

Applications of subfactors and fusion categories to mathematical physics

UC Davis Mathematical Physics & Probability Seminar

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What is a subfactor?

Definition

A factor is a von Neumann algebra with trivial center.

A subfactor is an inclusion $A \subset B$ of factors.

- Our factors are type II_1 , which means they are infinite dimensional with a trace.

Remark

Von Neumann algebras come in pairs (M, M') .

Subfactors do too: $(A \subset B, B' \subset A')$.

Where do subfactors come from?

Some examples include:

- ▶ Groups – from $G \curvearrowright R$, we get $R^G \subset R$ and $R \subset R \rtimes_{\alpha} G$.
- ▶ finite dimensional unitary Hopf/Kac algebras
- ▶ Quantum groups – $\text{Rep}(\mathcal{U}_q(\mathfrak{g}))$
- ▶ Conformal field theory
- ▶ endomorphisms of Cuntz C^* -algebras
- ▶ tinkering with known subfactors (orbifolds, composites, ...)

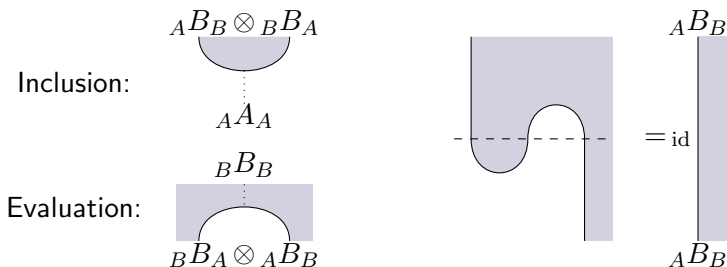
However, there are certain possible infinite families without uniform constructions.

Finite index and the standard representation

Definition

$A \subset B$ has finite index iff B is a finitely generated projective A -module.

The bimodule ${}_A B_B$ is the standard representation of $A \subset B$.
A finite index subfactor $A \subset B$ comes with canonical maps:



Since A, B are analytical objects, these maps also have adjoints.

The Temperley-Lieb algebras

Definition

The Temperley-Lieb algebra $TL_n(\delta)$ is the complex $*$ -algebra spanned by diagrams with n upper and lower boundary points, connected by non-crossing strings.

$$TL_3(\delta) = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \left\{ \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Three vertical lines} \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Two vertical lines with two cups at the top} \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Two vertical lines with two caps at the bottom} \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A crossing (X)} \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A cup and cap} \\ \hline \end{array} \right\}.$$

- Multiplication is stacking of diagrams, but we trade closed loops for multiplicative factors of δ :

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A crossing (X)} \\ \hline \end{array} \cdot \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A cup and cap} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A cup and cap with a dashed line through the middle} \\ \hline \end{array} = \delta \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Two vertical lines with two cups at the top} \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

- The involution $*$ is given by vertical reflection:

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A crossing (X)} \\ \hline \end{array}^* = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{A cup and cap} \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

Jones' index rigidity theorem

- ▶ The trace is given by capping off on the right

$$\mathrm{Tr}_n = \left(\text{diagram of a box with a cap and a cup} \right) : TL_n(\delta) \rightarrow TL_0(\delta) \cong \mathbb{C}$$

- ▶ There is a sesquilinear form given by $\langle x, y \rangle_n = \mathrm{Tr}_n(y^*x)$.

Theorem (Jones)

A finite index subfactor gives a positive-definite $*$ -representation of the Temperley-Lieb algebra $TL_n(\delta)$ for $\delta^2 = [B : A]$ and all $n \geq 0$. This is possible iff $\delta \in \{2 \cos(\pi/k) | k \geq 3\} \cup [2, \infty)$.

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Temperley-Lieb and braid groups, part 1

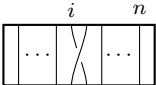
$TL_n(\delta)$ has generators $E_i = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & i & n \\ \hline \cdots & \text{cup} & \cdots \\ \hline \end{array}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, and relations

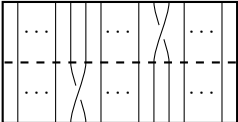
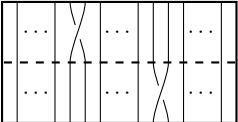
► $E_i^2 = \delta E_i = \delta E_i^*$,

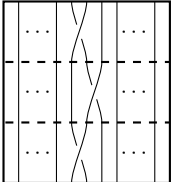
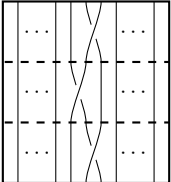
► $E_i E_j = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} = E_j E_i$ if $|i-j| > 1$

