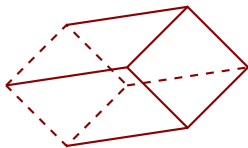
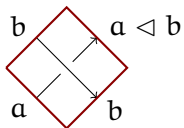


# Self-distributive cohomology: Why care, and how to compute

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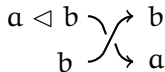
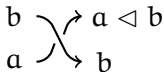
Denver, July 2017



$$(a \triangleleft b) \triangleleft c = (a \triangleleft c) \triangleleft (b \triangleleft c)$$

## Previously...

Knot diagram colorings  
by  $(S, \triangleleft)$ :



RIII	$(a \triangleleft b) \triangleleft c = (a \triangleleft c) \triangleleft (b \triangleleft c)$
RII	$\forall b, a \mapsto a \triangleleft b$ invertible
RI	$a \triangleleft a = a$

shelf

rack

quandle

**Theorem** (Joyce & Matveev '82):

✓ The number of colorings of a diagram  $D$  of a knot  $K$  by a quandle  $(S, \triangleleft)$  yields a knot invariant.

✓  $\# \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) = \# \text{Hom}_{\text{Quandle}}(Q(K), S)$

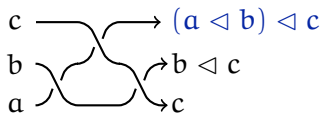
where  $Q(K) =$  fundamental quandle of  $K$

(a weak universal knot invariant).

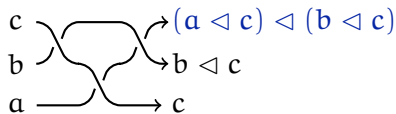
*Part 1:*

*You Could Have Invented  $SD$   
Cohomology If You Were...*

# 1 ... a Knot Theorist



RIII  
~



diagrams:

$D \xrightarrow{\text{R-move}} D'$

colorings:

$\mathcal{C} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{C}'$

coloring sets:

$\text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D')$

Counting invariants:  $\# \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) = \# \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D')$ .

**Question:** Extract more information?

$$\omega(\mathcal{C}) = \omega(\mathcal{C}')$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\{ \omega(\mathcal{C}) \mid \mathcal{C} \in \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) \} = \{ \omega(\mathcal{C}') \mid \mathcal{C}' \in \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D') \}.$$

**Answer** (*Carter–Jelsovsky–Kamada–Langford–Saito* '03): **State-sums** over crossings, and **Boltzmann weights**:

$$\phi: S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_m \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \omega_\phi(\mathcal{C}) = \sum_{\substack{b \\ a \times}} \pm \phi(a, b)$$

Conditions on  $\phi$ :

$$\phi(a, b) + \phi(a \triangleleft b, c) + \cancel{\phi(b, c)} =$$

$$\cancel{\phi(b, c)} + \phi(a, c) + \phi(a \triangleleft c, b \triangleleft c)$$

$$\phi(a, a) =$$

$$0$$

**Quandle cocycle invariants:**  $\{ \omega_\phi(\mathcal{C}) \mid \mathcal{C} \in \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) \}$ .

$$\phi: S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_m \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \omega_\phi(\mathcal{C}) = \sum_{\substack{b \\ a}} \pm \phi(a, b)$$

**Quandle cocycle invariants:**  $\{ \omega_\phi(\mathcal{C}) \mid \mathcal{C} \in \text{Col}_{S, \triangleleft}(D) \}$ .

**Example:**  $\phi = 0 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad$  counting invariants.

Quandle cocycle invariants  $\not\supseteq$  counting invariants.

**Conjecture** (*Clark-Saito-...*):

Finite quandle cocycle invariants distinguish all knots.

**Generalisation:**  $K^n \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+2}$  and  $\phi: S^{\times(n+1)} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_m$ .

**Wish:**

$d^{n+1}\phi = 0 \implies \phi$  refines counting invariants for  $n$ -knots,  
 $\phi = d^n\psi \implies$  the refinement is trivial.

**Very open question:** Classify nice Hopf algebras over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Here “nice” = finite-dimensional pointed.

