ARBITRARILY HIGH GROWTH IN ADDITIVE RIGID CATEGORIES WITH ACU TENSOR PRODUCT

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ABSTRACT. The purpose of this note is to use a universal algebra formalism which we call a *T-algebra* to construct additive, locally finite categories with associative, commutative, unital tensor product and strong duality of arbitrarily high categorical growth. Our example solves a known open problem in the field, but leaves open the question as to whether there exist abelian categories with this property.

1. Introduction

Within the field of category theory, pre-Tannakian categories, meaning abelian, locally finite categories with associative, commutative, unital (ACU) tensor product and strong duality, are especially striking. Interest in them originated from the study of Tannakian categories, which were developed by P. Deligne and J. S. Milne in [3] in connection with constructing categories of motives. However, pre-Tannakian categories have evolved into a field of independent significance, due to their connections with representation theory. Background information about pre-Tannakian categories can, for example, be found in [4].

In this paper, we study a broader class of quasi-pre-Tannakian (QPT) categories, by which we mean additive, locally finite categories with ACU tensor product and strong duality. We introduce a universal algebra type called a T-algebra which determines a QPT category by specifying the Hom-modules of the tensor powers of a certain generating object, with their equivariant, tensor, trace, and unital structure.

One important and longstanding question about QPT categories is that of their *growth*. For a QPT category \mathscr{C} , we may define the *growth* of an object X as the sequence

$$(1) rank(End_{\mathscr{C}}(X^{\otimes n}))$$

for positive integers n. By the *categorical growth* of \mathcal{C} , one means an eventual bound of (1) for all objects X in \mathcal{C} . It turns out that growth encodes deep information about the algebraic structure of a

category. P. Deligne [2] proved that, over a field of characteristic 0, a pre-Tannakian category \mathscr{C} generated by a single object X is the category of finite-dimensional representations of an affine group superscheme if and only if it is of moderate growth, meaning that there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that $length(X^{\otimes n}) \leq e^{c \cdot n}$ for all n. This also implies an at most exponential upper bound on (1).

The first examples of semisimple QPT categories (which must therefore be abelian, and thus, in fact, pre-Tannakian) of superexponential growth were constructed by P. Deligne and J. S. Milne in 1982 in [3]. These categories can be thought of as free QPT categories on one object X (described by the free T-algebra on 0 generators). They can also be viewed as interpolated categories of representations of the general linear groups $\underline{Rep}(GL_t)$. They are semisimple after extending scalars to a field of characteristic 0, for t not a non-negative integer. They have growth $e^{n \cdot ln(n)}$. More recent literature on pre-Tannakian categories and their growth includes [1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10], with the highest currently known growth attained in [9]. However, arbitrarily high growth for pre-Tannakian categories at this time remains unknown.

The purpose of this note is to construct a QPT category that attains arbitrarily high growth. Our main result is the following:

Theorem 1. For any sequence $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a quasi-pre-Tannakian category \mathscr{C} with and object X such that

$$rank(End_{\mathscr{C}}(X^{\otimes n})) \ge a_n$$

The present note is organized as follows: In Section 2, we introduce the framework of T-algebras, which is our method of construction of the category in Theorem 1. In Sections 3, 4, and 5, respectively, we describe the construction of the T-algebra that gives this example and verify its consistency by explicitly describing its representation structure, product structure, and trace structure, respectively.

2. T-Algebras

Over a commutative ring R, an additive R-linear category with ACU tensor product and strong duality generated by an object X is determined by the structure on $Hom(X^{\otimes m}, X^{\otimes n})$. The structure which determines such a category consists of describing the properties of the traces and products.

