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Near braces and $p$-deformed braided groups

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Abstract
Motivated by recent findings on the derivation of parametric noninvolutive solutions of the Yang–Baxter equation, we reconstruct the underlying algebraic structures, called near braces. Using the notion of the near braces we produce new multi-parametric, nondegenerate, noninvolutive solutions of the set-theoretic Yang–Baxter equation. These solutions are generalizations of the known ones coming from braces and skew braces. Bijective maps associated to the inverse solutions are also constructed. Furthermore, we introduce the generalized notion of $p$-deformed braided groups and $p$-braidings and we show that every $p$-braiding is a solution of the braid equation. We also show that certain multi-parametric maps within the near braces provide special cases of $p$-braidings.

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1 | INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study is twofold: on the one hand, motivated by recent findings on parametric solutions [1] of the set-theoretic [2, 3] Yang–Baxter equation (YBE) [4, 5], we derive the underlying algebraic structure associated to these solutions. On the other hand using the derived algebraic frame, we introduce novel multi-parametric classes of solutions of the YBE.

It is well-established now that braces, first introduced by Rump [6], describe all nondegenerate involutive solutions of the YBE, whereas skew braces were later introduced to describe noninvolutive, nondegenerate solutions of the YBE [7]. Indeed, based on the ideas of [6] and [7] and...
on recent findings regarding parametric solutions of the set-theoretic YBE [1], we construct the generic algebraic structure, called near brace, that provides solutions to the set-theoretic braid equation. Moreover, motivated by the definition of the braided group [8] and the work of [9], we introduce an extensive definition of a \( p \)-deformed braided group and \( p \)-braidings, which are solutions of the set-theoretic braid equation. All the parametric solutions derived here are indeed \( p \)-braidings. It is worth noting that the study of solutions of the set-theoretic YBE and the associated algebraic structures have created a particularly active new field during the last decade or so (see, for instance, [10, 11, 12–15]). The key observation is that by relaxing more and more conditions on the underlying algebraic structures one identifies more general classes of solutions (see, e.g., [16, 12, 17–20, 21] and [22–24]). It is also worth noting that interesting links with quantum integrable systems [25, 26] as well the quasi-triangular quasi-bialgebras [27–30] have been recently established, opening up new intriguing paths of investigations.

We briefly describe what is achieved in this study, and in particular what are the findings in each section. In the remaining of this section, we review some necessary ideas on nondegenerate set-theoretic solutions of the YBE and the associated algebraic structures, that is, braces and skew braces. In Section 2 inspired by the parametric solutions of the YBE introduced in [1], we reconstruct the generic associated algebraic structure called near brace. In fact, every near brace can turn to a skew brace by defining a suitably modified (deformed) addition; this is described in Theorem 2.6. The key idea is to simultaneously consider \( \hat{r} \) and its inverse given that we are exclusively interested in nondegenerate solutions of the braid equation. Having derived the underlying algebraic structure, we move to Subsection 2.1 where we extract multi-parametric bijective maps and hence to identify nondegenerate, multi-parametric solutions of the YBE as well as their inverses. In Subsection 2.2, we provide a generalized definition of the braided group and braidings (\( p \)-braidings, \( p \) stands for parametric) by relaxing some of the conditions appearing in the definition of [8] (see also relevant findings in [9]). Furthermore, we show that the generalized \( p \)-braidings are nondegenerate solutions of the YBE and the bijective maps coming for the near braces provide automatically \( p \)-braidings.

**Preliminaries**

Before we start our analysis and present our findings in the subsequent section, we review below basic preliminary notions relevant to our investigation. Specifically, we recall the problem of solving the set-theoretic braid equation and some fundamental results. Let \( X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\} \) be a set and \( \hat{r}^z : X \times X \to X \times X \) where \( z \in X \) is a fixed parameter, first introduced in [1]. We denote

\[
\hat{r}^z(x, y) = (\sigma_x^z(y), \tau_y^z(x)).
\] (1.1)

We say that \( \hat{r}^z \) is nondegenerate if \( \sigma_x^z \) and \( \tau_y^z \) are bijective maps, and \( (X, \hat{r}) \) is a set-theoretic solution of the braid equation if

\[
(\hat{r}^z \times \text{id})(\text{id} \times \hat{r}^z)(\hat{r}^z \times \text{id}) = (\text{id} \times \hat{r}^z)(\hat{r}^z \times \text{id})(\text{id} \times \hat{r}^z).
\] (1.2)

The map \( \hat{r} \) is called involutive if \( \hat{r}^z \circ \hat{r}^z = \text{id} \).
We also introduce the map $r^z : X \times X \rightarrow X \times X$, such that $r^z = \hat{r}^z \pi$, where $\pi : X \times X \rightarrow X \times X$ is the flip map: $\pi(x, y) = (y, x)$. Hence, $r^z(y, x) = (\sigma^z_x(y), \tau^z_y(x))$, and it satisfies the YBE:

$$r_{12}^z r_{13}^z r_{23}^z = r_{23}^z r_{13}^z r_{12}^z,$$

(1.3)

where we denote $r_{12}^z(y, x, w) = (\sigma^z_x(y), \tau^z_y(x), w)$, $r_{23}^z(w, y, x) = (w, \sigma^z_x(y), \tau^z_y(x))$ and $r_{13}^z(y, w, x) = (\sigma^z_x(y), w, \tau^z_y(x))$.

