

# On a tannakian theorem due to Nori

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## Résumé

M. V. Nori a construit en 1997 une catégorie de motifs en caractéristique nulle. Sa construction s'appuie sur un nouveau théorème de reconstruction tannakienne valide sur un anneau noethérien  $K$ . Étant donné un carquois  $Q$  et une représentation  $T$  de  $Q$  sur  $K$ , Nori construit une catégorie abélienne  $K$ -linéaire  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , qui satisfait une certaine propriété universelle (Th. 1).

Dans le présent article, nous donnons une démonstration de ce résultat, à ce jour non publié, pour un anneau  $K$  cohérent. En fait, nous établissons un résultat un peu plus fort sur  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  (Th. 2) dont le théorème de Nori est un corollaire. Enfin, nous donnons une version monoïdale de la construction de Nori (Th. 3, Cor. 3).

## Abstract

M. V. Nori constructed in 1997 a category of motives in characteristic 0. This construction relies on a new theorem of tannakian reconstruction over a noetherian ring  $K$ . Given a quiver  $Q$  and a representation  $T$  of  $Q$  over  $K$ , Nori constructs an abelian  $K$ -linear category  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , which satisfies a certain universal property (Th. 1).

In this paper, we give a proof of this as yet unpublished result for  $K$  coherent ring. In fact, we prove a somewhat stronger result on  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  (Th. 2) of which Nori's theorem is a corollary. Lastly, we give a monoidal version of Nori's construction (Th. 3, Cor. 3).



## Introduction

In 1997, M. V. Nori proposed in a yet unpublished text a very promising candidate for a category of motives in characteristic 0. In a nutshell, Nori's approach goes as follows. He introduces a certain quiver (or diagram)  $Q_a$  and a representation  $T_a$  of this quiver with values in the category of  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules of finite type. The quiver is defined in terms of algebraic varieties over  $\mathbb{C}$  (or, more generally, a subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$ ), and the representation is defined by singular (co-)homology. This part of the construction is surprisingly straightforward. Now comes a remarkable result : given a noetherian commutative ring  $K$  and a representation  $T$  of a quiver  $Q$  with values in the category  $K\text{-mod}$  of  $K$ -modules of finite type, one may construct an abelian  $K$ -linear category  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  over  $K\text{-mod}$  such that  $T$  lifts to  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , and this construction is universal. As a corollary, if  $Q$  is a (small) abelian category over  $K$ , and  $T$  an abelian  $K$ -linear faithful exact functor, then  $Q \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T)$  is an equivalence. This is a striking result, in that, until then, this type of tannakian reconstruction was known only over a field ([S], [D], [B]).

Applied to the quiver  $Q_a$  and the representation  $T_a$ , Nori's theorem yields an abelian category  $\mathcal{C}(T_a)$  which is his candidate for a category of effective (co)-homological motives.

In Nori's text, the universal property is stated, but the proof is not written down. The aim of the present paper is to provide a written proof, together with minor improvements :

- 1) we work over a coherent commutative ring;
- 2) we deduce Nori's theorem from a somewhat stronger statement;
- 3) we give a monoidal version of Nori's theorem, which requires a rather strong condition on  $K$  (essentially, the global dimension of  $K$  is at most 2).

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Madhav Nori for allowing me (and indeed, warmly encouraging me) to publish this text which owes so much to his work.

### Plan

In the first section, we recall the definitions of quivers and representations of quivers, give Nori's construction of the category  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , and state Nori's theorem (Theorem 1) together with another theorem (Theorem 2) of which theorem 1 will be a consequence.

In section 2, we rehearse a number of constructions related with categories of modules, namely tensor products and external  $\mathbf{Hom}$ 's.

In section 3, we introduce a notion of external  $\mathbf{Hom}$  of quiver representations, and explore its properties.

In section 4, we prove theorem 2 as a direct application of the notion of external  $\mathbf{Hom}$  of quiver representations, and deduce theorem 1.

In section 5, we recall the notion of pro-objects and re-interpret the category  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  as the category of left modules on the ‘pro-’ version the algebra of endomorphisms of  $T$ . We then give a monoidal version of Nori’s reconstruction (Theorem 3 and corollary 3).

### Conventions and notations

Let  $A$  be a ring. We denote  $A\text{-Mod}$  the category of left  $A$ -modules, and  $\overline{A}$  the ring  $A$  seen as a left  $A$ -module.

We denote  $A\text{-mod} \subset A\text{-Mod}$  the full subcategory of finitely presented  $A$ -modules. The ring  $A$  is *coherent (on the left)* if the category  $A\text{-mod}$  is abelian and the inclusion functor  $A\text{-mod} \hookrightarrow A\text{-Mod}$  is exact.

From now on,  $K$  is a commutative coherent ring.

## 1 Quivers and Nori’s theorem

### 1.1 Quivers

*Quivers* (or *diagrams* in Nori’s terminology) are presheaves on the category  $\{0 \rightrightarrows 1\}$ . As such they form a category, and even a topos.

More concretely, a quiver  $D$  consists in the following data : a set  $D_0$  (the *vertices*, or *objects* of the quiver), a set  $D_1$  (the *edges*, or *arrows*), and two maps  $s, t : D_1 \rightarrow D_0$  respectively called *source* and *target*.

EXAMPLE. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category,  $\mathbf{Fl}(\mathcal{C}) \rightrightarrows \mathbf{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$  is a quiver. Any functor is a morphism of quivers. We will denote in the same way a category and the underlying quiver.

Let  $D$  be a quiver and  $\mathcal{C}$  a category. A *representation of  $D$  with values in  $\mathcal{C}$*  is a morphism of quivers  $T : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ . Representations of a quiver  $D$  with values in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  form a category. Given two such representations  $T, T'$ , a morphism  $\phi : T \rightarrow T'$  is a family  $(\phi_i)_{i \in D_0}$ ,  $\phi_i \in \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_i, T'_i)$ , such that the following squares are commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_j & \xrightarrow{T_a} & T_k \\ \phi_i \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi_k \\ T'_j & \xrightarrow{T'_a} & T'_k \end{array}$$

for any  $(j \xrightarrow{a} k) \in D_1$  ( $j = s(a)$ ,  $k = t(a)$ ).

This is a generalization of the notion of natural morphism.

## 1.2 Nori's theorem

Let  $K$  be a coherent commutative ring. Let  $D$  be a quiver, and  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  a representation of  $D$ .

If  $D$  is finite,  $E = \text{End } T$  is a  $K$ -algebra in  $K\text{-mod}$ . For  $i \in D_0$ ,  $T_i$  has a natural structure of left  $E$ -module, denoted  $\overline{T}_i$ , and for  $(j \xrightarrow{a} k) \in D_1$ ,  $T_a : T_j \rightarrow T_k$  is an  $E$ -linear map. Thus  $T$  lifts to a representation  $\overline{T} : D \rightarrow \text{End } T\text{-mod}$ .