► $E_i E_{i\pm 1} E_i = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & i & n \\ \hline \cdots & \text{cup} & \cdots \\ \hline \end{array} = E_i.$

Temperley-Lieb and braid groups, part 2

The braid group B_n has generators $\sigma_i =$

for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, and relations

► $\sigma_i \sigma_j =$

 $=$

 $= \sigma_j \sigma_i$ for $|i-j| > 1$, and

► $\sigma_i \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i =$

 $=$

 $= \sigma_{i+1} \sigma_i \sigma_{i+1}$

Knots and braids

Given a link, we can always write it as the closure of a braid.

$$\text{Tr} \left(\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \right) = \text{trefoil knot}, \text{ a trefoil knot.}$$

We have an algebra homomorphism $\Phi : \mathbb{C}[B_n] \rightarrow TL_n(\delta)$ by

$$\Phi \left(\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \right) = iq^{1/2} \left| \begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \end{array} \right| - iq^{-1/2} \left| \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \right|$$

where $\delta = q + q^{-1}$.

The Jones polynomial/Kauffman bracket

To get the framed Jones polynomial or Kauffman bracket of a link ℓ , first write $\ell = \text{Tr}(b)$ for a braid b . Then

$$\langle \ell \rangle = \frac{1}{\delta} \text{Tr} \circ \Phi(b)$$

is independent of the choice of braid representing the knot.

Example

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \text{Diagram of a braid with two strands crossing twice} \right\rangle &= \frac{1}{q + q^{-1}} \left((iq^{1/2})^3 \left[\text{Diagram of two parallel vertical strands} \right] + 3(iq^{1/2})^2(-iq^{-1/2}) \left[\text{Diagram of two parallel vertical strands with a crossing} \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 3(iq^{1/2})(-iq^{-1/2})^2 \left[\text{Diagram of two parallel vertical strands with two crossings} \right] + (-iq^{-1/2})^3 \left[\text{Diagram of two parallel vertical strands with three crossings} \right] \right) \\ &= i(q^{-7/2} - q^{-3/2} - q^{5/2}) \end{aligned}$$

Rep($A \subset B$)

Definition

The representation 2-category of $A \subset B$ is given by

- (0) 0-morphisms: $\{A, B\}$
 - (1) 1-morphisms: bimodule summands of $\bigotimes_A^k B$ for some $k \geq 0$
 - (2) 2-morphisms: bimodule intertwiners
-
- ▶ This 2-category is semi-simple, unitary, rigid (duals are well behaved), pivotal, sometimes spherical (iff $A \subset B$ extremal).
 - ▶ The $A - A$ bimodules form a rigid C^* -tensor category called the 'principal even part'.
 - ▶ The $B - B$ bimodules form the 'dual even part'.
 - ▶ The principal even and dual even parts are Morita equivalent via the $A - B$ bimodules.

Subfactor/representation 2-category correspondence

Theorem (Popa [Pop94])

There is a Tannaka-Krein like duality between (strongly) amenable subfactors and their representation 2-categories.

Theorem (many authors)

Subfactors correspond to Frobenius algebra objects in rigid C^* -tensor categories.

Fusion categories

If there are only finitely many isomorphism classes of simple $A - A$ bimodules, the principal even part is a unitary fusion category.

- ▶ Subfactors are a vital source of interesting fusion categories.

Definition

A fusion category is a semisimple, rigid tensor category with finitely many isomorphism classes of simple objects.

Fact

An $X \in \mathcal{C}$ with quantum dimension δ gives a representation

$$TL_{\bullet}(\delta) \rightarrow \text{End}\left(\underbrace{X \otimes \overline{X} \otimes \cdots}_{n \text{ alternating copies}} \right).$$

If \mathcal{C} is unitary, the representation is positive definite.

Examples

Let G be a finite group.

Example

$\text{Rep}(G)$, category of finite dimensional \mathbb{C} -representations.

Example

$\text{Vec}(G, \omega)$, G -graded vector spaces, $\omega \in H^3(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)$.

- ▶ Simple objects $V_g \cong \mathbb{C}$ for each $g \in G$.
- ▶ $V_g \otimes V_h = V_{gh}$
- ▶ The 3-cocycle gives the associator natural isomorphism:

$$\alpha_{g,h,k} : (V_g \otimes V_h) \otimes V_k \xrightarrow{\omega_{g,h,k}} V_g \otimes (V_h \otimes V_k).$$

The pentagon axiom is exactly the 3-cocycle condition.

