

# Affine Quantum Groups and Category $\mathcal{O}$

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These are my notes for Study Group on Affine Quantum Groups and Categories  $\mathcal{O}$ , taught by Ivan Loseu, Pavel Etingof, Mikhail Bernstein, and Peter Koroteev in Fall 2024.

Work in progress!

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# 1 Affine Lie Algebras and their Finite-Dimensional Representations

## 1.1 The Big Goal

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a finite-dimensional simple Lie algebra. The affine Lie algebra  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$  is defined as the algebra of Laurent polynomials in the variable  $t$  with coefficients in  $\mathfrak{g}$ :

$$\hat{\mathfrak{g}} := \mathfrak{g}[t^{\pm 1}],$$

with the Lie bracket given by:

$$[a(t), b(t)] = [a, b](t) + \text{Res}_{t=0}(a(t), b(t)) \frac{dt}{t} K,$$

where  $a(t), b(t) \in \mathfrak{g}[t^{\pm 1}]$ , and  $K$  is a central element of the algebra.

This construction sets the stage for our main question of interest:

**Problem 1.2.** What are the finite-dimensional representations of  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ ?

The central element  $K$  acts trivially on all finite-dimensional representations of  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ , as shown in the following lemma:

**Lemma 1.3.**  $K = 0$  on every finite-dimensional representation of  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ .

*Proof.* The affine Lie algebra  $\hat{\mathfrak{g}} = \langle e_i, f_i, h_i \rangle$ , where  $i = 0, \dots, r$ , is equipped with the central element  $K = \sum k_i h_i$ . For each root  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -triple  $\langle e_i, h_i, f_i \rangle$ , the commutation relation  $[e_i, f_i] = h_i$  implies that the trace of  $h_i$  is zero on any finite-dimensional representation  $V$ , i.e.,  $\text{tr}_V h_i = 0$ . Thus,  $\text{Tr}_V(K) = 0$ . Moreover,  $K$  is nilpotent on any indecomposable finite-dimensional representation. Since  $K$  is also semisimple, it follows that  $K|_V = 0$ .  $\square$

Thus, we reduce the problem to studying the finite-dimensional representations of the algebra  $L\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}[t^{\pm 1}]$ .

## 1.2 Tensor Products of Irreducible Representations

For each  $z \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ , define the evaluation map:

$$\text{ev}_z : L\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}, \quad a(t) \mapsto a(z),$$

which is surjective. For each finite-dimensional representation  $V$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , the corresponding representation of  $L\mathfrak{g}$  is given by the pullback:

$$V(z) = \text{ev}_z^* V.$$

In particular, the action of  $a \in \mathfrak{g}$  on  $V(z)$  is given by:

$$\pi_{V(z)}(a \otimes t^n) = \pi_V(a) z^n.$$

Thus, for each dominant weight  $\lambda \in P_+$ , there are irreducible representations  $V_\lambda(z)$ .

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**Proposition 1.4.** *The tensor product  $V_{\lambda_1}(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{\lambda_n}(z_n)$  is irreducible if and only if the  $z_i$ 's are pairwise distinct.*

*Proof.*  $\implies$  : This reduces to the statement that if  $X, Y$  are irreducible representations of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and both are nontrivial, then  $X \otimes Y$  is reducible. To show this, we compute:

$$\dim \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(X \otimes Y, X \otimes Y) = \dim \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(X \otimes X^*, Y \otimes Y^*),$$

where  $X \otimes X^* = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathfrak{g} \oplus \cdots$  and  $Y \otimes Y^* = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathfrak{g} \oplus \cdots$ . Thus,  $\dim \text{Hom} \geq 2$ , implying that  $X \otimes Y$  is reducible.

Let  $a \in \mathfrak{g}$ . Then:

$$a \otimes t^m \mapsto a_1 z_1^m + a_2 z_2^m + \cdots + a_n z_n^m = A(a)_m.$$

The Vandermonde determinant is:

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ z_1 & z_2 & \cdots & z_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ z_1^{n-1} & z_2^{n-1} & \cdots & z_n^{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j) \neq 0,$$

so  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are linear combinations of  $A(a)_m$ , where  $m = 0, \dots, n-1$ . Therefore,  $V_1(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_n(z_n)$  is irreducible.

$\Leftarrow$ : Exercise. Hint:  $L\mathfrak{g} \twoheadrightarrow \mathfrak{g}^{\oplus k}$  via  $(\text{ev}_{z_1}, \dots, \text{ev}_{z_n})$ . □

**Problem 1.5.** *Which tensor products in Proposition 1.2 are isomorphic?*

**Proposition 1.6.** *These tensor products are pairwise non-isomorphic.*

*Proof.* For  $h \in \mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ , define  $h_+(z) := -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (h \otimes t^{-n-1})z^n$ . We can apply  $h_+(z)$  to the vector  $v := v_{\lambda_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes v_{\lambda_n} \in V_{\lambda_1}(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{\lambda_n}(z_n)$ . This vector is unique up to scaling and has weight  $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_n$  for  $\mathfrak{g} \subset L\mathfrak{g}$ . Thus, we find:

$$h_+(z)v = \sum_{K,n} -\lambda_K(h) \left( \frac{z}{z_k} \right)^n = \sum_k \frac{\lambda_K(h)}{z - z_k},$$

which has poles at  $z_k$  with residues  $-\lambda_k(h)$ .

Let  $n_{ik} := \lambda_k(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ . Then, we have:

$$h_{i+}(z)v = \left( \sum_k \frac{n_{ik}}{z - z_k} \right) v = \frac{P'_i(z)}{P_i(z)} v,$$

where  $P_i(z) := \prod_k (z - z_k)^{n_{ik}}$  is the Drinfeld polynomial.  $\square$

As a consequence of these results, the highest weight of  $V_{\lambda_1}(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{\lambda_n}(z_n)$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{h} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t^{-1}]$  is captured by the Drinfeld polynomials  $P_1, \dots, P_r$ .

Finally, we conclude with a significant result that characterizes the finite-dimensional irreducible representations of  $L\mathfrak{g}$ :

**Proposition 1.7.** *These are the only irreducible finite dimensional representations of  $L\mathfrak{g}$ .*

*Proof. Claim:*  $I$  is an ideal.

**Proof of Claim:** Let  $a, b \in \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $q \in I$ , and  $p \in \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ . Then, we have the following calculation:

$$\pi_V([a, b] \otimes pq) = [\pi_V(ap), \pi_V(bq)] = \pi_V([a \otimes p, b \otimes q]) = [\pi_V(a \otimes p), \pi_V(b \otimes q)] = 0.$$

Since elements of the form  $[a, b]$  span  $\mathfrak{g}$ , we conclude that for all  $c \in \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $\pi_V(c \otimes pq) = 0$ , which implies that  $pq \in I$ . Therefore,  $I = (q)$ , where  $q = \prod_{i=1}^{\alpha} (t - t_i)^{n_i}$ .

The map  $\mathfrak{g}[t, t^{-1}] \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V)$  factors through  $\mathfrak{a} := \mathfrak{g} \otimes (\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]/(q))$ , which is a finite-dimensional Lie algebra. This can be decomposed as:

$$\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{a}_{\text{semisimple}} \ltimes \text{Rad}(\mathfrak{a}),$$

where  $\mathfrak{a}_{\text{semisimple}} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\alpha} \mathfrak{g}$  and  $\text{Rad}(\mathfrak{a}) = t_1 \mathfrak{g}[t]/t^{m_1} \oplus \cdots \oplus t_n \mathfrak{g}[t]/t^{m_n}$ .

We now use the following standard fact:

**Fact:** In a finite-dimensional irreducible representation,  $\text{Rad} = 0$ .

This implies that  $m_i = 1$ , so  $V$  is an irreducible representation of  $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{g}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.8.**

- *The classification of irreducible representations extends to the case of  $\mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} A$  for any finitely generated commutative  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra  $A$ .*
- *The tensor product of simple representations is semisimple.*
- *Indecomposable representations of  $L\mathfrak{g}$  remain an interesting topic of study.*

## 2 Introduction to Quantum Groups

### 2.1 The Basics

Consider the presentation of Kac-Moody Lie algebras, where  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$  satisfy  $a_{ii} = 2$ ,  $a_{ij} = 0 \iff a_{ji} = 0$ , and  $a_{ij} \leq 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . We assume that the Kac-Moody Lie algebras are symmetrizable, meaning there exist  $\alpha_i$  such that  $d_i a_{ij} = d_j a_{ji}$ , which we fix.

The generators  $h_i, e_i, f_i$  satisfy the relations:

$$[h_i, h_j] = 0, \quad [h_i, e_j] = a_{ij} e_j, \quad [h_i, f_j] = -a_{ij} f_j, \quad [e_i, f_j] = \delta_{ij} h_i,$$

along with the Serre relations:

$$(\text{ad } e_i)^{1-a_{ij}}(e_j) = 0, \quad (\text{ad } f_i)^{1-a_{ij}}(f_j) = 0.$$

Alternatively, the Serre relations can be omitted, and we can define  $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)$  as the same Lie algebra without the Serre relations. This gives the triangular decomposition  $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A) = \tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_-$ , where  $\tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_+$  and  $\tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_-$  are free in the generators  $e_i$  and  $f_i$ , respectively, and  $\mathfrak{h} = \text{span}(h_i)$ .

There exists a unique ideal  $I \subset \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)$ , the largest graded ideal with  $I \cap \mathfrak{h} = \{0\}$ , such that the degree of  $f_i$  is  $-1$ , the degree of  $e_i$  is  $1$ , and the degree of  $h$  is  $0$ . This ideal decomposes as  $I = I_+ \oplus I_-$ , where  $I_{\pm} \subset \tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_{\pm}$ .

We define  $\mathfrak{g}(A) := \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)/I$ , which admits a triangular decomposition:

$$\mathfrak{g}(A) = \tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_-,$$

where  $\tilde{\mathfrak{n}}_{\pm}/I_{\pm}$  corresponds to the respective subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ .

**Theorem 2.1** (Gabber-Kac Theorem). *The ideals  $I_+$  and  $I_-$  generate the Serre relations for  $e_i$  and  $f_i$ , respectively.*

Next, we discuss Drinfeld's quantization: Let  $q \in \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  (not a root of unity) or work over  $\mathbb{C}(q)$ . We define  $q_i = q^{\alpha_i}$  and  $K_i = q_i^{h_i}$ . Then, the quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g}(A))$  is generated by  $K_i^{\pm 1}, e_i, f_i$  with the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} [K_i, K_j] &= 0, \quad K_i e_j K_i^{-1} = q_i^{a_{ij}} e_j, \quad K_i f_j K_i^{-1} = q_i^{-a_{ij}} f_j, \\ [e_i, f_j] &= \delta_{ij} \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q_i - q_i^{-1}}, \quad (\text{ad}_{q_i} e_i)^{1-a_{ij}} e_j = 0, \quad (\text{ad}_{q_i} f_i)^{1-a_{ij}} f_j = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The last two relations are the quantum Serre relations, with  $(\text{ad}_q x)(y) = xy - qyx$ . Using the same method as before, we can bypass the Serre relations:

$$\mathcal{U}(\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(A)) = \mathcal{U}_q(\tilde{\mathfrak{h}}_+) \otimes \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{h}) \otimes \mathcal{U}_q(\tilde{\mathfrak{h}}_-).$$

We quotient by the same ideal  $I$  to get  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g}(A))$ .

One important observation:  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g}(A))$  is almost the Drinfeld double of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{b}_+) = \langle K_i, e_i \rangle$  where  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{h}$ . This leads to the universal  $R$ -matrix.

**Proposition 2.2.** *The algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g}(A))$  is a Hopf algebra, with comultiplication given by:*

$$\Delta(e_i) = e_i \otimes K_i + 1 \otimes e_i, \quad \Delta(f_i) = f_i \otimes 1 + K_i^{-1} \otimes f_i, \quad \Delta(K_i) = K_i \otimes K_i,$$

*and the antipode given by:*

$$S(e_i) = -e_i K_i^{-1}, \quad S(f_i) = -K_i f_i, \quad S(K_i) = K_i^{-1}.$$

## 2.2 The Quantum Double

Recall the concept of the quantum double. Let  $H$  be a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra. Its Drinfeld double  $\mathcal{D}(H)$  is defined as:

$$\mathcal{D}(H) = H \otimes H^{*,\text{co}},$$

where  $H^{*,\text{co}}$  is the dual Hopf algebra with the opposite coproduct. The algebras  $H$  and  $H^{*,\text{co}}$  are subalgebras of  $\mathcal{D}(H)$ , but they do not generally commute. Drinfeld's commutation law states that for  $b \in H^{*,\text{co}}$  and  $a \in H$ , the product is given by  $ba$ . In terms of the coproducts, we have  $\Delta_3 a = a_1 \otimes a_2 \otimes a_3$  and  $\Delta_3 b = b_1 \otimes b_2 \otimes b_3$ . The product  $ba$  is then given by:

$$ba := (S^{-1}(a_1), b_1)(a_3, b_3)a_2b_2.$$

**Proposition 2.3.** *The category  $\text{Rep}(\mathcal{D}(H))$  is braided.*

**Definition 2.4.** *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a monoidal category, its Drinfeld center  $Z(\mathcal{C})$  is the category whose objects are pairs  $(X, \varphi_X)$ , where  $X \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $\varphi_X : X \otimes \bullet \xrightarrow{\sim} \bullet \otimes X$  is an isomorphism satisfying the hexagonal identity:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \otimes M \otimes N & & \\ \downarrow \varphi_{X,M} \otimes 1 & \searrow \varphi_{X,M \otimes N} & \\ M \otimes X \otimes N & \xrightarrow{1_M \otimes \varphi_{X,N}} & M \otimes N \otimes X \end{array}$$

*The hexagonal relation must hold for all objects in  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

Then,  $Z(\mathcal{C})$  is a monoidal category, and in fact, it is a braided monoidal category with the braiding maps  $c_{X,Y} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X$ .

**Theorem 2.5** (Drinfeld). *The Drinfeld center of the representation category of a Hopf algebra is equivalent to the representation category of its Drinfeld double:*

$$Z(\text{Rep}(H)) \cong \text{Rep}(\mathcal{D}(H)),$$

*where the braiding in  $\text{Rep}(\mathcal{D}(H))$  is given by the universal  $R$ -matrix  $\sum_i a_i \otimes a^i$ , where  $a_i$  is a basis of  $H$  and  $a^i$  is the dual basis. The braiding is explicitly given by:*

$$c_{X,Y} = \varphi_{X,Y} = P \circ R|_{X \otimes Y} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X,$$

*where  $P$  denotes the permutation.*



**Proposition 2.6.** *For all  $x \in \mathcal{D}(H)$ , we have:*

$$R\Delta(x) = \Delta^{op}(x)R.$$

**Proposition 2.7.** *The hexagon relations imply the hexagon relations for the braiding:*

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta \otimes 1)(R) &= R_{13}R_{23}, \\ (1 \otimes \Delta)(R) &= R_{13}R_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

## 2.3 Extension to Infinite Dimensional Cases

The Drinfeld double construction can be extended to infinite-dimensional cases, where the universal  $R$ -matrix  $R$  now belongs to the tensor product  $\mathcal{D}(H) \widehat{\otimes} \mathcal{D}(H)$ .

**Example 2.8** ( $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  as an almost Drinfeld double). *Let  $H := \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{h}_+) = \langle K^{\pm 1}, e \rangle$ . The relations are  $KeK^{-1} = q^2e$ , and the comultiplication  $\Delta(K), \Delta(e)$  are as usual. Consider the restricted dual  $H^* = \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{b}_-) = \langle \tilde{K}, f \rangle$ , where  $\tilde{K}f\tilde{K}^{-1} = q^{-2}f$ , and the comultiplication  $\Delta(\tilde{K}) = \tilde{K} \otimes \tilde{K}, \Delta(f) = f \otimes 1 + \tilde{K}^{-1} \otimes f$ . The Drinfeld double is given by:*

$$\mathcal{D}(H) = H \otimes H^{*,co} = \langle e, f, K, \tilde{K} \rangle.$$

*However, the element  $C := \tilde{K}K^{-1}$  is central, so the quotient algebra  $\overline{\mathcal{D}}(H) = \mathcal{D}(H)/(C - 1)$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ .*

*The Drinfeld commutation relation is:*

$$[e, f] = \frac{K - K^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}.$$

*The universal  $R$ -matrix can be written as:*

$$R = q^{\frac{\hbar \otimes \hbar}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} q^{\frac{k(k-1)}{2}} \frac{(q - q^{-1})^k}{[k]_q!} e^k \otimes f^k,$$

*where  $[k]_q = \frac{q^k - q^{-k}}{q - q^{-1}}$  and  $[k]_q! = [1]_q[2]_q \cdots [k]_q$ .*

**Remark 2.9.** *The universal  $R$ -matrix gives the braiding on the category  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -representations.*

The Drinfeld double construction can be extended to all Kac-Moody algebras, starting with  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{b}_+)$ .

### 3 Representations of $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$

#### 3.1 Algebra $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$

We begin by defining the algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ . Let  $q \in \mathbb{C}^\times$  be not a root of unity, and let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$  with Cartan matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The generators of the algebra are  $e_i$ ,  $f_i$ , and  $K_i^{\pm 1}$  where  $i = 0, 1$ , subject to the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} K_i e_i K_i^{-1} &= q^2 e_i, \\ K_i f_i K_i^{-1} &= q^{-2} f_i, \\ K_i e_j K_i^{-1} &= q^{-2} e_j \quad \text{for } i \neq j, \\ K_i f_j K_i^{-1} &= q^2 f_j \quad \text{for } i \neq j, \\ K_i K_j &= K_j K_i, \\ [e_i, f_i] &= \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}, \\ [e_i, f_j] &= 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq j, \end{aligned}$$

plus the quantum Serre relations.

Set  $K = K_0 K_1$  to be central. We focus on finite-dimensional type 1 representations, where informally,  $K_i = q^{h_i} w$ , with  $h_i$  acting with integral eigenvalues.

**Exercise 3.1.** *In any finite-dimensional representation,  $K = 1$ .*

#### 3.2 Evaluation and Twists by Loop Rotations

Consider the evaluation homomorphism  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  of algebras, defined by

$$\varphi(e_1) = \varphi(f_0) = e, \quad \varphi(f_1) = \varphi(e_0) = f, \quad \varphi(K_1) = \varphi(K_0^{-1}) = K.$$

Note that this is not a Hopf algebra homomorphism.

For any  $\mathfrak{g}$ , there exists a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading on  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$  (by energy), which gives rise to a loop rotation action  $\mathbb{C}_m$  on  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$ , denoted by  $z \mapsto \tau_z$ .

For  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$  (and  $\mathfrak{sl}_n$ ), define  $\varphi_z := \varphi \circ \tau_z$ . The induced map

$$\varphi_z^* : \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2) \rightarrow \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$$

acts on a representation  $Y$  as  $Y(z) = \varphi_z^* Y$  for  $Y \in \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ .

**Remark 3.2.** *For a general  $\mathfrak{g}$ , if  $W$  is a  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$ -representation, then  $W(z) := \tau_z^* W$ .*

**Proposition 3.3.** *For all  $W \in \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g})$ , the following relations hold:*

$$\begin{aligned} W(z)(u) &= w(zu), \\ (X \otimes Y)(z) &= X(z) \otimes Y(z), \\ Y(z)^* &= Y^*(z). \end{aligned}$$

### 3.3 Failure of Braiding/Semisimplicity

We now observe that if  $V, W \in \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ , then  $(V \otimes W)(z) \not\simeq V(z) \otimes W(z)$  because  $\varphi$  is not a Hopf algebra homomorphism. Similarly,  $V(z) \not\simeq V^*(z)$ .