For  $D$  arbitrary, let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of finite subsheaves of  $D$ , ordered by inclusion. For  $D' \in \mathcal{F}$ , let  $E_{D'} = \text{End}(T|_{D'})$ . If  $D'' \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $D'' \subset D'$ , we have a canonical morphism  $E_{D'} \rightarrow E_{D''}$ , hence a functor  $E_{D''}\text{-mod} \rightarrow E_{D'}\text{-mod}$  which is  $K$ -linear, faithful, exact. We let

$$\mathcal{C}(T) = \varinjlim_{D' \in \mathcal{F}} E_{D'}\text{-mod} .$$

This 2-limit being filtered,  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  is an abelian  $K$ -linear category, and the forgetful functor  $\Omega : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  is  $K$ -linear, faithful, exact.<sup>1</sup> Moreover  $T$  lifts to a representation  $\overline{T} : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T)$ .

REMARK. In  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ ,  $\text{Hom}$ 's are finitely presented  $K$ -modules if  $D$  is finite or  $K$  noetherian.

The representation  $\overline{T}$ , together with the forgetful functor  $\Omega$ , satisfies a universal property.

**Theorem 1** (Nori) *Let  $D$  be a quiver, and  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  a representation of  $D$ . On the other hand, let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an abelian  $K$ -linear category,  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  a  $K$ -linear faithful exact functor, and  $S : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  a representation of  $D$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $FS = T$ . Then there exists a functor  $S' : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , unique (up to unique isomorphism) such that the following diagram is commutative (up to isomorphism) :*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{C}(T) & \\
 & \uparrow \overline{T} & \downarrow S' \\
 D & \xrightarrow{S} & \mathcal{C} \\
 & \searrow T & \downarrow F \\
 & & K\text{-mod} .
 \end{array}$$

<sup>1</sup>See section 5 for a more conceptual approach

Moreover the functor  $S'$  is  $K$ -linear faithful exact.

REMARK. Let us clarify the statement of the theorem. The claim is that there exist a functor  $S'$ , an isomorphism  $\alpha : S'\overline{T} \xrightarrow{\sim} S$ , and an isomorphism  $\beta : FS' \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$ , with the compatibility condition:  $F(\alpha) = \beta\overline{T}$ . Uniqueness means that if  $(S'', \alpha', \beta')$  is another solution to the problem, there exists a unique isomorphism  $\gamma : S'' \xrightarrow{\sim} S'$  such that  $\alpha' = (\gamma\overline{T})\alpha$  and  $\beta' = \beta F(\gamma)$ .

**Corollary 1** *If  $D$  is a (small) abelian  $K$ -linear category and  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  is a  $K$ -linear, faithful exact functor, then the functor  $\overline{T} : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T)$  is an equivalence.*

REMARK. This corollary generalizes over a coherent ring the fact that, over a field  $K$ , the following sets of data are equivalent :

- (1) a coalgebra  $L$ ;
- (2) an abelian  $K$ -linear category  $\mathcal{C}$  together with a  $K$ -linear faithful exact functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{vect } K$ .

This is the fundamental fact which allows one to construct the tannakian dictionary (in the neutral case).

PROOF. Observe that the data  $(1_D : D \rightarrow D, T)$  satisfies the same universal property as the data  $(\overline{T}, \Omega)$ . By the uniqueness assertion, the functor  $\overline{T} : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(T)$  is an equivalence.  $\square$

We will deduce theorem 1 from the following theorem.

**Theorem 2** *Let  $D$  be a finite quiver,  $\mathcal{C}$  an abelian  $K$ -linear category,  $T$  (resp.  $S$ ) a representation of  $D$  with values in  $K\text{-mod}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{C}$ ).*

*There exists a  $K$ -linear right exact functor  $\mathcal{H}(T, S) : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , equipped with a morphism  $\text{ev} : \mathcal{H}(T, S) \circ \overline{T} \rightarrow S$ , and universal (final) for this property.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{C}(T) & \\
 \overline{T} \nearrow & \downarrow \text{ev} & \searrow \mathcal{H}(T, S) \\
 D & \xrightarrow{S} & \mathcal{C}
 \end{array}$$

REMARK. In the statement, universal means that, given any  $K$ -linear right exact functor  $H : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , the canonical map

$$\text{Hom}(H, \mathcal{H}(T, S)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(H \circ \overline{T}, S)$$

defined by  $f \mapsto \text{ev} \circ (f\overline{T})$ , is a bijection.

## 2 Categories of modules, tensor products and external Hom

The results presented here are more or less classical, see [P] for instance.

In this section,  $\mathcal{C}$  is an abelian  $K$ -linear category. Recall that if  $A$  is a  $K$ -algebra, a left (resp. right)  $A$ -module in  $\mathcal{C}$  is an object  $M$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  equipped with a  $K$ -algebra morphism  $A \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$  (resp.  $A^o \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(M)$ ). We will denote  $A\text{-}\mathcal{C}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{C}\text{-}A$ ) the category of left (resp. right)  $A$ -modules in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

**Proposition 1** *Let  $A$  be a  $K$ -algebra in  $K\text{-mod}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  an abelian  $K$ -linear category, and  $M$  an object of  $\mathcal{C}\text{-}A$ .*

1) *There exists a  $K$ -linear right exact functor  $F : A\text{-mod} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that  $F(\bar{A}) \simeq M$  in  $\mathcal{C}\text{-}A$ .*

2) *Given such a functor  $F$ , there exists functorial isomorphism (the ‘adjunction’ isomorphism) <sup>2</sup>*

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(F(V), X) \simeq \text{Hom}_A(V, \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)).$$

NOTATION. The functor  $F$ , unique up to unique isomorphism thanks to assertion 2), will be denoted  $M \otimes_A ?$ .

**Corollary 2** *The category  $\mathcal{C}\text{-}A$  is equivalent to the category of  $K$ -linear right exact functors from  $A\text{-mod}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$ .*

PROOF. If  $M$  is a right  $A$ -module, there is a canonical map  $\text{Hom}_A(\bar{A}^m, \bar{A}^n) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M^m, M^n)$ , and the aim is to extend this to a functor  $A\text{-mod} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{A} = A\text{-mod}$ . Define a new category  $\mathcal{A}'$  as follows :

- the objects of  $\mathcal{A}'$  are the exact sequences  $\bar{A}^m \xrightarrow{R} \bar{A}^n \xrightarrow{s} V \rightarrow 0$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ ;
- for  $V_{\bullet} = (\bar{A}^m \xrightarrow{R} \bar{A}^n \rightarrow V \rightarrow 0)$ ,  $V'_{\bullet} = (\bar{A}^{m'} \xrightarrow{R'} \bar{A}^{n'} \rightarrow V' \rightarrow 0)$  objects of  $\mathcal{A}'$ ,  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}'}(V_{\bullet}, V'_{\bullet}) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}}(V, V')$ .

The forgetful functor  $U : \mathcal{A}' \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ ,  $(\bar{A}^m \rightarrow \bar{A}^n \rightarrow V \rightarrow 0) \mapsto V$  is an equivalence, a quasi-inverse thereof is given by arbitrary choice of a finite presentation for each object in  $A\text{-mod}$ .

