

# Invariants of a Free Linear Category and Representation Type

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## Abstract

We consider an homogeneous action of a finite group on a free linear category over a field in order to prove that the subcategory of invariants is still free. Moreover we show that the representation type is preserved when considering invariants.

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## 1 Introduction

The first purpose of this article is to prove that the algebra of invariants of a homogeneous action of a finite group on a free linear category is again a free linear category. V.K. Kharchenko [14] and D.R. Lane [15] proved that the algebra of invariants of a finite group acting homogeneously on a free algebra is a free algebra.

In this paper  $k$  is a field of any characteristic. A  $k$ -category is a small category enriched over  $k$ -vector spaces. In other words objects are a set, morphisms are vector spaces, composition is  $k$ -bilinear. At each object the endomorphisms forms a  $k$ -algebra.

A free  $k$ -category is given by a set of objects and a set of "oriented" vector spaces, that is to each couple of objects there is a given vector space which can be zero. The *track-quiver* of this data is the oriented graph which records the non-zero vector spaces. In the first Section we recall the precise definitions and the construction of the associated free  $k$ -category. We also recall that if the number of objects of a  $k$ -category is finite, there is a canonical  $k$ -algebra associated to it. The latter is hereditary if the category is free.

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The problem of describing invariants of an action of a group goes back to D. Hilbert and E. Noether. For commutative free algebras (i.e. polynomial algebras) over a field of characteristic zero, an homogeneous action of a finite subgroup of  $GL(d, k)$  provides again a commutative free algebra of invariants if and only if the group is generated by pseudo-reflections. This has been proved by G.C. Shephard – J.A. Todd [21], and by C. Chevalley and J.P. Serre [6, 20]. For a detailed account see [22, 2].

The action of a group on a free  $k$ -category is called homogeneous if it is given by a linear action on the generators, which is extended in the unique possible manner to an action on the free  $k$ -category by invertible endofunctors. Note that we consider actions on a free  $k$ -category which are trivial on the set of objects. Indeed, we restrict to this case since otherwise the invariants are the invariants of the full subcategory determined by the invariant objects. We observe that this context is at the opposite of a Galois action of a group on a  $k$ -category where the action on objects has to be free, hence with no invariant objects, see for instance [5].

Another aim of this paper is to prove a result about invariants of a tensor product of  $kG$ -modules which appears to be unknown. This result is a crucial tool for proving our main theorem, namely that invariants of an homogeneous action on a free  $k$ -category form again a free  $k$ -category. It can be outlined as follows. Let  $M_n, \dots, M_1$  be a sequence of  $kG$  modules and let  $(M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)^G$  be the vector space of invariants of the action of  $G$  on the tensor product. Some of these invariants "are strictly from below" in the sense that they are sums of tensors of invariants of a partition by strict sub-strings of  $M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1$ . We call those invariants "composites", they form a canonical sub-vector space of the space of invariants. A chosen vector space complement is called a space of irreducible invariants. For any fixed choice of irreducible spaces of invariants in the sub-strings of the tensor product, we prove the uniqueness of the decomposition of an invariant as a sum of tensors of irreducible invariants. We infer this result from the Kharchenko–Lane Theorem.

The last section is also a contribution to the classical study of the relationship of an algebra with its algebra of invariants, see for instance [19]. We prove that the representation type is conserved, more precisely if a free  $k$ -linear category with an homogeneous action of a finite group is of finite or tame representation type, then its invariant  $k$ -category is respectively of finite or tame representation type. Note that we adopt the convention that a  $k$ -category of finite representation type is also of tame representation type. In order to prove this result, we set up ad-hoc cleaving techniques whose basics goes back to D.G. Higman.

At least three questions arise from the present work in relation with previous results for free algebras.

Firstly V.O. Ferreira, L.S.I. Murakami and A. Paques in [17] have provided a

generalization of the work of V.K. Kharchenko by considering an homogeneous action of a Hopf  $k$ -algebra over a free  $k$ -algebra. A generalization of our work should also hold for a Hopf algebra acting homogeneously on a free  $k$ -category.

Secondly note that W. Dicks – E. Formanek [7] have proved that for a free  $k$ -algebra, unless the group is cyclic and the number of free generators of the original algebra is finite, the number of free generators of the invariants is infinite. A similar result in the setting of free  $k$ -categories should hold.

Finally a Galois correspondence analogous to the one described by Kharchenko should hold in the context of free linear categories. More precisely let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a free linear category with an homogeneous action of a finite group  $G$  and let  $\mathcal{L}^G$  be the subcategory of invariants. Then the subcategories of  $\mathcal{L}$  containing  $\mathcal{L}^G$  should be in one-to-one correspondence with subgroups of  $G$ .

## 2 Free linear categories

We recall first the definition of a free linear category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  over a field  $k$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}_0$  be a set and let  $V = \{ {}_y V_x \}_{y,x \in \mathcal{L}_0}$  be a family of  $k$  vector spaces. Let  $u = (u_n, \dots, u_0)$  be a sequence of elements in  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and consider the vector space

$$W(u) = {}_{u_n} V_{u_{n-1}} \otimes \dots \otimes {}_{u_2} V_{u_1} \otimes {}_{u_1} V_{u_0}.$$

For a singleton sequence  $u = (u_0)$  we set  $W(u_0) = k$ .

Let  ${}_y S_x$  be the set of sequences  $(y = u_n, u_{n-1}, \dots, u_0 = x)$  and let

$${}_y W_x = \bigoplus_{u \in {}_y S_x} W(u).$$

Next we define a  $k$ -category which we call free since it verifies the universal property stated in Proposition 2.2.

