

# A Splendid Lift of Equivalences

## Lifting $p$ -Permutation Equivalences to Splendid Rickard Complexes

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## Outline

- 1 Intro to representation theory - goal: introduce **vertices**, **sources**, **defect groups**, and **blocks**.
- 2 Module categories and equivalences - goal: introduce **Splendid Rickard Complexes** and **Broue's Abelian Defect Group Conjecture**.
- 3 Grothendieck Groups of  $p$ -permutation modules - goal: introduce  $p$ -**permutation equivalences** and their connection to splendid Rickard complexes.
- 4 Burnside rings - goal: explain how units of  $B(G)$  induce  $p$ -permutation equivalences.
- 5 Discuss my initial results.

## Definition (Representation)

Let  $G$  be a group,  $k$  be a field,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $V$  a  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $k$ . A **representation of  $G$  of degree  $n$**  is a group homomorphism

$$\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}_k(V) \cong \text{GL}_n(k).$$

## Example

- 1** Let  $\omega_n = 2\pi/n$ . A representation of  $C_n = \langle \sigma \rangle$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  is given by

$$\sigma \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \cos \omega_n & -\sin \omega_n \\ \sin \omega_n & \cos \omega_n \end{pmatrix}.$$

- 2** A representation of  $S_3$  can be described by how the elements permute the ordered set  $(1, 2, 3)$ , for example,

$$(12) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (13) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is an example of a **permutation representation**.

## Remark

When  $G$  is finite, we have a dual notion of a representation given by considering modules over the group algebra  $kG$ .

- 1 Given a representation  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(M)$  over a  $k$ -vector space  $M$ , we can give  $M$  a  $kG$ -module structure by

$$\left( \sum_{g \in G} a_g \cdot g \right) m := \sum_{g \in G} a_g \cdot \rho(g)(m).$$

- 2 Conversely, given a finitely generated  $kG$ -module  $M$ , it is naturally a  $k$ -vector space. For every element  $g \in G$ , the map  $m \rightarrow g \cdot m$  lies in  $\text{Aut}_k(M)$ . This defines a representation:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho : G &\rightarrow \text{Aut}_k(M) \\ g &\mapsto (m \mapsto g \cdot m). \end{aligned}$$

These constructions are functorial and mutually inverse, and when  $G$  is finite, we have an equivalence of categories  ${}_kG \mathbf{mod} \cong \mathbf{Rep}_k(G)$ .

For the rest of this talk (unless specified),  $G$  will be finite, and a “representation” will be a finitely generated  $kG$ -module.

## Example

- $kG$  is itself a representation, the **regular representation**.
- If  $X$  is a  $G$ -set, then  $k[X]$ , the  $k$ -linearization of  $X$ , is a  $kG$ -module via the group action, i.e.

$$g \cdot (k_1 x_1 + \cdots + k_n x_n) := k_1 (g \cdot x_1) + \cdots + k_n (g \cdot x_n).$$

This is a **permutation representation**.

## Definition

A representation  $M$ , i.e. a  $kG$ -module, is:

- **irreducible** or **simple** if its only submodules are  $\{0\}$  and  $M$ .
- **indecomposable** if  $M$  cannot be written as  $M = M_1 \oplus M_2$  for two nonzero representations  $M_1, M_2$ .
- **projective** if  $M$  is a direct summand of a free module, i.e. a direct summand of  $kG \oplus \cdots \oplus kG$  for some finite number of  $kG$ s.

In **modular** representation theory, we work specifically over fields of prime characteristic dividing the order of  $G$ . What goes wrong?

## Working over $\mathbb{C}$

- Simple  $\iff$  indecomposable.
- Finitely many simple/indecomposable representations, or “irreps.”
- All representations decompose into a direct sum of irreps.
- All representations are projective, i.e.  $\mathbb{C}G$  is semisimple.

## Working over prime characteristic dividing $|G|$

- Simple  $\nleftrightarrow$  indecomposable.
- There are, in general, an infinite number of indecomposable representations.
- Representations do not in general decompose into irreps.
- Irreps are in general not projective - in fact,  $kG$  has infinite global projective dimension.

## Definition ( $p$ -modular systems)

When working over nonzero characteristic, we don't just work over  $k$ , we have three rings, a  $p$ -modular system  $(K, \mathcal{O}, k)$  large enough for  $G$  which satisfy the following:

- 1  $\mathcal{O}$  is a complete discrete valuation ring, i.e. a PID with a unique maximal ideal  $m$ , that has a  $|G|$ th root of unity.
- 2  $K$  is the the field of fractions of  $\mathcal{O}$ , and has characteristic 0.
- 3  $k$  is the residue field of  $\mathcal{O}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{O}/m$ , and has characteristic  $p$ .

