

# The Quantum $6j$ Symbol

Junior Topology Seminar

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# The quantum group $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

**Definition** Let  $q \neq 0, 1, -1$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . The quantum group  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$  is the algebra over  $\mathbb{C}$ , with the unit element 1, generated by  $E, F, K$  and  $K^{-1}$ , subject to the relations

$$\begin{aligned}K.K^{-1} &= K^{-1}.K = 1 \\KE &= qEK, \\KF &= q^{-1}FK \\EF - FE &= \frac{K^2 - K^{-2}}{q - q^{-1}}\end{aligned}$$

# $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -modules

**Definition** A  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -module is a vector space  $V$  together with three fixed linear operators  $E_V, F_V$  and  $K_V$ , which satisfy

$$\begin{aligned}K_V \cdot K_V^{-1} &= K_V^{-1} \cdot K_V = 1 \\K_V E_V &= q E_V K_V \\K_V F_V &= q^{-1} F_V K_V \\E_V F_V - F_V E_V &= \frac{K_V^2 - K_V^{-2}}{q - q^{-1}}\end{aligned}$$

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**Definition** Given two  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -modules  $V$  and  $W$ , an intertwiner from  $V$  to  $W$  is a linear map  $\phi : V \rightarrow W$  such that

$$\phi \circ E_V = E_W \circ \phi$$

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The set of all morphisms from  $V$  to  $W$  will be denoted  $\text{Hom}_{U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))}(V, W)$ .

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For each  $n \geq 0$ , let  $V_n$  the vector space of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $n$  in  $x$  and  $y$ . This space  $V_n$  has a basis the monomials  $x^n, x^{n-1}y, \dots, xy^{n-1}, y^n$  and this basis show that  $\dim(V_n) = n + 1$ .

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In order to verify that the action of  $E$ ,  $F$ , and  $K$  defines a  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -module one must check that the  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$  are satisfied.

# $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -modules

**Definition** *Let  $V$  be a  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -module and  $\lambda$  be a scalar. A vector  $v \neq 0$  in  $V$  is said to be of weight  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  if  $Kv = \lambda v$ . If we have, in addition,  $Ev = 0$  then  $v$  is called a highest weight vector.*

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(5) Two finite dimensional weight vector  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -modules generated by highest weight vectors of the same weight are isomorphic.

## Some notation..

Let  $n \geq 1$  and let  $j \in \{n, n-2, \dots, -n+2, -n\}$ . Let  $e_{n,j} := x^{\frac{1}{2}(n+j)}y^{\frac{1}{2}(n-j)}$ . In this notation  $E e_{n,j} = [n-2j]e_{n,j+2}$ ,  $F e_{n,j} = [n-2j]e_{n,j-2}$ , and  $Ke_{n,j} = A^j e_{n,j}$

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$$E(v \otimes w) = Eu \otimes Kv + K^{-1}u \otimes Ev$$

$$F(v \otimes w) = Fu \otimes Kv + K^{-1}u \otimes Fv$$

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**Theorem** Let  $i, j \geq 0$ . Then  $V_i \otimes V_j = \bigoplus_{|i-j|+1 \leq k \leq i+j-1} V_k$  where the sum runs over all odd  $i + j + k$ .

# Some morphisms between modules of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

Let  $A \neq 0 \in \mathbb{C}$  be fixed and let  $V := V_1 = \text{span}\{x, y\}$  be the  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ -module defined earlier.



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Define  $\frown : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  via

$$\frown(x \otimes x) = 0$$

$$\frown(x \otimes y) = iA$$

$$\frown(y \otimes x) = -iA^{-1}$$

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Define  $\cup : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow V \otimes V$  by




$$\cup(1) = iAx \otimes y - iA^{-1}y \otimes x$$

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**Lemma** (1) The maps  $\cap$  and  $\cup$  are intertwiner operators for  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))$ .




