

# Foams and categorification

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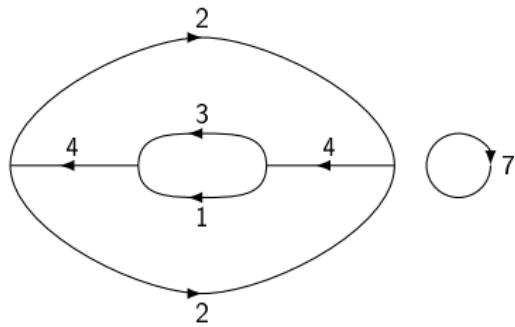
Узлы и теория представлений

## Aims

- ▶ Introduce foams (as a category),
- ▶ Explain a formula,
- ▶ Relate to link homologies.

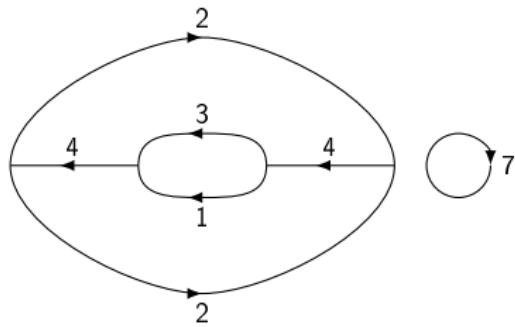
## Definition (Murkami–Ohtsuki–Yamada)

A *MOY graph* is a trivalent, oriented, labeled, plane graph which respects the flow.



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A MOY graph is a trivalent, oriented, labeled, plane graph which respects the flow.



$$\mathcal{M}_N = \langle \text{MOY graphs} \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}[q, q^{-1}]} / \text{relations} \quad N \geq 1$$

$$k = \begin{bmatrix} N \\ k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} m \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array} \begin{array}{c} n \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array} = \begin{bmatrix} N-m \\ n \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} m \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \searrow & \nearrow \\ i+j+k & & \end{array} = \begin{array}{ccc} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \nearrow & \nearrow \\ i+j+k & & \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} m+n \\ \text{---} \\ m \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array} \begin{array}{c} n \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array} = \begin{bmatrix} m+n \\ m \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} m \\ \text{---} \\ m+n \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m & m+1 \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m+1 & 1 \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \uparrow \\ m \\ + [N-m-1] \\ \downarrow \\ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & m \\ \swarrow & \nearrow \\ m-1 & \\ \downarrow & \uparrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n+k & m+l-k \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n & m+l \end{array} = \sum_{j=\max(0, m-n)}^m \begin{bmatrix} l \\ k-j \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ m-j & n+j-m \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n & m+l \end{array}$$

## Theorem (Murakami–Othuski–Yamada, Kauffman–Vogel, Wu)

*The module  $\mathcal{M}_N$  has rank 1 and is generated by the empty graph.  
 $\Gamma = \langle \Gamma \rangle_N \emptyset$ . The polynomial  $\langle \Gamma \rangle_N$  is in  $\mathbb{N}[q, q^{-1}]$ .*