For a start, we construct a functor  $F' : \mathcal{A}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  as follows. If  $V_{\bullet} = (\bar{A}^m \xrightarrow{R} \bar{A}^n \rightarrow V \rightarrow 0)$  is an object of  $\mathcal{A}'$ , then  $F'(V_{\bullet}) = \text{coker}(M^m \xrightarrow{R} M^n)$ .

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<sup>2</sup>If in  $\mathcal{C}$ , Hom’s are finitely presented  $K$ -modules,  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(?, X)$  is right adjoint to  $F$ .

If  $\phi$  is a morphism from  $V_\bullet$  to another object  $V'_\bullet = (\overline{A}^{m'} \xrightarrow{R'} \overline{A}^{n'} \rightarrow V' \rightarrow 0)$  in  $\mathcal{A}'$ , that is, an element of  $\mathbf{Hom}_A(V, V')$ , pick morphisms  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  so that the following diagram commutes in  $A\text{-mod}$  :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \overline{A}^m & \xrightarrow{R} & \overline{A}^n & \longrightarrow & V & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \phi_2 \downarrow & & \phi_1 \downarrow & & \phi \downarrow & & \\ \overline{A}^{m'} & \xrightarrow{R'} & \overline{A}^{n'} & \longrightarrow & V' & \xrightarrow{R} & 0, \end{array}$$

and define  $F'(\phi)$  as being the morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$  which makes the following diagram commutative :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} M^m & \xrightarrow{R} & M^n & \longrightarrow & F'(V_\bullet) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \phi_2 \downarrow & & \phi_1 \downarrow & & F'(\phi) \downarrow & & \\ M^{m'} & \xrightarrow{R'} & M^{n'} & \longrightarrow & F'(V'_\bullet) & \xrightarrow{R} & 0. \end{array}$$

This construction, being clearly independent of choices, defines a functor  $F'$ . Let  $F$  be as in the statement of the proposition. For  $V_\bullet = (\overline{A}^m \xrightarrow{R} \overline{A}^n \xrightarrow{s} V \rightarrow 0)$  object of  $\mathcal{A}'$ , we have via  $F$  a short exact sequence  $M^m \xrightarrow{R} M^n \rightarrow F(V) \rightarrow 0$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , hence a canonical isomorphism  $F'(V_\bullet) \simeq F(V)$ . Thus  $FV \simeq F'$ , and  $F \simeq F'Q$ .

Left exactness of  $F = F'Q$  will immediately follow from assertion 2), which we now prove.

For  $V_\bullet = (\overline{A}^m \rightarrow \overline{A}^n \rightarrow V \rightarrow 0)$  object of  $\mathcal{A}'$  and  $X$  object of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the lines in the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}(F(V), X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}(M^n, X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}(M^m, X) \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}_A(V, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}_A(\overline{A}^n, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Hom}_A(\overline{A}^m, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)) \end{array}$$

are exact, and both vertical arrows are isomorphisms; hence an isomorphism

$$\mathbf{Hom}(F(V), X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{Hom}_A(V, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)),$$

which is functorial in  $X$  and in  $V_\bullet$ , so in  $V$ , too.  $\square$

DEFINITION. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an abelian  $K$ -linear category, and  $X$  an object of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Define the functor  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(?, X) : (K\text{-mod})^o \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  to be the opposite functor to  $X \otimes_K ? : K\text{-mod} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^o$ . Thus, for  $X, Y$  objects of  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $V$  object of  $K\text{-mod}$ , one has a functorial isomorphism

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(V, Y)) \simeq \mathbf{Hom}_K(V, \mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, Y)).$$



This defines a  $K$ -linear left exact functor

$$\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(? , ?) : (K\text{-mod})^o \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} .$$

called *external Hom*.

REMARKS.

- 1) The formation of  $M \otimes_A ?$  commutes with  $K$ -linear right exact functors; in particular, the construction of  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(V, ?)$  commutes with  $K$ -linear left exact functors.
- 2) Let  $A$  be a  $K$ -algebra in  $K\text{-mod}$ , and  $\mathcal{C} = A\text{-mod}$ . Given a finitely presented  $K$ -module  $V$ , and a finitely presented  $A$ -module  $M$ ,  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(V, X)$  is nothing but  $\mathbf{Hom}(V, M)$ , seen as a left  $A$ -module.

### 3 External Hom for quiver representations

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be an abelian  $K$ -linear category,  $D$  a finite quiver,  $S$  a representation of  $D$  with values in  $\mathcal{C}$ , and  $T$  a representation  $D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$ .

To this data we associate a morphism  $\Delta_{T,S}$  of  $\mathcal{C}$  :

$$\Delta_{T,S} = \partial^0 - \partial^1 : \prod_{i \in D_0} \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_i, S_i) \longrightarrow \prod_{(j \xrightarrow{a} k) \in D_1} \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_k) .$$

Interpreting the  $\prod$ 's as  $\bigoplus$ 's,  $\partial^0, \partial^1$  are defined blockwise as follows. For  $j \xrightarrow{a} k$ , consider

$$\begin{aligned} S_{a*} &: \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_j) \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_k), \\ T_a^* &: \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_k, S_k) \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_k); \end{aligned}$$

then  $\partial_{i,a}^0 = \delta_{i,j} S_{a*}$  and  $\partial_{i,a}^1 = \delta_{i,k} T_a^*$ . Notice that these are morphisms of right  $\mathbf{End} T$ -modules in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

NOTATION. Set  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S) = \ker(\Delta_{T,S})$ , so that we have the following exact sequence in  $\mathcal{C}\text{-End} T$  :

$$(\mathcal{E}_{T,S}) \quad 0 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in D_0} \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_i, S_i) \rightarrow \prod_{(j \xrightarrow{a} k) \in D_1} \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_k) .$$

The object  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)$  deserves the title of external  $\mathbf{Hom}$ ; indeed we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 1** *For any object  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{C}\text{-End} T$ , there is a canonical isomorphism*

$$\mathbf{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-End} T}(\Sigma, \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{Hom}(\Sigma \otimes_{\mathbf{End} T} \overline{T}, S) .$$

PROOF. Let  $E$  be a  $K$ -algebra in  $K\text{-mod}$ ,  $M$  an object of  $E\text{-mod}$ ,  $\Sigma$  an object of  $\mathcal{C}\text{-}E$ , and  $X$  an object of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

By adjunction, we have  $\text{Hom}_K(M, \text{Hom}(\Sigma, X)) \simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X))$  hence (by functoriality)  $\text{Hom}_E(M, \text{Hom}(\Sigma, X)) \simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-}E}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X))$ . By adjunction,  $\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma \otimes_E M, X) \simeq \text{Hom}_E(M, \text{Hom}(\Sigma, X))$  hence a canonical isomorphism :

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(\Sigma \otimes_E M, X) \simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-}E}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(M, X)).$$

Applied to  $E = \text{End } T$ , this yields a commutative diagram :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}(\Sigma \otimes_E \bar{T}, S) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i \text{Hom}(\Sigma \otimes_E \bar{T}_i, S_i) & \longrightarrow & \prod_a \text{Hom}(\Sigma \otimes_E \bar{T}_j, S_k) \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-}E}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)) & \longrightarrow & \prod_i \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-}E}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_i, S_i)) & \longrightarrow & \prod_a \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}\text{-}E}(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T_j, S_k)) \end{array}$$

where lines are exact and vertical arrows are the canonical isomorphisms, hence the isomorphism we were looking for.  $\square$

In particular, for  $\Sigma = \underline{\text{Hom}}(T, S)$ , the identity of  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)$  corresponds with a canonical representation morphism

$$\text{ev}_{T,S} = \text{ev} : \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S) \otimes_{\text{End } T} \bar{T} \rightarrow S.$$

**Lemma 2** *The formation of  $\underline{\text{Hom}}(T, S)$  enjoys the following properties.*

1) (Functoriality) if  $\mathcal{C}'$  is an abelian  $K$ -linear category and  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$  a  $K$ -linear exact left functor, then  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}'}(T, FS) = F(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S))$  and  $\text{ev}_{T,FS} = F(\text{ev}_{T,S})$ .