We review below the constraints arising by requiring $(X, \hat{r}^z)$ to be a solution of the braid equation [2, 3, 31, 6]. Let

$$(r^z \times \text{id})(\text{id} \times \hat{r}^z)(\hat{r}^z \times \text{id})(\eta, x, y) = (L_1, L_2, L_3),$$

$$(\text{id} \times r^z)(\hat{r}^z \times \text{id})(\text{id} \times \hat{r}^z)(\eta, x, y) = (R_1, R_2, R_3),$$

where, after employing expression (1.1) we identify:

$$L_1 = \sigma^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\sigma^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(y)), \quad L_2 = \tau^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\sigma^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(x)), \quad L_3 = \tau^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(\sigma^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(\eta)),$$

$$R_1 = \sigma^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\eta), \quad R_1 = \sigma^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\tau^z_y(\eta)), \quad R_3 = \tau^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(\tau^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\eta)).$$

And by requiring $L_i = R_i, i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, we obtain the following fundamental constraints for the associated maps:

$$\sigma^z_{\eta}(\sigma^z_{x}(y)) = \sigma^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\sigma^z_{\tau^z_y(\eta)}(y)),$$

(1.4)

$$\tau^z_{y}(\tau^z_{\eta}) = \tau^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\tau^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\eta)),$$

(1.5)

$$\tau^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\sigma^z_{\eta}(x)) = \sigma^z_{\sigma^z_x(\eta)}(\tau^z_{\eta}(x)).$$

(1.6)

Note that the constraints above are the ones of the set-theoretic solution (1.2), given that $z$ is a fixed element of the set, that is, for different elements $z$ we obtain in principle distinct solutions of the braid equation.

We review now the basic definitions of the algebraic structures that provide set-theoretic solutions of the braid equation, such as left skew braces and braces. We also present some key properties associated to these structures that will be useful when formulating some of the main findings of this study, summarized in Section 2.

**Definition 1.1** [14, 31, 6]. A left skew brace is a set $B$ together with two group operations $+, \circ : B \times B \rightarrow B$, the first is called addition and the second is called multiplication, such that for all $a, b, c \in B$,

$$a \circ (b + c) = a \circ b - a + a \circ c.$$

(1.7)

If $+$ is an abelian group operation $B$ is called a left brace. Moreover, if $B$ is a left skew brace and for all $a, b, c \in B \quad (b + c) \circ a = b \circ a - a + c \circ a$, then $B$ is called a skew brace. Analogously, if $+$ is abelian and $B$ is a skew brace, then $B$ is called a brace.
Remark 1.2. In the literature often left brace is just called a brace and left skew brace is called a skew brace. In that case various authors call skew braces two-sided skew braces.

The additive identity of a left skew brace \( B \) will be denoted by 0 and the multiplicative identity by 1. In every left skew brace, \( 0 = 1 \). Indeed, this is easy to show:

\[
a \circ b = a \circ (b + 0) \Rightarrow a \circ b = a \circ b - a + a \circ 0 \Rightarrow a \circ 0 = a \Rightarrow 0 = 1.
\]

The two theorems that follow concern the case where the parameter \( z = 1 \). Rump showed the following theorem for involutive set-theoretic solutions.

**Theorem 1.3** (Rump’s theorem [31, 6]). Assume \((B, +, \circ)\) is a left brace. If the map \( \tilde{r}_B : B \times B \to B \times B \) is defined as \( \tilde{r}_B(x, y) = (\sigma_x(y), \tau_y(x)) \), where \( \sigma_x(y) = x \circ y - x, \tau_y(x) = t \circ x - t \), and \( t \) is the inverse of \( \sigma_x(y) \) in the circle group \((B, \circ)\), then \((B, \tilde{r}_B)\) is an involutive, nondegenerate solution of the braid equation.

Conversely, if \((X, \tilde{r})\) is an involutive, nondegenerate solution of the braid equation, then there exists a left brace \((B, +, \circ)\) (called an underlying brace of the solution \((X, \tilde{r})\)) such that \( B \) contains \( X \), \( \tilde{r}_B(X \times X) \subseteq X \times X \), and the map \( \tilde{r} \) is equal to the restriction of \( \tilde{r}_B \) to \( X \times X \). Both the additive \((B, +)\) and multiplicative \((B, \circ)\) groups of the left brace \((B, +, \circ)\) are generated by \( X \).

**Remark 1.4** (Rump). Let \((N, +, \cdot)\) be an associative ring. If for \( a, b \in N \) we define

\[
a \circ b = a \cdot b + a + b,
\]

then \((N, +, \circ)\) is a brace if and only if \((N, +, \cdot)\) is a radical ring.

Guarnieri and Vendramin [7] generalized Rump’s result to left skew braces and nondegenerate, noninvolutive solutions.

**Theorem 1.5** (Theorem [7]). Let \( B \) be a left skew brace, then the map \( \tilde{r}_{GV} : B \times B \to B \times B \) given for all \( a, b \in B \) by

\[
\tilde{r}_{GV}(a, b) = (-a + a \circ b, (-a + a \circ b)^{-1} \circ a \circ b)
\]

is a nondegenerate solution of set-theoretic YBE.

## 2 | Set-theoretic Solutions of the YBE and Near Brace

In this section, starting from a generic \( z \)-parametric set-theoretic solution of the YBE [1] we reconstruct the underlying algebraic structure, which is similar to a skew brace. Indeed, we introduce in what follows suitable algebraic structures that satisfy the fundamental constraints (1.4)–(1.6), that is, provide solutions of the braid equation and generalize the findings of Rump and Guarnieri and Vendramin. The following generalizations are greatly inspired by recent results in [1].

For the rest of the subsection, we consider \( X \) to be a set with an arbitrary group operation \( \circ : X \times X \to X \), with a neutral element \( 1 \in X \) and an inverse \( x^{-1} \in X \), for all \( x \in X \). There also exists a family of bijective functions indexed by \( X \), \( \sigma^z_x : X \to X \), such that \( y \mapsto \sigma^z_x(y) \), where \( z \in X \) is
some fixed parameter. We then define another binary operation $+: X \times X \to X$, such that

$$y + x := x \circ \sigma_{x^{-1}}(y \circ z) \circ z^{-1}. \quad (2.1)$$

For convenience, we will omit henceforth the fixed $z \in X$ in $\sigma_{x}(y)$ and simply write $\sigma_{x}(y)$.

**Remark 2.1.** The operation $+$ is associative if and only if for all $x, y, c \in X$,

$$\sigma_{c^{-1}}(y \circ z^{-1} \circ \sigma_{z} \circ y^{-1}(x)) = \sigma_{c^{-1}}(y) \circ z^{-1} \circ \sigma_{c \circ \sigma_{c^{-1}}(y) \circ z^{-1}}^{-1}(x). \quad (2.2)$$

From now on, we will assume that the operation $+$ is associative, that is condition (2.2) holds.

