

# How long does it take to frame a bicategory?

Juan Orendain

[juan.orendain@case.edu](mailto:juan.orendain@case.edu)

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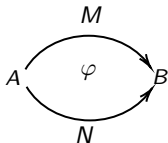
# Plan for the talk

1. Mod-like bicategories.
2. Globularly generated double categories.
3. Length
4. Free globularly generated double category.
5. Canonical projection.
6. Framed bicategories.

Mod-like bicategories

# The bicategory of algebras

**Mod** denotes the bicategory whose 2-cells are of the form:

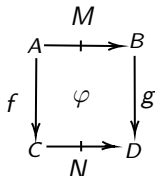


where  $A$  and  $B$  are unital complex algebras,  ${}_A M_B$  and  ${}_A N_B$  are bimodules and  $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$  is a bimodule morphism, i.e.  $\varphi(axb) = a\varphi(x)b$ . Horizontal identity and horizontal composition in **Mod** are  ${}_A A_A$  and  $M \otimes_B N$ .

$A, B$  algebras.  $A, B$  are isomorphic in **Mod** if and only if  $A$  and  $B$  are Morita equivalent.  $M$  is adjoint if and only if  $M$  f.g. projective.

# The double category of algebras

**[Mod]** denotes the double category whose squares are of the form:



where  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  are algebras,  ${}_A M_B$  and  ${}_C N_D$  are bimodules,  $f : A \rightarrow C$  and  $g : B \rightarrow D$  are unital algebra morphisms, and  $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$  is a linear transformation such that the equation:

$$\varphi(a\xi b) = f(a)\varphi(\xi)g(b)$$

holds i.e. the squares of **[Mod]** are **equivariant bimodule morphisms**. Horizontal identity and horizontal composition in **[Mod]** are defined by the obvious functorial extensions of  $A \mapsto_A A_A$  and  $(M_{B,B} N) \mapsto M \otimes_B N$ .

Relation between **Mod]** and **Mod**:  $H[\mathbf{Mod}] = \mathbf{Mod}$ .

# Symmetric monoidal structure on **Mod**

What do we get from  $H[\mathbf{Mod}] = \mathbf{Mod}$ ?

Tensor product of algebras, etc. provides **Mod** with the structure of a symmetric monoidal bicategory. Coherence is in the form of invertible bimodules satisfying a bunch of very complicated equations presented in, e.g. [Kapranov, Voevodski 94'], [Schommer-Pries 11'], [Stay 13']  
Coherence data for  $\otimes$  of algebras is naturally defined in terms of unital morphisms, and satisfies MacLane equations strictly. Need a different language to express this more efficiently.

Tensor product on vertices, edges and squares of  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$  provide  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$  with the structure of a symmetric monoidal double category.  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$  is framed bicategory. Thus coherence isomorphisms of  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$  descend to coherence isomorphisms of a symmetric monoidal structure on **Mod** with tensor product  $H\otimes$ . [Shulman10']  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$  is the correct framework to equip algebras with a 2 dim symmetric monoidal structure.

## Mod-like bicategories

**Observation:** There are two types of bicategories, exemplified by **Cat** and **Mod**. **Cat** has objects, 'functions' between objects as 1-morphisms, and morphisms between these 'functions' as 2-morphisms. **Mod** has objects, other types of 'parametrized' objects as 1-morphisms, and 'functions' between 1-dimensional 'objects' as 2-morphisms. There is a correct/natural notion of morphism between objects in **Mod**, not directly included in **Mod**.

Bicategories fitting the above description of **Mod** are called **Mod-like bicategories** in [Shulman 08']. Bicategories whose objects are algebras of some sort, 1-morphisms are bimodules, and 2-morphisms bimodule morphisms are **Mod-like**

**Slogan:** A **Mod-like** bicategory  $B$  should have a category of 'function/correct' morphisms  $B^*$ . There should be a clear lift of  $B$  to a double category  $C$ , such that  $C_0 = B^*$  and such that  $HC = B$ . A **natural symmetric monoidal structure on  $B$**  should better be expressed as a **symmetric monoidal structure on  $C$** .

