

Another group associated with a Hopf algebra H arises as follows: The convolution product of two algebra homomorphisms $H \rightarrow F$ is again an algebra homomorphism, and if $\varphi: H \rightarrow F$ is an algebra homomorphism then so is $\varphi \circ \iota$, and in that case φ and $\varphi \circ \iota$ are inverses with respect to the convolution product. Thus, the algebra homomorphisms $H \rightarrow F$ form a group under the convolution product.

Examples: For FG , the algebra homomorphisms correspond to group homomorphisms $G \rightarrow F^*$, with point-wise multiplication.

For $F[x]$, the algebra homomorphisms correspond to the elements in F , with addition.

For $F^{(G)}$, the algebra homomorphisms are the coordinate maps for the basis $(e_\sigma)_\sigma$, forming a group isomorphic to G .

For $F[x, y, y^{-1}]$, an algebra homomorphism must send x to 0 and y to a non-zero scalar, giving us the group F^* .

For $F \oplus F \oplus F(\sqrt{D})$, there are two algebra homomorphisms, giving us the group C_2 .

An important class of examples comes from algebraic geometry:

Let $G \leq \mathrm{GL}_n(F)$ be a *linear algebraic group* over F , i.e., a Zariski-closed subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_n(F)$.

Then the coordinate ring $A(G)$ for G has the form

$$A(G) = F[X, 1/\det X]$$

where X is a *generic* element of G , i.e., it maps exactly to the elements of G under the algebra homomorphisms $A(G) \rightarrow F$.

To formally encode the group structure of G on $A(G)$, we make $A(G)$ into a Hopf algebra by

$$\mu(X) = (X \otimes 1)(1 \otimes X),$$

$$\varepsilon(X) = I, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\iota(X) = X^{-1}$$

The convolution product of two algebra homomorphisms then corresponds to the product of the images of X , so the group of algebra homomorphisms is isomorphic to G .

A finite group is always linear algebraic, and the corresponding Hopf algebra is $A(G) = F^{(G)}$.

If F is infinite, the linear algebraic group

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in F \right\} \simeq (F, +)$$

has coordinate ring $F[x]$, with Hopf algebra structure as before.

If $F = \mathbb{F}_q$ is finite, the coordinate ring is

$$\mathbb{F}_q[x]/(x^q - x) \simeq \mathbb{F}_q^{(\mathbb{F}_q)}$$

Example: Let F be an infinite field. For the linear algebraic group

$$G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in F, a \neq 0 \right\} \simeq F \rtimes F^*$$

we get $A(G) = F[x, y, 1/y]$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x) &= x \otimes 1 + y \otimes x, & \mu(y) &= y \otimes y, \\ \varepsilon(x) &= 0, & \varepsilon(y) &= 1, \\ \iota(x) &= -x/y, & \iota(y) &= 1/y \end{aligned}$$

Example: Again, let F be infinite, and of characteristic $\neq 2$.
For the special orthogonal group

$$\mathrm{SO}(2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in F, a^2 + b^2 = 1 \right\}$$

we get $A(\mathrm{SO}(2)) = F[c, s = \sqrt{1 - c^2}]$ with

$$\mu(c) = c \otimes c - s \otimes s,$$

$$\mu(s) = c \otimes s + s \otimes c,$$

$$\varepsilon(c) = 1, \quad \varepsilon(s) = 0,$$

$$\iota(c) = c, \quad \iota(s) = -s$$

The group-like elements in $A(G)$ are those giving group homomorphisms $G \rightarrow F^*$.