

HIGH-DIMENSIONAL TOPOLOGICAL FIELD THEORY, POSITIVITY, AND EXOTIC SMOOTH SPHERES

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ABSTRACT. In previous work, we proposed a general framework of positive topological field theories (TFTs) based on Eilenberg's notion of summation completeness for semirings. In the present paper, we apply this framework in constructing explicitly a concrete positive TFT defined on smooth manifolds of any dimension greater than 1. We prove that this positive TFT detects exotic smooth spheres. We show further that polynomial invariants (subject to boundary conditions) can be extracted from the state sum if the dimension of the cobordisms is at least 3.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In [Ban15], we introduced a general method which assigns to any system of fields on cobordisms and system of action functionals on these fields a positive topological field theory (TFT). Here, positivity refers to the fact that the state sum of such a theory takes values in a semiring, and is not definable over rings. Thus positivity here does not refer to positivity of the associated Hermitian pairing on the state modules in a unitary theory, as e.g. in [KT08]. The reason why semirings are used is a fundamental discovery of Eilenberg ([Eil74]): Certain semirings allow for an additive completeness that enables summation over families with large index sets. The so-called ‘‘Eilenberg-swindle’’ shows that such a completeness can never hold in nontrivial rings. In [Ban15], we also announced an application of the abstract framework to explicitly constructing a positive TFT for all compact smooth manifolds in every dimension at least 2, which is capable of detecting exotic smooth structures. In the present paper, we carry out this construction in full detail. From now on, all manifolds are understood to be smooth.

Based on certain algebraic data, which are independent of any manifold and to be described more precisely below, we first construct a commutative, Eilenberg-complete monoid Q , which comes naturally equipped with two multiplications, yielding semirings Q^c and Q^m . The elements of Q are formal power series in one variable q with coefficients in finite-dimensional matrices. The variable q has the interpretation as a bookkeeping device for certain loops on cobordisms. Given any integer $n \geq 2$, we construct a theory Z with the following properties. To any closed $(n-1)$ -manifold M (not necessarily orientable), we assign state-semimodules $Z(M)$ over (Q^c, Q^m) . These are infinitely generated unless M is empty. Therefore, as in Hilbert space theory, the algebraic tensor product is inadequate for describing the states of a disjoint union $M \sqcup N$, where N is another closed $(n-1)$ -manifold. Instead, using a suitably completed tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}$, we construct in Proposition 7.16 an isomorphism

$$Z(M \sqcup N) \cong Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N).$$

Diffeomorphisms $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ induce isomorphisms $\phi_* : Z(M) \rightarrow Z(N)$. If $\psi : N \rightarrow P$ is another diffeomorphism, then the functoriality relation

$$\psi_* \circ \phi_* = (\psi \circ \phi)_*$$

holds, as well as $(\text{id}_M)_* = \text{id}_{Z(M)} : Z(M) \rightarrow Z(M)$. There is a contraction product

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : (Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)) \times (Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P),$$

which serves as a means of propagating states along cobordisms and uses the multiplication of Q^c . To any n -dimensional cobordism W^n (not necessarily orientable) from M to N , we assign an element

$$Z_W \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N),$$

called the *state sum* of W . Technically, we work with embedded cobordisms, which is no loss of generality, but it needs to be investigated to what extent the state sum is independent of the embedding. Let W be a cobordism from M to N and W' a cobordism from M' to N' . If W and W' are disjoint, then

$$Z_{W \sqcup W'} = Z_W \widehat{\otimes} Z_{W'}$$

under the identification

$$Z(M \sqcup M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N \sqcup N') \cong Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

(Theorem 7.22). The tensor product on the right hand side of the above equation of state sums uses the multiplication in \mathcal{Q}^m . The most important characteristic of any TFT is the gluing property. Let W' be a cobordism from M to N and W'' a cobordism from N to P . Let $W = W' \cup_N W''$ be the cobordism from M to P obtained by gluing W' and W'' along N . Then the Gluing Theorem 7.26 asserts that the state sums

$$Z_{W'} \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N), Z_{W''} \in Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P), Z_W \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)$$

are related by the gluing law

$$Z_W = \langle Z_{W'}, Z_{W''} \rangle,$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the above contraction product. The embedding of a cobordism gives in particular rise to a “time” function. We say that time on W is *progressive*, if at every time t , there is a point on W at which the time function is submersive. Let W be a cobordism with progressive time from M to N and W' a cobordism with progressive time from M' to N' . Let $\phi : \partial W \rightarrow \partial W'$ be a diffeomorphism that maps M to M' (and thus N to N'). We show in Theorem 9.16 that if ϕ extends to a time consistent diffeomorphism (cf. Definition 9.5) $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$, then the state sums of W and W' are related by

$$\phi_*(Z_W) = Z_{W'} \in Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

under the isomorphism

$$\phi_* : Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \longrightarrow Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N').$$

In particular, the state sum can at most depend on the time function of the embedding, if at all.

The value of the state sum Z_W on a given boundary condition lies in \mathcal{Q} and hence is a power series in q . In Section 8, we prove that for cobordisms W of dimension $n \geq 3$, this value is actually a rational function in q (Theorem 8.3). Moreover, the denominator is universal (independent of W), and hence all the information is contained in a polynomial in q (which does depend on the boundary conditions).

It is not a priori clear that TFTs are capable of recognizing exotic smooth structures. Could it not be that the gluing law required of a TFT trivializes the theory to such an extent, that it cannot recognize the subtle global phenomenon of exotic smooth structures? The present paper shows that this is not the case. Recall that an *exotic sphere* is a closed smooth n -dimensional manifold Σ^n which is homeomorphic but not diffeomorphic to the smooth standard sphere S^n . For any smooth closed manifold M^n , $n \geq 5$, homeomorphic to S^n , we define in Section 10 an invariant $\mathfrak{A}(M) \in \mathcal{Q}$ and call it the *aggregate invariant* of M . In fact we already showed in [Ban15] that, given any positive TFT, this kind of invariant is always defined. It, too, uses Eilenberg-completeness in an essential way and has no counterpart in classical TFTs over rings. We prove that if Σ^n , $n \geq 5$, is exotic, then $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n) \neq \mathfrak{A}(S^n)$ in \mathcal{Q} (Corollary 10.4). The proof relies on the work [Sae02] of O. Saeki on cobordism of so-called special generic functions. In seeking a TFT that can detect exotic spheres, one is initially encouraged by Milnor’s classical λ -invariant ([Mil56]) in dimension 7. It is given on a closed oriented 7-manifold M by first choosing a compact, smooth, oriented manifold W^8 with $\partial W = M$ (always possible) and then setting $\lambda(M) = 2p_1^2[W] - \sigma(W)$ modulo 7, where $p_1^2[W]$ is a Pontrjagin number and $\sigma(W)$ is the signature of the intersection form. This residue class modulo 7 is independent of the choice of W by the Hirzebruch signature theorem for closed manifolds. By Novikov additivity, the signature always behaves like a TFT. It turns out that the Pontrjagin number is also additive, and thus behaves like a TFT, *provided* $H^3(M) = 0 = H^4(M)$. In fact, only under these assumptions is the Pontrjagin number $p_1^2[W]$ topologically well-defined. It

follows that $\lambda(W) := 2p_1^2[W] - \sigma(W) \in \mathbb{Z}$ transforms like a TFT if $H^3(\partial W) = 0 = H^4(\partial W)$. The problem is that Pontrjagin numbers do not in general satisfy a gluing law: Easy examples such as $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ show that it may well be that $W = W' \cup_N W''$ has a nontrivial Pontrjagin number, while the Pontrjagin classes of W' and W'' are trivial. This can also be understood from the analytic viewpoint: A choice of Riemannian metric on W determines an associated curvature two-form R and, expressed in terms of R , top-degree differential form representatives p of polynomials in Pontrjagin classes. By the additivity of integrals, $\int_W p$ does of course satisfy a gluing law, but this integral is not topological. Indeed, according to Atiyah-Patodi-Singer [APS75], if we use the Hirzebruch L -polynomial, then $\int_W p$ is the sum of $\sigma(W)$ and the η -invariant of the boundary, at least when W is isometric to a product near ∂W . The η invariant, however, is known to depend on the metric of the boundary. Thus, at best, one would obtain a Riemannian field theory, not a topological field theory. Kreck, Stolz and Teichner informed us that using the work of Galatius, Madsen, Tillmann and Weiss ([GMTW09]), they obtained results on expressing Pontrjagin numbers as partition functions of invertible TFTs. Witten's paper [Wit85] shows how exotic spheres arise in Physics in the context of global gravitational anomalies.

This brings us to our method of constructing Z , which does not use Pontrjagin numbers at all. For our overall blueprint, we take inspiration from Physics: First, specify a system of fields on cobordisms and closed manifolds. Then construct an action functional on these fields. This action should assign a “quantized” algebraic/combinatorial structure to a given smooth field. Finally define the state sum by summing the action functional of all fields on the cobordism. The fundamental idea of positive TFTs, as explained in [Ban15], is to use Eilenberg-completeness to implement this summation, thereby circumventing measure-theoretic problems that frequently plague the rigorous development of path integrals. As the fields, we use in principle smooth maps from the cobordism into the plane which have only fold singularities. Such maps are not dense in the space of all smooth maps and are known to carry a lot of information on the topology of their domain. If the boundary of a connected cobordism W is empty, then a smooth map $W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is homotopic to a fold map if and only if the Euler characteristic of W is even. Thus our TFT will have nothing to say about closed cobordisms of odd Euler characteristic. If the boundary of W is not empty, then the parity of the Euler characteristic is no obstruction to the existence of fold maps: For example if W is the cylinder $[0, 1] \times M$ on a closed manifold M of odd Euler characteristic, then suspending a Morse function on M will give a fold map on W , despite the Euler characteristic of W being odd. We summarize the required basic properties of fold maps in Section 3. The problem is that using all such fold maps will not yield a TFT for two reasons: it is not clear how to define the action functional, and the gluing law cannot be established. Therefore, one must find suitable further conditions to place on a fold map. This is somewhat delicate since one must simultaneously enable the gluing law while not losing too many fold maps in order to still detect exotic spheres. This problem is solved in Definition 7.9, where we introduce the concept of a fold *field*, which is central to this work. We do not prove any new results on fold maps. The goal was rather to understand whether, and how, they can be used to obtain TFTs. Now given a fold field on a cobordism, we must define the action functional on it. This is done in two steps: The first one uses the singular set of the fold map to assign a combinatorial object to the map. The second step uses representation theory to map the combinatorial object to linear algebra. For step one, we define the Brauer category \mathbf{Br} , a categorification of the Brauer algebras D_m . The latter arose in the representation theory of the orthogonal group $O(n)$, see [Bra37], [Wen88], and have since played an important role

in knot theory. The Brauer category is a compact (i.e. every object is dualizable), symmetric, strict monoidal category. Loosely speaking, the morphisms are 1-dimensional unoriented tangles in a high-dimensional Euclidean space. As those can always be disentangled, \mathbf{Br} is very close, but not equal, to the category of 1-dimensional cobordisms. One difference is that the objects of the latter, being 0-manifolds, are unordered (finite) sets, whereas the objects of \mathbf{Br} are *ordered* tuples of points. Another difference is that the cobordism category has a huge number of objects (though few isomorphism types), whereas the Brauer category has very few objects to begin with and has the property that two objects are isomorphic if and only if they are equal. The important point is that the morphisms of \mathbf{Br} are determined entirely by the combinatorics of their endpoint connections and the number of loops they contain. In Section 7.3, we construct a map \mathbb{S} , which assigns to every fold field a morphism in the Brauer category. For the second step, we construct in Theorem 2.19 linear representations of the Brauer category, that is, symmetric strict monoidal functors $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$, where \mathbf{Vect} is the category of finite dimensional real vector spaces and linear maps. It is technically important here that one endows \mathbf{Vect} (as such, i.e. without changing its objects or morphisms) with a tensor product so that it becomes a *strict* monoidal category. That this can in fact be done was shown by Schauenburg in [Sch01]. To construct representations Y , we begin in Section 2.2 by introducing the algebraic concept of a *duality structure* (Definition 2.5). Using techniques from knot theory introduced by Turaev in [Tur89] (see also [Kas95]), we find in Proposition 2.15 a presentation of the Brauer category by generating morphisms and relations. This result then allows us to prove that every duality structure on a finite dimensional vector space gives rise to a symmetric strict monoidal functor Y . In order to detect exotic smooth structures, it is important that some of these representations Y are faithful on loops. This is shown in Proposition 2.22. Given such a Y , we form the composition $Y \circ \mathbb{S}$. Given a cobordism W , we get the state sum Z_W in Section 7.5 by evaluating $Y \circ \mathbb{S}$ on all fold fields (obeying boundary conditions) on W and summing the resulting values using the Eilenberg-completeness of Q (see in particular Equation (33)).

The commutative monoid Q depends on a choice of duality structure and uses the associated representation Y as described above. It is constructed in Section 6 by applying a general process called profinite idempotent completion. Roughly, this process completes a subset of a vector space which is invariant under rescaling by powers of a given scalar (in the application the trace of the loop) to an idempotent complete semimodule. The rest of that section describes the purely algebraic, as well as the important completeness and continuity properties, of Q . It also introduces the semirings Q^c and Q^m , whose common underlying additive monoid is Q . The product on Q^c comes from the composition of morphisms, while the product on Q^m comes from the monoidal product of morphisms.

The informational content of our state sum invariant seems to be a mixture of index constraints such as Morse inequalities, i.e. roughly homological content, and certain characteristic classes. However, our TFT packages this mixture in such a way that a Gluing Theorem holds, which does not involve contributions from the common boundary. Recall that homology itself does not glue in this sense, since the Mayer-Vietoris sequence *does* involve the homology of the boundary. Similarly, as discussed above, characteristic classes and numbers do not in general glue like TFT-type invariants.

Atiyah's original TQFT axioms imply that state modules are always finite dimensional, but on p. 181 of [Ati88], he indicates that allowing state modules to be infinite dimensional

may be necessary in interesting examples of TFTs. The state modules of our positive TFT are indeed infinitely generated, as mentioned before. Atiyah's classical axioms also demand that the state sum $Z_{I \times M}$ of a cylinder $W = I \times M$ be the identity when viewed as an endomorphism. The map $Z_{I \times M}$ on $Z(M)$ should be the "imaginary time" evolution operator e^{-tH} (where t is the length of the interval I), so Atiyah's axiom means that the Hamiltonian $H = 0$ and there is no dynamics along a cylinder. We do not require this for positive TFTs and will allow interesting propagation along the cylinder. In particular, one can not phrase positive TFTs as monoidal functors on cobordism categories, as this would imply that the cylinder, which is an identity morphism in the cobordism category, would have to be mapped to an identity morphism. Since $Z_{I \times M}$ need not be the identity, it can also generally not be deduced in a positive TFT that $Z_{S^1 \times M} = \dim Z(M)$, an identity that would not make sense in the first place, as $Z(M)$ need not have finite dimension. The present paper does not make substantial use of the cobordism category. Nor do we consider n -categories or manifolds with corners here.

We have tried to make the exposition as self-contained as possible. In particular, the reader is not assumed to be familiar with [Ban15]. Likewise, no prior exposure to semirings and semimodules over them is necessary. Section 4 is devoted to a careful review of the required elements of semimodule theory. Particular emphasis is placed on explaining the notion of Eilenberg-completeness, as well as additive idempotence and continuity. Proposition 4.3 relates Eilenberg summation to idempotent integration theory as developed in idempotent analysis by the Russian school around V. P. Maslov, see e.g. [LMS01]. It follows that the entire paper, in particular our state sum, could be recast in terms of Maslov's idempotent integral. A few words about the completed tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}$, which is the topic of Section 5, are in order. In the complete idempotent *commutative* setting, Litvinov, Maslov and Shpiz have constructed in [LMS99] such a tensor product. This is an idempotent analog of topological tensor products in the sense of Grothendieck. Now, the present paper needs such an analog even over noncommutative semirings, since the semirings Q^c, Q^m are generally not commutative. We construct such a completed tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}$ in Section 5. Our main result is Theorem 5.11, which provides a tensor decomposition of function semimodules. This is essential for establishing some of the above properties of Z .

General Notation. The letter I will denote both the unit interval $[0, 1]$ and unit objects in monoidal categories. The symbol 1 will denote the (real) number as well as identity morphisms of various categories. In addition, we often find it convenient to denote certain identity morphisms by the symbol id . We do this in the interest of readability: We usually reserve id_X for the identity map on some topological space X , whereas 1_X is used for any identity morphism in categories different from the topological one. The imaginary part of a complex number z will be denoted by $\text{Im}(z)$. This is not to be confused with the image of a map. Thus $\text{Im} F$ is the imaginary part of a complex valued function F , not the image of F . Categories will be denoted by boldface letters such as \mathbf{C} . We write $\text{Ob } \mathbf{C}$ for the class of objects and $\text{Mor } \mathbf{C}$ for the class of morphisms. If ϕ is a morphism in some category, then $\text{dom } \phi$ and $\text{cod } \phi$ denote its domain and codomain, respectively. Closed smooth $(n - 1)$ -dimensional manifolds will be named M, N, P , while compact smooth n -manifolds with possibly nonempty boundary (cobordisms) will be named W, W' , etc. For the present paper, we wish the natural numbers to be an additive monoid. Thus we include zero, $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

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2. THE BRAUER ALGEBRA AND ITS CATEGORIFICATION

In the course of the construction of our TFT, two particular monoidal categories will play an important role: the Brauer category and the category of real vector spaces \mathbf{Vect} . The Brauer algebras D_m arose in the representation theory of the orthogonal group $O(n)$, see [Bra37], [Wen88], and have since played an important role in knot theory. We shall require a categorification, which we denote by \mathbf{Br} , of Brauer's algebras. The present section gives a detailed construction of this categorification, together with derivations of its main properties. We also construct linear representations of \mathbf{Br} (Theorem 2.19) and prove that there exist linear representations of \mathbf{Br} which are faithful on loops (Proposition 2.22).

Let \mathbf{Vect} denote the category of finite dimensional real vector spaces and linear maps. We shall endow \mathbf{Vect} with the structure of a symmetric strict monoidal category.

2.1. The Schauenburg Tensor Product. The ordinary tensor product of vector spaces is well-known not to be associative, though it is associative up to natural isomorphism. Thus, if we endowed \mathbf{Vect} with the ordinary tensor product and took the unit object I to be the one-dimensional vector space \mathbb{R} , then, using obvious associators and unitors, \mathbf{Vect} would become a monoidal category, but not a strict one. There is an abstract process of turning a monoidal category \mathbf{C} into a monoidally equivalent strict monoidal category \mathbf{C}^{str} . However, this process changes the category considerably and is thus not always practical. Instead, we base our monoidal structure on the Schauenburg tensor product \odot introduced in [Sch01], which does not change the category \mathbf{Vect} at all. The product \odot satisfies the strict associativity

$$(U \odot V) \odot W = U \odot (V \odot W).$$

We shall thus simply write $U \odot V \odot W$ for this vector space. The unit object I remains the same as in the usual nonstrict monoidal structure, $I = \mathbb{R}$, and one has $V \odot I = V$, $I \odot V = V$. The strict monoidal category $(\mathbf{Vect}, \odot, I)$ thus obtained is monoidally equivalent to the usual nonstrict monoidal category of vector spaces. The underlying functor of this monoidal equivalence is the identity. In particular, there is a natural isomorphism $\xi : \otimes \rightarrow \odot$, $\xi_{VW} : V \otimes W \rightarrow V \odot W$, where \otimes denotes the standard tensor product of vector spaces. Note that via ξ we are able to speak of elements $v \odot w \in V \odot W$, $v \odot w := \xi_{VW}(v \otimes w)$, $v \in V$, $w \in W$. The identity $(u \odot v) \odot w = u \odot (v \odot w)$ holds for elements $u \in U$, $v \in V$ and $w \in W$. The basic idea behind the construction of \odot is to set up a specific new equivalence of categories $L : \mathbf{Vect} \rightleftarrows \mathbf{Vect}^{\text{str}} : R$ such that LR is the identity and then setting $V \odot W = R(LV * LW)$, where $*$ is the strictly associative tensor product in $\mathbf{Vect}^{\text{str}}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (U \odot V) \odot W &= R(L(U \odot V) * LW) = R(LR(LU * LV) * LW) = R((LU * LV) * LW) \\ &= R(LU * (LV * LW)) = R(LU * LR(LV * LW)) = R(LU * L(V \odot W)) \\ &= U \odot (V \odot W). \end{aligned}$$

Let β be the standard braiding $\beta(v \otimes w) = w \otimes v$ on $V \otimes W$. Then β is symmetric and satisfies the two hexagon equations with respect to the standard associator $\alpha : (V \otimes W) \otimes U \rightarrow V \otimes (W \otimes U)$. We define isomorphisms $b_{VW} : V \odot W \rightarrow W \odot V$ by $b_{VW} = \xi_{WV} \circ \beta_{VW} \circ \xi_{VW}^{-1}$, i.e. $b_{VW}(v \odot w) = w \odot v$. Note that b is natural and one verifies easily:

Proposition 2.1. *The natural isomorphism b is a symmetric braiding on the strict monoidal category $(\mathbf{Vect}, \odot, I)$.*

Thus $(\mathbf{Vect}, \odot, I, b)$ is a symmetric strict monoidal category. For the rest of this paper we will always use the Schauenburg tensor product on \mathbf{Vect} and thus will from now on write \otimes for \odot .

2.2. Linear Duality. Let us recall the general notion of duality in a monoidal context.

Definition 2.2. An object X of a symmetric monoidal category \mathbf{C} is called *(right) dualizable*, if there is an object $X^* \in \mathbf{C}$, called a *dual* of X , and morphisms

$$i_X : I \longrightarrow X^* \otimes X, \quad e_X : X \otimes X^* \longrightarrow I,$$

called *unit* and *counit*, respectively, satisfying the two zig-zag equations, that is,

$$(1) \quad X \cong X \otimes I \xrightarrow{1_X \otimes i_X} X \otimes (X^* \otimes X) \cong (X \otimes X^*) \otimes X \xrightarrow{e_X \otimes 1_X} I \otimes X \cong X$$

is the identity and

$$(2) \quad X^* \cong I \otimes X^* \xrightarrow{i_X \otimes 1_{X^*}} (X^* \otimes X) \otimes X^* \cong X^* \otimes (X \otimes X^*) \xrightarrow{1_{X^*} \otimes e_X} X^* \otimes I \cong X^*$$

is the identity. (The natural isomorphisms appearing in the above compositions are the unitors and associators which are part of the monoidal structure on \mathbf{C} .)

Definition 2.3. A symmetric monoidal category \mathbf{C} is called *compact*, if every object of \mathbf{C} is (right) dualizable.

The dual of an object is unique up to canonical isomorphism. Let V be a finite dimensional real vector space. A *symmetric pairing* on V is a linear map $e : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V \otimes V & & \mathbb{R} \\ \downarrow b \cong & \searrow e & \uparrow \\ V \otimes V & & \mathbb{R} \\ & \nearrow e & \downarrow \end{array}$$

commutes. The dual notion of a symmetric copairing can be obtained by reversing all arrows. Explicitly, a *symmetric copairing* on V is a linear map $i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V \otimes V$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & V \otimes V & \\ & \uparrow i & \downarrow b \cong \\ \mathbb{R} & & V \otimes V \\ & \downarrow i & \end{array}$$

commutes. In order to prepare the notion of a duality structure on a vector space, we observe the following, where $V^{\otimes 3} = V \otimes V \otimes V$:

Lemma 2.4. *If $e : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a symmetric pairing and $i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V \otimes V$ a symmetric copairing, then the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow{i \otimes 1_V} & V^{\otimes 3} \\ 1_V \otimes i \downarrow & & \downarrow 1_V \otimes e \\ V^{\otimes 3} & \xrightarrow{e \otimes 1_V} & V \end{array}$$

commutes.

Definition 2.5. A *duality structure* on V is a pair (i, e) whose components are a symmetric copairing $i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow V \otimes V$ and a symmetric pairing $e : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, called *unit* and *counit*, respectively, satisfying the zig-zag equation, i.e. the composition

$$V = V \otimes I \xrightarrow{1_V \otimes i} V \otimes^3 V \xrightarrow{e \otimes 1_V} I \otimes V = V$$

is the identity.

Lemma 2.4 ensures that a duality structure (i, e) on V satisfies both zig-zag equations of Definition 2.2, taking $V^* = V$. Consequently, V is then dualizable with dual V , that is, V is *self-dual*. Fix a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ of the vector space V . A symmetric copairing i on V determines, and is determined by, a symmetric $(n \times n)$ -matrix $\text{Mat}(i) = (i_{jk})_{j,k}$ such that $i(1) = \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_j \otimes e_k$. Similarly, a symmetric pairing e on V determines, and is determined by, a symmetric $(n \times n)$ -matrix $\text{Mat}(e) = (e(e_j \otimes e_k))_{j,k}$.

Proposition 2.6. (1) *Given a symmetric copairing i on V , there exists a symmetric pairing e on V such that (i, e) is a duality structure on V if and only if $\text{Mat}(i)$ is invertible. In this case, $\text{Mat}(e) = \text{Mat}(i)^{-1}$ and e is uniquely determined by i .*

(2) *Given a symmetric pairing e on V , there exists a symmetric copairing i on V such that (i, e) is a duality structure on V if and only if $\text{Mat}(e)$ is invertible. In this case, $\text{Mat}(i) = \text{Mat}(e)^{-1}$ and i is uniquely determined by e .*

Proof. Suppose that (i, e) is a duality structure on V . Evaluating the zig-zag equation on a basis vector yields

$$e_l = (e \otimes 1_V)(1_V \otimes i)(e_l) = (e \otimes 1_V) \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_l \otimes e_j \otimes e_k = \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e(e_l \otimes e_j) e_k.$$

Comparing coefficients and using symmetry, it follows that $\sum_j i_{kj} e(e_j \otimes e_l) = \delta_{kl}$, that is, $\text{Mat}(i) \text{Mat}(e) = 1$, the identity matrix. Conversely, symmetric matrices U and C which are inverse to each other define a unit i and a counit e with $\text{Mat}(i) = U$ and $\text{Mat}(e) = C$, such that the zig-zag equation holds. \square

The proposition shows that the algebraic variety of duality structures on V can be identified with $\text{Sym}(n, \mathbb{R}) \subset GL(n, \mathbb{R})$, the symmetric invertible real matrices of size n . It also follows that the pairing $e : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is nondegenerate if it is the component of a duality structure on V . The reason why we required V to be finite dimensional from the outset is given in the next proposition, which is an easy exercise.

Proposition 2.7. *If V is any real vector space which possesses a duality structure, then V is finite dimensional.*

A general notion of *trace* on a braided monoidal category (with a so-called twist) has been introduced in [JSV96]. The present paper does not require the full level of generality, only the following quantity will play an important role:

Definition 2.8. The *trace* of a duality structure (i, e) on V is $\text{Tr}(i, e) = e \circ i$. Being a linear endomorphism of \mathbb{R} , this trace is uniquely determined by the real number $\text{Tr}(i, e)(1)$, which we also call the trace of (i, e) .

Proposition 2.9. *For any duality structure (i, e) on a finite dimensional real vector space V , the trace formula $\text{Tr}(i, e) = \dim V$ holds.*

Proof. Using a basis e_1, \dots, e_n of V ,

$$\text{Tr}(i, e) = e\left(\sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_j \otimes e_k\right) = \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e(e_j \otimes e_k) = \sum_{k=1}^n (\text{Mat}(i) \text{Mat}(e))_{k,k} = \sum_{k=1}^n 1_{k,k} = n.$$

□

If an endomorphism $a \in \text{End}(V)$ factors through a vector space W with $\dim W < \dim V$, then the determinant of a vanishes. Since ie factors through the 1-dimensional space \mathbb{R} , we have:

Proposition 2.10. *If $\dim V \geq 2$, then the determinant of the endomorphism $i \circ e : V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$ vanishes.*

In Section 2.4, we shall use duality structures on vector spaces to construct linear monoidal representations of a natural categorification of the Brauer algebras. But first let us introduce this categorification.

2.3. The Brauer Category. We shall next construct the Brauer category \mathbf{Br} , which will ultimately serve as an intermediary structure between the fields of our TFT on the one hand and real matrices on the other. In some sense, it may thus be construed as a device for linearization. Loosely speaking, the morphisms will be 1-dimensional unoriented tangles in a high-dimensional Euclidean space. As those can always be disentangled, \mathbf{Br} is very close, but not equal, to the category of 1-dimensional cobordisms. One difference is that the objects of the latter, being 0-manifolds, are unordered (finite) sets, whereas the objects of \mathbf{Br} will be *ordered* tuples of points. Another difference is that the cobordism category has a huge number of objects (though few isomorphism types), whereas the Brauer category has very few objects to begin with and has the property that two objects are isomorphic if and only if they are equal.

Let us detail the formal definition of \mathbf{Br} . Given $n = 1, 2, \dots$, we write $[n]$ for the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$. We write $[0]$ for the empty set. The objects of \mathbf{Br} are $[0], [1], [2], \dots$. Each object $[n]$ determines a 0-submanifold $M[n]$ of \mathbb{R}^1 by taking $M[n] = \{1, \dots, n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^1$. Morphisms $[m] \rightarrow [n]$ in \mathbf{Br} are represented by compact smooth 1-manifolds W , smoothly embedded in $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$, such that $\partial W = W \cap (\{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^3)$ with

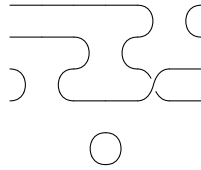
$$\partial W \cap \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^3 = 0 \times M[m] \times 0 \times 0, \quad \partial W \cap \{1\} \times \mathbb{R}^3 = 1 \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0.$$

We require that near the boundary, the embedding of W is the product embedding

$$[0, \varepsilon] \times M[m] \times 0 \times 0 \sqcup [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0,$$

for some small $\varepsilon > 0$. Two such W for fixed $[m], [n]$ define the same morphism in \mathbf{Br} , if they are smoothly isotopic in $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ by an isotopy that is the identity near $\{0, 1\} \times \mathbb{R}^3$.

Example 2.11. The diagram

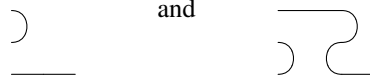


determines a morphism $[4] \rightarrow [4]$ in \mathbf{Br} . (The overpass/underpass information is merely an artifact of the pictorial representation and is irrelevant for the morphism.)

The composition of two morphisms $\phi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$, $\psi : [n] \rightarrow [p]$ is defined in the most natural manner: If ϕ is represented by the cobordism V and ψ by W , then we translate W from $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ to $[1, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ and define a cobordism U as the union along $\{1\} \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0$ of V and the translated copy of W . Then we reparametrize the embedding of U from $[0, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ to

$[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$. The resulting cobordism represents $\psi \circ \phi$; its isotopy class depends clearly only on ϕ and ψ , not on the particular choice of representatives V and W . The identity $1_{[0]} : [0] \rightarrow [0]$ is represented by the empty cobordism $W = \emptyset$. For $n > 0$, the identity $1_{[n]} : [n] \rightarrow [n]$ is represented by the product $[0, 1] \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0$. Then \mathbf{Br} is indeed a category. Note that $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [n])$ is empty for $m+n$ odd (or equivalently $m-n$ odd) and nonempty for $m+n$ (or equivalently $m-n$) even.

We make \mathbf{Br} into a strict monoidal category by defining a tensor product $\otimes : \mathbf{Br} \times \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Br}$ on objects by $[m] \otimes [n] = [m+n]$. Let the unit object I be $[0]$. Then \otimes on objects of \mathbf{Br} is strictly associative, strictly commutative, and has a strict unit. The tensor product $\phi \otimes \phi'$ of two morphisms $\phi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$ and $\phi' : [m'] \rightarrow [n']$ is defined by “stacking” a representative W' of ϕ' on top of a representative W of ϕ . More precisely, apply the translation $(x, y, z, t) \mapsto (x, y+m, z, t)$ to W' . In a product region near the $[n']$ -endpoints of the translated copy of W' , redirect those parallel strands so that they connect to the correct points in $M([m'] \otimes [n'])$. Finally, use a small isotopy to ensure that the new embedding of W' is disjoint from W . Then the union of this embedding of W' together with W represents $\phi \otimes \phi'$. Since $1_{[m]} \otimes 1_{[m']} = 1_{[m] \otimes [m']}$ and $(\psi \phi) \otimes (\psi' \phi') = (\psi \otimes \psi') \circ (\phi \otimes \phi')$, the assignment $\otimes : \mathbf{Br} \times \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Br}$ is a functor. As $\phi \otimes 1_{[0]} = \phi = 1_{[0]} \otimes \phi$, we may take the unitors in \mathbf{Br} to be the identity morphisms. As $(\phi \otimes \phi') \otimes \phi'' = \phi \otimes (\phi' \otimes \phi'')$ for morphisms ϕ, ϕ', ϕ'' , we may take the associators in \mathbf{Br} to be the identity morphisms. Thus $(\mathbf{Br}, \otimes, I)$ is a strict monoidal category. However, although the tensor product is commutative on objects, it is noncommutative on morphisms. For instance, the two morphisms $[3] \rightarrow [1]$ given by



are not equal.

There is precisely one endomorphism $\lambda : [0] \rightarrow [0]$, $\lambda \neq 1_{[0]}$, such that λ is represented by a connected, nonempty manifold. This morphism is represented by a smooth embedding of a circle in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^3$. Any two embeddings of a circle in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^3$ are isotopic and therefore represent the same morphism. We will call this endomorphism λ the *loop*. The endomorphisms in \mathbf{Br} of the identity object I are then given by $\text{End}_{\mathbf{Br}}(I) = \{\lambda^{\otimes n} \mid n \geq 0\}$, with $\lambda^{\otimes n} \neq \lambda^{\otimes m}$ for $n \neq m$. Here we wrote $\lambda^{\otimes n}$ for the n -fold tensor product $\lambda \otimes \cdots \otimes \lambda$ and $\lambda^{\otimes 0} = 1_{[0]}$.

Given two objects $[m]$ and $[n]$ in \mathbf{Br} , we define the braiding $b_{m,n} : [m] \otimes [n] \rightarrow [n] \otimes [m]$ to be the isomorphism represented by a Brauer diagram which is loop-free and connects $i \in M([m] \otimes [n]) = \{1, \dots, m, m+1, \dots, m+n\}$, $1 \leq i \leq m$, to $n+i \in M([n] \otimes [m]) = \{1, \dots, n, n+1, \dots, n+m\}$ and $m+i \in M([m] \otimes [n])$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, to $i \in M([n] \otimes [m])$. Since we are in codimension 3, b is symmetric, $b_{m,n} = b_{n,m}^{-1}$. Consequently, we only need to verify one of the two hexagon equations. By strictness, the hexagonal shape deflates to the triangular shape

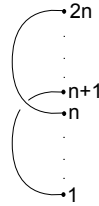
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 [m] \otimes [n] \otimes [p] & \xrightarrow{b_{m,n+p}} & [n] \otimes [p] \otimes [m], \\
 \searrow^{b_{m,n} \otimes 1_{[p]}} & & \nearrow_{1_{[n]} \otimes b_{m,p}} \\
 & [n] \otimes [m] \otimes [p] &
 \end{array}$$

the commutativity of which is best checked by drawing a picture. We conclude that the structure $(\mathbf{Br}, \otimes, I, b)$ is a symmetric strict monoidal category. The elementary braiding

$$b_{1,1} : \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ \quad \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \\ \quad \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \text{---} \quad \text{---} \end{array}$$

is of fundamental importance.

There are natural unit and counit morphisms in \mathbf{Br} so that each object of \mathbf{Br} is self-dual in the sense of Definition 2.2. The unit $i_n : I \rightarrow [n] \otimes [n]$ is given by



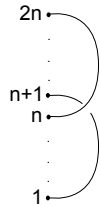
That is, interpret the cylinder $[0, 1] \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0$ as a morphism $I \rightarrow [n] \otimes [n]$. In particular, we have the elementary unit

$$i_1 \text{ --- } \text{---}$$

Note the symmetry identity $i_1 = b_{1,1} \circ i_1$; i_1 is isotopic rel endpoints to



The counit $e_n : [n] \otimes [n] \rightarrow I$ is given by



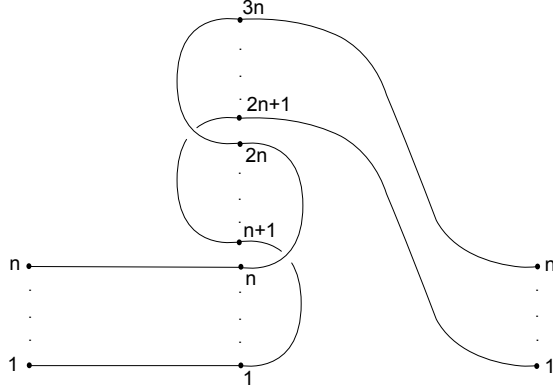
i.e. this time interpret the cylinder $[0, 1] \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0$ as a morphism $[n] \otimes [n] \rightarrow I$. In particular, we have the elementary counit

$$e_1 : \text{---} \text{---}$$

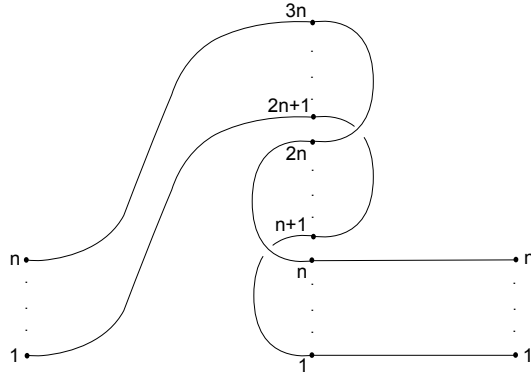
Note the symmetry identity $e_1 = e_1 \circ b_{1,1}$; e_1 is isotopic rel endpoints to



The zig-zag equation (1) is satisfied, as



is isotopic to the cylinder, i.e. the identity $[n] \rightarrow [n]$. Similarly, the zig-zag equation (2) is satisfied, as



is isotopic to the cylinder, i.e. the identity $[n] \rightarrow [n]$. This shows that the category $(\mathbf{Br}, \otimes, I, b)$ is compact. We summarize:

Proposition 2.12. *The structure $(\mathbf{Br}, \otimes, I, b, i, e)$ is a compact, symmetric, strict monoidal category.*

The loop endomorphism $\lambda : I \rightarrow I$ can be factored as

$$(3) \quad \lambda = e_1 \circ i_1.$$

It commutes with every morphism, $\lambda \otimes \phi = \phi \otimes \lambda$ for any morphism ϕ . Loops are cancellative: if $\lambda \otimes \phi = \lambda \otimes \psi$, then $\phi = \psi$. Loops are persistent: if $\phi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$ has k loops and $\psi : [n] \rightarrow [p]$ has l loops, then $\psi\phi$ has at least $k+l$ loops. In particular, an isomorphism can never contain a loop. Note that if $\phi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$ is an isomorphism, then $m = n$ and every connected component of a representative of ϕ has precisely one endpoint on the hyperplane $0 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ and the other endpoint on the hyperplane $1 \times \mathbb{R}^3$. Hence ϕ determines a bijection $[m] \rightarrow [m]$. We will therefore write $\phi(i) = j$ when the point $(0, i, 0, 0) \in 0 \times M[m] \times 0 \times 0$ is connected by ϕ to the point $(1, j, 0, 0) \in 1 \times M[m] \times 0 \times 0$. Conversely, every bijection $[m] \rightarrow [m]$ determines an isomorphism $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [m])$. With respect to the tensor product, an identity morphism cannot be factored nontrivially:

Lemma 2.13. *Let ϕ and ψ be morphisms of \mathbf{Br} such that $\phi \otimes \psi = 1$, an identity morphism. Then each of the factors is an identity: $\phi = 1$ and $\psi = 1$.*

This is evident and requires no proof.

Let (\mathbf{C}, \otimes, I) be a strict monoidal category and G a collection of morphisms in \mathbf{C} . Interpreting G as an alphabet of formal symbols $\{[g] \mid g \in G\}$, we may form *words* as follows: $[g]$ is a word for all $g \in G$ and $[1_X]$ is a word for all $X \in \text{Ob } \mathbf{C}$. If w_1 and w_2 are words, then the string $(w_1 \otimes w_2)$ is a word and the string $(w_2 \circ w_1)$ is a word if $\text{cod } w_1 = \text{dom } w_2$. Every word w determines a morphism $|w|$ of \mathbf{C} by the rules

$$|[g]| = g, |[1_X]| = 1_X, |(w_1 \otimes w_2)| = |w_1| \otimes |w_2|, |(w_2 \circ w_1)| = |w_2| \circ |w_1|.$$

Two words are called *freely equivalent* (we write \sim), if they can be obtained from each other by a finite sequence of subword substitutions implementing associativity for \circ and \otimes , identity cancellation for \circ and \otimes and compatibility between \circ and \otimes . Note that if w_1 and w_2 are freely equivalent, then $|w_1| = |w_2|$.

Lemma 2.14. *Any word in G is freely equivalent to either $[1_X]$ for some object X or to a word of the form*

$$([1_{X_1}] \otimes [g_1] \otimes [1_{Y_1}]) \circ ([1_{X_2}] \otimes [g_2] \otimes [1_{Y_2}]) \circ \cdots \circ ([1_{X_k}] \otimes [g_k] \otimes [1_{Y_k}]).$$

with $g_1, \dots, g_k \in G$.

See [Kas95, Lemma XII.1.2.] for the (easy) proof. Let $\mathcal{F}(G)$ be the class of free equivalence classes of words in G . As noted above, the realization $|\cdot|$ is still well-defined on $\mathcal{F}(G)$. Let R be a collection of pairs (w_1, w_2) of words in G such that $|w_1| = |w_2|$. For two elements $x, y \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ we define $x \sim_R y$, and say that x, y are R -equivalent, if and only if one can obtain some representative of y from some representative of x by a finite sequence of subword substitutions, where an allowable substitution consists of replacing a subword w_1 by w_2 for $(w_1, w_2) \in R$. We say that (\mathbf{C}, \otimes, I) is *generated by the generators G and the relations R* , if

- any morphism in \mathbf{C} can be obtained as $|w|$ for some word w in G , and
- for any $x, y \in \mathcal{F}(G)$, we have $x \sim_R y$ if and only if $|x| = |y|$ in \mathbf{C} .

