2-representations of Soergel bimodules

Or: Mind your twists

Daniel Tubbenhauer

$\Re \operatorname{ep}(S_5)$

к	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$	$\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$	<i>S</i> ₃	$\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$	D_4	D5	A_4	D ₆	GA(1,5)	S_4	A ₅	S ₅
#	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
H^2	1	1	1	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	1	1	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
rk	1	2	3	4	4,1	5	3	6	5,2	4,2	4,3	6, 3	5	5,3	5,4	7,5

March 2020

Let A be a finite-dimensional algebra, *e.g.* a group ring $\mathbb{K}[G]$.

Frobenius ~ 1895 ++ Representation theory is the \bigcirc useful? study of actions of algebras:

$$\mathcal{M}\colon \mathbf{A}\longrightarrow \mathcal{E}\mathrm{nd}(\mathtt{V}),$$

with V being some vector space. (Called modules or representations.)

The "elements" of such an action are called simple.

 $\label{eq:maschke} \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Maschke} \sim 1899. \mbox{ All modules are built out of simples} \\ \mbox{("Jordan-Hölder" filtration)}. \end{array}$

Slogan. 2-representation theory is group theory in categories.

Let \mathscr{C} be a (suitable) 2-category, *e.g.* a monoidal category.

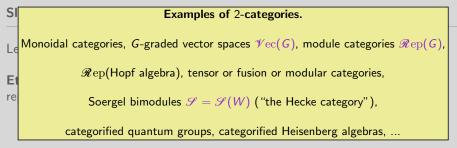
Etingof–Ostrik, Chuang–Rouquier, many others \sim 2000++. Higher representation theory is the useful? study of actions of 2-categories:

 $\mathsf{M}\colon \mathscr{C}\longrightarrow \mathscr{E}\mathrm{nd}(\mathcal{V}),$

with \mathcal{V} being some (suitable) category. (Called 2-modules or 2-representations.)

The "elements" of such an action are called 2-simple.

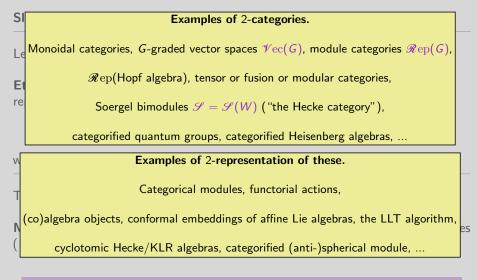
Mazorchuk–Miemietz \sim **2014.** All (suitable) 2-modules are built out of 2-simples ("weak 2-Jordan–Hölder filtration").

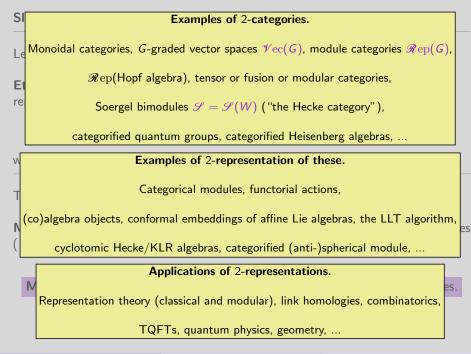


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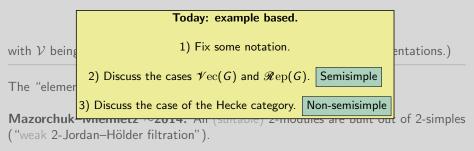
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2-representations of Soergel bimodules

Slogan. 2-representation theory is group theory in categories.

Let *C* be a (suitable) 2-category, *e.g.* a monoidal category.

Etingof–Ostrik, Chuang–Rouquier, many others \sim 2000++. Higher representation theory is the useful? study of actions of 2-categories:



Classification problems are impossible unless you restrict yourself.

In classical representation theory one would:

Specify what should be represented, e.g. groups, algebra, Lie groups, Lie algebras, etc.

Specify where one wants to represent, *e.g.* on finite-dimensional vector spaces, unitary representation *etc.*

In 2-representation theory one needs do the same.

What we want to represent.

A finitary category C is "linear-finite":

- ▶ It is linear, additive and idempotent split.
- ▶ It has finitely many indecomposable objects (up to \cong).
- ▶ It has finite-dimensional hom-spaces.

A finitary 2-category $\mathscr C$ is also "linear-finite":

- ▶ It has finitely many objects and its hom-categories are finitary.
- ▶ The horizontal composition of 2-morphisms is bilinear.
- ► The identity 1-morphisms are indecomposable.

