

Internship Report PLR2:  
Homfly skein invariants and  
the Deligne interpolation  $Rep_q(GL_t)$

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# 1 Introduction

Quantum invariants as developed in [Tur10] give a way to obtain a link invariant from some structure on a category, namely a ribbon structure. Interesting examples of linear ribbon categories arise as categories of modules over a quantum group, and interesting examples of quantum groups arise as quantization of universal enveloping algebras of Lie algebras, see [KS97]. We will be interested in Lie algebras of type A here, namely in the Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

The representation theory of the quantized universal enveloping algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  for generic values of  $q$  is very close to the representation theory of the classical  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$ . This one is very close to the representation theory of the symmetric groups, and is described by a beautiful combinatorics of Young tableaux, see [FH91]. These tableaux describe simple submodules of tensor powers of the standard representation  $V$ . The endomorphism algebra of these tensor powers can be described diagrammatically by braids, namely by Hecke algebras. The endomorphism algebras of mixed tensor powers of  $V$  and its dual can be described by tangles.

The above diagrammatic description actually holds only for small enough tensor powers, namely smaller than  $n$ . There is a natural way to define a category  $\mathcal{OS}$  doing as if this description held for arbitrary big tensor powers. The dimension of the generating object usually is a quantum integer, but in this description the integer  $n$  can be replaced by any complex parameter  $t$ . This way, the category  $\mathcal{OS}$  interpolates the categories of representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  at complex values, and is sometimes denoted  $Rep_q(GL_t)$ . Note that at  $t = n$  it is not exactly equivalent to the category of representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  because the diagrammatic description does not hold in general there.

The link invariant obtained from  $\mathcal{OS}$  is the (framed) HOMFLY polynomial in two variables  $q$  and  $q^t$ . The link invariants obtained from the categories of representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  are specializations of the HOMFLY polynomial at  $t = n$ . The interpolation procedure of the categories corresponds to an interpolation of the link invariants, which adds a parameter that can be evaluated to give the other invariants. This motivates the use of interpolation of categories to find link invariants containing a known family of link invariants.

The same category  $\mathcal{OS}$  actually interpolates another family of categories, namely representations of the quantum supergroup  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  associated with the Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$ . At the level of link invariants, the one associated with  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  coincides with the one of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_{m-n})$ , see [QS15], so nothing interesting happens. However, this time when  $t$  takes integer values, the interpolation is rather trivial and the category  $\mathcal{OS}$  is simply the limit of the categories of representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(t+n|n))$  as  $n$  goes to infinity. The diagrammatic description holds for larger and larger classes as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and the ribbon structures of the categories, as well as morphism spaces, eventually stay fixed.

## 2 Hecke algebras, Young tableaux and the quantum group $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$

In this Section we recall the Schur-Weyl duality linking representations of the quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  with Hecke algebras. Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic 0.

▮ **Definition 2.1:** The Hecke algebra  $H_n$  is the quotient of the braid algebra on  $n$  strands  $kB_n$  with generators  $s_i$ ,  $1 \leq i < n$  by the quadratic skein relations  $s_i^2 = 1 + (q - q^{-1})s_i$ . It depends on a parameter  $q \in k^\times$ . ▮

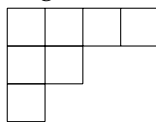
For  $q$  generic, i.e. not a root of unity, the Hecke algebras are semisimple with simples indexed by Young diagrams with  $n$  boxes.

▮ **Definition 2.2:** Let  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  be a partition of  $n$ . Its Young diagram is the left-justified arrangement of  $n$  boxes with  $\lambda_1$  boxes in the first row,  $\lambda_2$  in the second and so on. We call length of the partition the integer  $l(\lambda) = k$ , i.e. the number of rows in the Young diagram of  $\lambda$ . A standard Young tabloid of shape  $\lambda$  is a filling of the boxes of the Young tableau of  $\lambda$  by the numbers  $1, \dots, n$  which are ascending from left to right and top to bottom. ▮

