

Orbifold completion of 3-categories

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based on joint work with Ilka Brunner, Catherine Meusburger, Vincentas Mulevičius,
Daniel Plencner, Ana Ros Camacho, Ingo Runkel, Gregor Schaumann, Daniel Scherl, and
Lukas Müller: arXiv:2307.06485 [math.QA]

overview: [arXiv:2307.16674](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.16674) [math-ph]

slides: <https://carqueville.net/nils/3dorb.pdf>

In a nutshell

- Orbifold data** ... are algebraic representations of Pachner moves
- ... are objects of a higher Morita category
- ... are special defects in defect TQFT
- ... are gaugeable (non-invertible) symmetries
- ... give rise to state sum models

In a nutshell

- Orbifold data** ... are algebraic representations of Pachner moves
... are objects of a higher Morita category
... are special defects in defect TQFT
... are gaugeable (non-invertible) symmetries
... give rise to state sum models

Theorem. Let \mathcal{T} be 3-category with duals. The higher Morita category \mathcal{T}_{orb} of orbifold data in \mathcal{T} has duals.

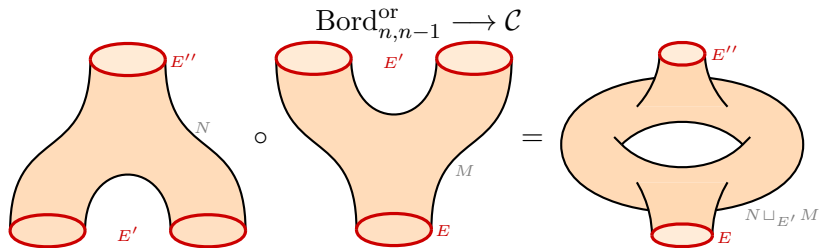
Theorem. Let \mathcal{Z} be 3d defect TQFT and $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$ its 3-category with duals. From $(\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}})_{\text{orb}}$ one obtains 3d **defect TQFT** \mathcal{Z}_{orb} .

Applications.

- “Defect state sum models are orbifolds of the trivial defect TQFT.”
- “Reshetikhin–Turaev defect TQFTs without thinking”
- “Douglas–Reutter 4-manifold invariants via orbifolds”

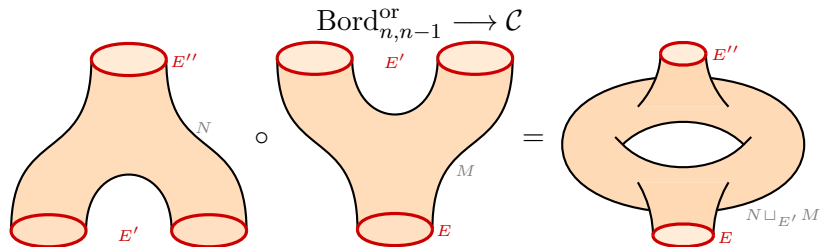
Closed TQFT

An n -dimensional closed oriented TQFT is symmetric monoidal functor



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Classification.

- (1d closed oriented TQFTs) \cong (dualisable objects)
- (2d closed oriented TQFTs) \cong (commutative Frobenius algebras)
- (3d closed oriented TQFTs) \cong (J-algebras)
- (4d closed oriented TQFTs) \cong ??

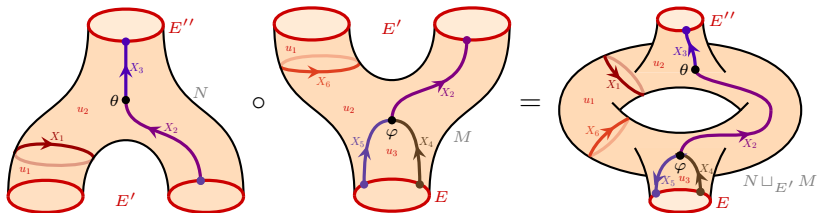
Defect TQFT

An n -dimensional defect TQFT is symmetric monoidal functor

$$\text{Bord}_{n,n-1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

depending on set of **defect data** \mathbb{D} consisting of

- set D_n of “bulk theories”
- sets D_j of j -dimensional “defects” for $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$
- adjacency rules...



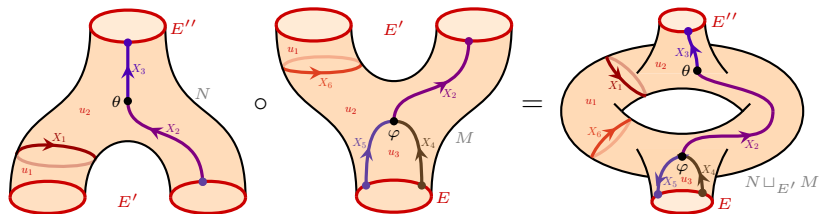
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Non-full embedding $\text{Bord}_{n,n-1}^{\text{or}} \hookrightarrow \text{Bord}_{n,n-1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D})$ for all $u \in D_n$

