

# On Krull-Schmidt bicategories

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- Plan:
- ① Classical KS-theory
  - ② Direct sums in a bicategory
  - ③ KS bicategories
  - ④ Examples & applications

for more, see:

I.D., "On KS bicat's", Theory Appl. Categ. 2022

## ① Classical Krull-Schmidt theory

$\mathcal{C}$ : an additive category

Def:  $\mathcal{C}$  is Krull-Schmidt if  $\forall X \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$   
 $\exists$  iso  $X \cong X_1 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n$  where each  
object  $X_i$  is strongly indecomposable,  
i.e.:  $\text{End}(X_i)$  is a local ring.

Rmk:  $X$  strongly indec.  $\Rightarrow X$  indec. (for  $\oplus$ )

## Main results :

The Krull-Schmidt thm:  $\mathcal{C}$  KS implies :

- 1)  $\forall X \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $X$  indec.  $\Leftrightarrow X$  strongly indec.
- 2)  $\forall X \in \mathcal{C}$ , the decomposition into finitely many indecomposable objects

$$X \cong X_1 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n$$

is unique, up to permuting the  $X_i$ 's and replacing them with isomorphic objects.

Very useful! But how to recognize KS-cat's?

## Characterization

$\mathcal{C}$  is KS iff :

a)  $\mathcal{C}$  is idempotent-complete

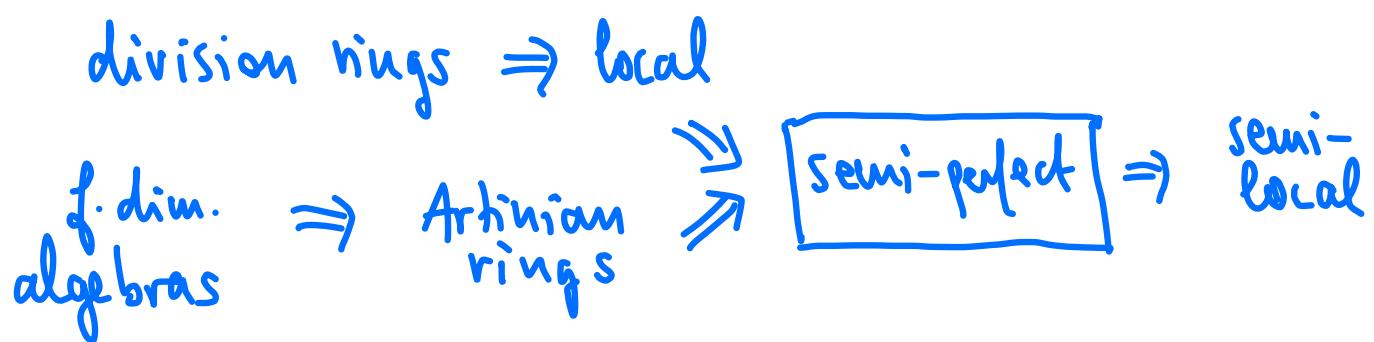
and

b)  $\forall X \in \mathcal{C}$ , the ring  $\text{End}(X)$  is semi-perfect.

Recall:

- $\mathcal{C}$  is idempotent complete if:  
 $\forall f = f^2 \subset X$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , have  $X \cong \text{Im}(f) \oplus \text{Ker}(f)$ .
- A ring  $R$  is semi-perfect if:  
 $R/\text{rad } R$  semi-simple & can lift idempotents.  
 $\iff$  every simple  $R$ -module has a proj. cover.  
 $\iff$   $\text{fgproj}(R)$  is a KS-category!  
⋮

Rmk: we have the strict implications:



Cor. The following categories are all KS:

- semi-simple + abelian
- Hom-finite/field + abelian (or just id.c.)