Definition 2. Define a T-algebra over a commutative ring R as a collection of the following data:

- (A) For all finite sets S, T, a choice of R-modules $V_{S,T}$ functorial with respect to isomorphisms of finite sets (covariantly on T, contravariantly on S). (In particular, $V_{S,T}$ is a $\Sigma_S \times \Sigma_T$ -representation where Σ_S , Σ_T denote the symmetric groups of bijections on S, T, respectively.)
- (B) For all finite sets $S' \subseteq S$, $T' \subseteq T$, for every choice of bijection

$$b: S' \to T'$$

 $a \Sigma_{S'} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus S'} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus T'} \cong \Sigma_{T'} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus S'} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus T'}$ -equivariant map

$$\sigma_b: V_{S,T} \to V_{S \setminus S',T \setminus T'}$$

(where we consider

$$\Sigma_{S'} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus S'} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus T'} \cong \Sigma_{T'} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus S'} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus T'} \subseteq \Sigma_S \times \Sigma_T$$

by embedding $\Sigma_{S'}$, $\Sigma_{T'}$ diagonally) such that, for finite sets $S'' \subseteq S$, $T'' \subseteq T$ disjoint from S' and T' with a bijection

$$b': S'' \to T''$$

(2)
$$\sigma_{b\coprod b'} = \sigma_b \circ \sigma_{b'} = \sigma_{b'} \circ \sigma_b,$$

as maps over

$$\Sigma_{S'} \times \Sigma_{S''} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus (S' \coprod S'')} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus (T' \coprod T'')} \subset$$
$$\Sigma_{S' \coprod S''} \times \Sigma_{S \setminus (S' \coprod S'')} \times \Sigma_{T \setminus (T' \coprod T'')}.$$

(C) For finite sets S_1, T_1, S_2, T_2 , a tensor product map

$$\pi: V_{S_1,T_1} \otimes V_{S_2,T_2} \to V_{S_1 \coprod S_2,T_1 \coprod T_2}$$

which is equivariant with respect to

$$(\Sigma_{S_1} \times \Sigma_{T_1}) \times (\Sigma_{S_2} \times \Sigma_{T_2}) \subset \Sigma_{S_1 \coprod S_2} \times \Sigma_{T_1 \coprod T_2}.$$

We will typically denote $x\pi y := \pi(x \otimes y)$ for $x \in V_{S_1,T_1}$, $y \in V_{S_2,T_2}$. We require that π is compatible with all partial traces. More specifically, for $S' \subseteq S_1 \coprod S_2$, $T' \subseteq T_1 \coprod T_2$ with a bijection

$$b: S' \to T'$$

the diagram

$$V_{S_{1},T_{1}} \otimes V_{S_{2},T_{2}} \xrightarrow{\pi} V_{S_{1} \coprod S_{2},T_{1} \coprod T_{2}}$$

$$\downarrow^{\sigma_{b|_{S_{1}}} \otimes \sigma_{b|_{S_{2}}}} \downarrow^{\sigma_{b}}$$

$$V_{S_{1} \setminus S',T_{1} \setminus T'} \otimes V_{S_{2} \setminus S',T_{2} \setminus T'} \xrightarrow{\pi} V_{(S_{1} \coprod S_{2}) \setminus S',(T_{1} \coprod T_{2}) \setminus T'}$$

(where in the lower left corner, we use the convention that

$$S \setminus R = S \setminus (R \cap S)$$

if we may not have $R \subseteq S$).

We also require that π is commutative, associative, unital in the obvious sense with a unit $R \to V_{\emptyset,\emptyset}$. For example, commutativity means commutativity of the diagram

$$V_{S_{1}\amalg T_{1}} \otimes V_{S_{2}\amalg T_{2}}^{\pi} \longrightarrow V_{S\amalg T}$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow_{Id}$$

$$V_{S_{2}\amalg T_{2}} \otimes V_{S_{1}\amalg T_{1}}^{\pi} \longrightarrow V_{S\amalg T}$$

where τ denotes the switch of tensor factors.

(D) An element
$$\iota \in V_{\{1\},\{1\}}$$
 such that for all $x \in V_{\{1\},\{1\}}$

$$\sigma_{Id_{\{1\}}}((12)(x\pi\iota)) = \sigma_{Id_{\{1\}}}((12)(\iota\pi x)) = x$$
(considering $\{1,2\} \cong \{1\} \coprod \{1\}$).