Examples of 2d defect TQFTs

Trivial defect TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}} : \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}^{\text{triv}_2}) \longrightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}$

$$D_2^{\text{triv}_2} := \{\mathbb{k}\}$$

$$D_1^{\text{triv}_2} := \text{Ob}(\text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}}) \quad \mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}} \left(\text{circle with } V_1, \dots, V_m \text{ on the boundary} \right) := V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_m$$

$$D_0^{\text{triv}_2} := \text{Mor}(\text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}})$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}} \left(\text{pair of pants diagram} \right) := (\text{evaluate 0- und 1-strata as string diagrams in } \text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}})$$

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State sum models $\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{SS}}$:

separable symmetric Frobenius \mathbb{k} -algebras and bimodules

B-twisted sigma models $\mathcal{Z}^{\text{B}\sigma}$:

Calabi–Yau manifolds and their derived categories

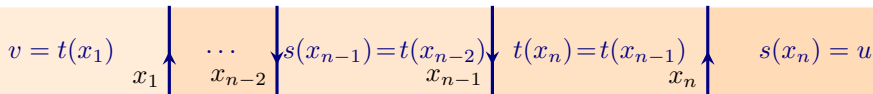
Landau–Ginzburg models \mathcal{Z}^{LG} :

isolated singularities and matrix factorisations

Higher categories from defect TQFTs

Theorem. For $\mathcal{Z}: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, there is pivotal 2-category $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$ with

- objects: elements of D_2
- 1-morphisms $X: u \rightarrow v$: lists of composable elements of D_1



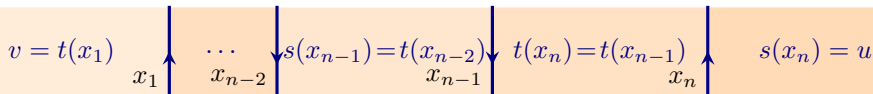
– $\text{Hom}(X, Y) = \mathcal{Z} \left(\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ (y_2, \nu_2) \\ (y_1, \nu_1) \\ (x_1, -\varepsilon_1) \\ (x_2, -\varepsilon_2) \\ \dots \\ (x_n, -\varepsilon_n) \\ (x_{n-1}, -\varepsilon_{n-1}) \\ (y_m, \nu_m) \\ (y_{m-1}, \nu_{m-1}) \\ \dots \end{array} \right)$

- composition: “pair-of-pants with defects”

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Examples.

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}}} \cong \text{B vect}_{\mathbb{k}}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{ss}}} \cong \text{ssFrob}(\text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}}) \cong (\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}}})_{\text{orb}}^{\odot}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{LG}}} \cong \mathcal{LG}$$

Examples of 3d defect TQFTs

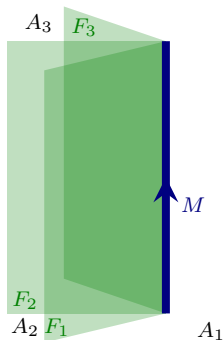
Reshetikhin–Turaev defect TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{RT}}$ for modular fusion category \mathcal{M} :

$D_3^{\text{RT}} := \{\text{commutative } \Delta\text{-separable Frobenius algebras } A \text{ in } \mathcal{M}\}$

$D_2^{\text{RT}} := \{\Delta\text{-sep. sym. Frobenius alg. } F \text{ with comp. bimodule structure}\}$

$D_1^{\text{RT}} := \{\text{multimodules } M\}$

$D_0^{\text{RT}} := \{\text{multimodule maps}\}$



Trivial defect TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{triv}} \cong \mathcal{Z}_{\text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}}}^{\text{RT}} \Big|_{D_3^{\text{RT}} \rightarrow \{\mathbb{k}\}}$

Higher categories from defect TQFTs

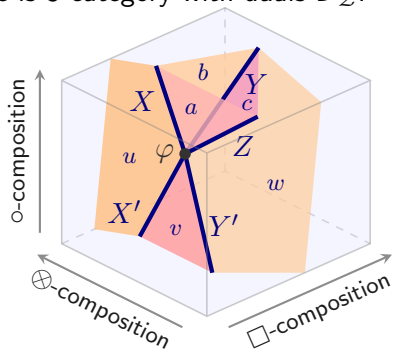
Theorem. For $\mathcal{Z}: \text{Bord}_{3,2}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, there is 3-category with duals $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$:

- objects: elements of D_3
- k -morphisms: $(3 - k)$ -fold cylinders over defect k -balls, $k \in \{1, 2\}$
- 3-morphisms: \mathcal{Z} (“defect 2-sphere”)
- composition: “pair-of-pants with defects”
- duals: bending lines and surfaces

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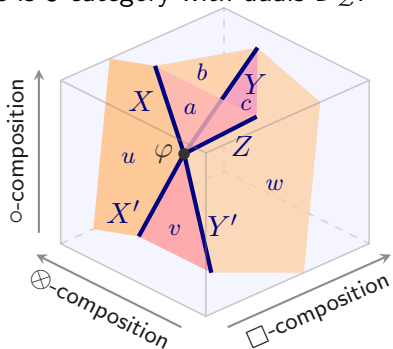
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Examples.