$\text{Rep}(R \subset R \rtimes G)$

Let G be a finite group. Build the subfactor $R \subset R \rtimes G$.

Example

The representation 2-category $\text{Rep}(R \subset R \rtimes G)$ has:

- ▶ principal even part $\text{Vec}(G, 1)$ ($R - R$ bimodules)
- ▶ dual even part $\text{Rep}(G)$ ($R \rtimes G - R \rtimes G$ bimodules)
- ▶ only one simple $R - R \rtimes G$ bimodule: $R \rtimes G$.

We see $\text{Vec}(G, 1)$ and $\text{Rep}(G)$ are Morita equivalent.

Fact

The subfactor $R \subset R \rtimes G$ corresponds to the algebra object $\mathbb{C}[G] \in \text{Vec}(G)$.

The Haagerup: an 'exotic' example

The Haagerup fusion category \mathcal{H} has 6 simple objects $1, g, g^2, X, gX, g^2X$ satisfying the following fusion rules:

- ▶ $\langle g \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/3$,
- ▶ $Xg \cong g^{-1}X$, and
- ▶ $X^2 \cong 1 \oplus X \oplus gX \oplus g^2X$ (the quadratic relation).

($\text{Vec}(\mathbb{Z}/3) \subset \mathcal{H}$ has trivial associator.)

The algebra object $1 \oplus X$ gives an 'exotic' subfactor with index

$$\frac{5 + \sqrt{13}}{2} \approx 4.30278.$$

\mathcal{H} has only been constructed by brute force.

- ▶ It appears \mathcal{H} belongs to an infinite family, but only examples up to $\mathbb{Z}/19$ have been constructed [EG11].

Braided fusion categories

Definition

A fusion category is braided if it has natural isomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{c} \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ X \quad Y \end{array} = c_{X,Y} : X \otimes Y \rightarrow Y \otimes X$$

satisfying the braid relations and a compatibility requirement.

Example

Vec is a symmetric braided fusion category, i.e., $c_{b,a} \circ c_{a,b} = \text{id}_{a \otimes b}$ for all $a, b \in \text{Vec}$.

Facts

If \mathcal{C} is braided, an $X \in \mathcal{C}$ gives a representation $B_n \rightarrow \text{End}(X^{\otimes n})$.

If \mathcal{C} is unitary, the representation is also.

If \mathcal{C} is symmetric, the representation factors through S_n .

Modular tensor categories

Definition

A modular tensor category is a braided spherical fusion category (and more axioms...) such that the S matrix $(S_{a,b})$ is invertible.

$$S_{a,b} = \text{Tr}(c_{b,a} \circ c_{a,b}) = \begin{array}{c} b \\ \text{ } \\ a \end{array} \left. \begin{array}{c} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array} \right] = \begin{array}{c} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{c} \text{ } \\ \text{ } \\ \text{ } \end{array}$$

Example

If \mathcal{C} is a spherical fusion category over \mathbb{C} , then the quantum double $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{C})$ is a modular tensor category. If \mathcal{C} is unitary, then so is $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{C})$.

Theorem (Bruillard-Ng-Rowell-Wang [BNRW13])

For a fixed n , there are only finitely many modular tensor categories with rank n .

- Rank finiteness not yet known for fusion categories.

Classification of fusion categories

Question (Hard!)

Can we classify all fusion categories with n objects for n small?

Examples

- ▶ Rank 2 was classified by Ostrik [Ost03]:
 - ▶ $\text{Vec}(\mathbb{Z}/2, \omega)$ for $\omega \in H^3(\mathbb{Z}/2, \mathbb{C}^\times)$
 - ▶ $\text{Fib} = \langle 1, \tau | \tau \otimes \tau \cong 1 \oplus \tau \rangle$ and Galois conjugate
- ▶ Rank 3 (pivotal) was classified by Ostrik [Ost13]:
 - ▶ $\text{Vec}(\mathbb{Z}/3, \omega)$ for $\omega \in H^3(\mathbb{Z}/3, \mathbb{C}^\times)$
 - ▶ $\text{Rep}(S_3)$ and twisted versions
 - ▶ Ising category (even part of \mathfrak{sl}_2 at 6th root of unity) and conjugates
 - ▶ even part of \mathfrak{sl}_2 at 7th root of unity and conjugates
 - ▶ even part of E_6 subfactor and conjugate
- ▶ Rank 4 (pseudo unitary) with a dual pair of objects $(1, X, Y, \overline{Y})$ was classified by Larson [Lar14].
 - ▶ New examples of Liu-Morrison-P [LMP14]

Topological quantum field theories (TQFTs)

Definition (Atiyah)

An n -dimensional TQFT is a symmetric monoidal functor

$$\left(\binom{n}{n-1} \text{Bord}, \Pi \right) \longrightarrow (\text{Vec}, \otimes)$$

Each $n - 1$ manifold is assigned a vector space, and each bordism is assigned a linear operator.

