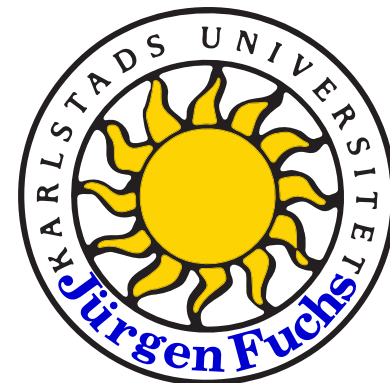


Grothendieck-Verdier module categories and Frobenius algebras

Hopf algebras, quantum groups,
monoidal categories
and related structures

ULB

25 Apr 2025



Plan

Grothendieck-Verdier categories

DEFINITION

Grothendieck-Verdier

dualizing object in a monoidal category \mathcal{C} : object K s.t.

- for every $y \in \mathcal{C}$ the functor $x \mapsto \mathbf{Hom}(x \otimes y, K)$
is representable by some $G(y) \in \mathcal{C}$
- $G: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ is an anti-equivalence
- thus isomorphisms $\varpi_{x,y}: \mathbf{Hom}(x \otimes y, K) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbf{Hom}(x, Gy)$
natural in $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$

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Grothendieck-Verdier category / *GV-category*:

(also called star-autonomous category)

= monoidal category together with a choice of a dualizing object

Motivation

👉 GV-categories in nature :

- common situation : \mathcal{C} monoidal abelian with non-exact tensor product \otimes
- **basic example** : finite-dimensional bimodules over a finite-dimensional \mathbb{k} -algebra A
(for generic A : tensor product \otimes_A *right exact*)

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- **relevant to HOPF25** : finite-dimensional modules
over a Hopf algebroid (\times_R -Hopf algebra) with bijective antipode

ALLEN, 2308.01029

note : \mathcal{C} finite tensor category

\implies \mathcal{C} monoidally equivalent to modules over a finite-dimensional Hopf algebroid

BRUGUIÈRES-LACK-VIRELIZIER, 1003.1920

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BRUGUIÈRES-LACK-VIRELIZIER, 1003.1920

- relevant to CFT : representations of \mathcal{C}_1 -cofinite vertex operator algebras

ALLEN-LENTNER-SCHWEIGERT-WOOD, 2107.05718

- in linear logic : linearly distributive categories with negation

BARR 1979 ... COCKETT-SEELY 1997 ... PASTRO 2012

A few basic results

LEMMA

dualizing object is structure

- K dualizing and L invertible $\implies K \otimes L$ dualizing
- all dualizing objects are obtained this way

BOYARCHENKO-DRINFELD 2013

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BOYARCHENKO-DRINFELD 2013

☞ G not opmonoidal (albeit G^2 monoidal) \implies additional structure :

LEMMA

second tensor product

- the assignment $x \otimes y := G^{-1}(Gy \otimes Gx)$
defines a functor $\otimes : \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
- \otimes right exact $\implies \otimes$ provides a left exact monoidal structure on \mathcal{C}

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BOYARCHENKO-DRINFELD 2013

two tensor products :

LEMMA

two monoidal structures

a GV category \mathcal{C} comes with two monoidal structures :

- $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{1}, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$ right exact
- $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, K, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$ left exact

- for A -bimodules: $\otimes =$ tensor product of comodules over the coalgebra A^*
- in logic: and & or
- do *not* form a *duoidal* structure

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BOYARCHENKO-DRINFELD 2013

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GV generalizes rigidity :

LEMMA

GV duality

- G and G^{-1} are analogous to rigid right/left dualities :

$$\text{Hom}(x, z \otimes Gy) \cong \text{Hom}(x \otimes y, z) \cong \text{Hom}(y, G^{-1}x \otimes z)$$

- in particular: mixed multiple tensor products
and thus mixed associativity constraints $=:$ *distributors*:

natural families of morphisms

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{x,y,z}^l &: x \otimes (y \otimes z) \longrightarrow (x \otimes y) \otimes z \\ \delta_{x,y,z}^r &: (x \otimes y) \otimes z \longrightarrow x \otimes (y \otimes z)\end{aligned}$$

