Categorification of quantum groups

Aaron Lauda
Joint with Mikhail Khovanov

Columbia University

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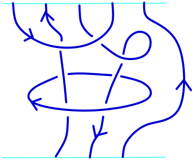
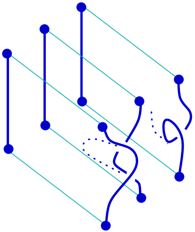
Available at http://www.math.columbia.edu/∼lauda/talks/

Why categorify quantum groups?

Quantum Group $\xrightarrow{\text{representation category}}$ Braided monoidal category with duals



Categorified Quantum Group $\xrightarrow{\text{representation 2-category}}$ Braided monoidal 2-category with duals



Crane-Frenkel conjectured categorified quantum groups would give 4-dimensional TQFTs

$U_q^+ \subset U_q(\mathfrak{g})$

$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_n$

$$E_i = e_{i,i+1} = \begin{array}{cc} & \begin{matrix} & & i+1 & \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} \\ i \\ \\ \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

Lie algebra relations:

$$[E_i, E_j] = 0 \quad |i-j| > 1 \qquad\qquad [E_i, [E_i, E_j]] = 0 \quad |i-j| = 1$$

Enveloping algebra relations for $U^+(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$

$$E_i E_j = E_j E_i \qquad |i-j| > 1$$

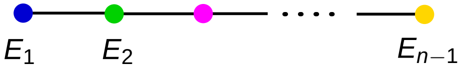
$$2E_i E_j E_i = E_i^2 E_j + E_j E_i^2 \qquad j = i \pm 1$$

Quantum enveloping algebra $U_q^+(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$

$$E_i E_j = E_j E_i \qquad |i-j| > 1$$

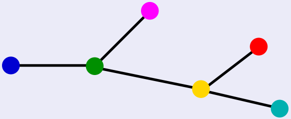
quantum 2 $\rightarrow (q + q^{-1}) E_i E_j E_i = E_i^2 E_j + E_j E_i^2 \qquad j = i \pm 1$

$U_q^+(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$ has a generator E_i for each vertex of the Dynkin graph



U_q^+ for any Γ

Let Γ be an unoriented graph with set of vertices I.

$\Gamma =$ 

U_q^+ is the $\mathbb{Q}(q)$-algebra with:

- generators: $E_i \quad i \in I$
- relations: $E_iE_j = E_jE_i$ if 

  $(q+q^{-1})E_iE_jE_i = E_i^2E_j + E_jE_i^2$ if 

U_q^+ is $\mathbb{N}[I]$ graded with $\deg(E_i) = i$.

The goal: categorify $U_q^+(\mathfrak{g})$

The quantum enveloping algebra $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ of a symmetrizable Kac-Moody Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ has a decomposition

$$U_q(\mathfrak{g}) = U_q^- \otimes U_q(\mathfrak{h}) \otimes U_q^+$$

U_q^+ has the structure of a bialgebra: try to categorify the bialgebra U_q^+

The plan: define a new algebra R

$$R-\mathrm{mod} - \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{category of finitely generated} \\ \text{graded projective modules} \end{array} \right)$$

Decategorification
(Grothendieck group)

$$K_0(R-\mathrm{mod}) \cong U_q^+(\mathfrak{g})$$

Grothendieck groups

If R is a graded ring then $K_0(R)$ is the Grothendieck group of the category $R-\mathrm{pmod}$ of graded projective finitely-generated R-modules.

$K_0(R)$ has generators $[M]$ over all objects of $R-\mathrm{pmod}$ and defining relations

$$\begin{aligned}
[M] &= [M_1] + [M_2] && \text{if } M \cong M_1 \oplus M_2 \\
[M\{s\}] &= q^s [M] && s \in \mathbb{Z}
\end{aligned}$$

$K_0(R)$ is a $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$-module.