Also, we recall that we focus only on nondegenerate, invertible solutions $\hat{r}$. Given that $\sigma_{x}$ and $\tau_{y}$ are bijections the inverse maps also exist such that

$$\sigma_{x^{-1}}(\sigma_{x}(y)) = y, \quad \tau_{y^{-1}}(\tau_{y}(x)) = x. \quad (2.3)$$

Let the inverse $\hat{r}^{-1}(x, y) = (\hat{\sigma}_{x}(y), \hat{\tau}_{y}(x))$ exist with $\hat{\sigma}_{x}, \hat{\tau}_{y}$ being also bijections, that satisfy:

$$\sigma_{\hat{\sigma}_{x}(y)}(\hat{\tau}_{y}(x)) = x = \hat{\sigma}_{\sigma_{x}(y)}(\tau_{y}(x)), \quad \tau_{\hat{\tau}_{y}(x)}(\hat{\sigma}_{x}(y)) = y = \hat{\tau}_{\tau_{y}(x)}(\sigma_{x}(y)). \quad (2.4)$$

Taking also into consideration (2.3) and (2.4) and that $\sigma_{x}, \tau_{y}$ and $\hat{\sigma}_{x}, \hat{\tau}_{y}$ are bijections, we deduce:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\sigma_{x}(y)}^{-1}(x) = \tau_{y}(x), \quad \hat{\tau}_{\tau_{y}(x)}^{-1}(y) = \sigma_{x}(y). \quad (2.5)$$

We assume that the map $\hat{\sigma}$ appearing in the inverse matrix $\hat{r}^{-1}$ has the general form

$$\hat{\sigma}_{x}(y) := x \circ (x^{-1} \circ z + y \circ z_{1}) \circ \xi, \quad (2.6)$$

where the parameters $z_{1,2}, \xi$ are to be identified. The derivation of $\hat{r}$ goes hand in hand with the derivations of $\hat{r}^{-1}$ (see details in [1] and later in the text when deriving a generic $\hat{r}$ and its inverse). In the involutive case the two maps coincide and $x + y = y + x$. However, for any non-degenerate, noninvolutivesolution both bijective maps $\sigma_{x}, \hat{\sigma}_{x}$ should be considered together with the fundamental conditions (2.4).

We present below a series of useful lemmas that will lead to one of our main theorems.

**Remark 2.2.** This is just a reminder of a well-known fact. We recall that $\sigma_{x}$ is a bijective function. Recalling also definition (2.1):

$$\sigma_{x}(y_{1}) = \sigma_{x}(y_{2}) \Leftrightarrow y_{1} \circ z^{-1} + x^{-1} = y_{2} \circ z^{-1} + x^{-1}, \quad (2.7)$$

which implies right cancellation of $+$. Similarly $\hat{\sigma}_{x}$ is a bijective function and this leads to left cancellation.

**Lemma 2.3.** For all $x \in X$, the operations $+x$, $x+$ : $X \to X$ are bijections.

**Proof.** Let $y_{1}, y_{2} \in X$ be such that $y_{1} + x = y_{2} + x$, then

$$x \circ \sigma_{x^{-1}}(y_{1} \circ z) \circ z^{-1} = x \circ \sigma_{x^{-1}}(y_{2} \circ z) \circ z^{-1} \Rightarrow \sigma_{x^{-1}}(y_{1} \circ z) = \sigma_{x^{-1}}(y_{2} \circ z),$$
as \( \circ \) is a group operation and \( \sigma_{x^{-1}} \) is injective, we get that \( y_1 = y_2 \) and \( +x \) is injective for any \( x \in X \). From the surjectivity, we observe that as \( \sigma_{x^{-1}} \) is bijective, we can consider \( d = \sigma_{x^{-1}}^{-1}(x^{-1} \circ c \circ z) \circ z^{-1} \), one can easily see that \( d + x = c \), and as \( c \) is arbitrary we get that \( +x \) is a surjection. Thus, \( +x \) is a bijection. Similarly, from the bijectivity of \( \hat{\sigma}_x \) and (2.6) we show that \( +x \) is also a bijection. \( \square \)

We now introduce the notion of neutral elements in \((X, +)\)

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \((X, +)\) be a semigroup, then for all \( x \in X \) there exists \( 0_x \in X \) such that \( 0_x + x = x \). Moreover, for all \( x, y \in X \), \( 0_x = 0_y = 0 \), that is, \( 0 \) is the unique left neutral element. The left neutral element \( 0 \) is also right neutral element.

**Proof.** Notice that due to bijectivity of \( \sigma_x \), we can consider the element

\[
0_x := \sigma^{-1}_{x^{-1}}(z) \circ z^{-1} \in X,
\]

recall also the definition of \( + \) in (2.1), then simple computation shows:

\[
0_x + x = x \circ \sigma_{x^{-1}}(\sigma^{-1}_{x^{-1}}(z)) \circ z^{-1} = x \circ z \circ z^{-1} = x.
\]

(2.8)

We have

\[
0_x + x = x \Rightarrow 0_x + x + y = x + y,
\]

but also

\[
0_x + 0 + y = x + y.
\]

The last two equations lead to \( 0_x + x + y = 0_x + y + x + y \), and due Lemma 2.3 right cancellation holds, so we get that \( 0_x = 0_x + y \) for all \( y \in X \). Observe that by Lemma 2.3, \( x + \) is a surjection, that is for all \( w \in X \) exists \( y \in X \) such that \( x + y = w \), that is \( 0 := 0_x = 0_w \) for all \( w \in X \).

Moreover, \( 0 + y = y \Rightarrow x + 0 + y = x + y \) and due to associativity and right cancellativity (Lemma 2.3) we get \( x + 0 = x \), for all \( x \in X \). \( \square \)

**Lemma 2.5.** Let \( 0 \) be the neutral element in \((X, +)\), then for all \( x \in X \) there exists \(-x \in X \), such that \(-x + x = 0 \) (left inverse). Moreover, \(-x \in X \) is a right inverse, that is, \( x + (-x) = 0 \forall x \in X \). That is \((X, +, 0)\) is a group.

