

# Universal quantum semigroupoids

Seattle Noncommutative Algebra Day  
Online

Robert Won

University of Washington



# Joint work with



Hongdi Huang



Chelsea Walton



Elizabeth Wicks

[arXiv:2008.00606](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.00606)

# Big picture

**Goal.** [Lots of people here, throughout history, etc.]

Study **symmetries** in algebra.



# Symmetries in algebra

- Fix a field  $\mathbb{k}$ .
- Want to study symmetries of

$$A = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A_i = A_0 \oplus A_1 \oplus \cdots$$

an  $\mathbb{N}$ -graded, locally finite  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra.

## Favorite example.

The polynomial ring  $A = \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

Also **connected** ( $A_0 = \mathbb{k}$ ) and **commutative**.

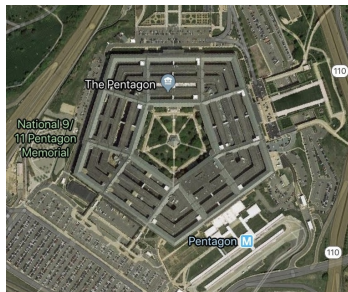


# How to study symmetries?

- Classically, symmetries are captured by **group actions**.



$C_2 \curvearrowright$  tiger



$D_{10} \curvearrowright$  pentagon

- $A = (\bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A_i, \quad m : A \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} A \rightarrow A, \quad u : \mathbb{k} \rightarrow A)$  has **structure**.
- Should preserve **algebra structure** and **grading**.

# Classical symmetry

- Suppose  $A$  is **connected** and **commutative**.
- Study **group actions** such that:

$$g \cdot (ab) = (g \cdot a)(g \cdot b) \quad \text{and} \\ g \cdot 1_A = 1_A,$$

[ $A$  is a  $G$ -module and  $m$  and  $u$  are  $G$ -module morphisms] and

$$g(A_i) \subseteq A_i \quad \text{for all } i$$

[each  $A_i$  is a  $G$ -module].

**Example.** [Extremely rich history]

Finite group  $G \leq \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{k}) \curvearrowright A = \mathbb{k}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

# Quantum rigidity

## Example.

Let  $q \in \mathbb{k}^\times$ . Define the **quantum plane**

$$\mathbb{k}_q[x, y] := \frac{\mathbb{k} \langle x, y \rangle}{(yx - qxy)}.$$

- If  $g$  preserves grading, then  $g(x) = \alpha x + \beta y$  and  $g(y) = \gamma x + \delta y$ .
- For  $g$  to extend to  $\mathbb{k}_q[x, y]$ , must send  $yx - qxy$  to  $\lambda(yx - qxy)$ .

1. If  $q = 1$ , no restriction so

$$\text{Aut}_{\text{gr}}(\mathbb{k}[x, y]) = \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{k}).$$

2. If  $q = -1$ ,  $\alpha = \delta = 0$  or  $\beta = \gamma = 0$  so

$$\text{Aut}_{\text{gr}}(\mathbb{k}_{-1}[x, y]) = (\mathbb{k}^\times)^2 \rtimes \langle \sigma \rangle.$$

3. If  $q \neq \pm 1$ ,  $\beta = \gamma = 0$  so

$$\text{Aut}_{\text{gr}}(\mathbb{k}_q[x, y]) = (\mathbb{k}^\times)^2.$$



# Bialgebras

- A **bialgebra**  $H$  over  $\mathbb{k}$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra  $(H, m, u)$  and a  $\mathbb{k}$ -coalgebra  $(H, \Delta, \varepsilon)$  such that

(a)  $m$  and  $u$  are coalgebra morphisms

$$\Delta(ab) = \Delta(a)\Delta(b) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta(1) = 1 \otimes 1$$

(a')  $\Delta$  and  $\varepsilon$  are algebra morphisms

$$\Delta(ab) = \Delta(a)\Delta(b) \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon(ab) = \varepsilon(a)\varepsilon(b).$$

