SEMIORTHOGONAL DECOMPOSITIONS OF EQUIVARIANT
DERIVED CATEGORIES OF INVARIANT DIVISORS

BRONSON LIM AND ALEXANDER POLISHCHUK

Abstract. Given a smooth variety \( X \) with an action of a finite group \( G \), and a semiorthogonal decomposition of the derived category, \( \mathcal{D}([X/G]) \), of \( G \)-equivariant coherent sheaves on \( X \) into subcategories equivalent to derived categories of smooth varieties, we construct a similar semiorthogonal decomposition for a smooth \( G \)-invariant divisor in \( X \) (under certain technical assumptions). Combining this procedure with the semiorthogonal decompositions constructed in [PV15], we construct semiorthogonal decompositions of some equivariant derived categories of smooth projective hypersurfaces.

1. Introduction

1.1. Semiorthogonal decompositions for \( \mathcal{D}([X/G]) \). Let \( X \) be a smooth quasiprojective variety over an algebraically closed field \( k \) of characteristic zero. Suppose \( G \) is a finite group acting on \( X \) by automorphisms. Then there is a decomposition of the Hochschild homology of the quotient stack \([X/G]\),

\[
HH_\ast([X/G]) \cong \bigoplus_{\lambda \in G/\sim} HH_\ast(X_\lambda/C(\lambda)),
\]

where \( G/\sim \) is the set of conjugacy classes of \( G \), \( C(\lambda) \) is the centralizer of \( \lambda \), \( X_\lambda \subset X \) is the invariant subvariety of \( \lambda \), see [PV15, Lemma 2.1.1]. In [TVdB18, Theorem 1.1], the authors show that the decomposition (1.1) has a motivic origin in an appropriate sense, and that a similar decomposition exists for any additive invariant of dg-categories. In [BGLL17] a related decomposition of the equivariant zeta function is given.

In the case when the geometric quotient \( X_\lambda/C(\lambda) \) is smooth one can identify \( HH_\ast(X_\lambda)^{C(\lambda)} \) with \( HH_\ast(X_\lambda/C(\lambda)) \) (see [PV15 Proposition 2.1.2]). Thus, it is natural to ask whether in some cases the above decomposition can be realized at the level of derived categories of coherent sheaves.

Conjecture A ([PV15 Conjecture A]). Assume a finite group \( G \) acts effectively on a smooth variety \( X \), and all the geometric quotients \( X_\lambda/C(\lambda) \) are smooth for \( \lambda \in G/\sim \). Then there is a semiorthogonal decomposition of the derived category \( \mathcal{D}([X/G]) \) such that the components \( C(\lambda) \) of this decomposition are in bijection with conjugacy classes in \( G \) and \( C(\lambda) \cong \mathcal{D}(X_\lambda/C(\lambda)) \).

This conjecture was verified in [PV15] in the case where \( G \) is a complex reflection group of types \( A, B, G_2, F_4 \), and \( G(m, 1, n) \) acting on a vector space \( V \), as well as for some actions on \( C^n \), where \( C \) is a smooth curve. Other global results exist for cyclic quotients, see [KP17 Theorem 4.1] and [Lim16 Theorem 3.3.2], and for

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quotients of curves, see [Pol06, Theorem 1.2]. It is shown in [BGLL17, Theorem D] that the above conjecture fails without the assumption that $G$ acts effectively.

Because of the results mentioned above on the analogs of the decomposition (1.1), we refer to a semiorthogonal decomposition as in Conjecture A, as motivic semiorthogonal decomposition.

In all known cases of Conjecture A, the semiorthogonal decompositions are $\mathcal{D}(X/G)$-linear, where $X/G$ is the geometric quotient, i.e., the Fourier-Mukai kernels giving the components of the semiorthogonal decomposition live on the fibered products over $X/G$. We describe this situation in Definition 1.1.1 below.

Let us set for brevity $X = X/G$ (we assume that $X$ and $X/G$ are smooth). For each conjugacy class $\lambda$ in $G$ we pick a representative and denote by $X_\lambda \subset X$ the corresponding invariant locus. We set $\lambda X_\lambda = X_\lambda / C(\lambda)$ (the geometric quotient),

$$Z_\lambda = X_\lambda \times X.$$

Note that $Z_\lambda$ is equipped with a natural $G$-action induced by the $G$-action on $X$, so we have a diagram

$$\xymatrix{ & [Z_\lambda / G] \ar[dl]_{q_\lambda} \ar[dr]^{p_\lambda} \ar[dr]_{q_\lambda} & \\
X_\lambda & & [X / G] }$$

in which $q_\lambda$ is finite flat (since so is the map $X \to X/G$), while $p_\lambda$ is finite.

For example, for $\lambda = 1$ we have $X_1 = X$, $C(1) = G$, $X_1 = X/G = X$, $Z_1 = X$, $p_1$ is the identity map, $q_1 : [X / G] \to X/G$ is the natural projection. For $\lambda \neq 1$ the scheme $Z_\lambda$ is typically nonreduced (see e.g., Example 3.3.1).

**Definition 1.1.1.** Let us say that the action of a finite group $G$ on a smooth quasiprojective variety $X$ satisfies condition (MSOD) if

- all the quotients $X_\lambda = X_\lambda / C(\lambda)$ are smooth;
- there exists a collection of objects $K_\lambda$ in $D([Z_\lambda / G])$, such that the corresponding Fourier-Mukai functors

$$\Phi_K : \mathcal{D}(X_\lambda) \to \mathcal{D}([X / G]) : F \mapsto p_\lambda(K_\lambda) \otimes q_\lambda F$$

are fully faithful (here the functors $p_\lambda$, $\otimes$ and $q_\lambda$ are derived);
- the corresponding subcategories give a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\mathcal{D}([X / G]) = \langle \mathcal{D}(X_{\lambda_1}), \ldots, \mathcal{D}(X_{\lambda_r}) \rangle$$

with respect to some total ordering $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r$ on $G/\sim$.

### 1.2. Restricting (MSOD) to $G$-invariant divisors and application to $S_n$-invariant hypersurfaces.

The main observation we make in this paper is that condition (MSOD) is preserved when passing to sufficiently generic $G$-invariant divisors. Namely, we assume that the action of $G$ on $X$ is effective and denote by $X^{fr} \subset X$ the open subset on which $G$ acts freely. Similarly, for each $\lambda$ and every connected component $Y \subset X_\lambda$, let us denote by $W(Y)$ the quotient of $C(\lambda)$ that

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1 MSOD stands for “motivic semiorthogonal decomposition”
acts effectively on \( Y \), and let \( Y^{fr} \subset X_\lambda \) denote the open subset on which \( W(Y) \) acts freely. In the case when \( X_\lambda \) is connected we will write \( W_\lambda := W(X_\lambda) \).

We will impose the following assumption on a divisor \( H \) in \( X \):

\[(*) \text{ for every } \lambda \text{ and every connected component } Y \subset X_\lambda, \text{ } H \text{ does not contain } Y \text{ and } H \cap Y^{fr} \text{ is dense in } H \cap Y \text{ (in particular, } H \cap X^{fr} \text{ is dense in } H).\]

**Theorem 1.2.1.** Assume that the pair \((X, G)\) satisfies (MSOD), and let \( H \subset X \) be a smooth \( G \)-invariant divisor satisfying \((*)\). Then the pair \((H, G)\) satisfies (MSOD).

We will deduce this result from Kuznetsov’s base change for semiorthogonal decompositions [Kuz11].

To get applications of this theorem, one should start with some pairs \((X, G)\) for which condition (MSOD) is already known. We mostly focus on the case of the decomposition \((Kuz11)\). Then there exists a semiorthogonal decomposition \( \mathcal{D} \) of the derived category of the source stack.

We combine Theorem 1.2.1 with two simpler procedures: replacing \( X \) by a \( G \)-invariant open subset and passing to the quotient by a free action of \( \mathbb{G}_m \). This leads us in the case of \([V/S_n]\), where \( V = \mathbb{A}^n \), to the following semiorthogonal decomposition for the projective hypersurface given by an \( S_n \)-invariant homogeneous polynomial \( f \).

Note that in this case the conjugacy classes in \( S_n \) are numbered by partitions \( \lambda \) of \( n \). For each \( \lambda \), we have the corresponding linear subspace \( V_\lambda \) of invariants and we denote by \( W_\lambda \) the quotient of \( C(\lambda) \) acting effectively on \( V_\lambda \) (see Sec. 4.1 for details). There is an induced \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-action on \( \mathbb{P}V_\lambda := V_\lambda/W_\lambda \), and \( f_\lambda := f|_{V_\lambda} \) descends to a quasihomogeneous polynomial \( \mathbf{f}_\lambda \) on \( \mathbb{P}V_\lambda \). We denote by \( \mathbb{P}\mathbf{V}_\lambda \subset \mathbb{P}V_\lambda \) the corresponding weighted projective hypersurface stack defined as the quotient of the affine hypersurface \( \mathbf{f}_\lambda = 0 \) with the origin removed, by the action of \( \mathbb{G}_m \) (here \( \mathbb{P}\mathbf{V}_\lambda \) is the weighted projective space stack \( \mathbb{P}(V_\lambda \setminus \{0\}/\mathbb{G}_m) \)).

**Theorem 1.2.2.** Let \( f \) be an \( S_n \)-invariant homogeneous polynomial on \( V = \mathbb{A}^n \), such that the corresponding projective hypersurface \( X_f = \mathbb{P}H(f) \subset \mathbb{P}(V) \) is smooth. Then there exists a semiorthogonal decomposition

\[
\mathcal{D}([X_f/S_n]) = \langle \mathcal{D}(X_{\mathbf{f}_{\lambda_1}}), \ldots, \mathcal{D}(X_{\mathbf{f}_{\lambda_r}}) \rangle,
\]

where \( \lambda_1 < \ldots < \lambda_r \) is a total order on partitions of \( n \) refining the dominance order.

Note that the decomposition of Theorem 1.2.2 no longer follows the pattern of Conjecture A since some components of the decompositions are themselves derived categories of stacks. The only similarity is that in both cases there is a birational morphism of stacks inducing a fully faithful embedding of derived categories via the pull-back (namely, \([X/G] \to X/G\) in Conjecture A and \([X_f/S_n] \to X_{\mathbf{f}_{\lambda_r}}\) in Theorem 1.2.2), which is then extended to a semiorthogonal decomposition of the derived category of the source stack.