**Applications:**

- ✓ cohomology of H-spaces, e.g. Lie groups (*Hopf* '41);
- ✓ invariants of knots and 3-manifolds, TQFT;
- ✓ non-commutative geometry;
- ✓ condensed-matter physics, string theory,

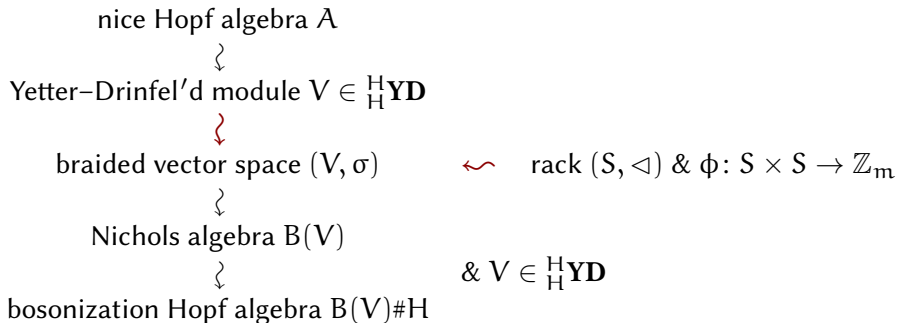
.....

**Examples:**

- ✓ group algebras  $\mathbb{k}G$ ;
- ✓ enveloping algebras of Lie algebras  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ ;
- ✓ quantum groups: deformations  $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$  for semisimple  $\mathfrak{g}$ ,

.....

## Classification program (Andruskiewitsch–Graña–Schneider '98):



- ✓  $G(A)$  = the group of group-like elements of  $A$ ,  $H(A) = \mathbb{C}G(A)$ ;
- ✓  $R(A)$  = coinvariants of  $\text{gr}(A) \twoheadrightarrow \text{gr}(A)_0 = H(A)$ ,  $V(A) = \text{Prim}(R(A))$ ;
- ✓  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(V \otimes V)$ ,  $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_2$ ,  
where  $\sigma_1 = \sigma \times \text{Id}_S$ ,  $\sigma_2 = \text{Id}_S \times \sigma$ ;
- ✓ in red: “arrows with a large image”;
- ✓  $\text{gr}(A) \cong R(A)\#H(A) = [\text{conjecturally}] = B(V(A))\#H(A)$ .



braided vector space  $(\mathbb{C}S, \sigma_{\triangleleft, \phi})$   $\rightsquigarrow$  rack  $(S, \triangleleft)$  &  $\phi: S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_m$

$$\sigma_{\triangleleft, \phi}: (a, b) \mapsto q^{\phi(a, b)}(b, a \triangleleft b)$$

Here  $q$  is an  $m$ th root of unity, or transcendental.

**Wish:**

$d^2\phi = 0 \implies (\mathbb{C}S, \sigma_{\triangleleft, \phi})$  is a braided vector space,  
 $\phi - \phi' = d^1\psi \implies$  the braided vector spaces are isomorphic.

**Rack classification** in 3 steps (*Joyce '82, Andruskiewitsch–Graña '03*):

1) **Simple racks**, i.e., without non-trivial quotients:

- ✓ permutation racks  $S = \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $a \triangleleft b = a + 1$ ,  $p$  prime;
- ✓ Alexander (= affine) racks  $S = \mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$ ,  $a \triangleleft b = ta + (1 - t)b$ ,  
 $p$  prime,  $t$  generates  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^k}$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ ;
- ✓ certain twisted conjugacy racks: subracks of  $(G, a \triangleleft b = f(b^{-1}a)b)$ ,  
 $G$  a group,  $f \in \text{Aut}(G)$ ,  $|S|$  divisible by  $\geq 2$  different primes.

⌋ repeated extensions

2) **Indecomposable (= connected) racks**, i.e., having only 1 orbit w.r.t.  $\triangleleft$ .

⌋ (various!) glueings

3) General racks.

A **rack extension** of  $S$  is a rack surjection  $R \twoheadrightarrow S$ .

If  $S$  is indecomposable, then  $R \cong S \times_{\alpha} X$ , which is  $S \times X$  with

$$(a, x) \triangleleft (b, y) = (a \triangleleft b, \alpha(a, b, x, y)),$$

where  $X$  is a set, and  $\alpha: S \times S \times X \times X \rightarrow X$  satisfies certain axioms.

