

Fusion rules for quantum reflection groups

Teodor Banica and Roland Vergnioux

Abstract. We find the fusion rules for the quantum analogues of the complex reflection groups $H_n^s = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr S_n$. The irreducible representations can be indexed by the elements of the free monoid \mathbb{N}^{*s} , and their tensor products are given by formulae which remind the Clebsch–Gordan rules (which appear at $s = 1$).

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000). 16W30 (46L65, 46L87).

Keywords. Reflection group, quantum group, fusion rules.

Introduction

The last two decades have seen a remarkable unification process in mathematics and physics, with quantum groups playing a prominent role. The original discovery of Drinfeld [12] and Jimbo [16] was that the enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ of a classical Lie algebra has a non-trivial deformation $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ in the category of Hopf algebras. Here the parameter q can be complex, or formal.

Short after the constructions of Drinfeld and Jimbo, Woronowicz developed a general theory of compact quantum groups [29], [30]. The algebras $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$ with $q > 0$ correspond to compact quantum groups, as shown by Rosso in [20].

Most of the study of compact quantum groups has focused on the extension and application of various differential geometry techniques. The work here, heavily influenced by Connes' book [10], currently follows a number of independent directions, belonging to noncommutative geometry. See [17], [18].

Another part of work has gone into the study of free quantum groups. These were introduced in two papers of Wang [27], [28]. The idea is as follows: let $G \subset U_n$ be a compact group. The n^2 matrix coordinates u_{ij} satisfy certain relations R , and generate the algebra $C(G)$. One can define then the universal algebra $A = C^*(u_{ij}|R)$, and for a suitable choice of the relations R we get a Hopf algebra. We have the heuristic formula $A = C(G^+)$, where G^+ is a compact quantum group, called free version of G . Observe that we have $G \subset G^+$.

This construction is not axiomatized, in the sense that G^+ depends on the relations R , and it is not known in general what the good choice of R is. For instance any choice

with R including the commutativity relations $u_{ij}u_{kl} = u_{kl}u_{ij}$ would be definitely a bad one, because in this case we would get $G^+ = G$. Moreover, any choice with R including certain relations which imply these commutativity relations would be a bad one as well, and the problem comes from here.

There are a number of general methods, however, which can be used in order to understand the correct formulation of the operation $G \rightarrow G^+$. One of them, heavily used in the context of quantum permutation groups [4], [5], consists in saying that “ G^+ should be the quantum symmetry group of the object X whose symmetry group is G ”. The axiomatization work here seems to evolve towards the quite general situation where X is a spectral triple in the sense of Connes [10], thanks to the recent work of Goswami [13].

For the known examples of free quantum groups, the main problem is to compute certain representation theory invariants. As in the case of classical groups, the central problem is that of classifying the irreducible representations, and finding their fusion rules. The story here is as follows:

- (1) The first two examples of free quantum groups are O_n^+ and U_n^+ . These quantum groups were constructed in Wang’s thesis [27], and their fusion rules were found in the first author’s thesis [1].
- (2) The knowledge of the fusion rules for O_n^+ and U_n^+ allows the study of their duals, and some preliminary results were obtained in [1]. The systematic study in this sense has begun with the second author’s thesis [24].
- (3) The third free quantum group is S_n^+ , constructed in Wang’s paper [28]. The fusion rules for S_n^+ were found in [2], with the quite surprising result that these are the same as those for SO_3 , independently of $n \geq 4$.
- (4) The analytic study of the duals of O_n^+ and U_n^+ has been intensively developed in the last 5 years, with a number of key results obtained by the second author, Vaes, and their collaborators [22], [23], [25].
- (5) In the meantime the construction of new free quantum groups, along with some preliminary axiomatization work, has been pursued by the first author, Bichon, Collins, and their collaborators [3], [4], [5].

The purpose of the present work is to make a bridge between (4) and (5), with an explicit computation of fusion rules, in the spirit of [1], [2]. It is our hope that, as it was the case with [1], [2], the present results will be of help for both approaches. Some comments in this sense will be given in the end of the article.

The main object of interest will be the complex reflection group H_n^s . This is the group of monomial $n \times n$ matrices (i.e., one nonzero entry on each row and each column), having as nonzero entries the s -th roots of unity.

The construction of H_n^{s+} was done in several steps, by overcoming a series of quite unexpected algebraic obstacles, the story being as follows:

- (1) At $s = 1$ we have the symmetric group S_n investigated by Wang in [28]. The subtlety here comes from the fact that S_n^+ is not a finite quantum group. However, S_n^+ makes sense as a compact quantum group.
- (2) At $s = 2$ we have the hyperoctahedral group H_n studied in [5]. The surprise here comes from the fact that H_n^+ is not the quantum symmetry group of the hypercube (which can be shown to be O_n^{-1}).
- (3) The general case $s \geq 1$ was worked out in [3]. Once again, there were several candidates here for H_n^{s+} , and a quite lengthy free probability computation had to be done in order to find the good one.
- (4) The general series of complex reflection groups is $\{H_n^{r,s}\}$, where $H_n^{r,s} \subset H_n^s$ with $r | s$ consists of matrices whose product of nonzero entries is a r -th root of unity. The existence of $H_n^{r,s+}$ is an open, uncertain problem.

In this article we classify the irreducible representations of H_n^{s+} , and we find their fusion rules. The main result states that the irreducible representations can be indexed by the words over \mathbb{Z}_s , and the fusion rules are of the following type:

$$r_x \otimes r_y = \sum_{x=vz, y=\bar{z}w} r_{vw} + r_{v \cdot w}.$$

We refer to Section 7 for the precise meaning of this formula, and to Section 8 for some equivalent formulations.

The above formula can be thought of as being a “level s ” generalization of the Clebsch–Gordan formula for SO_3 , which appears at $s = 1$.

The proof is considerably more complicated than the one in [2] at $s = 1$ and uses various techniques from [4], [5], and from the main paper [3].

The article is organized as follows. In Sections 1–3 we discuss the construction and the basic algebraic properties of the quantum reflection groups. In Sections 4–7 we work out the fusion rules, and in 8–9 we discuss some related questions.

The final Section 10 contains a conjectural statement regarding the fusion rules of arbitrary free quantum groups, along with a few concluding remarks.

1. Quantum reflection groups

A square matrix is called monomial if it has exactly one nonzero entry on each row and on each column. The basic examples are the permutation matrices.

Definition 1.1. H_n^s is the group of monomial $n \times n$ matrices having as nonzero entries the s -th roots of unity.

In other words, an element of H_n^s is a permutation matrix, with the 1 entries replaced by certain s -th roots of unity. Observe that we have $H_n^s = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr S_n$.

We allow the value $s = \infty$ in the above definition, with the convention that a root of unity of infinite order is nothing but an element on the unit circle.

Of special interest among the groups H_n^s are those corresponding to the values $s = 1, 2, \infty$. These groups will be used as key examples for all the considerations in this article, and most definitions or theorems will be illustrated in this way.

Proposition 1.2. *The groups H_n^s with $s = 1, 2, \infty$ are as follows.*

- (1) $H_n^1 = S_n$ is the symmetric group.
- (2) $H_n^2 = H_n$ is the hyperoctahedral group.
- (3) $H_n^\infty = K_n$ is the group of unitary monomial matrices.

The groups H_n^s are in fact part of a more general series. Indeed, for $r | s$ we can consider the subgroup $H_n^{rs} \subset H_n^s$ formed by the matrices whose product of nonzero entries is a r -th root of unity. Observe that we have $H_n^{ss} = H_n^s$.

The groups H_n^{rs} form the general series of complex reflection groups. We should mention that the standard group theory notation for this series is $G(d, de, n) = H_n^{d,de}$, so in particular we have $H_n^s = G(s, s, n)$.

The following key definition is from [3].

Definition 1.3. $A_h^s(n)$ is the universal C^* -algebra generated by n^2 normal elements u_{ij} subject to the following relations R :

- (1) $u = (u_{ij})$ is unitary.
- (2) $u^t = (u_{ji})$ is unitary.
- (3) $p_{ij} = u_{ij}u_{ij}^*$ is a projection.
- (4) $u_{ij}^s = p_{ij}$.

We use here the standard operator algebra terminology: an element a is called *normal* if $aa^* = a^*a$, *unitary* if $aa^* = a^*a = 1$, and *projection* if $a^2 = a^* = a$.

We allow the value $s = \infty$ in the above definition, with the convention that the last axiom simply disappears in this case.

Observe that for $s < \infty$ the normality condition is actually redundant. This is because a partial isometry a subject to the relation $aa^* = a^s$ is normal.

It follows from definitions, and from standard operator algebra tricks, that $A_h^s(n)$ is a Hopf algebra, with comultiplication, counit and antipode as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(u_{ij}) &= \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik} \otimes u_{kj}, \\ \varepsilon(u_{ij}) &= \delta_{ij}, \\ S(u_{ij}) &= u_{ji}^*. \end{aligned}$$

More precisely, the above formulae show that $A_h^s(n)$ is a Hopf C^* -algebra in the sense of Woronowicz’s fundamental paper [29].

The relation with the group H_n^s is as follows.

Proposition 1.4. *$C(H_n^s)$ is isomorphic to the universal commutative C^* -algebra generated by n^2 abstract variables u_{ij} , subject to the relations R .*

This assertion follows indeed from the Stone–Weierstrass theorem and from the Gelfand theorem. See [3].

The comparison between Definition 1.3 and Proposition 1.4 leads to the conclusion that we have a surjective morphism of C^* -algebras $\pi : A_h^s(n) \rightarrow C(H_n^s)$, whose kernel is the commutator ideal of $A_h^s(n)$.

The best interpretation, however, is in terms of quantum groups. It follows from definitions that π is a Hopf algebra morphism, so if H_n^{s+} is the compact quantum group associated to $A_h^s(n)$, then we have an embedding $H_n^s \subset H_n^{s+}$.

Proposition 1.5. *The algebras $A_h^s(n)$ with $s = 1, 2, \infty$ and their presentation relations in terms of the entries of the matrix $u = (u_{ij})$ are as follows.*

- (1) For $A_h^1(n) = A_s(n)$ the matrix u is magic: all its entries are projections, summing up to 1 on each row and column.
- (2) For $A_h^2(n) = A_h(n)$ the matrix u is cubic: it is orthogonal and the products of pairs of distinct entries on the same row or the same column vanish.
- (3) For $A_h^\infty(n) = A_k(n)$ the matrix u is unitary, its transpose is unitary, and all its entries are normal partial isometries.