## An odd example

**von Neumann algebras** are a type of topological algebras used in conformal field theory, low dimensional topology, etc. **non-commutative measure spaces**. Natural notion of bimodule, bimodule morphism (intertwiners), relative tensor product (CFTP) and relative tensor unit (Haagerup standard form).

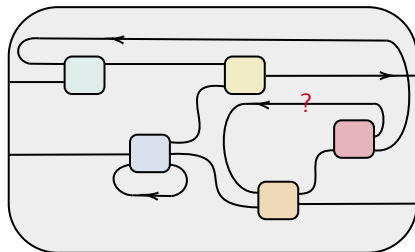
von Neumann algebras, bimodules and intertwiners form a bicategory  $W^*$ . Horizontal composition is CFTP, horizontal identity Haagerup standard form. **Clearly a Mod-like bicategory.**

Tensor product of von Neumann algebras, bimodules and intertwiners should make  $W^*$  into a symmetric monoidal bicategory. **Coherence data in terms of morphisms of von Neumann algebras. Same situation as with Mod.** **Strategy:** Lift  $W^*$  to a double category (framed bicat.)  $[W^*]$  of equivariant bimodule morphisms. Problem already considered by [Bartels, Douglas, Hénriques, 14']. **Problem:** No analytic tools to define  $U$  nor  $\odot$  on all morphisms. **Solution:** define  $[W^*]$  where there are tools, i.e. finite Jones index techniques (Factors and finite Jones index). Obtain *BDH*.



## How do we find a double cat of vN algebras?

The theory of von Neumann algebras does not give us direct tools to extend *BDH* to general morphisms. No applicable general lifting technique is available. **Strategy:** Solve the problem by understanding any such extension in terms of its 'surrounding' categorical structure, i.e. in terms of other double categories of von Neumann algebras. Pictorially:

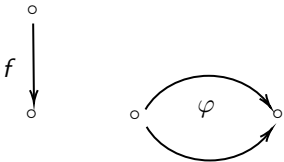


**Question:** Are there double categories of factors at all? i.e. is the above shaded square  $\neq \emptyset$ ?

Globularly generated double categories

# Decorated bicategories

A **decorated bicategory** is a pair  $(B^*, B)$  where  $B^*$  is a category and  $B$  is a bicategory such that the objects of  $B^*$  and  $B$  are the same. Represent a decorated bicategory as a bunch of diagrams of the form:



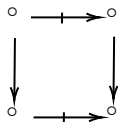
where the sets of vertices of the two types of diagrams are the same.

**Example:** Let  $C$  be a double category. The pair  $(C_0, HC)$  is a decorated bicategory. Write  $H^*C$  and call it the **decorated horizontalization** of  $C$ .

# Internalizations

**Problem:** Given a decorated bicategory  $(B^*, B)$ . Find double categories  $C$  such that  $H^*C = (B^*, B)$ . We call any such  $C$  an **internalization** of  $(B^*, B)$ . Can we understand the internalizations of  $(B^*, B)$ ?

**Problem of existence of internalizations:** Is the decorated horizontalization construction generic? Problem as a problem of coherently 'filling' 'hollow' squares of the form:



which we form with the 1-dimensional data provided to us by  $(B^*, B)$  in such a way that the 1-dimensional and the globular data we started with is fixed. Problems of filling squares with globular data appear in Ronnie Brown's proof of the 2-dimensional Seifert-van Kampen theorem [Brown, Higgins, Sivera 11'] and in the definition of framed bicategory. [Shulman 08']

## The globularly generated piece

Let  $C$  be a double category. Write  $\gamma C$  for the minimal sub-double category of  $C$  containing every horizontal identity square and every globular square of  $C$ .

### Lemma (O 18')

Let  $C$  be a double category.

1.  $H^*C = H^*\gamma C$ .
2. If  $D$  is a sub-double category of  $C$  satisfying the equation  $H^*C = H^*D$  then  $\gamma C$  is a sub-double category of  $D$ .

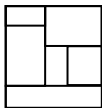
$C$  is a solution to internalization for  $H^*C$ . (1) says that so is  $\gamma C$ . (2) says that  $\gamma C$  is the minimal solution in  $C$ .  $\gamma C$  the globularly generated piece of  $C$ .