- **Sweedler Notation.**  $\Delta(a) = a_1 \otimes a_2$ .
- A **Hopf algebra** is a bialgebra with a  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear **antipode**  $S$

$$S(a_1)a_2 = a_1S(a_2) = \varepsilon(a).$$





# Quantum symmetries

- **Bialgebra** (co)actions capture **quantum symmetries**.
- Let  ${}_H\mathcal{M}$  be the category of left  $H$ -modules.
- $A$  is called a **left  $H$ -module algebra** if  $A \in {}_H\mathcal{M}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}h \cdot (ab) &= (h_1 \cdot a)(h_2 \cdot b) \\h \cdot 1_A &= \varepsilon(h)1_A.\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem.** [Etingof–Walton, 2013]

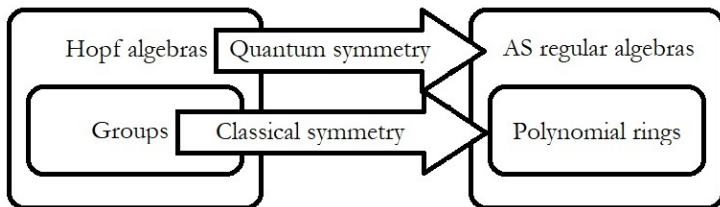
Let  $H$  be a semisimple Hopf algebra over an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero. If  $A$  is a **commutative domain** that is an  $H$ -module algebra, then the  $H$ -action factors through a group action.



# Hopf algebras as quantum symmetries

## Theorem. [Etingof–Walton]

Semisimple Hopf actions on commutative domains are captured by group actions.



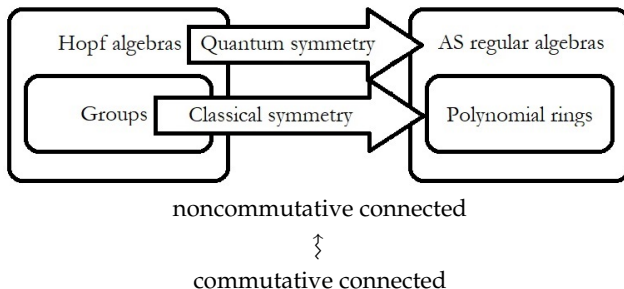
Hopf algebras    “=”    Quantum groups

Bialgebras    “=”    Quantum semigroups

[Extremely rich theory.]

# Hopf algebras as quantum symmetries

In this picture:



## Motivating question.

How do we enlarge this picture?

(Quotients of) **path algebras of quivers**: so  $A_0 \neq \mathbb{k}$ .

# What is symmetry?

- **Group:**  $g.(ab) = (g.a)(g.b)$  and  $.1 = 1$ .
- **Hopf algebra:**  $h.(ab) = (h_1.a)(h_2.b)$  and  $h.1 = \varepsilon(h)1$ .
- $(\mathbf{C}, \otimes, \mathbb{1})$  a monoidal category. An **algebra object** in  $\mathbf{C}$  is  $(A, m, u)$  where  $A$  is an **object**,  $m$  and  $u$  are **morphisms** satisfying:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (A \otimes A) \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{A,A,A}} & A \otimes (A \otimes A) \xrightarrow{\text{Id} \otimes m} A \otimes A \\
 \downarrow m \otimes \text{Id}_A & & \downarrow m \\
 A \otimes A & \xrightarrow{m} & A
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbb{1} \otimes A & \xrightarrow{u \otimes \text{Id}} & A \otimes A & \xleftarrow{\text{Id} \otimes u} & A \otimes \mathbb{1} \\
 & \searrow l_A & \downarrow m & \swarrow r & \\
 & & A & & 
 \end{array}$$

- **Group:**  $(A, m, u)$  an algebra object in monoidal category  ${}_{\mathbb{k}G}\mathcal{M}$ .
- **Hopf:**  $(A, m, u)$  an algebra object in monoidal category  ${}_H\mathcal{M}$ .

# A more general framework?

Look for  $H$  with  ${}_H\mathcal{M}$  or  $\mathcal{M}^H$  **monoidal**.