In this statement (1) and (2) follow from definitions and from standard operator algebra tricks, and (3) is just a translation of the definition (a partial isometry is an element a such that aa^* and a^*a are projections); see [3].

2. Finiteness considerations

In this section and in the next one we find the quantum analogues of some basic properties of H_n^s . We should mention that these results were proved in [5] in the case $s = 2$, and were announced in [3] in the general case $s \geq 1$.

The most obvious property of H_n^s is that this is a finite group.

The quantum analogue of this result, however, does not hold, even at $s = 1$, as shown by the following result of Wang [28].

Theorem 2.1. *For $n = 2, 3$ the canonical map $A_s(n) \rightarrow C(S_n)$ is an isomorphism. For $n \geq 4$ the algebra $A_s(n)$ is not commutative and infinite dimensional.*

In other words, the compact quantum group S_n^+ with $n \geq 4$ is not a classical group, nor a finite quantum group.

Now back to the general case $s \geq 1$, the correct approach to this quite mysterious finiteness issue is as follows:

- (1) First, we will prove that H_n^{s+} is a quantum permutation group, in analogy with the fact that H_n^s is a permutation group.
- (2) Then we will prove that we have a free wreath product decomposition $H_n^{s+} = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr_* S_n^+$, in analogy with the decomposition $H_n^s = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr S_n$.

In Hopf algebra terms, we first have to prove that $A_h^s(n)$ is a quantum permutation algebra, i.e., is a quotient of a suitable Wang algebra $A_s(N)$. For this purpose, we use the method of “sudoku matrices” from [5].

We recall from Proposition 1.5 that a magic unitary is a square matrix of projections, which sum up to 1 on each row and column.

Definition 2.2. An (s, n) -sudoku matrix is a magic unitary of size sn of the form

$$m = \begin{pmatrix} a^0 & a^1 & \dots & a^{s-1} \\ a^{s-1} & a^0 & \dots & a^{s-2} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a^1 & a^2 & \dots & a^0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where a^0, \dots, a^{s-1} are $n \times n$ matrices.

Observe that m is a circulant matrix. By using some standard tensor product identifications and modulo s indices, we will write

$$m = (a_{ij}^{q-p})_{pi,qj}.$$

The basic example of such matrices is in relation with the group H_n^s . With the notation $w = e^{2\pi i/s}$, each of the n^2 matrix coordinates $u_{ij} : H_n^s \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ takes values in the set $\{0\} \cup \{1, w, \dots, w^{s-1}\}$, hence decomposes as

$$u_{ij} = \sum_{r=0}^{s-1} w^r a_{ij}^r.$$

Here each a_{ij}^r is by definition a function taking values in $\{0, 1\}$. We see that each a_{ij}^r is a projection in the C^* -algebra sense, and it follows from definitions that these projections form a sudoku matrix in the above sense.

Theorem 2.3. *We have the following results.*

- (1) $C(H_n^s)$ is isomorphic to the universal commutative C^* -algebra generated by the entries of a (s, n) -sudoku matrix.

- (2) $A_h^s(n)$ is isomorphic to the universal C^* -algebra generated by the entries of an (s, n) -sudoku matrix.

Proof. (1) This assertion, which is included here for symmetry reasons and which will not be used in what follows, can be proved either directly, or by using (2) and the fact that $C(H_n^s)$ is the maximal commutative quotient of $A_h^s(n)$.

(2) We denote by A the universal algebra in the statement. According to Definition 2.1, we have the following presentation formula:

$$A = C^*(a_{ij}^p \mid (a_{ij}^{q-p})_{pi,qj} = (s, n)\text{-sudoku}).$$

Consider also the algebra $A_h^s(n)$. According to Definition 1.3, it is presented by certain relations R that we call here level s cubic conditions:

$$A_h^s(n) = C^*(u_{ij} \mid u = n \times n \text{ level } s \text{ cubic}).$$

We will construct a pair of inverse morphisms between these algebras.

Step 1. Consider the matrix

$$U_{ij} = \sum_p w^{-p} a_{ij}^p.$$

We claim that this is a level s cubic unitary. Indeed, by using the sudoku condition, the verification of (1)–(4) in Definition 1.3 goes as follows.

- (1) The fact that we have $UU^* = 1$ can be checked as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (UU^*)_{ij} &= \sum_{kpq} w^{-p} a_{ik}^p w^q a_{jk}^q \\ &= \sum_{pq} w^{q-p} \sum_k a_{ik}^p a_{jk}^q \\ &= \sum_{pq} w^{q-p} \delta_{pq} \delta_{ij} \sum_k a_{ik}^p = \delta_{ij} \sum_{pk} a_{ik}^p = \delta_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry reasons, the verification of $U^*U = 1$ is similar.

- (2) The verification of $U^t \bar{U} = 1$ and $\bar{U} U^t = 1$ is similar.

- (3) We first compute the elements $P_{ij} = U_{ij} U_{ij}^*$:

$$P_{ij} = \sum_{pq} w^{-p} a_{ij}^p w^q a_{ij}^q = \sum_{pq} w^{q-p} a_{ij}^p a_{ij}^q = \sum_p a_{ij}^p.$$

This is a sum of pairwise orthogonal projections, so it is a projection.

- (4) We compute now the s -th power of U_{ij} :

$$U_{ij}^s = \left(\sum_p w^{-p} a_{ij}^p \right)^s = \sum_p (w^{-p} a_{ij}^p)^s = \sum_p a_{ij}^p = P_{ij}.$$

Summarizing, the elements U_{ij} form a level s cubic matrix, so we can define a morphism $\Phi: A_h^s(n) \rightarrow A$ by the formula $\Phi(u_{ij}) = U_{ij}$.

Step 2. Consider the following elements, with the convention $u_{ij}^0 = p_{ij}$:

$$A_{ij}^p = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{rp} u_{ij}^r.$$

It follows from the cubic condition that these elements form a level s sudoku unitary, with the verification going as follows:

(1) First, these elements are self-adjoint:

$$(A_{ij}^p)^* = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{-rp} (u_{ij}^r)^* = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{-rp} u_{ij}^{s-r} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{(s-r)p} u_{ij}^{s-r} = A_{ij}^p.$$

(2) We check now that these elements are idempotents:

$$(A_{ij}^p)^2 = \frac{1}{s^2} \sum_{rt} w^{rp} u_{ij}^r w^{tp} u_{ij}^t = \frac{1}{s^2} \sum_{rt} w^{(r+t)p} u_{ij}^{r+t} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_l w^{lp} u_{ij}^l = A_{ij}^p.$$

(3) We compute the sum on the rows of $M = (A_{ij}^{q-p})_{pi,qj}$:

$$\sum_{jp} A_{ij}^p = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{jpr} w^{rp} u_{ij}^r = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{jr} u_{ij}^r \sum_p w^{rp} = \sum_j u_{ij}^0 = 1.$$

(4) By symmetry reasons, the sum on the columns of M is 1 as well.

Summarizing, the elements A_{ij}^p form a sudoku unitary, so we can define a morphism $\Psi: A \rightarrow A_h^s(n)$ by the formula $\Psi(a_{ij}^p) = A_{ij}^p$.

Step 3. We check now the fact that Φ, Ψ are indeed inverse morphisms:

$$\Psi \Phi(u_{ij}) = \sum_p w^{-p} A_{ij}^p = \frac{1}{s} \sum_p w^{-p} \sum_r w^{rp} u_{ij}^r = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{pr} w^{(r-1)p} u_{ij}^r = u_{ij}.$$

As for the other composition, we have the following computation:

$$\Phi \Psi(a_{ij}^p) = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{rp} U_{ij}^r = \frac{1}{s} \sum_r w^{rp} \sum_q w^{-rq} a_{ij}^q = \frac{1}{s} \sum_q a_{ij}^q \sum_r w^{r(p-q)} = a_{ij}^p.$$

This finishes the proof. □

3. Algebraic structure

We know from the previous section that H_n^{s+} is a quantum permutation group, in analogy with the fact that H_n^s is a permutation group. In this section we discuss the quantum analogue of the decomposition $H_n^s = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr S_n$.

Lemma 3.1. *An $sn \times sn$ magic unitary commutes with the square matrix*

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_n & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & I_n \\ I_n & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

if and only if it is a sudoku matrix in the sense of Definition 2.2.

Proof. The commutation with Σ ensures indeed that the matrix is circulant. □

Let C_s be the oriented cycle with s vertices, and consider the graph C_s^n consisting of n disjoint copies of it. Observe that, with a suitable labeling of the vertices, the adjacency matrix of this graph is the above matrix Σ .

The quantum symmetry algebra of a finite graph is the quotient of the quantum permutation algebra on the set of vertices by the relations making the fundamental corepresentation commute with the adjacency matrix. See [4].

Theorem 3.2. *We have the following results.*

- (1) H_n^s is the symmetry group of C_s^n .
- (2) $A_h^s(n)$ is the quantum symmetry algebra of C_s^n .

Proof. (1) follows from definitions, and (2) follows from Theorem 2.3 and Lemma 3.1. Indeed, $A_h^s(n)$ is the quotient of $A_s(sn)$ by the relations making the fundamental corepresentation commute with the adjacency matrix of C_s^n . □

According to the work of Bichon [9], the free analogue of the notion of wreath product is that of free wreath product at the level of Hopf algebras.

Definition 3.3. The free wreath product of two quantum permutation algebras (A, u) and (B, v) is given by

$$A *_w B = (A^{*n} * B) / \langle [u_{pq}^{(i)}, v_{ij}] = 0 \rangle$$

where n is the size of v , with magic unitary matrix $w_{pi,qj} = u_{pq}^{(i)} v_{ij}$.

This definition is justified by formulae of the following type, where G, A denote classical symmetry groups, respectively quantum symmetry algebras:

$$\begin{aligned} G(X * Y) &= G(X) \wr G(Y), \\ A(X * Y) &= A(X) *_w A(Y). \end{aligned}$$

There are several such formulae, depending on the types of graphs and products considered. See [9], [4]. The formula we are interested in is

$$\begin{aligned} G(X \dots X) &= G(X) \wr G(\circ \dots \circ), \\ A(X \dots X) &= A(X) *_w A(\circ \dots \circ). \end{aligned}$$

Here X is a finite graph, \circ is a point, and the dots mean n -fold disjoint union. For the precise statement and proof of this result we refer to [4].