2) (Trivial case) for  $\mathcal{C} = K\text{-mod}$  and  $S = T$ ,  $\underline{\text{Hom}}(T, T) = \text{End } T$  and  $\text{ev}$  is the identity.

PROOF. The functor  $F$  commutes with the formation  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}$ , and preserves left short exact sequences, hence  $F(\mathcal{E}_{T,S}) = (\mathcal{E}_{T,FS})$ , and in particular  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}'}(T, FS) = F(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S))$ . Now one checks that  $F$  commutes with the formation of the bijection of lemma 1, and so, of  $\text{ev}_{T,S}$ . The trivial case is straightforward.  $\square$

## 4 Proof of theorems 1 and 2

Let us prove theorem 2. Setting  $E = \text{End } T$ , we have  $\mathcal{C}(T) = E\text{-mod}$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}(T, S) = \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S) \otimes_E ? : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , and let  $\text{ev}$  be the evaluation morphism  $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S) \otimes_E \bar{T} \rightarrow S$ . Any right exact  $K$ -linear functor  $S' :$

$\mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is of the form  $\Sigma \otimes_E ?$  for some right  $E$ -module  $\Sigma$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . We have  $\text{Hom}(S' \circ \bar{T}, S) \simeq \text{Hom}(\Sigma \otimes_E \bar{T}, S) \simeq \text{Hom}_E(\Sigma, \underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S))$  (by remark 3)  $\simeq \text{Hom}(S', \mathcal{H}(T, S))$  (corollary to proposition 1). Hence the theorem.

Now let us prove theorem 1 (Nori's theorem).

Notice that if the functor  $S'$  exists, it is  $K$ -linear faithful exact. Indeed, the categories  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $K\text{-mod}$  are abelian,  $K$ -linear, and both  $F$  and  $F \circ S' \simeq \Omega$  are  $K$ -linear faithful exact.

Notice also that, since  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  is the filtered direct limit of  $\text{End}(T|_{D'})$ 's for  $D' \subset D$  finite, we may assume  $D$  finite, and so do we.

Theorem 2 provides a functor  $\bar{S} = \mathcal{H}(T, S)$ , and we will show that  $S' = \bar{S}$  answers our problem. In order to do so, we will check that  $\alpha := \text{ev}_{T,S} : \bar{S}\bar{T} \rightarrow S$  is an isomorphism, and construct an isomorphism  $\beta : F\bar{S} \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$  such that  $\beta\bar{T} = F\alpha$ .

Let  $E = \text{End } T$ . Recall that, in the short exact sequence in  $K\text{-mod}$  :

$$(\mathcal{E}_{T,T}) \quad 0 \rightarrow E \rightarrow \prod_{i \in D_0} \text{Hom}(T_i, T_i) \longrightarrow \prod_{(j \xrightarrow{\alpha} k) \in D_1} \text{Hom}(T_j, T_k),$$

each object is naturally an  $(E, E)$ -bimodule, and the maps are  $(E, E)$ -linear, so  $(\mathcal{E}_{T,T})$  lifts to a short exact sequence of right  $E$ -modules in  $E\text{-mod}$  :

$$(\bar{\mathcal{E}}) \quad 0 \rightarrow \bar{E} \rightarrow \prod_{i \in D_0} \underline{\text{Hom}}(T_i, \bar{T}_i) \longrightarrow \prod_{(j \xrightarrow{\alpha} k) \in D_1} \underline{\text{Hom}}(T_j, \bar{T}_k)$$

which is none other than  $(\mathcal{E}_{T, \bar{T}})$ .

Now let  $\alpha = \text{ev}_{T,S} : \bar{S}\bar{T} \rightarrow S$ . Since  $F$  is exact,  $F(\alpha) = \text{ev}_{T,FS} = \text{ev}_{T,T} = 1_T$  (lemma 2);  $F$  being also faithful, and therefore conservative<sup>3</sup>, we see that  $\alpha$  is an isomorphism.

On the other hand,  $F\bar{S}$  is right exact, so by proposition 1, it is of the form  $\Sigma \otimes_E ?$ , where  $\Sigma = F\bar{S}(\bar{E}) = F(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)) = \text{Hom}(T, FS) = E$  (by exactness of  $F$ ,  $FS = T$ , and lemma 2)  $= \Omega(\bar{E})$ . Hence a canonical isomorphism  $\beta : F\bar{S} \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$  by proposition 1 again. One checks  $F(\alpha) = \beta\bar{T}$ , hence existence.

Now for uniqueness. Assume  $S'$  is a functor as required; it comes equipped with compatible morphisms  $\alpha' : S'\bar{T} \xrightarrow{\sim} S$ ,  $\beta' : FS' \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$ . By the preliminary remark,  $S'$  is  $K$ -linear faithful exact. In particular,  $S' \simeq \Sigma \otimes_E ?$ , with  $\Sigma = S'(\bar{E})$  (by right exactness of  $F$ ). Now  $S'(\bar{E}) = S'(\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, \bar{T})) =$

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<sup>3</sup>A functor  $F$  is conservative if any morphism whose image by  $F$  is an isomorphism, is an isomorphism.

$\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S'\overline{T})$  (by left exactness of  $S'$ )  $\simeq \underline{\mathbf{Hom}}_{\mathcal{C}}(T, S)$  via  $\alpha'$ . Hence an isomorphism  $\gamma : S' \xrightarrow{\sim} \overline{S}$ . By construction,  $\alpha' = (\gamma\overline{T})\alpha$ , and one checks :  $\beta' = F(\gamma)\beta$ .  $\square$

We will also need the following result.

**Proposition 2** *Let  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  be a representation of a quiver  $D$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  stable under direct sum, kernels and cokernels, and containing  $\overline{T}_i$  for each  $i \in D_0$ . Then  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{C}(T)$ .*

PROOF. This can be deduced from Th. 1 by abstract nonsense. In a more pedestrian way, one checks that  $\mathcal{A}$  contains  $\underline{\mathbf{Hom}}(N, \overline{T}_i)$  for any  $N$  in  $K\text{-mod}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  contains  $\overline{\mathbf{End}(T|_{D_0})}$  for any finite subquiver  $D_0$  of  $D$ , and finally, all of  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ .  $\square$

## 5 Monoidal version

Throughout this section, we assume a certain familiarity with monoidal categories. See for instance [M], [B].

