

# GENERALIZED LEGENDRIAN RACKS: KNOT COLORING INVARIANTS, MEDIALITY, AND TABULATION

LŨC TA

**ABSTRACT.** Generalized Legendrian racks, also called GL-racks or bi-Legendrian racks, are a nonassociative algebraic structure that can distinguish between Legendrian nonsimple links in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  or  $S^3$ . Starting with applications to geometric topology, we use GL-rack coloring numbers to distinguish between Legendrian representatives of knot types  $6_2$  and  $8_{10}$ . We also consider a functor that recovers the fundamental group of a link complement in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  from a GL-rack, and we propose a medial GL-rack-valued invariant of Legendrian links. Additional categorical results include a symmetric monoidal closed structure on the category of medial GL-racks and a group-theoretic sufficient condition for any two GL-racks or quandles to be isomorphic. Finally, we provide algorithms that classify GL-racks of small orders up to isomorphism and compute GL-rack coloring numbers. We implement these algorithms to tabulate all GL-racks of orders  $n \leq 7$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Generalized Legendrian racks*, also called *GL-racks* or *bi-Legendrian racks*, are a nonassociative algebraic structure whose axioms encode the contact geometry of Legendrian knots and links in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  or  $S^3$ . Despite their recency, GL-racks can be traced back to algebraic structures called *kei*, which Takasaki [41] introduced in 1942 to study symmetric spaces; *quandles*, which Joyce [23] introduced in 1980 to study knots and links in  $S^3$ ; and *racks*, which Fenn and Rourke [19] introduced in 1992 to study framed links in 3-manifolds. Kei, quandles, and racks have enjoyed significant study as link invariants in geometric topology and in their own rights in quantum algebra.

More recently, authors have introduced variants of racks suitable for studying Legendrian links. In 2017, Karmakar and Prathamesh [31] introduced rack invariants of Legendrian knots. In 2021, Cenicer0s et al. [6] refined these invariants by introducing *Legendrian racks*. In 2023, Karmakar et al. [24] and Kimura [27] independently strengthened these constructions by introducing GL-racks.

In this article, we apply GL-racks to confirm several conjectures about Legendrian links, study the category GLR of GL-racks and their homomorphisms, and extend several known results about quandles to GL-racks. Along with a classification of GL-racks of orders  $n \leq 7$  up to isomorphism detailed in Appendices A and B, the main results of this paper are as follows.

**Theorem 1.1.** *The two Legendrian knots with underlying topological knot type  $6_2$  and classical invariants  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-7, 2)$  given in [9] are distinguishable by GL-rack coloring numbers.*

**Theorem 1.2.** *The two Legendrian knots with underlying topological knot type  $8_{10}$  and classical invariants  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-8, 3)$  given in [3] are distinguishable by GL-rack coloring numbers.*

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  be an oriented Legendrian link, let  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  be the GL-rack of  $\Lambda$  as defined in Definition 3.2, and let  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda))$  be its enveloping group as defined in Definition 2.16. Then*

---

2020 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 57K12; Secondary 18B99, 57K10, 57K33.

*Key words and phrases.* Abelian rack, enumeration, exhaustive search algorithm, fundamental quandle, Legendrian knot, link coloring, tensor category.

there exists a group isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Env}_{\mathrm{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)) \cong \pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Lambda).$$

**Theorem 1.4.** *Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be GL-racks. If  $R_2$  is medial, then  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{GLR}}(R_1, R_2)$  has a canonical medial GL-rack structure. If in addition  $R_2$  is a GL-quandle, then so is  $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{GLR}}(R_1, R_2)$ .*

**Theorem 1.5.** *The full subcategory of GLR whose objects are medial is symmetric monoidal closed.*

Inspired by Karmakar et al.’s [25, Section 5] constructions of homogeneous representations of GL-racks, we also construct a category  $\mathrm{GrpTup}$  and prove the following structural result.

**Theorem 1.6.** *There exists an essentially surjective functor  $\mathcal{F} : \mathrm{GrpTup} \rightarrow \mathrm{GLR}$ . This functor induces a group-theoretic sufficient condition for any two GL-racks or quandles to be isomorphic.*

The structure of this article is as follows. In Section 2, we give an overview of the questions in Legendrian knot theory motivating the study of GL-racks and quandles. We define these algebraic structures abstractly and discuss related groups, categories, and functors in the literature.

In Section 3, we discuss how to assign a GL-rack to an oriented Legendrian link, give several worked examples, and discuss related invariants of Legendrian links. Then, we prove Theorems 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3, which we state as Theorems 3.8, 3.11, and 3.13, respectively. Our approach to Theorem 1.1 offers a simpler and more algebraic alternative to Dynnikov and Prasolov’s [11, Proposition 2.3] proof of the corresponding conjecture of Chongchitmate and Ng [9]. Theorem 1.1 also positively answers a question posed by Kimura [27, Section 4], as we formulate in Corollary 3.9 and strengthen in Proposition A.3. Theorem 1.2 confirms a conjecture of Bhattacharyya et al. [3], and Theorem 1.3 generalizes an empirical observation of Karmakar et al. [24, Remark 8.2].

In Section 4, we define *medial* or *abelian* GL-racks and tensor products of GL-racks. Using Theorem 1.4, which we state as Theorem 4.3, we propose a medial GL-rack-valued invariant of Legendrian links. Then, we prove Theorem 1.5, which we state as Theorem 4.5. These results extend Crans and Nelson’s [10, Theorems 3 and 12] analogous results for medial quandles.

In Section 5, we define  $\mathrm{GrpTup}$  using objects constructed from collections of left cosets of groups. Karmakar et al. [25, Theorem 5.2] originally employed these objects to produce a homogeneous representation of any GL-rack. Then, we prove Theorem 1.6, the first part of which we state as Theorem 5.1 and the second part of which we discuss afterward.

In Section 6, we propose questions for further research on GL-racks based on our results.

In Appendix A, we describe algorithms that can classify GL-racks of orders  $n \leq 11$  up to isomorphism, building upon the work of Vojtěchovský and Yang [44]. We provide implementations of these algorithms in `GAP` [20] and the data we were able to compute and enumerate for all  $n \leq 7$ . Our findings motivate us to state a conjecture relating rack isomorphism classes to GL-quandle isomorphism classes. We also provide an algorithm that computes the GL-rack coloring number of any oriented Legendrian link with respect to all GL-racks of a given order  $1 \leq n \leq 7$ .

In Appendix B, we tabulate all GL-racks of orders  $2 \leq n \leq 4$  up to isomorphism.

**Acknowledgments.** I thank Sam Raskin for advising this article, going out of his way to help even while on academic leave and as I dove into unfamiliar subjects. I also thank Samantha Pezzimenti for her mentorship and introducing me to mathematics research and Legendrian knot theory. I thank Jose Cenicerós and Noam Scully for helpful discussions about categorical approaches to rack and quandle theory, and I thank Peyton Wood for helpful discussions about quandle automorphism groups and Legendrian racks. Finally, I thank Patrick Devlin, Miki Havlíčková, Kati Hubley, Matthew King, Andrew Neitzke, and Carol Rutschman for their mentorship. This article was written in partial fulfillment of the senior requirements for the mathematics major at Yale.

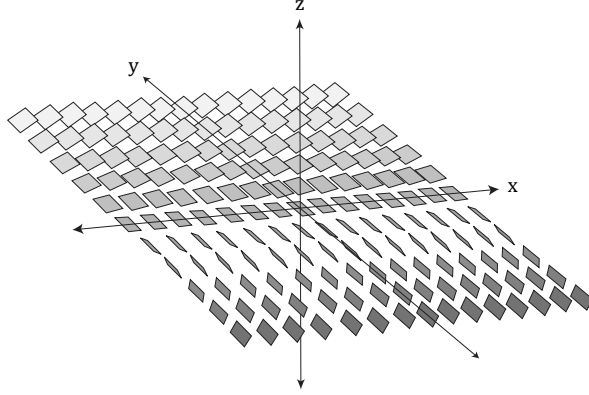


FIGURE 1. The standard contact structure on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Reprinted from [30, Figure 1].

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

In this section, we contextualize the study of GL-racks and establish relevant terminology. In particular, we discuss the crossing and cusp relations afforded by Legendrian Reidemeister moves, which motivate the axioms of GL-racks. After stating some preliminary results, we discuss several functors appearing in the literature on GL-racks.

**2.1. Motivations: Legendrian knots and links.** In this subsection, we discuss how the development of Legendrian link invariants motivates the study of GL-racks. Although we establish the relevant concepts here, we also refer the reader to [38] for an accessible introduction to Legendrian knot theory. For a more formal contact-geometric treatment, we refer the reader to [17].

**Definition 2.1.** A *knot* is a smooth embedding of the circle  $S^1$  into  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , and a *link* is a disjoint union of a finite number of knots. A link  $\Lambda$  is called *Legendrian* if it lies everywhere tangent to the *standard contact structure*  $\ker(dz - y dx)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , which is depicted in Figure 1. A *front projection* or *front diagram*  $D(\Lambda)$  is the projection of  $\Lambda$  onto the  $xz$ -plane. Finally, two Legendrian links are called *equivalent* or *Legendrian isotopic* if there exists a smooth ambient isotopy between them that preserves the condition of being Legendrian at every stage.

Note that Legendrian knots can also be studied as embeddings of  $S^1$  into the 3-sphere  $S^3$ ; see [17]. Since  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L) \cong \pi_1(S^3 \setminus L)$  for any link  $L$ , the choice of  $S^3$  in place of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  does not alter the results of this article. Also, we will denote the underlying *smooth link type* or *topological link type* of a Legendrian link  $\Lambda$  by  $L$ . For example, if  $\Lambda$  is one of the three Legendrian unknots depicted across Figures 2 and 3, then  $L$  denotes any unknot viewed up to ambient isotopy.

Central to contact geometry is the question of how to distinguish Legendrian links up to Legendrian isotopy. To this end, knot theorists typically study Legendrian links  $\Lambda$  through their front projections, which follow several restrictions thanks to the tangency condition on  $\Lambda$ . For one, at every crossing in  $D(\Lambda)$ , the strand with the more negative slope is always the overstrand. For two,  $D(\Lambda)$  has cusps in place of vertical tangencies. Note that the numbers of crossings and cusps in a Legendrian front projection are finite due to smoothness. Moreover,  $D(\Lambda)$  can be viewed as a *link diagram* of  $L$ , denoted by  $D(L)$ , by “ignoring” all cusps. For example, Figure 2 depicts unoriented front projections of a Legendrian unknot and a Legendrian trefoil, and Figure 3 depicts oriented front projections of two nonequivalent Legendrian unknots.

In fact, tangency to the standard contact structure implies that one can entirely recover the geometric structure of an oriented Legendrian link from its front projection; see [17]. Indeed, front

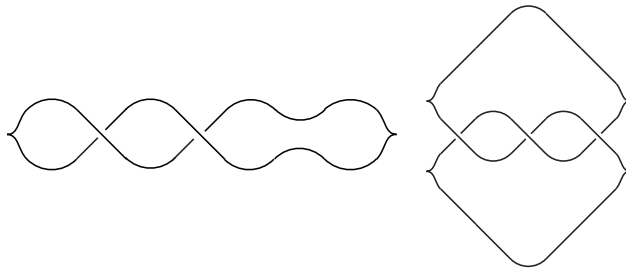


FIGURE 2. Unoriented front projections of a Legendrian unknot and a Legendrian trefoil. Adapted from [30, Figures 6 and 15].

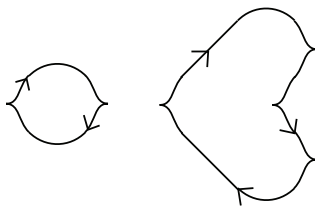


FIGURE 3. Front projections of nonequivalent oriented Legendrian unknots.

projects also recover or characterize many *invariants* of Legendrian links, which are mathematical objects used to detect when two Legendrian links are nonequivalent. In particular, the *classical invariants* of a Legendrian link  $\Lambda$ , called the *Thurston-Bennequin number* and *rotation number* and denoted respectively by  $\text{tb}(\Lambda)$  and  $\text{rot}(\Lambda)$ , can be defined as the integers

$$\text{tb}(\Lambda) = P - N - \frac{1}{2}(D + U), \quad \text{rot}(\Lambda) = \frac{1}{2}(D - U),$$

where  $P$ ,  $N$ ,  $D$ , and  $U$  are the numbers of positively oriented crossings, negatively oriented crossings, downward-oriented cusps, and upward-oriented cusps in  $D(\Lambda)$ , respectively.

It is well-known that two Legendrian links are equivalent only if their classical invariants are equal. The main challenge in distinguishing between Legendrian links is that the converse only holds within certain topological link types, which are called *Legendrian simple*; see [17, Section 5]. For example, Theorem 1.2 shows that the topological knot type  $8_{10}$  is Legendrian nonsimple.

A well-known result of Świątkowski in 1992 offers a method of comparing Legendrian links using only their front projections.

