

LOCALISATIONS OF COBORDISM CATEGORIES AND INVERTIBLE TFTS IN DIMENSION TWO

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Abstract

Cobordism categories have played an important role in classical geometry and more recently in mathematical treatments of quantum field theory. Here we will compute localisations of two-dimensional discrete cobordism categories. This allows us, up to equivalence, to determine the category of invertible two-dimensional topological field theories in the sense of Atiyah. We are able to treat the orientable, non-orientable, closed and open cases.

1. Introduction

The mid 1980s saw a shift in the nature of the relationship between mathematics and physics. Differential equations and geometry applied in a classical setting were no longer the principal players; in the quantum world topology and algebra began to move to the fore. This was a result of extracting the topological aspects of a quantum field theory, largely attributed in its infancy to Witten, for example in [Wit82]. The move to a formal mathematical theory came in 1989 with Atiyah’s axiomatisation of a topological quantum field theory (TFT) [Ati89]. These ideas have since shown themselves to have applications to both topology (low dimensional manifolds) and physics (string theory) alike.

Roughly speaking, a closed 2-dimensional TFT is a functor from a category whose objects are closed oriented 1-manifolds (disjoint unions of circles), and whose morphisms are homeomorphism classes of oriented surfaces, to the category of complex vector spaces. It is well known that closed 2-dimensional TFTs are in one-to-one correspondence with commutative Frobenius algebras. Explicitly, the image of the circle S^1 under such a theory is an algebra of this form and, conversely, for any such algebra A there exists a theory F with $F(S^1) = A$. Proofs of this folk theorem have been given by Abrams [Abr96] and Kock [Koc04].

Atiyah’s axiomatisation can be extended in two ways. Firstly, we can drop the assumption that all objects (1-manifolds) in the category are closed, requiring them only to be compact. This leads to the notion of *open-closed* and *open* TFTs, where for the latter we insist that the objects have boundary. Theories of this form have also been classified. Moore and Segal [MS06] showed that open 2-dimensional TFTs are equivalent to symmetric Frobenius algebras. In the open-closed case there is a one-to-one correspondence with “knowledgeable Frobenius algebras” (see Lauda and Pfeiffer [LP08] for a definition and proof).

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The second way in which we can extend the axiomatisation is by allowing non-orientable surfaces in the category. Field theories of this form are known as *Klein* TFTs. Turaev and Turner [TT06] proved that closed 2-dimensional Klein TFTs correspond to finite dimensional commutative Frobenius algebras with additional structure coming from the non-orientable generators of the surface category. Open Klein TFTs are equivalent to symmetric Frobenius algebras with some extra structure, as shown by Braun [Bra12]. Finally, open-closed Klein theories correspond to “structure algebras” (see Alexeevski and Natanzon [AN06] for a definition and proof).

Here we are interested in invertible 2-dimensional TFTs, that is to say TFTs for which the defining functor F is morphism inverting. These play an important role in ordinary quantum field theory, for example as anomalies, and over recent years have proven crucial in the understanding of the subject. For orientable surfaces invertible TFTs have been classified, in the closed case by the second author [Til96] and in the open-closed case by Douglas [Dou01]. Our aim is to extend these results to the corresponding non-orientable cases, and also to give a classification in the open case which has not previously been considered.

The previous classifications have been dependent on a particular choice of model for the cobordism categories considered. Though this is convenient for computations, it is unsatisfactory in terms of the general theory. Here we make our classification independent of such a choice and determine the category of TFTs on any model for the cobordism categories, up to natural equivalence. To do so we are forced to consider the category of (pointed) symmetric monoidal functors and prove that the equivalence class of such a functor category does not change when the source or target categories are replaced by equivalent symmetric monoidal categories.

Our interest in TFT lies not only with the functors themselves, but also with the surface categories involved. By studying their localisations, i.e. the categories obtained by inverting all morphisms, one can gain an understanding of the underlying combinatorics of these categories. Here we adapt the methods of [Til96] in order to analyse the localisation of the non-orientable cobordism categories. We are able to compute them in all three cases, obtaining the desired classification of invertible field theories as a corollary. For completeness’ sake we have also included proofs for the orientable cobordism categories.

The categorical problem at hand is the discrete version of an extended problem, in which one includes diffeomorphism of surfaces in the categorical data. In [GTMW09] Galatius, Madsen, the second author and Weiss showed that there is a weak equivalence between the classifying space of the extended d -dimensional cobordism category \mathcal{C}_d and the infinite loop space of a certain Thom spectrum. This result can be interpreted to calculate the extended invertible TFTs in the setting of [Lur09]. We refer to the recent article by Freed [Fre13] for a survey of the discrete and extended cobordism categories and the TFTs they define, along with various examples and further applications.

Outline and results:

We will mainly study the following cobordism categories in dimension two.

\mathcal{K} *open-closed category*: Objects are unoriented compact 1-manifolds (disjoint unions of circles and intervals). A morphism $\Sigma : M_0 \rightarrow M_1$ is a (not necessarily orientable) compact cobordism from M_0 to M_1 up to homeomorphism. We call $\partial\Sigma \setminus (M_0 \cup M_1)$ the *free* boundary of Σ .

\mathcal{N} *closed category*: The subcategory of \mathcal{K} whose objects are disjoint unions of circles, and whose morphisms have no free boundary.

\mathcal{O} *open category*: The subcategory of \mathcal{K} whose objects are disjoint unions of intervals, and whose morphisms have no closed components.

\mathcal{S} *orientable category*: The subcategory of \mathcal{K} in which only orientable surfaces are morphisms.

In section 2, we define carefully the two-dimensional cobordism categories \mathcal{K} , \mathcal{N} , \mathcal{S} and several other subcategories. Using the Euler characteristic we define a symmetric monoidal functor $\Theta : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.

Section 3 is the heart of the paper. Here we compute the localisations of all categories that we consider. It is shown that Θ induces on the localisations of \mathcal{N} , \mathcal{O} and \mathcal{K} an equivalence with \mathbb{Z} , see Theorems 3.6, 3.8, and 3.11. The same is true when considering the subcategories with only orientable surfaces. In the case of \mathcal{N} and $\mathcal{N} \cap \mathcal{S}$ this gives in particular an elementary computation of the fundamental groups $\pi_1(B\mathcal{C}_2) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ and $\pi_1(B\mathcal{C}_2^+) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ in the notation of [GTMW09].

In section 4, we apply these results in order to describe the category of TFTs (with target the category of complex vector spaces). In particular, we show that when the domain is \mathcal{N} , \mathcal{O} , \mathcal{K} or \mathcal{S} the category of invertible TFTs is equivalent to the discrete category of non-zero complex numbers, see Theorem 4.3.

In section 5 we consider the classifying spaces of our cobordism categories and relate our results to those in [GTMW09] and [Lur09]. Our results compute the invertible (discrete) TFTs in the $(\infty, 1)$ -setting if and only if Conjecture 5.3 holds.

Appendix A contains the categorical definitions and results on which section 4 relies. It is a well-known fact that when the source or target category are replaced by equivalent categories then the resulting functor categories are equivalent. The main purpose of the appendix is to show that this remains true when one considers pointed symmetric monoidal functors and when in turn one restricts to invertible functors. Though not surprising these results are not readily available in the literature. Because of their key role in section 4 we have therefore included a detailed treatment.

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2. Cobordism categories and the functor Θ

We introduce a convenient model of the open-closed cobordism category and its subcategories in detail. A modification of the Euler characteristic defines a functor Θ to the integers. This functor plays a central role in the following sections.

2.1. The open-closed category \mathcal{K}

The objects of \mathcal{K} are compact unoriented 1-manifolds. Morphisms are (not necessarily orientable) cobordisms up to homeomorphism relative to the boundary. Explicitly, a morphism $(\Sigma, \sigma_0, \sigma_1) : M_0 \rightarrow M_1$ in \mathcal{K} is a compact 2-manifold Σ with maps $\sigma_0 : M_0 \rightarrow \partial\Sigma$ and $\sigma_1 : M_1 \rightarrow \partial\Sigma$ which are homeomorphisms onto their images and satisfy $\sigma_0(M_0) \cap \sigma_1(M_1) = \emptyset$. The morphism $(\Sigma, \sigma_0, \sigma_1)$ will often be abbreviated as Σ . We call $\sigma_0(M_0)$, $\sigma_1(M_1)$ and $\partial\Sigma \setminus (\sigma_0(M_0) \cup \sigma_1(M_1))$ the *source boundary*, the *target boundary* and the *free boundary* respectively. We say two cobordisms $\Sigma, \Sigma' : M_0 \rightarrow M_1$ are homeomorphic relative to the boundary (and therefore define the same morphism in \mathcal{K}) if there exists a homeomorphism $\Psi : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma'$ such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & M_0 & \\
 \sigma_0 \swarrow & & \searrow \sigma'_0 \\
 \Sigma & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & \Sigma' \\
 \sigma_1 \swarrow & & \searrow \sigma'_1 \\
 & M_1 &
 \end{array}$$

Composition of $\Sigma : M_0 \rightarrow M_1$ and $\Sigma' : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$ is given by glueing the two cobordisms via $\sigma'_0 \circ \sigma_1^{-1}$, and has boundary maps σ_0 and σ'_1 . The identity morphism from M_0 to itself is given by the cylinder $M_0 \times I$. \mathcal{K}

is a symmetric monoidal category under disjoint union of manifolds.

It is convenient to identify \mathcal{K} with a skeleton. Let M be a 1-manifold in \mathcal{K} with m closed components and n components with boundary. For each closed component M_i ($1 \leq i \leq m$) we choose a homeomorphism $f_i : M_i \rightarrow S^1$, where S^1 denotes the standard (unoriented) circle. Similarly for each component N_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) with boundary we choose a homeomorphism $g_i : N_i \rightarrow I$, where $I = [0, 1]$ denotes the standard (unoriented) interval. Denote the mapping cylinders of f_i and g_i by C_{f_i} and C_{g_i} respectively. Then the union of mapping cylinders $(\coprod_{i=1}^m C_{f_i}) \amalg (\coprod_{i=1}^n C_{g_i})$ defines an isomorphism $M \rightarrow (\coprod_{i=1}^m S^1) \amalg (\coprod_{i=1}^n I)$ in \mathcal{K} . Therefore, the full subcategory on disjoint unions of copies of a single unoriented circle S^1 , and a single unoriented interval I , is a skeleton for \mathcal{K} . We identify these objects with the product $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$, where $(0, 0)$ represents the empty 1-manifold and (m, n) represents m ordered copies of S^1 and n ordered copies of I , and we shall often refer to an object of \mathcal{K} in this manner.

For each morphism in \mathcal{K} , we choose a representative cobordism whose source and target boundary components are identified with copies of S^1 and I , and whose boundary maps are either inclusions or reflections on each component of an object (m, n) . Note that the boundary maps are essential in determining the homeomorphism class of a cobordism in \mathcal{K} . For example, consider the cylinder as a morphism $S^1 \rightarrow S^1$. If both boundary maps are defined to be inclusions, then this is just the identity $S^1 \times I$. However, if we define one boundary map to be an inclusion, and the other to be a reflection, we obtain an entirely different morphism. Although the underlying manifolds of the two cobordisms are homeomorphic, we cannot find a homeomorphism which commutes with their boundary maps. The latter cobordism can be thought of as the mapping cylinder of the reflection $r : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ and, with this in mind, we denote it by $C_r^{S^1}$. Similarly, the disc as a morphism $I \rightarrow I$ comes in two guises; the identity, and the mapping cylinder of the reflection $r : I \rightarrow I$. We shall often refer to the latter as the *bow tie*, denoting it by C_r^I .

