

# Monoidal Triangular Geometry with Applications to Representation Theory

(joint work with Kent Vashaw and Milen Yakimov)

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[NVY22a] D.K. Nakano, K.B. Vashaw, M.T. Yakimov, *Noncommutative tensor triangular geometry*, American J. Math., 144, (2022), 1-44.

[NVY22b] D.K. Nakano, K.B. Vashaw, M.T. Yakimov, *Noncommutative tensor triangular geometry and the tensor product property for support maps*, IMRN, 22, (2022), 17766-17796.

[NVY23] D.K. Nakano, K.B. Vashaw, M.T. Yakimov, *On the spectrum and support theory of finite tensor categories*, ArXiv 2112.11170.

## Definition (Alperin, 1977)

Let  $A$  be a finite-dimensional  $k$ -algebra, and  $M \in \text{mod}(A)$ . Let  $P_\bullet \rightarrow M$  be a minimal projective resolution for  $M$ .

Define the *complexity of  $M$* ,  $c_A(M) = s$ , to be the rate of growth of this projective resolution,  $r(\{P_n : n = 0, 1, 2, \dots\})$ , (i.e., smallest integer  $s \geq 0$  such that  $\dim P_n \leq Cn^{s-1}$  for some  $C > 0$ )

Note that if  $A$  is self-injective then  $c_A(M) = 0$  if and only if  $M$  is a projective  $A$ -module.

## Example

Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(2)$  and  $A = u(\mathfrak{g})$ . The simple modules in the principal block are indexed by  $L(0)$  and  $L(p-2)$ . The projective cover  $P(\lambda)$  of  $L(\lambda)$  is  $2p$ -dimensional for  $\lambda = 0, p-2$ .

The minimal projective resolution of the trivial module  $L(0)$  is given by

$$\cdots \rightarrow P(p-2) \oplus P(p-2) \rightarrow P(0) \rightarrow L(0) \rightarrow 0.$$

Therefore,  $\dim P_n = (2p)(n+1)$  and  $c_{u(\mathfrak{g})}(L(0)) = 2$  (rate of growth of the minimal proj. resolution). In fact, one can also show that  $c_{u(\mathfrak{g})}(L(p-2)) = 2$ .

# Finite Generation of Cohomology and Support Varieties

Let  $A$  be a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra over  $k$  (e.g.,  $A = kG$  where  $G$  is a finite group). Set  $R = H^\bullet(A, k)$  cohomology ring and assume that  $R$  is finitely generated and  $\text{Ext}_A^\bullet(M, N)$  is a finitely generated  $R$ -module for all  $M, N \in \text{mod}(A)$ .

**Definition (Carlson et. al. 1980's)**

The *support variety* of  $M$ :

$$V_A(M) = \{P \in \text{Spec}(H^\bullet(A, k)) : \text{Ext}_A^\bullet(M, M)_P \neq 0\}.$$

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- $c_A(M) = \dim V_A(M)$
- The finite generation for arbitrary finite tensor categories is an open conjecture (Etingof-Ostrik). For cocommutative Hopf algebra, this was established by Friedlander-Suslin (1995).

# A Lie Theoretic Example: Jantzen's Conjecture

Let  $G$  be a simple, simply connected algebraic group (scheme) defined over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ ,  $F : G \rightarrow G$  the Frobenius morphism, and  $G_1 = \ker F$ .

- $R = H^\bullet(G_1, k) \cong H^\bullet(u(\mathfrak{g}), k)$  is finitely generated.
- $V_{G_1}(k) \cong \{x \in \mathfrak{g} : x^{[p]} = 0\}$  (support variety of the trivial module)
- $V_{G_1}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{N}$  where  $\mathcal{N}$  is the nilpotent cone for  $M \in \text{mod}(G_1)$ .

## Theorem (Nakano, Parshall, Vella (2002))

*Let  $G$  be a simple simply connected algebraic group and assume that  $p$  is good. Let  $\lambda \in X(T)_+$ . Choose  $w \in W$  such that  $w(\Phi_{\lambda,p}) = \Phi_J$  for some  $J \subseteq \Delta$ . Then  $V_{G_1}(\nabla(\lambda)) = G \cdot u_J$  where  $\nabla(\lambda) = \mathcal{H}^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}(\lambda))$ .*

Hence,  $c_{G_1}(\nabla(\lambda)) = 2 \dim u_J$ .