If  $K$  is a field, tannakian theory states that given a monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$  and a monoidal functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{vect} K$ , the associated coalgebra  $L(F)$  actually is a bialgebra. If  $\mathcal{C}$  has duals, it is a Hopf bialgebra. Here, we will adapt these results to Nori's setting. Since we are dealing with quivers, instead of categories, we will define monoidal quivers and monoidal representations. Since  $K$  is no longer a field, we will have to make rather strong assertions : we will consider representations taking values in projective modules (**P1**), together with a mild hypothesis to compensate for the absence of identities in a quiver (**P2**), and we will make a homological assumption ( $\star$ ) on  $K$ , which essentially says that the global dimension of  $K$  is at most 2.

Instead of the coalgebra of coendomorphisms, we are dealing with the algebra of endomorphisms, which in this setting is a **Pro-object** ; so we will now rehearse a few general facts on **Pro-objects**.

### 5.1 Pro-objects.

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category. There is a universal way of constructing a completion of  $\mathcal{C}$  with respect to (small) filtered inverse limits, and this is the category of **Pro-objects** of  $\mathcal{C}$ , denoted  $\mathbf{Pro}\mathcal{C}$ . Here follows a sketch of this construction.

A *Pro-object* of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a small filtered inverse system  $(X_i)_{i \in I}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , which we will denote " $\varprojlim_{i \in I} X_i$ " for convenience. The **Pro-objects** of  $\mathcal{C}$  form a category

$\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$ , with morphisms defined as follows :

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}}(\varprojlim_{i \in I} X_i, \varprojlim_{j \in J} Y_j) = \varprojlim_j \varinjlim_i \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X_i, Y_j).$$

The canonical functor  $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$ ,  $X \mapsto \varprojlim X$  being fully faithful, we will identify  $\mathcal{C}$  to a full subcategory of  $\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$ . Small filtered inverse limits exist in  $\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$ , and  $\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$  enjoys the following universal property.

Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a category where small filtered inverse limits exist. Any functor  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  extends uniquely (up to unique isomorphism) to a functor  $\tilde{F} : \text{Pro } \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  which commutes to small filtered inverse limits;  $\tilde{F}$  is defined by  $\varprojlim_i X_i \mapsto \varprojlim_i F(X_i)$ .

The category  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$  is abelian,  $K$ -linear, monoidal (indeed, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is abelian or monoidal, so is  $\text{Pro } \mathcal{C}$ ). If  $A$  is an algebra in  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$ , we denote  $A\text{-mod}$  the category of  $A$ -modules whose underlying  $\text{Pro}$ -object belongs to  $K\text{-mod}$ .

If  $D$  is quiver and  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  a representation of  $T$ , denote

$$\mathcal{E}nd(T) = \varprojlim_{D \in F} \text{End}(T|_{D_0}).$$

Then  $\mathcal{E}nd(T)$  is an algebra in  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$ , and  $\mathcal{C}(T) = \mathcal{E}nd(T)\text{-mod}$ .

REMARK. Dually, one may construct a completion of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  with respect to direct filtered limits : this is the category  $\text{Ind } \mathcal{C}$  of  $\text{Ind}$ -objects in  $\mathcal{C}$ . In particular, for a coherent ring  $K$ ,  $\text{Ind } K\text{-mod}$  is just the category  $K\text{-Mod}$  of all  $K$ -modules. Unfortunately there is no such simple description for  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$  : it seems that this is the price to pay for Nori's theorem.

## 5.2 The monoidal setting

A (strict) monoidal category is a data  $(\mathcal{M}, \otimes, I)$ , where

- $\mathcal{C}$  is a category;
- $\otimes$  is a associative functor  $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  (tensor product);
- $I$  is a unit object, i. e.  $? \otimes I = \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{M}} = I \otimes ?$ .

In other words, it is just a monoid in the category of categories. (Thanks to MacLane's coherence theorem we may assume all monoidal categories to be strict without loss of generality, see [M].)

By analogy, we define a monoidal quiver.

DEFINITION. A monoidal quiver is a quiver  $D = (D_1 \rightrightarrows D_0)$  with monoid structures on  $D_0$  and  $D_1$  such that  $s, t : D_1 \rightarrow D_0$  are morphisms of monoids. In other words, it is a quiver in monoids, that is, a data  $(D, \mu, \eta)$ , where  $D$  is a quiver,  $\mu : D \times D \rightarrow D$  is associative, and  $\eta : 1 \rightarrow D$  is a unit for  $\mu$ .

Let  $(\mathcal{M}, \otimes, I)$  be a monoidal category. Define a new category  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$  as follows. Objects of  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$  are representations of quivers with values in  $\mathcal{M}$ . Morphisms from  $T : D \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  to  $T' : D' \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  are couples  $(f, \alpha)$ , where  $f$  is a quiver morphism  $D \rightarrow D'$ , and  $\alpha$  an isomorphism of representations :  $\alpha : T \xrightarrow{\sim} T' \circ f$ , with obvious composition.

Define on  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$  a tensor product  $\boxtimes$  : given two objects  $T : D \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ ,  $T' : D' \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ ,  $T \boxtimes T'$  is the representation  $D \times D' \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ ,  $(i, j) \mapsto T_i \otimes T'_j$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$  becomes a monoidal category, whose unit object is the representation  $\mathbb{1} : 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  which sends the only vertex of the initial quiver 1 to  $I$  and the only edge to  $1_I$ .

DEFINITION. Let  $D$  be a monoidal quiver, and  $(\mathcal{M}, \otimes, I)$  a monoidal category. A *monoidal representation of  $D$  with values in  $\mathcal{M}$*  is a representation  $T : D \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  equipped with morphisms  $(\mu, \Phi) : T \boxtimes T \rightarrow T$  and  $(\eta, \Phi_0) : \mathbb{1} \rightarrow T$  in the category  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$ , such that :

- $\Phi_{ij,k}(\Phi_{i,j} \otimes 1_{T_k}) = \Phi_{i,jk}(1_{T_i} \otimes \Phi_{j,k})$ ;
- $\Phi_{i,e} = 1_{T_i} \otimes \Phi_0$  and  $\Phi_{e,i} = \Phi_0 \otimes \Phi_{e,i}$  (where  $e$  denotes the unit of  $D_0$ ).

The representation is usually referred to as  $(T, \Phi, \Phi_0)$ , or just  $T$ .