Many generalizations of Hopf algebras:

1. Weak Hopf algebras
2. Quasi-bialgebras with antipode
3. Hopf algebroids
4. Hopf bimonoids in duoidal categories
5. Hopfish algebras



# Weak Hopf algebras

- A **weak bialgebra**  $H$  over  $\mathbb{k}$  is a  $\mathbb{k}$ -algebra  $(H, m, u)$  and a  $\mathbb{k}$ -coalgebra  $(H, \Delta, \varepsilon)$  such that

$$(1) \Delta(ab) = \Delta(a)\Delta(b),$$

$$(2) (\Delta \otimes \text{Id}) \circ \Delta = (\Delta(1) \otimes 1)(1 \otimes \Delta(1)) = (1 \otimes \Delta(1))(\Delta(1) \otimes 1),$$

$$(3) \varepsilon(abc) = \varepsilon(ab_1)\varepsilon(b_2c) = \varepsilon(ab_2)\varepsilon(b_1c).$$

- Bialgebra if and only if  $\Delta(1) = 1 \otimes 1$  if and only if  $\varepsilon(ab) = \varepsilon(a)\varepsilon(b)$ .
- A **weak Hopf algebra** is a weak bialgebra with **antipode**  $S$ :

$$S(a_1)a_2 = 1_1\varepsilon(a_1a_2), \quad a_1S(a_2) = \varepsilon(1_1a)1_2, \quad S(a_1)a_2S(a_3) = S(a).$$

# Counital maps

- The maps appearing in the antipode axioms:

$$S(a_1)a_2 = 1_1\varepsilon(a1_2), \quad a_1S(a_2) = \varepsilon(1_1a)1_2$$

are important.

source counital map

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_s : H &\rightarrow H \\ \varepsilon_s(a) &= 1_1\varepsilon(a1_2)\end{aligned}$$

target counital map

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_t : H &\rightarrow H \\ \varepsilon_t(a) &= \varepsilon(1_1a)1_2\end{aligned}$$

source counital subalgebra

$$H_s := \varepsilon_s(H)$$

target counital subalgebra

$$H_t = \varepsilon_t(H)$$

- $H_s$  and  $H_t$  are antiisomorphic **separable, semisimple, finite-dimensional, codieal sub- $\mathbb{k}$ -algebras**.
- A weak bialgebra is a bialgebra if and only if  $H_s = H_t = \mathbb{k}$ .

# Why weak Hopf algebras?

- Introduced by [Böhm–Nill–Szlachanyi 1999], motivated by physics: study symmetries in conformal field theory.
- Axioms are **self-dual**, so the dual of a finite-dimensional weak Hopf algebra is again a weak Hopf algebra.

## Example.

If  $H, K$  are bialgebras, then  $H \oplus K$  is an **algebra** as usual and a **coalgebra** under

$$\Delta(h, k) = (h_1, 0) \otimes (h_2, 0) + (0, k_1) \otimes (0, k_2)$$

$$\varepsilon(h, k) = \varepsilon_H(h) + \varepsilon_K(k)$$

But  $\Delta(1, 1) = (1, 0) \otimes (1, 0) + (0, 1) \otimes (0, 1) \neq (1, 1) \otimes (1, 1)$ .  
 $(H \oplus K)_t = (H \oplus K)_s = \mathbb{k} \oplus \mathbb{k}$ .

So  $H \oplus K$  not a bialgebra, only a **weak bialgebra**.





# Why weak Hopf algebras?

If  $G, H$  are **groups**, then  $G \sqcup H$  is not a group, but a **groupoid**.

## Example.

$\mathcal{G}$  is a groupoid.  $\mathbb{k}\mathcal{G}$  the **groupoid algebra** is a weak Hopf algebra.

$$\text{For } g \in \mathcal{G}: \quad \Delta(g) = g \otimes g, \quad \varepsilon(g) = 1, \quad S(g) = g^{-1}.$$

$$\mathcal{G} = \begin{array}{ccc} & \alpha & \\ 1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 2 \\ & \alpha^{-1} & \end{array}$$

Then  $1 = e_1 + e_2$  but  $\Delta(1) = e_1 \otimes e_1 + e_2 \otimes e_2 \neq 1 \otimes 1$ .  
 $(\mathbb{k}\mathcal{G})_t = (\mathbb{k}\mathcal{G})_s = \mathbb{k}e_1 \oplus \mathbb{k}e_2$ .

Weak Hopf algebras	"="	Quantum group <b>oids</b>
Weak bialgebras	"="	Quantum <b>semigroupoids</b>



# Why weak Hopf algebras?

**Theorem.** [Hayashi 1999, Szlachanyi 2001]

Every **fusion category** is equivalent to  ${}_H\mathcal{M}_{\text{fd}}$  for some weak Hopf algebra  $H$ .

