

Deligne's tensor category $\underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t)$ and general linear supergroups

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Interplay between supersymmetry and tensor categories

Supergroups $\xrightarrow{\text{\$ \$ \$ \dots}}$ tensor categories.

- Almost all examples of rigid symmetric tensor categories come from representation theory of superalgebras.
- Give rise to **universal** tensor categories.

Tensor categories $\xrightarrow{\text{\$ \$ \$ \dots}}$ supergroups.

- Classification of representations.
- Calculations of characters and dimensions of some natural representations. Comes–Wilson, Brundan–Stroppel.

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Formalization of tensor product \rightsquigarrow Tensor categories

- \mathcal{A} is abelian and k -linear (morphisms are k -vector spaces);
- \mathcal{A} is equipped with **tensor product** \otimes , i.e. an exact functor $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$, k -linear in both variables, with (functorial) isomorphism $(X \otimes Y) \otimes Z \simeq X \otimes (Y \otimes Z)$;
- \mathcal{A} has a unit object $\mathbf{1}$ such that $\text{End}(\mathbf{1}) = k$;
- **Symmetry**: functorial isomorphism $s : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X$ such that the composition

$$X \otimes Y \xrightarrow{s} Y \otimes X \xrightarrow{s} X \otimes Y$$

is the identity. (Braiding \rightsquigarrow sign rule in supercase.) **Warning:** no braid groups.

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Formalization of duality

- Contravariant duality functor $*$: $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$, $X \mapsto X^*$;
- Natural maps: identity $e : \mathbf{1} \rightarrow X \otimes X^*$;
- Contraction (trace) $c : X^* \otimes X \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$;
- compositions

$$X \xrightarrow{e \otimes 1} X \otimes X^* \otimes X \xrightarrow{1 \otimes c} X$$

and

$$X^* \xrightarrow{1 \otimes e} X^* \otimes X \otimes X^* \xrightarrow{c \otimes 1} X^*$$

are both equal to the identity 1_X .

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Main Examples

The category **Vect** of finite-dimensional vector spaces.

- $(X \otimes Y) \otimes Z \simeq X \otimes (Y \otimes Z)$, $(x \otimes y) \otimes z \mapsto x \otimes (y \otimes z)$, $\mathbf{1} = k$;
- $\mathbf{s} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X$, $\mathbf{s}(x \otimes y) := y \otimes x$;
- $\mathbf{c} : X^* \otimes X \rightarrow \mathbf{1}$, $\mathbf{c}(f \otimes x) := f(x)$;
- $\mathbf{e} : \mathbf{1} \rightarrow X \otimes X^*$, $\mathbf{e}(\mathbf{1}) := \sum e_i \otimes f_i$.

The category **SVect** of finite-dimensional vector superspaces.

- Objects are \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded vector spaces $X = X_0 \oplus X_1$.
- The main difference with **Vect**:

$$\mathbf{s} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X, \quad \mathbf{s}(x \otimes y) := (-1)^{\bar{x}\bar{y}} y \otimes x.$$

- \mathbf{c} and \mathbf{e} are defined by the same formulas as for usual vector spaces.

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Trace and dimension

Using the rigidity axiom one can construct a canonical isomorphism

$$\delta : \text{End}(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(\mathbf{1}, X \otimes X^*)$$

and define the **trace**:

$$\text{tr} : \text{End}(X) \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathbf{1}) = k$$

as the composition

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By definition

$$\dim X = \text{tr } 1_X.$$

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- Vector spaces: dimension and trace are as usual.
- Vector superspaces: the (*super*)trace of a linear operator is

$$\text{str} \left(\begin{array}{c|c} A & B \\ \hline C & D \end{array} \right) = \text{tr } A - \text{tr } D.$$

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- G algebraic group (over k), for example, $GL(n)$. The category $\text{Rep } G$ of finite-dimensional representations of G is a symmetric rigid tensor category.
 - A functor $F : \text{Rep } G \rightarrow \text{Vect}$ (forgetting the G -action). **Tensor functor**, i.e., preserves all structures of tensor categories, **faithful** (injective on morphisms), **exact**.
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- An exact faithful tensor functor $F : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{Vect}$ is called a *fiber functor*.
 - A finitely generated symmetric rigid tensor category which has a fiber functor is equivalent to $\text{Rep } G$ for some algebraic group G . (Tannakian categories \rightsquigarrow affine group schemes).