Important class: **abelian rack extensions**, i.e., with  $X$  an abelian group and

$$\alpha(a, b, x, y) = x + \phi(a, b), \quad \phi: S \times S \rightarrow X.$$

**Wish:**

$d^2\phi = 0 \implies \phi$  defines an abelian extension,

$\phi = d^1\psi \implies$  the extension is trivial.

*Fenn et al. '95 & Carter et al. '03 & Graña '00:*

Shelf  $(S, \triangleleft)$  & abelian group  $X \rightsquigarrow$  cochain complex

$$C_R^k(S, X) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, X),$$

$$\begin{aligned} (d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) \\ &\quad - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1})) \end{aligned}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Rack cohomology  $H_R^k(S, X) = \text{Ker } d_R^k / \text{Im } d_R^{k-1}$ .

Quandle  $(S, \triangleleft)$  & abelian group  $X \rightsquigarrow$  sub-complex of  $(C_R^k, d_R^k)$ :

$$C_Q^k(S, X) = \{f: S^{\times k} \rightarrow X \mid f(\dots, a, a, \dots) = 0\}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Quandle cohomology  $H_Q^k(S, X)$ .

$$C_R^k(S, X) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, X),$$

$$(d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) \\ - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1}));$$

$$C_Q^k(S, X) = \{f: S^{\times k} \rightarrow X \mid f(\dots, a, a, \dots) = 0\}.$$

**In small degree:**

$$(d_R^0 f)(a_1) = 0$$

$$(d_R^1 f)(a_1, a_2) = f(a_1 \triangleleft a_2) - f(a_1) \quad H_R^1(S, X) \cong \text{Map}(\text{Orb}(S), X)$$

$$(d_R^2 f)(\bar{a}) = f(a_1 \triangleleft a_2, a_3) - f(a_1, a_3) + f(a_1, a_2) - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_3, a_2 \triangleleft a_3)$$

$$f \in C_Q^2 \iff f(a, a) = 0.$$

**Remark:**  $d_R^2 d_R^1 = 0 \iff$  self-distributivity for  $\triangleleft$ .

**This is what we were looking for!** This construction yields:

- ✓ Boltzmann weights for constructing higher knot invariants;
- ✓ an important class of braided vector spaces giving nice Hopf algebras;
- ✓ a parametrization of abelian rack extensions.

$$C_R^k(S, X) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, X),$$

$$(d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) \\ - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1}));$$

$$C_Q^k(S, X) = \{f: S^{\times k} \rightarrow X \mid f(\dots, a, a, \dots) = 0\}.$$

✓ For the **trivial quandle**  $T_n = (\{1, \dots, n\}, a \triangleleft b = a)$ , all  $d_R^k = 0$ , so

$$H_R^k(T_n, X) \cong X^{n^k}, \quad H_Q^k(T_n, X) \cong X^{n(n-1)^{k-1}}.$$

✓ For the **free rack** on  $n$  generators  $FR_n$ ,

$$H_R^k(FR_n, X) \cong \begin{cases} X, & n = 0, \\ X^n, & n = 1, \\ 0, & n > 1. \end{cases}$$

The quandle cohomology of free quandles has the same form.

(Fenn–Rourke–Sanderson '07, Farinati–Guccione–Guccione '14)

*Part 2:*

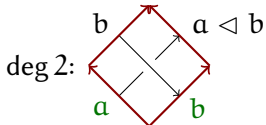
*How to Approach SD Cohomology?*

Fenn–Rourke–Sanderson '95:

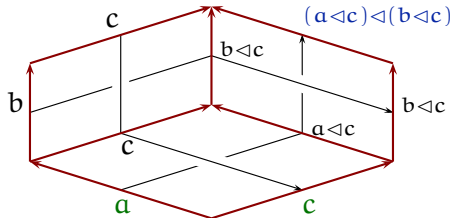
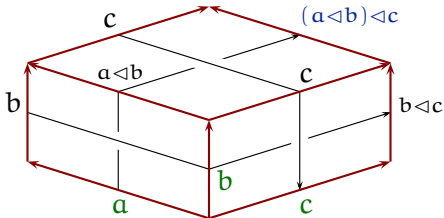
Shelf  $(S, \triangleleft) \rightsquigarrow$  rack (= classifying) space  $B(S)$ . It is a CW-complex:

deg 0: \*

deg 1:  $* \xrightarrow{a} *$

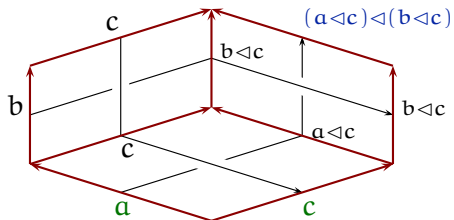
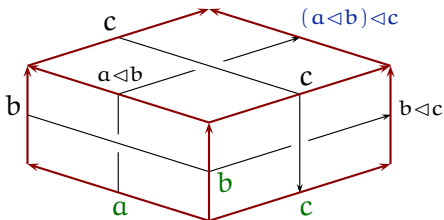


deg 3:





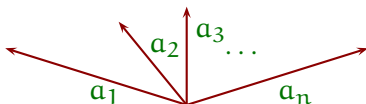
deg 3:



**Remark:** the edges can be colored starting from the green corner

$\iff \triangleleft$  is self-distributive.

$$\text{deg } n: \prod_{S \times n} [0, 1]^n$$

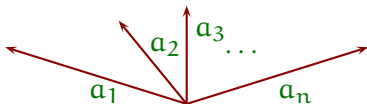


The coloring continues uniquely to other edges of  $[0, 1]^n$ .

**Boundaries:** usual topological ones.

$$H_R^*(S, X) \cong H^*(B(S), X)$$

$$\text{deg } n: \prod_{S \times n} [0, 1]^n$$



The coloring continues uniquely to other edges of  $[0, 1]^n$ .

**Boundaries:** usual topological ones.

$$H_{\mathbb{R}}^*(S, X) \cong H^*(B(S), X)$$

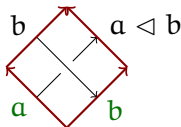
*Nosaka '11:* To get quandle cohomology, add 3-dimensional cells bounding



$$H_R^*(S, X) \cong H^*(B(S), X)$$

So, rack spaces bring topological tools in the study of  $H_R^*$ .

✓  $\pi_1(B(S)) \cong As(S)$  where  $As(S) := \langle S \mid a b = b (a \triangleleft b) \rangle$  is the associated (= adjoint = structure = universal enveloping) group of  $(S, \triangleleft)$ .



✓ Rack cohomology becomes a **pre-cubical** cohomology, i.e.,

$$d_R^k = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (d_{i,0}^k - d_{i,1}^k), \quad d_{i,\varepsilon} d_{j,\zeta} = d_{j-1,\zeta} d_{i,\varepsilon} \quad \text{for all } i < j.$$

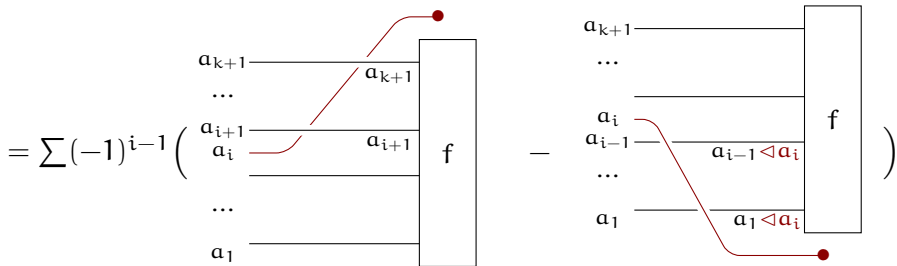
✓ Concrete computations (*Fenn–Rourke–Sanderson* '07):

1) Trivial quandle  $T_n = (\{1, \dots, n\}, a \triangleleft b = a)$ :  $B(T_n) \cong \Omega(\bigvee_n S^2)$ .

2) Free rack on  $n$  generators  $FR_n$ :  $B(FR_n) \cong \bigvee_n S^1$ .