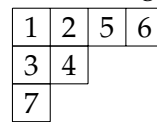
A partition of  $n = 7$

$$\lambda = (4, 2, 1)$$

Its Young tableau



A standard Young tabloid



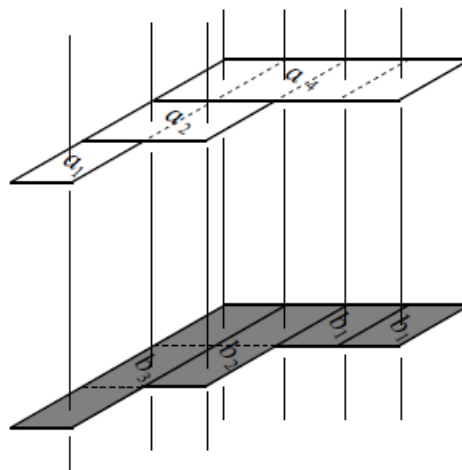
The transpose of a partition  $\lambda$  is the partition  $\lambda'$  that counts the number of boxes in each column of its Young tableau. ▮

Idempotents of the Hecke algebras corresponding to Young tableaux are given in [AM97]

▮ **Definition 2.3:** For each permutation  $\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n$ , there is a unique braid  $b_\sigma$  that realises the permutation  $\sigma$  with the first strand going above every strand, the second strand going above every other and so on. We call length of  $\sigma$  denoted  $l(\sigma)$  the writhe of this braid. We denote  $g_\sigma$  the corresponding element of  $H_n$ . ▮

$$\text{Let } a_n = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} q^{l(\sigma)} g_\sigma \text{ and } b_n = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n} (-q)^{-l(\sigma)} g_\sigma.$$

These are two weak idempotents of  $H_n$  corresponding to the two partitions  $(n)$  and  $(1, \dots, 1)$ . In general, for  $T$  a standard Young tabloid of shape  $\lambda$ , one defines a weak idempotent  $\hat{e}_T$  by doing an  $a_{\lambda_i}$  on the strands whose indices lie in the  $i$ -th row of the tabloid  $T$  and then a  $b_{\lambda'_j}$  on the strands whose indices lie in the  $j$ -th column. The picture at the right is borrowed from [AM97].



For  $q$  generic, these weak idempotents can be renormalized to give idempotents  $e_T \in H_n$ . They form a complete family of primitive orthogonal idempotents of  $H_n$ . They are conjugated if and only if the standard Young tabloids have same shape. In the following we will denote by  $e_\lambda$  the primitive idempotent of  $H_n$  corresponding to the standard Young tabloid obtained by filling the boxes in reading order.

The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  is the vector space of  $n \times n$  matrices endowed with the bracket  $[A, B] = AB - BA$ . Its universal enveloping algebra  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is generated by the matrices  $h_i = E_{i,i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $E_i = E_{i,i+1}$ ,  $F_i = E_{i+1,i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . This algebra admits a deformation quantization as follows, see [KS97, Section 6.1.2]:

▮ **Definition 2.4:** The quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is the  $\mathbb{C}(q)$ -algebra with generators  $k_i^{\pm 1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $E_i, F_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . We denote  $K_i = k_i k_{i+1}^{-1}$ . It has relations:

$$\begin{aligned} [-_i, -_j] &= 0 \text{ if } |i - j| \geq 2 \quad , \quad [k_i, k_{i\pm 1}] = 0 \quad , \\ k_i E_j &= q^{\delta_{i,j} - \delta_{i-1,j}} E_j k_i \quad , \quad k_i F_j = q^{-\delta_{i,j} + \delta_{i-1,j}} F_j k_i \quad , \quad [E_i, F_j] = \delta_{ij} \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \quad , \\ E_i^2 E_{i\pm 1} - (q + q^{-1}) E_i E_{i\pm 1} E_i + E_{i\pm 1} E_i^2 &= 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F_i^2 F_{i\pm 1} - (q + q^{-1}) F_i F_{i\pm 1} F_i + F_{i\pm 1} F_i^2 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It has a Hopf algebra structure with:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(k_i) &= k_i \otimes k_i \quad , \quad \Delta(E_i) = E_i \otimes 1 + K_i \otimes E_i \quad , \quad \Delta(F_i) = F_i \otimes K_i^{-1} + 1 \otimes F_i \\ \varepsilon(k_i) &= 1 \quad , \quad \varepsilon(E_i) = \varepsilon(F_i) = 0 \\ S(k_i) &= k_i^{-1} \quad , \quad S(E_i) = -E_i K_i^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad S(F_i) = -K_i F_i. \end{aligned}$$

Its standard representation is the vector space  $V$  of dimension  $n$  with basis  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  on which  $k_i$  acts as  $qE_{i,i} + \sum_{j \neq i} E_{j,j}$ ,  $E_i$  acts as  $E_{i,i+1}$  and  $F_i$  acts as  $E_{i+1,i}$ . ▮