- in general *not iso* morphisms
- e.g. crucial ingredient in snake identities for evaluation and coevaluation
- satisfy the **2 + 2 + 2** *pentagon identities*
that are valid for the distributors in a linearly distributive category

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- in general *not iso* morphisms
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that are valid for the distributors in a linearly distributive category
[corollary of properties of *module distributors*]

GV-module categories

DEFINITION

GV-module category

GV-module category over a GV-category \mathcal{C} :

module category $(\mathcal{M}, \triangleright, \mathbf{a}^\otimes, \mathbf{u}^\otimes)$ over $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$ s.t.

- $c \triangleright - : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ has right adjoint for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$
- $- \triangleright m : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ has right adjoint for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$

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- reduces to EGNO-definition in case $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$ is a finite tensor category
- e.g. *regular* GV-module category (\mathcal{C}, \otimes) with $(c \triangleright -)^{\text{r.a.}} = G^{-1}c \otimes -$

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PROPOSITION

induced module structures

for $(\mathcal{M}, \triangleright)$ a GV-module over \mathcal{C} :

$c \blacktriangleright - := (Gc \triangleright -)^{\text{r.a.}}$ is a left (\mathcal{C}, \otimes) module structure $(\mathcal{M}, \blacktriangleright)$

$m \blacktriangleleft c := G^{-1}c \blacktriangleright m$ is right module structure $(\mathcal{M}^{\text{op}}, \blacktriangleleft)$ over (\mathcal{C}, \otimes)

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GV-module functors

- module functors: lax, oplax and strong variants

DEFINITION

module functor

for $(\mathcal{M}, \triangleright)$ and $(\mathcal{M}', \triangleright')$ left GV-modules over a GV-category \mathcal{C} :

lax \triangleright -*module functor* from \mathcal{M} to \mathcal{M}' is:

- functor $F: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}'$
- natural family of morphisms $f_{x,m}: x \triangleright' F(m) \rightarrow F(x \triangleright m)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{C}, m \in \mathcal{M}$ satisfying pentagon and triangle identities

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & F((c \otimes d) \triangleright m) & \\
 F(a_{c,d,m}^{\otimes}) \swarrow \cong & & \nwarrow f_{c \otimes d, m} \\
 F(c \triangleright (d \triangleright m)) & & (c \otimes d) \triangleright' F(m) \\
 f_{c, d \triangleright m} \uparrow & & \downarrow \cong a_{c,d,F(m)}^{\otimes'} \\
 c \triangleright' F(d \triangleright m) & \xleftarrow{\text{id}_c \triangleright' f_{d,m}} & c \triangleright' (d \triangleright' F(m))
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- ☞ analogous variants involving (\mathcal{C}, \otimes)

- ☞ by definition: for a GV-module \mathcal{M} over a GV-category \mathcal{C}

- $\mathbf{R}_m^\triangleright: \overset{\otimes}{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow {}_c \mathcal{M} \quad c \mapsto c \triangleright m$ is a strong \triangleright -module functor

- $\mathbf{R}_m^\blacktriangleright: \overset{\otimes}{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow {}_c \mathcal{M} \quad c \mapsto c \blacktriangleright m$ is a strong \blacktriangleright -module functor

for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$

- ☞ module functors: lax, oplax and strong variants

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- ☞ analogous variants involving (\mathcal{C}, \otimes)

- ☞ can show: for a GV-module \mathcal{M} over a GV-category \mathcal{C}

- $R_m^\triangleright: \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow {}_c\mathcal{M} \quad c \mapsto c \triangleright m$ is an oplax \triangleright -module functor

- $R_m^\blacktriangleright: \otimes_{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{C} \rightarrow {}_c\mathcal{M} \quad c \mapsto c \blacktriangleright m$ is a lax \triangleright -module functor
for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$