**Proposition 2.2.** [39, Theorem B] *Two Legendrian links are Legendrian isotopic if and only if their front projections are related by a finite sequence of planar isotopies and the three Legendrian Reidemeister moves depicted in Figures 5–7.*

**Example 2.3.** Let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be the oriented Legendrian unknots depicted on the left and right of Figure 3, respectively. Although  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  share the same underlying smooth knot type, they are not Legendrian isotopic because  $\text{tb}(\Lambda_1) = -1 \neq -2 = \text{tb}(\Lambda_2)$  and  $\text{rot}(\Lambda_1) = 0 \neq 1 = \text{rot}(\Lambda_2)$ . Proposition 2.2 asserts that the two front projections in Figure 3 cannot be related by any sequence of Legendrian Reidemeister moves.

There are in fact infinitely many examples of nonequivalent Legendrian links with the same underlying smooth link type, including examples in Legendrian nonsimple link types that share the same classical invariants (see, e.g., [9]). The problem of distinguishing between Legendrian



FIGURE 4. Crossing and cusp relations. Adapted from [25, Figure 4] under CC BY 4.0.



FIGURE 5. Crossing and cusp relations in one possible orientation of the first Legendrian Reidemeister move. Adapted from [25, Figure 5] under CC BY 4.0.

links has motivated various nonclassical invariants of Legendrian links, including the Chekanov-Eliashberg differential graded algebra and associated polynomial-valued invariants (see, e.g., [17]), various (co)homology theories (see [18]), and the mosaic number (see [30, 37]). Quantum algebraists have also developed rack-theoretic invariants of both Legendrian links and topological links. These include fundamental quandles and their Legendrian analogues (e.g., [6, 23, 25]), coloring numbers (see [6, 25, 27]), cocycle invariants (e.g., [7, 28]), and state-sum invariants (e.g., [16, 24]), many of which have elegant categorifications and enhancements (see, e.g., [5, 7, 8, 15]). These invariants motivate the study of GL-racks as a category.

In light of Proposition 2.2, the axioms of GL-racks are motivated by the *crossing* and *cusp relations* induced between strands of a Legendrian front projection modulo the relations afforded by the Legendrian Reidemeister moves. (Note that planar isotopies do not affect crossings or cusps, so they do not induce any such relations.) In Figure 4, (i) and (ii) depict crossing relations between strands in a Legendrian front projection, and (iii) and (iv) depict cusp relations. Note that  $u$  and  $d$  correspond to the relations induced by upward- and downward-oriented cusps, respectively. Figures 5–7 depict the crossing and cusp relations in one possible orientation of each of the three Legendrian Reidemeister moves. For a complete list of all possible orientations and their induced crossing and cusp relations, we refer the reader to [27, Figures 6–8].

**2.2. GL-racks.** In this subsection, we define racks, quandles, and GL-racks abstractly by translating the crossing and cusp relations in Subsection 2.1 into the language of *rack symmetries*. Henceforth, we will denote the group of all bijections from a set  $X$  to itself by  $\text{Sym}(X)$ .

Although racks and quandles are often defined as sets  $X$  endowed with binary operations  $\triangleright, \triangleright^{-1} : X \times X \rightarrow X$ , they may also be characterized in terms of symmetries  $s_x \in \text{Sym}(X)$  assigned to each element  $x \in X$ ; cf. [13, Section 2; 23, Definition 1.1; 40, Definition 2.7]. One may translate between the two conventions via the formulas  $s_x(y) = y \triangleright x$  and  $s_x^{-1}(y) = y \triangleright^{-1} x$ . In this article, we adopt the definitions using symmetries due to their convenience for abstract proofs and exhaustive search algorithms; we have (re)written all crossing relations in Figures 4–7 in this notation. We



FIGURE 6. Crossing and cusp relations in one possible orientation of the second Legendrian Reidemeister move. Adapted from [25, Figure 6] under CC BY 4.0.

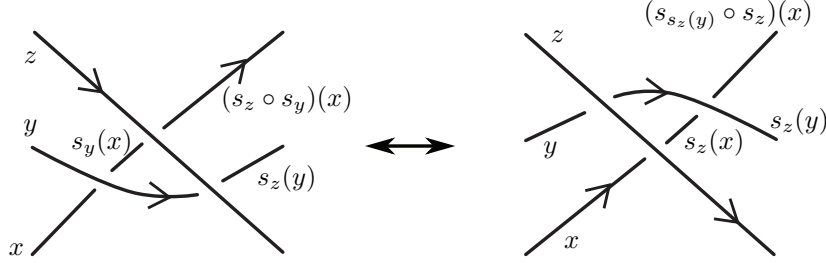


FIGURE 7. Crossing and cusp relations in one possible orientation of the third Legendrian Reidemeister move. Adapted from [25, Figure 3] under CC BY 4.0.

refer the reader to [14, 35] for accessible introductions to quandle theory, [14, 36] for references on racks and quandles as they concern low-dimensional topology, and [12] for a survey of modern algebraic research on racks and quandles.

The rack and quandle axioms encapsulate the crossing relations depicted in Figures 5-7.

**Definition 2.4.** Let  $X$  be a set, and let  $s : X \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$  be a map defined by  $x \mapsto s_x$ . We call the pair  $(X, s)$  a *rack* or a *wrack* if, for all  $x, y \in X$ , we have  $s_x \circ s_y = s_{s_x(y)} \circ s_x$ . We say that  $s_x$  is the *symmetry at  $x$* , and we say that  $|X|$  is the *order* of  $(X, s)$ . If in addition  $s_x(x) = x$  for all  $x \in X$ , then we say that  $(X, s)$  is a *quandle*. Finally, if  $Y \subset X$  and  $s_y(z) \in Y$  for all  $y, z \in Y$ , then we say that  $(Y, s|_Y)$  is a *subrack* of  $(X, s)$ .

**Example 2.5.** [40, Definition 2.11] Let  $\Omega$  be a union of conjugacy classes in a group  $G$ , and define  $s : \Omega \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\Omega)$  by  $\alpha \mapsto s_\alpha := [\omega \mapsto \alpha\omega\alpha^{-1}]$ . Then  $(\Omega, s)$  is a quandle called a *conjugation quandle*, and we denote it by  $\text{Conj}(\Omega)$ .

**Example 2.6.** [14, Example 99] Let  $X$  be a set, and fix  $\sigma \in \text{Sym}(X)$ . Define  $s : X \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$  by  $x \mapsto \sigma$ , so that  $s_x(y) = \sigma(y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then  $(X, s)$  is a rack called a *permutation rack* or *constant action rack*, and we denote it by  $(X, \sigma)_p$ .

In 2023, Karmakar et al. [24] and Kimura [27] independently introduced *GL-racks* to generalize the *Legendrian racks* introduced by Kulkarni and Prathamesh [31] in 2017 and refined by Cenicerós et al. [6] in 2021. The GL-rack axioms encode the crossing and cusp relations induced by the Legendrian Reidemeister moves in Figures 5-7. Once again, we translate the original definition into the language of rack symmetries.

**Definition 2.7.** [24, Definition 3.1] A *GL-rack*, also called a *generalized Legendrian rack* or a *bi-Legendrian rack*, is a quadruple  $(X, s, u, d)$  in which  $(X, s)$  is a rack,  $u, d : X \rightarrow X$  are maps, and the following axioms hold for all  $x \in X$ :

- (L1)  $(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} \circ s_x)(x) = x = (\mathbf{d}\mathbf{u} \circ s_x)(x)$ .
- (L2)  $\mathbf{u} \circ s_x = s_x \circ \mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d} \circ s_x = s_x \circ \mathbf{d}$ .
- (L3)  $s_{\mathbf{u}(x)} = s_x = s_{\mathbf{d}(x)}$ .

We call the ordered pair  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  a *GL-structure* on  $(X, s)$ . If in addition  $(X, s)$  is a quandle, we say that  $(X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  is a *GL-quandle*.

**Example 2.8.** [27, Example 3.6] Let  $G$  be a group, let  $z \in Z(G)$ , and define  $f : G \rightarrow G$  by  $g \mapsto zg$ . Then  $(\text{Conj}(G), f, f^{-1})$  is a GL-quandle.

**Example 2.9.** [27, Example 3.7] Let  $(X, \sigma)_p$  be a permutation rack, and let  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} : X \rightarrow X$  be maps. Then  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  defines a GL-structure on  $(X, \sigma)_p$  if and only if  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \sigma^{-1} = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$ . In this case, we say that  $((X, \sigma)_p, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  is a *permutation GL-rack* or *constant action GL-rack*, and we denote it by  $(X, \sigma, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})_p$ .

**Example 2.10.** [25, Example 3.4] Any GL-rack of the form  $(X, s, \text{id}_X, \text{id}_X)$  is called a *trivial GL-rack*. In particular, any quandle  $(Q, s)$  can be identified with the trivial GL-rack  $(Q, s, \text{id}_Q, \text{id}_Q)$ ; cf. Lemma 2.14. In other words, GL-racks generalize quandles.

We define homomorphisms of these algebraic structures as follows.

**Definition 2.11.** Let  $(X, s)$  and  $(Y, t)$  be racks. A map  $\varphi : X \rightarrow Y$  is called a *rack homomorphism* if  $\varphi \circ s_x = t_{\varphi(x)} \circ \varphi$  for all  $x \in X$ . If in addition  $(\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1)$  and  $(\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  are GL-structures on  $(X, s)$  and  $(Y, t)$ , we say that a  $\varphi$  is also a *GL-rack homomorphism* if  $\varphi \circ \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{u}_2 \circ \varphi$  and  $\varphi \circ \mathbf{d}_1 = \mathbf{d}_2 \circ \varphi$ . A *(GL-)rack isomorphism* is simply a bijective (GL-)rack homomorphism. If  $R$  is a GL-rack, we denote its group of GL-rack automorphisms by  $\text{Aut}_{\text{GLR}}(R)$ .

Evidently, we have the following; the final sentence is from [25, Proposition 3.2].

**Proposition 2.12.** *Let  $(X, s)$  be a rack with maps  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} : X \rightarrow X$  satisfying axioms (L1) and (L3) of Definition 2.7. Then  $R := (X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  is a GL-rack if and only if  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  are endomorphisms of the underlying rack  $(X, s)$ . In this case, we actually have  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} \in \text{Aut}_{\text{GLR}}(R)$ .*

Axiom (L1) immediately yields the following.

**Proposition 2.13.** *Let  $(X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  be a GL-rack. Then the underlying rack  $(X, s)$  is a quandle if and only if  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \text{id}_X = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$ , that is,  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{u}^{-1}$  as GL-rack automorphisms.*

**2.3. Functors of interest in the literature.** In this subsection, we define several categories and functors appearing in the literature on GL-racks, quandles, and their relationships with groups.

We begin by defining several categories. Let **Set** and **Grp** be the categories of sets with functions and groups with group homomorphisms, respectively. Let **Rack** be the category of racks with rack homomorphisms, let **Qnd** be the full subcategory of **Rack** whose objects are quandles, and let **GLR** be the category of GL-racks with GL-rack homomorphisms.

Example 2.10 and Proposition 2.13 immediately imply the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.14.** *The correspondence  $(Q, s) \mapsto (Q, s, \text{id}_Q, \text{id}_Q)$  defines a canonical isomorphism from **Qnd** to the full subcategory of **GLR** whose objects are trivial GL-racks.*

In the sense of universal algebra, **GLR** is an equational class, so it is complete and cocomplete; see [1, Corollary 1.2, Theorem 4.5]. Thus, we can express GL-racks in terms of generators and relations using quotients of *free GL-racks*, which Karmakar et al. [24] introduced in 2023.

**Definition 2.15.** [24, Section 4] Let  $X$  be a set. We define the *free GL-rack on  $X$* , denoted by  $\text{FGLR}(X)$ , as follows. If  $X = \emptyset$ , let  $\text{FGLR}(X)$  be the trivial GL-rack with one element. Else,

define the *universe of words generated by  $X$*  to be the set  $W(X)$  such that  $X \subset W(X)$  and  $s_y(x)$ ,  $s_y^{-1}(x)$ ,  $\mathbf{u}(x)$ ,  $\mathbf{d}(x) \in W(X)$  for all  $x, y \in W(X)$ . Let  $F(X)$  be the set of equivalence classes of elements of  $W(X)$  modulo the equivalence relation generated by the following relations for all  $x, y, z \in W(X)$ :

- (1)  $s_y^{-1}(s_y(x))y \sim x \sim s_y(s_y^{-1}(x))$ .
- (2)  $s_z(s_y(x)) \sim s_{s_z(y)}(s_z(x))$ .
- (3)  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{d}(s_x(x))) \sim x \sim \mathbf{d}(\mathbf{u}(s_x(x)))$ .
- (4)  $\mathbf{u}(s_y(x)) \sim s_y(\mathbf{u}(x))$  and  $\mathbf{d}(s_y(x)) \sim s_y(\mathbf{d}(x))$ .
- (5)  $s_{\mathbf{u}(y)}(x) \sim s_y(x)$  and  $s_{\mathbf{d}(y)}(x) \sim s_y(x)$ .

