

# Group gradings on matrix algebras

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Let  $k$  be a field, and let  $G$  be a group.

A  $G$ -graded algebra (over  $k$ ) is a  $k$ -algebra  $A$  with a decomposition

$$A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$$

as a sum of  $k$ -subspaces, such that

$$A_g A_h \subset A_{gh}$$

for any  $g, h \in G$ .

**General Problem.** *If  $A$  is a  $k$ -algebra, determine (or even classify) all possible group gradings on  $A$ .*

We are interested in the case where  $A$  is a structural matrix algebra over  $k$ , i.e. a subalgebra of  $M_n(k)$  consisting of all matrices with zero entries on certain prescribed positions, and allowing anything on the other positions. For example

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} k & 0 & k & k & k & 0 & k & k \\ 0 & k & 0 & k & 0 & k & k & k \\ k & 0 & k & k & k & 0 & k & k \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & k & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ k & 0 & k & k & k & 0 & k & k \\ 0 & k & 0 & k & 0 & k & k & k \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & k & k \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & k & k \end{pmatrix}$$

The full matrix algebra  $M_n(k)$  and the diagonal algebra  $k^n$  are examples of structural matrix algebras.

- Gradings on the full matrix algebra were considered for by Knus in 1969 in his Brauer theory for algebras graded by abelian groups.
- In his positive solution to the Specht problem for associative algebras over a field of characteristic zero, Kemer [1990] needed to describe all gradings on  $M_2(k)$  by the cyclic group  $C_2$ .
- Gradings on matrix algebras and on certain structural matrix algebras are used in the study of numerical invariants of PI algebras.
- $C_2$ -gradings on a matrix algebra are the superalgebra structures on matrices.

In *D, Ion, Năstăsescu, Rios* [1999] gradings on  $M_n(k)$  for which any matrix unit  $e_{ij}$  is a homogeneous element were studied; such gradings were called good gradings.

In some cases, any  $G$ -grading on  $A = M_n(k)$  is isomorphic to a good grading, for example if one of the conditions holds:

- There exists a graded  $A$ -module which is simple as an  $A$ -module.
- $G$  is torsionfree.
- One of the matrix units  $e_{ij}$  is a homogeneous element.

Let  $V = \bigoplus_{g \in G} V_g$  be a  $G$ -graded vector space of dimension  $n$ . Then the algebra  $\text{End}(V)$  has a  $G$ -grading given by

$$\text{End}(V)_\sigma = \{f \in \text{End}(V) \mid f(V_g) \subset V_{\sigma g} \text{ for any } g \in G\}.$$

Denote by  $\text{END}(V)$  the  $G$ -graded algebra obtained in this way.

It was explained that any good  $G$ -grading on  $M_n(k)$  is isomorphic to a graded algebra of the form  $\text{END}(V)$ , where  $V$  is  $n$ -dimensional and  $G$ -graded; also, any graded algebra of the type  $\text{END}(V)$  is isomorphic to  $M_n(k)$  with a certain good grading.

Thus instead of classifying good  $G$ -gradings on  $M_n(k)$ , we can classify graded algebras of the type  $\text{END}(V)$ , where  $V$  is a  $G$ -graded vector space of dimension  $n$ .

If  $V$  is a  $G$ -graded vector space, and  $\sigma \in G$ , let  $V(\sigma)$  be the  $G$ -graded vector space such that  $V(\sigma) = V$  as a vector space, with the grading shifted by  $\sigma$ , i.e.  $V(\sigma)_g = V_{g\sigma}$  for any  $g \in G$ .

It was proved in *Caenepeel, D, Năstăsescu [2002]*

**Theorem.** *If  $V$  and  $W$  are  $G$ -graded vector spaces of dimension  $n$ , then  $\text{END}(V) \simeq \text{END}(W)$  if and only if  $W \simeq V(\sigma)$  for some  $\sigma \in G$ .*

**Corollary.** *Good  $G$ -gradings on  $M_n(k)$  are classified by the orbits of the right biaction of  $S_n$  (by permutations) and  $G$  (by right translations) on  $G^n$ .*

**Theorem.** *If  $k$  is algebraically closed, then any  $C_m$ -grading on  $M_n(k)$  is isomorphic to a good grading.*

Descent theory and some related results of Caenepeel, D, Le Bruyn [1999] were used to prove:

**Theorem.** *Let  $k$  be a field and let  $G$  be an abelian group. If  $V$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\bar{k}$ -vector space, then the forms of the good  $G$ -grading  $\text{END}(V)$  on  $M_n(\bar{k})$  (i.e the  $G$ -gradings on  $M_n(k)$  such that  $\bar{k} \otimes_k M_n(k) \simeq \text{END}(V)$  as  $G$ -graded  $\bar{k}$ -algebras) are in bijection to the Galois extensions of  $k$  with Galois group  $\mathcal{I}(V) = \{\sigma \in G \mid V(\sigma) \simeq V\}$ .*



*Bahturin, Seghal and Zaicev* [2001], described all gradings on  $M_n(k)$  by abelian groups  $G$ , in the case where  $k$  is algebraically closed of characteristic 0. The result was extended to gradings by arbitrary groups, for any algebraically closed  $k$ , in *Bahturin, Zaicev* [2002], [2003].

A grading is called a fine grading if the dimension of any homogeneous component is at most 1. A special type of fine grading is obtained as follows. Let  $n$  be a positive integer and  $\varepsilon$  a primitive  $n$ th root of unity in  $k$ . Consider the matrices in  $M_n(k)$

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon^{n-1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon^{n-2} & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}, Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$XY = \varepsilon YX, X^n = I_n, Y^n = I_n$$

and  $\{X^i Y^j \mid 0 \leq i, j \leq n-1\}$  is linearly independent, so  $A = M_n(k)$  has a  $C_n \times C_n = \langle g \rangle \times \langle h \rangle$ -grading given by  $A_{g^i h^j} = kX^i Y^j$  for any  $0 \leq i, j \leq n-1$ . Denote this graded algebra by  $A(n, \varepsilon)$ .

Assume that  $k$  is algebraically closed of characteristic 0, and consider gradings by abelian groups  $G$ . The results of BSZ are:

**Theorem I** *Any  $G$ -grading on  $A = M_n(k)$  is isomorphic to one of the form  $B \otimes C$ , where  $B$  is a matrix algebra with a good grading, and  $C$  is a matrix algebra with a fine grading.*

**Theorem II** *Any fine grading on a matrix algebra is isomorphic to*

$$A(n_1, \varepsilon_1) \otimes \dots \otimes A(n_r, \varepsilon_r)$$

*for some  $r, n_1, \dots, n_r, \varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_r$ .*

## A proof of Theorem I.

Based on ideas appearing in *D, Ion, Năstăsescu, Rios* [1999], *Caenepeel, D, Năstăsescu* [2002], and a graded version of the density theorem proved in *Gomez Pardo, Năstăsescu* [1991]; the result is contained in a structure result for graded simple algebras in the book of *Năstăsescu, Van Oystaeyen* [2004], without mentioning the interest for gradings on matrix algebras. A similar proof is given in *Elduque, Kochetov* [2013], where the gradings are described and classified.

Let  $k$  be a field (not necessarily algebraically closed), and let  $G$  be a group (not necessarily abelian). If  $A = M_n(k)$  has a  $G$ -grading, let  $\Sigma$  be a gr-simple  $A$ -module, i.e. a simple object in the category of  $G$ -graded left  $A$ -modules. Let  $\Delta = \text{End}_A(\Sigma)$ , which has a  $G$ -grading given by

$$\Delta_g = \{f \in \text{End}_A(\Sigma) \mid f(\Sigma_h) \subseteq \Sigma_{hg} \text{ for any } h \in G\}$$

Then  $\Delta$  is a  $G$ -graded division algebra (i.e. any non-zero homogeneous element is invertible), and if  $S$  is a simple  $A$ -module, then  $\Sigma \simeq S^m$  for some positive integer  $m$ , so  $\Delta \simeq \text{End}_A(S^m) \simeq M_m(k)$ .

Moreover,  $\Sigma$  is a left  $A$ , right  $\Delta$  graded bimodule.

In a similar manner,  $\text{End}(\Sigma_\Delta)$  is also equipped with a  $G$ -graded algebra structure, and one has a morphism of graded algebras

$$\phi : A \rightarrow \text{End}(\Sigma_\Delta), \phi(a)(x) = ax.$$

By a graded version of the density theorem,  $\phi$  is surjective, thus also bijective (since  $A$  is a simple algebra). We obtain that

$$A \simeq \text{End}(\Sigma_\Delta)$$

Since  $\Delta$  is a graded division algebra,  $\Sigma$  is a free  $\Delta$ -module with a homogeneous basis, thus  $\Sigma \simeq V \otimes \Delta$  for some  $G$ -graded vector space  $V$ .

