What is...finitary 2-representation theory?

Or: A (fairy) tale of matrices and functors



February 2019

① C-representation theory

- Main ideas
- Some examples

2 N-representation theory

- Main ideas
- Some examples

3 2-representation theory

- Main ideas
- Some examples



























Let ${\rm G}$ be a finite group.

Frobenius ~ 1895 ++, Burnside ~ 1900 ++. Representation theory is the \bigcirc useful? study of linear group actions

 $\mathcal{M}: \mathbf{G} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}\mathrm{ut}(\mathbf{V}), \quad \text{``}\mathcal{M}(g) = \mathsf{a} \text{ matrix in } \mathcal{A}\mathrm{ut}(\mathbf{V})$ ''

with V being some vector space. (Called modules or representations.)

The "atoms" of such an action are called simple. A module is called semisimple if it is a direct sum of simples.

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We want to have a categorical version of this! Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra.

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We want to have a categorical version of this.

I am going to explain what we can do at present.

modules <----> chemical compounds

simples *«* elements

semisimple <---> only trivial compounds

non-semisimple <---> non-trivial compounds

Main goal of representation theory. Find the periodic table of simples.

	Example.	
colle		
	Back to the dihedral group, an invariant of	
mod	the module is the $lacksquare$ the module is the traces of the acting matrices:	
simp	$ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} (1 0) (-1 0) (1 1) (0 1) (-1 -1) (0 -1) \end{array} \right) $	
	$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \right\}$	
semi	1 s t ts st sts=tst	
	w ₀	
non-	$\chi = 2$ $\chi = 0$ $\chi = 0$ $\chi = -1$ $\chi = -1$ $\chi = 0$	

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colle		
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mod	the module is the \bigcirc character χ which only remembers the traces of the acting matrices:	
simp	$\left \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \right $	
semi	1 s t ts st sts=tst	
non-	$\chi = 2 \qquad \chi = 0 \qquad \chi = 0 \qquad \chi = -1 \qquad \chi = -1 \qquad \chi = 0$	

Main goal of repres

Fact.

le of simples.

Semisimple case: the character determines the module mass determines the chemical compound.



non-semisimple <---> non-trivial compounds

Main goal of representation theory. Find the periodic table of simples.







One-dimensional modules. $\mathcal{M}_{\lambda_s,\lambda_t}, \lambda_s, \lambda_t \in \mathbb{C}, s \mapsto \lambda_s, t \mapsto \lambda_t$.

$$e \equiv 0 \mod 2$$
 $e \not\equiv 0 \mod 2$
 $\mathcal{M}_{-1,-1}, \mathcal{M}_{1,-1}, \mathcal{M}_{-1,1}, \mathcal{M}_{1,1}$ $\mathcal{M}_{-1,-1}, \mathcal{M}_{1,1}$

Two-dimensional modules. $\mathcal{M}_z, z \in \mathbb{C}, s \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & z \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, t \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ \overline{z} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

$n \equiv 0 \mod 2$	$n \not\equiv 0 \mod 2$
$\mathcal{M}_z, z \in V(n) - \{0\}$	$\mathcal{M}_z, z \in V(n)$

 $V(n) = \{2\cos(\pi k/n-1) \mid k = 1, \dots, n-2\}.$



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Note that this requires complex parameters. This does not work over \mathbb{Z} .

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An algebra P with a fixed, finite basis B^P with $1\in B^P$ is called a N-algebra if $xy\in \mathbb{N}B^P\quad (x,y\in B^P).$

A $\operatorname{P-module}\,M$ with a fixed, finite basis B^M is called a $\mathbb N\text{-module}$ if

$$xm \in \mathbb{N}B^M$$
 ($x \in B^P, m \in B^M$).

These are \mathbb{N} -equivalent if there is a \mathbb{N} -valued change of basis matrix.

Example. \mathbb{N} -algebras and \mathbb{N} -modules arise naturally as the decategorification of 2-categories and 2-modules, and \mathbb{N} -equivalence comes from 2-equivalence.

Example (semisimple world).

Group algebras of finite groups with basis given by group elements are $\mathbb N$ -algebras.

The regular module is a \mathbb{N} -module, which decomposes over \mathbb{C} into simples, but almost never over \mathbb{N} . (I will come back to this in a second.)

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Example (non-semisimple world).

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Hecke algebras of (finite) Coxeter groups with their KL basis are \mathbb{N} -algebras.

Clifford, Munn, Ponizovskiĩ ~1942++, Kazhdan–Lusztig ~1979. $x \leq_L y$ if y appears in zx with non-zero coefficient for $z \in B^P. \ x \sim_L y$ if $x \leq_L y$ and $y \leq_L x$. \sim_L partitions P into left cells L. Similarly for right R, two-sided cells J or \mathbb{N} -modules.