Note that by the assumption (2) for partial traces, all trace maps can be constructed as a composition of, for all choices of $i \in S$, $j \in T$, the maps

$$\sigma_{i,j} := \sigma_{\{i\} \to \{j\}} : V_{S,T} \to V_{S \setminus \{i\},T \setminus \{j\}}$$

(where the partial trace map is with respect to the only bijection

$$\{i\} \to \{j\},$$

sending i to j). Call these the elementary partial trace maps in a Talgebra.

Definition 3. Call a T-algebra V a graded T-algebra if, for all finite sets S, T with $|S| \neq |T|$, we have

$$V_{S,T}=0.$$

We say an additive R-linear category with ACU tensor product and strong duality generated by an object X is graded if for all n, m, k, ℓ such that $m + \ell \neq n + k$,

$$Hom(X^{\otimes m} \otimes (X^{\vee})^{\otimes k}, X^{\otimes n} \otimes (X^{\vee})^{\otimes \ell}) = 0).$$

Comment: In the graded case, V is determined by a sequence of $\Sigma_n \times \Sigma_n$ -representations $V_n := V_{\{1,\dots,n\},\{1,\dots,n\}}$, along with partial trace maps, for all $k \leq n$,

$$\sigma_k := \sigma_{Id_{\{1,\dots,k\}}} : V_n \to V_{\{k+1,\dots,n\},\{k+1,\dots,n\}} \cong V_{n-k},$$

where the second isomorphism in the composition corresponds to the order-preserving bijection

$$\{k+1,\ldots,n\} \to \{1,\ldots,n-k\},\$$

and product maps

$$\pi: V_n \otimes V_m \to V_{\{1,\ldots,n\} \coprod \{1,\ldots,m\}} \cong V_{n+m}$$

where the second isomorphism in the composition corresponds to the bijection which is the disjoint union of $Id_{\{1,\ldots,n\}}$ with the order-preserving bijection

$$\{1,\ldots,m\}\to \{n+1,\ldots,n+m\},\$$

giving a bijection

$$\{1,\ldots,n\} \coprod \{1,\ldots,m\} \to \{1,\ldots,n+m\}$$

(note that the required consistency conditions and diagrams for partial trace and products will contain conjugation by certain permutations to be equivalent to the conditions in Definition 2).

Proposition 4. Given a T-algebra V, there exists an R-linear preadditive category C(V) with an ACU tensor product and strong duality such that for a certain $X \in Obj(V)$,

$$Obj(\mathcal{C}(V)) = \{X^{\otimes m} \otimes (X^{\vee})^{\otimes n} | m, n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$$
$$Mor(X^{\otimes m_1} \otimes (X^{\vee})^{\otimes n_1}, X^{\otimes m_2} \otimes (X^{\vee})^{\otimes n_2}) =$$
$$V_{\{1, \dots m_1 + n_2\}, \{1, \dots m_2 + n_1\}}.$$

The category C(V) is graded when the T-algebra V is graded.

Proof. The defining axioms of a T-algebra are translations of the corresponding categorical ones.

In the remaining sections, we shall construct a graded T-algebra \mathbb{T} such that $\mathbb{T}_0 = \mathbb{C}$ and $dim(\mathbb{T}_n)$ is finite but grows faster than any given function in n. This gives a symmetric, rigid, locally finite category of arbitrarily high growth.

3. Representation Structure

Write
$$[[n]] = \{1, \dots, n\} \times \{0, 1\}, [n]_{\epsilon} = \{1, \dots, n\} \times \{\epsilon\}, \text{ for } \epsilon = 0, 1.$$

Definition 5. Fix a sequence of natural numbers $(n_k)_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$. Define \mathbb{T}_n as the free \mathbb{C} -vector space on the set \mathbb{S}_n of choices of the following data:

(1) For $1 \le k \le n$, a subset

$$\mathscr{T}(k) \subseteq \mathscr{P}([[n]]),$$

letting \mathcal{P} denote the power set.