We are now in position of stating the main result in this section.

Theorem 3.4. *We have the following results.*

- (1) $H_n^s = \mathbb{Z}_s \wr S_n$.
- (2) $A_h^s(n) = C(\mathbb{Z}_s) *_w A_s(n)$.

Proof. This follows from Theorem 3.2 and from the above formulae, first established in [9] and later on refined in [4], by using the graph $X = C_s$.

Observe that (1) is in fact clear from definitions. We would like to present below a self-contained proof of (2), by constructing a pair of inverse morphisms. This will compress the above-mentioned combined arguments from [9], [4].

Step 1. First we have to fix some notations for the algebra on the right. We view \mathbb{Z}_s as the group formed by the powers of the basic cyclic matrix

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus we have $\mathbb{Z}_s \subset M_s(\mathbb{C})$, and the magic unitary u corresponding to the quantum permutation algebra $C(\mathbb{Z}_s)$ is the matrix of coordinates on \mathbb{Z}_s :

$$u_{pq}(\sigma^r) = \delta_{q-p,r}.$$

Here, and in what follows, all the indices p, q, r, \dots are taken mod s . Observe that u is a circulant matrix, and in particular we have

$$u_{pq} = u_{0,q-p}.$$

Step 2. We construct a morphism $\Phi: A_h^s(n) \rightarrow C(\mathbb{Z}_s) *_w A_s(n)$.

Consider the standard generators $w_{pi,qj} = u_{pq}^{(i)} v_{ij}$ of the algebra on the right, as in Definition 3.3. We claim that the following elements form a sudoku unitary:

$$A_{ij}^p = u_{0p}^{(i)} v_{ij}.$$

Indeed, the corresponding matrix M as in Definition 2.2 is given by

$$M_{pi,qj} = A_{ij}^{q-p} = u_{0,q-p}^{(i)} v_{ij} = u_{pq}^{(i)} v_{ij} = w_{pi,qj}.$$

Since this latter matrix is known to be magic, the elements A_{ij}^p form indeed a sudoku unitary, and we get a morphism Φ as claimed.

Step 3. We construct a morphism $\Psi : C(\mathbb{Z}_s) *_w A_s(n) \rightarrow A_h^s(n)$.

Consider the standard sudoku generators a_{ij}^p of the algebra on the right, as in Definition 2.2. We define elements $U_{pq}^{(i)}$ and V_{ij} as follows:

$$U_{pq}^{(i)} = \sum_k a_{ik}^{q-p}, \quad V_{ij} = \sum_r a_{ij}^r.$$

It is routine to check that each of the matrices $U^{(i)}$ produces a morphism $C(\mathbb{Z}_s) \rightarrow A_h^s(n)$, and that V produces a morphism $A_s(n) \rightarrow A_h^s(n)$. Moreover, we have the following commutation relation:

$$[U_{pq}^{(i)}, V_{ij}] = \left[\sum_k a_{ik}^{q-p}, \sum_r a_{ij}^r \right] = \sum_{kr} [a_{ik}^{q-p}, a_{ij}^r] = 0.$$

Summarizing, the elements $U_{pq}^{(i)}$ and V_{ij} satisfy the defining relations for the free wreath product, so we get a morphism Ψ as claimed.

Step 4. We check now the fact that Φ, Ψ are indeed inverse morphisms. In one direction, we have the following computation:

$$\Psi\Phi(a_{ij}^p) = U_{0p}^{(i)} V_{ij} = \sum_{kr} a_{ik}^p a_{ij}^r = a_{ij}^p.$$

As for the other composition, we have the following computation:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi\Psi(w_{pi,qj}) &= \sum_{kr} A_{ik}^{q-p} A_{ij}^r = \sum_{kr} u_{0,q-p}^{(i)} v_{ik} u_{0r}^{(i)} v_{ij} \\ &= \sum_{kr} u_{0,q-p}^{(i)} u_{0r}^{(i)} v_{ik} v_{ij} = u_{0,q-p}^{(i)} v_{ij} = w_{pi,qj}. \end{aligned}$$

This finishes the proof. □

We can use the above result in order to deduce the structure of $A_h^s(n)$ in the cases $n = 2, 3$, which are to be avoided in what follows.

Corollary 3.5. *The algebras $A_h^s(n)$ with $n = 2, 3$ are as follows:*

- (1) $A_h^s(2) = C(\mathbb{Z}_s) *_w C(\mathbb{Z}_2)$.
- (2) $A_h^s(3) = C(\mathbb{Z}_s) *_w C(S_3)$.

Proof. This follows from Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 3.4. □

4. Basic corepresentations

In this section and in the next few ones we discuss the classification of irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$, and the computation of their fusion rules.

We recall that, according to Woronowicz’s fundamental paper [29], an analogue of the Peter–Weyl theory is available for the compact quantum groups.

In Hopf algebra terms, the objects of interest are the finite dimensional irreducible unitary corepresentations in the following sense.

Definition 4.1. A finite dimensional unitary corepresentation of a Hopf C^* -algebra A is a unitary matrix $u \in M_n(A)$ satisfying the following conditions:

$$\Delta(u_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^n u_{ik} \otimes u_{kj}, \quad \varepsilon(u_{ij}) = \delta_{ij}, \quad S(u_{ij}) = u_{ji}^*.$$

Such a corepresentation is called irreducible if the matrices $T \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$ commuting with it, $Tu = uT$, reduce to the scalar multiples of the identity.

The sum and tensor product of two corepresentations u, v are by definition the matrices $u + v = \text{diag}(u, v)$ and $u \otimes v = (u_{ij}v_{ab})_{ia,jb}$.

The basic examples of corepresentations are the fundamental one $u = (u_{ij})$, and its complex conjugate $\bar{u} = (u_{ij}^*)$. In this section we use u and \bar{u} in order to construct a whole family of “basic” corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$.

For this purpose, we go back to the elements u_{ij}, p_{ij} in Definition 1.3. We recall that, as a consequence of Proposition 1.5, p is a magic unitary.

Lemma 4.2. *The elements u_{ij} and p_{ij} satisfy*

- (1) $p_{ij}u_{ij} = u_{ij}$,
- (2) $u_{ij}^* = u_{ij}^{s-1}$,
- (3) $u_{ij}u_{ik} = 0$ for $j \neq k$.

Proof. We use the fact that in a C^* -algebra, $aa^* = 0$ implies $a = 0$.

- (1) With $a = (p_{ij} - 1)u_{ij}$ we have

$$aa^* = (p_{ij} - 1)u_{ij}u_{ij}^*(p_{ij} - 1) = (p_{ij} - 1)p_{ij}(p_{ij} - 1) = 0.$$

Thus we have $a = 0$, which gives the result.

- (2) With $a = u_{ij}^* - u_{ij}^{s-1}$ we have $aa^* = 0$, which gives the result.
- (3) With $a = u_{ij}u_{ik}$ we have $aa^* = 0$, which gives the result. □

In what follows, we make the convention $u_{ij}^0 = p_{ij}$.

Theorem 4.3. *The algebra $A_h^s(n)$ has a unique family of n -dimensional corepresentations $\{u_k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ satisfying the following conditions:*

- (1) $u_k = (u_{ij}^k)$ for any $k \geq 0$.
- (2) $u_k = u_{k+s}$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- (3) $\bar{u}_k = u_{-k}$ for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof. We first prove that the matrix $u_k = (u_{ij}^k)$ is a corepresentation for any $k \geq 1$. By using the last assertion in the previous lemma, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(u_{ij}^k) &= (\Delta(u_{ij}))^k \\ &= \left(\sum_l u_{il} \otimes u_{lj} \right)^k = \sum_{l_1 \dots l_k} u_{il_1} \dots u_{il_k} \otimes u_{l_1 j} \dots u_{l_k j} = \sum_l u_{il}^k \otimes u_{lj}^k. \end{aligned}$$

As for the formulae $\varepsilon(u_{ij}^k) = \delta_{ij}$ and $S(u_{ij}^k) = u_{ji}^{*k}$, these follow from $\varepsilon(u_{ij}) = \delta_{ij}$ and $S(u_{ij}) = u_{ji}^*$ by using the multiplicative properties of ε, S .

We claim now that we have $u_k = u_{k+s}$, for any $k \geq 1$. Indeed, this follows from the last assertion in the previous lemma:

$$u_{ij}^{k+s} = u_{ij}^k u_{ij}^s = u_{ij}^k p_{ij} = u_{ij}^k.$$

Summarizing, the conditions (1) and (2) in the statement define a unique family of n -dimensional corepresentations $\{u_k \mid k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, and it remains to check that these corepresentations satisfy the condition (3). But this latter condition follows from the second assertion in the previous lemma, and we are done. □

5. Noncrossing partitions

In this section and in the next one we compute the intertwiners between the various tensor products between the basic corepresentations u_i .

The idea is to use the canonical arrow $A_h^s(n) \rightarrow A_s(n)$. This maps all the corepresentations u_i into U , the fundamental corepresentation of $A_s(n)$, so by functoriality we get embeddings as follows:

$$\text{Hom}(u_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes u_{i_k}, u_{j_1} \otimes \dots \otimes u_{j_l}) \subset \text{Hom}(U^{\otimes k}, U^{\otimes l}).$$

Our first task will be to present a detailed description of the spaces on the right. Then a careful study will allow us to find the spaces on the left.

Recall from [21] the following definition of noncrossing partitions of an ordered set S . A partition $S = P_1 \sqcup P_2 \sqcup \dots \sqcup P_k$ is called noncrossing if, for any distinct classes $P_i = (s_1 < s_2 < \dots < s_l)$ and $P_j = (t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_m)$ of the partition we have:

$$t_k < s_1 < t_{k+1} \iff t_k < s_l < t_{k+1}.$$

Such a partition can be pictorially represented by putting the elements of S on the real line and joining together the elements of each P_i by strings in the upper half plane, in such a way that the strings of the resulting picture do not intersect – see the example after the Definition.