A $\mathbb N\text{-module }M$ is transitive if all basis elements belong to the same \sim_L equivalence class.

Fact. ℕ-modules have transitive Jordan–Hölder filtrations. (The "atoms".)

Main goal of \mathbb{N} -representation theory. Find the periodic table of transitives.

Example. Transitive \mathbb{N} -modules arise naturally as the decategorification of simple 2-modules.



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Example (semisimple world).

Group algebras with the group element basis have only one cell, G itself.

A \mathbb{N} -m equival Transitive \mathbb{N} -modules $\mathbb{C}[G/H]$ for $H \subset G$ subgroup/conjugacy.

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Main g	Fusion algebras have only one cell.	tives.						
Examp	The transitive \mathbb{N} -modules are known in special cases, <i>e.g.</i> for $g = SL_2$ and I "basically know" the classification more generally.	f simple						
2-modu	les.							
































Daniel Tubbenhauer

Let $\mathscr C$ be a finitary 2-category.

Slogan (finitary).

Everything that could be finite is finite.

Etingof–Ostrik, Chuang–Rouquier, many others \sim 2000++. Higher representation theory is the useful? study of actions of 2-categories:

 $\mathscr{M}: \mathscr{C} \longrightarrow \mathscr{E}nd(\mathcal{V}), \quad "\mathscr{M}(F) = a \text{ functor in } \mathscr{E}nd(\mathcal{V})"$

with \mathcal{V} being some finitary category. (Called 2-modules or 2-representations.)

The "atoms" of such an action are called 2-simple.

Mazorchuk–Miemietz ~2014. All (suitable) 2-modules are built out of 2-simples ("weak 2-Jordan–Hölder filtration").

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 $\label{eq:main_state} \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Mazorchuk-Miemietz} \sim 2014. \mbox{ All (suitable) 2-modules are built out of 2-simples ("weak 2-Jordan-Hölder filtration").} \end{array}$

Pioneers of 2-representation theory.

Example. $\mathscr{C} = \mathcal{V}ec_G$ or $\mathcal{R}ep(G)$. Let & be Features. Semisimple, classification of 2-simples well-understood. Comments. I will (try to) discuss the classification "in real time". Etingof–Ostrik, Chuang–Rouquier, many others ~2000++. Higher representation theory is the useful? study of actions of 2-categories: **Example.** $\mathscr{C} = \mathcal{R}ep_{\sigma}^{sesi}(g)_{level n}$. Features. Semisimple, finitely many 2-simples, classification of 2-simples only known for $g = Sl_2$, some guesses for general g. Comments. The classification of 2-simples is related to Dynkin diagrams. The "atoms" of such an action are called 2-simple **Example.** $\mathscr{C} =$ Hecke category. Features. Non-semisimple, not known whether there are finitely many 2-simples, classification of 2-simples only known in special cases. M 2-Comments. Hopefully, by the end of the year we have a classification

by reducing the problem to the above examples.

An additive, k-linear, idempotent complete, Krull–Schmidt category C is called finitary if it has only finitely many isomorphism classes of indecomposable objects and the morphism sets are finite-dimensional. A 2-category C with finitely many objects is finitary if its hom-categories are finitary, \circ_h -composition is additive and linear, and identity 1-morphisms are indecomposable.

A simple transitive 2-module (2-simple) of $\mathscr C$ is an additive, \Bbbk -linear 2-functor

$$\mathscr{M}: \mathscr{C}
ightarrow \mathscr{A}^{\mathrm{f}}(=$$
 2-cat of finitary cats),

such that there are no non-zero proper \mathscr{C} -stable ideals. There is also the notion of 2-equivalence.



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Example (semisimple).

G can be (naively) categorified using G-graded vector spaces $\mathcal{V}ec_{G} \in \mathscr{A}^{\mathrm{f}}$.

The ullet 2-simples are indexed by (conjugacy classes of) subgroups H and $\phi\in\mathrm{H}^2(H,\mathbb{C}^*)$.

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A simple	On the categorical level the impact of the choice of basis is evident:	inctor
such that There is	These are the indecomposable objects in some 2-category, and different bases are categorified by potentially non-equivalent 2-categories.	
Evampla	So, of course, the 2-representation theory differs!	tion of

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A simple transitiv	Philosophy to take away.	near 2-functor
such that there a There is also the	"Finitary 2-representation theory \Leftrightarrow representation theory of finite-dimensional algebras for all primes $p \ge 0$."	





Pioneers of representation theory

Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra.

Noether \sim 1928++-. Representation theory is the useful? study of algebra actions $\mathcal{M}: \Lambda \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}$ rd(V).

