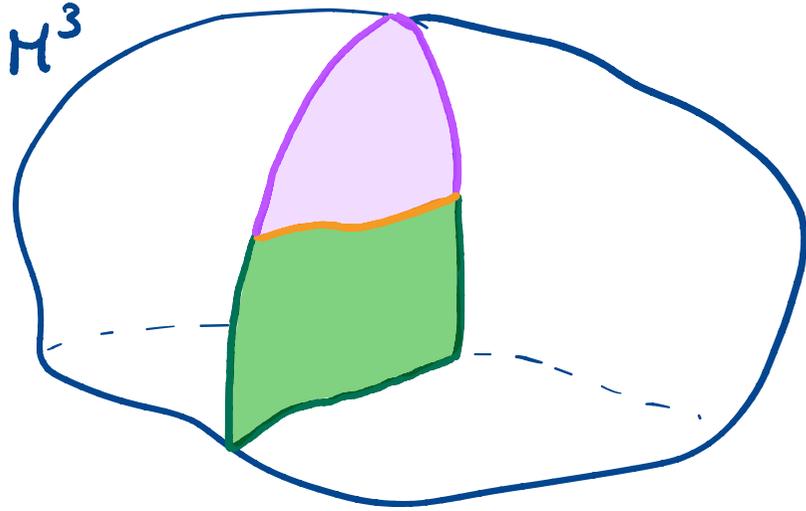
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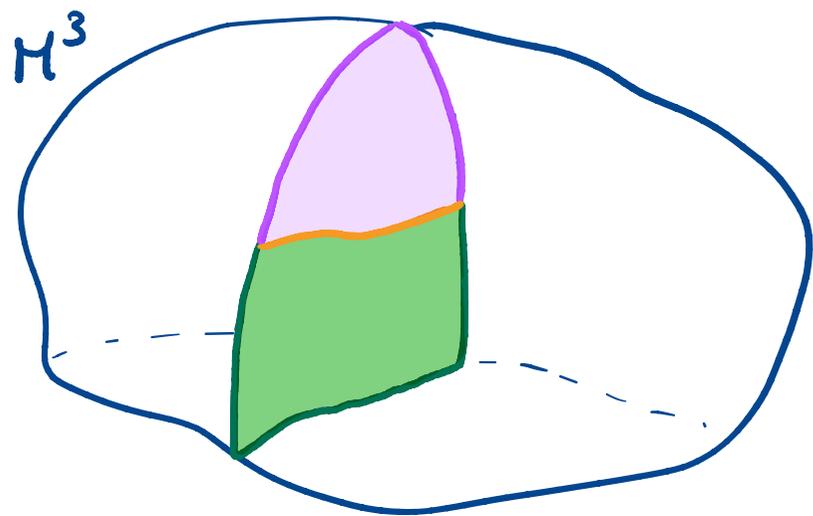
① Quantum formality theorem

Defect skein theory



Defect skein theory: skein modules / algebras / categories for stratified manifolds

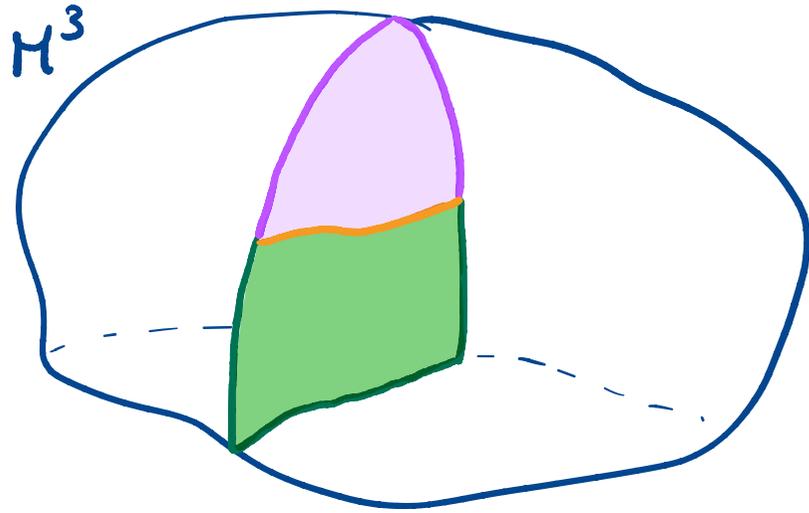
Defect skein theory



Defect skein theory: skein modules / algebras / categories for stratified manifolds