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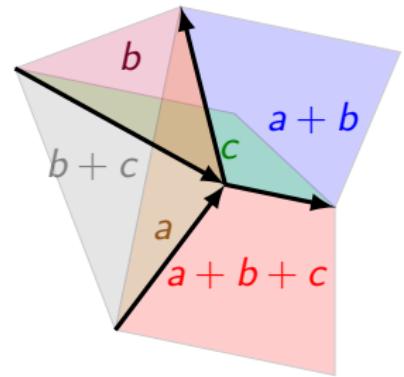
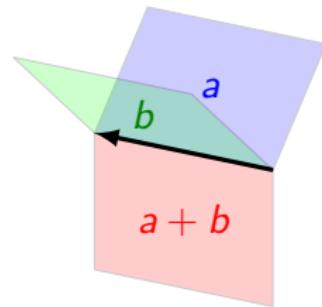
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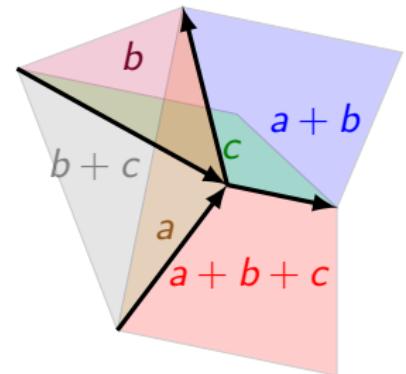
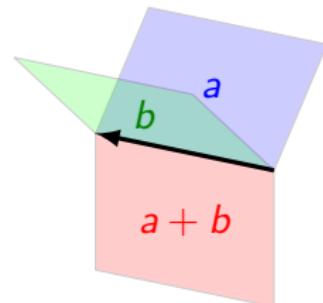
$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ n \end{array} \right\rangle = \sum_{k=\max(0, m-n)}^m (-1)^{m-k} q^{k-m} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m & & n \\ & \nearrow & \searrow \\ n+k & & m-k \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \\ n & & m \end{array} \right\rangle$$

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## Theorem (Reshetikhin–Turaev, Murakami–Ohtsuki–Yamada)

This produces a polynomial link invariant called the  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  link invariant.



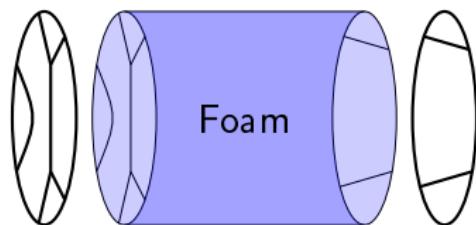


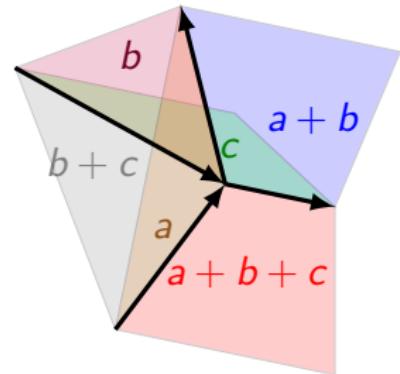
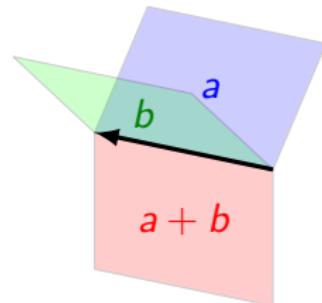
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Category Foam:

Objects: MOY graphs,

Morphisms: foamy cobordisms.





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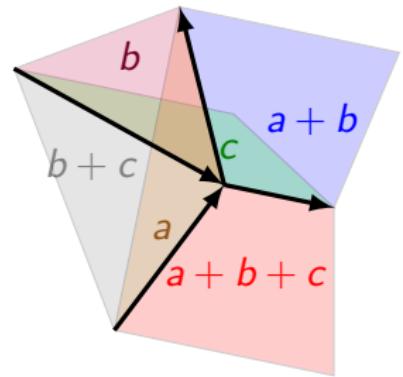
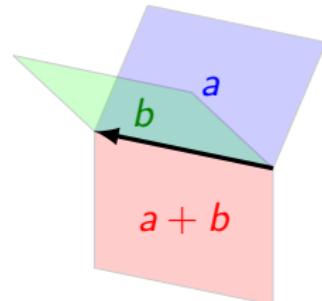
Morphisms: foamy cobordisms.

## Wish

TQFT-like functor  $\mathcal{G}_N$ .