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(3) The maps   $\circ$   =  :  $V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$  is given by

$$\begin{array}{c} \cup \\ \cap \end{array} (x \otimes x) = \begin{array}{c} \cup \\ \cap \end{array} (y \otimes y) = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \cup \\ \cap \end{array} (x \otimes y) = -qx \otimes y + y \otimes x$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \cup \\ \cap \end{array} (y \otimes x) = x \otimes y - q^{-1}y \otimes x$$

# Some morphisms between modules of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

Define an intertwiner map  :  $V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$  as follows

$$\text{crossing} := A \left[ \begin{array}{c} \cup \\ \cap \end{array} \right] + A^{-1} \left[ \begin{array}{c} | \otimes | \end{array} \right]$$

# A representation of $B_n$

Recall the the braid group is given by generators and relations as follows

$$B_n = \langle b_1, \dots, b_{n-1} \mid b_i b_j = b_i b_j \text{ if } |i - j| \geq 2, b_i b_{i+1} b_i = b_{i+1} b_i b_{i+1} \text{ if } i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2 \rangle$$





# The Temperley-Lieb algebra

The Temperley-Lieb Algebra, denoted by  $TL_n(\delta)$  where  $\delta = -A^2 - A^{-2}$ , is the unital  $\mathbb{C}[A, A^{-1}]$  algebra of  $U_q(sl(2))$  intertwining maps between  $n$ -fold tensor powers of the fundamental representation  $V$ . In other words

$$TL_n(\delta) = Hom_{U_q(sl(2))}(V^{\otimes n}, V^{\otimes n})$$

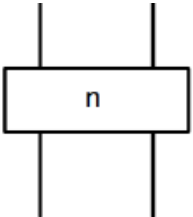
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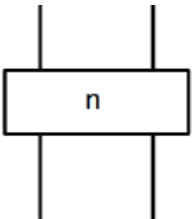
This algebra can be realized as the unital  $\mathbb{C}[A, A^{-1}]$  algebra generated by  $e_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$  subject to the relations  $e_i e_j = e_j e_i$  if  $|i-j| \geq 2$ ,  $e_i e_{i\pm 1} e_i = e_i$ , and  $e_i^2 = -[2]e_i$ .

# The Jones-Wenzl projectors

Define the Jones-Wenzl projector   $\in TL_n(\delta) = \text{Hom}_{U_q(\mathfrak{sl}(2))}(V^{\otimes n}, V^{\otimes n})$

via the recursive relation:

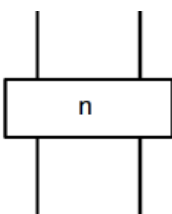
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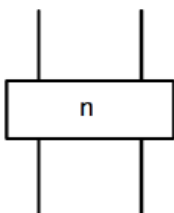
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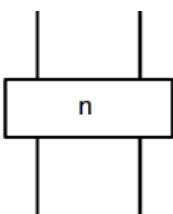
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \boxed{n} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \boxed{n-1} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} \otimes \left| \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right. + \frac{[n-1]}{[n]} \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \boxed{n-1} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} \otimes \left| \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right. \circ e_{n-1} \circ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \boxed{n-1} \\ | \\ \text{---} \end{array} \otimes \left| \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right. \right) \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ \boxed{1} \\ | \\ | \end{array} = id_V
 \end{array}$$

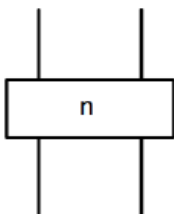
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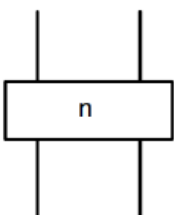
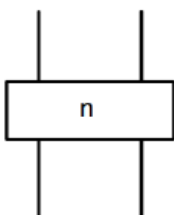
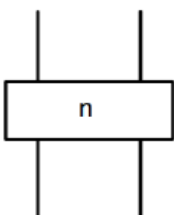
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above, then  satisfies the following:

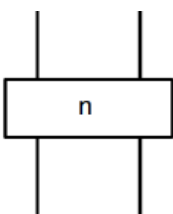
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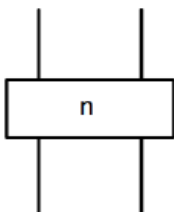
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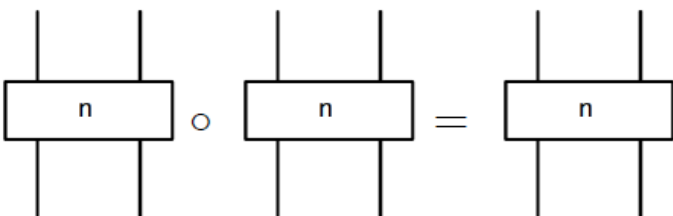
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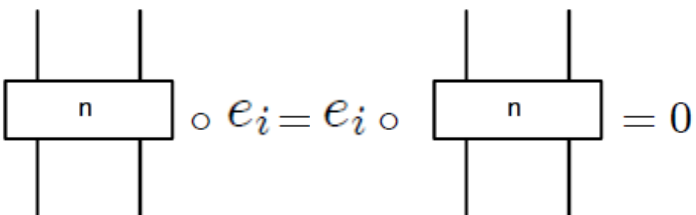
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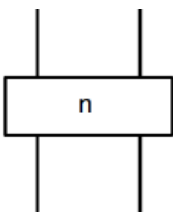
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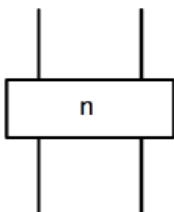
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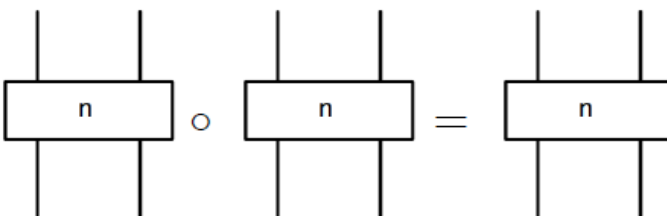
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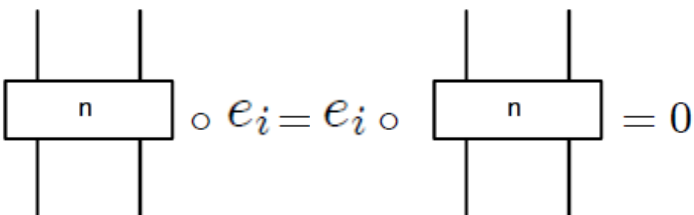


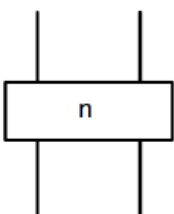
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(2) 

(3)  is a projector to the subspace  $V^{n+1} \subset V^{\otimes n}$ .

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$$\cup^n : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow V^{\otimes 2(n-1)} \cong V^{\otimes(n-1)} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes V^{\otimes(n-1)} \xrightarrow{1 \otimes U \otimes 1} V^{\otimes 2n}$$

# More morphisms between $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ -modules

**Definition** Let  $\cup^1 = \cup : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow V \otimes V$ . Assume  $\cup^{n-1}$  we define recursively to be the composition

$$\cup^n : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow V^{\otimes 2(n-1)} \cong V^{\otimes(n-1)} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes V^{\otimes(n-1)} \xrightarrow{1 \otimes U \otimes 1} V^{\otimes 2n}$$

The map  $\cap^n$  is defined dually.

# Maps between $V_n$ and the $n$ -fold tensor of the $V_2$

**Definition** Define the map  $\phi_n : V_n \rightarrow V^{\otimes n}$  by

$$\phi_n(e_{n,j}) = A^{1/4(n+j)(n-j)} \begin{array}{c} | \quad | \\ \boxed{n} \\ | \quad | \end{array} (x^{\otimes \frac{1}{2}(n+j)} \otimes y^{\otimes \frac{1}{2}(n-j)})$$

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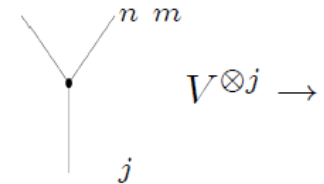
**Definition** Let  $n \geq 0$ . Define a map  $\mu_j : V^{\otimes n} \rightarrow V_n$  via

$$\mu_j(x_1 \otimes \dots \otimes x_n) = x_1 \cdot x_2 \dots \cdot x_n$$

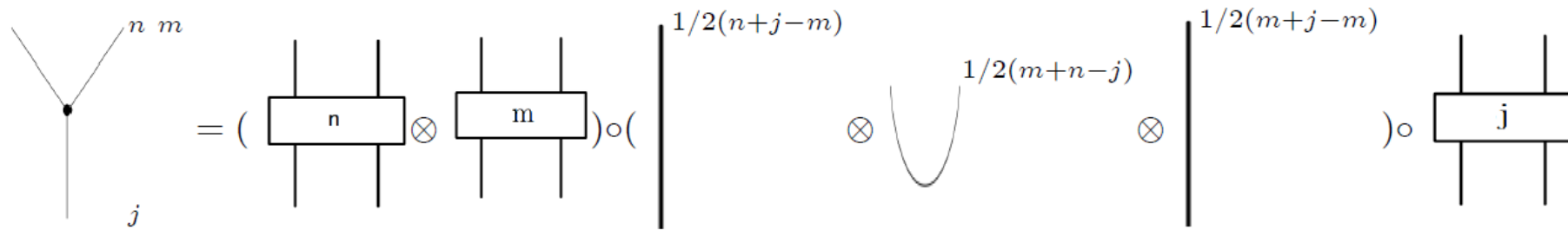
where  $x_i$  are either  $x$  or  $y$  and the multiplication on the right occurs in the ring  $\mathbb{C}[x, y]/(xy = qyx)$