**Definition 2.1** *The free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  has set of objects  $\mathcal{L}_0$ . The vector space of morphisms  ${}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(V)]_x$  from an object  $x$  to an object  $y$  is  ${}_y W_x$ . In order to define the linear composition of the category, we consider first the concatenation of sequences of objects as follows.*

*Let  $v = (z = v_m, \dots, v_0 = y) \in {}_z S_y$  and  $u = (y = u_n, \dots, u_0 = x) \in {}_y S_x$ .*

*Their concatenation is the sequence*

$$vu = (z = v_m, \dots, v_0 = y = u_n, \dots, u_0 = x).$$

*Note that there is a tensor map*

$$W(v) \otimes W(u) \rightarrow W(vu).$$

The composition of the free  $k$ -category is given by the direct sum of the above maps.

We observe that the preceding definition has the advantage of being intrinsic, since it do not rely on the choice of bases of the vector spaces of the family. We recall the universal property of  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ :

**Proposition 2.2** *Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a  $k$ -category with set of objects  $\mathcal{B}_0$ . A linear functor  $F : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  is uniquely determined by the following data*

- a map  $F_0 : \mathcal{L}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_0$ ,
- a family of linear maps  $\{ {}_y F_x : {}_y V_x \rightarrow {}_{F_0(y)} \mathcal{B}_{F_0(x)} \}_{x,y \in \mathcal{B}_0}$ .

To the data required for defining a free  $k$ -category we associate a *track-quiver*, that is an oriented graph whose vertices are  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and with an arrow from  $x$  to  $y$  if and only if  ${}_y V_x \neq 0$ . We also associate a *bases-quiver* as follows: firstly choose a basis of each vector space in the family. The vertices are still  $\mathcal{L}_0$  whiles the set of arrows from  $x$  to  $y$  is the chosen basis of  ${}_y V_x$ . Those arrows are said to have *source*  $x$  and *target*  $y$ .

**Remark 2.3** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a small category (i.e. without additional  $k$ -structure). By definition its linearization  $k\mathcal{C}$  is a  $k$ -category with the same set of objects, while morphisms are the vector spaces with bases the morphisms of the category. Composition is obtained by extending bilinearly the composition of  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

Associated to a quiver  $Q$  there is a free category  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  (without additional structure) as follows, see for instance [16, p. 48]: the objects are the vertices, morphisms are sequences of concatenated arrows (called paths), including the trivial one at each vertex. The source (resp. target) of a non-trivial path is the source (resp. target) of its first (resp. last) arrow. The source and target of a trivial path at a vertex are that vertex. Composition is concatenation of paths and the trivial paths are the identities.

Consider a free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  with bases-quiver  $Q$ . The linearization  $k\mathcal{F}_Q$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ .

We recall now the  $k$ -algebra corresponding to a  $k$ -category with a finite number of objects.

**Definition 2.4** *Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a  $k$ -category with set of objects  $\mathcal{B}_0$ . Let  $\bigoplus \mathcal{B}$  be the vector space  $\bigoplus_{x,y \in \mathcal{B}_0} {}_x B_y$  equipped with the product extended linearly from the following: if  $g \in {}_z B_{y'}$  and  $f \in {}_y B_x$ , then  $gf = 0$  if  $y \neq y'$  while if  $y = y'$  the product is the composition  $gf$  of the morphisms in the category.*

Note that the algebra above has a unit if and only if the set  $B_0$  is finite, in that case we say that  $\mathcal{B}$  is *object-finite*. The following result is clear.

**Lemma 2.5** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_0 = \{x\}$  be a singleton, let the family  $V$  be constituted by a single vector space  $\{ {}_x V_x \}$  and let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be the corresponding free  $k$ -category. Then  $\oplus \mathcal{L}_k(V) = T_k({}_x V_x)$  where the latter is the free  $k$ -algebra*

$$k \oplus {}_x V_x \oplus ({}_x V_x \otimes_k {}_x V_x) \oplus \cdots \oplus ({}_x V_x)^{\otimes_k n} \oplus \cdots$$

We recall next the following well known result, see for instance [4].

**Proposition 2.6** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be a free object-finite  $k$ -category. Then  $\oplus \mathcal{L}_k(V)$  is a hereditary algebra.*

**Proof.** Let  $E = \times_{s \in \mathcal{L}_0} W(s)$  be the semisimple subalgebra of  $\Lambda = \oplus \mathcal{L}_k(V)$  defined by the objects of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Let

$$M = \bigoplus_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0} {}_y V_x.$$

The following is an exact sequence of  $\Lambda$  bimodules

$$0 \longrightarrow \Lambda \otimes_E M \otimes_E \Lambda \xrightarrow{\alpha} \Lambda \otimes_E \Lambda \xrightarrow{m} \Lambda \longrightarrow 0$$

where  $m$  is the multiplication given by  $\Lambda$  and  $\alpha(\lambda \otimes m \otimes \mu) = \lambda m \otimes \mu - \lambda \otimes m \mu$ . Note that  $\Lambda \otimes_E M \otimes_E \Lambda$  and  $\Lambda \otimes_E \Lambda$  are projective  $\Lambda$  bimodules. So  $\Lambda$  has projective dimension smaller or equal 1 as a bimodule, that is  $\Lambda$  is hereditary.

**Remark 2.7** *Let  $T_E(M) = E \oplus M \oplus (M \otimes_E M) \oplus \cdots \oplus (M^{\otimes_E n}) \oplus \cdots$  be the tensor algebra of the bimodule  $M$  over  $E$ . Then  $\oplus \mathcal{L}_k(V) = T_E(M)$ . Moreover if we chose a basis of each  ${}_y V_x$  and we consider  $Q$  the corresponding bases-quiver,  $T_E(M)$  is isomorphic to the path algebra  $kQ$ .*

We recall a well known fact, namely a sub-category of a free  $k$ -category is not free in general.

