

Balmer Spectra and Drinfeld Centers

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June 21, 2022: Recent advances and new directions in the
interplay of noncommutative algebra and geometry

Setting: finite tensor categories

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Favorite example: $\mathrm{mod}(H)$, H a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra. (In fact, all finite tensor categories are equivalent to $\mathrm{mod}(A)$ for a finite-dimensional algebra A as abelian categories.)

The stable category

Motivated by the theory of support varieties (Quillen, Carlson, Avrunin-Scott, Alperin-Evens,...) we will consider the *stable category of \mathbf{C}* , denoted $\text{st}(\mathbf{C})$:

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Straightforward: objects A and B are isomorphic in $\text{st}(\mathbf{C})$ if and only if there exist projective objects P and Q with $A \oplus P \cong B \oplus Q$ in \mathbf{T} .

Lemma

The stable category of a finite tensor category is a monoidal triangulated category.

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- *The Balmer spectrum* $\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K})$ of a monoidal triangulated category \mathbf{K} is defined as the collection of prime ideals of \mathbf{K} : thick ideals \mathbf{P} such that if $\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{J} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$, then \mathbf{I} or \mathbf{J} is contained in \mathbf{P} , over all thick ideals \mathbf{I} and \mathbf{J} .

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- Topology: closed sets generated by $V(A) := \{\mathbf{P} \in \mathrm{Spc} \mathbf{K} : A \notin \mathbf{P}\}$.

Drinfeld centers

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- Construction: objects are pairs (A, γ) where $A \in \mathbf{C}$ and $\gamma_B : B \otimes A \xrightarrow{\cong} A \otimes B$ a natural isomorphism called a **half-braiding**, satisfying some natural requirements. Morphisms consist of morphisms from \mathbf{C} which are compatible with the half-braidings.

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- If $\mathbf{C} = \text{mod}(H)$, then $Z(\mathbf{C}) \cong \text{mod}(D(H))$.

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{C} & \longrightarrow & \text{st}(\mathbf{C}) \\ \uparrow F & & \\ Z(\mathbf{C}) & \longrightarrow & \text{st}(Z(\mathbf{C})) \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ccc} & & \text{Spc st}(\mathbf{C}) \\ & & \downarrow ? \\ & & \text{Spc st}(Z(\mathbf{C})) \end{array}$$

Extending the forgetful functor

- Following noncommutative ring theory: for a ring R with center $Z(R)$, if \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal of R , then $\mathfrak{p} \cap Z(R)$ is a prime ideal in $Z(R)$ — this is called prime ideal contraction.

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Drinfeld
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Important note: Spc is not necessarily functorial for non-braided categories (reflects noncommutative ring theory), so \overline{F} doesn't “automatically” give us a continuous map between spectra.

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Drinfeld
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Lemma (V.)

$f(\mathbf{P})$ is a prime ideal for any prime ideal \mathbf{P} , and f is continuous.

Benson-Witherspoon smash coproducts

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Drinfeld
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- Let G and L be finite groups with L acting on G by group automorphisms, and \mathbb{k} be a field of characteristic dividing the order of G and not dividing the order of L .

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Drinfeld
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$$(M_x \otimes \mathbb{k}_x) \otimes (N_y \otimes \mathbb{k}_y) = (M_x \otimes^x N_y) \otimes \mathbb{k}_{xy}.$$

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Drinfeld
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spectra and
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- $H_{G,L}$ is cosemisimple (the dual is the smash product of two semisimple algebras) and not semisimple.

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Theorem (V.)

The map $f : \text{Spc stmod}(H_{G,L}) \rightarrow \text{Spc stmod}(D(H_{G,L}))$ is a homeomorphism, and the thick ideals of the two categories are in bijection.

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Drinfeld
centers

Kent Vashaw

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Drinfeld
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Recall that $D(H) \cong D((H^{\text{op}})^*)$. Hence we get

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By a result of Nakano-V.-Yakimov, the left hand side is $\text{Proj}(H^\bullet(G, \mathbb{k})^L)$.

Conclusion

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