The orientable symmetric monoidal subcategory \mathcal{S} of \mathcal{K} consists of oriented 1-manifolds and oriented cobordisms whose boundary maps are orientation preserving.¹ A generators and relations description of \mathcal{S} has been given by Lauda and Pfeiffer [LP08]. The fourteen cobordisms in Figure 2.1 form a generating set for \mathcal{S} under the operations of composition and disjoint union. In the figure, source boundary components are on the left, and target boundaries are on the right. For those cobordisms with free boundary, the thickened lines are intended to distinguish source and target boundary components from free components. For example, the bottom right hand cobordism is a morphism from S^1 to I .

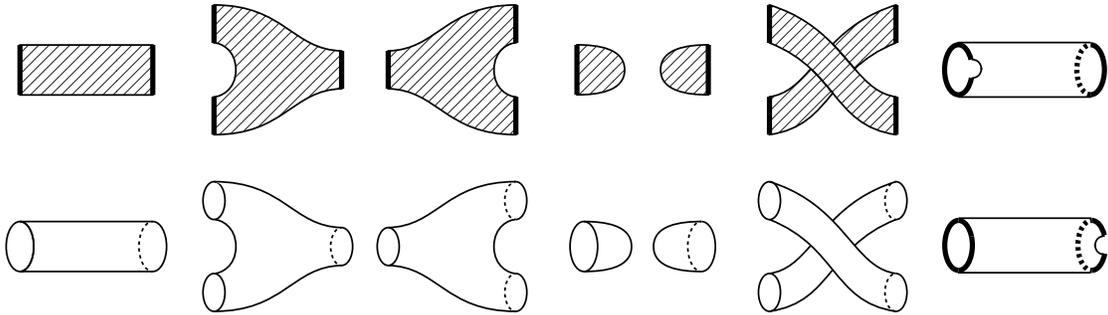


Figure 2.1: Generators of \mathcal{S} .

By moving crosscaps and taking out factors of $C_r^{S^1}$ and C_r^I , we can decompose any cobordism in \mathcal{K} as an element of \mathcal{S} composed with a combination of the four additional cobordisms in Figure 2.2. In the figure, a dotted circle surrounding a cross represents a crosscap attached to a surface. From left to right, the cobordisms are: the projective plane with two discs removed, the Möbius strip, the cylinder $C_r^{S^1}$, and the disc C_r^I .

¹We identify \mathcal{S} with its skeleton: the full subcategory on unions of copies of one fixed oriented circle and one fixed oriented interval. In this way we view \mathcal{S} as a subcategory of \mathcal{K} by forgetting orientations.



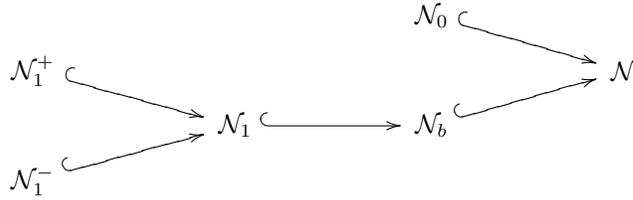
Figure 2.2: Additional generators of \mathcal{K} .

It follows that the eighteen cobordisms of Figures 2.1 and 2.2 form a generating set for \mathcal{K} under composition and disjoint union.

2.2. The category \mathcal{N} and its subcategories

We define the closed category \mathcal{N} to be the following symmetric monoidal subcategory of \mathcal{K} . The objects of \mathcal{N} are all closed 1-manifolds in \mathcal{K} , and morphisms $\Sigma : M_0 \rightarrow M_1$ must have boundary maps satisfying the additional condition $\sigma_0(M_0) \cup \sigma_1(M_1) = \partial\Sigma$. In other words, we do not allow cobordisms in \mathcal{N} to have any free boundary.

We will need a careful analysis of various subcategories of \mathcal{N} .



Definition 2.1. Let \mathcal{N}_1 be the subcategory of \mathcal{N} consisting of connected endomorphisms of the circle S^1 .

Morphisms in \mathcal{N}_1 are connected surfaces with one source and one target boundary circle, and are determined by their genus or number of crosscaps and their boundary maps. Note that composition in \mathcal{N}_1 is abelian. Recall from Section 2.1 that for each morphism we choose a representative cobordism whose boundary circles are identified with S^1 , and whose boundary maps are either inclusions or reflections.

Definition 2.2. Let $(\Sigma, \sigma_0, \sigma_1)$ be a cobordism of the chosen form representing a morphism in \mathcal{N}_1 . If σ_0 and σ_1 are both inclusions, or both reflections, then we say that they have the *same direction*. In this case we say that Σ is of *type 0*. If one of σ_0 and σ_1 is an inclusion, and the other is a reflection, then we say that the boundary maps have *opposite directions*. In this case we say that Σ is of *type 1*.

For orientable surfaces,² the type of a cobordism carries through to a well-defined notion of the type of a morphism. To see this, we make the following observations. Firstly, for a cobordism of genus g and type 0, the two possible choices (boundary maps are both inclusions or boundary maps are both reflections) lie in the same homeomorphism class. Similarly, for a cobordism of genus g and type 1 the two possible choices define the same morphism. Finally, there is no homeomorphism between an orientable cobordism of genus g and type 0, and an orientable cobordism of genus g and type 1, which commutes with all boundary maps. Thus the type of an orientable morphism is well-defined. For example, the cylinder of type 1 in \mathcal{N}_1 is the morphism $C_r^{S^1}$, whilst the cylinder of type 0 is the identity.

Now consider the subcategory \mathcal{N}_1^+ of \mathcal{N}_1 whose morphisms are all orientable. Morphisms in \mathcal{N}_1^+ are determined by their genera and their type. In terms of genera, composition in \mathcal{N}_1^+ corresponds to addition. If two morphisms in \mathcal{N}_1^+ have the same type, then their composition will always have type 0. However, composing

²Note that by orientable we do not mean oriented, and so no assumption is made about the direction of boundary maps.

two morphisms of different types gives a morphism of type 1. It follows that the type of a morphism lies in the group \mathbb{Z}_2 . We therefore identify

$$\mathcal{N}_1^+ = \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2,$$

where the element (g, ϵ) stands for the unique morphism in \mathcal{N}_1^+ of genus g and type $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$.

Similarly, we can consider the subcategory \mathcal{N}_1^- of \mathcal{N}_1 whose morphisms are non-orientable cobordisms along with the cylinder. For non-orientable surfaces, the type of a cobordism does not carry through to a well-defined notion of morphism type. This is precisely because a cobordism from S^1 to S^1 with $k \geq 1$ crosscaps and type 0 lies in the same homeomorphism class as a cobordism from S^1 to S^1 with k crosscaps and type 1. To see this, let $(\Sigma, \sigma_0, \sigma_1)$ be the Möbius band with one disc removed considered as a cobordism from S^1 to S^1 of type 1. This is depicted in the left of Figure 2.3, where the boundary circle of the Möbius band represents the image of σ_0 , and the boundary of the removed disc represents the image of σ_1 . The arrows denote the directions of the embeddings σ_0 and σ_1 . The surface on the right of Figure 2.3 is the punctured Möbius band Σ' of type 0. The required homeomorphism $\Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma'$ is then given by the crosscap slide, that is by pushing the image of σ_1 once round the Möbius strip, and this commutes with all boundary maps.

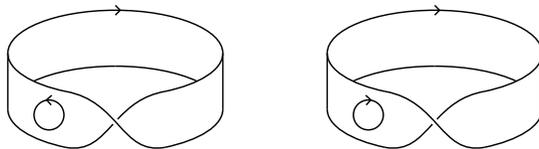


Figure 2.3: Möbius bands of type 1 and of type 0.

Thus for each $k \geq 1$ there is only one morphism with k crosscaps in \mathcal{N}_1^- . In terms of crosscaps, composition in \mathcal{N}_1^- corresponds to addition. It follows that \mathcal{N}_1^- is identifiable with the monoid $\mathbb{N} \cup C_r^{S^1}$, where $C_r^{S^1}$ acts as an identity for all elements other than itself and the cylinder $S^1 \times I$. Using notation compatible with that used for \mathcal{N}_1^+ , we can identify

$$\mathcal{N}_1^- = \frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim},$$

where the relation is $(k, 0) \sim (k, 1)$ for non-zero k .

Proposition 2.3. *The monoid \mathcal{N}_1 can be identified with $\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ where the relation is generated by $(g, k, 0) \sim (0, 2g + k, 1)$ if and only if k is non-zero.*

Proof. Piecing together the above results, we see that \mathcal{N}_1 can be identified with the monoid $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ modulo the relations discussed above, where the class (g, k, ϵ) is represented by a cobordism with g handles, k crosscaps, and type $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$. One checks that the single relation $(g, k, 0) \sim (0, 2g + k, 1) \iff k \neq 0$ generates all others, and hence $\mathcal{N}_1 = \frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ where the relation is $(g, k, 0) \sim (0, 2g + k, 1)$ for non-zero k . \square

2.3. The functor $\Theta : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

It is well known that any connected closed surface is homeomorphic to one and only one of the following: the sphere S^2 , a connect sum of g tori for $g \geq 1$, or a connect sum of k real projective planes for $k \geq 1$. The Euler characteristic χ of such a surface can be computed by $2 - 2g$ in the orientable case, and $2 - k$ in the non-orientable case. Removing n discs from the surface reduces its Euler characteristic by n . In general, for spaces X_1 and X_2 whose union is X , we have $\chi(X) = \chi(X_1) + \chi(X_2) - \chi(X_1 \cap X_2)$. Consider \mathbb{Z} as a category with one object and endomorphism set \mathbb{Z} . We define a functor $\Theta : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ which sends all objects of \mathcal{K} to the only object of \mathbb{Z} , and sends a morphism $\Sigma : (m, n) \rightarrow (p, q)$ in \mathcal{K} to

$$\Theta(\Sigma) := (p + q) - m - \chi(\Sigma).$$

Proposition 2.4. $\Theta : \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is a functor of symmetric monoidal categories.

Proof. Let $\Sigma_1 : (p, q) \rightarrow (r, s)$ and $\Sigma_2 : (m, n) \rightarrow (p, q)$ be morphisms in \mathcal{K} . Then, since the Euler characteristics of the circle and the unit interval are 0 and 1 respectively, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(\Sigma_1 \circ \Sigma_2) &= (r + s) - m - \chi(\Sigma_1 \circ \Sigma_2) \\ &= (r + s) - m - (\chi(\Sigma_1) + \chi(\Sigma_2) - q) \\ &= (r + s) - p - \chi(\Sigma_1) + (p + q) - m - \chi(\Sigma_2) \\ &= \Theta(\Sigma_1) + \Theta(\Sigma_2). \end{aligned}$$

Θ is additive on disjoint unions and hence is a map of symmetric monoidal categories. \square

The functor Θ describes the category of surfaces surprisingly well. Our main results in Section 3 show that Θ defines equivalences on the localisation of \mathcal{K} and certain subcategories. Furthermore, we will now prove that Θ restricted to a large subcategory has a right adjoint.

Definition 2.5. We define the category \mathcal{N}_b to be the subcategory of \mathcal{N} containing all objects of \mathcal{N} , and those morphisms no connected component of which is a cobordism to zero.

For example, a disc as a morphism $0 \rightarrow 1$ would be in \mathcal{N}_b , but a disc as a morphism $1 \rightarrow 0$ would not.