- If  $(H, m, u, \Delta, \varepsilon)$  is an algebra and coalgebra such that  $\Delta(ab) = \Delta(a)\Delta(b)$ , then
  - $\Delta$  axiom  $\Rightarrow {}^H\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^H$  are **monoidal**,
  - $\varepsilon$  axiom  $\Rightarrow {}_H\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}_H$  are **monoidal**.
- But **not**  $\otimes_{\mathbb{k}}$ ! [Nill 1998], [Böhm–Caenepeel–Janssen 2011], [Walton–Wicks–W arXiv: 1911.12847]

# An important example

**Example.** [Hayashi]

$Q$  a finite quiver, e.g.:

$$Q = 1 \xrightarrow{p} 2 \xrightarrow{q} 3 .$$

Define a graded **weak bialgebra**  $\mathfrak{H}(Q)$ :

- **$\mathbb{k}$ -basis:**  $\{x_{a,b} \mid a, b \in Q_\ell, \ell \in \mathbb{N}\}$

$$= \{x_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq 3\} \cup \{x_{p,p}, x_{p,q}, x_{q,p}, x_{q,q}\} \cup \{x_{pq,pq}\}.$$

- **Multiplication:**  $x_{a,b}x_{c,d} = \begin{cases} x_{ac,bd}, & \text{if } ac \text{ and } bd \text{ are paths} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$
- **Unit:**  $1_{\mathfrak{H}(Q)} = \sum_{i,j \in Q_0} x_{i,j}$ .
- As an algebra,  $\mathfrak{H}(Q) \cong \mathbb{k}\hat{Q}$  [Calderon–Walton, 2021].

# An important example

## Example. [Hayashi]

$$Q = 1 \xrightarrow{p} 2 \xrightarrow{q} 3$$

- **Comultiplication:**  $\Delta(x_{a,b}) = \sum_{c \in Q_\ell} x_{a,c} \otimes x_{c,b}$

$$\Delta(x_{p,q}) = x_{p,p} \otimes x_{p,q} + x_{p,q} \otimes x_{q,q}.$$

- **Counit:**  $\varepsilon(x_{a,b}) = \delta_{a,b}$ .

# An important example

## Example. [Hayashi]

There are natural **left and right coactions** of  $\mathfrak{H}(Q)$  on  $\mathbb{k}Q$ :

$$\lambda^{\mathfrak{H}(Q)} : \mathbb{k}Q \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}(Q) \otimes \mathbb{k}Q$$

$$\rho^{\mathfrak{H}(Q)} : \mathbb{k}Q \rightarrow \mathbb{k}Q \otimes \mathfrak{H}(Q)$$

$$a \mapsto \sum_{b \in Q_\ell} x_{a,b} \otimes b$$

$$a \mapsto \sum_{b \in Q_\ell} b \otimes x_{b,a} \quad a \mapsto \sum_{b \in Q_\ell} x_{a,b} \otimes$$

Making  $\mathbb{k}Q$  a left and right  **$\mathfrak{H}(Q)$ -comodule algebra**.

( $\approx$  algebra object in  ${}^H\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{M}^H$ , see [Walton–Wicks–W].)

# Back to the beginning

- **Title:** Universal quantum semigroupoids.
- Quantum semigroupoid = weak bialgebra.
- **Universal?**

**Main theorem.** [Huang–Walton–Wicks–W]

The **universal quantum semigroupoid** of  $\mathbb{k}Q$  is  $\mathfrak{H}(Q)$ .



# Universal coactions

Suppose  $A$  is **connected**.