The structure of morphisms in \mathbf{Br} is then elucidated by the following result; we simply write 1 for the identity morphism on $[1]$ and omit square brackets in words.

Proposition 2.15. *The compact, symmetric, strict monoidal category \mathbf{Br} is generated by the three morphisms $i_1, e_1, b_{1,1}$ and the following relations:*

(B1) *Zig-Zag:*

$$(1 \otimes e_1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1) = 1 = (e_1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i_1),$$

(B2) *Twisted Zig-Zag:*

$$(e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1) = b_{1,1} = (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1),$$

(B3) *Reidemeister I:*

$$(1 \otimes e_1) \circ (b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i_1) = 1 = (e_1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1}) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1),$$

(B4) *Reidemeister II:*

$$b_{1,1} \circ b_{1,1} = 1 \otimes 1,$$

(B5) *Reidemeister III (a.k.a. the Yang-Baxter equation):*

$$(b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1}) \circ (b_{1,1} \otimes 1) = (1 \otimes b_{1,1}) \circ (b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1}).$$

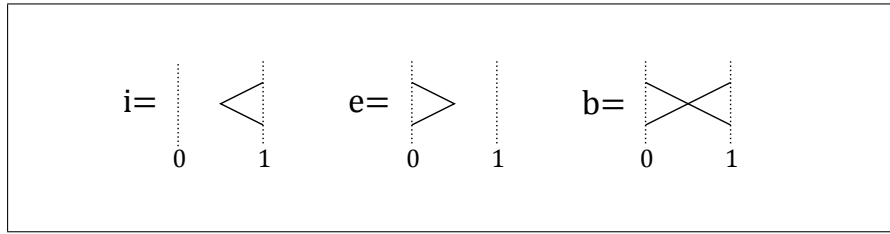


FIGURE 1. The polygonal generators i, e and b .

Proof. This can be proved following Turaev’s methods of [Tur89], see also [Kas95]; thus there is no need to go into detail here. As in knot theory, these methods, adapted to the present case, involve the introduction of planar polygonal Brauer diagrams contained in $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ and then reasoning with these diagrams using appropriate moves. Ultimately, one is reduced to Reidemeister’s classical arguments in [Rei32]. It is sufficient to limit oneself to generic (see below) Brauer diagrams, since every diagram can be transformed to such a generic one by a planar isotopy. Polygonal representatives of i_1, e_1 and $b_{1,1}$ are shown in Figure 1; we will simply write i, e, b for these representatives. A point in a Brauer diagram B is called *singular*, if it lies in $(0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}$ and is either a vertex which is a local minimum or maximum for the “horizontal” coordinate, or a crossing point. Each of i, e, b has precisely one singular point: i a local minimum, e a local maximum and b a crossing point. A Brauer diagram B is called *generic* if any two distinct singular points have different horizontal coordinates. The Brauer diagrams i, e and b are generic. As mentioned earlier, every Brauer diagram is related by a planar isotopy to a generic Brauer diagram. In particular, every morphism of \mathbf{Br} can be represented by a generic Brauer diagram. Two generic Brauer diagrams B and B' are related by a *generic* planar isotopy, if there is a planar isotopy H with $H(B, 1) = B'$ such that $H(B, t)$ is a generic Brauer diagram for every $t \in [0, 1]$. The proof then rests on two facts, (A) and (B):

Fact (A):

Two generic Brauer diagrams are related by a planar isotopy if and only if one is obtained from the other by a finite number of applications of the moves (GI), (EX), (ZZ), (TZ) below: (GI) A generic planar isotopy,

(EX) an isotopy exchanging the order of two singular points with respect to their horizontal coordinate, see Figure 2,

(ZZ) a zig-zag move as shown in the top row of Figure 3, and

(TZ) a twisted zig-zag move in the neighborhood of a crossing point, as shown in the bottom of Figure 3.

Fact (B):

Two generic Brauer diagrams represent the same morphism in \mathbf{Br} if and only if one is obtained from the other by a finite sequence of planar isotopies of Brauer diagrams and the Reidemeister moves (RI), (RII), (RIII) as shown in Figure 4.

The proof of these two facts is essentially contained in [Rei32]. (For tangles, the analogs of these two facts are [Kas95, Lemma X.5.7, Theorem X.5.9], see also Lemma X.3.5 and Theorem X.3.7 in *loc. cit.*) Note that the exchange moves of Figure 2 can be derived using only free equivalences. For example in case (4) of the figure, the word $[b] \circ ([1] \otimes [1] \otimes [e])$ is freely equivalent (we write \sim) to $(([1] \otimes [1]) \otimes [e]) \circ ([b] \otimes ([1] \otimes [1]))$ via the following chain

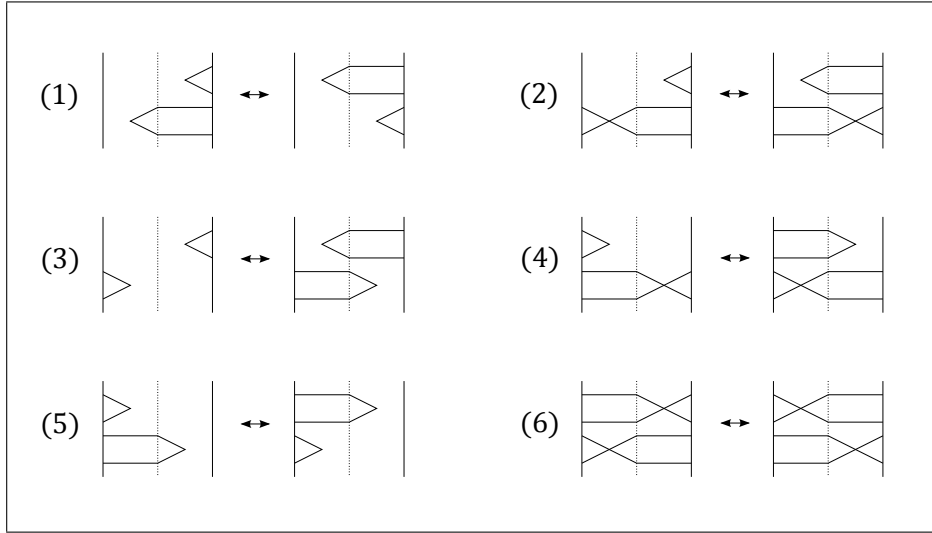


FIGURE 2. Exchange moves (EX) on (generic) Brauer diagrams.

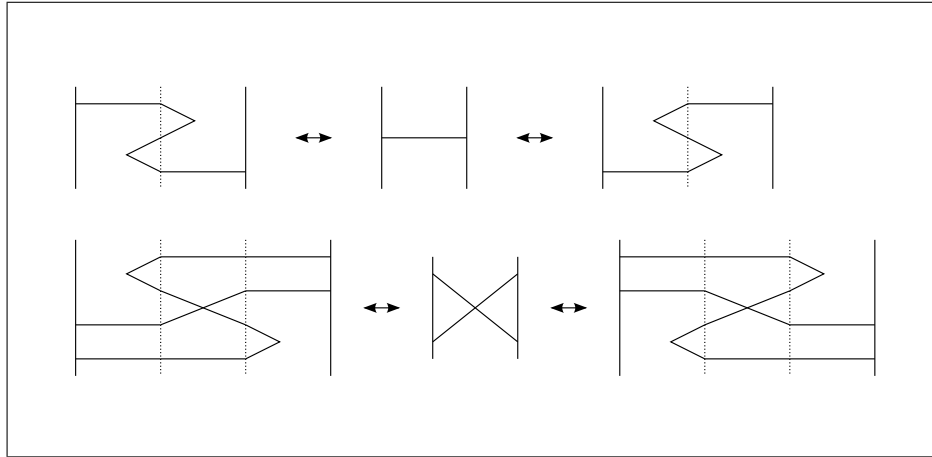


FIGURE 3. The zig-zag move (top) and twisted zig-zag move (bottom) on (generic) Brauer diagrams.

of free equivalences:

$$\begin{aligned}
 [b] \circ ([1] \otimes [1] \otimes [e]) &\sim ([b] \otimes [\text{id}_{[0]}]) \circ ([1] \otimes [1] \otimes [e]) \\
 &\sim ([b] \circ ([1] \otimes [1])) \otimes ([\text{id}_{[0]}] \circ [e]) \\
 &\sim [b] \otimes [e] \\
 &\sim (([1] \otimes [1]) \circ [b]) \otimes ([e] \circ ([1] \otimes [1])) \\
 &\sim (([1] \otimes [1]) \otimes [e]) \circ ([b] \otimes ([1] \otimes [1])).
 \end{aligned}$$

□

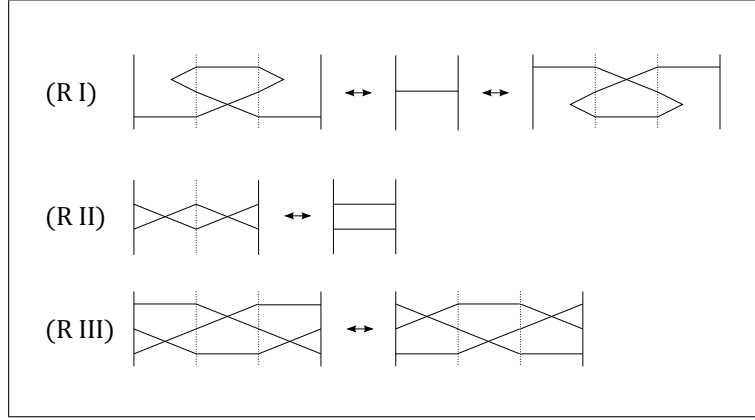


FIGURE 4. The Reidemeister moves on (generic) Brauer diagrams.

Remark 2.16. Turaev [Tur89] considers oriented tangles in \mathbb{R}^3 . These can of course not generally be disentangled and consequently have a more involved structure theory, which is reflected in a more complicated representation theory, involving so-called enhanced R-matrices. Turaev's Theorem 3.2 lists 6 generators (\cap with the 2 possible orientations, \cup with the 2 possible orientations, and X_+, X_- corresponding to overpass/underpass), and 7 relations (10)–(16). Now, our Brauer category is obtained from the tangle category by forgetting orientations and allowing strands to pass through each other. Forgetting orientations leads to one generator $\cap = e_1$ and one generator $\cup = i_1$. Forgetting the overpass/underpass information (and the orientation) leads to one generator $X = b_{1,1}$. Rewriting Turaev's relations (10)–(16) accordingly in terms of e_1, i_1 and $b_{1,1}$, one arrives at relations (10')–(16'), valid in \mathbf{Br} , which can indeed be derived from our relations (B1)–(B5). In fact, relations (10') and (11') are equal and agree with (B1). Relation (13') is (B4), (14') is (B5), and (15') is the first half of (B3). Using four instances of (B2), we derive (12'):

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1) \\
 &= (e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes ((e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1)) \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1) \\
 &= (e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i_1) \\
 &= b_{1,1} \\
 &= (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \\
 &= (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes ((1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1)) \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \\
 &= (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1).
 \end{aligned}$$

By (B2), the left hand side of (16') is $b_{1,1}^2$, which is $1 \otimes 1$ by (B4).

Remark 2.17. We do not claim that the relations provided in Proposition 2.15 are minimal in any sense.

To illustrate Proposition 2.15, we show how (B1)–(B5) imply the symmetry equations $e_1 \circ b_{1,1} = e_1$, $b_{1,1} \circ i_1 = i_1$:

$$\begin{aligned}
e_1 \circ b_{1,1} &= e_1 \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \\
&= (e_1 \otimes e_1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \\
&= e_1 \circ (e_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \\
&= e_1 \circ ((e_1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b_{1,1}) \circ (i_1 \otimes 1)) \otimes 1 \\
&= e_1 \circ (1 \otimes 1) = e_1,
\end{aligned}$$

similarly for the other symmetry equation. The loop-commutativity $1 \otimes \lambda = \lambda \otimes 1$ can be derived using (B1)–(B5) and the above symmetry equations (and free equivalence, of course) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
1 \otimes \lambda &= 1 \otimes (e \circ i) && (3) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b^2 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{B4}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b^2) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{B4}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ [(e \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i)] \otimes b \\
&\quad \circ [(1 \otimes e) \circ (i \otimes 1)] \otimes b \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{B1}) \\
&= (e \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b) \\
&\quad \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (1 \otimes e \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \otimes i) \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{Lem. 2.14}) \\
&= (e \otimes 1) \circ [1 \otimes ((1 \otimes 1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (i \otimes 1 \otimes 1))] \circ (1 \otimes b^2) \\
&\quad \circ [1 \otimes ((e \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i))] \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (e \otimes 1) \circ [1 \otimes b] \circ (1 \otimes b^2) \circ [1 \otimes b] \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{B2}) \\
&= (e \otimes 1) \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{B4}) \\
&= (ei) \otimes 1 && (\text{free}) \\
&= \lambda \otimes 1.
\end{aligned}$$

(In the above derivation, we simply wrote b, e, i for $b_{1,1}, e_1, i_1$.) As a final example, the equation $(1 \otimes b) \circ (i \otimes 1) = (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i)$ (valid in \mathbf{Br}) can be derived using

$$\begin{aligned}
(1 \otimes b) \circ (i \otimes 1) &= (1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{free}) \\
&= [1 \otimes 1 \otimes ((e \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i))] \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (i \otimes 1) && (\text{B1}) \\
&= [((1 \otimes 1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (i \otimes 1 \otimes 1)) \otimes 1] \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{free}) \\
&= (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) && (\text{B2}).
\end{aligned}$$

2.4. Representations of the Brauer Category. We shall use duality structures on vector spaces to construct linear representations of \mathbf{Br} , i.e. symmetric strict monoidal functors $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ which preserve duality. Given a presentation of a strict monoidal category \mathbf{C} by generators and relations, the following proposition constructs strict monoidal functors on \mathbf{C} .

Proposition 2.18. (cf. [Kas95, Prop. XII.1.4].) *Let \mathbf{C} and \mathbf{D} be strict monoidal categories. Suppose that \mathbf{C} is generated by the morphisms G and the relations R . Let $F_0 : \text{Ob } \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \text{Ob } \mathbf{D}$ be a map such that $F_0(I) = I$ and $F_0(X \otimes Y) = F_0(X) \otimes F_0(Y)$ for all $X, Y \in \text{Ob } \mathbf{C}$. Let $F_1 : G \rightarrow \text{Mor}(\mathbf{D})$ be a map such that $\text{dom}(F_1(g)) = F_0(\text{dom}(g))$ and $\text{cod}(F_1(g)) = F_0(\text{cod}(g))$. Suppose that any pair $(w_1, w_2) \in R$ yields equal morphisms in \mathbf{D} after replacing any symbol $g \in G$ of w_1 and w_2 by $F_1(g)$ and any symbol 1_X by $1_{F_0(X)}$. Then there exists a unique strict*

monoidal functor $F : \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{D}$ such that $F(X) = F_0(X)$ for all $X \in \text{Ob } \mathbf{C}$ and $F(g) = F_1(g)$ for all $g \in G$.

We apply this Proposition to construct functors on \mathbf{Br} :

Theorem 2.19. *Let V be a finite dimensional real vector space and (i, e) a duality structure on V . Then there exists a unique symmetric strict monoidal functor $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ which satisfies $Y([1]) = V$ and preserves duality, that is, $Y(i_1) = i$, $Y(e_1) = e$.*

Proof. We define a map $Y_0 : \text{Ob } \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \text{Ob } \mathbf{Vect}$ by setting $Y_0([n]) = V^{\otimes n}$, with the understanding that $V^{\otimes 0} = I = \mathbb{R}$, the one-dimensional vector space which is the unit object of \mathbf{Vect} . Then $Y_0(I) = Y_0([0]) = I$ and

$$Y_0([m] \otimes [n]) = Y_0([m+n]) = V^{\otimes(m+n)} = V^{\otimes m} \otimes V^{\otimes n} = Y_0([m]) \otimes Y_0([n]).$$

Note that it is crucial here to use the strictly associative Schauenburg tensor product, which also has strict units. According to Proposition 2.15, \mathbf{Br} is generated by the morphisms $G = \{i_1, e_1, b_{1,1}\}$ and the relations (B1)–(B5). A function $Y_1 : G \rightarrow \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Vect})$ is given by

$$Y_1(i_1) = i, Y_1(e_1) = e, \text{ and } Y_1(b_{1,1}) = b,$$

where $b : V \otimes V \rightarrow V \otimes V$ is the braiding automorphism induced by $v \otimes w \mapsto w \otimes v$ which makes \mathbf{Vect} symmetric. This definition of Y_1 is forced by the requirement that Y be symmetric and preserve duality. Domains and codomains are transformed compatibly under Y_0 and Y_1 . Thus by Proposition 2.18, there exists a unique strict monoidal functor $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ such that $Y([n]) = Y_0([n]) = V^{\otimes n}$ for all $[n] \in \text{Ob } \mathbf{Br}$ and $Y(g) = Y_1(g)$ for all $g \in G$, i.e. $Y(i_1) = i$, $Y(e_1) = e$, $Y(b_{1,1}) = b$, provided the following identities hold in \mathbf{Vect} for the duality structure (i, e) and b :

Zig-Zag:

$$(1 \otimes e) \circ (i \otimes 1) = 1 = (e \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i),$$

Twisted Zig-Zag:

$$(e \otimes 1 \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes 1 \otimes i) = b = (1 \otimes 1 \otimes e) \circ (1 \otimes b \otimes 1) \circ (i \otimes 1 \otimes 1),$$

Reidemeister I:

$$(1 \otimes e) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes i) = 1 = (e \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (i \otimes 1),$$

Reidemeister II:

$$b \circ b = 1 \otimes 1,$$

Reidemeister III (a.k.a. the Yang-Baxter equation):

$$(b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b) \circ (b \otimes 1) = (1 \otimes b) \circ (b \otimes 1) \circ (1 \otimes b).$$

The zig-zag equations are satisfied by definition of a duality structure and by Lemma 2.4. The transposition b clearly satisfies Reidemeister II. Furthermore, b is a well-known solution of the Yang-Baxter equation so that Reidemeister III is satisfied as well. Let us verify Reidemeister I: Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis of V , $i(1) = \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_j \otimes e_k$ and $e_{jk} = e(e_j \otimes e_k)$. For $v \in V$,

$$\begin{aligned} (1 \otimes e)(b \otimes 1)(1 \otimes i)(v) &= (1 \otimes e)(b \otimes 1) \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} v \otimes e_j \otimes e_k \\ &= (1 \otimes e) \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_j \otimes v \otimes e_k = \sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e(v \otimes e_k) e_j. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the left Reidemeister I relation holds for $v = e_l$ if and only if $\sum_{j,k} i_{jk} e_{lk} e_j = e_l$, that is, if and only if $\sum_k i_{jk} e_{lk} = \delta_{jl}$ for all j, l . But this holds by Proposition 2.6. Similar routine

calculations using this proposition will readily verify the right Reidemeister I equation and the twisted zig-zag identities. \square

Remark 2.20. The author has developed computer software that enumerates (generic) polygonal Brauer diagrams of any size and computes the corresponding representation matrices, given by a duality structure.

In light of Proposition 2.15 and Theorem 2.19, it is clear that the zig-zag identity must be required in the definition of a duality structure (i, e) , if such a structure is to yield representations of \mathbf{Br} . But the symmetry requirements on (i, e) are also forced by

$$e = Y(e_1) = Y(e_1 \circ b_{1,1}) = Y(e_1) \circ Y(b_{1,1}) = e \circ b,$$

and

$$i = Y(i_1) = Y(b_{1,1} \circ i_1) = Y(b_{1,1}) \circ Y(i_1) = b \circ i.$$

The following observation on the nontriviality of images under Y will be required in Section 6 on profinite idempotent completions.

Lemma 2.21. *If V is a real vector space of finite positive dimension and (i, e) any duality structure on V , then $Y(\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [n]))$ does not contain the zero map $0 : V^{\otimes m} \rightarrow V^{\otimes n}$.*

Proof. We begin by observing that every loop-free morphism $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [n])$ of \mathbf{Br} can be brought into the following normal form: There are isomorphisms α and β such that $\phi = \beta \circ \phi_0 \circ \alpha$, where ϕ_0 has the form

$$\phi_0 = 1_{[m-2p]} \otimes e_1^{\otimes p} \otimes i_1^{\otimes q},$$

with $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $2p \leq m$, $2q \leq n$ and $m - 2p = n - 2q$. Note that in \mathbf{Vect} , the tensor product of any linear map and the zero map is again zero. Also, the tensor product of two nonzero linear maps is again nonzero, which can be seen by representing the maps by matrices and noting that the tensor product corresponds to the Kronecker product of matrices. Now, neither $Y(i_1) = i$ nor $Y(e_1) = e$ can be the zero map, for otherwise at least one of $1_V \otimes i$, $e \otimes 1_V$ would be zero and thus $(e \otimes 1_V) \circ (1_V \otimes i)$ would be zero, a contradiction to the zig-zag equation of the duality structure (i, e) (and the positive dimensionality of V). Therefore,

$$Y(\phi_0) = 1_{V^{\otimes(m-2p)}} \otimes e^{\otimes p} \otimes i^{\otimes q}$$

is not zero. As α and β are isomorphisms, their images $Y(\alpha)$ and $Y(\beta)$ are isomorphisms of positive-dimensional vector spaces, which implies that $Y(\phi) = Y(\beta) \circ Y(\phi_0) \circ Y(\alpha)$ cannot be the zero map. Finally, if $\psi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$ is any morphism, possibly containing loops, then write it as $\psi = \lambda^{\otimes p} \otimes \phi$, with ϕ loop-free. By Proposition 2.9,

$$Y(\lambda) = Y(e_1 \circ i_1) = ei = \text{Tr}(i, e) = \dim V > 0,$$

from which we deduce that

$$Y(\psi) = Y(\lambda)^{\otimes p} \otimes Y(\phi) = (\dim V)^p Y(\phi)$$

is not zero. \square

A particular duality structure on the two-dimensional vector space $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ is

$$(4) \quad e(e_{11}) = 0, e(e_{12}) = 1, e(e_{21}) = 1, e(e_{22}) = -1, i(1) = e_{11} + e_{12} + e_{21},$$

where $e_{ij} = e_i \otimes e_j$, and e_1, e_2 is the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Proposition 2.22. *The symmetric monoidal representation $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ determined by the duality structure (4) is faithful on loops, that is, if ϕ and ψ are any two morphisms in \mathbf{Br} such that $Y(\phi) = Y(\psi)$, then ϕ and ψ have the same number of loops.*

Proof. Again, we employ the normal form used in the proof of Lemma 2.21: Given any loop-free morphism ϕ of \mathbf{Br} , there are isomorphisms α and β such that $\phi = \beta \circ \phi_0 \circ \alpha$, where ϕ_0 has the form $\phi_0 = 1 \otimes e_1^{\otimes p} \otimes i_1^{\otimes q}$, with 1 an identity morphism and $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$. For every $n = 1, 2, \dots$, we equip $V^{\otimes n}$ with the basis $\{e_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{i_n} \mid i_1, \dots, i_n \in \{1, 2\}\}$. With respect to this basis, linear maps $Y(\psi)$ can be written as matrices. Recall that the matrix representative of a tensor product of linear maps is the *Kronecker product* of matrices. If $A = (a_{ij})$ is an $a \times a'$ matrix and B is a $b \times b'$ matrix, then their Kronecker product $A \otimes B$ is the $ab \times a'b'$ block matrix with (i, j) -th block $a_{ij}B$. Therefore, if all entries of A and B are from the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$, then the entries of their Kronecker product $A \otimes B$ are also in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. The matrix of $Y(e_1)$ is

$$(0 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad -1),$$

the matrix of $Y(i_1)$ is the transpose of

$$(1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 0),$$

and the matrix of $Y(b_{1,1})$ is the permutation matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

All three of these matrices have entries from the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. Hence the matrix of $Y(e_1^{\otimes p}) = Y(e_1)^{\otimes p}$, which is the p -th Kronecker power of $Y(e_1)$, has entries in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. Furthermore, the matrix of $Y(i_1^{\otimes q}) = Y(i_1)^{\otimes q}$, which is the q -th Kronecker power of $Y(i_1)$, has entries in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. Consequently, the matrix of

$$Y(\phi_0) = Y(1 \otimes e_1^{\otimes p} \otimes i_1^{\otimes q}) = 1 \otimes Y(e_1^{\otimes p}) \otimes Y(i_1^{\otimes q})$$

has entries in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. Any permutation can be written as a product of *adjacent* transpositions. Thus the isomorphism α can be written as a composition of morphisms of the form

$$(5) \quad 1_V \otimes \dots \otimes 1_V \otimes b_{1,1} \otimes 1_V \otimes \dots \otimes 1_V.$$

As $Y(b_{1,1})$ is a permutation matrix, the matrix of the Y -image of a morphism of the form (5) is a permutation matrix as well. Since permutation matrices form a group under composition, $Y(\alpha)$ is a permutation matrix. In particular, the entries of $Y(\alpha)$ lie in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. By the same token, $Y(\beta)$ is also a permutation matrix. Multiplication of a matrix A by a permutation matrix permutes the rows or columns of A . Thus, the matrix of

$$Y(\phi) = Y(\beta) \circ Y(\phi_0) \circ Y(\alpha)$$

has entries in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$. We summarize what we have shown so far: The matrix of $Y(\phi)$ for every loop-free morphism ϕ of \mathbf{Br} has entries in the set $\{0, 1, -1\}$.

Let us now prove that if $Y(\phi) = Y(\psi)$ and ϕ has a loop, then ψ also has a loop. As ϕ has a loop, we can write it as $\phi = \lambda \otimes \phi'$ for some ϕ' . Set $\widehat{\lambda} = Y(\lambda)$. In view of

$$Y(\lambda) = Y(e_1 i_1) = Y(e_1)Y(i_1) = ei = \text{Tr}(i, e),$$

the scalar $\widehat{\lambda}$ is the trace of the duality structure (i, e) , $\widehat{\lambda} = 2$. Hence, $Y(\phi) = \widehat{\lambda}Y(\phi') = 2Y(\phi')$. If ψ were loop-free, then the matrix of $Y(\psi)$ would have to have all entries in $\{0, 1, -1\}$, contradicting $Y(\psi) = 2Y(\phi')$, since $Y(\phi')$ is a nonzero matrix with integer entries. We conclude that ψ has a loop as well.

Finally, suppose that $Y(\phi) = Y(\psi)$, but $\phi = \lambda^{\otimes(n+m)}\phi_0$, $\psi = \lambda^{\otimes n}\psi_0$, $m > 0$, and ϕ_0, ψ_0 are loop-free. Then

$$2^n Y(\lambda^{\otimes m}\phi_0) = Y(\lambda^{\otimes n})Y(\lambda^{\otimes m}\phi_0) = Y(\phi) = Y(\psi) = Y(\lambda^{\otimes n})Y(\psi_0) = 2^n Y(\psi_0)$$

and thus $Y(\lambda^{\otimes m}\phi_0) = Y(\psi_0)$. But as $\lambda^{\otimes m}\phi_0$ has at least one loop, this implies that ψ_0 must have a loop, a contradiction. Therefore, ϕ and ψ must have an equal number of loops. \square

3. FOLD MAPS

We recall here a number of concepts from differential topology which are relevant for the present paper. Of central importance is the notion of a *fold map*. For smooth manifolds M and N , let $C^\infty(M, N)$ denote the space of smooth maps from M to N endowed with the Whitney C^∞ topology. Let m denote the dimension of M and n the dimension of N . Let $J^k(M, N)$ be the space of k -jets of smooth maps $M \rightarrow N$ and let $\alpha : J^k(M, N) \rightarrow M$, $\beta : J^k(M, N) \rightarrow N$ denote the source- and target-map, respectively. The jet space is a smooth manifold of dimension $\dim J^k(M, N) = m + n(1 + \dim P_m^k)$, where P_m^k is the vector space of polynomials in m variables of degree at most k , which have zero constant term. We have $J^0(M, N) = M \times N$. Only the 1-jet space will play a role in the present paper. Elements in $J^1(M, N)$ are represented by pairs (x, f) , where $x \in M$, $f \in C^\infty(M, N)$. Two pairs (x, f) and (x', f') represent the same element of $J^1(M, N)$ if and only if $x = x'$, $f(x) = f'(x)$ and f, f' have first order contact at x , that is, $D_x f = D_x f' : T_x M \rightarrow T_{f(x)} N$. If σ is the 1-jet represented by (x, f) , then $\alpha(\sigma) = x$ is the source of σ and $\beta(\sigma) = f(x)$ is the target of σ . The projection $\alpha \times \beta : J^1(M, N) \rightarrow M \times N$ makes $J^1(M, N)$ into the total space of a vector bundle over $M \times N$ with fiber $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n)$. Let $j^k f : M \rightarrow J^k(M, N)$, $(j^k f)(x) = [(x, f)]$, denote the k -jet extension of a smooth map $f : M \rightarrow N$.

Let σ be a jet in $J^1(M, N)$ and $f \in C^\infty(M, N)$ a smooth representative of σ . Let x be the source of σ and $y = f(x)$ the target. Then, by definition of a 1-jet, the induced linear map $D_x f : T_x M \rightarrow T_y N$ depends only on σ , not on the choice of representative f . Put $\text{rank } \sigma = \text{rank}(D_x f)$ and $\text{corank } \sigma = \min(m, n) - \text{rank } \sigma$. The subsets

$$S_r = \{\sigma \in J^1(M, N) \mid \text{corank } \sigma = r\}, \quad r = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

are submanifolds of $J^1(M, N)$. Moreover, the restriction $(\alpha \times \beta)|_{S_r} : S_r \rightarrow M \times N$ is a subfiber-bundle of $\alpha \times \beta : J^1(M, N) \rightarrow M \times N$ with fiber

$$L^r(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n) = \{A \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathbb{R}^n) \mid \text{corank } A = r\}.$$

Thus, with $q = \min(m, n)$, the codimension of S_r in $J^1(M, N)$ is $(m - q + r)(n - q + r)$. The full-rank set S_0 is open in $J^1(M, N)$.

Morse theory is concerned with the case $N = \mathbb{R}$. As $\dim \mathbb{R} = 1$, the jet manifold is given by $J^1(M, \mathbb{R}) = S_0 \cup S_1$, $S_r = \emptyset$ for $r \geq 2$. Let $S(f)$ denote the singular set (set of critical points) of a smooth function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. A point $x \in M$ is in $S(f)$ precisely when $(j^1 f)(x) \in S_1$. Such a critical point x is nondegenerate (i.e. the Hessian of f is nonsingular at x) if and only if $j^1 f : M \rightarrow J^1(M, \mathbb{R})$ is transverse to S_1 at x . Consequently, the singular set of a Morse function f can be expressed as the transverse preimage $S(f) = (j^1 f)^{-1}(S_1)$ of a universal singularity locus $S_1 \subset J^1(M, \mathbb{R})$. The following terminology is due to R. Thom.

Definition 3.1. A Morse function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called *excellent* if no two critical points lie on the same level, that is, $f(x) \neq f(y)$ for any two distinct critical points x, y of f .

A standard tool from Morse theory allows us to approximate a given Morse function, without changing the location of the singular points, by an excellent Morse function, see [Mil65, Lemma 2.8, p. 17]. The well-known ‘‘Morse-Lemma’’ asserts that near a singular

point $x \in S(f)$ of a Morse function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, one can choose local coordinates x_1, \dots, x_m centered at x such that f is given by

$$(6) \quad (x_1, \dots, x_m) \mapsto f(x) - (x_1^2 + \dots + x_i^2) + x_{i+1}^2 + \dots + x_m^2$$

in these coordinates. The number i is invariantly associated with the critical point x and is called the *index* of x .

Definition 3.2. Following [BdR74] and established use in the literature, a Morse function $f : M^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called *special generic*, if at every critical point, f attains a local minimum or maximum, that is, the index of every critical point is 0 or m .

According to Reeb [Ree52], a closed connected m -dimensional manifold M that admits a special generic function is homeomorphic (but not necessarily diffeomorphic) to the m -sphere S^m .

We shall arrive at the notion of fields to be used on cobordisms in our field theory by “suspending” Morse functions: Here, the suspension of M is the cylinder $W = \mathbb{R} \times M$ (or $[0, 1] \times M$) and the suspension of (6) is

$$(7) \quad (t, x_1, \dots, x_m) \mapsto (t, -(x_1^2 + \dots + x_i^2) + x_{i+1}^2 + \dots + x_m^2),$$

a map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ into the plane (assuming $f(x) = 0$). What is an invariant definition of maps that have this form locally? Let W be an n -manifold, $n \geq 2$. Let $S(F) \subset W$ denote the singular set of a smooth map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. The 1-jet manifold $J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2)$ has dimension

$$\dim J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2) = n + 2(1 + \dim P_n^1) = 3n + 2.$$

As $\dim \mathbb{R}^2 = 2$, the jet manifold is now given by $J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2) = S_0 \cup S_1 \cup S_2$, $S_r = \emptyset$ for $r \geq 3$. The codimension of S_1 in $J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is $(n - 2 + 1)(2 - 2 + 1) = n - 1$. Thus, if $j^1 F : W \rightarrow J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is transverse to S_1 , then the inverse image $S_1(F) := (j^1 F)^{-1}(S_1)$ is a codimension $(n - 1)$ submanifold of W , that is, $\dim S_1(F) = 1$. Note that by definition $\dim \ker D_x F = n - 1$ for all $x \in S_1(F)$ (regardless of whether $j^1 F$ is transverse to S_1 or not). The codimension of S_2 in $J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is $2n$. Thus, if $j^1 F : W \rightarrow J^1(W, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is transverse to S_2 , then the inverse image $S_2(F) := (j^1 F)^{-1}(S_2)$ is a codimension $2n$ submanifold of W , that is, $S_2(F) = \emptyset$ and $S(F) = S_1(F)$. This means that there are no singular points x with $D_x F = 0$.

Definition 3.3. A smooth map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is called a *fold map*, if $j^1 F$ is transverse to S_1 , $S(F) = S_1(F)$, and for all $x \in S(F)$, $T_x S(F) + \ker D_x F = T_x W$.

The transversality condition ensures that $S_1(F)$ is a smoothly embedded submanifold of W and that the normal Hessian is nondegenerate. In particular, in the context of this definition, the tangent space $T_x S(F)$ is well-defined, since $S(F) = S_1(F)$ is a smoothly embedded submanifold of W . The third condition involving the kernel of the Jacobian excludes cusps: Let F be a fold map. Since for any $x \in S(F)$, $\ker D_x F$ has dimension $n - 1$, we actually have a direct sum decomposition $T_x S(F) \oplus \ker D_x F = T_x W$; a nonzero vector tangent to $S(F)$ cannot be in the kernel of the Jacobian map $D_x F$. We conclude that $F|_{S(F)}$ is an immersion.

Examples 3.4. The stable Whitney cusp $F : W = \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $F(t, x) = (t, xt + x^3)$, satisfies $S(F) = S_1(F)$ and $j^1 F$ is transverse to S_1 but not $T_{(t,x)} S(F) + \ker D_{(t,x)} F = T_{(t,x)} W$: At $(t, x) = (0, 0)$, $F|_{S(F)}$ has a singularity. The map $F : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $F(t, x) = (t, 0)$, has singular set $S(F) = \mathbb{R}^2$ but $S_2(F) = \emptyset$. Thus $S(F) = S_1(F)$ and $T_{(t,x)} S(F) + \ker D_{(t,x)} F = T_{(t,x)} \mathbb{R}^2$ but $j^1 F$ is not transverse to S_1 . Now let F be the map $F : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $F(t, x) = (t^2, x^2)$. Its singular set $S(F) = S_1(F) \sqcup S_2(F)$ is the union of the two coordinate axes, with $S_2(F) = \{(0, 0)\}$, the origin. A calculation using the intrinsic derivative of Porteous shows that $j^1 F$ is transverse to

S_1 (but obviously not to S_2). The condition $T_{(t,x)}S_1(F) + \ker D_{(t,x)}F = T_{(t,x)}\mathbb{R}^2$, $(t,x) \in S_1(F)$, is satisfied and there are no cusp singularities in $S_1(F)$. All three conditions are satisfied for (7).

If F is a fold map, then we refer to its singular set $S(F)$ also as its *fold locus* or *fold lines*. Points x in $S(F)$ are called *fold points*. Let x be such a point. As $F|_{S(F)}$ is an immersion, its image is locally a 1-manifold, so we can choose coordinates y_1, y_2 centered at $F(x)$ so that $F(S(F))$ is locally given by $\{y_2 = 0\}$. Since $F| : S(F) \rightarrow \{y_2 = 0\}$ is a local diffeomorphism near x , there are local coordinates t, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} centered at x such that $t = y_1 \circ f$ and $S(F)$ is given near x by $\{x_1 = \dots = x_{n-1} = 0\}$. In these coordinates, F takes the form

$$(t, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \mapsto (t, \sum_{i,j} h_{ij} x_i x_j),$$

where the h_{ij} are smooth functions. The transversality condition $j^1F \pitchfork S_1$ at x implies that the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix $(h_{ij}(0))$ is nonsingular. Thus one achieves a normal form for fold maps analogous to the statement of the Morse Lemma for Morse functions, see [GG73, Thm. 4.5, p. 88]:

Proposition 3.5. *Let W be an n -dimensional manifold, $n \geq 2$, $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ a fold map, and x a singular point of F . Then there exist local coordinates t, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} centered at x and coordinates y_1, y_2 centered at $F(x)$ so that F is given by*

$$(t, x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \mapsto (t, -(x_1^2 + \dots + x_i^2) + x_{i+1}^2 + \dots + x_{n-1}^2)$$

in these coordinates, for some $0 \leq i \leq n-1$.

The number $\tau(x) = \max(i, n-1-i)$ is called the *absolute index* of the fold point x . The absolute index is invariantly defined and is constant along every connected component of $S(F)$, which will be an essential feature in the proof of Theorem 10.2 on exotic spheres. If $\tau(x) = n-1$, then x is called a *definite* fold point.

Definition 3.6. Again following [BdR74], a fold map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is called *special generic*, if $S(F)$ consists entirely of definite fold points.

Cobordism groups of special generic maps have been introduced by O. Saeki in [Sae93]. In [Sae02], it is shown that for $n \geq 6$, the oriented cobordism group of special generic functions on n -manifolds is isomorphic to the group Θ_n of homotopy n -spheres introduced in [KM63]. Saeki's methods, based on the notion of Stein factorization, play a central role when we establish in Section 10 that our TFT distinguishes exotic smooth spheres from standard spheres.

4. MONOIDS, SEMIRINGS, AND SEMIMODULES

We recall some foundational material on monoids, semirings and semimodules over semirings. Such structures seem to have appeared first in Dedekind's study of ideals in a commutative ring: one can add and multiply two ideals, but one cannot subtract them. The theory has been further developed by H. S. Vandiver, S. Eilenberg, A. Salomaa, J. H. Conway and others. A monoid (M, \cdot) is *idempotent* if $m \cdot m = m$ for all elements $m \in M$. The Boolean monoid $(\mathbb{B}, +)$, $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$, is idempotent: 0 is the neutral element and $1 + 1 = 1$ in \mathbb{B} .

Roughly, a semiring is a ring without additive inverses. More precisely, a *semiring* is a set S together with two binary operations $+$ and \cdot and two elements $0, 1 \in S$ such that $(S, +, 0)$ is a commutative monoid, $(S, \cdot, 1)$ is a monoid, the multiplication \cdot distributes over the addition from either side, and 0 is absorbing, i.e. $0 \cdot s = 0 = s \cdot 0$ for every $s \in S$. For instance, the natural

numbers $S = \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ form a semiring under standard addition and multiplication. If the monoid $(S, \cdot, 1)$ is commutative, the semiring S is called commutative. The semiring is called *idempotent*, if $(S, +, 0)$ is an idempotent monoid. By distributivity, this holds if and only if $1 + 1 = 1$. The Boolean monoid \mathbb{B} becomes an idempotent commutative semiring by defining $1 \cdot 1 = 1$. A morphism of semirings sends 0 to 0, 1 to 1 and respects addition and multiplication.

Let S be a semiring. A (*formal*) *power series* with coefficients in S is a function $a : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow S$. It is customary, and convenient, to write such a function as

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a(i)q^i,$$

where q is a formal variable acting as a bookkeeping device. The element $a(i)$ is referred to as the *coefficient* of q^i . Let $S[[q]]$ be the set of all power series with coefficients in S . Write 0 for the power series a with $a(i) = 0$ for all i . Write 1 for the power series a with $a(0) = 1$ and $a(i) = 0$ for all $i > 0$. Define an addition on power series by $a + b = c$, where $c(i) = a(i) + b(i)$ for all i . Define a multiplication on power series by the Cauchy product, that is, $a \cdot b = c$ where $c(i) = \sum_{n+m=i} a(n)b(m)$. Then $(S[[q]], +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ is a semiring, the *semiring of power series over S* . If S is idempotent, then so is $S[[q]]$. We shall particularly make use of the idempotent commutative semiring $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$. In a similar manner, using finite sums, one defines the *polynomial semiring* $S[q]$.