If  $G$  is abelian, then

$$\text{End}(\Sigma_{\Delta}) \simeq \text{END}(V) \otimes \Delta$$

as  $G$ -graded algebras. Thus any grading on  $M_n(k)$  by an abelian group is the tensor product of a good grading and a graded division algebra (on certain matrix algebras).

If  $k$  is algebraically closed,  $\Delta_e$  is a finite extension of  $k$ , so  $\Delta_e = k$ ; then all the homogeneous components of  $\Delta$  have dimensions at most 1, so  $\Delta$  has a fine grading; this is just Theorem I.

If  $G$  is not necessarily abelian, let  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r$  the degrees of the elements in a homogeneous  $\Delta$ -basis of  $\Sigma$ . Then we get that  $A \simeq M_r(\Delta)$  as graded algebras, where the grading on  $M_r(\Delta)$  is given by

$$M_r(\Delta)(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r)_g = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\sigma_1 g \sigma_1^{-1}} & \Delta_{\sigma_1 g \sigma_2^{-1}} & \dots & \Delta_{\sigma_1 g \sigma_r^{-1}} \\ \Delta_{\sigma_2 g \sigma_1^{-1}} & \Delta_{\sigma_2 g \sigma_2^{-1}} & \dots & \Delta_{\sigma_2 g \sigma_r^{-1}} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \Delta_{\sigma_r g \sigma_1^{-1}} & \Delta_{\sigma_r g \sigma_2^{-1}} & \dots & \Delta_{\sigma_r g \sigma_r^{-1}} \end{pmatrix}$$

In conclusion, describing gradings (by arbitrary groups) on matrix algebras (over arbitrary fields) reduces to finding all graded division algebra structures on matrix algebras.



# Gradings on diagonal algebras

Let  $A = k^n$ . If  $k$  is algebraically closed, *Bichon* [2008] described gradings on  $A$ , by considering coactions of Hopf algebras on  $A$  and using an approach of Manin and Wang to show that there exists a Hopf algebra coaction on the diagonal algebra  $k^n$ , which is universal in a large class of Hopf algebras.

A different approach was used in *D* [2007] for describing all gradings on  $A$  for any field.

A grading on  $A$  is called:

- *faithful* if  $\text{supp}(A)$  generates the group  $G$ .
- *ergodic* if  $\dim(A_e) = 1$ .

Ergodic gradings are classified by the following.

**Theorem.** *Let  $A = k^n$ . Then the following assertions hold.*

*(1) If  $\text{char}(k) \mid n$ , then there do not exist ergodic group gradings on  $A$ .*

*(2) If  $\text{char}(k)$  does not divide  $n$ , then the faithful ergodic group gradings on  $A$  are by abelian groups  $H$  of order  $n$ , such that  $k$  contains a primitive  $e$ -th root of unity, where  $e$  is the exponent of  $H$ . For such an  $H$ , any faithful ergodic  $H$ -grading on  $A$  is isomorphic to the group algebra  $kH$  with the usual  $H$ -grading.*

The following shows that a faithful group grading on a diagonal algebra is some sort of a direct sum of ergodic gradings.

If  $M$  is a non-empty subset of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , we denote by

$$A_M = \sum_{j \in M} ke_j; \text{ clearly } A_M \simeq k^{|M|}.$$

**Theorem.** *Let  $k$  be a field and let  $n$  be a positive integer. If  $A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$  is a faithful grading on  $A = k^n$  by the group  $G$ , then there exist*

- *Abelian groups  $H_1, \dots, H_s$  of exponents  $e_1, \dots, e_s$ , such that  $|H_1| + \dots + |H_s| = n$ , and  $k$  contains a primitive  $e_i$ -th root of unity for any  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ;*
- *A surjective group morphism  $\phi : H_1 * \dots * H_s \rightarrow G$  such that  $\phi(H_i) \simeq H_i$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq s$  (for simplicity we identify  $\phi(H_i)$  and  $H_i$ );*
- *A partition  $M_1, \dots, M_s$  of the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $|M_i| = |H_i|$ ;*
- *An ergodic  $H_i$ -grading on the algebra  $A_{M_i}$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , such that  $\text{supp}(A) = H_1 \cup \dots \cup H_s$  and  $A_g = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq s} (A_{M_i})_g$  for any  $g \in \text{supp}(A)$  (where we regard the  $H_i$ -grading of  $A_{M_i}$  as a  $G$ -grading).*