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Supertannakian formalism

Example. $GL(n)$ may be a group G and may be supergroup G_{super} .
 $\text{Rep } G_{\text{super}}$ has twice as many objects as $\text{Rep } G$:

$$V \longleftrightarrow \Pi V, \quad V_0 \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} V_1$$

Deligne's trick (Halving the category):

- G is a supergroup, fix $g \in G_0$.
- $\text{Rep}(G, g)$ is the subcategory of $\text{Rep } G$, consisting of representations V satisfying $g(v) = (-1)^{\bar{v}}v$.
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Theorem (Deligne, 2002)

A tensor category \mathcal{A} is equivalent to some $\text{Rep}(G, \mathfrak{g})$ if and only if

- *There exists a fiber functor $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \text{SVect}$;*
- *\mathcal{A} is finitely generated.*

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Schur functor

- Consider a tensor category \mathcal{A} .
- For any object X in \mathcal{A} consider $X^{\otimes n}$.
- $\sigma_{i,i+1} \mapsto 1^{\otimes i-1} \otimes \mathfrak{s} \otimes 1^{\otimes n-i-1} \rightsquigarrow S_n \rightarrow \text{Aut}(X^{\otimes n})$.

Schur–Weyl duality:

$$X^{\otimes n} = \bigoplus_{|\lambda|=n} V_\lambda \otimes S_\lambda(X).$$

Definition

$X \mapsto S_\lambda(X)$ is called the **Schur functor** $S_\lambda : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$.

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Theorem (A. Sergeev, 1982)

Let V be an $(m|n)$ -dimensional superspace. Then $S_\lambda(V) \neq 0$ if and only if λ can be covered by an (m, n) -hook, or equivalently, λ does not contain a rectangular diagram of size $(m+1) \times (n+1)$.

Theorem (P. Deligne, 2002)

Let \mathcal{A} be a finitely generated rigid symmetric tensor category. The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) Every generator is annihilated by some Schur functor.*
- (b) \mathcal{A} is equivalent to $\text{Rep}(G, \mathfrak{g})$ for some algebraic supergroup G .*

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Universal tensor categories

- Consider tensor categories generated by one object X ;
 - Want to construct a **universal** one;
 - Analogy: free ring with two generators X and X^* ;
 - Deligne's category $\underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t)$, $t = \dim X$.
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- **Abelianization**: a way to extend a category to abelian by forcefully adding kernels and images of all morphisms. There is no such bliss!
 - **The subtle point. Karoubization**: adding kernels and images of all **projectors** ($p^2 = p$). **It exists!**
 - $\underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t)$ is a result of Karoubization. **Not abelian.**

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 - Want to construct a **universal** one;
 - Analogy: free ring with two generators X and X^* ;
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Ingredients of construction

- Skeleton category.
 - objects: $X^{\otimes m} \otimes (X^*)^{\otimes n}$,
 - morphisms: $\text{Hom}(X^{\otimes m} \otimes (X^*)^{\otimes n}, X^{\otimes k} \otimes (X^*)^{\otimes l}) =$ walled Brauer diagrams.
- Additive closure (adding direct sums).
- Karoubian envelope (adding kernels of all projectors).

Properties of Deligne's categories

- $\text{Rep } GL(t)$ is **semisimple** and therefore abelian if and only if $t \notin \mathbb{Z}$.
- **Indecomposable objects** in $\text{Rep } GL(t)$ are enumerated by pairs of partitions: $(\lambda, \mu) \leftrightarrow Y_{\lambda, \mu}$.
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Semisimple quotient

If $t = n \in \mathbb{Z}$, the Deligne categories have canonical semisimple quotients.

Semisimple quotients of $\underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t)$:

- $\text{Rep}(GL(n), 1)$ for $n > 0$;
- $\text{Rep}(GL(-n), -1)$ for $n < 0$.

Universality

Theorem (P. Deligne, 2002)

Let \mathcal{A} be a symmetric rigid k -linear category, and V be an object of dimension t . There exists a unique (up to isomorphism) tensor functor $F : \underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ such that $F(X) = V$.