1.3. Outline of paper. In Section 2 after some preliminaries, we review Kuznetsov’s theory of base change for semiorthogonal decompositions. In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.2.1 and discuss the procedure of inducing the semiorthogonal decomposition on the quotient by an action of a reductive algebraic group. In Section

\[\ldots\]
we consider applications of Theorem 1.2.1. In particular, in Section 4.2 we prove Theorem 1.2.2. In Section 4.3 we consider applications related to the stacks $[C_1 \times \ldots \times C_n / (G_1 \times \ldots \times G_n)]$, where $G_i$ is a finite abelian group acting on a smooth curve $C_i$.

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1.5. Conventions. We work over $\mathbb{C}$. All varieties are assumed to be quasiprojective (in particular, when a finite group acts on such a variety, the geometric quotient exists). All stacks are assumed to be quasiprojective DM-stacks in the sense of [Kre09, Definition 5.5]. All functors are assumed to be derived. We denote by $D(X)$ (resp., Perf($X$)), for $X$ a variety or a stack, the bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on $X$ (resp., the subcategory of perfect complexes). When $G$ is an algebraic group acting on a variety $X$, we denote by $[X/G]$ the corresponding quotient stack, whereas $X/G$ denotes the geometric quotient (when it exists). We always denote by $\mathbb{P}(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ the weighted projective space stack obtained as the quotient stack $[\mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\}/\mathbb{G}_m]$, where $\mathbb{G}_m$ acts with the weights $(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$.

2. Semiorthogonal decompositions and base change for stacks

In this section, we will prove a version of Kuznetsov’s base change for semiorthogonal decompositions of derived categories of stacks.

2.1. Semiorthogonal decompositions. Recall that a semiorthogonal decomposition of a triangulated category $\mathcal{T}$ is a pair $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$ of full triangulated subcategories of $\mathcal{T}$ such that $\text{Hom}_\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{A}) = 0$, and every object $t \in \mathcal{T}$ fits into an exact triangle

$$b \to t \to a \to b[1]$$

where $a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}$. In this case, we write $\mathcal{T} = \langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \rangle$. We can iterate this definition to get semiorthogonal decompositions with any finite number of components $\mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_n$ and we write

$$\mathcal{T} = \langle \mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_n \rangle.$$ 

For an overview of semiorthogonal decompositions in algebraic geometry, see [BO02, Bri09].

2.2. Fourier-Mukai functors. Recall that following [Kre09], we call a DM-stack $X$ quasiprojective if it has quasiprojective coarse moduli space and is a global quotient of a quasiprojective scheme by a reductive algebraic group. For example, the quotient stack $[X/G]$, where $G$ is a finite group acting on a quasiprojective scheme $X$, satisfies these conditions and its coarse moduli space is $X/G$. By [Kre09, Prop. 5.1], such a stack has the resolution property, i.e., every coherent sheaf on it admits a surjective morphism from a vector bundle. Also, such a stack has an affine diagonal. We denote by $D(X)$ the bounded derived category of coherent sheaves on $X$ and by Perf($X$) $\subset D(X)$ the perfect derived category.
An object $K \in D(X \times Y)$, whose support is proper over $Y$, gives rise to an exact functor $\Phi_K: \text{Perf}(X) \to D(Y)$ defined by

$$\Phi_K(F) = \pi_Y^* (\pi_X^* F \otimes K),$$

where $\pi_X: X \times Y \to X$ and $\pi_Y: X \times Y \to Y$ are the projections. We will refer to $K$ as a Fourier-Mukai kernel and $\Phi_K$ a Fourier-Mukai functor. Note that this functor also has a natural extension $D_{qc}(X) \to D_{qc}(Y)$ to unbounded derived categories of quasicoherent sheaves, which has the right adjoint

$$\Phi_K^!(G) = \pi_X^* \text{Hom}(K, \pi_Y^* G),$$

where $\pi_Y^*$ is the right adjoint to $\pi_Y_*$. The formalism of Fourier-Mukai functors, e.g., as in [Huy06], extends routinely to the case of smooth DM-stacks (see [BZNP17] where Fourier-Mukai functors are considered in a much more general context).

Note that in the case when $X$ and $Y$ have maps to some DM-stack $S$, then it is natural to consider relative Fourier-Mukai functors $\Phi_K$ associated with kernels $K$ on $X \times S \rightarrow Y$, defined in the same way as above. (One gets the same functor by considering the usual Fourier-Mukai functor associated with the push-forward of $K$ with respect to the morphism $X \times_S Y \rightarrow X \times Y$.) We refer to such Fourier-Mukai functors as $S$-linear since they commute with tensoring by the pull-backs of objects in $\text{Perf}(S)$ (as one can easily see from the projection formula). Note that the right adjoint functor $\Phi_K^!$ is also $S$-linear (see [Kuz06, Lemma 2.34]). Also, under appropriate assumptions, such relative Fourier-Mukai functors are compatible with pull-backs under a base change (see Proposition 2.3.3 below).

2.3. Base change for semiorthogonal decompositions. Here we will recall the result of [Kuz11], on the base change for semiorthogonal decompositions. For our purposes, we need a slight generalization to Deligne-Mumford stacks. Throughout, $X, X_i, S, T$ will be quasiprojective DM stacks in the sense of [Kre09].

The following technical definition plays an important role in the base change.

**Definition 2.3.1.** Suppose we have morphisms of quasiprojective DM stacks $f: X \to S$ and $\varphi: T \to S$. Then the cartesian diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
X_T & \xrightarrow{\varphi_X} & X \\
\downarrow f_T & & \downarrow f \\
T & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & S
\end{array}
$$

is called **exact** if the natural map $\varphi_* f_* \rightarrow (f_T)_* \varphi_X^*$ is an isomorphism. In this case we say that the base change $\varphi: T \to S$ is **faithful** for the map $f$.

For example, the cartesian diagram is exact if either $f$ or $\varphi$ is flat (this is proved similarly to [Kuz06, Corollary 2.23]).

**Lemma 2.3.2.** Assume the square (2.2) is exact cartesian. Then the category $\text{Perf}(X_T)$ is classically generated by objects of the form $\varphi_X^* F \otimes f_T^* G$ with $F \in \text{Perf}(X)$ and $G \in \text{Perf}(T)$.

**1st proof.** Arguing as in the case of schemes (see [Kuz11] Lemma 5.2]), we see that it is enough to check that for every coherent sheaf $F$ on $X_T$ there exists a surjection
$\varphi_X^*P_X \otimes f_T^*P_T \to F$, where $P_X$ (resp., $P_T$) is a vector bundle on $X$ (resp., $T$). Let us consider the natural map

$$\alpha : \mathcal{X}_T = \mathcal{T} \times_S X \to \mathcal{T} \times X.$$ 

Since it is obtained by the base change from the diagonal map of $S$, $\alpha$ is affine. Hence, the adjunction map $\alpha^*\alpha_*F \to F$ is surjective (since the image of this map under $\alpha^*$ is surjective). Since $\alpha_*F$ is the union of its coherent subsheaves, we can find a coherent sheaf $G$ on $T \times X$ with a surjective map $\alpha^*G \to F$. Now using ample line bundles on the coarse moduli spaces of $T$ and $X$, as well as vector bundles on $T$ and $X$ that have faithful action of the stabilizer subgroups at all geometric points, we can find vector bundles $P_X$ and $P_T$ on $X$ and $T$, respectively, and a surjection $P_X \otimes P_T \to G$ (see [Kre09, Sec. 5.2]). Thus, we get the composed surjection

$$\varphi^*_X P_X \otimes f_T^*P_T \simeq \alpha^*(P_X \otimes P_T) \to \alpha^*G \to F.$$ 

2nd proof (sketch). Here we use a result of Ben-Zvi, Nadler and Preygel [BZNP17] in the context of derived algebraic geometry. Using [Kuz06, Prop. 2.19] it is easy to see that exactness of a cartesian square is equivalent to its tor-independence. Hence, the derived fiber product $X_{hT} = X \times_S Y_T$ is equivalent to the fiber product $X_T$. Indeed, let $(X_{hT}, \mathcal{A})$ be the derived fiber product. Then the cohomology sheaves $H^*_\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{A})$ are given by $\text{Tor}^*_\mathcal{O}_Y(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_T)$ which vanishes for $* \neq 0$.

Now the assertion follows from the equivalence [BZNP17, Theorem 1.2]:

$$\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}) \otimes_{\text{Perf}(S)} \text{Perf}(\mathcal{T}) \simeq \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_{hT}) \simeq \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T).$$

Given an $S$-linear Fourier-Mukai functor $\Phi_K : \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}) \to \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{Y})$ with the kernel $K$ on $\mathcal{X} \times_S \mathcal{Y}$ (with proper support over $\mathcal{Y}$), one can consider a base change $\varphi : \mathcal{T} \to S$, and the corresponding $T$-linear Fourier-Mukai functor

$$\Phi_{K_T} : \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T) \to \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{Y}_T)$$

given by the kernel $K_T$ obtained as the pull-back of $K$ with respect to the natural morphism

$$\mathcal{X}_T \times_T \mathcal{Y}_T \to \mathcal{X} \times_S \mathcal{Y}.$$ 

The natural question is whether the functors $\Phi_{K_T}$ and $\Phi_K$ are compatible with the pull-back functors induced by $\varphi$. For our purposes the following criterion will suffice (see [Kuz06, Lemma 2.42]).