**Remark 3.4.** *The irreducible representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n)$  are of the form  $V_a$  with  $\dim V_a = a + 1$ , where  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , and give rise to  $V_a(z)$ .*

*For  $a = 1$ , the representation  $V_a(z)$  is expressed in matrices as:*

$$\begin{aligned} e_0 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ z & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ e_1 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ f_0 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z^{-1} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ f_1 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ K_0 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} q^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & q \end{pmatrix}, \\ K_1 &\mapsto \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 0 & q^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

**Exercise 3.5.** *Any 2-dimensional nontrivial  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$  representation is of the form  $V_1(z)$  for a unique  $z$ .*

**Corollary 3.6.**  $V_1(z)^* \simeq V_1(w)$  for a unique  $w$ .

**Remark 3.7.** *We have the relations:*

$$z = \text{tr}_{V_1(t)}(e_0 e_1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} w &= \text{tr}_{V_1(z)^*}(S(e_0)^* S(e_1)^*) \\ &= \text{tr}(S(e_1) S(e_0)) \\ &= \text{tr}(-e_1 K_1^{-1} \cdot (-e_0 K_0)) \\ &= q^2 \text{tr}(e_1 e_0) \\ &= q^2 z. \end{aligned}$$

*This implies that  $V(z)^{**} = V(q^4 z)$ , so  $\text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g})$  is not braided.*

In any rigid tensor category  $\mathcal{C}$ , if  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ , then the evaluation map  $\text{ev}_X : X^* \otimes X \rightarrow 1$  and coevaluation map  $\text{coev} : 1 \hookrightarrow X \otimes X^*$  exist.

**Proposition 3.8.** *If  $X$  is simple and either of these maps splits, then  $X^{**} \simeq X$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\text{ev}_X$  splits. Then  $X^* \otimes X \simeq Y \otimes 1$ , and if  $1 \xhookrightarrow{i} X^* \otimes X$ , we have the commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} {}^*X & \xhookrightarrow{i \otimes 1} & X^* \otimes X \otimes {}^*X \longrightarrow X^* \\ & \searrow \alpha_i & \nearrow \\ & & \end{array}$$

□

**Exercise 3.9.** *This defines an isomorphism:*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(1, X^* \otimes X) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}({}^*X, X^*), \\ i &\mapsto \alpha_i. \end{aligned}$$

Since  ${}^*X$  and  $X^*$  are isomorphic by Schur's lemma, we have  ${}^*X \simeq X^*$ .

**Exercise 3.10.**

$$1 \xhookrightarrow{\text{coev}} V_1(z) \otimes V_1(q^2 z) \rightarrow V_z(qz) \rightarrow 0 \quad (*)$$

is nonsplit. If  $Y \in \text{Rep } \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ , then  $Y|_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)}$  is irreducible, so  $Y \simeq V_a(z)$  for some  $z$ .

Dualize (\*):  $0 \rightarrow V_z(qz) \rightarrow V(q^2 z) \otimes V(z) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \rightarrow 0$ , so  $V(q^2 z) \otimes V(z) \not\simeq V(z) \otimes V(q^2 z)$ .

However, if  $w \neq q^2 z$ , then  $V(z) \otimes V(w)$  is irreducible and isomorphic to  $V(w) \otimes V(z)$ . This is defined by an  $R$ -matrix.

**Remark 3.11.** *For general  $\mathfrak{g}$  and for all irreducible  $X, Y$ ,  $X(z) \otimes Y$  is irreducible and isomorphic to  $Y \otimes X(z)$  for all but finitely many  $z$ .*

### 3.4 Double Dual

For a general  $\mathfrak{g}$ , if  $Y$  is a finite-dimensional representation of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}})$ , then  $Y^{**} = Y(q^{2h^\vee})$ , where  $h^\vee$  is the dual Coxeter number (for  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ ,  $Y^{**} \simeq Y(z^*)$ ).

Why  $h^\vee$ ? For a  $q$ -triangular Hopf algebra  $(H, R)$  with  $R = \sum_i a_i \otimes b_i$  and  $R$  invertible, the relations

$$R\Delta(x) = \Delta^{\text{op}}(x)R, \quad (\Delta \otimes 1)(R) = R_{12}R_{23}, \quad (1 \otimes \Delta)(R) = R_{13}R_{12}$$

lead to this structure.

**Theorem 3.12** (Drinfeld). *For  $u = \sum_i S(b_i)a_i$ , we have  $uxu^{-1} = S^2(x)$ , where  $u : X \simeq X^{**}$ .*

For  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g})$ ,  $u = vq^{2\hat{p}}$ , where  $v$  is the central ribbon element. For an affine Lie algebra,  $\hat{p} = p + h^\vee \alpha$  gives  $q^{2\hat{p}} = q^{2p}q^{2h^\vee \alpha}$ . This shifts  $z$ .

### 3.5 Classification of Finite Dimensional Representations for $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$

**Proposition 3.13.** *All irreducible representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  are of the form  $V_{a_1}(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{a_n}(z_n)$ .*

The key question is: when is this representation irreducible?

We can rule out cases such as  $a_i = a_{i+1} = 1$ , with  $\frac{z_i}{z_{i+1}} = q^{\pm z}$ , and similarly for  $a_i = a_j = 1$  when  $i - j > 1$ .

To answer this question, we need a combinatorial construction: associate to each  $V_a(z)$  a  $q^2$ -string  $(q^{-a+1}z, q^{-a+3}z, \dots, q^{a-1}z)$ .

**Definition 3.14.** *A collection of strings  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  is in special position if there exist indices  $i, j$  such that  $S_i \cup S_j \supsetneq S_i, S_j$  and  $S_i \cup S_j$  is a  $q^2$ -string. Otherwise, we say that  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  is in general position.*

**Theorem 3.15.** *The tensor product  $V_{a_1}(z_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{a_n}(z_n)$  is irreducible if and only if the strings of factors are in general position. The product is independent of the order of the strings.*

This result generalizes the case  $V(z) \otimes V(w)$ , as the strings are  $z$  and  $w$ .

**Proposition 3.16.** *Any finite multi-subset of  $\mathbb{C}^\times$  can be uniquely written as a union of strings in general position (up to permutation).*

Conclusion: the irreducible representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  correspond to multisubsets of  $\mathbb{C}^\times$ , which can be identified with polynomials with a nonzero constant term (up to scaling). These are called **Drinfeld polynomials**, usually normalized to have constant term 1.

### 3.6 R-Matrices With Spectral Parameter

The quotient  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)/(K-1)$  has a universal  $R$ -matrix, given by

$$R = \sum_i a_i \otimes a^i,$$

where  $a_i \in \mathcal{U}^+$  and  $a^i \in \mathcal{U}^-$ . But can we understand  $R|_{X \otimes Y}$  more clearly? Not in general.

Now, consider the tensor product  $X(z) \otimes Y$  for a formal variable  $z$ :

$$R(z) = \sum_i \tau_z(a_i) \otimes a^i,$$

where  $\tau$  contains only nonnegative powers of  $z$ . This implies that  $R(z)|_{X \otimes Y} \in \text{End}(X \otimes Y)[[z]]$ .

**Theorem 3.17** (Drinfeld). *For all  $\mathfrak{g}$ , this gives a convergent series in a neighborhood of 0, i.e., for  $|z| < r$ , where  $r = r_{XY}$ .*

The operator  $R_{XY}(z) : X(z) \otimes Y \rightarrow X(z) \otimes Y$  extends meromorphically to  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Proposition 3.18.** *This operator extends meromorphically to  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

For irreducible  $X$  and  $Y$ , the tensor product  $X(z) \otimes Y$  is irreducible for generic  $z$ .

**Proposition 3.19.**  $R_{XY}(z) = \bar{R}_{XY} f_{XY}(z)$ , where  $\bar{R}_{XY}$  is a rational matrix function and  $f_{XY}$  is a scalar function. This  $\bar{R}_{XY}(z)$  can be normalized to satisfy the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{R}(z)\bar{R}(z^{-1}) &= 1 \otimes 1, \\ \bar{R}_{XZ}(z)\bar{R}_{YZ}(z) &= \bar{R}_{X \otimes Y, Z}(z), \\ \bar{R}_{XZ}(z)\bar{R}_{XY}(z) &= \bar{R}_{X, Y \otimes Z}(z).\end{aligned}$$

This implies the braid relation:

$$\bar{R}_{XX}^{12} \left( \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right) \bar{R}_{XX}^{13} \left( \frac{z_1}{z_3} \right) \bar{R}_{XX}^{23} \left( \frac{z_2}{z_3} \right) = \bar{R}_{XX}^{23} \left( \frac{z_2}{z_3} \right) \bar{R}_{XX}^{13} \left( \frac{z_1}{z_3} \right) \bar{R}_{XX}^{12} \left( \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right).$$

**Remark 3.20.** This structure can be thought of as commutative, similar to a vertex algebra.

## 4 The BGG Category $\mathcal{O}$ and Highest Weight Structures

**Notation:** Let the base field be  $\mathbb{C}$ ,  $G$  a connected reductive group, and  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$ . Let  $H \subset B \subset G$  denote the Cartan and Borel subgroups, and let  $\Lambda = \text{Hom}(H, \mathbb{C}^\times)$ .

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\nu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , and view  $\nu$  as an element of  $\mathfrak{b}^*$  via the embedding  $\mathfrak{h}^* \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{b}^*$ . The subcategory  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  is the full subcategory in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})\text{-mod}_{fg}$  consisting of all modules  $M$  such that the action of  $\mathfrak{b}$  on  $M$ , given by  $x \cdot m = xm - \langle \nu, x \rangle m$ , integrates to a  $B$ -action.

**Standard consequences:**

- **Weight decomposition:** For  $M \in \mathcal{O}_\nu$ , we have  $M = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \Lambda} M_\lambda$ , where  $M_\lambda = \{m \in M \mid xm = \langle \lambda + \nu, x \rangle m \forall x \in \mathfrak{h}\}$  and  $\dim M_\lambda < \infty$ .
- The set  $\{\lambda \mid M_\lambda \neq 0\}$  is bounded from above with respect to the usual order:  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2$  if  $\lambda_2 - \lambda_1 \in \text{Span}_{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$  (i.e.,  $\lambda_2 - \lambda_1$  is a linear combination of positive roots).
- One can form the Verma module  $\Delta_\nu(\lambda) = \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{b})} \mathbb{C}_{\lambda+\nu}$  and its simple quotient  $L_\nu(\lambda)$ , establishing an isomorphism  $\Lambda \cong \text{Irr}(\mathcal{O}_\nu)$ , where  $\lambda \mapsto L_\nu(\lambda)$ .
- For  $\mu \in \Lambda$ , there is an equivalence  $\mathcal{O}_\nu \cong \mathcal{O}_{\nu+\mu}$ , with  $L_\nu(\lambda) \mapsto L_{\mu+\nu}(\lambda-\mu)$ .