*Conversely, for any abelian groups  $H_1, \dots, H_s$ , any group morphism  $\phi : H_1 * \dots * H_s \rightarrow G$ , and any partition  $M_1, \dots, M_s$ , satisfying conditions as above, a faithful  $G$ -grading on  $k^n$  can be constructed by putting together ergodic  $H_i$ -gradings of  $A_{M_i} \simeq k^{|H_i|}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq s$  as a direct sum as above.*

# Gradings on upper block triangular matrix algebras

Let  $A = M(\rho, k)$  be the algebra

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{m_1}(k) & M_{m_1, m_2}(k) & \dots & M_{m_1, m_r}(k) \\ 0 & M_{m_2}(k) & \dots & M_{m_2, m_r}(k) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & M_{m_r}(k) \end{pmatrix}$$

of upper block triangular matrices. Gradings on  $A$  are classified by

- *Valenti, Zaicev*[2012] for gradings by abelian groups, for algebraically closed  $k$  of characteristic 0.
- *Kotchetov, Yasumura* for gradings by abelian groups and arbitrary algebraically closed  $k$ .
- *Yasumura* [2018] for gradings by arbitrary groups and algebraically closed  $k$  of characteristic 0 or characteristic  $> \dim A$ .

# Good gradings on structural matrix algebras

Joint work with Filoteia Beşleagă.

Let  $A$  be a structural matrix algebra over  $k$ . It is associated with a preorder relation  $\rho$  on the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ ;  $A$  consists of all matrices  $(a_{ij})_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$  such that  $a_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $(i, j) \notin \rho$ . We denote  $A = M(\rho, k)$ ; in other terminology, this is the incidence algebra over  $k$  associated with  $\rho$ .

**PROBLEM.** *Classify all gradings on  $A = M(\rho, k)$  such that each  $e_{ij}$  with  $i\rho j$  is a homogeneous element (these are called good gradings).*

Let  $\sim$  be the equivalence relation on  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  associated with  $\rho$ , i.e.  $i \sim j$  if and only if  $i\rho j$  and  $j\rho i$ , and let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the set of equivalence classes. Then  $\rho$  induces a partial order  $\leq$  on  $\mathcal{C}$  defined by  $\hat{i} \leq \hat{j}$  if and only if  $i\rho j$ , where  $\hat{i}$  denotes the equivalence class of  $i$ .

For any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ , let  $m_\alpha$  be the number of elements of  $\alpha$ .

**Definition.** A  $\rho$ -flag is an  $n$ -dimensional vector space  $V$  with a family  $(V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}}$  of subspaces such that there is a basis  $B$  of  $V$  and a partition  $B = \bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}} B_\alpha$  with the property that  $|B_\alpha| = m_\alpha$  and

$\bigcup_{\beta \leq \alpha} B_\beta$  is a basis of  $V_\alpha$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ .

If  $\mathcal{F} = (V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  and  $\mathcal{F}' = (V', (V'_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  are  $\rho$ -flags, then a morphism of  $\rho$ -flags from  $\mathcal{F}$  to  $\mathcal{F}'$  is a linear map  $f : V \rightarrow V'$  such that  $f(V_\alpha) \subset V'_\alpha$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ .



## Example

If  $A = M(\rho, k)$  is the algebra

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{m_1}(k) & M_{m_1, m_2}(k) & \dots & M_{m_1, m_r}(k) \\ 0 & M_{m_2}(k) & \dots & M_{m_2, m_r}(k) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & M_{m_r}(k) \end{pmatrix}$$

of upper block triangular matrices, with diagonal blocks of size  $m_1, \dots, m_r$ , then  $\rho$  is such that  $\mathcal{C} = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r\}$  is totally ordered, say  $\alpha_1 < \dots < \alpha_r$ , and  $|\alpha_i| = m_i$  for any  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . A  $\rho$ -flag is a usual flag of signature  $(m_1, \dots, m_r)$ .

