# Analytic theory of monoidal categories

Or: Strategies to avoid counting





#### Let us not count!



- $\Gamma$  = something that has a tensor product (more details later)
- $\mathbb{K}$  = any ground field, V = any fin dim  $\Gamma$ -rep

• Problem Decompose  $V^{\otimes n}$ ; note that  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} V^{\otimes n} = (\dim_{\mathbb{K}} V)^n$ 



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► Counting primes is difficult but...

▶ Prime number theorem (many people ~1793) #primes =  $\pi(n) \sim n/\ln n$ 





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b<sub>n</sub> = b<sub>n</sub><sup>Γ,V</sup>=number of indecomposable summands of V<sup>⊗n</sup> (with multiplicities)
 Example Γ = SL<sub>2</sub>, K = C, V = C<sup>2</sup>, then

 $\{1, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 20, 35, 70, 126, 252\}, b_n \text{ for } n = 0, ..., 10.$ 

 $\lim_{n\to\infty} \sqrt[n]{b_n}$  seems to converge to  $2 = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V$ :  $\sqrt[1000]{b_{1000}} \approx 1.99265$ 

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 $\{1, 1, 3, 7, 19, 51, 141, 393, 1107, 3139, 8953\}, b_n$  for n = 0, ..., 10.

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# We have

$$\beta = \lim_{n \to \infty} \sqrt[n]{b_n} = \dim_{\mathbb{K}} V$$

#### Exponential growth is scary

In other words, compared to the size of the exponential growth of  $(\dim_{\mathbb{K}} V)^n$ all indecomposable summands are 'essentially one-dimensional'



# (dim V)"

summands->\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Pluto



. . . . . . . . . . . Class | 1 2 5 Class | 1 2 3 Size 1 3 6 8 6 Size | 1 3 2 Order | 1 2 2 3 4 Order | 1 2 3 = 2 1 1 1 4 2  $S_3: p = 2 1 1 3$ p = 3 1 2 1 $p = 3 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 1 \quad 5$ , *S*<sub>4</sub> : X.1 X.2 + 1 1 -1 1 -1 X.1 + 1 1 1 X.3 + 2 2 0 -1 0 X.2 + 1 -1 1 X.4 + 3 -1 -1 0 1 X.3 + 2 0 - 1X.5 + 3 -1 1 0 -1

- Character table = prototypical rep theory
- Example The character tables of  $S_3$  and  $S_4$  created with Magma
- What do we see? Rows = simple characters, columns = conjugacy classes, size = number of elements, order = order of elements; rest (Schur indicator, power map) = not important today



e.g.  $\chi_3^2 = (2, 0, -1)^2 = (4, 0, 1) = (1, 1, 1) + (1, -1, 1) + (2, 0, -1) \iff [1, 1, 1]$ 

- Character ring  $[\operatorname{Rep}(G)]$  = elements of the form  $\sum_i c_i \chi_i$  for  $c_i \in \mathbb{C}$  and multiplication = multiplication of characters
- Crucial fact One can reconstruct  $\operatorname{Rep}(G) = \operatorname{Rep}(G, \mathbb{C})$  from its characters

• Example [**Rep**( $S_3$ )],  $\chi_1 = unit = 1 \iff trivial rep rest above$ 



Class | 1 2 3 4 5 Size | 1 3 6 8 6 Order | 1 2 2 3 4  $S_4: \begin{array}{c} p = 2 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ p = 3 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 5 \\ \hline & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & &$ 

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 $D_4: \begin{array}{c|c} & D_4: \\ D_4: \\ & P = 2 \\ & 1 \\ & 1 \\ & 2 \\ &$ 

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3 4 5 Class | 1 6 7 9 11 Size | 1 1 3 1 3 Order | 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 X.1 X.2 0 1 X.3 0 1 1 X.3 0 1 1 1  $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^2 \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ : 1 1 J -1-J 1 -1-J J -1-J 1 -1-J 3 -1-3 1 -1-J -1-J 0 1 1 X.5 J Л 1 1 1 1 1 1 J X.6 0 X.7 0 X.8 0 1 1 1 -1-J J X Q Θ 1 1 -1-1 1 1 1 -1-1 X.10 Θ 3\*J -3-3\*J X 11 -3-3\*1 3\*1  $J = \exp(2\pi i/3)$ 

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• Example [Rep( $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^2 \rtimes (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ )],  $\chi_1 = \text{unit} = 1 \iff \text{trivial rep rest above}$ 







Class 9 10 Size 3 3 6 8 8 6 0rder 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 4 4 6 2 3 7 = 3 2 3 5 9 2 3 4 X.1  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times S_4$ : X.2 + 1 - 1 - 1 Х.З + 1 X.4 + 1 -1 - 1 1 Χ.5 2 - 2 2 - 2 0 0 + -1 0 0 1 X.6 2 2 + 2 2 0 0 -1 0 0 -1  $X.7 \times +$ 3 3 -1 -1 1 1 0 -1 -1 0 X.8 + 3 - 3 - 1 1 -1 0 -1 0 X.9 X+ 3 - 3 - 1 1 -1 0 1 -1 0 1 X.10 + 3 3 -1 -1 -1 -1 0 1 1 0



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Question What is the growth of b<sub>n</sub> for the marked reps?
Answer

$$b_n \sim a_n = \left(\frac{20}{48} + \frac{0}{48}(-1)^n\right) \cdot n^0 \cdot 3^n$$
  $b_n \sim a_n = \frac{10}{24} \cdot n^0 \cdot 3^n$ 

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▶  $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$  over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_5$  = five indecomposables  $\iff$  five Jordan blocks

▶ **Dimensions** are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

► 
$$Z_1$$
 is simple ,  $Z_5$  is projective



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  $Z_1$  is simple ,  $Z_5$  is projective





$$b_n \sim a_n = \frac{1}{2(\rho-1)} (1 + \frac{1}{\rho} (-1)^n) \cdot n^0 \cdot 2^n$$

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 $b_n \sim a_n = \frac{1}{2(p-1)} (1 + \frac{1}{p} (-1)^n) \cdot n^0 \cdot 2^n$ 



• Theorem (very inclusive) For finite groups and  $b_n$ , there is essentially no difference between char 0 and char p

• Precisely 
$$\mathbb{K} = \overline{\mathbb{K}}, V$$
 our rep

$$b_n \sim a_n = rac{\sum_{ ext{simples}} \dim_{\mathbb{K}} L}{|G|} (1 + xx) \cdot n^0 \cdot (\dim_{\mathbb{K}} V)^n$$

with  $xx = c_1 J^n + c_2 J^{2n} + \ldots + c_h J^{hn}$  for  $J = \exp(2\pi i/h)$ 

► There is also a version for the variance



▶ Question What is the growth of b<sub>n</sub> for the χ<sub>5</sub> rep?
▶ Answer

char 0:

char 3



► Question What is the growth of  $b_n$  for the  $\chi_5$  rep? ► Answer char 0:  $b_n \sim a_n = \frac{8}{24} \cdot n^0 \cdot 3^n$  char 3:  $b_n \sim a_n = \frac{10}{24} \cdot n^0 \cdot 3^n$ Analytic theory of monoidal categories Or: Strategies to avoid counting July 2024 4 / 5



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There is still much to do...



Thanks for your attention!