Given a ring R and a group G , one may form the group ring $R[G]$. Similarly, given a semiring S and a monoid M , one can form the *monoid semiring* $S[M]$. Its elements are functions $a : M \rightarrow S$ such that $a(m) \neq 0$ only for a finite number of $m \in M$. Again, such a function is customarily written as a finite sum

$$a(m_1)m_1 + \dots + a(m_k)m_k.$$

(In order for this notation to work, the monoid operation on M should be written multiplicatively, even when M is commutative.) The sum of $a, b \in S[M]$ is $c : M \rightarrow S$ with $c(m) = a(m) + b(m)$ for all m . The product $a \cdot b$ in $S[M]$ is $c : M \rightarrow S$ with $c(m) = \sum_{pq=m} a(p)b(q)$. In other words,

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^k a(m_i)m_i \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^l b(n_j)n_j \right) = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^l (a(m_i)b(n_j))(m_i n_j).$$

Equipped with these operations, $S[M]$ is a semiring whose zero is the function $a(m) = 0$ for all m , and whose one is the function $a(1_M) = 1_S$ and $a(m) = 0$ for all $m \neq 1_M$. (Here, 1_M denotes the neutral element of M and 1_S the one-element of the semiring S .) For example, if $S = \mathbb{N}$ is the semiring of natural numbers and $M = \mathbb{N}$ is the additive monoid of natural numbers, we obtain the monoid semiring $\mathbb{N}[\mathbb{N}]$. Here, one should write $M = \mathbb{N}$ multiplicatively, that is, we write $M = \{\tau^i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}\}$. It is then clear that $\mathbb{N}[\mathbb{N}]$ is isomorphic to the polynomial semiring $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$.

Let S be a semiring. A *left S -semimodule* is a commutative monoid $(M, +, 0_M)$ together with a scalar multiplication $S \times M \rightarrow M$, $(s, m) \mapsto sm$, such that for all $r, s \in S$, $m, n \in M$, we have $(rs)m = r(sm)$, $r(m+n) = rm + rn$, $(r+s)m = rm + sm$, $1m = m$, and $r0_M = 0_M = 0m$. Right semimodules are defined similarly using scalar multiplications $M \times S \rightarrow M$, $(m, s) \mapsto ms$. Given semirings R and S , an *R - S -bisemimodule* is a commutative monoid $(M, +, 0)$, which is both a left R -semimodule and a right S -semimodule such that $(rm)s = r(ms)$ for all $r \in R$, $s \in S$, $m \in M$. (Thus the notation rms is unambiguous.) An *R - S -bisemimodule homomorphism* is a homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ of the underlying additive monoids such that $f(rms) = rf(m)s$ for all r, m, s . If $R = S$, we shall also speak of an S -bisemimodule. Every

semimodule M over a commutative semiring S can and will be assumed to be both a left and right semimodule with $sm = ms$. In fact, M is then a bisemimodule, as for all $r, s \in S, m \in M$,

$$(rm)s = s(rm) = (sr)m = (rs)m = r(sm) = r(ms).$$

A semimodule M is called *idempotent* if the underlying additive monoid $(M, +, 0_M)$ is idempotent. If $\phi : S \rightarrow T$ is a morphism of semirings, then T becomes a left S -semimodule by setting $st = \phi(s) \cdot t$, using the multiplication in T . Let $\phi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ be the morphism of semirings uniquely specified by $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(1) = 1$. Via ϕ , \mathbb{B} is a \mathbb{N} -semimodule. By setting $\phi(\tau) = q$, the map ϕ extends to a semiring morphism $\phi : \mathbb{N}[\tau] \rightarrow \mathbb{B}[[q]]$. Explicitly,

$$\phi(n_0 + n_1\tau + \cdots + n_k\tau^k) = \phi(n_0) + \phi(n_1)q + \cdots + \phi(n_k)q^k \in \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

Via this morphism, $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is a semimodule over $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$.

If A is a set, let $\text{FM}(A)$ denote the free commutative monoid generated by A . Its elements are finite formal linear combinations $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i a_i$, $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{N}$, $a_i \in A$. The addition of two such linear combinations is defined in the obvious way.

Lemma 4.1. *Suppose that A is equipped with an action $\mathbb{N} \times A \rightarrow A$ of the monoid $(\mathbb{N}, +)$, $(\tau^i, a) \mapsto \tau^i a$. Then*

$$\sum_i m_i \tau^i \cdot \sum_j \alpha_j a_j = \sum_{i,j} (m_i \alpha_j) (\tau^i a_j), \quad m_i, \alpha_j \in \mathbb{N}, a_j \in A,$$

makes $\text{FM}(A)$ into an $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule.

Let S be any semiring, not necessarily commutative. Regarding the tensor product of a right S -semimodule M and a left S -semimodule N , one has to exercise caution because even when S is commutative, two nonisomorphic tensor products, both called *the* tensor product of M and N and both written $M \otimes_S N$, exist in the literature. A map $\phi : M \times N \rightarrow A$ into a commutative additive monoid A is called *middle S -linear*, if it is biadditive, $\phi(ms, n) = \phi(m, sn)$ for all m, s, n , and $\phi(0, 0) = 0$. For us, an (algebraic) *tensor product of M and N* is a commutative monoid $M \otimes_S N$ (written additively) satisfying the following (standard) universal property: $M \otimes_S N$ comes equipped with a middle S -linear map $M \times N \rightarrow M \otimes_S N$ such that given any commutative monoid A and middle S -linear map $\phi : M \times N \rightarrow A$, there exists a unique monoid homomorphism $\psi : M \otimes_S N \rightarrow A$ such that

$$(8) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{\phi} & A \\ \downarrow & \searrow \psi & \uparrow \\ M \otimes_S N & & \end{array}$$

commutes. The existence of such a tensor product is shown for example in [Kat97], [Kat04]. To construct it, take $M \otimes_S N$ to be the quotient monoid $\text{FM}(M \times N) / \sim$, where \sim is the congruence relation on $\text{FM}(M \times N)$ generated by all pairs of the form

$$((m + m', n), (m, n) + (m', n)), ((m, n + n'), (m, n) + (m, n')), ((ms, n), (m, sn)),$$

$m, m' \in M, n, n' \in N, s \in S$. If one of the two semimodules, say N , is idempotent, then $M \otimes_S N$ is idempotent as well, since $m \otimes n + m \otimes n = m \otimes (n + n) = m \otimes n$. If M is an R - S -bisemimodule and N an S - T -bisemimodule, then the monoid $M \otimes_S N$ as constructed above becomes an R - T -bisemimodule by declaring

$$r \cdot (m \otimes n) = (rm) \otimes n, \quad (m \otimes n) \cdot t = m \otimes (nt).$$

If in diagram (8), the monoid A is an R - T -semimodule and $M \times N \rightarrow A$ satisfies

$$\phi(rm, n) = r\phi(m, n), \quad \phi(m, nt) = \phi(m, n)t$$

(in addition to being middle S -linear; let us call such a map $R_S T$ -linear), then the uniquely determined monoid map $\psi : M \otimes_S N \rightarrow A$ is an R - T -bisemimodule homomorphism, for

$$\psi(r(m \otimes n)) = \psi((rm) \otimes n) = \phi(rm, n) = r\phi(m, n) = r\psi(m \otimes n)$$

and similarly for the right action of T . If $R = S = T$ and S is commutative, the above means that the commutative monoid $M \otimes_S N$ is an S -semimodule with $s(m \otimes n) = (sm) \otimes n = m \otimes (sn)$ and the diagram (8) takes place in the category of S -semimodules.

The tensor product of [Tak82] and [Gol99] — let us here write it as \otimes'_S — satisfies a different universal property. A semimodule C is called *cancellative* if $a + c = b + c$ implies $a = b$ for all $a, b, c \in C$. A nontrivial idempotent semimodule is never cancellative. Given an arbitrary right S -semimodule M and an arbitrary left S -semimodule N , the product $M \otimes'_S N$ is always cancellative. Thus if one of M, N is idempotent, then $M \otimes'_S N$ is trivial, being both idempotent and cancellative. Since in our applications, we desire nontrivial tensor products of idempotent semimodules, the product \otimes'_S will not be used in this paper.

We continue to assume that the set A is equipped with an \mathbb{N} -action. Applying $\otimes_{\mathbb{N}[\tau]}$ to the semimodules $\text{FM}(A)$ and $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ over the commutative semiring $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$, we obtain the $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule

$$Q(A) = \text{FM}(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{N}[\tau]} \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

Since $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is idempotent, so is $Q(A)$. Any element of $Q(A)$ can be written in the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \otimes b_i, \quad a_i \in A, \quad b_i \in \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

To see this, we note first that elements of the tensor product can be written as

$$\sum_{i=1}^k m_i \otimes b_i, \quad m_i \in \text{FM}(A), \quad m_i \neq 0, \quad b_i \in \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

Every m_i has the form $m_i = \sum_{j=1}^{k_i} \alpha_{ij} a_{ij}$, $\alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{N} - \{0\}$, $a_{ij} \in A$, $k_i \geq 1$. Hence

$$\sum_i m_i \otimes b_i = \sum_i \left(\sum_j \alpha_{ij} a_{ij} \right) \otimes b_i = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \otimes (\alpha_{ij} b_i) = \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \otimes b_i,$$

using the idempotency of $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$.

The key feature of the state (semi)modules (to be introduced in Section 7) that will allow us to form well-defined state sums is their completeness. Thus let us recall the notion of a complete monoid, semiring, etc. as introduced by S. Eilenberg on p. 125 of [Eil74]; see also [Kar92], [Kro88]. A *complete monoid* is a commutative monoid $(M, +, 0)$ together with an assignment \sum , called a *summation law*, which assigns to every family $(m_i)_{i \in I}$, indexed by an arbitrary set I , an element $\sum_{i \in I} m_i$ of M (called the *sum* of the m_i), such that

$$\sum_{i \in \emptyset} m_i = 0, \quad \sum_{i \in \{1\}} m_i = m_1, \quad \sum_{i \in \{1,2\}} m_i = m_1 + m_2,$$

and for every partition $I = \bigcup_{j \in J} I_j$,

$$\sum_{j \in J} \left(\sum_{i \in I_j} m_i \right) = \sum_{i \in I} m_i.$$

Note that these axioms imply that if $\sigma : J \rightarrow I$ is a bijection, then

$$\sum_{i \in I} m_i = \sum_{j \in J} \sum_{i \in \{\sigma(j)\}} m_i = \sum_{j \in J} m_{\sigma(j)}.$$

Also, since a cartesian product $I \times J$ comes with two canonical partitions, namely $I \times J = \bigcup_{i \in I} \{i\} \times J = \bigcup_{j \in J} I \times \{j\}$, one has

$$(9) \quad \sum_{(i,j) \in I \times J} m_{ij} = \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J} m_{ij} = \sum_{j \in J} \sum_{i \in I} m_{ij}$$

for any family $(m_{ij})_{(i,j) \in I \times J}$. This is the analog of Fubini's theorem in the theory of integration. Given $(M, +, 0)$, the summation law \sum , if it exists, is not in general uniquely determined by the addition, as examples in [Gol85] show. For a semiring to be complete one requires that $(S, +, 0, \sum)$ be a complete monoid and adds the infinite distributivity requirements

$$\sum_{i \in I} s s_i = s \left(\sum_{i \in I} s_i \right), \quad \sum_{i \in I} s_i s = \left(\sum_{i \in I} s_i \right) s.$$

Note that in a complete semiring, the sum over any family of zeros must be zero. If $(s_{ij})_{(i,j) \in I \times J}$ is a family in a complete semiring of the form $s_{ij} = s_i t_j$, then, using (9) together with the infinite distributivity requirement,

$$(10) \quad \sum_{(i,j) \in I \times J} s_i t_j = \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{j \in J} s_i t_j = \left(\sum_{i \in I} s_i \right) \left(\sum_{j \in J} t_j \right).$$

A semiring is *zerosumfree*, if $s + t = 0$ implies $s = t = 0$ for all s, t in the semiring. The so-called ‘‘Eilenberg-swindle’’ shows that every complete semiring is zerosumfree. In a ring we have additive inverses, which means that a nontrivial ring is never zerosumfree and so cannot be endowed with an infinite summation law that makes it complete. This shows that giving up additive inverses, thereby passing to semirings that are not rings, is an essential prerequisite for completeness and in turn essential for the construction of our topological field theories. Complete semimodules are defined analogously: A semimodule M over a commutative semiring S is called complete if its underlying additive monoid is equipped with a summation law that makes it complete as a commutative monoid and the infinite distribution requirement

$$\sum_{i \in I} s m_i = s \left(\sum_{i \in I} m_i \right)$$

holds for every $s \in S$ and every family $(m_i)_{i \in I}$ in M . The Boolean semiring \mathbb{B} is complete (using the obvious summation law). If S is a complete semiring, then the semiring $S[[q]]$ of formal power series becomes a complete semiring by transferring the summation law on S pointwise to $S[[q]]$, see [Kar92]. Hence, $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is a complete semiring. If $\phi : S \rightarrow T$ is a morphism of semirings and T is complete as a semiring, then T is automatically complete as an S -semimodule because

$$s \sum_{i \in I} t_i = \phi(s) \sum_i t_i = \sum_i \phi(s) t_i = \sum_i s t_i$$

for all elements $s \in S$ and families $(t_i)_{i \in I}$ in T . Applying this to the morphism of semirings $\mathbb{N}[\tau] \rightarrow \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, we see that $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is complete as an $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. For numerous other examples of complete semirings, see [Ban15].

Let R, S be any semirings, not necessarily commutative. An (associative, unital) R - S -semialgebra is a semiring A which is in addition an R - S -bisemimodule such that for all $a, b \in A$, $r \in R$, $s \in S$, one has $r(ab) = (ra)b$, $(ab)s = a(bs)$. (Note that we refrain from using the term ‘‘ R - S -bisemialgebra’’ for such a structure, since ‘‘bialgebra’’ refers to something completely different, namely a structure with both multiplication and comultiplication.) If

$R = S$, we shall also use the term *two-sided S -semialgebra* for an S - S -semialgebra. If S is commutative, then a two-sided S -semialgebra A with $sa = as$ is simply a semialgebra over S in the usual sense, as

$$(sa)b = s(ab) = (ab)s = a(bs) = a(sb).$$

A morphism of R - S -semialgebras is a morphism of semirings which is in addition a R - S -bisemimodule homomorphism.

A *partially ordered semiring* is a quadruple $(S, +, \cdot, \leq)$, where $(S, +, \cdot)$ is a semiring and (S, \leq) a partially ordered set such that for all $s, t, u \in S$,

$$0 \leq s \text{ and}$$

$$s \leq t \text{ implies } s + u \leq t + u, \quad su \leq tu, \quad us \leq ut.$$

Every partially ordered semiring is zerosumfree, since $s + t = 0$ implies $0 \leq s \leq s + t = 0$. An idempotent semiring always possesses a unique partial order, namely $s \leq t$ if and only if $s + t = t$. (Note that $s \leq t$ implies $t \leq s + t \leq t + t = t$; cf. [KS86, Thm. 5.2 and Exercise 5.4].) An important formal observation is that in an idempotent semiring, the addition can always be expressed as a supremum,

$$s + t = \sup\{s, t\}.$$

To see this, we note that $s, t \geq 0$ and the monotonicity of addition imply $s, t \leq s + t$, which shows the inequality $\sup\{s, t\} \leq s + t$. On the other hand, $s, t \leq \sup\{s, t\}$ and monotonicity together with idempotence yield

$$s + t \leq s + \sup\{s, t\} \leq \sup\{s, t\} + \sup\{s, t\} = \sup\{s, t\}.$$

An idempotent complete monoid $(M, +, 0, \Sigma)$ is *continuous* (cf. [Kro88], [Sak87], [Gol85], [Kar92]) if for all families $(m_i)_{i \in I}$, $m_i \in M$, and for all $c \in M$, $\sum_{i \in F} m_i \leq c$ for all finite $F \subset I$ implies $\sum_{i \in I} m_i \leq c$. In other words: The supremum of

$$\left\{ \sum_{i \in F} m_i \mid F \subset I, F \text{ finite} \right\} \subset M$$

exists and equals $\sum_{i \in I} m_i$. Requiring this of the underlying additive monoid of an idempotent complete semiring, we arrive at the concept of a continuous semiring. This concept can be extended to non-idempotent semirings by requiring the existence of a certain natural partial order (of which the above idempotent partial order is a special case) and will not be further discussed here. Almost all complete semirings that are important in applications are continuous. The idempotent complete semirings \mathbb{B} and $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ are both continuous ([Kar92, p. 157]). The (idempotent, complete) value semiring Q used in our quantization will be shown to be continuous in Proposition 6.15.

Proposition 4.2. *Let $(M, +, 0, \Sigma)$ be a continuous, idempotent, complete monoid. Then the value of a sum over an arbitrary family of elements in M depends only on the underlying set of the family. That is, if $(m_i)_{i \in I}$ and $(n_j)_{j \in J}$ are families in M , then*

$$\sum_{i \in I} m_i = \sum_{j \in J} n_j$$

when $\{m_i \mid i \in I\} = \{n_j \mid j \in J\}$ as subsets of M .

Proof. Let $m \in M$ be any element and K an arbitrary index set. If $F \subset K$ is a finite subset, then $\sum_F m = m$, since M is idempotent. Thus, as M is continuous,

$$(11) \quad \sum_K m = \sup \left\{ \sum_F m \mid F \subset K, F \text{ finite} \right\} = \sup\{m\} = m.$$

Given two families $(m_i)_{i \in I}$ and $(n_j)_{j \in J}$ in M , we define subsets $[I], [J] \subset M$ by

$$[I] = \{m_i \mid i \in I\}, [J] = \{n_j \mid j \in J\}$$

and consider the partitions

$$I = \bigcup_{m \in [I]} I_m, J = \bigcup_{n \in [J]} J_n,$$

where

$$I_m = \{i \in I \mid m_i = m\}, J_n = \{j \in J \mid n_j = n\}.$$

Then, assuming $[I] = [J]$, the partition axiom for the infinite summation law together with (11) imply

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i \in I} m_i &= \sum_{m \in [I]} \left(\sum_{i \in I_m} m_i \right) = \sum_{m \in [I]} \left(\sum_{i \in I_m} m \right) = \sum_{m \in [I]} m \\ &= \sum_{n \in [J]} n = \sum_{n \in [J]} \left(\sum_{j \in J_n} n \right) = \sum_{n \in [J]} \left(\sum_{j \in J_n} n_j \right) = \sum_{n \in J} n_j. \end{aligned}$$

□

In the case of a continuous, idempotent, complete semiring S , the summation law agrees with the notion of idempotent integral in idempotent analysis, as developed by the Russian school around V. P. Maslov, see e.g. [LMS01]. Maslov and his collaborators define the idempotent integral of a function $f : X \rightarrow S$, where X is any set, to be $\int_X f(x) dx := \sup f(X)$. The analogy to the ordinary Riemann integral is revealed by replacing ordinary addition in a Riemann sum by $x \oplus_h y = h \log(e^{x/h} + e^{y/h})$, replacing ordinary multiplication by $x \odot y = x + y$, and letting the parameter h (playing the role of Planck's constant) tend to 0.

Proposition 4.3. *Let S be a continuous, idempotent, complete semiring with summation law Σ and let X be any set. Then the image $f(X)$ of any function $f : X \rightarrow S$ possesses a supremum and the corresponding Eilenberg sum and Maslov idempotent integral are equal,*

$$\sum_{x \in X} f(x) = \int_X f(x) dx.$$

Proof. Set $E = \sum_{x \in X} f(x)$. For any $x_0 \in X$,

$$f(x_0) + E = f(x_0) + f(x_0) + \sum_{x \in X - \{x_0\}} f(x) = f(x_0) + \sum_{x \in X - \{x_0\}} f(x) = E,$$

by idempotence and using the partition axiom of the summation law. Thus E is an upper bound for the image $f(X)$. We claim that it is in fact the least upper bound: Let B be any upper bound for $f(X)$. Recall that the supremum satisfies the associativity

$$\sup\{\sup\{y_1, y_2\}, y_3\} = \sup\{y_1, y_2, y_3\} = \sup\{y_1, \sup\{y_2, y_3\}\}.$$

Hence inductively, and using $y_1 + y_2 = \sup\{y_1, y_2\}$ in S , one finds for any finite subset $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\} \subset X$,

$$f(x_1) + \dots + f(x_k) = \sup\{f(x_1), \dots, f(x_k)\} \leq B.$$

Therefore, by the continuity of S ,

$$E = \sup\left\{ \sum_{x \in F} f(x) \mid F \subset X, F \text{ finite} \right\} \leq B.$$

Thus $\sup f(X) = \int_X f$ exists and is equal to E . □

Though we did provide a direct proof of Proposition 4.2, that proposition is also an immediate consequence of Proposition 4.3.

5. FUNCTION SEMIMODULES AND THEIR TENSOR PRODUCTS

Let S be a semiring, not necessarily commutative. Given a set A , let $\text{Fun}_S(A) = \{f : A \rightarrow S\}$ be the set of all S -valued functions on A . If S is understood, we will also write $\text{Fun}(A)$ for $\text{Fun}_S(A)$.

Proposition 5.1. *Using pointwise addition and multiplication, $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ inherits the structure of a two-sided S -semialgebra from the operations of S . If S is complete (as a semiring), then $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ is complete as a semiring and as an S -bisemimodule. If S is commutative, then $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ is a commutative S -semialgebra.*

Proof. We only discuss the completeness. If S is a complete semiring, then an infinite summation law in $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ can be introduced by $(\sum_{i \in I} f_i)(a) = \sum_{i \in I} f_i(a)$, $f_i \in \text{Fun}_S(A)$. With this law, $(\text{Fun}_S(A), +, 0, \sum)$ is a complete monoid, $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ is complete as a semiring and complete as an S -bisemimodule. \square

It is clear that if S is idempotent, then $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ is idempotent. Furthermore, if a complete, idempotent semiring S is continuous, then $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ is continuous. In Section 6, we will introduce the composition semiring Q^c and the monoidal semiring Q^m of the profinite idempotent completion Q of $Y(\text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$. These semirings will turn out to be complete, idempotent and continuous (Propositions 6.12, 6.14, 6.15). Hence, the state-(semi)modules $Z(M) = \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M))$ to be introduced in Section 7 are continuous.

Let B be another set. Then, regarding $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ and $\text{Fun}_S(B)$ as S -bisemimodules, the algebraic tensor product $\text{Fun}_S(A) \otimes_S \text{Fun}_S(B)$ is defined. It is an S -bisemimodule such that given any S -bisemimodule M and S_S -linear map $\phi : \text{Fun}(A) \times \text{Fun}(B) \rightarrow M$, there exists a unique S - S -bisemimodule homomorphism $\psi : \text{Fun}(A) \otimes_S \text{Fun}(B) \rightarrow M$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fun}(A) \times \text{Fun}(B) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & M \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \psi & \\ \text{Fun}(A) \otimes_S \text{Fun}(B) & & \end{array}$$

commutes. The S -bisemimodule $\text{Fun}(A \times B)$ comes naturally equipped with an S_S -linear map

$$\beta : \text{Fun}(A) \times \text{Fun}(B) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}(A \times B), \quad \beta(f, g) = ((a, b) \mapsto f(a) \cdot g(b)).$$

(If S is commutative, then β is S -bilinear.) Thus, taking $M = \text{Fun}_S(A \times B)$ in the above diagram, there exists a unique S - S -bisemimodule homomorphism $\mu : \text{Fun}(A) \otimes_S \text{Fun}(B) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A \times B)$ such that

$$(12) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \text{Fun}(A) \times \text{Fun}(B) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & \text{Fun}(A \times B) \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \mu & \\ \text{Fun}(A) \otimes_S \text{Fun}(B) & & \end{array}$$

commutes. In the commutative setting, this homomorphism was studied in [Ban13], where we showed that it is generally neither surjective nor injective when S is not a field. If A and B are finite, then μ is an isomorphism. If A, B are infinite but S happens to be a field, then μ is still injective, but not generally surjective. This is the reason why the functional analyst completes the tensor product \otimes using various topologies available, arriving at products $\hat{\otimes}$. For example, for compact Hausdorff spaces A and B , let $C(A), C(B)$ denote the Banach spaces of all complex-valued continuous functions on A, B , respectively, endowed with the supremum-norm, yielding the topology of uniform convergence. Then

the image of $\mu : C(A) \otimes C(B) \rightarrow C(A \times B)$, while not all of $C(A \times B)$, is however dense in $C(A \times B)$ by the Stone-Weierstraß theorem. After completion, μ induces an isomorphism $C(A) \widehat{\otimes}_\varepsilon C(B) \cong C(A \times B)$ of Banach spaces, where $\widehat{\otimes}_\varepsilon$ denotes the so-called ε -tensor product or injective tensor product of two locally convex topological vector spaces. For n -dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^n , let $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ denote the Hilbert space of square integrable functions on \mathbb{R}^n . Then μ induces an isomorphism $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \widehat{\otimes} L^2(\mathbb{R}^m) \cong L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+m}) = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m)$, where $\widehat{\otimes}$ denotes the Hilbert space tensor product, a completion of the algebraic tensor product \otimes of two Hilbert spaces. For more information on topological tensor products see [Sch50], [Gro55], [Tre67]. In [Ban13] we show that even over the smallest complete (in particular zerosum-free) and additively idempotent commutative semiring, namely the Boolean semiring \mathbb{B} , and for the smallest infinite cardinal \aleph_0 , modeled by a countably infinite set A , the map μ is not surjective, which means that in the context of the present paper, some form of completion must be used as well. However, there is an even more serious complication which arises over semirings: In marked contrast to the situation over fields, the canonical map μ ceases to be *injective* in general when one studies functions with values in a semiring S . Given two infinite sets A and B , we construct explicitly in [Ban13] a commutative, additively idempotent semiring $S = S(A, B)$ such that $\mu : \text{Fun}_S(A) \otimes \text{Fun}_S(B) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_S(A \times B)$ is not injective. This has the immediate consequence that in performing functional analysis over a semiring which is not a field, one cannot identify the function $(a, b) \mapsto f(a)g(b)$ on $A \times B$ with $f \otimes g$ for $f \in \text{Fun}_S(A)$, $g \in \text{Fun}_S(B)$. Thus the algebraic tensor product is not the correct device to formulate positive topological field theories.

In the boundedly complete idempotent *commutative* setting, Litvinov, Maslov and Shpiz have constructed in [LMS99] a tensor product, let us here write it as $\widehat{\otimes}$, which for bounded functions does not exhibit the above deficiencies of the algebraic tensor product. This is an idempotent analog of topological tensor products in the sense of Grothendieck. Now, the present paper needs such an analog even over noncommutative semirings, since the aforementioned semirings Q^c, Q^m are generally not commutative. We shall introduce such a completed tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}$ here, building on the methods of [LMS99], but using notation which is more in line with the one used in the rest of our paper.

Let S be any semiring. Let M be a right S -semimodule and N a left S -semimodule. We assume both of these semimodules to be complete, idempotent and continuous. We shall define a complete tensor product $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$. The *support* of $f \in \text{Fun}_S(A)$ is

$$\text{supp}(f) = \{a \in A \mid f(a) \neq 0\}.$$

Let \mathbb{B} , as always, denote the Boolean semiring. Given $f \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$, we define a function $f_N : N \rightarrow M$ by

$$f_N(n) = \sum \{m \in M \mid f(m, n) = 1\},$$

using the completeness of M . Similarly, $f_M : M \rightarrow N$ is given by

$$f_M(m) = \sum \{n \in N \mid f(m, n) = 1\},$$

using the completeness of N .

Definition 5.2. A *tensor* is a function $f : M \times N \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ such that for all $m \in M, n \in N, s \in S$,

- (1) $f(0, 0) = 1$,
- (2) $f(ms, n) = f(m, sn)$,
- (3) If $m \leq f_N(n)$ or $n \leq f_M(m)$, then $f(m, n) = 1$.

If f is a tensor, then $f(m, 0) = f(m \cdot 0, 0) = f(0, 0) = 1$, all $m \in M$, and similarly $f(0, n) = 1$ for all $n \in N$. The function which is identically 1 is a tensor. As a set, we define $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ to be the subset of $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ consisting of all tensors. In general, $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ is not closed under

the standard addition $+$ on $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$. Thus, we need to give $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ a different addition \oplus . First, we define the product $\prod_{i \in I} f_i \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ over an arbitrary nonempty family $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ of functions $f_i \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ to be

$$\left(\prod_{i \in I} f_i\right)(m, n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } f_i(m, n) = 1 \text{ for all } i \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This product is clearly independent of the order of the factors. If every f_i is a tensor, then $\prod_{i \in I} f_i$ is a tensor. Any given $f \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ generates a tensor f^{\otimes} by

$$f^{\otimes} = \prod \{g \in M \widehat{\otimes}_S N \mid \text{supp}(g) \supset \text{supp}(f)\}.$$

Note that the family over which the product is taken is indeed nonempty, since it contains the function which is identically 1. By definition we have $\text{supp}(f^{\otimes}) \supset \text{supp}(f)$ and if g is a tensor such that $\text{supp}(g) \supset \text{supp}(f)$, then $\text{supp}(g) \supset \text{supp}(f^{\otimes})$. If f is already a tensor, then $f^{\otimes} = f$. For tensors f, g , we define

$$f \oplus g := (f + g)^{\otimes}, \quad \mathbf{0} := 0^{\otimes}.$$

It is not necessarily true that $\mathbf{0}(m, n) = 0$ for m, n both nonzero. In fact, it is not possible to give a universal formula for $\mathbf{0}$; rather, $\mathbf{0}$ does depend on the semimodules and ground semiring. If $f, g \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$, then $(f^{\otimes} + g)^{\otimes} = (f + g)^{\otimes}$. More generally, if $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ is a family of functions $f_i \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$, then $(\sum_{i \in I} f_i^{\otimes})^{\otimes} = (\sum_{i \in I} f_i)^{\otimes}$. Using these formulae, one readily shows:

Lemma 5.3. *The triple $(M \widehat{\otimes}_S N, \oplus, \mathbf{0})$ is a commutative, idempotent monoid. The summation law*

$$\bigoplus_{i \in I} f_i := \left(\sum_{i \in I} f_i\right)^{\otimes}$$

on $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ makes $(M \widehat{\otimes}_S N, \oplus, \mathbf{0})$ into a complete monoid, where the summation law \sum on the right hand side is induced by the summation law of \mathbb{B} .

The idempotent addition $+$ on $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ generates a partial order \leq given by $f \leq g$ if and only if $f + g = g$. Similarly, the idempotent addition \oplus on $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ generates a partial order \preceq given by $f \preceq g$ if and only if $f \oplus g = g$. We shall see that on the tensor product $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ these two partial orders agree. If $f, g \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ are any functions, then $f \leq g$ if and only if $\text{supp}(f) \subset \text{supp}(g)$. In particular, $f \leq f^{\otimes}$ for any function $f \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$. Using this one verifies:

Lemma 5.4. *Let $f, g \in M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ be tensors. Then $f \leq g$ if and only if $f \preceq g$.*

This lemma, together with the continuity of $\text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$, allows for a straightforward proof of continuity of the tensor product:

Lemma 5.5. *The idempotent complete monoid $(M \widehat{\otimes}_S N, \oplus, \mathbf{0})$ is continuous.*

Given a pair $(m, n) \in M \times N$, we put $m \widehat{\otimes} n := (\chi_{(m, n)})^{\otimes} \in M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$, where $\chi_{(m, n)} : M \times N \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ is the characteristic function of (m, n) . We call the elements $m \widehat{\otimes} n$ *elementary tensors*. Note that $0_M \widehat{\otimes} n = \mathbf{0} = m \widehat{\otimes} 0_N$. Since

$$f^{\otimes} = \bigoplus_{(m, n) \in \text{supp}(f)} m \widehat{\otimes} n,$$

every tensor f can be written as a (possibly infinite) sum of elementary tensors.

Definition 5.6. A homomorphism $\widehat{\phi} : M \rightarrow N$ of complete monoids is called *continuous*, if $\widehat{\phi}(\sum_{i \in I} m_i) = \sum_{i \in I} \widehat{\phi}(m_i)$ for every family $(m_i)_{i \in I}$ in M . Let P be any complete commutative monoid. A middle S -linear map $\phi : M \times N \rightarrow P$ is called *bicontinuous*, if $\phi(m, -)$ is continuous for all $m \in M$ and $\phi(-, n)$ is continuous for all $n \in N$.

We continue to assume that M and N are complete, idempotent and continuous over S . Elementary tensors satisfy

$$(m + m') \widehat{\otimes} n = m \widehat{\otimes} n \oplus m' \widehat{\otimes} n, m \widehat{\otimes} (n + n') = m \widehat{\otimes} n \oplus m \widehat{\otimes} n', (ms) \widehat{\otimes} n = m \widehat{\otimes} (sn)$$

for all $m, m' \in M, n, n' \in N, s \in S$. More generally, if $(m_i)_{i \in I}$ is any family of elements in M and $(n_i)_{i \in I}$ is any family of elements in N , then

$$\left(\sum_{i \in I} m_i \right) \widehat{\otimes} n = \bigoplus_{i \in I} m_i \widehat{\otimes} n, m \widehat{\otimes} \left(\sum_{i \in I} n_i \right) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} m \widehat{\otimes} n_i.$$

Hence, the map $M \times N \rightarrow M \widehat{\otimes}_S N, (m, n) \mapsto m \widehat{\otimes} n$, is middle S -linear and bicontinuous.

Lemma 5.7. Let P be any commutative, complete, idempotent, continuous monoid. If $\widehat{\phi} : M \times N \rightarrow P$ is middle S -linear and bicontinuous, and $p \in P$ is any element, then $t : M \times N \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$, given by

$$t(m, n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \widehat{\phi}(m, n) \leq p \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

is a tensor.

This technical result is used in proving:

Lemma 5.8. Let P be any commutative, complete, idempotent, continuous monoid. If $\widehat{\phi} : M \times N \rightarrow P$ is middle S -linear and bicontinuous, and $f \in \text{Fun}_{\mathbb{B}}(M \times N)$ is any function, then

$$\sum_{(m, n) \in \text{supp}(f)} \widehat{\phi}(m, n) = \sum_{(m, n) \in \text{supp}(f^{\otimes})} \widehat{\phi}(m, n).$$

One uses this formula to establish the universal property of $\widehat{\otimes}_S$:

Proposition 5.9. (Universal Property.) Let P be any continuous, idempotent, complete, commutative monoid. For each middle S -linear, bicontinuous map $\widehat{\phi} : M \times N \rightarrow P$, there exists a unique continuous monoid homomorphism $\phi : M \widehat{\otimes}_S N \rightarrow P$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M \times N & \xrightarrow{\widehat{\phi}} & P \\ \downarrow & \searrow \phi & \\ M \widehat{\otimes}_S N & & \end{array}$$

commutes.

Proof. Given $\widehat{\phi}$, we define ϕ on a tensor $f \in M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ as

$$\phi(f) = \sum_{(m, n) \in \text{supp } f} \widehat{\phi}(m, n)$$

and leave the required verifications, as well as uniqueness, to the reader. \square

Let R and T be semirings and suppose that, in addition to our standing assumptions, M is an R - S -bisemimodule which is complete as a left R -semimodule, and N is an S - T -bisemimodule which is complete as a right T -semimodule. Then the tensor product $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$

can be endowed with the structure of an R - T -semimodule in a natural way, as we will show next. Fix an element $r \in R$ and consider the middle S -linear, bicontinuous map

$$\widehat{\alpha} : M \times N \longrightarrow M \widehat{\otimes}_S N, \widehat{\alpha}(m, n) = (rm) \widehat{\otimes} n.$$

By the universal property, Proposition 5.9, there exists a unique continuous homomorphism of additive monoids $\alpha_r : M \widehat{\otimes}_S N \rightarrow M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ such that $\alpha_r(m \widehat{\otimes} n) = \widehat{\alpha}(m, n) = (rm) \widehat{\otimes} n$. We define a left scalar multiplication by

$$R \times (M \widehat{\otimes}_S N) \longrightarrow (M \widehat{\otimes}_S N), r \cdot f = \alpha_r(f).$$

Similarly, for $t \in T$, there exists a unique continuous homomorphism of additive monoids $\beta_t : M \widehat{\otimes}_S N \longrightarrow M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ such that $\beta_t(m \widehat{\otimes} n) = \widehat{\beta}(m, n) = m \widehat{\otimes} (nt)$. We define a right scalar multiplication by

$$(M \widehat{\otimes}_S N) \times T \longrightarrow (M \widehat{\otimes}_S N), f \cdot t = \beta_t(f).$$

The left and right scalar multiplications defined above make $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ into an R - T -bisemimodule. Furthermore, $M \widehat{\otimes}_S N$ is complete as a left R -semimodule and complete as a right T -semimodule.

Proposition 5.10. (*Bisemimodule Universality.*) *Let R, T be semirings and let P be any idempotent R - T -bisemimodule equipped with a summation law that makes it into a continuous complete left R -semimodule and into a continuous complete right T -semimodule. For each R - T -linear bicontinuous map $\widehat{\phi} : M \times N \rightarrow P$, there exists a unique R - T -bisemimodule homomorphism $\phi : M \widehat{\otimes}_S N \rightarrow P$ such that $\phi(m \widehat{\otimes} n) = \widehat{\phi}(m, n)$ for all $(m, n) \in M \times N$.*

The proof is straightforward, relying on the monoidal universal property already established. We come to the main result concerning the complete tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}_S$. Let A and B be sets. Let S be a continuous, complete, idempotent semiring. Then $\text{Fun}_S(A)$ and $\text{Fun}_S(B)$ are continuous, complete, idempotent S -bisemimodules.

Theorem 5.11. *There is an isomorphism*

$$\text{Fun}_S(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}_S(B) \cong \text{Fun}_S(A \times B)$$

of S -bisemimodules.

Proof. A middle S -linear bicontinuous map $\widehat{\alpha} : \text{Fun}_S(A) \times \text{Fun}_S(B) \rightarrow \text{Fun}_S(A \times B)$ is given by $\widehat{\alpha}(F, G)(a, b) = F(a)G(b)$, $(a, b) \in A \times B$. By Proposition 5.9, $\widehat{\alpha}$ induces a unique continuous homomorphism of additive monoids

$$\alpha : \text{Fun}_S(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}_S(B) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}_S(A \times B)$$

such that $\alpha(F \widehat{\otimes} G) = \widehat{\alpha}(F, G)$. In fact, α is an S -bisemimodule homomorphism.

We denote the characteristic function of an element $a \in A$ by $\chi_a \in \text{Fun}_S(A)$. Similarly we have $\chi_b \in \text{Fun}_S(B)$. A continuous S -bisemimodule homomorphism

$$\beta : \text{Fun}_S(A \times B) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}_S(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}_S(B)$$

is given by

$$\beta(F) = \bigoplus_{(a,b) \in A \times B} (\chi_a \cdot F(a, b)) \widehat{\otimes} \chi_b.$$

The maps α and β are inverse to each other. □

As an application of Theorem 5.11, we have for example

$$\text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S S \cong \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}(\{*\}) = \text{Fun}(A \times \{*\}) \cong \text{Fun}(A).$$

For a fixed arbitrary semiring S , $\text{Fun}_S(-)$ is a contravariant functor $\text{Fun}_S : \mathbf{Sets} \rightarrow S$ - S - \mathbf{SAlgs} from the category of sets to the category of two-sided S -semialgebras: A morphism $\phi : A \rightarrow B$

of sets induces a morphism of two-sided S -semialgebras $\text{Fun}(\phi) : \text{Fun}(B) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(A)$ by setting $\text{Fun}(\phi)(f) = f \circ \phi$. Clearly, $\text{Fun}(\text{id}_A) = \text{id}_{\text{Fun}(A)}$ and $\text{Fun}(\psi \circ \phi) = \text{Fun}(\phi) \circ \text{Fun}(\psi)$ for $\psi : B \rightarrow C$. The functor $\text{Fun}_S(-)$ is faithful.

Let S be a complete, idempotent and continuous semiring and let A, B, C be sets. By applying Theorem 5.11 twice, we may think of elements in $\text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes}_S \text{Fun}(C)$ as functions $A \times B \times C \rightarrow S$ on triples; similarly for an arbitrary finite number of factors. A *contraction*

$$\gamma : \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C)$$

can then be defined, using the summation law in S , by

$$\gamma(f)(a, c) = \sum_{b \in B} f(a, b, b, c),$$

$f : A \times B \times B \times C \rightarrow S$, $(a, c) \in A \times C$. Given $f \in \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(B)$ and $g \in \text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C)$, we shall also write $\langle f, g \rangle = \gamma(f \widehat{\otimes} g)$. This contraction appears in describing the behavior of our state sum invariant under gluing of cobordisms. The proof of the following two statements is straightforward.

Proposition 5.12. *The contraction*

$$\langle -, - \rangle : (\text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(B)) \times (\text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C)) \longrightarrow \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C)$$

is $S_S S$ -linear.

Proposition 5.13. *The contraction $\langle -, - \rangle$ is associative, that is, given four sets A, B, C, D and elements $f \in \text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(B)$, $g \in \text{Fun}(B) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(C)$ and $h \in \text{Fun}(C) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(D)$, the equation*

$$\langle \langle f, g \rangle, h \rangle = \langle f, \langle g, h \rangle \rangle$$

holds in $\text{Fun}(A) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}(D)$.

6. PROFINITE IDEMPOTENT COMPLETION

We shall describe how a subset of a vector space which is invariant under rescaling by powers of a given scalar can be completed in a natural way to an idempotent, complete $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. We are mostly interested in applying this construction to subsets that are finitely generated with respect to rescaling, i.e. “projectively finite”. We call this process *profinite idempotent completion*. When the given subset consists of linear maps, so that composition and tensor product are defined, the profinite idempotent completion in fact carries two internal multiplications that make it into a (complete, idempotent, continuous) semiring. One comes from the composition of linear maps (we call this the *composition semiring* Q^c of the profinite idempotent completion Q), the other comes from the tensor product of linear maps (and will be called the *monoidal semiring* Q^m of Q).

Definition 6.1. Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{R} - \{0, 1, -1\}$ be a scalar. A subset $H \subset V - \{0\}$ of a real vector space V is called λ -*profinite* (projectively finite) if there exists a finite subset $H_0 \subset H$ such that every $h \in H$ is of the form $h = \lambda^n h_0$ for suitable $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $h_0 \in H_0$. In this context, we say that H_0 *generates* H .

Given a λ -profinite set, the set of *reducible elements* of a generating set H_0 is defined to be

$$H_0^{\text{red}} = \{h \in H_0 \mid h = \lambda^n h_0 \text{ for some } n \in \mathbb{N}, n > 0, h_0 \in H_0\}.$$

The *minimal shell* $S(H_0)$ of H_0 is defined as the set $S(H_0) = H_0 - H_0^{\text{red}}$ of irreducible elements.