**Definition.** [Manin]

A **left universal quantum semigroup (UQSG)** of  $A$  is a bialgebra  $O^{\text{left}}(A)$  that **left coacts** on  $A$  so that for every bialgebra  $H$  that **left coacts** on  $A$ , there exists a unique bialgebra map  $\pi : O^{\text{left}}(A) \rightarrow H$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\lambda^O} & O^{\text{left}}(A) \otimes A \\ & \searrow \lambda^H & \downarrow \pi \otimes \text{Id}_A \\ & & H \otimes A. \end{array}$$

# Universal coactions

## Example. [Manin]

Let  $A = \mathbb{k}[y_1, y_2]$ . Then

$$O^{\text{left}}(A) = \frac{\mathbb{k}\langle x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}, x_{2,2} \rangle}{R}$$

where

$$y_1 \mapsto x_{1,1} \otimes y_1 + x_{1,2} \otimes y_2$$

$$y_2 \mapsto x_{2,1} \otimes y_1 + x_{2,2} \otimes y_2.$$

Since  $[y_1, y_2] = 0$ ,

$$R = ([x_{1,1}, x_{2,1}], [x_{1,2}, x_{2,2}], [x_{1,1}x_{2,2}] - [x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}])$$



# Universal coactions

## Definition. [Manin]

A **right UQSG** of  $A$  is a bialgebra  $O^{\text{right}}(A)$  that **right coacts** on  $A$  so that for every bialgebra  $H$  that **right coacts** on  $A$ , there exists a unique bialgebra map  $\pi : O^{\text{right}}(A) \rightarrow H$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\rho^O} & A \otimes O^{\text{right}}(A) \\ & \searrow \rho^H & \downarrow \text{Id}_A \otimes \pi \\ & & A \otimes H. \end{array}$$

A **transposed UQSG**  $O^{\text{trans}}(A)$  **left and right coacts** on  $A$  **universally** via  $\lambda^O$  and  $\rho^O$  such that

$$(\rho^O)^\top : A^* \rightarrow O \otimes A^*$$

is  $\lambda^O$  (after identifying a basis of  $A$  with the dual basis of  $A^*$ ).



# Universal coactions

## Example. [Manin]

Let  $A = \mathbb{k}[y_1, y_2]$ . Then

$$O^{\text{right}}(A) = \frac{\mathbb{k}\langle x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}, x_{2,2} \rangle}{R'}$$

where

$$y_1 \mapsto y_1 \otimes x_{1,1} + y_2 \otimes x_{2,1}$$

$$y_2 \mapsto y_1 \otimes x_{1,2} + y_2 \otimes x_{2,2}.$$

Since  $[y_1, y_2] = 0$ ,

$$R' = ([x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}], [x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}], [x_{1,1}x_{2,2}] + [x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}]) .$$

# Universal coactions

$$A = \mathbb{k}[y_1, y_2].$$

- $O^{\text{left}}(A)$  gave relations

$$R = ([x_{1,1}, x_{2,1}], [x_{1,2}, x_{2,2}], [x_{1,1}x_{2,2}] - [x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}]) .$$

- $O^{\text{right}}(A)$  gave relations

$$R' = ([x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}], [x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}], [x_{1,1}x_{2,2}] + [x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}]) .$$

- So  $O^{\text{trans}}(A) \cong \mathbb{k}[x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}]$ .
- Coassociativity and counitality of coaction give

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(x_{i,j}) &= x_{i,1} \otimes x_{1,j} + x_{i,2} \otimes x_{2,j} \\ \varepsilon(x_{i,j}) &= \delta_{i,j}.\end{aligned}$$

- So  $O^{\text{trans}}(A) \cong \mathcal{O}(\text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{k}))$  as a bialgebra.



# Universal UQSGds

Suppose  $A$  is **not necessarily connected**.

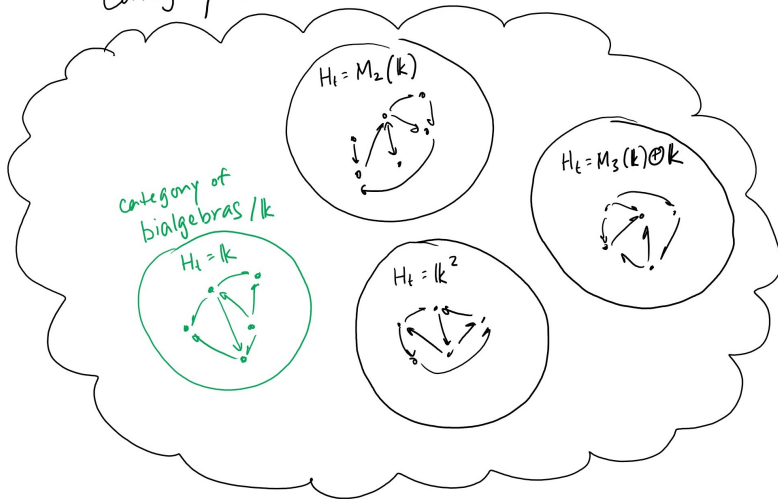
## Definition?