**Proposition.** *Let  $\mathcal{F} = (V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  be a  $\rho$ -flag. Then the algebra  $\text{End}(\mathcal{F})$  of endomorphisms of  $\mathcal{F}$  is isomorphic to  $M(\rho, k)$ .*

An application of this description is the computation of the automorphism group of a structural matrix algebra. The steps are:

- The  $\text{End}(\mathcal{F})$ -submodules of  $V$  are in a bijective correspondence with the antichains of  $\mathcal{C}$ ; let  $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{C})$  be the lattice structure on the set of all such antichains, induced via this bijection.
- An algebra automorphism  $\varphi : \text{End}(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathcal{F})$  induces a linear isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow V$  which is a  $\varphi'$ -isomorphism for a certain deformation  $\varphi'$  (also an algebra automorphism) of  $\varphi$ .
- $\gamma$  induces an automorphism of the lattice of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{F})$ -submodules of  $V$ , thus also an automorphism of the lattice  $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{C})$ . Such an automorphism is completely determined by an automorphism  $g$  of the poset  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- $\varphi$  can be recovered from  $g$ , the deformation constants producing  $\varphi'$  from  $\varphi$ , and a matrix of  $\gamma$  in a fixed pair of bases.

Define

$$\text{Aut}_0(\mathcal{C}, \leq) = \{g \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{C}, \leq) \mid m_\alpha = m_{g(\alpha)} \text{ for any } \alpha \in \mathcal{C}\}$$

$$\mathcal{T} = \{(a_{ij})_{i\rho j} \subset k^* \mid a_{ij}a_{jr} = a_{ir} \text{ for any } i, j, r \text{ with } i\rho j, j\rho r\}$$

The automorphism group of a structural matrix algebra is described by

**Theorem.**

$$\text{Aut}(\text{End}(\mathcal{F})) \simeq \frac{U(M(\rho, k)) \rtimes (\text{Aut}_0(\mathcal{C}) \rtimes \mathcal{T})}{D},$$

where

$$D = \{\text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n) \rtimes (\text{Id} \rtimes (d_i^{-1}d_j)_{i\rho j}) \mid d_1, \dots, d_n \in k^*\}.$$

Another description, previously given by *Coelho* [1993], can be derived.

## Back to good gradings on $M(\rho, k)$

A  $G$ -graded  $\rho$ -flag is a  $\rho$ -flag  $(V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  such that  $V$  is a  $G$ -graded vector space, and the basis  $B$  from the definition of a  $\rho$ -flag consists of homogeneous elements.

If  $\mathcal{F} = (V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\rho$ -flag, then  $\text{End}(\mathcal{F})$  is a  $G$ -graded algebra, with the grading given by

$$\text{End}(\mathcal{F})_\sigma = \{f \in \text{End}(\mathcal{F}) \mid f(V_g) \subseteq V_{\sigma g} \text{ for any } g \in G\}.$$

Denote it by  $\text{END}(\mathcal{F})$ ; it is isomorphic to a good grading on  $M(\rho, k)$ .

**Question.** *Do all good gradings on  $M(\rho, k)$  arise in this way?*

Giving a good  $G$ -grading on  $M(\rho, k)$  is equivalent to giving a family  $(u_{ij})_{i\rho j}$  of elements of  $G$  such that  $u_{ij}u_{jr} = u_{ir}$  for any  $i, j, r$  with  $i\rho j$  and  $j\rho r$ . Regard such a family as a function  $u : \rho \rightarrow G$ , defined by  $u(i, j) = u_{ij}$  for any  $i, j$  with  $i\rho j$ ; we call  $u$  a transitive function on  $\rho$  with values in  $G$ .

Examples of a transitive functions on  $\rho$  can be obtained as follows. Let  $g_1, \dots, g_n \in G$ , and let  $u_{ij} = g_i g_j^{-1}$  for any  $i, j$  with  $i\rho j$ . Then  $(u_{ij})_{i\rho j}$  is a transitive function on  $\rho$ . A transitive function on  $\rho$  is called trivial if it is obtained in this way.

We associate with  $\rho$  the graph  $\Gamma = (\Gamma_0, \Gamma_1)$  whose set  $\Gamma_0$  of vertices is the set  $\mathcal{C}$  of equivalence classes. The set  $\Gamma_1$  of arrows is constructed as follows: if  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{C}$ , there is an arrow from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  if  $\alpha < \beta$  and there is no  $\gamma \in \mathcal{C}$  with  $\alpha < \gamma < \beta$ .