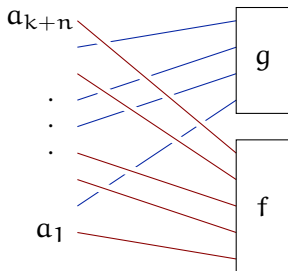
$$C_R^k(S, \mathbb{Z}_m) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, \mathbb{Z}_m),$$

$$(d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1}))$$



$$\smile : C_R^k \otimes C_R^n \rightarrow C_R^{k+n}$$

$$f \smile g(a_1, \dots, a_{k+n}) = \sum_{\text{splittings}} (-1)^{\#}$$

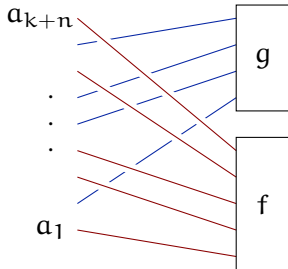


### Theorem:

✓  $(C_R^*, \smile)$  is a differential graded associative algebra, graded commutative up to an explicit homotopy;

✓  $(H_R^*, \smile)$  is a graded commutative associative algebra (even better: a dendriform algebra).

$$f \smile g(a_1, \dots, a_{k+n}) = \sum_{\text{splittings}} (-1)^{\#}$$



### Theorem:

- ✓  $(C_R^*, \smile)$  is a differential graded associative algebra, graded commutative up to an explicit homotopy;
- ✓  $(H_R^*, \smile)$  is a graded commutative associative algebra (even better: a dendriform algebra).

### Interpretations:

- ✓ quantum shuffle coproduct;
- ✓ topological cup product;
- ✓ cup product in cubical cohomology.

(Serre '51, Baues '98, Clauwens '11, Covez '12, L. '17.)

$$C_R^k(S, X) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, X),$$

$$(d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) \\ - f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1}))$$

**Theorem** (Etingof–Graña '03): If  $(S, \triangleleft)$  is a rack and  $\# \text{Inn}(S) \in X^*$ , then

$$H_R^k(S, X) \cong \text{Map}(\text{Orb}(S)^{\times k}, X)$$

$$\text{i.e., } b_k(S) = |\text{Orb}(S)|^k$$

- ✓  $\text{Orb}(S) = \{ \text{orbits of } S \text{ w.r.t. } a \sim a \triangleleft b \}$ ;
- ✓  $\text{Inn}(S)$  is the subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(S)$  generated by  $t_b: a \mapsto a \triangleleft b$ .

**Bad news:** If  $\# \text{Inn}(S) \in X^*$ , then

quandle cocycle invariants = coloring invariants + linking numbers.

**Hope:** Look at  $X = \mathbb{Z}_p$ , or at the  $p$ -torsion of  $H_R^k(S, \mathbb{Z})$ , where  $p \mid \# \text{Inn}(S)$ .

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It works, and yields interesting invariants! (Wait for Scott's talk).

**Theorem** (*Dehornoy–L.* '14, *L.* '16): If  $(S, \triangleleft)$  is a finite monogenic shelf (e.g., a Laver table  $A_n$ ), then  $H_R^k(S, X) \cong X$ .

**Remark:** The classes of constant maps do not yield generators in general.

**Question:** Cohomology of infinite monogenic shelves? Of free shelves?



$$C_R^k(S, X) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, X),$$

$$C_Q^k(S, X) = \{f: S^{\times k} \rightarrow X \mid f(\dots, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}, \dots) = 0\}$$

**Theorem** (*Litherland–Nelson* '03): The rack cohomology of a quandle splits:

$$H_R^k \cong H_Q^k \oplus H_D^k$$

Here  $H_D^k$  is the cohomology of an explicit **degenerate subcomplex** of  $C_R^k$ .

**Generalization** (*L.–Vendramin* '17): A similar splitting holds for **skew cubical** cohomology.

**Theorem** (*Przytycki–Putyra* '16): **Degenerate cohomology is degenerate**. That is,  $H_Q^k$  completely determines  $H_D^k$ .