### 4.1 And It's Siblings

The category  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  is a "finite type" category, controlled by the Hecke category associated with a subgroup of  $W$ , the Weyl group of  $G$ . There are also "affine" and potentially "double affine" analogs, which will be briefly mentioned now and hopefully elaborated on later.

**Affine world:** The affine world is populated by:

- Categories  $\mathcal{O}$  over affine Lie algebras, which exhibit three possible behaviors: "negative", "positive", and "critical" level.
- Modular/quantum categories  $\mathcal{O}$  at a root of unity.

Most of these (except for the critical affine category) are directly controlled by the affine Hecke category. Additionally, there are various geometric relatives of these categories.

**Double affine world:** While we haven't encountered many categories in this setting, one family that should be included is quantum categories at a root of unity, affine categories  $\mathcal{O}$  at rational levels, and their modular counterparts. There are likely many more, though all of them, including the quantum affine ones, are very complicated.

## 4.2 Goals and Tools

Categories  $\mathcal{O}$  (and their siblings) decompose into direct sums of blocks. Our goal is to establish derived equivalences between blocks of different categories  $\mathcal{O}$ . The most fundamental and crucial tool for this is the notion of highest weight structures, which will be discussed in the main part of this lecture.



### 4.3 Highest Weight Structures

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field and  $\mathcal{C}$  be an  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear abelian category.

**Definition 4.2.** *The structure of a **highest weight category with finite poset** on  $\mathcal{C}$  is given by a finite poset  $\mathcal{J}$  and a collection of standard objects  $\Delta(t) \in \mathcal{C}$ , indexed by  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$ , satisfying the following conditions:*

- $\dim_{\mathbb{F}} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Delta(\tau), M) < \infty$  for all  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$  and  $M \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Delta(\tau), \Delta(\tau')) \neq 0 \implies \tau \leq \tau'$ .
- $\mathbb{F} \cong \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Delta(\tau))$  for all  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$ .
- For every  $M \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $M \neq 0$ , there exists  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$  such that  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Delta(\tau), M) \neq 0$ .
- For every  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$ , there exists a projective  $P_{\tau} \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $P_{\tau} \twoheadrightarrow \Delta(\tau)$ , and the kernel of the map  $P_{\tau} \rightarrow \Delta(\tau)$  admits a finite filtration by objects  $\Delta(\tau')$  with  $\tau' > \tau$ .

**Exercise 4.3.**

1. Let  $A := \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(\bigoplus_{\tau} P_{\tau})$  be finite. Then, the functor  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\bigoplus_{\tau} P_{\tau}, \cdot) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow A^{\text{opp-mod}_{fd}}$  is an equivalence.
2. Each  $\Delta(\tau)$  has a unique simple quotient,  $L(\tau)$ , and the map  $\tau \mapsto L(\tau)$  is a bijection  $\mathcal{J} \cong \text{Irr}(\mathcal{C})$ .

### 4.4 Infinitesimal Blocks of $\mathcal{O}$

The category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu}$  itself is not a highest weight category in the sense defined above, but it is the direct sum of such categories. Recall the Harish-Chandra isomorphism:

$$\text{HC} : Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})) \cong \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^{(w, \cdot)},$$

where  $w \cdot \lambda = w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho$ , and  $z \in Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}))$  acts on  $\Delta_{\nu}(\lambda)$  by  $\text{HC}_z(\lambda + \nu)$ . Consider the equivalence relation  $\sim_{\nu}$  on  $\Lambda$ :  $\lambda_1 \sim_{\nu} \lambda_2$  if  $\lambda_1 + \nu = w \cdot (\lambda_2 + \nu)$ .

This gives the decomposition  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu} = \bigoplus_{\Xi} \mathcal{O}_{\nu, \Xi}$ , where  $\Xi$  runs over the equivalence classes for  $\sim_{\nu}$ .

**Exercise 4.4.** *Each  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \Xi}$  is a highest weight category with standard objects  $\Delta_{\nu}(\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda \in \Xi$ , and the order on  $\Xi$  is inherited from the usual order.*

### 4.5 Deformation

Let  $R$  be a Noetherian ring, and let  $\mathcal{C}_R$  be an  $R$ -linear abelian category. For  $M \in \mathcal{C}_R$ , we define a right exact functor  $M \otimes_R ? : R\text{-mod}_{fg} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_R$ . We say that  $M$  is  *$R$ -flat* if this functor is exact.

The definition of a highest weight category can be generalized to  $\mathcal{C}_R$ . We require that  $\Delta_R(\tau)$  are flat over  $R$  and modify (1) and (5) from Definition 3.2 as follows:

- $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}_R}(\Delta_R(\tau), M)$  is finitely generated over  $R$ .
- The kernel of the map  $P_\tau \rightarrow \Delta_R(\tau)$  is filtered by objects of the form  $R^{\tau'} \otimes_R \Delta_R(\tau')$  for  $\tau' > \tau$ , where  $R^{\tau'}$  is a finitely generated projective  $R$ -module.

**Exercise 4.5.**  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}_R}(\bigoplus_\tau P_\tau)$  is a finitely generated projective  $R$ -module.

**Example 4.6.** Let  $R := \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^\wedge$  be the completion at  $O$ . Let  $\iota$  be the composition  $\mathfrak{h} \hookrightarrow S(\mathfrak{h}) = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*] \hookrightarrow R$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$  is the full subcategory in  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}_{fg}$  consisting of all  $M$  such that the action of  $\mathfrak{b}$  on  $M$  is given by

$$x \cdot m = xm - (\langle \lambda, \nu \rangle + \iota(x))m,$$

and this integrates to a  $B$ -action.

The same properties hold for  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  as for  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$ : the weight decomposition  $M = \bigoplus_\lambda M_\lambda$  with finitely generated  $R$ -modules  $M_\lambda$  and weights bounded from above. Verma modules  $\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda) = \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{b})} R_{\lambda+\nu}$  can also be formed, where  $R_{\lambda+\nu} \simeq R$  with  $\mathfrak{h}$  acting on  $R$  by  $x \mapsto \iota(x) + \langle \lambda + \nu, x \rangle$ .

**Exercise 4.7.**  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  is identified with the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$  consisting of all objects where  $R$  acts via  $R \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ .

**Remark 4.8.** Informally, one can view  $R$  as the algebra of functions on a tiny neighborhood around  $\nu$ . Then,  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$  is a family of categories over this neighborhood, with the fiber at a point  $\nu'$  being  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu'}$  (note that, strictly speaking,  $\text{Spec}(R)$  only has one  $\mathbb{C}$ -point).

We can extend the infinitesimal block decomposition for  $\mathcal{O}_\nu = \bigoplus_{\Xi} \mathcal{O}_{\nu,\Xi}$  to  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$ . Let  $m \subset R$  denote the maximal ideal, and define:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi} := \{M \in \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R} \mid M/m^*M \text{ is filtered by objects in } \mathcal{O}_{\nu,\Xi} \text{ for all } R\}.$$

**Exercise 4.9.**

1.  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R} = \bigoplus_{\Xi} \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$ .
2.  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  is a highest weight category with standard objects  $\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda \in \Xi$ .

**Definition 4.10.** An object in  $\mathcal{C}_R$  is called **standardly filtered** if it admits a finite filtration by  $R^{\tau'} \otimes_R \Delta_R(\tau')$ , where  $\tau' \in \mathcal{J}$  and  $R^{\tau'}$  is a finitely generated projective  $R$ -module. The full subcategory of standardly filtered objects will be denoted by  $\mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ .

The following propositions require introducing "costandard" objects, which we leave for the reader to explore.

**Proposition 4.11.**

- Every projective in  $\mathcal{C}_R$  is in  $\mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ .

- If  $M, N \in \mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$  and  $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ , then  $\text{Ker}\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ .

**Corollary 4.12.** *For  $M \in \mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ , the following are equivalent:*

- $M$  is projective.
- $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M, N) = 0$  for all  $N \in \mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ .
- $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M, \Delta_R(\tau)) = 0$  for all  $\tau \in \mathcal{J}$ .

The importance of this corollary is as follows:  $\mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$  is an exact category (an additive category with a good notion of short exact sequences). The first point of Proposition 3.11 shows that the additive category of projectives  $\mathcal{C}_R\text{-proj}$  is contained within  $\mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ , and the corollary allows us to recover  $\mathcal{C}_R\text{-proj}$  inside  $\mathcal{C}_R^\Delta$ . Once we know  $\mathcal{C}_R\text{-proj}$ , we can recover the abelian category  $\mathcal{C}_R$ .

## 4.6 What's Next?

Here's the "lazy approach" to understand the categories  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \Xi}$  (the most interesting case is  $\nu = 0$ ). We will construct a "nice" right exact functor  $\mathbb{V} : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_R$ , where  $\mathcal{C}_R$  is a "simplified" category that roughly depends on the combinatorics of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi}$ . We will show that  $\mathbb{V}$  is acyclic on the standard objects and fully faithful on  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi}^\Delta$ . Therefore, we only need to understand the localizations of the categories and functors around prime ideals (which corresponds to understanding cases when  $\nu$  is generic on a root hyperplane).

This approach, while implicit, provides a path to proving equivalences between different such categories.