**Proposition 2.3.3.** In the above situation assume that the map $\mathcal{Y} \to S$ is flat and the base change $\varphi : \mathcal{T} \to S$ is faithful for $\mathcal{X} \to S$. In addition, assume that $\mathcal{X} \to S$ is proper and $\varphi$ has finite Tor-dimension. Then for $F \in \mathcal{D}^{-}(\mathcal{X})$ and $G \in \mathcal{D}^{+}(\mathcal{Y})$ (where $\mathcal{D}^{-}, \mathcal{D}^{+} \subset \mathcal{D}$ denote bounded above and bounded below derived categories), one has

$$\Phi_{K_T} \varphi_X^*(F) \simeq \varphi_Y^* \Phi_K(F),$$

$$\Phi_{K_T} \varphi_Y^*(G) \simeq \varphi_X^* \Phi_K(G).$$

Here $\varphi_X : \mathcal{X}_T \to \mathcal{X}$ and $\varphi_Y : \mathcal{Y}_T \to \mathcal{Y}$ are the natural projections.
Proof. This is proved in the same way as [Kuz06, Lemma 2.42], by a calculation on the commutative cube obtained as the product over $S$ of the cartesian square

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X \times_S Y & \rightarrow & Y \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X & \rightarrow & S
\end{array}
\]

with the arrow $\varphi : T \rightarrow S$. One has to observe that all the faces of this cube are exact cartesian and use the base change. The assumption that $\varphi$ is of finite Tor-dimension is used to check that $\varphi^*$ commutes with $\text{Hom}$. □

Remark 2.3.4. The condition that $Y \rightarrow S$ is flat in Proposition 2.3.3 can be replaced by a weaker condition that $\varphi : T \rightarrow S$ is faithful for $Y \rightarrow S$, and $X \times_S Y \rightarrow S$, as is done in [Kuz06, Lemma 2.42]. Note that there is a slight mistake in the proof of [Kuz11, Thm. 6.4] where the above faithfulness assumption (as well as the assumption of smoothness of $S$) is omitted.

The following result is similar to (but more special than) [Kuz11, Thm. 6.4].

Lemma 2.3.5. Assume that $X$, $Y$ and $S$ are smooth, $S$ is separated, the morphisms $X \rightarrow S$ and $Y \rightarrow S$ are proper, and the morphism $Y \rightarrow S$ is flat. Let $\Phi_K : D(X) \rightarrow D(Y)$ be the $S$-linear Fourier-Mukai functor associated with a kernel $K$ in $D(X \times_S Y)$, and let $\varphi : T \rightarrow S$ be a faithful base change for both $X$ and $Y$. Assume that the support of $K$ is proper over $X$ and that $\Phi_K$ is fully faithful. Then $\Phi_{K, T} : \text{Perf}(X_T) \rightarrow D(Y_T)$ is also fully faithful.

Proof. First, we claim that the functor $\Phi_K$ sends $D(Y)$ to $D(X)$. To this end we observe that $\Phi_K$ can be computed as the absolute Fourier-Mukai functor $\Phi_{K'}$, where the kernel $K'$ is given by the push-forward of $K$ with respect to the finite morphism $X \times_S Y \rightarrow X \times Y$ (finiteness of this morphism follows from the finiteness of the diagonal morphism for $S$). Since $X \times Y$ is smooth, the right adjoint functor $\Phi_{K'}$, sends $D(Y)$ to $D(X)$ (as follows from formula (2.1)).

Thus, the fact that $\Phi_K$ is fully faithful on $D(X)$ implies that the natural morphism

\[(2.3) \quad F \rightarrow \Phi_K^! \Phi_K(F)\]

is an isomorphism for $F \in D(X)$.

Now to check that $\Phi_{K, T}$ is fully faithful on $\text{Perf}(X_T)$, by Lemma 2.3.2 it is enough to check that the morphism

\[\tilde{F} \rightarrow \Phi_{K, T}^! \Phi_{K, T}(\tilde{F})\]

is an isomorphism for objects of the form $\tilde{F} = \varphi_X^* F \otimes f^*_T G$, where $F \in \text{Perf}(X)$ and $G \in \text{Perf}(T)$. But this easily follows from $T$-linearity of our functors and from Proposition 2.3.3 (note that $\varphi$ has finite Tor-dimension since $S$ is smooth):

\[\Phi_{K, T}^! \Phi_{K, T}(\varphi_X^* F \otimes f^*_T G) \simeq \varphi_X^* \Phi_K^! \Phi_K(F) \otimes f^*_T G,\]

so the needed assertion follows from the fact that (2.3) is an isomorphism. □

Suppose we have an $S$-linear semiorthogonal decomposition

$\text{Perf}(X) = \langle A_1, \ldots, A_m \rangle$. 

Let us define subcategories $\mathcal{A}_T \subset \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T)$ by the formula

$$\mathcal{A}_T = \langle \varphi_X^* A \otimes f_T^* G \rangle_{A \in \mathcal{A}, G \in \text{Perf}(T)}.$$

The following two theorems are analogs of [Kuz11, Thm. 5.6] and [Kuz11, Thm. 6.4].

**Theorem 2.3.6.** Suppose $\varphi: T \to S$ is faithful for $f: \mathcal{X} \to S$. Assume that there is an $S$-linear semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}) = \langle \mathcal{A}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_m \rangle.$$

Then the subcategories $\mathcal{A}_T$ form a $T$-linear semiorthogonal decomposition of $\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T)$,

$$\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T) = \langle \mathcal{A}_1T, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_mT \rangle.$$

**Proof.** As in [Kuz11], the semiorthogonality $\langle \mathcal{A}_T, \mathcal{A}_J_T \rangle$ for $i > j$ follows from faithful base change. Now Lemma 2.3.2 implies that the subcategories $\mathcal{A}_1T, \ldots, \mathcal{A}_mT$ generate $\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T)$, and the assertion follows. \hfill \square

**Theorem 2.3.7.** Suppose $\mathcal{X}$ and $S$ are smooth, $S$ is separated, the morphism $f: \mathcal{X} \to S$ is flat and proper, and there is an $S$-linear semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}) = \langle \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}_1), \ldots, \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}_m) \rangle,$$

where for $i = 1, \ldots, m$, the stacks $\mathcal{X}_i$ are smooth, the maps $\mathcal{X}_i \xrightarrow{f_i} S$ are proper, and the embedding functors $\Phi_i: \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}_i) \to \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X})$ are given by some kernels $K_i$ in $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}_i \times_S \mathcal{X})$. Assume now that $\varphi: T \to S$ is a base change, faithful for $f$ and for each $f_i$. Set $\mathcal{X}_iT = \mathcal{X}_i \times_S T$. Then the pullbacks $K_iT$ of $K_i$ to $\mathcal{X}_iT \times_T \mathcal{X}_T$ define fully faithful functors

$$\Phi_iT: \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_iT) \to \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T),$$

and their images give a $T$-linear semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T) = \langle \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_1T), \ldots, \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_mT) \rangle.$$

**Proof.** Let us set $\mathcal{A}_i = \Phi_i \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_i)$. By Theorem 2.3.6, we get a semiorthogonal decomposition of $\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T)$ into the subcategories $\mathcal{A}_iT$ (note that $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}) = \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X})$ and $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{X}_i) = \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_i)$ by smoothness).

Now we observe that for $F \in \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_i)$ and $G \in \text{Perf}(T)$, we have an isomorphism

$$\varphi_X^*(\Phi_iF) \otimes f_T^*(G) \simeq \Phi_{iT}(\varphi_X^*F) \otimes f_T^*(G),$$

where we used commutation of relative Fourier-Mukai functors with the pull-back (see Proposition 2.3.3) and $T$-linearity of $\Phi_{iT}$ (and $(f_{iT}, \varphi_X)$) have the same meaning for $\mathcal{X}_i$ as $(f, \varphi)$ for $\mathcal{X}$. Using Lemma 2.3.2 for $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{X}_i$, we deduce that the image of $\text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_iT)$ under $\Phi_{iT}$ is exactly $\mathcal{A}_iT \subset \text{Perf}(\mathcal{X}_T)$. Finally, by Lemma 2.3.5 the functors $\Phi_{iT}$ are fully faithful. \hfill \square

An easy example of the faithful base change is restricting to an open subset. In particular, we deduce that condition (MSOD) is preserved when passing to a $G$-invariant open subset.

**Corollary 2.3.8.** Assume that the pair $(X, G)$ satisfies (MSOD), and let $U \subset X$ be a $G$-invariant open subset. Then the pair $(U, G)$ also satisfies (MSOD), and the corresponding kernels on $\overline{U}_\lambda \times_{\overline{T}} U$ are obtained as pull-backs of the kernels on $\overline{X}_\lambda \times_{\overline{T}} X$. 


Proof. To deduce this from Theorem 2.3.7 we observe that \( U \) is the preimage of the open subset \( \overline{U} = U/G \subset \overline{X} \), and \( \overline{U}_\lambda \subset \overline{X}_\lambda \) is the preimage of \( \overline{U} \) under the map \( \overline{X}_\lambda \to \overline{X} \). Note that the natural map of stacks over \([X/G]\),
\[
[U/G] \to [X/G] \times_X U \simeq [X/G] \times_{\overline{X}} \overline{U},
\]
is an equivalence, since it becomes an isomorphism after the base change \( X \to [X/G] \).

Thus, we can apply Theorem 2.3.7 to the faithful base change \( \overline{U} \to \overline{X} \). Furthermore, we have
\[
(\overline{X}_\lambda \times_X U) \times_{\overline{X}} \overline{U} \simeq \overline{X}_\lambda \times_X U \simeq \overline{X}_\lambda \times_{\overline{X}} U \times_{\overline{U}} U,
\]
so the new kernels live on the correct spaces. \( \square \)

2.4. Products. We observe that condition (MSOD) is compatible with products (see [Kuz11, Corollary 5.10] for a more general result).

Lemma 2.4.1. Let \( G \) (resp., \( G' \)) be a finite group acting on a smooth variety \( X \) (resp., \( X' \)), and assume that condition (MSOD) is satisfied for \((X,G)\) (resp., \((X',G')\)). Then condition (MSOD) is also satisfied for the action of \( G \times G' \) on \( X \times X' \).