Module distributors

DEFINITION

module distributors

for \mathcal{M} left GV-module category over GV-category \mathcal{C} : define

- *right module distributor* $\delta_{x,y,m}^r: (x \otimes y) \triangleright m \longrightarrow x \blacktriangleright (y \triangleright m)$

via the oplax \blacktriangleright -module functor structure of $\mathbf{R}_m^{\blacktriangleright}$

- *left module distributor* $\delta_{x,y,m}^l: x \triangleright (y \blacktriangleright m) \longrightarrow (x \otimes y) \blacktriangleright m$

via the lax \triangleright -module f. structure of $\mathbf{R}_m^{\blacktriangleright}$ for $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$ and $m \in \mathcal{M}$

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PROPOSITION

adjoints of GV-module functor structures

there are bijections between

- GV-module functor structures on a functor F and
- GV-module functor structures on its adjoints (if the adjoints exist)

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PROPOSITION

adjoints of GV-module functor structures

there are bijections

$$\begin{array}{l}
 F \text{ oplax-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F^{\text{r.a.}} \text{ lax-}\triangleright \\
 F \text{ oplax-}\blacktriangleright \longleftrightarrow F^{\text{r.a.}} \text{ lax-}\blacktriangleright \\
 F \text{ oplax-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F^{\text{r.a.}} \text{ oplax-}\blacktriangleright \\
 F \text{ lax-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F^{\text{r.a.}} \text{ lax-}\blacktriangleright \\
 F \text{ strong-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F^{\text{r.a.}} \text{ strong-}\blacktriangleright
 \end{array}$$

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- *left module distributor* $\delta_{x,y,m}^l: x \triangleright (y \blacktriangleright m) \rightarrow (x \otimes y) \blacktriangleright m$

via the lax \triangleright -module f. structure of $\mathbf{R}_m^\blacktriangleright$ for $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$ and $m \in \mathcal{M}$

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 F^{l.a.} \text{ oplax-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F \text{ lax-}\triangleright \\
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 F^{l.a.} \text{ strong-}\triangleright \longleftrightarrow F \text{ strong-}\blacktriangleright
 \end{array}$$

THEOREM

pentagons for module distributors

the module distributors satisfy six pentagon identities :

$$\bullet \quad ((x \otimes y) \otimes z) \triangleright m \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} x \blacktriangleright (y \blacktriangleright (z \triangleright m))$$

for δ^r

$$(x \otimes y) \triangleright (z \triangleright m) \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} x \blacktriangleright (y \triangleright (z \triangleright m))$$

$$\bullet \quad (x \otimes y) \otimes (z \blacktriangleright m) \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} (x \otimes (y \otimes z)) \blacktriangleright m$$

for δ^l

$$x \triangleright ((y \otimes z) \blacktriangleright m) \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} (x \otimes y) \blacktriangleright (z \blacktriangleright m)$$

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for δ^r & δ^l

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for δ^r & δ^l

$$(x \otimes y) \triangleright (z \blacktriangleright m) \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} x \otimes ((y \otimes z) \blacktriangleright m)$$

☞ conceptually: these diagrams precisely express :

- δ^r / δ^l being an oplax / lax \triangleright -module structure on $\mathbf{R}_m^{\triangleright}$

- compatibility of the weak module structures on $\mathbf{R}_m^{\triangleright}$ and of those on $\mathbf{R}_m^{\blacktriangleright}$

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pentagons for module distributors

the module distributors satisfy six pentagon identities :

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for δ^r

$$(x \otimes y) \triangleright (z \triangleright m) \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} x \blacktriangleright (y \triangleright (z \triangleright m))$$

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for δ^r & δ^l

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✎ for *GV-bimodule* categories : in addition mixed module distributors

$$\delta_{c,m,d}^l : c \triangleright (m \triangleleft d) \longrightarrow (c \triangleright m) \triangleleft d$$

$$\delta_{c,m,d}^r : (c \blacktriangleright m) \triangleleft d \longrightarrow c \blacktriangleright (m \triangleleft d)$$

obeying **32** pentagon identities

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by specializing to the **regular module category** :

- the six pentagon identities for the distributors of a GV-category \mathcal{C} are valid
- distributors of \mathcal{C} find their conceptual home as weak module functor structures

GV-Frobenius algebras

☞ recall: two equitable monoidal structures on a GV-category

DEFINITION

GV-(co)algebras

- *GV-algebra* in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : algebra in $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, 1, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$
- *GV-coalgebra* in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : coalgebra in $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, K, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$

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GV-Frobenius algebras

GV-Frobenius algebra in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : $(A, \mu, \eta, \Delta, \varepsilon)$ s.t.