**Example 2.8** *Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the free  $k$ -category whose bases-quiver is*

$$u_0 \longrightarrow u_1 \longrightarrow u_2 \longrightarrow u_3$$

*Note that the generating vector spaces are of dimension 1. Consider the subcategory  $\mathcal{B}$  given by  $\mathcal{B}_0 = \mathcal{L}_0$  while  ${}_{u_2} \mathcal{B}_{u_1} = 0$  and  ${}_y \mathcal{B}_x = {}_y \mathcal{L}_x$  for all other pairs of objects  $x$  and  $y$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}$  is the incidence  $k$ -category of the partially ordered set*

$$\{u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3 \mid u_0 < u_1, u_0 < u_2, u_1 < u_3, u_2 < u_3\}.$$

*It is well known and easy to prove that the algebra of this category have global dimension 2. Therefore the previous Proposition shows that  $\mathcal{B}$  is not free.*

### 3 Unique decomposition of invariants by irreducible

Let  $G$  be a finite group, let  $kG$  be the group algebra and let  $V$  be a  $kG$ -module. Since  $kG$  is a Hopf algebra the tensor product over  $k$  of two  $kG$  modules  $V$  and  $V'$  is a  $kG$ -module through the comultiplication *i.e.* the diagonal action. More precisely for  $s \in G, v \in V$  and  $v' \in V'$

$$s(v \otimes v') = sv \otimes sv'.$$

We infer the action of  $G$  on  $T_k(V)$  by automorphisms of the algebra. The subalgebra of invariants (or the fixed points algebra) is denoted  $T_k(V)^G$ .

**Theorem 3.1** (*Kharchenko–Lane, see [14, 15]*)

*Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $V$  be a  $kG$ -module which is a finite dimensional  $k$ -vector space. Then  $T_k(V)^G$  is again a tensor algebra and there exists an homogeneous sub-vector space  $U \subset T_k(V)^G$  such that  $T_k(U)$  is isomorphic to  $T_k(V)^G$ .*

**Remark 3.2** *The homogeneity of the free generators of  $T_k(V)^G$  follows from the proof of V.K. Kharchenko.*

**Definition 3.3** *A free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}$  over a set  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and over a family of  $k$ -vector spaces  $V = \{ {}_yV_x \}_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0}$  is called Schurian-generated if each vector space of the family is one-dimensional or zero.*

Observe that a free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  is Schurian-generated if and only if its bases-quiver has no multiple arrows, that is if the track-quiver and the basis-quiver are equal.

Next we will prove an analogous of the Kharchenko-Lane Theorem for free Schurian-generated  $k$ -categories. Later on we will prove a general theorem using other methods, however this result is useful as a first approach. Moreover Schurian-generated categories will be needed at the last Section.

**Proposition 3.4** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be a free Schurian-generated  $k$ -category. Let  $G$  be a finite group acting homogeneously on  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ . Then the invariant subcategory  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  is again free.*

**Proof.** Since the bases-quiver has no multiple arrows, to each arrow  $a$  there is an associated character  $\chi_a : G \rightarrow k^*$ . Let  $w$  be a path of positive length in the bases-quiver and let  $\chi_w$  be the product of the characters corresponding to the arrows of  $w$ . The path  $w$  is an invariant if and only if  $\chi_w = 1$ . The invariant paths from  $x$  to  $y$  are a bases of  ${}_y[\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G]_x$ . An invariant path of positive length is called irreducible if it is not the concatenation of two invariant

paths of positive length. Clearly any invariant path is a unique concatenation of irreducible invariant paths. Then  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  is free over the set  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and over the family of vector spaces with bases the invariant irreducible paths. Observe that its bases-quiver has an arrow corresponding to each irreducible invariant path, sharing the same source and target vertices.  $\diamond$

**Example 3.5** Let  $Q_n$  be an oriented crown, that is a quiver with set of vertices the cyclic group  $C_n = \langle t \mid t^n = 1 \rangle$  and an arrow from  $t^i$  to  $t^{i+1}$  for every  $i$ . Note that the corresponding free  $k$ -category is connected and that all the vector spaces of morphisms are infinite dimensional. Let  $q$  be a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity and let the generator  $t$  of  $C_n$  act on each arrow of  $Q_n$  by multiplication by  $q$ . The invariant irreducible paths are the paths of length  $n$ . The bases-quiver of the invariant  $k$ -category is a union of  $n$  loops. In other words the invariant sub-algebra is a product of  $n$ -copies of the polynomial algebra in one variable. We observe that the invariant  $k$ -category is not connected.

From the Kharchenko-Lane Theorem we will infer a result about invariants in a tensor product of  $KG$  modules which will be an important tool in the next section.

Let  $M_n, \dots, M_1$  be a sequence of  $kG$ -modules. Our next purpose is to distinguish in  $(M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)^G$  between “composite invariants”, namely invariant elements which comes strictly from below, and “irreducible invariants”.

For each natural number  $i$  between 1 and  $n - 1$  consider the canonical map:

$$\varphi_i : (M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_{i+1})^G \otimes (M_i \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)^G \longrightarrow (M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)^G.$$

**Definition 3.6** Let  $\varphi = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \varphi_i$ . The image of  $\varphi$  is the space of composite invariants and is denoted  $[(M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)^G]^\circledast$ .

There is not a canonical complement to the subspace of composite invariants in the space of invariants. A chosen complement is called a *space of irreducible invariants*.

Let  $j, i$  be integers such that  $n \geq j \geq i \geq 1$ . Let  $M_j \otimes \dots \otimes M_i$  be the  $[j, i]$ -string and let  $(M_j \otimes \dots \otimes M_i)^G$  be the  $[j, i]$ -invariant string. We denote  $(M_j \otimes \dots \otimes M_i)_{\text{irr}}^G$  a chosen vector space which complements  $[(M_j \otimes \dots \otimes M_i)^G]^\circledast$  in the  $[j, i]$ -invariant string. Note that  $(M_i)_{\text{irr}}^G = M_i^G$  since  $[(M_i^G)]^\circledast = 0$ .