The Hopf algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  has a topological quasi-triangular structure. In particular, the braiding  $c_{V,V} = \overset{\curvearrowright}{\curvearrowleft} : V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$  is given by :

$$c_{V,V}(v_i \otimes v_j) = \begin{cases} q v_i \otimes v_i & \text{if } i = j \\ v_j \otimes v_i & \text{if } i < j \\ v_j \otimes v_i + (q - q^{-1}) v_i \otimes v_j & \text{if } i > j \end{cases}$$

This braiding induces an action of the braid group  $B_k$  on  $V^{\otimes k}$ . This action factorizes through an action of the Hecke algebra  $H_k$ .

**Theorem 2.5 (Schur-Weyl duality):** *The action  $\Psi_k : H_k \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)}(V^{\otimes k})$  is an isomorphism for  $k \leq n$ , and is surjective otherwise.*

From this result we conclude that Hecke algebras are a good way to interpolate the endomorphism algebra of tensor powers of the standard representation of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , for  $n$  big enough.

Idempotents  $e_\lambda$  of the Hecke algebra will be sent to idempotents of  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)}(V^{\otimes k})$ , i.e. projections onto direct summands  $V_\lambda$  of  $V^{\otimes k}$ . The idempotent  $\Psi_k(e_\lambda)$  is zero if and only if  $\lambda$  has more than  $n$  rows. Standard Young tabloids with  $k$  boxes and at most  $n$  rows are in bijection with irreducible submodules of  $V^{\otimes k}$ .

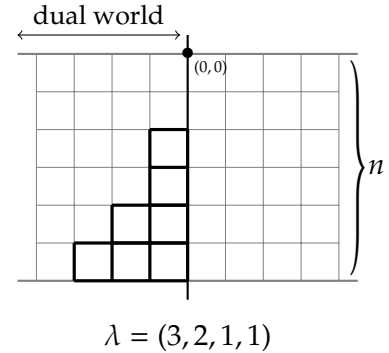
One can explicitly compute the tensor product of two simple representations  $V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu$ . In the simplest case where  $\mu = (1)$ , i.e.  $V_\mu = V$ , one has  $V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu = \bigoplus_{\nu \in \lambda + \square} V_\nu$ , where  $\lambda + \square$  is the set of Young tableaux that can be obtained from  $\lambda$  by adding one box. In general, the rule is still very diagrammatic and is known as the Littlewood-Richardson rule.

▮ **Definition 2.6:** We denote  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  the category of finite dimensional tilting representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , namely of sub-representations of tensor powers of the standard representation  $V$  and of its dual. This category is ribbon, and the quantum dimension of the standard representation is  $[n]_q$ . ▮

**Proposition 2.7:** *The category  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is semi-simple if and only if  $q$  is generic.*

In this case, we have already described its simple objects arising as submodule of some  $V^{\otimes k}$ : they are images  $V_\lambda$  of idempotents  $e_\lambda$  of Hecke algebras and are indexed by Young tableaux  $\lambda$  with at most  $n$  rows.

Submodules of  $(V^*)^{\otimes k}$  are also in bijection with standard Young tabloid with  $k$  boxes and at most  $n$  rows, as  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)}((V^*)^{\otimes k})$  is also isomorphic to the Hecke algebra  $H_k$ . Now the submodule  $V_\lambda^*$  of  $(V^*)^{\otimes k}$  associated with a Young tableau  $\lambda$  is the dual of the submodule  $V_\lambda$  of  $V^{\otimes k}$ . To represent this dual module we will rotate the Young tableau by 180 degrees. One should think of these boxes as being removed from the infinite  $n$ -row rectangle of negative indices.



The idempotent associated with the Young diagram  $(1)^n$  with  $n$  vertical boxes plays a particular role, and is called the determinant representation  $\det$ . It is an invertible object in  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , namely there exists an object (its dual)  $\det^{-1}$  such that  $\det \otimes \det^{-1} \simeq k$ . Taking the tensor product of a simple  $V_\lambda$  with  $\det$  gives a simple module  $V_\lambda \otimes \det = V_\mu$  where  $\mu$  is obtained by adding one box to each row of  $\lambda$ . If  $\lambda$  has  $n$  rows, taking the tensor product with  $\det^{-1}$  has the effect of removing one box to each row. Applying this to Young tableaux that do not have  $n$  rows allows us to talk about Young tableaux with a negative number of boxes in some row. These “negative rows” actually correspond to interactions with tensor powers of the dual  $V^*$  of the standard representation.