Lemma 6.2. *The minimal shell $S(H_0)$ generates H . Moreover, given $h \in H$, there exist unique $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $h_0 \in S(H_0)$ with $h = \lambda^n h_0$.*

Proof. We prove first the claim of generation. Let c denote the cardinality of H_0 , a finite set. Given $h \in H$, we can write $h = \lambda^{n_1} h_1$, $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$, $h_1 \in H_0$. If $h_1 \in S(H_0)$, we are done. Suppose that $h_1 \notin S(H_0)$. Then $h_1 \in H_0^{\text{red}}$, whence there is an $n_2 \in \mathbb{N}$, $n_2 > 0$, and an $h_2 \in H_0$ such that $h_1 = \lambda^{n_2} h_2$. If $h_2 \in S(H_0)$, we are done, for then $h = \lambda^{n_1+n_2} h_2$. The vectors h_1 and h_2 cannot be equal, for if they were, then $(1 - \lambda^{n_2})h_2 = 0$, which is impossible, as $h_2 \neq 0$, $n_2 > 0$ and in the field of real numbers the only roots of unity are ± 1 . So the set $\{h_1, h_2\}$ has cardinality 2. Suppose that $h_2 \notin S(H_0)$, that is, $h_2 \in H_0^{\text{red}}$. Reducing h_2 , we obtain $h_3 \in H_0$ with $h_2 = \lambda^{n_3} h_3$, $n_3 > 0$. Either $h_3 \in S(H_0)$, in which case we are done, or h_3 is reducible and $\{h_1, h_2, h_3\}$ has cardinality 3. Continuing this reduction process, we must arrive after at most c reductions at an element $h_i \in S(H_0)$, for otherwise we would have obtained a subset $\{h_1, \dots, h_{c+1}\} \subset H_0$ of cardinality $c + 1$, which is impossible. Since

$$h = \lambda^{\sum_{j=1}^i n_j} h_i, \quad h_i \in S(H_0),$$

the claim of generation is established.

If $h = \lambda^n h_0 = \lambda^m h'_0$, with $h_0, h'_0 \in S(H_0)$, then $m \geq n$ or $n \geq m$, say $m \geq n$. Writing $m = n + k$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $h_0 = \lambda^k h'_0$. If k were positive, then $h_0 \in H_0^{\text{red}}$, a contradiction. Thus $k = 0$ and consequently $m = n$. The equality $h_0 = h'_0$ is implied by $\lambda^n h_0 = \lambda^m h'_0 = \lambda^n h'_0$ (and $\lambda \neq 0$). \square

Remark 6.3. The above lemma becomes false if we allowed $\lambda = 1$. We could then take any finite set H_0 of nonzero vectors and $H = H_0$, which is 1-profinite. But $H_0^{\text{red}} = H_0$ and hence the minimal shell $S(H_0)$ is empty and does not generate H .

Lemma 6.4. *Any two generating sets H_0, H'_0 of H have the same minimal shell $S(H_0) = S(H'_0)$.*

Proof. Let h be an element of $S(H'_0)$. Since $h \in H$ and $S(H_0)$ generates H by Lemma 6.2, there are $h_0 \in S(H_0)$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $h = \lambda^n h_0$. Since $h_0 \in H$ and $S(H'_0)$ also generates H , there are $h'_0 \in S(H'_0)$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $h_0 = \lambda^m h'_0$. Therefore, $h = \lambda^{n+m} h'_0$. If $n + m$ were positive, then $h \in H_0^{\text{red}}$, a contradiction to $h \in S(H'_0)$. Thus $m + n = 0$, so in particular $n = 0$. Hence $h = h_0$, from which we conclude that $h \in S(H_0)$. We have shown that $S(H'_0) \subset S(H_0)$. The reverse inclusion follows from symmetry. \square

In light of Lemma 6.4, we may define the *minimal shell $S(H)$ of H* to be the minimal shell $S(H) = S(H_0)$ of any (finite) generating set H_0 .

Definition 6.5. A subset $H \subset V$ of a real vector space V is called *λ -scalable* if for every $h \in H$, the product λh is again in H .

A λ -scalable set H is naturally equipped with an action $\tau^i h = \lambda^i h \in H$ of the monoid \mathbb{N} . Hence, by Lemma 4.1, $\text{FM}(H)$ is an $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. Thus the $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule

$$Q(H) = \text{FM}(H) \otimes_{\mathbb{N}[\tau]} \mathbb{B}[[q]]$$

is defined. It was already pointed out in Section 4 that $Q(H)$ is idempotent. We omit the easy proof of the following lemma.

Lemma 6.6. *Let $H \subset V$ be a λ -scalable λ -profinite set and $S(H) = \{s_1, \dots, s_c\}$ its minimal shell. Given $a \in \text{FM}(H)$, there exist unique polynomials $p_\sigma = p_\sigma(\tau) \in \mathbb{N}[\tau]$, $\sigma = 1, \dots, c$, such that $a = \sum_{\sigma=1}^c p_\sigma s_\sigma$.*

Let $H \subset V$ be a λ -scalable λ -profinite set and $S(H) = \{s_1, \dots, s_c\}$ its minimal shell. We shall use Lemma 6.6 to construct an $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -linear isomorphism

$$\phi : Q(H) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

This will show in particular that $Q(H)$ is nonzero (for nonempty H) and that a number of power series valued invariants can be extracted from it. Let $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_c\}$ be the canonical basis of $\bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]]$ regarded as a free $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ -semimodule. Given any $a \in \text{FM}(H)$ and $b \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, there are unique polynomials $p_\sigma \in \mathbb{N}[\tau]$ such that $a = \sum_{\sigma} p_\sigma s_\sigma$ by Lemma 6.6, and we can define a $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -bilinear map

$$\phi_0 : \text{FM}(H) \times \mathbb{B}[[q]] \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]], \quad \phi_0(a, b) = \sum_{\sigma} (p_\sigma b) \beta_\sigma.$$

By the universal property of the algebraic tensor product of semimodules, there exists a unique $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -linear map

$$\phi : Q(H) = \text{FM}(H) \otimes_{\mathbb{N}[\tau]} \mathbb{B}[[q]] \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]]$$

such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{FM}(H) \times \mathbb{B}[[q]] & \xrightarrow{\phi_0} & \bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]] \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \phi & \\ Q(H) & & \end{array}$$

commutes. The map ϕ is surjective: Any element $\sum_{\sigma} b_\sigma \beta_\sigma$, $b_\sigma \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, is in the image of ϕ , as

$$\phi\left(\sum_{\sigma} s_\sigma \otimes b_\sigma\right) = \sum_{\sigma} \phi(s_\sigma \otimes b_\sigma) = \sum_{\sigma} \phi_0(s_\sigma, b_\sigma) = \sum_{\sigma} b_\sigma \beta_\sigma.$$

Lemma 6.7. *The map*

$$\psi : \bigoplus_{\sigma} \mathbb{B}[[q]] \longrightarrow Q(H), \quad \sum_{\sigma} b_\sigma \beta_\sigma \mapsto \sum_{\sigma} s_\sigma \otimes b_\sigma,$$

is $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -linear and an inverse for ϕ . In particular, ϕ and ψ are isomorphisms of $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodules.

The verification is straightforward.

Corollary 6.8. *The semimodule $Q(H)$ is complete with respect to the infinite summation law induced by the summation law in $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$.*

Proof. In Section 4, it was pointed out that $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is complete as a $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. If $\{M_i\}_{i \in I}$ is any family of complete S -semimodules over a semiring S , then their product $\prod_{i \in I} M_i$ is a complete S -semimodule. Hence $\bigoplus_{\sigma=1}^c \mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is a complete $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. Via the isomorphism ψ of Lemma 6.7, the summation law of $\bigoplus_{\sigma} \mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is transferred to a summation law in $Q(H)$, with respect to which $Q(H)$ is then complete as a $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule. Explicitly, if $\{f_i\}_{i \in I}$ is any family of elements in $Q(H)$, $f_i = \sum_{\sigma} s_\sigma \otimes b_{\sigma i}$, $b_{\sigma i} \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, then the summation law is given by the formula

$$(13) \quad \sum_{i \in I} f_i = \sum_{\sigma=1}^c s_\sigma \otimes \left(\sum_{i \in I} b_{\sigma i} \right).$$

□

Let V be a real vector space of finite dimension $\dim V \geq 2$ and (i, e) a duality structure on V . Let $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ be the symmetric monoidal functor given by Theorem 2.19, determined by V and the duality structure (and the braiding $b : V^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow V^{\otimes 2}$). Recall that $\lambda : [0] \rightarrow [0]$ denotes the loop endomorphism of \mathbf{Br} . Applying Y to the loop, we obtain a scalar

$$\widehat{\lambda} = Y(\lambda) \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}}(Y[0], Y[0]) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}.$$

In view of

$$Y(\lambda) = Y(e_1 i_1) = Y(e_1)Y(i_1) = ei = \mathrm{Tr}(i, e),$$

this scalar $\widehat{\lambda}$ is the trace of the duality structure (i, e) . Therefore, by Proposition 2.9, $\widehat{\lambda} = \dim V \geq 2$. In particular, $\widehat{\lambda}$ is an admissible scalar in $\mathbb{R} - \{0, 1, -1\}$. Given objects $[m], [n]$ of \mathbf{Br} , we define a subset $H_{m,n}$ of the vector space $\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}}(V^{\otimes m}, V^{\otimes n})$ by

$$H_{m,n} = Y(\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [n])).$$

This set is nonempty only if $m+n$ is even. By Lemma 2.21, $H_{m,n}$ does indeed not contain $0 \in \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Vect}}(V^{\otimes m}, V^{\otimes n})$. Let $\mathrm{OP}_{m,n}$ (the ‘‘open’’ morphisms) denote the set of all loop-free morphisms $[m] \rightarrow [n]$ in \mathbf{Br} .

Lemma 6.9. *For every $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $m+n$ even, the set $H_{m,n}$ is $\widehat{\lambda}$ -scalable and $\widehat{\lambda}$ -profinite.*

Proof. Given $h \in H_{m,n}$, the product $\widehat{\lambda}h$ is again in $H_{m,n}$, since there is a morphism $\phi : [m] \rightarrow [n]$ with $h = Y(\phi)$ and we have

$$\widehat{\lambda}h = Y(\lambda) \otimes Y(\phi) = Y(\lambda \otimes \phi).$$

This shows that $H_{m,n}$ is $\widehat{\lambda}$ -scalable. Let $H_0 \subset H_{m,n}$ be the set $H_0 = Y(\mathrm{OP}_{m,n})$. Any $h \in H_{m,n}$ can be written as $h = Y(\phi)$ with $\phi = \lambda^{\otimes p} \otimes \phi'$ and ϕ' loop-free. Then

$$h = Y(\lambda^{\otimes p} \otimes \phi') = \widehat{\lambda}^p Y(\phi') = \widehat{\lambda}^p h_0,$$

where $h_0 = Y(\phi')$ is in H_0 . Thus H_0 generates $H_{m,n}$.

It remains to be shown that H_0 is finite. This follows from the fact that $\mathrm{OP}_{m,n}$ is a finite set of cardinality $(m+n-1)!!$, since there are $m+n-1$ choices of joining a first point of $(0 \times M[m] \times 0 \times 0) \sqcup (1 \times M[n] \times 0 \times 0)$ to any other point in that 0-manifold, then $m+n-3$ choices of joining the next unconnected point, etc. \square

Thus the idempotent $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodule

$$Q(H_{m,n}) = \mathrm{FM}(H_{m,n}) \otimes_{\mathbb{N}[\tau]} \mathbb{B}[[q]]$$

is defined. The fact that the Boolean semiring, whose only nonzero value is 1, appears here is a reflection of the fact that the modulus of the integrand e^{iS} appearing in the classical Feynman path integral is always $|e^{iS}| = 1$ and only the phase is relevant. Roughly, the terms in $\mathrm{FM}(H_{m,n})$ play the role of the phase.

Lemma 6.10. *If the symmetric monoidal functor Y induced by the duality structure (i, e) is loop-faithful, then the minimal shell $S(H_{m,n})$ consists of the Y -images of all loop-free morphisms $[m] \rightarrow [n]$ in \mathbf{Br} , that is,*

$$S(H_{m,n}) = Y(\mathrm{OP}_{m,n}).$$

Proof. Since $H_0 = Y(\mathrm{OP}_{m,n})$ was already shown to be a generating set, it suffices to show that its subset $Y(\mathrm{OP}_{m,n})^{\mathrm{red}}$ of reducible elements is empty. Assume on the contrary that there were a reducible element y , that is, there existed elements $y, y_0 \in Y(\mathrm{OP}_{m,n})$ and an integer

$k > 0$ such that $y = \widehat{\lambda}^k y_0$. Then $y = Y(\phi)$, $y_0 = Y(\phi_0)$ for loop-free morphisms ϕ, ϕ_0 in \mathbf{Br} and thus

$$Y(\phi) = \widehat{\lambda}^k Y(\phi_0) = Y(\lambda)^k Y(\phi_0) = Y(\lambda^{\otimes k} \otimes \phi_0).$$

But ϕ is loop-free, while $\lambda^{\otimes k} \otimes \phi_0$ contains at least one loop. This contradicts the assumption that Y be faithful on loops. \square

From now on, assume that (i, e) is such that Y is faithful on loops. By Proposition 2.22, this is for instance the case for the duality structure (4). It follows from Lemma 6.10 and Lemma 6.7 that an element $f \in Q(H_{m,n})$ can be uniquely written as

$$f = \sum_{y \in Y(\mathbf{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes b_y, \quad b_y \in \mathbb{B}[[q]].$$

The set $\mathbf{OP}_{m,m}$ contains the identity $1_{[m]} : [m] \rightarrow [m]$. Thus $1_{V^{\otimes m}} = Y(1_{[m]})$ is an element of $S(H_{m,m})$. Tensoring with $1 \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, there is an element $1_{V^{\otimes m}} \otimes 1 \in Q(H_{m,m})$. For $m = 0$, we have $1_I \otimes 1 \in Q(H_{0,0})$, where $I = V^{\otimes 0}$ is the unit object of \mathbf{Vect} . We shall next construct products \cdot , coming from the composition \circ of linear maps. Given $p \in \mathbb{N}$, a $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -bilinear map

$$(14) \quad Q(H_{m,p}) \times Q(H_{p,n}) \longrightarrow Q(H_{m,n}), \quad (f, f') \mapsto f \cdot f',$$

is given on

$$f = \sum_{y \in Y(\mathbf{OP}_{m,p})} y \otimes b_y, \quad f' = \sum_{y' \in Y(\mathbf{OP}_{p,n})} y' \otimes b'_{y'},$$

by

$$(15) \quad f \cdot f' = \sum_{y, y'} (y' \circ y) \otimes (b_y b'_{y'}).$$

Note that $y' \circ y$ is an element of $H_{m,n}$, since $y = Y(h)$ for some $h \in \mathbf{OP}_{m,p}$ and $y' = Y(h')$ for some $h' \in \mathbf{OP}_{p,n}$ and thus $y' \circ y = Y(h') \circ Y(h) = Y(h' \circ h)$ with $h' \circ h$ in $\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m], [n])$. However, $y' \circ y$ will in general not lie in the minimal shell of $H_{m,n}$, as $h' \circ h$ may have loops. For this reason, the formula (15) cannot be used to compute triple products, which is required in establishing associativity, for example. The remedy is formula (16) below.

Lemma 6.11. *The product of two elements $\sum_{i=1}^k h_i \otimes b_i \in Q(H_{m,p})$ and $\sum_{j=1}^l h'_j \otimes b'_j \in Q(H_{p,n})$ with $h_i \in H_{m,p}$, $h'_j \in H_{p,n}$ (not necessarily in the minimal shells) is given by*

$$(16) \quad \sum_{i,j} (h'_j \circ h_i) \otimes (b_i b'_j).$$

Using Lemma 6.11, one proves readily: Given elements $f \in Q(H_{m,p})$, $f' \in Q(H_{p,r})$, $f'' \in Q(H_{r,n})$, we have the associativity relation

$$(17) \quad (f \cdot f') \cdot f'' = f \cdot (f' \cdot f'').$$

By Corollary 6.8, the $Q(H_{m,n})$ are complete $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodules. With respect to the product (14), we have the distributive law

$$(18) \quad \left(\sum_{i \in I} f_i \right) \cdot f' = \sum_i (f_i \cdot f'), \quad f_i \in Q(H_{m,p}), \quad f' \in Q(H_{p,n}),$$

as applications of formula (13) together with standard properties of infinite summation laws show. Similarly, distributivity from the left holds,

$$(19) \quad f \cdot \sum_{i \in I} f'_i = \sum_i (f \cdot f'_i), \quad f \in Q(H_{m,p}), \quad f'_i \in Q(H_{p,n}).$$

For the product $Q(H_{m,n}) \times Q(H_{n,n}) \rightarrow Q(H_{m,n})$, we have

$$f \cdot (1_{V^{\otimes n}} \otimes 1) = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} (1_{V^{\otimes n}} \circ y) \otimes (b_y \cdot 1) = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes b_y = f,$$

so that $1_{V^{\otimes n}} \otimes 1$ acts as a 1-element with respect to this product. Similarly, $1_{V^{\otimes m}} \otimes 1$ acts as a 1-element for the product $Q(H_{m,n}) \times Q(H_{m,n}) \rightarrow Q(H_{m,n})$, $(1_{V^{\otimes m}} \otimes 1) \cdot f' = f'$.

We set

$$Q = Q(i, e) = \prod_{m,n \in \mathbb{N}} Q(H_{m,n})$$

in the category of $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -semimodules and call Q the *profinite idempotent completion* of the set $Y(\text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$. Using the natural embeddings $Q(H_{m,n}) \hookrightarrow Q$ given by sending f to the family in Q whose (m,n) -component is f and all other components are 0, we can and will think of $f \in Q(H_{m,n})$ as an element $f \in Q$. Since every $Q(H_{m,n})$ is additively idempotent and addition in Q is done componentwise, Q itself is additively idempotent. We define the product of two elements $(f_{m,n}), (f'_{m,n}) \in Q$ to be $(f_{m,n}) \cdot (f'_{m,n}) = (f''_{m,n})$, where the component $f''_{m,n} \in Q(H_{m,n})$ is given by

$$f''_{m,n} = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{N}} f_{m,p} \cdot f'_{p,n},$$

using the completeness of $Q(H_{m,n})$ (Corollary 6.8), as well as the products declared above. An element $0 \in Q$ is given by the zero-family $0 = (f_{m,n})$, $f_{m,n} = 0 \in Q(H_{m,n})$ for all m, n . An element $1 \in Q$ is given by the family $1 = (f_{m,n})$ with

$$f_{m,n} = \begin{cases} 1_{V^{\otimes m}} \otimes 1, & \text{if } m = n, \\ 0, & \text{if } m \neq n. \end{cases}$$

Using (17), (18) and (19), one proves:

Proposition 6.12. *The tuple $Q^c = (Q, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$ is a (generally noncommutative) complete idempotent semiring, called the composition semiring of the profinite idempotent completion of $Y(\text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$.*

We shall now construct a different product \times on Q , coming from the monoidal structure on \mathbf{Vect} , i.e. the (Schauenburg) tensor product \otimes of linear maps. Given $m, n, r, s \in \mathbb{N}$, a $\mathbb{N}[\tau]$ -bilinear map

$$(20) \quad Q(H_{m,n}) \times Q(H_{r,s}) \longrightarrow Q(H_{m+r,n+s}), (f, f') \mapsto f \times f',$$

is given on

$$f = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes b_y, f' = \sum_{y' \in Y(\text{OP}_{r,s})} y' \otimes b'_{y'},$$

by

$$(21) \quad f \times f' = \sum_{y, y'} (y \otimes y') \otimes (b_y b'_{y'}),$$

where $y \otimes y'$ is the Schauenburg tensor product of the linear maps y, y' . Note that $y \otimes y'$ is an element of $H_{m+r,n+s}$, since $y = Y(h)$ for some $h \in \text{OP}_{m,n}$ and $y' = Y(h')$ for some $h' \in \text{OP}_{r,s}$ and thus $y \otimes y' = Y(h) \otimes Y(h') = Y(h \otimes h')$ with $h \otimes h'$ in $\text{Hom}_{\mathbf{Br}}([m+r], [n+s])$. Since h and h' have no loops, the product $h \otimes h'$ has no loops. Thus $h \otimes h' \in \text{OP}_{m+r,n+s}$ and $y \otimes y' \in S(H_{m+r,n+s})$. For practical calculation, we record:

Lemma 6.13. *The \times -product of two elements $\sum_{i=1}^k h_i \otimes b_i \in Q(H_{m,n})$ and $\sum_{j=1}^l h'_j \otimes b'_j \in Q(H_{r,s})$ with $h_i \in H_{m,n}$, $h'_j \in H_{r,s}$ (not necessarily in the minimal shells) is given by*

$$(22) \quad \sum_{i,j} (h_i \otimes h'_j) \otimes (b_i b'_j)$$

Given elements $f \in Q(H_{m,n})$, $f' \in Q(H_{r,s})$, $f'' \in Q(H_{p,q})$, we have the associativity relation

$$(23) \quad (f \times f') \times f'' = f \times (f' \times f''),$$

as can be seen from

$$\begin{aligned} (f \times f') \times f'' &= \left(\sum_{y,y'} (y \otimes y') \otimes (b_y b'_{y'}) \right) \times \left(\sum_{y''} y'' \otimes b''_{y''} \right) \\ &= \sum_{y,y',y''} ((y \otimes y') \otimes y'') \otimes ((b_y b'_{y'}) b''_{y''}) \\ &= \sum_{y,y',y''} (y \otimes (y' \otimes y'')) \otimes (b_y (b'_{y'} b''_{y''})) \\ &= \left(\sum_y y \otimes b_y \right) \times \left(\sum_{y',y''} (y' \otimes y'') \otimes (b'_{y'} b''_{y''}) \right) \\ &= f \times (f' \times f''). \end{aligned}$$

It should be pointed out that the above calculation rests crucially on the strict associativity $(y \otimes y') \otimes y'' = y \otimes (y' \otimes y'')$ for linear maps y, y', y'' in the strict monoidal category $(\mathbf{Vect}, \otimes, I)$, with \otimes the Schauenburg tensor product. If we had used the ordinary tensor product on \mathbf{Vect} , the formula $(f \times f') \times f'' = f \times (f' \times f'')$ would not hold. With respect to the product (20), we have the distributive law

$$(24) \quad \left(\sum_{i \in I} f_i \right) \times f' = \sum_i (f_i \times f'), \quad f_i \in Q(H_{m,n}), \quad f' \in Q(H_{r,s}),$$

as applications of formula (13) together with standard properties of infinite summation laws show. Similarly, distributivity from the left holds,

$$(25) \quad f \times \sum_{i \in I} f'_i = \sum_i (f \times f'_i), \quad f \in Q(H_{m,n}), \quad f'_i \in Q(H_{r,s}).$$

For the product $Q(H_{m,n}) \times Q(H_{0,0}) \rightarrow Q(H_{m,n})$, we have

$$f \times (1_I \otimes 1) = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} (y \otimes 1_I) \otimes (b_y \cdot 1) = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes b_y = f,$$

so that $1_I \otimes 1$ acts as a 1-element with respect to this product. (Recall that I denotes here the unit object of \mathbf{Vect} .) Similarly, $1_I \otimes 1$ acts as a 1-element for the product $Q(H_{0,0}) \times Q(H_{m,n}) \rightarrow Q(H_{m,n})$, $(1_I \otimes 1) \times f' = f'$.

We define the cross-product of two elements $(f_{m,n}), (f'_{m,n}) \in Q$ to be $(f_{m,n}) \times (f'_{m,n}) = (f''_{m,n})$, where the component $f''_{m,n} \in Q(H_{m,n})$ is given by

$$f''_{m,n} = \sum_{\substack{p+r=m \\ q+s=n}} f_{p,q} \times f'_{r,s},$$

using the products \times declared above. Since p, q, r, s are nonnegative integers, this is a finite sum. An element $1^\times \in Q$ is given by

$$1^\times_{m,n} = \begin{cases} 1_I \otimes 1, & \text{if } m = n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Using (23), (24) and (25), one verifies:

Proposition 6.14. *The tuple $Q^m = (Q, +, \times, 0, 1^\times)$ is a (generally noncommutative) complete idempotent semiring, called the monoidal semiring of the profinite idempotent completion of $Y(\text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$.*

Proposition 6.15. *The complete idempotent semirings Q^c and Q^m are both continuous.*

Proof. The argument to be given involves only the additive monoid of Q and the infinite summation law on it and thus establishes simultaneously that both semirings are continuous. Let \leq denote that natural unique partial order relation on the idempotent semiring Q : $f \leq g$ iff $f + g = g$. Let $(f^i)_{i \in I}$ be a family of elements in Q and $c \in Q$ an upper bound such that $\sum_{i \in F} f^i \leq c$ for all finite $F \subset I$. Thus for all m, n ,

$$(26) \quad c_{m,n} + \sum_{i \in F} f_{m,n}^i = c_{m,n} \in Q(H_{m,n}).$$

For every $c_{m,n}$ there exist unique power series $c_{m,n}^y \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$, $y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})$, such that

$$c_{m,n} = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes c_{m,n}^y$$

and for every $f_{m,n}^i$ there exist unique power series $f_{m,n}^{i,y} \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$ such that

$$f_{m,n}^i = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{m,n})} y \otimes f_{m,n}^{i,y}.$$

By equation (26), $\sum_y y \otimes (c_{m,n}^y + \sum_{i \in F} f_{m,n}^{i,y}) = \sum_y y \otimes c_{m,n}^y$. By uniqueness,

$$c_{m,n}^y + \sum_{i \in F} f_{m,n}^{i,y} = c_{m,n}^y$$

in $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ for every finite $F \subset I$, that is, $\sum_{i \in F} f_{m,n}^{i,y} \leq c_{m,n}^y$ in $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$. Since $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$ is continuous, $\sum_{i \in I} f_{m,n}^{i,y} \leq c_{m,n}^y$, i.e. $c_{m,n}^y + \sum_{i \in I} f_{m,n}^{i,y} = c_{m,n}^y$ for all y, m, n . Thus

$$c_{m,n} + \sum_{i \in I} f_{m,n}^i = \sum_y y \otimes (c_{m,n}^y + \sum_{i \in I} f_{m,n}^{i,y}) = \sum_y y \otimes c_{m,n}^y = c_{m,n}$$

and hence $c + \sum_{i \in I} f^i = c$, i.e. $\sum_{i \in I} f^i \leq c$ in Q . \square

7. QUANTIZATION

We shall define our topological field theory Z in this section. We will specify the state-module $Z(M)$ for a closed smooth $(n-1)$ -manifold M (see (27)) as well as an element $Z_W \in Z(\partial W)$, the *Zustandssumme*, for a compact smooth n -manifold W with boundary ∂W (see (33)). Neither M nor W have to be oriented; thus Z will be a “nonunitary” theory.

7.1. Embeddings and Cobordisms. Fix an integer $D \geq 2n+1$. A closed $(n-1)$ -dimensional manifold can be embedded in \mathbb{R}^{D-1} and then, after having made a choice of $k \in \mathbb{N}$, into a slice $\{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} \subset \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} = \mathbb{R}^D$. In the present paper, we assume that closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds M are always embedded in \mathbb{R}^D in such a way that every connected component M_0 of M lies entirely in some slice $\{k_0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$, $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$. Given such an embedding, we let $M(k) = M \cap \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ be the part of M that lies in the k -slice. Every $M(k)$ is a finite disjoint union of connected components of M . By compactness, $M(k)$ is empty for k large enough. Let $s(M) \subset \mathbb{N}$ denote the set of all k such that $M(k)$ is nonempty.

Definition 7.1. Let $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ be two disjoint submanifolds. Then their disjoint union $M \sqcup N$ is called *well-separated*, if $s(M) \cap s(N) = \emptyset$. In this case, we shall also write $M \sqcup_s N$.

Thus, if M and N are well-separated, then there is no component of M and no component of N such that both these components are contained in the same slice.

A compact smooth n -dimensional manifold W with boundary can be smoothly embedded into a closed halfspace of \mathbb{R}^{2n+1} in such a way that the boundary of W lies in the bounding hyperplane and the interior lies in the interior of the halfspace, see e.g. [Hir76, Theorem 1.4.3]. This fact motivates the following definition. Recall that an integer D has been fixed with $D \geq 2n + 1$.

Definition 7.2. Let $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ be closed, smoothly embedded, $(n - 1)$ -dimensional manifolds, not necessarily orientable. A *cobordism* from M to N is a compact, smoothly embedded n -dimensional manifold $W \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ with boundary $\partial W = M \sqcup N$, such that

- $M \subset \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}^D, N \subset \{1\} \times \mathbb{R}^D$,
- $W - \partial W \subset (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}^D$,
- near the boundary of $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$, the embedding is the product embedding, that is, there exists $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{2}$ such that $W \cap [0, \varepsilon] \times \mathbb{R}^D = [0, \varepsilon] \times M$ and $W \cap [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D = [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times N$, and
- every connected component W_0 of W lies entirely in some slice $[0, 1] \times \{k_0\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$, $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$.

We will refer to any ε with the above properties as a *cylinder scale* of W . We shall also refer to M , i.e. the part of ∂W that is contained in the hyperplane $0 \times \mathbb{R}^D$, as the *incoming* boundary and to N , i.e. the part of ∂W that is contained in the hyperplane $1 \times \mathbb{R}^D$, as the *outgoing* boundary. Let $W(k) = W \cap [0, 1] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ be the part of W that lies in the k -slice. As for closed manifolds, every $W(k)$ is a finite disjoint union of connected components of W and $W(k)$ is empty for k large enough. Let $s(W) \subset \mathbb{N}$ denote the set of all k such that $W(k)$ is nonempty. The incoming boundary of $W(k)$ is $M(k)$ and the outgoing boundary of $W(k)$ is $N(k)$.

Definition 7.3. Let $W, W' \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ be two disjoint cobordisms. Then their disjoint union $W \sqcup W'$ is called *well-separated*, if $s(W) \cap s(W') = \emptyset$. In this case, we shall also write $W \sqcup_s W'$.

Note that if W and W' are well-separated, we are generally not able to deduce that $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ (forgetting the first coordinate of $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$) are well-separated, or even disjoint. However, the incoming boundary of W and the incoming boundary of W' are well-separated, and similarly for the outgoing boundaries. The embedding also enables us to chop W into the slices $W_t = W \cap (\{t\} \times \mathbb{R}^D)$. The first coordinate of \mathbb{R}^{D+1} defines a smooth function $\omega : W \rightarrow [0, 1]$, i.e. ω is the composition

$$W \hookrightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{\text{proj}_1} [0, 1].$$

We think of the first coordinate, t , of $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ as time. Thus cobordisms W come equipped with time functions ω . The time slice W_t can alternatively be described as the preimage $W_t = \omega^{-1}(t)$. The formula $W_t(k) = W(k)_t$ holds.

Let $\text{Reg}(W)$ be the set of regular values of ω . A subset $R \subset X$ of a topological space X is called *residual*, if it contains the intersection of a countable family of dense open sets. The Baire category theorem asserts that a residual subset of a complete metric space X is dense. The following simple facts will be needed later:

Lemma 7.4. *If $R \subset [a, b]$ is residual and $(c, d) \subset [a, b]$ is an open subinterval, then $R \cap (c, d)$ is residual in (c, d) and thus also in $[c, d]$.*

Lemma 7.5. *Let a, b be real numbers such that $0 < a < b < 1$. Suppose that $R_0 \subset (0, a)$ is residual in $(0, a)$, $R_{ab} \subset (a, b)$ is residual in (a, b) , and $R_1 \subset (b, 1)$ is residual in $(b, 1)$. Then the union $R_0 \cup R_{ab} \cup R_1$ is residual in $[0, 1]$.*

The intersection of countably many residual sets is residual. The Morse-Sard theorem ([Hir76, Thm. 3.1.3]) implies that $\text{Reg}(W)$ is residual, and hence dense. For $t \in \text{Reg}(W)$, the slice W_t is a smooth codimension one submanifold of W . Note that $0, 1 \in \text{Reg}(W)$ and $W_0 = M, W_1 = N$. Moreover, our definition of a cobordism implies that there is an $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $W_t = \{t\} \times M$ for $t \in [0, \varepsilon]$ and $W_t = \{t\} \times N$ for $t \in [1 - \varepsilon, 1]$.

We proceed to discuss the operation of gluing two cobordisms. Let W' be a cobordism from M to N and W'' a cobordism from N to P . Let $e_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{D+1}$ be the first standard basis vector. The translate $W'' + e_1$ is embedded in $[1, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^D$. Since the embedding of W' near $1 \times \mathbb{R}^D$ looks like the product embedding $[1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times N$ and the embedding of $W'' + e_1$ near $1 \times \mathbb{R}^D$ looks like the product embedding $[1, 1 + \varepsilon'] \times N$, the set-theoretic union

$$\tilde{W} = W' \cup (W'' + e_1)$$

carries a unique smooth structure that restricts to the smooth structures on W' and W'' . This smooth manifold \tilde{W} is embedded in $[0, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^D$. Reparametrizing this embedding linearly from $[0, 2]$ to $[0, 1]$, we obtain a cobordism $W \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ from M to P . We call this cobordism the result of *gluing W' and W'' along N* and will write $W = W' \cup_N W''$. Given cylinder scales ε and ε' for W' and W'' , respectively, the natural cylinder scale for W is by definition $\varepsilon_W = \frac{1}{2} \min(\varepsilon, \varepsilon')$. The formula $W(k) = W'(k) \cup_{N(k)} W''(k)$ holds for every $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. It should be pointed out that one cannot take this gluing operation as the composition law of a cobordism category because it does not, among other issues, satisfy associativity. To get a category that way, one would have to consider isotopy classes of embeddings, which would however render time functions ill-defined.

More generally, we shall also speak of cobordisms in $[a, b] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ for any $a < b$. All of the previous definitions generalize to such cobordisms, with a playing the role of 0 and b playing the role of 1.

7.2. Fold Fields. Let W be a cobordism from M to N . Given a fold map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{C}$, we set $F(k) = F| : W(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $SF_t = S(F) \cap W_t$. (Recall that $S(F) \subset W$ is the singular set of F .) The imaginary part of a complex number $z \in \mathbb{C}$ will be denoted by $\text{Im}(z)$.

Definition 7.6. We say that F has *generic imaginary parts over $t \in [0, 1]$* , if $\text{Im} \circ F| : SF_t \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective.

We put

$$\text{GenIm}(F) = \{t \in [0, 1] \mid F \text{ has generic imaginary parts over } t\}$$

and

$$\natural(F) = \{t \in \text{Reg}(W) \mid S(F) \natural W_t\}.$$

Here, the symbol $A \natural B$ means transverse intersection of two submanifolds A, B . Note that for $t \in \natural(F)$, SF_t is a compact 0-dimensional manifold and thus a finite set of points. The set $\natural(F)$ can be expressed in terms of regular values:

Lemma 7.7. *Let W be a cobordism with time function $\omega : W \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and let $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a fold map. Let $\text{Reg}(\omega_S)$ be the set of regular values of the restriction $\omega_S = \omega| : S(F) \rightarrow [0, 1]$.*

Then

$$\mathfrak{h}(F) = \text{Reg}(\omega_S) \cap \text{Reg}(W).$$

From this lemma and Brown's theorem, we deduce:

Corollary 7.8. *Let $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a fold map on a cobordism W . Then $\mathfrak{h}(F)$ is open and dense (and thus residual) in $[0, 1]$.*

Our TFT will operate with the following notion of fields:

Definition 7.9. A *fold field* on W is a fold map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that for all $k \in s(W)$,

- (1) $0, 1 \in \mathfrak{h}(F(k)) \cap \text{GenIm}(F(k))$, and
- (2) $\text{GenIm}(F(k))$ is residual in $[0, 1]$.

Remark 7.10. It follows from Corollary 7.8 that condition (2) is equivalent to

$$(2') \mathfrak{h}(F(k)) \cap \text{GenIm}(F(k)) \text{ is residual in } [0, 1].$$

A fold map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a fold field on W if and only if $F(k)$ is a fold field on $W(k)$ for all $k = 0, 1, \dots$. Fold fields on a cobordism embedded in $[a, b] \times \mathbb{R}^D$, $a < b$, are defined similarly: just replace 0 by a and 1 by b in the above definition. For a nonempty cobordism W , let $\mathcal{F}(W) \subset C^\infty(W, \mathbb{C})$ be the space of all fold fields on W . For W empty, we agree that $\mathcal{F}(W) = \{*\}$, a set with one element. In the following very special case, fold maps are automatically fold fields:

Lemma 7.11. *Let $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a fold map on a cobordism W . If the time function ω on W is locally constant, then F is a fold field.*

Proof. If ω is locally constant, then ∂W is empty. Hence $W_0 = \emptyset = W_1$ and so vacuously $S(F) \mathfrak{h} W_0, W_1$. Since $0, 1$ are not in the image of ω , $0, 1 \in \text{Reg}(W)$ and consequently $0, 1 \in \mathfrak{h}(F)$. Moreover, as $SF_0 = \emptyset = SF_1$, the restrictions $\text{Im} \circ F|_{SF_0}, \text{Im} \circ F|_{SF_1}$ are vacuously injective and we conclude that $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm}(F)$.

Let $\{W[j]\}_{j \in J}$ be the distinct connected components of W . As W is compact, J is finite. Since $\omega|_{W[j]}$ is constant, there is a $t_j \in (0, 1)$ such that $W[j] \subset \omega^{-1}(t_j)$. If $t \in [0, 1] - \{t_j\}_{j \in J}$, then $W_t = \emptyset$, $SF_t = \emptyset$ and thus $\text{Im} \circ F|_{SF_t}$ is vacuously injective. This shows that $t \in \text{GenIm}(F)$. Hence $\text{GenIm}(F)$ contains the open dense subset $[0, 1] - \{t_j\}_{j \in J}$ and so is residual in $[0, 1]$. \square

7.3. The Action Functional: Fold Fields and the Brauer Category. Recall that \mathbf{Br} denotes the Brauer category as introduced in Section 2.3. There is a natural function

$$\mathbb{S} : \mathcal{F}(W) \longrightarrow \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$$

that we shall describe next. We interpret this function as the (exponential of the) *action functional* on our fields. If W is empty we define $\mathbb{S}(*) = 1_I$, the identity on the unit object $I = [0]$ of \mathbf{Br} . Next, suppose that W is nonempty and entirely contained in a slice $[0, 1] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$, i.e. $W = W(k)$. Given $F \in \mathcal{F}(W)$, let m_S be the cardinality of $S(F) \cap M$ and let n_S be the cardinality of $S(F) \cap N$. The Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F)$ will be a morphism $\mathbb{S}(F) : [m_S] \rightarrow [n_S]$. There is a canonical identification of points of $S(F) \cap M$ with points of $M[m_S]$ given as follows: By (1) of Definition 7.9, $\text{Im} \circ F$ is injective on $S(F) \cap M = SF_0$ and therefore induces a unique ordering p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{m_S} of the points of $S(F) \cap M$ such that

$$\text{Im} F(p_i) < \text{Im} F(p_j) \iff i < j.$$

This gives a bijection $S(F) \cap M \cong M[m_S]$, $p_i \leftrightarrow i$. Similarly for the outgoing boundary: The function $\text{Im} \circ F$ is injective on $S(F) \cap N = SF_1$ and therefore induces a unique ordering

q_1, q_2, \dots, q_{n_S} of the points of $S(F) \cap N$ such that $\text{Im}F(q_i) < \text{Im}F(q_j) \Leftrightarrow i < j$. This gives a bijection $S(F) \cap N \cong M[n_S]$, $q_i \leftrightarrow i$. To construct the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F) : [m_S] \rightarrow [n_S]$, connect the points of $0 \times M[m_S] \times 0 \times 0$ and $1 \times M[n_S] \times 0 \times 0$ by smooth arcs in $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ in the following manner. Let c be a connected component of the compact 1-manifold $S(F)$. We distinguish four cases. If $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$, then connect $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(0, j, 0, 0)$ by an arc. If $\partial c = \{p_i, q_j\}$, then connect $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$. If $\partial c = \{q_i, q_j\}$, then connect $(1, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$. Finally, if c is closed, i.e. $\partial c = \emptyset$, then tensor with the loop endomorphism λ . Carrying this recipe out for every connected component c of $S(F)$ completes the construction of $\mathbb{S}(F)$. Finally, if W is nonempty but otherwise arbitrary, we put

$$\mathbb{S}(F) = \bigotimes_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{S}(F(k)).$$

(This tensor product is finite, as $W(k)$ is eventually empty.)

Lemma 7.12. *Let F be a fold field on W and $t \in (0, 1) \cap \bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\text{cl } F(a) \cap \text{GenIm} F(a))$. Let $F_{\leq t} : W_{\leq t} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $F_{\geq t} : W_{\geq t} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ denote the restrictions of F to $W_{\leq t} = W \cap [0, t] \times \mathbb{R}^D$, $W_{\geq t} = W \cap [t, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$, respectively. Then $F_{\leq t}$ is a fold field on $W_{\leq t}$, $F_{\geq t}$ is a fold field on $W_{\geq t}$, and the Brauer morphism identity*

$$\mathbb{S}(F_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F_{\leq t}) = \mathbb{S}(F)$$

holds.

Proof. Fix $a \in \mathbb{N}$ with $W(a) \neq \emptyset$. The set $\text{GenIm}(F(a))$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. Thus, by Lemma 7.4,

$$\text{GenIm}(F(a)_{\leq t}) \cap (0, t) = \text{GenIm}(F(a)) \cap (0, t)$$

is residual in $[0, t]$. Since $0, t \in \text{cl}(F(a)_{\leq t}) \cap \text{GenIm}(F(a)_{\leq t})$, the map $F(a)_{\leq t}$ is a fold field on $W(a)_{\leq t}$. Since this holds for any $a \in s(W)$, $F_{\leq t}$ is a fold field on $W_{\leq t}$. A similar argument shows that $F_{\geq t}$ is a fold field on $W_{\geq t}$.