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{triv}}} \cong \text{B ssFrob}(\text{vect}_{\mathbb{k}}) \cong \text{B } \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{ss}}}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{ss}}} \cong (\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{triv}}})_{\text{orb}}^{\odot} \supset \text{sFus}_{\mathbb{k}}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{RT}}} \cong (\text{B } \Delta \text{ssFrob}(\mathcal{M}))_{\text{orb}}$$

Examples of n -dimensional defect TQFTs

Euler defect TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_{\Psi}^{\text{eu}}: \text{Bord}_{n,n-1}^{\text{def}} \longrightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}$, where

$\text{Bord}_{n,n-1}^{\text{def}}$: stratified bordisms without labels

$$\Psi = (\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n) \in (\mathbb{k}^{\times})^n$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\Psi}^{\text{eu}}(\text{object } E) := \mathbb{k}$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\Psi}^{\text{eu}}(\text{bordism } M) := \prod_{j=1}^n \prod_{j\text{-strata } \sigma_j \subset M} \psi_j^{\chi(\sigma_j) - \frac{1}{2}\chi(\partial\sigma_j)}$$

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Euler completion \mathcal{Z}^\odot of any defect TQFT \mathcal{Z} satisfies

$$(\mathcal{Z}^\odot)^\odot \cong \mathcal{Z}^\odot \quad \mathcal{Z}^\odot \otimes \mathcal{Z}_\Psi^{\text{eu}} \cong \mathcal{Z}^\odot$$

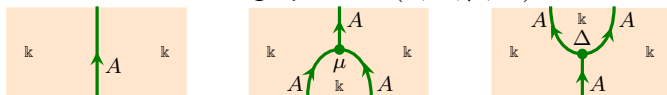
Euler completion $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}^\odot \cong \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}^\odot}$ of higher defect categories

State sum models

Input: Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius \mathbb{k} -algebra (A, μ, Δ)

(1) Choose oriented **triangulation** t for every bordism Σ in $\text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{or}}$

(2) **Decorate Poincaré dual** graph with $(\mathbb{k}, A, \mu, \Delta)$:



(3) Obtain $\Sigma^{t,A}$ in $\text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}^{\text{triv}})$ and define $\mathcal{Z}_A(\Sigma) = \mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}}(\Sigma^{t,A})$

State sum models

Input: Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius \mathbb{C} -algebra (A, μ, Δ)

(1) Choose oriented **triangulation** t for every bordism Σ in Bord_2

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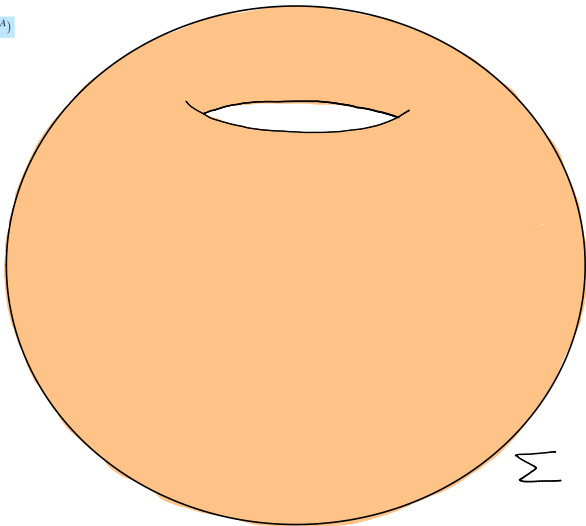
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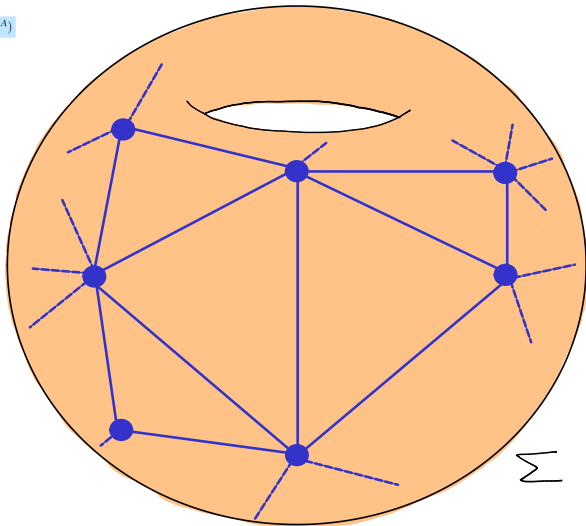
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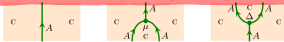


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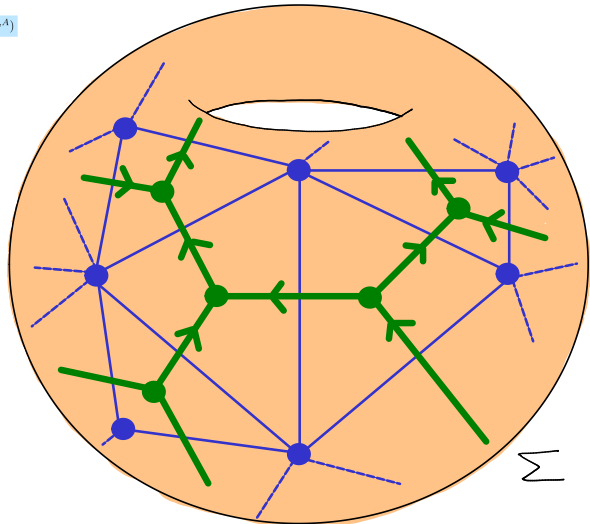
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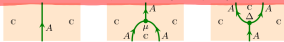