Thus, we have maps  $s : F(X) \rightarrow \text{Sym}(F(X))$  defined by  $x \mapsto s_x := [y \mapsto s_x(y)]$  and  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} : F(X) \rightarrow F(X)$  defined by  $x \mapsto \mathbf{u}(x)$  and  $x \mapsto \mathbf{d}(x)$ . We define  $\text{FGLR}(X)$  to be the GL-rack  $(F(X), s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$ . The *free quandle on  $X$*  is defined similarly; in the sense of Lemma 2.14, it is simply  $\text{FGLR}(X)$  modulo the relations  $\mathbf{u}(x) \sim x \sim \mathbf{d}(x)$  for all  $x \in W(X)$ .

To rephrase [25, Proposition 4.2], the forgetful functor  $\text{GLR} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  has a left adjoint defined by  $X \mapsto \text{FGLR}(X)$ , as one might expect.

Another functor of interest in Subsection 3.3 assigns an *enveloping group* to each GL-rack. By [24, Proposition 8.4], it has a right adjoint that results from taking  $\Omega = G$  in Example 2.5.

**Definition 2.16.** [24, Section 8] Given a GL-rack  $R = (X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$ , its *enveloping group* is

$$\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) := \langle e_x, x \in X \mid e_{s_x(y)} = e_x^{-1} e_y e_x, e_{\mathbf{u}(x)} = e_x, e_{\mathbf{d}(x)} = e_x, x, y \in X \rangle.$$

By taking  $\mathbf{u} = \text{id}_X = \mathbf{d}$ , we can also define the enveloping group of a quandle  $(Q, s)$  to be

$$\text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(Q, s) := \langle e_x, x \in Q \mid e_{s_x(y)} = e_x^{-1} e_y e_x, x, y \in Q \rangle.$$

**Proposition 2.17.** [24, Proposition 8.4] *There exists a functor  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}} : \text{GLR} \rightarrow \text{Grp}$  that sends a GL-rack to its enveloping group and sends any GL-rack homomorphism  $\psi : (X, s, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1) \rightarrow (Y, t, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  to the group homomorphism  $\tilde{\psi} : \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(X, s, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1) \rightarrow \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(Y, t, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  defined by  $e_x \mapsto e_{\psi(x)}$  for all  $x \in X$ . Also,  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}$  is left adjoint to a functor sending a group  $G$  to the GL-rack  $(\text{Conj}(G), \text{id}_G, \text{id}_G)$ , which is isomorphic to  $\text{Conj}(G)$  in the sense of Lemma 2.14.*

Thus, some authors denote the enveloping group of a GL-rack or quandle  $R$  by  $\text{Adconj}(R)$  or  $\text{As}(R)$  and call it the *associated group of  $R$* ; see, e.g., [23, Section 6; 36, Definition 2.19]. For an example of how to compute the enveloping group of a GL-rack, see Example 3.6 in Subsection 3.2.

### 3. ON RACK-THEORETIC INVARIANTS OF LEGENDRIAN LINKS

In this section, we begin by defining the GL-rack of an oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$  and the fundamental quandle of its underlying smooth link  $L$ , both of which are invariant under Legendrian isotopy. After a few worked examples, we give short algebraic proofs of several conjectures relating to Legendrian links and their invariants.

**3.1. The GL-rack of a Legendrian link.** In this subsection, we discuss how to assign a GL-rack to a Legendrian link in a way invariant under Legendrian isotopy. We begin with several definitions.

**Definition 3.1.** Given a front projection  $D(\Lambda)$  of an oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$ , define a *cusped strand* of  $D(\Lambda)$  to be a maximal (with respect to inclusion) connected segment in  $D(\Lambda)$ . Also, define an *uncusped strand* of  $D(\Lambda)$  to be a maximal (with respect to inclusion) connected subset of a cusped strand of  $D(\Lambda)$  that both starts and ends at either a crossing or a cusp.



**Definition 3.2.** [25, Section 4] Let  $\Lambda$  be an oriented Legendrian link with front projection  $D(\Lambda)$ , and let  $X_\Lambda$  be a set in bijection with the cusped strands of  $D(\Lambda)$ . At each cusp, label the neighboring uncusped strands using the cusp relations in Figure 4. Then, at each crossing, impose the corresponding crossing relation between uncusped strands in Figure 4 on  $\text{FGLR}(X_\Lambda)$ . The *GL-rack* of  $\Lambda$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ , is defined to be the set of equivalence classes of elements of  $\text{FGLR}(X_\Lambda)$  modulo the equivalence relation generated by these relations. If  $L$  is a smooth link with link diagram  $D(L)$ , then we define the *fundamental quandle* of  $L$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$ , in a similar way. However, we use the free quandle on  $X_\Lambda$  in place of  $\text{FGLR}(X_\Lambda)$ , and we forgo any cusp relations.

While Karmakar et al. in [25] define  $X_\Lambda$  using uncusped strands, the cusp relations make their original definition equivalent to Definition 3.2. For examples of how to compute  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ , see Subsection 3.2.

The assignment of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  to  $\Lambda$  (resp.  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$  to  $L$ ) is independent of the choice of front projection  $D(\Lambda)$  (resp. link diagram  $D(L)$ ), as captured in the following result of Karmakar et al.

**Proposition 3.3.** [25, Theorem 4.3] *If two oriented Legendrian front projections are related by a finite sequence of Legendrian Reidemeister moves, then their induced GL-racks are isomorphic. Hence, the GL-rack of a Legendrian link is invariant under Legendrian isotopy.*

This is a consequence of Proposition 2.2 and the fact that the GL-rack axioms capture the crossing and cusp relations induced by the Legendrian Reidemeister moves. In turn, Proposition 3.3 implies that the *GL-rack coloring number* of  $\Lambda$  with respect to a fixed GL-rack, as defined below, is invariant under Legendrian isotopy; see, e.g., [6, 25, 27].

**Definition 3.4.** Let  $R$  be a GL-rack. The  *$R$ -coloring number* of an oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$ , denoted by  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R)$ , is defined to be the cardinality of the hom-set  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), R)$ .

Kulkarni and Prathamesh [31, Main Theorem 2], Kimura [27, Theorem 4.1], and Karmakar et al. [25, Theorem 4.6] each used  $R$ -coloring numbers to distinguish between infinitely many Legendrian unknots. Karmakar et al. [25, Theorem 4.7] also used  $R$ -coloring numbers to distinguish between infinitely many Legendrian trefoils, and Cenicerros et al. [6, Example 16] used them to distinguish between connected sums of Legendrian trefoils. That said, there also exist nonequivalent Legendrian knots whose GL-racks are isomorphic (see [28, Examples 21–24]), so neither  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  nor  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R)$  are complete Legendrian knot invariants. Nevertheless, we will use the latter in Subsection 3.2 to distinguish between unstabilized Legendrian representatives of knot types  $6_2$  and  $8_{10}$ , which cannot be done using the graded ruling invariant or linearized contact homology.

Given a Legendrian link  $\Lambda$ , note that imposing the equivalence relation  $\mathbf{u}(x) \sim x \sim \mathbf{d}(x)$  for all  $x \in X_\Lambda$  onto  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  yields a quandle in the sense of Lemma 2.14. Geometrically, imposing this equivalence relation amounts to “ignoring” all cusps in  $D(\Lambda)$  and viewing  $D(\Lambda)$  only as a diagram of the underlying smooth link  $L$ . This recovers  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$  from  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ , yielding the following observation.

**Lemma 3.5.** [28, Remark 23] *Let  $\Lambda$  be an oriented Legendrian link, and let  $L$  be its underlying smooth link. After imposing an equivalence relation onto  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  defined by  $\mathbf{u}(x) \sim x \sim \mathbf{d}(x)$  for all  $x \in X_\Lambda$ , the resulting GL-rack is canonically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$  in the sense of Lemma 2.14.*

**3.2. Example calculations and applications.** In this section, we give several examples of how to compute the GL-rack of an oriented Legendrian knot. This allows us to give relatively brief algebraic proofs of conjectures in [9] and [3] about Legendrian  $6_2$  and  $8_{10}$  knots, respectively.

**Example 3.6.** Let  $q \geq 3$  be an odd integer, let  $L$  be a  $(2, -q)$ -torus knot, and let  $\Lambda$  be the Legendrian representative of  $L$  having maximal Thurston-Bennequin and rotation numbers. (This choice is well-defined since all torus knot types are Legendrian simple; see [17, Subsection 5.2].) In



FIGURE 8. Front projection  $D(\Lambda)$  and induced cusp relations of the Legendrian  $(2, -q)$ -torus knot  $\Lambda$  with maximal classical invariants.

this example, we compute  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ ,  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$ ,  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda))$ , and  $\text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(\mathcal{Q}(L))$  using the front projection  $D(\Lambda)$  in Figure 8. Starting at any crossing (which, in Figure 8, we arbitrarily choose to be the bottommost crossing), traverse  $D(\Lambda)$  along its depicted orientation. By recording the induced cusp and crossing relations using Figure 4, we compute that  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  is the free GL-rack on the set  $X_\Lambda = \{x_1, \dots, x_q\}$  modulo the crossing relations

$$s_{u(x_1)}(x_q) = ud(x_2), \quad s_{d(x_q)}(x_{q-1}) = ud(x_1), \quad \text{and} \quad s_{d(x_{i-1})}(x_{i-2}) = d^2(x_i) \text{ for all } 3 \leq i \leq q.$$

Using GL-rack axiom (L3), we can simplify these crossing relations to

$$s_{x_1}(x_q) = ud(x_2), \quad s_{x_q}(x_{q-1}) = ud(x_1), \quad \text{and} \quad s_{x_{i-1}}(x_{i-2}) = d^2(x_i) \text{ for all } 3 \leq i \leq q.$$

Now that we have a presentation of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ , let us compute  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$ . To do this, we could traverse  $D(\Lambda)$  again while ignoring all cusps and only considering crossing relations. In view of Lemma 3.5, we could equivalently impose the relations  $u(x_i) = x_i = d(x_i)$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq q$  onto  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ . Either method shows that  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$  is the free quandle on  $X_\Lambda$  modulo the crossing relations

$$s_{x_1}(x_q) = x_2, \quad s_{x_q}(x_{q-1}) = x_1, \quad \text{and} \quad s_{x_{i-1}}(x_{i-2}) = x_i \text{ for all } 3 \leq i \leq q.$$

Indeed, if we invert each symmetry in the relations of  $\mathcal{Q}(L)$ , then we recover the fundamental quandle of the mirror image of  $L$  computed in [2, Remark 3], as predicted by [42, Section 1].

If  $q = 3$ , then  $L$  is a left-handed trefoil, and the crossing relations show that  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda))$  and  $\text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(\mathcal{Q}(L))$  are both isomorphic to the group

$$\begin{aligned} \langle e_{x_1}, e_{x_2}, e_{x_3} \mid e_{s_{x_1}(x_3)} &= e_{x_1}^{-1} e_{x_3} e_{x_1}, \quad e_{s_{x_2}(x_1)} = e_{x_2}^{-1} e_{x_1} e_{x_2}, \quad e_{s_{x_3}(x_2)} = e_{x_3}^{-1} e_{x_2} e_{x_3} \rangle \\ &= \langle e_{x_1}, e_{x_2}, e_{x_3} \mid e_{x_2} = e_{x_1}^{-1} e_{x_3} e_{x_1}, \quad e_{x_3} = e_{x_2}^{-1} e_{x_1} e_{x_2}, \quad e_{x_1} = e_{x_3}^{-1} e_{x_2} e_{x_3} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is precisely the Wirtinger presentation of the knot group  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L) \cong \langle x, y \mid x^2 = y^3 \rangle$  of the trefoil; see, e.g., [14, Example 81]. Subsection 3.3 will generalize this observation.



FIGURE 9. Front projections of the two Legendrian representatives of the topological knot  $6_2$  with  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-7, 2)$  given in [9]. Created using [29]; cf. [30].

**Example 3.7.** Let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be the oriented Legendrian knots on the left and right of Figure 9, respectively. In this example, we compute  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  and  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  in preparation for a proof that  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  are not Legendrian isotopic. We note from [9] that  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  are both Legendrian representatives of the topological knot  $6_2$  with classical invariants  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-7, 2)$ .

Let us begin with  $\Lambda_1$ . Traverse  $D(\Lambda_1)$  using its given orientation while labeling all uncusped strands as in Figure 4. By writing down the induced crossing relations as in Figure 4, we find that  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  is the free GL-rack on the set  $X_{\Lambda_1} = \{x_1, \dots, x_6\}$  modulo the following crossing relations:

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1) \begin{cases} s_{u(x_1)}(u(x_4)) = x_5 \iff s_{x_1}(u(x_4)) = x_5, \\ s_{x_4}(du(x_1)) = x_2, \\ s_{d(x_2)}(x_1) = d^2(x_6) \iff s_{x_2}(x_1) = d^2(x_6), \\ s_{x_5}(x_3) = ud(x_2), \\ s_{d(x_3)}(x_6) = d(x_5) \iff s_{x_3}(x_6) = d(x_5), \\ s_{d(x_6)}(x_4) = d^2(x_3) \iff s_{x_6}(x_4) = d^2(x_3). \end{cases}$$

Note that we have simplified the first, third, fifth, and sixth relations using GL-rack axiom (L3).