Theorem 2.6. *The functor Θ when restricted to \mathcal{N}_b has a right inverse which is also a right adjoint.*

Proof. First note that Θ restricted to \mathcal{N}_b takes only non-negative values, i.e. $\Theta : \mathcal{N}_b \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. Define $i : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_b$ to be the inclusion that maps the only object to the circle and the morphism given by k to the connected sum of k projective planes, i.e. the non-orientable surface of genus k with two discs removed. Note that $\Theta \circ i = \text{Id}_{\mathbb{N}}$. Therefore, to prove that the inclusion i is right adjoint to Θ it suffices to define a natural transformation $\tau : \text{Id}_{\mathcal{N}_b} \rightarrow i \circ \Theta$. For the object n in \mathcal{N}_b , let $\tau_n : n \rightarrow 1$ be the pair of pants surface with n legs and one crosscap. For a morphism $\Sigma_{g,k,c} : n \rightarrow m$ with c components, k crosscaps, and total genus g , we need to check that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} n & \xrightarrow{\tau_n} & 1 \\ \Sigma_{g,k,c} \downarrow & & \downarrow 2g+k+2m-2c \\ m & \xrightarrow{\tau_m} & 1 \end{array}$$

Now, $(2g + k + 2m - 2c) \circ \tau_n$ is the unique connected non-orientable morphism $n \rightarrow 1$ in \mathcal{N}_b with precisely $2g + k + 2m - 2c + 1$ crosscaps. On the other hand, the genus of $\Sigma_{g,k,c}$ increases by precisely $m - c$ on composition with τ_m , and the resulting surface is connected. Therefore $\tau_m \circ \Sigma_{g,k,c}$ is non-orientable with $2(g + m - c) + k + 1 = 2g + k + 2m - 2c + 1$ crosscaps. Note that, by ensuring that both compositions are non-orientable, we need not worry about the direction of boundary maps. Therefore the diagram commutes as required. \square

3. Localisations

For any category \mathcal{C} , we denote its *localisation*, that is the groupoid obtained from \mathcal{C} by formally adjoining inverses of all morphisms, by $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$ (see [GZ67] for formal construction). Localisation of categories is a generalisation of the notion of group completion of monoids: considering a monoid M as a category with one object then $M[M^{-1}]$ is the group completion $\mathcal{G}(M)$ of M .

The classification of invertible TFTs in the next section is based on our calculations here of the localisations of the cobordism categories. As a first step we prove a general result relating the automorphisms of an object in the localisation of a category \mathcal{C} to the group completion of the monoid of endomorphisms in \mathcal{C} of the same object.

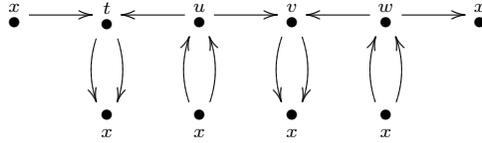
Definition 3.1. A category \mathcal{C} is *strongly connected* at an object x if for any object y in \mathcal{C} there exists morphisms $x \rightarrow y$ and $y \rightarrow x$.

Proposition 3.2. *If \mathcal{C} is strongly connected category at x , then the canonical map*

$$\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(x)) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]}(x)$$

is surjective.

Proof. Consider a general automorphism F of x in $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$, which is a composition of morphisms in \mathcal{C} and their inverses. This is represented by the top line of the diagram below, where t, u, v, w are other objects in \mathcal{C} .



We move from left to right along the diagram. Since \mathcal{C} is strongly connected at x , when we reach the object t we can find a morphism $t \rightarrow x$ in \mathcal{C} , represented by the first downwards arrow. We then map back to t via the inverse of this morphism. Similarly, when we reach u we can find a morphism $x \rightarrow u$, and map down to x via its inverse. Continuing in this manner, we can decompose F as a composition of endomorphisms of x in \mathcal{C} and their inverses, that is to say as elements of $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(x))$. \square

3.1. Localisations of subcategories of \mathcal{N}

Before looking at the localisation of the whole category \mathcal{N} , we will first study the localisation of some important subcategories. In particular we will need the following result.

Theorem 3.3. $\mathcal{N}_1[\mathcal{N}_1^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. By our identification of \mathcal{N}_1 in section 2, to prove the theorem is equivalent to proving that the group completion of $\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ is \mathbb{Z} .

Recall that the group completion of an abelian monoid M is given by the Grothendieck construction $\frac{M \times M}{\approx}$ where the relation is $(x, y) \approx (x', y')$ if and only if there exists $k \in M$ such that $x + y' + k = y + x' + k$ in M . Here we denote the relation on $M \times M$ by \approx to distinguish it from the relation \sim on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Therefore, the group completion of $\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ is given by $\frac{(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}) \times (\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim})}{\approx}$ where $((a, b, \epsilon), (c, d, \eta)) \approx ((a', b', \epsilon'), (c', d', \eta'))$ if and only if there exists $(x, y, \zeta) \in \frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ such that $(a, b, \epsilon) + (c', d', \eta') + (x, y, \zeta) \sim (c, d, \eta) + (a', b', \epsilon') + (x, y, \zeta)$ in $\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$.

We will show that the following two relations hold.

- (i) $((a, b, 0), (c, d, \eta)) \approx ((a, b, 1), (c, d, \eta))$ for all a, b, c, d, η
- (ii) $((a, b, 0), (c, d, 0)) \approx ((0, 2a + b, 0), (c, d, 0))$ for all a, b, c, d

It will follow that $\mathcal{G}(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim})$ is isomorphic to $\frac{(\{0\} \times \mathbb{N} \times \{0\}) \times (\{0\} \times \mathbb{N} \times \{0\})}{\approx}$. The relation \approx can then be written as $((0, b, 0), (0, d, 0)) \approx ((0, b', 0), (0, d', 0))$ if and only if there exists $(x, y, \zeta) \in \frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ such that $(x, b +$

$d' + y, \zeta) \sim (x, d + b' + y, \zeta)$, which is the case if and only if $b + d' + y = d + b' + y$ in \mathbb{N} . It will follow that $\mathcal{G}(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim})$ is isomorphic to the group completion $\mathcal{G}(\mathbb{N}) = \mathbb{Z}$.

For the first equivalence (i), take $(x, y, \zeta) = (0, 1, 0) \in \frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$. Then $(a, b, 0) + (c, d, \eta) + (0, 1, 0) = (a + c, b + d + 1, \eta) \sim (c + a, d + b + 1, \eta + 1) = (c, d, \eta) + (a, b, 1) + (0, 1, 0)$, where for the second step we have used the fact that $b + d + 1 > 0$. Equivalence (ii) follows in a similar fashion, again by taking (x, y, ζ) to be $(0, 1, 0)$. \square

Remark 3.4. Note that equations (i) and (ii) tell us that in $\mathcal{N}_1[\mathcal{N}_1^{-1}]$ the morphism $C_r^{S^1}$ is equivalent to the identity, and the torus with two discs removed is equivalent to the Klein bottle with two discs removed.

The localisations of \mathcal{N}_1^+ and \mathcal{N}_1^- can be computed via the same methods as were used for \mathcal{N}_1 .

Proposition 3.5. $\mathcal{N}_1^+[(\mathcal{N}_1^+)^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ and $\mathcal{N}_1^-[(\mathcal{N}_1^-)^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. For the first statement recall that we identified \mathcal{N}_1^+ with the monoid $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$. This group completes to $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, generated by the torus with two discs removed of type 0, and the cylinder $C_r^{S^1}$. For the second statement, recall that we identified \mathcal{N}_1^- with the monoid $\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\sim}$ where the relation is $(k, 0) \sim (k, 1)$ for non-zero k . Via the same methods as in the proof of Theorem 3.3, one can show that the group completion of this monoid is \mathbb{Z} , generated by the projective plane with two discs removed. \square

Finally, we define the category \mathcal{N}_0 to be the full subcategory of \mathcal{N} on one object, the empty 1-manifold \emptyset .

Proposition 3.6. $\mathcal{N}_0[\mathcal{N}_0^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z}^\infty$.

Proof. Morphisms in \mathcal{N}_0 are closed surfaces, and are completely determined by the genus $g = 0, 1, \dots$ or number of crosscaps $k = 1, 2, \dots$ of each of their components.

A general morphism in \mathcal{N}_0 is thus just the union of an element of $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ and an element of $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}^{>0}}$, with composition corresponding to component-wise addition in each monoid. We can therefore identify the whole category \mathcal{N}_0 with the monoid $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}^{>0}}$. Hence $\mathcal{N}_0[\mathcal{N}_0^{-1}] = \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}^{>0}} = \mathbb{Z}^\infty$. \square

3.2. Localisations of \mathcal{N} and $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N}$

The localisation of a symmetric monoidal category is again symmetric monoidal, see Appendix A. The purpose of this section is to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 3.7. $\mathfrak{N} := \mathcal{N}[\mathcal{N}^{-1}]$ is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.

The proof will show that this equivalence is induced by the Euler characteristic, or more precisely by the functor Θ . It follows in particular that the automorphism group of an object is generated by a surface of Euler characteristic 1 or -1 .

Proof. Denote by \mathfrak{N}_n the group of automorphisms of the object n in \mathfrak{N} . Since \mathcal{N} is strongly connected for all objects, all \mathfrak{N}_n are isomorphic and the inclusion $\mathfrak{N}_n \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{N}$ is an equivalence of categories [Qui73]. The proof proceeds by calculating \mathfrak{N}_1 , the automorphism group of the circle.

Step 1: We first describe the monoid of endomorphisms $\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$. Disregarding closed components, an element Σ in $\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$ consists of either a connected surface with two boundary circles (that is, an element of \mathcal{N}_1) or of two connected surfaces each with one boundary circle (see Figure 3.1). Each component has some arbitrary genus $g \in \mathbb{N}$ or number $k \in \mathbb{N}$ of crosscaps. Connected endomorphisms as in the left of Figure 3.1 also have an associated type which lies in the group \mathbb{Z}_2 , as discussed in Definition 2.2. Via reflection in a suitable horizontal plane, one sees that the disc with boundary map i is homeomorphic (relative to the

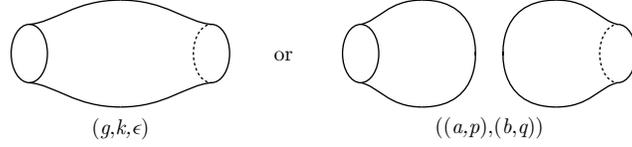


Figure 3.1: Two kinds of morphisms in $\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$.

boundary) to the disc with boundary map r , and so we need not worry about the direction of boundary maps for disconnected endomorphisms as in the right of Figure 3.1.

The closed components of Σ lie in the monoid $\mathcal{N}_0 = \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}^{>0}}$ from the previous section. It follows that $\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$ is isomorphic to

$$\left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2}{\approx} \right) \amalg \left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \times \left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \right) \right) \times (\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}^{>0}})$$

where \approx is the relation $(g, k, 0) \approx (0, 2g + k, 1)$ for $k > 0$ and \sim is the relation $(g, k) \sim (0, 2g + k)$ for $k > 0$. Elements of the form $((g, k, \epsilon); n_{00}, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots)$ represent morphisms comprising a connected surface as in the left of Figure 3.1, along with n_{00} spheres, n_{10} tori, n_{01} projective planes, n_{20} double tori, n_{02} Klein bottles, and so on. Elements of the form $((a, p), (b, q); n_{00}, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots)$ represent morphisms comprising a disconnected surface as in the right of Figure 3.1, along with n_{00} spheres, n_{10} tori etc. Addition in the monoid is non-commutative and defined by the geometry.

Since $\mathcal{N}_1 \subset \text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$, relations which hold in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{N}_1)$ must also hold in $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1))$, and hence also in \mathfrak{N} . In particular the cylinder $C_r^{S^1}$ is equivalent to the identity 1_{S^1} by the proof of Theorem 3.3, and so the direction of boundary maps becomes irrelevant upon localisation. Since we will be working in \mathfrak{N} from now on, we will henceforth suppress all mention of boundary maps.