Let  $p = (n_l, \dots, n_1)$  be a *non-ordered  $l$ -partition* of  $n$ , that is a sequence of  $l$  positive integers such that  $n = n_l + \dots + n_1$ . Let  $(M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)_{p, \text{irr}}^G$  be the following vector space

$$(M_n \otimes \dots \otimes M_{n_1 + \dots + n_{l-1} + 1})_{\text{irr}}^G \otimes \dots \otimes (M_{n_1 + n_2} \otimes \dots \otimes M_{n_1 + 1})_{\text{irr}}^G \otimes (M_{n_1} \otimes \dots \otimes M_1)_{\text{irr}}^G$$

and consider the map

$$\psi_p : (M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)_{p,\text{irr}}^G \rightarrow (M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G.$$

Let  $\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1}$  be the sum of the  $\psi_p$  along the set all non-ordered partitions of  $n$ , namely

$$\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1} : \bigoplus_p (M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)_{p,\text{irr}}^G \longrightarrow (M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G.$$

Next we will prove that any invariant is a sum of tensors of irreducible invariants.

**Lemma 3.7**  $\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1}$  is surjective.

**Proof.** We begin by providing a natural filtration of the invariants. For each non-ordered partition  $p = (n_l, \dots, n_1)$  of  $n$  we consider similar maps as above, but not restricted to irreducible invariants: let  $\varphi_p$  from

$$(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{n_1 + \dots + n_{l-1} + 1})^G \otimes \cdots \otimes (M_{n_1 + n_2} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_{n_1 + 1})^G \otimes (M_{n_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G$$

to  $(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G$ . Consider the image of the sum of the maps  $\varphi_p$  along all the  $l$ -partitions  $p$  of  $n$ ; we call it *the space of  $l$ -composite invariants* and we denote it  $[(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^l$ . Note that 2-composite invariants are the space of composite invariants that we have defined before. The following holds:

$$0 \subseteq [(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^n \subseteq \cdots \subseteq [(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^l \subseteq \cdots$$

$$\subseteq [(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^2 \subseteq [(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^1 = (M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G.$$

Observe that the the first stage of this filtration verifies

$$[(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^n = M_n^G \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1^G.$$

Moreover this sub-space of the invariants is already in the image of  $\psi$  since  $M_i^G = (M_i)_{\text{irr}}^G$  as mentioned above.

Assume that  $[(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^l$  is contained in  $\text{Im}(\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1})$  in order to prove that

$$[(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^{l-1} \subset \text{Im}(\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1}).$$

Let  $m \in [(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^{l-1}$  and suppose first that  $m$  is obtained from a fixed  $l-1$  partition. Each invariant tensor in the sub-strings determined by the partition decomposes as a composite plus an irreducible. This shows that  $m$  is the sum of terms of two kinds:



- tensors of irreducible invariants, which belong by definition to  $\text{Im}(\psi)$ .
- $(l-1)$ -tensors which contain at least one composite invariant, so belonging to  $[(M_n \otimes \cdots \otimes M_1)^G]^l$  which we have assumed is contained in  $\text{Im}(\psi)$ .

A general  $m$  is a sum of terms as above. ◇

**Proposition 3.8** *Let  $M$  be a  $kG$ -module which is finite dimensional as a vector space, let  $n$  be a positive integer and consider the constant sequence  $M_n = \cdots = M_1 = M$ . Then  $\psi_{M, \dots, M}$  is bijective.*

**Proof.** Let  $T_k(M)^G = k \oplus M^G \oplus (M \otimes M)^G \oplus \cdots$  be the invariant subalgebra of the tensor algebra  $T_k(M)$ . The theorem of Kharchenko-Lane states that  $T_k(M)^G \cong T_k(U)$  where  $U$  is a homogeneous sub-vector space of  $T_k(M)^G$ .

We assert that  $U_n = U \cap (M^{\otimes n})^G$  is a vector space of irreducible invariants for every  $n$ , namely it is a complement of the canonical subspace of composite invariants. This is clear at the first degree where the invariants are non-zero, since for this degree the space of composites is zero. Since  $T_k(U)$  is a tensor algebra, the elements of the space of composite invariants of degree  $n$  are the sums of tensors of homogeneous elements of  $U$ . We assume that  $U_i$  is a space of irreducible invariants in degrees less than  $n$ . According to the previous result, in degree  $n$  the composites are sums of tensors of irreducible of lower degree, that is of elements of  $U_i$  for  $i < n$ , nothing else is reached through composites. Moreover the intersection of the composites with  $U_n$  is zero since  $T_k(U)$  is free. We infer that  $U_n$  is a complement of the space of composite invariants.

The Theorem of Kharchenko-Lane states that the map  $T_k(U) \rightarrow T_k(M)^G$  is an isomorphism, then  $\psi_{M, \dots, M}$  is injective as well. ◇

**Theorem 3.9** *Let  $M_n, \dots, M_1$  be a sequence of  $kG$ -modules which are finite dimensional as vector spaces. Then  $\psi_{M_n, \dots, M_1}$  is bijective.*

**Proof.** The direct sum of the maps  $\psi_{M_{i_n}, \dots, M_{i_1}}$  along all the sequence  $(i_n, \dots, i_1)$  of integers belonging to  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  equals  $\psi_{M, \dots, M}$  which is a bijection. Hence all those maps are invertible, in particular the one corresponding to the sequence  $(n, \dots, 1)$ . ◇

## 4 Invariants of a free linear category

Let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be a free  $k$ -category on a set of objects  $\mathcal{L}_0$  with respect to a family  $V$  of vector spaces  $\{ {}_y V_x \}_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0}$ .

Let  $G$  be a finite group acting linearly on each  ${}_y V_x$ , in other words  $V$  is a family of  $kG$ -modules. Using the universal property of  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  we infer an action of  $G$  by invertible endofunctors of  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  which are the identity on objects. Note that the resulting action on morphisms is diagonal on tensor products of vector spaces of the family, in other words the action on morphisms is given by the  $kG$ -structure of a tensor product of  $kG$ -modules. Our purpose in this Section is to prove that the invariant category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  is a free  $k$ -category.