We turn to proving the Brauer morphism identity. Again, fix a natural number a . The function $\text{Im}F(a)$ induces a unique ordering

$$S(F(a)) \cap M(a) = \{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$$

such that $\text{Im}F(a)(p_i) < \text{Im}F(a)(p_j)$ if and only if $i < j$, a unique ordering

$$S(F(a)) \cap W(a)_t = \{r_1, \dots, r_k\}$$

such that $\text{Im}F(a)(r_i) < \text{Im}F(a)(r_j)$ if and only if $i < j$, and a unique ordering

$$S(F(a)) \cap N(a) = \{q_1, \dots, q_l\}$$

such that $\text{Im}F(a)(q_i) < \text{Im}F(a)(q_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. Let c be a connected component of $S(F(a))$ with nonempty boundary. There are three possible cases: either $\partial c = \{p_i, q_j\}$, or $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$ ($i \neq j$), or $\partial c = \{q_i, q_j\}$ ($i \neq j$).

Suppose that $\partial c = \{p_i, q_j\}$. We move along c , starting at the endpoint p_i . As we move along c , let $r_{a(1)}$ be the first point on c which lies on W_t . Note that such a point exists by the intermediate value theorem. The segment of c from p_i to $r_{a(1)}$ must be entirely contained in $W(a)_{\leq t}$, and is a connected component c_1 of $S(F(a)_{\leq t})$. We continue to move along c in the same direction. Passing $r_{a(1)}$, a sufficiently short segment of c must lie entirely in $W(a)_{\geq t}$, since $S(F(a))$ is transverse to $W(a)_t$. If we encounter no point which lies on $W(a)_t$ again, then the segment c_2 of c from $r_{a(1)}$ to q_j lies entirely in $W(a)_{\geq t}$ and we stop. Otherwise, if there is a point after $r_{a(1)}$ where c and $W(a)_t$ intersect again, then let $r_{a(2)}$ be the first such point, $a(2) \neq a(1)$. The segment of c from $r_{a(1)}$ to $r_{a(2)}$ is entirely contained in $W(a)_{\geq t}$ and is

a connected component c_2 of $S(F(a)_{\geq t})$. Continuing in this fashion, we arrive at a finite list $\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_s\}$ such that

- (1) s is even and $s - 1 \leq k$,
- (2) $c = \bigcup_{d=1}^s c_d$,
- (3) c_{2d+1} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\leq t})$, $d = 0, \dots, \frac{s}{2} - 1$,
- (4) c_{2d} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\geq t})$, $d = 1, \dots, \frac{s}{2}$,
- (5) $\partial c_1 = \{p_i, r_{a(1)}\}$, $\partial c_s = \{r_{a(s-1)}, q_j\}$,
- (6) $\partial c_d = \{r_{a(d-1)}, r_{a(d)}\}$, $d = 2, \dots, s - 1$,
- (7) $a(d) \neq a(d')$, whenever $d \neq d'$.

Thus the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(1), 0, 0)$ (as c_1 is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ with $\partial c_1 = \{p_i, r_{a(1)}\}$), $(1, a(2), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(3), 0, 0)$ (as c_3 is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ with $\partial c_3 = \{r_{a(2)}, r_{a(3)}\}$), $(1, a(4), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(5), 0, 0)$, etc., and $(1, a(s-2), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(s-1), 0, 0)$ (as c_{s-1} is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ with $\partial c_{s-1} = \{r_{a(s-2)}, r_{a(s-1)}\}$). The Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ connects $(0, a(1), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(2), 0, 0)$ (as c_2 is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ with $\partial c_2 = \{r_{a(1)}, r_{a(2)}\}$), $(0, a(3), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(4), 0, 0)$ (as c_4 is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ with $\partial c_4 = \{r_{a(3)}, r_{a(4)}\}$), etc., and $(0, a(s-1), 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$ (as c_s is a connected component of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ with $\partial c_s = \{r_{a(s-1)}, q_j\}$). The composition $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ in \mathbf{Br} is defined by translating (a representative of) $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ from $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ to $[1, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^3$, taking the union of (a representative of) $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ with the translated copy of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$, and reparametrizing $[0, 2] \times \mathbb{R}^3$ back to $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^3$. Thus $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$. Since c is a connected component of $S(F(a))$ with $\partial c = \{p_i, q_j\}$, $\mathbb{S}(F(a))$ also connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$.

Suppose that $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$. Moving along c and proceeding as in the previous case, we obtain a list $\{c_1, \dots, c_s\}$ such that

- (1) s is odd and $s - 1 \leq k$,
- (2) $c = \bigcup_{d=1}^s c_d$,
- (3) c_{2d+1} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\leq t})$, $d = 0, \dots, \frac{1}{2}(s-1)$,
- (4) c_{2d} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\geq t})$, $d = 1, \dots, \frac{1}{2}(s-1)$,
- (5) $\partial c_1 = \{p_i, r_{a(1)}\}$, $\partial c_s = \{r_{a(s-1)}, p_j\}$,
- (6) $\partial c_d = \{r_{a(d-1)}, r_{a(d)}\}$, $d = 2, \dots, s - 1$,
- (7) $a(d) \neq a(d')$, whenever $d \neq d'$.

Thus the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(1), 0, 0)$, $(1, a(2), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(3), 0, 0)$, etc., and $(0, j, 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(s-1), 0, 0)$. The Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ connects $(0, a(1), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(2), 0, 0)$, $(0, a(3), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(4), 0, 0)$, etc., and $(0, a(s-2), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(s-1), 0, 0)$. Hence, $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(0, j, 0, 0)$. Since c is a connected component of $S(F(a))$ with $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$, $\mathbb{S}(F(a))$ also connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(0, j, 0, 0)$. The third case $\partial c = \{q_i, q_j\}$ is treated in a similar way.

Now let c be a component of $S(F(a))$ with empty boundary. If c does not intersect $W(a)_t$, then $c \subset W(a)_{\leq t}$ or $c \subset W(a)_{\geq t}$, by the intermediate value theorem. Thus c contributes to precisely one of $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$, $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ by tensoring with the loop endomorphism λ . The closed component c also contributes to $\mathbb{S}(F(a))$ by tensoring with the loop endomorphism λ . Suppose that c and $W(a)_t$ do intersect. Let $r_{a(1)}$ be any point in the intersection. We will move along c , starting at the point $r_{a(1)}$. As c is transverse to $W(a)_t$, we have a choice of either moving into $W(a)_{\leq t}$ or into $W(a)_{\geq t}$. We choose to move into $W(a)_{\leq t}$. Let $r_{a(2)}$ be the first point on c after $r_{a(1)}$ that lies on $W(a)_t$, $a(1) \neq a(2)$. The segment of c from $r_{a(1)}$ to $r_{a(2)}$ is entirely contained in $W(a)_{\leq t}$ and is a connected component c_1 of $S(F(a)_{\leq t})$. We continue

to move in the same direction along c . Passing $r_{a(2)}$, a sufficiently short segment of c must lie entirely in $W(a)_{\geq t}$, since $S(F(a))$ is transverse to $W(a)_t$. If we encounter no point in $W(a)_t$ other than $r_{a(1)}$ anymore, then let $c_2 \subset W(a)_{\geq t}$ be the segment of c from $r_{a(2)}$ to $r_{a(1)}$ and stop. Otherwise, let $r_{a(3)}, a(3) \notin \{a(1), a(2)\}$, be the first point on c after $r_{a(2)}$ which lies on $W(a)_t$ again. The segment of c from $r_{a(2)}$ to $r_{a(3)}$ is entirely contained in $W(a)_{\geq t}$ and is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\geq t})$. Continuing in this fashion, we arrive at a list $\{c_1, \dots, c_s\}$ such that

- (1) s is even and $s \leq k$,
- (2) $c = \bigcup_{d=1}^s c_d$,
- (3) c_{2d+1} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\leq t})$, $d = 0, \dots, \frac{s}{2} - 1$,
- (4) c_{2d} is a connected component of $S(F(a)_{\geq t})$, $d = 1, \dots, \frac{s}{2}$,
- (5) $\partial c_s = \{r_{a(s)}, r_{a(1)}\}$,
- (6) $\partial c_d = \{r_{a(d)}, r_{a(d+1)}\}$, $d = 1, \dots, s-1$,
- (7) $a(d) \neq a(d')$, whenever $d \neq d'$.

Thus the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(1, a(1), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(2), 0, 0)$, $(1, a(3), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(4), 0, 0)$, etc., and $(1, a(s-1), 0, 0)$ to $(1, a(s), 0, 0)$. The Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t})$ connects $(0, a(2), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(3), 0, 0)$, $(0, a(4), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(5), 0, 0)$, etc., and $(0, a(s), 0, 0)$ to $(0, a(1), 0, 0)$. Thus $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ connects $(\tau, a(1), 0, 0)$ to $(\tau, a(1), 0, 0)$ (suitable τ) and therefore, c_1, \dots, c_s contribute to $\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})$ by tensoring with the loop endomorphism λ . Since c is a closed connected component of $S(F(a))$, $\mathbb{S}(F(a))$ also contributes to $\mathbb{S}(F(a))$ by tensoring with the loop endomorphism λ .

We have shown that

$$\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t}) = \mathbb{S}(F(a))$$

for every $a = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. The desired Brauer morphism identity follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{S}(F) &= \bigotimes_a \mathbb{S}(F(a)) = \bigotimes_a (\mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t})) \\ &= \left\{ \bigotimes_a \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\geq t}) \right\} \circ \left\{ \bigotimes_a \mathbb{S}(F(a)_{\leq t}) \right\} = \mathbb{S}(F_{\geq t}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F_{\leq t}). \end{aligned}$$

□

Let V be a real vector space of finite dimension $\dim V \geq 2$ and let (i, e) be a duality structure on V such that the induced symmetric monoidal functor $Y : \mathbf{Br} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}$ is faithful on loops. (For instance, we may take $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ and (i, e) as in (4) of Section 2.4.) Let $Q = Q(i, e)$ be the profinite idempotent completion of $Y(\mathbf{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$. Via the composition

$$\mathcal{F}(W) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{S}} \mathbf{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}) \xrightarrow{Y} \mathbf{Mor}(\mathbf{Vect}),$$

every fold field $F \in \mathcal{F}(W)$ determines an element $Y\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes 1$ in $Q(H_{\text{dom}\mathbb{S}(F), \text{cod}\mathbb{S}(F)})$, and thus an element in Q , which we will denote simply by $Y\mathbb{S}(F) \in Q$.

For a nonempty, closed, smooth $(n-1)$ -manifold $M \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ (not necessarily orientable), we have the trivial cobordism from M to M , i.e. the cylinder $[0, 1] \times M \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$, and we put

$$\mathcal{F}(M) = \{f \in \mathcal{F}([0, 1] \times M) \mid \mathbb{S}(f) = 1 \in \mathbf{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})\},$$

where 1 denotes an identity morphism in \mathbf{Br} . (Note that $[0, 1] \times M$ indeed satisfies our standing embedding conventions, since M does; one has $([0, 1] \times M)(k) = [0, 1] \times (M(k))$.) For $M = \emptyset$, we put $\mathcal{F}(\emptyset) = \{*\}$, the one-element set. (Recall that the empty set is the unique initial object in the category of sets, so there is a unique arrow $\emptyset \rightarrow X$ for every set X .) These are the *fields* associated to a closed $(n-1)$ -manifold and will act as boundary conditions. We shall write $I = [0, 1]$ for the unit interval.

Lemma 7.13. *Let $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^D$ be disjoint closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds. Then the map*

$$C^\infty(I \times (M \sqcup N), \mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow C^\infty(I \times M, \mathbb{C}) \times C^\infty(I \times N, \mathbb{C}), f \mapsto (f|_{I \times M}, f|_{I \times N})$$

restricts to a map $\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$.

Proof. Let f be a map in $\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N)$. The restriction $f|_{I \times M}$ is a fold map, using fold charts for f . Since $S(f) = S(f|_{I \times M}) \sqcup S(f|_{I \times N})$ is transverse to $0 \times (M \sqcup N)$ and to $1 \times (M \sqcup N)$, the singular set $S(f|_{I \times M})$ of the restriction is transverse to $0 \times M$ and to $1 \times M$, whence $0, 1 \in \mathring{\cap}(f|_{I \times M})$. Let k be a natural number. We have $(M \sqcup N)(k) = M(k) \sqcup N(k)$. Let $t \in \text{GenIm}(f(k))$. The injectivity of $\text{Im } f(k) : S(f(k)) \cap t \times (M \sqcup N)(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ implies the injectivity of the restriction $\text{Im } f(k) : S(f(k)|_{I \times M(k)}) \cap t \times M(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Thus $t \in \text{GenIm}(f(k)|_{I \times M(k)})$ and we have established the inclusion

$$\text{GenIm}(f(k)) \subset \text{GenIm}(f(k)|_{I \times M(k)}).$$

Since $\text{GenIm}(f(k))$ is residual in $[0, 1]$, the superset $\text{GenIm}(f(k)|_{I \times M(k)})$ is residual as well. Thus we have shown that $f|_{I \times M}$ is in $\mathcal{F}(I \times M)$.

It remains to be shown that $\mathbb{S}(f|_{I \times M}) = 1$. Again, we fix a natural number a . The function $\text{Im } f(a)$ induces uniquely an ordering of

$$S(f(a)) \cap 0 \times (M \sqcup N)(a) = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$$

such that $\text{Im } f(a)(p_i) < \text{Im } f(a)(p_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. As $\bigotimes_{a' \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{S}(f(a')) = \mathbb{S}(f) = 1$, Lemma 2.13 implies that the tensor factor $\mathbb{S}(f(a))$ is the identity morphism. Therefore, $S(f(a)) \cap 1 \times (M \sqcup N)(a)$ has the same number k of points,

$$S(f(a)) \cap 1 \times (M \sqcup N)(a) = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\},$$

which are ordered such that $\text{Im } f(a)(q_i) < \text{Im } f(a)(q_j)$ if and only if $i < j$.

Since $\mathbb{S}(f(a)) = 1$, the singular set $S(f(a))$ has precisely k connected components c_1, \dots, c_k , and these components have endpoints $\partial c_i = \{p_i, q_i\}$ for all i . Filtering out those points that lie in $0 \times M(a)$ yields

$$\{p_1, \dots, p_k\} \cap 0 \times M(a) = \{p_{m(1)}, \dots, p_{m(l)}\},$$

where $l \leq k$ and $m : [l] \rightarrow [k]$ is a function such that $m(i) < m(j)$ precisely when $i < j$. As $c_{m(i)}$ is connected and one of its endpoints, namely $p_{m(i)}$, lies in $I \times M(a)$, the entire path $c_{m(i)}$ lies in $I \times M(a)$. In particular, its other endpoint $q_{m(i)}$ lies in $1 \times M(a)$ and thus

$$\{q_{m(1)}, \dots, q_{m(l)}\} \subset \{q_1, \dots, q_k\} \cap 1 \times M(a).$$

Conversely, if q_j lies in $1 \times M(a)$, then p_j , being the other endpoint of c_j , lies in $0 \times M(a)$ and consequently $j = m(i)$ for some $i \in [l]$. This shows that

$$\{q_{m(1)}, \dots, q_{m(l)}\} = \{q_1, \dots, q_k\} \cap 1 \times M(a).$$

The singular set of the restriction is $S(f|_{I \times M}(a)) = c_{m(1)} \sqcup \dots \sqcup c_{m(l)}$. Setting $p'_i = p_{m(i)}$ and $q'_i = q_{m(i)}$, we have $\text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(p'_i) < \text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(p'_j)$ if and only if $\text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(p_{m(i)}) < \text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(p_{m(j)})$ iff $m(i) < m(j)$ iff $i < j$. Similarly, $\text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(q'_i) < \text{Im } f|_{I \times M}(a)(q'_j)$ iff $i < j$. Since $\partial c_{m(i)} = \{p'_i, q'_i\}$, the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(f|_{I \times M}(a))$ is the identity. Consequently, $\mathbb{S}(f|_{I \times M}) = \bigotimes_a \mathbb{S}(f|_{I \times M}(a)) = \bigotimes_a 1 = 1$ is the identity. \square

Fold fields satisfy the additivity axiom of [Fre92, p. 6]:

Lemma 7.14 (Additivity Axiom). *Given two disjoint, well-separated, closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds $M, N \subset \mathbb{R}^D$, there is a bijection*

$$\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N) \cong \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N).$$

Proof. We shall construct an inverse

$$\rho' : \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N)$$

to the restriction map $\rho : \mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N) \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$ of Lemma 7.13. Given $(g, h) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$, let $f = g \sqcup h : I \times (M \sqcup N) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Then f is a fold map. Fix a natural number k . Since the disjoint union of M and N is well-separated, we have $(M \sqcup N)(k) = M(k)$ or $(M \sqcup N)(k) = N(k)$, and correspondingly $f(k) = g(k)$ or $f(k) = h(k)$. Therefore, $f(k)$ is a fold field on $I \times (M \sqcup N)$. It remains to be shown that $\mathbb{S}(f) = 1$. Since $\mathbb{S}(g) = 1$ and $\mathbb{S}(h) = 1$ and

$$\mathbb{S}(g) = \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(g(k)), \quad \mathbb{S}(h) = \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(h(k)),$$

we know that $\mathbb{S}(g(k)) = 1$ and $\mathbb{S}(f(k)) = 1$ for all k , invoking Lemma 2.13. For each k , $f(k) = g(k)$ or $f(k) = h(k)$ by well-separation. In either of these cases, $\mathbb{S}(f(k)) = 1$. Hence $\mathbb{S}(f) = \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(f(k)) = \bigotimes_k 1 = 1$. Thus $f \in \mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N)$ and we can set $\rho'(g, h) = f$. It is clear that ρ and ρ' are inverse to each other. \square

If the disjoint union is not well-separated, then the above additivity axiom need not hold, due to entanglement effects caused by the injectivity condition required for fold fields.

Remark 7.15. If $g : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is an excellent Morse function on M , then $\text{id} \times g : [0, 1] \times M \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ is a fold field with $\mathbb{S}(\text{id} \times g) = 1 \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$, hence an element in $\mathcal{F}(M)$.

7.4. State Modules. Let V be a real vector space of finite dimension $\dim V \geq 2$ and (i, e) a duality structure on V such that the induced symmetric monoidal functor Y is faithful on loops. Let $Q = Q(i, e)$ be the corresponding profinite idempotent completion of $Y(\text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}))$. On closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds M , the topological field theory Z is defined to be

$$(27) \quad Z(M) := \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M)).$$

This is the “*quantum Hilbert space*”, or *state-module*, of our theory. A *state* is thus a map $z : \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow Q$. Note that for the empty manifold,

$$Z(\emptyset) = \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(\emptyset)) = \text{Fun}_Q(\{*\}) = Q.$$

Recall from Section 6 that the commutative monoid Q comes with two multiplications yielding two complete, idempotent, continuous semirings: the composition semiring Q^c and the monoidal semiring Q^m (see Propositions 6.12, 6.14, 6.15). By Proposition 5.1, $Z(M)$ is thus a two-sided Q^c -semialgebra and a two-sided Q^m -semialgebra, and $Z(M)$ is complete, idempotent and continuous. The complete tensor product $\widehat{\otimes}$ used below was introduced in Section 5 and we shall use the identification provided by Theorem 5.11 without always explicitly mentioning it.

Proposition 7.16. *The state-module of a disjoint and well-separated union of two closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds M and N decomposes as a tensor product*

$$Z(M \sqcup N) \cong Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N).$$

Proof. By the additivity axiom for fields on closed manifolds (Lemma 7.14), $\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N) \cong \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$. Thus by Theorem 5.11,

$$\begin{aligned} Z(M \sqcup N) &= \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N)) \cong \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)) \\ &\cong \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M)) \widehat{\otimes} \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(N)) = Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Remark 7.17. The assumption of well-separation is only needed to ensure $\mathcal{F}(M \sqcup N) \cong \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$. For arbitrary disjoint M and N we always have the isomorphism $Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \cong \text{Fun}_Q(\mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N))$, regardless of whether M and N are well-separated or not.

Under the isomorphism of Theorem 5.11, the canonical middle Q^c -linear map

$$\beta^c : Z(M) \times Z(N) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N), (z, z') \mapsto z \widehat{\otimes}_{Q^c} z',$$

can be thought of as follows. Given $z : \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow Q$ and $z' : \mathcal{F}(N) \rightarrow Q$, define $z'' : \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N) \rightarrow Q$ on $(f_M, f_N) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$ by

$$(28) \quad z''(f_M, f_N) = z(f_M) \cdot z'(f_N),$$

using the multiplication of Q^c . Then $\beta^c(z, z') = z''$. We shall write $z \widehat{\otimes}_c z' := \beta^c(z, z')$. There are various natural generalizations of this to more than two manifolds, for example we shall also use

$$\beta^c : (Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)) \times (Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

for closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds M, N, M', N' , given by

$$(29) \quad \beta^c(\zeta, \zeta')(f_M, f_N, f_{M'}, f_{N'}) = \zeta(f_M, f_N) \cdot \zeta'(f_{M'}, f_{N'}),$$

where $\zeta \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)$, $\zeta' \in Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$, $f_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$, $f_N \in \mathcal{F}(N)$, $f_{M'} \in \mathcal{F}(M')$ and $f_{N'} \in \mathcal{F}(N')$. We will of course also write $\zeta \widehat{\otimes}_c \zeta' = \beta^c(\zeta, \zeta')$. If M and N are disjoint and well-separated and M' and N' are disjoint and well-separated, then Proposition 7.16 provides bijections $Z(M \sqcup N) \cong Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)$ and $Z(M' \sqcup N') \cong Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$. Definition 28 then yields a map

$$\beta^c : Z(M \sqcup N) \times Z(M' \sqcup N') \longrightarrow Z(M \sqcup N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M' \sqcup N')$$

which is consistent with (29): the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z(M \sqcup N) \times Z(M' \sqcup N') & \xrightarrow{\beta^c} & Z(M \sqcup N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M' \sqcup N') \\ \cong \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\ (Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)) \times (Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')) & \xrightarrow{\beta^c} & Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N') \end{array}$$

commutes. Furthermore, there is a natural contraction map (considered abstractly in the last paragraph of Section 5)

$$\gamma : Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P),$$

which sends

$$z : \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N) \times \mathcal{F}(N) \times \mathcal{F}(P) \rightarrow Q$$

to the function $z' : \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(P) \rightarrow Q$, given on $(f_M, f_P) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(P)$ by

$$z'(f_M, f_P) = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{F}(N)} z(f_M, u, u, f_P),$$

using the completeness of Q . Composing β^c and the contraction γ , we obtain a contraction product

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : (Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)) \times (Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P),$$

allowing us to multiply a state $z \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)$ and a state $z' \in Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)$ to get a state $\langle z, z' \rangle = \gamma(z \widehat{\otimes}_c z') \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)$. This contraction product is a means of propagating states along cobordisms.

Using the monoidal structure on \mathbf{Br} and the corresponding product \times on Q^m , the canonical middle Q^m -linear map

$$\beta^m : Z(M) \times Z(N) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N), (z, z') \mapsto z \widehat{\otimes}_{Q^m} z',$$

can be thought of as follows. Given $z : \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow Q$ and $z' : \mathcal{F}(N) \rightarrow Q$, define $z'' : \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N) \rightarrow Q$ on $(f_M, f_N) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$ by

$$(30) \quad z''(f_M, f_N) = z(f_M) \times z'(f_N).$$

Then $\beta^m(z, z') = z''$ and we shall write $z \widehat{\otimes}_m z' := \beta^m(z, z')$. Again, there are generalizations of this product to more than two manifolds. In Theorem 7.22, we shall use

$$\beta^m : (Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)) \times (Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')) \longrightarrow Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

given by

$$(31) \quad \beta^m(\zeta, \zeta')(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) = \zeta(f_M, f_N) \times \zeta'(f_{M'}, f_{N'}),$$

where $\zeta \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N)$, $\zeta' \in Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$, $f_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$, $f_N \in \mathcal{F}(N)$, $f_{M'} \in \mathcal{F}(M')$ and $f_{N'} \in \mathcal{F}(N')$. We will also write $\zeta \widehat{\otimes}_m \zeta' = \beta^m(\zeta, \zeta')$.

7.5. State Sums. Subjecting fold fields on a cobordism to boundary conditions requires a certain equivalence relation, which we shall describe now. These fields with boundary conditions, together with our action functional, enter into the definition of the state sum of a cobordism.

Let X be a closed smooth manifold. We define an equivalence relation on the collection of smooth maps of the form $[a, b] \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ for some real numbers $a < b$.

Definition 7.18. Two smooth maps $f : [a, b] \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $f' : [a', b'] \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are equivalent, written $f \approx f'$, if and only if there exists a diffeomorphism $\xi : [a, b] \rightarrow [a', b']$ with $\xi(a) = a'$ such that $f(t, x) = f'(\xi(t), x)$ for all $(t, x) \in [a, b] \times X$.

It is readily verified that this relation is indeed reflexive, symmetric and transitive. Note that $f \approx f'$ implies that $f(a, x) = f'(a', x)$ as functions of x .

Lemma 7.19. *If $f \in \mathcal{F}([a, b] \times X)$ and $f' : [a', b'] \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a smooth map with $f' \approx f$, then $f' \in \mathcal{F}([a', b'] \times X)$ and $\mathbb{S}(f) = \mathbb{S}(f')$.*

This lemma is in fact a special case of:

Lemma 7.20. *Suppose that two cobordisms $W \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ and $W' \subset [a, b] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ are related by a diffeomorphism $\alpha : W' \rightarrow W$ of the form $\alpha(t, x) = (\tau(t), x)$, $(t, x) \in W'$, $t \in [a, b]$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^D$, where $\tau : [a, b] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a diffeomorphism with $\tau(a) = 0$. Let F be a fold field on W . Then $F \circ \alpha$ is a fold field on W' and we have the Brauer invariance $\mathbb{S}(F \circ \alpha) = \mathbb{S}(F)$.*

Proof. Given $F \in \mathcal{F}(W)$, set $F' = F \circ \alpha$. Precomposing a fold map with a diffeomorphism yields a fold map again. Thus F' is a fold map. Let us prove that a, b are in $\mathfrak{h}(F')$. Since W' is a cobordism, $a, b \in \text{Reg}(W')$. As α is a diffeomorphism, the relation $\alpha S(F') = \alpha S(F \alpha) = S(F)$ holds. More generally, for any natural number k , we have $\alpha S(F'(k)) = S(F(k))$. From $\alpha(a, x) = (0, x)$ for all $x \in W'_a$ and $\alpha(t, x) \notin 0 \times \mathbb{R}^D$ for $t > a$ we conclude that $\alpha(W'_a) = W_0$. More generally, for any natural number k and any $t' \in [a, b]$, we have $\alpha W'(k)_{t'} = W(k)_{\tau(t')}$. Since F is a fold field on W , 0 lies in $\mathfrak{h}(F)$, that is, $S(F) \mathfrak{h} W_0$. Substituting, we get $\alpha S(F') \mathfrak{h} \alpha(W'_a)$. This is equivalent to $S(F') \mathfrak{h} W'_a$, as α is a diffeomorphism. Therefore, $a \in \mathfrak{h}(F')$. Similarly, $S(F) \mathfrak{h} W_1$ together with $W_1 = \alpha(W'_b)$ implies that $S(F')$ is transverse to W'_b , i.e. $b \in \mathfrak{h}(F')$.

Let k be a natural number in $s(W)$. The equality

$$(32) \quad \tau \text{GenIm} F'(k) = \text{GenIm} F(k)$$

holds. As $0 = \tau(a)$ and $1 = \tau(b)$ are in $\text{GenIm} F(k)$, it follows from (32) that $a, b \in \text{GenIm} F'(k)$. Also, $\text{GenIm} F(k)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$, as F is a fold field. By (32), this implies that $\text{GenIm} F'(k)$ is residual in $[a, b]$, τ being a homeomorphism. We conclude that F' is a fold field on W' .

The function $\text{Im} F'(k)$ induces a unique ordering $S(F'(k)) \cap W'(k)_a = \{p'_1, \dots, p'_m\}$ such that $\text{Im} F'(p'_i) < \text{Im} F'(p'_j)$ if and only if $i < j$, and a unique ordering $S(F'(k)) \cap W'(k)_b = \{q'_1, \dots, q'_l\}$ such that $\text{Im} F'(q'_i) < \text{Im} F'(q'_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. With $p_i = \alpha(p'_i)$, $q_i = \alpha(q'_i)$, we have $S(F(k)) \cap W(k)_0 = \{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$ (a set of cardinality m , since α is injective) and $S(F(k)) \cap W(k)_1 = \{q_1, \dots, q_l\}$ (a set of cardinality l). Thus both $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$ and $\mathbb{S}(F'(k))$ are morphisms $[m] \rightarrow [l]$ in **Br**. The ordering principle is preserved because

$$\text{Im} F'(p'_i) = \text{Im}(F\alpha)(p'_i) = \text{Im} F(p_i), \quad \text{Im} F'(q'_i) = \text{Im}(F\alpha)(q'_i) = \text{Im} F(q_i),$$

so that $\text{Im} F(p_i) < \text{Im} F(p_j)$ if and only if $i < j$ if and only if $\text{Im} F(q_i) < \text{Im} F(q_j)$. In the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$, the point $(0, i, 0, 0)$ is connected to the point $(0, j, 0, 0)$ by an arc if and only if there exists a connected component $c = \alpha(c')$ of $S(F(k))$ with boundary $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$. Such a c exists if and only if there is a connected component c' of $S((F\alpha)(k))$ with $\partial c' = \{p'_i, p'_j\}$, which is equivalent to $(0, i, 0, 0)$ and $(0, j, 0, 0)$ being connected by an arc in $\mathbb{S}(F'(k))$. Similarly for connections of the type $(1, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$ and $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$. Finally, the number of loop tensor factors in $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$ equals the number of loop tensor factors in $\mathbb{S}(F'(k))$, as the number of closed connected components of $S(F(k))$ equals the number of closed connected components of $S(F'(k))$. This shows that $\mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F'(k))$ for every k . Therefore, $\mathbb{S}(F) = \otimes_k \mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \otimes_k \mathbb{S}(F'(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F')$. \square

Let W^n be a cobordism from M to N . We shall define an element, called *state sum*,

$$Z_W \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N).$$

If M and N are well-separated, then we may regard the state sum as an element

$$Z_W \in Z(\partial W) = Z(M \sqcup N)$$

by Proposition 7.16. Let $\varepsilon_W > 0$ be a cylinder scale of W . Given a boundary condition $(f_M, f_N) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$, we put

$$\mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N) = \{F \in \mathcal{F}(W) \mid \exists \varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_W) :$$

$$F|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx f_M(k), \quad F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx f_N(k), \forall k\}.$$

On (f_M, f_N) the state sum Z_W is then given by

$$(33) \quad Z_W(f_M, f_N) := \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)} Y\mathbb{S}(F).$$

This sum uses the infinite summation law of the complete monoid \mathcal{Q} and thus yields a well-defined element of \mathcal{Q} .

Remark 7.21. This sum replaces in our context the notional path integral

$$\int_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W, f)} e^{iS_W(F)} d\mu_W$$

used in classical quantum field theory. As a mathematical object, this path integral is problematic, since in many situations of interest, an appropriate measure μ_W has not been defined or is known not to exist. The present paper utilizes the notion of completeness in semirings to bypass measure theoretic questions on spaces of fields.

7.6. The State Sum of a Disjoint Union. Let $W \subset [0, 1] \times 0 \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ be a cobordism from M to N and $W' \subset [0, 1] \times 1 \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ a disjoint cobordism from M' to N' . The disjoint union $W \sqcup W'$ possesses a state sum $Z_{W \sqcup W'} \in Z(M \sqcup M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N \sqcup N')$. Since W and W' are well-separated, M and M' are well-separated and N and N' are well-separated. Thus, by Proposition 7.16, there are isomorphisms $Z(M \sqcup M') \cong Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M')$ and $Z(N \sqcup N') \cong Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$, which combine to an isomorphism

$$\rho : Z(M \sqcup M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N \sqcup N') \xrightarrow{\cong} Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

given by

$$\rho(z)(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) = z(f_M \sqcup f_{M'}, f_N \sqcup f_{N'})$$

on $z : \mathcal{F}(M \sqcup M') \times \mathcal{F}(N \sqcup N') \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$, $f_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$, $f_N \in \mathcal{F}(N)$, $f_{M'} \in \mathcal{F}(M')$ and $f_{N'} \in \mathcal{F}(N')$.

Theorem 7.22. *Let $W \subset [0, 1] \times 0 \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ be a cobordism from M to N and $W' \subset [0, 1] \times 1 \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ a disjoint cobordism from M' to N' . Assume without loss of generality that W and W' are given equal cylinder scales $\varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W'}$. (If they are not equal, replace the larger one by the smaller one.) Equip the disjoint union $W \sqcup W'$ with the cylinder scale $\varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'} = \varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W'}$. Then the state sum of the disjoint union can be computed as*

$$\rho(Z_{W \sqcup W'}) = Z_W \widehat{\otimes}_m Z_{W'} \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N').$$

Proof. It is convenient to set $\mathcal{F}(M_1, \dots, M_m) = \mathcal{F}(M_1) \times \dots \times \mathcal{F}(M_m)$ for closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds M_1, \dots, M_m . On a boundary condition

$$(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) \in \mathcal{F}(M, M', N, N'),$$

the monoidal tensor product of the state sums Z_W and $Z_{W'}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (Z_W \widehat{\otimes}_m Z_{W'})(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) &= Z_W(f_M, f_N) \times Z_{W'}(f_{M'}, f_{N'}) \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)} YS(F) \right\} \times \left\{ \sum_{F' \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f_{M'}, f_{N'})} YS(F') \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

By equation (10) in Section 4, the product of the sums equals the sum of the products,

$$(Z_W \widehat{\otimes}_m Z_{W'})(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) = \sum_{(F, F') \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N) \times \mathcal{F}(W'; f_{M'}, f_{N'})} YS(F) \times YS(F').$$

With $[m] = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(F)$, $[n] = \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F)$, $[r] = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(F')$ and $[s] = \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F')$, the relevant product in evaluating $YS(F) \times YS(F')$ is of type (20),

$$\mathcal{Q}(H_{m,n}) \times \mathcal{Q}(H_{r,s}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}(H_{m+r, n+s}).$$

By Lemma 6.13 and since Y is a monoidal functor,

$$(YS(F) \otimes 1) \times (YS(F') \otimes 1) = (YS(F) \otimes YS(F')) \otimes (1 \cdot 1) = Y(\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F')) \otimes 1.$$

Let $\mathfrak{S}(W, W')$ be the set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}(W, W') &= \{\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F') \mid F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N), F' \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f_{M'}, f_{N'})\} \\ &= \{\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F') \mid F \in \mathcal{F}(W), F' \in \mathcal{F}(W') : \\ &\quad \exists \varepsilon(0), \varepsilon'(0) \in (0, \varepsilon_W), \varepsilon(1), \varepsilon'(1) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'}), \\ &\quad F|_{[0, \varepsilon(0)] \times M} \approx f_M, F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(0), 1] \times N} \approx f_N, \\ &\quad F'|_{[0, \varepsilon(1)] \times M'} \approx f_{M'}, F'|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(1), 1] \times N'} \approx f_{N'}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The (ρ -image of the) state sum of the disjoint union $W \sqcup W'$ is given on $(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'})$ by

$$\rho(Z_{W \sqcup W'})(f_M, f_{M'}, f_N, f_{N'}) = Z_{W \sqcup W'}(f_M \sqcup f_{M'}, f_N \sqcup f_{N'}) = \sum_{H \in \mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W'; f_M \sqcup f_{M'}, f_N \sqcup f_{N'})} YS(H).$$

Let $\mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W')$ be the set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W') &= \{\mathbb{S}(H) \mid H \in \mathcal{F}(W \sqcup W'; f_M \sqcup f_{M'}, f_N \sqcup f_{N'})\} \\ &= \{\mathbb{S}(H) \mid H \in \mathcal{F}(W \sqcup W') : \\ &\quad \exists \varepsilon_+(0), \varepsilon_+(1), \varepsilon'_+(0), \varepsilon'_+(1) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'}) : \\ &\quad H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(0)] \times M} \approx f_M, H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(0), 1] \times N} \approx f_N, \\ &\quad H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(1)] \times M'} \approx f_{M'}, H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(1), 1] \times N'} \approx f_{N'}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let us prove that $\mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W') \subset \mathfrak{S}(W, W')$. Given $\mathbb{S}(H)$ in $\mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W')$, we put

$$\begin{aligned} F &= H|_W, & \varepsilon(0) &= \varepsilon_+(0), & \varepsilon'(0) &= \varepsilon'_+(0), \\ F' &= H|_{W'}, & \varepsilon(1) &= \varepsilon_+(1), & \varepsilon'(1) &= \varepsilon'_+(1). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon(0) &= \varepsilon_+(0) < \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'} = \varepsilon_W, & \varepsilon'(0) &= \varepsilon'_+(0) < \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'} = \varepsilon_W, \\ \varepsilon(1) &= \varepsilon_+(1) < \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'} = \varepsilon_{W'}, & \varepsilon'(1) &= \varepsilon'_+(1) < \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'} = \varepsilon_{W'}. \end{aligned}$$

The map F is a fold field on W , since $F = H(0)$ and $H(0) \in \mathcal{F}((W \sqcup W')(0)) = \mathcal{F}(W)$. Similarly, F' is a fold field on W' , since $F' = H(1)$ and $H(1) \in \mathcal{F}((W \sqcup W')(1)) = \mathcal{F}(W')$. The correct boundary conditions are satisfied, since

$$\begin{aligned} F|_{[0, \varepsilon(0)] \times M} &= H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(0)] \times M} \approx f_M, & F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(0), 1] \times N} &= H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(0), 1] \times N} \approx f_N, \\ F'|_{[0, \varepsilon(1)] \times M'} &= H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(1)] \times M'} \approx f_{M'}, & F'|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(1), 1] \times N'} &= H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(1), 1] \times N'} \approx f_{N'}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the equation $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(H(0)) \otimes \mathbb{S}(H(1)) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F')$ shows that $\mathbb{S}(H) \in \mathfrak{S}(W, W')$.

Conversely, we shall show that $\mathfrak{S}(W, W') \subset \mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W')$. Given $\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F')$ in $\mathfrak{S}(W, W')$, we put

$$\begin{aligned} H &= F \sqcup F' : W \sqcup W' \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}, \\ \varepsilon_+(0) &= \varepsilon(0), \varepsilon_+(1) = \varepsilon(1), \varepsilon'_+(0) = \varepsilon'(0), \varepsilon'_+(1) = \varepsilon'(1). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_+(0) &= \varepsilon(0) < \varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'}, & \varepsilon_+(1) &= \varepsilon(1) < \varepsilon_{W'} = \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'}, \\ \varepsilon'_+(0) &= \varepsilon'(0) < \varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'}, & \varepsilon'_+(1) &= \varepsilon'(1) < \varepsilon_{W'} = \varepsilon_{W \sqcup W'}. \end{aligned}$$

As F and F' are fold fields on $W = (W \sqcup W')(0)$ and $W' = (W \sqcup W')(1)$, respectively, and $H(0) = F$, $H(1) = F'$, the map H is a fold field on $W \sqcup W'$. The correct boundary conditions are satisfied, since

$$\begin{aligned} H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(0)] \times M} &= F|_{[0, \varepsilon(0)] \times M} \approx f_M, & H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(0), 1] \times N} &= F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(0), 1] \times N} \approx f_N, \\ H|_{[0, \varepsilon_+(1)] \times M'} &= F'|_{[0, \varepsilon(1)] \times M'} \approx f_{M'}, & H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_+(1), 1] \times N'} &= F'|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(1), 1] \times N'} \approx f_{N'}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the equation $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(H(0)) \otimes \mathbb{S}(H(1)) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F')$ shows that $\mathbb{S}(H) \in \mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W')$.

Consequently, $\mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W') = \mathfrak{S}(W, W')$ and, applying the functor Y ,

$$Y(\mathfrak{S}(W \sqcup W')) = Y(\mathfrak{S}(W, W')).$$

By Proposition 6.15, the idempotent semiring $\mathcal{Q}^m = (Q, +, \times)$ is continuous. Thus we can conclude from Proposition 4.2 that

$$\sum_{H \in \mathcal{F}(W \sqcup W'; f_M \sqcup f_{M'}, f_N \sqcup f_{N'})} Y\mathbb{S}(H) = \sum_{(F, F') \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N) \times \mathcal{F}(W'; f_{M'}, f_{N'})} Y(\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \mathbb{S}(F')).$$

□

7.7. The Gluing Theorem. This section proves the Gluing Theorem 7.26. The proof falls naturally into two parts: Let W be a cobordism obtained from gluing a cobordism W' along its outgoing boundary N to a cobordism W'' with incoming boundary N . Then one must show that any fold field H on W can be broken up into a fold field F on W' and a fold field G on W'' in such a way that the Brauer morphism of H is the composition of the Brauer morphisms of F and G , i.e. $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F)$. This is done in Proposition 7.23. Conversely, one must show that fold fields F on W' and G on W'' that agree in a suitable sense near N , can be “glued” to a fold field H on W such that $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F)$. This is the content of Proposition 7.25. Throughout these processes, the boundary conditions on ∂W must remain unchanged.