# Globularly generated double categories

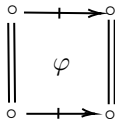
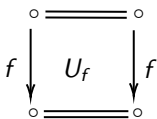
A double category  $C$  is **globularly generated** if any of the following three equivalent conditions is satisfied:

1.  $\gamma C = C$ .
2.  $C$  is generated, as a double category, by its globular squares.
3.  $C$  contains no proper sub-double categories  $D$  such that  $H^* C = H^* D$ .

$C$  is globularly generated if every square in  $C$  admits a subdivision, say as:



where every smaller square is of one of the two forms:



# Globularly generated double categories

$\gamma^2 C = \gamma C$  any  $C$ . Thus  $\gamma C$  is globularly generated for every  $C$ .  $\gamma C$  is the maximal globularly generated sub-double category of  $C$ .

**Categorically:** **gCat** sub-2-category of **dCat** generated by globularly generated double categories. **bCat\*** category of decorated bicategories, decorated pseudofunctors. The function  $C \mapsto \gamma C$  extends to a functor  $\gamma : \mathbf{dCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{gCat}$ .  $\gamma$  is a 2-coreflector and thus a fibration. **dCat** is indexed by globularly generated double categories. The function  $C \mapsto H^* C$  extends to a functor  $H^* : \mathbf{dCat} \rightarrow \mathbf{bCat}^*$  and the following triangle commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{dCat} & \xrightarrow{H^*} & \mathbf{bCat}^* \\ & \searrow \gamma & \nearrow H^* | \mathbf{gCat} \\ & \mathbf{gCat} & \end{array}$$

$H^*$  is constant along  $\gamma$ -fibers. **Lesson:** If interested in internalizations, first study basis for  $\gamma$ , i.e. study globularly generated double categories.

# $\gamma[\mathbf{Mod}]$

## Lemma

Let  $C$  be a double category. Let  $\varphi \in C_1$ . If  $\varphi$  is not globular, globularly generated, then  $L\varphi = R\varphi$ , i.e. every non-globular, globularly generated square in  $C$  is a horizontal endomorphism.

We compute  $\gamma[\mathbf{Mod}]$ . We know objects, horizontal/vertical morphisms, and globular squares of  $\gamma[\mathbf{Mod}]$ . We need to compute the non-globular, globularly generated horizontal endomorphisms.

Let  $R, S$  be algebras. Let  $(f, \varphi, f) : {}_R M_R \rightarrow {}_S N_S$  be a square in  $[\mathbf{Mod}]$ .  $(f, \varphi, f)$  is **2-subcyclic** if there exist submodules  $L \subseteq K \subseteq N$  such that  ${}_R L_R^f$  is  $R$ -cyclic,  ${}_S K_S$  is cyclic, and  $im\varphi \subseteq L$ . **Example:**  $R, S$  rings,  $f : R \rightarrow S$ ,  $U_f = (f, f, f) : {}_R R_R \rightarrow {}_S S_S$  is 2-subcyclic. **Non-example:**  $(i, i^2, i) : {}_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow {}_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_{\mathbb{Q}}$  not 2-subcyclic.

## Lemma

The non-globular squares of  $\gamma[\mathbf{Mod}]$  are the 2-subcyclic squares.



Length

# What can we say about GG double categories?

Let  $C$  be a globularly generated double category. The category of squares  $C_1$  of  $C$  is canonically filtered:

**Inductively:** Write  $H_0$  for the set of all globular and horizontal identity squares of  $C$ . Write  $V_1$  for the category generated by  $H_0$ . Suppose  $V_{n-1}$  has been defined for some  $n > 1$ , define  $H_n$  as the sub-pseudo-category of  $\mathcal{V}C$  generated by  $V_{n-1}$  and make  $V_n$  to be the subcategory of  $C_1$  generated by  $H_n$ . We have:

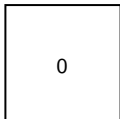
1.  $V_n \subseteq V_{n+1} \subseteq C_1$ .

2.  $\varinjlim V_n = C_1$ .

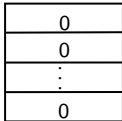
i.e. the chain of  $V_n$ 's is a filtration for  $C_1$ . Call the filtration  $\dots \subseteq V_n \subseteq V_{n+1} \subseteq \dots$  of  $C_1$  the **vertical filtration** of  $C$ .

