

Weakly Tannakian categories

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 A proof strategy
- 3 Weakly Tannakian categories
- 4 An application

Categories arising in algebraic geometry

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Fact

The category $\mathrm{QC}(X)$ is a Grothendieck abelian k -linear symmetric monoidal closed category.

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Basic question

For two varieties X, Y , can we describe the category $\mathrm{QC}(X \times Y)$ in terms of the categories $\mathrm{QC}(X)$ and $\mathrm{QC}(Y)$?

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- $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X)$ = full subcategory of finitely presentable objects
- \boxtimes = Kelly's tensor product of finitely cocomplete k -linear categories

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Let $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{M}$ denote the 2-category of \boxtimes -pseudomonoids:

- 0-cells = finitely cocomplete symmetric monoidal k -linear categories \mathcal{A} such that $A \otimes -$ preserves finite colimits for all $A \in \mathcal{A}$
- 1-cells = right exact symmetric monoidal functors
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Theorem (Lurie '05, Brandenburg-Chirvasitu '12)

For reasonable varieties, the contravariant pseudofunctor $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-): \{\text{varieties}\} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}\mathcal{M}$ is an equivalence on hom-categories.

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Consequence

$\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X \times Y)$ has the universal property of a bicategorical coproduct in the image of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$

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To prove the theorem, it suffices to show:

- (i) Bicategorical coproducts in \mathcal{RM} are given by \boxtimes
- (ii) If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} lie in the image of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$, then so does $\mathcal{A} \boxtimes \mathcal{B}$.

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- (ii) If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} lie in the image of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$, then so does $\mathcal{A} \boxtimes \mathcal{B}$.

Indeed: both $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X) \boxtimes \mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(Y)$ and $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X \times Y)$ have the same universal property in the image.

Coproducts

The first requirement follows from:

Theorem (S.)

Let \mathcal{M} be a symmetric monoidal bicategory, and let (A, i, m) and (B, i, m) be two symmetric pseudomonoids in \mathcal{M} . Then the two morphisms

$$A \simeq A \otimes I \xrightarrow{A \otimes i} A \otimes B \quad \text{and} \quad B \simeq I \otimes B \xrightarrow{i \otimes B} A \otimes B$$

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Categorify!

Recognizing categories in the image

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Theorem (Grothendieck, Saavedra-Rivano, Deligne-Milne)

If \mathcal{A} is a category satisfying (i)-(iii), then there exists an affine group scheme G and an equivalence $\mathcal{A} \simeq \text{Rep}(G)$ of symmetric monoidal k -linear categories. Such categories are called **Tannakian**.

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Definition

Stacks is the 2-category of pseudofunctors $\mathbf{CAlg} \rightarrow \mathbf{Gpd}$ which send certain colimits in $\mathbf{Aff} = \mathbf{CAlg}^{\text{op}}$ to limits. The Yoneda embedding

$$\mathbf{Aff} = \mathbf{CAlg}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{Stacks}$$

is therefore universal among pseudofunctors which preserve these colimits.

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Definition

A stack X is **algebraic** (in the sense of Goerss and Hopkins) if it is associated to a flat affine groupoid. It is called an **Adams stack** if, in addition, the duals form a strong generator in $\mathbf{QC}(X)$.

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Goal

Find a characterization of the image of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}: \mathcal{AS}^{\mathrm{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{RM}$.

Weakly Tannakian categories

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} be an abelian symmetric monoidal k -linear category. The category \mathcal{A} is called **Tannakian** if

- (i) There exists a strong symmetric monoidal functor

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which is faithful and exact (called the **fiber functor**);

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Theorem (S.)

\mathcal{A} weakly Tannakian $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A} \simeq \mathrm{C}(X)$ for some coherent Adams stack X .

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Use duals to show: LR is a **symmetric Hopf monoidal comonad**
Show it comes from a flat Hopf algebroid = affine groupoid

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Corollary

The functor $C(-)$ gives a biequivalence between the 2-category of coherent Adams stacks and the 2-category of weakly Tannakian categories, right exact strong symmetric monoidal k -linear functors, and symmetric monoidal natural transformations.

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Problem

X, Y coherent Adams stacks $\not\Rightarrow X \times Y$ coherent Adams stack.

Back to the drawing board!

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Let \mathcal{A} be an **ind-abelian** symmetric monoidal k -linear category. The category \mathcal{A} is called **weakly Tannakian** if

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The recognition theorem is still true (using essentially the same proof):

Theorem (S.)

\mathcal{A} weakly Tannakian $\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A} \simeq \text{QC}_{\text{fp}}(X)$ for some Adams stack X .

$\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$ preserves products

Theorem (S.)

Let X, Y be Adams stacks over k . Then the comparison functor

$$\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X) \boxtimes \mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(Y) \rightarrow \mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(X \times Y)$$

is an equivalence of symmetric monoidal k -linear categories.

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Proof: (sketch)

- (i) X, Y Adams stacks $\Rightarrow X \times Y$ Adams stack
- (ii) RHS is bicategorical coproduct in $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{M}$
- (iii) LHS is bicategorical coproduct **in the image** of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$ by the embedding theorem.

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is an equivalence of symmetric monoidal k -linear categories.

Proof: (sketch)

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- (ii) RHS is bicategorical coproduct in $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{M}$
- (iii) LHS is bicategorical coproduct **in the image** of $\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$ by the embedding theorem.
- (iv) Check that \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} weakly Tannakian $\Rightarrow \mathcal{A} \boxtimes \mathcal{B}$ weakly Tannakian

$\mathrm{QC}_{\mathrm{fp}}(-)$ preserves products

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