Dror Bar–Natan: Talks: MSRI–0808:

## Projectivization, w-Knots, Kashiwara-Vergne and Alekseev-Torossian

"An Algebraic Structure"

The Categorification Speculative Paradigm.

- Every object in math is the Euler characteristic of a complex.
- Every operation in math lifts to an operation between complexes.
- Every identity in mathematics is true up to homotopy.

## The Projectivization Tentative Speculative Paradigm.

- Every graded algebraic structure in mathematics is the projectivization of a plain ("global") one.
- Every equation written in a graded algebraic structure is an equation for a homomorphic expansion, or for an automorphism of such.
- e(x+y) = e(x)e(y) in  $\mathbb{Q}[[x,y]]$ . **Graded Equations Examples**
- The pentagon and hexagons in  $\mathcal{A}(\uparrow_{3,4})$ .
- The equations defining a QUEA, the work of Etingof and Kazhdan.
- The Alekseev-Torossian equations  $sder \leftrightarrow tree-level \mathcal{A}$ in  $\mathcal{U}(\operatorname{sder}_n)$  and  $\mathcal{U}(\operatorname{tder}_n)$ .  $tder \leftrightarrow more$  $F \in \mathcal{U}(tder_2); \quad F^{-1}e(x+y)F = e(x)e(y) \iff F \in Sol_0$

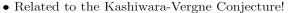
$$\Phi = \Phi_F := (F^{12,3})^{-1} (F^{1,2})^{-1} F^{23} F^{1,23} \in \mathcal{U}(\text{sder}_3)$$
  
$$\Phi^{1,2,3} \Phi^{1,23,4} \Phi^{2,3,4} = \Phi^{12,3,4} \Phi^{1,2,3,4} \qquad \text{``the pentagon''}$$

 $t = \frac{1}{2}(y, x) \in \text{sder}_2 \text{ satisfies } 4T \text{ and } r = (y, 0) \in \text{tder}_2 \text{ satisfies } 6T$ 

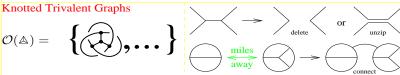
$$R := e(r) \text{ satisfies Yang-Baxter: } R^{12}R^{13}R^{23} = R^{23}R^{13}R^{12}$$
 also  $R^{12,3} = R^{13}R^{23}$  and  $F^{23}R^{1,23}(F^{23})^{-1} = R^{12}R^{13}$  
$$\tau(F) := RF^{21}e(-t) \text{ is an involution,} \Phi_{\tau(F)} = (\Phi_F^{321})^{-1}$$
 
$$\mathrm{Sol}_0^\tau := \{F : \tau(F) = F\} \text{ is non-empty; for } F \in \mathrm{Sol}_0^\tau,$$
 
$$e(t^{13} + t^{23}) = \Phi^{213}e(t^{13})(\Phi^{231})^{-1}e(t^{23})\Phi^{321}$$
 and 
$$e(t^{12} + t^{13}) = (\Phi^{132})^{-1}e(t^{13})\Phi^{312}e(t^{12})\Phi$$



This is just a part of the Alekseev-Torossian work!



- Will likely lead to an explicit tree-level associator, a linear equation away from a 1-loop equation, two linear equations away from a 2-loop associator, etc.!
- A baby version of the QUEA equations; we may be on the right tracks!



**Theorem.** KTG is generated by the unknotted  $\triangle$  and the Möbius band, with identifiable relations between them.

**Theorem.**  $Z(\triangle)$  is equivalent to an associator  $\Phi$ .





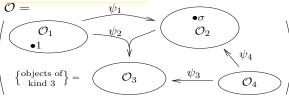






**Theorem.** {ribbon knots}  $\sim \{u\gamma : \gamma \in \mathcal{O}(\infty), d\gamma = \bigcirc\bigcirc\}$ .

Hence an expansion for KTG may tell us about ribbon knots, knots of genus 5, boundary links, etc.



- Has kinds, objects, operations, and maybe constants.
- Perhaps subject to some axioms.
- We always allow formal linear combinations.

Defining proj  $\mathcal{O}$ . The augmentation "ideal":

$$I = I_{\mathcal{O}} := \begin{cases} \text{formal differences of objects "of the same kind"} \end{cases}.$$
Then  $I^n := \begin{cases} \text{all outputs of algebraic} \\ \text{expressions at least } n \text{ of whose inputs are in } I \end{cases}$ , and

Then 
$$I^n := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{all outputs of algebraic} \\ \text{expressions at least } n \text{ of} \\ \text{whose inputs are in } I \end{array} \right\}$$
, and

$$\operatorname{proj} \mathcal{O} := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} I^n / I^{n+1}$$
 (has same kinds and operations, but different objects and axioms

Knot Theory Anchors.

- $(\mathcal{O}/I^{n+1})^*$  is "type n invariants"
- $(I^n/I^{n+1})^*$  is "weight systems".
- proj  $\mathcal{O}$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ , "chord diagrams".



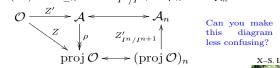
Warmup Examples.

- The projectivization of a group is a graded associative algebra.
- A quandle: a set Q with a binary op  $\wedge$  s.t.

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1 \wedge x = 1, & x \wedge 1 = x \wedge x = x, \\ (x \wedge y) \wedge z = (x \wedge z) \wedge (y \wedge z). & (\text{main}) \end{array}$$

 $\operatorname{proj} Q$  is a graded Lie algebra: set  $\bar{v} := (v-1)$ (these generate I!), feed  $1+\bar{x}$ ,  $1+\bar{y}$ ,  $1+\bar{z}$  in (main), collect the surviving terms of lowest degree:

 $(\bar{x} \wedge \bar{y}) \wedge \bar{z} = (\bar{x} \wedge \bar{z}) \wedge \bar{y} + \bar{x} \wedge (\bar{y} \wedge \bar{z}).$ An Expansion is  $Z: \mathcal{O} \to \operatorname{proj} \mathcal{O}$  s.t.  $Z(I^n) \subset$  $(\operatorname{proj} \mathcal{O})_{\geq n}$  and  $Z_{I^n/I^{n+1}} = Id_{I^n/I^{n+1}}$  (A "universal finite type invariant"). In practice, it is hard to determine proj  $\mathcal{O}$ , but easy to guess a surjection  $\rho: \mathcal{A} \to \operatorname{proj} \mathcal{O}$ . So find  $Z': \mathcal{O} \to \mathcal{A}$  with  $Z'(I^n) \subset \mathcal{A}_{\geq n}$  and  $Z'_{I^n/I^{n+1}} \circ \rho_n = Id_{\mathcal{A}_n}$ :



Homomorphic Expansions are expansions that intertwine the algebraic structure on  $\mathcal{O}$  and proj  $\mathcal{O}$ . They provide finite / combinatorial handles on global problems.

The Key Point. If  $\mathcal{O}$  is finitely presented, finding a homomorphic expansion is solving finitely many equations with finitely many unknowns, in some graded spaces.

Algebraic

Knot

Theory