Step 2: We next eliminate all closed components other than spheres. Since \mathcal{N} is connected, conjugation $c_\alpha : \mathfrak{N}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_0$ defined by $\beta \mapsto \alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha$ is an isomorphism for any $\alpha : 0 \rightarrow 1$. In particular it is injective, and we can use this to obtain relations on \mathfrak{N}_1 by finding elements with homeomorphic images in \mathfrak{N}_0 . Let α be the disc as a morphism $0 \rightarrow 1$. A representative for the inverse of α in \mathfrak{N} is the disc $: 1 \rightarrow 0$ union the inverse of a sphere. The images of elements of \mathfrak{N}_1 under c_α are:

$$\begin{aligned} \pm((g, k); n_{00}, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots) &\mapsto \pm(n_{00} - 1, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots, n_{gk} + 1, \dots) \\ \pm((a, p), (b, q); n_{00}, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots) &\mapsto \pm(n_{00} - 1, n_{10}, n_{01}, \dots, n_{ap} + 1, \dots, n_{bq} + 1, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

where $g, k, a, b, p, q, n_{i0}, n_{0j}$ are non-negative and \pm represents an element of $\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1)$ or its inverse respectively. Injectivity of c_α thus forces the following identifications in \mathfrak{N}_1 :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad &\pm((g, k); n_{00}, n_{10}, \dots) \\ &= \pm\left(\left(g + \sum_i i n_{i0}, k + \sum_j j n_{0j}\right); \sum_i n_{i0} + \sum_j n_{0j}, 0, 0, \dots\right) \\ &= \pm\left(\left(0, 2g + k + 2 \sum_i i n_{i0} + \sum_j j n_{0j}\right); \sum_i n_{i0} + \sum_j n_{0j}, 0, 0, \dots\right) \\ \text{(ii)} \quad &\pm((a, p), (b, q); n_{00}, n_{10}, \dots) \\ &= \pm\left(\left(a + b + \sum_i i n_{i0}, p + q + \sum_j j n_{0j}\right); 1 + \sum_i n_{i0} + \sum_j n_{0j}, 0, 0, \dots\right) \\ &= \pm\left(\left(0, 2a + 2b + p + q + 2 \sum_i i n_{i0} + \sum_j j n_{0j}\right); 1 + \sum_i n_{i0} + \sum_j n_{0j}, 0, 0, \dots\right). \end{aligned}$$

Here we use ‘=’ rather than the usual ‘ \sim ’ to mean equivalent, in order to avoid confusion with the relation \sim defined earlier. For the first step in each equivalence we have used the fact that c_α is a group homomorphism. For the second step we have used the fact that the torus and the Klein bottle each with two discs removed

are equivalent in $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{N}_1)$ (by the proof of Theorem 3.3) and therefore also in \mathfrak{N}_1 . We see that every morphism in \mathfrak{N}_1 is equivalent to an element of \mathcal{N}_1^- union a collection of spheres, or its inverse, or a composition of such things.

Step 3: The next step is to eliminate the spheres, meaning that every element of \mathfrak{N}_1 is equivalent to an element of $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{N}_1^-)$. We show that

$$((0, -2); 0, 0, \dots) = ((0, 0); 1, 0, 0, \dots)$$

in \mathfrak{N} , in other words the inverse of the Klein bottle with two discs removed is a cylinder union a sphere, or by our earlier identification, the inverse of the torus with two discs removed is a cylinder union a sphere, for which we follow [Til96, Theorem 7].

We recall that conjugation $c_\alpha : \mathfrak{N}_m \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}_n$ via $\beta \rightarrow \alpha^{-1}\beta\alpha$ is a group isomorphism for any $\alpha : n \rightarrow m$. Let α be the union of a cylinder and a disc as a morphism $1 \rightarrow 2$. We consider the following two representatives for the inverse of α in \mathfrak{N} : let $\beta_1 : 2 \rightarrow 1$ be the pair of pants surface, and let $\beta_2 : 2 \rightarrow 1$ be the union of a disc, a cylinder and the inverse of a sphere. In order for conjugation to be well defined, we must have $\beta_1\gamma\alpha = \beta_2\gamma\alpha$ in \mathfrak{N} for any morphism $\gamma : 2 \rightarrow 2$. Taking γ to be the union of the pair of pants surface and a disc, we see that the twice punctured torus union a sphere is the identity (see Figure 3.2).

By composing each side of the above equation with $((0, 1); 0, 0, \dots)$, the projective plane with two discs removed, it follows that in \mathfrak{N} $((0, -1); 0, 0, \dots) = ((0, 1); 1, 0, 0, \dots)$ and more generally

$$((0, -k); 0, 0, \dots) = ((0, k); k, 0, 0, \dots),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} ((0, k); n_{00}, 0, 0, \dots) &= ((0, k - n_{00}); 0, 0, \dots) \circ ((0, n_{00}); n_{00}, 0, 0, \dots) \\ &= ((0, k - n_{00}); 0, 0, \dots) \circ ((0, -n_{00}); 0, 0, \dots) \\ &= ((0, k - 2n_{00}); 0, 0, \dots). \end{aligned}$$

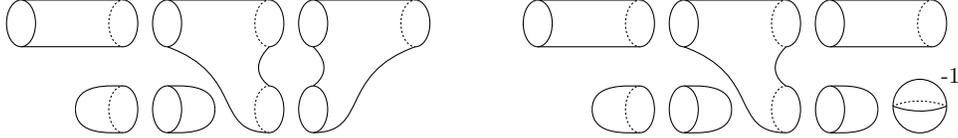


Figure 3.2: $c_\alpha(\gamma) = \beta_1\gamma\alpha$ and $c_\alpha(\gamma) = \beta_2\gamma\alpha$.

Applying these identities to the equivalences (i) and (ii) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)'} &\pm ((g, k); n_{00}, n_{10}, \dots) \\ &= \pm((0, 2g + k + 2 \sum_i (i-1)n_{i0} + \sum_j (j-2)n_{0j}); 0, 0, \dots) \\ \text{(ii)'} &\pm ((a, p), (b, q); n_{00}, n_{10}, \dots) \\ &= \pm((0, 2(a+b-1) + (p+q) + 2 \sum_i (i-1)n_{i0} + \sum_j (j-2)n_{0j}); 0, 0, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

and so every element of \mathfrak{N}_1 is of the desired form. It remains to show that there are no further relations.

Step 4: The functor $\Theta : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is morphism inverting and hence factors through \mathfrak{N} by the universal property of localisations. Let Θ denote the unique functor $\mathfrak{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ corresponding to Θ , so that the following diagram

commutes, where $\psi : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}$ is the canonical projection.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{N} & \xrightarrow{\psi} & \mathfrak{N} \\ & \searrow \Theta & \swarrow \bar{\Theta} \\ & \mathbb{Z} & \end{array}$$

Since $\bar{\Theta}((0, \pm k); 0, 0, \dots) = \mp \chi((0, k); 0, 0, \dots) = \pm k$ we see that $\bar{\Theta}|_{\mathfrak{N}_1} : \mathfrak{N}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is an isomorphism. Hence all further relations on \mathfrak{N}_1 are trivial, and therefore $\mathfrak{N} \sim \mathfrak{N}_1 = \mathbb{Z}$.

Finally we note that Θ is a map of symmetric monoidal categories by Proposition 2.4, and so is $\bar{\Theta}$. Indeed, they are strict monoidal functors of based, strict symmetric monoidal categories. Let $\Phi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ be the functor that assigns to the integer k the endomorphism of the empty 1-manifold consisting of k copies of the projective plane. Both Φ and $\bar{\Phi} := \psi \circ \Phi$ are based symmetric monoidal, and the pair $(\bar{\Theta}, \bar{\Phi})$ gives rise to a based symmetric monoidal equivalence in the sense of Definition A.7. \square

The subcategory of orientable surfaces in \mathcal{N} was considered in [Til96].

Theorem 3.8. *The localisation of $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N}$ is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.* \square

Indeed, by restricting to only orientable surfaces the proof of Theorem 3.6 will reprove this result and identify the torus with two discs removed as a generator of the automorphism group of the circle. In \mathfrak{N} this is equivalent to the Klein bottle with two discs removed. Thus the inclusion $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}$ induces on localisations the multiplication by 2 map. It is somewhat surprising that the morphism $C_r^{S^1}$ plays no part in the localisation of \mathcal{N} ; one might have expected a \mathbb{Z}_2 factor to appear.

3.3. Localisations of \mathcal{O} and $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$

Let $\bar{\mathcal{O}}$ be the full subcategory of \mathcal{K} on objects that are disjoint unions of intervals. We defined the open category \mathcal{O} to be the subcategory of $\bar{\mathcal{O}}$ containing all its objects, and those morphisms which do not have any closed components. We can view the category \mathcal{N}_0 as a subcategory of $\bar{\mathcal{O}}$; it is the subcategory of closed endomorphisms of the empty 1-manifold 0. Note that there is a Cartesian product decomposition

$$\mathcal{O} \times \mathcal{N}_0 \simeq \bar{\mathcal{O}}$$

of symmetric monoidal categories and that localisation commutes with Cartesian product. We thus turn our attention to \mathcal{O} .

Theorem 3.9. $\mathfrak{D} := \mathcal{O}[\mathcal{O}^{-1}]$ *is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.*

Proof. For each object $n \in \mathcal{O}$ define $\mathfrak{D}_n := \text{Aut}_{\mathfrak{D}}(n)$. The category \mathcal{O} is strongly connected for every object. We proceed as in the proof of Theorem 3.6. As the arguments are similar, we give only the essential steps.

Step 1: We will first describe the monoid $\text{End}_{\mathcal{O}}(I)$. Disregarding components with entirely free boundary, elements of this monoid take one of three forms depicted in Figure 3.3. For each cobordism in the picture, the thickened lines represent the source and target boundaries of the morphism. The thin lines represent free boundary. The morphism on the left is the disc as an endomorphism of the interval I , and the centre morphism is two discs. The morphism on the right is the cylinder as an endomorphism of I , and we often refer to this surface as the *whistle*. Each component has some genus g , number of crosscaps k , and number of windows w . Components of a morphism which have entirely free boundary are discs, also with genus, crosscaps and windows. We will refer to the standard disc D^2 with entirely free boundary as the *free* disc.

Next we show that, if we are only interested in the localisation, we do not need to mention boundary maps. Indeed, conjugation $c_\alpha : \mathfrak{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}_0$ is an isomorphism for any $\alpha : 0 \rightarrow 1$. Let α be the disc as a morphism $0 \rightarrow 1$, and note that an inverse for α is the disc: $1 \rightarrow 0$ union the inverse of a free disc. Under c_α , the disc C_r^I and the identity 1_I both map to \emptyset . It follows that C_r^I and 1_I are equivalent in \mathfrak{D} .

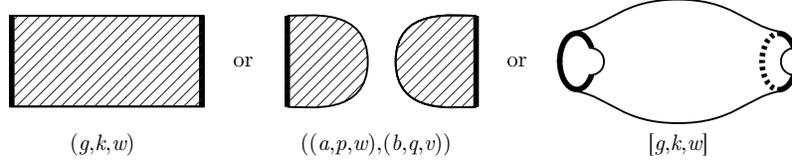


Figure 3.3: Three kinds of morphisms in $\text{End}_{\mathcal{O}}(I)$.

From the above discussion (and ignoring type) we can write the monoid $\text{End}_{\mathcal{O}}(I)$ as

$$\left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \amalg \left(\left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \times \left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \right) \amalg \left(\frac{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}}{\sim} \right) \right) \times (\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}_{>0} \times \mathbb{N}})$$

where the relation on each component is $(g, k, w) \sim (0, 2g + k, w)$ for non-zero k . Addition in the monoid is non-commutative and defined by the geometry. Elements are written in one of the following ways:

- $((g, k, w); n_{000}, n_{100}, n_{010}, \dots, n_{001}, n_{101}, n_{011}, \dots, \dots)$ represents a connected morphism as in the left of Figure 3.3 along with n_{000} free discs, n_{100} punctured tori, n_{010} Möbius bands, \dots, n_{001} annuli, n_{101} twice punctured tori, n_{011} twice punctured projective planes, and so on (n_{ijt} is the number of discs with i handles, j crosscaps, and t windows).
- $((a, p, w), (b, q, v); n_{000}, n_{100}, n_{010}, \dots, n_{001}, n_{101}, n_{011}, \dots, \dots)$ represents a disconnected morphism as in the centre of Figure 3.3 along with n_{000} free discs, n_{100} punctured tori, and so on.
- $([g, k, w]; n_{000}, n_{100}, n_{010}, \dots, n_{001}, n_{101}, n_{011}, \dots, \dots)$ represents a morphism as in the right of Figure 3.3 along with n_{000} free discs etc, where we use square brackets to distinguish the whistle from the disc in the marked component.