To obtain all of the objects of  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  one needs to consider subobjects of the mixed tensor spaces  $T(r, s) = V^{\otimes r} \otimes (V^*)^{\otimes s}$ . The algebra  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)}(T(r, s))$  contains a tensor product of

two Hecke algebras  $H_r \otimes H_s$  by acting separately on  $V^{\otimes r}$  and  $(V^*)^{\otimes s}$ .

▮ **Definition 2.8:** A bipartition  $\lambda$  of type  $(r, s)$  is a pair of partitions  $\lambda = (\lambda^1, \lambda^2)$  where  $\lambda^1$  is a partition of  $r$  and  $\lambda^2$  a partition of  $s$ . Its Young diagram is represented as the Young diagram of  $\lambda_1$  glued at  $(0,0)$  with the Young diagram of  $\lambda_2$  rotated of 180 degrees. The length of a bipartitions  $l(\lambda)$  is the sum of the lengths of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , i.e. the number of rows in the Young diagram of  $\lambda$ .

Note that both partitions and dual partitions are special cases of bipartitions with either  $s = 0$  or  $r = 0$ .

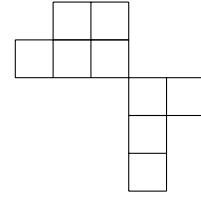
Given a bipartition  $\lambda = (\lambda^1, \lambda^2)$  of length at most  $n$ , one gets an idempotent  $e_{\lambda^1} \otimes e_{\lambda^2}^*$  of  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)}(T(r, s))$ . This idempotent is a projection on the submodule  $V_{\lambda^1} \otimes V_{\lambda^2}^* \subseteq T(r, s)$ . This submodule splits as a direct sum of simple modules, all of which are weight module. A unique one has the highest weight, and we call this one  $V_\lambda$ . Again, one should think of the Young diagram of  $\lambda_2$  as being removed from the infinite  $n$ -row rectangle of negative indices.

The decomposition of a tensor product  $V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu$  of two simple modules indexed by bipartitions can be calculated using Littlewood-Richardson coefficients, see [CW11, Theorem 5.1.2]. In the simplest case where  $\mu = ((1), \emptyset)$  is a single box then  $V_\lambda \otimes V = \bigoplus_{\nu \in \lambda + \square} V_\nu$  where  $\lambda + \square$  is the set of bipartitions obtained by either adding a box to  $\lambda^1$  or removing one to  $\lambda^2$ .

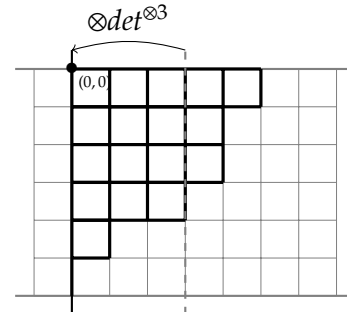
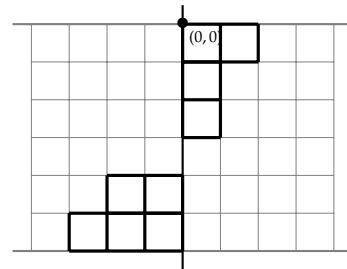
**Proposition 2.9:** For  $q$  generic, bipartitions  $\lambda$  of length at most  $n$  are in bijection with simple objects  $V_\lambda$  in  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  up to isomorphism.

Now the precedent trick of tensoring with  $\det$  applies and the simple module  $V_\lambda$  for  $\lambda = ((2, 1, 1), (3, 2))$  at  $n = 6$  can be described as  $V_\lambda \otimes \det^{\otimes 3} = V_\mu$  where  $\mu = (5, 4, 4, 3, 1)$  is a usual partition, so  $V_\lambda = V_\mu \otimes \det^{\otimes -3}$ . We see that all the simple objects of  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  can be written uniquely as some  $V_\mu \otimes \det^k$  where  $\mu$  is a partition with at most  $n - 1$  rows and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\lambda = ((2, 1, 1), (3, 2))$$



$$\lambda = ((2, 1, 1), (3, 2)) \text{ and } n = 6$$



### 3 The HOMFLY category

We saw that the Hecke algebra  $H_k$  interpolates endomorphism algebras of  $V^{\otimes k}$  seen as a  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$ -module for  $n$  big enough. We would now like to extend this interpolation to the whole category  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ . We study the category of framed oriented tangles modulo the HOMFLY skein relations. It has been widely studied in [Bru17], of whom we borrow the notations.