**Proof.** Observe that due to bijectivity of \( \sigma_x \), we consider the element

\[
-x := \sigma^{-1}_{x^{-1}}(x^{-1} \circ 0 \circ z) \circ z^{-1} \in X.
\]

(2.9)

Simple computation shows it is a left inverse,

\[
-x + x = x \circ \sigma_{x^{-1}}(\sigma^{-1}_{x^{-1}}(x^{-1} \circ 0 \circ z) \circ z^{-1} \circ z) \circ z^{-1} = 0.
\]

By associativity we deduce that \( x + (-x) + x = 0 + x \), we get that \( x + (-x) = 0 \), and \(-x \) is the inverse. \( \square \)

To conclude, having only assumed associativity in \((2.1)\) we deduced that \((X, +)\) is a group. We may now present our main findings described in the following central theorem.
Theorem 2.6. Let \((X, \circ)\) be a group and \(\tilde{r}: X \times X \to X \times X\) be such that \(\tilde{r}(x, y) = (\sigma_x(y), \tau_x(y))\) is a nondegenerate solution of the set-theoretic braid equation. Moreover, we assume that:

(A) the pair \((X, +)\) (+ is defined in (2.1)) is a group;
(B) there exists \(\phi: X \to X\) such that for all \(a, b, c \in X\) \(a \circ (b + c) = a \circ b + \phi(a) + a \circ c\);
(C) for \(h \in \{z, \xi\} \in X\) appearing in \(\sigma_x(y)\) and \(\hat{\sigma}_x(y)\) there exist \(\hat{\phi}: X \to X\) such that for all \(a, b \in X\)

\[(a + b) \circ h = a \circ h + \hat{\phi}(h) + b \circ h;\]

(D) the neutral element 0 of \((X, +)\) has a left and right distributivity.

Then for all \(a, b, c \in X\), the following statements hold.

(1) \(\phi(a) = -a \circ 0\) and \(\hat{\phi}(h) = -0 \circ h\).
(2) \(\sigma_a(b) = (a \circ b \circ z^{-1} - a \circ 0 + 1) \circ z = a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ z + z\).
(3) \(a - a \circ 0 = 1\) and (i) \(0 \circ 0 = -1\) (ii) \(1 + 1 = 0^{-1}\).
(4) If \(z_2 \circ \xi = 0^{-1}\), \(0 \circ \xi = z_1 \circ \xi = z^{-1} \circ 0^{-1}\), then (i) \(\hat{\sigma}_a(b) \circ \hat{\tau}_b(a) = a \circ b = \sigma_a(b) \circ \tau_b(a)\) (ii)

\[-a \circ 0 + a = 1.\]

Proof.

(1) In the following, the distributivity rule \(a \circ (b + c) = a \circ b + \phi(a) + a \circ c\) holds, then

\[a = a \circ (0 + 1) = a \circ 0 + \phi(a) + a \circ 1 \Rightarrow \phi(a) = -a \circ 0,\]

Also, for those \(z \in X\) such that \((a + b) \circ z = a \circ z + \hat{\phi}(z) + b \circ z\) we have

\[z = (0 + 1) \circ z = 0 \circ z + \hat{\phi}(z) + z \Rightarrow \hat{\phi}(z) = -0 \circ z.\]

(2) Using the distributivity rule, we obtain

\[\sigma_a(b) = (a \circ b \circ z^{-1} - a \circ 0 + 1) \circ z.\]  

Before we move on with the rest of the proof, it is useful to calculate \((-a) \circ z\), indeed:

\[0 \circ z = (a - a) \circ z \Rightarrow 0 \circ z = a \circ z - 0 \circ z + (-a) \circ z\]

\[\Rightarrow (-a) \circ z = 0 \circ z - a \circ z + 0 \circ z.\]  

The latter then leads to the following convenient identity (see also [1] and Lemma 2.9 later in the text)

\[(a - b + c) \circ z = a \circ z - b \circ z + c \circ z,\]

and hence (2.10) becomes \(\sigma_a(b) = a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ z + z\).

(3) Due to the fact that \(\tilde{r}\) satisfies the braid equation we may employ (1.4) and the general distributivity rule (see also (2.10)):

\[\sigma_a(\sigma_b(c)) = (a \circ \sigma_b(c) \circ z^{-1} - a \circ 0 + 1) \circ z\]

\[= (a \circ b(c \circ z^{-1} + b^{-1}) \circ z \circ z^{-1} - a \circ 0 + 1) \circ z\]

\[= (a \circ b \circ c \circ z^{-1} - a \circ b \circ 0 + a - a \circ 0 + 1) \circ z.\]
But due to condition (1.4) and by setting $c = 0 \circ z$, we deduce that $a - a \circ 0 = \zeta$, for all $a \in X$ ($\zeta$ is a fixed element in $X$), but for $a = 1$ we immediately obtain $\zeta = 1$, that is,

\begin{equation}
 a - a \circ 0 = 1.
 \end{equation}

(i) By setting $a = 0$ in (2.12) we have $0 \circ 0 = -1$.

(ii) $0 \circ (1 + 1) = 0 \circ 1 - 0 \circ 0 + 0 \circ 1 \Rightarrow 0 \circ (1 + 1) = 1 \Rightarrow 1 + 1 = 0^{-1}$.

(4) For the following, we set $z_2 \circ \xi = 0^{-1}$, $0 \circ \xi = z_1 \circ \xi = z^{-1} \circ 0^{-1}$.