Similarly, we compute  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  to be the free GL-rack on the set  $X_{\Lambda_2} = \{x_1, \dots, x_7\}$  modulo the following crossing relations:

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2) \begin{cases} s_{x_1}(ud^2(x_3)) = x_4, & s_{x_5}(x_3) = d(x_2), \\ s_{x_1}(x_6) = x_7, & s_{x_3}(x_6) = d^2(x_5), \\ s_{x_6}(x_2) = u(x_1), & s_{x_3}(x_7) = x_1, \\ s_{x_2}(x_5) = d(x_4). \end{cases}$$

We can use these calculations to prove a conjecture of Chongchitmate and Ng [9] that  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  in Example are not Legendrian isotopic. In 2021, Dynnikov and Prasolov [11, Proposition 2.3] proved this conjecture using impressive topological and combinatorial machinery. At the time of writing, theirs is the only proof of which we are aware. Indeed,  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  share the same classical invariants and cannot be distinguished using the graded ruling invariant or linearized contact

homology; see [9]. However,  $R$ -coloring numbers offer a simpler and more algebraic alternative. Henceforth, we will denote the symmetric group on  $n$  letters by  $S_n$ .

**Theorem 3.8.** *The two oriented Legendrian knots in Figure 9 are not Legendrian isotopic; in fact, they are distinguishable using coloring numbers with respect to a permutation GL-rack of order 3.*

*Proof.* As before, let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be the oriented Legendrian knots on the left and right of Figure 9, respectively. Let  $Y := \{1, 2, 3\}$ . In cycle notation, let  $\sigma \in S_3$  be the permutation (123). In the notation of Example 2.9, let  $R := (Y, \sigma, \sigma^{-1}, \text{id}_Y)_p$ , so that  $R$  is the 11th GL-rack in Table 3. We will show that  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_2, R) > \text{Col}(\Lambda_1, R)$ . To that end, let  $A$  denote the underlying set of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  as presented in Example 3.2, and define  $\varphi : A \rightarrow Y$  by

$$\varphi(x_i) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in \{1, 3, 4\}, \\ 2 & \text{if } i \in \{2, 6\}, \\ 3 & \text{if } i \in \{5, 7\}. \end{cases}$$

Using the relations in (2), it is straightforward to verify that  $\varphi$ ,  $\sigma \circ \varphi$ , and  $\sigma^2 \circ \varphi$  define GL-rack homomorphisms from  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  to  $R$ . Hence,  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_2, R) \geq 3$ . (In fact, using a similar method as in the remainder of this proof, one can show that this bound is actually an equality.)

On the other hand, we claim that  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1), R) = \emptyset$ . Let  $B$  denote the underlying set of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  as presented in Example 3.2, and suppose to the contrary that some map  $\varphi : B \rightarrow Y$  defines a GL-rack homomorphism from  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  to  $R$  with  $\varphi(x_i) = y_i$ . Since  $\varphi$  is a GL-rack homomorphism, the relations in (1) must hold when we replace each  $x_i$  with  $y_i$ , each  $s_{x_i}$  with  $\sigma$ , each  $u$  with  $\sigma^{-1}$ , and each  $d$  with  $\text{id}_Y$ . These substitutions yield the following system of equations in  $R$ :

$$(3) \quad R \begin{cases} (\sigma \circ \sigma^{-1})(y_4) = y_5 \iff y_4 = y_5, \\ (\sigma \circ \sigma^{-1})(y_1) = y_2 \iff y_1 = y_2, \\ \sigma(y_1) = y_6, \\ \sigma(y_3) = \sigma^{-1}(y_2) \iff y_3 = \sigma(y_2), \\ \sigma(y_6) = y_5, \\ \sigma(y_4) = y_3. \end{cases}$$

Here, we have used the fact that  $\sigma^3 = \text{id}_Y$  to rewrite the fourth equality. We now deduce that

$$\sigma(y_2) = y_3 = \sigma(y_4) = \sigma(y_5) = \sigma^2(y_6) = \sigma^3(y_1) = y_1 = y_2.$$

However,  $\sigma$  has no fixed points in  $Y$ , so the system of equations in (3) has no solutions in  $R$ . Hence,  $\varphi$  cannot exist.  $\square$

Incidentally, Theorem 3.8 gives a positive answer to a question Kimura [27, Section 4] posed in 2023, as we state below; cf. [27, Theorem 4.3].

**Corollary 3.9.** *If  $R$  is a nonquandle GL-rack, then it is not true in general that  $R$ -coloring numbers cannot distinguish between nonequivalent Legendrian knots sharing the same underlying smooth knot type and classical invariants.*

Similarly,  $R$ -coloring numbers distinguish between the Legendrian representatives of the topological knot  $8_{10}$  with  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-8, 3)$  in Figure 10. This proves a conjecture of Bhattacharyya et al. [3]. At the time of writing, we are unaware of any other proofs of this conjecture.



FIGURE 10. Front projections of the two Legendrian representatives of the topological knot  $8_{10}$  with  $(\text{tb}, \text{rot}) = (-8, 3)$  given in [3]. Created using [29]; cf. [30].

**Example 3.10.** Let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be the oriented Legendrian knots on the left and right of Figure 10, respectively. We compute that  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  and  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  are the free GL-racks on the set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_{10}\}$  modulo the following crossing relations:

$$\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1) \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} s_{x_1}(u(x_3)) = x_4, & s_{x_4}(du(x_1)) = x_2, \\ s_{x_7}(x_5) = d(x_4), & s_{x_5}(x_8) = d(x_7), \\ s_{x_8}(x_6) = d^2(x_5), & s_{x_6}(x_9) = d(x_6), \\ s_{x_6}(x_3) = x_2, & s_{x_6}(x_{10}) = x_1, \\ s_{x_3}(x_7) = ud^2(x_6), & s_{x_3}(x_9) = x_{10}. \end{array} \right. \quad \mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2) \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} s_{x_1}(x_7) = ud(x_6), & s_{x_7}(x_2) = du(x_1), \\ s_{x_5}(x_2) = x_3, & s_{x_3}(u(x_5)) = x_6, \\ s_{x_3}(x_{10}) = x_9, & s_{x_{10}}(x_4) = d^2(x_3), \\ s_4(x_1) = d^2(x_{10}), & s_{x_6}(d(x_4)) = x_5, \\ s_{x_5}(d^2(x_7)) = x_8, & s_{x_6}(x_9) = x_8. \end{array} \right.$$

**Theorem 3.11.** *The two oriented Legendrian knots in Figure 10 are not Legendrian isotopic; they are distinguishable using coloring numbers with respect to a permutation GL-rack of order 2.*

*Proof.* Once again, let  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  be the oriented Legendrian knots on the left and right of Figure 10, respectively. Let  $Y := \{1, 2\}$ . In cycle notation, let  $\sigma \in S_2$  be the permutation (12). In the notation of Example 2.9, let  $R := (Y, \sigma, \sigma, \text{id}_Y)_p$ , so that  $R$  is the fourth GL-rack in Table 2. We will show that  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_1, R) > \text{Col}(\Lambda_2, R)$ . To that end, let  $A$  denote the underlying set of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  as presented in Example 3.10, and define  $\varphi : A \rightarrow Y$  by

$$\varphi(x_i) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in \{1, 2, 5, 8, 9\}, \\ 2 & \text{if } i \in \{3, 4, 6, 7, 10\}. \end{cases}$$

Using the relations of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  in Example 3.10, it is straightforward to verify that  $\varphi$  and  $\sigma \circ \varphi$  define GL-rack homomorphisms from  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  to  $R$ . Hence,  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_1, R) \geq 2$  (which is actually an equality).

On the other hand, we claim that  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2), R) = \emptyset$ . Let  $B$  denote the underlying set of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  as presented in Example 3.10, and suppose to the contrary that some map  $\varphi : B \rightarrow Y$  defines a GL-rack homomorphism from  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  to  $R$  with  $\varphi(x_i) = y_i$ . Just like before, the relations of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  in Example 3.10 yield the following system of equations in  $R$ :

$$R \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \sigma(y_7) = \sigma(y_6), & \sigma(y_2) = \sigma(x_1), \\ \sigma(y_2) = y_3, & \sigma^2(y_5) = y_6, \\ \sigma(y_{10}) = y_9, & \sigma(y_4) = y_3, \\ \sigma(y_1) = y_{10}, & \sigma(y_4) = y_5, \\ \sigma(y_7) = y_8, & \sigma(y_9) = y_8. \end{array} \right.$$

Since  $\sigma^2 = \text{id}_Y$ , we can also rewrite the equalities  $\sigma(y_7) = \sigma(x_6)$ ,  $\sigma^2(y_5) = y_6$ , and  $\sigma(y_{10}) = y_9$  as  $y_7 = y_6$ ,  $y_5 = y_6$ , and  $y_{10} = \sigma(y_9)$ , respectively. Therefore, we have

$$y_7 = y_6 = y_5 = \sigma(y_4) = y_3 = \sigma(y_2) = \sigma(y_1) = y_{10} = \sigma(y_9) = y_8 = \sigma(y_7),$$

which is impossible since  $\sigma$  has no fixed points in  $Y$ . Hence,  $\varphi$  cannot exist.  $\square$

We selected the constant GL-racks and coloring maps used to prove Theorems 3.8 and 3.11 using exhaustive computer searches in **GAP** [20]. See Subsection A.3 for details. To help complete the atlas of Legendrian knots, we encourage the reader to download the program linked in Appendix A and tackle even more of the conjectures in [9] and [3] in this fashion.

**3.3. Isomorphism of  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda))$  and  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L)$ .** We now prove an empirical observation of Karmakar et al. in the original version of [24, Remark 8.2], which we state as Theorem 3.13. Although the authors have removed this remark from subsequent version of the article, we are unaware of any other proofs at the time of writing. We begin with a more abstract lemma.

**Lemma 3.12.** *Let  $R = (X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  be a GL-rack, and let  $R'$  be the GL-rack obtained by imposing an equivalence relation  $\sim$  onto  $R$  defined by  $\mathbf{u}(x) = x = \mathbf{d}(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then, in **Grp**, we have  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) \cong \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R')$ . In particular,  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) \cong \text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(X/\sim, s^*)$ .*

*Proof.* By definition,  $R'$  is the quotient object of the equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $R$  in **GLR**. In other words,  $R'$  is the colimit of the following diagram in **GLR**:

$$R \xrightarrow[\text{id}_X]{\mathbf{u}} R \xrightarrow[\text{id}_X]{\mathbf{d}} R$$

Recall that left adjoint functors preserve colimits. It follows from Proposition 2.17 that  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R')$  is the colimit of the following diagram in **Grp**:

$$\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) \xrightarrow[\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\text{id}_X)]{\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathbf{u})} \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) \xrightarrow[\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\text{id}_X)]{\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathbf{d})} \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R)$$

By Proposition 2.17, the group homomorphism  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathbf{u})$  is defined by  $e_x \mapsto e_{\mathbf{u}(x)}$  for all  $x \in X$ , but  $e_x = e_{\mathbf{u}(x)}$  in  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R)$ . Thus,  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathbf{u})$  is the identity map. Similarly,  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathbf{d})$  and  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\text{id}_X)$  are the identity maps, so we have a group isomorphism  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R) \cong \text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R')$ . By Lemma 2.14, we have  $\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(R') \cong \text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(X/\sim, s^*)$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.13.** *Let  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  be an oriented Legendrian link, and let  $L$  denote its underlying smooth link. Then there exists a group isomorphism*

$$\text{Env}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)) \cong \pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L).$$

*Proof.* In the setting of Lemma 3.12, take  $R := \mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$ . Then, in **GLR**, we have  $R' \cong (\mathcal{Q}(L), \text{id}_{X_L}, \text{id}_{X_L})$  by Lemma 3.5. By Lemma 3.12, it suffices to show that  $\text{Env}_{\text{Qnd}}(\mathcal{Q}(L)) \cong \pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L)$  in **Grp**. Indeed, Joyce showed this in [23, Section 15] using the Wirtinger presentation of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus L)$ .  $\square$

## 4. ON MEDIAL GL-RACKS, HOM-SETS, AND TENSOR PRODUCTS

In this section, we define medial GL-racks, propose a medial GL-rack-valued invariant of Legendrian links, and introduce tensor products of GL-racks that make the category of medial GL-racks symmetric monoidal closed. This extends several results of Crans and Nelson [10] for medial quandles to medial GL-racks; we follow their approach closely.

**4.1. Hom-sets of medial GL-racks are also medial GL-racks.** In this subsection, we define medial GL-racks, introduce a medial GL-rack structure on any hom-set from a GL-rack to a medial GL-rack, and propose a medial GL-rack-valued invariant of Legendrian links.

**Definition 4.1.** A rack  $(X, s)$  is called *medial* or *abelian* if, for all  $x, y, z \in X$ , we have

$$s_{s_x(z)} \circ s_y = s_{s_x(y)} \circ s_z.$$

If in addition  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  defines a GL-structure on  $(X, s)$ , then we say that the GL-rack  $(X, s, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  is *medial* or *abelian*. (Note that this definition is not synonymous with the condition that  $(X, s)$  is *commutative*, which requires that  $s_x(y) = s_y(x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ .)

Let  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  be the full subcategory of  $\text{GLR}$  whose objects are medial. In this article, we adopt the term “medial” over “abelian” since neither  $\text{GLR}$  nor  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is an abelian (or even additive) category. Indeed, neither category has a zero object; the initial object in either category is the GL-rack of order 0, but the terminal object in either category is the trivial GL-rack of order 1.