Proposition 7.23. *Let W' be a cobordism from M to N with cylinder scale $\varepsilon_{W'}$ and W'' a cobordism from N to P with cylinder scale $\varepsilon_{W''}$. Let $W = W' \cup_N W''$ be the cobordism from M to P obtained by gluing W' and W'' along N and let $\varepsilon_W = \frac{1}{2} \min(\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''})$ be its natural cylinder scale. Given a fold field $H : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $\varepsilon(a), \varepsilon'(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_W)$ and $h_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$ and $h_P \in \mathcal{F}(P)$ such that $H|_{[0, \varepsilon(a)] \times M(a)} \approx h_M(a)$, $H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(a), 1] \times P(a)} \approx h_P(a)$ for all $a \in s(W)$, there exist fold fields $F : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $G : W'' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $\varepsilon_1(a), \varepsilon'_1(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'})$, $\varepsilon_2(a), \varepsilon'_2(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W''})$, $u \in \mathcal{F}(N)$ such that*

$$(1) F|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(a)] \times M(a)} \approx H|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(a)] \times M(a)}, G|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_2(a), 1] \times P(a)} \approx H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_2(a), 1] \times P(a)},$$

$$(2) F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_1(a), 1] \times N(a)} \approx u(a) \approx G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(a)] \times N(a)}, \text{ and}$$

$$(3) \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(H) \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br}),$$

for all $a \in s(W)$.

Proof. Let H be a fold field on W and $\varepsilon(a), \varepsilon'(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_W)$ such that $H|_{[0, \varepsilon(a)] \times M(a)} \approx h_M(a)$, $H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(a), 1] \times P(a)} \approx h_P(a)$ for all $a \in s(W)$. As W' and W'' are both cylindrical near N , the glued cobordism W is cylindrical over a neighborhood of $t = \frac{1}{2}$, that is, there exists a small $\kappa > 0$ such that $\max_a \varepsilon(a) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \kappa$, $\frac{1}{2} + \kappa \leq 1 - \max_a \varepsilon'(a)$, the preimage of the interval $[\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa]$ under the first coordinate function $\omega : W \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is the band

$$B = \omega^{-1}[\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] = [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] \times N,$$

and the restriction $\omega|_B : B \rightarrow [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa]$ is given by $\omega|_B(t, x) = t$, $t \in [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa]$, $x \in N$. In fact we can and will take $\kappa = \varepsilon_W = \frac{1}{2} \min(\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''})$.

Recall that $s(W)$ is the set of all $a \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the slice $W(a)$ is nonempty. For every $a \in s(W)$, the set $\mathfrak{h} H(a) \cap \text{GenIm} H(a)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ by Remark 7.10. Thus the finite intersection

$$\bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\mathfrak{h} H(a) \cap \text{GenIm} H(a))$$

is residual, and hence dense, in $[0, 1]$. Therefore, there exists a value

$$t_0 \in (\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa) \cap \bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\mathfrak{h} H(a) \cap \text{GenIm} H(a)).$$

In particular, $t_0 \in \mathfrak{h}(H)$. By Corollary 7.8, $\mathfrak{h}(H)$ is open in $[0, 1]$. Thus there is a $\delta_0 > 0$ such that $[t_0 - \delta_0, t_0 + \delta_0] \subset \mathfrak{h}(H) \cap (\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa)$. Using Lemma 7.7, $t_0 \in \mathfrak{h}(H) = \text{Reg}(\omega|_{S(H)}) \cap \text{Reg}(W)$, so t_0 is a regular value of $\omega|_{S(H)}$. Thus at every point $x \in S(H) \cap W_{t_0} = S(H) \cap t_0 \times N$, the differential $D_x(\omega|_{S(H)})$ is onto, hence an isomorphism. By the inverse function theorem, $\omega|_{S(H)}$ is a local diffeomorphism near every $x \in S(H) \cap t_0 \times N$. As $S(H(a))$ and $W(a)_{t_0}$ are transverse and of complementary dimension in W , and by compactness, their intersection is a finite set

$$S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a) = \{p_1^a, \dots, p_k^a\}, p_i^a \neq p_j^a \text{ for } i \neq j.$$

Let us write $z_i^a = H(p_i^a)$, $i = 1, \dots, k(a)$, for the images. Since $t_0 \in \text{GenIm}H(a)$, the function $\text{Im} \circ H(a) : S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective, that is, $\text{Im} z_i^a \neq \text{Im} z_j^a$ whenever $i \neq j$. Thus the number

$$\alpha(a) = \min\{|\text{Im}(z_i^a) - \text{Im}(z_j^a)| : 1 \leq i < j \leq k(a)\}$$

is positive. We may assume that the indexing of the p_i^a has been chosen so that $\text{Im} z_i^a < \text{Im} z_j^a$ iff $i < j$. As H is continuous, there exists for every i a small open neighborhood U_i^a of p_i^a such that $|H(a)(x) - z_i^a| < \alpha(a)/4$ for all $x \in U_i^a$. We may assume that the U_i^a have been arranged so that they do not overlap, $U_i^a \cap U_j^a = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$. Since $\omega|_{S(H)}$ is a local diffeomorphism near every p_i^a , there is an open neighborhood $V_i^a \subset S(H)$ of p_i^a and a corresponding open neighborhood $\hat{V}_i^a \subset (t_0 - \delta_0, t_0 + \delta_0)$ of $t_0 = \omega(p_i^a)$ such that $\omega|_{V_i^a} : V_i^a \rightarrow \hat{V}_i^a$ is a diffeomorphism and $V_i^a \subset U_i^a$. The finite intersection $\bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\hat{V}_1^a \cap \dots \cap \hat{V}_{k(a)}^a)$ is open and contains t_0 . Consequently, there exists a $\delta > 0$ with

$$[t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \subset \bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\hat{V}_1^a \cap \dots \cap \hat{V}_{k(a)}^a).$$

Note that

$$[t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \subset (t_0 - \delta_0, t_0 + \delta_0) \subset \text{Im}(H) \cap (\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa).$$

We put

$$W_{\leq 1/2} = W \cap [0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}^D, \quad W_{\geq 1/2} = W \cap [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$$

and

$$\hat{W}' = W \cap [0, t_0 + \delta] \times \mathbb{R}^D, \quad \check{W}'' = W \cap [t_0 - \delta, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D.$$

The diffeomorphism $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow [0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (t/2, x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\phi_1 : W' \xrightarrow{\cong} W_{\leq 1/2}$. Since $\frac{1}{2} - \kappa < t_0 + \delta$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\lambda_1 : [0, \frac{1}{2}] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, t_0 + \delta]$ with $\lambda_1(t) = t$ for $t \in [0, \frac{1}{2} - \kappa]$. As $W \cap [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] \times \mathbb{R}^D = [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] \times N$, the diffeomorphism $[0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow [0, t_0 + \delta] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (\lambda_1(t), x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\bar{\lambda}_1 : W_{\leq 1/2} \xrightarrow{\cong} \hat{W}'$. Let $\psi_1 : W' \xrightarrow{\cong} \hat{W}'$ be the composition $\psi_1 = \bar{\lambda}_1 \phi_1$. Define $F : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ to be the composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W' & \xrightarrow{\cong} & \hat{W}' \\ & \searrow F & \downarrow H \\ & & \mathbb{C}. \end{array}$$

Given $a \in s(W)$, we verify that there is an $\varepsilon_1(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'})$ such that $F|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(a)] \times M(a)} \approx H|_{[0, \varepsilon(a)] \times M(a)}$ for a suitable $\varepsilon_1(a)$. Take $\varepsilon_1(a) = 2\varepsilon(a)$ and consider the diffeomorphism $\mu(a) : [0, \varepsilon_1(a)] \rightarrow [0, \varepsilon(a)]$, $\mu(a)(t) = t/2$. Note that this $\varepsilon_1(a)$ is an admissible choice, since

$$0 < \varepsilon_1(a) = 2\varepsilon(a) < 2\varepsilon_W = \min(\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''}) \leq \varepsilon_{W'}.$$

For $t \in [0, \varepsilon_1(a)]$, we have $\frac{t}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2} - \kappa$, for $\varepsilon(a) \leq \frac{1}{2} - \kappa$ by our choice of κ . Hence for such t and $x \in M(a)$,

$$F(t, x) = H\bar{\lambda}_1\phi_1(t, x) = H\bar{\lambda}_1(\frac{1}{2}t, x) = H(\frac{1}{2}t, x) = H(\mu(a)(t), x).$$

This establishes the claim.

Next, we shall show that $F : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a fold field. First, F is a fold map: The restriction of H to \hat{W}' is a fold map by restricting the fold charts for H to \hat{W}' . Then the composition of a

diffeomorphism with a fold map is again a fold map because one can use the diffeomorphism to transport the fold charts from its codomain to its domain.

Fix an $a \in s(W)$. We check that $0, 1 \in \mathfrak{h} F(a) \cap \text{GenIm} F(a)$. As ψ_1 is a diffeomorphism, we have $\psi_1 S((H\psi_1)(a)) = S(H(a)|_{\hat{W}'})$. Since $0 \in \mathfrak{h} H(a)$, the singular set $S(H(a))$ is transverse to $0 \times M(a)$. Hence $\psi_1 S((H\psi_1)(a)) \pitchfork \psi_1(0 \times M(a))$, as $\psi_1(0 \times M(a)) = 0 \times M(a)$. This implies $S((H\psi_1)(a)) \pitchfork 0 \times M(a)$, i.e. $S(F(a)) \pitchfork 0 \times M(a)$. Therefore $0 \in \mathfrak{h} F(a)$. Since $t_0 + \delta \in \mathfrak{h} (H)$, the manifold $S(H(a))$ is transverse to $W(a)_{t_0+\delta} = (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a)$. Then $\psi_1 S((H\psi_1)(a)) \pitchfork \psi_1(1 \times N(a))$, as $\psi_1(1 \times N(a)) = (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a)$. Hence $S(F(a)) \pitchfork 1 \times N(a)$ and so $1 \in \mathfrak{h} F(a)$.

The function $\text{Im} \circ H(a) : S(H(a)) \cap 0 \times M(a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective, for we know that $0 \in \text{GenIm} H(a)$. The diffeomorphism ψ_1 induces a bijection

$$S(F(a)) \cap 0 \times M(a) \xrightarrow{\psi_1|} \psi_1 S(F(a)) \cap \psi_1(0 \times M(a)) = S(H(a)) \cap 0 \times M(a).$$

Thus $\text{Im} \circ F(a)|_{S(F(a)) \cap 0 \times M(a)} = \text{Im} \circ (H \circ \psi_1)(a)|_{S(F(a)) \cap 0 \times M(a)}$ is injective, which shows that $0 \in \text{GenIm} F(a)$. In order to prove that $1 \in \text{GenIm} F(a)$, our immediate next objective is to demonstrate that $t_0 + \delta \in \text{GenIm} H(a)$. As $t_0 + \delta \in \hat{V}_i^a$ and $\omega| : V_i^a \rightarrow \hat{V}_i^a$ is a diffeomorphism, there exists a unique point $q_i \in V_i^a$ with $\omega(q_i) = t_0 + \delta$. Since $V_i^a \cap V_j^a = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$, we have $q_i \neq q_j$ for $i \neq j$. We obtain a subset

$$\{q_1, \dots, q_k\} \subset S(H(a)) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a)$$

of cardinality $k = k(a)$. We claim that in fact these two sets are equal, which can be seen as follows. Since

$$[t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \subset \mathfrak{h} H(a) = \text{Reg}(\omega|_{S(H(a))}) \cap \text{Reg} W(a),$$

the restriction

$$\omega|_{S(H(a))} : S(H(a)) \cap [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \times N(a) \longrightarrow [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta]$$

has no critical points. By a standard result proven in treatments of Morse theory (cf. [Hir76, Theorem 6.2.2]), there exists a diffeomorphism

$$d : (S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a)) \times [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \xrightarrow{\cong} S(H(a)) \cap ([t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \times N(a))$$

such that

(34)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a)) \times [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] & \xrightarrow{d} & S(H(a)) \cap ([t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] \times N(a)) \\ & \searrow \text{proj}_2 & \swarrow \omega|_{S(H(a))} \\ & [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta] & \end{array}$$

commutes and d is the identity on $(S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a)) \times \{t_0\}$. In particular, the level sets of $\omega|_{S(H(a))}$ over $[t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta]$ are all diffeomorphic to each other. So $S(H(a)) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a)$ must have the same cardinality as $S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a)$, namely k . But since $\{q_1, \dots, q_k\}$ already has cardinality k , we must have

$$\{q_1, \dots, q_k\} = S(H(a)) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a).$$

In order to establish $t_0 + \delta \in \text{GenIm} H(a)$, we must show that $\text{Im} \circ H(a) : S(H(a)) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective, that is, $\text{Im} H(a)(q_i) \neq \text{Im} H(a)(q_j)$ for $i \neq j$. As $q_i \in V_i^a \subset U_i^a$,

we have the estimate

$$|\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \operatorname{Im}z_i^a| \leq |H(a)(q_i) - z_i^a| < \frac{\alpha(a)}{4}.$$

We bound $|\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_j)|$ away from zero by arguing

$$\begin{aligned} & |\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_j)| \\ &= |\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \operatorname{Im}z_i^a + \operatorname{Im}z_i^a - \operatorname{Im}z_j^a + \operatorname{Im}z_j^a - \operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_j)| \\ &\geq |\operatorname{Im}z_i^a - \operatorname{Im}z_j^a| - |\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \operatorname{Im}z_i^a| - |\operatorname{Im}H(a)(q_j) - \operatorname{Im}z_j^a| \\ &\geq \alpha(a) - \frac{\alpha(a)}{4} - \frac{\alpha(a)}{4} = \frac{\alpha(a)}{2} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $t_0 + \delta \in \operatorname{GenIm}H(a)$. The diffeomorphism ψ_1 induces a bijection

$$S(F(a)) \cap 1 \times N(a) \xrightarrow{\psi_1|} \psi_1 S(F(a)) \cap \psi_1(1 \times N(a)) = S(H(a)) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a).$$

Hence $\operatorname{Im} \circ F(a)|_{S(F(a)) \cap 1 \times N(a)} = \operatorname{Im} \circ (H \circ \psi_1)(a)|_{S(F(a)) \cap 1 \times N(a)}$ is injective and we conclude that $1 \in \operatorname{GenIm}F(a)$.

We move on to show that $\operatorname{GenIm}F(a)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. Let $h_1 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, \frac{1}{2}]$ denote the diffeomorphism $h_1(t) = \frac{t}{2}$. We shall use the commutative diagram

$$(35) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} & & \psi_1 & & \\ & & \curvearrowright & & \\ W' & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\phi_1} & W_{\leq 1/2} & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\bar{\lambda}_1} & \hat{W}' \\ \omega \downarrow & & \omega \downarrow & & \omega \downarrow \\ [0, 1] & \xrightarrow[\cong]{h_1} & [0, \frac{1}{2}] & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\lambda_1} & [0, t_0 + \delta]. \end{array}$$

We have $\lambda_1 h_1 \operatorname{GenIm}F(a) = \operatorname{GenIm}(H(a)|_{\hat{W}'})$. As H is a fold field on W , $\operatorname{GenIm}H(a)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. By Lemma 7.4, $\operatorname{GenIm}H(a) \cap (0, t_0 + \delta)$ is residual in $(0, t_0 + \delta)$. Thus $\operatorname{GenIm}H(a) \cap [0, t_0 + \delta]$ is residual in $[0, t_0 + \delta]$. Using the above formula,

$$\operatorname{GenIm}H(a) \cap [0, t_0 + \delta] = \operatorname{GenIm}(H(a)|_{\hat{W}'}) = \lambda_1 h_1 \operatorname{GenIm}F(a).$$

Since $\lambda_1 h_1$ is a homeomorphism, $\operatorname{GenIm}F(a)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. This finishes the proof that $F \in \mathcal{F}(W')$.

In a similar manner, we shall construct a fold field G on W'' : The diffeomorphism $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (\frac{1}{2}(t+1), x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\phi_2 : W'' \xrightarrow{\cong} W_{\geq 1/2}$. Since $t_0 - \delta < \frac{1}{2} + \kappa$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\lambda_2 : [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} [t_0 - \delta, 1]$ with $\lambda_2(t) = t$ for $t \in [\frac{1}{2} + \kappa, 1]$. As $W \cap [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] \times \mathbb{R}^D = [\frac{1}{2} - \kappa, \frac{1}{2} + \kappa] \times N$, the diffeomorphism $[\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow [t_0 - \delta, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (\lambda_2(t), x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\bar{\lambda}_2 : W_{\geq 1/2} \xrightarrow{\cong} \check{W}''$. Let $\psi_2 : W'' \xrightarrow{\cong} \check{W}''$ be the composition $\psi_2 = \bar{\lambda}_2 \phi_2$. Define $G : W'' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ to be the composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W'' & \xrightarrow[\cong]{\psi_2} & \check{W}'' \\ & \searrow G & \downarrow H| \\ & & \mathbb{C}. \end{array}$$

Let $a \in s(W)$. Taking $\varepsilon'_2(a) = 2\varepsilon'(a) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W''})$, one verifies easily that $G|_{[1-\varepsilon'_2(a), 1] \times P(a)} \approx H|_{[1-\varepsilon'(a)] \times P(a)}$. Arguments analogous to the ones used to show that F is a fold field also show

that G is a fold field on W'' . The key points are that $t_0 - \delta \in \mathfrak{h}(H)$ (whence $0 \in \mathfrak{h}(G)$), and $t_0 - \delta \in \text{GenIm} H(a)$ for every $a \in s(W)$ (whence $0 \in \text{GenIm} G(a)$ for all such a).

Let us construct the required $u \in \mathcal{F}(N)$. Set $J = [t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta]$, let $\mu : [0, 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} J$ be the diffeomorphism $\mu(t) = 2\delta t + t_0 - \delta$ and $\bar{\mu} : [0, 1] \times N \xrightarrow{\cong} J \times N$ the diffeomorphism $\bar{\mu}(t, x) = (\mu(t), x)$. Define u to be the composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [0, 1] \times N & \xrightarrow{\cong} & J \times N \\ & \searrow u & \downarrow H \\ & & \mathbb{C}. \end{array}$$

Then by construction $H|_{J \times N} \approx u$. With $\varepsilon'_1(a) = 1 - h_1^{-1} \lambda_1^{-1}(t_0 - \delta)$ (actually $\varepsilon'_1 = \varepsilon'_1(a)$ is independent of a), the diffeomorphism $\lambda_1 h_1 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, t_0 + \delta]$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $(\lambda_1 h_1)| : [1 - \varepsilon'_1, 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} J$. Then $\varepsilon'_1 < \varepsilon_{W'}$. The equation $F(t, x) = H(\lambda_1 h_1(t), x)$ for $t \in [1 - \varepsilon'_1, 1]$, $x \in N$, shows that $F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_1, 1] \times N} \approx H|_{J \times N}$. Consequently, $F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_1, 1] \times N} \approx u$. Let $h_2 : [0, 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ be given by $h_2(t) = \frac{1}{2}(t + 1)$. With $\varepsilon_2(a) = h_2^{-1} \lambda_2^{-1}(t_0 + \delta)$ (actually $\varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_2(a)$ is independent of a), the diffeomorphism $\lambda_2 h_2 : [0, 1] \rightarrow [t_0 - \delta, 1]$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $(\lambda_2 h_2)| : [0, \varepsilon_2] \xrightarrow{\cong} J$. We have $\varepsilon_2 < \varepsilon_{W''}$. The equation $G(t, x) = H(\lambda_2 h_2(t), x)$ for $t \in [0, \varepsilon_2]$, $x \in N$, shows that $G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2] \times N} \approx H|_{J \times N} \approx u$.

Next, we argue that u lies in $\mathcal{F}(N)$. The restriction of H to $J \times N$ is a fold map. As $\bar{\mu}$ is a diffeomorphism, the composition $u = H\bar{\mu}$ is a fold map as well. The fact that $t_0 - \delta \in \mathfrak{h}(H|_{J \times N})$ implies that

$$0 = \mu^{-1}(t_0 - \delta) \in \mu^{-1} \mathfrak{h}(H|_{J \times N}) = \mathfrak{h}(H\bar{\mu}) = \mathfrak{h}(u),$$

while $t_0 + \delta \in \mathfrak{h}(H)$ implies that $1 \in \mathfrak{h}(u)$. Moreover, $t_0 - \delta \in \text{GenIm}(H(a)|_{J \times N})$ implies

$$0 = \mu^{-1}(t_0 - \delta) \in \mu^{-1} \text{GenIm}(H(a)|_{J \times N}) = \text{GenIm}(H\bar{\mu})(a) = \text{GenIm} u(a),$$

and $t_0 + \delta \in \text{GenIm}(H(a)|_{J \times N})$ implies $1 \in \text{GenIm} u(a)$. By Lemma 7.4,

$$\mu \text{GenIm} u(a) = \text{GenIm}(H(a)|_{J \times N}) = \text{GenIm} H(a) \cap J$$

is residual in $J = \mu[0, 1]$. As μ is a homeomorphism, $\text{GenIm} u(a)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. Thus u is a fold field on $[0, 1] \times N$. Our next task is to show that the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(u)$ is the identity. By Lemma 7.19, $\mathbb{S}(u) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{J \times N})$. We claim that

$$(36) \quad S(H(a)) \cap J \times N(a) \subset \bigsqcup_i V_i^a.$$

Suppose $x \in S(H(a)) \cap J \times N(a)$ so that $t = \omega(x)$ lies in J . Using the diffeomorphism d of diagram (34), the set $S(H(a)) \cap t \times N(a)$ is seen to have cardinality k . For any i , t lies in $t \in J \subset \hat{V}_i^a$ and thus there exists a unique $x_i \in V_i^a$ such that $\omega(x_i) = t$, as $\omega| : V_i^a \rightarrow \hat{V}_i^a$ is a diffeomorphism. The subset

$$\{x_1, \dots, x_k\} \subset S(H(a)) \cap t \times N(a)$$

has cardinality k , as the V_i^a are pairwise disjoint. Since $S(H(a)) \cap t \times N(a)$ has cardinality k , we actually have equality,

$$\{x_1, \dots, x_k\} = S(H(a)) \cap t \times N(a).$$

Consequently, there is an i such that $x = x_i$. This shows that $x \in V_i^a$ and proves the claim (36). Again using the diffeomorphism d , we set

$$c_i^a = d(\{p_i^a\} \times J).$$

Then c_1^a, \dots, c_k^a are the connected components of $S(H(a)|_{J \times N}) = S(H(a)) \cap J \times N(a)$, and since d is the identity on $(S(H(a)) \cap t_0 \times N(a)) \times \{t_0\}$, c_i^a is the unique component that contains p_i^a . The boundary $\partial c_i^a = \{q_i, q_i'\}$ consists of the two endpoints $q_i = d(p_i^a, t_0 + \delta)$ and $q_i' = d(p_i^a, t_0 - \delta)$. As c_i^a is contained in $S(H(a)) \cap J \times N(a)$, it is by (36) in particular contained in the disjoint union $\bigcup_{j=1}^{k(a)} V_j^a$. Since c_i^a is connected, it must thus entirely lie in one V_j^a . As $p_i^a \in c_i^a \cap V_i^a$, this V_j^a must equal V_i^a . We have shown that $c_i^a \subset V_i^a$ and in particular that $q_i, q_i' \in V_i^a \subset U_i^a$. We claim that $\text{Im}H(a)(q_i) < \text{Im}H(a)(q_j)$ iff $i < j$. To see this, suppose that $i < j$. Then $\text{Im}z_j^a - \text{Im}z_i^a > 0$ and hence $\text{Im}z_j^a - \text{Im}z_i^a = |\text{Im}z_j^a - \text{Im}z_i^a| \geq \alpha(a)$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}H(a)(q_j) - \text{Im}H(a)(q_i) &= \text{Im}H(a)(q_j) - \text{Im}z_j^a + \text{Im}z_j^a - \text{Im}z_i^a + \text{Im}z_i^a - \text{Im}H(a)(q_i) \\ &\geq \alpha(a) - |\text{Im}H(a)(q_j) - \text{Im}z_j^a| - |\text{Im}H(a)(q_i) - \text{Im}z_i^a| \\ &\geq \alpha(a) - \frac{\alpha(a)}{4} - \frac{\alpha(a)}{4} = \frac{\alpha(a)}{2} > 0, \end{aligned}$$

proving the claim. Using $q_i' \in U_i^a$, one sees similarly that $\text{Im}H(a)(q_i') < \text{Im}H(a)(q_j')$ iff $i < j$. Note that $\{q_1, \dots, q_k\} = S(H(a)|_{J \times N}) \cap (t_0 + \delta) \times N(a)$ and $\{q_1', \dots, q_k'\} = S(H(a)|_{J \times N}) \cap (t_0 - \delta) \times N(a)$. For every i , c_i^a has boundary $\partial c_i^a = \{q_i', q_i\}$ and thus $\mathbb{S}(H(a)|_{J \times N})$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, i, 0, 0)$ by an arc. There are no loops, as $S(H(a)|_{J \times N})$ has no loops. Therefore, $\mathbb{S}(u(a)) = \mathbb{S}(H(a)|_{J \times N}) = 1_{[k(a)]}$ and so $\mathbb{S}(u) = \bigotimes_a \mathbb{S}(u(a)) = 1$. This concludes the proof that u lies in $\mathcal{F}(N)$.

It remains to verify the Brauer morphism equation $\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(H)$. By Lemma 7.20, $\mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'})$ (using the diffeomorphism $\psi_1 : W' \rightarrow \hat{W}'$) and $\mathbb{S}(G) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}''})$ (using the diffeomorphism $\psi_2 : W'' \rightarrow \hat{W}''$). Set $\hat{W}' = W \cap [0, t_0 - \delta] \times \mathbb{R}^D$. As

$$t_0 - \delta \in (0, 1) \cap \bigcap_{a \in s(W)} (\text{th } H(a) \cap \text{GenIm}H(a)),$$

Lemma 7.12 applies to yield $\mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'}) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{J \times N}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'})$ and $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}''}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'})$. In summary,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) &= \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}''}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'}) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}''}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{J \times N}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'}) \\ &= \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}''}) \circ 1 \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{\hat{W}'}) = \mathbb{S}(H), \end{aligned}$$

as required. \square

Lemma 7.24. *Let W' be a cobordism from M to N and W'' a cobordism from N to P . Let $W = W' \cup_N W''$ be the cobordism from M to P obtained by gluing W' and W'' along N . Let $\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''} > 0$ be cylinder scales for W' and W'' , respectively. Let $F \in \mathcal{F}(W')$, $G \in \mathcal{F}(W'')$ be fold fields such that there are $\varepsilon_1'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'})$, $\varepsilon_2(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W''})$ and a map $u \in \mathcal{F}(N)$ with*

$$F|_{[1-\varepsilon_1'(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx u(k) \approx G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)}$$

for all $k \in s(W)$. Then

$$\text{cod}\mathbb{S}(F) = \text{dom}\mathbb{S}(G).$$

Proof. Let $[d_k] = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(u(k))$ be the domain of $\mathbb{S}(u(k))$. Since $\mathbb{S}(u) = 1 \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$, Lemma 2.13 implies that $\mathbb{S}(u(k)) = 1$ for all k and thus $\text{cod } \mathbb{S}(u(k)) = [d_k]$ as well. By Lemma 7.19, $\mathbb{S}(F|_{[1-\varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(u(k)) = \mathbb{S}(G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)})$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F(k)) &= [\text{card}(S(F(k)) \cap N)] = [\text{card}(S(F|_{[1-\varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)}) \cap 1 \times N)] \\ &= \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F|_{[1-\varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)}) = \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(u(k)) = [d_k] = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(u(k)) \\ &= \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)}) = [\text{card}(S(G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)}) \cap 0 \times N)] \\ &= [\text{card}(S(G(k)) \cap N)] = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(G(k)) \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F) &= \text{cod } \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \bigotimes_k \text{cod } \mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \bigotimes_k \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(G(k)) \\ &= \text{dom } \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(G(k)) = \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(G). \end{aligned}$$

□

Proposition 7.25. *Let W' be a cobordism from M to N and W'' a cobordism from N to P . Assume without loss of generality that W' and W'' are given equal cylinder scales $\varepsilon_{W'} = \varepsilon_{W''}$. (If they are not equal, replace the larger one by the smaller one.) Let $W = W' \cup_N W''$ be the cobordism from M to P obtained by gluing W' and W'' along N , equipped with its natural cylinder scale $\varepsilon_W = \frac{1}{2} \min(\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''}) = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{W'} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{W''}$. Let $F \in \mathcal{F}(W')$, $G \in \mathcal{F}(W'')$ be fold fields such that there exist $\varepsilon_1(k), \varepsilon'_1(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'})$, $\varepsilon_2(k), \varepsilon'_2(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W''})$, and $h_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$, $h_P \in \mathcal{F}(P)$, $u \in \mathcal{F}(N)$, with*

$$F|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k), \quad G|_{[1-\varepsilon'_2(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k),$$

and

$$F|_{[1-\varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx u(k) \approx G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)}$$

for all $k \in s(W)$. Then there exists a fold field $H \in \mathcal{F}(W)$ and $\varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_W)$ with

$$H|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k), \quad H|_{[1-\varepsilon'(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k),$$

for all k and $\mathbb{S}(H) = \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F)$.

Proof. Let $F \in \mathcal{F}(W')$, $G \in \mathcal{F}(W'')$ be fold fields satisfying the hypotheses. Set

$$W_{\leq 1/2} = W \cap [0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}^D, \quad W_{\geq 1/2} = W \cap [\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D.$$

The diffeomorphism

$$[0, \frac{1}{2}] \times \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (t, x) \mapsto (2t, x),$$

restricts to a diffeomorphism $\psi_1 : W_{\leq 1/2} \xrightarrow{\cong} W'$. Set $F^{1/2} = F \circ \psi_1 : W_{\leq 1/2} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. The diffeomorphism

$$[\frac{1}{2}, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D, \quad (t, x) \mapsto (2(t - \frac{1}{2}), x),$$

restricts to a diffeomorphism $\psi_2 : W_{\geq 1/2} \xrightarrow{\cong} W''$. Set $G^{1/2} = G \circ \psi_2 : W_{\geq 1/2} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Since $F|_{[1-\varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx u(k)$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\alpha(k) : [1 - \varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1]$ such that $\alpha(k)(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)) = 0$ and $F(t, x) = u(\alpha(k)(t), x)$ for $1 - \varepsilon'_1(k) \leq t \leq 1$ and $x \in N(k)$. Define $\bar{\alpha}(k) : [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1]$ by $\bar{\alpha}(k)(t) = \alpha(k)(2t)$. As $G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)} \approx u(k)$,

there exists a diffeomorphism $\beta(k) : [0, 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, \varepsilon_2(k)]$ such that $\beta(k)(0) = 0$ and $u(t, x) = G(\beta(k)(t), x)$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$ and $x \in N(k)$. It follows that

$$F(k)(t, x) = G(k)(\beta(k) \circ \alpha(k)(t), x) \text{ for } 1 - \varepsilon'_1(k) \leq t \leq 1 \text{ and } x \in N(k).$$

Thus for $t \in [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}]$,

$$F^{1/2}(k)(t, x) = F(k)(2t, x) = G(k)(\beta(k)\alpha(k)(2t), x) = G(k)(\beta(k)\bar{\alpha}(k)(t), x).$$

Choose a number $\delta(k) \in (\varepsilon_2(k)/2, \varepsilon_{W''}/2)$. Let

$$\lambda(k) : [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, \varepsilon_{W''}]$$

be a diffeomorphism such that

$$\lambda(k)(t) = \begin{cases} \beta(k)\bar{\alpha}(k)(t), & \frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)) \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ 2(t - \frac{1}{2}), & \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k) \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''}). \end{cases}$$

For $(t, x) \in W(k) \subset [0, 1] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$, set

$$H(k)(t, x) = \begin{cases} F^{1/2}(k)(t, x), & (t, x) \in W_{\leq 1/2}(k) \\ G(k)(\lambda(k)(t), x), & (t, x) \in [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} \\ G^{1/2}(k)(t, x), & (t, x) \in W_{\geq 1/2}(k) \cap [\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D. \end{cases}$$

and $H = \bigsqcup_k H(k) : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Then $H(k) : W(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a smooth map since for

$$(t, x) \in W_{\leq 1/2}(k) \cap [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} = [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}] \times N(k),$$

we have $G(k)(\lambda(k)(t), x) = G(k)(\beta(k)\bar{\alpha}(k)(t), x) = F^{1/2}(k)(t, x)$ and for

$$\begin{aligned} (t, x) \in W_{\geq 1/2}(k) \cap [\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D \cap [\frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} \\ = [\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})] \times N(k) \end{aligned}$$

we have $G(k)(\lambda(k)(t), x) = G(k)(2(t - \frac{1}{2}), x) = G^{1/2}(k)(t, x)$. It follows that H is smooth as well.

We claim that H is a fold field. We will write $G_\lambda(k)(t, x) = G(k)(\lambda(k)(t), x)$. If A is a fold map and Φ a diffeomorphism whose codomain is the domain of A , then the composition $A \circ \Phi$ is again a fold map. Thus, $F^{1/2}$, G_λ and $G^{1/2}$ are all fold maps. Using local fold charts for these three maps, one sees that H is a fold map also.

Let us prove that $S(H)$ is transverse to $W_0 = M$. Note that $\psi_1 S(F^{1/2}) = S(F)$ and $\psi_1(M) = M$. As F is a fold field on W' , we know that $S(F)$ is transverse to M , which we can write as $\psi_1 S(F^{1/2}) \pitchfork \psi_1(M)$. Since ψ_1 is a diffeomorphism, this implies that $S(F^{1/2}) \pitchfork M$. Since on a neighborhood of $M = W_0$ in W , H is given by $F^{1/2}$, it follows that $S(H) \pitchfork M$. In a similar manner, using $G^{1/2}$, we see that $S(H)$ is transverse to $W_1 = P$.

Let us proceed to verify that $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm} H(k)$ for every natural number k . As $\psi_1|_M$ is the identity on M , we have $H|_M = F^{1/2}|_M = F|_M$ and $S(H) \cap M = S(F) \cap M$. Since $F \in \mathcal{F}(W')$, the function $\text{Im} F(k) : S(F(k)) \cap M(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective. But this function equals $\text{Im} H(k) : S(H(k)) \cap M(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which is thus also injective. This shows that $0 \in \text{GenIm} H(k)$. Similarly, $1 \in \text{GenIm} H(k)$, using $\psi_2|_P = \text{id}_P$ and $H|_P = G|_P$.

We prove that $\text{GenIm} H(k)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ for $k \in s(W)$. Setting

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &= \text{GenIm} F^{1/2}(k) \cap (0, \frac{1}{2}), \\ R_\delta &= \text{GenIm} G_\lambda(k) \cap (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k)), \\ R_1 &= \text{GenIm} G^{1/2}(k) \cap (\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), 1), \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$(37) \quad R_0 \cup R_\delta \cup R_1 \subset \text{GenIm} H(k).$$

We claim that R_0 is residual in $(0, \frac{1}{2})$. To see this, let $\sigma : [0, \frac{1}{2}] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be the diffeomorphism $\sigma(t) = 2t$. Then $\sigma(\text{GenIm} F^{1/2}(k)) = \text{GenIm} F(k)$. Since the set on the right hand side of this equation is residual in $[0, 1]$ and σ is a homeomorphism, $\text{GenIm} F^{1/2}(k)$ is residual in $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$. By Lemma 7.4, R_0 is residual in $(0, \frac{1}{2})$.

A similar argument shows that R_δ is residual in $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k))$: The diffeomorphism $\lambda(k)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\lambda'(k) : [\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k)] \rightarrow [\varepsilon_2(k), 2\delta(k)]$, $\lambda'(k)(\frac{1}{2}) = \varepsilon_2(k)$, and we have

$$\lambda'(k)(\text{GenIm}(G_\lambda(k)) \cap (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k))) = \text{GenIm} G(k) \cap (\varepsilon_2(k), 2\delta(k)).$$

As the set $\text{GenIm} G(k)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$, Lemma 7.4 applies to ensure that $\text{GenIm} G(k) \cap (\varepsilon_2(k), 2\delta(k))$ is residual in $(\varepsilon_2(k), 2\delta(k))$. Since $\lambda'(k)$ is a homeomorphism, the set $R_\delta = \text{GenIm} G_\lambda(k) \cap (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k))$ is residual in $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \delta(k))$. Analogous reasoning proves that R_1 is residual in $(\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), 1)$. According to Lemma 7.5, $R_0 \cup R_\delta \cup R_1$ is residual in $[0, 1]$. By (37), the superset $\text{GenIm} H(k)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ as well. This completes the proof that H is a fold field.

Next, we verify $H|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k)$ and $H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k)$ for suitable $\varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k)$. The relation $F|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k)$ means that there is a diffeomorphism $\xi(k) : [0, \varepsilon_1(k)] \rightarrow [0, 1]$, $\xi(k)(0) = 0$, such that $F(t, x) = h_M(\xi(k)(t), x)$ for all $0 \leq t \leq \varepsilon_1(k)$, $x \in M(k)$. Set $\varepsilon(k) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_1(k)$ and let $\xi'(k) : [0, \varepsilon(k)] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be the diffeomorphism given by $\xi'(k)(t) = \xi(k)(2t)$. Note that $\varepsilon(k) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_1(k) < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{W'} = \varepsilon_W$, as required. Then for all $0 \leq t \leq \varepsilon(k)$, $x \in M(k)$,

$$H(t, x) = F^{1/2}(t, x) = F\psi_1(t, x) = F(2t, x) = h_M(\xi(k)(2t), x) = h_M(\xi'(k)(t), x).$$

Hence $H|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k)$. Similarly, using $G|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_2(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k)$ and setting $\varepsilon'(k) = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon'_2(k)$, one verifies that the relation $H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k)$ holds, too.

