

# CATEGORICAL RECONSTRUCTION THEORY

2025-07-04

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Tony Zorman

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# The classical story

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**Tannaka duality studies algebraic structures through their categories of representations.**

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One solution: Linearise!

# Representations of a group

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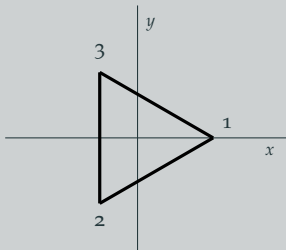
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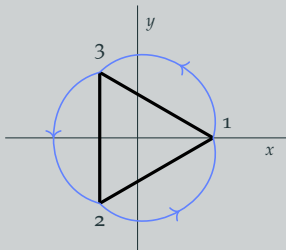
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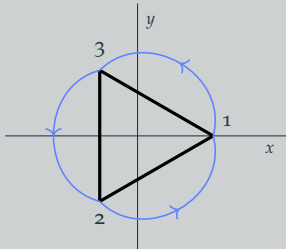
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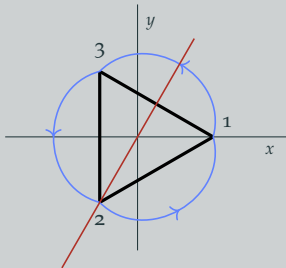
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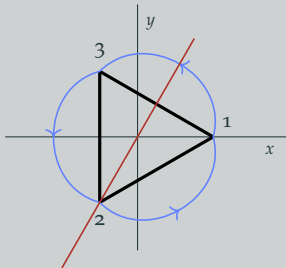
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A **representation** of a finite group  $G$  consists of a finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{k}$ -vector space  $V$  and a group homomorphism, called the **action**:

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A **morphism of representations** from  $(V, \rho)$  to  $(W, \sigma)$  is a linear map  $f: V \longrightarrow W$  such that  $f\rho_g = \sigma_g f$  for all  $g \in G$ .

# Special building blocks

Representations can be **tensor**ed:

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$$V \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} W \cong \mathbb{k}\{v_i \otimes w_j \mid v_i \in B_V, w_j \in B_W\}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\rho^*: G &\longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{K}) \\ g &\longmapsto (\rho_{g^{-1}})^{\mathrm{T}}.\end{aligned}$$

# Putting it all together

There is a distinguished map  $U$ :

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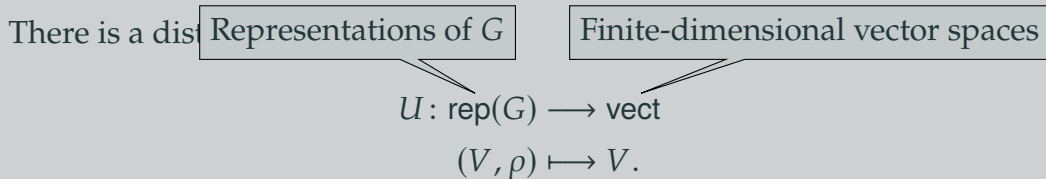
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## Theorem (Tannaka reconstruction)

*The monoidal automorphisms of  $U$  are, as a group, isomorphic to  $G$ .*

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# Categorical generalisations

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- [HZ23] with Sebastian Halbig: *Duality in Monoidal Categories*. arXiv: 2301.03545.
- [HZ24a] with Sebastian Halbig: *Diagrammatics for Comodule Monads*. In: Appl. Categ. Struct. 32 (2024).
- [HZ24b] with Sebastian Halbig: *Pivotality, twisted centres, and the anti-double of a Hopf monad*. In: Theory Appl. Categ. 41 (2024).
- [SZ24] with Mateusz Stroiński: *Reconstruction of module categories in the infinite and non-rigid settings*. arXiv: 2409.00793.
- [CSZ25] with Kevin Coulembier and Mateusz Stroiński: *Simple algebras and exact module categories*. arXiv: 2501.06629.
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# Categories and their ilk

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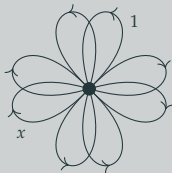
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  - Finite-dimensional vector spaces, representations, finite-dimensional modules over a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra, ...

Can we generalise Tannaka duality to  
other algebraic structures and their  
categories of representations?

Given a (rigid monoidal) category  $\mathcal{C}$ , can one tell that this category is of the form  $\text{rep}(A)$ , for some algebraic object  $A$ ?