Since  $R$ -coloring numbers are not complete invariants of Legendrian links (see [27, Theorem 4.3]), it would be desirable to construct *enhancements* or *refinements* of  $R$ -coloring numbers that encode additional information about Legendrian front projections. To this end, we will show that if  $M$  is a medial GL-rack, then  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), M)$  also enjoys a canonical medial GL-rack structure.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $(X, s)$  be a rack, and let  $(Y, t)$  be a medial rack. Let  $\tilde{H} := \text{Hom}_{\text{Rack}}((X, s^X), (Y, s^Y))$ , and define  $\tilde{s} : \tilde{H} \rightarrow \text{Sym}(\tilde{H})$  by  $g \mapsto s_g$ , where  $s_g(f) := [x \mapsto (s_{g(x)}^Y \circ f)(x)]$ . Then,  $\tilde{R} := (\tilde{H}, \tilde{s})$  is a medial rack. If in addition  $(Y, s^Y)$  is a quandle, then so is  $\tilde{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Crans and Nelson [10, Theorem 3] proved that  $\tilde{R}$  is a medial quandle under the additional assumptions that  $(X, s^X)$  and  $(Y, s^Y)$  are quandles. However, their proof did not use the quandle axiom that  $s_x^X(x) = x$  for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover, their proof that  $\tilde{R}$  satisfies the nonquandle rack axioms and mediality did not use the quandle axiom that  $s_y^Y(y) = y$  for all  $y \in Y$ ; the authors only used this axiom to show that  $\tilde{R}$  also satisfies it.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.3.** *In the setting of Lemma 4.2, suppose in addition that  $R_1 := (X, s^X, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1)$  and  $R_2 := (Y, s^Y, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  are GL-racks, so that  $R_2$  is medial. Let  $H := \text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(R_1, R_2) \subset \tilde{H}$ , let  $s := \tilde{s}|_H$ , and let  $R := (H, s)$ . Define  $\mathbf{u} : H \rightarrow H$  by  $f \mapsto \mathbf{u}_2 \circ f$ , and define  $\mathbf{d} : H \rightarrow H$  by  $f \mapsto \mathbf{d}_2 \circ f$ . Then,  $(R, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  is a medial GL-rack. If  $R_2$  is also a GL-quandle, then so is  $(R, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$ .*

*Proof.* In the notation of Lemma 4.2,  $\tilde{R}$  is a medial rack. To show that  $R$  is a medial rack, it suffices to show that  $R$  is a subrack of  $\tilde{R}$ . To that end, fix  $f, g \in H$ . Then, we have  $s_g(f) \in H$  because

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_2 \circ s_g(f) &= [x \mapsto (\mathbf{u}_2 \circ s_{g(x)}^Y \circ f)(x)] \\ &= [x \mapsto (s_{(\mathbf{u}_2 \circ g)(x)}^Y \circ \mathbf{u}_2 \circ f)(x)] && \text{by Proposition 2.12} \\ &= [x \mapsto (s_{(g \circ \mathbf{u}_1)(x)}^Y \circ f \circ \mathbf{u}_1)(x)] && \text{since } f, g \in H \\ &= s_g(f) \circ \mathbf{u}_1 \end{aligned}$$

and, similarly,  $\mathbf{d}_2 \circ s_g(f) = s_g(f) \circ \mathbf{d}_1$ . Thus,  $R$  is a subrack of  $\tilde{R}$ , so  $R$  is medial. In particular, if  $R_2$  is a GL-quandle, then Lemma 4.2 implies that  $R$  is a subquandle of  $\tilde{R}$ .

It remains to show that  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  defines a GL-structure on  $R$ . Fix  $f, g \in H$ . Since  $f$  is a GL-rack homomorphism and  $(\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1)$  satisfies GL-rack axiom (L1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} \circ s_f)(f) &= [x \mapsto (\mathbf{u}_2 \circ \mathbf{d}_2 \circ s_{f(x)}^Y \circ f)(x)] \\ &= [x \mapsto (\mathbf{u}_2 \circ \mathbf{d}_2 \circ f \circ s_x^X)(x)] \\ &= [x \mapsto f((\mathbf{u}_1 \circ \mathbf{d}_1 \circ s_x^X)(x))] \\ &= [x \mapsto f(x)] = f \end{aligned}$$

and, similarly,  $(\mathbf{d}\mathbf{u} \circ s_f)(f) = f$ . So,  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  satisfies axiom (L1). Since  $(\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  satisfies axiom (L2), we also have

$$(\mathbf{u} \circ s_g)(f) = [x \mapsto (\mathbf{u}_2 \circ s_{g(x)}^Y \circ f)(x)] = [x \mapsto (s_{g(x)}^Y \circ \mathbf{u}_2 \circ f)(x)] = s_g(\mathbf{u}_2 \circ f) = (s_g \circ \mathbf{u})(f)$$

and, similarly,  $(\mathbf{d} \circ s_g)(f) = (s_g \circ \mathbf{d})(f)$ . So,  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  satisfies axiom (L2). Finally, since  $(\mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  satisfies axiom (L3), we have

$$s_{\mathbf{u}(g)}(f) = [x \mapsto (s_{\mathbf{u}_2(g(x))}^Y \circ f)(x)] = [x \mapsto (s_{g(x)}^Y \circ f)(x)] = s_g(f)$$

and, similarly,  $s_{\mathbf{d}(g)}(f) = s_g(f)$ . Hence,  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  satisfies axiom (L3), and the proof is complete.  $\square$

Together, Proposition 3.3 and Theorem 4.3 imply that for a fixed medial GL-rack  $M$  and for any oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$ , the isomorphism class of  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), M)$  as a medial GL-rack is an invariant of  $\Lambda$ . In light of Lemmas 3.5 and 2.14,  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), M)$  recovers the medial quandle-valued invariant of smooth links from [10, Section 6]. We propose questions for future research involving  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), M)$  in Section 6.

**4.2. Tensor products of GL-racks.** In this subsection, we define tensor products that induce symmetric monoidal structures on GLR and  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$ . In the latter, we show that this structure is compatible with the closed structure given by Theorem 4.3. (Note that GLR and  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  also have Cartesian monoidal structures given by the categorical product, i.e., the Cartesian product  $\times$ .)

**Definition 4.4.** If  $R_1 = (X, s^X, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{d}_1)$  and  $R_2 = (Y, s^Y, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2)$  are GL-racks, then we define their *tensor product*, denoted by  $R_1 \otimes R_2$ , to be the free GL-rack  $\text{FGLR}(X \times Y)$  modulo the following relations for all  $x, x_1, x_2 \in X$  and  $y, y_1, y_2 \in Y$ :

- (1)  $s_{(x, y_2)}(x, y_1) = (x, s_{y_2}^Y(y_1))$ .
- (2)  $s_{(x_2, y)}(x_1, y) = (s_{x_2}^X(x_1), y)$ .
- (3)  $\mathbf{u}(x, y) = (\mathbf{u}_1(x), y) = (x, \mathbf{u}_2(y))$ .
- (4)  $\mathbf{d}(x, y) = (\mathbf{d}_1(x), y) = (x, \mathbf{d}_2(y))$ .

We also define the *medial tensor product* of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , denoted by  $R_1 \otimes_{\text{med}} R_2$ , to be  $R_1 \otimes R_2$  modulo the following relations for all  $x_1, y_1, z_1, a \in X$  and  $x_2, y_2, z_2, b \in Y$ :

$$(s_{s_{(x_1, x_2)}(z_1, z_2)} \circ s_{(y_1, y_2)})(a, b) = (s_{s_{(x_1, x_2)}(y_1, y_2)} \circ s_{(z_1, z_2)})(a, b).$$

Note that if  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  is a GL-quandle, then so is  $R_1 \otimes R_2$ . By Lemma 2.14, Definition 4.4 recovers Crans and Nelson's [10, Subsection 8.1] tensor products of medial quandles. The following result shows that medial tensor products of medial GL-racks also satisfy a universal property and internal hom-tensor adjunction similar to those of tensor products of modules over a ring.

**Theorem 4.5.** *The category  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is symmetric monoidal closed with respect to the closed structure  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}}(-, -)$  from Theorem 4.3 and the medial tensor product  $\otimes_{\text{med}}$ .*



*Proof.* The unit object in  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is the trivial GL-rack with one element. Using this fact, it is straightforward to verify that  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is monoidal and symmetric. On the other hand,  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is defined as an equational algebraic category, and  $\otimes_{\text{med}}$  is precisely the tensor product constructed in [32, Section 4]. Thus, the main theorem of Linton in [32] states that our claim is true if and only if, in the sense of universal algebra,  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is commutative as an algebraic theory; see [32, Section 6] and cf. [10, Subsection 8.1]. Indeed, for any medial GL-rack  $(X, s, u, d)$  and for all elements  $x_{11}, x_{12}, x_{21}, x_{22} \in X$ , we have the following equalities:

$$\begin{cases} (u \circ s_{x_{12}})(x_{11}) = (s_{u(x_{12})} \circ u)(x_{11}) & \text{by Proposition 2.12,} \\ (d \circ s_{x_{12}})(x_{11}) = (s_{d(x_{12})} \circ d)(x_{11}) & \text{by Proposition 2.12,} \\ (u \circ d)(x_{11}) = (d \circ u)(x_{11}) & \text{by Proposition 2.12,} \\ (s_{s_{x_{22}}(x_{21})} \circ s_{x_{12}})(x_{11}) = (s_{s_{x_{22}}(x_{12})} \circ s_{x_{21}})(x_{11}) & \text{since } (X, s) \text{ is medial.} \end{cases}$$

Together with the tautologies  $u^2(x_{11}) = u^2(x_{11})$  and  $d^2(x_{11}) = d^2(x_{11})$ , these equalities show that  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  forms a commutative algebraic theory. This completes the proof.  $\square$

Tensor products of GL-racks would be interesting to study more closely in future research. Moreover, the results in this section open interesting avenues for categorical research on GL-racks. In Section 6, we propose questions for further work in these directions.

## 5. A SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR GL-RACK ISOMORPHISMS

In [25, Section 5], Karmakar et al. constructed a homogeneous representation for any GL-rack  $R$  from the orbits of  $R$  under the action of  $\text{Aut}_{\text{GLR}}(R)$ . In this section, we adapt this construction into a category  $\text{GrpTup}$  with an essentially surjective functor  $\mathcal{F} : \text{GrpTup} \rightarrow \text{GLR}$ . This functor induces a group-theoretic sufficient condition for any two GL-racks or quandles to be isomorphic.

**5.1. Construction of  $\text{GrpTup}$ .** In this subsection, we introduce a category  $\text{GrpTup}$  with a functorial relationship to  $\text{GLR}$ .

To define the objects in  $\text{GrpTup}$ , we adapt the work of Karmakar et al. in [25, Proposition 5.1]. Given a group  $G$  with a subgroup  $H$ , let  $G/H$  denote the set of left cosets of  $H$  in  $G$ . Let  $N_G(H)$  denote the normalizer of  $H$  in  $G$ . Given  $g \in G$ , let  $C_G(g)$  denote the centralizer of  $g$  in  $G$ . Now, let the objects in  $\text{GrpTup}$  be all sextuples  $(I, \sqcup_{i \in I} G/H_i, Z_I, Q_I, R_I, \tau)$  satisfying the following:

- (1)  $I$  is an indexing set,  $G$  is a group, and  $Z_I = \{z_i^G \mid i \in I\}$ ,  $Q_I = \{q_i^G \mid i \in I\}$ , and  $R_I = \{r_i^G \mid i \in I\}$  are multisets indexed by  $I$  whose elements lie in  $G$ .
- (2)  $\{H_i \mid i \in I\}$  is a family of subgroups of  $G$  such that  $H_i \leq C_G(z_i^G)$  for all  $i \in I$ .
- (3)  $\tau : I \rightarrow I$  is a bijection such that the following hold for all  $i \in I$ :
  - (a)  $q_i^G \in N_G(H_{\tau(i)})$ .
  - (b)  $r_i^G \in N_G(H_{\tau^{-1}(i)})$ .
  - (c)  $z_i^G q_i^G r_{\tau(i)}^G, z_i^G r_i^G q_{\tau^{-1}(i)}^G \in H_i$ .
  - (d)  $z_i^G q_i^G (z_{\tau(i)}^G)^{-1} = q_i^G$ .
  - (e)  $z_i^G r_i^G (z_{\tau^{-1}(i)}^G)^{-1} = r_i^G$ .

For the sake of brevity, we will denote such an object as  $\tilde{G}$  when there is no room for confusion. For an opposing object in  $\text{GrpTup}$ , we will write  $\tilde{K} := (J, \sqcup_{j \in J} K/L_j, Z_J, Q_J, R_J, \pi)$ .

Now, we define the morphisms in  $\text{GrpTup}$ . Given any two objects  $\tilde{G}, \tilde{K}$  in  $\text{GrpTup}$ , let  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GrpTup}}(\tilde{G}, \tilde{K})$  be the set of all triples  $\varphi := (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3)$  satisfying the following:

- (1)  $\varphi_1 : G \rightarrow K$  is a group homomorphism.