↑ manifolds with some embedded submanifolds

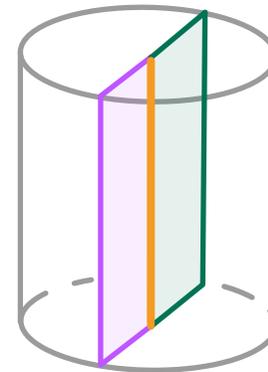
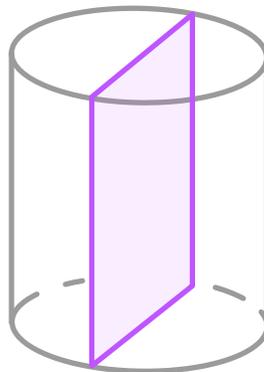
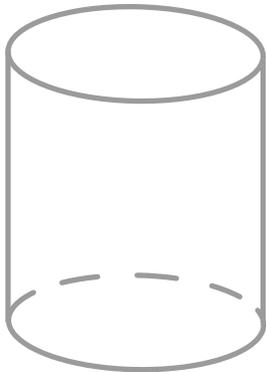
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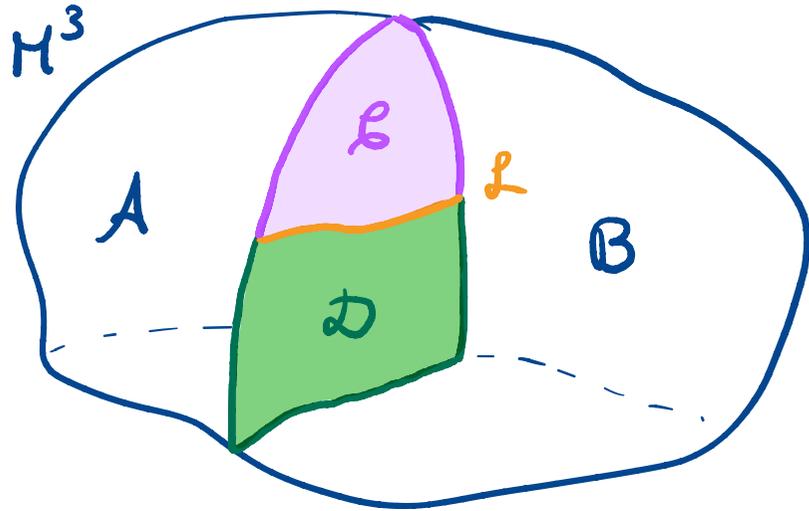
Defect skein theory: skein modules / algebras / categories for stratified manifolds

↑ manifolds with some embedded submanifolds

* Three different local models:



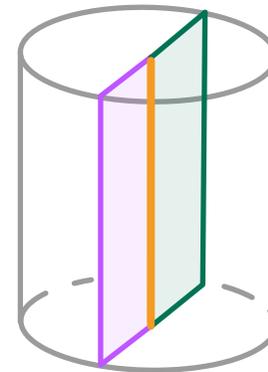
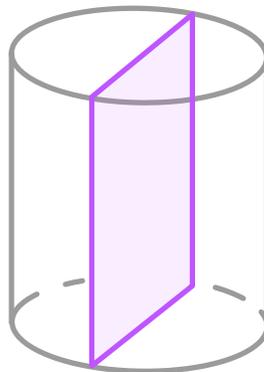
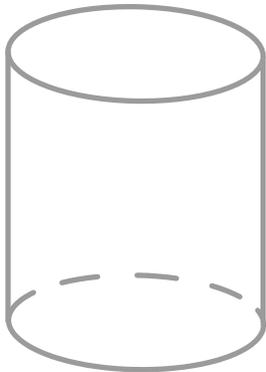
Defect skein theory



Defect skein theory: skein modules / algebras / categories for stratified manifolds

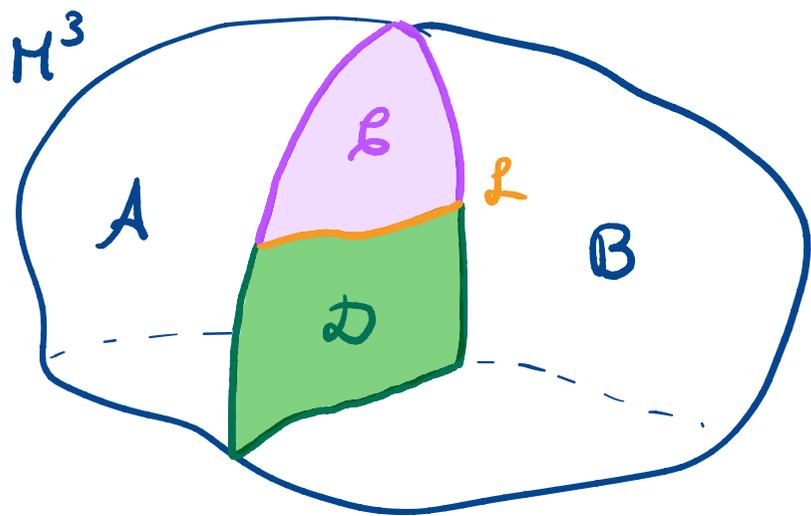
↑ manifolds with some embedded submanifolds

* Three different local models:



(?) Evaluation near the defect \rightsquigarrow algebraic data?

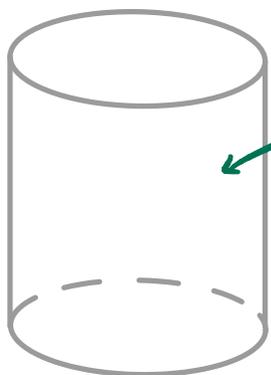
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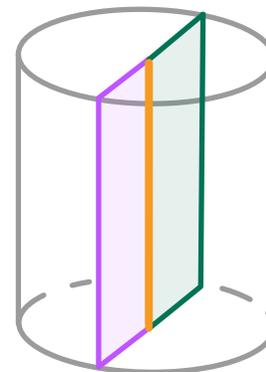
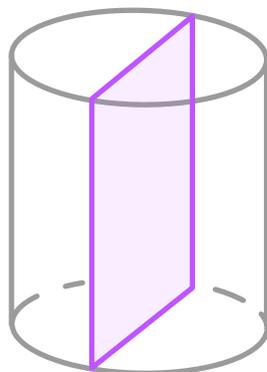
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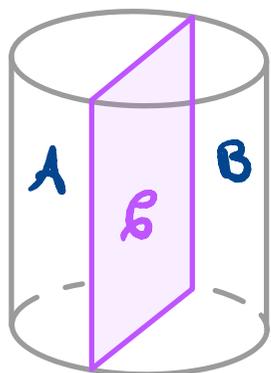
RT