## Examples of KS-categories :

- $\mathcal{C} = \text{fdmod}(A)$  for  $A$  an algebra / field  $k$   
e.g.  $A = kG$ ,  $G$  a group.
- also  $\mathcal{C} = D^b(\text{fdmod } A)$
- [Atiyah '56, SGA6 '71]  
 $\mathcal{C} = \text{Coh } \mathcal{O}_X$  for  $X$  a scheme f.t. / field  
also  $D^b(\text{Coh } \mathcal{O}_X)$  if  $X$  regular & proper.

⚠ The KS property is subtle :

- [Facchini, Herbera, Levy, Vámos 1995]  
"KS fails for Artinian modules"

in fact, already over certain  $R$   
semi-local, commutative & noetherian!

## ② Direct sums in a bicategory ( $\rightleftarrows$ <sub>today</sub>)

**Question:** for an additive category  $A$ , when do we have uniqueness of a decomposition  $A \simeq A_1 \times \dots \times A_n$ ?

**Idea:** fin. products are direct sums in the 2-category

$$\text{ADD} = \begin{cases} \text{additive categories } \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}', \dots \\ \text{additive functors } F: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}' \\ \text{natural transf. } \alpha: F_1 \Rightarrow F_2 \end{cases}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  K5 theory for such bicategories?!

**Def.:** a bicat.  $\mathcal{B}$  is **additive** if :

- 1) Hom-categories are additive,
- 2) composition functors  $\mathcal{B}(Y, Z) \times \mathcal{B}(X, Y) \xrightarrow{\circ} \mathcal{B}(X, Z)$  are additive in both variables,
- 3)  $\exists$  finite direct sums of objects :

$$X_1 \xleftarrow[\underline{I}_1]{} X_1 \oplus X_2 \xrightarrow[\underline{I}_2]{} X_2 \quad \text{in } \begin{cases} \text{the case} \\ n=2 \end{cases}$$

$$\underline{I}_1 P_1 \oplus \underline{I}_2 P_2 \cong \text{Id}_{X_1 \oplus X_2}, \quad P_i I_j \cong \begin{cases} 0 & (i \neq j) \\ \text{Id}_{X_i} & (i=j) \end{cases}.$$

Rmk : direct sums are both products & coproducts (in a weak, up to equiv.-sense).

In particular:  $0 = \bigoplus_{\emptyset}$  is initial & final.

Examples :

- ADD is additive:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_1 \oplus A_2 & & \\ \downarrow P_1 \quad \uparrow P_2 & \{ & \\ A_1 \times A_2 & & \\ \downarrow I_1 \quad \uparrow I_2 & & \\ x \mapsto (x, 0) & & \end{array}$$

- Any 2-full sub-2-category of ADD closed under dir. sums of obj & functors

### ③ KS theory for bicategories

$\mathcal{B}$  : an additive bicat.

Recall :  $\forall X \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  $\text{End}(\text{Id}_X)$  is a comm. ring!  
(Eckmann-Hilton argument)

Ex :  $\mathcal{B} = \text{ADD} \ni A \rightsquigarrow \text{End}(\text{Id}_A) = \mathbb{Z}(A)$  "center"  
e.g. if  $\overset{\text{Mod}}{\parallel} \text{Mod}(R) \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{Z}(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}(R)$ .

Def:  $X \in \mathcal{B}$  strongly indecomposable if  
 $\text{End}(I\!d_X)$  is a connected (comm-) ring.

This is reasonable :

Proposition:

For  $0 \neq X \in \mathcal{B}$ , we have :

1  $X$  strongly indec.



2  $I\!d_X$  indec. object of  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$ .



3  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$  is "local" :

$F_1, F_2 : X \rightarrow X$  not equivalences  
 $\Rightarrow F_1 \oplus F_2 : X \rightarrow X$  neither.

4  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$  is indecomposable

as an additive  $\otimes$ -category.

These are all equivalent if  $\text{End}_{\mathcal{B}}(X)$   
is idempotent complete!

Def.:  $\mathcal{B}$  is Krull-Schmidt if  $\forall X \in \mathcal{B}$ ,  
 ∃ equivalence  $X \simeq X_1 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n$   
 for finitely many str. indec.  $X_i$ 's.