Definition 5.1. We denote by $\text{NC}(k, l)$ the set of noncrossing partitions of the set with repetitions $\{1, \dots, k, 1, \dots, l\}$ ordered as $1 < \dots < k < l < \dots < 1$. These will be pictured as

$$p = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 1 \dots k \\ \mathcal{P} \\ 1 \dots l \end{array} \right\},$$

where \mathcal{P} is a noncrossing diagram joining the elements in the same class of the partition.

Observe that $\text{NC}(k, l)$ is in correspondence with the set $\text{NC}(k + l)$ of noncrossing partitions of $\{1, \dots, k + l\}$. As an example, consider the following partition in $\text{NC}(6)$:

$$p = \{1, 2, 5\} \cup \{3, 4\} \cup \{6\}.$$

The corresponding element of $\text{NC}(6, 0)$ is pictured as follows:

$$p_{60} = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & | \end{array} \right\}$$

The corresponding element of $\text{NC}(0, 6)$ is pictured as follows:

$$p_{06} = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} | & \square & \square & \square & | & | \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \end{array} \right\}.$$

As for the corresponding element of $\text{NC}(5, 1)$, this is pictured as follows:

$$p_{51} = \left\{ \begin{array}{cccccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & \\ \hline \square & \square & \square & \square & & \\ & & & & & | \\ & & & & & 1 \end{array} \right\}.$$

We fix now a number $n \in \mathbb{N}$. All indices will vary in the set $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

Definition 5.2. Associated to any partition $p \in \text{NC}(k, l)$ and any multi-indices $i = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ and $j = (j_1, \dots, j_l)$ is a number $p(i, j) \in \{0, 1\}$ as follows:

- (1) We put the indices of i, j on the points of p , in the obvious way.
- (2) If all the strings of p join equal indices, we set $p(i, j) = 1$.
- (3) If some strings of p join different indices, we set $p(i, j) = 0$.

Here is a series of basic examples, with the partitions represented by the corresponding pictures, drawn according to the above conventions:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ | \\ 1 \end{array} \right\} (a, b) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \sqcap \\ 12 \end{array} \right\} (, ab) = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 12 \\ \sqcup \end{array} \right\} (ab,) = \delta_{ab}.$$

In this equality the δ symbol on the right is a usual Kronecker symbol.

Definition 5.3. Associated to any partition $p \in \text{NC}(k, l)$ is the linear map

$$T_p(e_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{i_k}) = \sum_{j_1 \dots j_l} p(i, j) e_{j_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes e_{j_l},$$

where e_1, \dots, e_n is the standard basis of \mathbb{C}^n .

Here are a few examples that are of interest for the considerations to follow:

$$\begin{aligned} T_- \left\{ \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right\} (e_a \otimes e_b) &= e_a \otimes e_b, \\ T_- \left\{ \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ \vdots \end{array} \right\} (e_a \otimes e_b) &= \delta_{ab} e_a \otimes e_a, \\ T_- \left\{ \begin{array}{c} | \\ | \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right\} (e_a \otimes e_b) &= \sum_{cd} e_c \otimes e_d, \\ T_- \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \sqcup \\ | \\ | \end{array} \right\} (e_a \otimes e_b) &= \delta_{ab} \sum_{cd} e_c \otimes e_d, \\ T_- \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \sqcup \\ | \\ \sqcap \end{array} \right\} (e_a \otimes e_b) &= \delta_{ab} \sum_c e_c \otimes e_c. \end{aligned}$$

We introduce now a number of algebraic operations on partitions.

Definition 5.4. The tensor product, composition and involution of partitions are obtained by horizontal and vertical concatenation and upside-down turning

$$\begin{aligned} p \otimes q &= \{\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}\}, \\ pq &= \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \mathcal{Q} \\ \mathcal{P} \end{array} \right\} - \{\text{closed blocks}\}, \\ p^* &= \{\mathcal{P}^\vee\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $p = \{\mathcal{P}\}$ and $q = \{\mathcal{Q}\}$ are the pictorial representations of p, q .

The above three operations can of course be defined by certain explicit algebraic formulae using the formalism of partitions, but we prefer to use their pictorial interpretation, which is less heavier and far more suggestive.

As an example, consider two partitions $p \in \text{NC}(k, l)$ and $q \in \text{NC}(k', l')$. In order to define their tensor product, we use the following identification:

$$\{1, \dots, k, 1, \dots, l\} \sqcup \{1, \dots, k', 1, \dots, l'\} \simeq \{1, \dots, k + k', 1, \dots, l + l'\}.$$

Here the elements of the first set on the left are identified with the corresponding elements on the set on the right, and the elements of the second set on the left are identified with the missing elements at right, in the following way:

$$\{1, \dots, k', 1, \dots, l'\} \simeq \{k + 1, \dots, k + k', l + 1, \dots, l + l'\}.$$

Now with the above identification, the disjoint union $p \sqcup q$ is a partition of the union of the two sets on the left, hence can be regarded as a partition of the big set on the right. We denote this latter partition by $p \otimes q \in \text{NC}(k + k', l + l')$.

Observe that in pictorial terms, this partition $p \otimes q$ is simply obtained by “horizontal concatenation”, as stated in Definition 5.4.

The composition is similarly defined by “vertical concatenation” of the pictures. Observed that it is only partially defined: the number of upper points of p must be equal to the number of lower points of q . Moreover, when identifying the upper points of p with the lower points of q , “closed blocks” might appear, i.e., strings which are not connected to any of the new upper and lower points. These blocks are simply discarded from the concatenated picture.

We are now in position of developing the method explained in the beginning of this section. Let U be the fundamental corepresentation of $A_s(n)$.

Theorem 5.5. *We have the equality*

$$\text{Hom}(U^{\otimes k}, U^{\otimes l}) = \text{span}\{T_p \mid p \in \text{NC}(k, l)\},$$

and if $n \geq 4$, the maps on the right are linearly independent.

Proof. This result is known since [2], a simplified proof being as follows. First, it is routine to check that we have the following formulae, with $b(p, q) \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{p \otimes q} &= T_p \otimes T_q, \\ T_{pq} &= n^{-b(p,q)} T_p T_q, \\ T_{p^*} &= T_p^*, \\ T_{\mid} &= \text{id}. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that the spaces on the right form a tensor category in the sense of Woronowicz [30]. Moreover, since T_{\sqcap} implements the canonical “duality” map, this category has duals, so by [30] it gives rise to a certain Hopf algebra (A, u) .

Now since the one-block partitions $1_k \in \text{NC}(k)$ produce via the operations in Definition 5.4 all the noncrossing partitions, our tensor category is generated by the maps T_{1_k} . This means that the algebra A is presented by the relations $T_{1_k} \in \text{Hom}(1, u^{\otimes k})$, and a routine computation shows that these conditions are equivalent to the fact that u is magic. Thus we have $A = A_s(n)$.

The last assertion, also proved in [2], follows by using a number of standard tricks. First, by Frobenius duality, the validity of the statement depends only on the value of $k + l$. Moreover, once again by a standard representation theory argument, coming from $1 \in U$, we can assume that $k + l$ is even. Thus it is enough to do the check in the case $k = l$. But here the vector spaces in the statement are actually algebras, and the result follows by using a suitable positive trace. \square

The above result is not surprising, because for $C(S_n)$ the corresponding spaces of intertwiners are given by the same formula, but with all the partitions instead of just the noncrossing ones. Thus we are in tune with the general principle “the passage from classical to free is obtained by restricting attention to the noncrossing partitions”, which goes back to Speicher’s paper [21].

6. Tannakian duality

We are now in position of investigating the spaces of intertwiners between the various tensor products of basic corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$.

Definition 6.1. We make the assumption $n \geq 4$.

This assumption, to be kept until the end of the article, guarantees that the linear maps T_p in Theorem 5.5 are linearly independent. We will use this fact in order to identify the partitions with the corresponding linear maps.

In the cases $n = 2, 3$, not to be investigated in what follows, $A_h^s(n)$ collapses to a quite simple algebra, as shown by Corollary 3.5.

Definition 6.2. For $i_1, \dots, i_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ we use the notation

$$u_{i_1 \dots i_k} = u_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes u_{i_k}$$

where $\{u_i \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ are the corepresentations in Theorem 4.3.

Observe that in the particular case $i_1, \dots, i_k \in \{\pm 1\}$ we obtain in this way all the possible tensor products between $u = u_1$ and $\bar{u} = u_{-1}$, known by the general results in [29] to contain any irreducible corepresentation of $A_h^s(n)$.

Theorem 6.3. *We have the equality*

$$\text{Hom}(u_{i_1 \dots i_k}, u_{j_1 \dots j_l}) = \text{span}\{T_p \mid p \in \text{NC}_s(i_1 \dots i_k, j_1 \dots j_l)\},$$

where the set on the right consists of elements of $\text{NC}(k, l)$ having the property that in each block the sum of i indices equals the sum of j indices modulo s .

Proof. The idea will be to expand, suitably modify, and unify the proof of the following key particular cases:

- (1) Theorem 5.5 from the previous section, which gives the result at $s = 1$, for any choice of indices $i_1, \dots, i_k, j_1, \dots, j_l \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- (2) The main technical result in [3], p. 37 on top, which gives the result for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, for indices of type $i_1, \dots, i_k, j_1, \dots, j_l \in \{\pm 1\}$.

Step 1. Our first claim is that in order to prove \supset , we may restrict our attention to the case $k = 0$. Indeed, it is known that for any two corepresentations v, w we have a Frobenius duality isomorphism

$$\text{Hom}(v, w) \simeq \text{Hom}(1, v \otimes \bar{w}).$$

In the case $v = u_{i_1 \dots i_k}$ and $w = u_{j_1 \dots j_l}$ we can use the formulae in Theorem 4.3 in order to compute $v \otimes \bar{w}$, and the Frobenius isomorphism reads

$$\text{Hom}(u_{i_1 \dots i_k}, u_{j_1 \dots j_l}) \simeq \text{Hom}(1, u_{i_1 \dots i_k(-j_l) \dots (-j_1)}).$$

On the other hand, we have the canonical identification

$$\text{NC}(k, l) \simeq \text{NC}(0, k + l).$$

Now it follows from definitions and from Theorem 5.5 that at $s = 1$ these two isomorphisms are compatible in the obvious sense. Together with the functoriality considerations regarding the canonical map $A_h^s(n) \rightarrow A_s(n)$, explained at the beginning of the previous section, this justifies our claim.