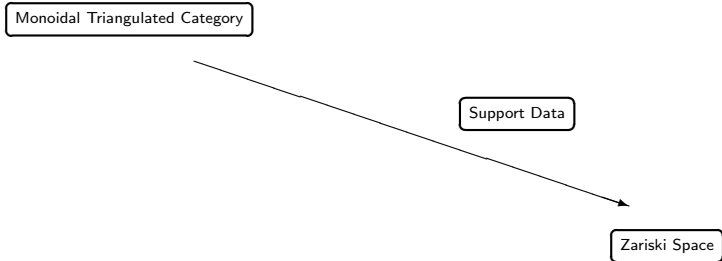
## “Categories Have Hidden Geometry”

Given a symmetric tensor triangular category,  $\mathbf{K}$ , Balmer (2005) first introduced the notion of the categorical spectrum  $\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K})$  by defining (completely) prime ideals in  $\mathbf{K}$  via object-wise tensoring. These ideas are known as *tensor triangular geometry*.



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# Monoidal Triangulated Categories [NVY]

## Definition

A *monoidal triangulated category* ( $M\Delta C$ ) is a triple  $(\mathbf{K}, \otimes, \mathbf{1})$  such that

- (i)  $\mathbf{K}$  is a triangulated category,
- (ii)  $\mathbf{K}$  has a monoidal tensor product  $\otimes : \mathbf{K} \times \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathbf{K}$  which is exact in each variable with unit object  $\mathbf{1}$ .

# Examples:

## Example

Let  $A$  be a finite-dimensional Hopf algebra. Then

- (iii)  $\mathbf{K}^c = \text{stmod}(A)$  stable module category of finite-dimensional modules for  $A$
- (iv)  $\mathbf{K} = \text{StMod}(A)$  stable module category for  $\text{Mod}(A)$ .

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## Example

Let  $R$  be a commutative Noetherian ring. Let

- (i)  $\mathbf{K}^c = D_{\text{perf}}^b(R)$  bounded derived category of finitely generated projective  $R$ -modules
- (ii)  $\mathbf{K} = D(R)$  derived category of  $R$ -modules.

Then  $\mathbf{K}^c$  and  $\mathbf{K}$  are tensor triangulated categories.

# “Treat a $M\Delta C$ Like a Ring”

## Definition

- (a) A (*tensor*) *ideal* in  $\mathbf{K}$  is a triangulated subcategory  $\mathbf{I}$  of  $\mathbf{K}$  such that  $M \otimes N \in \mathbf{I}$  and  $N \otimes M \in \mathbf{I}$  for all  $M \in \mathbf{I}$  and  $N \in \mathbf{K}$ .

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- (b) An ideal  $\mathbf{I}$  is *thick* if  $M_1 \oplus M_2 \in \mathbf{I}$  then  $M_j \in \mathbf{I}$  for  $j = 1, 2$ .

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- (d) [NEW] A *prime ideal*  $\mathbf{P}$  of  $\mathbf{K}$  is a proper thick tensor ideal such that  $\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{J} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$  implies that  $\mathbf{I} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$  or  $\mathbf{J} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$  for all thick ideals  $\mathbf{I}, \mathbf{J}$  of  $\mathbf{K}$ .



# A Generalization of Paul Balmer's Categorical Spectrum

## Definition

The *Balmer spectrum* is defined as

$$\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K}) = \{\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbf{K} \mid \mathbf{P} \text{ is a prime ideal}\}.$$

The topology on  $\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K})$  is given by closed sets of the form

$$Z(\mathcal{C}) = \{\mathbf{P} \in \mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K}) \mid \mathcal{C} \cap \mathbf{P} = \emptyset\}$$

where  $\mathcal{C}$  is a family of objects in  $\mathbf{K}$ .

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One can also define

$$\mathrm{CP}\text{-}\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K}) = \{\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbf{K} \mid \mathbf{P} \text{ is a completely prime ideal}\}.$$

$$\mathrm{CP}\text{-}\mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K}) \subseteq \mathrm{Spc}(\mathbf{K}).$$

# Zariski Spaces

## Definition

Assume throughout that  $X$  is a Noetherian topological space. In this case any closed set in  $X$  is the union of finitely many irreducible closed sets. We say that  $X$  is a *Zariski space* if in addition any irreducible closed set  $Y$  of  $X$  has a unique generic point (i.e.,  $y \in Y$  such that  $Y = \overline{\{y\}}$ ).