## 5 The Quantum Group $\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$

### 5.1 Drinfeld-Jimbo Presentation

**Cartan Matrix:**

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Generators:**  $E_0, E_1, K_0, K_1, F_0, F_1$

**Relations:**

$$[E_i, F_j] = \delta_{ij} \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}$$

$$K_i E_j = q^{a_{ij}} E_j K_i$$

$$K_i F_j = q^{-a_{ij}} F_j K_i$$

$$K_i K_i^{-1} = K_i^{-1} K_i = 1$$

$$K_i K_j = K_j K_i$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_i^3 E_j - (q^{-2} + q^2) E_i^2 E_j E_i + (q^{-2} + 1 + q^2) E_i E_j E_i^2 - E_j E_i^3 &= 0 \\ F_i^3 F_j - (q^{-2} + 1 + q^2) F_i^2 F_j F_i + (q^{-2} + 1 + q^2) F_i F_j F_i^2 - F_j F_i^3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Coproduct:**

$$\Delta(E_i) = E_i \otimes K_i + 1 \otimes E_i$$

$$\Delta(K_i) = K_i \otimes K_i$$

$$\Delta(F_i) = F_i \otimes 1 + K_i^{-1} \otimes F_i$$

The element  $K = K_0 K_1$  is central.

One can introduce an element  $d$  or  $q^{2d}$  with the following commutation relations:

$$[d, E_1] = [d, F_1] = [d, K_1] = 0, \quad [d, E_0] = E_0, \quad [d, F_0] = -F_0$$

In the non- $q$ -deformed setting, there are two main presentations:

1. Kac-Moody presentation:  $f_0, h_0, e_0, f_1, h_1, e_1$
2. Loop presentation:  $X_n^-, X_n^0, X_n^+, x$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $X^+ = e, X^0 = h$ , and  $X^- = f$ , with the commutation relation:

$$X_n^\epsilon, X_{n'}^{\epsilon'} = [X_n^\epsilon, X_{n'}^{\epsilon'}]_{n+n'} + n(X_n^\epsilon, X_{n'}^{\epsilon'}) K \delta_{n+n', 0}$$

3. Presentation  $P_2$  by  $h_i, e_i, f_i$

The advantage of this formulation is that it provides a PBW basis.

## 5.2 Braid Group Action

**Definition 5.1** (Lusztig's Braid Group). *The braid group action on the generators is defined as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned}
T_i(E_i) &= -F_i K_i \\
T_i(F_i) &= -K_i^{-1} E_i \\
T_i(K_j) &= K_j K_i^{-a_{ij}} \\
T_i(E_j) &= \sum_{r=0}^{-a_{ij}} (-1)^{r-a_{ij}} q_i^{-r} E_i^{(-a_{ij}-r)} E_j E_i^{(r)} \\
T_i(F_j) &= \sum_{r=0}^{-a_{ij}} (-1)^{r-a_{ij}} q_i^r F_i^{(r)} F_j F_i^{(-a_{ij}-r)}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $E_i^{(r)} = \frac{E_i^r}{[r]_q!}$ .

**Remark 5.2.** *The braid group action can also be expressed as:*

$$T_i(E_j) = ad_{\Delta^{op}, E_i^{-a_{ij}}} E_j = \frac{1}{[-a_{ij}]_q!} ad_{q, E_i}^{-a_{ij}} E_j$$

where  $ad_{q,x}(y) = xy - q^{\langle wt X, wt Y \rangle} yx$ .

For example, in the case of  $T_1$  acting on  $E_0$ , we have:

$$T_1(E_0) = E_1^{(2)} E_0 - q E_1 E_0 E_1 + q^2 E_0 E_1^{(2)}.$$

**Theorem 5.3.** *The operators  $T_i$  define automorphisms of the quantum group, and they satisfy the braid group relations as an algebra.*

The following additional transformation is introduced:

$$\begin{aligned}
\tau : E_0 &\mapsto E_1, & K_0 &\mapsto K_1, & F_0 &\mapsto F_1 \\
E_1 &\mapsto E_0, & K_1 &\mapsto K_1, & F_1 &\mapsto F_0
\end{aligned}$$

This defines the braid group relation:

$$Br^{ae} = \langle T_0, T_1, \tau \mid \tau T_0 \tau^{-1} = T_1, \tau T_1 \tau^{-1} = T_0, \tau^2 = e \rangle.$$

(Note that the braid relation does not hold here.)

The braid group is generated by the elements  $\{T_0, T_1\}$ , with the relation  $E_1 T_0 E_1 = T_0 E_1 T_0$  (again, without the braid relation).

**Inverse Map:** The inverse map for  $T_i$  is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} T_i^{-1}(E_i) &= -K_i^{-1}F_i, \\ T_i^{-1}(F_i) &= -E_iK_i, \\ T_i^{-1}(K_j) &= K_jK_i^{-a_{ij}}, \\ T_i^{-1}(E_j) &= \sum_{r=0}^{-a_{ij}} (-1)^{r-a_{ij}} q_i^{-r} E_i^{(r)} E_j E_i^{(-a_{ij}-r)}, \\ T_i^{-1}(F_j) &= \sum_{r=0}^{-a_{ij}} (-1)^{r-a_{ij}} q_i^r F_i^{(-a_{ij}-r)} F_j F_i^{(r)}. \end{aligned}$$

**Weyl Group:** Consider the Weyl group generated by the elements  $s_0$ ,  $s_1$ , and  $\tau$ , with the following defining relations:

$$\langle s_0, s_1, \tau \mid \tau s_0 \tau^{-1} = s_1, \tau s_1 \tau^{-1} = s_0, s_1^2 = s_0^2 = \tau^2 = e \rangle.$$

**Translations:**

- $s_0 s_1$  corresponds to a root translation.
- $\tau s_0$  and  $\tau s_1$  correspond to weight translations.

### 5.3 Definition and Relations

**Definition 5.4.** For  $n \geq 0$ , define the following elements:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{2+n\delta} &= (\tau T_1)^{-n} E_1, \\ E_{-2+(n+1)\delta} &= (\tau T_n)^n E_0. \end{aligned}$$

**Question:** How do we define  $E_\delta$ , the  $q$ -analog of  $[e_1, e_0]$ ?

**Natural choices:**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ad}_{q, E_1}(E_0) &= E_1 E_0 - q^{-2} E_0 E_1, \\ \text{ad}_{q, E_0}(E_1) &= E_0 E_1 - q^{-1} E_1 E_0. \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 5.5.**

$$(\tau T_1)(E_0 E_1 - q^{-2} E_1 E_0) = E_0 E_1 - q^{-2} E_1 E_0.$$

**Definition 5.6.** Define  $E_{n\delta}$  by the following relation:

$$E_{n\delta} = E_{-2+\delta} E_{2+(n-1)\delta} - q^{-2} E_{2+(n-1)\delta} E_{-2+\delta}.$$

**Lemma 5.7.** The commutation relations for  $E_\delta$  are:

$$\begin{aligned} [E_\delta, E_{2+nd}] &= [2]_q E_{2+(n+1)\delta}, \\ [E_\delta, E_{-2+nd}] &= -[2]_q E_{-2+(n+1)\delta}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* For  $n = 0$ , the computation uses  $\tau T_1$ .  $\square$

Let  $\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{n}}_+)$  denote the subalgebra generated by  $E_0, E_1$ .

**Corollary 5.8.** *The elements  $E_{2+n\delta}, E_{(n+1)\delta}, E_{-2+(n+1)\delta}$  lie in  $\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{n}}_+)$  for  $n \geq 0$ .*

**Relations:**

**Lemma 5.9.** *The following relation holds:*

$$E_{2+(n+1)\delta}E_{2+m\delta} - q^2E_{2+n\delta}E_{2+(m+1)\delta} + E_{2+(m+1)\delta}E_{2+n\delta} - q^2E_{2+m\delta}E_{2+(n+1)\delta} = 0.$$

**Definition 5.10** (Half-current). *Define the half-current  $e^+(z)$  by the series:*

$$e^+(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} E_{2+n\delta} z^{-n}.$$

The relation for  $e^+(z)$  is:

$$e^+(z)e^+(w)(z - q^2w) + e^+(w)e^+(z)(w - q^2z) = (1 - q^2)(ze^+(w)^2 + we^+(z)^2).$$

**Definition 5.11** (Half-currents). *Define the half-currents  $e^-(z)$  and  $e_\delta$  as:*

$$e^-(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} E_{-2+n\delta} z^{-n},$$

$$e_\delta = (q - q^{-1}) \sum_{n > 0} E_{n\delta} z^{-n}.$$

The following relations hold:

$$(z - q^2w)e_\delta(z)e^+(w) = (z - q^{-2}w)e^+(w)e_\delta(z),$$

$$(z - q^{-2}w)e_\delta(z)e^-(w) = (z - q^2w)e^-(w)e_\delta(z).$$

Additionally, the relation for  $e^-(z)$  is:

$$e^-(z)e^-(w)(z - q^{-2}w) + e^-(w)e^-(z)(w - q^{-2}z) = (1 - q^{-2})(ze^-(w)^2 - we^-(z)^2).$$

The commutation relation  $[E_{n\delta}, E_{m\delta}] = 0$  holds, and the following identity is true:

$$E_{-2+(p-r)\delta}E_{2+r\delta} - q^{-1}E_{2+r\delta}E_{-2+(p-r)\delta} = E_{p\delta}.$$

**Theorem 5.12** (PBW). *The elements*

$$\{E_{-2+\delta}^{a_1} E_{-2+2\delta}^{a_2} \cdots E_\delta^{b_1} E_{2\delta}^{b_2} \cdots E_{2+2\delta}^{c_2} E_{2+\delta}^{c_1} E_2^{c_0}\}$$

*form a basis in  $\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{n}}_+)$ .*

**Remark:** The elements are arranged in convex order:

$$-2 - \delta < -2 + 2\delta < \cdots < 2\delta < \cdots < 2 + \delta < 2.$$

*Proof.* The generating set follows from the relations, and linear independence follows from the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$ .  $\square$

Next, consider  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{n}}_-)$  with an automorphism  $\phi$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(E_i) &= F_i, \\ \phi(F_i) &= E_i, \\ \phi(K_i) &= K_i, \\ \phi(q) &= q^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

**Definition 5.13.** *The following relations hold for  $\tau\phi$ :*

$$\begin{aligned}\tau\phi(E_{2+n\delta}) &= (\tau T_1)^n F_0 = F_{2-(n+1)\delta}, \\ \tau\phi(E_{-2+(n+1)\delta}) &= (\tau T_1)^{-n} F_1 = F_{-2-n\delta}, \\ \tau\phi(E_{n\delta}) &= F_{-n\delta}.\end{aligned}$$

These imply the PBW property.