# Geometrically

Let  $C$  be a globularly generated double category. Think of globular and horizontal identity squares as squares of complexity 0. Draw them as:



$H_0$  is the collection of squares of complexity 0.  $V_1$  is the collection of squares that can be subdivided as vertical composition of squares of complexity 0. Geometrically, squares of the form:



We say that these squares are of complexity  $\leq 1$  and we draw them as squares marked with 1.

## Geometrically

Given two horizontally compatible squares  $\varphi, \psi$  in  $V_1$ , it might be the case that we can find compatible complexity  $\leq 1$  presentations of  $\varphi, \psi$ , i.e. the composition  $\varphi \odot \psi$  can be made to look like:

0	0
0	0
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
0	0

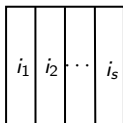
In that case  $\varphi \odot \psi$  is of complexity  $\leq 1$ , i.e. is a square in  $V_1$ . **This doesn't happen in general.**  $\varphi \odot \psi$  can look like:

0	0
0	
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
0	0

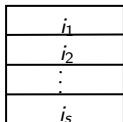
for every complexity  $\leq 1$  decomposition of  $\phi$  and  $\psi$ . In that case we say that  $\varphi \odot \psi$  has complexity  $\leq 1 + 1/2$ .  $H_1$  is the pseudocategory of complexity  $\leq 1 + 1/2$  squares.

## Geometrically

Let  $n > 1$ . Assume we have defined squares of complexity  $\leq n - 1$ . Squares of complexity  $\leq n - 1/2$  are now squares that can be subdivided as horizontal composition of squares of complexity  $\leq n - 1$ . Geometrically:



with the  $i_j$ 's are  $\leq n - 1$ .  $H_{n-1}$  is the pseudocategory of squares of complexity  $\leq n - 1/2$ .  $V_n$  now is the subcategory of  $C_1$  generated by  $H_{n-1}$ . We say that squares in  $V_n$  are of complexity  $\leq n$ . Geometrically look like:



where the  $i_j$ 's are  $\leq n - 1/2$ .  $V_n$ 's form a filtration means that ever square in  $C$  has a complexity.

# Length

$C$  be a globularly generated.  $\varphi$  square in  $C$ .  $l\varphi$  is  $\min\{n : \varphi \in V_n\}$ , i.e.  $l\varphi$  is the min  $n$  such that  $\varphi$  is of complexity  $\leq n$ .  $l\varphi$  the **vertical length** of  $\varphi$ .  $lC$  for  $\text{Sup}\{l\varphi : \varphi \in C_1\}$ .  $lC$  the **vertical length** of  $C$ . For general  $C$  we define the **vertical length** of  $C$ ,  $lC$ , as  $l\gamma C$ .

**Intuition:**  $lC$  measures the complexity of mixed compositions of horizontal identity and globular squares in  $C$ , e.g.  $lC = 1$  iff every square in  $\gamma C$  can be written as vertical composition of globular and horizontal identity squares, i.e. every globularly generated square can be drawn as:

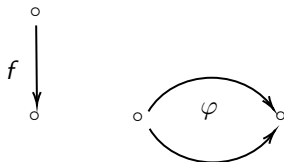
0
0
⋮
0

and any two horizontally compatible expressions match. **Examples:**  $l\mathbb{H}B = 1$ ,  $l\mathbf{Q}B = 1$ ,  $l\gamma[\mathbf{Mod}] = 1$  and  $lBDH = 1$ . **Question:** Is  $l$  trivial?

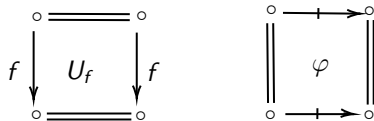
## Constructing GG double categories

Let  $(B^*, B)$  be a decorated bicategory. We wish to associate to  $(B^*, B)$  a globularly generated double category defined only through the data of  $(B^*, B)$ . **Idea:** Formally reconstruct a vertical filtration with the data of  $(B^*, B)$  and then turn that into a globularly generated double category.