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Dihedral representation theory on one slide

are going to explain what we can do at present.

 $n \equiv 0 \mod 2$ $n \neq 0 \mod 2$

 $\mathcal{M}_x, x \in V(\mathfrak{a})$



Figure: "Über Gruppencharaktere (i.e. characters of groups)" by Frobenius (1896) Bottom: first published character table.

Note the root of unity pl







There is still much to do...



The regular Z/SZ-module is



 $0 \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \triangleq 1 \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0$

-

and the regular module does not decompose





 $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow Aan(\mathbb{C}^{2}), 0 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} 4 + 1 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

 $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow Aut(\overline{\Gamma_2}^0), \quad 0 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \not a_i \quad 1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

son eigenvector: (1, 1) and base change gives $0 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \& 1 \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

 $\left(\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array}\right) 4 1 \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ \end{array}\right)$

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Categorification in a nutshell

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February 2009 5/12



Figure: "Über Gruppencharaktere (i.e. characters of groups)" by Frobenius (1896) Bottom: first published character table.

Note the root of unity pl







 $0 \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ & $1 \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ & $2 \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

and the regular module does not decompose





Thanks for your attention!

egular	module does not	decompose.		
		-		

It may then be asked why, in a book which professes to leave all applications on one side, a considerable space is devoted to substitution groups; while other particular modes of representation, such as groups of linear transformations, are not even referred to. My answer to this question is that while, in the present state of our knowledge, many results in the pure theory are arrived at most readily by dealing with properties of substitution groups, it would be difficult to find a result that could be most directly obtained by the consideration of groups of linear transformations.

WERY considerable advances in the theory of groups of finite order have been made since the appearance of the first edition of this book. In particular the theory of groups of linear substitutions has been the subject of numerous and important investigations by several writers; and the reason given in the original preface for omitting any account of it no longer holds good.

In fact it is now more true to say that for further advances in the abstract theory one must look largely to the representation of a group as a group of linear substitutions. There is

Figure: Quotes from "Theory of Groups of Finite Order" by Burnside. Top: first edition (1897); bottom: second edition (1911).

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Nowadays representation theory is pervasive across mathematics, and beyond.

 V^{ERY} considerable advances in the theory of groups of But this wasn't clear at all when Frobenius started it.

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FROBENIUS: Über Gruppencharaktere.

[1011]

^{sa}men Factor f abgesehen) einen relativen Charakter von \mathfrak{H} , und umgekehrt lässt sich jeder relative Charakter von 5, Xo, ... Xk-1, auf eine ^{oder} mehrere Arten durch Hinzufügung passender Werthe $\chi_k, \cdots \chi_{k'-1}$ ²u einem Charakter von 5' ergänzen.

Ich will nun die Theorie der Gruppencharaktere an einigen Bei-^{spielen} erläutern. Die geraden Permutationen von 4 Symbolen bilden ^{eine} Gruppe 5 der Ordnung h=12. Ihre Elemente zerfallen in 4 Classen, ^{die} Elemente der Ordnung 2 bilden eine zweiseitige Classe (1), die der ^{Ordnung 3} zwei inverse Classen (2) und (3) = (2'). Sei ρ eine primitive Cubische Wurzel der Einheit.

Tetraeder. $h = 12$.				
	$\chi^{(0)} \chi^{(1)} \chi^{(2)} \chi^{(3)}$	ha		
X0 X1 X2 X2	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1 3 4 4		

Figure: "Über Gruppencharaktere (i.e. characters of groups)" by Frobenius (1896). Bottom: first published character table.

Note the root of unity $\rho!$

27

^{\$ 8.}





The regular $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ -module is

$$0 \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad 1 \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad 2 \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Jordan decomposition over $\mathbb C$ with $\zeta^3=1$ gives

$$0 \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad 1 \Longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \zeta^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad \& \quad 2 \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \zeta \end{pmatrix}$$

However, Jordan decomposition over $\overline{\mathbb{f}}_3$ gives

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and the regular module does not decompose.

▲ Back

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$$0 \iff \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \& 1 \iff \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \& 2 \iff \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
Jordan de
Fun fact.
Choose your favorite field and perform the Jordan decomposition.
Then you will see all simples appearing!

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and the regular module does not decompose.

▲ Back
Example $(G = D_8)$. Here we have three different notions of "atoms".

