Categories tannakiennes

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1 Introduction

In [6], N. Saavedra described certain categories equipped with a tensor product, the Tannakian Categories, as the categories of representation of gerbes (in particular: representations of a group-scheme). His presentation is incomplete (cf. [2].3.15). Our goal is to complete it. I was not able to write a short presentation giving only the missing arguments: many ideas of the article are in [6], due to Saavedra and, through him, to A. Grothendieck

The paragraphs 2 to 5 do not claim to be orignal. They gather results which, in paragraph 6, allows us to complete Saavedra's presentation. In paragraph 7, we show that in characteristic 0, a tensor category (1.2), whose every object has dimension (7.1) an integer ≥ 0 is Tannakian. In paragraph 8, we apply the methods of paragraph 6 and 7 to tensor categories which are not necessarily Tannakian. As an application (8.19), we describe tensor categories on k, say perfect, equipped with an exact \otimes -functor with values in a supervector spaces over k (1.4).

Paragraph 9 gives an application of the formalism of Tannakian categories to Picard-Vessiot theory. Let $(K.\partial)$ be a differntial field with the field of constants $K_0 := \{x | \partial x = 0\}$ algebraically closed of characteristic 0 and $y^n + a_1 y^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n = 0$ be a linear differntial equation of order n with coefficients in K. We see that the the existence of an extension (E, ∂) of (K, ∂) , with the same field of constants, in which the equation admits n linearly independent solutions on the constants. This application is the result of discussions with D. Bertrand. The result is a version of E.R. Kolchin ([3 VI 6 prop. 13]). At the end of this introduction, after indicating some terminological conventions, we describe the main result 1.12 of paragraphs 2 to 6.

1.1 Terminology. A ring (or an algebra) always means a ring (algebra) with a unit and morphisms send units to units.

In the article, k will mean a commutative rings, often considered to be a field. We only consider the schemes over k. Often, we say schemes for schemes over k and morphism of schemes for morphism of schemes over k. We denote by $X \times Y$, the product over k, $X \times_{Spec} Y$ and Hom(X,Y) the be the set of morphisms of schemes over k of X to Y.

We identify a representable functor with the object it represents.

- **1.2.** Let k be a commutative field. In this article, we call simply a tensor category over k what in N. Saavedra [6] (resp. Deligne-Milne [2]) mean an abelian \otimes -category ACU (associative commutative unital) k-linear rigid, with $k \xrightarrow{\sim} End(1)$ (resp. an abelian tensor category, rigid, k-linear, with $k \xrightarrow{\sim} End(1)$). The axioms are recalled in 2.1. This is a k-linear abelian category \mathcal{T} equipped with a functor $\otimes: \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \to \mathcal{T}$ with the constraints of associativity and commutativity for \otimes (the functorial isomorphisms $(X \otimes Y) \otimes Z \xrightarrow{\sim} X \otimes (Y \otimes Z)$ and $X \otimes Y \xrightarrow{Y} \otimes X$) satisfying suitable axioms. Among the axioms is the existence of a unit object 1.
- **1.3 Example.** The category Vect(k) of vector spaces of finite dimension over k, equipped with the tensor product evidently satisfies the constraints of associativity and commutativity.
- **1.4 Example.** \mathcal{T} is the category of vector spaces of finite dimension over k, with a $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -gradiling, \otimes the tensor product, with the obvious constraint of associativity and commutativity being given by the Koszul's rule: $a \otimes b \mapsto (-1)^{\deg a \deg b} b \otimes a$ for a and b homogeneous. This is the category of super vector spaces of finite dimension over k.
- **1.5 Example.** Let G be an affine group scheme over k. We denote by \mathcal{T} , the category Rep(G) of linear representations of finite dimension of G over k, with \otimes the tensor product of representations, with the usual constraints. When G is trivial, we recover example 1.3.

1.6. A generalisation of example 1.5 will play an essential role for use. Before

the generalisation, some preliminaries...