## 5.4 Full Currents

**Definition 5.14.** *Define the full currents  $X_n^+$  and  $X_n^-$  by:*

$$\begin{aligned}X_n^+ &= (\tau T_1)^{-n} E_1, \\ X_n^- &= (\tau T_1)^n F_1, \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z}.\end{aligned}$$

**Remark 5.15.** *For  $n \geq 0$ , we have:*

$$X_n^+ = E_{2+n\delta}, \quad X_{-n}^- = F_{-2-n\delta}.$$

*However, for  $n > 0$ , the following expressions do not belong to  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{n}}_-)$  or  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{n}}_+)$ :*

$$X_n^+ = -(F_{2-n\delta} K^n) K_n^{-1}, \quad X_n^+ = -K_1 K^{-n} E_{-2+n\delta}.$$

**Definition 5.16.** *The full currents in  $z$ -representation are defined as:*

$$\begin{aligned}X^+(z) &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n^+ z^{-n} = e^+(z) - f^+(Kz) K_1^{-1}, \\ X^-(z) &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} X_n^- z^{-n} = -K_1 e^-(Kz) - f^-(z).\end{aligned}$$



where

$$K_1^{-1}\psi^+(z) = 1 + (q - q^{-1}) \sum_{n>0} E_n \delta z^{-n} = \exp \left( \sum_{n>0} (q - q^{-1}) h_n z^{-n} \right),$$

$$K_1 \psi^-(z) = 1 + (q^{-1} - q) \sum_{n>0} F_{-n} \delta z^n = \exp \left( \sum_{n>0} (q^{-1} - q) h_{-n} z^n \right).$$

**Theorem 5.17.** *The algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  has the following presentation:*

$$\mathcal{U}_q(\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2) = \langle X_n^+, X_n^-, h_r, h_{-r}, K^{\pm 1}, K_1^{\pm 1} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \rangle,$$

with the following relations:

- $K$  is central.
- $K_1 X_n^+ = q^x X_n^+ K_1$ .
- $K_1 X_n^- = q^{-2} X_n^- K_1$ .
- $[h_r, h_s] = \frac{[2r]}{r} \frac{K^r - K^{-r}}{q - q^{-1}} \delta_{r+s,0}$ .
- $[h_r, X^+(w)] = \frac{[2r]}{r} w^r X^+(w)$ .
- $[h_{-r}, X^+(w)] = \frac{[2r]}{r} K^{-r} w_{-r} X^+(w)$ .
- $[h_r, X^-(w)] = -K^r \frac{[2r]}{r} w^r X^-(w)$ .
- $[h_{-r}, X^-(w)] = -\frac{[2r]}{r} w^{-r} X^-(w)$ .
- $[X^+(z), X^-(w)] = \frac{1}{q - q^{-1}} (\psi^+(z) \delta(\frac{Kw}{z}) - \psi^-(w) \delta(\frac{w}{Kz}))$ .
- $X^+(z) X^+(w) (z - q^2 w) + X^+(w) X^-(z) (w - q^2 z) = 0$ .
- $X^-(z) X^-(w) (z - q^{-2} w) + X^-(w) X^-(z) (w - q^{-2} z) = 0$ .

where  $\delta(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} x^n$ .

**Remark 5.18.** *This construction works for  $q$  a root of unity (possibly for  $q^4 \neq 1$ ).*

In general, the affine KM algebra is related to the  $x_n^{(K)}$  structure. Let  $\bar{I}$  be the set of vertices of  $X_n$ .

## 5.5 General Affine KM Algebra

**Definition 5.19.** *The algebra  $\mathcal{U}^D(X_n^{(K)})$  (for simplicity, let  $k = 1$ ,  $X = ADE$ ) is the  $\mathbb{C}(q)$ -algebra with:*

**Generators:**  $X_{i,n}^+, X_{i,n}^-, h_{i,r}, h_{i,-r}, K_i^{\pm 1}, K^{\pm 1}$  where  $i \in \bar{I}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , and  $i \in I$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Relations:**

$$\begin{aligned}
K_i K_j &= K_j K_i \quad (K \text{ is central}), \\
K_i X_{2,n}^+ &= q^{a_{ij}} X_{2,n}^+ K_i, \\
K_i X_{2,n}^- &= q^{-a_{ij}} X_{2,n}^- K_i, \\
[h_r, X^+(w)] &= \frac{[ra_{ij}]}{r} w^r X^+(w), \\
[h_{-r}, X^+(w)] &= \frac{[ra_{ij}]}{r} K^{-r} w^{-r} X^+(w), \\
[h_r, X^-(w)] &= -K^r \frac{[ra_{ij}]}{r} w^r X^-(w), \\
[h_{-r}, X^-(w)] &= -\frac{[ra_{ij}]}{r} w^{-r} X^-(w), \\
[h_{i,r}, h_{2,s}] &= \frac{[ra_{ij}]}{r} \frac{K^r - K^{-r}}{q - q^{-1}} \delta_{r+s,0}, \\
[X_i^+(z), X_j^-(w)] &= \frac{\delta_{ij}}{q - q^{-1}} \left( \psi_i^+(z) \delta\left(\frac{Kw}{z}\right) - \psi_i^-(z) \delta\left(\frac{w}{Kz}\right) \right), \\
X_i^+(z) X_j^+(w) (z - q^{a_{ij}} w) + X_j^+ X_i^+(z) (w - q^{a_{ij}} z) &= 0, \\
X_i^-(z) X_j^-(w) (z - q^{-a_{ij}} w) + X_j^- X_i^-(z) (w - q^{-a_{ij}} z) &= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, the symmetrization over  $n_1, \dots, n_{1-a_{ij}}$  is given by:

$$\text{Sym} \left[ \sum_{p=0}^{1-a_{ij}} (-1)^p \begin{bmatrix} 1-a_{ij} \\ p \end{bmatrix}_q X_{in_1}^+ \cdots X_{in_p}^+ X_{2m}^+ X_{in_{p+1}}^+ \cdots X_{in_{1-a_{ij}}}^+ \right].$$

**Theorem 5.20** (Drinfeld, Beck, Damiani).

$$\mathcal{U}_q^{DJ} \simeq \mathcal{U}_q^D.$$

**Corollary 5.21.** Let  $\overline{J} \subset \overline{I}$ , then there is an embedding  $\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}}_a) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}}_I)$ .

In particular, if  $i \in I$ , then:

$$\mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)_i \hookrightarrow \mathcal{U}_q(\hat{\mathfrak{g}}).$$

## 6 Lazy approach to categories

### 6.1 Recap

Let  $\nu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ . We define  $R := \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^0$ , the completion at 0. Let  $\iota$  denote the composition

$$\mathfrak{h} \hookrightarrow S(\mathfrak{h}) = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*] \hookrightarrow R.$$

The category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$  is the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}_{fg}$  consisting of all  $\mathcal{M}$  such that the action of  $\mathfrak{b}$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  is given by

$$x \cdot m = xm - (\langle \nu, x \rangle + \iota(x))m,$$

and integrates to a  $B$ -action.

**Remark 6.1.** Let  $S$  be an  $R$ -algebra. Analogous to the definition of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}$ , we can define the category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,S}$ , which is the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes S\text{-mod}$  with the same integrability condition, where we replace  $\iota$  by the composition  $\mathfrak{h} \xrightarrow{\iota} R \rightarrow S$ .

Recall the equivalence  $\sim_\nu$  on the root lattice  $\Lambda$ :  $\lambda_1 \sim_\nu \lambda_2$  if  $\lambda_1 + \nu \in W \cdot (\lambda_2 + p)$  for some  $p \in \Lambda$ . Then, we have the decomposition

$$\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R} = \bigoplus_{\Xi} \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi},$$

where  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  is the Serre span of the standard modules  $\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \in \Xi$ . Later, we will explore the possibility that each  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  may decompose further.

Additionally, recall that  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  is the highest weight category with poset  $\Xi$  and standards  $\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \in \Xi$ .

Our goal is to describe the category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}^\Delta$  of standardly filtered objects.

### 6.2 Sub-Generic Behavior

#### Exercise 6.2.

1. If  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  is not semisimple, then there exists a root  $\alpha$  such that  $\langle \nu, \alpha^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
2. Let  $\mathbb{K} = \text{Frac}(R)$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,\mathbb{K}}$  is semisimple.

Next, consider a very generic element  $\nu$  on the hyperplane  $\langle \nu, \alpha^\vee \rangle = n$  (for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ). We require that each equivalence class  $\Xi$  for  $\sim_\nu$  contains at most two elements, and the corresponding locus is the complement of countably many hyperplanes.

- If  $|\Xi| = 1$ , then  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,\Xi} \simeq \text{Vect}$ .
- If  $|\Xi| = 2$ , then  $\Xi = \{\lambda_- < \lambda_+\}$ .