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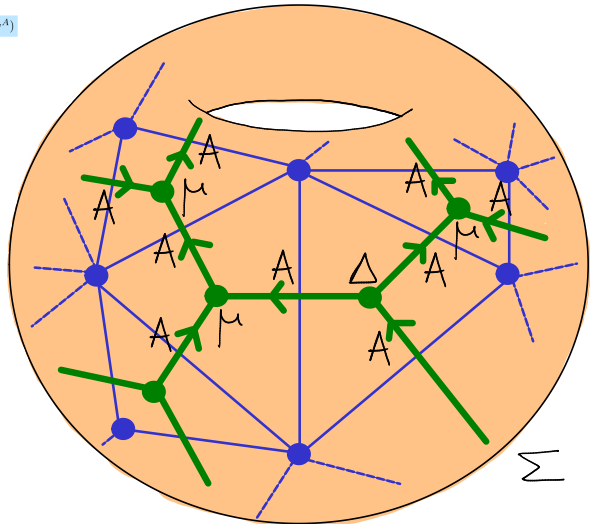
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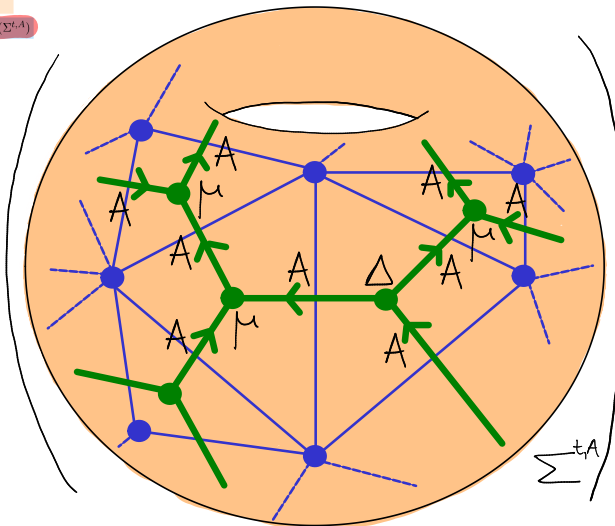
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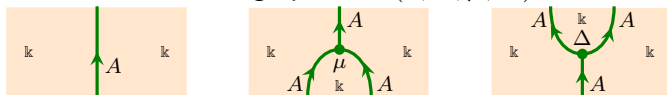
$$\mathcal{Z}_A^{\text{ss}} \left(\text{circle with hole} \right) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{Z}^{\text{triv}}$$



State sum models

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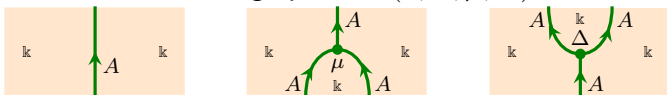
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Theorem. Construction yields TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_A: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{or}} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}$.

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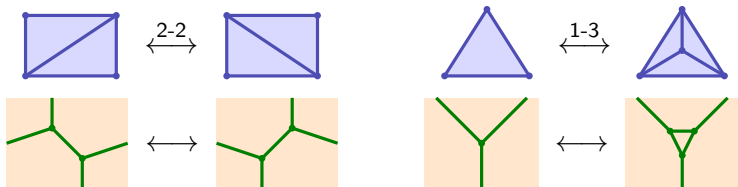
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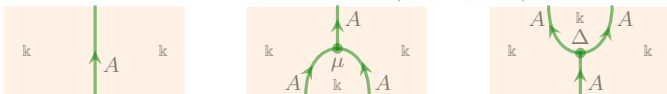
Proof sketch: Defining properties of (A, μ, Δ) encode invariance under **Pachner moves** \implies independent of choice of triangulation:



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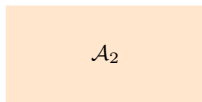
Theorem. Construction yields TQFT $\mathcal{Z}_A: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{or}} \rightarrow \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}$.

No need to consider only algebras over \mathbb{k} !

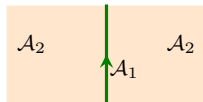
Orbifolds

Definition. Let $\mathcal{Z}: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be defect TQFT.

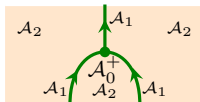
An **orbifold datum** for \mathcal{Z} is $\mathcal{A} \equiv (\mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_0^+, \mathcal{A}_0^-)$:



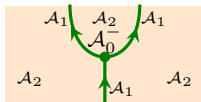
$\mathcal{A}_2 \in D_2$



$\mathcal{A}_1 \in D_1$

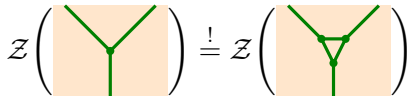
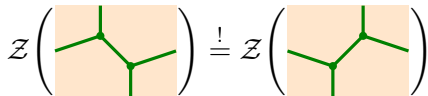


$\mathcal{A}_0^+ \in D_0$



$\mathcal{A}_0^- \in D_0$

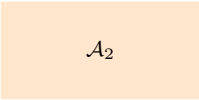
such that *Pachner moves become identities* under \mathcal{Z} :



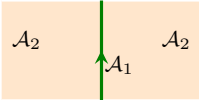
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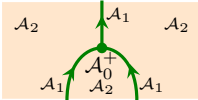
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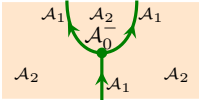
$\mathcal{A}_2 \in D_2$



$\mathcal{A}_1 \in D_1$

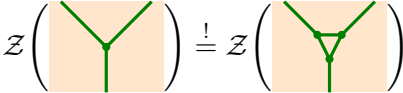
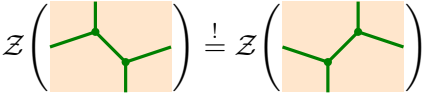


$\mathcal{A}_0^+ \in D_0$



$\mathcal{A}_0^- \in D_0$

such that *Pachner moves become identities* under \mathcal{Z} :



Definition & Theorem.