$\mathcal{G}_N : \text{Foam} \rightarrow R\text{-mod}_{\text{gr}}$

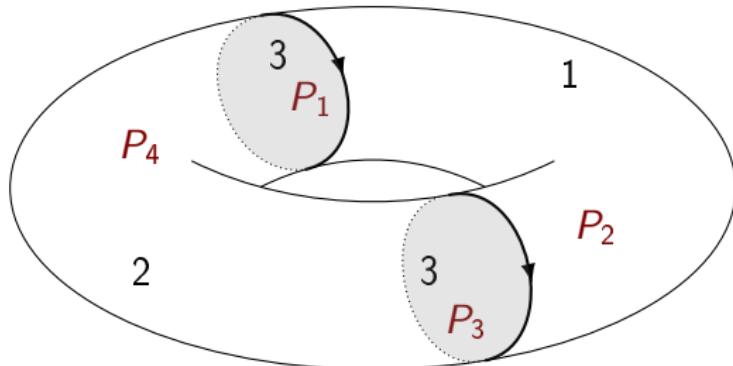
$\text{rk}_q \mathcal{G}_N(\Gamma) = \langle \Gamma \rangle_N \in \mathbb{N}[q, q^{-1}]$



## Definition (R.-Wagner, '17)

Let  $F$  be a closed foam.

$$\tau_N(F) = \sum_c \frac{(-1)^{\sum_{i=1}^N i \chi_i(F(c))/2 + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \theta_{ij}^+(F(c))} \prod_f P_f(c(f))}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} (X_i - X_j)^{\frac{\chi_{ij}(F(c))}{2}}}$$



$$P_1 = t_1 + t_2 + t_3$$

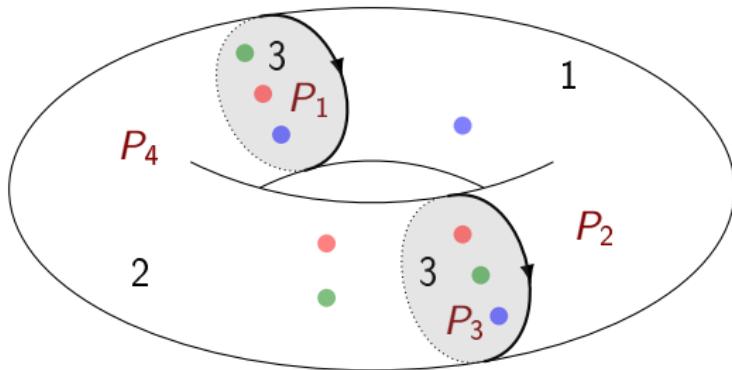
$$P_2 = t_1^2$$

$$P_3 = 1$$

$$P_4 = t_1 t_2 (t_1 + t_2)$$

$$N = 4$$

$$\mathbb{P} = \{X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4\}.$$



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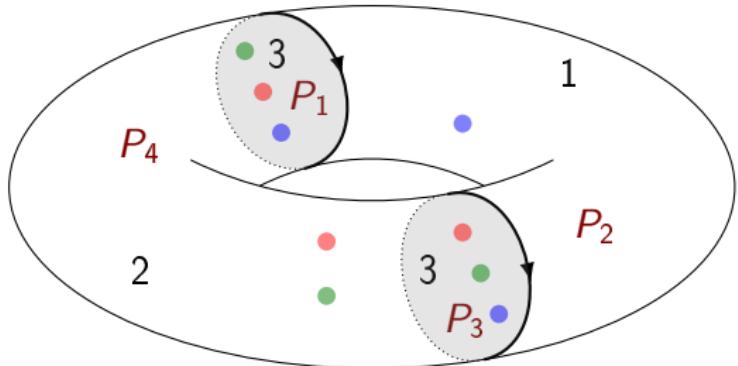
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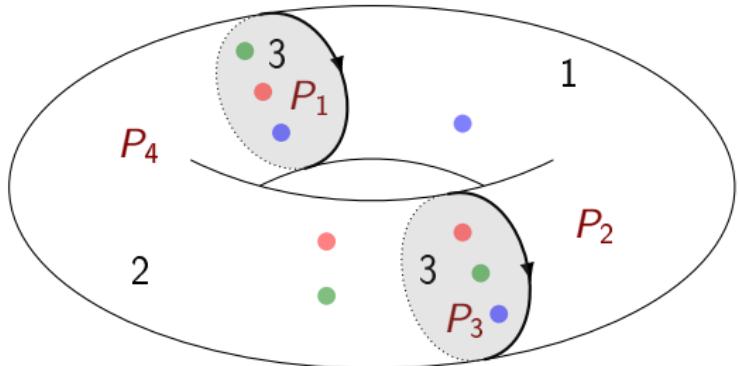
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$\mathbb{P}$	Monochrome	$\chi_\bullet$
$X_1$		2
$X_2$		2
$X_3$		0
$X_4$		2