Examples for $n = 3$

- ▶ Turaev-Viro associated to a spherical fusion category
- ▶ Reshetikhin-Turaev associated to a modular tensor category

In fact, $TV(\mathcal{C}) \cong RT(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{C}))$.

Extended topological field theories

Definition

An $(n, n-1, \dots, d)$ -TFT is a symmetric monoidal functor

$$\begin{pmatrix} n \\ \vdots \\ d \end{pmatrix} \text{Bord} \longrightarrow (n-d) - \text{Vec}$$

for an appropriate choice of $n-d$ category $(n-d) - \text{Vec}$.

Examples

- ▶ Turaev-Viro is a $(3, 2, 1, 0)$ -TFT (fully extended)
- ▶ Reshetikhin-Turaev is a $(3, 2, 1)$ -TFT

The double construction relates these two.

Extended topological field theories

Definition

An $(n, n-1, \dots, d)$ -TFT is a symmetric monoidal functor

$$\begin{pmatrix} n \\ \vdots \\ d \end{pmatrix} \text{Bord} \longrightarrow (n-d) - \text{Vec}$$

for an appropriate choice of $n-d$ category $(n-d) - \text{Vec}$.

Examples

- ▶ $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ -TFTs \longleftrightarrow a dualizable object in a symmetric \otimes -category
- ▶ $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ -TFTs \longleftrightarrow fusion categories in 3-category of \otimes -categories
(recent work of Douglas-Schommer-Pries-Snyder [DSPS13])

Segal conformal field theory (CFT)

Definition (Segal)

A 2d-conformal field theory is a symmetric monoidal functor

$$\binom{2}{1} \text{ConfBord} \longrightarrow \text{Hilb}$$

This consists of:

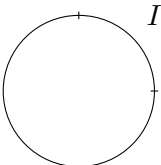
- ▶ a Hilbert space H_S assigned to each compact, connected oriented 1-manifold S
- ▶ a unitary $u_f : H_{S_1} \rightarrow H_{S_2}$ to every orientation preserving diffeomorphism $f : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$
(an anti-unitary for an orientation reversing diffeomorphism)
- ▶ a map $g_\Sigma : \bigotimes H_{S_{\text{in}}} \rightarrow \bigotimes H_{S_{\text{out}}'}$ to each cobordism Σ with a complex structure, where orientation is reversed for each S_{out} .

Conformal welding allows for gluing along diffeomorphisms.

Conformal nets (algebraic quantum field theory)

Definition

A conformal net is a functor from intervals $I \subset S^1$ to von Neumann algebras in $B(H)$,


$$\mapsto \mathcal{A}(I) \subset B(H),$$

satisfying axioms, like

- ▶ $I \subset J \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}(I) \subset \mathcal{A}(J)$
- ▶ locality: $I \cap J = \emptyset \Rightarrow [\mathcal{A}(I), \mathcal{A}(J)] = 0$.

The net is irreducible if each $\mathcal{A}(I)$ is a factor.

- ▶ Disjoint intervals give subfactors: $I \cap J = \emptyset \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}(I) \subset \mathcal{A}(J)'$.

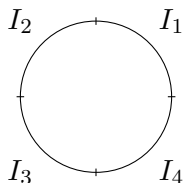
Modular tensor categories from conformal nets

Definition

A representation of the net \mathcal{A} is a family of representations $\pi_I : \mathcal{A}(I) \rightarrow B(K)$ for a fixed Hilbert space K , such that if $I \subset J$, then $\pi_J|_{\mathcal{A}(I)} = \pi_I$.

Theorem (Kawahigashi-Longo-Müger [KLM01])

Consider the partition of S^1 into 4 disjoint intervals:



If $\mathcal{A}(I_1 \cup I_3) \subset \mathcal{A}(I_2 \cup I_4)'$ has finite index, then $\text{Rep}(\mathcal{A})$ is a unitary modular tensor category.