One also needs dualities, so we add "rigid":

- If additionally there is an object-preserving, linear biequivalence
 *: C → C ^{coop} of finite order, then C is called weakly fiat. (Fiat=order two.)
- ▶ Weakly fiat + semisimple is called fusion.

The Grothendieck ring $[\mathscr{C}(i,i)]$ of such \mathscr{C} is a finite-dimensional algebra.

What we want to represent.

 $\mathscr{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^{f}$: 2-category of finitary categories, linear functors and natural transformations. A (left) finitary 2-representation of \mathscr{C} is a linear 2-functor $\mathbf{M} \colon \mathscr{C} \to \mathscr{A}_{\mathbb{K}}^{f}$. Concretely, it associates:

- ► A finitary category **M**(i) to each object i.
- A linear functor M(F) to each 1-morphism F.
- A natural transformation $\mathbf{M}(\alpha)$ to each 1-morphism α .

The Grothendieck group $[\mathbf{M}(i)]$ is a module of $[\mathscr{C}(i,i)]$.

[M(F)] are \mathbb{N} -valued matrices in $\mathcal{E}nd([M])$.

What we want to represent.

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For simplicity, let us stay with monoidal categories,

► A natural tr

The

a.k.a. 2-categories with one object,

for the rest of the talk.

[M(F)] are \mathbb{N} -valued matrices in $\mathcal{E}nd([M])$.

.,i)].

▶ As a category $\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ is boring: two objects and no non-trivial homs.

 $\operatorname{id}_1 \subset 1$ $-1 \supset \operatorname{id}_{-1}$

► As a monoidal category this is not much more exciting:

 $a \otimes b = ab$, $id_a \otimes id_a = id_{ab}$.

► As a fusion category this is still not complicated:

close \mathbb{C} -linear, take \oplus -sums and let $a^* = a^{-1}$.

(I will write $\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ for the above and its linear and additive closure.)

▶ Clearly, $[\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})] \cong \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}].$

The fusion category $\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ has two evident 2-modules:

▶ The trivial 2-module $\mathcal{V}(1,1)$ given by the trivial 2-representation

 $\mathsf{M} \colon \mathscr{V}\mathrm{ec}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \to \mathscr{V}\mathrm{ec}, \quad \text{``forget } \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}\text{-}\mathsf{grading''}.$

The \mathbb{N} -matrices are $1, -1 \rightsquigarrow (1)$.

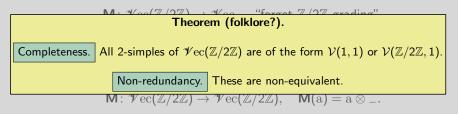
 \blacktriangleright The regular 2-module $\mathcal{V}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z},1)$ given by the regular 2-representation

 $\mathsf{M}\colon \mathscr{V}\mathrm{ec}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})\to \mathscr{V}\mathrm{ec}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}), \quad \mathsf{M}(\mathrm{a})=\mathrm{a}\otimes_{-}.$

The \mathbb{N} -matrices are $1 \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $-1 \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

The fusion category $\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ has two evident 2-modules:

▶ The trivial 2-module $\mathcal{V}(1,1)$ given by the trivial 2-representation



The \mathbb{N} -matrices are $1 \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $-1 \rightsquigarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Note that $\mathscr{V}ec(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ has only finitely many 2-simples.

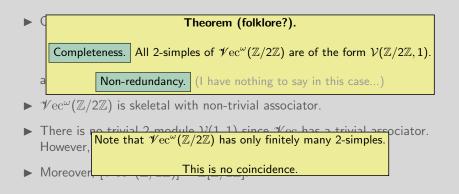
This is no coincidence.

• One can twist the \otimes by a sign:

 $\mathrm{id}_{\text{-}1}\otimes\mathrm{id}_{\text{-}1}=-\mathrm{id}_1,$

and get another fusion category $\mathscr{V}ec^{\omega}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$.

- $\mathscr{V}ec^{\omega}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ is skeletal with non-trivial associator.
- ► There is no trivial 2-module V(1,1) since Vec has a trivial associator. However, V(Z/2Z,1) still makes sense.
- Moreover, $[\mathscr{V}ec^{\omega}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})] \cong \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}].$



Note: twisting, even in this toy example,

is non-trivial and affects the 2-representation theory.

• Let $\mathscr{C} = \mathscr{R}ep(G)$ for G a finite group.