Puff up diagrams of the form:



in  $(B^*, B)$  into diagrams of the form:

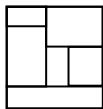


Constructing globularly generated double categories



## Constructing GG double categories

Stack the above diagrams vertically, then horizontally, etc. and obtain formal squares admitting formal subdivisions as:



where the smaller squares are of the shape above. Carefully choose an equivalence relation  $R$  on the set of such squares, containing both the exchange relation and the composition information of  $(B^*, B)$ . Write  $Q_{(B^*, B)}$  for the quotient.

### Theorem (O'19)

Let  $(B^*, B)$  be a decorated bicategory.  $Q_{(B^*, B)}$  is a globularly generated double category such that the category of objects of  $Q_{(B^*, B)}$  is  $B^*$  and  $B \subseteq H^* Q_{(B^*, B)}$ .

$Q_{(B^*, B)}$  the **free globularly generated** double category associated to  $(B^*, B)$ . **Warning:** The equality  $H^* Q_{(B^*, B)} = (B^*, B)$  does not hold in general.

# Saturated decorated bicategories

We say that a decorated bicategory  $(B^*, B)$  is **saturated** if the equation  $H^* Q_{(B^*, B)} = (B^*, B)$  holds. **We have easy tests to decide if a decorated bicategory is saturated.**

**Example:** If  $B^*$  has no sections or retractions, i.e.  $(B^*, B)$  is **reduced**. In particular if  $B^*$  is free or  $\Omega M$  for a reduced monoid  $M$  then  $(B^*, B)$  is saturated.

## Lemma

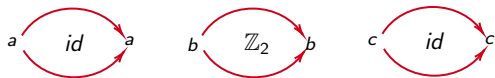
*Let  $(B^*, B)$  be a decorated bicategory.  $Q_{H^* Q_{(B^*, B)}} = Q_{(B^*, B)}$  and thus  $H^* Q_{(B^*, B)}$  is saturated.*

If  $(B^*, B)$  is not saturated we can always enlarge  $(B^*, B)$  canonically in order to obtain a saturated decorated bicategory.

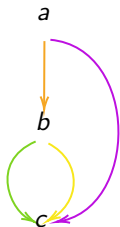
In [O'19] it is proven that the decorated bicategory of factors, is saturated. Also the decorated bicategory of simple algebras by Shur's lemma.

## Length is not trivial

We use the free globularly generated double category construction to prove that vertical length is non-trivial. Consider the bicategory  $B$ :

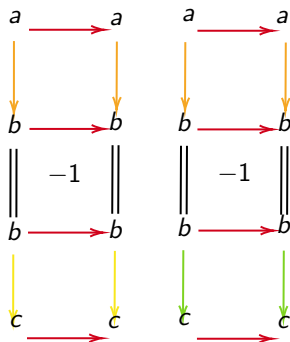


Decorate  $B$  by the free category  $B^*$  generated by:



# Length is not trivial

The horizontal composition of the squares



in  $Q_{(B^*, B)}$  is not of complexity 1, i.e. is of length 2 and thus  $\ell Q_{(B^*, B)} \geq 2$ . The above construction can be adapted to prove the existence of double categories of length  $n \forall n$  and of length  $\infty$ . **Length is not trivial!**

Canonical projection

# Bounding length

## Theorem

Let  $(B^*, B)$  be a decorated bicategory. Let  $C$  be an internalization of  $(B^*, B)$ . There exists a unique double functor  $\pi^C : Q_{(B^*, B)} \rightarrow C$  such that  $\pi^C|_{(B^*, B)} = id_{(B^*, B)}$  and  $\pi^C$  is surjective on globular squares of  $C$ .

$\pi^C$  canonical double projection of  $C$ .  $(B^*, B) \mapsto Q_{(B^*, B)}$  extends to a functor  $Q : \mathbf{bCat}^* \rightarrow \mathbf{gCat}$ .  $Q \dashv H^*$  with the  $\pi^C$ 's as counit.  $Q$  is a decorated version of  $\mathbf{Q}$ .  $H^*|_{\mathbf{gCat}}$  is faithful.  $Q$  is thus free.

Let  $(B^*, B)$  be a decorated bicategory. Define the length  $\ell(B^*, B)$  of  $(B^*, B)$  to be  $\ell Q_{(B^*, B)}$ . Depends only on  $(B^*, B)$ . If  $C$  is an internalization of  $(B^*, B)$  then  $\ell C \leq \ell(B^*, B)$ .