Proof. Let \( (\lambda,\lambda') \) be a conjugacy class in \( G \times G' \). The corresponding scheme
\[
\overline{Z}_{\lambda,\lambda'} = (\overline{X}_\lambda \times \overline{X}_{\lambda'}) \times_{\overline{X} \times \overline{X}'} (X \times X')
\]
is naturally identified with \( \overline{Z}_\lambda \times \overline{Z}_{\lambda'} \), so we can define the kernel \( K_{\lambda,\lambda'} \) on \( \overline{Z}_{\lambda,\lambda'} \) as the exterior tensor product \( K_{\lambda} \boxtimes K_{\lambda'} \). The corresponding functor sends \( F \boxtimes F' \), where \( F \in D(\overline{X}_\lambda) \), \( F' \in D(\overline{X}_{\lambda'}) \), to \( \Phi_{K_{\lambda,\lambda'}}(F) \boxtimes \Phi_{K_{\lambda,\lambda'}}(F') \). Thus, computing morphisms between such objects using the K"unneth formula, we deduce that the functor \( \Phi_{K_{\lambda,\lambda'}} \boxtimes K_{\lambda,\lambda'} \) is fully faithful on objects of the form \( F \boxtimes F' \), and hence on all objects. Similarly, we check semiorthogonality between the images and generation. Thus, we get a semiorthogonal decomposition of \( D([X \times X'/G \times G']) \) with respect to any total ordering of conjugacy classes in \( G \times G' \) compatible with the partial order \( (\lambda_1,\lambda_1') \preceq (\lambda_2,\lambda_2') \) if \( \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \) and \( \lambda_1' \leq \lambda_2' \) (where we use the total orders on conjugacy classes in \( G \) and \( G' \) corresponding to the original decompositions). \( \square \)

3. G-invariant divisors and proof of Theorem 1.2.1

3.1. Smooth G-invariant divisors. Throughout this section we fix a smooth connected variety \( X \) with an effective action of a finite group \( G \), such that \( \overline{X} = X/G \) is smooth. We denote by \( X^f \subset X \) the open subset on which the action of \( G \) is free. Recall that \( X_\lambda \subset X \) denotes the \( \lambda \)-invariant locus in \( X \) (where \( \lambda \) runs over a set of representatives of conjugacy classes in \( G \)), and \( \overline{X}_\lambda = X_\lambda/C(\lambda) \). Note that the ideal sheaf of \( X_\lambda \) is generated locally by elements of the form \( \lambda^f(f) - f \), with \( f \in O_X \), and with this subscheme structure \( X_\lambda \) is smooth.

For each \( \lambda \) and every connected component \( Y \subset X_\lambda \), let us denote by \( W(Y) \) the quotient of \( C(\lambda) \) that acts effectively on \( Y \), and let \( Y^f \subset X_\lambda \) denote the open subset on which \( W(Y) \) acts freely.

Lemma 3.1.1. The morphism \( X \to \overline{X} = X/G \) is finite flat of degree \( |G| \).

Proof. It is well known that the morphism \( X \to X/G \) is finite surjective of degree \( |G| \) (see [Mum08, Ch. II.7]). Since \( X \) and \( \overline{X} \) are smooth, it is flat by the miracle flatness theorem. \( \square \)
Now let $H \subset X$ be a smooth $G$-invariant divisor. We have the induced action of $G$ on $H$, so we can consider varieties $\overline{\mathcal{P}} = H/G$, $H_\lambda \subset H$ and $\overline{\mathcal{P}}_\lambda = H_\lambda/C(\lambda)$. It is easy to see that

$$H_\lambda = H \cap X_\lambda,$$

the scheme-theoretic intersection.

We start by observing that the smoothness of the geometric quotient is preserved upon passing to a smooth $G$-invariant divisor.

**Proposition 3.1.2.** For a smooth $G$-invariant divisor $H \subset X$, the quotient $\overline{\mathcal{P}} = H/G$ is smooth.

**Proof.** Assume first that $x \in H$ is a $G$-invariant point. We can linearize the action in a formal neighborhood of $x$ in $X$, so the divisor $H$ will be a $G$-invariant hyperplane. Since $X/G$ is smooth at $x$, $G$ is generated by pseudo-reflections. Hence, the same is true for the induced action of $G$ on $H$, so the quotient $H/G$ is smooth at $x$.

Now let $x \in H$ be arbitrary, and let $\text{St}_x \subset G$ denote the stabilizer subgroup of $x$. By Luna’s étale slice theorem, $\overline{\text{St}}_x \rightarrow X/G$ is étale near the image of $x$ in $X/\text{St}_x$. Since $X/G$ is smooth, this implies $X/\text{St}_x$ is also smooth at $x$. Thus, $H/\text{St}_x$ is smooth at $x$, by the previous argument. Since the mapping $H/\text{St}_x \rightarrow H/G$ is étale at the image of $x$ in $H/\text{St}_x$, we conclude that $H/G$ is smooth at the image of $x$ (using [Gro67, Theorem 17.11.1]). □

**Corollary 3.1.3.** For any $\lambda$, if $\overline{X}_\lambda$ is smooth then $\overline{\mathcal{P}}_\lambda$ is smooth.

**Proof.** The scheme $X_\lambda$ is smooth as the fixed locus of a finite order automorphism in $X$. Similarly, $H_\lambda$ is smooth as $H$ is smooth and $H_\lambda$ is the fixed locus of $\lambda$. Thus, $H_\lambda = H \cap X_\lambda$ is a smooth divisor in $X_\lambda$, so we can apply Proposition 3.1.2 □

**Lemma 3.1.4.** Assume that $H \cap X^{fr}$ is dense in $H$. Then the square

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
H & \rightarrow & \overline{\mathcal{P}} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X & \rightarrow & \overline{X}
\end{array}
$$

is exact cartesian.

**Proof.** Since $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$ (resp., $H$) is a divisor in $\overline{X}$ (resp., $X$), and both $X$ and $\overline{X}$ are smooth, by [Kuz06, Cor. 2.27], it is enough to check that our square is cartesian. By Lemma 3.1.1 both maps $X \rightarrow \overline{X}$ and $H \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ are finite flat of degree $|G|$ (here we use the assumption that $H \cap X^{fr}$ is dense in $H$ and Proposition 3.1.2 which assures that $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$ is smooth). The embedding of $H$ into $X$ factors through $X \times \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ which is a closed subscheme of $X$. Thus $H \subset X \times \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ is a closed embedding of schemes, both of which are finite flat of degree $|G|$ over $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$, and the assertion follows. □
Proposition 3.1.5. Assume that for some \( \lambda \), \( X_\lambda \) is smooth, and that \( H \) satisfies condition (*) introduced before Theorem 1.2.1. Then both squares in the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
H_\lambda & \rightarrow & \overline{H}_\lambda \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X_\lambda & \rightarrow & \overline{X}_\lambda
\end{array}
\]

are exact cartesian.

Proof. By [Kuz06, Cor. 2.27], it is enough to check that these squares are cartesian. First, we observe that by Lemma 3.1.4, the right square in the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
H_\lambda & \rightarrow & \overline{H} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X_\lambda & \rightarrow & \overline{X}
\end{array}
\]

is cartesian. Since \( H_\lambda \) is the scheme-theoretic intersection of \( X_\lambda \) with \( H \), the left square in this diagram is also cartesian. Hence, the big rectangle in this diagram, which is the same as the big rectangle in diagram (3.1), is cartesian.

Next, applying Lemma 3.1.4 to every connected component \( Y \) of \( X_\lambda \), the group \( W(Y) \) acting on it and the divisor \( Y \cap H_\lambda \), we get that the left square is cartesian. Since the map \( X_\lambda \rightarrow \overline{X}_\lambda \) is flat and surjective, and the big rectangle is cartesian, we derive the same for the right square (by checking that the map \( \overline{H}_\lambda \rightarrow \overline{X}_\lambda \times \overline{X} \overline{H} \) of \( \overline{X}_\lambda \)-schemes becomes an isomorphism after the base change \( X_\lambda \rightarrow \overline{X}_\lambda \)). □

3.2. Proof of Theorem 1.2.1 The condition (MSOD) for \( (X, G) \) gives an \( \overline{X} \)-linear semiorthogonal decomposition of \( D([X/G]) \). To deduce from this the same condition for \( (H, G) \), we want to apply Theorem 2.3.7 to the base change of the morphism \( [X/G] \rightarrow \overline{X} \) with respect to the morphism \( \overline{H} \rightarrow \overline{X} \), i.e., to \( \mathcal{X} = [X/G] \), \( S = \overline{X} \), \( \mathcal{X}_i = \overline{X}_\lambda \) and \( T = \overline{H} \).

Note that by assumption, \( [X/G] \), \( \overline{X} \) and \( \overline{X}_\lambda \) are smooth. Also, the morphisms \( [X/G] \rightarrow X/G = \overline{X} \) and \( \overline{X}_\lambda \rightarrow \overline{X} \) are proper, so Theorem 2.3.7 is applicable.

We claim that the corresponding diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
[H/G] & \rightarrow & \overline{H} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
[X/G] & \rightarrow & \overline{X}
\end{array}
\]

is exact cartesian. Indeed, by Lemma 3.1.4 the natural 1-morphism of stacks \( [H/G] \rightarrow [X/G] \times \overline{X} \overline{H} \) over \( [X/G] \) becomes an isomorphism \( H \rightarrow X \times \overline{X} \overline{H} \) after the base change \( X \rightarrow [X/G] \). Hence, it is an equivalence.

Also, by Proposition 3.1.5 the base change of \( \overline{X}_\lambda \) gives us \( \overline{H}_\lambda \). Note that by Corollary 3.1.3 \( [H/G] \) and \( H_\lambda \) are smooth. Thus, Theorem 2.3.7 gives an \( \overline{H} \)-linear
Lemma 3.3.2. Assume that the action of $G$ on $X$ is effective, and the schemes $X$ and $X/G$ are smooth. Then $Z_1$ is reduced.

Proof. Since the projection $X \to X$ is finite flat, the same is true about the projection $p_1 : Z_1 \to X$. Thus, $p_1 \ast \mathcal{O}_{Z_1}$ is locally free over $\mathcal{O}_X$, in particular, it is torsion free as an $\mathcal{O}_X$-module. Furthermore, the fact that the action of $G$ is effective implies that $Z_1$ is reduced over a generic point of $X$. Hence, the nilradical of $\mathcal{O}_{Z_1}$ would give a torsion submodule $p_{1, \ast} \mathcal{O}_{Z_1}$, so this nilradical has to be trivial. 

3.4. Passing to the quotient stacks. Note that a general theory of inducing semiorthogonal decompositions on quotients of varieties by actions of reductive groups is considered in [Ela12]. We need an analogous result where instead of varieties we consider stacks of the form $[X/G]$.