Let us prove the Brauer morphism identity $\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(H)$. Let $a_k = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k))$ and $b_k = 1$. The prescription

$$\tau(k)(t) = \begin{cases} \lambda(k)(t), & t \in [a_k, \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})], \\ 2(t - \frac{1}{2}), & t \in [\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), b_k] \end{cases}$$

yields a well-defined diffeomorphism $\tau(k) : [a_k, b_k] \rightarrow [0, 1]$, $\tau(k)(a_k) = 0$, since for t in the overlap $[\frac{1}{2} + \delta(k), \frac{1}{2}(1 + \varepsilon_{W''})]$, we have $\lambda(k)(t) = 2(t - \frac{1}{2})$. We set $W_{\geq a_k}(k) = W(k) \cap [a_k, b_k] \times \mathbb{R}^D$. Then the diffeomorphism $[a_k, b_k] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1} \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \{k\} \times \mathbb{R}^{D-1}$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (\tau(k)(t), x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\phi(k) : W_{\geq a_k}(k) \xrightarrow{\cong} W''(k)$. The restriction of $H(k)$ to $W_{\geq a_k}(k)$ is given by $G(k) \circ \phi(k)$. By Lemma 7.20, $G(k) \circ \phi(k)$ is a fold field on $W_{\geq a_k}(k)$ and

$$\mathbb{S}(H(k)|_{W_{\geq a_k}}) = \mathbb{S}(G(k) \circ \phi(k)) = \mathbb{S}(G(k)).$$

Let $W_{\leq a_k}(k) = W(k) \cap [0, a_k] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ and $\tilde{W}'(k) = W'(k) \cap [0, 1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)] \times \mathbb{R}^D$. The value $1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)$ lies in $\text{in } F(k) \cap \text{GenIm} F(k)$, since $0 \in \text{in } u(k) \cap \text{GenIm} u(k)$, $F(t, x) = u(\alpha(k)(t), x)$ for $t \in [1 - \varepsilon'_1(k), 1]$, $x \in N(k)$, and $\alpha(k) : [1 - \varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1]$ maps $1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)$ to 0. It follows that $F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)}$ is a fold field on $\tilde{W}'(k)$. The diffeomorphism $[0, a_k] \times \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1 - \varepsilon'_1(k)] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ given by $(t, x) \mapsto (2t, x)$ restricts to a diffeomorphism $\phi'(k) : W_{\leq a_k}(k) \rightarrow \tilde{W}'(k)$ and

$H|_{W_{\leq a_k}(k)} = F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)} \circ \phi'(k)$. Thus by Lemma 7.20, $H|_{W_{\leq a_k}(k)} \in \mathcal{F}(W_{\leq a_k}(k))$ and $\mathbb{S}(H|_{W_{\leq a_k}(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)})$. The restriction of $F(k)$ to $W'_{\text{out}}(k) = W'(k) \cap [1 - \varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ is a fold field on $W'_{\text{out}}(k)$ as $1 - \varepsilon'_1(k) \in \mathfrak{h} F(k) \cap \text{GenIm} F(k)$. It follows from Lemma 7.12 that

$$\mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F|_{W'_{\text{out}}(k)}) \circ \mathbb{S}(F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)}).$$

The diffeomorphism $\alpha(k)$ induces a diffeomorphism $v(k) : W'_{\text{out}}(k) \xrightarrow{\cong} [0, 1] \times N(k)$, $v(k)(t, x) = (\alpha(k)(t), x)$. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W'_{\text{out}}(k) & \xrightarrow{v(k)} & [0, 1] \times N(k) \\ & \searrow F|_{W'_{\text{out}}(k)} & \swarrow u(k) \\ & \mathbb{C} & \end{array}$$

commutes. Since $\bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(u(k)) = \mathbb{S}(u) = 1$, it follows from Lemma 2.13 that $\mathbb{S}(u(k)) = 1$ for all k . We deduce with the aid of Lemma 7.20 that $\mathbb{S}(F|_{W'_{\text{out}}(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(u(k)) = 1$. Consequently, $\mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)})$. From $1 - \varepsilon'_1(k) \in \mathfrak{h} F(k) \cap \text{GenIm} F(k)$ it follows that $a_k = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \varepsilon'_1(k))$ lies in $\mathfrak{h} F^{1/2}(k) \cap \text{GenIm} F^{1/2}(k)$. Therefore, by Lemma 7.12,

$$\mathbb{S}(H(k)) = \mathbb{S}(H|_{W_{\geq a_k}(k)}) \circ \mathbb{S}(H|_{W_{\leq a_k}(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(G(k)) \circ \mathbb{S}(F|_{\tilde{W}'(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(G(k)) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(k)).$$

Letting k vary,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{S}(H) &= \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(H(k)) = \bigotimes_k (\mathbb{S}(G(k)) \circ \mathbb{S}(F(k))) \\ &= \left\{ \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(G(k)) \right\} \circ \left\{ \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(F(k)) \right\} = \mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F). \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 7.26 (Gluing). *Let W' be a cobordism from M to N and W'' a cobordism from N to P . Assume without loss of generality that W' and W'' are given equal cylinder scales $\varepsilon_{W'} = \varepsilon_{W''}$. (If they are not equal, replace the larger one by the smaller one.) Let $W = W' \cup_N W''$ be the cobordism from M to P obtained by gluing W' and W'' along N , equipped with its natural cylinder scale $\varepsilon_W = \frac{1}{2} \min(\varepsilon_{W'}, \varepsilon_{W''}) = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{W'} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{W''}$. Then the state sums*

$$Z_{W'} \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N), Z_{W''} \in Z(N) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P), Z_W \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(P)$$

are related by the gluing law

$$Z_W = \langle Z_{W'}, Z_{W''} \rangle.$$

Proof. On a boundary condition $(h_M, h_P) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(P)$, the contraction product of the two state sums $Z_{W'}$ and $Z_{W''}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle Z_{W'}, Z_{W''} \rangle(h_M, h_P) &= \gamma(Z_{W'} \widehat{\otimes}_c Z_{W''})(h_M, h_P) = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{F}(N)} (Z_{W'} \widehat{\otimes}_c Z_{W''})(h_M, u, u, h_P) \\ &= \sum_{u \in \mathcal{F}(N)} Z_{W'}(h_M, u) \cdot Z_{W''}(u, h_P) \\ &= \sum_u \left\{ \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W'; h_M, u)} Y\mathbb{S}(F) \right\} \cdot \left\{ \sum_{G \in \mathcal{F}(W''; u, h_P)} Y\mathbb{S}(G) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

By equation (10) on page 28, the product of the sums equals the sum of the products,

$$\langle Z_{W'}, Z_{W''} \rangle(h_M, h_P) = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{F}(N)} \sum_{(F, G) \in \mathcal{F}(W'; h_M, u) \times \mathcal{F}(W''; u, h_P)} Y\mathbb{S}(F) \cdot Y\mathbb{S}(G).$$

Note that if $F \in \mathcal{F}(W'; h_M, u)$ and $G \in \mathcal{F}(W''; u, h_P)$, then $\text{cod}\mathbb{S}(F) = \text{dom}\mathbb{S}(G)$ by Lemma 7.24. Thus, with $[a] = \text{dom}\mathbb{S}(F)$, $[b] = \text{cod}\mathbb{S}(G)$, and $[d] = \text{cod}\mathbb{S}(F) = \text{dom}\mathbb{S}(G)$, the relevant product in evaluating $Y\mathbb{S}(F) \cdot Y\mathbb{S}(G)$ is of type $Q(H_{a,d}) \times Q(H_{d,b}) \rightarrow Q(H_{a,b})$. By Lemma 6.11 and since Y is a functor,

$$(Y\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes 1) \cdot (Y\mathbb{S}(G) \otimes 1) = (Y\mathbb{S}(G) \circ Y\mathbb{S}(F)) \otimes (1 \cdot 1) = Y(\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F)) \otimes 1.$$

Let $\mathfrak{S}(W', W'')$ be the set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}(W', W'') &= \{\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) \mid u \in \mathcal{F}(N), F \in \mathcal{F}(W'; h_M, u), G \in \mathcal{F}(W''; u, h_P)\} \\ &= \{\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F) \mid F \in \mathcal{F}(W'), G \in \mathcal{F}(W'') : \\ &\quad \exists \varepsilon_1(k), \varepsilon'_1(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'}), \varepsilon_2(k), \varepsilon'_2(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W''}), u \in \mathcal{F}(N), \\ &\quad F|_{[0, \varepsilon_1(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k), G|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_2(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k), \\ &\quad F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'_1(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx u(k) \approx G|_{[0, \varepsilon_2(k)] \times N(k)}\}. \end{aligned}$$

The state sum of W is given on (h_M, h_P) by $Z_W(h_M, h_P) = \sum_{H \in \mathcal{F}(W; h_M, h_P)} Y\mathbb{S}(H)$. Let $\mathfrak{S}(W)$ be the set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}(W) &= \{\mathbb{S}(H) \mid H \in \mathcal{F}(W; h_M, h_P)\} \\ &= \{\mathbb{S}(H) \mid H \in \mathcal{F}(W), \exists \varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_W) : \\ &\quad H|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx h_M(k), H|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times P(k)} \approx h_P(k)\}. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 7.25 we have the inclusion $\mathfrak{S}(W', W'') \subset \mathfrak{S}(W)$, and by Proposition 7.23 the converse inclusion $\mathfrak{S}(W) \subset \mathfrak{S}(W', W'')$. Consequently, $\mathfrak{S}(W) = \mathfrak{S}(W', W'')$ and, applying the functor Y , $Y(\mathfrak{S}(W)) = Y(\mathfrak{S}(W', W''))$. By Proposition 6.15, the idempotent semiring Q is continuous. Thus we can conclude from Proposition 4.2 that

$$\sum_{H \in \mathcal{F}(W; h_M, h_P)} Y\mathbb{S}(H) = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{F}(N)} \sum_{(F, G) \in \mathcal{F}(W'; h_M, u) \times \mathcal{F}(W''; u, h_P)} Y(\mathbb{S}(G) \circ \mathbb{S}(F)).$$

□

8. RATIONALITY

We show that for cobordisms of dimension $n \geq 3$, the value of the state sum on a given boundary condition is a rational function of the loop-variable q . In fact, the denominator turns out to be universal (independent of the cobordism), whence all the information is contained in the polynomial numerator. The dimension restriction is probably not necessary, but not all elements of our proof readily carry over to dimension 2. We shall not discuss rationality for this special dimension further in this paper.

Lemma 8.1. *Let W be a cobordism of dimension $n \geq 3$ from M to N with cylinder scale ε_W , let $F \in \mathcal{F}(W)$ be a fold field on W and $\varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_W)$. Then there exists a fold field F^2 on W such that for all $k \in s(W)$,*

$$F^2|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} = F|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)}, F^2|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)} = F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)},$$

and

$$\mathbb{S}(F^2) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \lambda^2,$$

where λ is the loop endomorphism in **Br**.

Proof. First we shall create two new fold circles locally near a point off the given singular set. This will produce a fold map which may not yet be a fold field. Thus we will then modify the fold map, turning it into a fold field. The latter step requires the dimensional restriction, whereas the former works for any $n \geq 2$.

Let F be a fold field on W . If the time function $\omega : W \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is locally constant, then $\partial W = \emptyset$ and we choose $U \subset W - S(F)$ to be a small open ball off the singular set of F . If ω is not locally constant on W , there exists a point $x^* \in W - \partial W$ where the differential $D_{x^*}\omega : T_{x^*}W \rightarrow T_{\omega(x^*)}\mathbb{R}$ is nonzero and thus onto. Hence the differential of ω is onto even on a small open neighborhood $U^* \subset W - \partial W$ of x^* , i.e. $\omega| : U^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a submersion. Let $U \subset U^* - S(F)$ be a small open ball. If the incoming boundary M is not empty, we can and will choose $U \subset (\varepsilon(k), \varepsilon_W) \times M(k) \subset W(k)$, where $k \in s(W)$ is such that $M(k) \neq \emptyset$. If $M = \emptyset$, but the outgoing boundary N is not empty, we can and will choose $U \subset (1 - \varepsilon_W, 1 - \varepsilon(k)) \times N(k) \subset W(k)$, $k \in s(W)$, $N(k) \neq \emptyset$. If M and N are both empty, let $k \in s(W)$ be such that $U \subset W(k)$. There exists a diffeomorphism $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, an open set $U' \subset \mathbb{C}$, and a diffeomorphism $\psi : U' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\psi \circ F \circ \phi^{-1}$ is the standard projection $\pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{C}$, $\pi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{n-1}, x_n)$. We shall modify π in two stages on a compact subset K of \mathbb{R}^n so that the modified map $\tilde{\pi} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a fold map and the singular set $S(\tilde{\pi})$ of $\tilde{\pi}$ consists of precisely two embedded disjoint circles in the interior of K . The desired fold field F^2 will then be given by the gluing

$$(38) \quad F^2(x) = \begin{cases} F(x), & x \in W - \phi^{-1}(K) \\ \psi^{-1}\tilde{\pi}\phi(x), & x \in \phi^{-1}(U_K), \end{cases}$$

where $U_K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is an open neighborhood of K . The map F^2 is smooth on W , since for $x \in \phi^{-1}(U_K - K)$, $\psi^{-1}\tilde{\pi}\phi(x) = \psi^{-1}\pi\phi(x) = F(x)$.

We begin the first stage of modifying π by embedding the circle S^1 as the unit circle into the plane \mathbb{R}^2 and then embedding that plane into \mathbb{R}^n via $(x_{n-1}, x_n) \mapsto (0, \dots, 0, x_{n-1}, x_n)$. The normal bundle $\mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of this embedding $S^1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ comes with a diffeomorphism $\alpha : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1$ under which $S^1 \subset V$ is mapped to $0 \times S^1$ by the identity map, where V is a small open tubular neighborhood of S^1 in \mathbb{R}^n . The image of $S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ under $\pi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is the unit circle $S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$. The diffeomorphism α , an open tubular neighborhood $V_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ of $S^1 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ and a diffeomorphism $\alpha_2 : V_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^1$ can be arranged in such a way that π restricts to a surjection $\pi| : V \rightarrow V_2$ and

$$(39) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} V & \xrightarrow[\cong]{} & \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1 \\ \pi| \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_{n-1} \times \text{id}_{S^1} \\ V_2 & \xrightarrow[\cong]{} & \mathbb{R} \times S^1 \end{array}$$

commutes, where $\pi_{n-1}(\xi) = \xi_{n-1}$, $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. Let $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1$, $\Phi(\xi, t) = (\xi, e^{2\pi i t})$, $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$, be the universal cover of $\mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1$. By [Mil65, Lemma 8.2, p. 101], there is a Morse function $f : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a compact subset $K_0 \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ such that $f(\xi) = \xi_{n-1}$ for $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} - K_0$, and f has precisely two (nondegenerate) critical points $p_m, p_s \in \text{int}(K_0)$ of index $n-1$ and $n-2$, respectively, with $f(p_m) > f(p_s)$. Thus f attains a local maximum at p_m and p_s is a saddle point. Intuitively, f is obtained by smoothly ‘‘pulling up’’ the graph of f over p_m to create a local maximum. Note that pulling up the graph automatically generates a second critical point p_s . The map $\tilde{g} : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$ given by $\tilde{g}(\xi, t) = (f(\xi), t)$ is the suspension of a Morse function and hence a fold map. Let $\Phi_2 : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^1$, $\Phi_2(y, t) = (y, e^{2\pi i t})$, $y, t \in \mathbb{R}$, be the universal cover of $\mathbb{R} \times S^1$. The fold map \tilde{g} descends to a smooth map $g : \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^1$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times S^1 & \xleftarrow{\Phi} & \mathbb{R}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{R} \\ g \downarrow & & \downarrow \tilde{g} \\ \mathbb{R} \times S^1 & \xleftarrow{\Phi_2} & \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

commutes. Since \tilde{g} is a fold map and the covering maps Φ and Φ_2 are local diffeomorphisms, g is a fold map as well. Setting $\hat{\pi}(x) = \alpha_2^{-1}g\alpha(x)$, we obtain a fold map $\hat{\pi} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. The interior of the compact annulus $\hat{K} = \alpha^{-1}(K_0 \times S^1) \subset V$ contains two disjoint fold circles C_m and C_s corresponding to p_m and p_s , and these two circles constitute the singular set of $\hat{\pi}$ in V . The absolute index of C_m is $n-1$ and the absolute index of C_s is $n-2$. In the case $n=3$, we claim that coordinates on $\mathbb{R}^{n-1} = \mathbb{R}^2$ can be chosen in such a way that the two circles $C_m, C_s \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ are unlinked. They are also unknotted, but this is obvious and does not require proof. To show that they are unlinked, choose coordinates $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)$ on \mathbb{R}^2 so that $\xi_2^m = \xi_2^s$, where $p_m = (\xi_1^m, \xi_2^m)$ and $p_s = (\xi_1^s, \xi_2^s)$. Since $p_m \neq p_s$, it follows that $\xi_1^m \neq \xi_1^s$. The diffeomorphism $\alpha : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ has components

$$\alpha(x) = \alpha(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (a_1(x), a_2(x), a_3(x)),$$

$a_1, a_2 : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, a_3 : V \rightarrow S^1$. The commutativity of (39) means that

$$(a_2(x), a_3(x)) = \alpha_2(x_2, x_3)$$

for all $x \in V$. In particular, a_2 and a_3 depend only on x_2, x_3 : $a_2(x) = a_2(x_2, x_3)$, $a_3(x) = a_3(x_2, x_3)$. The two fold circles can be described as

$$\begin{aligned} C_m &= \{x \in V \mid a_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \xi_1^m, a_2(x_2, x_3) = \xi_2^m\}, \\ C_s &= \{x \in V \mid a_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \xi_1^s, a_2(x_2, x_3) = \xi_2^s\}. \end{aligned}$$

Put

$$E = \{(x_2, x_3) \in V_2 \mid a_2(x_2, x_3) = \xi_2^m = \xi_2^s\}.$$

The alternative description $E = \alpha_2^{-1}(\{\xi_2^m\} \times S^1)$ shows that E is a smooth simply closed curve in V_2 . Let $(x_2, x_3) \in E$ be any point. Then $(\xi_1^m, \xi_2^m, a_3(x_2, x_3)) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times S^1$ and thus there exists a unique $x^m = (x_1^m, x_2^m, x_3^m) \in V$ such that $\alpha(x^m) = (\xi_1^m, \xi_2^m, a_3(x_2, x_3))$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_2(x_2^m, x_3^m) &= (a_2(x^m), a_3(x^m)) = (\xi_2^m, a_3(x_2, x_3)) \\ &= (a_2(x_2, x_3), a_3(x_2, x_3)) = \alpha_2(x_2, x_3), \end{aligned}$$

the injectivity of α_2 implies that $(x_2^m, x_3^m) = (x_2, x_3)$. Thus, given $(x_2, x_3) \in E$, there is a unique $x_1^m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $(x_1^m, x_2, x_3) \in V$ and $a_1(x_1^m, x_2, x_3) = \xi_1^m$. This yields a function $h_m : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $h_m(x_2, x_3) = x_1^m$. The graph of h_m is precisely the curve C_m . Similarly, given $(x_2, x_3) \in E$, there is a unique $x_1^s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $(x_1^s, x_2, x_3) \in V$ and $a_1(x_1^s, x_2, x_3) = \xi_1^s$. We obtain a function $h_s : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $h_s(x_2, x_3) = x_1^s$, whose graph is the curve C_s . Therefore, both C_m and C_s are contained as graphs over the plane curve $E \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \times 0$ in the cylinder $E \times \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ and hence cannot be linked.

We return to general $n \geq 3$. For $x \in V - \hat{K}$, $\alpha(x) = (\xi, e^{2\pi it})$ with $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} - K_0$. Using Diagram (39), we obtain for such x :

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\pi}(x) &= \alpha_2^{-1}g\alpha(x) = \alpha_2^{-1}g(\xi, e^{2\pi it}) = \alpha_2^{-1}(f(\xi), e^{2\pi it}) \\ &= \alpha_2^{-1}(\xi_{n-1}, e^{2\pi it}) = \alpha_2^{-1}(\pi_{n-1} \times \text{id}_{S^1})(\xi, e^{2\pi it}) = \alpha_2^{-1}(\pi_{n-1} \times \text{id}_{S^1})\alpha(x) \\ &= \pi(x). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, using π outside of \hat{K} , we can extend $\hat{\pi}$ to a fold map $\hat{\pi} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, which has precisely two fold circles C_m, C_s in the interior of \hat{K} and no other singularities. This completes stage 1 of the modification of π .

If the time function ω is not locally constant, then we begin the second stage by composing the restriction of $\omega : W \rightarrow [0, 1]$ to U with the diffeomorphism $\phi^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow U$. On U , ω is a submersion. Thus $\tilde{\omega} = \omega\phi^{-1} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a submersion, which defines a foliation of \mathbb{R}^n

whose leaves are the connected components of the level sets $\tilde{\omega}^{-1}(t)$, $0 < t < 1$. The idea now is to isotope the fold circles $C_m \sqcup C_s$ into a single leaf of this foliation. Fix $t_0 = \omega(x_0)$, where x_0 is any point in U , and let \tilde{S} be the 1-manifold consisting of two disjoint smoothly embedded circles in $\tilde{\omega}^{-1}(t_0)$. For $n \geq 4$, there exists by general position a smooth isotopy $\alpha : \tilde{S} \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\alpha(y, 0) = y$ and $\alpha(\tilde{S} \times 1) = S(\hat{\pi})$. Such an isotopy exists also when $n = 3$, since C_m, C_s are unknotted and unlinked (as is \tilde{S}). By the isotopy extension theorem, α extends to an ambient isotopy $\tilde{\alpha} : \mathbb{R}^n \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\tilde{\alpha}_0 = \text{id}$, with compact support. That is, there exists a compact $K \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $\hat{K} \cup \tilde{S} \subset K$, so that $\tilde{\alpha}(x, t) = x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n - K$ and all $t \in I$. Our final modification of π is

$$\tilde{\pi} = \hat{\pi} \circ \tilde{\alpha}_1 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

In the special case where ω is locally constant, we put $\tilde{\pi} = \hat{\pi}$. As $\tilde{\pi}$ is the composition of a diffeomorphism and a fold map, it is itself a fold map. The singular set is $S(\tilde{\pi}) = \tilde{S}$, two disjoint circles in K . For $x \in \mathbb{R}^n - K$, we have

$$\tilde{\pi}(x) = \hat{\pi} \tilde{\alpha}_1(x) = \hat{\pi}(x) = \pi(x),$$

as $x \notin \hat{K}$.

Now let $F^2 : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be defined by (38). Since $F(x)$ is a fold map for $x \in W - \phi^{-1}(K)$ and $\psi^{-1} \tilde{\pi} \phi(x)$ is a fold map for $x \in \phi^{-1}(U_K)$, the glued map F^2 is a fold map for all $x \in W$. If ω is locally constant, then F^2 is automatically a fold field by Lemma 7.11. Suppose that ω is not locally constant. If $x \in [0, \varepsilon(a)] \times M(a)$ or $x \in [1 - \varepsilon'(a), 1] \times N(a)$ for some $a \in s(W)$, then $x \notin U$ and in particular $x \notin \phi^{-1}(K)$. Thus for such x , $F^2(x) = F(x)$. The fold locus of F^2 is

$$(40) \quad S(F^2) = S(F) \sqcup \phi^{-1}(\tilde{S}).$$

Thus

$$S(F^2) \cap [0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k) = S(F) \cap [0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k),$$

$$S(F^2) \cap [1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k) = S(F) \cap [1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)$$

and so $S(F^2)$ is transverse to W_0 and to W_1 . Since

$$\text{Im } F^2(a) = \text{Im } F(a) : S(F^2) \cap W_0(a) = S(F) \cap W_0(a) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is injective, we have $0 \in \text{GenIm}(F^2(a))$ for all a and similarly $1 \in \text{GenIm}(F^2(a))$ for all a . We shall show next that $\text{GenIm}(F^2(a))$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ for all a . If $a \neq k$, then $F^2(a) = F(a)$ and thus $\text{GenIm}(F^2(a)) = \text{GenIm}(F(a))$. Since the latter is residual, the former is so as well. Suppose that $a = k$ and let $t \in \text{GenIm}(F(k)) - \{t_0\}$. Then $\phi^{-1}(\tilde{S}) \cap \omega^{-1}(t)$ is empty, since

$$\phi(\phi^{-1}(\tilde{S}) \cap \omega^{-1}(t)) = \tilde{S} \cap \phi \omega^{-1}(t) = \tilde{S} \cap \tilde{\omega}^{-1}(t) \subset \tilde{\omega}^{-1}(t_0) \cap \tilde{\omega}^{-1}(t) = \emptyset$$

as $t \neq t_0$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} SF^2(k)_t &= S(F^2(k)) \cap W_t = S(F^2(k)) \cap \omega^{-1}(t) \\ &= (S(F(k)) \cup \phi^{-1}(\tilde{S})) \cap \omega^{-1}(t) \\ &= (S(F(k)) \cap \omega^{-1}(t)) \cup (\phi^{-1}(\tilde{S}) \cap \omega^{-1}(t)) \\ &= SF(k)_t \cup \emptyset = SF(k)_t. \end{aligned}$$

Since $U \cap S(F) = \emptyset$, we have $F^2|_{S(F)} = F|_{S(F)}$. Therefore,

$$\text{Im } F^2(k) = \text{Im } F(k) : SF^2(k)_t = SF(k)_t \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

is injective and we conclude that $t \in \text{GenIm}(F^2(k))$. This shows that

$$\text{GenIm}(F(k)) \cap ([0, 1] - \{t_0\}) \subset \text{GenIm}(F^2(k)).$$

The set $[0, 1] - \{t_0\}$ is open and dense, in particular residual. The set $\text{GenIm}(F(k))$ is residual as F is a fold field. Therefore, the intersection $\text{GenIm}(F(k)) \cap ([0, 1] - \{t_0\})$ is residual. This implies that the superset $\text{GenIm}(F^2(k))$ is residual as well. It follows that F^2 is a fold field on W . From equation (40) we deduce that

$$\mathbb{S}(F^2) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \lambda^2,$$

which also holds when ω is locally constant. \square

Remark 8.2. In the surface case $n = 2$, the insertion of folds is discussed in [Whi55, Part D, Section 20]. Our construction of $\hat{\pi}$ in the above proof is a high-dimensional generalization of Whitney's "mushroom" construction. In particular, Whitney's fold insertion technique also produces two circles simultaneously.

In the Boolean power series semiring $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$, we set formally

$$\frac{1}{1-q^2} := 1 + q^2 + q^4 + q^6 + \dots$$

Theorem 8.3. *Let W be a cobordism of dimension $n \geq 3$ from M to N . On any boundary condition $(f_M, f_N) \in \mathcal{F}(M) \times \mathcal{F}(N)$, the state sum $Z_W(f_M, f_N)$ is a rational function of q . In fact, there exists a polynomial $p_{f_M, f_N}(q)$ in q with linear coefficients such that*

$$Z_W(f_M, f_N) = \frac{p_{f_M, f_N}(q)}{1-q^2}.$$

Proof. As f_M lies in $\mathcal{F}(M)$, we know that $\mathbb{S}(f_M)$ is the identity morphism on some object $[\bar{m}]$ of \mathbf{Br} . By Lemma 2.13, $\mathbb{S}(f_M(k))$ is the identity on some object $[m_k]$ of \mathbf{Br} . Let $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$ be a fold field satisfying the boundary conditions (f_M, f_N) , that is, there are $\varepsilon(k), \varepsilon'(k) \in (0, \varepsilon_W)$ such that

$$F|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx f_M(k), \quad F|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx f_N(k),$$

for all $k \in s(W)$. By Lemma 7.19, $\mathbb{S}(F|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)}) = \mathbb{S}(f_M(k))$. Thus the domain of $\mathbb{S}(F)$ is

$$\text{dom } \mathbb{S}(F) = \text{dom } \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \text{dom } \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(f_M(k)) = \bigotimes_k \text{dom } \mathbb{S}(f_M(k)) = \left[\sum_k m_k \right] = [\bar{m}]$$

for every $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$. Using the boundary condition at N , one sees similarly that there is one object $[\bar{n}]$ of \mathbf{Br} which is the codomain of every $\mathbb{S}(F)$, $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$. Hence, $Y\mathbb{S}(F)$ lies in $Q(H_{\bar{m}, \bar{n}}) \subset Q$ for all fields $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$. Therefore, the state sum

$$Z_W(f_M, f_N) = \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)} Y\mathbb{S}(F)$$

lies in $Q(H_{\bar{m}, \bar{n}})$. Consequently, according to Lemma 6.7, there are uniquely determined power series $b_y \in \mathbb{B}[[q]]$ such that

$$Z_W(f_M, f_N) = \sum_{y \in Y(\text{OP}_{\bar{m}, \bar{n}})} y \otimes b_y.$$

This is a finite sum as $\text{OP}_{\bar{m}, \bar{n}}$ is a finite set. If b_y is not zero, then it has the form

$$b_y = q^{r_y} + \beta_1(y)q^{r_y+1} + \beta_2(y)q^{r_y+2} + \dots, \quad \beta_i(y) \in \mathbb{B}.$$

Since $y \otimes q^{r_y}$ is then a summand of $Z_W(f_M, f_N)$, there exists a fold field $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$ such that $Y\mathbb{S}(F) = y \otimes q^{r_y}$. By Lemma 8.1, there is a field $F^2 \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$ with $\mathbb{S}(F^2) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \lambda^2$. Let $\widehat{\lambda} = \text{Tr}(i, e)$ be the trace of the duality structure (i, e) . Then

$$Y\mathbb{S}(F^2) = Y(\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \lambda^2) = Y\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes Y(\lambda^2) = \widehat{\lambda}^2(y \otimes q^{r_y}) = y \otimes q^{r_y+2}.$$

It follows that $\beta_2(y) = 1$ and by iteration (take $(F^2)^2$, etc.) that $\beta_{2s}(y) = 1$ for all $s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Thus

$$b_y = q^{r_y}((1 + q^2 + q^4 + \dots) + \beta_1(y)q + \beta_3(y)q^3 + \beta_5(y)q^5 + \dots).$$

If all $\beta_{\text{odd}}(y) = 0$, then b_y is the rational function

$$b_y = \frac{q^{r_y}}{1 - q^2}.$$

Suppose that some $\beta_{2s_y+1}(y) \neq 0$ and choose s_y to be the first such index, that is, $\beta_{2s+1}(y) = 0$ for all $s < s_y$. The power series thus has the form

$$b_y = q^{r_y} \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^2} + q^{2s_y+1} + \beta_{2s_y+3}(y)q^{2s_y+3} + \dots \right).$$

Since $y \otimes q^{r_y+2s_y+1}$ is then a summand of $Z_W(f_M, f_N)$, there exists a fold field $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$ such that $Y\mathbb{S}(F) = y \otimes q^{r_y+2s_y+1}$. By Lemma 8.1, there is a field $F^2 \in \mathcal{F}(W; f_M, f_N)$ with

$$\mathbb{S}(F^2) = \mathbb{S}(F) \otimes \lambda^2$$

and we have

$$Y\mathbb{S}(F^2) = \widehat{\lambda}^2(y \otimes q^{r_y+2s_y+1}) = y \otimes q^{r_y+2s_y+3}.$$

It follows that $\beta_{2s_y+3}(y) = 1$ and by iteration that $\beta_{2(s_y+s)+1}(y) = 1$ for all $s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. So b_y has the form

$$b_y = q^{r_y} \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^2} + q^{2s_y+1}(1 + q^2 + q^4 + \dots) \right) = \frac{q^{r_y}(1 + q^{2s_y+1})}{1 - q^2},$$

a rational function. Let us summarize: For every b_y , there are nonnegative integers r_y and s_y and $\alpha_y, \beta_y \in \mathbb{B}$ such that

$$b_y = \frac{\alpha_y q^{r_y} (1 + \beta_y q^{2s_y+1})}{1 - q^2}$$

(obviously $\alpha_y = 0$ iff $b_y = 0$ and if $\alpha_y = 1$ then $\beta_y = 0$ iff all $\beta_{\text{odd}}(y) = 0$). The state sum is the rational function

$$Z_W(f_M, f_N) = \sum_y y \otimes \frac{\alpha_y q^{r_y} (1 + \beta_y q^{2s_y+1})}{1 - q^2}$$

(finite sum). The polynomial $p_{f_M, f_N}(q)$ is

$$p_{f_M, f_N}(q) = \sum_y y \otimes \alpha_y q^{r_y} (1 + \beta_y q^{2s_y+1}).$$

□

9. TIME CONSISTENT DIFFEOMORPHISM INVARIANCE

We turn to proving diffeomorphism invariance of the state sum. We will need to assume that diffeomorphisms are compatible with the time functions on the cobordisms, as explained below. Let $W, W' \subset [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}^D$ be cobordisms with time functions ω, ω' , respectively.

Definition 9.1. The time function ω on a cobordism W is called *progressive*, if for every $t \in [0, 1]$, there is a point in W_t at which ω is a submersion, i.e. every slice W_t contains an ω -regular point.

Thus for W with progressive time, there exists at every point in time a place on W , where time moves forward at a nonzero speed. In particular, such a cobordism cannot have a slice W_t which is a union of connected components of W .

Example 9.2. Cylinders $W = [0, 1] \times M$ always have progressive time.

Definition 9.3. A diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ is said to be *time preserving*, if $\omega' \Phi = \omega$.

Example 9.4. Suppose that $\phi, \psi : M \rightarrow N$ are isotopic diffeomorphisms of closed $(n-1)$ -manifolds. Then an isotopy $\Xi : [0, 1] \times M \rightarrow N$ between ϕ and ψ induces a time preserving diffeomorphism $\Phi : [0, 1] \times M \rightarrow [0, 1] \times N$, $\Phi(t, x) = (t, \Xi(t, x))$.

If Φ is time preserving, then

$$(41) \quad \Phi(W_t) = \Phi \omega^{-1}(t) = \Phi \Phi^{-1}(\omega')^{-1}(t) = (\omega')^{-1}(t) = W'_t.$$

A weaker notion is given by diffeomorphisms that preserve *simultaneity*, that is, if p and q occur at the same time in W , then $\Phi(p)$ and $\Phi(q)$ are also simultaneous in W' :

Definition 9.5. A diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ is said to be *time consistent*, if it sends slices W_t to slices W'_t . If the incoming boundary W_0 of W is not empty, then such a diffeomorphism sends W_0 to either W'_0 or W'_1 . A time consistent diffeomorphism Φ is called *positive* if $\Phi(W_0) = W'_0$ and *negative* if $\Phi(W_0) = W'_1$.

If Φ is time preserving, then (41) shows that Φ is time consistent. We will see below that a time consistent diffeomorphism Φ satisfying the initial condition $\Phi(W_0) = W'_0$ has the property that it preserves the time order of events, that is, if event p occurs before event q , then $\Phi(p)$ occurs before $\Phi(q)$.

Lemma 9.6. *The inverse Φ^{-1} of a time consistent diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ between cobordisms with progressive time is again time consistent.*

Proof. Let $\tau \in [0, 1]$. As ω' is progressive, the slice W'_τ is in particular nonempty. Choose a point $q \in W'_\tau$ and set $t = \omega \Phi^{-1}(q)$ so that $\Phi^{-1}(q) \in W_t$. Since Φ is time consistent, there is a $\tau' \in [0, 1]$ with $\Phi(W_t) = W'_{\tau'}$. Thus $q = \Phi \Phi^{-1}(q) \in \Phi(W_t) = W'_{\tau'}$ and therefore $\tau' = \omega'(q) = \tau$. It follows that

$$\Phi^{-1}(W'_\tau) = \Phi^{-1}(W'_{\tau'}) = \Phi^{-1} \Phi(W_t) = W_t.$$

□

Lemma 9.7. *Let W and W' be cobordisms with progressive time. Let $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ be a time consistent diffeomorphism. Then there exists a unique diffeomorphism $\alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $\Phi(W_t) = W'_{\alpha(t)}$.*

Proof. Since Φ is time consistent, every $t \in [0, 1]$ determines a unique $\tau \in [0, 1]$ with $\Phi(W_t) = W'_\tau$. (Note that as time on W is progressive, the slices W_t are all nonempty.) Thus, setting $\alpha(t) = \tau$, we obtain a function $\alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$. We claim that α is a diffeomorphism. Let

we first establish that α is smooth. Let $t_0 \in [0, 1]$ be any time point. As ω is progressive, there exists a $p \in W$, $\omega(p) = t_0$, such that the differential $D_p\omega : T_pW \rightarrow T_{t_0}\mathbb{R}$ is onto. Thus there exists a coordinate chart $g : U \xrightarrow{\cong} U'$, $U \subset W$ open, $U' \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open, $p \in U$, $g(p) = 0 \in U'$ and a smooth chart $h : V \xrightarrow{\cong} V'$, $V \subset \mathbb{R}$ open, $V' \subset \mathbb{R}$ open, $t_0 \in V$, $h(t_0) = 0 \in V'$ such that $\pi = h\omega g^{-1} : U' \rightarrow V'$, where π is the projection $\pi(t, x_2, \dots, x_n) = t$. Let $\sigma : V' \rightarrow U'$ be the smooth map $\sigma(t) = (t, 0, \dots, 0)$. Then $\pi\sigma = \text{id}$ and $\sigma(0) = 0$. Using σ , we define a smooth local section s for ω by $s = g^{-1}\sigma h : V \rightarrow U$. Then

$$\omega s = (h^{-1}\pi g)(g^{-1}\sigma h) = h^{-1}(\pi\sigma)h = h^{-1}h = \text{id}$$

and

$$s(t_0) = g^{-1}\sigma h(t_0) = g^{-1}\sigma(0) = g^{-1}(0) = p.$$

For $t \in V$, we have $\omega s(t) = t$, i.e. $s(t) \in W_t$. Since $\Phi(W_t) = W'_{\alpha(t)}$, $\Phi s(t)$ is in $W'_{\alpha(t)}$, which means $\omega'\Phi s(t) = \alpha(t)$. Therefore, $\alpha|_V = \omega'\Phi s$. This shows that $\alpha|_V$ is smooth, as $\omega'\Phi s$ is smooth. Since α is thus smooth in a neighborhood of every point $t_0 \in [0, 1]$, α itself is smooth.

By Lemma 9.6, the inverse diffeomorphism $\Phi^{-1} : W' \rightarrow W$ is also time consistent, so a function $\beta : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is given by $\Phi^{-1}(W'_t) = W_{\beta(t)}$. By the preceding argument, β is smooth. Furthermore, α and β are inverse to each other: Given $t \in [0, 1]$, it is possible to choose a point $p \in W_t$, since time is progressive on W . By definition of α , $\Phi(p) \in W'_{\alpha(t)}$. As $\Phi^{-1}(W'_{\alpha(t)}) = W_{\beta(\alpha(t))}$, we have $p = \Phi^{-1}\Phi(p) \in W_{\beta(\alpha(t))}$, which means $\omega(p) = \beta(\alpha(t))$. But $\omega(p) = t$ as $p \in W_t$, whence $\beta(\alpha(t)) = \omega(p) = t$. The identity $\alpha\beta(t) = t$ follows symmetrically. \square

Definition 9.8. The diffeomorphism α determined by $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ according to Lemma 9.7 is called the *time dilation* effected by Φ .

The time consistent diffeomorphism Φ in the situation of the lemma is positive precisely when its time dilation is orientation preserving.

Lemma 9.9. *Let W and W' be cobordisms with progressive time, $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ a time consistent diffeomorphism and $G : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a fold map. Then*

$$\text{GenIm}(G\Phi) = \alpha^{-1}\text{GenIm}(G),$$

where α is the time dilation of Φ .

Proof. Using the formulae $S(G\Phi) = \Phi^{-1}(S(G))$ and $W_{\alpha^{-1}(t)} = \Phi^{-1}(W'_t)$, we see that

$$S(G\Phi) \cap W_{\alpha^{-1}(t)} = \Phi^{-1}(S(G)) \cap \Phi^{-1}(W'_t) = \Phi^{-1}(S(G) \cap W'_t).$$

Let $t \in \text{GenIm}(G)$ and $p, q \in S(G\Phi) \cap W_{\alpha^{-1}(t)}$ with equality $\text{Im } G\Phi(p) = \text{Im } G\Phi(q)$ of imaginary parts. Then $\Phi(p), \Phi(q) \in S(G) \cap W'_t$ and since $\text{Im } G| : S(G) \cap W'_t \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective, we have $\Phi(p) = \Phi(q)$. As Φ is one-to-one, $p = q$. This shows that $\text{Im } G\Phi$ is injective on $S(G\Phi) \cap W_{\alpha^{-1}(t)}$, that is, $\alpha^{-1}(t) \in \text{GenIm}(G\Phi)$. The converse inclusion follows from reversing the roles of W and W' , that is, writing $F = G\Phi$ and applying the previous reasoning to the time consistent $\Phi^{-1} : W' \rightarrow W$ and $F\Phi^{-1} = G$. \square

Lemma 9.10. *Let W and W' be cobordisms with progressive time, $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ a time consistent diffeomorphism and $G : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a fold map. Then $\text{GenIm}(G)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ if and only if $\text{GenIm}(G\Phi)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$.*

Proof. This follows readily from Lemma 9.9: Suppose that $\text{GenIm}(G)$ is residual. Since the time dilation $\alpha : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a diffeomorphism by Lemma 9.7, $\alpha^{-1}\text{GenIm}(G)$ is again residual. But the latter set equals $\text{GenIm}(G\Phi)$. The converse direction follows in the same manner. \square

Lemma 9.11. *Let W, W' be any cobordisms and $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ a time consistent diffeomorphism such that for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there is an $l \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\Phi(W(k)) \subset W'(l)$. Let $G : W' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a fold map. If $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm} G(k)$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm}(G\Phi)(k)$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.*

Proof. Suppose that $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm} G(l)$ for all $l \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus $\text{Im} G| : S(G) \cap W'_i(l) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective for all l and $i = 0, 1$. Given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there is an l_0 such that $\Phi(W(k)) \subset W'(l_0)$. If p, q are points in $S(G\Phi) \cap W_0(k)$ with $\text{Im} G\Phi(p) = \text{Im} G\Phi(q)$, then $\Phi(p), \Phi(q)$ lie in the singular set $S(G)$ of G and in $W'_j(l_0) = W'_j \cap W'(l_0)$, j either 0 (if Φ is positive) or 1 (if Φ is negative). Hence $\Phi(p) = \Phi(q)$. As Φ is one-to-one, we have $p = q$. This shows that $\text{Im} G\Phi| : S(G\Phi) \cap W_0(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is injective, i.e. $0 \in \text{GenIm}(G\Phi)(k)$ for every k . Similarly $1 \in \text{GenIm}(G\Phi)(k)$ for every k . \square

A diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ induces a homeomorphism

$$\Phi_\infty : C^\infty(W', \mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow C^\infty(W, \mathbb{C}), \quad G \mapsto G \circ \Phi$$

with inverse $(\Phi^{-1})_\infty$.

Lemma 9.12. *For W and W' with progressive time and Φ time consistent such that for every k there is an l with $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(l)$, the homeomorphism Φ_∞ restricts to a homeomorphism $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ of fold fields:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^\infty(W', \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_\infty} & C^\infty(W, \mathbb{C}) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{F}(W') & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}} & \mathcal{F}(W). \end{array}$$

Furthermore, if $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(k)$ for all k and $\Phi(W_0) = W'_0$, then we have Brauer invariance:

$$\mathbb{S}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}G) = \mathbb{S}(G) \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$$

for fields $G \in \mathcal{F}(W')$.

Proof. Let $G \in \mathcal{F}(W')$ be a fold field. As $F = G\Phi$ is the composition of a diffeomorphism and a fold map, F is also a fold map. The singular set $S(G)$ is transverse to the incoming boundary W'_0 and to the outgoing boundary W'_1 . As Φ is a diffeomorphism, its differential is an isomorphism everywhere. Thus $\Phi^{-1}S(G) = S(G\Phi)$ is transverse to $\Phi^{-1}(W'_0 \sqcup W'_1) = W_0 \sqcup W_1$. This shows that $0, 1 \in \mathfrak{h}(G\Phi)$.

Given a natural number k , there is an l with $\Phi(W(k)) \subset W'(l)$. Since $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm}(G(l))$ for every l , we conclude with Lemma 9.11 that $0, 1 \in \text{GenIm}(G\Phi)(k)$ for every k . Since $\text{GenIm}(G)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$, $\text{GenIm}(G\Phi)$ is residual in $[0, 1]$ as well, by Lemma 9.10. This shows that $\Phi_\infty(G) = G\Phi$ is a fold field on W and so defines the desired map $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$. The inverse of $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is given by the restriction of the inverse of Φ_∞ to $\mathcal{F}(W)$.