Let S be a scheme over k. Recall (SGA 3 V1) that a k-groupoid acting on S is a scheme G over k equipped with source and target morphisms: $b, s: G \to S$ and a composition law $\circ: G \underset{sSb}{\times} G \to G$ which is a morphism of scheme over $S \times S$, such that for every scheme T over k, S(T) := Hom(T, S), G(T) := Hom(T, G), $s, b: G(T) \to S(T)$, \circ defines a category (objects: S(T), arrows: G(T)) for which all arrows are invertible. This can also be expressed in tems of diagrams: associativity expressed by the equality of the compositions

$$G\underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G\underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G \xrightarrow[Id\times\circ]{\circ\times Id} G\underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G \longrightarrow G,$$

the identity arrow is an $S \times S$ morphism $\epsilon : S \to G$ (S is an $S \times S$ schemes via the diagonal) such that the compositions

$$G = G \underset{{}^sS}{\times} S = S \underset{S^b}{\times} G \xrightarrow{\epsilon \times Id} G \underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G \xrightarrow{\circ} G$$

are the identity morphism, the inverse by "-1": $G \to G$ with s"-1" = "-1"b,

b"-1"="-1"s, and the following diagrams commute



The terminology of SGA 3 V1 is that (S,G) is a (schemes over k)-groupoid. For $u: T \to S$, the pullback of G over $u \times u: T \times T \to S \times S$ is a k-groupoid over T: the induced groupoid G_T .

A representation of G is a quasi-coherent sheaf V over S equipped with an action ρ of G, i.e. every given k-scheme T and every $g \in G(T)$, there is a homomorphism $\rho(g): V_{s(g)} \to V_{b(g)}$ between the two images of V by s(g) and $b(g): T \to S$. We require $\rho(g)$ to be compatible under base change $T' \to T$, $\rho(gh) = \rho(g)\rho(h)$ (for s(g) = b(h)) and the for every g, the identity automorphism $\epsilon(s)$ for $s \in S(T)$, $\rho(g)$ is the identity automorphism of V_s . Since G is a groupoid, $\rho(g)$ is an isomorphism. An action ρ is determined by $\rho(g)$ in the universal case T = G, $g = Id_G: G \to G$, i.e. for every morphism $u: s^*V \to b^*V$ between quasi-coherent sheaves on G. This morphism must satisfy:

- 1. Over $G \underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G$, the inverse image of u under $\circ: G \underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G \to G$ is the composition $pr_1^*(u) \circ pr_2^*(u)$;
- 2. $epsilon^*(u)$ is identity.

We say that the groupoid G is transitive over S (in the fpqc sence) if the morphism $(b,s): G \to S \times S$ is a cover in the sence of fpqc, i.e. there exists a T faithfully flat quasi-compact over $S \times S$ with $Hom_{S \times S}(T,G) \neq \emptyset$. If G is transitive, then

- 1. G is flat, so faithfully flat over $S \times S$ (3.6);
- 2. if G acts on quasi-coherent V and the fibers V_s are vector spaces of finite rank n over the residue field k(s), so V is locally free of rank n(3.5).
- **1.7 Example.** Let G be a k-groupoid acting transitively over a non-empty S over k. We take T to be the category of locally free sheaves of finite rank over S equipped with an action of G and for the tensor product functor \otimes equipped with the obvious constraints. Notation: Rep(S:G).

When S is a point S = Spec(k), we recover 1.5.

1.8 Remark. Let G be a groupoid acting transitively on S, $u: T \to S$ and G_T is the induced groupoid (1.6). We verify (3.5) that if $T \neq \emptyset$, $u^*: Rep(S:G) \to Rep(T:G_T)$ is an equivalence of categories. In particular, if $S(k) \neq \emptyset$, so $x \in S(k)$ and G_x is an algebraic group over k over fixed x (the fiber of G over (x,x)), we have $Rep(S:G) \to Rep(G_x)$

1.9. Let \mathcal{T} be a tensor category over k and S be a k-scheme. A fiber functor of \mathcal{T} over S is a k-linear exact functor ω of \mathcal{T} to the category of quasi-coherent sheaves on S, equipped with a natural isomorphism $\omega(X) \otimes \omega(Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \omega(X \otimes Y)$ ACU, i.e. compatible with the constraints of associativity, commutativity and having a unit (2.7). The axioms imposed on \mathcal{T} imply that ω takes values in locally free sheaves of finite rank (2.8). For S = Spec(B), ω is identified by a functor of \mathcal{T} to the category of finite-type projective B-modules. We again call ω a fiber functor over B.