Let  $Q$  be the track-quiver of  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ . Consider  $\gamma$  an oriented path in  $Q$  of length  $n$ , that is a sequence of  $n$  concatenated arrows  $u_n \leftarrow u_{n-1} \leftarrow \cdots \leftarrow u_0$ . Let

$$V_\gamma = {}_{u_n} V_{u_{n-1}} \otimes \cdots \otimes {}_{u_1} V_{u_0}$$

be the vector space corresponding to  $\gamma$ . We denote  ${}_y Q_x$  the set of oriented paths of  $Q$  from  $x$  to  $y$ . Then

$${}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(V)]_x = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in {}_y Q_x} V_\gamma.$$

Observe that each  $V_\gamma$  is a tensor product of a sequence of  $kG$ -modules as considered in the previous Section. The invariant sub-category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  has set of objects  $\mathcal{L}_0$ , and morphisms as follows:

$${}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G]_x = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in {}_y Q_x} V_\gamma^G.$$

Let  $[V_\gamma^G]^2$  be the space of composite invariants as defined before, and let  $[V_\gamma^G]_{\text{irr}}$  be a vector space of irreducible invariants, that is a chosen subvector space such that

$$V_\gamma = [V_\gamma^G]_{\text{irr}} \oplus [V_\gamma^G]^2.$$

Let  $U = \{ {}_y U_x \}_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0}$  be the family of vector spaces given by

$${}_y U_x = \bigoplus_{\gamma \in {}_y Q_x} [V_\gamma^G]_{\text{irr}}.$$

**Theorem 4.1** *Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $V = \{ {}_y V_x \}_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0}$  be a family of  $kG$ -modules which are finite dimensional as vector spaces. The functor  $F : \mathcal{L}_k(U) \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  given by the universal property of  $\mathcal{L}_k(U)$  is an isomorphism of categories.*

**Proof.** Let  $R$  be the track-quiver of the free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(U)$ . The arrows of  $R$  are precisely the oriented paths  $\gamma$  of  $Q$  such that  $[V_\gamma^G]_{\text{irr}} \neq 0$ . Let  $x$  and  $y$  be objects. Our purpose is to prove that the map

$${}_y F_x : {}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(U)]_x \longrightarrow {}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G]_x$$

is bijective.

Recall that  $\mathcal{L}_k(U)$  is free, hence  ${}_y [\mathcal{L}_k(U)]_x$  is the direct sum of the vector spaces  $\mathcal{L}_k(U)_\beta$  along the oriented paths  $\beta = \beta_l \dots \beta_1 \in {}_y R_x$  where the  $\beta_i$ 's are arrows in  $R$ , that is the  $\beta_i$ 's are oriented paths in  $Q$  such that  $[V_{\beta_i}^G]_{\text{irr}} \neq 0$ . Then

$$\mathcal{L}_k(U)_\beta = [V_{\beta_l}^G]_{\text{irr}} \otimes \dots \otimes [V_{\beta_1}^G]_{\text{irr}}.$$

For a given oriented path  $\gamma \in {}_y Q_x$  of length  $n$  we consider its *partitions* which are in one-to-one correspondence with the non-ordered partitions  $(n_l, \dots, n_1)$  of  $n$  considered in the previous Section. More precisely a partition of  $\gamma$  by non trivial sub-paths is  $(\beta_l, \dots, \beta_1)$  where  $\beta_i$  is a sub-path of  $\gamma$  of length  $n_i$ . If  $[V_{\beta_i}^G]_{\text{irr}} \neq 0$  for all  $i$ , then there is an oriented path  $\beta \in {}_y R_x$  where the  $\beta_i$ 's are arrows of  $R$ . For a given  $\gamma$ , let  $B_\gamma$  be the set of  $\beta$ 's obtained this way. We put

$$\mathcal{L}_k(U)_\gamma = \bigoplus_{\beta \in B_\gamma} \mathcal{L}_k(U)_\beta.$$

The map  ${}_y F_x$  decomposes as a direct sum of maps  ${}_y F_x(\gamma)$  along  $\gamma \in {}_y Q_x$ , where

$${}_y F_x(\gamma) : \mathcal{L}_k(U)_\gamma \longrightarrow V_\gamma^G.$$

The last Theorem of the previous Section states that each of those maps is bijective.

◇

## 5 Invariants and representation type

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $k$ -category. We consider the abelian  $k$ -category of  $\mathcal{C}$ -modules, which objects are  $k$ -functors from  $\mathcal{C}$  to the category of finite dimensional vector spaces. A  $\mathcal{C}$ -module  $\mathcal{M}$  is called an *indecomposable  $\mathcal{C}$ -module* if the only decomposition of  $\mathcal{M}$  as a direct sum of two submodules is trivial, *i.e.*  $\mathcal{M} \oplus 0$ . Note that for an object-finite category  $\mathcal{C}$ , usual left  $\oplus \mathcal{C}$ -modules with finite dimensional underlying vector space coincides with  $\mathcal{C}$ -modules.

A  $k$ -category is said to be *hom-finite* if its vector spaces of morphisms are finite dimensional.

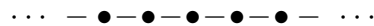
$\mathcal{C}$  is of *finite representation type* if the number of isomorphism classes of indecomposable  $\mathcal{C}$ -modules is finite, observe that this implies that  $\mathcal{C}$  is object finite. The  $k$ -dimension of a module  $\mathcal{M}$  is  $\dim_k \mathcal{M} = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{C}_0} \dim_k \mathcal{M}(x)$ . We say that  $\mathcal{C}$  is of *tame representation type* if for each positive integer  $d$  the isomorphism classes of indecomposable modules  $\mathcal{M}$  of  $k$ -dimension bounded by  $d$  are parametrized by a finite number of copies of  $k$ , except possibly for a finite number of them.