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Towards abelianization: building blocks

$$t = m - n = m' - n'$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) & \xrightarrow{F_{m,n}} & \text{Rep} GL(m, n) \\ & \searrow^{F_{m',n'}} & \\ & & \text{Rep} GL(m', n') \end{array}$$

Tensor functor $E_{m,n} : \text{Rep} GL(m, n) \rightarrow \text{Rep} GL(m-1, n-1)$.

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Tensor functor F_x (Duflo, V.S.)

- \mathfrak{g} Lie superalgebra;
- $x \in \mathfrak{g}_1$ such that $[x, x] = 2x^2 = 0$;
- If M is a representation of \mathfrak{g} , then $x^2 M = 0$;
- Set $M_x = \ker x / \operatorname{im} x$, $\mathfrak{g}_x = \ker \operatorname{ad}_x / \operatorname{im} \operatorname{ad}_x$ (cohomology);
- M_x is a representation of \mathfrak{g}_x ;
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Our case: $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(m, n)$, x is an odd matrix of rank 1,
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Towards abelianization: filtration

Lemma

A filtration on $\text{Rep } GL(m, n)$ (tensor rank $\geq k$)

$$\mathcal{F}^1 \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \subset \dots \subset \mathcal{F}^k \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \subset \dots,$$

- $\mathcal{F}^k \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \otimes \mathcal{F}^l \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{k+l} \text{Rep } GL(m, n)$;
- $E_{m,n}$ preserves this filtration;
- If $m, n \gg k$ then

$$E_{m,n} : \mathcal{F}^k \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^k \text{Rep } GL(m-1, n-1)$$

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First, horizontal inverse limit, then vertical direct limit.

Let $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ be fixed and $m - n = t$.

For every $k > 0$ one can define an abelian category

$$\overline{\text{Rep}}_k GL(t) := \lim_{\leftarrow} \mathcal{F}^k \text{Rep } GL(m, n).$$

Lemma (Abelianization)

(a)

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is a symmetric rigid tensor category (*abelian!*).

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Theorem

Let \mathcal{A} be a symmetric rigid tensor category and $F : \underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ be a tensor functor.

(a) $V = F(X)$ is annihilated by some Schur functor $\Rightarrow \exists \Phi$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) & \xrightarrow{F_{m,n}} & \text{Rep } GL(m, n) \\ & \searrow F & \downarrow \Phi \\ & & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

(b) $V = F(X)$ is not annihilated by any Schur functor $\Rightarrow \exists \Phi$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) & \xrightarrow{H} & \overline{\text{Rep}} GL(t) \\ & \searrow F & \downarrow \Phi \\ & & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

The category $\text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty)$

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(\infty) = \varinjlim \mathfrak{gl}(n).$$

Let V and V_* be natural and conatural modules.

Definition

A subalgebra $\mathfrak{k} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ is a finite corank subalgebra if there exist finite dimensional subspaces $W \subset V$ and $W' \subset V_*$ such that \mathfrak{k} annihilates every vector in W, W' .

We define $\text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty)$ as a full subcategory of \mathfrak{g} -modules whose objects M satisfy the following conditions

- M is integrable;
- For every $m \in M$ the annihilator of m in \mathfrak{g} has finite corank;
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$\text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty)$ is symmetric, monoidal and universal in this class.
(Penkov–Dan-Cohen –S., Sam–Snowden)

There exists a faithful tensor functor $K : \text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty) \rightarrow \overline{\text{Rep } GL(t)}$.

$$\underline{\text{Rep } GL(t)} \xrightarrow{H} \overline{\text{Rep } GL(t)} \xleftarrow{K} \text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty).$$

- $\underline{\text{Rep } GL(t)}$ is symmetric rigid, but not abelian.
- $\text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty)$ is symmetric abelian but not rigid.
- $\overline{\text{Rep } GL(t)}$ is a locally highest weight category
- Simple objects in $\text{Rep } \mathfrak{gl}(\infty) \mapsto$ standard objects in $\overline{\text{Rep } GL(t)}$.
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- Ideals in the Deligne category $\underline{\text{Rep}} GL(t)$.
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- Deligne conjecture.
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