Namely, assume that condition (MSOD) holds for a pair $(X, G)$. Assume in addition that there is a reductive algebraic group $G$ acting on $X$, such that the actions of $G$ and $G$ commute and $[X/G]$ is a DM-stack. In particular, the subvarieties $X_\lambda$ acquire the action of $C(\lambda) \times G$ and there is an induced action of $G$ on

Our notation is different from [PV15] where $Z_\lambda$ denotes the reduced subscheme.
The action is compatible with the projections to $\overline{X}_\lambda$ and to $X$. Assume also that each kernel $K_\lambda$ in $D([Z_\lambda/G])$ comes from an object $\overline{K}_\lambda$ in $D([Z_\lambda/(G \times G)])$. In this case each $\overline{K}_\lambda$ defines the Fourier-Mukai functor

$$\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}: D([X_\lambda/G]) \rightarrow D([X/(G \times G)])$$

that fits into a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
D([X_\lambda/G]) & \xrightarrow{\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}} & D([X/(G \times G)]) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
D([X/G]) & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{K_\lambda}} & D([X/G])
\end{array}$$

where the vertical arrows are given by forgetting the $G$-action. In other words, $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$ is defined by the same formula as $\Phi_{K_\lambda}$, but we view the result as an object of the $G \times G$-equivariant derived category.

**Lemma 3.4.1.** The functors $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$ are fully faithful and their images give a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$D([X/(G \times G)]) = \langle D([X_\lambda_1/G]), \ldots, D([X_\lambda_r/G]) \rangle.$$

**Proof.** For a pair of objects $F, G \in D([X_\lambda/G])$, we have a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Hom}_{D([X_\lambda/G])}(F, G) & \xrightarrow{\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}} & \text{Hom}_{D([X/(G \times G)])}(\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}(F), \Phi^G_{K_\lambda}(G)) \\
\text{forg} & & \text{forg} \\
\text{Hom}_{D([X_\lambda/G])}(F, G)^G & \xrightarrow{\Phi_{K_\lambda}} & \text{Hom}_{D([X/G])}(\Phi_{K_\lambda}(F), \Phi_{K_\lambda}(G))^G
\end{array}$$

in which the vertical arrows are isomorphisms since $G$ is reductive. Furthermore, since $\Phi_{K_\lambda}$ is fully faithful, the bottom horizontal arrow is an isomorphism. Hence, the top horizontal arrow is also an isomorphism, i.e., $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$ is fully faithful.

Similarly, if $\text{Hom}(\Phi_{K_\lambda}(\cdot), \Phi_{K_\mu}(\cdot)) = 0$ then by passing to $G$-invariants, we deduce that $\text{Hom}(\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}(\cdot), \Phi^G_{K_\mu}(\cdot)) = 0$. Hence, the semiorthogonality still holds for the images of $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$.

Finally, to see that the images of $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$ generate $D([X/(G \times G)])$, we observe that the right adjoint functors $(\Phi^G_{K_\lambda})^!$ and $\Phi^!_{K_\lambda}$ to $\Phi^G_{K_\lambda}$ and $\Phi_{K_\lambda}$ are still compatible with the forgetful functors, i.e., we have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
D([X/G \times G]) & \xrightarrow{(\Phi^G_{K_\lambda})^!} & D([X_\lambda/G]) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \text{forg} \\
D([X/G]) & \xrightarrow{\Phi^!_{K_\lambda}} & D([X_\lambda/G])
\end{array}$$

Indeed, for any $F \in D([X/G \times G])$, we can define $(\Phi^G_{K_\lambda})^!(F)$ by the same formula for $\Phi^!_{K_\lambda}$ (see (2.1)) understood in terms of equivariant categories. Then the
above commutative diagram holds and the adjunction follows from the chain of isomorphisms
\[
\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}([X/G \times G])}(\Phi_{V\lambda}^G(F), F') \simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}([X/G])}(\Phi_{K\lambda}(F), F')^G \\
\simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}([X/G])}(F, (\Phi_{K\lambda}^G)^!(F')).
\]

Now suppose \( F \in \mathcal{D}([X/G \times G]) \) is right orthogonal to the images of \( \Phi_{V\lambda}^G \). Then by adjointness, \((\Phi_{V\lambda}^G)^!(F) = 0\) for all \( \lambda \). Thus, using the above commutative diagram, we obtain that \( \text{forg}(F) \) is right orthogonal to the images of all \( \Phi_{K\lambda} \). Using the original semiorthogonal decomposition, we conclude that \( \text{forg}(F) = 0 \). But the forgetful functor is conservative, so \( F = 0 \).

\[\square\]

**Remark 3.4.2.** The above lemma can also be deduced from the conservative descent theorem of Bergh and Schnürer [BS17].

### 4. Examples of semiorthogonal decompositions obtained from Theorem 1.2.1

#### 4.1. Motivic decomposition for \( \mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^n/S_n]) \)

Now we will focus on the case of the standard action of the symmetric group \( S_n \) on the affine \( n \)-space, \( V = \mathbb{A}^n \). In this case \( V = V/S_n \) is still the affine space \( \mathbb{A}^n \) and the morphism \( V \to V/S_n \) is given by the elementary symmetric polynomials.

The conjugacy classes of \( S_n \) are labeled by partitions \( \lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \ldots) \) of \( n \). Recall that the *dominance partial ordering* \( \leq \) on partitions of \( n \) is defined by \( \lambda \geq \mu \) if \( \lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_i \leq \mu_1 + \cdots + \mu_i \) for all \( i \geq 1 \). Note that \((n)\) is the biggest partition and \((1^n)\) is the smallest.

For each partition \( \lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \ldots) \) of \( n \), we choose as a representative of the corresponding conjugacy class the permutation \( (1\ldots n)(\lambda_1 + 1\ldots \lambda_1 + \lambda_2)\ldots \). The corresponding fixed locus \( V_\lambda \subset V \) is isomorphic to \( \mathbb{A}^{\ell(\lambda)} \), where \( \ell(\lambda) \) is the length of \( \lambda \), and the isomorphism is given by

\[
(y_1, \ldots, y_{\ell}) \mapsto (y_1, \ldots, y_1, y_{\ell}, \ldots, y_{\ell}, \ldots, y_{\ell}),(\underbrace{\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_1}_{\lambda_2}, \ldots, \underbrace{\lambda_2, \ldots, \lambda_2}_{\lambda_3}, \ldots).
\]

If we write \( \lambda \) exponentially: \( \lambda = (1^{r_1}, 2^{r_2}, \ldots, p^{r_p}) \) (where \( r_i \) is the multiplicity of the part \( i \)), then we have

\[
C(\lambda) \simeq \prod_{i=1}^p (\mathbb{A}^{r_i} \times S_{r_i}),
\]

and the quotient of \( C(\lambda) \) that acts effectively on \( V_\lambda \) is the group \( W_\lambda \simeq \prod_i S_{r_i} \). We have

\[
\overline{V}_\lambda = V_\lambda/W_\lambda \simeq \mathbb{A}^{\ell(\lambda)} = \prod_{i=1}^p \mathbb{A}^{r_i},
\]

and the quotient map \( V_\lambda \to \overline{V}_\lambda \) is the product of maps \( \mathbb{A}^{r_i} \to \mathbb{A}^{r_i} \) given by the elementary symmetric functions. Under the identification (4.1), the open subset \( V_\lambda^{fr} \subset V_\lambda \), on which \( W_\lambda \) acts freely, is given by

\[
(4.2) \quad V_\lambda^{fr} = \{(y_1, \ldots, y_{\ell}) \mid y_i \neq y_j \text{ whenever } \lambda_i = \lambda_j, i \neq j\}.
\]

Recall that we have the reduced subscheme \( Z^\text{red}_\lambda \subset V_\lambda \times V \), invariant under the action of \( W_\lambda \times S_n \) (see Sec. 3.3). Explicitly, this is the union of graphs of all maps
Let \( V_\lambda \rightarrow V : x \mapsto \sigma x \) over \( \sigma \in S_n/C(\lambda) \). The quotient \( Z_{\lambda}^{\text{red}}/W_\lambda \) can be identified with the reduced subscheme
\[
Z_{\lambda}^{\text{red}} \subset Z_\lambda = V_\lambda \times_T V
\]
defined as in (1.2). Let us consider the kernels
\[
K_\lambda = \mathcal{O}_{Z_{\lambda}^{\text{red}}}
\]
on \( Z_\lambda \).

**Theorem 4.1.1** ([PY15 Theorem 6.3.1]). For each \( \lambda \), \( |\lambda| = n \), the functor \( \Phi_{K_\lambda} : D(V_\lambda) \rightarrow D([W/S_n]) \) is fully faithful. The images of these functors give a semiorthogonal decomposition
\[
D([\mathbb{A}^n/S_n]) = \langle D(V_{\lambda_1}), \ldots, D(V_{\lambda_r}) \rangle.
\]
for any total ordering \( \lambda_1 < \cdots < \lambda_r \) of partitions of \( n \) refining the dominance order. Thus, condition (MSOD) holds for the action of \( S_n \) on \( \mathbb{A}^n \) and the kernels \( \mathcal{O}_{Z_{\lambda}^{\text{red}}} \).

For each \( \lambda \), the natural \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-action on \( V_\lambda \) induces a \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-action on \( V_\lambda \) such that the morphism \( V_\lambda \rightarrow \nabla_\lambda \) is \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-equivariant. We denote by
\[
\mathbb{P}\nabla_\lambda = [(V_\lambda \setminus \{0\})/\mathbb{G}_m]
\]
the corresponding weighted projective space stack. More precisely, for \( \lambda = (1^{r_1}, 2^{r_2}, \ldots, p^{r_p}) \), we get the weighted projective space stack
\[
\mathbb{P}\nabla_\lambda = \mathbb{P}(1, \ldots, r_1, 1, \ldots, r_2, \ldots, 1, \ldots, r_p).
\]

**Corollary 4.1.2.** There is a semiorthogonal decomposition
\[
D([\mathbb{P}^{n-1}/S_n]) \cong \langle D(\mathbb{P}\nabla_{\lambda_1}), \ldots, D(\mathbb{P}\nabla_{\lambda_r}) \rangle.
\]

**Proof.** This follows from Theorem 4.1.1 by first restricting the semiorthogonal decomposition to the open subset \( \mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\} \subset \mathbb{A}^n \) using Corollary 2.3.8 and then applying Lemma 3.4.1 to the natural \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-equivariant structures on the corresponding kernels (which are the structure sheaves of \( \mathbb{G}_m \)-invariant correspondences). \( \square \)

4.2. \( S_n \)-invariant hypersurfaces. Let \( f \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \ldots, x_n]^{S_n} \) be an \( S_n \)-invariant polynomial, and let \( H(f) \subset V = \mathbb{A}^n \) be the corresponding hypersurface.