We recall Gabriel's Theorem, see [9, 3]: a free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  is of finite representation type if and only if the underlying graph of a bases-quiver is a disjoint union of Dynkin diagrams  $A_n(n \geq 1)$ ,  $D_n(n \geq 4)$ ,  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$  or  $E_8$  (recall that the index is the number of vertices of the graph). This result has been generalized by Donovan and Freislich in [8] as follows:  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  is of tame representation type if and only if the underlying graph is a disjoint union of Dynkin or extended Dynkin diagrams  $\widetilde{A}_n(n \geq 2)$ ,  $\widetilde{D}_n(n \geq 5)$ ,  $\widetilde{E}_6$ ,  $\widetilde{E}_7$  or  $\widetilde{E}_8$  (recall that in these cases the number of vertices of the graph is the index plus one).

**Definition 5.1** *A  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is finitely of finite or tame representation type if and only if any object-finite full  $k$ -subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  is respectively of finite or tame representation type.*

**Remark 5.2** *Clearly if a  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{C}$  is already object-finite and of finite or tame representation type, then any full  $k$ -subcategory  $\mathcal{B}$  is respectively of finite or tame representation type. Indeed a  $\mathcal{B}$ -module is extended to a  $\mathcal{C}$ -module by assigning zero vector spaces to the objects which are not in  $\mathcal{B}$ . This provides a functor which sends a  $\mathcal{B}$ -indecomposable module to a  $\mathcal{C}$ -indecomposable module of the same  $k$ -dimension.*

**Example 5.3** *The free  $k$ -category which bases-quiver is any orientation of the graph*



*is finitely of finite representation type.*

Note that in general a  $k$ -subcategory of a finite free  $k$ -category of finite representation type is not of tame representation type, as the following well known example shows (compare with Example 2.8).

**Example 5.4** *Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the free  $k$ -category whose bases-quiver is*

$$u_0 \longrightarrow u_1 \longrightarrow u_2 \longrightarrow u_3 \longrightarrow u_4 \longrightarrow u_5 \longrightarrow u_6$$

*Consider the subcategory  $\mathcal{B}$  with the same objects while*

$$0 = {}_{u_2} \mathcal{B}_{u_1} = {}_{u_3} \mathcal{B}_{u_1} = {}_{u_4} \mathcal{B}_{u_1} = {}_{u_5} \mathcal{B}_{u_1} = {}_{u_3} \mathcal{B}_{u_2} = {}_{u_4} \mathcal{B}_{u_2} =$$

$${}_{u_5}\mathcal{B}_{u_2} = {}_{u_4}\mathcal{B}_{u_3} = {}_{u_5}\mathcal{B}_{u_3} = {}_{u_5}\mathcal{B}_{u_4}$$

and  ${}_y\mathcal{B}_x = {}_y\mathcal{L}_x$  otherwise. Then  $\mathcal{B}$  is the incidence  $k$ -category of the partially ordered set  $\{u_0, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4, u_5, u_6\}$  where  $u_0$  is the smallest element,  $u_6$  the largest one, and  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  and  $u_4$  are not comparable. This category is not of tame representation since its quotient by the square of the Jacobson radical is not of tame representation type, indeed its separate quiver is the union of two stars with 5 branches. This is not a disjoint union of extended Dynkin and/or Dynkin diagrams.

Next we recall results related to cleaving procedures introduced by D.G. Higman [12] and J. Jans [13], see also [1, 11].

**Definition 5.5** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $k$ -category and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a  $k$ -subcategory with the same set of objects.  $\mathcal{B}$  is a cleaving  $k$ -subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  if there exists a family of vector spaces  $X = \{{}_y\mathcal{X}_x\}_{x,y \in \mathcal{B}_0}$  verifying the following:

- for every pair  $x, y$  of objects  ${}_y\mathcal{X}_x \oplus {}_y\mathcal{B}_x = {}_y\mathcal{C}_x$ ,
- the family provides a  $\mathcal{B}$ -bimodule, i.e. for any triple of objects  $x, y, z$

$${}_z\mathcal{B}_y {}_y\mathcal{X}_x \subseteq {}_z\mathcal{X}_x \text{ and } {}_z\mathcal{X}_y {}_y\mathcal{B}_x \subseteq {}_z\mathcal{X}_x.$$

Then  $\mathcal{X}$  is called a cleaving bimodule of  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . If the vector spaces of the family  $\mathcal{X}$  are finite dimensional, we say that  $\mathcal{B}$  is a cofinite cleaving subcategory and that  $\mathcal{X}$  is a finite cleaving bimodule of  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be an indecomposable  $\mathcal{C}$ -module, let  $[\mathcal{M}]$  be its isomorphism class and let  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{B}}[\mathcal{M}]$  be the set of isomorphism classes of indecomposable modules which are direct summands of the restriction of  $\mathcal{M}$  to  $\mathcal{B}$ .

**Lemma 5.6** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a finite-object  $k$ -category and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a cofinite cleaving  $k$ -subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Let  $\mathcal{N}$  be an indecomposable  $\mathcal{B}$ -module.

There exists an indecomposable  $\mathcal{C}$ -module  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $[\mathcal{N}] \in \text{Ind}_{\mathcal{B}}[\mathcal{M}]$ . Moreover there exists a positive integer  $\gamma$  such that  $\mathcal{M}$  can be chosen to verify

$$\dim_k \mathcal{M} \leq \gamma \dim_k \mathcal{N}.$$

**Proof.** Since the categories involved are object-finite, it is equivalent to prove the result for a  $k$ -algebra  $C$  containing a  $k$ -subalgebra  $B$  and a finite dimensional  $B$ -bimodule  $X$  such that  $C = B \oplus X$ .