Triangulation + \mathcal{A} -decoration + evaluation with $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{A}$ -orbifold TQFT

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\mathcal{A}}: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{or}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

Algebraic characterisation of orbifolds

Theorem.

2d defect TQFT $\mathcal{Z} \implies$ pivotal 2-category $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$

Lemma.

$\{\text{orbifold data for } \mathcal{Z}\} \cong \{\Delta\text{-separable symmetric Frobenius algebras in } \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}\}$

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Examples.

- Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius algebras in $\text{BVect}_{\mathbb{k}}$
= Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius \mathbb{k} -algebras ☺
 $\implies \mathcal{Z}_A = (\mathcal{Z}^{\text{triv}})_A$ ("State sum models are orbifolds of the trivial TQFT.")
- A **G-action** in $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$ is 2-functor $\rho: \text{BG} \longrightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$.

Lemma. $A_G := \bigoplus_{g \in G} \rho(g)$ is Δ -separable Frobenius algebra in $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}}$.

\implies G -orbifolds are orbifolds: $\mathcal{Z}^G = \mathcal{Z}_{A_G}$ ☺

Orbifolds unify gauging of symmetry groups and state sum models.

Orbifold completion

Orbifold completion of pivotal 2-category \mathcal{B} is pivotal 2-category \mathcal{B}_{orb} :

- objects: **Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius algebras** $A \in \mathcal{B}(\alpha, \alpha)$
- Hom categories = bimodule categories

Theorem. $\mathcal{B} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{\text{orb}} \cong (\mathcal{B}_{\text{orb}})_{\text{orb}}$

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Theorem & Definition. (**Orbifold equivalence** $\alpha \sim \beta$)

If $X \in \mathcal{B}(\alpha, \beta)$ has *invertible* $\dim(X) \in \text{End}(1_\beta)$, then:

- $A := X^\dagger \otimes X$ is *separable* symmetric Frobenius algebra in $\mathcal{B}(\alpha, \alpha)$
- $X: (\alpha, A) \rightleftarrows (\beta, 1_\beta) : X^\dagger$ is adjoint equivalence in \mathcal{B}_{orb}

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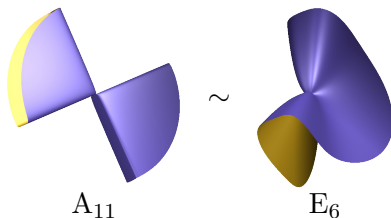
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Example. $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{D}_{\text{ZLG}} \implies$

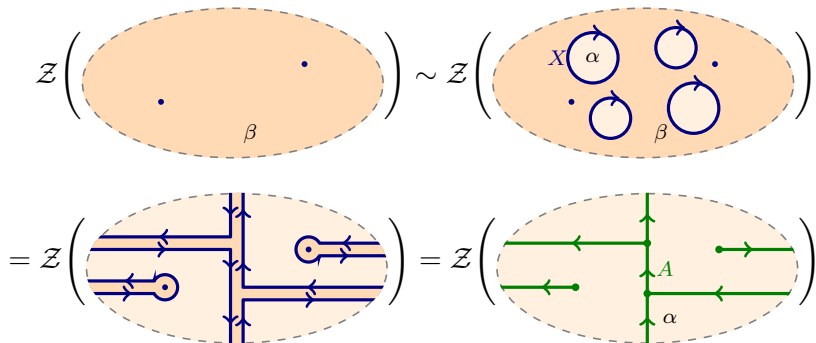


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Orbifold defect TQFT

Let $\mathcal{Z}: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ be defect TQFT.

Get new defect data \mathbb{D}^{orb} with $D_j^{\text{orb}} := \{j\text{-cells of } (\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}})_{\text{orb}}\}$.

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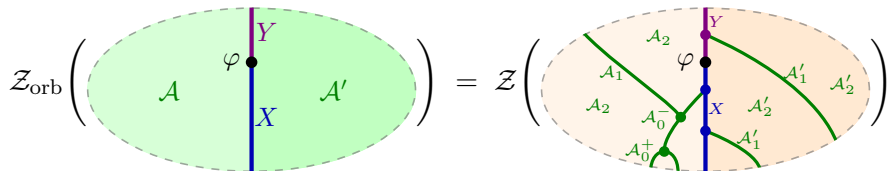
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Definition & Theorem.

