

# Semisimple 2-categories

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# Goal

$$\{\text{multifusion category}\} \xrightarrow[\simeq]{\mathcal{M}\text{od}_{s.s.}^{fin}(-)} \{\text{finite semisimple 2-cat}\}$$

- ▶ The 2-category  $\mathcal{M}\text{od}_{s.s.}^{fin}(C)$  of finite semisimple module categories over a multifusion category  $C$  is semisimple.
- ▶ For any finite semisimple 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ , there exists a multifusion category  $C$  such that  $\mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{M}\text{od}_{s.s.}^{fin}(C)$

# Conventions

In relation to a 2-category:

- ▶  $\mathcal{C}$  (caligraphic font): 2-category;
- ▶  $X, Y, F$  (upper case latin): object of 2-category, functor between 2-categories;
- ▶  $f, g$  (lower case latin): 1-morphism; we write  $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$  for the category of morphisms from  $X$  to  $Y$ ;
- ▶  $\eta, \varepsilon, \delta$  (lower case greek): 2-morphism; for a 2-morphism  $\alpha : f \Rightarrow g : X \rightarrow Y$ , we may write  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)(f, g)$  to indicate its sources and targets, or simply  $\alpha \in \text{Hom}(f, g)$  if the objects are clear

# Conventions

In relation to a 1-category:

- ▶  $C, A$  (upper case latin): category;
- ▶  $a, b, f, g$  (lower case latin): objects in category, functor between categories;
- ▶  $\alpha, \beta$  (lower case greek): morphism in category

# Conventions

We also compose morphisms from right to left: in a 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ , for  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)(f, f')$ ,  $\beta \in \mathcal{C}(Y, Z)(g, g')$ ,  $\gamma \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)(f', f'')$ , we write:

for composition of 1-morphisms,

$$g \circ f, g \circ f', \dots : X \rightarrow Z$$

for horizontal composition of 2-morphisms,

$$\beta \circ \alpha : (g \circ f) \Rightarrow (g' \circ f') : X \rightarrow Z$$

for vertical composition of 2-morphisms,

$$\gamma \cdot \alpha : f \Rightarrow f'' : X \rightarrow Y$$

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In general, if  $P$  is a property of a 1-category, we say that a 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *locally  $P$*  if every hom-category  $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$  satisfies  $P$ .

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# Review



# Additive 2-category, direct sum of objects

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## Definition (direct sum of objects in 2-category)

A *direct sum* of two objects  $A_1, A_2$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  is an object  $A_1 \boxplus A_2$  together with inclusion and projection 1-morphisms

$i_k : A_k \Rightarrow A_1 \boxplus A_2 : p_k$ , such that

- ▶  $p_k \circ i_k \simeq \text{id}_{A_k}$ ,
- ▶  $p_2 \circ i_1, p_1 \circ i_2$  are zero 1-morphisms,
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## Definition (zero object)

A *zero object* in  $\mathcal{C}$  is an object  $0$  with trivial endomorphism category  $\mathcal{C}(0, 0)$  (has one object  $\text{id}_0$  with only identity morphism  $\text{id}_{\text{id}_0}$ ).

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## Definition

2-category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *additive* if finite direct sums of objects exist, has a zero object, (and is locally additive).

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## Proposition

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A 1-morphism  $i : X \rightarrow Y$  is *fully faithful* (or  $(X, i)$  is a *subobject* of  $Y$ ) if it induces fully faithful functors between hom-categories by post-composition, i.e. for all objects  $A$ ,  $i \circ - : \mathcal{C}(A, X) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(A, Y)$  is fully faithful.

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$i_k : A_k \rightarrow A_1 \boxplus A_2$  is fully faithful.

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Given 2-categories  $\mathcal{C}_j$ ,  $j \in J$ , we may consider the direct sum 2-category  $\mathcal{C} := \boxplus_{j \in J} \mathcal{C}_j$ :

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- ▶ extend by direct sums:  $\mathcal{C}(\boxplus X_i, \boxplus Y_j) = \oplus \mathcal{C}_i(X_i, Y_i)$

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A *separable algebra*  $(a, \mu, \eta)$  in a tensor category  $\mathcal{C}$  is an algebra that admits an  $a$ - $a$ -bimodule section  ${}_a a_a \rightarrow {}_a a \otimes a_a$  to  $\mu$ .