Step 2: We next show that we may concentrate on one of the three kinds and eliminate all components with only free boundary other than the disc. This is achieved by considering the images under the conjugation map $c_{\alpha} : \mathfrak{D}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}_0$ as defined in Step 1. Let $\Sigma(g, k, w)$ denote a surface of (orientable) genus g with k crosscaps and $w + 1$ windows, i.e. the surface represented by $n_{g, k, w}$ in the above notation. We note that $c_{\alpha}(((g, k, w); 0, \dots))$ is $\Sigma(g, k, w)$ minus a free disc, $c_{\alpha}([(g, k, w]; 0, \dots))$ is $\Sigma(g, k, w + 1)$ minus a free disc, and $c_{\alpha}(((a, p, w), (b, q, v); 0, \dots))$ is $\Sigma(a, p, w) \cup \Sigma(b, q, v)$ minus a free disc. Calculations as in the proof of Theorem 3.6 show that in the localisation all morphisms can be represented by morphisms of the form $((g, k, w); n_{000}, 0, 0, \dots)$ and their inverses, and hence, as $((g, k, w); 0, \dots) = ((0, 2g + k, w); 0, \dots)$ for $k > 0$, those of the form $((0, k, w); n_{000}, 0, 0, \dots)$ and their inverses.

Step 3: We will deduce two more relations which will show that \mathfrak{D}_1 is a quotient of \mathbb{Z} .

First we consider the conjugation $c_{\alpha} : \mathfrak{D}_2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}_1$ where α is the union of two discs as a morphism $1 \rightarrow 2$ as in Figure 3.4. The following are both inverses for α . Let β_1 be the disc as a morphism $2 \rightarrow 1$, and let $\beta_2 : 2 \rightarrow 1$ be the union of two discs and an inverse free disc (see Figure 3.4). Let $\gamma : 2 \rightarrow 2$ be two discs as in the figure. Since we must have $\beta_1 \gamma \alpha = \beta_2 \gamma \alpha$ in \mathfrak{D} , we see that the annulus union a free disc is equivalent to the identity, both as morphisms $1 \rightarrow 1$. Thus in \mathfrak{D} ,

$$((0, 0, -1); 0, 0, \dots) = ((0, 0, 0); 1, 0, 0, \dots).$$

Next we consider conjugation $c_{\alpha} : \mathfrak{D}_2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{D}_1$ just as above only that we choose a different β_1 . This time β_1 is the disc as a morphism $2 \rightarrow 1$ where one of the incoming boundary maps is twisted. Note that this still defines an inverse of α . This time the surface $c_{\alpha}(\gamma)$ is a Möbius band union a free disc. Thus in \mathfrak{D} ,

$$((0, -1, 0); 0, 0, \dots) = ((0, 0, 0); 1, 0, 0, \dots).$$

Step 4: The functor $\bar{\Theta} : \mathfrak{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is surjective, mapping the Möbius band and the annulus to $1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ when considered as morphisms $1 \rightarrow 1$. Hence, in particular, \mathfrak{D}_1 is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} . \square

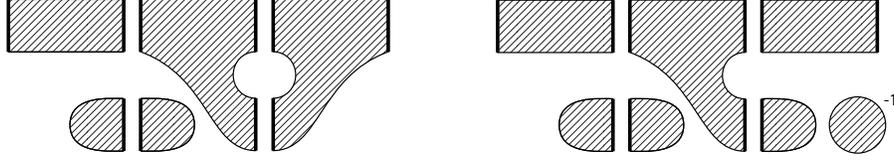


Figure 3.4: $c_\alpha(\gamma) = \beta_1\gamma\alpha$ and $c_\alpha(\gamma) = \beta_2\gamma\alpha$.

Consider now the subcategory of orientable surfaces in \mathcal{O} .

Theorem 3.10. *The localisation of $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$ is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.*

Proof. We adopt the proof of Theorem 3.8. The description of the endomorphisms of the interval simplifies in $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$ and we denote the three kinds of surfaces by $((g, w); n_{000}, \dots)$, $((a, w), (b, v); n_{000}, \dots)$ and $([g, w]; n_{000}, \dots)$. By the same argument as in Step 2 and the first part of Step 3 above we may reduce our attention to surfaces of the form $((g, 0); 0, \dots)$ and $((0, w); 0, \dots)$ and their inverses. We will show that in the localisation of $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$

$$((1, 0); 0, \dots) = ((0, -2); 0, \dots).$$

As Step 4 is still valid, this will prove the theorem.

We work in the localisation and note that $((0, 1); 1, 0, \dots)$ is the identity by the analogue of the first part of Step 3. Composing this with a cylinder considered as a morphism from the interval to itself shows that $([0, 0]; 0, 0, \dots) = ([0, w]; w, 0, \dots)$ for any w . From this identity it now follows in particular that $\beta_1\alpha = ([0, 2]; 2, 0, \dots) = ([0, 1]; 1, 0, \dots) = \beta_2\alpha$ for the morphisms α, β_1 and β_2 as depicted in Figure 3.5. Hence, the two composed surfaces $\beta_1\gamma\alpha$ and $\beta_2\gamma\alpha$ in Figure 3.5 are identified. This gives

$$([1, 3]; 3, 0, \dots) = ([0, 3]; 1, 0, \dots).$$

Finally we note that $([1, 3]; 3, \dots, 0) = ([0, 3]; 1, 0, \dots)((1, 0); 2, 0, \dots)$ which implies $((1, 0); 2, 0, \dots)$ and hence $((1, 2); 0, \dots)$ is the identity. \square

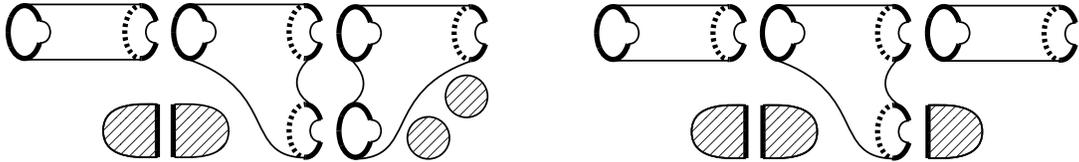


Figure 3.5: $\beta_1\gamma\alpha$ and $\beta_2\gamma\alpha$.

3.4. Localisations of $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$, \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{S}

Let $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ be the full subcategory of \mathcal{K} on those objects which are closed. Note that $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ contains and is closely related to \mathcal{N} , the difference being that in $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ we allow morphisms to have windows. In this section we compute the localisation of $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$. The results obtained, along with those from previous sections, will enable us to easily compute the localisation of \mathcal{K} .

Theorem 3.11. $\bar{\mathfrak{N}} := \bar{\mathcal{N}}[\bar{\mathcal{N}}^{-1}]$ is equivalent to $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ as a symmetric monoidal category.

Proof. $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ is strongly connected at the object S^1 , so we proceed by looking at $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\bar{\mathcal{N}}}(S^1))$. Note that morphisms in $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ are those of \mathcal{N} which may have also windows. It is a simple exercise to go through the computation of $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\mathcal{N}}(S^1))$ in the proof of Theorem 3.3 and check that every morphism in $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\bar{\mathcal{N}}}(S^1))$

can be represented by a connected surface $\Sigma_{k,w}$ with k crosscaps and w windows or its inverse or composition of such.

To see that in $\bar{\mathfrak{N}}$ the variables k and w are independent, define a functor

$$\omega : \bar{\mathcal{N}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

which sends any surface to the total number of its windows. Note that ω is functorial as gluing along circles does not introduce additional windows. Indeed, ω is a functor of symmetric monoidal categories. The product functor

$$(\Theta - \omega, \omega) : \bar{\mathcal{N}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$$

assigns to the representative $\Sigma_{k,w}$ the pair (k, w) . It factors through $\bar{\mathfrak{N}}$ where it defines thus an equivalence of symmetric monoidal categories. \square

We now turn our attention to the whole category \mathcal{K} .

Theorem 3.12. $\mathfrak{K} := \mathcal{K}[\mathcal{K}^{-1}]$ is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.

Proof. We proceed by looking at $\mathcal{G}(\text{End}_{\mathcal{K}}(S^1))$. Endomorphisms of the circle in \mathcal{K} take the same form as those in $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$. Thus we deduce that $\mathfrak{K}_{(1,0)} = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ modulo relations. Here (s, t) denotes the object consisting of s circles and t intervals. In particular, a morphism in $\mathfrak{K}_{(1,0)}$ can be represented by a connected surface Σ_k with k crosscaps, a cylinder C_w with w windows, their inverses or composition of such things.

As \mathcal{O} is a subcategory of \mathcal{K} , the relations in \mathfrak{D} must also hold in \mathfrak{K} . In \mathfrak{K} the inverse of the cylinder considered as a morphism from the interval to the circle is given by the cylinder considered as a morphism from the circle to the interval union a free disc. Conjugation by this element thus defines an isomorphism $\mathfrak{K}_{(1,0)} \rightarrow \mathfrak{K}_{(0,1)}$. In particular, using Theorem 3.8, $\Sigma_k = C_k \in \mathbb{Z} \simeq \mathfrak{D}_1$ and hence they are equal in $\mathfrak{K}_{(0,1)}$. Thus $\mathfrak{K}_{(1,0)} \simeq \mathfrak{K}_{(0,1)} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$. \square

The analogue of this theorem in the orientable case was considered in [Dou01]. We give an alternative proof here.

Theorem 3.13. The localisation of \mathcal{S} is equivalent to \mathbb{Z} as a symmetric monoidal category.

Proof. The proof of Theorem 3.10 can be adapted to prove that the localisation of $\mathcal{S} \cap \bar{\mathcal{N}}$ is equivalent to $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$. In the endomorphisms of the circle the two generators of $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ can be represented by the connected surfaces Σ_1 of genus one and by the cylinder C_1 with one window. We can map the endomorphisms of the circle to the endomorphisms of the interval in $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$ by precomposing and postcomposing with cylinders considered as morphisms from the interval to the circle and vice versa. By Theorem 3.9, Θ induces an injection on the automorphism group of any object in the localisation of $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}$. But $\Theta(\Sigma_1) = 2 = \Theta(C_2)$ and hence, in the localisation, $\Sigma_1 = C_2$ and C_1 generates the automorphism group of the circle. \square

4. Invertible TFTs

The computation of the localisations of the cobordism categories allows us to completely determine the invertible field theories defined on the subcategories of \mathcal{K} . We will focus on the case \mathcal{N} for more detailed descriptions.

4.1. Classification of functors $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$

We have seen that Θ plays an important role in analysing the cobordism categories. Here we describe all functors $F : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. Note first that F is morphism inverting and hence factors through the localisation \mathfrak{N} . It is determined by its image on:

- a generator of $\mathfrak{N}_0 = \mathbb{Z}$
- a set of connecting morphisms $p_k : 0 \rightarrow k$, one for each object $k \geq 1$ in \mathcal{N} .

We take p_k to be the union of k discs each as a cobordism from the empty set to S^1 . By Theorem 3.6, the projective plane P^2 is a generator in \mathfrak{N}_0 . Thus F is determined by the sequence of integers $\{b_0, b_1, \dots\}$ where $F(P^2) = b_0$ and $F(p_k) = b_k$. Conversely, given such a sequence of integers, we can define a functor. For a morphism $\Sigma : k \rightarrow k'$ in \mathcal{N} , put

$$F(\Sigma) := \begin{cases} b_{k'} - b_k - b_0\Theta(\Sigma) & \text{if } k, k' \geq 1 \\ b_{k'} - b_0\Theta(\Sigma) & \text{if } k = 0, k' \geq 1 \\ -b_k - b_0\Theta(\Sigma) & \text{if } k \geq 1, k' = 0 \\ -b_0\Theta(\Sigma) & \text{if } k = k' = 0. \end{cases}$$

If we set $a_0 := b_0$ and $a_k := \frac{b_k}{k}$ for $k \geq 1$, then F can also be expressed by the formula

$$F(\Sigma) = a_m m - a_n n - a_0 \Theta(\Sigma).$$

F is symmetric strict monoidal if and only if all the a_i are equal for $i \geq 1$. To see this, note that it is monoidal if and only if $F(p_{k+k'}) = F(p_k) + F(p_{k'})$ for all k, k' . This is the case if and only if $F(p_k) = kF(p_1)$, in other words if and only if $ka_k = ka_1$ for all k . We thus have proved the following result.