Every  $\mathcal{O}G$ -module descends to a  $kG$ -module, and every  $kG$ -module lifts (rarely uniquely) to an  $\mathcal{O}G$ -module. Working over  $KG$  is the same as working over  $\mathbb{C}G!$

For the rest of this presentation, we will assume  $(K, \mathcal{O}, k)$  is a  $p$ -modular system large enough for  $G$ , and let  $R \in \{\mathcal{O}, k\}$ .

## Example

Let  $\zeta$  be a  $\exp G$ -th root of unity. A large enough  $p$ -modular system is

- $K = \mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta)$ .
- $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}_p[\zeta]$ .
- $|k| = p^f$  for some  $f \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

Let  $H \leq G$  be groups. One question to ask is, “how can we go between studying representations of  $G$  and representations of  $H$ ?”

## Induction and Restriction

- 1 Given a  $RG$ -module  $M$  we can turn it into a  $RH$ -module by restricting scalars to  $RH$ . This is denoted  $\text{Res}_H^G M$ .
- 2 Given a  $RH$ -module  $M$ , we can extend it to a  $RG$ -module by extending scalars to  $RG$ . Formally,

$$\text{Ind}_H^G M := RG \otimes_{RH} M.$$

## Definition (Relative projectivity)

Say a  $RG$ -module  $M$  is **relatively  $H$ -projective** if there exists a  $RH$  module  $N$  such that  $M$  is isomorphic to a direct summand of  $\text{Ind}_H^G N$  (writ.  $M \mid \text{Ind}_H^G N$ ).

## Remark

- 1 By the Krull-Schmidt theorem, this is a well-defined notion.
- 2  $M$  is 1-projective  $\iff M$  is projective and projective as a  $R$ -module.



## Definition (Vertices and Sources)

If  $M$  is an indecomposable  $RG$ -module, then there are minimal subgroups  $P \leq G$  such that  $M$  is  $P$ -projective. In fact, all such  $P$  are  $G$ -conjugate  $p$ -subgroups.

- 1 Any such  $P$  is a **vertex** of  $M$ .
- 2 In this case, one may find an indecomposable  $RP$ -module  $S$  such that  $M \mid \text{Ind}_P^G S$ . Any such  $S$  is a  **$P$ -source** of  $M$ .

Any pair  $(P, S)$  is a **vertex-source pair** of  $M$ .

## Trivial Source Modules

Indecomposable  $RG$ -modules with trivial source (a **trivial source module**) are of special interest.

- 1  $M$  has trivial source if and only if it is a direct summand of a permutation module.
- 2 Let  $N$  be a direct sum of trivial source modules. Then  $\text{Res}_P^G N$  is a permutation module for some Sylow  $p$ -subgroup  $P \leq G$ .

We call a direct sum of trivial source modules a  **$p$ -permutation module**.

**Fact:**  $p$ -permutation  $kG$ -modules and  $p$ -permutation  $\mathcal{O}G$ -modules correspond *bijectionally*!

## Definition (Blocks)

The set of primitive idempotents  $\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$  of  $Z(\mathcal{O}G)$  gives a decomposition

$$\mathcal{O}G = \mathcal{O}Ge_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{O}Ge_k$$

of  $(\mathcal{O}G, \mathcal{O}G)$ -bimodules. This is the *unique* decomposition of  $\mathcal{O}G$  into a direct sum of two-sided ideals of  $\mathcal{O}G$ . We call the  $\mathcal{O}Ge_i$ s the **blocks** of  $\mathcal{O}G$ , and the  $e_i$ s are the **block idempotents** of  $\mathcal{O}G$ . The blocks are again  $\mathcal{O}$ -algebras.

The block idempotents are also the primitive idempotents of  $Z(KG)$ , giving a decomposition

$$KG = KGe_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus KGe_k,$$

and the reduction  $\overline{e}_i \in Z(kG)$  gives the primitive idempotents of  $Z(kG)$  and a decomposition

$$kG = kG\overline{e}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus kG\overline{e}_k.$$

The corresponding direct summands and idempotents are the blocks and block idempotents of  $KG$  and  $kG$  respectively.

