

Quantum topology workshop

2025-2026

[Bul97] The goal of this workshop is to present TQFTs and quantum invariants, to explain the usual constructions using different point of view and the correspondence between them. We would also like to talk about the Turaev-Viro TQFT and non-semi-simple TQFTs. A particular attention will be paid to ensuring a smooth transition between concepts.

1 Elementary TQFTs

Ref : [Tur16]

1.1 Vocabulary ~ 3h

Definition of Monoidal category, braiding, twist, duality, leading to the notion of braided category. Presentation of graphical calculus and its theorem (correspondance between graphical calculus and braided category), notion of trace and dimension. Maybe illustrating with easy examples chosen by the speaker. (e.g. vector space, braid category...)

1.2 TQFT definition ~ 7h30

Definition of Cobordism category, Modular functor, TQFT and quantum invariant in the general setting. Explain the duality between cap and cup (maybe without demonstration?). Roughly explain how to recover TQFTs from quantum invariant and vis-versa. Present anomalies (functoriality factor), without dealing with it.

1.3 Specifics

Definition of ribbon Ab-category. Talk about simple objects and domination. Modular category (and objects \mathcal{D} and Δ). Presentation of few properties of Hermitian/Unitary category/TQFT. What we can do/know about the TQFT with additional assumptions.

2 Algebraic Approach

3 Categorical approach

4 Geometrical Approach

Ref : [Tur16] [BHMV95] [PS97] : Definition of skein category and skein module. Presentation of its objects (braiding, twist...) specifics : modular semi-simple category, Hermitian skein category, Unitary skein category. We recall the notion of surgery presentation. Correspondance with $Rep U_q sl_2(\mathbb{C})$. Presentation of the Verlinde Algebra. We give two way of defining a TQFT from here.

5 Non-Semi-Simple case

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6 A placer

Le découpage est à discuter : Algèbres de Lie et algèbres de Lie semi-simple. Algèbre de Hopf, groupes quantique, algèbres enveloppantes, $Rep U_q \mathfrak{g}$. Peut-être parler + précisément du cas $U_q sl_2(\mathbb{C})$ (peut-être à faire dans la partie géométrique). Factorization homology. Construction of braided cat, ribbon alg, modular alg from Hopf alg.

Mirror/unimodal/modular cat.

Est-ce que l'on parle + spécifiquement des TQFTs 2+1 (avec les surfaces décorées etc...) autrement que dans l'approche géométrique? (ça va avec le calcul explicite de l'anomalie utilisant Lagrangien et indice de Maslov)

References

- [BHMV95] C. Blanchet, N. Habegger, G. Masbaum, and P. Vogel, *Topological quantum field theories derived from the Kauffman bracket*, Topology **34** (1995), no. 4, 883–927.
- [Bul97] Doug Bullock, *Rings of $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ -characters and the Kauffman bracket skein module*, Comment. Math. Helv. **72** (1997), no. 4, 521–542.
- [PS97] V. V. Prasolov and A. B. Sossinsky, *Knots, links, braids and 3-manifolds*, Translations of Mathematical Monographs, vol. 154, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 1997, An introduction to the new invariants in low-dimensional topology, Translated from the Russian manuscript by Sossinsky [Sosinskiĭ].
- [Tur16] Vladimir G. Turaev, *Quantum invariants of knots and 3-manifolds*, third ed., De Gruyter Studies in Mathematics, vol. 18, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2016.