Proposition 4.1. *Any functor $F : \mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is determined by where it sends the projective plane P^2 and the connecting morphisms p_k . Conversely, for any set of integers $\{b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots\}$ there exists a functor sending the projective plane to b_0 , and sending p_k to b_k for all $k \geq 1$. It is symmetric strict monoidal if and only if $b_k = kb_1$ for all $k \geq 1$. \square*

Note that Proposition 4.1 depends on our particular (skeletal) choice for the cobordism category \mathcal{N} . This is somewhat unsatisfactory. We rectify the situation by considering the functor category $[\mathcal{N}, \mathbb{Z}]$ up to equivalence: the equivalence class of the functor category does not change when replacing the source or target category by an equivalent category. Hence by Theorem 3.6 we have the following equivalences of categories:

$$[\mathcal{N}, \mathbb{Z}] = [\mathfrak{N}, \mathbb{Z}] \simeq [\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}] = \mathbb{Z}.$$

The final \mathbb{Z} is the discrete category with objects \mathbb{Z} and only identity morphisms. Multiplication of integers corresponds to composition of endo functors. Theorem 3.6 (in conjunction with Proposition A.8) also allows a similar computation for the category of based symmetric monoidal functors, and again we find

$$\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{N}, \mathbb{Z}]_* \simeq \mathbb{Z}.$$

Completely analogous arguments give us the same result for \mathcal{O} , \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{S} and

$$\text{SymmMon}[\bar{\mathcal{N}}, \mathbb{Z}]_* \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}.$$

4.2. Classification of invertible TFTs

Following Atiyah [Ati89], topological field theories on a cobordism category are the symmetric monoidal functors to the category of vector spaces with monoidal product given by the tensor product. With reference to appendix A for the definition of the category of pointed symmetric monoidal functors, we make the following definitions.

Definition 4.2. Let \mathcal{C} be a subcategory of \mathcal{K} . The category of topological field theories on \mathcal{C} is defined as

$$\mathcal{C} - \text{TFT} := \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}]_*.$$

Similarly the category of invertible topological field theories on \mathcal{C} is defined as

$$\mathcal{C} - \text{TFT}^\times := \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \text{Pic}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}})]_*.$$

Recall from Appendix A.3 that the Picard category $\text{Pic}(\mathcal{D})$ associated to a symmetric monoidal category \mathcal{D} has objects that are invertible with respect to the monoidal product and all invertible morphisms between them.

Theorem 4.3. For $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{S}$ the category $\mathcal{C} - \text{TFT}^\times$ is equivalent to the discrete category \mathbb{C}^\times of non-zero complex numbers. For $\mathcal{C} = \bar{\mathcal{N}}$ it is equivalent to $\mathbb{C}^\times \times \mathbb{C}^\times$.

Proof. We consider only the case $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{N}$. The other cases are similar. We have the following equivalences of categories:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N} - \text{TFT}^\times &= \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{N}, \text{Pic}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}})]_* \\ &= \text{SymmMon}[\mathfrak{N}, \text{Pic}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}})]_* \\ &\simeq \text{SymmMon}[\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{C}^\times] \\ &= [\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{C}^\times] = \mathbb{C}^\times. \end{aligned}$$

The first equality holds by definition. The second equality holds as any invertible functor factors uniquely through the localisation of the source category. By Theorem 3.6, $\mathfrak{N} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ and by the example following definition A.12, $\text{Pic}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}) \simeq \mathbb{C}^\times$. The third equivalence therefore follows by an application of Proposition A.8. Functors of abelian groups are symmetric monoidal and are group homomorphisms. Any group homomorphism from \mathbb{Z} is determined by its image on 1. The latter identity is thus to be interpreted as an identity of sets, or equivalently, of categories with only identity morphisms. \square

In a more hands on approach, we now describe explicitly the category of symmetric monoidal functors from \mathcal{N} to $\mathbb{C}^\times = \text{Pic}(\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}^s)$, the Picard category of the skeleton of the category of complex vector spaces.

Theorem 4.4. Every functor $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ is of the form F^μ for some unique sequence $\mu = (\mu_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ of non-zero complex numbers with $\mu_0 = F^\mu(P^2)$ and $\mu_k^k = F^\mu(p_k)$ for $k \geq 1$. F^μ sends all objects of \mathcal{N} to the only object of \mathbb{C}^\times , and sends a morphism $\Sigma : n \rightarrow m$ in \mathcal{N} to

$$F^\mu(\Sigma) := \mu_m^m \mu_n^{-n} \mu_0^{-\Theta(\Sigma)}.$$

Furthermore, any such functor can be made into a symmetric monoidal functor in a unique way, and there is a unique natural isomorphism between any two such functors if and only if they take the same value on P^2 .

Proof. The same arguments as were used to classify functors $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ prove that the functors are precisely of the form as claimed. We now show that any F^μ can be given a unique structure of a symmetric monoidal functor (F^μ, F_2^μ) .

By considering the lower two diagrams of Definition A.2, and as \mathcal{N} and \mathbb{C}^\times are both strict monoidal categories, we see that the isomorphisms $F_2^\mu \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ must satisfy

$$F_2^\mu(n, 0) = F_2^\mu(0, n) = 1 \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (4.1)$$

The F_2^μ must also be natural, and using the above equation we see that

$$F_2^\mu(n, n') = \mu_n^{-n} \mu_{n'}^{-n'} \mu_{n+n'}^{n+n'}.$$

One checks that this also satisfies the symmetry axiom (the upper right hand diagram of Definition A.2). Therefore every functor $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ can be uniquely given the structure of a symmetric monoidal functor.³

³The functor (F^μ, F_2^μ) is symmetric strict monoidal if and only if all the μ_i are equal for $i \geq 1$.

We now describe the morphisms in $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{N}, \mathbb{C}^\times]_*$. Suppose we have a based natural transformation $\tau : F^\mu \rightarrow F^{\mu'}$. Then, by considering the projective plane P^2 as a morphism $0 \rightarrow 0$, naturality of τ and the fact that $\tau_0 = 1$ give $\mu_0 = \mu'_0$. So suppose this is the case. Then we deduce

$$\tau_n = (\mu'_n \mu_n^{-1})^n.$$

Finally, one checks that τ defines a based monoidal natural transformation $(F^\mu, F_2^\mu) \rightarrow (F^{\mu'}, F_2^{\mu'})$; in other words the diagram of Definition A.4 automatically commutes. Hence there is precisely one morphism between any two objects in $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{N}, \mathbb{C}^\times]_*$ which are indexed by the same μ_0 , and this morphism is an isomorphism. In particular there are no non-trivial automorphisms. \square

It is known that any \mathcal{N} -TFT corresponds uniquely to a commutative Frobenius algebra A with the following additional structure [TT06].

- An involutive automorphism $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{x}^*$ which preserves the pairing on A , that is $(\mathbf{x}^*)^* = \mathbf{x}$, $(\mathbf{xy})^* = \mathbf{x}^* \mathbf{y}^*$ and $\langle \mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{y}^* \rangle = \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle$.
- An element $U \in A$ satisfying:
 - (i) $(\mathbf{a}U)^* = \mathbf{a}U$ for all $\mathbf{a} \in A$
 - (ii) $U^2 = \sum \alpha_{ij} a_i a_j^*$ where $\{a_i\}$ is a basis for A and the copairing $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow A \otimes A$ is given by $1 \mapsto \sum_{ij} \alpha_{ij} a_i \otimes a_j$.

In terms of cobordisms, the multiplication on the vector space $F(S^1) = A$ corresponds to the pair of pants surface as a morphism $S^1 \amalg S^1 \rightarrow S^1$, the unit is given by the image of 1 under the linear map $F(p_1) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow A$, the pairing corresponds to the composition of the pair of pants with the disc as a morphism $S^1 \rightarrow \emptyset$, the involution is given by $F(C_r^{S^1})$, and the element U is the image of 1 under the linear map $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow A$ corresponding to the Möbius band as a morphism $\emptyset \rightarrow S^1$. For the invertible field theory defined by $F^{\mu_0} := F^\mu$ with $\mu_i = 1$ for all $i \geq 1$ we observe the following.

Corollary 4.5. *The Frobenius algebra corresponding to the invertible \mathcal{N} -TFT defined by F^{μ_0} is \mathbb{C} with its usual algebra structure, and pairing given by $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle = \mu_0^2 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{y}$. The involutive automorphism is the identity, and the element U is equal to μ_0^{-1} .* \square

5. On classifying spaces

The cobordism hypothesis as treated in [Lur09] is most naturally a statement about (∞, n) -categories and their functors. In this setting higher homotopies play an important role. Thus, instead of factoring through the localisation, invertible functors are those that factor through the classifying space of the cobordism category appropriately interpreted, compare [Fre13]. Hence in that setting we need to understand the homotopy type of the classifying spaces in order to compute the invertible topological field theories. For the $(\infty, 1)$ -category \mathcal{C}_2 associated to \mathcal{N} this has been done in [GTMW09] where its classifying space is shown to be homotopic to the infinite loop space of a certain Thom spectrum. We consider here the classifying spaces of our discrete categories.

5.1. Classifying spaces and their fundamental groups

For any category \mathcal{C} we denote its classifying space by $B\mathcal{C}$, recalling that this is by definition the geometric realisation of the nerve $\|N\mathcal{C}\|$. If \mathcal{C} is connected then the fundamental group $\pi_1(B\mathcal{C})$ is canonically isomorphic to the group of automorphisms of any object in the localisation $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$ [Qui73]. Hence, having computed the localisation of a category, it is natural to ask what its classifying space might be.

We briefly recall the following three useful facts regarding classifying spaces. Firstly, a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ induces a map $BF : B\mathcal{C} \rightarrow B\mathcal{C}'$. Secondly, for product categories we have $B(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}') \simeq B\mathcal{C} \times B\mathcal{C}'$. Finally, a natural transformation between two functors $F_0, F_1 : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ induces a homotopy $BF_0 \rightarrow BF_1$ [Seg68]. It follows that a pair of adjoint functors $F_0 : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ and $F_1 : \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ (and in particular an equivalence of categories) induces a homotopy equivalence $B\mathcal{C} \simeq B\mathcal{C}'$.

As before, let $\mathcal{G}(M)$ denote the group completion of a monoid M , that is the target of a universal homomorphism from M to a group, and let Ω denote the loop space functor. The canonical homomorphism $M \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(M)$ induces a natural transformation $\Omega B(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(M)$ which is a weak equivalence when M satisfies certain properties as defined by Quillen [Qui94]. In particular, this map is a weak equivalence when M is abelian. It follows that $B(M) \simeq B\mathcal{G}(M)$ for abelian monoids M . Hence for a category \mathcal{C} with abelian monoid structure we have $B\mathcal{C} \simeq B\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$ induced by the canonical projection $\psi : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$.

Recall that $B\mathbb{Z} \simeq S^1$ is the circle and $B\mathbb{Z}_2 \simeq \mathbb{R}P^\infty$ is the infinite real projective space. Our analysis of the subcategories in section 2 and Theorem 3.3 immediately give us the following.