## Fact

Let  $RG$  have block idempotents  $\{e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ . Then any  $RG$ -module  $M$  has direct sum decomposition

$$M = Me_1 \oplus \dots \oplus Me_k.$$

If  $e_i M = M$  for some  $e_i$ , then we say  $M_i$  “belongs to the block  $e_i$ .”

In particular, every indecomposable  $RG$ -module belongs to a unique block.

## Definition (Principal block)

The block that the **trivial representation**  $M = R$  belongs to is called the **principal block**.

## Definition (Defect group of a block)

Each block  $RGe$  can also be regarded as a  $R(G \times G)$ -module, and one may show it has vertex  $\Delta P \leq G \times G$  for some  $p$ -subgroup  $P \leq G$ .

$P$  is the **defect group** of the block  $e$ .

Let  $A$  be a  $R$ -algebra (for example,  $RG$ ). We have the category  $A\mathbf{mod}$  of finitely generated left  $A$ -modules. One question to ask is when two categories are equivalent, and what such an equivalence implies.

### Definition ( $A\mathbf{mod}$ )

$A\mathbf{mod}$ , the category of finitely generated left  $A$ -modules, is the following data:

- The objects are finitely generated left  $A$ -modules.
- The morphisms are module homomorphisms.

If  $A \cong B$ , then there is an equivalence of categories  $A\mathbf{mod} \cong B\mathbf{mod}$  as abelian categories. Is the converse true?

### Example

No! For example  $A\mathbf{mod} \cong M_n(A)\mathbf{mod}$  for any positive integer  $n$ .

An equivalence of module categories of this form is a **Morita equivalence**.

## Theorem (Morita)

$A \mathbf{mod} \cong_B B \mathbf{mod}$  if and only if there exist an  $(A, B)$ -bimodule  $M$  and a  $(B, A)$ -bimodule  $N$  such that

- $M \otimes_B N \cong A$  as  $(A, A)$ -bimodule,
- $N \otimes_B M \cong B$  as  $(B, B)$ -bimodules,

and with  $M$  and  $N$  finitely generated projective as left and right modules.

In this case, the functors  $M \otimes_B -$  and  $N \otimes_A -$  induce equivalences of categories.

So if a Morita equivalence exists, it is induced by tensoring by suitable bimodules.

## In the case of representations

In the case when  $A$  and  $B$  are symmetric algebras, such as group algebras or block algebras,  $M$  and  $N$  can be chosen such that  $N = M^* = \text{Hom}_R(M, R)$ !

Let's see how we can generalize Morita theory to more complicated categorical constructions.

## Definition (Category of Chain Complexes)

Given  $A\text{-mod}$ , we can its category of chain complexes,  $Ch(A\text{-mod})$ .

- 1** Objects are chain complexes of  $A$ -modules, i.e. chains of the form

$$M = \cdots \xrightarrow{d_{n+1}} M_n \xrightarrow{d_n} M_{n-1} \xrightarrow{d_{n-1}} \cdots$$

satisfying  $d_{i-1} \circ d_i = 0$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- 2** Morphisms are chain complex homomorphisms, i.e. collections of maps  $\{f_i\}$  that make the diagram commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & M_n & \xrightarrow{d_n} & M_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\ & & \downarrow f_n & & \downarrow f_{n-1} & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & N_n & \xrightarrow{d'_n} & N_{n-1} & \longrightarrow & \cdots \end{array}$$

You may recall chain complexes arising from computation of singular homology of topological spaces - a topological space gives rise to a chain complex and a continuous function between spaces induces a map of chain complexes.

## Definition (Homotopy)

There is a notion (exact definition omitted) of two morphisms of chain complexes being **homotopic**. Write  $f \sim g$  if  $f$  and  $g$  are homotopic.

**Fact:** in the case of chain complexes arising from singular homology, two continuous functions of topological spaces are homotopic if and only if the induced morphisms of chain complexes are homotopic!

## Definition (Homotopy Category)

Define the **homotopy category** of  $A$ -modules,

$$K(A\mathbf{mod}) := Ch(A\mathbf{mod}) / \sim,$$

i.e. identify all homotopic maps together.

## Example (Newly isomorphic objects)

If two chain complexes  $M, N$  have maps  $f : M \rightarrow N$  and  $g : N \rightarrow M$  such that  $f \circ g \sim \text{id}_N$  and  $g \circ f = \text{id}_M$ , then  $M \cong N$  in  $K(A\mathbf{mod})$ , but not necessarily in  $Ch(A\mathbf{mod})$ . We write  $M \simeq N$ , and say  $M$  and  $N$  are **homotopy equivalent**.