**Proposition.** *Let  $G$  be a group. The following are equivalent:*

(1) *Any good  $G$ -grading on  $M(\rho, k)$  arises from a graded flag.*

(2) *Any transitive function  $u : \rho \rightarrow G$  is trivial.*

(3) *Any transitive function  $w : \leq \rightarrow G$  is trivial, where  $\leq$  is the partial order on  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

(4) *For any function  $v : \Gamma_1 \rightarrow G$  such that*

*$v(a_1) \dots v(a_r) = v(b_1) \dots v(b_s)$  for any paths  $a_1 \dots a_r$  and*

*$b_1 \dots b_s$  in  $\Gamma$  starting from the same vertex and terminating at the same vertex, there exists a function  $f : \Gamma_0 \rightarrow G$  such that*

*$v(a) = f(s(a))f(t(a))^{-1}$  for any  $a \in \Gamma_1$ .*

Let  $F(\Gamma)$  be the free group generated by the set  $\Gamma_1$  of arrows of  $\Gamma$ . Let  $A(\Gamma)$  be the subgroup of  $F(\Gamma)$  generated by all elements of the form  $a_1 \dots a_r b_p^{-1} \dots b_1^{-1}$ , where  $a_1 \dots a_r$  and  $b_1 \dots b_p$  are two paths (in  $\Gamma$ ) starting from the same vertex and terminating at the same vertex.

We also consider the subgroup  $B(\Gamma)$  of  $F(\Gamma)$  generated by all elements of the form  $a_1 a_2^{\varepsilon_2} \dots a_m^{\varepsilon_m}$ , where  $a_1, \dots, a_m$  are arrows forming in this order a cycle in the undirected graph obtained from  $\Gamma$  when omitting the direction of arrows, and  $\varepsilon_i = 1$  if  $a_i$  is in the direction of the directed cycle given by  $a_1$ , and  $\varepsilon_i = -1$  otherwise. Clearly  $A(\Gamma) \subseteq B(\Gamma)$ .

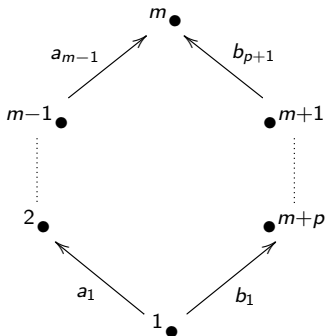
**Proposition.** *The following are equivalent.*

- (1) *For any group  $G$ , any transitive function  $u : \rho \rightarrow G$  is trivial.*
- (2)  $A(\Gamma)^N = B(\Gamma)^N$ .
- (3) *Any generator  $b$  of  $B(\Gamma)$  can be written in the form  $b = g_1 x_1 g_1^{-1} \dots g_m x_m g_m^{-1}$  for some positive integer  $m$ , some  $g_1, \dots, g_m \in F(\Gamma)$  and some  $x_1, \dots, x_m$  among the generators in the construction of  $A(\Gamma)$ .*



## Example.

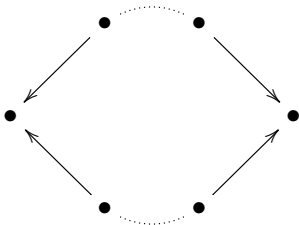
Assume that  $\rho$  is a preorder relation such that the associated graph  $\Gamma$  is of the form



for some integers  $m \geq 3$  and  $p \geq 1$ . Then for any group  $G$ , any transitive function  $u : \rho \rightarrow G$  is trivial.

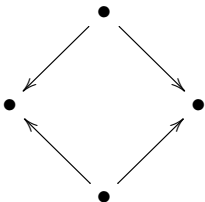
## Example.

Assume that  $\rho$  is a preorder relation such that the associated graph  $\Gamma$  is of the form



Thus the un-directed graph  $\Gamma^u$  associated to  $\Gamma$  is cyclic, and in  $\Gamma$  there are at least two vertices where both adjacent arrows terminate (equivalently,  $\Gamma^u$  is cyclic and  $\Gamma$  is not of the type in the previous example. Then for any non-trivial group  $G$ , there exist transitive functions  $u : \rho \rightarrow G$  that are not trivial.

The simplest example of such a graph is

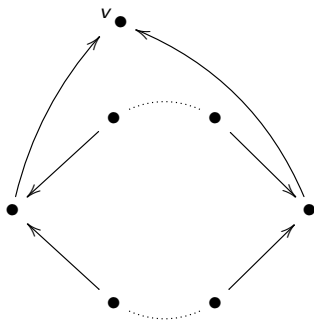


and the corresponding structural matrix algebra, whose not all good gradings arise from graded flags, is

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

## Example.

If the corresponding graph is



then all transitive functions (on the corresponding preordered set) are trivial.

