The Universalization Principle

Every "For every object..." theorem in mathematics can be replaced (and often should be) with "for the universal object...".

Often the universal object lives in some "formal" space of symbols:

* Jacobi diagrams for Lie algebras.

* 2D cobordisms for Khovanov homology made local.

* $S(k) U(\mathfrak{gl}(k))$ for $U(\mathfrak{gl}(*))$.