Now let's formulate a Morita equivalence for the homotopy category.

### Morita: the homotopy version

If there exists a chain complex of finitely generated  $(A, B)$ -bimodules  $M$  and a chain complex of finitely generated  $(B, A)$ -bimodules  $N$  such that:

- $M \otimes_B N \simeq A$ ,
- $N \otimes_A M \simeq B$ ,

then  $M \otimes_B -$  and  $N \otimes_A -$  induce an equivalence of categories  
 $K(A\mathbf{mod}) \cong K(B\mathbf{mod})$ .

In the case of block algebras, like in the module scenario, we can take  $N = M^*$ , the dual complex.

### Definition (Dual functor)

Given an  $(A, B)$ -bimodule  $M$ , its dual  $M^* := \text{Hom}_R(M, R)$  is a  $(B, A)$ -bimodule under the actions

$$(b \cdot f \cdot a)(m) = f(a \cdot m \cdot b).$$

This induces a functor

$$(-)^* : A\mathbf{mod}_B \rightarrow B\mathbf{mod}_A.$$



Jeremy Rickard posited it is reasonable to impose additional conditions:

## Definition (Splendid Rickard Complex)

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be direct summands of  $RG$  and  $RH$  respectively. A bounded complex  $X$  of finitely generated  $(A, B)$ -bimodules is a **Splendid Rickard Complex** if:

- 1 All the terms of  $X$  are  $p$ -permutation modules with “twisted diagonal” vertices, i.e. of the form  $\Delta P$  for a common subgroup  $P \leq G, H$ .
- 2  $X \otimes_B X^* \simeq A$ .
- 3  $X^* \otimes_A X \simeq B$ .

A **Splendid Rickard Equivalence between  $A$  and  $B$**  is the equivalence  $K(A\text{mod}) \cong K(B\text{mod})$  induced by tensoring by  $X$ .

## Why $p$ -permutation modules?

- 1 The Brauer construction in this case induces splendid Rickard equivalences between block algebras of centralizers of subgroups of  $G$  and  $H$ .
- 2 In the case where  $G$  is a finite reductive group, the equivalence should be related to the  $l$ -adic cohomology of Deligne-Lusztig varieties.

Splendid stands for: “**SPL**it-**END**omorphism two-sided tilting complex of summands of permutaton modules Induced from **D**iagonal subgroups.”

What does a homotopy equivalence imply for the block algebras?

- Existence of collections of “perfect” isometries between character rings, called *isotypies* (ask John McHugh for more details).
- Isomorphic centers.
- Isomorphic Hochschild cohomology rings.
- Isomorphic Cartan-Brauer triangles.

The motivation of studying these equivalences comes from conjectures of Michel Broué.

## Broué's Abelian Defect Group Conjecture

Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $(K, \mathcal{O}, k)$  a  $p$ -modular system large enough for  $G$ . Let  $A$  be a block algebra of  $\mathcal{O}G$ ,  $D$  the defect group of  $A$ , and set  $H := N_G(D)$ . Then by Brauer's first main theorem, there is a corresponding block algebra  $B$  of  $\mathcal{O}H$  with the same defect group.

**Conjecture:** If  $D$  is abelian, then there exists a splendid Rickard equivalence between  $A$  and  $B$ .

A weaker formulation is as follows:

## Alternative Formulation

Suppose  $G$  has an abelian Sylow  $p$ -subgroup. Set  $H := N_G(P)$ . Then there is a splendid Rickard equivalence between the principal blocks of  $\mathcal{O}G$  and  $\mathcal{O}H$ .

These conjectures were originally stated for derived equivalences, but Rickard showed that under certain conditions, they can be strengthened to homotopy equivalences.

If  $X$  is a splendid Rickard equivalence for two block algebras  $\mathcal{O}A, \mathcal{O}B$ , it is straightforward to show that  $k \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} -$  induces a splendid Rickard equivalence  $k \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} X$  for the block algebras  $kA$  and  $kB$ .

However, lifts to  $\mathcal{O}$  are generally not unique on the module level, and it is not clear that a splendid Rickard equivalence between  $kA, kB$  descended from  $\mathcal{O}A, \mathcal{O}B$ .