A useful trick

If e is an idempotent in R, then

$$R \cong Re \oplus R(1-e).$$

Integral form of U_q^+

Define quantum integers and quantum factorials:

$$[a] := \frac{q^a - q^{-a}}{q - q^{-1}} \qquad [a]! := [a][a-1]\dots[1]$$

Example

- $[1] = 1$
- $[2] = \frac{q^2-q^{-2}}{q-q^{-1}} = q + q^{-1}$
- $[3] = \frac{q^3-q^{-3}}{q-q^{-1}} = q^2 + 1 + q^{-2}$

The algebra $U_{\mathbb{Z}}^+$ is the $\mathbb{Z}[q,q^{-1}]$-subalgebra of U_q^+ generated by all products of quantum divided powers:

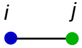
$$E_i^{(a)} := \frac{E_i^a}{[a]!}$$

Since

$$E_i^{(2)} = \frac{E_i^2}{q+q^{-1}}$$

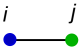
we can write the U_q^+ relation

$$(q+q^{-1})E_iE_jE_i = E_i^2E_j + E_jE_i^2 \quad \text{if}$$



as

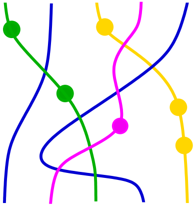
$$E_iE_jE_i = E_i^{(2)}E_j + E_jE_i^{(2)} \quad \text{if}$$



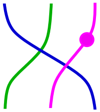
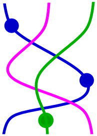
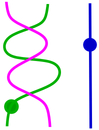
Categorification of U_q^+

Associated to graph Γ consider braid-like diagrams with dots whose strands are labelled by the vertices $i \in I$ of the graph Γ.

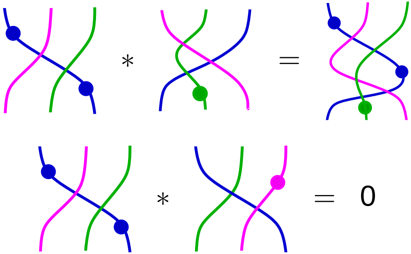
Let $\nu = \sum_{i \in I} \nu_i \cdot i$, for $\nu_i = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$
ν keeps track of how many strands of each color occur in a diagram



Form an abelian group by taking $\mathbb{Z}$-linear (or $\Bbbk$-linear) combinations of diagrams:

5  – 2  – 17 

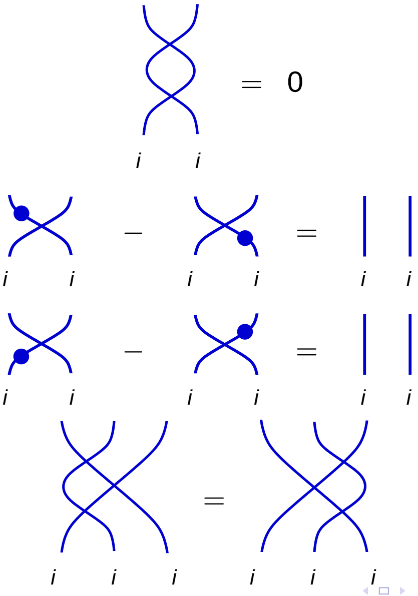
Multiplication is given by stacking diagrams on top of each other when the colors match:



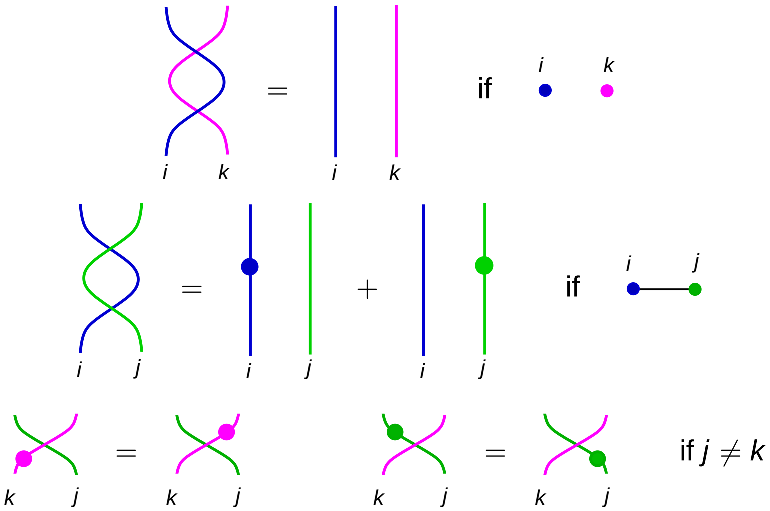
Definition

Given $\nu \in \mathbb{N}[I]$ define the ring $R(\nu)$ as the set of planar diagrams colored by ν, modulo planar braid-like isotopies and the following local relations:

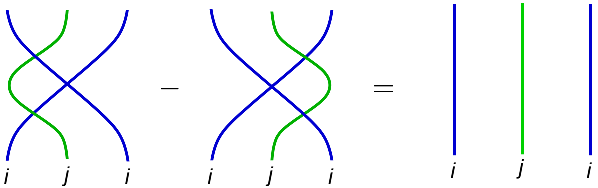
Local relations I



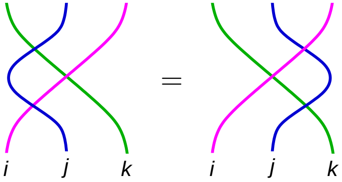
Local relations II



Local relations III



if 

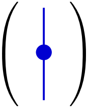


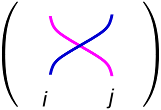
otherwise,

some of i, j, k may be equal

Grading

$q \longrightarrow$ grading shift

deg  $= \quad 2$

deg 

$=$ $\begin{cases} -2 & \text{if } i = j \\ 0 & \text{if} \\ 1 & \text{if} \end{cases}$

The $R(\nu)$ relations are homogeneous with respect to this grading.

R_ν is the associative, F-algebra on generators $1_{\underline{i}},\quad x_{a,\underline{i}},\quad ;\psi_{b,\underline{i}}$ for $1 \leq a \leq m$, $1 \leq b \leq m-1$ and $\underline{i} \in \mathrm{Seq}(\nu)$ subject to the following relations for $\underline{i}, \underline{j} \in \mathrm{Seq}(\nu)$:

$$1_{\underline{i}} 1_{\underline{j}} = \delta_{\underline{i},\underline{j}} 1_{\underline{i}}, \qquad x_{a,\underline{i}} = 1_{\underline{i}} x_{a,\underline{i}} 1_{\underline{i}},$$

$$\psi_{a,\underline{i}} = 1_{s_a(\underline{i})} \psi_{a,\underline{i}} 1_{\underline{i}}, \qquad x_{a,\underline{i}} x_{b,\underline{i}} = x_{b,\underline{i}} x_{a,\underline{i}},$$

$$\psi_{a,s_a(\underline{i})}\psi_{a,\underline{i}} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i_r = i_{r+1} \\ 1_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } (\alpha_{i_a}, \alpha_{i_{a+1}}) = 0 \\ \left(x_{a,\underline{i}}^{-\langle i_a, i_{a+1}\rangle} + x_{a+1,\underline{i}}^{-\langle i_{a+1}, i_a\rangle}\right) 1_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } (\alpha_{i_a}, \alpha_{i_{a+1}}) \neq 0 \text{ and } i_a \neq i_{a+1} \end{cases},$$

$$\psi_{b,s_a(\underline{i})}\psi_{a,\underline{i}} = \psi_{a,s_b(\underline{i})}\psi_{b,\underline{i}} \qquad \text{if } |a-b|>1,$$

$$\psi_{a,s_{a+1}s_a(\underline{i})}\psi_{a+1,s_a(\underline{i})}\psi_{a,\underline{i}} - \psi_{a+1,s_a s_{a+1}(\underline{i})}\psi_{a,s_{a+1}(\underline{i})}\psi_{a+1,\underline{i}} =$$

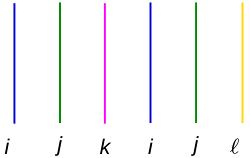
$$= \begin{cases} \displaystyle\sum_{r=0}^{-\langle i_a, i_{a+1}\rangle - 1} x_{a,\underline{i}}^{r} x_{a+2,\underline{i}}^{-\langle i_a, i_{a+1}\rangle - 1 - r} & \text{if } i_a = i_{a+2} \text{ and } (\alpha_{i_a}, \alpha_{i_{a+1}}) \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\psi_{a,\underline{i}} x_{b,\underline{i}} - x_{s_a(b), s_a(\underline{i})}\psi_{a,\underline{i}} = \begin{cases} 1_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } a=b \text{ and } i_a = i_{a+1} \\ -1_{\underline{i}} & \text{if } a = b+1 \text{ and } i_a = i_{a+1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Projective modules from idempotents