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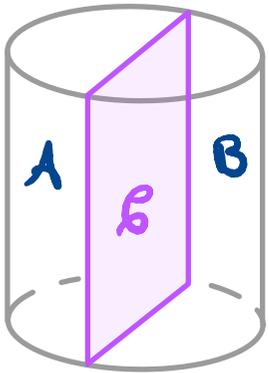
Surface defects (Brown - Jordan '25)



Defect skein theory

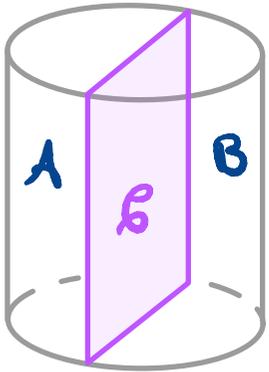
Surface defects (Brown - Jordan '25)

\mathcal{L} is an (A, B) -central algebra



Defect skein theory

Surface defects (Brown - Jordan '25)



\mathcal{B} is an (A, B) -central algebra

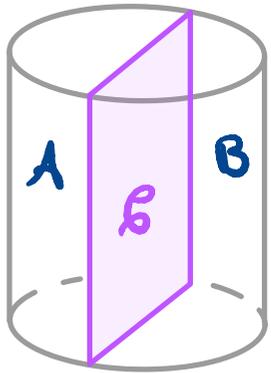
Algebra object in A - B -bimod

\Leftrightarrow braided monoidal functor

$$(H, \sigma): A \boxtimes B^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow Z_{\text{Dr}}(\mathcal{B})$$

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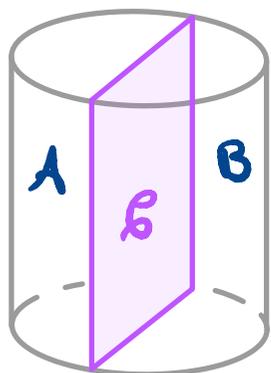
$$(H, \sigma): A \boxtimes B^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow Z_{\text{Dr}}(\mathcal{B}) \uparrow$$

Drinfeld center of \mathcal{B}

$$(z, \sigma^z), \sigma_x^z: X \otimes z \xrightarrow{\sim} z \otimes X$$

Defect skein theory

Surface defects (Brown - Jordan '25)



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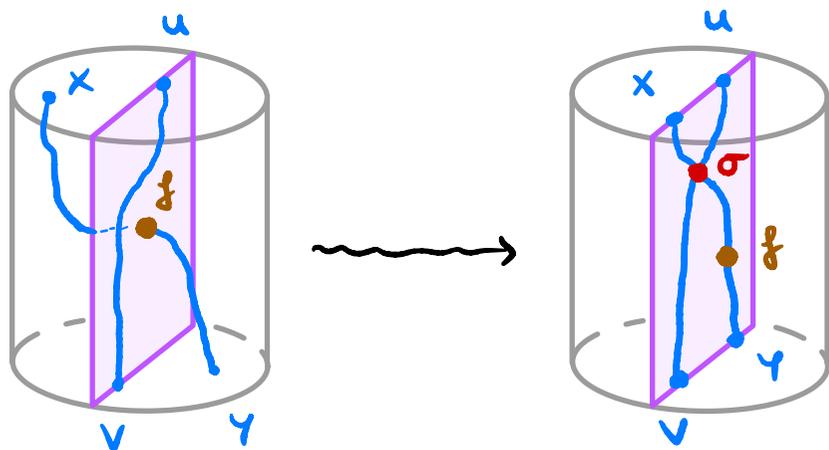
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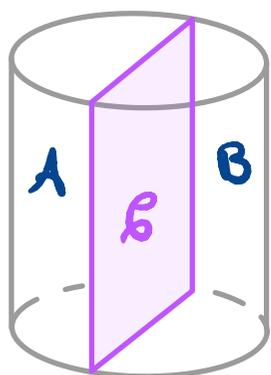
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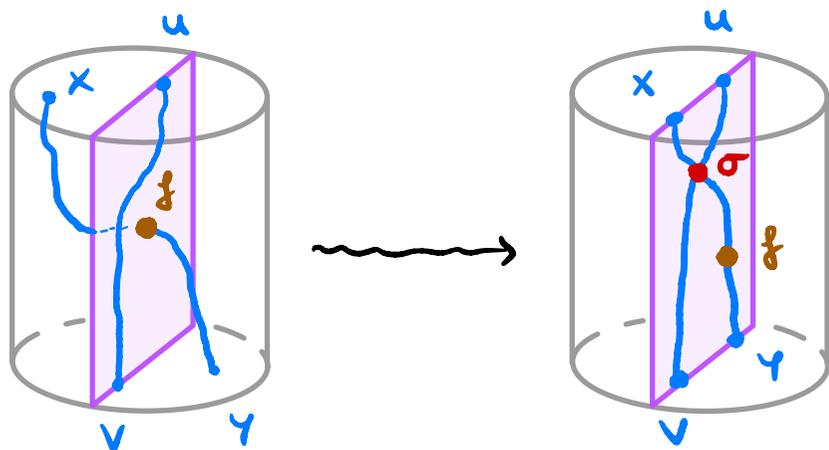
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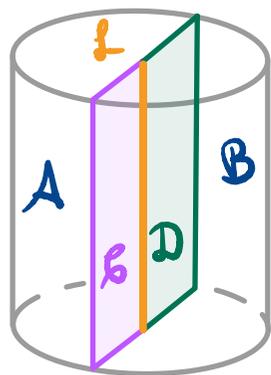
* Evaluation morphism:



$$\longmapsto \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{B}}(V \otimes H(Y), H(X) \otimes U)$$