- (2)  $\varphi_2 : \bigsqcup_{i \in I} G/H_i \rightarrow \bigsqcup_{j \in J} K/L_j$  and  $\varphi_3 : I \rightarrow J$  are morphisms in **Set**.
- (3)  $\pi \circ \varphi_3 = \varphi_3 \circ \tau$ .
- (4) For all  $i \in I$  and  $g \in G$ , we have  $\varphi_1(z_i^G) = z_{\varphi_3(i)}^K$ ,  $\varphi_1(q_i^G) = q_{\varphi_3(i)}^K$ ,  $\varphi_1(r_i^G) = r_{\varphi_3(i)}^K$ , and  $\varphi_2(gH_i) = \varphi_1(g)L_{\varphi_3(i)}$ .

Define the composition of morphisms in **GrpTup** by  $\psi \circ \varphi := (\psi_1 \circ \varphi_1, \psi_2 \circ \varphi_2, \psi_3 \circ \varphi_3)$ . Also, define the identity morphism  $\text{id}_{\tilde{G}} : \tilde{G} \xrightarrow{\sim} \tilde{G}$  by letting  $\text{id}_1^{\tilde{G}}$ ,  $\text{id}_2^{\tilde{G}}$ , and  $\text{id}_3^{\tilde{G}}$  as defined above be identity maps. Associativity and unit laws are immediate. Hence, **GrpTup** is a category.

**5.2. Construction of  $\mathcal{F} : \text{GrpTup} \rightarrow \text{GLR}$ .** We now construct an essentially surjective functor  $\mathcal{F} : \text{GrpTup} \rightarrow \text{GLR}$  and deduce a sufficient condition for any two GL-racks to be isomorphic.

By [25, Proposition 5.1], given any object  $\tilde{G}$  in **GrpTup**, the set  $X := \bigsqcup_{i \in I} G/H_i$  admits a GL-rack structure in which  $s^X : X \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$  and  $\mathbf{u}_G, \mathbf{d}_G : X \rightarrow X$  are defined by

$$s^X(yH_j) := s_{yH_j}^X := [xH_i \mapsto yz_j^G y^{-1}xH_i], \mathbf{u}_G(xH_i) := xq_i^G H_{\tau(i)}, \text{ and } \mathbf{d}_G(xH_i) := xr_i^G H_{\tau^{-1}(i)}.$$

So, we can define a functor  $\mathcal{F} : \text{GrpTup} \rightarrow \text{GLR}$  by sending any object  $\tilde{G}$  in **GrpTup** to the GL-rack  $(X, s^X, \mathbf{u}_G, \mathbf{d}_G)$  and sending any morphism  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{GrpTup}}(\tilde{G}, \tilde{K})$  to  $\varphi_2$ .

**Theorem 5.1.**  *$\mathcal{F}$  is an essentially surjective functor.*

*Proof.* Essential surjectivity is precisely the statement of [25, Theorem 5.2]. Certainly,  $\mathcal{F}$  preserves identity morphisms and composition of morphisms. To complete the proof of functoriality, it remains to show that if  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{GrpTup}}(\tilde{G}, \tilde{K})$ , then  $\mathcal{F}\varphi : \mathcal{F}(\tilde{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(\tilde{K})$  is a GL-rack homomorphism. Write  $\mathcal{F}(\tilde{G}) = (X, s^X, \mathbf{u}_G, \mathbf{d}_G)$  and  $\mathcal{F}(\tilde{K}) = (Y, s^Y, \mathbf{u}_K, \mathbf{d}_K)$ , and fix  $gH_a \in X$ . Since  $\varphi_1$  is a group homomorphism, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}\varphi \circ s_{gH_a}^X &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_2(gz_a^G g^{-1}xH_i)] \\ &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(gz_a^G g^{-1}x)L_{\varphi_3(i)}] \\ &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(g)\varphi_1(z_a^G)\varphi_1(g^{-1})\varphi_1(x)L_{\varphi_3(i)}] \\ &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(g)z_{\varphi_3(a)}^K\varphi_1(g)^{-1}\varphi_2(xH_i)] \\ &= s_{\varphi_1(g)L_{\varphi_3(a)}}^Y \circ \varphi_2 = s_{\varphi_2(gH_a)}^Y \circ \varphi_2 = s_{\mathcal{F}\varphi(gH_a)}^Y \circ \mathcal{F}\varphi, \end{aligned}$$

so  $\mathcal{F}\varphi$  is a rack homomorphism. Moreover, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}\varphi \circ \mathbf{u}_G &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_2(xq_i^G H_{\tau(i)})] \\ &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(x)\varphi_1(q_i^G)L_{\varphi_3(\tau(i))}] \\ &= [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(x)q_{\varphi_3(i)}^K L_{\pi(\varphi_3(i))}] \\ &= [yL_j \mapsto yq_j^K L_{\pi(j)}] \circ [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_1(x)L_{\varphi_3(i)}] \\ &= \mathbf{u}_K \circ [xH_i \mapsto \varphi_2(xH_i)] = \mathbf{u}_K \circ \mathcal{F}\varphi \end{aligned}$$

and, similarly,  $\mathcal{F}\varphi \circ \mathbf{d}_G = \mathbf{d}_K \circ \mathcal{F}\varphi$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{F}\varphi$  is a GL-rack homomorphism.  $\square$

Theorem 5.1 gives us a group-theoretic way to show that two GL-racks  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are isomorphic. In the proof of [25, Theorem 5.2], Karmakar et al. describe a procedure to construct objects  $\tilde{G}$  and  $\tilde{K}$  in **GrpTup** such that  $R_1 \cong \mathcal{F}(\tilde{G})$  and  $R_2 \cong \mathcal{F}(\tilde{K})$  in **GLR**. To show that  $R_1 \cong R_2$  in **GLR**, it suffices to find a morphism  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_{\text{GrpTup}}(\tilde{G}, \tilde{K})$  such that  $\varphi_2$  is bijective, since then  $\mathcal{F}\varphi : \mathcal{F}(\tilde{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(\tilde{K})$  will also be bijective and, hence, an isomorphism of GL-racks.

Finally, let  $\mathbf{GrpTrip}$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathbf{GrpTup}$  consisting of objects  $\tilde{G}$  for which  $\tau = \text{id}_I$ , and  $Q_I$  and  $R_I$  are multisets only containing copies of  $1_G$ . By Lemma 2.14,  $\mathcal{F}$  induces an essentially surjective functor  $\mathbf{GrpTrip} \rightarrow \mathbf{Qnd}$ ; cf. [23, Theorem 7.2]. Hence, our above discussion specializes to a sufficient condition for any two quandles to be isomorphic.

## 6. FURTHER QUESTIONS

In conclusion, we propose questions for future research on GL-racks, listed roughly in the order of their corresponding sections in this article. Let  $\Lambda$  be an oriented Legendrian link, and let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be GL-racks.

- (1) Can GL-racks distinguish between any more of the conjecturally nonequivalent Legendrian knots listed in [9] and [3]?
- (2) Following our discussion at the end of Subsection 4.1, do there exist a smooth knot type  $L$ , two Legendrian representatives  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  of  $L$ , and a medial GL-rack  $M$  such that  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_1, M) = \text{Col}(\Lambda_2, M)$  but  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\Lambda_1, M) \not\cong \text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\Lambda_2, M)$  in  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$ ? In the spirit of Corollary 3.9, do there exist such  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  that share the same classical invariants?
- (3) Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field, and let  $M$  denote a medial GL-rack. In 2023, Elhamdadi et al. [15, Theorems 4.2 and 5.1] properly enhanced medial quandle-valued invariants of smooth links using  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra homomorphisms between quandle rings and colorings of smooth links by idempotents of quandle rings. Do similar proper enhancements of  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\Lambda, M)$  exist?
- (4) Are  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R_1 \otimes R_2)$ ,  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R_1 \otimes_{\text{med}} R_2)$ ,  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R_1 \times R_2)$ ,  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R_1)$ , and  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R_2)$  related to each other?
- (5) In light of Karmakar et al.'s [24, cf. 25] GL-rack cohomology theory, are the cohomologies of  $R_1 \otimes R_2$ ,  $R_1 \otimes_{\text{med}} R_2$ ,  $R_1 \times R_2$ , and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  related? Do Künneth formulas exist?
- (6) Theorem 4.5 implies that  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  enriches over itself; see, e.g., [26, Section 1.6]. Can we use enriched category theory to better understand the structure of medial GL-racks or create stronger invariants of Legendrian links?
- (7) The tensor product  $\otimes$ , medial tensor product  $\otimes_{\text{med}}$ , and Cartesian product  $\times$  all define distinct symmetric monoidal structures on  $\text{GLR}$  and  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$ . Thus, we can consider the categories of monoid objects in  $\text{GLR}$  or  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  with respect to  $\otimes$ ,  $\otimes_{\text{med}}$ , or  $\times$ ; see, e.g., [33, Section VII.3]. Can we better characterize these monoid objects, and do they admit stronger invariants of Legendrian links?
- (8) Adding to the previous question, we can also consider left-module and right-module objects over monoid objects in  $\text{GLR}$  and  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$ , which enjoy extra structure when  $\text{GLR}^{\text{med}}$  is equipped with its symmetric monoidal closed structure from Theorem 4.5; see [4, Definition 4.1.7]. Can we better characterize these module objects, and do they admit stronger invariants of Legendrian links? Are they related to the Beck modules over GL-racks introduced by Karmakar et al. [25]?
- (9) To make the results of Section 5 more practical to apply, is there a method of easily computing the automorphism group of a given GL-rack?
- (10) Recall that a functor defines an equivalence of categories if and only if it is essentially surjective and fully faithful. To help us understand the structure of GL-racks and detect whether they are isomorphic or nonisomorphic, can the functor in Subsection 5.2 be modified to define an equivalence of categories? Would doing so require a redefinition of  $\mathbf{GrpTup}$ ?
- (11) Can the categorical constructions in Sections 4 and 5 be extended to the categories of 4-Legendrian racks and 4-Legendrian biracks introduced by Kimura [28]?

- (12) Can the algorithms in Appendix A be adapted to classify 4-Legendrian racks and 4-Legendrian biracks up to isomorphism?
- (13) Does Conjecture A.1 hold for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ?

## REFERENCES

- [1] Jiří Adámek, Jiří Rosický, and Enrico M. Vitale, *Algebraic theories*, Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics, vol. 184, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011. A categorical introduction to general algebra, With a foreword by F. W. Lawvere. MR2757312
- [2] Jagdeep Basi and Carmen Caprau, *Quandle coloring quivers of  $(p, 2)$ -torus links*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **31** (2022), no. 9, Paper No. 2250057, 14. MR4475496
- [3] Nilangshu Bhattacharyya, Cyrus Cox, Justin Murray, Adithyan Pandikkadan, Shea Vela-Vick, and Angela Wu, *Legendrian knot atlas: List of  $(tb, r)$  for non-destabilizable Legendrian knots representing knot type  $8_{10}$* , n.d. [https://www.math.lsu.edu/~knotatlas/legendrian/8\\_10-knot.html](https://www.math.lsu.edu/~knotatlas/legendrian/8_10-knot.html). Accessed: 2024-12-28.
- [4] Martin Brandenburg, *Tensor categorical foundations of algebraic geometry*, 2014. Thesis (Ph.D.)—University of Münster. arXiv:1410.1716 [math.AG].
- [5] Alessia Cattabriga and Eva Horvat, *Knot quandle decompositions*, Mediterr. J. Math. **17** (2020), no. 3, Paper No. 98, 22. MR4105750
- [6] Jose Cenicerós, Mohamed Elhamdadi, and Sam Nelson, *Legendrian rack invariants of Legendrian knots*, Commun. Korean Math. Soc. **36** (2021), no. 3, 623–639. MR4292403
- [7] Karina Cho and Sam Nelson, *Quandle cocycle quivers*, Topology Appl. **268** (2019), 106908, 10. MR4018585
- [8] ———, *Quandle coloring quivers*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **28** (2019), no. 1, 1950001, 12. MR3910948
- [9] Wutichai Chongchitmate and Lenhard Ng, *An atlas of Legendrian knots*, Exp. Math. **22** (2013), no. 1, 26–37. MR3038780
- [10] Alissa S. Crans and Sam Nelson, *Hom quandles*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **23** (2014), no. 2, 1450010, 18. MR3197054
- [11] Ivan Dynnikov and Maxim Prasolov, *Rectangular diagrams of surfaces: distinguishing Legendrian knots*, J. Topol. **14** (2021), no. 3, 701–860. MR4286839
- [12] Mohamed Elhamdadi, *A survey of racks and quandles: some recent developments*, Algebra Colloq. **27** (2020), no. 3, 509–522. MR4141628
- [13] Mohamed Elhamdadi, Jennifer Macquarrie, and Ricardo Restrepo, *Automorphism groups of quandles*, J. Algebra Appl. **11** (2012), no. 1, 1250008, 9. MR2900878
- [14] Mohamed Elhamdadi and Sam Nelson, *Quandles—an introduction to the algebra of knots*, Student Mathematical Library, vol. 74, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2015. MR3379534
- [15] Mohamed Elhamdadi, Brandon Nunez, and Mahender Singh, *Enhancements of link colorings via idempotents of quandle rings*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra **227** (2023), no. 10, Paper No. 107400, 16. MR4579329
- [16] Mohamed Elhamdadi and Dipali Swain, *State sum invariants of knots from idempotents in quandle rings*, 2024. Preprint, arXiv:2402.14661 [math.GT].
- [17] John B. Etnyre, *Legendrian and transversal knots*, Handbook of knot theory, 2005, pp. 105–185. MR2179261
- [18] John B. Etnyre and Lenhard L. Ng, *Legendrian contact homology in  $\mathbb{R}^3$* , Surveys in differential geometry 2020. Surveys in 3-manifold topology and geometry, [2022] ©2022, pp. 103–161. MR4479751
- [19] Roger Fenn and Colin Rourke, *Racks and links in codimension two*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **1** (1992), no. 4, 343–406. MR1194995
- [20] *GAP – Groups, Algorithms, and Programming, Version 4.14.0*, The GAP Group, 2024.
- [21] Richard Henderson, Todd Macedo, and Sam Nelson, *Symbolic computation with finite quandles*, J. Symbolic Comput. **41** (2006), no. 7, 811–817. MR2232202
- [22] Přemysl Jedlička, Agata Pilitowska, David Stanovský, and Anna Zamojska-Dzienio, *The structure of medial quandles*, J. Algebra **443** (2015), 300–334. MR3400403
- [23] David Joyce, *A classifying invariant of knots, the knot quandle*, J. Pure Appl. Algebra **23** (1982), no. 1, 37–65. MR638121
- [24] Biswadeep Karmakar, Deepanshi Saraf, and Mahender Singh, *Cohomology of generalised Legendrian racks and state-sum invariants of Legendrian links*, 2023. Preprint, arXiv:2301.06854v1 [math.GT].
- [25] ———, *Generalised Legendrian racks of Legendrian links*, 2024. Preprint, arXiv:2301.06854 [math.GT].
- [26] Gregory Maxwell Kelly, *Basic concepts of enriched category theory*, London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series, vol. 64, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge-New York, 1982. MR651714