▮ **Definition 3.1:** The integral HOMFLY category  $\mathcal{OS}$  is the  $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}, \rho, \rho^{-1}, \frac{\rho-\rho^{-1}}{q-q^{-1}}]$ -linear category with:

- objects finite sets  $X$  of framed oriented points in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . We will always suppose this set is of the form  $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\} \times \{0\}$  with blackboard framing.
- morphisms from  $X$  to  $Y$  isotopy classes oriented framed tangles in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times [0, 1]$  linking  $X$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \{0\}$  to  $Y$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \{1\}$  modulo the HOMFLY skein relations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \\ \text{Diagram 2} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3} \\ \text{Diagram 4} \end{array} = (q - q^{-1}) \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 5} \\ \text{Diagram 6} \end{array}, \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 7} \\ \text{Diagram 8} \end{array} = \rho \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 9} \\ \text{Diagram 10} \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 11} \\ \text{Diagram 12} \end{array} = \frac{\rho - \rho^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 13} \\ \text{Diagram 14} \end{array}.$$

It is a ribbon category with obvious ribbon structure.

We call the positively oriented point the generating object of  $\mathcal{OS}$ , and the negatively oriented point is its dual.

We let  $\delta := \frac{\rho - \rho^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}$  denote the dimension of the generating object.

Given a morphism  $\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}, \rho, \rho^{-1}, \frac{\rho - \rho^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , namely a choice of two parameters  $q$  and  $\rho$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  and eventually of  $\delta$  if  $\rho = \rho^{-1}$  and  $q = q^{-1}$ , the HOMFLY category, still denoted  $\mathcal{OS}$ , is the  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear category obtained from the integral HOMFLY category by base change.

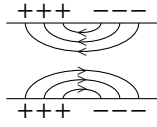
We denote by  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}}$  the additive Karoubian envelope of  $\mathcal{OS}$ . ▮

For  $r$  and  $s$  two non-negative integers, we denote by  $T(r, s)$  the sequence of  $r$  positively oriented points followed by  $s$  negatively oriented points, the mixed tensor space of  $r$  copies of the generating object and  $s$  of its dual. They represent every isomorphism class of objects of  $\mathcal{OS}$ . The endomorphism algebra of  $T(r, 0)$  is isomorphic to the Hecke algebra  $H_r$ , and the endomorphism algebra of  $T(0, s)$  to the Hecke algebra  $H_s$ . The endomorphism algebra of  $T(r, s) = T(r, 0) \otimes T(0, s)$  contains a copy of  $H_r \otimes H_s$ , but it has additional cups and caps linking positively and negatively oriented points. It is referred to as the quantized walled Brauer algebra  $B_{r,s}$  and is studied in [DDS13], [RS14a] or [ST15].

In the endomorphisms of a mixed tensor space  $T(r, s)$ , for  $q$  generic, there are in particular idempotents of the form  $e_{\lambda^1} \otimes e_{\lambda^2}$  for  $\lambda^1$  a partition of  $r$  and  $\lambda^2$  a partition of  $s$ , i.e. for  $\lambda = (\lambda^1, \lambda^2)$  a bipartition. These idempotents are in general not primitive, but split in a sum of primitive idempotents and there is a unique one  $e_\lambda \in B_{r,s}$  which will not be mapped to 0 under the quotient  $B_{r,s} \twoheadrightarrow H_r \otimes H_s$  that kills the ideal generated by caps and cups, see [CW11, Section 4.3].

*Remark 3.2:* For  $i \leq \min(r, s)$  one can pair the  $i$  last positive points with the  $i$  first negative

points by  $i$  caps at the bottom and  $i$  cups at the top. This gives an endomorphism  $\hat{e}_i =$



$\in \text{End}_{\mathcal{OS}}(T(i, i))$ . When  $\delta \neq 0$  this gives an idempotent  $e_i = \frac{1}{\delta_i} \hat{e}_i$ . Then there is an algebra map from the tensor product of Hecke algebras  $H_{r-i} \otimes H_{s-i} \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{OS}}(T(r, s))$  which maps a pair of braids  $f \otimes g$  to the tangle  $f \otimes e_i \otimes g$ . Now idempotents of  $H_{r-i} \otimes H_{s-i}$ , and in particular bipartitions of type  $(r-i, s-i)$ , give rise to idempotents of  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{OS}}(T(r, s))$ , i.e. split subobjects of  $T(r, s)$ . These “lower order” idempotents are necessary to describe all subobjects of  $T(r, s)$ , they are studied in greater detail in [CW11, Section 4.4]. However, they will be isomorphic to subobjects of  $T(r-i, s-i)$  in  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}}$  and are therefore not necessary to describe all objects of  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}}$ .