**Proposition 6.3** (Chapter 4 in Humphreys).

$$\dim \operatorname{Hom}(\Delta_\nu(\lambda_-), \Delta_\nu(\lambda_+)) = 1.$$

**Proposition 6.4.** *BGG reciprocity holds: the indecomposable projective  $P(\lambda_-)$  fits into the short exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow \Delta_\nu(\lambda_+) \rightarrow P_\nu(\lambda_-) \rightarrow \Delta_\nu(\lambda_-) \rightarrow 0.$$

**Exercise 6.5.** *Use the previous results and observations to establish an equivalence of highest weight categories between  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \Xi}$  and the principal block of the category  $\mathcal{O}$  for  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ .*

**Remark 6.6.** *A similar but more technical statement holds in a deformed setup. Very informally, near a point generic with  $\langle \nu, \alpha^\vee \rangle = n$ , as described above, the category  $\mathcal{O}$  behaves like the category  $\mathcal{O}$  for  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$  near 0.*

## 6.3 Whittaker Coinvariants

### 6.3.1 Construction of the Functor

Let  $\mathfrak{n}^-$  denote the opposite maximal nilpotent subalgebra. Fix a non-degenerate character  $\psi : \mathfrak{n}^- \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , given by

$$\psi(x) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\operatorname{rank} \mathfrak{g}} e_i, x \right).$$

**Definition 6.7.** *For  $M \in \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$ -mod, we define its **Whittaker coinvariants** as*

$$\operatorname{Wh}(M) = M / \{x - \psi(x) \mid x \in \mathfrak{n}^-\} M.$$

Note that the center  $Z(\mathfrak{g})$  of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$  acts on  $\operatorname{Wh}(M)$ , giving a right exact functor

$$\operatorname{Wh} : \mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})\text{-mod} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g})\text{-mod}.$$

For  $M \in \mathcal{O}_{\nu, R}$ , we have commuting  $R$ -actions, so the Whittaker functor extends to

$$\operatorname{Wh} : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, R} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}.$$

**Exercise 6.8.**

1. Show that  $\operatorname{Wh}(\Delta_\nu(\lambda)) \simeq \mathbb{C}$  as a vector space (hint:  $\Delta_\nu(\lambda) \stackrel{\mathfrak{n}^-}{\simeq} U(\mathfrak{h}^-)$ ), with the action of  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}]^{(W, \cdot)}$  given by evaluation at  $\lambda + \nu$ .
2. Show that  $\operatorname{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu, R}(\lambda)) \simeq R$  as right  $R$ -modules, with  $Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^+]^{(W, \cdot)}$  acting via  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^{(W, \cdot)} \hookrightarrow S(\mathfrak{h}) \xrightarrow{(\sim)} R = S(\mathfrak{h})^{\Lambda_0}$ , with the map
$$(*) : x \in \mathfrak{h} \mapsto \iota(x) + \langle \lambda + \nu, x \rangle \in \mathbb{R}.$$
3. Show that  $\operatorname{Wh}$  is acyclic on  $\Delta_1(\lambda)$  and  $\Delta_{\nu, R}(\lambda)$ .

### 6.3.2 Faithfulness

We now aim to prove the following result:

**Theorem 6.9.**

1. The functor  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_\nu \rightarrow Vect$  is faithful (injective on Homs between standardly filtered objects).
2. The functor  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}^\Delta \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}$  is fully faithful (bijective on Homs between standardly filtered objects).

There are two main approaches to proving (1): geometric and representation-theoretic. We will adopt the geometric approach, which requires a connection between category  $\mathcal{O}$  and Whittaker modules.

*Proof of (1).* Consider the algebra  $U_\hbar(\mathfrak{g}) = T(\mathfrak{g})[\hbar]/(x \otimes y - y \otimes x - \hbar[x, y])$ , which is the Rees algebra of  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$  under the PBW filtration. This is a graded flat  $\mathbb{C}[\hbar]$ -algebra, with the quotient map  $U_\hbar(\mathfrak{g})/(\hbar) \xrightarrow{\sim} S(\mathfrak{g})$ .

Next, consider the category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,\hbar}$  of graded finitely generated  $U_\hbar(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules that are equipped with a rational  $B$ -action such that:

- The map  $U_\hbar(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes M \rightarrow M$  is  $B$ -equivariant.
- For each  $x \in \mathfrak{b}$ , we write  $x_M \in \text{End}(M)$  for the element corresponding to the differential of the  $B$ -action. Then we have  $\hbar x_M m = xm - \hbar \langle v, x \rangle m$  for all  $x \in \mathfrak{b}$  and  $m \in M$ .

In particular,  $M/(\hbar - 1)M \in \mathcal{O}_\nu$ , while  $M/\hbar M \in \text{Coh}^{B \times \mathbb{G}_m}[(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*]$ .

We still have the functor  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu,\hbar} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[\hbar]\text{-mod}$ , as defined earlier. Moreover,  $Wh(M)$  is naturally graded. Namely, let  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathfrak{g}(i)$  be the principal grading.

We can define a modified grading on  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{g})$  by putting  $\mathfrak{g}(i)$  in degree  $i + 1$  (while  $\hbar$  is still in degree 1). Then  $\{x - \psi(x) \mid x \in \mathfrak{h}^-\}$  is homogeneous, and we modify the grading on any  $T$ -equivariant graded  $\mathcal{U}_\hbar(\mathfrak{g})$ -module,  $N$ , to make it graded with respect to this modified grading.

This upgrades  $Wh$  to a functor

$$\mathcal{O}_{\nu,\hbar} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[\hbar]\text{-grmod}.$$

Consider the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,\hbar}$  consisting of objects where  $\hbar$  acts by 0. This subcategory is identified with  $\text{Coh}^{B \times \mathbb{G}_m}((\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*)$ . The restriction of  $Wh$  to this subcategory is given by

$$Wh(N) \mapsto N_\psi,$$

the fiber at  $\psi$ , where we view  $\psi$  as a point of  $(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*$ .

**Exercise 6.10.**

1. Show that  $B\psi$  is dense in  $(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*$ .
2. Deduce that the functor  $M \mapsto M_\psi$  is fully faithful on the full subcategory of  $\text{Coh}^{B \times \mathbb{G}_m}((\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*)$  consisting of torsion-free modules.

Now, for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we consider the Verma module  $\Delta_{\nu, \hbar}(\lambda, m) = \mathcal{O}_{\hbar}$  with highest weight vector of weight  $\lambda$  in degree  $m$ . The following exercise completes the proof:

**Exercise 6.11.**

1. Use (2) of Exercise 1 to show that  $Wh$  is faithful on the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \hbar}$  whose objects are  $\Delta_{\nu, \hbar}(\lambda, m)$ .
2. Deduce that  $Wh$  is faithful on the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu}$  with objects  $\Delta_{\nu}(\lambda)$  (hint: use the Rees construction) and hence on  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu}^{\Delta}$ .

□

*Sketch of proof of (2).* Let  $\mathbb{K} = \text{Frac}(R)$ . As noted in Section 0, we can consider the  $\mathbb{K}$ -linear category  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \mathbb{K}}$ , which is semisimple by Exercise 1 in Section 1. Next, it is straightforward to show that  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, \mathbb{K}} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\text{-mod}$  is fully faithful. The following formal exercise completes the proof:

**Exercise 6.12.** Deduce that  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, R} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}$  is fully faithful from the facts:

- $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu}^{\Delta} \rightarrow \text{Vect}$  is faithful,
- $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, \mathbb{K}}^{\Delta} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \mathbb{K}\text{-mod}$  is fully faithful.

*Hint:* Prove that  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu, S} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes S\text{-mod}$  is faithful for  $S$  being any localization of any quotient of  $R$ .

□

**Remark 6.13.** The category  $\text{Coh}^{B \times \mathbb{G}_m}((\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^*)$ , which appeared in the proof of (1), is an example of a category from the affine world.

**Exercise 6.14** (Premium). Show that  $Wh : \mathcal{O}_{\nu} \rightarrow \text{Vect}$  is exact.

## 7 Description of $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}^\Delta$

### 7.1 Recap

Let  $\nu \in \mathfrak{b}^*$ ,  $R = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^{\Lambda_0}$ ,  $\mathbb{K} = \text{Frac}(R)$ , and  $\iota : \mathfrak{h} \hookrightarrow R$  be the natural inclusion. Earlier, we constructed a functor  $\text{Wh} : \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R} \rightarrow Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}$ , and demonstrated that it is faithful on  $\mathcal{O}_\nu^\Delta$  and fully faithful on  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R}^\Delta$ .

Our goal now is to describe the full subcategory  $\text{Wh}(\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}^\Delta) \subset Z(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes R\text{-mod}$ . An additional ingredient is the analysis of subgeneric behavior, which was discussed earlier.

### 7.2 Target Category

Recall that  $\text{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)) \simeq R$ , where  $Z(\mathfrak{g})$  acts via the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} Z(\mathfrak{g}) & \simeq & \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}^*]^{(W,\cdot)} & \hookrightarrow & S(\mathfrak{h}) & \longrightarrow & R \\ & & & & \cup & & \Psi \\ & & & & \mathfrak{h} \in x & \longmapsto & \iota(x) + \langle \lambda + \nu, x \rangle \end{array}$$

In particular, let  $\mathfrak{m}_\Xi \subset Z(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the maximal ideal corresponding to  $\lambda + \nu$  for  $\lambda \in \Xi$  (which is the same for all such  $\lambda$ ). We see that

$$\mathfrak{m}_\Xi \text{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)) \subset \text{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)) \cdot m.$$

Since every object  $M \in \mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  has a finite filtration by quotients of  $\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \in \Xi$ , it follows that  $m_\Xi^k \text{Wh}(M) \subset \text{Wh}(M) \cdot m$ , where  $k$  is the length of the filtration.

Hence,  $Z(\mathfrak{g})$  acts on  $\text{Wh}(M)$  canonically, and this action extends to the completion  $Z(\mathfrak{g})^{\Lambda_\Xi}$  at  $m_\Xi$ .

Now, consider the structure of  $\Xi = W \cdot (\lambda + \nu) \cap \nu + \Lambda$ , where  $\Lambda$  is the root lattice. Note that for  $\lambda \in \Lambda$ , we have the following equivalence:

$$w \cdot (\lambda + \nu) \in \nu + \Lambda \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad w\nu - \nu \in \Lambda \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad w \in \text{im}[\text{Stab}_{W \ltimes \Lambda}(\nu)] \subset W.$$

Since  $W \ltimes \Lambda$  is a reflection group, the stabilizer  $\text{Stab}$  and its image are reflection subgroups, which we denote by  $W_{[\nu]}$ . Every  $\Xi$  is a  $W_{[\nu]}$ -orbit, and hence contains a unique element  $\lambda^- = \lambda_\Xi^-$  such that  $\lambda^- + \nu$  is anti-dominant for  $W_{[\nu]}$  with respect to the positive root system of  $W$ . Let  $W^0 = \text{Span}_{W_{[\nu]}}(\lambda^- + \nu)$ .