In order to prove Brauer invariance, let us now assume $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(k)$ for all k and $\Phi(W_0) = W'_0$. Given a field $G \in \mathcal{F}(W')$, we need to show $\mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(G)$, where $F = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(G) = G\Phi \in \mathcal{F}(W)$. Fix a natural number k . The function $\text{Im} F(k)$ induces a unique ordering

$$S(F(k)) \cap W(k)_0 = \{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$$

such that $\text{Im}F(p_i) < \text{Im}F(p_j)$ if and only if $i < j$, and a unique ordering

$$S(F(k)) \cap W(k)_1 = \{q_1, \dots, q_l\}$$

such that $\text{Im}F(q_i) < \text{Im}F(q_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. With $p'_i = \Phi(p_i)$, $q'_i = \Phi(q_i)$, we have

$$S(G) \cap W'(k)_0 = \Phi S(F) \cap \Phi W(k)_0 = \Phi(S(F) \cap W(k)_0) = \{p'_1, \dots, p'_m\}$$

(a set of cardinality m , since Φ is injective) and

$$S(G) \cap W'(k)_1 = \{q'_1, \dots, q'_l\}$$

(a set of cardinality l). Thus both $\mathbb{S}(G(k))$ and $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$ are morphisms $[m] \rightarrow [l]$ in \mathbf{Br} . The ordering principle is preserved because

$$\text{Im}F(p_i) = \text{Im}(G\Phi)(p_i) = \text{Im}G(p'_i), \quad \text{Im}F(q_i) = \text{Im}(G\Phi)(q_i) = \text{Im}G(q'_i),$$

so that $\text{Im}G(p'_i) < \text{Im}G(p'_j)$ if and only if $i < j$ if and only if $\text{Im}G(q'_i) < \text{Im}G(q'_j)$. In the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(G(k))$, the point $(0, i, 0, 0)$ is connected to the point $(0, j, 0, 0)$ by an arc if and only if there exists a connected component $c' = \Phi(c)$ of $S(G(k))$ with boundary $\partial c' = \{p'_i, p'_j\}$. Such a c' exists if and only if there is a connected component c of $S((G\Phi)(k))$ with $\partial c = \{p_i, p_j\}$, which is equivalent to $(0, i, 0, 0)$ and $(0, j, 0, 0)$ being connected by an arc in $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$. Similarly for connections of type $(1, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$ and $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, j, 0, 0)$. The number of loop tensor factors in $\mathbb{S}(G(k))$ equals the number of loop tensor factors in $\mathbb{S}(F(k))$, as the number of closed connected components of $S(G(k))$ equals the number of closed connected components of $S((G\Phi)(k))$. This shows that $\mathbb{S}(G(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F(k))$ for every k . Therefore, $\mathbb{S}(G) = \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(G(k)) = \bigotimes_k \mathbb{S}(F(k)) = \mathbb{S}(F)$. \square

Let M and N be closed, smooth $(n-1)$ -dimensional manifolds and $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ a diffeomorphism such that for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ there is an $l \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\phi(M(k)) = N(l)$. (This implies that for every $l \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a $k \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\phi^{-1}(N(l)) = M(k)$.) We shall show in stages that ϕ induces an isomorphism

$$\phi_* : Z(M) \rightarrow Z(N)$$

of additive monoids. Let us denote the unit interval $[0, 1]$ by I . First, ϕ determines a diffeomorphism $\bar{\phi} : I \times M \rightarrow I \times N$ by $\bar{\phi}(t, x) = (t, \phi(x))$. For later reference, we observe that if $\psi : N \rightarrow P$ is another diffeomorphism, then

$$(42) \quad (\overline{\psi\phi})(t, x) = (t, \psi\phi(x)) = \overline{\psi}(t, \phi(x)) = (\overline{\psi} \circ \bar{\phi})(t, x).$$

Using this suspension of ϕ , ϕ induces a homeomorphism

$$\phi_\infty : C^\infty(I \times N, \mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow C^\infty(I \times M, \mathbb{C}), \quad g \mapsto g \circ \bar{\phi}$$

with inverse $(\phi^{-1})_\infty$. The next lemma is a special case of Lemma 9.12:

Lemma 9.13. *The homeomorphism ϕ_∞ restricts to a homeomorphism $\phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ of fold fields:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^\infty(I \times N, \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\phi_\infty} & C^\infty(I \times M, \mathbb{C}) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{F}(I \times N) & \xrightarrow{\phi_{\mathcal{F}}} & \mathcal{F}(I \times M). \end{array}$$

Proof. By Example 9.2, the cylindrical cobordisms $W = I \times M$ and $W' = I \times N$ have progressive time. The diffeomorphism $\bar{\phi}$ is by definition time preserving, in particular time consistent. Given a natural number k , there is an l with $\phi(M(k)) = N(l)$. For this l , $\bar{\phi}(W(k)) = W'(l)$. The conclusion follows from Lemma 9.12. \square

Lemma 9.14. *The homeomorphism $\phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ restricts to a homeomorphism ϕ_{closed} on $\mathcal{F}(N)$:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}(I \times N) & \xrightarrow{\phi_{\mathcal{F}}} & \mathcal{F}(I \times M) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{F}(N) & \xrightarrow{\phi_{\text{closed}}} & \mathcal{F}(M). \end{array}$$

Proof. Let $g \in \mathcal{F}(N)$; that is, $g \in \mathcal{F}(I \times N)$ is a fold field with $\mathbb{S}(g) = 1 \in \mathbf{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$. Since $\mathbb{S}(g) = \bigotimes_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{S}(g(l))$, an application of Lemma 2.13 shows that $\mathbb{S}(g(l)) = 1$ for every l . Let k be a natural number. We shall show that $\mathbb{S}(f(k)) = 1$, where $f = g\bar{\phi}$. Let l be such that $\phi(M(k)) = N(l)$. Then $\bar{\phi}([0, 1] \times M(k)) = [0, 1] \times N(l)$. By the injectivity of $g(l)$ on $S(g(l)) \cap 0 \times N(l)$, there is a unique ordering p_1, \dots, p_c of the points of $S(g(l)) \cap 0 \times N(l)$ such that $\text{Im } g(p_i) < \text{Im } g(p_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. Furthermore, there is a unique ordering q_1, \dots, q_c of the points of $S(g(l)) \cap 1 \times N(l)$ such that $\text{Im } g(q_i) < \text{Im } g(q_j)$ if and only if $i < j$. Since $\mathbb{S}(g(l))$ is the identity, the sets $S(g(l)) \cap 0 \times N(l)$ and $S(g(l)) \cap 1 \times N(l)$ indeed have the same cardinality c and $\{p_i, q_i\}$ is the boundary of a connected component C_i of $S(g(l))$ for all i . From $\bar{\phi}S(g\bar{\phi}) = S(g)$ it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\phi}S(f(k)) &= \bar{\phi}S(g\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M(k)}) = \bar{\phi}(S(g\bar{\phi}) \cap I \times M(k)) \\ &= \bar{\phi}S(g\bar{\phi}) \cap \bar{\phi}(I \times M(k)) = S(g) \cap I \times N(l) = S(g|_{I \times N(l)}) = S(g(l)). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\bar{\phi}(S(f(k)) \cap r \times M(k)) = \bar{\phi}S(f(k)) \cap \bar{\phi}(r \times M(k)) = S(g(l)) \cap r \times N(l), \quad r = 0, 1,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S(f(k)) \cap 0 \times M(k) &= \{\bar{\phi}^{-1}(p_1), \dots, \bar{\phi}^{-1}(p_c)\}, \\ S(f(k)) \cap 1 \times M(k) &= \{\bar{\phi}^{-1}(q_1), \dots, \bar{\phi}^{-1}(q_c)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Set $P_i = \bar{\phi}^{-1}(p_i)$ and $Q_i = \bar{\phi}^{-1}(q_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, c$. Then $S(f(k)) \cap 0 \times M(k) = \{P_1, \dots, P_c\}$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im } f(P_i) < \text{Im } f(P_j) &\Leftrightarrow \text{Im}(g\bar{\phi})(\bar{\phi}^{-1}p_i) < \text{Im}(g\bar{\phi})(\bar{\phi}^{-1}p_j) \\ &\Leftrightarrow \text{Im } g(p_i) < \text{Im } g(p_j) \\ &\Leftrightarrow i < j \end{aligned}$$

and $S(f(k)) \cap 1 \times M(k) = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_c\}$ with

$$\text{Im } f(Q_i) < \text{Im } f(Q_j) \Leftrightarrow i < j.$$

For every i , $\bar{\phi}^{-1}(C_i)$ is a connected component of $S(f) \cap [0, 1] \times M(k)$ with $\partial\bar{\phi}^{-1}(C_i) = \{P_i, Q_i\}$. Thus $\mathbb{S}(f(k))$ connects $(0, i, 0, 0)$ to $(1, i, 0, 0)$ for every $i = 1, \dots, c$. Since there are no loops in $S(f(k))$ (because there are no loops in $S(g(l))$), we conclude that $\mathbb{S}(f(k)) = 1_{[c]} \in \mathbf{End}_{\mathbf{Br}}([c])$. Letting k vary, $\mathbb{S}(f) = \bigotimes_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{S}(f(k)) = \bigotimes_k 1 = 1$. This shows that $f = \phi_{\mathcal{F}}(g)$ is an element of $\mathcal{F}(M) \subset \mathcal{F}(I \times M)$ and we obtain a map $\phi_{\text{closed}} : \mathcal{F}(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(M)$. The inverse of ϕ_{closed} is given by restricting the inverse of $\phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ to $\mathcal{F}(M)$. \square

We proceed to define $\phi_* : Z(M) \rightarrow Z(N)$. Let $z \in Z(M)$ be a state, i.e. a function $z : \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{Q}(i, e)$, (i, e) a duality structure on a vector space V as before. Composition with ϕ_{closed} yields a state $\phi_*(z)$ in $Z(N)$, that is, we put

$$\phi_*(z) = z \circ \phi_{\text{closed}} \in Z(N).$$

Given $g \in \mathcal{F}(N)$, we have the more explicit formula

$$\phi_*(z)(g) = z(g\bar{\phi}) \in \mathcal{Q}.$$

The function ϕ_* is additive:

$$\phi_*(z_1 + z_2) = \phi_*(z_1) + \phi_*(z_2).$$

Let $\psi : N \rightarrow P$ be another diffeomorphism such that for every k there is an l with $\psi(N(k)) = P(l)$. Then, using (42), we obtain for every $h \in \mathcal{F}(P)$,

$$\psi_*(\phi_*(z))(h) = \phi_*(z)(h\bar{\psi}) = z((h\bar{\psi})\bar{\phi}) = z(h(\bar{\psi}\bar{\phi})) = (\psi\phi)_*(z)(h),$$

proving the functoriality relation

$$\psi_* \circ \phi_* = (\psi \circ \phi)_*.$$

Of course, $(\text{id}_M)_* = \text{id}_{Z(M)} : Z(M) \rightarrow Z(M)$. Together, these properties imply

$$(\phi^{-1})_* \phi_* = (\phi^{-1}\phi)_* = (\text{id}_M)_* = \text{id}_{Z(M)}$$

and $\phi_*(\phi^{-1})_* = \text{id}_{Z(N)}$. This shows that ϕ_* is an isomorphism.

In a similar manner, diffeomorphisms induce maps on tensor products of state modules. Let $\phi^1 : M_1 \rightarrow N_1$ and $\phi^2 : M_2 \rightarrow N_2$ be diffeomorphisms such that for every $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i = 1, 2$, there is an $l \in \mathbb{N}$ with $\phi^i(M_i(k)) = N_i(l)$. Let

$$\phi = \phi^1 \sqcup \phi^2 : M_1 \sqcup M_2 \xrightarrow{\cong} N_1 \sqcup N_2$$

be the disjoint union of ϕ^1 and ϕ^2 . Then ϕ induces an isomorphism

$$\phi_* : Z(M_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M_2) \longrightarrow Z(N_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N_2).$$

The image of a state $z : \mathcal{F}(M_1) \times \mathcal{F}(M_2) \rightarrow Q$ under ϕ_* on a pair $(g_1, g_2) \in \mathcal{F}(N_1) \times \mathcal{F}(N_2)$ is given by

$$\phi_*(z)(g_1, g_2) = z(\phi_{\text{closed}}^1(g_1), \phi_{\text{closed}}^2(g_2)),$$

using the homeomorphisms

$$\phi_{\text{closed}}^i : \mathcal{F}(N_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(M_i), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

given by Lemma 9.14. The assumptions on ϕ^1 and ϕ^2 do not imply that for a given k , we can find an l with $\phi((M_1 \sqcup M_2)(k)) = (N_1 \sqcup N_2)(l)$, but if such an l can be found for every k , then ϕ also induces an isomorphism $\phi_* : Z(M_1 \sqcup M_2) \rightarrow Z(N_1 \sqcup N_2)$. If M_1, M_2 are well-separated and N_1, N_2 are well-separated, then by Proposition 7.16, $Z(M_1 \sqcup M_2) \cong Z(M_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M_2)$ and $Z(N_1 \sqcup N_2) \cong Z(N_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N_2)$. In this situation there is then a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z(M_1 \sqcup M_2) & \xrightarrow{\phi_*} & Z(N_1 \sqcup N_2) \\ \cong \uparrow & & \uparrow \cong \\ Z(M_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M_2) & \xrightarrow{\phi_*} & Z(N_1) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N_2). \end{array}$$

Let W be a cobordism with progressive time from M to N and W' a cobordism with progressive time from M' to N' . Assume without loss of generality that W and W' are endowed with equal cylinder scales $\varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W'}$. Let $\phi : \partial W \rightarrow \partial W'$ be a diffeomorphism that preserves incoming and outgoing boundaries, that is, for every k there is an l with $\phi(M(k)) = M'(l)$ and for every k there is an l with $\phi(N(k)) = N'(l)$. In this situation, we have the following result concerning the introduction of boundary conditions.

Lemma 9.15. *Let $f' \in \mathcal{F}(M')$ and $g' \in \mathcal{F}(N')$ be boundary conditions. If ϕ extends to a time consistent diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ which agrees with ϕ levelwise near the boundary, i.e. $\Phi(t, x) = (t, \phi(x))$ for all $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon_W] \times M \sqcup [1 - \varepsilon_W, 1] \times N$, and has for every k an l with $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(l)$, then $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ restricts to a homeomorphism $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{B}}$ respecting the boundary conditions:*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}(W') & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}} & \mathcal{F}(W) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g') & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{B}}} & \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N}). \end{array}$$

Proof. Given a field $G \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g')$, there exist for every $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ numbers $\delta(l), \delta'(l) \in (0, \varepsilon_{W'})$ such that

$$G|_{[0, \delta(l)] \times M'(l)} \approx f'(l), \quad G|_{[1 - \delta'(l), 1] \times N'(l)} \approx g'(l)$$

for all l . Hence there are diffeomorphisms $\xi : [0, \delta(l)] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with $\xi(0) = 0$ and such that

$$G(t, y) = f'(\xi(t), y), \quad (t, y) \in [0, \delta(l)] \times M'(l).$$

Let k be a natural number and let l be such that $\phi(M(k)) = M'(l)$. Setting $\varepsilon(k) = \delta(l)$, we have $0 < \varepsilon(k) < \varepsilon_W$ since $\varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W'}$. For $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)$, we obtain

$$G\Phi(t, x) = G(t, \phi(x)) = f'(\xi(t), \phi(x)) = (f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M})(\xi(t), x),$$

which shows that

$$(G\Phi)|_{[0, \varepsilon(k)] \times M(k)} \approx (f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M})(k).$$

Now taking l such that $\phi(N(k)) = N'(l)$ and setting $\varepsilon'(k) = \delta'(l)$, we see similarly that

$$(G\Phi)|_{[1 - \varepsilon'(k), 1] \times N(k)} \approx (g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})(k).$$

Hence $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(G) = G\Phi \in \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})$ and we obtain the desired map $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{B}}$. The inverse of $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{B}}$ is given by restricting the inverse $(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}})^{-1} = (\Phi^{-1})_{\mathcal{F}}$ to $\mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})$, noting that $(f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M})\bar{\phi}^{-1}|_{I \times M'} = f'$ (analogously for g'). \square

Theorem 9.16. *(Time Consistent Diffeomorphism Invariance.) Let W be a cobordism with progressive time from M to N and W' a cobordism with progressive time from M' to N' . Assume without loss of generality that W and W' are endowed with equal cylinder scales $\varepsilon_W = \varepsilon_{W'}$. Let $\phi : \partial W \rightarrow \partial W'$ be a diffeomorphism that preserves incoming and outgoing boundaries in the sense that $\phi(M(k)) = M'(k)$ and $\phi(N(k)) = N'(k)$ for every k . If ϕ extends to a time consistent diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ which agrees with ϕ levelwise near the boundary, i.e. $\Phi(t, x) = (t, \phi(x))$ for all $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon_W] \times M \sqcup [1 - \varepsilon_W, 1] \times N$, and has $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(k)$ for every k , then the state sums of W and W' are related by*

$$\phi_*(Z_W) = Z_{W'} \in Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N')$$

under the isomorphism

$$\phi_* : Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N) \longrightarrow Z(M') \widehat{\otimes} Z(N').$$

Proof. Let $\phi^1 : M \rightarrow M'$ and $\phi^2 : N \rightarrow N'$ denote the restrictions of ϕ to the incoming and outgoing boundaries, respectively. We have $\bar{\phi}^1 = \bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}$ and $\bar{\phi}^2 = \bar{\phi}|_{I \times N}$. Subject to the boundary condition $(f', g') \in \mathcal{F}(M') \times \mathcal{F}(N')$, the pushforward $\phi_*(Z_W)$ is given by

$$\phi_*(Z_W)(f', g') = Z_W(\phi_{\text{closed}}^1(f'), \phi_{\text{closed}}^2(g')) = Z_W(f'\bar{\phi}^1, g'\bar{\phi}^2) = \sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})} \text{YS}(F),$$

while the state sum $Z_{W'}$ on (f', g') is

$$Z_{W'}(f', g') = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g')} Y\mathbb{S}(G).$$

Let $\mathfrak{S}(W)$ be the set

$$\mathfrak{S}(W) = \{\mathbb{S}(F) \mid F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})\}$$

and let $\mathfrak{S}(W')$ be the set

$$\mathfrak{S}(W') = \{\mathbb{S}(G) \mid G \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g')\}.$$

Lemma 9.15 furnishes a homeomorphism

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{FB}} : \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g') \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})$$

with inverse $(\Phi^{-1})_{\mathcal{FB}}$. Since $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(k)$ for all k and $\Phi(W_0) = \Phi(M) = M' = W'_0$, the Brauer invariance under $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$ and under $(\Phi^{-1})_{\mathcal{F}}$ provided by Lemma 9.12 holds. Given an element $\mathbb{S}(G) \in \mathfrak{S}(W')$, $\Phi_{\mathcal{FB}}(G)$ is a fold field in $\mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})$, and by Brauer invariance

$$\mathbb{S}(G) = \mathbb{S}(\Phi_{\mathcal{FB}} G) \in \mathfrak{S}(W).$$

Conversely, given an element $\mathbb{S}(F) \in \mathfrak{S}(W)$, $(\Phi^{-1})_{\mathcal{FB}}(F)$ is a fold field in $\mathcal{F}(W'; f', g')$ with

$$\mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}((\Phi^{-1})_{\mathcal{FB}} F) \in \mathfrak{S}(W').$$

Consequently, $\mathfrak{S}(W) = \mathfrak{S}(W')$ and, applying the functor Y , $Y(\mathfrak{S}(W)) = Y(\mathfrak{S}(W'))$. By Proposition 6.15, the idempotent additive monoid Q is continuous. Thus we can conclude from Proposition 4.2 that

$$\sum_{F \in \mathcal{F}(W; f'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times M}, g'\bar{\phi}|_{I \times N})} Y\mathbb{S}(F) = \sum_{G \in \mathcal{F}(W'; f', g')} Y\mathbb{S}(G).$$

□

Corollary 9.17. *(Cylindrical Stability under Perturbation of Boundary Conditions.)* Let $\phi, \psi : M \rightarrow M$ be isotopic diffeomorphisms (with $\phi(M(k)) = M(k)$ for all k) and $f, g \in \mathcal{F}(M)$. Then the state sum of the cylinder $I \times M$ satisfies

$$Z_{I \times M}(f\bar{\phi}, g\bar{\psi}) = Z_{I \times M}(f, g).$$

In particular, if $\phi : M \rightarrow M$ is isotopic to the identity, then $Z_{I \times M}(f\bar{\phi}, g) = Z_{I \times M}(f, g)$; analogously for ψ and g .

Proof. We note that $\phi M(k) = M(k)$ implies $\psi M(k) = M(k)$, as ϕ and ψ are isotopic. The cylinder $I \times M$ has progressive time. Let $\Xi : I \times M \rightarrow M$ be a smooth isotopy from ϕ to ψ , arranged so that Ξ is constant in $t \in I$ on a neighborhood of $0 \times M$ and on a neighborhood of $1 \times M$. Then $\Phi : I \times M \rightarrow I \times M$, $\Phi(t, x) = (t, \Xi(t, x))$ satisfies all the hypotheses of Theorem 9.16 on time consistent diffeomorphism invariance (in fact Φ is even time preserving) and we conclude that $\alpha_*(Z_{I \times M}) = Z_{I \times M}$, where $\alpha : \{0, 1\} \times M \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \times M$ is ϕ on $0 \times M$ and ψ on $1 \times M$. Hence

$$Z_{I \times M}(f, g) = \alpha_* Z_{I \times M}(f, g) = Z_{I \times M}(f\bar{\phi}, g\bar{\psi}).$$

If ψ is the identity, then $\bar{\psi}$ is the identity as well. □

Since pseudo-isotopies need not be time consistent, Corollary 9.17 does not immediately generalize to ϕ, ψ being only pseudo-isotopic. However, if M is simply connected and $n - 1 = \dim M \geq 5$, then Cerf's pseudo-isotopy theorem asserts that the two relations of isotopy and pseudo-isotopy coincide.

Corollary 9.18. *Let W and W' be cobordisms with progressive time, both from M to N (endowed with equal cylinder scales). If there exists a time consistent diffeomorphism $\Phi : W \rightarrow W'$ which is the identity near M and near N and has $\Phi(W(k)) = W'(k)$ for every k , then*

$$Z_W = Z_{W'} \in Z(M) \widehat{\otimes} Z(N).$$

10. EXOTIC SPHERES

Throughout this section, we assume the dimension n to satisfy $n \geq 5$. Let Σ^n be an n -dimensional exotic smooth sphere, for example the 7-dimensional Milnor sphere. Thus Σ^n is a smooth manifold homeomorphic, but not diffeomorphic, to the standard sphere S^n . On S^n , there is a special generic function (see Definition 3.2) with precisely 2 critical points, that is, a Morse function $S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with precisely one maximum point and one minimum point. For $n \geq 5$, every n -dimensional exotic sphere is diffeomorphic to a twisted sphere, a result due to Smale. (Twisted spheres are smooth manifolds of the form $D^n \cup_\tau D^n$, where $\tau : \partial D^n = S^{n-1} \xrightarrow{\cong} S^{n-1}$ is an orientation preserving diffeomorphism.) Every twisted sphere has Morse number 2. Thus on Σ^n there is also a special generic function with precisely 2 critical points, a maximum point and a minimum point. For two closed n -manifolds M, N , let $\text{Cob}(M, N)$ denote the collection of all oriented (embedded as in Section 7.1) cobordisms W^{n+1} from M to N . (If M and N are connected, we will assume that $M = M(0)$, $N = N(0)$ and $W = W(0)$ for every W in $\text{Cob}(M, N)$.)

Lemma 10.1. *The collection $\text{Cob}(S^n, \Sigma^n)$ is not empty.*

Proof. Homotopy spheres are stably parallelizable. Thus all Pontrjagin numbers and all Stiefel-Whitney numbers of Σ^n are trivial. It follows that $\Sigma^n = \partial W'$ for some oriented compact smooth $(n+1)$ -manifold W' . Removing a small open ball from the interior of W' , we obtain an oriented cobordism W from S^n to Σ^n . \square

Let $f_S : S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Morse function with precisely 2 critical points. Note that f_S is excellent (Definition 3.1). Let \bar{f}_S be the suspension of f_S , that is,

$$\bar{f}_S = \text{id}_I \times f_S : I \times S^n \longrightarrow I \times \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

Then \bar{f}_S is a fold field with $\mathbb{S}(\bar{f}_S) = 1$ and hence defines an element $\bar{f}_S \in \mathcal{F}(S^n)$, see also Remark 7.15. For any closed, smooth manifold M homeomorphic to a sphere (exotic or not), let $C_2(M)$ denote the space of all $\bar{f}_M \in \mathcal{F}(M)$, which are of the form $\bar{f}_M(t, x) = (\xi(t), f_M(x))$, $(t, x) \in [0, 1] \times M$, for some diffeomorphism $\xi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [a, b]$ with $\xi(0) = a$, where $f_M : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a Morse function with precisely two critical points. A cobordism $W \in \text{Cob}(S^n, M)$ has a state sum $Z_W \in Z(S^n) \widehat{\otimes} Z(M)$, $Z_W : \mathcal{F}(S^n) \times \mathcal{F}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$, so we can evaluate on the boundary condition $(\bar{f}_S, \bar{f}_M) \in \mathcal{F}(S^n) \times \mathcal{F}(M)$, where we wish to concentrate on $\bar{f}_M \in C_2(M)$. We get $Z_W(\bar{f}_S, \bar{f}_M) \in \mathcal{Q}$ and shall study the *aggregate invariant*

$$\mathfrak{A}(M) := \sum_{\bar{f}_M \in C_2(M)} \sum_{W \in \text{Cob}(S^n, M)} Z_W(\bar{f}_S, \bar{f}_M) \in \mathcal{Q},$$

which is well-defined by the Eilenberg-completeness of \mathcal{Q} . Here, as before, \mathcal{Q} is the semiring associated via profinite idempotent completion to a duality structure on a real vector space of finite dimension at least 2, such that the associated functor Y is faithful on loops.

Theorem 10.2. *If Σ^n , $n \geq 5$, is an exotic sphere not diffeomorphic to S^n , then the invariant $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n)$ is a multiple of q .*

Proof. We need to show that for every cobordism $W \in \text{Cob}(S^n, \Sigma^n)$, every map $\bar{f}_\Sigma \in C_2(\Sigma^n)$ and every fold field $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with

$$F|_{[0, \varepsilon] \times S^n} \approx \bar{f}_S, F|_{[1-\varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n} \approx \bar{f}_\Sigma,$$

the Brauer morphism $\mathbb{S}(F) \in \text{Mor}(\mathbf{Br})$, a morphism from 2 points to 2 points in \mathbf{Br} , contains a loop $\lambda : I \rightarrow I$. For then every summand $Y\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes 1$ of $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n)$ is a multiple of q ,

$$Y\mathbb{S}(F) \otimes 1 = Y(\lambda \otimes \phi) \otimes 1 = (\widehat{\lambda} \otimes Y(\phi)) \otimes 1 = Y(\phi) \otimes q,$$

and consequently $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n)$ itself is a multiple of q .

To fit into the cobordism framework of [Sae02], we shall construct a modification $\tilde{F} : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ of F such that

- (i) \tilde{F} is a fold map with $\mathbb{S}(\tilde{F}) = \mathbb{S}(F)$,
- (ii) $\tilde{F}(W_0) \subset \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}$, $\tilde{F}(W_1) \subset \{1\} \times \mathbb{R}$, $\tilde{F}(\text{int } W) \subset (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R}$,
- (iii) there exist $\varepsilon_0, \varepsilon_1 \in (0, \varepsilon)$ such that

$$\tilde{F}(t, x) = \begin{cases} (t, f_S(x)), & \text{for } (t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon_0] \times S^n, \\ (t, f_\Sigma(x)) & \text{for } (t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon_1, 1] \times \Sigma^n. \end{cases}$$

(It is not required that \tilde{F} is a fold *field*.) As $F|_{[0, \varepsilon] \times S^n} \approx \bar{f}_S$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\xi_S : [0, \varepsilon] \rightarrow [0, 1]$, $\xi_S(0) = 0$, such that $F(t, x) = \bar{f}_S(\xi_S(t), x) = (\xi_S(t), f_S(x))$ for $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon] \times S^n$. In particular, we have $F(0, x) = (\xi_S(0), f_S(x)) = (0, f_S(x))$. Similarly for the outgoing boundary Σ^n : As $F|_{[1-\varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n} \approx \bar{f}_\Sigma$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\xi_\Sigma : [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$, $\xi_\Sigma(1) = 1$, such that $F(t, x) = \bar{f}_\Sigma(\xi_\Sigma(t), x)$ for $(t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n$. Since $\bar{f}_\Sigma \in C_2(\Sigma^n)$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\bar{\xi} : [0, 1] \rightarrow [a, b]$, $\bar{\xi}(0) = a$, and a Morse function $f_\Sigma : \Sigma^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with precisely two critical points such that $\bar{f}_\Sigma(t, x) = (\bar{\xi}(t), f_\Sigma(x))$. Hence, when $(t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n$, $F(t, x) = (\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t), f_\Sigma(x))$, where $\bar{\xi}_\Sigma$ is the diffeomorphism $\bar{\xi}_\Sigma = \bar{\xi} \circ \xi_\Sigma : [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \rightarrow [a, b]$. For $t = 1$, $F(1, x) = (b, f_\Sigma(x))$. We will first construct an intermediate modification $F' : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. Choose an $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ with $\xi_S(\varepsilon_0) \in (0, \frac{1}{3})$ and $\varepsilon_0 < \min(\varepsilon, \frac{1}{3})$. This is possible since $\xi_S(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow 0$. As $F(W)$ is compact and thus bounded as a subset of \mathbb{R}^2 , there exists an $R > \max\{|a|, |b|, 1\}$ such that $F(W) \subset (-R, R) \times (-R, R)$. Let $\eta_0 = \xi_S(\varepsilon_0)$. As $\eta_0 < \frac{1}{3}$ and $\xi_S^{-1}(\eta_0) - R = \varepsilon_0 - R < \frac{2}{3}$, there exists a diffeomorphism $\phi_S : [0, 1] \rightarrow [-R, 1]$ such that

$$\phi_S(t) = \begin{cases} t, & t \in [\frac{2}{3}, 1], \\ \xi_S^{-1}(t) - R, & t \in [0, \eta_0]. \end{cases}$$

Similarly, choose an $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ with $\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(1 - \varepsilon_1) \in (a + \frac{2}{3}(b - a), b)$ and $\varepsilon_1 < \min(\varepsilon, \frac{1}{3}(b - a), \frac{1}{3})$. This is possible since $\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t) \rightarrow b$ as $t \rightarrow 1$. Let $\eta_1 = \bar{\xi}_\Sigma(1 - \varepsilon_1)$. As $a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a) < \eta_1$ and

$$a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a) < a + \frac{2}{3}(b - a) = b - \frac{1}{3}(b - a) < b - \varepsilon_1 < R - \varepsilon_1 = \bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(\eta_1) - 1 + R,$$

there exists a diffeomorphism $\phi_\Sigma : [a, b] \rightarrow [a, R]$ such that

$$\phi_\Sigma(t) = \begin{cases} t, & t \in [a, a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a)], \\ \bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(t) - 1 + R, & t \in [\eta_1, b]. \end{cases}$$

Setting

$$W' = W - ([0, \xi_S^{-1}(\frac{2}{3})] \times S^n \sqcup (\bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a)), 1] \times \Sigma^n),$$

we define $F' : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ on $y \in W$ by

$$F'(y) = \begin{cases} (\phi_S \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(F(t, x)), & y = (t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon] \times S^n \\ F(y), & y \in W' \\ (\phi_\Sigma \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(F(t, x)), & y = (t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n. \end{cases}$$

Then F' is indeed well-defined, since for $y = (t, x)$ in the overlap

$$W' \cap [0, \varepsilon] \times S^n = [\xi_S^{-1}(\frac{2}{3}), \varepsilon] \times S^n,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_S \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(F(t, x)) &= (\phi_S \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(\xi_S(t), f_S(x)) = (\phi_S(\xi_S(t)), f_S(x)) \\ &= (\xi_S(t), f_S(x)) = F(t, x) = F(y), \end{aligned}$$

while for $y = (t, x)$ in the overlap

$$W' \cap [1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n = [1 - \varepsilon, \bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a))] \times \Sigma^n,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\phi_\Sigma \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(F(t, x)) &= (\phi_\Sigma \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{R}})(\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t), f_\Sigma(x)) = (\phi_\Sigma(\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t)), f_\Sigma(x)) \\ &= (\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t), f_\Sigma(x)) = F(t, x) = F(y). \end{aligned}$$

(Note that $\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(1 - \varepsilon) = a < a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a)$ and thus $1 - \varepsilon < \bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(a + \frac{1}{3}(b - a))$.) Since the restrictions of F' to $[0, \varepsilon] \times S^n$, to W' and to $[1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n$ are each smooth, and every point $y \in W$ has an open neighborhood in W that lies entirely in $[0, \varepsilon] \times S^n$, or in the interior of W' , or in $[1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n$, we conclude that F' is smooth. The restriction $F'|_{W'} = F|_{W'}$ is a fold map. The restriction $F'|_{[0, \varepsilon] \times S^n}$ is the composition of a fold map with a diffeomorphism, hence itself a fold map. Similarly, $F'|_{[1 - \varepsilon, 1] \times \Sigma^n}$ is a fold map. Therefore, $F' : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a fold map. Note that $S(F') = S(F)$ for the singular sets. The imaginary part of the image $F'(0, x)$ of an incoming singular point $(0, x) \in S(F) \cap (\{0\} \times S^n)$ is the same as the imaginary part of $F(0, x)$, namely $f_S(x)$. An analogous statement holds for the outgoing singular points. This shows that $\mathbb{S}(F') = \mathbb{S}(F)$. On points $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon_0] \times S^n$ we find that

$$F'(t, x) = (\phi_S(\xi_S(t)), f_S(x)) = (\xi_S^{-1}(\xi_S(t)) - R, f_S(x)) = (t - R, f_S(x)),$$

and on $(t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon_1, 1] \times \Sigma^n$,

$$F'(t, x) = (\phi_\Sigma(\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t)), f_\Sigma(x)) = (\bar{\xi}_\Sigma^{-1}(\bar{\xi}_\Sigma(t)) - 1 + R, f_\Sigma(x)) = (t - 1 + R, f_\Sigma(x)).$$

This shows in particular that the image of W under F' satisfies

$$(43) \quad F'(W_0) \subset \{-R\} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad F'(W_1) \subset \{R\} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad F'(\text{int} W) \subset (-R, R) \times \mathbb{R}.$$

This completes the construction of F' .

There exists a diffeomorphism $\lambda : [-R, R] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that

$$\lambda(t) = \begin{cases} t + R, & t \in [-R, \frac{1}{3} - R], \\ t + 1 - R, & t \in [R - \frac{1}{3}, R], \end{cases}$$

since $(\frac{1}{3} - R) + R = \frac{1}{3} < \frac{2}{3} = (R - \frac{1}{3}) + 1 - R$. A diffeomorphism $\Lambda : [-R, R] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ is then given by $\Lambda(t, u) = (\lambda(t), u)$. We put

$$\tilde{F} = \Lambda \circ F' : W \longrightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{R}^2.$$

As Λ is a diffeomorphism and F' is a fold map, the composition \tilde{F} is a fold map as well and $S(\tilde{F}) = S(F') = S(F)$. Since Λ acts as the identity on the second coordinate u (i.e. the imaginary part), we have $\mathbb{S}(\tilde{F}) = \mathbb{S}(F') = \mathbb{S}(F)$. This proves (i). By (43),

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{F}(W_0) &\subset \Lambda(\{-R\} \times \mathbb{R}) = \{0\} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad \tilde{F}(W_1) \subset \Lambda(\{R\} \times \mathbb{R}) = \{1\} \times \mathbb{R}, \\ \tilde{F}(\text{int } W) &\subset \Lambda((-R, R) \times \mathbb{R}) = (0, 1) \times \mathbb{R},\end{aligned}$$

which establishes (ii). Finally, (iii) holds for $(t, x) \in [0, \varepsilon_0] \times S^n$,

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{F}(t, x) &= \Lambda(F'(t, x)) = \Lambda(t - R, f_S(x)) = (\lambda(t - R), f_S(x)) \\ &= ((t - R) + R, f_S(x)) = (t, f_S(x)),\end{aligned}$$

and when $(t, x) \in [1 - \varepsilon_1, 1] \times S^n$,

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{F}(t, x) &= \Lambda(F'(t, x)) = \Lambda(t - 1 + R, f_\Sigma(x)) = (\lambda(t - 1 + R), f_\Sigma(x)) \\ &= ((t - 1 + R) + 1 - R, f_\Sigma(x)) = (t, f_\Sigma(x)).\end{aligned}$$

Since Σ^n is not diffeomorphic to S^n , \tilde{F} is not a special generic map, according to [Sae02, Lemma 3.3, p. 4]. (If \tilde{F} were special generic, then one could, following Saeki, construct an h-cobordism between Σ^n and S^n . By Smale's h-cobordism theorem, Σ^n would then be diffeomorphic to S^n , a contradiction.) Thus \tilde{F} must have an indefinite fold point. Recall (Proposition 3.5) that $\tilde{F} : W^{n+1} \rightarrow [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ is given in local coordinates by

$$\begin{aligned}(t, x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto (t, y), \\ y &= -x_1^2 - \dots - x_i^2 + x_{i+1}^2 + \dots + x_n^2, \quad 0 \leq i \leq n.\end{aligned}$$

A fold point is definite if and only if $i \in \{0, n\}$; it is indefinite if and only if $i \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$. The absolute index of a fold point p is defined by $\tau(p) = \max\{i, n-i\}$. Thus p is definite precisely when $\tau(p) = n$ and indefinite precisely when $\tau(p) < n$. Since \tilde{F} has an indefinite fold point p , it thus has a singular point with $\tau(p) < n$. If $\mathbb{S}(F) = \mathbb{S}(\tilde{F})$ had no loop, then it would have to be

$$\text{X} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{—} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{) (} \quad .$$

But the absolute index τ is constant along every connected component of $S(\tilde{F})$. Since all four endpoints are either a maximum or a minimum point, their absolute indices are all equal to n . Thus $\tau(p) = n$ for every $p \in S(\tilde{F})$ in all three cases — a contradiction. Hence, $\mathbb{S}(F)$ has a loop. \square

Let us compare this to the aggregate invariant $\mathfrak{A}(S^n)$ of the standard sphere,

$$\mathfrak{A}(S^n) = \sum_{\bar{g}_S \in C_2(S^n)} \sum_{W \in \text{Cob}(S^n, S^n)} Z_W(\bar{f}_S, \bar{g}_S) \in \mathcal{Q}.$$

Proposition 10.3. *For the standard sphere S^n ,*

$$\mathfrak{A}(S^n) = 1_{V \otimes V} + r(q)$$

for some power series $r(q) \in \mathcal{Q}$.

Proof. Let W be the cylinder $W = [0, 1] \times S^n$ and let $\bar{g}_S : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be the map $\bar{g}_S(t, x) = (2 + t, f_S(x))$. Up to a translation in the t -direction, \bar{g}_S is the suspension of a Morse function with precisely two critical points. Thus \bar{g}_S is a fold field with $\mathbb{S}(\bar{g}_S) = 1$ and hence defines an element $\bar{g}_S \in \mathcal{F}(S^n)$. Taking $\xi(t) = 2 + t$, this element clearly lies in $C_2(S^n)$. The map $F : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $F(t, x) = (3t, f_S(x))$ is a fold field. Taking $\xi : [0, \frac{1}{3}] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ to be $\xi(t) = 3t$, we

have $F(t, x) = (\xi(t), f_S(x)) = \bar{f}_S(\xi(t), x)$ for $t \in [0, \frac{1}{3}]$, which shows that $F|_{[0, 1/3] \times S^n} \approx \bar{f}_S$. Taking $\xi : [\frac{2}{3}, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ to be $\xi(t) = 3t - 2$, we have $F(t, x) = (2 + \xi(t), f_S(x)) = \bar{g}_S(\xi(t), x)$ for $t \in [\frac{2}{3}, 1]$, which shows that $F|_{[2/3, 1] \times S^n} \approx \bar{g}_S$. Thus $F \in \mathcal{F}(W; \bar{f}_S, \bar{g}_S)$. The Brauer morphism of F is

$$\mathbb{S}(F) = \frac{\text{---}}{\text{---}},$$

the identity morphism on the object $[2]$ in \mathbf{Br} . Then $Z_W(\bar{f}_S, \bar{g}_S)$ contains the summand

$$Y\mathbb{S}(F) = Y(1_{[2]}) = 1_{Y([2])} = 1_{V \otimes V}.$$

□

Corollary 10.4. *Let Σ^n , $n \geq 5$, be an exotic n -sphere, not diffeomorphic to S^n . Then $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n) \neq \mathfrak{A}(S^n)$ in the semiring \mathcal{Q} .*

Proof. The image of $\mathfrak{A}(-)$ is contained in $\mathcal{Q}(H_{2,2}) \subset \mathcal{Q}$. By Lemma 6.10, the minimal shell $S(H_{2,2})$ of $H_{2,2}$ is $S(H_{2,2}) = Y(\text{OP}_{2,2})$. The set $\text{OP}_{2,2}$ of open endomorphisms on the object $[2]$ in \mathbf{Br} has $3!! = 3$ elements, and these are

$$\text{OP}_{2,2} = \{1_{[2]}, b_{1,1}, i_1 \circ e_1\}.$$

Hence

$$Y(\text{OP}_{2,2}) = \{y_1, y_2, y_3\}$$

has cardinality at most 3, with

$$y_1 = Y(1_{[2]}) = 1_{V \otimes V}, y_2 = Y(b_{1,1}) = b, y_3 = Y(i_1 \circ e_1) = ie.$$

We claim that $Y(\text{OP}_{2,2})$ has cardinality 3. To see this, we note that $y_1 \neq y_2$ as the braiding $b : V^{\otimes 2} \rightarrow V^{\otimes 2}$ is not equal to the identity. Both y_1 and y_2 are isomorphisms with nonzero determinant. By Proposition 2.10, the determinant of $i \circ e$ vanishes. Thus $y_3 \notin \{y_1, y_2\}$, as claimed. Lemma 6.7 then provides an isomorphism

$$\phi : \mathcal{Q}(H_{2,2}) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{B}[[q]] \oplus \mathbb{B}[[q]] \oplus \mathbb{B}[[q]]$$

such that

$$\phi(y_1 \otimes b_1 + y_2 \otimes b_2 + y_3 \otimes b_3) = (b_1, b_2, b_3).$$

By Proposition 10.3,

$$\phi\mathfrak{A}(S^n) = (1 + a, b_2, b_3),$$

whereas by Theorem 10.2,

$$\phi\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n) = (qa', b'_2, b'_3).$$

In the Boolean power series semiring $\mathbb{B}[[q]]$, there do not exist elements a, a' with $1 + a = qa'$. Thus $\phi\mathfrak{A}(S^n) \neq \phi\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n)$ and in particular $\mathfrak{A}(S^n) \neq \mathfrak{A}(\Sigma^n)$. □

Given any homotopy sphere Σ_1^n , the invariant \mathfrak{A} can be modified in such a way that it will distinguish Σ_1^n from any other homotopy sphere Σ_2^n . Let $f_1 : \Sigma_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Morse function with precisely two critical points and let \bar{f}_1 be its suspension. Given any homotopy sphere M^n , let

$$\mathfrak{A}_1(M) := \sum_{\bar{f}_M \in C_2(M)} \sum_{W \in \text{Cob}(\Sigma_1, M)} Z_W(\bar{f}_1, \bar{f}_M) \in \mathcal{Q}.$$

If $M = \Sigma_2$ is not diffeomorphic to Σ_1 , then $\mathfrak{A}(\Sigma_2) \neq \mathfrak{A}(\Sigma_1)$.

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