**Lemma 3** *Monoidal representations of monoidal quivers with values in  $\mathcal{M}$  are exactly monoids in  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$ .*

PROOF. A monoid in  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$  is an data  $(T, \mu, \eta)$ , where  $T$  is an object of  $\mathcal{T}/\mathcal{M}$ , and  $\mu, \eta$  are morphisms,  $\mu : T \boxtimes T \rightarrow T$ ,  $\eta : \mathbb{1} \rightarrow T$ , with the usual axioms of associativity :  $\mu(\mu \otimes 1_T) = \mu(1_T \otimes \mu)$  and unity :  $\mu(\eta \otimes 1_T) = 1_T = \mu(1_T \otimes \eta)$ . Worked out explicitly, this boils down to a monoidal representation of a monoidal quiver.  $\square$

DEFINITION. Let  $(T, \Phi, \Phi_0), (T', \Phi', \Phi'_0)$  be two monoidal representations of a monoidal quiver  $D$  in a monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$ . A morphism of representations  $\alpha : T \rightarrow T'$  is *monoidal* if :

- $\Phi'_{i,j}(\alpha_i \otimes \alpha_j) = \alpha_{ij} \Phi_{i,j}$  for  $i, j \in D_0$ ;
- $\Phi'_0 = \alpha_e \Phi_0$ .

### 5.3 The theorem in the monoidal setting

Let  $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}/K\text{-mod}$ .

We have a canonical functor  $T \mapsto \mathcal{E}nd(T)$  from  $\mathcal{T}$  to the category of algebras in  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$ .

Given any two objects  $T, T'$  in  $\mathcal{T}_K$ , we have a canonical morphism  $\Phi_{T,T'} : \mathcal{E}nd(T) \otimes \mathcal{E}nd(T') \rightarrow \mathcal{E}nd(T \otimes T')$ . This is not an isomorphism in general.

Consider the following example. Let  $V$  a finitely presented  $K$ -module,  $f \in \text{End}(V)$ , and denote  $T_{V,f}$  the representation of the initial quiver which sends the unique vertex to  $V$  and the unique edge to  $f$ . Then  $\mathcal{E}nd(T_{V,f}) = \text{End}(T_{V,f})$  is the centralizer  $Z(f) = \{g \in \text{End}(V) \mid gf = fg\}$ . We have  $\text{End}(T_{V,f}) \otimes \text{End}(T_{K,0}) = Z(f)$ , whereas  $\text{End}(T_{V,f} \otimes T_{K,0}) = \text{End}(T_{V,0}) = \text{End}(V)$ ; if  $f$  is not central, the canonical morphism is not an isomorphism.

However we shall see that, under certain assumptions, the canonical morphism is an isomorphism.

**DEFINITION.** We say that the ring  $K$  satisfies condition  $(\star)$  if for any morphism of  $K$ -modules  $f : P \rightarrow P'$ , with  $P$  and  $P'$  projective of finite type,  $\ker(f)$  is projective.

Notice that, since  $K$  is coherent,  $\ker(f)$  is finitely presented, and so, ‘projective’ just means ‘flat’ here. Condition  $(\star)$  means that the homological dimension of the category  $\text{mod } K$  is at most 2. Recall that, if  $K$  is noetherian, the homological dimension of  $\text{mod } K$  is the global dimension of  $K$ . In particular  $(\star)$  holds for  $K = \mathbb{Z}$ .

Now, consider the following conditions on a representation  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  :

**P1)**  $\forall i \in D_0$ ,  $T_i$  is a projective  $K$ -module of finite type;

**P2)**  $\forall i \in D_0$ ,  $\exists a \in D_1$ ,  $i \xrightarrow{a} i$ , such that  $T_a = 1_{T_i}$ .

**REMARK.** Condition **P2** is automatic if  $D$  is a category and  $T$  a functor.

**DEFINITION.** By *monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$* , we mean an abelian  $K$ -linear category  $\mathcal{C}$  equipped with a monoidal structure  $(\otimes, I)$  where  $\otimes$  is  $K$ -linear right exact in each variable, and  $\text{End}(I) = K$ .

**Theorem 3** *Let  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  be a monoidal representation of a monoidal quiver  $D$ . Assume that  $T$  satisfies **P1** and **P2**, and  $(\star)$  holds for  $K$ . Then :*

- 1) *the algebra  $\mathcal{E}nd(T)$  has a natural structure of bialgebra in  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$ , so that  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  is a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$ ,  $\overline{T}$  is a monoidal representation, and the forgetful functor  $\Omega : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  is monoidal strict;*

- 2) *the above construction satisfies the following universal property.*

*Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$ ,  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  a  $K$ -linear faithful exact monoidal functor, and  $S : D \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  a monoidal representation of  $D$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $FS = T$  as monoidal representations. Then there exists a monoidal functor  $S' : \mathcal{C}(T) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ , unique (up to unique monoidal isomorphism) such that the following diagram is commutative (up*

to monoidal isomorphism) :

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{C}(T) & \\
 & \uparrow \bar{T} & \downarrow S' \\
 D & \xrightarrow{S} \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\Omega} K\text{-mod} \\
 & \searrow T & \\
 & & 
 \end{array}$$

The functor  $S'$  is (monoidal)  $K$ -linear faithful exact.

REMARK. The statement of the universal property is to be understood as follows : there exist a monoidal functor  $S'$ , a monoidal isomorphism  $\alpha : S'\bar{T} \xrightarrow{\sim} S$ , and a monoidal isomorphism  $\beta : FS' \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$ , with the compatibility condition:  $F(\alpha) = \beta\bar{T}$ . Uniqueness means that if  $(S'', \alpha', \beta')$  is another solution to the problem, there exists a unique monoidal isomorphism  $\gamma : S'' \xrightarrow{\sim} S'$  such that  $\alpha' = (\gamma\bar{T})\alpha$  and  $\beta' = \beta F(\gamma)$ .

PROOF.

Let  $\mathcal{T}_0 \subset \mathcal{T}$  be the full subcategory whose objects are representations  $T : D \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  satisfying **P1** and **P2**. Notice that  $\mathcal{T}_0$  is a monoidal subcategory of  $\mathcal{T}$ .

**Lemma 4** *The correspondence  $T \mapsto \mathcal{E}nd(T)$  is a monoidal functor from  $\mathcal{T}_0^o$  to the category of algebras in  $\text{Pro } K\text{-mod}$ .*

PROOF.

Let  $T : D \rightarrow \text{mod } K$  and  $T' : D \rightarrow \text{mod } K$  be objects of  $\mathcal{T}$ , and let  $T'' = T \otimes T'$ . The whole point is to show that, if  $T$  and  $T'$  satisfy **P1** and **P2**, the natural morphism  $\mathcal{E}nd(T) \otimes \mathcal{E}nd(T') \rightarrow \mathcal{E}nd(T'')$  is an isomorphism; in order to prove this, we may and do assume  $D$  and  $D'$  finite.

Recall that  $\text{End}(T)$  is given by the short exact sequence

$$(\mathcal{E}_{T,T}) \quad 0 \rightarrow \text{End}(T) \longrightarrow L(T) \xrightarrow{\Delta_T} M(T),$$

where  $L(T) = \prod_{i \in D_0} \text{Hom}(T_i, T_i)$ ,  $M(T) = \prod_{(j \xrightarrow{a} k) \in D_1} \text{Hom}(T_j, T_k)$ ,  $\Delta_T = \Delta_{T,T}$ .