Step 2. Our second claim is that in order to prove \supset in the case $k = 0$, we may restrict attention to the one-block partitions. Indeed, this follows once again from a standard trick. Consider the following disjoint union:

$$\text{NC}_s = \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \bigcup_{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{NC}_s(0, i_1 \dots i_k).$$

This is a set of labeled partitions, having the following properties:

- (1) Each $p \in \text{NC}_s$ is noncrossing.
- (2) For $p \in \text{NC}_s$, any block of p is in NC_s .

It is well known that under these assumptions the global algebraic properties of NC_s can be checked on blocks, and this justifies our claim.

Step 3. We finish the proof of \supset . According to the above considerations, we just have to prove that the vector associated to the one-block partition in $\text{NC}(l)$ is fixed by $u_{j_1 \dots j_l}$, for any choice of j_1, \dots, j_l satisfying

$$s \mid j_1 + \dots + j_l.$$

Consider the standard generators $e_{ab} \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$, acting on the basis vectors by $e_{ab}(e_c) = \delta_{bc}e_a$. The corepresentation $u_{j_1 \dots j_l}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u_{j_1 \dots j_l} &= u_{j_1} \otimes \dots \otimes u_{j_l} \\ &= (u_{a_1 b_1}^{j_1}) \otimes \dots \otimes (u_{a_l b_l}^{j_l}) \\ &= \sum_{a_1 \dots a_l} \sum_{b_1 \dots b_l} u_{a_1 b_1}^{j_1} \dots u_{a_l b_l}^{j_l} \otimes e_{a_1 b_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{a_l b_l}. \end{aligned}$$

As for the vector associated to the one-block partition, this is

$$\xi_l = \sum_b e_b^{\otimes l}.$$

By using several times the relations in Lemma 4.2, we get as claimed:

$$\begin{aligned} u_{j_1 \dots j_l}(1 \otimes \xi_l) &= \sum_{a_1 \dots a_l} \sum_b u_{a_1 b}^{j_1} \dots u_{a_l b}^{j_l} \otimes e_{a_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{a_l} \\ &= \sum_{ab} u_{ab}^{j_1 + \dots + j_l} \otimes e_a^{\otimes l} \\ &= \sum_{ab} p_{ab} \otimes e_a^{\otimes l} \\ &= \sum_a 1 \otimes e_a^{\otimes l} = 1 \otimes \xi_l. \end{aligned}$$

Step 4. We begin the proof of \subset . The first remark, which can be justified as in the proof of Theorem 5.5, is that the spaces on the right in the statement form a tensor category with duals in the sense of Woronowicz [30]. Thus by Tannakian duality they correspond to a certain Hopf algebra A .

This algebra is by definition the maximal model for the tensor category. In other words, it comes with a family of corepresentations $\{v_i\}$ such that

$$\text{Hom}(v_{i_1 \dots i_k}, v_{j_1 \dots j_l}) = \text{span}\{T_p \mid p \in \text{NC}_s(i_1 \dots i_k, j_1 \dots j_l)\}.$$

Here and in what follows we use the notation $v_{i_1 \dots i_k} = v_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes v_{i_k}$.

On the other hand, the inclusion \supset that we just proved shows that $A_h^s(n)$ is a model for the tensor category. Thus by [30] we have a surjective arrow $A \rightarrow A_h^s$, mapping $v_i \rightarrow u_i$ for any i . We have to prove that this is an isomorphism.

Step 5. We finish the proof of \subset . This can be done in a straightforward way, by suitably adapting the proof of Theorem 5.5. In what follows we present a shorter argument, based on some previous work in [3]. The main technical result there (p. 37 on top) is that the equality in the statement holds in the case where both $u_{i_1 \dots i_k}$ and $u_{j_1 \dots j_l}$ are tensor products between u and \bar{u} .

With the present notations we have $u = u_1$ and $\bar{u} = u_{-1}$, so what we know from [3] is that the result holds for any choice of indices $i_r, j_r \in \{\pm 1\}$.

Now by using the definition of A , we get that for such indices we have

$$\text{Hom}(u_{i_1 \dots i_k}, u_{j_1 \dots j_l}) = \text{Hom}(v_{i_1 \dots i_k}, v_{j_1 \dots j_l}).$$

In other words, the map $A \rightarrow A_h^s(n)$ induces isomorphisms at the level of intertwining spaces between the various tensor products between v and \bar{v} . It is well known that such a map must be an isomorphism, and this finishes the proof. \square

As an illustration for the above result, we present below two corollaries, both of them with very detailed proofs.

First is a key statement about the basic corepresentations u_i . As usual, we use indices modulo s , with the convention $u_{ij}^0 = p_{ij}$.

Corollary 6.4. *The basic corepresentations u_0, \dots, u_{s-1} are as follows:*

- (1) u_1, \dots, u_{s-1} are irreducible.
- (2) $u_0 = 1 + r_0$, with r_0 irreducible.
- (3) r_0, u_1, \dots, u_{s-1} are distinct.

Proof. We apply Theorem 6.3 with $k = l = 1$ and $i_1 = i, j_1 = j$. This gives

$$\dim(\text{Hom}(u_i, u_j)) = \# \text{NC}_s(i, j).$$

We have two candidates for the elements of $\text{NC}_s(i, j)$, namely the two partitions in $\text{NC}(1, 1)$. So consider these two partitions, with the points labeled by i, j :

$$p = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} i \\ | \\ j \end{array} \right\}, \quad q = \left\{ \begin{array}{c} i \\ | \\ | \\ j \end{array} \right\}.$$

We have to check for each of these partitions if the sum of i indices equals or not the sum of j indices, modulo s , in each block. The answer is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} p \in \text{NC}_s(i, j) &\iff i = j, \\ q \in \text{NC}_s(i, j) &\iff i = j = 0. \end{aligned}$$

By collecting together these two answers we get

$$\# \text{NC}_s(i, j) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i \neq j, \\ 1 & \text{if } i = j \neq 0, \\ 2 & \text{if } i = j = 0. \end{cases}$$

This gives all the results. Indeed, (1) follows from the second equality, (2) follows from the third equality and from the fact that we have $1 \in u_s$ (this is because $u_s = p$ is magic), and (3) follows from the first equality.

As a last remark, the ingredient $1 \in u_0$ can be deduced as well from Theorem 6.3. Indeed, with $k = 0, l = 1$ and $j_1 = 0$ we get $\dim(\text{Hom}(1, u_0)) = 1$. \square

The second corollary is a key statement to be used in what follows for the computation of the fusion rules.

It is convenient at this point to switch back to the old notation for the tensor products between the basic corepresentations by ignoring Definition 6.2, which was temporary. Also, we use the notation $\#(1 \in v) = \dim(\text{Hom}(1, v))$.

Corollary 6.5. *We have the formula*

$$\#(1 \in u_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes u_{i_k}) = \# \text{NC}_s(i_1 \dots i_k),$$

where the set on the right consists of noncrossing partitions of $\{1, \dots, k\}$ having the property that the sum of indices in each block is a multiple of s .

Proof. This is clear from Theorem 6.3. \square

7. The main result

It is known from Woronowicz’s analogue of Peter–Weyl theory in [29] that each corepresentation decomposes as a direct sum of irreducible corepresentations.

In particular any tensor product of irreducible corepresentations decomposes as a direct sum of irreducible corepresentations.

The formulae describing these decompositions are called fusion rules.

Definition 7.1. The fusion semiring $(R^+, -, +, \otimes)$ is defined as follows:

- (1) R^+ is the set of equivalence classes of corepresentations.
- (2) $-, +, \otimes$ are the usual involution, sum and tensor product.

It follows from the Peter–Weyl type results that $(R^+, +)$ is the free additive monoid on the set of irreducible corepresentations. Thus the fusion semiring $(R^+, -, +, \otimes)$ encodes the collection of fusion rules.

Definition 7.2. Let $F = \langle \mathbb{Z}_s \rangle$ be the monoid formed by the words over \mathbb{Z}_s . We endow F with the following operations:

- (1) Involution: $(i_1 \dots i_k)^- = (-i_k) \dots (-i_1)$.
- (2) Fusion: $(i_1 \dots i_k) \cdot (j_1 \dots j_l) = i_1 \dots i_{k-1}(i_k + j_1)j_2 \dots j_l$.

Note that $v \cdot w$ is not defined when v or w is the empty word. We make the convention that the corresponding terms disappear from the fusion rules below.

We are now in position of stating the main result in this article. We recall from Corollary 6.4 that the basic corepresentations u_1, \dots, u_s are all irreducible, except for the last one, which is of the form $1 + r_s$ with r_s irreducible.

Theorem 7.3. *The irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$ can be labeled r_x with $x \in F$ such that the involution and fusion rules are $\bar{r}_x = r_{\bar{x}}$ and*

$$r_x \otimes r_y = \sum_{x=vz, y=\bar{z}w} r_{vw} + r_{v \cdot w}$$

and such that we have $r_i = u_i - \delta_{i0}1$ for any $i \in \mathbb{Z}_s$.

Proof. We use the results in the previous section and a standard method from [1], [2]. Consider the set of irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$, its fusion semiring, and its fusion ring, and denote them as follows:

$$R_{\text{irr}} \subset R^+ \subset R.$$

Observe that by Corollary 6.4 we have $r_i \in R_{\text{irr}}$ for any i .

Step 1. We first construct an abstract fusion semiring, with fusion rules as in the statement. Consider indeed the monoid $A = \{a_x \mid x \in F\}$, with multiplication $a_x a_y = a_{xy}$. We denote by $\mathbb{N}A$ the set of linear combinations of elements in A , with coefficients in \mathbb{N} , and we endow it with fusion rules as in the statement:

$$a_x \otimes a_y = \sum_{x=vz, y=\bar{z}w} a_{vw} + a_{v \cdot w}.$$

With these notations, $(\mathbb{N}A, +, \otimes)$ is a semiring. We will use as well the set $\mathbb{Z}A$ formed by the linear combinations of elements of A with coefficients in \mathbb{Z} . The above tensor product operation extends to $\mathbb{Z}A$ and $(\mathbb{Z}A, +, \otimes)$ is a ring.