### Theorem (Rickard)

*Given a splendid Rickard equivalence  $Y$  for  $kA, kB$  over  $k$ , there is a unique splendid Rickard equivalence  $X$  for  $\mathcal{O}A, \mathcal{O}B$  such that  $Y = k \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} X$ .*

Motivated by this construction, Robert Boltje and Philipp Perepletsky introduced the notion of a  $p$ -permutation equivalence.

### Definition (Grothendieck Group of $p$ -permutation modules)

The **Grothendieck Group**  $T(RG)$  of  $G$  (with respect to direct sums) is the quotient of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}[I]$ , with  $I$  the collection of isomorphism classes of  $p$ -permutation  $RG$ -modules, by the subgroup  $S$  generated by elements of the form

$$[M] + [N] - [M \oplus N].$$

### Remarks

- 1 The standard basis of  $T(RG)$  is given by all indecomposable trivial source  $RG$ -modules.
- 2 If  $e$  is a block idempotent of  $RG$ , we can analogously define  $T(RGe)$  and view it as a subgroup of  $T(RG)$ , via the projection  $\omega \mapsto \omega e$ . It has standard basis given by all indecomposable trivial source  $RG$ -modules belonging to  $e$ .
- 3 Further, we can see  $T(RGe_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus RGe_k) = T(RGe_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus T(RGe_k)$ . If  $A = RGe_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus RGe_k$  is a direct summand of  $RG$ , we write  $T(A)$  as shorthand for above.

## Remark

If  $G$  and  $H$  are groups, we have an equivalence of categories

$$RG \mathbf{mod} RH \cong R[G \times H] \mathbf{mod} \cong RG \otimes_R RH \mathbf{mod},$$

induced by the formula

$$g \cdot m \cdot h^{-1} \leftrightarrow (g, h) \cdot m \leftrightarrow (g \otimes h) \cdot m.$$

In this way, we can consider a bimodule  $M \in RG \mathbf{mod} RH$  a  $p$ -permutation bimodule if it is a  $p$ -permutation module in  $R[G \times H] \mathbf{mod}$ .

## Definition (Grothendieck Group of $p$ -permutation bimodules)

We define

$$T(RG, RH) := T(R[G \times H]).$$

If  $e$  and  $f$  are block idempotents of  $RG$  and  $RH$  respectively, set

$$T(RGe, RHf) := T(R[G \times H](e \otimes \bar{f})),$$

where  $\bar{(-)}$  is the involution homomorphism induced by  $g \mapsto g^{-1}$ . If  $A$  is a direct summand of  $RG$  and  $B$  a direct summand of  $RH$ , we define  $T(A, B)$  analogously.

## Remark

Let  $A, B, C$  be direct summands of group algebras. Tensor products of trivial source modules are again trivial source modules, so the tensor product induces a bilinear map

$$T(A, B) \times T(B, C) \rightarrow T(A, C), \quad (m, n) \mapsto m \cdot_B n,$$

where  $\cdot_B$  is the map induced by  $\otimes_B$ . Letting  $C = R$  shows that any  $m \in T(A, B)$  induces a group homomorphism

$$I_m : T(B) \rightarrow T(A), \quad n \mapsto m \cdot_B n.$$

Moreover if  $A = B = C$ ,  $\cdot_A$  endows  $T(A, A)$  with a ring structure - a **trivial source ring**.

## Definition (Dual homomorphism)

Given an  $(A, B)$ -bimodule  $M$ , taking its dual  $M^*$  induces a group homomorphism

$$(-)^* : T(A, B) \rightarrow T(B, A).$$

## Definition ( $p$ -permutation equivalence)

For  $A, B$  direct summands of group algebras, denote  $T^\Delta(A, B) \leq T(A, B)$  the subgroup consisting of  $p$ -permutation bimodules with (twisted) diagonal vertices.

Say  $\gamma \in T^\Delta(A, B)$  is a  **$p$ -permutation equivalence** for  $A$  and  $B$  if  $\gamma^*$  satisfies

$$\gamma \cdot_B \gamma^* = [A], \quad \gamma^* \cdot_A \gamma = [B].$$

The set of  $p$ -permutation equivalences for  $A$  and  $B$  is denoted  $T_o^\Delta(A, B)$ .

A  $p$ -permutation equivalence induces an isomorphism  $T(A) \cong T(B)$ , and further, it was shown that like splendid Rickard equivalences,  $p$ -permutation equivalences induce isotypies!

