

# Nerves of Hopf algebras and Chern-Simons.

Based on joint work  
with Paolo Severa  
arxiv: 1906.10616

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Motivation and context: Goal for today is:

- Thm: There is an equivalence of categories

$$\text{Hopf Alg}(\mathcal{C})_{\text{SI}} \xrightarrow{\text{Nerve } N_H} \text{Br Lax Mon Func}(\text{Br Com}, \mathcal{C})$$

$\uparrow$  BMC  $\cup$   $\cup$  Segal nerve cond.

$\Delta_{\text{aug}}$  Braid<sub>n</sub>

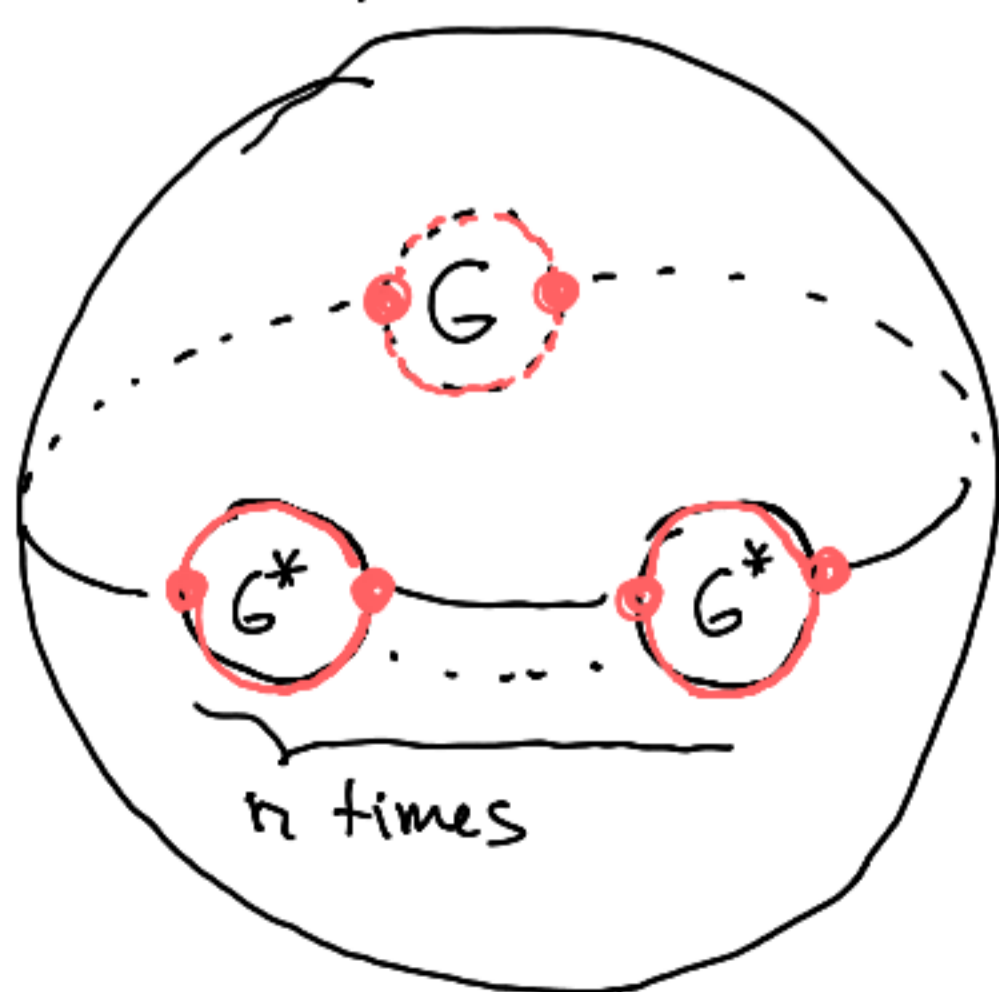
- Why talk about it at this conference?