**Corollary 4.2.1.** Let \( T \subset V \) be an \( S_n \)-invariant closed subset containing the singular locus of \( H(f) \). Assume that for every partition \( \lambda \), such that \( V_\lambda \setminus T \neq \emptyset \), the restriction \( f|_{V_\lambda} \) is not identically zero and the intersection \( H(f|_{V_\lambda}) \cap V_\lambda^{T} \setminus T \) is dense in \( H(f|_{V_\lambda}) \setminus T \). Then the pair \( (H(f) \setminus T, S_n) \) satisfies (MSOD), so we have a semiorthogonal decomposition
\[
D((H(f) \setminus T/S_n)) = \langle D((H(f|_{V_{\lambda_1}}) \setminus T)/W_{\lambda_1}), \ldots, D((H(f|_{V_{\lambda_r}}) \setminus T)/W_{\lambda_r}) \rangle
\]
where \( \lambda_1 < \cdots < \lambda_r \) is a total order on partitions of \( n \) refining the dominance order.

**Proof.** First, we use Corollary 2.3.8 to prove that condition (MSOD), that holds for the pair \( (V, S_n) \) by Theorem 4.1.1, is inherited by the pair \( (V \setminus T, S_n) \). Next, we want to check condition (\ast) for the divisor \( H(f) \setminus T \) in \( V \setminus T \). Thus, we need to check that for every partition \( \lambda \) such that \( (V \setminus T)_\lambda = V_\lambda \setminus T \) is nonempty, we have that \( H(f) \setminus T \) does not contain \( V_\lambda \setminus T \), and the intersection \( H(f) \cap V_\lambda \setminus T = H(f|_{V_{\lambda}}) \setminus T \).
contains a dense open subset on which $W_\lambda$ acts freely. But this follows from our assumption. Hence, we can apply Theorem 1.2.1 to the smooth divisor $H(f) \setminus T$ in $V \setminus T$ to deduce the result. \hfill \Box

The following simple observation will be useful for us.

Lemma 4.2.2. For a homogeneous $S_n$-invariant polynomial $f$, such that the corresponding hypersurface $\mathbb{P}(f) \subset \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ is smooth, one has

\begin{equation}
(4.3)
f(1,1,\ldots,1) \neq 0.
\end{equation}

For any partition $\lambda$ of $n$, the restriction $f_\lambda := f|_{V_\lambda}$ is not identically zero and $H(f_\lambda)$ is smooth away from the origin.

Proof. Indeed, consider the morphism

$$\sigma : \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \to \mathbb{P}(1,2,\ldots,n)$$

given by the elementary symmetric polynomials. Then the differential of $\sigma$ vanishes identically at the $S_n$-invariant point $(1:1:\ldots:1)$. But $H(f)$ is the preimage of a hypersurface under $\sigma$. Since $\mathbb{P}(H(f))$ is smooth, we deduce that $f(1,1,\ldots,1) \neq 0$.

Since $(1,1,\ldots,1) \in V_\lambda$, from $(4.3)$ we get that the restriction $f_\lambda := f|_{V_\lambda}$ is not identically zero. Furthermore, $H(f_\lambda) \setminus \{0\}$ is the fixed locus of a permutation acting on $H(f) \setminus \{0\}$, hence, it is smooth. \hfill \Box

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 1.2.2. Recall that in this theorem we assume that $f$ is a homogeneous $S_n$-invariant polynomial such that $\mathbb{P}(H(f))$ is smooth.

Proof of Theorem 1.2.2. We would like to apply Corollary 4.2.1 with $T = \{0\}$ to get condition (MSOD) for the pair $(H(f) \setminus \{0\}, S_n)$. Let $\lambda$ be a partition of $n$. By Lemma 4.2.2 the restriction $f_\lambda := f|_{V_\lambda}$ is not identically zero. Next, let us check that $H(f_\lambda) \cap V^{fr}_\lambda \setminus \{0\}$ is dense in $H(f_\lambda) \setminus \{0\}$. In the case $\dim V_\lambda \leq 1$, we have $H(f_\lambda) \setminus \{0\} = \emptyset$. Thus, due to the description (4.2) of $V^{fr}_\lambda$, it is enough to check that for $\dim V_\lambda \geq 2$, no component of the hypersurface $H(f_\lambda) \subset V_\lambda$ is contained in a hyperplane $y_i = y_j$ for some $i \neq j$ such that $\lambda_i = \lambda_j$.

In the case when the degree of $f$ is 1, it is proportional to $x_1 + \ldots + x_n$, so this is clear. Now assume that $\deg(f) > 1$. By Lemma 4.2.2 $H(f_\lambda)$ is smooth away from the origin. Thus, if $\dim V_\lambda \geq 3$ then $H(f_\lambda)$ is irreducible (since each irreducible component of $H(f_\lambda)$ has dimension $\geq 2$ and $H(f_\lambda) \setminus \{0\}$ is smooth), so it cannot be contained in any hyperplane. If $\dim V_\lambda = 2$ then $\lambda$ has only two parts ($\lambda_1, \lambda_2$). In the case $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ the statement is empty, so we only have to check the assertion for $\lambda = (n/2, n/2)$ assuming that $n$ is even. But in this case the non-free locus is the line spanned by $(1,\ldots,1)$, so the assertion follows from $(4.3)$.

Thus, we obtain that the pair $(H(f) \setminus \{0\}, S_n)$ satisfies (MSOD). It remains to use Lemma 3.4.1 to pass to the quotients by $\mathbb{G}_m$. \hfill \Box

The semiorthogonal decomposition given by Theorem 1.2.2 is usually not motivic since its components are derived categories of some quotient stacks. The biggest component of the semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{P}(H(f))/S_n])$ corresponds to the partition $\lambda = (1^n)$ and is the image of the pull-back functor with respect to the natural morphism of stacks

$$\pi : [\mathbb{P}(H(f))/S_n] \to \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}) \subset \mathbb{P}(1,2,\ldots,n),$$
where $\overline{f}$ is $f$ viewed as a quasihomogeneous polynomial on $\mathbb{A}^n/S_n$ (so the target of $\pi$ is the weighted projective stacky hypersurface). The morphism $\pi$ fits into a Cartesian diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
[H(f) \setminus \{0\}/S_n] & \xrightarrow{\overline{\pi}} & H(\overline{f}) \setminus \{0\} \\
G_m & \downarrow & G_m \\
[\mathbb{P}H(f)/S_n] & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \mathbb{P}H(\overline{f})
\end{array}
$$

in which the vertical arrows are $\mathbb{G}_m$-torsors and the top horizontal arrow is the coarse moduli map for the action of $S_n$ on $H(f) \setminus \{0\}$. Note that the fact that the pull-back functor under $\pi$ is fully faithful can be directly deduced from the above diagram. Indeed, by the projection formula, it is enough to check that $R\pi_*O \simeq O$. By the base change formula, this reduces to a similar assertion for the morphism $\overline{\pi} : [H(f)/S_n] \to H(\overline{f})$, which is the map from a quotient stack by $S_n$ to the corresponding geometric quotient $H(\overline{f})$. For this morphism we have $R^{>0}\overline{\pi}_*O = 0$, and the isomorphism $\overline{\pi}_*O \simeq O$ follows from the fact that the algebra of functions $O(H(\overline{f}))$ is identified with the subalgebra of $S_n$-invariants, $O(H(f))^{S_n}$.

**Example 4.2.3** ($S_3$-invariant plane curves). Let $C = \mathbb{P}H(f) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ be an $S_3$-invariant smooth plane curve of degree $d$. Since in this case $f(1,1,1) \neq 0$ by Lemma 4.2.2 for the partition $(3)$, we get $H(\overline{f}(3)) = \{0\}$. Hence, the corresponding component in the semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([C/S_3])$ is zero and can be skipped. Let us consider contributions of the two remaining partitions, $(1^3)$ and $(2,1)$.

$(1^3)$: We have identifications $V_{(1^3)} = V$, $\overline{V}_{(1^3)} \cong \mathbb{A}^3_{1,2,3}$, where the subscripts indicate the $\mathbb{G}_m$-weights. The vanishing locus of $\overline{f}(1^3)$, $\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}(1^3))$ will give a smooth stacky curve in $\mathbb{P}(1,2,3)$.

$(2,1)$: We have identifications $V_{(2,1)} = V_{(2,1)} = \{y = z\} \subset V$, and $f_{(2,1)}$ is the restriction of $f$ to this plane. Since $H(f_{(2,1)})$ is smooth away from the origin, it is the union of $d$ lines through the origin, say $l_1, \ldots, l_d$. The projectivization is the union of $d$ distinct points $p_1, \ldots, p_d$ in the projective line $\mathbb{P}V_{2,1}$.

Thus, we have a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$(4.4) \quad \mathcal{D}([C/S_3]) = \langle \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}(1^3))), \mathcal{D}(p_1), \ldots, \mathcal{D}(p_d) \rangle$$

In the case $d = 3$, i.e., when $C$ is an elliptic curve, we can be even more precise about the piece corresponding to $(1^3)$. Namely, in this case

$$f(x, y, z) = \alpha e_1^3 + \beta e_1 e_2 + \gamma e_3,$$

where $e_1, e_2, e_3$ are elementary symmetric functions in $x, y, z$. Furthermore, we have $\gamma \neq 0$ (otherwise, $C$ would contain the line $e_1 = 0$). Thus, the equation $f = 0$ gives a way to express $e_3$ in terms of $e_1$ and $e_2$. Hence, $\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}(1^3))$ is the weighted projective line stack $\mathbb{P}(1,2)$.