Step 2. We claim that the fusion rules on $\mathbb{Z}A$ can be uniquely described by conversion formulae as follows:

$$a_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i_k} = \sum_l \sum_{j_1 \dots j_l} C_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{j_1 \dots j_l} a_{j_1 \dots j_l},$$

$$a_{i_1 \dots i_k} = \sum_l \sum_{j_1 \dots j_l} D_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{j_1 \dots j_l} a_{j_1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{j_l}.$$

Here the C coefficients are certain positive integers and the D coefficients are certain integers. The existence and uniqueness of such decompositions follow indeed from the definition of the tensor product operation, and by induction over k for the D coefficients.

Step 3. We claim that there is a unique morphism of rings $\Phi: \mathbb{Z}A \rightarrow R$ such that $\Phi(a_i) = r_i$ for any i . Indeed, consider the following elements of R :

$$r_{i_1 \dots i_k} = \sum_l \sum_{j_1 \dots j_l} D_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{j_1 \dots j_l} r_{j_1} \otimes \dots \otimes r_{j_l}.$$

In case we have a morphism as claimed, by linearity and multiplicativity we must have $\Phi(a_x) = r_x$ for any $x \in F$. Thus our morphism is uniquely determined on A , so by linearity it is uniquely determined on $\mathbb{Z}A$.

In order to prove the existence, we can set $\Phi(a_x) = r_x$ for any $x \in F$, then extend Φ by linearity to the whole $\mathbb{Z}A$. Since Φ commutes with the above conversion formulae, which describe the fusion rules, it is indeed a morphism.

Step 4. We claim that Φ commutes with the linear forms $x \rightarrow \#(1 \in x)$. Indeed, by linearity we just have to check the equality

$$\#(1 \in a_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_{i_k}) = \#(1 \in r_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes r_{i_k}).$$

Now remember that the elements r_i are defined as $r_i = u_i - \delta_{i0}1$. So consider the elements $c_i = a_i + \delta_{i0}1$. Since the operations $r_i \rightarrow u_i$ and $a_i \rightarrow c_i$ are of the same nature, by linearity the above formula is equivalent to

$$\#(1 \in c_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes c_{i_k}) = \#(1 \in u_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes u_{i_k}).$$

Now by using Corollary 6.5, what we have to prove is

$$\#(1 \in c_{i_1} \otimes \dots \otimes c_{i_k}) = \#NC_s(i_1 \dots i_k).$$

In order to show this formula, consider the product on the left:

$$P = (a_{i_1} + \delta_{i_1 0}1) \otimes (a_{i_2} + \delta_{i_2 0}1) \otimes \dots \otimes (a_{i_k} + \delta_{i_k 0}1).$$

This quantity can be computed by using the fusion rules on A . An induction on k shows that the final components of type a_x will come from the different ways of grouping and summing the consecutive terms of the sequence (i_1, \dots, i_k) , and simultaneously removing some of the sums which vanish modulo s , so as to obtain the sequence x . This can be encoded by families of noncrossing partitions, and in particular the 1 components will come from the partitions in $NC_s(i_1 \dots i_k)$. Thus we have $\#(1 \in P) = \#NC_s(i_1 \dots i_k)$, as claimed.

Step 5. We claim that Φ is injective. Indeed, this follows from the result in the previous step, by using a standard positivity argument:

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(\alpha) = 0 &\implies \Phi(\alpha\alpha^*) = 0, \\ &\implies \#(1 \in \Phi(\alpha\alpha^*)) = 0, \\ &\implies \#(1 \in \alpha\alpha^*) = 0, \\ &\implies \alpha = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Here α is arbitrary in the domain of Φ , we use the notation $a_x^* = a_{\bar{x}}$, where $x \rightarrow \bar{x}$ is the involution of Definition 7.2, and $a \rightarrow \#(1, a)$ is the unique linear extension of the operation consisting of counting the number of 1's. Observe that this latter linear form is indeed positive definite, according to the identity $\#(1, a_x a_y^*) = \delta_{xy}$, which is clear from the definition of the product of $\mathbb{Z}A$.

Step 6. We claim that we have $\Phi(A) \subset R_{\text{irr}}$. This is the same as saying that $r_x \in R_{\text{irr}}$ for any $x \in F$, and we will prove it by recurrence on the length of x .

For the words of length 1 the assertion is true because of Corollary 6.4, as pointed out in the beginning of the proof.

Thus assume that the assertion is true for all the words of length $< k$, and consider an arbitrary length k word, $x = i_1 \dots i_k$. We have

$$a_{i_1} \otimes a_{i_2 \dots i_k} = a_x + a_{i_1+i_2, i_3 \dots i_k} + \delta_{i_1+i_2, 0} a_{i_3 \dots i_k}.$$

By applying Φ to this decomposition, we obtain that

$$r_{i_1} \otimes r_{i_2 \dots i_k} = r_x + r_{i_1+i_2, i_3 \dots i_k} + \delta_{i_1+i_2, 0} r_{i_3 \dots i_k}.$$

For u irreducible, we use the notation $\#(u \in v) = \dim(\text{Hom}(u, v))$. We have the following computation, which is valid for $y = i_1 + i_2, i_3 \dots i_k$ as well as for $y = i_3 \dots i_k$ in the case $i_1 + i_2 = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}\#(r_y \in r_{i_1} \otimes r_{i_2 \dots i_k}) &= \#(1, r_{\bar{y}} \otimes r_{i_1} \otimes r_{i_2 \dots i_k}) \\ &= \#(1, a_{\bar{y}} \otimes a_{i_1} \otimes a_{i_2 \dots i_k}) \\ &= \#(a_y \in a_{i_1} \otimes a_{i_2 \dots i_k}) \\ &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we know from the previous step that we have $r_{i_1+i_2, i_3 \dots i_k} \neq r_{i_3 \dots i_k}$, so we conclude that the following formula defines an element of R^+ :

$$\alpha = r_{i_1} \otimes r_{i_2 \dots i_k} - r_{i_1+i_2, i_3 \dots i_k} - \delta_{i_1+i_2, 0} r_{i_3 \dots i_k}.$$

On the other hand, we have $\alpha = r_x$, so we conclude that we have $r_x \in R^+$. Finally, the irreducibility of r_x follows from the computation

$$\#(1 \in r_x \otimes \bar{r}_x) = \#(1 \in r_x \otimes r_{\bar{x}}) = \#(1 \in a_x \otimes a_{\bar{x}}) = \#(1 \in a_x \otimes \bar{a}_x) = 1.$$

Step 7. Summarizing, we have constructed an injective ring morphism $\Phi: \mathbb{Z}A \rightarrow R$, with the property $\Phi(A) \subset R_{\text{irr}}$. The remaining fact to be proved, namely that we have $\Phi(A) = R_{\text{irr}}$, is clear from the general results in [29]. Indeed, since each element of $\mathbb{N}A$ is a sum of elements in A , by applying Φ we get that each element in $\Phi(\mathbb{N}A)$ is a sum of irreducible corepresentations in $\Phi(A)$. But since $\Phi(\mathbb{N}A)$ contains all the tensor powers between the fundamental corepresentation and its conjugate, it follows from [29] that $\Phi(A) = R_{\text{irr}}$, and we are done. \square

As an illustration for the above result, we would like to work out the case $s = 1$. We get a new proof for the following result from [2].

Corollary 7.4. *The fusion rules for $A_s(n)$ are the same as the Clebsch–Gordan rules for the irreducible representations of SO_3 .*

Proof. We first examine Definition 7.2 in the case $s = 1$. We have a canonical isomorphism $F \cong \mathbb{N}$, mapping the words to their lengths. With this identification, the involution is $\bar{k} = k$, and the fusion is $k \cdot l = k + l - 1$.

We apply now Theorem 7.3. The conclusion is that the irreducible corepresentations can be labeled $\{r_k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$, and that we have

- (1) $\bar{r}_k = r_k$,
- (2) $r_k \otimes r_l = r_{k+l} + r_{k+l-1} + \cdots + r_{|k-l|}$,
- (3) $r_1 = u - 1$.

In other words, we have arrived at the Clebsch–Gordan rules for SO_3 , with $u - 1$ corresponding to the 3-dimensional representation of SO_3 . \square

8. Alternative formulation

In this section we present an alternative formulation of Theorem 7.3 that we will once again illustrate with a complete computation at $s = 1$.

We begin with a slight modification of Theorem 7.3.

Theorem 8.1. *Consider the free monoid $A = \langle a_i \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}_s \rangle$ with the involution $a_i^* = a_{-i}$, and define inductively the following fusion rules on it:*

$$pa_i \otimes a_jq = pa_i a_jq + pa_{i+j}q + \delta_{i+j,0} p \otimes q.$$

Then the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$ can be indexed by the elements of A , and the fusion rules and involution are the above ones.

Proof. We claim that this follows from Theorem 7.3 by performing the following relabeling of the irreducible corepresentations:

$$r_{i_1 \dots i_k} \rightarrow a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_k}.$$

Indeed, with the notations in Theorem 7.3 we have the following computation, valid for any two elements $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}_s$ and any two words $x, y \in F$:

$$\begin{aligned} r_{xi} \otimes r_{jy} &= \sum_{xi=vz, jy=\bar{z}w} r_{vw} + r_{v \cdot w} \\ &= r_{xijy} + r_{x, i+j, y} + \delta_{i+j, 0} \sum_{x=vz, y=\bar{z}w} r_{vw} + r_{v \cdot w} \\ &= r_{xijy} + r_{x, i+j, y} + \delta_{i+j, 0} r_x \otimes r_y. \end{aligned}$$

With the above relabeling $r_{i_1 \dots i_k} \rightarrow a_{i_1} \dots a_{i_k}$, this gives the formula in the statement (with $r_x \rightarrow p$ and $r_y \rightarrow q$), and we are done. \square

Our alternative reformulation of Theorem 7.3 is based on the idea of embedding R^+ into a bigger fusion semiring. In this bigger semiring the fusion rules will appear to be actually simpler, due to a Fourier transform type situation.

Given a fusion monoid M and an element $b \in M$, we denote by $\langle b \rangle$ the fusion monoid generated by b . In other words, $\langle b \rangle$ is the smallest subset of M containing b , and which is stable by composition, involution and fusion rules.