Let $R = \bigoplus_\nu R(\nu)$. For each product of E_i's in U_q^+ we have an idempotent in R:

$$E_iE_jE_kE_iE_jE_\ell \qquad \mapsto \qquad 1_{ijkij\ell} \;:=$$



This gives rise to a projective module

$$\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_k\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_\ell \quad := \quad R1_{ijkij\ell} \quad = \quad R(2i+2j+k+\ell)1_{ijkij\ell}$$

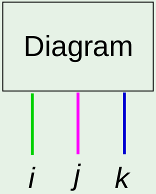
corresponding to the idempotent $1_{ijkij\ell}$ above.

Example

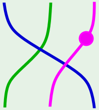
Consider

$$R1_{ijk} \quad = \quad R(i+j+k)1_{ijk}$$

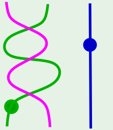
The projective module $\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_k := R(i+j+k)1_{ijk}$ consists of linear combinations of diagrams that have the sequence *ijk* at the bottom



i.e.

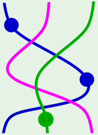


and



$\in R(i+j+k)1_{ijk}$

But

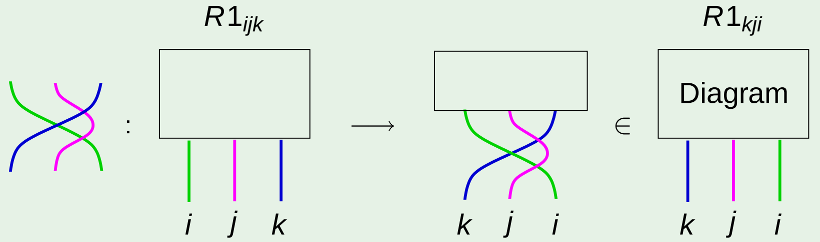


$\notin R(i+j+k)1_{ijk}$

We can construct maps between projective modules by adding diagrams at the *bottom*

Example

We get a module map from $\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_k := R(i+j+k)1_{ijk}$ to $\mathcal{E}_k\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_i := R(i+j+k)1_{kji}$ as follows:



Given a graded module M and a Laurent polynomial $f = \sum f_a q^a \in \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$ write

$$M^{\oplus f} \qquad \text{or} \qquad \bigoplus_f M$$

to denote the direct sum over $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ of f_a copies of $M\{a\}$

Example

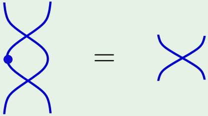
Since $[3] = q^2 + 1 + q^{-2} \in \mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]$, for a graded module M

$$\bigoplus_{[3]} M \quad = \quad M\{2\} \oplus M\{0\} \oplus M\{-2\}$$

Example ($n = 2$)

$E_i^{(2)} = \frac{E_i^2}{q+q^{-1}}$ or $E_i^2 = (q+q^{-1})E_i^{(2)}$

Recall that



so that $e_2 =$  is an idempotent.

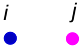
$\mathcal{E}_i^{(2)}$ is the projective module for this idempotent

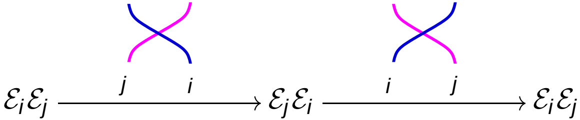
$$\mathcal{E}_i^{(2)} := R(2i)e_2\{1\}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_i^2 \cong \mathcal{E}_i^{(2)}\{1\} \oplus \mathcal{E}_i^{(2)}\{-1\}$$