By **P1**, the  $K$ -modules  $L(T)$  and  $M(T)$  are projective of finite type, and so is  $\text{End}(T)$  by  $(\star)$ . We view  $\text{End}(T)$  as a submodule of  $L(T)$ . The same holds for  $T'$  and  $T''$ . All modules involved being flat, we have

$$\text{End}(T) \otimes \text{End}(T') = (\text{End}(T) \otimes L') \cup (L \otimes \text{End}(T')).$$

Let  $\phi = (\phi_{i,i'}) \in L(T'') \simeq L(T) \otimes L(T')$ . Then :



- $\phi \in \mathbf{End}(T'')$  if and only if the following condition holds :

$$\forall (a, a') \in D_1 \times D'_1, \quad (T_a \otimes T_{a'}) \phi_{s(a), s(a')} = \phi_{t(a), t(a')}(T_a \otimes T_{a'});$$

- $\phi \in \mathbf{End}(T) \otimes \mathbf{End}(T')$  if and only if the following two conditions hold :

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a \in D_1, \forall i' \in D'_0, \quad (T_a \otimes \mathbf{1}_{T_{i'}}) \phi_{s(a), i'} &= \phi_{t(a), i'}(T_a \otimes \mathbf{1}_{T_{i'}}), \\ \forall a' \in D'_1, \forall i \in D_0, \quad (\mathbf{1}_{T_i} \otimes T_{a'}) \phi_{i, s(a')} &= \phi_{i, t(a')}(\mathbf{1}_{T_i} \otimes T_{a'}). \end{aligned}$$

Now clearly,  $\mathbf{End}(T) \otimes \mathbf{End}(T') \subset \mathbf{End}(T'')$ , and equality holds because  $T$  and  $T'$  satisfy **P2**.  $\square$

Now we prove assertion 1) of the theorem. The assumptions made on  $T$  mean that it is a monoid in  $\mathcal{T}_0$ , hence a co-monoid in  $\mathcal{T}_0^o$ ; therefore its image by the monoidal functor  $\mathcal{E}nd(?)$  is a co-monoid in the category of algebras, that is, a bialgebra. The coproduct  $\Delta$  and counit  $\varepsilon$  are obtained by applying  $\mathcal{E}nd(?)$  respectively to the multiplication  $T \boxtimes T \rightarrow T$  and the unit  $\eta : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow T$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{C}(T) = \mathcal{E}nd(\mathcal{C}) - \mathbf{mod}$  is a monoidal category, the tensor product being defined as usual for a category of left modules on a bialgebra. The functor  $\Omega$  and the representation  $\bar{T}$  are clearly monoidal.

As for assertion 2) (universal property) : Th. 1 yields  $S'$  as a 'naked' functor  $S'$ , which is  $K$ -linear faithful exact. The whole point is to check that  $S'$  can be endowed with an appropriate monoidal structure.

For simplicity, we assume that  $F$  is monoidal strict. The difficult point is to construct for  $X, Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  a functorial isomorphism  $\Phi_{X,Y} : S'(X) \otimes S'(Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} S'(X \otimes Y)$ . Since  $\Omega$  is monoidal and  $FS' \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega$ , we dispose of a functorial isomorphism  $\Psi_{X,Y} : F(S'(X) \otimes S'(Y)) \xrightarrow{\sim} F(S'(X \otimes Y))$ .

Consider the property :

$L(X, Y)$  : there exists  $\Phi_{X,Y} : S'(X) \otimes S'(Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} S'(X \otimes Y)$  such that  $F(\Phi_{X,Y}) = \Psi_{X,Y}$ .

Notice that if  $L(X, Y)$  holds,  $\Phi_{X,Y}$  is uniquely determined because  $F$  is faithful.

Now  $L(X, Y)$  holds for  $X = \bar{T}_i, Y = \bar{T}_j$ . Indeed we have  $S'\bar{T} \xrightarrow{\sim} S$ , and  $S, \bar{T}$  are monoidal, hence our isomorphism

$$S'(\bar{T}_i) \otimes S'(\bar{T}_j) \xrightarrow{\sim} S_i \otimes S_j \xrightarrow{\sim} S_{i,j} \xrightarrow{\sim} S'(\bar{T}_{ij}) \xrightarrow{\sim} S'(\bar{T}_i \otimes \bar{T}_j).$$

In order to prove  $L(X, Y)$  in general, we need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 5** *In  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , any object is a quotient of an object which is projective as a  $K$ -module.*

PROOF. For any  $X$  in  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ , there exists a finite subquiver  $D_0 \subset D$  such that  $X$  is an  $E_0$ -module for  $E_0 = \mathbf{End}(T|_{D_0})$ . Now, thanks to conditions  $(\star)$  and **P1**,  $E_0$  is a projective  $K$ -module, and  $X$  is a quotient of  $\overline{E_0}^n$  for some integer  $n$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 6** *Let  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$  be abelian categories,  $G, G' : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  be additive functors, and  $F : \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be a faithful exact functor. Let  $\alpha$  be a morphism of functors :  $FG \rightarrow FG'$ . We say that  $X \in \mathbf{Ob} \mathcal{A}$  has the lifting property if there exists a (necessarily unique) morphism  $\beta_X : G(X) \rightarrow G'(X)$  such that  $F(\beta_X) = \alpha_X$ . We denote  $\mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A}$  the full subcategory of objects having the lifting property. Then :*

- 1)  $\beta$  is a morphism of functors  $G|_{\mathcal{A}_0} \rightarrow G'|_{\mathcal{A}_0}$ ;
- 2)  $\mathcal{A}_0$  is stable under direct sums and direct summands;
- 3) if  $G$  and  $G'$  are right- (resp left-) exact,  $\mathcal{A}_0$  is stable under cokernels (resp. kernels).

PROOF. 1) Holds because  $F$  is faithful. 2) Let  $X, Y$  be in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . Then  $F(\beta_X \oplus \beta_Y) = \alpha_X \oplus \alpha_Y = \alpha_{X \oplus Y}$  so  $X \oplus Y$  is in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ . The assertion on summands is equally trivial. 3) Assume for instance that  $G$  is right exact. Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ , and let  $Q = \mathbf{coker}(f)$ . We have the following commutative diagram, where lines are exact :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} G(X) & \longrightarrow & G(Y) & \longrightarrow & G(Q) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \beta_X \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta_Y & & & & \\ G'(X) & \longrightarrow & G'(Y) & \longrightarrow & G'(Q) & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

hence a morphism  $\beta_Q : G(Q) \rightarrow G'(Q)$ . Applying the exact functor  $F$ , we see that  $F(\beta_Q) = \alpha_Q$ , so  $\mathbf{coker} f$  is in  $\mathcal{A}_0$ .  $\square$

Let  $Y$  be an object of  $\mathcal{C}(T)$ . We will apply lemma 6 three times to  $G = S'(\?) \otimes S'(Y)$ ,  $G'_Y = S'(\? \otimes Y)$  and  $\alpha = \Psi_{?,Y}$ . Notice that  $G, G'$  are right exact, and they are actually exact if  $Y$  is projective as a  $K$ -module.