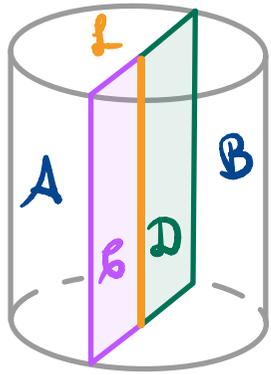
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Line defects (GG '26, Brown - GG - Jordan - Vancraeynest)



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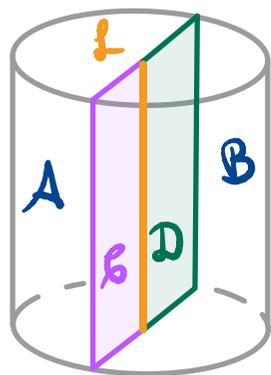
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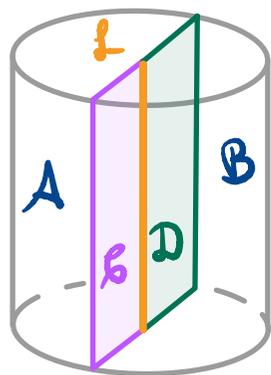


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$$- \triangleright - \triangleleft - : \mathcal{B} \boxtimes \mathcal{L} \boxtimes \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}$$

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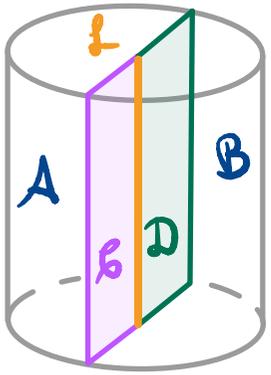
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$$+ \eta_{x, \ell} : H_{\mathcal{B}}(x) \triangleright \ell \cong \ell \triangleleft H_{\mathcal{D}}(x)$$

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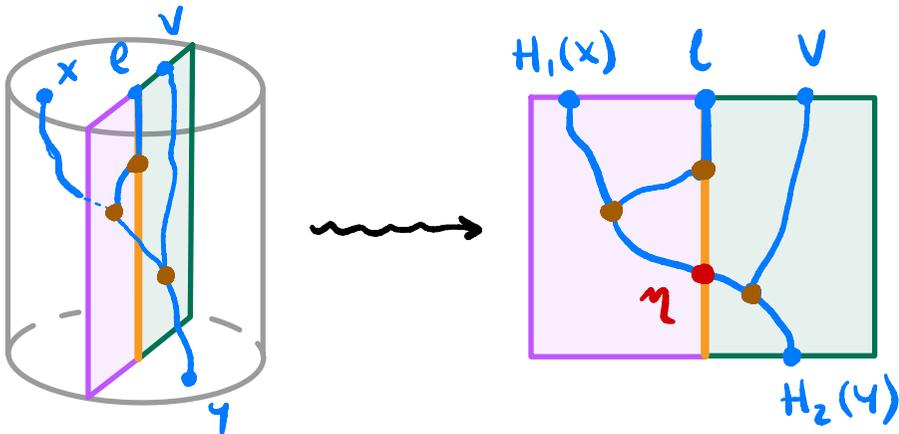


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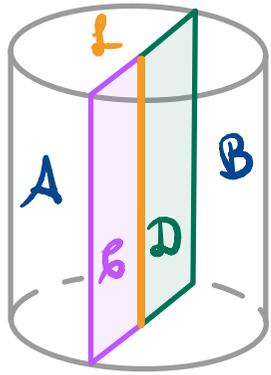
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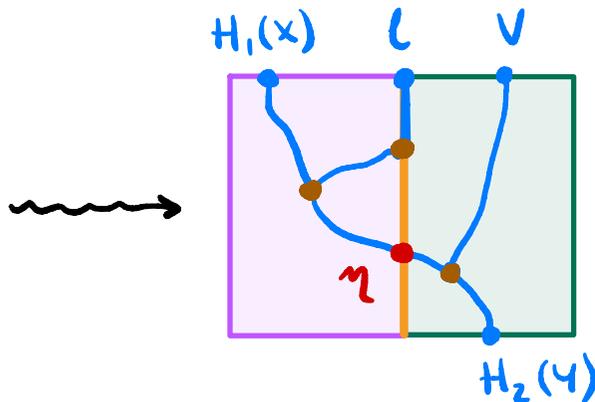
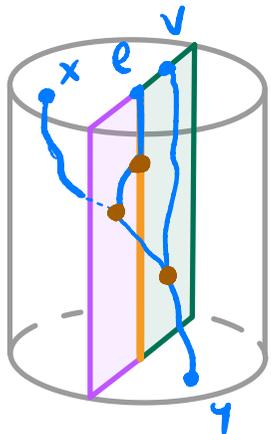


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HOMFLY parabolic restriction

$$G = GL_{m+n}$$

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Parabolic restriction

HOMFLY version

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Rep}_q P_t & \\ & \uparrow \pi_t^* & \downarrow j_t^* \\ \text{Rep}_q GL_t & \xrightarrow{i_t^*} & \text{Rep}_q L_t \cong \text{Rep}_q GL_t \boxtimes \text{Rep}_q GL_t \end{array}$$