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Let  $(t, \mu, \eta)$  be a monad on an object  $X$  in a 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ . We say  $t$  is *separable* if there is a  $t$ - $t$ -bimodule section  $t \Rightarrow t \circ t$  to  $\mu$ .

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In other words, a separable monad over  $X$  is a separable algebra in  $\mathcal{C}(X, X)$ .

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## Definition

Let  $r \vdash l : X \rightarrow Y$  be an adjunction with unit  $\eta : \text{id}_X \Rightarrow rl$  and counit  $\varepsilon : lr \Rightarrow \text{id}_Y$ . We say the adjunction  $l \dashv r$  is *separable* if  $\varepsilon$  admits a section.

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Let  $(t, \mu, \eta)$  be a separable monad on an object  $X \in \mathcal{C}$ . A *(separable) splitting* of  $t$  is a (separable) adjunction  $r \vdash l : X \rightarrow Y$  together with an isomorphism  $\psi : rl \simeq t$  as monads on  $X$ .

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Under the right conditions (local idempotent completeness of  $\mathcal{C}$ ), splittings are unique:

## Proposition (Uniqueness of splitting)

*[[1], Theorem A.3.1] In a locally idempotent complete 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ , splittings of a separable monad are unique up to equivalence.*

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## Definition (Idempotent completion)

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a locally idempotent complete 2-category. The *idempotent completion of  $\mathcal{C}$* , denoted  $\mathcal{C}^\nabla$ , with:

- ▶ Objects:  $(X, p)$  separable monad in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,
- ▶  $\mathcal{C}^\nabla((X, p), (Y, q)) = q\text{-bimod-}p(\mathcal{C}(X, Y))$

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There is a natural 2-functor  $I : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^\nabla$  that is fully faithful.

A 2-functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  extends to a 2-functor  $F^\nabla : \mathcal{C}^\nabla \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\nabla$  that commutes with  $I$ 's.

# Idempotent completeness, 2-category

Key example:

$\mathcal{BC}$ : one object  $*$  with endomorphism category  $\mathcal{BC}(*, *)$ .

$$(\mathcal{BC})^\nabla = \begin{cases} \text{Obj : separable algebras in } C \\ \text{Mor : } (\mathcal{BC})^\nabla(a, b) = b\text{-bimod-}a(C) \end{cases}$$

# Idempotent completeness, 2-category

## Proposition

$\mathcal{C}^\nabla$  is idempotent complete. Moreover, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is already idempotent complete, then  $I : \mathcal{C} \simeq \mathcal{C}^\nabla$  is an equivalence.



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As a consequence, if  $\mathcal{D}$  is idempotent complete, then we have equivalences of 2-categories

$$\mathcal{F}un(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}) \simeq \mathcal{F}un(\mathcal{C}^\nabla, \mathcal{D}^\nabla) \simeq \mathcal{F}un(\mathcal{C}^\nabla, \mathcal{D})$$

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## Proposition

If  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  is fully faithful, then  $F^\nabla : \mathcal{C}^\nabla \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^\nabla$  is also fully faithful.

# Idempotent completeness, 2-category

## Proposition ([1]Prop 1.3.13)

*For a multifusion category  $C$ , the following 2-functor is an equivalence:*

$$(-)\text{-mod}(C) : (\mathcal{BC})^{\nabla} \rightarrow \mathcal{Mod}(C)$$

$$a \mapsto a\text{-mod}(C)$$

$${}_b m_a \mapsto m \otimes_a -$$

$$\varphi \mapsto \varphi \otimes_a -$$

# Idempotent completeness, 2-category

## Proof.

Essential surjectivity follows from:

-[2] Theorem 1: for a finite semisimple right module category over multifusion  $C$ , there exists a semisimple algebra  $a$  in  $C$  such that  $M \simeq a\text{-mod}(C)$  as right  $C$ -module categories; and

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- [4]Corollary 2.6.9: When  $C$  is multifusion over a field of characteristic 0, a right  $C$ -module category  $M$  is separable ( $\simeq a\text{-mod}(C)$  for a separable algebra  $a$ ) if and only if it is semisimple.