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## Example

Let  $R$  is a commutative Noetherian ring.

- (1)  $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ .
- (2)  $X = \text{Proj}(\text{Spec}(R)) := \text{Proj}(R)$  if  $R$  is graded.
- (3)  $X = G\text{-Proj}(R)$  if  $R$  is graded and  $G$  is an algebraic group.

## Zariski Spaces: Notation

- (ii)  $\mathcal{X}$  be the collection of subsets of  $X$ .
- (ii)  $\mathcal{X}_{cl}$  be the collection of closed subsets of  $X$ .
- (iii)  $\mathcal{X}_{irr}$  be the set of irreducible closed sets.
- (iv) A subset  $W$  in  $X$  is *specialization closed* if and only if  $W = \cup_{j \in J} W_j$  where  $W_j$  are closed sets.
- (v)  $\mathcal{X}_{sp}$  be the collection of all specialization closed subsets of  $X$ .

# Support Data

## Definition

A *support data* (resp. *weak support data*) is an assignment  $\sigma : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  which satisfies the following six properties (for  $M, M_i, N, Q \in \mathbf{K}$ ):

(S1)  $\sigma(0) = \emptyset, \sigma(\mathbf{1}) = X;$

(S2)  $\sigma(\oplus_{i \in I} M_i) = \bigcup_{i \in I} \sigma(M_i)$  whenever  $\oplus_{i \in I} M_i$  is an object of  $\mathbf{K};$

(S3)  $\sigma(\Sigma M) = \sigma(M);$

(S4) for any distinguished triangle  $M \rightarrow N \rightarrow Q \rightarrow \Sigma M$  we have

$$\sigma(N) \subseteq \sigma(M) \cup \sigma(Q);$$

(S5)  $\bigcup_{C \in \mathbf{K}} \sigma(M \otimes C \otimes N) = \sigma(M) \cap \sigma(N);$

(WS5)  $\Phi_\sigma(\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{J}) = \Phi_\sigma(\mathbf{I}) \cap \Phi_\sigma(\mathbf{J}),$   $\mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{J}$  are ideals of  $\mathbf{K}: \Phi_\sigma(\mathbf{I}) = \bigcup_{A \in \mathbf{I}} \sigma(A).$

(S6)  $\sigma(M) = \sigma(M^*)$  for  $M \in \mathbf{K}^c$  [the compact objects have a duality].

We will be interested in support data which satisfy an additional two properties:

(S7)  $\sigma(M) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $M = 0$ ; (Faithfulness Property)

(S8) for any  $W \in \mathcal{X}_c$  there exists an  $M \in \mathbf{K}^c$  such that  $\sigma(M) = W$  (Realization Property).

# Classifying Thick Tensor Ideals and the Balmer Spectrum

## Theorem (BKN16, Dell'Ambrogio, NVY19)

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a compactly generated  $M\Delta C$ . Let  $X$  be a Zariski space and let  $\sigma : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  be a weak support data satisfying the additional conditions (S7) and (S8) with  $\sigma(\langle M \rangle) \in \mathcal{X}_{cl}$  for  $M \in \mathbf{K}^c$ . There is a pair of mutually inverse maps

$$\{\text{thick tensor ideals of } \mathbf{K}^c\} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Phi_\sigma} \\ \xleftarrow{\Theta} \end{array} \mathcal{X}_{sp},$$

given by

$$\Phi_\sigma(\mathbf{I}) = \bigcup_{M \in \mathbf{I}} \sigma(M), \quad \Theta(W) = \mathbf{I}_W,$$

where  $\mathbf{I}_W = \{M \in \mathbf{K}^c \mid \sigma(M) \subseteq W\}$ . Moreover, there is a homeomorphism

$$f : X \rightarrow \text{Spc}(\mathbf{K}^c).$$

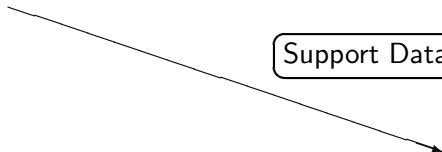


# Recap

Monoidal Triangulated Category

Support Data

Zariski Space



# Finite Group Schemes [Symmetric $M\Delta C$ ]

## Example

Let  $G$  be a finite group (scheme),  $A := H^\bullet(G, k) = \text{Ext}_G^\bullet(k, k)$  be the cohomology ring. Set  $\mathbf{K}^c = \text{stmod}(G)$  and  $X = \text{Proj}(\text{Spec}(A))$ .