▶ For any $M, N \in \mathscr{C}$, we have $M \otimes N \in \mathscr{C}$:

$$g(m \otimes n) = gm \otimes gn$$

for all $g \in G$, $m \in M$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. There is a trivial representation $\mathbb{1} = \mathbb{C}$.

- ▶ Thus, *C* is fusion.
- ▶ Example: the regular 2-representation $M \colon \mathscr{C} \to \mathscr{E}\mathrm{nd}(\mathscr{C})$ is



- Let $K \subset G$ be a subgroup.
- $\mathcal{R}ep(K)$ is a 2-module of $\mathscr{R}ep(G)$, with 2-action

$$\operatorname{\mathsf{Res}}^{G}_{K}\otimes$$
_: $\mathscr{R}\operatorname{ep}(G) \to \mathscr{E}\operatorname{nd}(\operatorname{\mathcal{R}ep}(K)),$

which is indeed a 2-action because \mathbf{Res}_{K}^{G} is a \otimes -functor.

- ▶ In words, $\operatorname{Res}_{K}^{G} \otimes _$ assigns to simple *G*-modules endofunctors on $\operatorname{Rep}(K)$.
- ► The decategorifications of these endofunctors are N-valued matrices. ► Example

Let ψ ∈ H²(K, C^{*}). Let V(K, ψ) be the category of projective K-modules with Schur multiplier ψ, *i.e.* vector spaces V with ρ: K → End(V) such that

 $\rho(g)\rho(h) = \psi(g,h)\rho(gh), \text{ for all } g,h \in K.$

• Note that
$$\mathcal{V}(K,1) = \mathcal{R}ep(K)$$
 and

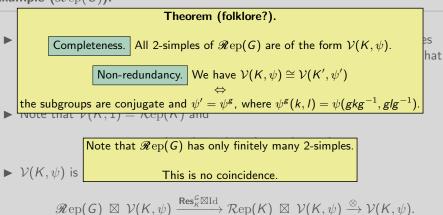
 $\otimes : \mathcal{V}(K,\phi) \boxtimes \mathcal{V}(K,\psi) \to \mathcal{V}(K,\phi\psi).$

• $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{K}, \psi)$ is also a 2-representation of $\mathscr{C} = \mathscr{R}ep(\mathcal{G})$:

$$\mathscr{R}\mathrm{ep}(\mathsf{G}) \boxtimes \mathcal{V}(\mathsf{K},\psi) \xrightarrow{\mathsf{Res}^{\mathsf{C}}_{\mathsf{K}} \boxtimes \mathrm{Id}} \mathcal{R}\mathrm{ep}(\mathsf{K}) \boxtimes \mathcal{V}(\mathsf{K},\psi) \xrightarrow{\otimes} \mathcal{V}(\mathsf{K},\psi).$$

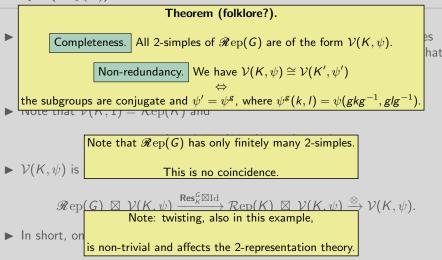
▶ In short, one can twist the 2-representations $\operatorname{Res}_{K}^{G}$.

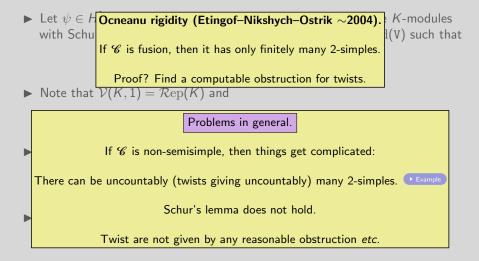
Example $(\mathscr{R}ep(G))$.



▶ In short, one can twist the 2-representations \mathbf{Res}_{K}^{G} .

Example $(\mathscr{R}ep(G))$.





Theorem (Soergel–Elias–Williamson ~1990,2012).