Theorem 8.2. *Consider the monoid $M = \langle a, z \mid z^s = 1 \rangle$ with the involution $a^* = a, z^* = z^{-1}$, and define inductively the following fusion rules on it:*

$$vaz^i \otimes z^j aw = vaz^{i+j} aw + \delta_{s|i+j} v \otimes w.$$

Then the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$ can be indexed by the elements of $N = \langle aza \rangle$, and the fusion rules and involution are the above ones.

Proof. It is routine to check that the elements $az^i a$ with $i = 1, \dots, s$ are free inside M . In other words, the submonoid $N' = \langle az^i a \rangle$ is free on s generators, so it can be identified with the free monoid A in Theorem 8.1 via $a_i = az^i a$.

We have $(az^i a)^* = az^{-i} a$, so this identification is involution-preserving.

Consider now two arbitrary elements $p, q \in N'$. By using twice the formula in the statement, we obtain the formula in Theorem 8.1:

$$\begin{aligned} pa_i \otimes a_j q &= paz^i a \otimes az^j aq \\ &= paz^i aaz^j aq + paz^i \otimes z^j aq \\ &= paz^i aaz^j aq + paz^{i+j} aq + \delta_{i+j, 0} p \otimes q \\ &= pa_i a_j q + pa_{i+j} q + \delta_{i+j, 0} p \otimes q. \end{aligned}$$

Thus our identification $N' \simeq A$ is fusion rule-preserving.

In order to conclude, it remains to prove that the inclusion $N \subset N'$ is actually an equality. But this follows from the fact that A is generated as a fusion monoid by a_1 . Indeed, by using the identification $N' \simeq A$ this shows that N' is generated as a fusion monoid by aza , and we are done. \square

As in illustration for the above result, we work out the case $s = 1$, leading to a supplementary proof for the main result in [2].

Corollary 8.3. *At $s = 1$ we have the Clebsch–Gordan rules for SO_3 .*

Proof. Indeed, at $s = 1$ we have a canonical isomorphism $M \simeq \mathbb{N}$, and with this identification, the fusion rules are given inductively by

$$k \otimes l = (k + l) + (k - 1) \otimes (l - 1).$$

This gives the following explicit formula, which is nothing but the Clebsch–Gordan formula for the fusion rules of irreducible representations of SU_2 :

$$k \otimes l = (k + l) + (k + l - 2) + \cdots + |k - l|.$$

As for the submonoid $N \subset M$, this corresponds via the above identifications to the submonoid $2\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{N}$. Thus when performing a division by 2 we get an isomorphism $N \simeq \mathbb{N}$, and we have the following fusion rules on N :

$$k \otimes l = (k + l) + (k + l - 1) + \cdots + |k - l|.$$

We recognize here the Clebsch–Gordan formula for SO_3 . \square

Let us also work out the case $s = \infty$.

Corollary 8.4. *Consider the monoid $M = \langle a, z, z^{-1} \rangle$ with the involution $a^* = a$, $z^* = z^{-1}$, and define inductively the following fusion rules on it:*

$$vaz^i \otimes z^j aw = vaz^{i+j}aw + \delta_{i+j,0}v \otimes w.$$

Then the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^\infty(n)$ can be indexed by the elements of $N = \langle aza \rangle$, and the fusion rules and involution are the above ones.

Proof. This is a reformulation of Theorem 8.2 in the case $s = \infty$ using the various conventions and notations specific to this case. \square

9. Dimension formula

In this section we compute the dimension of the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$. Besides of being of independent theoretical interest, this computation can be regarded as being first ingredient towards a fine study of the growth invariants of $A_h^s(n)$ in the spirit of [24], [25], [6].

The main result will be best expressed in terms of the alternative formalism from the previous section. Thus consider the free monoids $N \subset M$ in Theorem 8.2, with $N = \langle aza \rangle$ labelling the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h(n)$.

We have seen in the proof of Corollary 8.3 that, at $s = 1$, the inclusion $N \subset M$ ultimately comes from double cover map $SU_2 \rightarrow SO_3$. So our first task will be to introduce a certain sequence of numbers d_k , which appear as “versions with 2 replaced by \sqrt{n} ” of the dimensions of the irreducible representations of SU_2 .

Definition 9.1. Associated to any $n \geq 4$ is the sequence of numbers given by

$$d_{k+1} + d_{k-1} = \sqrt{n}d_k$$

with the initial values $d_0 = 1$ and $d_1 = \sqrt{n}$.

These numbers can be of course computed in terms of the roots of the polynomial $X^2 - \sqrt{n}X + 1 = 0$, but the explicit formula is not very enlightening. Instead, let us just indicate the first few values of these numbers:

$$\begin{aligned} d_0 &= 1, \\ d_1 &= \sqrt{n}, \\ d_2 &= n - 1, \\ d_3 &= (n - 2)\sqrt{n}, \\ d_4 &= n^2 - 3n + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that at $n = 4$ the recurrence relation is $d_{k+1} + d_{k-1} = 2d_k$, with initial values $d_0 = 1$ and $d_1 = 2$, so we have $d_k = k + 1$ for any k . These numbers are indeed the dimensions of the irreducible representations of SU_2 .

In the general case, the numbers d_k appear as dimensions of the irreducible corepresentations of the Wang algebra $A_o(\sqrt{n})$. Without getting into details here (see [27]), let us just record the following useful fact.

Proposition 9.2. *The sequence of numbers d_k can be defined alternatively by the Clebsch–Gordan type formula*

$$d_k d_l = d_{k+l} + d_{k-1} d_{l-1},$$

with the initial values $d_0 = 1$ and $d_1 = \sqrt{n}$.

Proof. Let $M \simeq \mathbb{N}$ be endowed with the Clebsch–Gordan rules, as in the proof of Corollary 8.3. It follows from definitions that associated to any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is a unique morphism of fusion semirings $d : \mathbb{N}M \rightarrow (\mathbb{N}, +, \cdot)$, having the property $d_1 = \lambda$. According to the Clebsch–Gordan rules, we must have

$$d_k d_l = d_{k+l} + d_{k+l-2} + \dots + d_{|k-l|}.$$

This shows that the numbers d_k satisfy the recurrence formula in the statement, so if we set $\lambda = \sqrt{n}$ we get indeed the numbers in the statement.

On the other hand, with $l = 1$, the above formula reads:

$$d_k \sqrt{n} = d_{k+1} + d_{k-1}.$$

Together with $d_0 = 1$ and $d_1 = \sqrt{n}$, this shows that our sequence of numbers d_k coincides with the one in Definition 9.1, and we are done. \square

Theorem 9.3. *The dimensions of the irreducible corepresentations of $A_h^s(n)$, as labelled by the monoid $N = \langle aza \rangle$ in Theorem 8.2, are given by*

$$\dim(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} a^{i_2} z^{j_2} \dots a^{i_k}) = d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_k},$$

where $\{d_k\}$ is the sequence of numbers in Definition 9.1.

Proof. First, it follows from definitions that the elements of $N = \langle aza \rangle$ are indeed as those in the statement, i.e., with $i_1 \neq 0, i_k \neq 0$.

We define a function $d : N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by the formula in the statement.

Step 1. Our first claim is that d is indeed the dimension, for any of the basic corepresentations $r_j = az^j a$. Indeed, for $j \in \{1, \dots, s-1\}$ we have

$$d(az^j a) = d_1^2 = n = \dim(r_j) = \dim(az^j a).$$

Also, in the remaining case $j = 0$, we have

$$d(a^2) = d_2 = n - 1 = \dim(r_0) = \dim(a^2).$$

Step 2. Our second claim is that d is a fusion semiring morphism.

Indeed, we can prove this by using the recurrence relation for the fusion rules on N from Theorem 8.2. It is enough to check that the morphism property holds when applying d to both terms, and we can do this by using a recurrence on ΣI_p . Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} \dots a^{i_k} \otimes a^{I_1} z^{J_1} \dots a^{I_K}) &= d(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} \dots z^{j_{k-1}} a^{i_k + I_1} z^{J_1} \dots z^{J_{K-1}} a^{I_K}) \\ &\quad + d(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} \dots a^{i_{k-1}} \otimes a^{I_1 - 1} z^{J_1} \dots a^{I_K}) \\ &= d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_{k-1}} d_{i_k + I_1} d_{I_2} \dots d_{I_K} \\ &\quad + d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_{k-1}} d_{i_{k-1}} \cdot d_{I_1 - 1} d_{I_2} \dots d_{I_K}. \end{aligned}$$

Now by using the Clebsch–Gordan type formula in Proposition 9.2, we can complete the proof of the recurrence step:

$$\begin{aligned} d(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} \dots a^{i_k} \otimes a^{I_1} z^{J_1} \dots a^{I_K}) &= d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_{k-1}} (d_{i_k + I_1} + d_{i_k - 1} d_{I_1 - 1}) d_{I_2} \dots d_{I_K} \\ &= d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_{k-1}} (d_{i_k} d_{I_1}) d_{I_2} \dots d_{I_K} \\ &= (d_{i_1} \dots d_{i_{k-1}} d_{i_k}) (d_{I_1} d_{I_2} \dots d_{I_K}) \\ &= d(a^{i_1} z^{j_1} \dots a^{i_k}) d(a^{I_1} z^{J_1} \dots a^{I_K}). \end{aligned}$$

Step 3. We finish the proof. Since both d and the usual dimension are morphisms of semirings $\mathbb{N}N \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, +, \cdot)$, which coincide on the basic generators $r_j = az^j a$, these two morphisms are equal, and we are done. \square

10. Concluding remarks

The fusion rules for the algebra $A_h^s(n)$, computed in this article, appear to be quite similar to the fusion rules for the algebras $A_o(n)$, $A_u(n)$ previously computed in [1]. In what follows we present an attempt of unification.

First, we have the following quite technical definition from [5].

Definition 10.1. A free quantum algebra is a Hopf algebra A satisfying

$$A_u(n) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A_s(n)$$

and having the property that its tensor category is spanned by partitions.

We should mention that this axiomatization is not fully satisfactory in the sense that, while being quite restrictive, it still allows too many algebras. The correct axioms, not known so far, should include some conditions which guarantee the compatibility with the Bercovici–Pata bijection [8]; see [3].