- (A, μ, η) GV-algebra in \mathcal{C}
- (A, Δ, ε) GV-coalgebra in \mathcal{C}
- $(\mu \otimes \text{id}_A) \circ (\text{id}_A \otimes \Delta) = \Delta \circ \mu = (\text{id}_A \otimes \mu) \circ (\Delta \otimes \text{id}_A)$

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- $(\mu \otimes \text{id}_A) \circ a_{A,A,A} \circ (\text{id}_A \otimes \Delta)$
 $= \Delta \circ \mu = (\text{id}_A \otimes \mu) \circ a_{A,A,A} \circ (\Delta \otimes \text{id}_A)$

☞ recall: two equitable monoidal structures on a GV-category

DEFINITION

GV-(co)algebras

- *GV-algebra* in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : algebra in $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, 1, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$
- *GV-coalgebra* in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : coalgebra in $(\mathcal{C}, \otimes, K, a^\otimes, u_l^\otimes, u_r^\otimes)$

DEFINITION

GV-Frobenius algebras

GV-Frobenius algebra in a GV-category \mathcal{C} : $(A, \mu, \eta, \Delta, \varepsilon)$ s.t.

- (A, μ, η) GV-algebra in \mathcal{C}
- (A, Δ, ε) GV-coalgebra in \mathcal{C}
- $(\mu \otimes \text{id}_A) \circ \delta_{A,A,A}^l \circ (\text{id}_A \otimes \Delta)$
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☞ standard results for monoidal categories generalize :

LEMMA **Frobenius algebra morphisms**

every morphism of GV-Frobenius algebras is an *iso* morphism

☞ standard results for monoidal categories generalize :

LEMMA Frobenius algebra morphisms

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PROPOSITION equivalent definitions

Frobenius algebra structures on a GV-algebra A in a GV-category \mathcal{C} are in *bijection* with :

- invariant non-degenerate GV-pairings $\kappa_A : A \otimes A \rightarrow K$
- Frobenius forms $\lambda_A : A \rightarrow K$

this extends to an *equivalence* between

- the groupoid of GV-Frobenius algebras in \mathcal{C}
- the groupoid of (A, κ_A) -algebras in \mathcal{C}
- the groupoid of (A, λ_A) -algebras in \mathcal{C}

GV-module categories vs categories of modules

☞ not too hard to show :

PROPOSITION modules give module categories

for A a GV-algebra in a GV-category \mathcal{C} that admits equalizers :

- the category $\text{mod-}A$ is a left GV-module category over \mathcal{C}
- the module distributors of $\text{mod-}A$ are the distributors of \mathcal{C}

☞ for converse statement need further ingredients

DEFINITION

admissible objects

for \mathcal{M} a GV-module category over a GV-category \mathcal{C} :

- $m \in \mathcal{M}$ \otimes -admissible

$:\iff$ the lax \triangleright -module functor $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}(m, -) : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is strong
and has a right adjoint

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- $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$

$:=$ the full subcategories of \mathcal{M} on the \otimes - / \otimes -admissible objects

- $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}$

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$\leftarrow \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$ can be 'small' – even zero

$\leftarrow \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}$ are *monoidal* subcategories of \mathcal{C}

$\leftarrow \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$ are naturally module categories over $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes} / \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}$

DEFINITION

\mathcal{C} -(co)generator in \mathcal{M}

for \mathcal{M} a module category over a monoidal category \mathcal{C} :