The **orbifold defect TQFT**

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{orb}}: \text{Bord}_{2,1}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}^{\text{orb}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

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Orbifold defect TQFT

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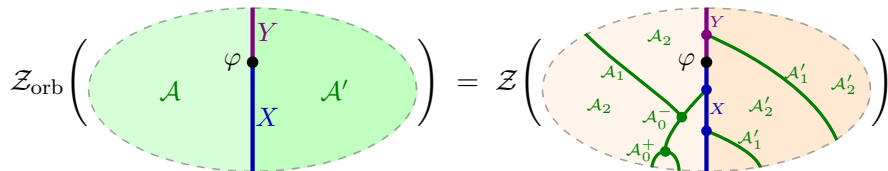
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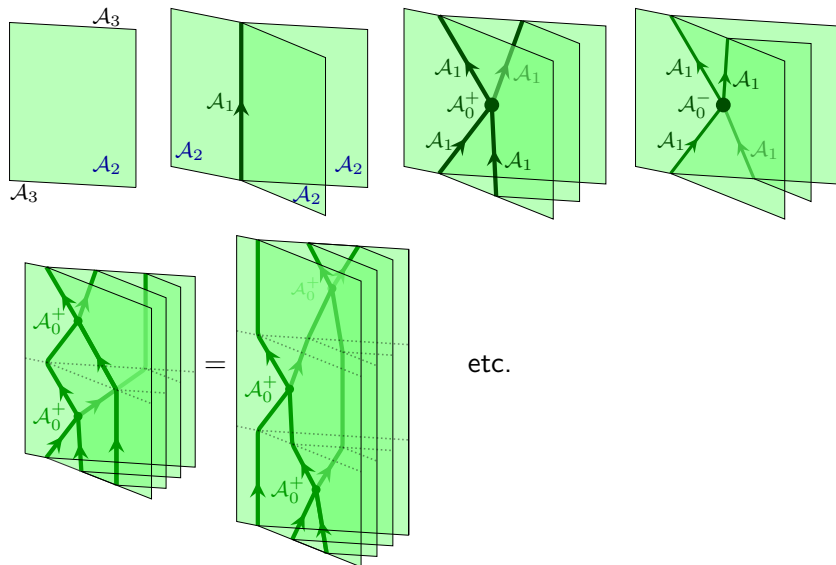


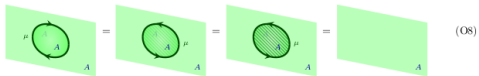
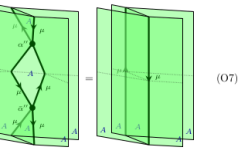
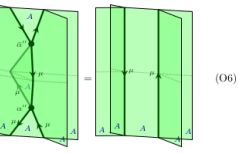
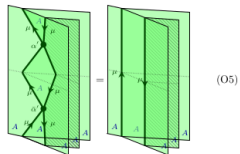
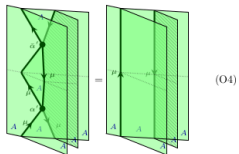
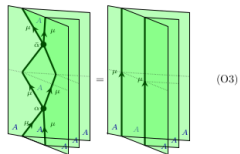
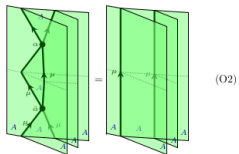
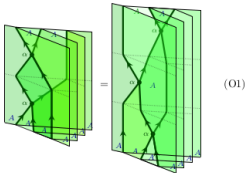
Example. Defect state sum models are Euler completed orbifolds of the trivial defect TQFT:

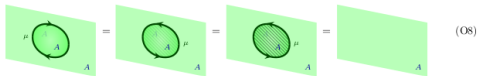
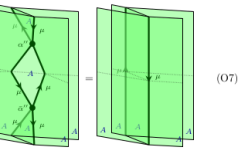
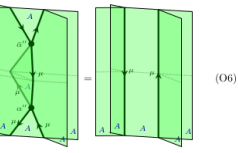
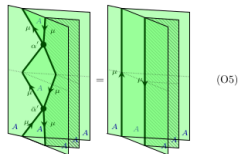
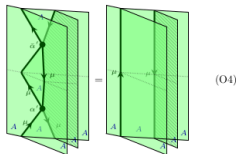
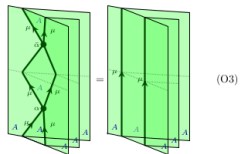
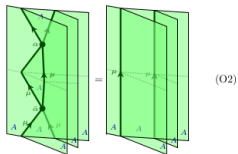
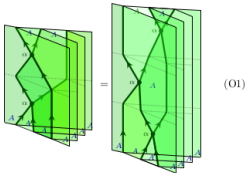
$$\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{SS}} \cong (\mathcal{Z}_2^{\text{triv}})_{\text{orb}}^{\odot}$$

3-dimensional orbifold data

Let \mathcal{T} be 3-category with duals. An **orbifold datum** \mathcal{A} in \mathcal{T} is



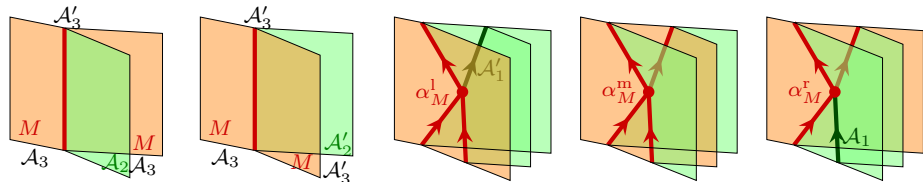




Which 3-category \mathcal{T}_{orb} are orbifold data objects of?