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This is almost one half of the main result; one still needs to prove local semisimplicity and existence of adjoints. This will follow from more results from [3],[4], which we show later.

# Simple objects



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## Proposition (equivalent notions of simple-ness)

*Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a locally finite semisimple and idempotent complete 2-category, and let  $X \in \mathcal{C}$  be a nonzero object. Then the following notions of  $X$  being simple are equivalent:*

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- (1) any subobject  $i : Y \rightarrow X$  of  $X$  is either 0 or an equivalence;*
- (2)  $X$  cannot be written as a non-trivial direct sum, i.e. if  $X = \boxplus X_i$ , then  $X_i \simeq 0$  for all but one  $i$ ;*

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- (3)  $\text{id}_X$  is a simple object in  $\mathcal{C}(X, X)$ .*

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Proof sketch.

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(3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): for non-zero fully faithful  $r : Y \rightarrow X$ , with  $\text{id}_X$  simple, consider the left adjoint  $l : X \rightarrow Y$ , use fully faithfulness to get a preimage  $\delta : \text{id}_Y \Rightarrow lr$  of  $\eta \circ r : r \Rightarrow rlr$ . Show  $\delta$  is a section of the counit. Etc. (See [1]Prop 1.2.14) □

# Semisimple 2-category

Definition ((finite) semisimple 2-category)



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A 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$  is *semisimple* if it is:

- ▶ locally semisimple,
- ▶ admits left and right adjoints for every 1-morphism,
- ▶ additive,
- ▶ idempotent complete.

It is furthermore *finite semisimple* if it is also locally finite and has finitely many equivalence classes of simple objects.

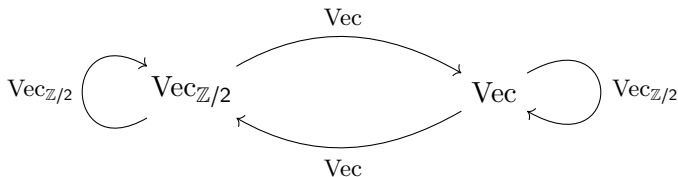
# New Stuff

# Schur's lemma

The equivalence between notions of a simple object in a semisimple 2-category, is similar to the semisimple 1-category case.

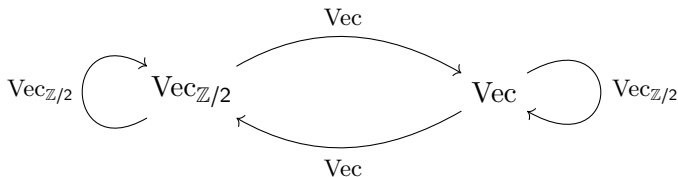
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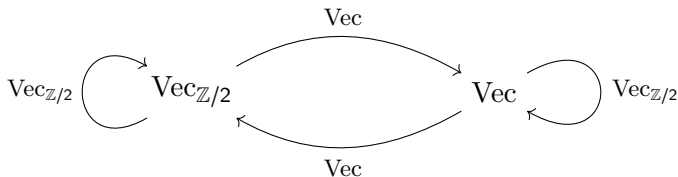
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“2-Morita equivalences” between fusion categories

# Schur's lemma

## Proposition (Schur's Lemma, [1]Prop 1.2.19)

*In a semisimple 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ , if  $f : A \rightarrow B, g : B \rightarrow C$  are nonzero 1-morphisms between simple objects  $A, B, C$ , then  $g \circ f$  is also nonzero.*

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Proof.

$$A \xrightarrow{\quad f \quad} B \xrightarrow{\quad g \quad} C$$

Let  $f^* : B \rightarrow A$  be a right adjoint to  $f$ . Since  $\text{id}_B$  is simple,  $\exists$  section  $\delta : \text{id}_B \Rightarrow ff^*$  to counit  $\varepsilon : ff^* \Rightarrow \text{id}_B$ . Postcomposing with  $g$ , we have  $\text{id}_g = (\text{id}_g \circ \varepsilon) \cdot (\text{id}_g \circ \delta) : g \Rightarrow gff^* \Rightarrow g$ . Thus if  $gf = 0$ , then  $\text{id}_g = 0$ , contradicting nonzero-ness of  $g$ .  $\square$