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## Theorem (Moerdijk, McCrudden, Bruguières–Virelizier)

*Given a monad  $T$  on a rigid monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$ , there exists a bijection*

$$\left\{ \text{Hopf monad structures on } T \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Rigid monoidal structure on } \text{rep}(T) \\ \text{such that } U \text{ is strong monoidal} \end{array} \right\}$$

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We, for example, require the existence of coherent isomorphisms

$$\alpha_{x,y,m}: \rho_{x \otimes y}(m) \xrightarrow{\sim} \rho_x(\rho_y(m)), \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathcal{C} \text{ and } m \in \mathcal{M}.$$

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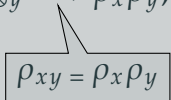
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In representation categories, we can define **actions** and **coactions** of functors.

# A Kelly-type theorem for representation categories

## Theorem (Halbig-Z)

*Given*

$$\mathcal{C} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \perp \\ \xleftarrow{U} \end{array} \mathcal{D}$$

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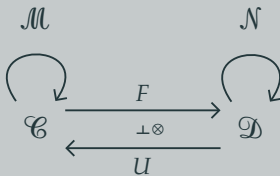
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{G} \\ \xleftarrow{\perp} \\ \xleftarrow{V} \end{array} & \mathcal{N} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{F} \\ \xleftarrow{\perp \otimes} \\ \xleftarrow{U} \end{array} & \mathcal{D} \end{array}$$

Diagram illustrating the Halbig-Z theorem setup. It shows two categories,  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$ , at the top, and  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  at the bottom. Arrows connect  $\mathcal{M}$  to  $\mathcal{N}$  (labeled  $G$ ,  $\perp$ ,  $V$ ) and  $\mathcal{C}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$  (labeled  $F$ ,  $\perp \otimes$ ,  $U$ ). Curved arrows indicate functors from  $\mathcal{M}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  and from  $\mathcal{N}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ .

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Diagram illustrating the relationship between two categories  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  (top) and  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  (bottom). The top row shows  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  with arrows  $G: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$  and  $V: \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ . The bottom row shows  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  with arrows  $F: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  and  $U: \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Curved arrows indicate functors from  $\mathcal{M}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  and from  $\mathcal{N}$  to  $\mathcal{D}$ . The middle arrows are labeled  $\perp$  and  $\perp \otimes$ .

*then  $G$ -coactions on  $F$  are in bijection with  $V$ -actions on  $U$ .*

# Tannaka duality for representation categories

## Corollary (Halbig–Z)

*Let  $T$  be a Hopf monad on the rigid monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$ , and  $K$  a monad on a  $\mathcal{C}$ -representation  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then there is a bijection:*

$$\left\{ T\text{-Coactions on } K \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{rep}(T)\text{-representations on } \text{rep}(K) \\ \text{such that } U^T \text{ acts strongly on } U^K \end{array} \right\}$$



# Reconstruction up to Morita equivalence

## Theorem (Stroiński–Z)

*Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an abelian monoidal category and  $(\mathcal{M}, \rho)$  an abelian representation of  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

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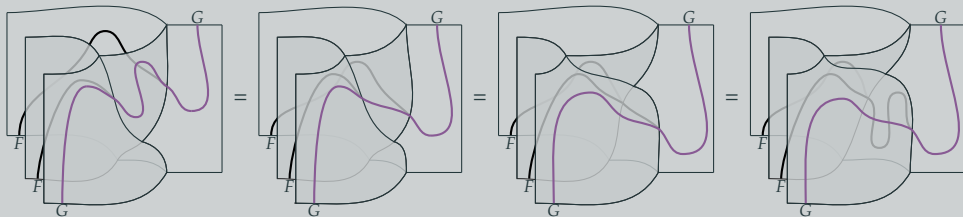
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$$\mathcal{M} \simeq \text{rep}(\Gamma_\ell).$$

*Furthermore, there is a bijection*

$$\{(\mathcal{M}, \ell) \text{ as above}\} / \mathcal{M} \simeq \mathcal{N} \xleftrightarrow{\cong} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Right exact lax } \mathcal{C}\text{-rep} \\ \text{monads on } \mathcal{C} \end{array} \right\} / \text{rep}(T) \simeq \text{rep}(S)$$

# Thanks!



## Results from other articles

### Theorem (Halbig–Z)

*There exists a tensor representable category that is not rigid.*

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# References i

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