It follows that  $Z(\mathfrak{g})^{\Lambda_\Xi}$  is isomorphic to  $R^{W^0}$ . More precisely, we have the following important elementary result:

- Exercise 7.1.** 1. The action of  $Z(\mathfrak{g})^{\Lambda_{\Xi}}$  on  $\text{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu,R}(\lambda^-)) \simeq R$  is via an embedding  $Z(\mathfrak{g})^{\Lambda_{\Xi}} \hookrightarrow R$  whose image is  $R^{W^0}$ . Denote this embedding by  $\eta$ .
2. The action of  $Z(\mathfrak{g})^{\Lambda_{\Xi}}$  on  $\text{Wh}(\Delta_{\nu,R}(w\lambda^-))$  for  $w \in W_{[\nu]}$  is via  $w \circ \eta$ , where  $w$  is viewed as an automorphism of  $R$ .

Next, we must shrink the target category, which involves a technical step:

**Exercise 7.2.** Use (2) and the fact that  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}$  is a highest weight category to show the existence of an ideal  $I \subset R^{W^0} \otimes R$  such that:

1.  $\text{Wh}(\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}) \subset (R^{W^0} \otimes R)/I\text{-mod}$ ,
2.  $R^{W^0} \otimes R/\sqrt{I} = R^{W^0} \otimes_{R^W} R$ , implying that  $R^{W^0} \otimes R/I$  is finitely generated over  $R$ , and that  $I$  is generically radical. This implies that  $[R^{W^0} \otimes R/I] \otimes_R \mathbb{K} \simeq \mathbb{K}^{\otimes |W_{[\nu]}/W^0|}$ .

A more precise and elegant statement can be made (especially by Soergel):

**Proposition 7.3.** We can take  $(R^{W^0} \otimes R)/I = R^{W^0} \otimes_{R^W} R$ .

**Conclusion:** We have established that the target category for  $\text{Wh}$ , as well as the images of standard modules, are determined by a reflection group  $W_{[\nu]}$  and its parabolic subgroup  $W^0$  (and the corresponding reflection representation of  $W_{[\nu]}$ ).

Later, we will demonstrate that a similar result holds for  $\text{Wh}(\mathcal{O}_{\nu,R,\Xi}^{\Delta})$ .

### 7.3 Abstract nonsense

Suppose:

- $R$  is a regular complete Noetherian local ring  $\mathbb{F} := R/m$ .
- $\mathcal{C}_R$  is a highest weight category over  $R$ .
- $\underline{\mathcal{C}}_R$  is an  $R$ -linear abelian category equivalent to  $\underline{A}_R\text{-mod}_{\text{fg}}$ , where  $\underline{A}_R$  is an associative  $R$ -algebra that is a finitely generated  $R$ -module.
- $\pi_R : \mathcal{C}_R \rightarrow \underline{\mathcal{C}}_R$  is a right exact  $R$ -linear functor.

Note that  $\pi_R$  is given by  $B_R \otimes_{A_R} \cdot$ , where  $B_R$  is an  $\underline{A}_R$ - $A_R$ -bimodule (with  $\mathcal{C}_R \simeq A_R\text{-mod}_{\text{fg}}$ ). For an  $R$ -algebra  $S$ , we can then consider the following:

$$A_S := S \otimes_R A_R, \quad \underline{A}_S := S \otimes_R \underline{A}_R, \quad \mathcal{C}_S = A_S\text{-mod}_{\text{fg}}, \quad \underline{\mathcal{C}}_S, \quad \pi_S := B_S \otimes_{A_S} \cdot, \dots$$

The functor  $\pi_R$  is supposed to satisfy the following conditions:

1.  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{K}}, \underline{\mathcal{C}}_{\mathbb{K}}$  are split semisimple  $\mathbb{K}$ -linear categories, and  $\pi_{\mathbb{K}} : \mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{K}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \underline{\mathcal{C}}_{\mathbb{K}}$  is an equivalence.
2.  $\pi_R(\Delta_R(\tau))$  is flat over  $R$  and  $L_i \pi_R(\Delta_R(\tau)) = 0$  for all  $i > 0$ , for all  $\tau$ .



3.  $\pi_{\mathbb{F}}$  is faithful on  $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{F}}^{\Delta}$ .

We call such a functor  $\pi_R$  a **Rouquier-Soergel functor**. For example, take  $\mathcal{C}_R = \mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi}$ , let  $\underline{\mathcal{C}}_R = R^{W^0} \otimes R/I\text{-mod}$ , and  $\pi_R = \text{Wh}$ .

Now we discuss the consequences of the axioms.

Here are consequences of the axioms (a)-(c). First, by conditions (a)-(c), we have that  $\pi_R$  is fully faithful on  $\mathcal{C}_R^{\Delta}$ . The Yoneda description of  $\text{Ext}^1$  then implies that  $\pi_R : \mathcal{C}_R^{\Delta} \hookrightarrow \underline{\mathcal{C}}_R$  is injective on  $\text{Ext}^1$ 's.

Moreover, we can recover  $\text{Ext}^1$  between objects of  $\mathcal{C}_R^{\Delta}$ . Since  $\underline{\mathcal{C}}_{\mathbb{K}}$  is semisimple, there exists a divisor  $D \subset \text{Spec}(R)$  such that, for  $\underline{M}_R, \underline{N}_R \in \mathcal{C}_R$  that are flat over  $R$ , the Ext group  $\text{Ext}_{\underline{\mathcal{C}}_R}^1(\underline{M}_R, \underline{N}_R)$  is supported on  $D$ . Let  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_k \subset R$  be the prime ideals corresponding to the components of  $D$ . Define  $L(R) := \bigoplus_{i=1}^k R_{\mathfrak{p}_i}$  as the localization of  $R$ . We have the maps

$$\pi_R : \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M_R, N_R) \hookrightarrow \text{Ext}_{\underline{\mathcal{C}}_R}^1(\pi_R M_R, \pi_R N_R)$$

for all  $M_R, N_R \in \mathcal{C}_R^{\Delta}$ , and similarly for  $\pi_{L(R)}$ .

We also have natural maps induced by the localization functor  $L$ :

$$L : \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M_R, N_R) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_{L(R)}}^1(M_{L(R)}, N_{L(R)}),$$

and similar maps for  $\underline{\mathcal{C}}_R$ .

Now we describe  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M_R, N_R)$ :

**Theorem 7.4.** *The following diagram is Cartesian:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(M_R, N_R) & \xrightarrow{L} & \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_L}^1(M_L, N_L) \\ \pi_R \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_{L(R)} \\ \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(\underline{M}_R, \underline{N}_R) & \xrightarrow{L} & \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_{L(R)}}^1(\underline{M}_{L(R)}, \underline{N}_{L(R)}) \end{array}$$

where  $\underline{M}_R := \pi_R(M_R)$ , and similarly for  $\underline{N}_R$ , with  $M_R, N_R \in \mathcal{C}_R^{\Delta}$ .

Note that the bottom arrow depends only on  $\mathcal{C}_R$ , while the right arrow depends only on the inclusions  $\mathcal{C}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}_i}}^{\Delta} \hookrightarrow \underline{\mathcal{C}}_{R_{\mathfrak{p}_i}}$ . Informally, once we have an RS functor,  $\mathcal{C}_R$  can be recovered from the target category and its subgeneric behavior.

## 7.4 Back to $\mathcal{O}$

We now provide a proof of the following result due to Soergel:

**Theorem 7.5.** *A regular block of  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, \Xi}$  (one with  $W^0 = \{1\}$ ) is determined up to an equivalence of highest weight categories by  $W_{[\nu]}$ .*

There is an immediate generalization to singular blocks, which can be proved similarly (left as an exercise).

*Sketch of proof.* For  $w \in W_{[\nu]}$ , we define  $R_w$  as the  $R$ -bimodule  $R$ , where  $R$  acts from the right by  $r \mapsto r$  and from the left by  $r \mapsto w(r)$ , so that  $\text{Wh}(\Delta_R(w \cdot \lambda)) = R_w$ .

**Exercise 7.6.**  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_R}^1(R_u, R_v) \neq 0 \implies u^{-1}w = 1$  or  $s_\alpha$ . Moreover, in the latter case, this  $R$ -bimodule is  $R_w/R_w\alpha \simeq R_u/R_u\alpha$ .

Using this exercise, we can take  $D = \bigcup \text{Spec}(R/(\alpha))$ , where the union is over the positive roots of  $W_{[\nu]}$ . Consider the corresponding localization  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R(\alpha), \Xi}^\Delta$ . This splits into  $|W|/2$  blocks, and so does  $\mathcal{C}_{R(\alpha)}$ . The blocks correspond to  $s_\alpha$ -orbits in  $\Xi$ . The functor  $\pi_{R(\alpha)}$  acts between blocks. Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be the residue field of  $R(\alpha)$ .

**Exercise 7.7.** Let  $\lambda \in \Xi$  satisfy  $\langle \lambda + \rho, \alpha^\vee \rangle < 0$ . Then

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R(\alpha)}}(\Delta_{R(\alpha)}(\lambda), \Delta_{R(\alpha)}(s_\alpha \cdot \lambda)) \neq 0,$$

and hence  $\text{Wh}$  induces an isomorphism  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{C}_{R(\alpha)}}(R_{w,(\alpha)}, R_{ws_\alpha,(\alpha)}) = \mathbb{F}_\alpha$  for  $\lambda = w \cdot \lambda^-$ .

This implies the following characterization of the image of the block: it consists of all objects  $M$  such that the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow R_{ws_\alpha,(\alpha)}^{\oplus ?} \rightarrow M \rightarrow R_{w,(\alpha)}^{\oplus ?} \rightarrow 0$$

(with  $w \in W_{[\nu]}$  shortest in its  $s_\alpha$ -coset) holds. Informally, we recover all extensions in the "right direction" and none in the "wrong direction".

Thus, the result in Section 2 shows that  $\text{Ext}^1$  between two objects in  $\text{Wh}(\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi}^\Delta)$  can be fully recovered inside their  $\text{Ext}^1$  in  $\mathcal{C}_R$ , without directly needing to know  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu, R, \Xi}^\Delta$ . The completion of the proof is left as an exercise.  $\square$