**Theorem 3.3 ([Bru17, Theorem 1.5]):** *The category  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}}$  is semisimple if and only if  $q$  is not a root of unity and  $\rho$  is not of the form  $\pm q^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In this case, isomorphism classes of simple objects are in bijection with bipartitions.*

When  $\rho = q^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there is a quotient functor  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}} \rightarrow \text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  which maps the generating object to the fundamental representation and that preserves the ribbon structure. On idempotents indexed by bipartitions, this functor kills the Young diagrams that have more than  $n$  rows.

**Theorem 3.4 ([Bru17, Theorem 1.5]):** *When  $q$  is generic and  $\rho = q^n$ , the mapping  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}} \rightarrow \text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  extends essentially uniquely to a ribbon functor  $F_n : \dot{\mathcal{OS}} \rightarrow \text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ .*

- $\mapsto V$

*This functor is full and essentially surjective, and its kernel consists of the negligible morphisms, which again correspond to the ideal generated by  $e_{n+1} = e_{\square_{n+1}}$ . On indecomposable objects indexed by bipartitions, it kills the Young diagrams that have more than  $n$  rows.*

*In other words,  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is the semisimplification of  $\dot{\mathcal{OS}}$  at  $\rho = q^n$ , see [EO19].*

From this result we conclude that the HOMFLY category is a good way to interpolate the categories  $\text{Tilt}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ . Note however that unlike endomorphism algebras, the ribbon structure does not stabilize at big  $n$ .

*Remark 3.5:* The decomposition of a tensor product of two indecomposables indexed by bipartitions (at any  $\rho$ ) is the same as in the  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  case for  $n$  big enough, i.e. greater than the sum of the lengths of the bipartitions.

*Remark 3.6:* We can extend this “integer” case to whenever  $\rho = \pm q^n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so that  $\delta = [\pm n]_q$  is a quantum integer, either by using a symmetry of the HOMFLY category



under  $q \leftrightarrow -q^{-1}$  or by introducing a sign in the pivotal structure (which is understandable “at the level of” vector spaces).

**Proposition 3.7:** *There is an involution of the HOMFLY category  $\iota : \mathcal{OS} \rightarrow \mathcal{OS}$  by mapping  $q$  to  $-q^{-1}$  and  $\rho$  to itself. This is well defined because it does not affect the skein relations. Under this map, a symmetrizer of type  $a_n$  is sent to one of type  $b_n$ , and therefore the idempotent associated with a bipartition is mapped to the idempotent associated with the transpose of the bipartition.*

In general we will still formally denote  $\rho = q^t$  and  $\delta = [t]_q$  with the subtlety that  $t$  is not necessarily an integer. The HOMFLY category is sometimes noted  $\text{Rep}_q(\text{GL}_t)$ .

## 4 Hook-shape Young tableaux and the quantum supergroup $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$

We now introduce the representation theory of the quantum supergroup  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  which is also interpolated by the HOMFLY category, but this time in a more stable way.

The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$  is the supervector space of  $(m+n) \times (m+n)$  matrices endowed with the bracket  $[A, B] = AB - (-1)^{p(A)p(B)}BA$ , where  $p$  is the parity and elementary matrices in the diagonal  $m \times m$  and  $n \times n$  blocks are even, and the others are odd. Its universal enveloping algebra  $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  is generated by the matrices  $h_i = E_{i,i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $E_i = E_{i,i+1}$ ,  $F_i = E_{i+1,i}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ . All of these matrices are even except for  $E_m$  and  $F_m$  which are odd. This algebra admits a deformation quantization as follows, see [RW19, Definition A.1] or [Moo01, Definition 1.6]:

▮ **Definition 4.1:** The quantum group  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  is the  $\mathbb{C}(q)$ -algebra with generators  $k_i^{\pm 1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m+n$ , and  $E_i, F_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m+n-1$ . We denote  $K_i = k_i k_{i+1}^{-1}$  for  $i \neq m$  and  $K_m = k_m k_{m+1}$ . All of these generators are even except for  $E_m$  and  $F_m$  which are odd. We denote  $l_i = 1$  if  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $l_i = -1$  if  $m+1 \leq i \leq m+n$ . It has relations:

$$\begin{aligned} [-_i, -_j] &= 0 \text{ if } |i-j| \geq 2, \quad [k_i, k_{i\pm 1}] = 0, \\ k_i E_j &= q^{l_i(\delta_{i,j} - \delta_{i-1,j})} E_j k_i, \quad k_i F_j = q^{-l_i(\delta_{i,j} - \delta_{i-1,j})} F_j k_i, \quad [E_i, F_j] = l_i \delta_{ij} \frac{K_i - K_i^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}}, \\ \text{for } i \neq m: \quad &(q + q^{-1}) E_i E_{i\pm 1} E_i = E_i^2 E_{i\pm 1} + E_{i\pm 1} E_i^2 \\ &(q + q^{-1}) F_i F_{i\pm 1} F_i = F_i^2 F_{i\pm 1} + F_{i\pm 1} F_i^2 \\ &E_m^2 = F_m^2 = 0, \\ (q - q^{-1}) E_m F_{m-1} F_{m+1} F_m &= F_m F_{m-1} F_m F_{m+1} + F_m F_{m+1} F_m F_{m-1} + F_{m-1} F_m F_{m+1} F_m + F_{m+1} F_m F_{m-1} F_m \\ &\text{and } (q - q^{-1}) E_m E_{m-1} E_{m+1} E_m = \\ &E_m E_{m-1} E_m E_{m+1} + E_m E_{m+1} E_m E_{m-1} + E_{m-1} E_m E_{m+1} E_m + E_{m+1} E_m E_{m-1} E_m. \end{aligned}$$

Its standard representation is the vector space  $V$  of dimension  $m+n$  with basis  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  which are even and  $w_{m+1}, \dots, w_{m+n}$  which are odd, on which  $k_i$  acts as  $q E_{i,i} + \sum_{j \neq i} E_{j,j}$ ,  $E_i$  acts as  $E_{i,i+1}$  and  $F_i$  acts as  $E_{i+1,i}$ . ▮

The Hopf algebra  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  has a topological quasi-triangular structure. In particular, the braiding  $c_{V,V} = \begin{smallmatrix} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{smallmatrix} : V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$  is given by :

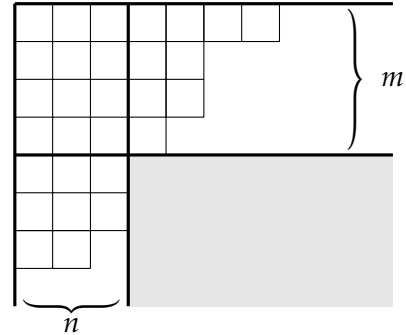
$$\begin{aligned} c_{V,V}(v_i \otimes v_j) &= \begin{cases} q v_i \otimes v_i & \text{if } i = j \\ v_j \otimes v_i & \text{if } i < j \\ v_j \otimes v_i + (q - q^{-1})v_i \otimes v_j & \text{if } i > j \end{cases} \\ c_{V,V}(w_i \otimes w_j) &= \begin{cases} -q^{-1} v_i \otimes v_i & \text{if } i = j \\ -v_j \otimes v_i + (q - q^{-1})v_i \otimes v_j & \text{if } i < j \\ -v_j \otimes v_i & \text{if } i > j \end{cases} \\ c_{V,V}(v_i \otimes w_j) &= -w_j \otimes v_i + (q - q^{-1})v_i \otimes w_j \\ c_{V,V}(w_j \otimes v_i) &= v_i \otimes w_j \end{aligned}$$

Again, the induced action of the braid group factorises through the Hecke algebra. Idempotents  $e_\lambda$  of the Hecke algebra will be sent to idempotents of  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))}(V^{\otimes k})$ , i.e. projections onto direct summands  $V_\lambda$ . The image idempotent will be zero if and only if  $\lambda_{m+1} > n$ , i.e. if  $\lambda$  gets out of the  $(m, n)$ -hook-shape. Standard Young tabloids with  $k$  boxes and fitting in the  $(m, n)$ -hook-shape are in bijection with indecomposable summands of  $V^{\otimes k}$ .

A Young diagram fitting in the  $(m, n)$ -hook-shape :

The gray part is forbidden.

