

Representations of the category of tangles.

Recall: If \underline{C} is a tensor category then \underline{C}^{str} is equivalent strict tensor cat.

→ Let \underline{V} be the strict tensor category assoc. to $\text{Vect}_{finite}(k)$

Def: A representation of the tangle category T is a functor

$$F: \underline{T} \rightarrow \underline{V} \quad (\text{strict tensor functor})$$

Note: $F: \underline{T} \rightarrow \underline{V}$ produces an isotopy invariant of links (k -valued)

$$\underline{\text{Links}} = \text{Mor}(\emptyset, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{F} \text{End}(F(\emptyset)) = \text{End}(k) \cong \underline{k}$$

Notes: Value of F on objects of \underline{V} is determined by

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F(+)=V \\ F(-)=W. \end{array} \right\} \underline{\text{ex}} F(+--+)=V \otimes W \otimes V \otimes V$$

On morphisms:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} F(\downarrow) \quad F(\begin{array}{c} + \\ \downarrow \\ + \end{array}) = \text{id}_V \\ F(\uparrow) \quad F(\begin{array}{c} - \\ \uparrow \\ - \end{array}) = \text{id}_W \end{array} \right\} F(\downarrow \uparrow \uparrow) = \text{id}_{V \otimes W \otimes W}$$

Other generators:

$$F(\cup) \quad F(\begin{array}{c} + \\ \cup \\ - \end{array}) : k \rightarrow V \otimes W \quad \text{call it } \underline{b} : k \rightarrow V \otimes W$$

$$F(\cap) \quad F(\begin{array}{c} - \\ \cap \\ + \end{array}) : k \rightarrow W \otimes V \quad \text{call it } \underline{b}' : k \rightarrow W \otimes V$$

$F(n)$ $F(\text{triangle with } \downarrow \text{ on top and } \uparrow \text{ on bottom}): W \otimes V \rightarrow k$ call it $\underline{d}: W \otimes V \rightarrow k$

$F(\bar{n})$ $F(\text{triangle with } \uparrow \text{ on top and } \downarrow \text{ on bottom}): V \otimes W \rightarrow k$ call it $\underline{d}': V \otimes W \rightarrow k$

$F(x_+)$ $F(\text{cross with } + \text{ on all four sides}): V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$ call it $\underline{c}^+: V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$

$F(x_-)$ $F(\text{cross with } + \text{ on all four sides}): V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$ call it $\underline{c}^-: V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$

→ What do the relations ①-⑧ look like w/ b, c, d ??
 (See notes from last time for pictures:)

End(V) ① $(id_V \otimes d)(b \otimes id_V) = id_V = (d' \otimes id_V)(id_V \otimes b')$

End(W) ② → same but w/ w and '.

End(V ⊗ V) } ③ $(\underline{d} \otimes id_W \otimes id_W)(id_W \otimes \underline{d} \otimes id_V \otimes id_W \otimes id_W)(id_W \otimes id_W \dots$
End(W ⊗ W) } $= \dots$
 (better notation.)
 $(\underline{d} \otimes id_{W \otimes W})(id_W \otimes \underline{d} \otimes id_{V \otimes W \otimes W})(id_{W \otimes W} \otimes c^{\pm} \otimes id_{W \otimes W}) \dots$
 $= \dots$

(bleah... you can write this yourself...)

End(V ⊗ V) ④ $c^+ c^- = id_{V \otimes V} = c^- c^+$

$c^- = (c^+)^{-1}$

End(V ⊗ V ⊗ V) ⑤ $(c^{\pm} \otimes id_V)(id_V \otimes c^{\pm})(c^{\pm} \otimes id_V) = (id_V \otimes c^{\pm})(c^{\pm} \otimes id_V)(id_V \otimes c^{\pm})$ } Main difficult constraint.
Yang-Baxter Equation

End(V) ⑥ $(id_V \otimes d')(c^{\pm} \otimes id_W)(id_V \otimes b) = id_V$

End(V ⊗ W) ⑦ $gh = id_{V \otimes W}$ where $\begin{cases} g = (d \otimes id_{V \otimes W})(id_W \otimes c^{\pm} \otimes id_W)(id_{V \otimes W} \otimes b) \\ h = (id_{V \otimes W} \otimes d')(id_W \otimes c^{\mp} \otimes id_W)(b' \otimes id_{V \otimes W}) \end{cases}$

End(W ⊗ V) ⑧ → same as ⑦ but swapping V & W and g, h

Def: $(V, W, b, b', d, d', c^+, c^-)$ satisfying these requirements is "representation data" for T

Plan: Set $W = V^*$

→ This makes many of these obvious maps

→ Relation (5) turns into Yang-Baxter Eqn.

Only a few choices remain to have representations!