(i) Recall the form of $\hat{\sigma}_a(b)$ (2.6), and use the distributivity rules, then

\begin{equation}
\hat{\sigma}_a(b) = z_2 \circ \xi - a \circ 0 \circ \xi + a \circ b \circ z_1 \circ \xi.
\end{equation}

Similarly, $\hat{\sigma}(a) \circ (\tau_b(a) \circ c) = a \circ c$ and due to the form of (1.5) we conclude

\begin{equation}
\tau_c(\tau_b(a)) = \tau_b(a)^{-1} \circ \sigma_a(b)^{-1} \circ a \circ b \circ c
\end{equation}

and due to the form of (1.5) we conclude

\begin{equation}
\sigma_a(b) \circ \sigma(\tau_b(a)) = \sigma_a(\sigma(b) \circ \tau_c(a)) \circ (\sigma_\tau(b)(a) \circ \tau_c(b)).
\end{equation}

We focus on

\begin{equation}
\sigma_a(b) \circ \sigma(\tau_b(a)) = \sigma_a(b) \circ (\tau_b(a) \circ c \circ z^{-1} - \tau_b(a) \circ 0 + 1) \circ z
= (a \circ b \circ c \circ z^{-1} - a \circ b \circ 0 + \sigma_a(b)) \circ z
= (a \circ b \circ c \circ z^{-1} - a \circ b \circ 0 + a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ z + z) \circ z.
\end{equation}

Taking into consideration the form of (2.14) and (2.15) and the fact that $b \circ c = \sigma_c(c) \circ \tau_c(b)$, we conclude that $\forall a \in X, -a \circ 0 + a = \hat{\xi}$, where $\hat{\xi} \in X$ is a fixed element, and for $a = 1$ we deduce that $\hat{\xi} = 1$, that is, $-a \circ 0 + a = 1$.

Remark 2.7. Due to $a - a \circ 0 = -a \circ 0 + a = 1$, $\forall a \in B$, we deduce that $a + 1 = 1 + a$, for all $a \in B$. 

We call the algebraic construction deduced in Theorem 2.6 a near brace, in analogy to near rings, specifically:

**Definition 2.8.** A near brace is a set $B$ together with two group operations $+, \circ : B \times B \to B$, the first is called addition and the second is called multiplication, such that for all $a, b, c \in B$,

$$a \circ (b + c) = a \circ b - a \circ 0 + a \circ c. \quad (2.16)$$

We denote by 0 the neutral element of the $(B, +)$ group and by 1 the neutral element of the $(B, \circ)$ group. We say that a near brace $B$ is an abelian near brace if $+$ is abelian.

We say that a near brace $B$ is a singular near brace if for all $a \in B$, $a - a \circ 0 = -a \circ 0 + a = 1$. Near braces will be particularly useful in the next subsection, where we introduce a method of finding solutions depending on multiple parameters.

In the special case where $0 = 1$, we recover a skew brace. We also show below some useful properties for near braces.

**Lemma 2.9** [1]. Let $(B, +, \circ)$ be a near brace, then

1. $a \circ (-b) = a \circ 0 - a \circ b + a \circ 0$.
2. Condition (2.16) is equivalent to the following condition:

$$\forall a, b, c, d \in B \ a \circ (b - c + d) = a \circ b - a \circ c + a \circ d. \quad (2.17)$$

**Proof.**

1. $a \circ (b - b) = a \circ 0 \Rightarrow a \circ b - a \circ 0 + a \circ (-b) = a \circ 0$, which leads to $a \circ (-b) = a \circ 0 - a \circ b + a \circ 0$.
2. Let (2.16) hold then

$$a \circ (b - c + d) = a \circ (b - c) - a \circ 0 + a \circ d$$

$$= a \circ b - a \circ 0 + a \circ 0 - a \circ c + a \circ 0 - a \circ 0 + a \circ d$$

$$= a \circ b - a \circ c + a \circ d. \quad (2.17)$$

Conversely, let $a \circ (b - c + d) = a \circ b - a \circ c + a \circ d$ hold, then

$$a \circ (b + c) = a \circ (b - 0 + c) = a \circ b - a \circ 0 + a \circ c. \quad (2.18)$$

**Example 2.10.** Let $(B, \circ)$ be a group with neutral element 1 and define $a + b := a \circ \kappa^{-1} \circ b$, where $1 \neq \kappa \in B$ is an element of the center of $(B, \circ)$. Then $(B, +, \circ)$ is a singular near brace with neutral element $0 = \kappa$, and we call it the trivial near brace †.

† We are indebted to Paola Stefanelli for sharing this example with us.
Example 2.11. Let us consider the following near-truss introduced in [32, p. 710]:

\[ Q(O(i)) = \left\{ \frac{m}{2p+1} + \frac{n}{2q+1} i \mid p, q \in \mathbb{Z}, m+n \text{ is an odd integer} \right\} \subset \mathbb{C}. \]

Then \( Q(O(i)) \) together with operations \( a + i b = a - i + b \) and \( a \circ b = a \cdot b \) forms a near brace, where +, · are addition and multiplication of complex numbers, respectively.

Definition 2.12. Let \( (B, +, \circ) \) and \( (S, +, \circ) \) be near braces. We say that \( f : B \to S \) is a near brace morphism if for all \( a, b \in B \),

\[ f(a + b) = f(a) + f(b) \quad \& \quad f(a \circ b) = f(a) \circ f(b). \]

Lemma 2.13. Let \( f : X \to X \) be a map, such that for all \( a, b \in X \) \( f(a \circ b - a \circ z + z) = f(a) \circ f(b) - f(a) \circ 0 \circ z + z, \) and there is \( e \in X, \) \( f(e) = 1. \) If such a map \( f \) exists, then \( 0 = 1. \)

Proof. We assume that such map \( f : X \to X \) exists. Then for all \( a \in X, \)

\[ f(z) = f(a \circ z - a \circ z + z) = f(a) \circ f(z) - f(a) \circ 0 \circ z + z, \]

and by setting \( a = e, \) \( f(e) = 1: \)

\[ f(z) = f(z) - 0 \circ z + z \Rightarrow 0 \circ z = z \Rightarrow 0 = 1, \]

where the last implication follows from the fact that \( z \) is invertible.

Remark 2.14. Observe that as every bijection is surjective, the preceding lemma states that if \( \sigma'_a(b) := a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ z + z \) gives a solution of YBE, it is isomorphic to the solution given by \( \sigma_a(b) := a \circ b - a \circ z + z \) if \( 0 = 1, \) that is near skew brace is a left skew brace.