Let  $N$  be an indecomposable  $B$ -module which is finitely dimensional over  $k$ , and let  $C \otimes_B N$  be the extended  $C$ -module. Restricting to  $B$  provides a decomposition into a direct sum of  $B$ -modules

$$C \otimes_B N = N \oplus (X \otimes_B N).$$

The preceding equality shows that all the modules are finite dimensional over  $k$ , hence the Krull-Remak-Schmidt theorem is in force: consider the module  $\mathcal{M}$  restricted to  $\mathcal{B}$ , and any direct sum decomposition of  $\mathcal{M}$  into indecomposable  $\mathcal{B}$ -modules. The obtained set of isomorphism classes together with their multiplicities is an invariant of  $\mathcal{M}$ , in other words two decompositions provides the same set. In particular  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{B}}[\mathcal{M}]$  is finite. We infer that the isomorphism class of  $N$  appears in any decomposition of  $C \otimes_B N$  into indecomposable  $B$ -modules. We obtain such a decomposition as follows: firstly choose a decomposition of  $C \otimes_B N$  into indecomposable  $C$ -modules. Restricting to  $B$ , choose a decomposition of each indecomposable  $C$ -module into indecomposable  $B$ -modules. Hence there exists at least one indecomposable  $C$ -module  $M$  such that the isomorphism class of  $N$  belongs to  $\text{Ind}_B M$ .

Moreover the  $k$ -dimension of  $M$  is at most  $\dim_k N + \dim_k X \dim_k N$ , which shows that  $\gamma$  can be chosen to be equal to  $1 + \dim_k X$ .  $\diamond$

**Theorem 5.7** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $k$ -category and let  $\mathcal{B}$  be a cleaving cofinite  $k$ -subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$ . If  $\mathcal{C}$  is finitely of finite or tame representation type, then  $\mathcal{B}$  is finitely of respectively finite or tame representation type.*

**Proof.** We first show that the result follows if it holds for finite-objects  $k$ -categories. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a  $k$ -category finitely of finite or tame representation type, and let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a finite cleaving bimodule of  $\mathcal{B}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . Let  $\mathcal{B}'$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathcal{B}$  determined with a finite set of objects  $\mathcal{B}'_0$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}'$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  with set of objects  $\mathcal{B}'_0$  and let  $\mathcal{X}'$  be the subfamily of  $\mathcal{X}$  given by the pairs of objects in  $\mathcal{B}'_0$ . Note that  $\mathcal{X}'$  is a hom-finite cleaving bimodule of  $\mathcal{B}'$  in  $\mathcal{C}'$ . Since we assume that the result holds for finite-object categories, we infer the required conclusion for  $\mathcal{B}'$ .

We assume now that  $\mathcal{C}$  has a finite number of objects and  $\mathcal{B}$  is a cleaving cofinite  $k$ -subcategory. Let  $U$  be the union of the sets  $\text{Ind}_{\mathcal{B}}[\mathcal{M}]$  where  $[\mathcal{M}]$  varies among the isomorphism classes of indecomposable  $C$ -modules. The Lemma above shows that  $U$  is the set of isomorphism classes of indecomposable  $\mathcal{B}$ -modules. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is of finite representation type,  $U$  is finite, hence  $\mathcal{B}$  is of finite representation type.

Let  $\text{Ind}_d \mathcal{B}$  be the set of isomorphism classes of indecomposable  $\mathcal{B}$ -modules of dimension at most  $d$ . Using the Lemma above, we observe that  $\text{Ind}_d \mathcal{B}$  is contained in the subset of  $U$  of isomorphism classes of indecomposable  $C$ -modules of dimension at most  $\gamma d$ . If  $\mathcal{C}$  is of tame representation type, this subset is parametrized by a finite number of copies of  $k$  apart a finite number of isomorphism classes. Consequently this is also true for  $\text{Ind}_d \mathcal{B}$ .  $\diamond$

Next prove a Theorem by I. Reiten and C. Riedtmann in [19], which is valid for an arbitrary hom-finite  $k$ -category with an action by a group  $G$  which order is invertible in the field  $k$ . This way we obtain a proof for the Theorem 5.11 if the particular case where the free  $k$ -category is hom-finite and  $|G| \neq 0$  in  $k$ .

**Theorem 5.8** *Let  $G$  be a finite group which order is not zero in the field  $k$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a hom-finite  $k$ -category and let  $G$  be a group acting on  $\mathcal{C}$  with trivial action on the objects. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is finitely of finite or tame representation type,  $\mathcal{C}^G$  is finitely of respectively finite or tame representation type.*

**Proof.** We assert that  $\mathcal{C}^G$  is a cofinite cleaving subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Indeed each space of morphisms of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a finite dimensional  $kG$ -module. The hypothesis on the order of  $G$  insures that the group algebra  $kG$  is semisimple. Then

$${}_y\mathcal{C}_x = [{}_y\mathcal{C}_x]^G \oplus {}_y\mathcal{X}_x$$

where  ${}_y\mathcal{X}_x$  is the canonical complement, namely is the direct sum of the isotypic components of non trivial simple  $kG$ -submodules. Clearly this family constitutes a  $\mathcal{C}^G$ -bimodule.  $\diamond$

We will need the following result which is certainly well known, we provide a proof for completeness.

**Lemma 5.9** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be a free  $k$ -category and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a full subcategory of it. Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is also a free  $k$ -category.*

**Proof.** We first prove the analogous result for small categories, i.e. without  $k$ -structure. Let  $Q$  be a quiver and let  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  be the associated free category (see Remark 2.3). Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathcal{F}_Q$ . A morphism of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a sequence of concatenated arrows of  $Q$  (i.e. a path) having source and target objects in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . A path of  $\mathcal{C}$  is called  $\mathcal{C}$ -primitive if the vertices of all of its arrows are not in  $\mathcal{C}_0$  - except of course the source and the target of the path. Let  $R$  be the quiver with vertices  $\mathcal{C}_0$  and with an arrow  $a_w$  associated to each  $\mathcal{C}$ -primitive path  $w$ , the source and target objects of  $a_w$  are the same than for  $w$ . There is an evident functor from  $\mathcal{F}_R$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  determined by the universal property of free categories, which is the identity on objects and sends each arrow  $a_w$  of  $R$  to the  $\mathcal{C}$ -primitive path  $w$ . The functor is bijective on morphisms since any morphism of  $\mathcal{C}$  can uniquely be decomposed as a concatenation of  $\mathcal{C}$ -primitive morphisms, just by cutting the morphism at the vertices of the arrows which are in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . Consequently  $\mathcal{C}$  is isomorphic to the free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{F}_R$ .