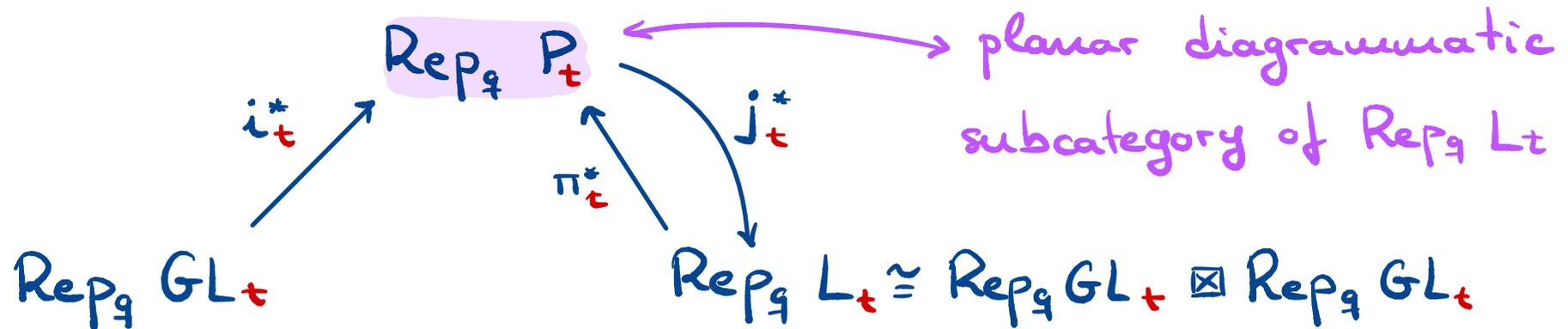
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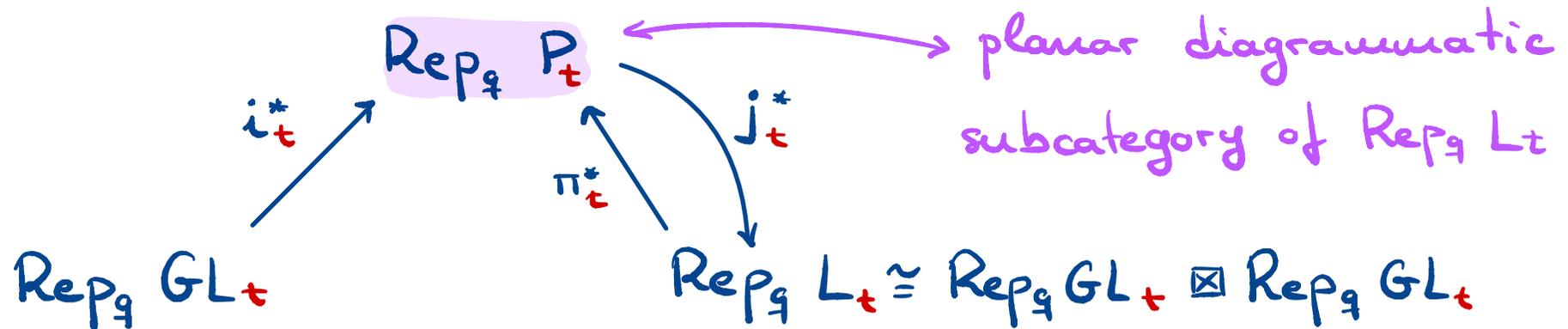
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Parabolic restriction

HOMFLY version



Theorem (GG'26)

- $\text{Rep}_q P_t$ is a central $(\text{Rep}_q GL_t, \text{Rep}_q L_t)$ -algebra
- $\text{Rep}_q L_t$ is a $\text{Rep}_q L_t$ -centered $(\text{Rep}_q L_t, \text{Rep}_q P_t)$ -bimod.

HOMFLY parabolic restriction

$(S, \phi, f, \mathcal{M})$ marked bipartite framed surface

HOMFLY parabolic restriction

$(S, \phi, f, \mathcal{M})$ ~~marked~~ bipartite framed surface

marked boundary
components



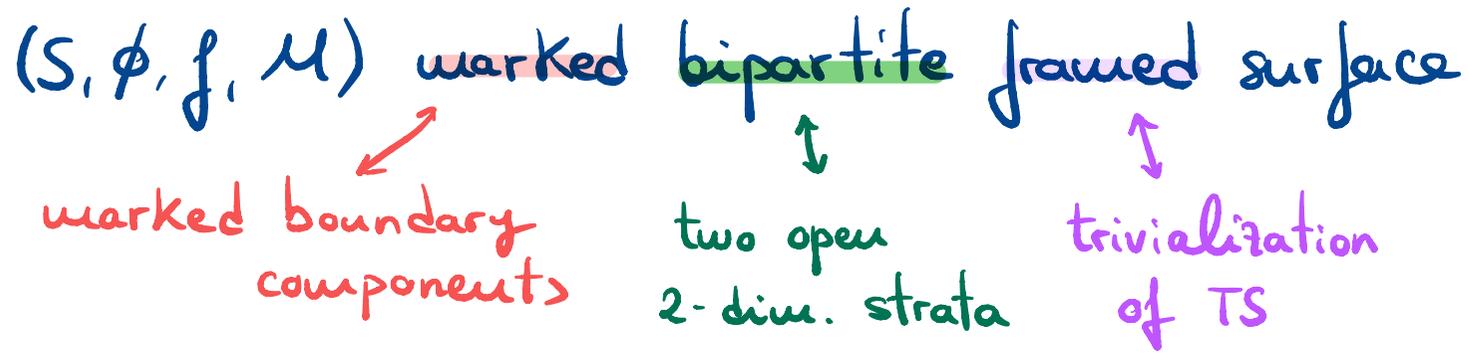
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↙
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↕
two open
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HOMFLY parabolic restriction