Corollary 5.1. *There are homotopy equivalences*

$$\begin{aligned} B\mathcal{N}_0 &= B\mathbb{N}^\infty \simeq T^\infty \\ B\mathcal{N}_1^+ &= B(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq S^1 \times \mathbb{R}P^\infty \\ B\mathcal{N}_1^- &= B\mathbb{N} \simeq S^1 \\ B\mathcal{N}_b &\simeq B\mathbb{N} \simeq S^1 \\ B\mathcal{N}_1 &\simeq B\mathbb{Z} \simeq S^1. \end{aligned}$$

Our description of the categories lets us also describe the maps between the categories up to homotopy. Thus for example, the map $B\mathcal{N}_1^+ \rightarrow B\mathcal{N}_1$ induced by the inclusion $\mathcal{N}_1^+ \hookrightarrow \mathcal{N}_1$ is homotopic to $(z, x) \mapsto 2z$, while the map $B\mathcal{N}_1^- \rightarrow B\mathcal{N}_1$ induced by the inclusion $\mathcal{N}_1^- \hookrightarrow \mathcal{N}_1$ is a homotopy equivalence.

The computation of the localisations in section 3 immediately imply the following.

Corollary 5.2. *The fundamental groups of classifying spaces can be identified as*

$$\pi_1(B\mathcal{N}) \simeq \pi_1(B\mathcal{O}) \simeq \pi_1(B\mathcal{K}) \simeq \pi_1(B(\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{O})) \simeq \pi_1(B\mathcal{S}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$$

and

$$\pi_1(B(\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N})) \simeq \mathbb{Z}, \quad \pi_1(B\bar{\mathcal{N}}) \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}.$$

The inclusion of $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N}$ into \mathcal{N} induces the multiplication by 2 map. □

5.2. Discrete localisation conjecture

The computation of the localisations of the cobordism categories gives the first homotopy groups of their classifying spaces. In the case of monoids, this completely determines the homotopy type of their classifying spaces, as we have seen in Corollary 5.1. In those cases all higher homotopy groups are trivial. We conjecture that the same is true also for our main categories.

Conjecture 5.3. *On classifying spaces the canonical maps from $\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{O}, \bar{\mathcal{N}}, \mathcal{K}$ and the orientable subcategories to their respective localisations induce homotopy equivalences.*

In particular this would mean that Θ induces on classifying spaces a homotopy equivalence with S^1 in the cases of $\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{K}$ and their orientable subcategories, and with $S^1 \times S^1$ in case of $\bar{\mathcal{N}}$.

The analogue of the above conjecture for the closed cobordism category for orientable surfaces $\mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{N}$ has been outstanding many years, compare [Til96]. It is especially surprising that these conjectures are not settled as the classifying spaces of the associated topological categories have been computed in [GMTW09].

We note that up to homotopy, any CW-complex is the classifying space of a discrete category and any infinite loop space is the classifying space of a symmetric monoidal category. We offer the following result in partial support of the above conjecture.

Theorem 5.4. *Let $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{K}$ or one of their orientable subcategories. Then there exists a simply connected infinite loop space X (depending on \mathcal{C}) such that $B\mathcal{C}$ is homotopy equivalent to $X \times S^1$. Similarly, there exists a simply connected infinite loop space X such that $B\bar{\mathcal{N}}$ is homotopy equivalent to $X \times S^1 \times S^1$.*

Proof. We will only discuss the case $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{N}$. The other cases are similar. See also [Til96]. It is well-known that the classifying space of a connected symmetric strict monoidal category has the homotopy type of an infinite loop space [May74], [Seg74]. Moreover, a symmetric monoidal functor induces a map of infinite loop spaces on the classifying spaces of two such categories. Since the Euler characteristic is additive with respect to disjoint union, it follows that the induced map $\Theta : B\mathcal{N} \rightarrow B\mathbb{Z}$ is a map of infinite loop spaces.

The composition $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \cong \mathcal{N}_1^- \hookrightarrow \mathcal{N} \xrightarrow{\Theta} \mathbb{Z}$ is $(n, \epsilon) \mapsto -n$, in other words it is the canonical map $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}_2) = \mathbb{Z}$ composed with an isomorphism. Therefore the induced map on classifying spaces is a homotopy equivalence. It follows that Θ has a section, that is a map $s : B\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow B\mathcal{N}$ with $\Theta \circ s \simeq \text{Id}_{B\mathbb{Z}}$.

Let X be the homotopy fibre of $\Theta : B\mathcal{N} \rightarrow B\mathbb{Z}$, and denote the map $X \rightarrow B\mathcal{N}$ by ϕ . Note that X is an infinite loop space, since Θ is a map of infinite loop spaces. We show that X is simply connected, and that the map $\Psi : X \times B\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow B\mathcal{N}$ defined by $(x, y) \mapsto \phi(x) \cdot s(y)$ is a weak equivalence, where the product \cdot on $B\mathcal{N}$ is the loop product.

Since Θ has a section, the long exact sequence in homotopy

$$\cdots \rightarrow \pi_n X \xrightarrow{\phi_*} \pi_n(B\mathcal{N}) \xrightarrow{\Theta_*} \pi_n S^1 \rightarrow \pi_{n-1} X \rightarrow \cdots$$

splits as short exact sequences $0 \rightarrow \pi_n X \xrightarrow{\phi_*} \pi_n(B\mathcal{N}) \xrightarrow{\Theta_*} \pi_n S^1 \rightarrow 0$. Considering this short exact sequence in dimensions $n = 0$ and $n = 1$, we see that X is simply connected. We therefore have split short exact sequences of abelian groups in every dimension, and hence isomorphisms $\pi_n(X \times S^1) \rightarrow \pi_n(B\mathcal{N})$ given by $[x, y] \mapsto \phi_*[x]s_*[y]$. But these are precisely the maps induced by Ψ . Hence Ψ is a weak equivalence, and therefore a homotopy equivalence by Whitehead's theorem as required. \square

Appendix A The category of based symmetric monoidal functors

In this appendix we introduce the notions of based symmetric monoidal categories, based functors and based equivalences between them. We prove that the associated functor categories are equivalent if the source or target category is replaced by an equivalent category. Furthermore, this remains true when considering invertible functors. To define the latter the Picard category of a symmetric monoidal category is introduced.

A.1 Based symmetric monoidal equivalences

Notation. $\langle \mathcal{C}, \otimes, e, \alpha, \lambda, \rho, \gamma \rangle$ will denote the symmetric monoidal category \mathcal{C} with product $\otimes : \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$, unit $e \in \mathcal{C}$, associator α , left and right unitors λ and ρ , and braiding γ . Recall that for all objects $a, b, c \in \mathcal{C}$

the components

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{a,b} &: a \otimes (b \otimes c) \rightarrow (a \otimes b) \otimes c \\ \lambda_a &: e \otimes a \rightarrow a \\ \rho_a &: a \otimes e \rightarrow a \\ \gamma_{a,b} &: a \otimes b \rightarrow b \otimes a\end{aligned}$$

are isomorphisms in \mathcal{C} , natural in a, b and c , and must satisfy certain commutativity requirements as described by Mac Lane [ML98]. Recall also that

$$\gamma_{b,a} \circ \gamma_{a,b} = 1_{a \otimes b}.$$

Finally, recall that $\langle \mathcal{C}, \otimes, e, \alpha, \lambda, \rho, \gamma \rangle$ is a symmetric *strict* monoidal category if the morphisms α, ρ and λ are all identities.

We shall often denote the symmetric monoidal category $\langle \mathcal{C}, \otimes, e, \alpha, \lambda, \rho, \gamma \rangle$ simply by \mathcal{C} .

Definition A.1. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}' be symmetric monoidal categories with respective units e and e' . Then we say that

- (i) a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ is *based* if $F(e) = e'$;
- (ii) a natural transformation $\tau : F \rightarrow G$ between two based functors $F, G : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ is *based* if $\tau_e = 1_{e'}$.

Definition A.2. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}' be symmetric monoidal categories. We define a *based symmetric monoidal functor*⁴ $(F, F_2) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ to be a pair consisting of

- (i) an (ordinary) based functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$;
- (ii) for each pair of objects $a, b \in \mathcal{C}$ an isomorphism

$$F_2(a, b) : F(a) \otimes' F(b) \rightarrow F(a \otimes b)$$

in \mathcal{C}' which is natural in a and b .

Together these must make the following four diagrams commute in \mathcal{C}' .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(a) \otimes' (F(b) \otimes' F(c)) & \xrightarrow{\alpha'} & (F(a) \otimes' F(b)) \otimes' F(c) \\ \downarrow 1 \otimes' F_2 & & \downarrow F_2 \otimes' 1 \\ F(a) \otimes' F(b \otimes c) & & F(a \otimes b) \otimes' F(c) \\ \downarrow F_2 & & \downarrow F_2 \\ F(a \otimes (b \otimes c)) & \xrightarrow{F(\alpha)} & F((a \otimes b) \otimes c) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} F(a) \otimes' F(b) & \xrightarrow{\gamma'} & F(b) \otimes' F(a) \\ \downarrow F_2 & & \downarrow F_2 \\ F(a \otimes b) & \xrightarrow{F(\gamma)} & F(b \otimes a) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(a) \otimes' e' & \xrightarrow{\rho'} & F(a) \\ \parallel & & \uparrow F(\rho) \\ F(a) \otimes' F(e) & \xrightarrow{F_2} & F(a \otimes e) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} e' \otimes' F(a) & \xrightarrow{\lambda'} & F(a) \\ \parallel & & \uparrow F(\lambda) \\ F(e) \otimes' F(a) & \xrightarrow{F_2} & F(e \otimes a) \end{array}$$

In the case of a strict source and target, we say that (F, F_2) is a based symmetric *strict* monoidal functor if all F_2 are identities.

⁴In the terminology of Mac Lane [ML98], (F, F_2) is a symmetric *strong* monoidal functor which is strict with respect to units.

Lemma A.3. Let $(F, F_2) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ and $(G, G_2) : \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}''$ be based symmetric monoidal functors. Then the composite $(G \circ F, (G \circ F)_2) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}''$ is a based symmetric monoidal functor, where we define

$$(G \circ F)_2(a, b) := G(F_2(a, b)) \circ G_2(F(a), F(b))$$

for all objects $a, b \in \mathcal{C}$. \square

Definition A.4. Let $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}'$ be symmetric monoidal categories, and let $(F, F_2), (G, G_2) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ be based symmetric monoidal functors. A *based monoidal natural transformation* $\tau : (F, F_2) \rightarrow (G, G_2)$ between (F, F_2) and (G, G_2) is a based natural transformation $\tau : F \rightarrow G$ between the underlying ordinary functors, such that the following diagram commutes in \mathcal{C}' for all objects $a, b \in \mathcal{C}$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(a) \otimes' F(b) & \xrightarrow{F_2} & F(a \otimes b) \\ \tau_a \otimes' \tau_b \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau_{a \otimes b} \\ G(a) \otimes' G(b) & \xrightarrow{G_2} & G(a \otimes b) \end{array}$$

Remark A.5. One could ask that τ be in some sense symmetric, in that it should satisfy $(\tau_b \otimes' \tau_a) \circ \gamma'_{F(a), F(b)} = \gamma'_{G(a), G(b)} \circ (\tau_a \otimes' \tau_b)$ and $\tau_{b \otimes a} \circ F(\gamma_{a,b}) = G(\gamma_{a,b}) \circ \tau_{a \otimes b}$. But this is redundant; both properties hold automatically by naturality of γ' and τ .

Lemma A.6. Let $(F, F_2), (G, G_2), (H, H_2) : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$ be based symmetric monoidal functors between symmetric monoidal categories. Let $\tau : (F, F_2) \rightarrow (G, G_2)$ and $\sigma : (G, G_2) \rightarrow (H, H_2)$ be based monoidal natural transformations. Then the composite $\sigma \circ \tau : (F, F_2) \rightarrow (H, H_2)$ is a based monoidal natural transformation, where $(\sigma \circ \tau)_a := \sigma_a \circ \tau_a$ for each object $a \in \mathcal{C}$. \square

Definition A.7. For symmetric monoidal categories \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , denote by $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_*$ the category whose objects are based symmetric monoidal functors $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, and whose morphisms are based monoidal natural transformations.