In general, the derived category of $\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}(1^3))$ has a semiorthogonal decomposition with the main component given by the derived category of the coarse moduli, which is $C/S_3$, and some exceptional objects supported at the stacky points. Thus, the semiorthogonal decomposition $(4.3)$ can be refined to a decomposition with the main
component $\mathcal{D}(C/S_3)$ followed by exceptional objects. The obtained decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([C/S_3])$ matches the one constructed in [Pol06] since the special fibers of the projection $C \to C/S_3$ are either orbits of the points $p_1, \ldots, p_d$, corresponding to $\lambda = (2, 1)$, or the points of $C$ mapping to the two stacky points of $\mathbb{P}(1, 2, 3)$.

Note that if $d < 6$ then the geometric quotient of $\mathbb{P}H(f_{1:3})$ is rational, so in this case the category $\mathcal{D}([C/S_3])$ has a full exceptional collection.

Some features of the above example occur in a more general situation. Below we use the power sum polynomials

$$p_i(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = x_1^i + \ldots + x_n^i.$$  

**Proposition 4.2.4.** Let $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ be a generic $S_n$-invariant homogeneous polynomial of degree $d > 0$.

(i) Let $\lambda$ be a partition of $n$ such that all parts of $\lambda$ are distinct. Then the stack $[\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}_\lambda)]$ is actually a smooth projective variety.

(ii) Now assume that $\lambda$ has one part of multiplicity $2$ and all the other parts have multiplicity $1$. Then the same conclusion as in (i) holds provided the degree $d$ is even.

**Proof.** (i) For a generic $S_n$-invariant $f$, the hypersurface $H(f) \subset V$ is smooth away from the origin, hence, the same is true for $H(f_\lambda)$, the fixed locus of a permutation acting on $H(f)$. Since $\mathbb{P}V/\lambda$ is the usual projective space, the assertion follows.

(ii) We have coordinates $(x, y; z_1, \ldots, z_p)$ on $V_\lambda$, so that the embedding $i_\lambda : V_\lambda \hookrightarrow V$ has form

$$i_\lambda : (x, y; z_1, \ldots, z_p) \mapsto (x, y, \ldots, x, y; z_1, \ldots, z_1, \ldots, z_p, \ldots, z_p),$$

where $(x, y)$ is repeated $l$ times, each $z_j$ is repeated $m_j$ times, so that $(l, m_1, \ldots, m_p)$ are all the distinct parts of $\lambda$, and $l$ (resp., $m_j$) occur with multiplicity $2$ (resp., $1$) in $\lambda$. Set $p_1 = x + y$, $p_2 = x^2 + y^2$, so that $(p_1, p_2)$ are the coordinates on $\mathbb{P}V/\lambda$. It is enough to check that $\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}_\lambda)$ does not contain stacky points of $\mathbb{P}V/\lambda$, i.e., the points with $p_1 = 0$ and all $z_j = 0$. Thus, it is enough that $f_\lambda$ does not vanish at the point of $V_\lambda$ with $x = -y = 1$ and $z_j = 0$. Note that

$$p_2(x_1, \ldots, x_n)|_{i_\lambda(1,-1;0,\ldots,0)} \neq 0.$$ 

Therefore, the same is true for any power of $p_2$, and hence, for a generic $S_n$-invariant polynomial of even degree. \hfill $\square$

In the next proposition we show that some components of the semiorthogonal decomposition of Theorem 1.2.2 are derived categories of weighted projective space stacks.

**Proposition 4.2.5.** Let $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ be an $S_n$-invariant homogeneous polynomial of degree $d \leq n$ such that $\mathbb{P}H(f)$ is smooth, and such that in the expression of $f$ as a polynomial in $p_1, \ldots, p_n$ the coefficient of $p_d$ is nonzero. Then for a partition $\lambda = (1^{r_1}, 2^{r_2}, \ldots, p^{r_p})$, such that $r_l \geq d$ for some $l$, the stack $[\mathbb{P}H(\overline{f}_\lambda)]$ is isomorphic to the weighted projective space stack with the weights obtained by removing one weight $d$ from the sequence

$$(1, \ldots, r_1, 1, \ldots, r_2, \ldots, 1, \ldots, r_p).$$
Proof. Let $y_1, \ldots, y_r, z_1, \ldots, z_N$ be the coordinates on $V$, where $y_1, \ldots, y_r$ are the coordinates corresponding to the parts of $\lambda$ equal to $l$, so that in the embedding $V \hookrightarrow V$ each of coordinates $y_1, \ldots, y_r$ is repeated $l$ times (see (1.1)). Note that the coordinates on $V$ are given by the functions $(y_i(y_1, \ldots, y_r))_{1 \leq i \leq r}$, as well as some symmetric functions in other groups of variables. Since $r_l \geq d$, $p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r)$ is one of the coordinates on $V$.

It suffices to check that $p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r)$ occurs with nonzero coefficient in $f_{\lambda}$. Indeed, then we can use $f_{\lambda}$ to express the coordinate $p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r)$ in terms of other coordinates on $V$, which gives our assertion. We have

$$f(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \alpha \cdot p_d(x_1, \ldots, x_n) + g(x_1, \ldots, x_n),$$

where $g$ is a polynomial in $(p_i(x_1, \ldots, x_n))_{1 \leq i \leq d}$. Hence, the restriction of $g$ to $V$ is expressed in terms of coordinates of weight $< d$ on $V$, so it does not contribute to the coefficient of $p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r)$. Furthermore, we have

$$p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r, \ldots, z_1, \ldots) = l \cdot p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r) \mod(Cz_1^d + \ldots + Cz_N^d).$$

Hence, the coefficient of $p_d(y_1, \ldots, y_r)$ in $f_{\lambda}$ is equal to $l \cdot \alpha$. In particular, this coefficient is nonzero, as required. □

Corollary 4.2.6. The conclusion of Proposition 4.2.5 holds for any $S_n$-invariant homogeneous polynomial $f$ of degree $d \leq 3$ such that $\mathbb{P}H(f)$ is smooth.

Proof. The case $d = 1$ is trivial. In the case $d = 2$, we have

$$f = \alpha p_2 + \beta p_1^2,$$

while in the case $d = 3$, we have

$$f = \alpha p_3 + \beta p_1 p_2 + \gamma p_1^3,$$

In both cases $\alpha \neq 0$, since otherwise $f$ would be reducible. Hence, we can apply Proposition 4.2.5. □

In the case of cubic forms in $\leq 6$ variables, we obtain from Theorem 1.2.2 the following decompositions of $S_n$-equivariant derived categories.

Proposition 4.2.7. Let $f(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ be a generic $S_n$-invariant homogeneous cubic polynomial, where $n \leq 5$. Then $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{P}H(f)/S_n)$ has a full exceptional collection. For $n = 6$, there is an exceptional collection in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{P}H(f)/S_6)$ such that its right orthogonal is equivalent to $\mathcal{D}(E)$, where $E$ is the elliptic curve given by the cubic $f_{(3,2,1)}$ in $\mathbb{P}(3,2,1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^2$.

Proof. First of all, we observe that for $n \leq 5$, a partition $\lambda$ of $n$ can have at most two distinct parts, while for $n = 6$ the only partition with 3 distinct parts is $(3,2,1)$.

By Corollary 1.2.6 if $\lambda$ has a part of multiplicity $\geq 3$ then the corresponding piece in the semiorthogonal decomposition of Theorem 1.2.2 is the derived category of the weighted projective space stack, so it has a full exceptional collection (see [AK08 Sec. 2]).

Now we claim that all partitions with at most two distinct parts, each of multiplicity at most 2, lead to subcategories generated by exceptional collections. We prove this case by case. Note that the partition $\lambda = (n)$ does not contribute to the semiorthogonal decomposition since $f(1, \ldots, 1) \neq 0$. 

\[\]
Remark 4.2.8. Using Corollary 4.2.6 we see that for an $S_n$-invariant nondegenerate quadric $f$, the components of the semiorthogonal decomposition of Theorem 1.2.2 are either smooth projective quadrics (for partitions with distinct parts) or weighted

Case $\lambda = (l, l)$. Then $V_\lambda$ has coordinates $x, y$ and $\nabla_\lambda$ has coordinates $p_1 = x + y, p_2 = x^2 + y^2$. The unique stacky point of the weighted projective line stack $\mathbb{P} \nabla_\lambda = \mathbb{P}(1, 2)$ is given by $p_1 = 0$. Note that $p_2 = x^2 + y^2$ is divisible by $p_1$, so $\mathcal{F}_\lambda$ vanishes at this point. It follows that $\mathbb{P} H(\mathcal{F}_\lambda)$ is the union of one point and of one stacky point with the automorphism group $\mathbb{Z}/2$. The derived category of such stacky point splits as the direct sum of two derived categories of the usual point.

Case $\lambda = (l_1, l_2)$, where $l_1 > l_2$. Then $f_\lambda$ is a cubic on the 2-dimensional space $V_\lambda$, with isolated singularity at the origin, so $\mathbb{P} H(f_\lambda)$ is the union of three distinct points.