- $m_0 \in \mathcal{M}$ a \mathcal{C} -generator

$:\iff$ for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$ there is an epimorphism $c \triangleright m_0 \rightarrow m$

for some $c \in \mathcal{C}$

▪ dually: $n_0 \in \mathcal{M}$ a \mathcal{C} -cogenerator

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for \mathcal{M} a GV-module category over a GV-category \mathcal{C} :

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- if \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{M} are finite abelian :

the objects $m \in \mathcal{M}$ for which $\text{mod-}\underline{\text{Hom}}(m, m) \simeq \mathcal{M}$

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Relative Serre functors

relative Serre functor for \mathcal{C} -module \mathcal{M} with respect to $H: \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$:

$S: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ with natural isomorphism $H(n, S(m)) \xrightarrow{\cong} D(H(m, n))$

variant: partially defined relative Serre functor: $S: \widehat{\mathcal{M}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ for $\widehat{\mathcal{M}} \subseteq \mathcal{M}$

$n \in \mathcal{M}, m \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}$

here: $\widehat{\mathcal{M}} = \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$ or $\widehat{\mathcal{M}} = \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\circ}$

$D = G$

$H = \underline{\text{Hom}}$

- relative Serre functor for \mathcal{C} -module \mathcal{M} with respect to $H: \mathcal{M}^{\text{op}} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$:
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LEMMA

assignments S and \tilde{S}

- $m \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} \iff$ there is $S(m) \in \mathcal{M}$ such that
 $\underline{\text{Hom}}(m, -) \cong \underline{\text{coHom}}(S(m), -)$ as \triangleright -module functors

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- can choose $S(m) = (\underline{\text{Hom}}(m, -))^{\text{r.a.}}(K)$
- $n \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\boxtimes} \iff$ there is $\tilde{S}(n) \in \mathcal{M}$ such that
 $\underline{\text{coHom}}(n, -) \cong \underline{\text{Hom}}(\tilde{S}(n), -)$ as \blacktriangleright -module functors
- can choose $\tilde{S}(m) = (\underline{\text{coHom}}(m, -))^{\text{l.a.}}(1)$

PROPOSITION

relative Serre functors for GV-modules

- the assignments S and \tilde{S} extend to functors

$$S: \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \quad \text{for } m \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}, n \in \mathcal{M}$$

and $\tilde{S}: \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \quad \text{for } m \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}, n \in \mathcal{M}$

- these are partially defined relative Serre functors :

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}(n, Sm) \xrightarrow{\cong} G(\underline{\text{Hom}}(m, n))$$

and $\underline{\text{Hom}}(\tilde{S}m, n) \xrightarrow{\cong} G(\underline{\text{Hom}}(n, m))$

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THEOREM

equivalence between $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$ and $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$

- S and \tilde{S} provide an equivalence $S: \mathcal{M}^{\otimes} \xrightarrow{\cong} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes} : \tilde{S}$

(abusing notation)

a few further results :

☞ S is a twisted module functor :

$$S_{\mathcal{M}}(c \triangleright m) \xrightarrow{\cong} S_c(c) \blacktriangleright S_{\mathcal{M}}(m) \quad \text{for } c \in \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}, m \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$$

☞ expression for regular module : $S_c(-) \cong G^2(-) \otimes K$

☞ S_c is canonically a monoidal equivalence $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes} \xrightarrow{\cong} \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}$

☞ the functor $- \otimes K : \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{C}}^{\otimes}$ is a monoidal equivalence with inverse $- \otimes 1$

☞ any isomorphism $m \xrightarrow{\cong} S(m) \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{\otimes}$ endows the algebra $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}(m, m)$ with the structure of a Grothendieck-Verdier Frobenius algebra

Outlook

👉 to be studied :

- symmetric GV-Frobenius algebras in pivotal GV-categories
- GV-module categories corresponding to symmetric GV-Frobenius algebras
- ribbon GV-categories
- lack of coherence / graphical string calculus
(for a *three*-dimensional graphical calculus see [DEMIRDILEK MSc 2024](#))
- good notion of center
- full CFTs based on VOAs whose rep category has a non-rigid GV structure
- e.g. : in- vs out- bulk fields / sub-category with exact tensor product



THANK YOU