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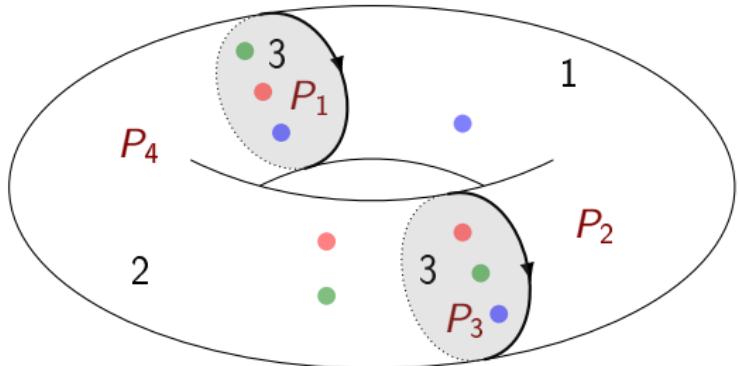
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	$X_1 X_2$	$X_1 X_3$	$X_1 X_4$	$X_2 X_3$	$X_2 X_4$	$X_3 X_4$
$\chi_{\bullet\bullet}$	0	2	0	2	0	2
$\theta_{\bullet\bullet}^+$	2	0	2	0	0	0

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$$\frac{(-1)^{1+2+4} (X_1 + X_2 + X_4) X_1^2 (X_2 X_4 (X_2 + X_4))}{(X_1 - X_3)(X_2 - X_3)(X_3 - X_4)}$$

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$X_1$		2
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	$X_1 X_2$	$X_1 X_3$	$X_1 X_4$	$X_2 X_3$	$X_2 X_4$	$X_3 X_4$
$\chi_{\bullet\bullet}$	0	2	0	2	0	2
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## Theorem (R.-Wagner (2017))

For any closed foam  $\tau_N(F) \in R = \mathbb{Z}[X_1, \dots, X_N]^{S_N}$ .