- [27] Naoki Kimura, *Bi-Legendrian rack colorings of Legendrian knots*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **32** (2023), no. 4, Paper No. 2350029, 16. MR4586264
- [28] ———, *Rack coloring invariants of Legendrian knots*, 2024. Thesis (Ph.D.)—Waseda University Graduate School of Fundamental Science and Engineering.
- [29] Margaret Kipe, *Legendrian-Knot-Mosaics*, 2024. <https://github.com/margekk/Legendrian-Knot-Mosaics>. Accessed: 2024-12-28.
- [30] Margaret Kipe, Samantha Pezzimenti, Leif Schaumann, Luc Ta, and Wing Hong Tony Wong, *Bounds on the mosaic number of Legendrian knots*, 2024. Preprint, arXiv:2410.08064 [math.GT].
- [31] Dheeraj Kulkarni and T. V. H. Prathamesh, *On rack invariants of Legendrian knots*, 2017. Preprint, arXiv:1706.07626 [math.GT].
- [32] Fred E. J. Linton, *Autonomous equational categories*, J. Math. Mech. **15** (1966), 637–642. MR190205
- [33] Saunders MacLane, *Categories for the working mathematician*, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, vol. Vol. 5, Springer-Verlag, New York-Berlin, 1971. MR354798
- [34] James McCarron, *Sequence A181770 in the On-line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences*, 2010. <https://oeis.org/A181770>. Accessed: 2024-12-30.
- [35] Sam Nelson, *What is ... a quandle?*, Notices Amer. Math. Soc. **63** (2016), no. 4, 378–380. MR3444659
- [36] Takefumi Nosaka, *Quandles and topological pairs*, SpringerBriefs in Mathematics, Springer, Singapore, 2017. Symmetry, knots, and cohomology. MR3729413
- [37] Samantha Pezzimenti and Abhinav Pandey, *Geography of Legendrian knot mosaics*, J. Knot Theory Ramifications **31** (2022), no. 1, Paper No. 2250002, 22. MR4411812
- [38] Joshua M. Sabloff, *What is ... a Legendrian knot?*, Notices Amer. Math. Soc. **56** (2009), no. 10, 1282–1284. MR2572757
- [39] Jacek Świątkowski, *On the isotopy of Legendrian knots*, Ann. Global Anal. Geom. **10** (1992), no. 3, 195–207. MR1186009
- [40] Yasuki Tada, *On categories of faithful quandles with surjective or injective quandle homomorphisms*, Hiroshima Math. J. **54** (2024), no. 1, 61–86. MR4728697
- [41] Mituhisa Takasaki, *Abstraction of symmetric transformations*, Tôhoku Math. J. **49** (1943), 145–207. MR21002
- [42] Lorenzo Traldi, *Reorienting quandle orbits*, 2024. Preprint, arXiv:2411.11763 [math.GT].
- [43] Petr Vojtěchovský and Seung Yeop Yang, *Racks and quandles of small orders*, 2018. [https://www.cs.du.edu/~petr/libraries\\_of\\_algebraic\\_structures.html](https://www.cs.du.edu/~petr/libraries_of_algebraic_structures.html). Accessed: 2025-01-03.
- [44] ———, *Enumeration of racks and quandles up to isomorphism*, Math. Comp. **88** (2019), no. 319, 2523–2540. MR3957904

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511

Email address: luc.ta@yale.edu

## APPENDIX A. EXHAUSTIVE SEARCHES WITH GL-RACKS

In this section, we enumerate GL-racks, medial GL-racks, GL-quandles, and medial GL-quandles of orders  $n \leq 7$  up to isomorphism and describe the algorithms we used to do so. An implementation of these algorithms in **GAP** [20] and the raw data we collected are available at the following GitHub repository: (*Link coming soon!*)

**A.1. Enumeration of small GL-racks.** In Table 1, we enumerate the number of GL-racks, medial GL-racks, GL-quandles, and medial GL-quandles of orders  $n \leq 7$  up to isomorphism. For comparison, we also list the corresponding numbers for classical racks and quandles. We obtained the numbers  $g(n)$  from Algorithm 2 and  $g^m(n)$ ,  $g_q(n)$ , and  $g_q^m(n)$  from Algorithm 3. Meanwhile, the numbers  $r(n)$ ,  $r^m(n)$ ,  $r_q(n)$ , and  $r_q^m(n)$  were originally computed by McCarron [34], Vojtěchovský and Yang [44], Henderson et al. [21], and Jedlička et al. [22], respectively. It appears that each of  $g(n)$ ,  $g^m(n)$ ,  $g_q(n)$ , and  $g_q^m(n)$  in Table 1 grows exponentially and at a much faster rate than its counterpart for classical racks.

$n$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$g(n)$	1	1	4	13	62	308	2132	17268
$g^m(n)$	1	1	4	13	61	298	2087	16941
$g_q(n)$	1	1	2	6	19	74	353	2080
$g_q^m(n)$	1	1	2	6	18	68	329	1965
$r(n)$	1	1	2	6	19	74	353	2080
$r^m(n)$	1	1	2	6	18	68	329	1965
$r_q(n)$	1	1	1	3	7	22	73	298
$r_q^m(n)$	1	1	1	3	6	18	58	251

TABLE 1. The number of GL-racks  $g(n)$ , medial GL-racks  $g^m(n)$ , GL-quandles  $g_q(n)$ , and medial GL-quandles  $g_q^m(n)$  of order  $n$  up to isomorphism, compared against the corresponding number of racks  $r(n)$ , medial racks  $r^m(n)$ , quandles  $r_q(n)$ , and medial quandles  $r_q^m(n)$ .

For explicit representatives of each GL-rack isomorphism class counted in Table 1, see Appendix B for those of orders  $2 \leq n \leq 4$  and the data linked above for those of orders  $5 \leq n \leq 7$ . The unique GL-racks of orders 0 and 1 up to isomorphism are the initial and terminal objects in GLR, respectively.

Interestingly, Table 1 states that  $g_q(n) = r(n)$  and  $g_q^m(n) = r^m(n)$  for all  $n \leq 7$ . This leads us to make the following conjecture.

**Conjecture A.1.** *For all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , there is a one-to-one correspondence between isomorphism classes of racks of order  $n$  and isomorphism classes of GL-quandles of order  $n$ . This correspondence restricts to a one-to-one correspondence between isomorphism classes of medial racks of order  $n$  and isomorphism classes of medial GL-quandles of order  $n$ .*

**A.2. Classification of small GL-racks.** We now describe the exhaustive search algorithms in **GAP** [20] that we used to compute these isomorphism classes. We build upon the work of Vojtěchovský and Yang [44], who compiled a library of representatives of all isomorphism classes of racks of orders  $n \leq 11$  [43]. In what follows, let  $\mathcal{R}_n$  denote Vojtěchovský and Yang's list of racks of order  $n$ , and let  $S_n$  denote the symmetric group on  $n$  letters. We will also denote any GL-rack  $(X, s, u, d)$  as a list  $[(X, s), u, d]$  containing three elements.

---

**Algorithm 1:**  $\text{isGLR}((X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  verifies whether  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}) \in S_n \times S_n$  defines a GL-structure on a given finite rack  $(X, s)$ , given the condition that  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$ .

---

**Data:** Rack  $(X, s)$  with  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and bijections  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} \in S_n$  such that  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$

**Result:** Whether  $[(X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  is a GL-rack

**begin**

**foreach**  $x$  *in*  $X$  **do**

**if**  $(\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} \circ s_x)(x) \neq x$  **then** return false;

**if**  $\mathbf{u} \circ s_x \neq s_x \circ \mathbf{u}$  *or*  $\mathbf{d} \circ s_x \neq s_x \circ \mathbf{d}$  **then** return false;

**if**  $s_x \neq s_{\mathbf{u}(x)}$  *or*  $s_x \neq s_{\mathbf{d}(x)}$  **then** return false;

  return true;

---

Algorithm 1, called  $\text{isGLR}((X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$ , tests whether two maps  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} : X \rightarrow X$  define a GL-structure on a rack  $(X, s)$  with  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , given the necessary conditions that  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} \in S_n$  and  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$ ; see Proposition 2.12. The test is simply a verification of the three GL-rack axioms.

---

**Algorithm 2:** Classification of GL-racks of a given order  $1 \leq n \leq 11$  up to isomorphism.

---

**Data:** List  $\mathcal{R}_n$  of racks with underlying set  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$  from the library of

Vojtěchovský and Yang [43] with  $1 \leq n \leq 11$

**Result:** List  $\text{isoClasses}$  of all isomorphism classes of GL-racks of order  $n$  with no repeats

**begin**

$\text{isoClasses} \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;

**foreach** *pair*  $((X, s), \mathbf{u})$  *in*  $\mathcal{R}_n \times S_n$  **do**

**foreach** *bijection*  $\mathbf{d}$  *in the centralizer*  $C_{S_n}(\mathbf{u})$  **do**

**if**  $\text{isGLR}((X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  **then**

$\text{seen} \leftarrow \text{false}$ ;

**foreach** *GL-rack*  $[X, s', \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2]$  *in*  $\text{isoClasses}$  *such that*  $s' = s$  **do**

**if**  $\mathbf{u}$  *and*  $\mathbf{u}_2$  *or*  $\mathbf{d}$  *and*  $\mathbf{d}_2$  *are not conjugate in*  $S_n$  **then** continue;

**foreach** *bijection*  $\varphi$  *in*  $S_n$  **do**

**if**  $\varphi$  *defines a GL-rack homomorphism*  $[(X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}] \rightarrow [(X, s'), \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2]$

**then**

$\text{seen} \leftarrow \text{true}$ ;

                break;

**if**  $\text{seen}$  **then** break;

**if**  $\text{seen}$  *is false* **then** Add( $\text{isoClasses}$ ,  $[(X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$ );

---

Algorithm 2 uses  $\mathcal{R}_n$  to create a list with exactly one representative of each isomorphism class of GL-racks whose underlying set is  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . For a complete classification, the algorithm runs  $\text{isGLR}((X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  for each rack  $(X, s) \in \mathcal{R}_n$  and each pair of bijections  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d} \in S_n$  such that  $\mathbf{u}\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}\mathbf{u}$ ; cf. Proposition 2.12. If  $\text{isGLR}((X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d})$  returns **true**, then to ensure there are no duplicates, the algorithm searches for a bijection  $\varphi \in S_n$  that defines a GL-rack homomorphism (hence an isomorphism) from  $[(X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  to any previously encountered GL-rack  $[(X, s'), \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2]$ . This is true only if  $\varphi \circ \mathbf{u} \circ \varphi^{-1} = \mathbf{u}_2$  and  $\varphi \circ \mathbf{d} \circ \varphi^{-1} = \mathbf{d}_2$ , so it suffices to consider only those

GL-racks  $[(X, s'), \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2]$  such that  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2$  are conjugate in  $S_n$  and  $\mathbf{d}$  and  $\mathbf{d}_2$  are conjugate in  $S_n$ . On the other hand, any GL-rack isomorphism descends to an isomorphism of the underlying racks. Since the racks in  $\mathcal{R}_n$  are pairwise nonisomorphic, it suffices to consider only those GL-racks  $[(X, s'), \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{d}_2]$  such that  $s = s'$ . On our hardware, our implementation of Algorithm 2 in **GAP** took 11269047 milliseconds, or slightly over three hours, to classify GL-racks of order 7. We estimate that the computation for  $n = 8$  would take longer than a month on our hardware.