A **left UQSGd** of  $A$  is a **weak** bialgebra  $\mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(A)$  that left coacts on  $A$  so that for every **weak** bialgebra  $H$  that left coacts on  $A$ , there exists a unique **weak** bialgebra map  $\pi : \mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(A) \rightarrow H$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{\lambda^{\mathcal{O}}} & \mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(A) \otimes A \\ & \searrow \lambda^H & \downarrow \pi \otimes \text{Id}_A \\ & & H \otimes A. \end{array}$$

**Fact.** If  $\phi : H \rightarrow K$  is a nonzero wba morphism, then  $H_t \cong K_t$ .

Category of weak bialgebras /  $k$



# Universal UQSGds

- Would like a condition on  $H_s$  that generalizes the bialgebra case.

## Definition

A **left UQSGd** of  $A$  is a weak bialgebra  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(A)$  that left coacts on  $A$ , with  $A_0 \cong \mathcal{O}_t$  in  ${}^{\mathcal{O}}\mathcal{M}$ , so that for every weak bialgebra  $H$  that left coacts on  $A$ , with  $A_0 \cong H_t$ , there exists a unique weak bialgebra map  $\pi : \mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(A) \rightarrow H$  such that the diagram commutes.

- Call this a **base preserving** coaction.
- $\mathcal{O}_t = \mathbb{1}$  in  ${}^{\mathcal{O}}\mathcal{M}$ .
- Analogous definition for  $\mathcal{O}^{\text{right}}(A)$ , with  $H_s$  instead of  $H_t$ .

# Universal UQSGds

- A **transposed UQSGd**  $\mathcal{O}^{\text{trans}}(A)$  should coact on  $A$  on **left** and **right** universally + transpose compatibility conditions.
- $\mathcal{O}_t \cong A_0 \cong \mathcal{O}_s$ .
- Recall  $\mathcal{O}_t$  **antiisomorphic** to  $\mathcal{O}_s$ .
- So in our work, we assume  $A_0$  is commutative.



# Main theorem

**Theorem.** [Huang–Walton–Wicks–W]

Let  $A = \mathbb{k}Q$ . Then

$$\mathcal{O}^*(A) \cong \mathfrak{H}(Q)$$

where  $*$  = left, right, or trans.

- Surprising to us, but speaks to **freeness** of  $\mathbb{k}Q$ .
- $\mathbb{k}Q$  is the tensor algebra  $T_{\mathbb{k}Q_0}(\mathbb{k}Q_1)$ .

**Theorem.** [Huang–Walton–Wicks–W]

Let  $I$  be a graded ideal of  $\mathbb{k}Q$ . If  $\mathcal{O}^*(\mathbb{k}Q/I)$  exists, then

$$\mathcal{O}^*(\mathbb{k}Q/I) \cong \mathfrak{H}(Q)/\mathcal{I}$$

for some biideal  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathfrak{H}(Q)$ .





# Quadratic quiver algebras

**Theorem.** [Huang–Walton–Wicks–W]

If  $I$  is a graded ideal of  $\mathbb{k}Q$  **generated in degree 2**, then

$$\mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(\mathbb{k}Q/I) \cong \mathcal{O}^{\text{right}}((\mathbb{k}Q/I)^{\dagger})^{\text{op}}$$

$$\mathcal{O}^{\text{trans}}(\mathbb{k}Q/I) \cong \mathcal{O}^{\text{trans}}((\mathbb{k}Q/I)^{\dagger})^{\text{op}}$$

where  $(\mathbb{k}Q/I)^{\dagger}$  is the **quadratic dual**  $\mathbb{k}Q^{\text{op}}/I_{\text{op}}^{\perp}$ .

**Example.**

If  $I$  is the ideal of  $\mathbb{k}Q$  generated by all paths of length 2, then  $\mathbb{k}Q/I = \mathbb{k}Q^{\dagger}$ . Hence

$$\mathcal{O}^{\text{left}}(\mathbb{k}Q/I) \cong \mathfrak{H}(Q).$$

# Thank you!