- (i)  $\{\text{thick } \otimes\text{-ideals of } \mathbf{K}^c\}$  are in one-to-one correspondence with  $\mathcal{X}_{sp}$ .
- (ii)  $\text{Spc}(\mathbf{K}^c) \cong \text{Proj}(\text{Spec}(A))$ .

The (classifying) support data is given by

$$W(M) = \{P \in \text{Proj}(\text{Spec}(A)) : \text{Ext}_G^\bullet(M, M)_P \neq 0\}.$$

# Restricted Lie Algebras

## Example

Let  $G = \mathrm{GL}_n(k)$  be the group of invertible  $n \times n$  matrices over  $k$  an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $p > 0$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_n(k)$ ,  $G_1$  the first Frobenius kernel, and  $\mathcal{N}$  be the nilpotent  $n \times n$  matrices.

## Theorem (Friedlander-Parshall, Andersen-Jantzen, 1984)

Let  $p > h$

- (a)  $H^{2\bullet}(G_1, k) \cong k[\mathcal{N}]$
- (b)  $H^{2\bullet+1}(G_1, k) = 0$

Then the Balmer Spectrum has a concrete realization via nilpotent matrices.

$$\mathrm{Spc}(\mathrm{stmod}(G_1)) \cong \mathrm{Proj}(\mathrm{Spec}(k[\mathcal{N}])).$$

# Perfect Complexes [Symmetric $M\Delta C$ ]

## Example

Let  $R$  be a commutative Noetherian ring,  $\mathbf{K}^c = D_{perf}^b(R)$  and  $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ . Then

- (i)  $\{\text{thick } \otimes\text{-ideals of } \mathbf{K}^c\}$  are in one-to-one correspondence with  $\mathcal{X}_{sp}$ .
- (ii)  $\text{Spc}(\mathbf{K}^c) \cong \text{Spec}(R)$ .

The support data which gives this classification is

$$W(C_\bullet) = \{P \in \text{Spec}(R) : H_*(C_\bullet)_P \neq 0\}.$$

# Benson-Witherspoon Hopf Algebras [Non-symmetric $M\Delta C$ ]

Benson and Witherspoon considered the stable module categories of Hopf algebras of the form

$$A := (k[G] \# kH)^*,$$

where

- $G$  and  $H$  are finite groups with  $H$  acting on  $G$  by group automorphisms,
- $k$  is a field of positive characteristic dividing the order of  $G$ ,
- $kH$  is the group algebra of  $H$ ,  $k[G]$  is the dual of the group algebra of  $G$ ,
- $A$  is a non-cocommutative Hopf algebra.

# Enlightening Example

## Example

Let  $p$  be a prime number and  $n$  be a positive integer. Benson and Witherspoon analyzed the situation for  $G := (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^n$ ,  $H := \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  (with  $H$  cyclically permuting the factors of  $G$ ) and  $k$  a field of characteristic  $p$ ,

In this case,  $A$  admits a non-projective finite dimensional module  $M$  such that  $M \otimes M$  is projective. In particular, if  $W$  is the cohomological support then

$$W(M \otimes M) \neq W(M) \cap W(M).$$

# Classification and the Balmer Spectrum

## Theorem (Nakano-Vashaw-Yakimov 19)

Let  $A = (k[G] \# kH)^*$  where  $G$  and  $H$  are finite groups with  $H$  acting on  $G$  and  $k$  is a base field of positive characteristic dividing the order of  $G$ . Let  $R = H^\bullet(A, k)$  and  $X = H\text{-Proj}(R)$ . The following hold:

(a) There exists a bijection

$$\{ \text{thick tensor ideals of } \text{stmod}(A) \} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\Phi} \\ \xleftarrow{\Theta} \end{array} \{ \text{specialization closed sets of } X \}$$

(b) There exists a homeomorphism  $f : H\text{-Proj}(R) \rightarrow \text{Spc}(\text{stmod}(A))$ .