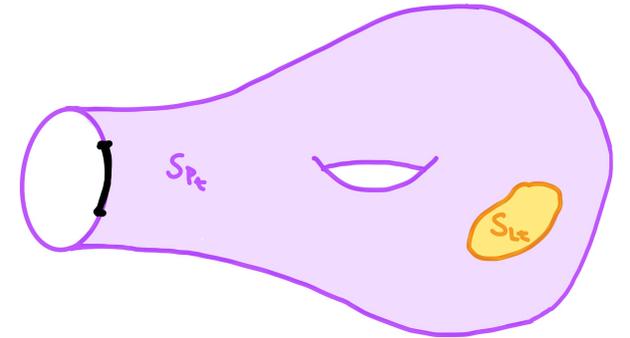
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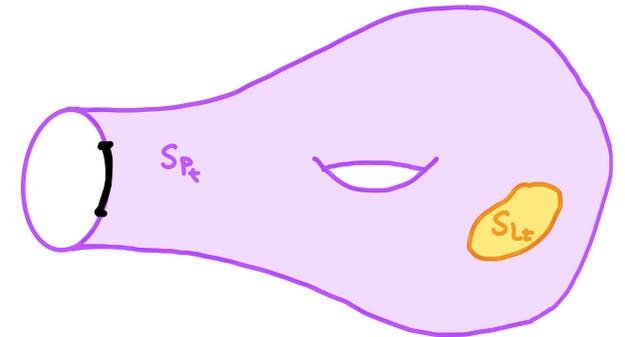
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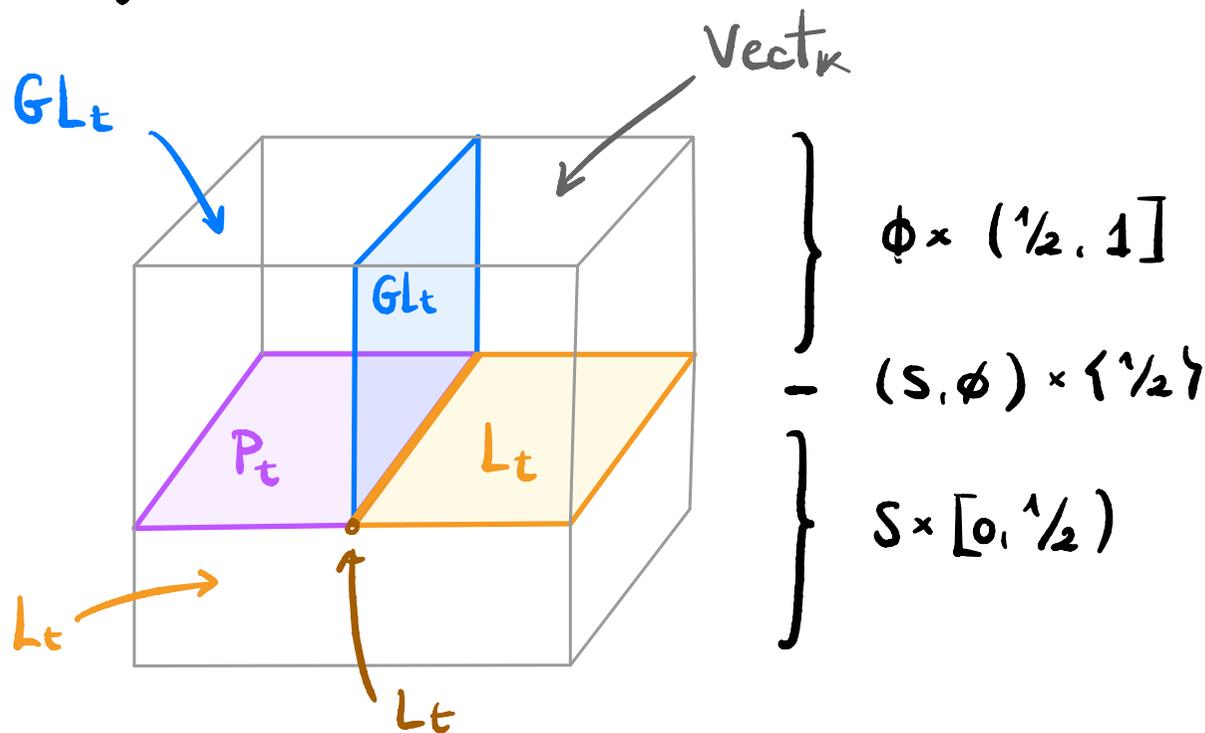
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↕
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Stratification on $S \times I$:



HOMFLY parabolic restriction

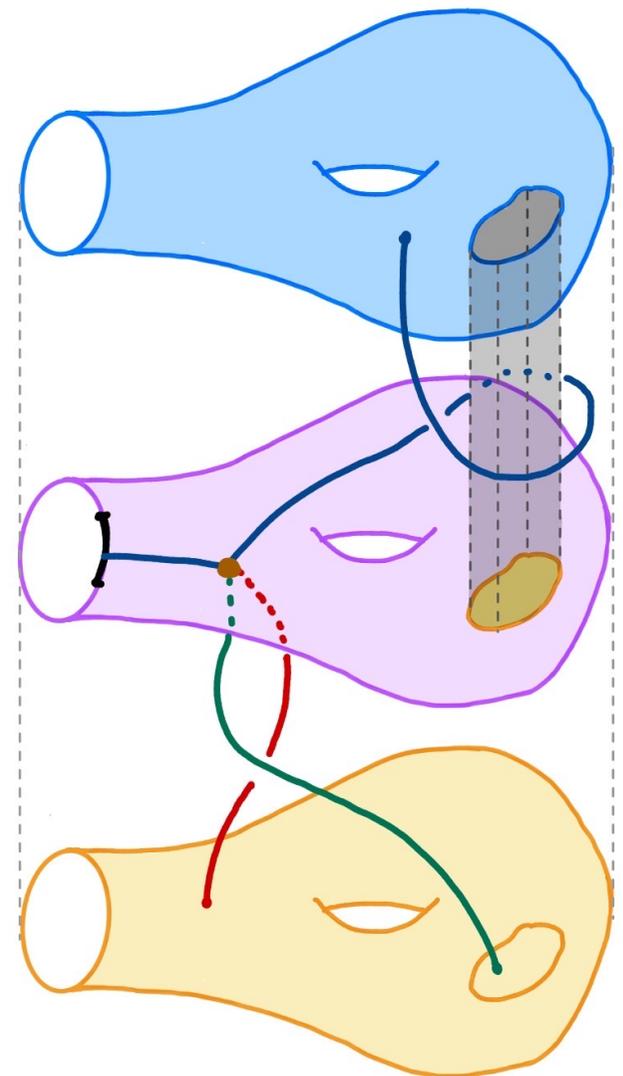
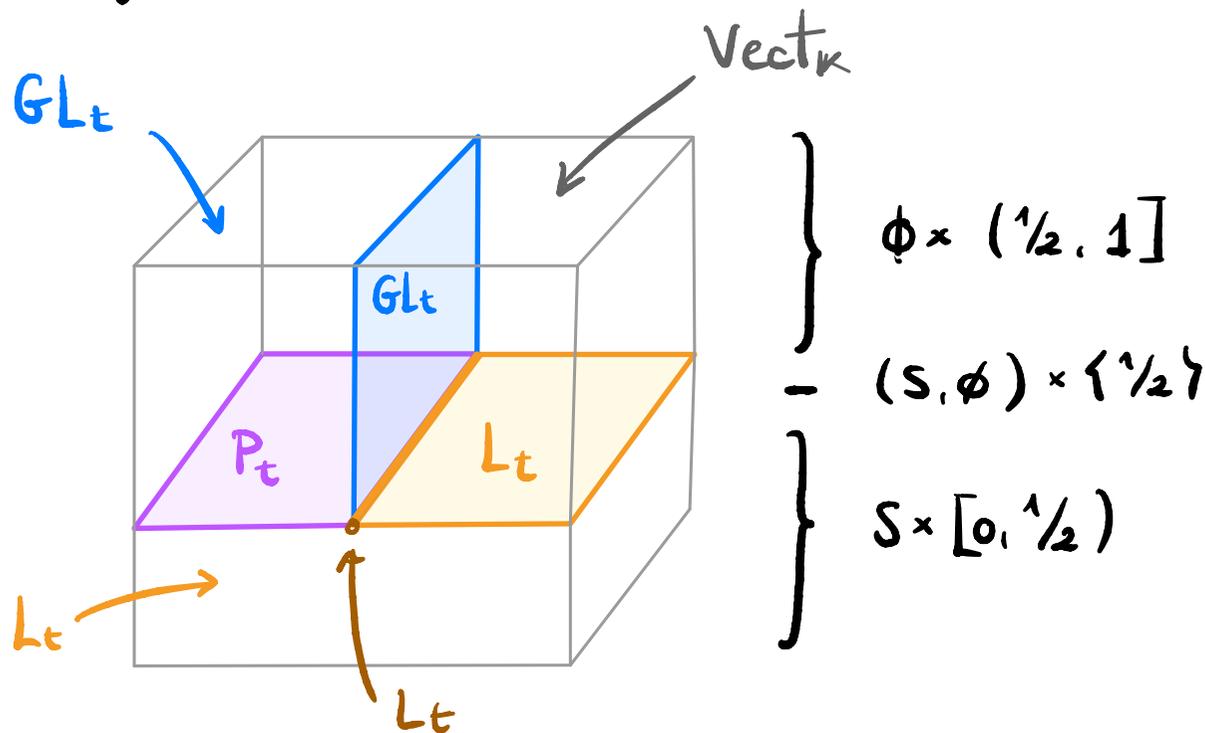
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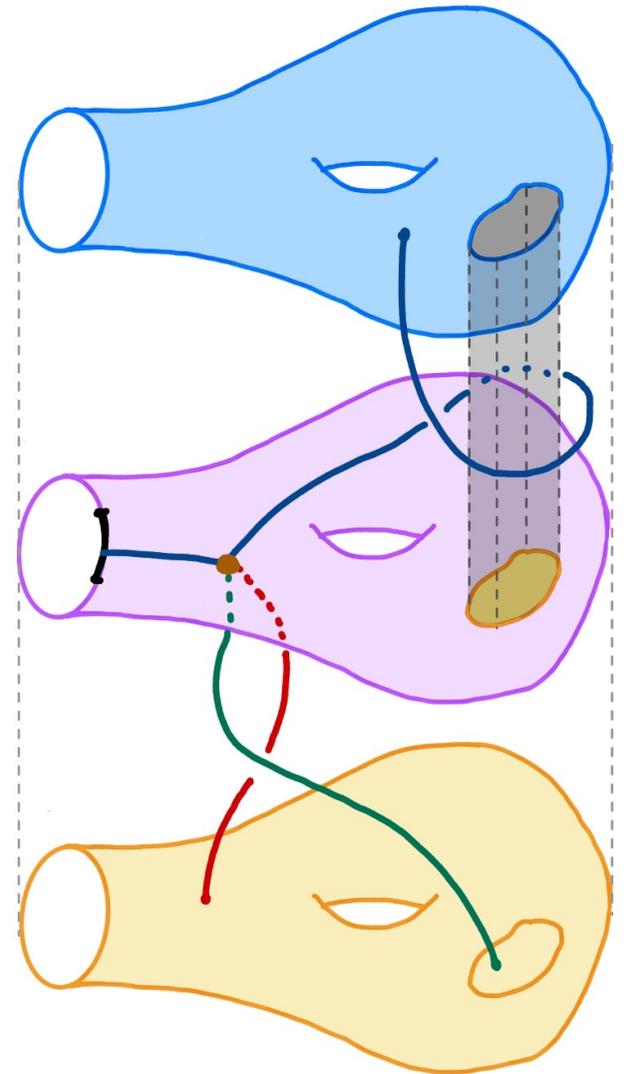
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The associated TQFT:



HOMFLY parabolic restriction

$(S, \phi, f, \mathcal{M})$ marked bipartite framed surface

↙
marked boundary components

↕
two open 2-dim. strata
 (P_t, L_t)

↕
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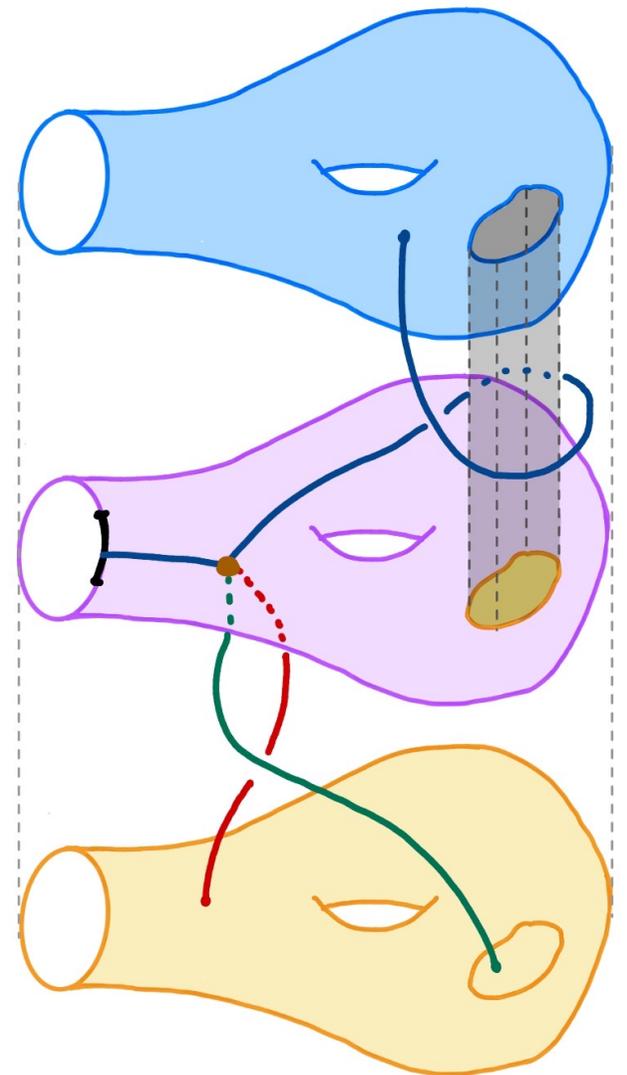
The associated TQFT: we get

$$A : \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{bip.fr}} \longrightarrow \text{BIMOD}$$

given by $A(I_{P_t}) = \text{Rep}_g P_t$, and

$$A(I_{L_t}) = \text{Rep}_g L_t,$$

$$A(S) : A(\mathcal{M}) \boxtimes \text{SKCat}_{GL_t}(S_{P_t}) \boxtimes \text{SKCat}_{L_t}(S)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{Vect}_k$$



The Turaev coproduct

Empty boundary condition:

$A(S)(\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)$ is a $(\text{SKAlg}_{\text{GL}_t}(S_{\mathbb{P}_t}), \text{SKAlg}_{\text{GL}_t}(S))$ -bimodule

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Theorem (GG'26) We can choose a stratification Φ so that

$S_{P_t} \cong S$ and we have an isomorphism

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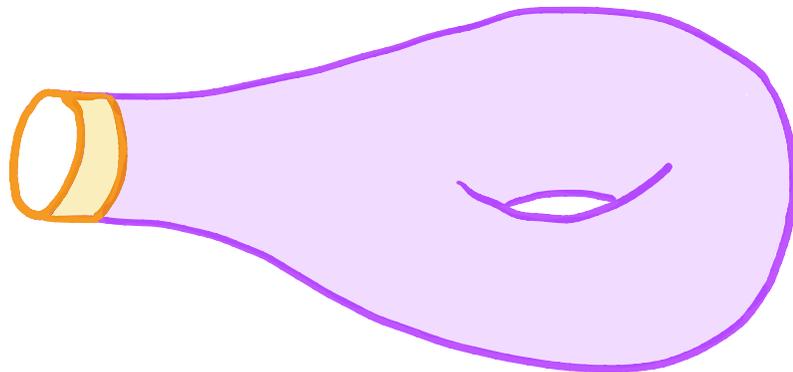
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Acting on the empty diagram induces the Turaev cop.

$$\Delta_f : \text{SKAlg}_{\text{GL}_t}(S) \longrightarrow \text{SKAlg}_{\text{GL}_t}(S) \otimes \text{SKAlg}_{\text{GL}_t}(S)$$