(2) A function

$$\chi: \mathcal{T}(k) \to \{1, \dots, n_k\}.$$

(3) Subsets $W_0 \subseteq [n]_0$ and $W_1 \subseteq [n]_1$ with

$$|W_0| = |W_1|,$$

and a bijection

$$\beta: W_0 \to W_1$$

(4) A bijection $b: Z_0 \to Z_1$ where

$$Z_{\epsilon} := [n]_{\epsilon} \setminus \left(W_{\epsilon} \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{n} \bigcup_{T \in \mathscr{T}(k)} T \right)$$

satisfying the following conditions:

(1) For each $T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$, for both $\epsilon = 0, 1$,

$$|T\cap [n]_\epsilon|=k.$$

(2) For all distinct $T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$, $T' \in \mathcal{T}(\ell)$,

$$T \cap T' = \emptyset$$

and for $\epsilon = 0, 1$,

$$T \cap W_{\epsilon} = \emptyset.$$

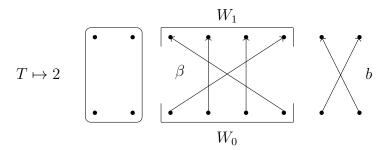
(Note that conditions (1), (2) imply

$$|Z_0| = |Z_1|$$
.)

For example, the following diagram is a visulaization of an element of \mathbb{S}_8 corresponding to taking $T = \{(1,0), (2,0), (1,1), (2,1)\}\},$

$$\mathcal{T}(2) = \{T\}, \ \chi(T) = 2,$$

 $\mathcal{T}(k) = \emptyset$ for all $k \neq 2$, and $W_{\epsilon} = \{3, 4, 5, 6\} \times \{\epsilon\}$:



The \mathbb{C} -vector space \mathbb{T}_n also has a $\Sigma_n \times \Sigma_n$ -action induced by the $\Sigma_n \times \Sigma_n$ -action on [[n]] given by letting the first and second factors act on $[n]_0$ and $[n]_1$, respectively.

4. Product Structure

For all n, m, we further give a homomorphism over $(\Sigma_n)^2 \times (\Sigma_m)^2 \subseteq (\Sigma_{n+m})^2$ mapping

$$\pi_{n,m}: \mathbb{T}_n \times \mathbb{T}_m \to \mathbb{T}_{n+m}.$$

In diagrams, we will take this operation to be placing diagram side by side, i.e. using disjoint union. More precisely, let us fix elements

$$\Phi = (\mathscr{T}(1), \dots, \mathscr{T}(n), \chi, \beta, W_0, W_1, b) \in \mathbb{T}_n$$

$$\Phi' = (\mathscr{T}'(1), \dots, \mathscr{T}'(m), \chi', \beta', W'_0, W'_1, b') \in \mathbb{T}_m$$

Take, then,

$$\mathcal{T}(k) = \mathcal{T}(k) \coprod \mathcal{T}'(k)$$

(taking undefined sets to be empty and identifying

$$\{1,\ldots,n\} \coprod \{1,\ldots,m\} \cong \{1,\ldots,n+m\}$$

by sending $j \mapsto j + n$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$,

$$\widetilde{\chi} = \chi \coprod \chi' : \widetilde{\mathscr{T}(k)} \to \{1, \dots, n_k\},$$

for $\epsilon = 0, 1$

$$\widetilde{W}_{\epsilon} = W_{\epsilon} \coprod W'_{\epsilon},$$

 $\widetilde{\beta} = \beta \coprod \beta'$ and $\widetilde{b} = b \coprod b'$. Then we put

$$\pi_{n,m}((\Phi,\Phi')) = (\widetilde{\mathscr{T}(1)},\ldots,\widetilde{\mathscr{T}(n)},\widetilde{\chi},\widetilde{\beta},\widetilde{W_0},\widetilde{W_1},\widetilde{b}),$$

inducing such a product map $\pi_{n,m}$.

5. Trace Structure

To give the sequence of $\Sigma_n \times \Sigma_n$ -representations (\mathbb{T}_n) the structure of a graded T-algebra, we must also describe partial trace maps. We define $\Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_i$ -equivariant maps

$$tr_{\sigma}: \mathbb{T}_n \to \mathbb{T}_{n-i}$$

(embedding $\Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_i$ diagonally into

$$\Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_{n-i} \times \Sigma_i \times \Sigma_i \subseteq \Sigma_n \times \Sigma_n$$

for the left hand side) after being given a bijection σ between two *i*-element subsets of $[n]_0$ and $[n]_1$.