Corollary 2.15. Let \( B \) be near brace. Then by the Lemma 2.9(2), the triple \( T(B) := (B, [-, -, -], \circ) \), where for all \( a, b, c \in B, [a, b, c] := a - b + c, \) is a near-truss such that \( (B, \circ) \) is a group. Thus, the triple \( (B, +, \circ) \), where \( a +_1 b := a - 1 + b \) for all \( a, b \in B, \) is a left skew brace. That is, the near brace \( T(B) \) and the left skew brace \( (B, +_1, \circ) \) are isomorphic as near-trusses.

Lemma 2.16. Let \( (X, +, \circ) \) be a near brace and \( z, w \in X \) satisfy the right distributivity. Consider also the maps \( \sigma, \sigma' : X \times X \to X \) such that \( \sigma_a(b) = a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ z + z \) and \( \sigma'_a(b) = a \circ b - a \circ 0 \circ w + w. \) If \( \sigma_a(b) = \sigma'_a(b) \) then \( z^{-1} \circ w - 1 = w - z. \)

Proof. The proof is straightforward by setting \( a = z^{-1} \circ 0^{-1} \) in both \( \sigma_a(b) \) and \( \sigma'_a(b). \)

2.1 Generalized bijective maps and solutions of the braid equation

Inspired by the findings of the preceding section, we introduce below more general, multi-parametric bijective maps \( \sigma^p_a, \tau^p_b \) (\( p \) stands for parametric) that provide solutions of the set-theoretic braid equation.
Proposition 2.17. Let \((B, +, \circ)\) be a near brace and let us denote \(\sigma^p_a(b) := a \circ b \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2\) and \(\tau^p_b(a) := \sigma^p_a(b)^{-1} \circ a \circ b\), where \(a, b \in B\), and \(h \in \{\xi, z_i\} \in B, i \in \{1, 2\}\) are fixed parameters, such that there exist \(c_1, c_2 \in B\) such that for all \(a, b, c \in B\), \((a - b + c) \circ h = a \circ h - b \circ h + c \circ h, a \circ z_2 \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi = c_1\) and \(-a \circ \xi + a \circ z_1 \circ z_2 = c_2\).

Then for all \(a, b, c \in B\), the following properties hold.

1. \(\sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(a) = a \circ b\).
2. \(\sigma^p_a(\sigma^p_b(c)) = a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 \circ z_1 - a \circ b \circ \xi \circ z_1 + c_1 + z_2\).
3. \(\sigma^p_a(b) \circ \sigma^p_{\tau^p_b(a)}(c) = a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 \circ z_2 - a \circ \xi \circ z_2 + z_2 \circ z_2\).

Proof. Let \(a, b, c \in B\), then:

1. \(\sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(a) = \sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_a(b)^{-1} \circ a \circ b = a \circ b\).
2. To show condition (2), we recall that \(a \circ z_2 \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi = c_1\). Then,

\[
\begin{align*}
\sigma^p_a(\sigma^p_b(c)) &= \sigma^p_a(b \circ c \circ z_1 - b \circ \xi + z_2) \\
&= a \circ (b \circ c \circ z_1 - b \circ \xi + z_2) \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2 \\
&= a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 \circ z_1 - a \circ b \circ \xi \circ z_1 + a \circ z_2 \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2 \\
&= a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 \circ z_1 - a \circ b \circ \xi \circ z_1 + c_1 + z_2.
\end{align*}
\]

3. To show condition (3), we use (1) and \(-a \circ \xi + a \circ z_1 \circ z_2 = c_2\).

\[
\begin{align*}
\sigma^p_a(b) \circ \sigma^p_{\tau^p_b(a)}(c) &= \sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(a) \circ c \circ z_1 - \tau^p_b(a) \circ \xi + z_2) \\
&= \sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(b) \circ c \circ z_1 - \sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(b) \circ \xi + \sigma^p_a(b) \circ z_2 \\
&= a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 - a \circ b \circ \xi + \sigma^p_a(b) \circ z_2 \\
&= a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 - a \circ b \circ \xi + (a \circ b \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2) \circ z_2 \\
&= a \circ b \circ c \circ z_1 + c_2 - a \circ \xi \circ z_2 + z_2 \circ z_2.
\end{align*}
\]

Example 2.18. A simple example of the above generic maps is the case where \(z_1 \circ z_2 = \xi \circ 0 = z_2 \circ z_1\), then \(c_1 = c_2 = 1\).

Having showed the fundamental properties above we may now proceed in proving the following theorem.

Theorem 2.19. Let \((B, +, \circ)\) be a near brace and \(z \in B\) such that there exist \(c_1, c_2 \in B\) such that for all \(a, b, c \in B\), \((a - b + c) \circ z_i = a \circ z_i - b \circ z_i + c \circ z_i, i \in \{1, 2\}\), \(a \circ z_2 \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi = c_1\) and \(-a \circ \xi + a \circ z_1 \circ z_2 = c_2\). We define a map \(\tilde{r} : B \times B \rightarrow B \times B\) given by

\[
\tilde{r}(a, b) = (\sigma^p_a(b), \tau^p_b(a)),
\]

where \(\sigma^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2, \tau^p_b(a) = \sigma^p_a(b)^{-1} \circ a \circ b\). The pair \((B, \tilde{r})\) is a solution of the braid equation.
Proof. To prove this we need to show that the maps \( \sigma, \tau \) satisfy the constraints (1.4)–(1.6). To achieve this we use the properties proven in Proposition 2.17.

Indeed, from Proposition 2.17(1) and (2), it follows that (1.4) is satisfied, that is,

\[
\sigma^p_\eta(\sigma^p_x(y)) = \sigma^p_\eta(\sigma^p_x(x)(\eta)(y)).
\]

We observe that

\[
\tau^p_b(\tau^p_a(\eta)) = T^p \circ \tau^p_a(\eta) \circ b = T^p \circ t^p \circ \eta \circ a \circ b = T^p \circ t^p \circ \eta \circ \sigma^p_a(b) \circ \tau^p_b(a),
\]

where \( T^p = \sigma^p_a(b)^{-1} \) and \( t^p = \sigma^p_a(a)^{-1} \) (the inverse in the circle group). Due to (1), (2), (3) of Proposition 2.17 we then conclude that

\[
\tau^p_b(\tau^p_a(\eta)) = \tau^p_b(\tau^p_a(\eta)(\tau^p_a(a)(\eta))).
\]

so (1.5) is also satisfied.