Now regarding the fusion rules, a possible axiomatization is as follows. Let R be a set, given with two maps as follows:

- (1) A map $R \rightarrow R$, denoted $r \rightarrow \bar{r}$ and called involution.
- (2) A map $R \times R \rightarrow R \cup \{\emptyset\}$, denoted $(r, s) \rightarrow r \cdot s$ and called fusion.

The involution and fusion operation extend to the free monoid $\langle R \rangle$ formed by the words in elements of R in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} (r_1 \dots r_k)^- &= \bar{r}_k \dots \bar{r}_1, \\ (r_1 \dots r_k) \cdot (s_1 \dots s_l) &= r_1 \dots r_{k-1} (r_k \cdot s_1) s_2 \dots s_l. \end{aligned}$$

In the case $r_k \cdot s_1 = \emptyset$, or when k or l vanishes, the convention is that the whole word disappears.

Definition 10.2. A free fusion semiring is a free monoid $\langle R \rangle$ with fusion rules of the form

$$x \otimes y = \sum_{x=vz, y=\bar{z}w} vw + v \cdot w,$$

where R is a set, with involution $r \rightarrow \bar{r}$ and fusion $(r, s) \rightarrow r \cdot s$.

The fusion semirings computed so far are all free, the results in [1] and in the present article are as follows:

- (1) For $A_o(n)$ we have $R = \{1\}$, with $\bar{r} = r$ and $r \cdot s = \emptyset$.
- (2) For $A_u(n)$ we have $R = \mathbb{Z}_2$, with $\bar{r} = 1 - r$ and $r \cdot s = \emptyset$.
- (3) For $A_h^s(n)$ we have $R = \mathbb{Z}_s$, with $\bar{r} = -r$ and $r \cdot s = r + s$.

We did as well some extra computations – in preparation for certain free quantum algebras – and the conclusion is as follows: (1) the fusion semiring is always free, and (2) the data $(R, -, \cdot)$ does not seem to be further axiomatizable.

Summarizing, the question that we would like to raise is as follows.

Conjecture 10.3. *If A is free, then $R^+(A)$ is free.*

It is our hope that further advances on this question will ultimately lead to the technical ingredients needed in order to extend the various analytic results in [1], [6], [11], [22], [23], [24], [25], [26] to the arbitrary free quantum algebras.

We would like to end by recalling an important statement in this direction.

Let A be a Hopf C^* -algebra in the sense of Woronowicz. It is known from [29] that A has a unique Haar functional, which is not necessarily faithful. By dividing A by the null ideal of the Haar functional we obtain the reduced algebra A_{red} . The map $A \rightarrow A_{\text{red}}$ is an isomorphism when A is amenable in the discrete quantum group sense, and all the standard amenability statements for discrete groups extend to this situation. See Bédos, Conti and Tuset [7].

We recall also that a C^* -algebra A has the Dixmier property if any element can be averaged with unitaries to get arbitrarily close to the scalars. When A has a trace (and this is the case with A_{red}), this is the same as saying that A is simple and its trace is unique; see Haagerup and Zsido [14].

Conjecture 10.4. *If A is free, then A_{red} has the Dixmier property.*

The first piece of evidence comes from the verification in [1] for the Wang algebra $A_u(n)$. The proof there follows Powers’ method in [19], modified by de la Harpe and Skandalis in [15], and heavily relies on the fusion rules.

The other piece of evidence comes from the verification in [23] for the Wang algebra $A_o(n)$. The proof there, which is much more technical, makes use of the notion of Wenzl projection, which ultimately comes from the freeness of R^+ .

Summarizing, the results in this article provide a strong evidence for Conjecture 10.3, which in turn would be an important step towards proving Conjecture 10.4.

Let us also mention that a global approach to these problems seems to emerge from the recent work of De Rijdt, Vaes and Vander Vennet [11], [22]. So our first question would be if the methods there can be applied to $A_h^s(n)$.

References

- [1] T. Banica, Le groupe quantique compact libre $U(n)$. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **190** (1997), 143–172. [Zbl 0906.17009](#) [MR 1484551](#)
- [2] T. Banica, Symmetries of a generic coaction. *Math. Ann.* **314** (1999), 763–780. [Zbl 0928.46038](#) [MR 1709109](#)
- [3] T. Banica, S. T. Belinschi, M. Capitaine and B. Collins, Free Bessel laws. *Canad. J. Math.*, to appear. [arXiv:0710.5931](#)
- [4] T. Banica and J. Bichon, Free product formulae for quantum permutation groups. *J. Inst. Math. Jussieu* **6** (2007), 381–414. [Zbl 05175365](#) [MR 2329759](#)
- [5] T. Banica, J. Bichon, and B. Collins, The hyperoctahedral quantum group. *J. Ramanujan Math. Soc.* **22** (2007), 345–384. [Zbl 05252140](#) [MR 2376808](#)
- [6] T. Banica and R. Vergnioux, Growth estimates for discrete quantum groups. Preprint 2006. [arXiv:math/0611232](#)
- [7] E. Bédos, R. Conti, and L. Tuset, On amenability and co-amenability of algebraic quantum groups and their corepresentations. *Canad. J. Math.* **57** (2005), 17–60. [Zbl 1068.46043](#) [MR 2113848](#)
- [8] H. Bercovici and V. Pata, Stable laws and domains of attraction in free probability theory. *Ann. of Math. (2)* **149** (1999), 1023–1060. [Zbl 0945.46046](#) [MR 1709310](#)
- [9] J. Bichon, Free wreath product by the quantum permutation group. *Algebr. Represent. Theory* **7** (2004), 343–362. [Zbl 1112.46313](#) [MR 2096666](#)
- [10] A. Connes, *Noncommutative geometry*. Academic Press, San Diego 1994. [Zbl 0818.46076](#) [MR 1303779](#)
- [11] A. De Rijdt and N. Vander Vennet, Actions of monoidally equivalent compact quantum groups and applications to probabilistic boundaries. Preprint 2006. [arXiv:math/0611175](#)
- [12] V. Drinfeld, Quantum groups. In *Proc. Internat. Congr. of Mathematicians 1986* (Berkeley, Calif.), Vol. 1, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, RI, 1987, 798–820. [Zbl 0667.16003](#) [MR 0934283](#)
- [13] D. Goswami, Quantum group of isometries in classical and noncommutative geometry. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **285** (2009), 141–160. [Zbl ???](#) [MR 2453592](#)
- [14] U. Haagerup and L. Zsidó, Sur la propriété de Dixmier pour les C^* -algèbres. *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Sér. I Math.* **298** (1984), 173–176. [Zbl 0562.46035](#) [MR 741088](#)
- [15] P. de la Harpe and G. Skandalis, Powers’ property and simple C^* -algebras. *Math. Ann.* **273** (1986), 241–250. [Zbl 0563.46033](#) [MR 817879](#)

- [16] M. Jimbo, A q -difference analogue of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ and the Yang–Baxter equation. *Lett. Math. Phys.* **10** (1985), 63–69. [Zbl 0587.17004](#) [MR 797001](#)
- [17] D. Kyed, L^2 -Betti numbers of coamenable quantum groups. *Münster J. of Math.* **1** (2008), 143–180. [Zbl 05507007](#)
- [18] S. Neshveyev and L. Tuset, The Dirac operator on compact quantum groups. Preprint 2007. [arXiv:math/0703161](#)
- [19] R. T. Powers, Simplicity of the C^* -algebra associated with the free group on two generators. *Duke Math. J.* **42** (1975), 151–156. [Zbl 0342.46046](#) [MR 0374334](#)
- [20] M. Rosso, Algèbres enveloppantes quantifiées, groupes quantiques compacts de matrices et calcul différentiel non commutatif. *Duke Math. J.* **61** (1990), 11–40. [Zbl 0721.17013](#) [MR 1068378](#)
- [21] R. Speicher, Multiplicative functions on the lattice of non-crossing partitions and free convolution. *Math. Ann.* **298** (1994), 611–628. [Zbl 0791.06010](#) [MR 1268597](#)
- [22] S. Vaes and N. Vander Vennet, Identification of the Poisson and Martin boundaries of orthogonal discrete quantum groups. *J. Inst. Math. Jussieu* **7** (2008), 391–412. [Zbl 1139.46044](#) [MR 2400727](#)
- [23] S. Vaes and R. Vergnioux, The boundary of universal discrete quantum groups, exactness, and factoriality. *Duke Math. J.* **140** (2007), 35–84. [Zbl 1129.46062](#) [MR 2355067](#)
- [24] R. Vergnioux, K -amenability for amalgamated free products of amenable discrete quantum groups. *J. Funct. Anal.* **212** (2004), 206–221. [Zbl 1064.46064](#) [MR 2067164](#)
- [25] R. Vergnioux, Orientation of quantum Cayley trees and applications. *J. Reine Angew. Math.* **580** (2005), 101–138. [Zbl 1079.46048](#) [MR 2130588](#)
- [26] R. Vergnioux, The property of rapid decay for discrete quantum groups. *J. Operator Theory* **57** (2007), 303–324. [Zbl 1120.58004](#) [MR 2329000](#)
- [27] S. Wang, Free products of compact quantum groups. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **167** (1995), 671–692. [Zbl 0838.46057](#) [MR 1316765](#)
- [28] S. Wang, Quantum symmetry groups of finite spaces. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **195** (1998), 195–211. [Zbl 1013.17008](#) [MR 1637425](#)
- [29] S. L. Woronowicz, Compact matrix pseudogroups. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **111** (1987), 613–665. [Zbl 0627.58034](#) [MR 901157](#)
- [30] S. L. Woronowicz, Tannaka-Kreĭn duality for compact matrix pseudogroups. Twisted $SU(N)$ groups. *Invent. Math.* **93** (1988), 35–76. [Zbl 0664.58044](#) [MR 943923](#)

Received May 30, 2008; revised September 16, 2008

T. Banica, Institut de Mathématiques, Université Paul Sabatier, 118 route de Narbonne, 31062 Toulouse Cedex 9, France

E-mail: banica@math.ups-tlse.fr

R. Vergnioux, Laboratoire de Mathématiques Nicolas Oresme, Université de Caen, BP 5186, 14032 Caen Cedex, France

E-mail: vergnioux@math.unicaen.fr