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### Universal Construction

An evaluation of closed cobordisms  $\rightsquigarrow$  (Maybe) a TQFT

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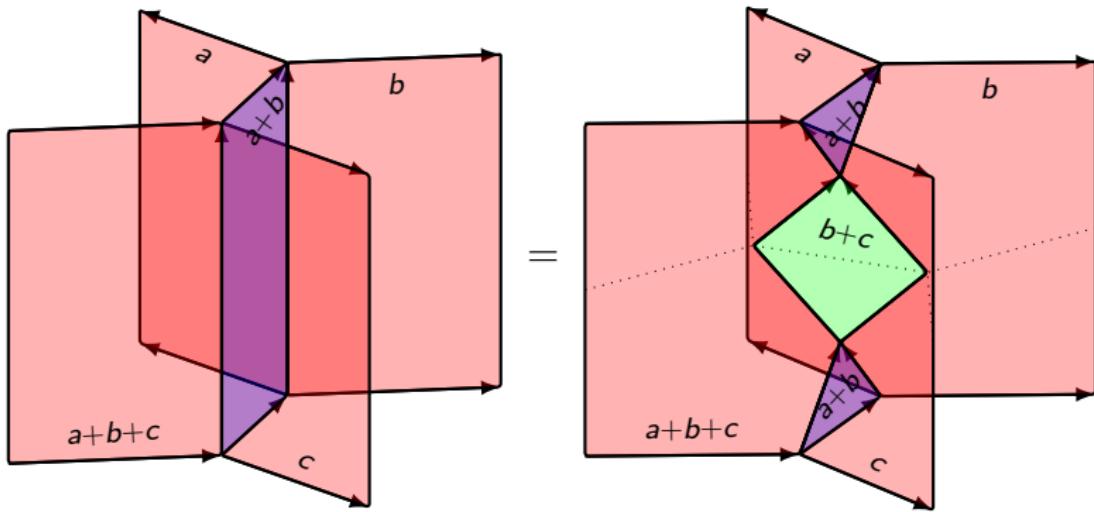
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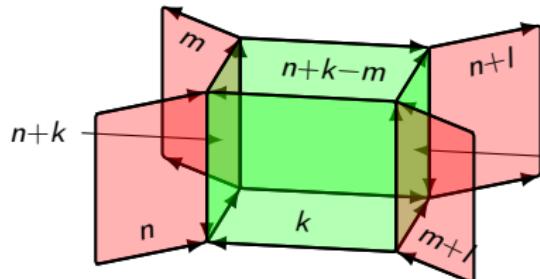
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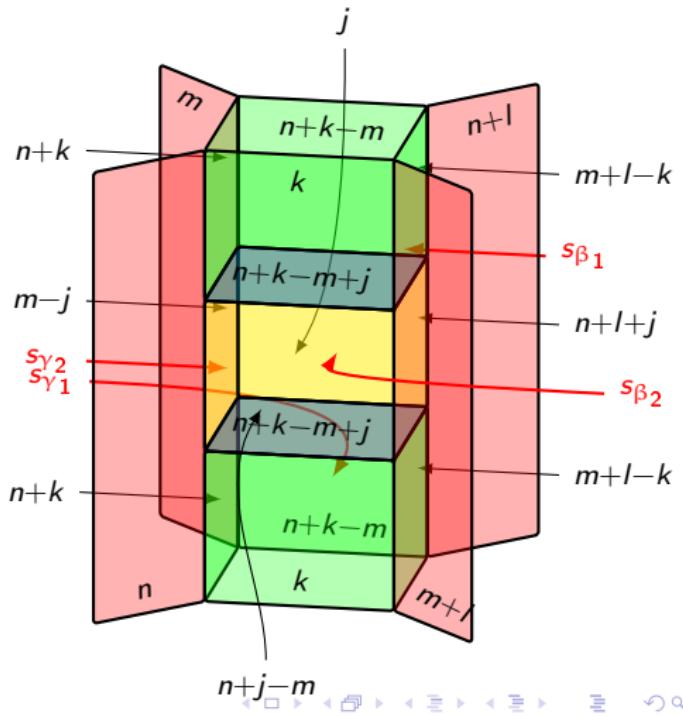
The evaluation  $\tau_N$  together with the Universal Construction yields an *ad-hoc* TQFT  $\mathcal{G}_N$ .