## Remark

Note that not every  $\gamma \in T^\Delta(A, B)$  for which there is a  $\gamma' \in T^\Delta(B, A)$  such that  $\gamma \cdot_B \gamma' = [A]$ ,  $\gamma' \cdot_A \gamma = [B]$  satisfies  $\gamma' = \gamma^*$ . In general, the set of  $p$ -permutation equivalences is finite, but the set of “invertible” elements may be infinite.



So how are these two levels of equivalences connected?

## Theorem (Boltje, Perepletsky)

Let  $A$  and  $B$  be direct summands of block algebras. If  $\Gamma$  is a splendid Rickard equivalence for  $A$  and  $B$ , then

$$\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^i [\Gamma_i] \in T_o^\Delta(A, B),$$

is a  $p$ -permutation equivalence for  $A$  and  $B$ . Moreover, the two equivalences induce the same isotypy.

So splendid Rickard complexes induce  $p$ -permutation equivalences!

## My Questions

- Given a  $p$ -permutation equivalence, is it induced by a splendid Rickard complex? i.e. does it have a *lift*?
- If so, what is a construction of its lift?

To begin, we'd like to work with examples. However, nice examples of these equivalences are hard to find.

One source of  $p$ -permutation equivalences is the unit group of the Burnside ring, which produces  $p$ -permutation self-equivalences, equivalences between  $RG$  and  $RG$ . This is a Grothendieck group for  $G$ -sets with respect to disjoint union.

### Definition (Burnside Ring)

The Burnside Group  $B(G)$  of  $G$  is the quotient of the free abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}[I]$ , with  $I$  the set of isomorphism classes of finite  $G$ -sets, by the subgroup  $S$  generated by elements of the form

$$[X] + [Y] - [X \sqcup Y].$$

$B(G)$  is a ring under the multiplication

$$[X] \cdot [Y] := [X \times Y],$$

hence,  $B(G)$  is **the Burnside Ring of  $G$** . The elements of  $B(G)$  are called **virtual  $G$ -sets**.

Facts about  $B(G)$ 

- 1 Every  $U \in B(G)$  can be written uniquely as  $U = [X] - [Y]$  for some  $G$ -sets  $X, Y$ .
- 2 (Burnside)  $[X] = [Y] \iff |X^H| = |Y^H|$  for all  $H \leq G \iff X \cong Y$  as  $G$ -sets.
- 3 Let  $\mathcal{S}(G)$  denote a set of representatives of conjugacy classes of subgroups of  $G$ . Then  $B(G)$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module has canonical basis given by

$$\{[G/K] : K \in \mathcal{S}(G)\}.$$

- 4 For any  $H \leq G$ , the fixed point function  $|(-)^H| : B(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is a ring homomorphism. It follows that any  $X \in B(G)$  can be equivalently considered a function

$$\phi_X : \mathcal{S}(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \quad K \mapsto |X^K|.$$

Under this assignment,  $B(G)$  is injectively embedded in  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{S}(G), \mathbb{Z})$ , the **ghost ring**, and

$$\mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} B(G) \cong \text{Hom}(\mathcal{S}(G), \mathbb{Q}).$$

The values of  $\phi_X$  are its **marks**.

## Definition (Bisets)

A  $(H, G)$ -**biset**  $X$  is a left  $H$ -set and right  $G$ -set for which the actions commute. Equivalently, it is a  $(H \times G^{op})$ -set.

Bisets are “composable” in a compatible sense.

## Definition (Biset Composition)

Given a  $(K, H)$ -biset  $X$  and  $(H, G)$ -biset  $Y$ , the **composition** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is the set of  $H$ -orbits on the set  $X \times Y$  with right  $H$ -action defined by

$$(x, y) \cdot h = (x \cdot h, h^{-1} \cdot y).$$

It is denoted by  $X \times_H Y$ , and the orbit of  $(x, y)$  is written  $(x, {}_H y)$ .  $X \times_H Y$  is a  $(K, G)$ -biset with action defined by

$$k \cdot (x, {}_H y) \cdot g := (k \cdot x, {}_H y \cdot g).$$

In the case where  $K, H, G$  are the same group, this provides a sort of multiplication.