### KS-theorem

$\mathcal{B}$  KS implies:

- 1) str. indec  $\iff$  indec. for  $\oplus$
- 2) The decomp. of each  $X$  as a sum of indec's is unique up to permutation & equivalence of the factors.

### Characterization

An additive bicategory  $\mathcal{B}$  is KS iff:

- a)  $\mathcal{B}$  is weakly block-complete:  
 ∃ decomp.  $1_{\text{Id}_X} = e_1 + e_2$ ;  $\text{Id}_X \Rightarrow \text{Id}_X$   
 in orthog. idempots. of  $\text{End}(\text{Id}_X)$ ,  
 ∃  $X \simeq X_1 \oplus X_2$  s.t.  $1_{\text{Id}_{X_i}} \leftrightarrow e_i$ .
- b)  $\forall X$ ,  $\text{End}(\text{Id}_X)$  is semi-connected, i.e.:  
 a finite product of (comm.) connected rings.

Crucial idea of the proofs ( $\nexists$  for 1-cat's!):

An equivalence  $X \simeq X_1 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n$  in  $\mathcal{D}$

$$\Rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{B}}(X) \simeq \bigoplus_{i,j} \mathcal{B}(X_j, X_i) \text{ of add. cat's}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{End}(\text{Id}_X) \simeq \text{End}(\text{Id}_{X_1}) \times \dots \times \text{End}(\text{Id}_{X_n})$$

iso of commutative rings!

$$e_i = e_i^2 \longleftrightarrow 1_{\text{Id}_{X_i}} \text{ (and } 0 \text{ for } j \neq i)$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{\exists}$

- Main technical lemma:

this idempotent determines the "summand"  $X_i$  (with  $P_i, I_i$ , adjunctions...) uniquely up to equiv.

- Then to get uniqueness of the decoupl.  
 $X \simeq X_1 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n$ , just recall that in any comm. ring

$$1 = e_1 + \dots + e_n$$

in orthog. primitive idempotents in at most one way!

## ④ Examples & applications

- ADD is not KS! (both (a), (b) fail)
  - no! full U
- ADD<sub>id-c.</sub> = {A idempotent complete cat's}
  - no! (a) ✓ but not (b) ; e.g:  
 $A = \text{Mod}(R)$  with  $Z(R) = Z(cA)$   
 a non semi-comm. ring! ( $R = \prod_{\mathbb{N}} \mathbb{Z}$ )
  - full U
- {A id-complete with  $Z(A)$  semi-comm.}
  - yes!
  - 2-full U
- ADD <sub>$\mathbb{k}$</sub> <sup>fin</sup> := {A  $\simeq$  fd mod(A),  $\exists$  A f.d alg /  $\mathbb{k}$ }  
 +  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear functors
  - the finite  $\mathbb{k}$ -linear cat's [Etingof-Ostrik]
- 2Vect <sub>$\mathbb{k}$</sub>  := {finite semi-simple abelian  $\mathbb{k}$ -cat's}
  - full U
  - the (finite) 2-vector spaces [Kapranov-Voevodsky-Neech]
    -

Using our characterization :

Thm.

$k$  a field

$\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{D}$  two  $k$ -linear bicategories with:

$\mathcal{D}$  is KS,  $\mathcal{B}$  has fin. many objects / equiv.

$\Rightarrow \text{PsFun}_k(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{D})$  is KS!

Ex.1 fin.dim'l 2-representations of a 2-groupoid  $G$  with fin-many conn. components:

$$\text{PsFun}(G, 2\text{FVect}) \simeq \text{PsFun}_k(kG, 2\text{FVect})$$

free  $k$ -lineariz. ✓

Ex.2 finite category modules over any  $k$ -linear tensor category  $V$ :

$$\text{fin.mod}(V) \simeq \text{PsFun}_k(BV, \text{ADD}_k^{\text{fin}})$$

delooping ✓

Thank you for  
your attention!