The nerve  $N_H: \text{Br Com} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  should be seen as a part (sector) of a 3,2,1 (defect?) TFT, assigned to the Drinfeld double of  $H$  [based on Severa's 1401.6164 Sec.6, 1406.1366, 1811136]

- Remark: This is at the moment an imprecise motivation, not a statement about field theories. Nevertheless:

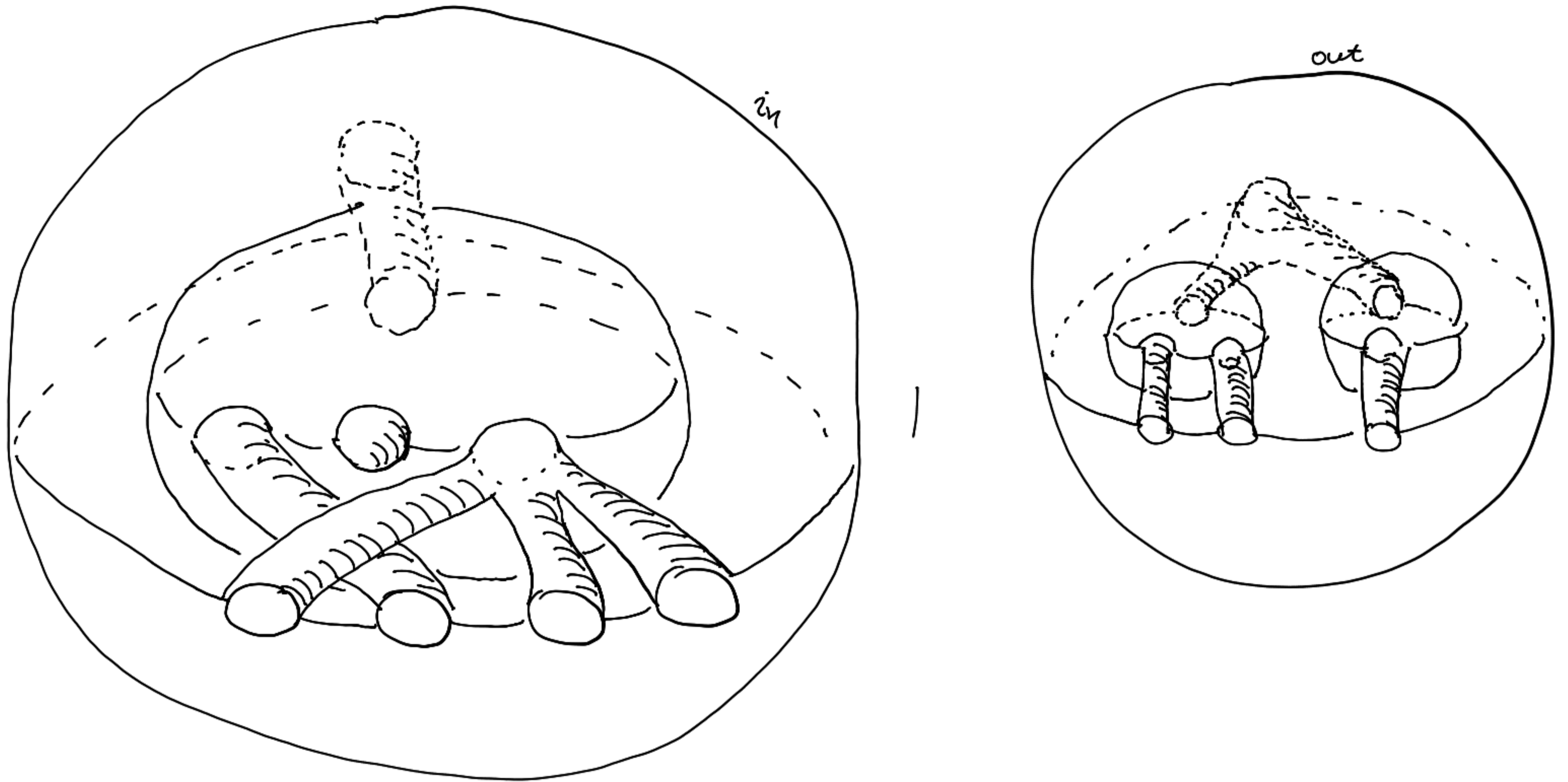
- Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie bialgebra, i.e.  $\mathcal{D} = \mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*$  is a quadratic Lie algebra with  $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^*$  Lie subalgebras. ( $H = O_q(\mathfrak{g})$ )

- Consider, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , a sphere with  $n+1$  punctures and boundary conditions (vague) for the CS theory for associated with  $\mathcal{D}$ :



(i.e. classically: fields are flat connections on this  $\Sigma \times I$  w/ holonomy/gauge tr. given by  $G$  or  $G^* \subset \mathcal{D}$ )

and, moreover, consider bordisms:



Quantum Chern-Simons should assign:

- $N(\underbrace{\bullet \dots \bullet}_n)$  the (Hilbert) space associated to the  $n+1$ -punctured sphere
  - $N(\text{diagram}) : N(\bullet^4) \longrightarrow N(\bullet^3)$
  - $N(\bullet^n) \otimes N(\bullet^m) \longrightarrow N(\bullet^{n+m})$
- to the bordisms above
- the two inner spheres

- Def:  $\text{BrCom}$  is the braided monoidal category generated by a single object  $\bullet$  and morphisms  $\sigma, \delta$
- modulo:  $\bullet$  is a braided commutative algebra  $(\Omega = \Lambda)_{\Delta}$ .
- $\Delta_{\text{aug}} \subset \text{BrCom}$  by  $\{0, \dots, n\} \mapsto \bullet^{n+1}, \sigma \mapsto \text{diagram}, \delta \mapsto \text{diagram}$
  - "classical" version:  $\text{Com} = \text{FinSet}$ , "semiclassical" version:  $i\text{Com} = \text{Com} + \text{chord}$

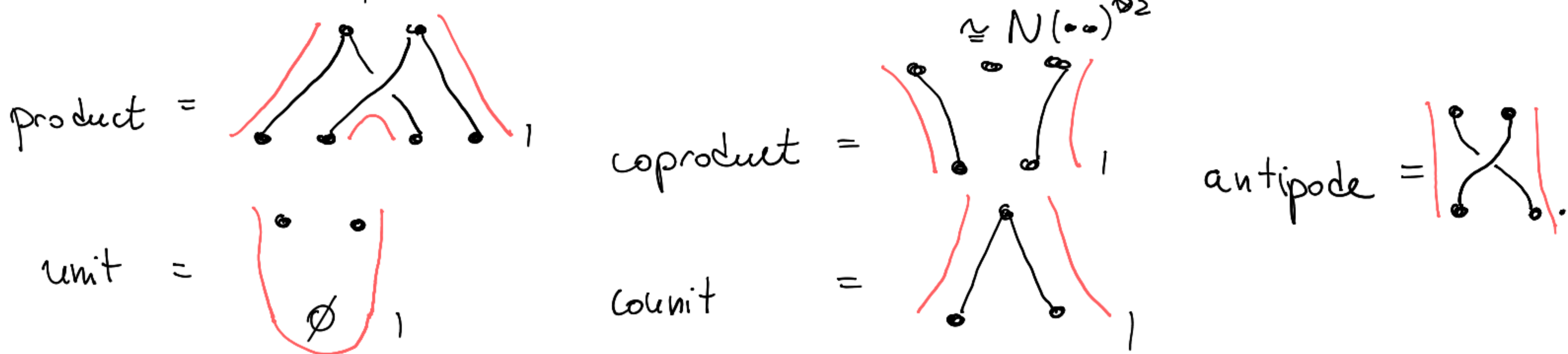
$\leadsto$  which part of the TFT we remember this way?  
(lucky coincidence)

Thm [Severa 19]  $\mathcal{C}$  be a braided monoidal category. Then the category of Hopf algebras with an invertible antipode in  $\mathcal{C}$  is equivalent to the category of braided, lax monoidal functors  $N: \text{BrCom} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  st. the Segal/nerve condition holds:

$$N(\dots)^{\otimes n} \xrightarrow{\cong} N(\bullet^{n+1})$$

$$N(\bullet) \cong N(\emptyset) \cong I_{\mathcal{C}}$$

Given such  $N$ , the Hopf algebra is defined by  $H := N(\dots)$  and:



### Remarks

- the restriction of  $N_H$  to  $\Delta \subset \text{BrCom}$ : the cosimplicial nerve of the augmented coalgebra  $H$ .
- main application:  $\text{Com} \xrightarrow[\text{nerve}]{\text{s.lax}} \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrow$  commutative Hopf algebras
- $\text{iCom} \xrightarrow[\text{nerve}]{\text{i-br. lax}} \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrow$   $\xrightarrow{\hbar}$  with a compat. Poisson bracket
- a Drinfeld associator  $\Phi$  directly lifts this to a functor  $\text{BrCom} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{\hbar}$  get a quantization of the Poisson-Hopf algebra
- Higher groups: relaxing the nerve condition: functors  $\text{Com} \xrightarrow{\text{s.lax}} \text{Vect}$  are (functions on) higher groups & groupoids
- $\text{BrCom} \xrightarrow{\text{br lax}} \text{Vect}$ : higher Hopf algebras?

Thank you for your attention.