There exists a non-semisimple, graded, fiat category $\mathscr{S}^{\nu} = \mathscr{S}^{\nu}(W)$ such that:

- (1) For every $w \in W$, there exists an indecomposable object C_w .
- (2) The C_w , for $w \in W$, form a complete set of pairwise non-isomorphic indecomposable objects up to shifts.
- (3) The identity object is C_1 , where 1 is the unit in W.
- (4) \mathscr{S}^{ν} categorifies the Hecke algebra with $[C_w] = c_w$ being the KL basis; forgetting the grading $[\mathscr{S}^{\nu}] \cong \mathbb{Z}[W]$
- (5) $\operatorname{grdim}(\operatorname{hom}_{\mathscr{S}^{\nu}}(\mathbb{C}_{\nu},\nu^{k}\mathbb{C}_{w})) = \delta_{\nu,w}\delta_{0,k}$. (Soergel's hom formula *a.k.a.* positively graded.)

v degree, W = (W, S) a (finite) Coxeter group, ground field \mathbb{C} , using the coinvariant algebra attached to the geometric representation.

Is the cas $E_{xamples} (W = S_n)$.	
Theorem There exist (1) For ev	b that
(2) The d The classification problem appears to be very hard.	nic
indecomposable objects up to shifts.	
(3) The identity object is C_1 , where 1 is the unit in W .	
(4) \mathscr{S}^{\vee} Examples (W of type E_8).	is;
forg (5) grdi v degree coinvaria Beyond some very small cases, they are difficult to describe	raded.)
The classification problem appears to be hopeless.	

	By the way: Why should one care, a.k.a. motivation for $\mathscr{S}^{\vee}.$	
Is the cas	1) \mathscr{S}^{v} categorifies the Hecke algebra.	
Theorem	Its 2-representation theory categorifies the representation theory of Hecke algebras.	
There exis		ch that:
(1) For ev	2) \mathscr{S}^{ν} originates from projective functors acting on category \mathcal{O} , and $\operatorname{proj}(\mathcal{O}_0)$ is a 2-module of \mathscr{S}^{ν} .	
(2) The C indec	This was already used to solve questions in Lie theory.	iic
(3) The i	3) \mathscr{S}^{ν} and its 2-representations appear in low-dimensional topology	
(4) ℒ ^v c forget	and we are working on applications therein	asis;
(5) grdin	4) \mathscr{S}^{\vee} and its 2-representations	graded.)
v degree, coinvariant	appear in quantum and modular representation, which albeit needs affine Weyl groups.	he
	5) \mathscr{S}^{v} and its 2-representations	
	are helpful to study braid groups as they tend to give faithful representations.	
	6) More	

The "crystal limit" (ignoring some details, sorry).

Theorem (Lusztig, Elias–Williamson \sim 2012).

There exists a (multi)fusion bicategory $\mathscr{A}^0 = \mathscr{A}^0(W)$ such that:

- (1) For every $w \in W$, there exists a simple object A_w .
- (2) The A_w, for w ∈ W, form a complete set of pairwise non-isomorphic simple objects.
- (3) The local identity objects are A_d , where d are Duflo involutions.
- (4) \mathscr{A}^0 categorifies the asymptotic Hecke algebra with $[\mathbb{A}_w] = a_w$ being the degree zero of the KL basis.
- (5) \mathscr{A}^0 is the degree zero part of \mathscr{S}^{ν} ; roughly:

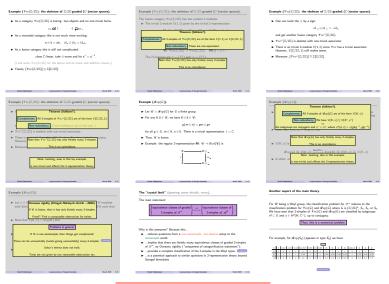
$$\mathscr{A}^{0} = \mathrm{add}\big(\{v^{k}\mathtt{C}_{w} \mid w \in \mathcal{H}, k \geq 0\}\big)/\mathrm{add}\big(\{v^{k}\mathtt{C}_{w} \mid w \in \mathcal{H}, k > 0\}\big).$$

The main statement:

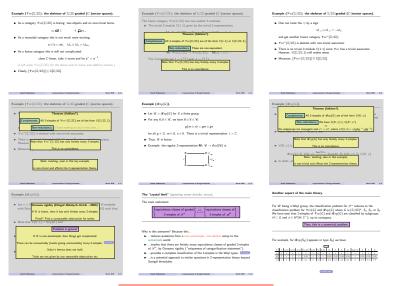
$$\begin{cases} \mathsf{equivalence\ classes\ of\ graded} \\ 2\text{-simples\ of\ } \mathscr{S}^{\nu} \end{cases} \begin{cases} \overset{1:1}{\longleftrightarrow} \begin{cases} \mathsf{equivalence\ classes\ of} \\ 2\text{-simples\ of\ } \mathscr{A}^0 \end{cases} \end{cases} .$$

Why is this awesome? Because this...