	$\mathcal{M}_{-1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\mathcal{M}_{\text{-}1,1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1}$
atom	sign		rotation		trivial
rank	1	1	2	1	1

Group element basis. Subgroups and ranks of \mathbb{N} -modules.

subgroup	1	$\langle \texttt{st} \rangle$	$\langle w_0 \rangle$	$\langle w_0, s \rangle$	$\langle w_0, \texttt{sts} \rangle$	G
atom	regular	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\text{-}1,\text{-}1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{1,\text{-}1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\text{-}1,1}$	trivial
rank	8	2	4	2	2	1

KL basis. ADE diagrams and ranks of \mathbb{N} -modules.

	bottom cell	▼ ★ ▼	* * *	top cell
atom	sign	$\mathcal{M}_{1,-1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\mathcal{M}_{-1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	trivial
rank	1	3	3	1



Example $(G = D_8)$. Here we have three different notions of "atoms".

Classical representation theory. The simples from before.

		$\mathcal{M}_{\text{-}1,\text{-}1}$.	$\mathcal{M}_{1,-1} \mid \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\overline{2} \mid \mathcal{M}_{-1,1} \mid$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1}$										
	atom	sign	rotatio	on	trivial										
	Fun fact.														
Group ele	Choose your favorite field and perform the Jordan decomposition. Then you will see all simples appearing!														
subgroup	1	$\langle \texttt{st} \rangle$	$\langle w_0 \rangle$	$\langle w_0, s \rangle$	$\langle w_0, sts \rangle$	G									
atom	regular	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{-1,-}$	$\mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{-1,1}$	trivial									
rank	8	2	4	2	2	1									

KL basis. ADE diagrams and ranks of \mathbb{N} -modules.

	bottom cell	▼ ★ ▼	* * *	top cell
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			$\mathcal{M}_{-1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$		$\mathcal{M}_{-1,1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1}$							
_		atom	sign		rotation	n		trivial							
				Fun	fact.										
	Choose your favorite field and perform the Jordan decomposition.														
Group ele			Then you v	vill see a	ll simples	арр	earing!								
subgroup		1	$\langle st \rangle$		$w_0\rangle$	$\langle v$	$v_0, s \rangle$	$\langle w_0, st$	$\mathbf{s}\rangle$	G					
atom		regular	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{-1,-1} \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$		$_{\overline{2}} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}} \mid \mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{1,-1}$		$_1 \oplus \mathcal{M}_{1,-1}$	$\mathcal{M}_{1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}$	l_1,1	trivial					
rank		8	"Knowing	2		1									
		D	knowing the simples for all primes $p \ge 0$."												
KL basis. I	AD	E diagh	ams and rai	nks of T	a-module	es.		-							

	bottom cell	▼ ★ ▼	* * *	top cell
atom	sign	$\mathcal{M}_{1,-1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	$\mathcal{M}_{-1,1} \oplus \mathcal{M}_{\sqrt{2}}$	trivial
rank	1	3	3	1



Example (SAGE). The Weyl group of type B_6 . Number of elements: 46080. Number of cells: 26, named 0 (trivial) to 25 (top).

Cell order:



Size of the cells:

cell	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
size	1	62	342	576	650	3150	350	1600	2432	3402	900	2025	14500	600	2025	900	3402	2432	1600	350	576	3150	650	342	62	1



Example ($G = \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$).

Subgroups, Schur multipliers and 2-simples.



In particular, there are two categorifications of the trivial module, and the rank sequences read

```
decat: 1, 2, 2, 2, 4, cat: 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 4.
```

Back

Example ($G = \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$).

Subgroups, Schur multipliers and 2-simples.



In particular, there are two categorifications of the trivial module, and the rank sequences read

decat:
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Back

Example ($G = \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$).

Subgroups, Schur multipliers and 2-simples.



In particular, there are two categorifications of the trivial module, and the rank sequences read

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Back





$$V = \langle \underline{1}, \underline{2}, \overline{3}, \overline{4}, \overline{5} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$$

$$\theta_{t} \xrightarrow{\text{action}} \underbrace{\theta_{t}}_{\underline{1}} \underbrace{\overline{3}}_{\underline{2}} \underbrace{\overline{4}}_{\underline{5}} \underbrace{\overline{5}}_{\underline{5}} \underbrace{\overline{5}} \underbrace{\overline{5}} \underbrace{\overline{5}}_{\underline{5$$

$$V = \langle \underline{1}, \underline{2}, \overline{3}, \overline{4}, \overline{5} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$$



 $\mathbb{V} = \langle \underline{1}, \underline{2}, \overline{3}, \overline{4}, \overline{5} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$

Categorification. Category $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{V} = Z \text{-} \mathcal{M} \text{od}$, Z quiver algebra with underlying graph G. Endofunctors \rightsquigarrow tensoring with Z-bimodules. **Lemma.** These satisfy the relations of $\mathbb{C}[D_{2n}]$.

$$\mathbb{V} = \langle \underline{1}, \underline{2}, \overline{3}, \overline{4}, \overline{5} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$$