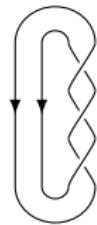
$$m+l-k = \sum_{j=\max(0, m-n)}^m \sum_{\alpha \in T(k-j, l-k+j)}$$

$$(-1)^{|\alpha| + (l-k+j)(m-j)} \sum_{\substack{\beta_1, \beta_2 \\ \gamma_1, \gamma_2}} c_{\beta_1 \beta_2}^\alpha c_{\gamma_1 \gamma_2}^{\bar{\alpha}}$$

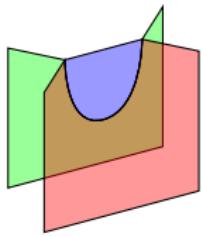
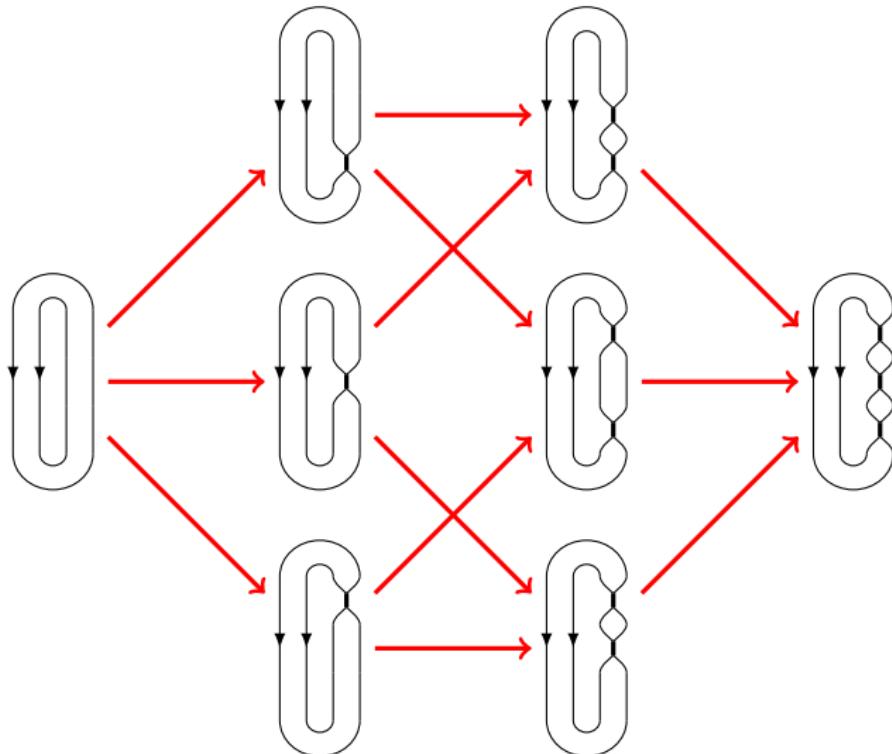
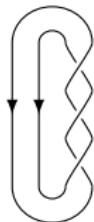


$A_1$	$A_1 \cap A_2$	$A_2 \cap A_3$	$A_3 \cap A_4$	$B_1$	$B_2$	$C'$	$L$	$R$	$X$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$B_1 \cap B_2$	$B_2 \cap B_3$	$B_3 \cap B_4$	$C'$	$L$	$R$	$X$
$A_1 \cap A_2$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$A_2 \cap A_3$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$A_3 \cap A_4$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$B_1$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$B_2$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$C$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$L$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$R$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	
$X$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	$\square$	

# Chain complex



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## Theorem (R.-Wagner (2017))

*This construction yields an homological link invariant: the colored equivariant  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  homology.  
It categorifies the  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  link polynomial.*

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## Remark

The colors refers to exterior powers of the standard representation of  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_N)$ .

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \text{circle} \\ \text{with } k \text{ arrows} \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} N \\ k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m \\ \text{loop } n \\ m \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} N - m \\ n \end{bmatrix} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m \\ m \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \nearrow & \nearrow \\ j+k & & \\ \uparrow & & \\ i+j+k & & \end{array} \right\rangle = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \nearrow & \nearrow \\ i+j & j & \\ \uparrow & & \\ i+j+k & & \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m+n \\ m \\ m+n \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} m+n \\ m \end{bmatrix} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m+n \\ m+n \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m & 1 \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m+1 & 1 \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} \right\rangle = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \uparrow \\ m \end{array} \right\rangle + [N - m - 1] \left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 & m \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ m-1 & \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n+k & m+l-k \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n & m+l \end{array} \right\rangle = \sum_{j=\max(0, m-n)}^m \begin{bmatrix} l \\ k-j \end{bmatrix} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ m-j & n+l+j \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n & m+l \end{array} \right\rangle$$

From  $\Lambda^\bullet$  to  $\text{Sym}^\bullet$ :  $N$  goes to  $-N$ .