Case $\lambda = (l, 1)$ with $l > 1$ or $\lambda = (2, 2, 1)$. Then $V_\lambda$ has coordinates $x, y, z$, where $W_\lambda = S_2$ swaps $x$ and $y$, so that $\nabla_\lambda$ has coordinates $p_1 = x + y, p_2 = x^2 + y^2$ and $z$, and $\mathbb{P} \nabla_\lambda = \mathbb{P}(1, 1, 2)$. The cubic $\mathcal{F}_\lambda$ should have form

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = p_2 (\alpha z + \beta p_1) + C(p_1, z),$$

where $C(p_1, z)$ is a binary cubic form. It is easy to see that for generic $S_n$-invariant $f$, one has $\alpha \neq 0$, so we can make the change of variables $z_1 = \alpha z + \beta p_1$. Furthermore, $C(p_1, z)$ is not divisible by $z_1$, since $f_\lambda$ has an isolated singularity at 0. Thus, rescaling the variables, we can bring $f$ to the form

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = p_2 z_1 + z_1 Q(p_1, z_1) + p_1^3,$$

where $Q$ is a binary quadratic form. Now taking $u = p_2 + Q(p_1, z_1)$ as a new variable of weight 2, we get

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = u z_1 + p_1^3.$$

It is easy to see that $\mathbb{P} H(\mathcal{F}_\lambda)$ is isomorphic to the weighted projective line stack $\mathbb{P}(1, 2)$. Namely, there is an isomorphism given by

$$\mathbb{P}(1, 2) \to \mathbb{P} H(\mathcal{F}_\lambda) : (t : v) \mapsto (u = v^3, z_1 = -v^2, p_1 = vt).$$

Case $\lambda = (2, 2, 1)$. Then we have coordinates $x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2$ on $V_\lambda$, and $W_\lambda = S_2 \times S_2$ permutes $x_1$ with $y_1$ and $x_2$ with $y_2$. Set $p_1(i) = x_i + y_i, p_2(i) = x_i^2 + y_i^2$. Then the cubic $\mathcal{F}_\lambda$ has form

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = p_2(1) z_1 + p_2(2) z_2 + C(p_1(1), p_1(2)),$$

where $z_1$ and $z_2$ are some linear forms in $p_1(1), p_1(2)$. It is easy to see that for generic $f$, the linear forms $z_1$ and $z_2$ will be linearly independent, so we can view $p_2(1), p_2(2), z_1, z_2$ as independent variables. Now adding to $p_2(i)$ appropriate quadratic expressions of $z_1, z_2$, we can rewrite $\mathcal{F}_\lambda$ as

$$\mathcal{F}_\lambda = u_1 z_1 + u_2 z_2,$$

where $u_1, u_2, z_1, z_2$ are independent variables $(\deg(u_1) = 2, \deg(z_1) = 1)$. Thus, we can identify $\mathbb{P} H(\mathcal{F}_\lambda)$ with $\mathbb{P}(1, 2) \times \mathbb{P}^1$ via the isomorphism $\mathbb{P}(1, 2) \times \mathbb{P}^1 \to \mathbb{P} H(\mathcal{F}_\lambda)$,

$$(t : v), (s_1 : s_2) \mapsto (u_1 = vs_1, u_2 = vs_2, z_1 = ts_2, z_2 = -ts_1).$$

Thus, for $n \leq 6$, all of the subcategories corresponding to $\lambda \neq (3, 2, 1)$ admit full exceptional collections. The remaining subcategory corresponding to $\lambda = (3, 2, 1)$ (for $n = 6$) is equivalent to $D(E)$, where $E$ is the elliptic curve given by $f_{(3,2,1)}$. 

Remark 4.2.8. Using Corollary 4.2.6 we see that for an $S_n$-invariant nondegenerate quadric $f$, the components of the semiorthogonal decomposition of Theorem 1.2.2 are either smooth projective quadrics (for partitions with distinct parts) or weighted
projective space stacks (for the remaining partitions). In particular, in this case $\mathcal{D}([PH(f)/S_n])$ has a full exceptional collection.

4.3. Products of curves. First, let us consider the case of an action of a finite group $G$ on a smooth curve (we assume that the action is effective). Note that in this case the quotient $C/G$ is smooth (since passing to invariants of a finite group preserves normality) and the stabilizer subgroup $St_x$ of every point $x \in C$ is cyclic.

Let $R = D_1 \sqcup \ldots \sqcup D_r \subset C$ be the decomposition into $G$-orbits of the ramification locus of the projection $\pi : C \to C/G$. Then each $D_i$ is a fiber of $\pi$ and the stabilizer of a point in $D_i$ is $\mathbb{Z}/m_i\mathbb{Z}$. Then the proof of [Pol06, Thm. 1.2] implies that for each $i$, there is an exceptional collection of $G$-equivariant sheaves on $C$,

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/D_i)$$

and if $A_i \subset \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G)$ is the subcategory generated by this collection, then there is a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/Y) = \langle A_1, \ldots, A_r, \pi^* \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G) \rangle,$$

where $\pi^* : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G) \to \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G)$ is the pull-back functor. More precisely, in [Pol06] a different decomposition was considered,

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/Y) = \langle \pi^* \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G), B_1, \ldots, B_r \rangle,$$

with $A_i = \omega_C \otimes B_i$, from which (4.6) is obtained by mutation. Also, in [Pol06] it was shown that each $B_i$ is generated by the exceptional collection

$$(\mathcal{O}_{(m_i-1)}|_{D_i}, \ldots, \mathcal{O}_{2D_i}, \mathcal{O}_{D_i}),$$

which can be mutated into $(\mathcal{O}_{D_i}, \mathcal{O}(-(D_i))|_{D_i}, \ldots, \mathcal{O}(-(m_i-2))|_{D_i})$. The collection (4.5) in $A_i$ is obtained from the latter collection by tensoring with $\omega_C$.

This leads to the following result.

**Proposition 4.3.1.** Let $G$ be a finite group acting effectively on a smooth curve $C$. Then condition (MSOD) is satisfied, where the kernel corresponding to $\lambda = 1$ is the structure sheaf of the graph of $\pi$.

**Proof.** We claim that the semiorthogonal decomposition (4.6) (or (4.7)) can be restructured to get the decomposition required by (MSOD). Namely, (4.6) consists of the image of the pull-back functor $\pi^* : \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G) \to \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G)$, along with $m_i-1$ exceptional objects supported on $D_i$, for $i = 1, \ldots, r$. On the other hand, for (MSOD) to hold, for each conjugacy class representative $g \neq 1$, and each $C(g)$-orbit in $C^g$, we need to have one exceptional object in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C}/G)$ supported on the corresponding $G$-orbit in $C$. The fact that the numbers of exceptional objects supported on each $G$-orbit match was proved in [PV15, Rem. 4.3.2].

Using Lemma 2.4.1 we deduce the following

**Corollary 4.3.2.** Let $C_1, \ldots, C_n$ be smooth curves, and for each $i$, let $G_i$ be a finite group acting effectively on $C_i$. Then condition (MSOD) holds for the action of $G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$ on $C_1 \times \cdots \times C_n$. 

Example 4.3.3. For the standard action of the cyclic group $\mu_d$ on $\mathbb{A}^1$, the geometric quotient is isomorphic to $\mathbb{A}^1_{\mu_d}$, where the subscript $d$ indicates the $\mathbb{G}_m$-weight, so that the quotient map $\pi: \mathbb{A}^1 \to \mathbb{A}^1_{\mu_d}$ is given by $x \mapsto x^d$. We have a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^1/\mu_d]) = (\mathcal{O}_p \otimes \chi^{d-1}, \ldots, \mathcal{O}_p \otimes \chi, \pi^*\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{A}^1_{\mu_d})), $$

where $\mathcal{O}_p$ denotes the structure sheaf of the origin, and $\chi: \mu_d \to \mathbb{G}_m$ is the character given by the natural embedding.

Now, for positive integers $d_1, \ldots, d_k$, let us consider the natural action of $G = \mu_{d_1} \times \cdots \times \mu_{d_k}$ on $\mathbb{A}^k$ (where the $i$th factor acts on the $i$th coordinate). By Corollary 4.3.2, we have a motivic semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^k/G])$. We can describe explicitly the components of this decomposition as follows. The fixed locus of an element of $g = (z_1, \ldots, z_k) \in G$ is isomorphic to the affine space $\mathbb{A}^{n_g}$, where $n_g$ is the number of trivial components of $g$. The geometric quotient by $C(g) = G$ is $\pi_g: \mathbb{A}^{n_g} \to \mathbb{A}^{n_g}_{d_g}$, where $d_g$ is a multi-index giving weights for the $\mathbb{G}_m$-action ($d_g$ is the set of $d_i$ for which $z_i = 1$). Let $\iota_g: \mathbb{A}^{n_g} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^k$ denote the natural embedding. Then the composite functor

$$\iota_g \circ \pi_g^*: \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{A}^{n_g}_{d_g}) \to \mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^k/G])$$

is fully faithful.

For each $i$, let $\zeta_{d_i}$ be a $d_i$th primitive root of unity. For $g = (\zeta_{m_1}^{d_1}, \ldots, \zeta_{m_k}^{d_k}) \in G$, where $0 \leq m_i < d_i$, we define the character $\chi_g$ of $G$ by setting $\chi_g = \chi_{m_1}^{d_1} \cdots \chi_{m_k}^{d_k}$, where $\chi_i: G \to \mathbb{G}_m$ is given by the $i$th projection.

Then the functors giving the semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^k/G])$ (numbered by $g \in G$) are

$$(\iota_g \circ \pi_g^*) \otimes \chi_g: \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{A}^{n_g}_{d_g}) \to \mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^k/G]),$$

ordered lexicographically with respect to the reverse order on each set $\{0, \ldots, d_i-1\}$. Thus, we have a semiorthogonal decomposition

$$\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{A}^k/G]) = (\mathcal{D}(pt) \otimes \chi_1^{d_1-1} \cdots \chi_k^{d_k-1}, \ldots, \pi^*\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{A}^k_{d_1\cdots d_k})).$$

As before, we can delete the origin in all the affine spaces and pass to $\mathbb{G}_m$-equivariant categories. In this way we get a semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{P}^{k-1}/G])$ indexed by the elements of $G$. The components of this semiorthogonal decomposition will be the weighted projective space stacks $\mathbb{P}(d_g)$.

We can also apply Theorem 1.2.1 to get, as in Section 4.2, a semiorthogonal decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{P}^k(f)/G])$, where $f$ is a $G$-invariant homogeneous polynomial on $\mathbb{A}^k$. More precisely, we have to assume that $\mathbb{P}^k(f)$ is smooth and that restrictions of $f$ to certain coordinate subspaces are nonzero. Namely, in the case when there exists an index $i$ with $d_i = 1$, we have to assume the nonvanishing of the restriction of $f$ to the subspace where all coordinates with $d_i > 1$ are set to zero. In the case when all $d_i > 1$, we have to assume that the restriction of $f$ to each coordinate line is nonzero.

For example, if $d_1 > 1$, $d_2 = \ldots = d_k = 1$, and $f = x_1^{d_1} - g(x_2, \ldots, x_k)$, then $\mathbb{P}^k(f)$ is a cyclic cover of $\mathbb{P}^{k-2}$ and our decomposition of $\mathcal{D}([\mathbb{P}^k(f)/\mu_{d_1}])$ matches the one given by Kuznetsov-Perry in [KP17, Theorem 4.1].
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BL: DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84102, USA

E-mail address: bcl@uoregon.edu

AP: UNIVERSITY OF OREGON AND NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

E-mail address: apolish@uoregon.edu