To prove (1.6), we employ (3), (1) of Proposition 2.17 and use the definition of \( \tau^p \),

\[
\sigma^p_{\tau^p_x(y)}(\tau^p_x(x)) = \sigma^p_{\sigma^p_x(\eta)}(\sigma^p_{\tau^p_x(y)}(x)) = \sigma^p_{\sigma^p_x(\eta)}(\eta)(\sigma^p_x(x)).
\]

Thus, (1.6) is satisfied, and \( \hat{r}(a, b) = (\sigma^p_a(b), \tau^p_b(a)) \) is a solution of the braid equation. \( \square \)

Lemma 2.20. Let \((B, +, \circ)\) be a near brace and \( z, w \in B \) satisfy the right distributivity. Consider also the multi-parametric maps \( \sigma^p, \sigma'_p : B \times B \to B \) as defined in Proposition 2.17, such that \( \sigma^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi + z_2 \) and \( \sigma'_p(b) = a \circ b \circ z_2 - a \circ \xi + z_1 \). If \( \sigma_a(b) = \sigma'_a(b) \), then \( 0 \circ z_1^{-1} \circ z_2 = z_2 - z_1 \).

Proof. The proof is straightforward by setting \( a = 0 \circ \xi^{-1} \) and \( b = \xi \circ z_1^{-1} \) in both \( \sigma'_a(b) \) and \( \sigma^p_a(b) \). \( \square \)

Remark 2.21. In the special case, where \( z_1 = 1 \) and \( \xi = z_2 = z \) we recover the \( \sigma^p_x(y), \tau^p_y(x) \) bijective maps and the \( \hat{r}_z \) solutions of the braid equation introduced in [1].

Example 2.22. We consider the brace \( Q(O(i)) \) from Example 2.11. Then, we can have, for instance, the following choice of parameters:

- \( z_1 = z_2 = i, \ c_1 = c_2 = i, \ \xi = -1, \) then \( \sigma^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ i + i, a, \)
- \( z_1 = i, \ z_2 = -i, \ c_1 = c_2 = i, \ \xi = 1, \) then \( \sigma^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ i - i, a, \)
- \( z_1 = 5, \ z_2 = 3, \ c_1 = c_2 = i, \ \xi = 15, \) then \( \sigma^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ 5 - 15 \circ a + i 3. \)

In the following proposition, we provide the explicit expressions of the inverse \( \hat{r} \)-matrices as well as the corresponding bijective maps.

Proposition 2.23. Let \( \hat{r}^*, \hat{r} : B \times B \to B \times B \) such that \( \hat{r}^* : (x, y) \mapsto (\sigma^p_x(y), \tau^p_y(x)), \hat{r} : (x, y) \mapsto (\sigma^p_x(y), \tau^p_x(x)) \) be solutions of the braid equation. Then the following statements hold.
(1) \( \tilde{r}^* = \tilde{r}^{-1} \) if and only if

\[
\sigma_p^p(\tau_y^p(x)) = x, \quad \tau_p^p(\sigma_x^p(y)) = y
\]

and

\[
\sigma_x^p(\tau_x^p(y)) = x, \quad \tau_x^p(\sigma_y^p(y)) = y. \tag{2.19}
\]

(2) Let \( \sigma_x^p(y) = x \circ y \circ z_1 - x \circ x \circ z_2, \quad \tau_x^p(x) = \sigma_x^p(x)^{-1} \circ x \circ y, \) and \( \xi, z_1 \in B \) be fixed elements, such that there exists \( c_1, c_2 \in B \) such that for all \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in B \),

\[
(\alpha - \beta + \gamma) \circ z_i = \alpha \circ z_i - \beta \circ z_i + \gamma \circ z_i,
\]

\[
\alpha \circ z_2 \circ z_1 - \alpha \circ x = c_1 \quad \text{and} \quad -\alpha \circ x + \alpha \circ z_1 \circ z_2 = c_2.
\]

Then \( \hat{\sigma}_x^p(y) = \hat{z}_2 - x \circ \hat{\xi} + x \circ y \circ \hat{z}_1 \), \( \hat{\tau}_x^p(x) = \sigma_x^p(y)^{-1} \circ x \circ y, \) and vice versa.

Proof. We prove the two parts of Proposition 2.23:

(1) If \( \tilde{r}^* = \tilde{r}^{-1} \), then \( \tilde{r} \tilde{r}^* = \tilde{r}^* \tilde{r} = \text{id} \) and

\[
\tilde{r} \tilde{r}^*(x, y) = (\sigma_p^{\sigma_p^p(\tau_x^p(y))}, \tau_p^{\tau_x^p(\sigma_x^p(y)))})
\]

Thus,

\[
\sigma_p^{\tau_x^p(\sigma_x^p(y))} = x, \quad \tau_p^{\sigma_x^p(y)} = y.
\]

And vice versa if \( \sigma_p^{\tau_x^p(\sigma_x^p(y))} = x, \quad \tau_x^p(\sigma_x^p(y)) = y, \) then it automatically follows that \( \tilde{r}^* = \tilde{r}^{-1} \).

Similarly, \( \tilde{r} \tilde{r}^*(x, y) = (x, y) \) leads to \( \sigma_x^p(\tau_y^p(x)) = x, \quad \tau_y^p(\sigma_x^p(y)) = y, \) and vice versa.