---

**Algorithm 3:** Classification of medial GL-racks, all GL-quandles, and medial GL-quandles of order  $n$  up to isomorphism, given a classification of GL-racks of order  $n$ .

---

**Data:** List `isoClasses` of isomorphism classes of GL-racks with underlying set  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$  returned by Algorithm 2

**Result:** Lists  $\mathcal{M}_n$ ,  $\mathcal{Q}_n$ , and  $\mathcal{I}_n$  of isomorphism classes of medial GL-racks, all GL-quandles, and medial GL-quandles with underlying set  $X$ , respectively

**begin**

```

 $\mathcal{M}_n, \mathcal{Q}_n, \mathcal{I}_n \leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
foreach GL-rack  $R = [(X, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  in isoClasses do
     $\text{isMedial} \leftarrow \text{true};$ 
    foreach ordered triple  $(x, y, z)$  in  $X^3$  do
        if  $s_{sx}(z) \circ s_y \neq s_{sx}(y) \circ s_z$  then
             $\text{isMedial} \leftarrow \text{false};$ 
            break;
    if  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{u}^{-1}$  then
         $\text{Add}(\mathcal{Q}_n, R);$ 
        if  $\text{isMedial}$  then  $\text{Add}(\mathcal{I}_n, R);$ 

```

---

Finally, Algorithm 3 tests whether or not each GL-rack in the output of Algorithm 2 is medial or a GL-quandle. The former test is simply a verification of Definition 4.1. The latter test checks whether  $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{u}^{-1}$ , which suffices by Proposition 2.13. On our hardware, running our implementation of Algorithm 2 in **GAP** with  $n = 7$  took about 2718094 milliseconds, or about 45 minutes.

**A.3. Exhaustive searches for  $R$ -coloring numbers.** We now describe Algorithm 4, which computes all colorings of the GL-rack of an oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$  by all GL-racks in the list `isoClasses` computed by Algorithm 2. Before running the algorithm, the user must input a presentation of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  in terms of crossing relations between elements of  $\text{FGLR}(X_\Lambda)$  as in Subsection 3.2. Since a mapping  $x_i \mapsto y_i$  defines a GL-rack homomorphism  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda) \mapsto [(Y, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  if and only if the crossing relations in  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda)$  are satisfied in  $Y$  when making the appropriate substitutions (cf. Subsection 3.2), it suffices to search for all valid solutions in  $Y$  to the inputted crossing relations.

In particular, if  $R := [(Y, s), \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  is a GL-rack of order  $n \leq 11$ , then  $\text{Col}(\Lambda, R)$  is simply the number of lists in `solutions` produced by Algorithm 4 whose first three list elements are  $s$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$ , and  $\mathbf{d}$ . To distinguish between two oriented Legendrian links  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$ , it suffices to run Algorithm 4 twice, once inputting  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  and again inputting  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$ , and find a GL-rack  $R$  in `isoClasses` such that  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_1, R) \neq \text{Col}(\Lambda_2, R)$ . For example, running Algorithm 4 with  $n = 3$  and  $n = 2$  is how we determined which GL-racks and homomorphisms to use in our proofs of Theorems 3.8 and 3.11, respectively. Running the algorithm with  $n = 5$  also gave us the following example.



---

**Algorithm 4:** Computation of colorings of an oriented Legendrian link  $\Lambda$  by GL-racks of a given order computed in Algorithm 2.

---

**Data:** List `isoClasses` of isomorphism classes of GL-racks with underlying set  $Y = \{1, \dots, n\}$  from Algorithm 2 and a presentation of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda) = [(X, s^\Lambda), u^\Lambda, d^\Lambda]$

**Result:** List `solutions` whose elements are lists  $[s, u, d, y]$  such that the mapping  $x_i \mapsto y_i$  defines a GL-rack homomorphism  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda) \rightarrow [(Y, s), u, d]$

**begin**

```

     $m \leftarrow |X_\Lambda|;$ 
    solutions  $\leftarrow \emptyset;$ 
    foreach GL-rack  $[(Y, s), u, d]$  in isoClasses do
        foreach ordered  $m$ -tuple  $y \leftarrow (y_1, \dots, y_m)$  in  $Y^m$  do
            if all crossing relations are satisfied after replacing each  $x_i \in X_\Lambda$ ,  $s^\Lambda$ ,  $u^\Lambda$ , and  $d^\Lambda$  with  $y_i$ ,  $s$ ,  $u$ , and  $d$ , respectively then Add(solutions, [s, u, d, y]);

```

---

```

Finding all colorings of knot 1 by GL-rack 222 of 308...
Finding all colorings of knot 2 by GL-rack 222 of 308...
[ [ (1,2,3,4,5), ... (1,2,3,4,5) ], (1,3,5,2,4), (1,3,5,2,4), 1, 2, 3, 5, 1, 4, 5 ]
[ [ (1,2,3,4,5), ... (1,2,3,4,5) ], (1,3,5,2,4), (1,3,5,2,4), 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 1 ]
[ [ (1,2,3,4,5), ... (1,2,3,4,5) ], (1,3,5,2,4), (1,3,5,2,4), 3, 4, 5, 2, 3, 1, 2 ]
[ [ (1,2,3,4,5), ... (1,2,3,4,5) ], (1,3,5,2,4), (1,3,5,2,4), 4, 5, 1, 3, 4, 2, 3 ]
[ [ (1,2,3,4,5), ... (1,2,3,4,5) ], (1,3,5,2,4), (1,3,5,2,4), 5, 1, 2, 4, 5, 3, 4 ]
Number of colorings of knot 1 by GL-rack 222 of 308: 0
Number of colorings of knot 2 by GL-rack 222 of 308: 5
Since their R-coloring numbers are distinct, these knots are not Legendrian isotopic.

```

FIGURE 11. Excerpt from the output of our `GAP` implementation of Algorithm 4 with  $n = 5$ . Here, knots 1 and 2 are the Legendrian knots in Figure 9, while GL-rack 222 of 308 is the Legendrian rack defined in Example A.2.

**Example A.2.** In this example, we use Algorithm 4 to once again distinguish the Legendrian  $6_2$  knots  $\Lambda_1$  and  $\Lambda_2$  on the left and right of Figure 9, respectively. This time, we use the 222nd GL-rack  $R$  of order 5 listed in the data linked above, which is a Legendrian rack as introduced by Cenicerros et al. in [6]. Let  $Y := \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ . In cycle notation, define  $\sigma, f \in S_5$  by  $\sigma := (12345)$  and  $f := (13524)$ . In the notation of Example 2.9, let  $R := (Y, \sigma, f, f)_p$ .

We input the relations of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_1)$  in (1) and then those of  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  in (2) into our `GAP` implementation of Algorithm 4. After running the program with  $n = 5$ , the program outputs the text in Figure 11 upon reaching `isoClasses[222] = R`. The output states that  $\text{Col}(\Lambda_1, R) = 0 \neq 5 = \text{Col}(\Lambda_2, R)$ , and the images of  $(x_1, \dots, x_7)$  in  $\mathcal{G}(\Lambda_2)$  under each element of  $\text{Hom}_{\text{GLR}}(\mathcal{G}(\Lambda), R)$  are given by the orbit of  $(1, 2, 3, 5, 1, 4, 5) \in Y^7$  under the action of  $\langle \sigma \rangle \leq S_5$  on  $Y^7$ .

Example A.2 also yields the following analogue of Corollary 3.9 for Legendrian racks.

**Proposition A.3.** *There exist Legendrian knots sharing the same topological knot type and classical invariants that are distinguished by the Legendrian rack coloring numbers of [6, Proposition 1].*

## APPENDIX B. TABULATION OF GL-RACKS OF ORDERS 2, 3, AND 4

Tables 2, 3, and 4 tabulate all isomorphism classes of GL-racks having orders 2, 3, and 4, respectively, computed using Algorithm 2. Let  $X$  be the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , where  $n$  is the order of the GL-rack, and let  $\text{id} : X \rightarrow X$  denote the identity map. In the tables, we write each bijection  $s_i$ ,  $\mathbf{u}$ , and  $\mathbf{d}$  as either  $\text{id}$  or a nonidentity element of  $S_n$  in cycle notation. The number of GL-racks of each order is given by the number of entries in the second column of each table. These entries denote all valid GL-structures  $[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$  up to isomorphism on the rack  $(X, s)$ , where  $s$  is given by the corresponding entry in the first column. For example, the permutation GL-rack of order 3 with  $s_1 = s_2 = s_3 = (123)$  and GL-structure  $[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}] = [(132), \text{id}]$ , which we used to prove Theorem 3.8, appears as the 11th entry in Table 3.

$[s_1, s_2]$	$[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$	GL-quandle?	Medial?
$[\text{id}, \text{id}]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}],$ $[(12), (12)]$	Yes	Yes
$[(12), (12)]$	$[\text{id}, (12)],$ $[(12), \text{id}]$	No	Yes

TABLE 2. The four isomorphism classes of GL-racks of order 2.

$[s_1, s_2, s_3]$	$[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{d}]$	GL-quandle?	Medial?
$[\text{id}, \text{id}, \text{id}]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}],$ $[(23), (23)],$ $[(132), (123)]$	Yes	Yes
$[\text{id}, (23), (23)]$	$[\text{id}, (23)],$ $[(23), \text{id}]$	No	Yes
$[(23), \text{id}, \text{id}]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}],$ $[(23), (23)]$	Yes	Yes
$[(23), (23), (23)]$	$[\text{id}, (23)],$ $[(23), \text{id}]$	No	Yes
$[(123), (123), (123)]$	$[\text{id}, (132)],$ $[(132), \text{id}],$ $[(123), (123)]$	No	Yes
$[(23), (13), (12)]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}]$	Yes	Yes

TABLE 3. The 13 isomorphism classes of GL-racks of order 3.

$[s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4]$	$[u, d]$	GL-quandle?	Medial?
$[id, id, id, id]$	$[id, id],$ $[(34), (34)],$ $[(243), (234)],$ $[(1432), (1234)],$ $[(14)(23), (14)(23)]$	Yes	Yes
$[id, (13)(24), id, (13)(24)]$	$[id, (24)],$ $[(24), id],$ $[(13), (13)(24)],$ $[(13)(24), (13)]$	No	Yes
$[(13)(24), (13)(24), (13)(24), (13)(24)]$	$[id, (13)(24)],$ $[(24), (13)],$ $[(1432)(1432)],$ $[(14)(23), (12)(34)],$ $[(13)(24), id]$	No	Yes
$[id, id, (34), (34)]$	$[id, (34)],$ $[(34), id],$ $[(12), (12)(24)],$ $[(12)(34), (12)]$	No	Yes
$[id, (34), id, id]$	$[id, id],$ $[(34), (34)]$	Yes	Yes
$[id, (34), (34), (34)]$	$[id, (34)],$ $[(34), id]$	No	Yes
$[(34), (34), id, id]$	$[id, id],$ $[(34), (34)],$ $[(12), (12)],$ $[(12)(34), (12)(34)]$	Yes	Yes
$[(34), (34), (34), (34)]$	$[id, (34)],$ $[(34), id],$ $[(12), (12)(34)],$ $[(12)(34), (12)]$	No	Yes
$[id, (234), (234), (234)]$	$[id, (243)],$ $[(243), id],$ $[(234), (234)]$	No	Yes
$[(234), id, id, id]$	$[id, id],$ $[(243), (234)],$ $[(234), (243)]$	Yes	Yes

$[(234), (234), (234), (234)]$	$[\text{id}, (243)],$ $[(243), \text{id}],$ $[(234), (234)]$	No	Yes
$[(234), (243), (243), (243)]$	$[\text{id}, (234)],$ $[(243), (243)],$ $[(234), \text{id}]$	No	Yes
$[(34), (34), (12), (12)]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}],$ $[(34), (34)],$ $[(12)(34), (12)(34)]$	Yes	Yes
$[(34), (34), (12)(34), (12)(34)]$	$[\text{id}, (34)],$ $[(34), \text{id}],$ $[(12), (12)(34)],$ $[(12)(34), (12)]$	No	Yes
$[(12), (12), (34), (34)]$	$[\text{id}, (12)(34)],$ $[(34), (12)],$ $[(12)(34), \text{id}]$	No	Yes
$[(12), (12), (12)(34), (12)(34)]$	$[\text{id}, (12)(34)],$ $[(34), (12)],$ $[(12), (34)],$ $[(12)(34), \text{id}]$	No	Yes
$[(1324), (1324), (1324), (1324)]$	$[\text{id}, (1423)],$ $[(1423), \text{id}],$ $[(12)(34), (1324)],$ $[(1324), (12)(34)]$	No	Yes
$[\text{id}, (34), (24), (23)]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}]$	Yes	No
$[(234), (143), (124), (132)]$	$[\text{id}, \text{id}]$	Yes	Yes

Table 4: The 62 isomorphism classes of GL-racks of order 4.