The associated (= adjoint = structure = universal enveloping) group of  $(S, \triangleleft)$ :

$$\text{As}(S) := \langle S \mid \mathbf{a b} = \mathbf{b (a \triangleleft b)} \rangle$$

**Theorem** (Joyce '82): One has a pair of adjoint functors

$$\text{As} : \mathbf{Rack} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{Group} : \text{Conj}.$$

**Theorem** (Etingof–Graña '03):  $H_R^2(S, X) \cong H_G^1(\text{As}(S), \text{Map}(S, X))$ .

**Theorem** (García Iglesias & Vendramin '16): For a finite indecomposable quandle  $S$ ,

$$H_R^2(S, X) \cong X \times \text{Hom}(N(S), X).$$

Here  $N(S)$  is a finite group (the stabilizer of an  $\alpha_0 \in S$  in  $[\text{As}(S), \text{As}(S)]$ ).

**Theorem.** There is a graded algebra morphism  $\text{HH}^*(\text{As}(S), X) \rightarrow H_R^*(S, X)$ .

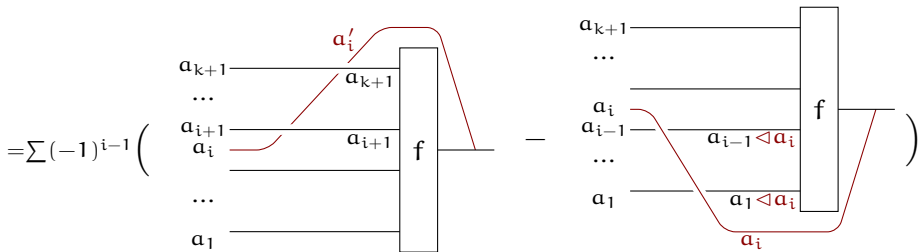
**Interpretations:**

- ✓ explicit map: **quantum symmetrizer** (Covez '12, Farinati & García Galofre '16);
- ✓  $B(S) \rightarrow B(\text{As}(S))$  (Fenn–Rourke–Sanderson '95).

**Level 1:** For  $M \in {}_{A_S(S)}\text{Mod}_{A_S(S)}$ , the cohomology  $H_R^*(S, M)$  is defined by

$$C_R^k(S, M) = \text{Map}(S^{\times k}, M),$$

$$\begin{aligned} (d_R^k f)(a_1, \dots, a_{k+1}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} (-1)^{i-1} (f(a_1, \dots, \widehat{a}_i, \dots, a_{k+1}) \cdot a'_i \\ &\quad - a_i \cdot f(a_1 \triangleleft a_i, \dots, a_{i-1} \triangleleft a_i, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_{k+1})) \end{aligned}$$



$$a'_i = (\dots (a_i \triangleleft a_{i+1}) \dots) \triangleleft a_{k+1}.$$

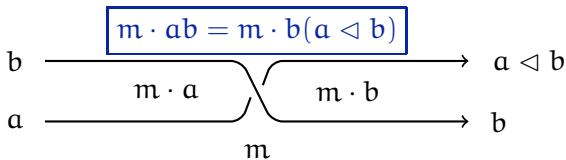
$$M \in {}_{As(S)}\text{Mod}_{As(S)} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad H_R^*(S, M).$$

Many of the above constructions and results generalize to this setting, e.g. the classifying space:

$$\text{deg } 0: m \in M,$$

$$\text{deg } 1: m \xrightarrow{a} m \cdot a.$$

**Application:** arc-and-region colorings for knots (*Carter–Kamada–Saito* '01).



**Examples** of  $As(S)$ -(bi)modules:

- ✓ trivial actions;
- ✓  $As(S) \in {}_{As(S)}\text{Mod}_{As(S)}$ ;
- ✓  $S \in \text{Mod}_{As(S)}$ , with the action induced by  $a \cdot b = a \triangleleft b$ ;
- ✓  $\text{Mod}_{\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]} \subset \text{Mod}_{As(S)}$ , with the action induced by  $a \cdot b = ta$ .

**Level 2:**  $M$  is a **Beck module** over  $S$ , i.e., an abelian group objects in the category **Rack**  $\downarrow S$  (*Andruskiewitsch–Graña '03, Jackson '05*):

✓  $\leadsto H_R^*(S, M);$

✓ classification of a larger class of rack extensions.

Pursuing the homotopical approach further:

**Theorem** (*Szymik '17*): **Quandle cohomology is a Quillen cohomology.**

**Applications:**

✓ excision isomorphisms;

✓ Mayer–Vietoris exact sequences.