# Towards defining the 6j Symbol

**Theorem** Suppose that  $(n, m, j)$  are admissible triple then the map

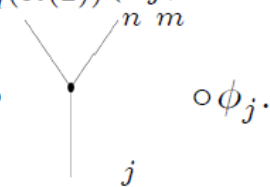


$V^{\otimes n} \otimes V^{\otimes m}$  defined by



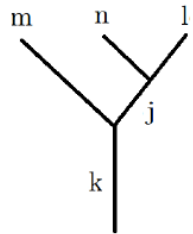
is a  $U_q(sl(2))$  intertwiner. Moreover, The vector space  $\text{Hom}_{U_q(sl(2))}(V_j, V_n \otimes$

$V_m)$  is one dimensional and it is generated by the map  $\mu_n \otimes \mu_m \circ$



# Towards defining the 6j Symbol

**Theorem** *Suppose that  $(n, m, j)$  are admissible triple then the map*


$$: V^{\otimes k} \rightarrow V^{\otimes m} \otimes V^{\otimes n} \otimes V^{\otimes l}$$

*defined by*



# Towards defining the 6j Symbol

**Theorem** *Suppose that  $(n, m, j)$  are admissible triple then the map*

$$\begin{array}{c} m & n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & j \\ & / & \diagdown \\ k & & \end{array} : V^{\otimes k} \rightarrow V^{\otimes m} \otimes V^{\otimes n} \otimes V^{\otimes l}$$

*defined by*

$$\begin{array}{c} m & n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & j \\ & / & \diagdown \\ k & & \end{array} = \left( \begin{array}{c} m \\ | \\ \circ \end{array} \circ \begin{array}{c} n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & j \\ | \\ \circ \end{array} \right) \circ \begin{array}{c} a & j \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & k \\ | \\ \circ \end{array}$$

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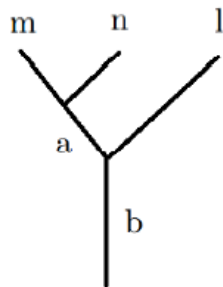
is a  $U_q(sl(2))$  intertwiner. Moreover, the vector space  $\text{Hom}_{U_q(sl(2))}(V_k, V_m \otimes V_n \otimes V_l)$  is generated by the basis consists of the maps

$$\{ \mu_m \otimes \mu_n \otimes \mu_l \circ \begin{array}{c} m & n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & j \\ & / & \diagdown \\ k & & \end{array} \circ \phi_k \}$$

where the indices  $j$  and  $k$  range over all admissible  $(n, l, j)$  and  $(m, j, k)$ .

# Towards defining the 6j Symbol

One could show similarly that



has a basis

$$\{\mu_m \otimes \mu_n \otimes \mu_l \circ \text{tree} \circ \phi_k\}$$

with the appropriate admissible colors.

# The quantum 6j Symbol

Define the quantum 6j-symbol to be the coefficient  $\left\{ \begin{matrix} m & n & a \\ l & k & j \end{matrix} \right\}$  in the following equation

$$\mu_m \otimes \mu_n \otimes \mu_l \circ \begin{array}{c} m & n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & & j \\ & / & \diagdown \\ k & & \end{array} \circ \phi k = \sum_{\text{admissible colors}} \left\{ \begin{matrix} m & n & a \\ l & k & j \end{matrix} \right\} \mu_m \otimes \mu_n \otimes \mu_l \circ \begin{array}{c} m & n & l \\ & \diagdown & / \\ & a & \\ & / & \diagdown \\ & & b \end{array} \circ \phi k$$

# References

- [1] S. Carter, D. Flath, M. Saito, The classical and quantum 6j symbols, Princeton University Press, 1995.
- [2] C. Kassel, Quantum Groups, Springer-Verlag, 1995.
- [3] V. Mazorchuk, Lectures on  $sl_2(\mathbb{C})$ -modules, Imperial College Press, 2010.
- [4] T. Ohtsuki, Quantum invariants, World Scientific, 2002.

**Thank You**