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \circlearrowleft \\ k \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} N \\ k \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m \\ m+n \\ m \\ m+n \\ \uparrow \\ n \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} N-m \\ n \end{bmatrix} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m \\ m \\ m \\ m \\ \uparrow \\ m \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \nearrow & \nearrow \\ i+j+k & j+k \end{array} \right\rangle = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} i & j & k \\ \swarrow & \nearrow & \nearrow \\ i+j & j+k & i+j+k \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m+n \\ m \\ m+n \\ m+n \\ \uparrow \\ n \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} m+n \\ m \end{bmatrix} \left\langle \begin{array}{c} m+n \\ m+n \\ m+n \\ m+n \\ \uparrow \\ m+n \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ m+1 & 1 \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} \right\rangle = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ m \\ 1 \\ m \\ 1 \\ m \end{array} \right\rangle + [N-m-1] \left\langle \begin{array}{c} 1 & m \\ \swarrow & \searrow \\ m-1 & m \\ \uparrow & \downarrow \\ 1 & m \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n+k & m+l-k \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n & m+l \end{array} \right\rangle$$

$$\sum_{j=\max(0, m-n)}^m \begin{bmatrix} l \\ k-j \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} m & n+l \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ m-j & n+l+j \\ \uparrow & \uparrow \\ n+j-m & m+l \end{array} \right\rangle$$

From  $\Lambda^\bullet$  to  $\text{Sym}^\bullet$ :  $N$  goes to  $-N$ .

$$\left\langle \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \nearrow \\ k \end{array} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} N+k-1 \\ k \end{bmatrix}$$

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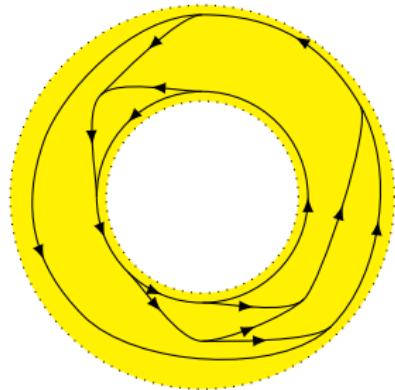
## Bad news

It is not possible to categorify the  $\text{Sym}^\bullet$ -MOY calculus with such a TQFT.

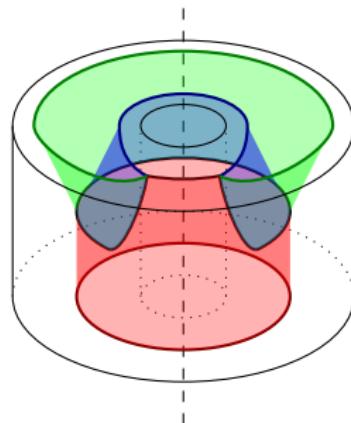
## Bad news

It is not possible to categorify the  $\text{Sym}^\bullet$ -MOY calculus with such a TQFT.

We restrict the class of graphs and the class of foams:



Vinyl graphs



Tube-like foams

## Theorem (R.-Wagner, 2018)

*There exists a foamy restricted TQFT*

$$\mathcal{F}_N: \text{TLFoam} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[X_1, \dots, X_N]^{S_N}\text{-mod}_{\text{gr}}$$

*such that*

$$\text{rk}_q \mathcal{F}_N(\Gamma) = \langle \Gamma \rangle.$$

*It can be extended to an homological link invariant called symmetric  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  homology.*

Thank you !!