Suppose we are given two such subsets $R_0 \subseteq [n]_0$, $R_1 \subseteq [n]_1$ with

$$|R_0| = |R_1| = i$$

and a bijection

$$\sigma: R_0 \to R_1.$$

Our convention is to use the order-preserving bijections

$$(3) [n-i]_{\epsilon} \to [n]_{\epsilon} \setminus R_{\epsilon}$$

for the definition of tr_{σ} .

Consider the graph Γ with vertices [[n]] and edges $\{i, \sigma(i)\}$, $\{j, b(j)\}$. The vertices of Γ have degree ≤ 2 , so components can be individual vertices, (connected) cycles, or paths. First of all, we eliminate all (connected) cycles and replace each with a factor c (where $c \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ is a number fixed throughout). Let s be the number of such cycles.

Paths from $[n]_0$ to $[n]_1$ can be identified with the data of subsets $\widehat{R}_0 \subseteq [n]_0$, $\widehat{R}_1 \subseteq [n]_1$ and a bijection $\widehat{\sigma} : \widehat{R}_0 \to \widehat{R}_1$.

A path from $[n]_{\epsilon}$ to $[n]_{\epsilon}$ ends with a σ -edge on one side and a b-edge on the other side. Thus, from these paths, we can extract sets $\overline{R_{\epsilon}} \subseteq [n]_{\epsilon}$, $\overline{R_{\epsilon}} \cap \widehat{R_{\epsilon}} = \emptyset$ and injections

$$\rho_{\epsilon}: \overline{R_{\epsilon}} \to [n]_{\epsilon} \setminus \widehat{R_{\epsilon}}$$

which send the σ -end of the path to the b-end.

Definition 6. Call an element of \mathbb{S}_n , i.e. a collection of data

$$\Phi = (\mathcal{T}(1), \dots, \mathcal{T}(n), \chi, \beta, W_0, W_1, b),$$

matchable with resepct to σ if for $x \in W_0 \cap \widehat{R_0}$, $y \in W_1 \cap \widehat{R_1}$, $\widehat{\sigma}(x) = y$ implies $\beta(x) = y$, and for all $T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$ one of the following is true:

(1) There exists $T' \neq T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$ such that $T \cap \widehat{R_0} \neq \emptyset$ or $T \cap \widehat{R_1} \neq \emptyset$,

$$\widehat{\sigma}(T \cap \widehat{R_0}) \subseteq (T' \cap \widehat{R_1})$$

$$\widehat{\sigma}^{-1}(T \cap \widehat{R_1}) \subseteq (T' \cap \widehat{R_0}).$$

Note that the conditions imply that the above formulae must also then be true for T and T' switched and that T' is unique.

(2) We have $T \cap \widehat{R_0} = \emptyset$ and $T \cap \widehat{R_1} = \emptyset$.

If $\Phi \in \mathbb{S}_n$ is not matchable with respect to σ , put

$$tr_{\sigma}(\Phi) = 0.$$

We shall now define $tr_{\sigma}(\Phi)$ in the case when $\Phi \in \mathbb{S}_n$ is matchable.

Let \widehat{W}_{ϵ} be obtained from W_{ϵ} by deleting any source (resp. target) elements of $\widehat{\sigma}$ and replacing $x \in W_{\epsilon} \cap \overline{R_{\epsilon}}$ by $\widehat{x} = \rho_{\epsilon}(x)$ and define $\widehat{\beta}$ by taking β and replacing an element x of its source (resp. target) by \widehat{X} when applicable. Similarly, for each $T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$, let \widehat{T} be obtained by replacing each $x \in T \cap \overline{R_{\epsilon}}$ by $\rho_{\epsilon}(x)$.

Replace each $T \in \mathcal{T}(k)$ satisfying Case 2 of Definition 6 by \widehat{T} . Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}(k)}$ be the set of all such \widehat{T} , and put $\widetilde{\chi}(\widehat{T}) = \chi(T)$.