## Definition (Biset Burnside Ring)

As a group, the **biset Burnside ring**  $B(G, G)$  is defined as  $B(G \times G^{op})$ . It has multiplication defined by

$$[X] \cdot [Y] := [X \times_G Y].$$

## Definition (Opposite Biset)

Given a  $(H, G)$ -biset  $X$ , its **opposite biset**  $X^{op}$  is  $X$  as a set, with  $(G, H)$ -biset structure given by

$$g \cdot x \cdot h := h^{-1} \cdot x \cdot g^{-1}.$$

This defines an involution on  $B(G, G)$ , given by

$$[X] \mapsto [X^{op}].$$

## Remark

Notice that  $T(RG, RG)$  also has an involution given by taking the dual, i.e.

$$[M] \mapsto [M^*] = [\text{Hom}_R(M, R)].$$

## Two Ring Homomorphisms

- 1 There exists a ring homomorphism  $\widetilde{(-)} : B(G) \rightarrow B(G, G)$ , induced by the assignment

$$[\widetilde{G/K}] = [(G \times G)/\Delta K].$$

The image of of this assignment is self-dual in  $B(G, G)$ , i.e.  $[\widetilde{X}^{op}] = [\widetilde{X}]$ .

- 2  $R[-] : B(G, G) \rightarrow T^\Delta(RG, RG)$  induced by  $R$ -linearizing a  $(G, G)$ -biset is a ring homomorphism. This map is compatible with the involutions defined on each ring, i.e. if  $X$  is a  $(G, G)$ -biset,

$$[R[X^{op}]] = [R[X]^*]$$

Restricting these ring homomorphisms to their unit groups provides group homomorphisms of multiplicatively invertible elements. For  $T^\Delta(RG, RG)$ , this includes all  $p$ -permutation equivalences.

## Units generate $p$ -permutation equivalences!

- Since  $B(G)$  embeds into  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{S}(G), \mathbb{Z})$ ,  $B(G)^\times$  embeds into  $\text{Hom}(\mathcal{S}(G), \{\pm 1\})$ .
- From this, it follows that  $B(G)^\times$  is an elementary abelian 2-group! In particular, every element is self-inverse.
- Given some  $u \in B(G)^\times$ ,  $R[\tilde{u}] \in T^\Delta(RG, RG)$  is self-inverse and self-dual, therefore it is a  $p$ -permutation equivalence!

Given a  $u \in B(G)^\times$ , if a splendid Rickard complex  $\Gamma_u$  descends to  $R[\tilde{u}]$ , we call  $\Gamma_u \leftrightarrow u$  **splendid correspondents**.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & \text{Spl}(G, G) \\
 & & & \nearrow & \downarrow \\
 & & & & \downarrow \\
 B(G)^\times & \longrightarrow & O(B(G, G)) & \longrightarrow & T_o^\Delta(RG, RG)
 \end{array}$$

## Remark

It is easy to compute  $R[\tilde{u}]$ . On transitive  $G$ -sets,  $[G/H] \in B(G) \mapsto [RG \otimes_{RH} RG] \in T^\Delta(RG, RG)$ .

First question: given some  $B(G)^\times$ , does every element have a splendid correspondent?

### Caveat

In general,  $B(G)^\times$  is difficult to describe.

**Example:** If  $G$  has odd order,  $|B(G)^\times| = 1 \iff G$  is solvable. In other words, classifying  $B(G)^\times$  for odd order groups is equivalent to proving the Feit-Thompson theorem.

However, there are some easier cases to work with.

### Theorem (Matsuda)

If  $G$  is abelian,  $B(G)^\times$  is generated by the following set:

$$\{-[G/G]\} \cup \{[G/G] - [G/H] : [G : H] = 2\}$$



## Theorem (Miller)

*If  $u \leftrightarrow \Gamma_u$  and  $v \leftrightarrow \Gamma_v$  are splendid correspondents, then  $uv \leftrightarrow \Gamma_u \otimes_{RG} \Gamma_v$  are splendid correspondents. Additionally  $-u \leftrightarrow \Gamma[1]$ .*

In particular, it suffices to only provide lifts for the generators of  $B(G)^\times$ .

## Theorem (Miller)

*For any finite group  $G$ ,*

$$\cdots \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow RG \otimes_{RH} RG \xrightarrow{d} RG \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots$$

*is a splendid correspondent to  $u = [G/G] - [G/H] \in B(G)^\times$ , where  $d$  is the map induced by multiplication.*

So in the case of  $G$  abelian, every unit has a splendid correspondent!

What are some tools we have to demonstrate a proposed complex  $\Gamma$  is indeed a splendid Rickard complex?

### Lemmas (Miller):

$\Gamma \otimes_{RG} \Gamma^* \simeq RG$  if and only if  $\Gamma \otimes_{RG} \Gamma^*$  is *split* and has homology concentrated in degree 0, isomorphic to  $RG$ .