The upper left rectangle is called the  $(m, n)$ -rectangle.



▮ **Definition 4.2:** We denote  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  the category of finite dimensional tilting representations of  $\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ , namely of summands of tensor powers of the standard representation  $V$  and of its dual. This category is ribbon, and the quantum dimension of the standard representation is  $[m - n]_q$ . Note that for simplicity we do not allow all subobjects and quotients but only direct summands. ▮

The action of the Hecke algebra extends to a full and essentially surjective ribbon functor  $\dot{\mathcal{O}}\mathcal{S} \rightarrow Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$ .

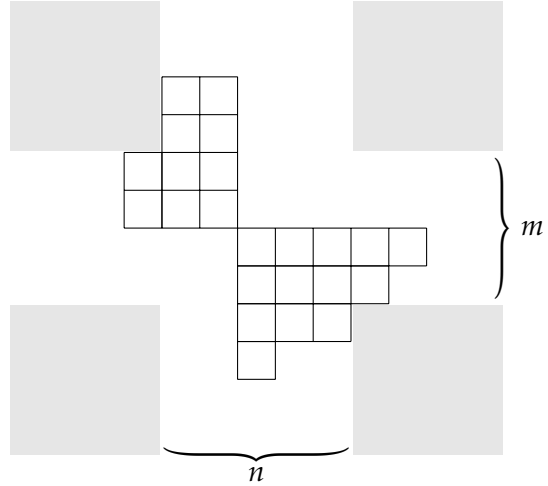
**Theorem 4.3 ([CW11, Section 8.3]):** When  $q$  is generic and  $\rho = q^{m-n}$ , the mapping  $\dot{\mathcal{O}}\mathcal{S} \rightarrow Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  extends essentially uniquely to a full and essentially surjective ribbon functor  $F_{m|n} : \dot{\mathcal{O}}\mathcal{S} \rightarrow Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$ .

For  $q$  generic and  $m, n$  big enough,  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  is not semi-simple. The  $(m, n)$ -hook-shape Young diagrams  $\lambda$  correspond to indecomposable summands  $V_\lambda$  of  $V^{\otimes k}$  but these will not necessarily be simple injective modules. When they are, the partition  $\lambda$  is called typical. A Young diagram containing the  $(m, n)$ -rectangle is always typical.

The functor  $F_{m|n}$  sends idempotents  $e_\lambda$  associated with a bipartition  $\lambda$  to indecomposable modules  $V_\lambda$ . This module is non zero 0 if and only if the Young diagram of the bipartition  $\lambda$  fits in a  $(m, n)$ -cross, i.e. the union of an horizontal band of height  $m$  and a vertical band of width  $n$ .

The bipartition  $\lambda = (\lambda^1, \lambda^2)$  with  $\lambda^1 = (5, 4, 3, 1)$  and  $\lambda^2 = (3, 3, 2, 2)$  fits in a  $(4, 5)$ -cross but in no smaller crosses.

The gray part is forbidden.



**Proposition 4.4:** For  $q$  generic, bipartitions  $\lambda$  fitting in a  $(m, n)$ -cross are in bijection with indecomposable objects  $V_\lambda$  of  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  up to isomorphism.

Finally, the HOMFLY category at integer  $t$  is the limit of the categories  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n))$  for  $m - n = t$  as a ribbon category. For  $m, n \geq 1$ , there is a ribbon functor  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)) \rightarrow Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(m - 1|n - 1))$ . On the standard representation  $V$  of dimension  $m + n$  it is given by restricting to the first  $m + n - 1$  coordinates and quotienting by the first coordinate, see [EHS19, Section 7]. It induces an equivalence on subcategories generated by small enough tensor powers of  $V$  and  $V^*$ .

**Theorem 4.5 ([EHS19, Proposition 8.1.2 and Corollary 8.1.5]):** The HOMFLY category  $\mathcal{OS}$  at  $\rho = q^d$  and  $q$  generic is the limit of the categories  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(n + d|n))$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  as a ribbon category.

This completes the description of the HOMFLY category as an interpolation category. On endomorphism spaces of  $V^{\otimes k}$  the Hecke algebra  $H_k$  is the stabilization of the endomorphism algebras of  $V^{\otimes k}$  as a  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$ -module. On mixed tensor powers, and as a ribbon category, it is properly speaking an interpolation of the categories  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ . However, at integer values, it can be described again as a stabilisation of the categories  $Tilt_q(\mathfrak{gl}(n + d|n))$ .

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