Now let $\widehat{\mathscr{T}(k)}$ be the set of all unordered pairs $\{T,T'\}\subseteq\mathscr{T}(k)$ satisfying Case 1 of Definition 6. For such a pair $\{T,T'\}$, define

$$(4) \qquad \beta_{\{T,T'\}} = q(\sum (\gamma : (\widehat{T} \cap [n]_0) \setminus \widehat{R_0} \xrightarrow{\cong} (\widehat{T}' \cap [n]_1) \setminus \widehat{R_1})) \cdot (\sum (\gamma' : (\widehat{T}' \cap [n]_0) \setminus \widehat{R_0} \xrightarrow{\cong} (\widehat{T} \cap [n]_1) \setminus \widehat{R_1})).$$

(In (4), we consider a bijection as a "product" of its pairs, the product is distributive with respect to sums). Define, also,

$$W_{\epsilon}^{\{T,T'\}} = ((\widehat{T} \cup \widehat{T'}) \cap [n]_{\epsilon}) \setminus \widehat{R_{\epsilon}}.$$

Now let

$$\widetilde{W_{\epsilon}} = \widehat{W_{\epsilon}} \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{n-i} \bigcup_{\{T,T\} \in \widehat{\mathcal{T}(k)}} W_{\epsilon}^{\{T,T'\}}$$

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and

$$\widetilde{\beta} = \widehat{\beta} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^{n-i} \prod_{\{T,T'\} \in \widehat{\mathscr{T}(k)}} \beta_{\{T,T'\}}.$$

Finally, let \widetilde{b} be the restriction of $\widehat{\sigma}$ to

$$[n]_0 \setminus \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{n-i} \bigcup_{T \in \widetilde{\mathscr{T}(k)}} T \cup \widetilde{W}_0\right) \to [n]_1 \setminus \left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{n-i} \bigcup_{T \in \widetilde{\mathscr{T}(k)}} T \cup \widetilde{W}_1\right).$$

Now we define

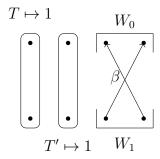
$$tr_{\sigma}(\Phi) = c^s \widetilde{\Phi}$$

where

$$\widetilde{\Phi} = (\widetilde{\mathscr{T}(1)}, \dots, \widetilde{\mathscr{T}(n-i)}, \widetilde{\chi}, \widetilde{\beta}, \widetilde{W_0}, \widetilde{W_1}, \widetilde{b}),$$

using the idenitification (3).

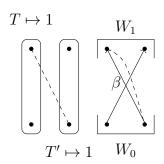
For example, the element Φ of \mathbb{T}_4 corresponding to the diagram



is matchable with respect to

$$\sigma: \{2,4\} \times \{0\} \to \{1,3\} \times \{1\}$$

given by $\sigma((2,0)) = (1,1), \, \sigma((4,0)) = (3,1)$ (represented by the dotted lines):



Then to find $tr_{\sigma}(\Phi)$ we delete the elements of the T's and W's connected by σ . In this case, Z_{ϵ} , $\overline{R_{\epsilon}}$ and $\widehat{R_{\epsilon}}$ are all empty. None of the $\widetilde{\mathscr{T}(k)}$'s will be non-empty, and all remaining points will belong to the new $\widetilde{W_{\epsilon}}$'s. There is only one unordered pair of sets $\{T, T'\} \in \widehat{\mathscr{T}(k)}$, and

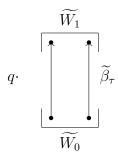
$$W_0^{\{T,T'\}} = \{(1,0)\}$$

$$W_1^{\{T,T'\}} = \{(2,1)\},$$

with

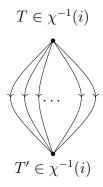
$$\beta_{\{T,T'\}} = q \cdot ((1,0) \mapsto (2,1))$$

Thus, $tr_{\sigma}(\Phi)$ can be visualized as



(the top row of points representing $\{(2,1),(4,1)\}$ and the bottom row of points representing $\{(1,0),(3,0)\}$).

Remark: The motivation of this definition comes from making traces of diagrams of the form



equal to q, and "introducing no other non-zero traces." The formalism of the set W is introduced to eliminate negligible elements that would arise from different values of i.

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