(2) For the second part of the proposition, it suffices to show (2.19). Indeed, we recall that that \( \hat{\xi} = \xi^{-1} \) and \( \hat{z}_{1,2} = z_{1,2} \circ \hat{\xi}^{-1} \), then

\[
\hat{\sigma}_x^p(\tau_x^p(y)) = \hat{z}_2 - \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \hat{\xi} + \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \tau_x^p(x) \circ \hat{z}_1
\]

\[
= \hat{z}_2 - \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \hat{\xi} + x \circ y \circ \hat{z}_2
\]

\[
= \hat{z}_2 - (x \circ y \circ z_1 - x \circ x \circ z_2) \circ \hat{\xi} + x \circ y \circ \hat{z}_1 = x.
\]

Also, \( \hat{\tau}_x^p(\sigma_x^p(y)) = x^{-1} \circ \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \tau_x^p(x) = y. \)

Similarly, we show

\[
\hat{\sigma}_x^p(\tau_x^p(x)) = \hat{\sigma}_x^p(y) \circ \hat{\tau}_x^p(x) \circ z_1 - \hat{\sigma}_x^p(y) \circ \hat{\xi} + z_2
\]

\[
= x \circ y \circ z_1 - (\hat{z}_2 - x \circ \hat{\xi} + x \circ y \circ \hat{z}_1) \circ \hat{\xi} + z_2 = x.
\]

And as above, we immediately deduce that \( \tau_x^p(\hat{\sigma}_x^p(y)) = y. \)

With this, we conclude our analysis on the general bijective maps coming from near braces and the corresponding solutions of the braid equation.
2.2 \textbf{p-Deformed braided groups and near braces}

Motivated by the definition of braided groups and braidings in [8] as well as the relevant work presented in [9], we provide a generic definition of the \( p \)-deformed braided group and braiding that contain extra fixed parameters, that is, for multi-parametric braidings (\( p \)-braidings).

\textbf{Definition 2.24.} Let \((G, \circ)\) be a group, \(m(x, y) = x \circ y\) and \(\tilde{r}\) is an invertible map \(\tilde{r} : G \times G \to G \times G\), such that for all \(x, y \in G\), \(\tilde{r}(x, y) = (\sigma_x^p(y), \tau_y^p(x))\), where \(\sigma_x^p, \tau_y^p\) are bijective maps in \(G\). The map \(\tilde{r}\) is called a \(p\)-braiding operator (and the group is called \(p\)-braided) if

\begin{enumerate} \item\(x \circ y = \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \tau_y^p(x)\); \item\((id \times m) \tilde{r}_1 \tilde{r}_2 (x, y, w) = (f_{x \circ y}^p(w), f_{x \circ y}^p(w)^{-1} \circ x \circ y \circ w);\item\((m \times id) \tilde{r}_2 \tilde{r}_1 (x, y, w) = (g_x^p(y \circ w), g_x^p(y \circ w)^{-1} \circ x \circ y \circ w)\end{enumerate}

for some bijections \(f_x^p, g_x^p : G \to G\), given for all \(x \in G\).

\textbf{Proposition 2.25.} Let \((G, \circ)\) be a group, and the invertible map \(\tilde{r} : G \times G \to G \times G, \tilde{r}(x, y) = (\sigma_x^p(y), \tau_y^p(x))\), be a \(p\)-braiding operator for the group \(G\). Then \(\tilde{r}\) is a nondegenerate solution of the braid equation.

\textbf{Proof.} We start from the left-hand side of condition (2) of Proposition 2.25

\((id \times m) \tilde{r}_1 \tilde{r}_2 (x, y, w) = (\sigma_x^p(\sigma_y^p(w)), \tau_y^p(\sigma_x^p(w)) \circ \tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(w))),\)

which leads to

\[\sigma_x^p(\sigma_y^p(w)) = f_{x \circ y}^p(w) = f_{x \circ y}^p(\sigma_y^p(w)) \circ \tau_y^p(\sigma_x^p(w)) = \sigma_x^p(\sigma_y^p(w)),\]

that is, the fundamental condition (1.4) is satisfied. Moreover, using condition (1) we show

\[\tau_y^p(\sigma_x^p(w)) \circ \tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)) = \sigma_x^p(\sigma_y^p(w))^{-1} \circ x \circ \sigma_y^p(w) \circ \sigma_y^p(w)^{-1} \circ y \circ w = f_{x \circ y}^p(w)^{-1} \circ x \circ y \circ w,\]

as expected compatible with condition (2) of Proposition 2.25.

Similarly, from the left-hand side of condition (3)

\[(m \times id) \tilde{r}_2 \tilde{r}_1 (x, y, w) = (\sigma_x^p(y) \circ \sigma_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)), \tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(w))));\]

The latter expression leads to

\[\sigma_x^p(\sigma_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)) = g_x^p(y \circ w). \tag{2.20}\]

Also, via condition (1)

\[\tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)) = \sigma_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)^{-1} \circ x \circ y \circ w = g_x^p(y \circ w)^{-1} \circ x \circ y \circ w,\]

\[= \tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(\tau_y^p(w)) \circ \tau_y^p(\tau_x^p(w)) \tag{2.21}\]

compatible with condition (3) of Proposition 2.25, and this shows condition (1.6).

Having shown properties (1.4) and (1.5) and taking into account that \(x \circ y = \sigma_x^p(y) \circ \tau_y^p(x),\) we also show condition (1.6), that is, we conclude that \(\tilde{r}\), as defined in Proposition 2.25, is a solution of the braid equation. \qed
Lemma 2.26. Let $B$ be a near brace, and consider the map $\tilde{r}: B \times B \rightarrow B \times B, \tilde{r}(x, y) = (\sigma^p_x(y), \tau^p_y(x))$ of Proposition 2.19. Then $\tilde{r}$ is a $p$-braiding.

Proof. The proof is straightforward via Proposition 2.17. Indeed, all the conditions of the $p$-braiding Definition 2.24 are satisfied and:

$$f^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ z_1 \circ z_1 - a \circ \xi \circ z_1 + z_2, \quad g^p_a(b) = a \circ b \circ z_1 + c_2 - a \circ \xi \circ z_2 + z_2 \circ z_2. \quad \square$$

With this we conclude our analysis on $p$-braidings and their connection to the YBE and the notion of the near braces. One of the fundamental open problems in this frame and a natural next step is the solution of the set-theoretic reflection equation for this new class of solutions of the set-theoretic YBE. We hope to address this problem and generalize the notion of the $p$-braiding to include the reflection equation, in the near future. Another key question, which we hope to tackle soon, is what the effect of nonassociativity in $(X, +)$ on the construction of the algebraic structures emerging from solutions of the set-theoretic YBE would be. This is quite a challenging problem, the analysis of which will yield yet more generalized classes of solutions of the YBE.

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