- 1 Further, it suffices to show only half of the maps of  $\Gamma \otimes_{RG} \Gamma^*$  are split.
- 2 If  $\Gamma$  descends to a  $p$ -permutation equivalence, one only has to verify exactness in the upper or lower part of  $\Gamma \otimes_{RG} \Gamma^*$ .

Moreover, there is a nice identification of  $\Gamma^*$  using the fact that every permutation module is self-dual.

### The case of $B(S_3)^\times$

$B(S_3)^\times$  has  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -dimension 3, and is generated by

$$\{-[S_3/S_3], [S_3/S_3] - [S_3/A_3], [S_3/S_3] - 2[S_3/C_2] + [S_3/1]\}.$$

The first unit has a trivial correspondent, and the second unit was covered from before. The third unit  $u$  is tricky...

We propose the following complex:

$$\Gamma_u = kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 \xrightarrow{d_1} kS_3 \otimes_{k\langle(12)\rangle} kS_3 \oplus kS_3 \otimes_{k\langle(13)\rangle} kS_3 \xrightarrow{d_0} kS_3$$

$$d_1 : a \otimes b \mapsto (a \otimes b, a \otimes b), \quad d_0 : (a \otimes b, c \otimes d) \mapsto ab - cd.$$

Its dual may be shown to be isomorphic to:

$$\Gamma_u^* : kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 \xleftarrow{d_1^*} kS_3 \otimes_{k\langle(12)\rangle} kS_3 \oplus kS_3 \otimes_{k\langle(13)\rangle} kS_3 \xleftarrow{d_0^*} kS_3$$

$$d_0^* : a \mapsto \left( \sum_{g \in [S_3 / \langle(12)\rangle]} ag \otimes g^{-1}, - \sum_{g \in [S_3 / \langle(13)\rangle]} ag \otimes g^{-1} \right)$$

$$d_1^* : (a \otimes b, c \otimes d) \mapsto \sum_{g \in \langle(12)\rangle} ag \otimes g^{-1}b + \sum_{g \in \langle(13)\rangle} cg \otimes g^{-1}d.$$

Then  $\Gamma_u \otimes_{RG} \Gamma_u^*$  can be depicted as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 & & & & & & \\
 \downarrow d_1 \otimes \text{id} & \searrow -\text{id} \otimes d_0^* & & & & & \\
 \bigoplus_{i=1}^2 kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 & & \bigoplus_{i=1}^2 kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 & & & & \\
 \downarrow d_0 \otimes \text{id} & \searrow \text{id} \otimes d_0^* & \downarrow d_1 \otimes \text{id} & \searrow -\text{id} \otimes d_1^* & & & \\
 kS_3 & & \bigoplus_{i=1}^4 kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 & & kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 & & \\
 \searrow -\text{id} \otimes d_0^* & \downarrow d_0 \otimes \text{id} & \searrow \text{id} \otimes d_1^* & & \downarrow d_1 \otimes \text{id} & & \\
 & \bigoplus_{i=1}^2 kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 & & \bigoplus_{i=1}^2 kS_3 \otimes_{kC_2} kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 & & & \\
 & & \searrow -\text{id} \otimes d_1^* & & \downarrow d_0 \otimes \text{id} & & \\
 & & & & kS_3 \otimes_k kS_3 & & 
 \end{array}$$

Verifying that homology is concentrated in degree 0 follows from computing the homology of  $\Gamma_u$ , but there are challenging obstructions to verifying splitness of the inner maps.

## Further directions of study:

- Generalize the  $S_3$  construction to arbitrary units of the form  $[G/G] - [G/H_1] - [G/H_2] + [G/K]$  - these are important in the classification of  $B(G)^\times$  if  $G$  is a 2-group.
- Inflation: Given  $N \leq H_1, \dots, H_k \leq G$  with  $N \trianglelefteq G$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{a_i} [G/H_i] \in B(G)^\times \iff \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{a_i} [(G/N)/(H_i/N)] \in B(G/N)^\times.$$

Can we find some corresponding “inflation” construction on complexes?

- Attempt constructions based on the image of  $u \in B(G)^\times$  in  $\text{Hom}(\Phi(G), \mathbb{Z})$  - certain properties of  $B(G)$  are easily communicated only in terms of the ghost ring.
- Search for  $p$ -permutation equivalences which do *not* lift. While it is unlikely every  $p$ -permutation lifts, there are no known examples of ones which do not lift as of yet.