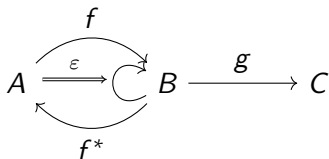


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## Proposition (Schur's Lemma, [1]Prop 1.2.19)

*In a semisimple 2-category  $\mathcal{C}$ , if  $f : A \rightarrow B, g : B \rightarrow C$  are nonzero 1-morphisms between simple objects  $A, B, C$ , then  $g \circ f$  is also nonzero.*

Proof.



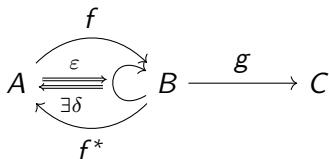
Let  $f^* : B \rightarrow A$  be a right adjoint to  $f$ . Since  $\text{id}_B$  is simple,  $\exists$  section  $\delta : \text{id}_B \Rightarrow ff^*$  to counit  $\varepsilon : ff^* \Rightarrow \text{id}_B$ . Postcomposing with  $g$ , we have  $\text{id}_g = (\text{id}_g \circ \varepsilon) \cdot (\text{id}_g \circ \delta) : g \Rightarrow gff^* \Rightarrow g$ . Thus if  $gf = 0$ , then  $\text{id}_g = 0$ , contradicting nonzero-ness of  $g$ .  $\square$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & f & & & \\ & \curvearrowright & & & \\ A & \xRightarrow{\epsilon} & B & \xrightarrow{g} & C \\ & \xleftarrow{\exists \delta} & & & \\ & f^* & & & \end{array}$$

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# Main results

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## Proof.

$\text{Mod}(\mathcal{C}) \simeq (\mathcal{B}\mathcal{C})^\nabla$  is idempotent complete and locally idempotent complete.  $\text{Mod}(\mathcal{C})$  is clearly already additive.

Locally semisimple-ness follows directly from [4]Corollary 2.5.6, and existence of adjoints for 1-morphisms follows from [3]Corollary 2.13.



# Main results

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*Every finite semisimple 2-category is equivalent to the 2-category of finite semisimple module categories of a multifusion category.*

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We show  $\mathcal{C} \simeq (\mathcal{BC})^\nabla$ .

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## Proof (Cont.)

Consider the inclusion 2-functor

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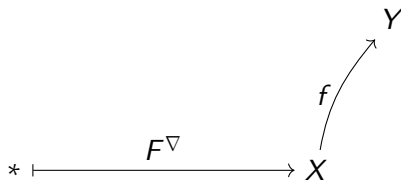
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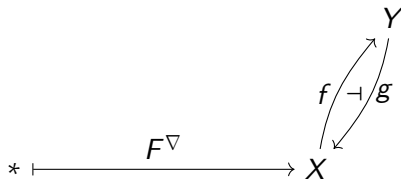
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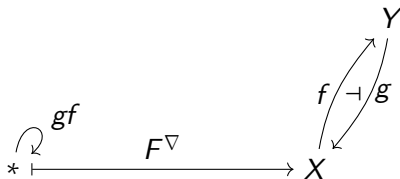
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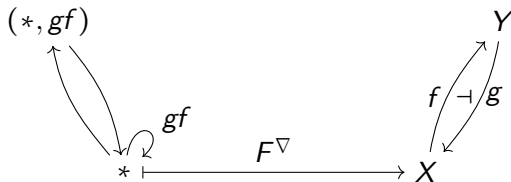
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## Proof (Cont.)