Let ω_1 and ω_2 be two fiber functors over S. $A \otimes$ -isomorphism, or an isomorphism of fiber functors $u: \omega_1 \to \omega_2$ is an isomorphism of functors such that the diagram commutes

$$\omega_1(X) \otimes \omega_1(Y) \longrightarrow \omega_1(X \otimes Y)
\downarrow u \otimes u \qquad \qquad \downarrow u
\omega_2(X) \otimes \omega_2(Y) \longrightarrow \omega_1(X \otimes Y)$$

and such that $u: \omega_1(1) \to \omega_2(1)$ is the identity automorphism of \mathcal{O}_S .

1.10. In [6], Saavedra claims with insufficient demonstration (cf. [2] 3.15) that: (*) two fiber functors of \mathcal{T} over Spec(B) are locally isomorphic for the fpqc topology, i.e. there exists B' over B, faithfully flat, such that ω_1 and ω_2 after extension of scalars from B to B'.

Our first goal is the show that the assertion (*) is true (with the additional necessary hypothesis, $k \xrightarrow{\sim} End(1)$ that Saavedra had forgotten) and justify all the results of [6].

1.11. If ω_1 and ω_2 are two fiber functors over S, we denote by $\underline{Isom}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ the functor that takes T over $S: u: T \to S$ to the set of isomorphism of fiber functors $u^*\omega_1$ with $u^*\omega_2$. The functor is representable by an affine scheme over S. If ω_i is a fiber functor over S_i (i=1,2), we write

$$\underline{\mathit{Isom}}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_2,\omega_1) := \underline{\mathit{Isom}}_{S_1 \times S_2}^{\otimes}(\mathit{pr}_2^*\omega_2,\mathit{pr}_1^*\omega_1)$$

For a fiber functor ω over S, we write $\underline{Aut}_S^{\otimes}(\omega) = \underline{Isom}_S^{\otimes}(\omega, \omega)$ and

$$\underline{Aut}_{k}^{\otimes}(\omega) = \underline{Isom}_{k}^{\otimes}(\omega, \omega)$$

Following conventions (1.1), we identity the functors with the schemes they represent. The scheme $\underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$ is a k-groupoid acting over S. The target morphism b (resp. source s) is the composition of pr_1 (resp. pr_2) with the projections over $S \times S$. We prove in 1.13(b), 6.8, 6,14 and 6.15 the following result.

- **1.12 Theorem.** Let \mathcal{T} be a tensor category over k and ω be a fiber functor of \mathcal{T} over a k-scheme $S \neq \emptyset$.
 - 1. The groupoid $\underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$ is faithfully flat over $S \times S$;

2. ω induces an equivalence of \mathcal{T} with the category $Rep(S: \underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega))$ of representations of the groupoid $\underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$

Conversely, let G be a k-groupoid acting on affine $S \neq \emptyset$ and faithfully flat over $S \times S$ and ω is a fiber functor of Rep(S:G) over S "forgetting the action of G." We have

3.

$$G \xrightarrow{\sim} \underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$$

The theorem provides a dictionary of tensor category over k equipped with a fiber functor over S and k-groupoids acting transitively over S and affine over $S \times S$.