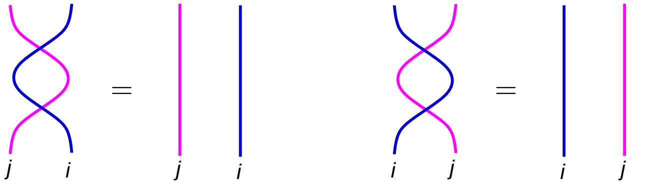
Categorification of $E_iE_j = E_jE_i$

$E_iE_j = E_jE_i$ if 

$\rightsquigarrow$ $\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j \cong \mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_i$ if 



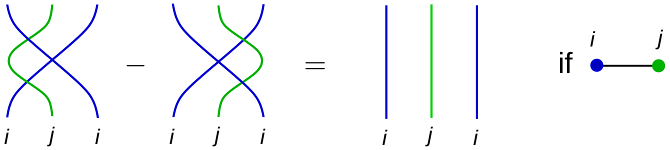
These maps are isomorphisms since



if 

Categorification of $E_iE_jE_i = E_i^{(2)}E_j + E_jE_i^{(2)}$

The relation



together with the other relations imply

$$\mathcal{E}_i\mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_i \cong \mathcal{E}_j\mathcal{E}_i^{(2)} \oplus \mathcal{E}_i^{(2)}\mathcal{E}_j$$

We have shown that all the quantum Serre relations hold as isomorphisms between projective modules. This implies that they also hold in the Grothendieck ring.

Work over a field $\Bbbk$.

Theorem (M.Khovanov, A. L. arXiv:0803.4121)

There is an isomorphism of twisted bialgebras:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \colon U_{\mathbb{Z}}^{+} &\longrightarrow K_0(R) \\ E_{i_1}^{(a_1)} E_{i_2}^{(a_2)} \dots E_{i_k}^{(a_k)} &\mapsto \left[\mathcal{E}_{i_1}^{(a_1)} \mathcal{E}_{i_2}^{(a_2)} \dots \mathcal{E}_{i_k}^{(a_k)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{multiplication} &\mapsto \text{multiplication given by } [\mathrm{Ind}] \\ \text{comultiplication} &\mapsto \text{comultiplication given by } [\mathrm{Res}] \end{aligned}$$

The semilinear form on $U_{\mathbb{Z}}^{+}$ maps to the HOM form on $K_0(R)$

$$(x, y) \quad = \quad (\gamma(x), \gamma(y))$$

Theorem (simply-laced)

$$U_{\mathbb{Z}}^{+} \xrightarrow{\quad\sim\quad} K_0(R)$$

$$\text{Lusztig-Kashiwara canonical basis} \longmapsto \text{indecomposable projective } [P]$$

arXiv:0901.4450

Brundan and Kleshchev gave an algebraic proof when Γ is a chain or a cycle.

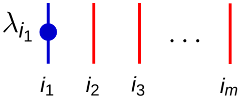
arXiv:0901.3992

The general case (over $\mathbb{C}$) was proven by Varagnolo and Vasserot who showed that rings $R(\nu)$ in the simply-laced case were isomorphic to certain Ext-algebras of Perverse sheaves on Lusztig quiver varieties.

Cyclotomic quotients

For a given weight $\lambda = \sum_{i\in I} \lambda_i \cdot \Lambda_i$ define the cyclotomic quotient R_ν^λ of $R(\nu)$ by imposing the additional relations: for any sequence $i_1 i_2 \cdots i_m$ of vertices of Γ

λ_{i_1} dots on the first strand of any sequence is zero $\longrightarrow$



$= \quad 0$

This is analogous to taking the Ariki-Koike cyclotomic quotient of the affine Hecke algebra:

$$H_d^\lambda := H_d \Big/ \left\langle \prod_{i\in I} (X_1 - q^i)^{\lambda_i} \right\rangle$$

Cyclotomic quotient conjecture

The category of finitely-generated graded modules over the ring

$$R^{\lambda} = \bigoplus_{\nu \in \mathbb{N}[I]} R^{\lambda}_{\nu}$$

categorifies the integrable version of the representation V_{λ} of $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ of highest weight λ.

$$V(\lambda) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\sim\quad\quad} K_0(R^{\lambda})$$

$$\text{Lusztig-Kashiwara canonical basis} \longmapsto \text{indecomposable projective } [P]$$