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 (*, gf) & \xrightarrow{F^\nabla} & F^\nabla(*, gf) \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 * & \xrightarrow{F^\nabla} & X
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 Y \\
 \nearrow f \dashv g \\
 \nwarrow
 \end{array}$$

The diagram illustrates the proof. It shows a commutative square with objects  $(*, gf)$ ,  $F^\nabla(*, gf)$ ,  $*$ , and  $X$ . The horizontal arrows are labeled  $F^\nabla$ . The vertical arrows are also labeled  $F^\nabla$ . A curved arrow labeled  $gf$  points from  $*$  to  $(*, gf)$ . A curved arrow labeled  $f \dashv g$  points from  $X$  to  $F^\nabla(*, gf)$ . A curved arrow labeled  $f$  points from  $X$  to  $Y$ , and a curved arrow labeled  $g$  points from  $Y$  to  $X$ .

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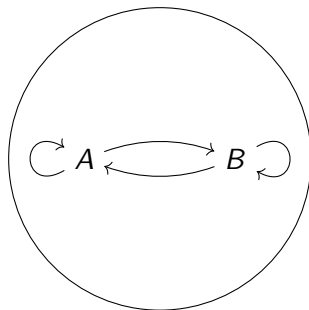
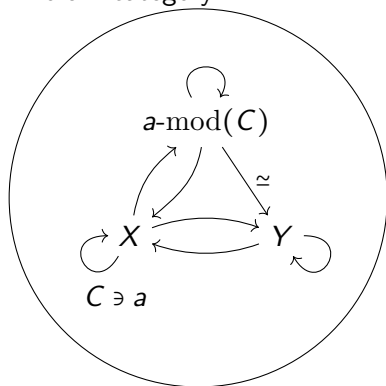
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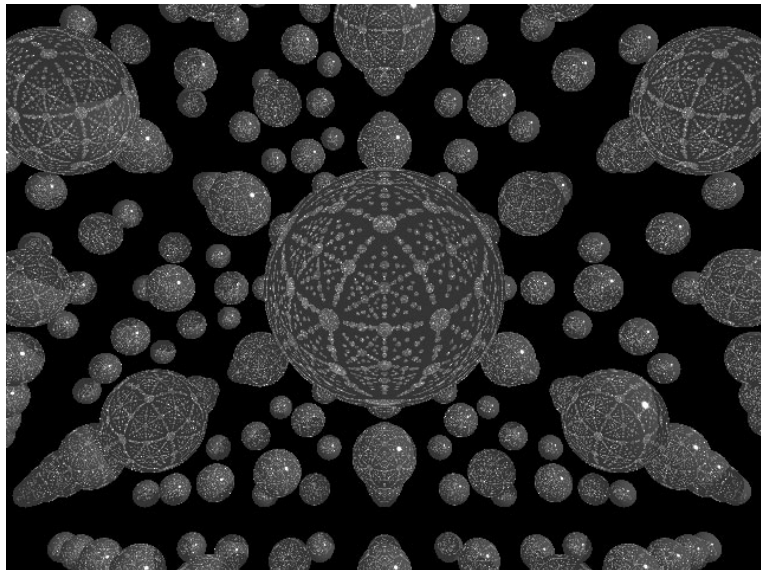
We can also avoid the first step of taking only one component of  $\mathcal{C}$ , take  $X$  with at least one object from each  $\mathcal{C}_j$  in its direct sum decomposition.

# Main results

Every object contains within them the data to reconstruct the whole 2-category.



# Indra's Net of Pearls



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$f$ : the group algebra  $\mathbf{k}[G] = \bigoplus \mathbf{k}_g$      $f\text{-mod}(C) \simeq \text{Vec}$   
(right action on  $\text{Vec}$  = forget  $G$ -grading)

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Thus,  $\text{Mod}(C)(f, f) \simeq f\text{-bimod-}f(C) \simeq \text{Rep}(G)$ .

(One can also check that  $C$ -module structure on  $m : \text{Vec} \rightarrow \text{Vec}$  amounts to  $G$ -action on  $m(\mathbf{k})$ .)

Thus we have:

$$\text{Mod}(\text{Vec}_G) \simeq \text{Mod}(\text{Rep}(G))$$



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Of course, there are many other objects in  $\mathcal{M}\mathrm{od}(C)$ , e.g. for a subgroup  $H \subseteq G$ , have group algebra  $\mathbf{k}[H]$ .

End!

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