Definition A.8. Let \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' be symmetric monoidal categories. A *based symmetric monoidal equivalence* between \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' is a quadruple $((\phi, \phi_2), (\psi, \psi_2), \eta, \varepsilon)$ where

- (i) $(\phi, \phi_2) : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'$ and $(\psi, \psi_2) : \mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ are based symmetric monoidal functors;
- (ii) $\phi : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'$ and $\psi : \mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ form an equivalence of categories in the usual way;
- (iii) the unit $\eta : 1_{\mathcal{D}} \rightarrow \psi \circ \phi$ and counit $\varepsilon : \phi \circ \psi \rightarrow 1_{\mathcal{D}'}$ of this equivalence are based monoidal natural isomorphisms, i.e. based monoidal natural transformations with η_a and ε_a isomorphisms for all objects a .

We often say that a single functor (ϕ, ϕ_2) is a based symmetric monoidal equivalence if the corresponding $(\psi, \psi_2), \eta$ and ε exist.

Proposition A.9. Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}' as well as \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' be pairs of equivalent based symmetric monoidal categories. Then the functor categories $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_*$ and $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}', \mathcal{D}']_*$ are equivalent.

Proof. Suppose we have a based symmetric monoidal equivalence $((\phi, \phi_2), (\psi, \psi_2), \eta, \varepsilon)$ between \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' as in Definition A.8. For objects $(F, F_2), (G, G_2)$ and morphisms $\tau : (F, F_2) \rightarrow (G, G_2)$ in $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_*$ we define a functor $\Phi : \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_* \rightarrow \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_*$ as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi : \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_* &\rightarrow \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_* \\ (F, F_2) &\mapsto (\phi \circ F, (\phi \circ F)_2) \\ \tau &\mapsto \Phi(\tau) \text{ where } \Phi(\tau)_a := \phi(\tau_a) \text{ for all objects } a \in \mathcal{C}. \end{aligned}$$

It is routine to check that Φ is functorial, and by Lemma A.3 $\Phi((F, F_2))$ is indeed an object in $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_*$. Naturality of $\Phi(\tau)$ follows from naturality of τ , and $\Phi(\tau)$ is based since ϕ and τ are based. To check that

$\Phi(\tau)$ is monoidal one checks the commutativity of the following diagram. For brevity we denote the tensor products in \mathcal{C} , \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' all by \otimes .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\phi \circ F)(a) \otimes (\phi \circ F)(b) & \xrightarrow{(\phi \circ F)_2} & (\phi \circ F)(a \otimes b) \\ \phi(\tau_a) \otimes \phi(\tau_b) \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi(\tau_{a \otimes b}) \\ (\phi \circ G)(a) \otimes (\phi \circ G)(b) & \xrightarrow{(\phi \circ G)_2} & (\phi \circ G)(a \otimes b) \end{array}$$

In the other direction we define a functor

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi : \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_* &\rightarrow \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_* \\ (F, F_2) &\mapsto (\psi \circ F, (\psi \circ F)_2) \\ \tau &\mapsto \Psi(\tau) \text{ where } \Psi(\tau)_a := \psi(\tau_a) \text{ for all objects } a \in \mathcal{C} \end{aligned}$$

and by similar arguments this satisfies all the required properties. It remains to show that Φ and Ψ define an equivalence of categories. Define a natural isomorphism

$$\bar{\eta} : 1_{\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_*} \rightarrow \Psi \circ \Phi$$

by

$$(\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)})_a := \eta_{F(a)}$$

for objects $a \in \mathcal{C}$. We have two things to check: that the components $\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)}$ are indeed isomorphisms in $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_*$, and that $\bar{\eta}$ is natural.

To show that $\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)} : (F, F_2) \rightarrow (\psi \circ F, (\psi \circ F)_2)$ is a based monoidal natural isomorphism we argue as follows. Clearly $(\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)})_a$ is invertible, since η is a natural isomorphism. We also see that $\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)}$ is based since F and η are based, and naturality follows from naturality of η . It remains to check that $\bar{\eta}_{(F, F_2)}$ is monoidal, for which we must verify the commutativity of the following diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(a) \otimes F(b) & \xrightarrow{F_2} & F(a \otimes b) \\ \eta_{F(a)} \otimes \eta_{F(b)} \downarrow & & \downarrow \eta_{F(a \otimes b)} \\ (\psi \circ \phi \circ F)(a) \otimes (\psi \circ \phi \circ F)(b) & \xrightarrow{(\psi \circ \phi \circ F)_2} & (\psi \circ \phi \circ F)(a \otimes b) \end{array}$$

Finally, one checks that naturality of $\bar{\eta}$ again follows from naturality of η . Conversely we define

$$\bar{\varepsilon} : \Phi \circ \Psi \rightarrow 1_{\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}']_*}$$

by

$$(\bar{\varepsilon}_{(F, F_2)})_a := \varepsilon_{F(a)}.$$

Via similar arguments we see that $\bar{\varepsilon}$ is a natural isomorphism, and hence $(\Phi, \Psi, \bar{\eta}, \bar{\varepsilon})$ defines an equivalence of categories. One proceeds in a similar fashion when replacing \mathcal{C} by \mathcal{C}' . \square

A.2 The skeleton of a symmetric monoidal category

The purpose of this subsection is to show that the skeleton of a symmetric monoidal category has a symmetric monoidal structure such that it is equivalent to the category itself as a symmetric monoidal category.

Proposition A.10. *Let $\langle \mathcal{C}, \otimes, e, \alpha, \lambda, \rho, \gamma \rangle$ be a symmetric monoidal category, and let $\mathcal{C}^s \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ be a skeleton of \mathcal{C} . Denote by $\phi(a)$ the object in \mathcal{C}^s representing the isomorphism class of the object $a \in \mathcal{C}$, and set $\phi(e) := e$. Choose one fixed isomorphism $\phi_a : a \rightarrow \phi(a)$ for each a , setting $\phi_{\phi(a)} := 1_{\phi(a)}$. Then \mathcal{C}^s can be*

given a monoidal structure $\langle \mathcal{C}^s, \otimes^s, e, \alpha^s, \lambda^s, \rho^s, \gamma^s \rangle$ where the structure maps are defined as follows. For objects u, u', v, v', w and morphisms $f : u \rightarrow v, f' : u' \rightarrow v'$ in \mathcal{C}^s we define

$$\begin{aligned}
\textbf{Product} \quad u \otimes^s u' &:= \phi(u \otimes u') \\
f \otimes^s f' &:= \phi_{v \otimes v'} \circ (f \otimes f') \circ \phi_{u \otimes u'}^{-1} \\
\textbf{Associator} \quad \alpha_{u,v,w}^s &:= \phi_{\phi(u \otimes v) \otimes w} \circ (\phi_{u \otimes v} \otimes 1_w) \circ \alpha_{u,v,w} \circ (1_u \otimes \phi_{v \otimes w}^{-1}) \circ \phi_{u \otimes \phi(v \otimes w)}^{-1} \\
\textbf{Unitors} \quad \lambda_u^s &:= \lambda_u \circ \phi_{e \otimes u}^{-1} \\
\rho_u^s &:= \rho_u \circ \phi_{u \otimes e}^{-1} \\
\textbf{Braiding} \quad \gamma_{u,v} &:= \phi_{v \otimes u} \circ \gamma_{u,v} \circ \phi_{u \otimes v}^{-1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Checking that the appropriate diagrams commute is a long but standard process. The required properties hold for the skeletal structure maps in \mathcal{C}^s as a consequence of the fact that they hold for the analogous maps in \mathcal{C} . \square

Proposition A.11. *The inclusion $(i, i_2) : \mathcal{C}^s \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}$ where $i_2(u, v) := \phi_{u \otimes v}$ is a based symmetric monoidal equivalence of categories.* \square

Putting together Proposition A.9 and Proposition A.11 we obtain the following.

Corollary A.12. *Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be symmetric monoidal categories, and let \mathcal{D}^s be a skeleton of \mathcal{D} with symmetric monoidal structure as in Proposition A.10. Then the inclusion $\mathcal{D}^s \hookrightarrow \mathcal{D}$ induces an equivalence of categories $\text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}^s]_* \rightarrow \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_*$.* \square

A.2.1 A skeleton for $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$

Define $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}^s \subset \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$ to be the skeleton of $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$ whose objects are $\{\mathbb{C}^n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}\}$ (so for an n -dimensional vector space V^n we have $\phi(V^n) := \mathbb{C}^n$). Choose the isomorphism $\phi_{\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}} : \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ in the canonical way, that is to say $z \otimes z' \mapsto zz'$. We give $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}^s$ a symmetric monoidal structure as in Proposition A.10. Explicitly this means that for linear maps $\sigma : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ and $\sigma' : \mathbb{C}^{n'} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m'}$ in $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}^s$ we have

$$\sigma \otimes^s \sigma' := \phi_{\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^{m'}} \circ (\sigma \otimes \sigma') \circ \phi_{\mathbb{C}^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^{n'}}^{-1} : \mathbb{C}^{nn'} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{mm'}.$$

In particular if we consider two linear maps $\sigma, \sigma' : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, that is to say two elements $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathbb{C}$, the canonical choice of $\phi_{\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}}$ has two consequences. Firstly we have $\sigma \otimes^s \sigma' = \sigma \sigma' \in \mathbb{C}$. Secondly, the structure map components $\alpha_{\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}}^s, \lambda_{\mathbb{C}}^s, \rho_{\mathbb{C}}^s$ and $\gamma_{\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}}^s$ are all identities, and so the monoidal structure on $\mathbb{C} \subset \text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}^s$ is strict.

A.3 Invertible functors of symmetric monoidal categories

An invertible functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ sends every morphism in \mathcal{C} to an invertible morphism in \mathcal{D} . In particular, the functor factors through the localisation $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$. In the presence of a symmetric monoidal structure we consider a more refined notion of invertible functors for which the image of any object is also invertible.

Definition A.13. An object a of a symmetric monoidal category \mathcal{D} is called *invertible* if there exists another object \bar{a} with $a \otimes \bar{a}$ isomorphic to the unit e . The Picard category $\text{Pic}(\mathcal{D})$ is the subcategory of invertible objects and morphisms.

For example, the Picard category of $\text{Vect}_{\mathbb{C}}$ is the category of complex lines, and the Picard group of its skeleton is \mathbb{C}^\times , the category of one object and morphisms the group of non-zero complex numbers under multiplication.

Definition A.14. An invertible functor of symmetric monoidal categories is a functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Pic}(\mathcal{D})$. We define the category of based invertible functors as

$$\text{SymmMon}^\times[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_* := \text{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}, \text{Pic}(\mathcal{D})]_*.$$

For any symmetric monoidal category \mathcal{C} , we can extend the product on \mathcal{C} to a product on its localisation $\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$ by defining $f^{-1} \otimes g^{-1} := (f \otimes g)^{-1}$ for inverses and extending bifunctorially. The localised category then has a symmetric monoidal structure inherited from \mathcal{C} by transferring the unit and structure maps along the canonical projection $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}]$. Furthermore, for a second symmetric monoidal category \mathcal{D} , a morphism inverting functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is based symmetric monoidal if and only if the corresponding functor $\bar{F} : \mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}] \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$ is based symmetric monoidal. Hence

$$\mathrm{SymmMon}^\times[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_* = \mathrm{SymmMon}[\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{C}^{-1}], \mathrm{Pic}(\mathcal{D})]_*.$$

We derive a version of Corollary A.12 in this setting.

Corollary A.15. *Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} be symmetric monoidal categories, and let \mathcal{D}^s be a skeleton of \mathcal{D} . Then the inclusion $\mathcal{D}^s \hookrightarrow \mathcal{D}$ induces an equivalence of categories*

$$\mathrm{SymmMon}^\times[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}^s]_* \longrightarrow \mathrm{SymmMon}^\times[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{D}]_*.$$

Proof. It is straight forward to show that if \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{D}' are equivalent based symmetric monoidal categories then so are their Picard categories. \square

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