# Tensor Product Question

Open Question: When does a support datum  $\sigma : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{sp}(X)$  possess the *tensor product property*

$$\sigma(M \otimes N) = \sigma(M) \cap \sigma(N), \quad \forall M, N \in \mathbf{K}?$$



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- For cohomological supports for modular representations of finite groups (Carlson, Avrunin-Scott) and for finite group schemes (Friedlander-Pevtsova), it is known to hold.
- Many people have been interested in this question for arbitrary finite-dimensional Hopf algebras.

# Connection with Completely Prime Ideals

## Theorem (NVY20)

For every monoidal triangulated category  $\mathbf{K}$ , the following are equivalent:

- (a) The universal support datum  $V : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(\mathrm{Spc} \mathbf{K})$  has the tensor product property

$$V(M \otimes N) = V(M) \cap V(N), \quad \forall M, N \in \mathbf{K}.$$

- (b) Every prime ideal of  $\mathbf{K}$  is completely prime.

Universal support datum:  $V : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X} : V(M) = \{\mathbf{P} \in \mathrm{Spc} \mathbf{K} : M \notin \mathbf{P}\}$ .

# Connections with Nilpotent Elements

## Theorem (NVY20)

*Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be a monoidal triangulated category in which every object is rigid. If  $\mathbf{K}$  has a non-zero nilpotent object  $M$  (i.e.,  $M \not\cong 0$  but  $M^{\otimes n} := M \otimes \cdots \otimes M \cong 0$ , for some  $n > 0$ ) then not all prime ideals of  $\mathbf{K}$  are completely prime. As a consequence, the universal support datum  $V : \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(\mathrm{Spc} \mathbf{K})$  does not have the tensor product property.*

Recall for the Benson-Witherspoon example, there exists a non-zero module  $M$  (not projective) such that  $M \otimes M = (0)$  in  $\mathbf{K}$ . Therefore, the universal support datum does not satisfy the tensor product property. This implies that the cohomological (classifying) support datum does not satisfy the tensor product property.

# A New and Bold Conjecture

## Conjecture (Nakano-Vashaw-Yakimov 2022)

Let  $\mathbf{T}$  be finite tensor category and  $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$  be its stable module category.

(a) There exists a homeomorphism

$$\rho : \mathrm{Spc} \underline{\mathbf{T}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Proj} C_{\underline{\mathbf{T}}}^{\bullet}.$$

(b) The monoids  $\mathrm{ThickId}(\underline{\mathbf{T}})$  (thick tensor ideals) and  $\mathcal{X}_{sp}(\mathrm{Proj} C_{\underline{\mathbf{T}}}^{\bullet})$  (specialization closed sets) are isomorphic.

Here  $C_{\underline{\mathbf{T}}}^{\bullet}$  is a new algebraic object called the *categorical center of the cohomology ring*.

# The Categorical Center of the Cohomology Ring

The *categorical center*  $C_{\mathbb{T}}^{\bullet}$  of the cohomology ring  $R_{\mathbb{T}}^{\bullet}$  is the subalgebra generated by all homogeneous  $g \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{1}, \Sigma^i \mathbf{1})$ , and for every simple object  $M$  the following diagram commutes::

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{1} \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\cong} & M & \xleftarrow{\cong} & M \otimes \mathbf{1} \\ \downarrow g \otimes \text{id} & & & & \downarrow \text{id}_M \otimes g \\ \Sigma^i \mathbf{1} \otimes M & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \Sigma^i M & \xleftarrow{\cong} & M \otimes \Sigma^i \mathbf{1} \end{array}$$

# Our Main Theorem [NVY22]

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{K}$  be an  $M\Delta C$ , which is the compact part of a compactly generated  $M\Delta C$ ,  $\tilde{\mathbf{K}}$ . If

- (i)  $\mathbf{K}$  satisfies the (wfg) condition,
- (ii)  $\text{Proj } C_{\mathbf{K}}^{\bullet}$  is a Zariski space and
- (iii) the central cohomological support of  $\mathbf{K}$  has an extension to a faithful extended weak support datum  $\tilde{\mathbf{K}} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}(\text{Proj } C_{\mathbf{K}}^{\bullet})$ ,

then the following hold:

- (a)  $\text{Spc } \mathbf{K}$  is homeomorphic to  $\text{Proj } C_{\mathbf{K}}^{\bullet}$ .
- (b) The map

$$\Phi_{W_C} : \text{ThickId}(\mathbf{K}) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{sp}(\text{Proj } C_{\mathbf{K}}^{\bullet})$$

is an isomorphism of ordered monoids.

Thank you for your attention.