Modular categories $\overset{?}{\longleftrightarrow}$ CFT

Conjecture (Kawahigashi)

The quantum double of every unitary fusion category arises as the representation category of some conformal net.

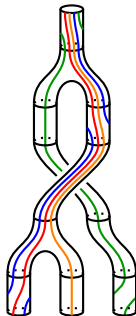
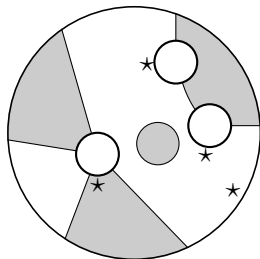
Conjecture (Evans-Gannon [EG11])

There should be a CFT realizing the double of the Haagerup fusion category. In particular, there should be a conformal subalgebra of the central charge $c = 8$ vertex operator algebra corresponding to the root lattice $E_6 \oplus A_2$.

- ▶ The modular data of the double of Haagerup is ‘graft’ of the double of S_3 and $\mathfrak{so}(13)_2$.
- ▶ They compute possible character vectors for the VOA, and show they have non-negative integral Fourier coefficients.

Work in progress: conformal planar algebras

- ▶ Subfactors and CFT are related via conformal nets.
- ▶ Tannaka-Krein duality $A \subset B \leftrightarrow \text{Rep}(A \subset B)$ (Popa)
- ▶ $\text{Rep}(A \subset B)$ axiomatized as a planar algebra (Jones)



- ▶ In joint work with Henriques and Tener, we expect a connection between genus zero Segal CFT (many-to-one genus zero Riemann surfaces) with topological defect strings and planar algebras.

Classifying small index subfactors

- ▶ To each finite group G , there is a dual pair of subfactors $R \subset R \rtimes G$ and $R^G \subset R$.

Thus, one cannot hope to classify all subfactors. We need to restrict our search space. One way to do this is to look at small index subfactors.

Recall:

The representation 2-category of $A \subset B$ is given by

- (0) 0-morphisms: $\{A, B\}$
- (1) 1-morphisms: bimodule summands of $\bigotimes_A^k B$ for some $k \geq 0$
- (2) 2-morphisms: bimodule intertwiners

Principal graphs

Definition

The principal (induction) graph Γ_+ has one vertex for each isomorphism class of simple ${}_A P_A$ and ${}_A Q_B$. There are

$$\dim(\mathrm{Hom}_{A-B}(P \otimes_A B, Q))$$

edges from P to Q .

The dual principal (restriction) graph Γ_- is defined similarly using $B - B$ and $B - A$ bimodules.


- ▶ Γ_{\pm} is pointed, where the base point is ${}_A A_A$, ${}_B B_B$ respectively.
- ▶ Duality is given by contragredient, which is always at the same depth, since B is a $*$ -algebra. However, duals at odd depths of Γ_{\pm} are on Γ_{\mp} .

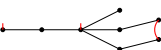
Supertransitivity

Definition

A principal graph is n -supertransitive if has an initial segment with n edges before branching.

Examples

►  is 1-supertransitive

►  is 2-supertransitive

►  is 3-supertransitive

Small index subfactor classification program

Steps of subfactor classifications:

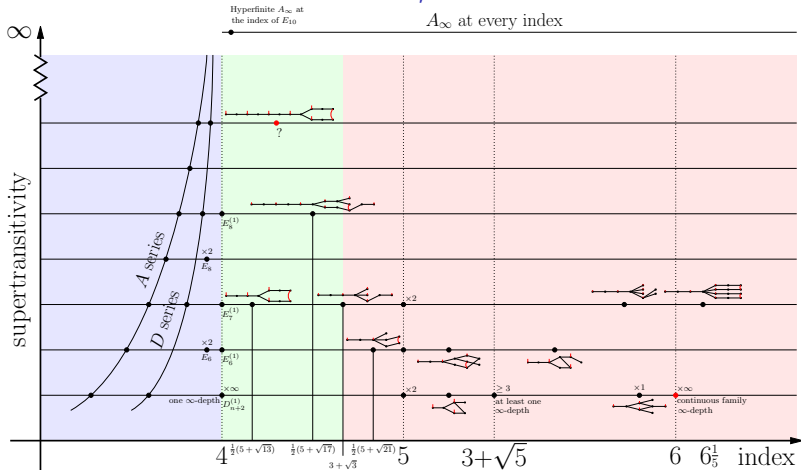
1. Enumerate graph pairs which survive obstructions.
2. Construct examples when graphs survive.