Every globularly generated internalization can be written uniquely as a double quotient of a free globularly generated double category. Construct a new double category of factors, extending BDH 2 non-equivalent double categories of factors. Both of length 1!

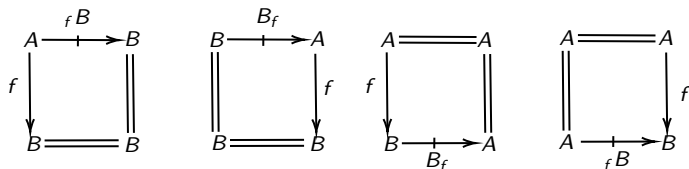
Framed bicategories

# Framed bicategories

## Definition

A **framed bicategory** is a double category  $C$  such that any of the following three equivalent conditions are satisfied:

1.  $L \times R : C_1 \rightarrow C_0 \times C_0$  is a fibration.
2.  $L \times R : C_1 \rightarrow C_0 \times C_0$  is an opfibration
3. For every vertical morphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  in  $C$  there exist horizontal arrows  ${}_f B : A \rightarrow B$  and  $B_f : B \rightarrow A$  together with squares:

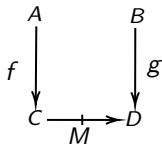


Satisfying certain compatibility conditions.  ${}_f B$  and  $B_f$  **companion** and **conjoint** of  $f$ . **Examples:** **[Mod]**, **Bord**,  $\rho_2^\square(X)$ , **Adj**,  ${}_L \text{coSpan}(C)$ ,  $\mathbb{P}oly$ ,  $coMon_{Poly}$ ,  $BDH$ , etc.

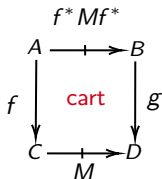


# Framed bicategories

$C$  framed bicategory.  $L \times R$  is a fibration. This means that for every empty lower frame/shell/boundary:

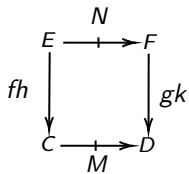


there exists a cartesian filler:

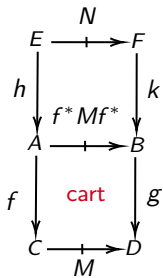


which means that:

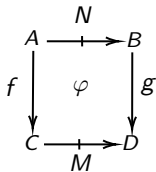
for every square:



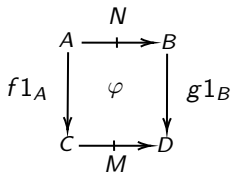
there exists a unique factorization:



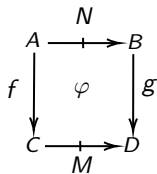
In particular, for every square:



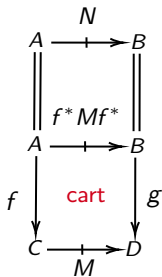
consider the factorization:



The square :



factorizes uniquely as:



i.e. every square in  $\mathcal{C}$  is determined by a globular square and a **cart** square.

Framed bicategories organize into a sub 2-category  $\mathbf{bCat}^{fr}$  of  $\mathbf{dCat}$ . A symmetric monoidal framed bicategory is a commutative pseudomonoid in  $\mathbf{bCat}^{fr}$ . A symmetric monoidal structure on  $C_0$  and  $C_1$  + easy compatibility conditions.

## Theorem

Let  $C$  be a symmetric monoidal framed bicategory. Every choice of cleavage for  $L \times R$  defines a symmetric monoidal structure on  $HC$ .

## Observation

1. Globularly generated framed bicategories are vertically trivial. No non-trivial companions/conjoints: Every square is either globular or a horizontal endomorphism. 2. There exist globularly generated double categories  $C$  such that there doesn't exist a framed bicategory  $D$  such that  $\gamma D = C$ .

**Question:** What can we say about globularly generated double categories having framed bicategories in their  $\gamma$ -fiber?

**Question:** What is the length of a framed bicategory? **Conjecture:** 1.

**Support:**  $\ell[\mathbf{Mod}] = 1$ ,  $\ell\mathbf{Bord}_n = 1$ ,  $\ell BDH = 1$ .

# References

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**Thank you!**