- **1.13 Remark.** 1. If ω_1 and ω_2 are fiber functors over S_1 and S_2 , there exists a disjoint union $T := S_1 \coprod S_2$ and a fiber functor ω , unique upto a unique isomorphism, equipped with isomorphisms $\omega|S_j = \omega_j$ (j=1,2). We apply 1.12.1 to ω . The pullback over $S_2 \times S_1$ of the scheme $\underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$ to $T \times T$ is $\underline{Isom}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$. According to 1.12.1, $\underline{Isom}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ is faithfully flat over $S_2 \times S_1$.
 - For $S_1 = S_2 = S$, the restriction to the diagonal of $\underline{Isom}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ is $\underline{Isom}_S^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$. The S-scheme $\underline{Isom}_S^{\otimes}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ is hence faithfully flat over S. This justifies 1.10(*).
 - 2. If 1.12 is true over affine S, then it is true in general. For the assertion 1, if S_i is an open affine covering of S, the pullback of $\underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)$ over $S_i \times S_j$ is $\underline{Isom}_k^{\otimes}(\omega|S_i,\omega|S_j)$ and, applying 1.13.1, we conclude that 1.12.1 applies to $S_i \coprod S_j$. For 2, observe that for U an non-empty affine open over S, we have by 1.8 $\operatorname{Rep}(S: \underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \operatorname{Rep}(U: \underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega(U))$. We conclude by 1.12.2 for U. For 3. If U_1 and U_2 are non-empty open affine of S_x and that G_U is the induced groupoid over $U = U_1 \coprod U_2$, we have $\operatorname{Rep}(S:G) \xrightarrow{\sim} \operatorname{Rep}(U:G_U)$ and by 1.12.3 applied to U, the morphism $G \to \underline{Aut}_k(\omega)$ is an isomorphism by above on $U_1 \times U_2$.
- **1.14.** Let G be a groupoid acting on S = Spec(B). Suppose G is affine over $S \times S$, i.e. affine: G = Spec(L). Since (b,s) makes G a scheme over $S \times S := S \times S \ (1.1)$, L is a $B \otimes B$ -module, i.e. a B, B-bimodule such that the two structures induce coinciding k-modules. We write to the left (resp. to the right) the structure of B-module defined by b (resp. s).

The B, B-bimodule L is equipped with the following structure:

1. L is a commutative $B \underset{k}{\otimes} B$ -algebra, with the product

$$p:L\underset{B\otimes B}{\otimes}L\rightarrow L.$$

2. The law of composition $G \underset{{}^sS^b}{\times} G \to G$ corresponds to

$$c:L\to L\mathop{\otimes}_B L$$

and identity $\epsilon: S \to G$ to $e: L \to B$.

Let M be a B-module (= a quasi-coherent sheaf over S). An action of G over M is a morphism of L-modules

$$L \underset{{}^{s}B}{\otimes} M \to M \underset{{}^{B^{b}}}{\otimes} L$$

or, which again amounts to a morphism of B-modules

$$r:M\to M\underset{B^b}{\otimes} L$$

(to the right, the structure of B-module defined by the right structure on L), with the compatibility of the composition to the neutral elements. The compatibility translates by 1.14.1, the equality of the following compositions

$$M \xrightarrow{r} M \otimes L \xrightarrow[L \otimes c]{r \otimes L} M \otimes L \otimes L,$$

and the equality of the composition $M \xrightarrow{r} M \otimes L \xrightarrow{M \otimes e} M$ to the identity. We see that only structure (2) was used on L.

1.15. Inspired by this remark, for every ring B not necessarily commutative, we define a co-algebra L be be a bimodule over B equipped with a bimodule morphism $c: L \to L \underset{B}{\otimes} L$ satisfying the axioms of coassociativity: c equalizes the double arrow $(c \otimes 1, 1 \otimes c)$

$$L \xrightarrow{c} L \underset{B}{\otimes} L \xrightarrow{c \otimes 1} L \underset{B}{\otimes} L \underset{B}{\otimes} L$$

and admits a counit $e:L\to B$: a morphism of bimodules such the the compositions

$$L \xrightarrow{c} L \otimes L \xrightarrow{e \otimes 1} L$$

are identity. Note that if c admits a counit, then it is unique. We will need only the case in which B is commutative, but not assuming it helps in not mixing up the left and the right.