Fact (Popa [Pop94])

For a subfactor $A \subset B$, $[B : A] \geq \|\Gamma_+\|^2 = \|\Gamma_-\|^2$.

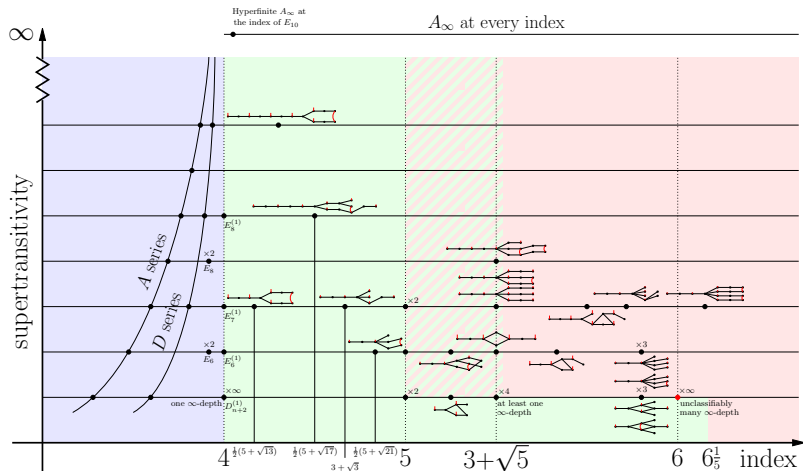
If we enumerate all graph pairs with norm at most r , we have found all principal graphs of subfactors with index at most r^2 .

Known small index subfactors, 2009



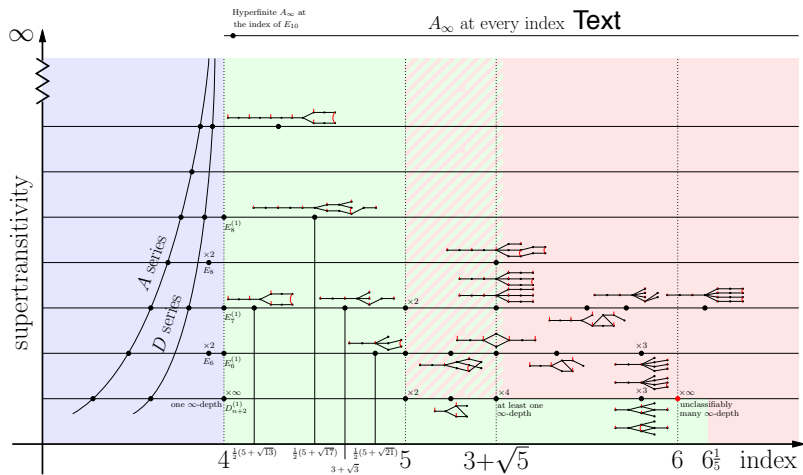
- ▶ Quantum groups and their quantum subgroups
- ▶ Composites
- ▶ Haagerup's exotic subfactor and classification to $3 + \sqrt{3}$
- ▶ Izumi's Cuntz algebra examples $(2221, 3^n)$

Known small index subfactors, today



- Classification to 5 [MS12, MPPS12, IJMS12, PT12, IMP⁺14]
- Examples at $3 + \sqrt{5}$ [MP13, PP13, IMP13, MP14]
- 1-supertransitive to $6\frac{1}{5}$ and examples at $3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ [LMP14]

Known small index subfactors, today



Theorem (Afzaly-Morrison-P)

We know all subfactor standard invariants up to index $5\frac{1}{4}$ (with at most finitely many exceptions).

Thank you for listening!

Slides available at

http:

[//www.math.ucla.edu/~dpenneys/PenneysUCDavis2014.pdf](http://www.math.ucla.edu/~dpenneys/PenneysUCDavis2014.pdf)



Paul Bruillard, Siu-Hung Ng, Eric C. Rowell, and Zhenghan Wang, *On modular categories*, 2013, arXiv:1310.7050.



Chris Douglas, Chris Schommer-Pries, and Noah Snyder, *Dualizable tensor categories*, 2013, arXiv:1312.7188.



David E. Evans and Terry Gannon, *The exoticness and realisability of twisted Haagerup-Izumi modular data*, Comm. Math. Phys. **307** (2011), no. 2, 463–512, arXiv:1006.1326 MR2837122
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