## Classification of gradings of the type $\text{END}(\mathcal{F})$

Let  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}^1 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{C}^q$  be the decomposition of  $\mathcal{C}$  in disjoint connected components; these correspond to the connected components of the undirected graph  $\Gamma^u$ . For each  $1 \leq t \leq q$ , let  $\rho_t$  be the preorder relation on the set  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^t} \alpha$ , by restricting  $\rho$ .

If  $V^t = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^t} V_\alpha$ , then  $\mathcal{F}^t = (V^t, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^t})$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\rho_t$ -flag

with basis  $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^t} B_\alpha$ . Obviously,  $V = \bigoplus_{1 \leq t \leq q} V^t$ . In a formal way we

can write  $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}^1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{F}^q$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\rho$ -flag, and  $\mathcal{F}^t$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\rho_t$ -flag for each  $1 \leq t \leq q$ .

**Definition.** Let  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  be isomorphic preorder relations (i.e. the preordered sets on which  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  are defined are isomorphic). Let  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  be the posets associated with  $\rho$  and  $\mu$ , and let  $g : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$  be an isomorphism of posets. We say that a  $\rho$ -flag  $\mathcal{F} = (V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  is  $g$ -isomorphic to a  $\mu$ -flag  $\mathcal{G} = (W, (W_\beta)_{\beta \in \mathcal{D}})$  if there is a linear isomorphism  $u : V \rightarrow W$  such that  $u(V_\alpha) = W_{g(\alpha)}$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{G}$  are  $G$ -graded flags, we say that they are  $g$ -isomorphic as graded flags if there is such an  $u$  which is a morphism of graded vector spaces.

**Theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{F} = (V, (V_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  and  $\mathcal{F}' = (V', (V'_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}})$  be  $G$ -graded  $\rho$ -flags. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

(1)  $\text{END}(\mathcal{F})$  and  $\text{END}(\mathcal{F}')$  are isomorphic as  $G$ -graded algebras.

(2) There exist  $g \in \text{Aut}_0(\mathcal{C})$ ,  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_q \in G$  and a  $g$ -isomorphism  $\gamma : V \rightarrow V'$  between the (ungraded)  $\rho$ -flags  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{F}'$ , such that  $\gamma|_{V^t} : V^t \rightarrow V'^{\bar{g}(t)}$  is a linear isomorphism of left degree  $\sigma_t$  for any  $1 \leq t \leq q$ , where  $\bar{g} \in S_q$  is the permutation induced by  $g$ , i.e.  $g(\mathcal{C}^t) = \mathcal{C}^{\bar{g}(t)}$ .

(3) There exists a permutation  $\tau \in S_q$ , an isomorphism  $g_t : \mathcal{C}^t \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\tau(t)}$  for each  $1 \leq t \leq q$ , and  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_q \in G$ , such that  $\mathcal{F}^t(\sigma_t)$  is  $g_t$ -isomorphic to  $\mathcal{F}'^{\tau(t)}$  for any  $1 \leq t \leq q$ .

**Theorem.** *The isomorphism types of  $G$ -gradings of the type  $\text{END}(\mathcal{F})$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $G$ -graded  $\rho$ -flag, are classified by the orbits of the right action of the group  $\prod_{\alpha \in \mathcal{C}} S(\alpha) \rtimes (\text{Aut}_0(\mathcal{C}) \rtimes G^q)$  on the set  $G^n$ .*



If  $\rho$  is a partial order, then all good gradings are classified in Beşleagă, D, van Wyk [2018].

**Theorem.** *Let  $G$  be a group. If  $(u_{ij})_{i\rho j}$  and  $(v_{ij})_{i\rho j}$  are two  $G$ -valued transitive functions on  $\rho$ , then the corresponding good  $G$ -gradings on  $A = M(\rho, k)$  are isomorphic if and only if there exists an automorphism  $\varphi$  of the poset  $(\{1, \dots, n\}, \rho)$  such that  $v_{ij} = u_{\varphi(i)\varphi(j)}$  for any  $i, j$  with  $i\rho j$ . Thus the isomorphism types of good  $G$ -gradings on  $A = M(\rho, k)$  are in bijection to the orbits of the right action of  $\text{Aut}(\rho)$  on  $T(\rho, G)$ .*