- ...reduces questions from a non-semisimple, non-abelian setup to the semisimple world.
- ► ...implies that there are finitely many equivalence classes of graded 2-simples of S^v, by Ocneanu rigidity ("uniqueness of categorification statement").
- ...provides a complete classification of the 2-simples in the Weyl types.
- ...is a potential approach to similar questions in 2-representation theory beyond Soergel bimodules.



There is still much to do...



Thanks for your attention!

It may then be asked why, in a book which professes to leave all applications on one side, a considerable space is devoted to substitution groups; while other particular modes of representation, such as groups of linear transformations, are not even referred to. My answer to this question is that while, in the present state of our knowledge, many results in the pure theory are arrived at most readily by dealing with properties of substitution groups, it would be difficult to find a result that could be most directly obtained by the consideration of groups of linear transformations.

WERY considerable advances in the theory of groups of finite order have been made since the appearance of the first edition of this book. In particular the theory of groups of linear substitutions has been the subject of numerous and important investigations by several writers; and the reason given in the original preface for omitting any account of it no longer holds good.

In fact it is now more true to say that for further advances in the abstract theory one must look largely to the representation of a group as a group of linear substitutions. There is

Figure: Quotes from "Theory of Groups of Finite Order" by Burnside. Top: first edition (1897); bottom: second edition (1911).

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Nowadays representation theory is pervasive across mathematics, and beyond.

of linear transformations.

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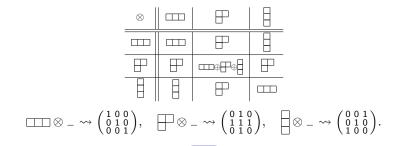
Figure: Quotes from "Theory of Groups of Finite Order" by Burnside. Top: first edition (1897); bottom: second edition (1911).



of subgroups (up to conjugacy), Schur multipliers H^2 and ranks rk of the 2-simples.

 ĸ	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$	<i>S</i> ₃
#	1	1	1	1
H ²	1	1	1	1
rk	1	2	3	3

Example ($K = S_3$); the \mathbb{N} -matrices.



Let $\mathrm{T}_2 = \mathbb{C}\langle g, x \rangle / (g^2 = 1, \ x^2 = 0, \ gx = -xg) \stackrel{\mathsf{vs}}{=} \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}] \otimes \mathbb{C}[x] / (x^2).$

- ▶ T_2 -proj is a non-semisimple, weakly fiat category with $[T_2$ -proj] $\cong \mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}]$.
- ► It has only two indecomposable objects:

1-dim.
simples :
$$S_+, S_-\begin{cases} g.m = \pm m, & 2-dim. \\ x.m = 0, & pr.in. \end{cases}$$
 : $P_+ = \frac{S_+}{S_-}, P_- = \frac{S_-}{S_+}$

 \blacktriangleright Two evident 2-simples \mathcal{V}_\pm obtained via:

$$P_{\pm} \otimes _{-} : \operatorname{T_2-proj} \to \operatorname{T_2-proj}.$$

Looks harmless, but:

- Twisted by $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ gives other 2-simples $\mathcal{V}_{\pm}^{\lambda}$.
- ► One gets two one-parameter families of 2-simples.
- ▶ $[\mathcal{V}^{\lambda}_{\pm}] \cong [\mathcal{V}^{\mu}_{\pm}]$, *i.e.* this is not detectable on the Grothendieck level.

For W being a Weyl group, the classification problem for \mathscr{S}^{\vee} reduces to the classification problem for $\operatorname{\mathscr{V}ec}(G)$ and $\operatorname{\mathscr{R}ep}(G)$ where G is $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^k$, S_3 , S_4 , or S_5 . We have seen that 2-simples of $\operatorname{\mathscr{V}ec}(G)$ and $\operatorname{\mathscr{R}ep}(G)$ are classified by subgroups $H \subset G$ and $\phi \in H^2(H, \mathbb{C}^{\times})$, up to conjugacy.

Thus, this is a numerical problem.

For example, for $\Re ep(S_5)$ (appears in type E_8) we have:

$\exists ep(S_5)$																
к	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$	$\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$	S_3	$\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$	D ₄	D_5	A ₄	D ₆	GA(1,5)	<i>S</i> ₄	A ₅	S_5
#	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
H^2	1	1	1	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	1	1	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	1	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
rk	1	2	3	4	4,1	5	3	6	5,2	4,2	4, 3	6,3	5	5,3	5,4	7,5