Consider first the case  $Y = \overline{T}_j$ . Here  $G$  and  $G'$  are exact;  $\overline{T}_i$ 's have the lifting property, and so by proposition 2 and the lemma, we deduce  $L(X, \overline{T}_j)$  for any  $X$ . We also have  $L(\overline{T}_j, X)$  by symmetry.

Now assume  $Y$  is projective as a  $K$ -module. Here again  $G$  and  $G'$  are exact, and  $\overline{T}_i$ 's have the lifting property, so by the same argument we have  $L(X, Y)$  provided that  $X$  or  $Y$  is projective as a  $K$ -module.

Now consider arbitrary  $Y$ , so that  $G$  and  $G'$  are just right exact. If  $X$  is projective as a  $K$ -module,  $X$  has the lifting property. Now by lemma 5, any  $X$  in  $\mathcal{C}(T)$  fits in a short exact sequence  $P' \rightarrow P \rightarrow X \rightarrow 0$ , with  $P, P'$

projective as  $K$ -modules. By lemma 6,  $X$  has the lifting property, hence  $L(X, Y)$  for  $X, Y$  arbitrary.

The rest is then a fastidious but straightforward verification which we shall omit.  $\square$

For  $\mathcal{E}nd(T)$  to be a Hopf bialgebra, that is, a bialgebra with bijective antipode, we need duals. Recall that a duality in a monoidal category  $\mathcal{C}$  is a data  $(X, Y, e, h)$ , where  $X, Y$  are objects,  $e : X \otimes Y \rightarrow I$ ,  $h : I \rightarrow Y \otimes X$  are morphisms satisfying :

$$(e \otimes 1_X)(1_X \otimes h) = 1_X \quad \text{and} \quad (1_Y \otimes e)(h \otimes 1_Y) = 1_Y .$$

If  $(X, Y, e, h)$  is a duality, we say that  $X$  is a left dual of  $Y$ , and  $Y$  is a right dual of  $X$ . We say that  $X$  has duals if  $X$  has both a left- and a right dual.

DEFINITION. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$ . We say that  $\mathcal{C}$  has enough duals if any object of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a quotient of an object having duals.

**Proposition 3** *Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$  and let  $\omega : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  be a  $K$ -linear faithful monoidal functor.*

- 1) *Let  $X$  be an object of  $\mathcal{C}$ . If  $\omega(X)$  is projective, both  $? \otimes X$  and  $X \otimes ?$  are exact functors. If  $X$  has a left dual in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\omega(X)$  is projective.*
- 2) *Consider a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$ , and let  $Z = \text{coker}(f)$ . Assume that  $X$  and  $Y$  have left duals  ${}^\vee X, {}^\vee Y$ , and that  $\omega(Z)$  is projective. Then  $Z$  has a left dual.*
- 3) *If  $\mathcal{C}$  has enough duals, any object  $X$  such that  $\omega(X)$  is projective has both a left- and a right dual.*

PROOF. If for some object  $T$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\omega(T)$  is a projective  $K$ -module we say for short that  $T$  is *projective over  $K$* .

- 1) As a monoidal functor,  $\omega$  preserves duals, and an object of  $K\text{-mod}$  has a dual if and only if it is projective, hence the second assertion. The first results from the fact that  $\omega$  is faithful exact and projective modules are flat.
- 2) We have  $\omega({}^\vee X) \simeq \omega(X)^*$ ,  $\omega({}^\vee Y) \simeq \omega(Y)^*$ , and  $\omega({}^\vee f) = \omega(f)^*$  via these isomorphisms. Since  $Z$  is projective over  $K$ ,  $\omega(Y) \twoheadrightarrow \omega(Z)$  has a section. Therefore  $\omega(Z') \hookrightarrow \omega({}^\vee Y)$  is a direct summand. In particular  $Z'$  is projective over  $K$ . Moreover,  $\omega(Z')$  is canonically isomorphic to  $\omega(Z)^*$ . All that remains to see is that the evaluation and coevaluation morphisms  $\omega(Z) \otimes \omega(Z') \rightarrow K$  and  $K \rightarrow \omega(Z') \otimes \omega(Z)$  lift to an evaluation and a coevaluation  $Z \otimes Z' \rightarrow I$ ,  $I \rightarrow Z' \otimes Z$ . This is an easy diagram-chase, using assertion 1) and the fact that all objects involved are projective over  $K$ .

3) Let  $Z$  be projective over  $Z$ . If  $\mathcal{C}$  has enough duals, there exists a short exact sequence  $X \rightarrow Y \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$ , where  $X, Y$  have duals. By (2),  $Z$  has duals.  $\square$

**Corollary 3** *Assume that  $K$  satisfies  $(\star)$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$  having enough duals, and let  $\omega : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow K\text{-mod}$  be a  $K$ -linear faithful monoidal functor. Then  $\mathcal{E}nd(\omega)$  is a Hopf algebra in  $\text{Pro-mod}$ , and  $\bar{\omega} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\omega)$  is a  $K$ -linear monoidal equivalence.*

PROOF.

Let  $\mathcal{C}_0$  be the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{C}$  of objects having duals, and  $\omega_0 = \omega|_{\mathcal{C}_0}$ . By assumption, any object of  $\mathcal{C}$  is a cokernel of a morphism of  $\mathcal{C}_0$ . The canonical bialgebra morphism

$$\mathcal{E}nd(\omega) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}nd(\omega_0)$$

is therefore an isomorphism.

Now  $\mathcal{C}_0$  is a monoidal category, and  $\omega_0$  is a monoidal functor satisfying **P1** and **P2** as a quiver representation, so  $\mathcal{E}nd(\omega_0)$  is a bialgebra by Th. 3. Moreover duals exist in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ , so by standard tannakian theory,  $\mathcal{E}nd(\omega|_{\mathcal{C}_0})$  admits a bijective antipode : it is a Hopf bialgebra.

Consider the commutative square :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{C}_0 & \xrightarrow{\bar{\omega}_0} & \mathcal{C}(\omega_0) \\ \text{incl.} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{can.} \\ \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow{\bar{\omega}} & \mathcal{C}(\omega) \end{array}$$

Since  $\mathcal{E}nd(\omega) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{E}nd(\omega_0)$ , the canonical functor  $\mathcal{C}(\omega_0) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\omega)$  is an equivalence. By Th. 3,  $\mathcal{C}(\omega_0)$  is a monoidal right exact abelian category over  $K$ , so  $\mathcal{C}(\omega)$  inherits such a structure. By corollary 1,  $\bar{\omega}$  is a  $K$ -linear equivalence. We only have to check that  $\bar{\omega}$  is monoidal, in other words we need an isomorphism  $\Phi_{X,Y} : \bar{\omega}(X) \otimes \bar{\omega}(Y) \simeq \bar{\omega}(X \otimes Y)$ . By construction we have such an isomorphism for  $X, Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}_0$ ; for arbitrary  $X, Y$  we have  $\omega(X) \otimes \omega(Y) \simeq \omega(X \otimes Y)$ . Using lemma 6 we can lift this to define  $\Phi_{X,Y}$ .  $\square$

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