Representations of 3-dimensional orbifold data

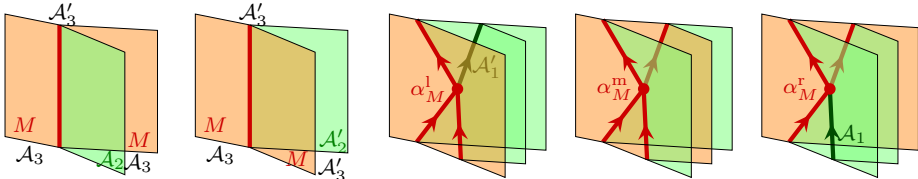
Let \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{A}' be orbifold data in \mathcal{T} . An \mathcal{A}' - \mathcal{A} -bimodule \mathcal{M} is



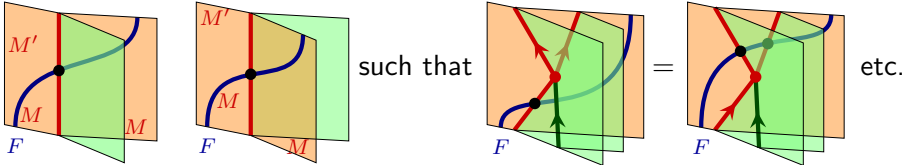
subject to pentagon axioms.

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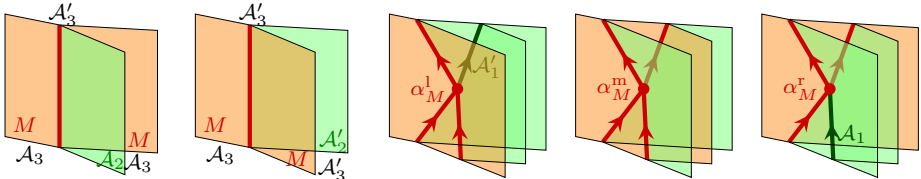


subject to pentagon axioms. A map of \mathcal{A}' - \mathcal{A} -bimodules $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}'$ is

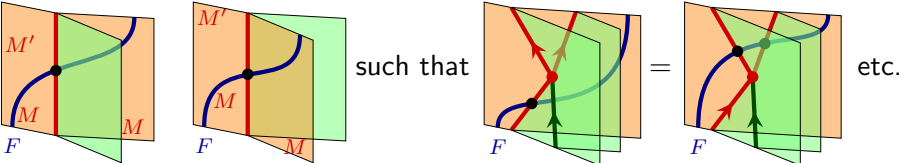


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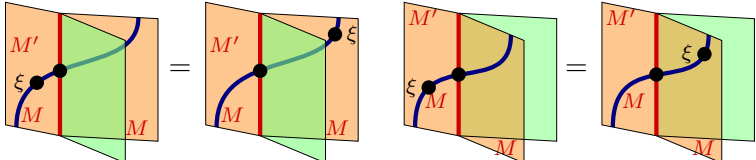
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subject to pentagon axioms. A \mathcal{A}' - \mathcal{A} -bimodule $\mathcal{F}: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}'$ is



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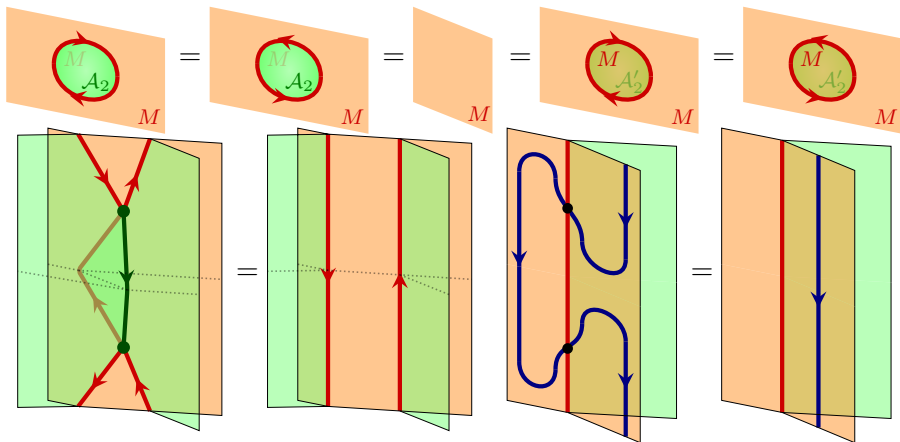
3-dimensional orbifold completion

(all Hom 2-categories of \mathcal{T} must admit finite sifted 2-colimits that commute with composition)

The **orbifold completion** \mathcal{T}_{orb} of a 3-category with duals \mathcal{T} has

- objects: orbifold data
- 1-morphisms: bimodules
- 2-morphisms: maps of bimodules
- 3-morphisms: modifications (computed via (2-)idempotents)

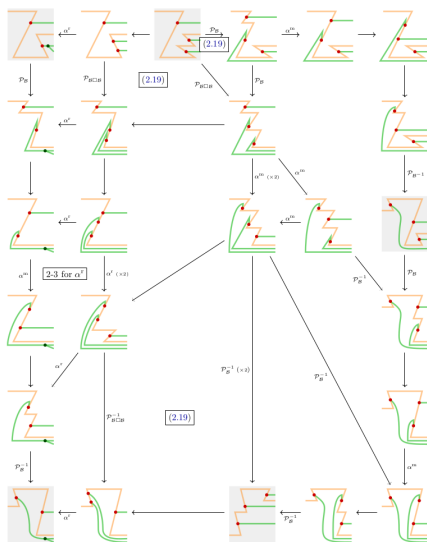
such that (among other axioms)



3-dimensional orbifold completion

Theorem. \mathcal{T}_{orb} is 3-category with adjoints for 1- and 2-morphisms.