Let now  $\mathcal{C}$  be a full  $k$ -subcategory of a free  $k$ -category  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ . Let  $Q$  be the bases-quiver of the latter. Let  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  be the free category and let  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  be the full

subcategory of  $\mathcal{F}_Q$  determined by  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . According to the above consideration  $\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  is a free category. We observe that its linearization  $k\widehat{\mathcal{C}}$  is the full  $k$ -subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  with objects  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . We infer  $k\widehat{\mathcal{C}} = \mathcal{C}$ . Then  $\mathcal{C}$  is the linearization of a free category, hence is a free  $k$ -category.  $\diamond$

**Proposition 5.10** *Let  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$  be a Schurian-generated free  $k$ -category (see Definition 3.3). Let  $G$  be a finite group acting homogeneously on it. Then  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  is a cleaving subcategory of  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)$ .*

**Proof.** As in the proof of Proposition 3.4, let  $\chi_w$  be the character associated to each path  $w$  of positive length of the bases-quiver.  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$  is the linearization of the category given by the paths  $w$  such that  $\chi_w = 1$ . Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be the family of sub-vector spaces of the morphisms with bases the paths with non-trivial characters. Clearly  $\mathcal{X}$  provides a  $\mathcal{L}_k(V)^G$ -bimodule. Moreover all the paths from  $x$  to  $y$  form a basis of  ${}_y[\mathcal{L}_k(V)]_x$ , hence we have a direct sum decomposition. This shows that  $\mathcal{X}$  is a cleaving bimodule.  $\diamond$

**Theorem 5.11** *Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a free  $k$ -category over a set  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and over a family of  $k$ -vector spaces  $V = \{{}_yV_x\}_{x,y \in \mathcal{L}_0}$ . Let  $G$  be a finite group acting homogeneously on  $\mathcal{L}$ , equivalently each vector space of the family is provided with a structure of a  $kG$ -module. If  $\mathcal{L}$  is finitely of finite or tame representation type,  $\mathcal{L}^G$  is finitely of respectively finite or tame representation type.*

**Proof.**

First we show that it is enough to prove the result for a finite-object  $k$ -category. Indeed let  $\mathcal{K}$  be a finite-object full subcategory of  $\mathcal{L}^G$ . Let  $\mathcal{K}'$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{L}$  determined by the finite set  $\mathcal{K}_0$ . We recall that the action of  $G$  is trivial on objects, hence  $\mathcal{K}'$  has also an action of  $G$  and  $\mathcal{K}'^G = \mathcal{K}$ . Note that  $\mathcal{K}'$  is free according to the Lemma 5.9. Since its number of objects is finite, by hypothesis  $\mathcal{K}'$  is respectively of finite or tame representation type. If the theorem is proved for finite-object categories we infer that  $\mathcal{K}'^G$ , that is  $\mathcal{K}$ , is of finite respectively tame representation type.

We assume now that  $\mathcal{L}$  is a finite-object free  $k$ -category, so its bases-quiver is a union of Dynkin or extended Dynkin graphs with some orientation. We will analyze separately the two following cases:

- $\widetilde{A}_n$  with cyclic orientation, that is an oriented crown as in Example 3.5. Note that the corresponding free  $k$ -category is not hom-finite,
- $\widetilde{A}_1$  with non cyclic orientation, that is the Kronecker quiver  $\cdot \rightrightarrows \cdot$ . Note that the corresponding free  $k$ -category is not Schurian-generated.



In all other cases the corresponding free  $k$ -categories are Schurian-generated and hom-finite, consequently the invariant sub-category is cleaving cofinite according to the previous Proposition. The result follows from Theorem 5.7.

Let  $Q_n$  be an oriented crown with  $n$  vertices, that is the graph  $\tilde{A}_{n-1}$  with a cyclic orientation provided with an action of a finite group  $G$  which is trivial on vertices. In other words, to each arrow there is an attached character  $G \rightarrow k$ . Our purpose is to prove that the invariant  $k$ -category is of tame representation type. Note that the free  $k$ -category determined by  $Q_n$  is Schurian-generated, then as in the proof of Proposition 3.4 each path  $w$  has an associated character. Recall from the proof of this Proposition that the irreducible invariant paths are the arrows of the bases-quiver of the invariant category. Given a vertex of  $Q_n$ , we assert that there is precisely one irreducible invariant path having this object as a source. Indeed, the group of characters is finite abelian, let  $e$  be its exponent. Any product of  $e$  characters is trivial, hence there is at least one invariant path with a given source. Then there is at least one irreducible invariant path with given source. Finally observe that for an oriented crown, two paths  $w$  and  $w'$  with a common source are either equal or there is a path  $w''$  such that  $w' = w''w$  or  $w = w''w'$ . Hence if  $w$  and  $w'$  are invariant paths then  $w''$  is also an invariant path. Consequently there is a unique irreducible invariant path with a given source. Similarly we assert that there is precisely one irreducible path with a given target.

The bases-quiver of the invariant category inherits this property, namely each vertex is the source of a unique arrow and the target of a unique arrow. It follows that the quiver is a union of oriented crowns.

Finally consider the Kronecker quiver. An action of a finite group  $G$  which is trivial on objects is given by a  $kG$ -module  $V$  of dimension 2. According to the dimension of the trivial submodule of  $V$  (2, 1 or 0), the invariants are  $\tilde{A}_1$ ,  $A_2$  or two vertices.  $\diamond$

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