If B is commutative and that the two structures of B-module over L coincide, we retrieve the co-algebra over B, hence the terminology. If k is a commutative ring and B is a k-algebra, we define a k-co-algebra L to be a co-algebra L such that the two structures of k-modules induced by the structures of B-modules coincide.

A representation of L is a right B-module M equipped with a coaction of L, i.e. a morphism of right B-modules $r: M \to M \underset{B}{\otimes} L$ satisfying (1.14.1) (1.14.2). If L is a flat left B-module, the category of representations of L is abelian and the forgetful functor of the coaction is exact.

1.16. Let \mathcal{T} be a tensor category over k, S = Spec(B) be an affine scheme over k and ω be a fiber functor of \mathcal{T} over S. Imitating Saavedra, we begin by forgetting the tensor product and construct a k-co-algebra L acting on B such that ω factors through an equivalence of categories of \mathcal{T} and the category of locally free sheaves of finite rank over S equipped with a coaction of L. The proof (6.1, 6.2) is an application of the theorem of Barr-Beck (4.1). It is similar the theorem of faithfully flat descent SGA 1 VIII 1. The compatibility of ω with the tensor product equips L with a product and we verify that G := Spec(L) is the groupoid $\underline{Aut}_k(\omega)$ acting on S (6.3 - 6.6).

It remains to show that G is faithfully flat over $S \times S$. We construct a tensor category $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}$ with suitable properties - in particular that a fiber functor ω of \mathcal{T} defines a fiber functor $\omega \times \omega$ of $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}$ over $S \times S$. The $B \otimes B$ -module L will be faithfully flat as the image under $\omega \times \omega$ is an Ind-object containing 1 of $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}$.

We give two proofs of the existence of the tensor category $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}$. The first uses a theorem of passing to generic quotient (3.11) and the hypothesis End(1) = k for seeing the if \mathcal{T} is finitely \otimes -generated, there exists a fiber funtor ω_1 over the scheme S_1 , which is the spectrum of a finite extension of k with $G_1 = \underline{Aut}_k^{\otimes}(\omega_1)$ faithfully flat over $S_1 \times S_1$. From the structure theorem $\mathcal{T} \sim Rep(S_1 : G_1)$ we deduce the existence of the required tensor category $\mathcal{T} \otimes \mathcal{T}$ (5.21). The second proof relies on a direct construction. It only applies when k is perfect.

2 Reminders and complements: tensor categories

Let k be a commutative field.

2.1. The axioms of tensor categories over k (in our sense, see 1.2) are as follows.

(2.1.1) The category \mathcal{T} is equipped with a tensor product functor :make $\otimes: \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{T} \to \mathcal{T}$, satisfying the constraints of associativity and commutativity compatible for \otimes ([4], [5] VII 7, where the terminology is "symmetric monoidal category", [6] I §1.2 or [2] §1 p.104) and there exists a unit object 1 ([6] I 1.3.2; the unit object is unique upto isomorphism; it is equipped with the constraint $X \otimes 1 \xrightarrow{\sim} X$ and $1 \otimes X \xrightarrow{\sim} X$).

These axioms allow us to define the product \otimes over a finite family $(X_i)_{i\in I}$ of object of \mathcal{T} .

(2.1.2) For every X, there exists X^{\vee} and morphism $ev: X \otimes X^{\vee} \to 1$ and $\delta: 1 \to X^{\vee} \otimes X$ such the the compositions

$$X^{\vee} \xrightarrow{-\delta \otimes X^{\vee}} X^{\vee} \otimes X \otimes X^{\vee} \xrightarrow{X^{\vee} \otimes \mathit{ev}} X^{\vee}$$

are identity.

(2.1.3) The category is abelian.

	(2.1.4)	An isomorphism $k \stackrel{\sim}{=}$	$\rightarrow End(1)$	of k	with the	$e \ endomorphism$	ring	of
1	is given.							

2.3 Proposition.	
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2.6 Proposition.	
Proof.	
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3 Reminders and complements: groupoids	
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6 The main theorem	
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