Proof:



etc.

3-dimensional orbifold completion

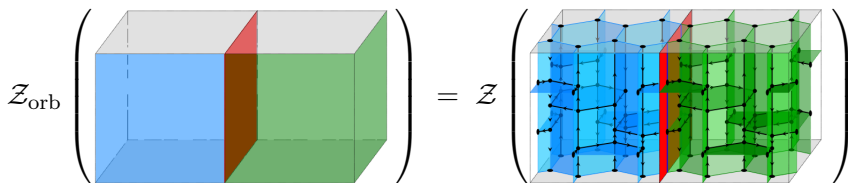
Theorem. \mathcal{T}_{orb} is 3-category with adjoints for 1- and 2-morphisms.

For $\mathcal{Z}: \text{Bord}_{3,2}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, get \mathbb{D}^{orb} from $(\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}})_{\text{orb}}$.

Definition & Theorem. The **orbifold defect TQFT**

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{orb}}: \text{Bord}_{3,2}^{\text{def}}(\mathbb{D}^{\text{orb}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

is given by substratification:



3-dimensional orbifold completion

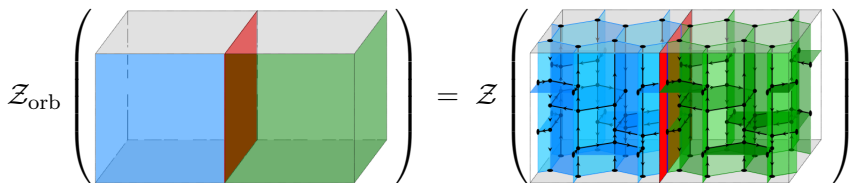
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Example. Defect state sum models are Euler completed orbifolds of the trivial defect TQFT:

$$\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{SS}} \cong (\mathcal{Z}_3^{\text{triv}})_{\text{orb}}^{\odot}$$

3-dimensional orbifold completion

Example. *Defect state sum models are Euler completed orbifolds of the trivial defect TQFT:*

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Theorem. $\text{sFus}_{\mathbb{k}} \subset (\text{B ssFrob}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}))_{\text{orb}}^{\odot}$

3-dimensional orbifold completion

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Theorem. $\text{sFus}_{\mathbb{k}} \subset (\text{B ssFrob}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{k}}))_{\text{orb}}^{\odot}$

Theorem. Let \mathcal{M} be a modular fusion category. The 3-category in which

- objects are commutative Δ -separable Frobenius algebras in \mathcal{M} ,
- 1-morphisms from B to A are Δ -separable symmetric Frobenius algebras F over (A, B) ,
- 2-morphisms from F to G are G - F -bimodules M over (A, B) , and
- 3-morphisms are bimodule maps

is a subcategory of $(\text{B } \Delta\text{ssFrob}(\mathcal{M}))_{\text{orb}}$.

\implies recover **defect Reshetikhin–Turaev theory** à la
Koppen–Mulevičius–Runkel–Schweigert

Summary and outlook

Theorem. \mathcal{T}_{orb} is 3-category with adjoints for 1- and 2-morphisms.

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{orb}} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{[Smooth 3D Volume]} \end{array} \right) = \mathcal{Z} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{[Discretized 3D Volume]} \end{array} \right)$$

The diagram illustrates the relationship between a smooth 3D volume and its discretized version. On the left, a smooth 3D volume is shown, divided into three regions: a blue region on the left, a red vertical plane in the middle, and a green region on the right. The top surface is gray. On the right, the same volume is shown discretized into a grid of small cubes, with the same color scheme (blue, red, green) and a gray top surface. The two volumes are equated, indicating that the orbifold structure is preserved under discretization.

Summary and outlook

Theorem. \mathcal{T}_{orb} is 3-category with adjoints for 1- and 2-morphisms.

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Get **n -dimensional trivial defect TQFT** from delooping $B\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{Z}_{n-1}^{\text{ss}}}$.

n -dimensional defect state sum model is Euler completed orbifold of the trivial defect TQFT:

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Summary and outlook

Theorem. \mathcal{T}_{orb} is 3-category with adjoints for 1- and 2-morphisms.

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{orb}} \left(\text{[Diagram of a 3D box with blue, brown, and green regions]} \right) = \mathcal{Z} \left(\text{[Diagram of a 3D box with a lattice structure in blue, brown, and green]} \right)$$

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n -dimensional defect state sum model is Euler completed orbifold of the trivial defect TQFT:

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Recover Douglas–Reutter invariants for $n = 4$.