

Associative Algebra Approach
to
Irrational Conformal Field Theory

i.e. categorical methods for non-semisimple CFT

N. Read

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Rational Conformal Field Theory

(or VOA)

- def: ① finite no of irreps of a chiral alg,
and ② full decomposability of fusion products
(semisimplicity)

- fairly well understood

In irrational CFT, either ① or ② (or both)
fails.

Thus maybe infinite no of irreps of
(maximal, finitely-generated) chiral algebra

or reducible but indecomposable reps
of Virasoro or chiral algebra

- typically producing logarithms
in some correlators (Gurarie)

Here we aim to control these effects
using symmetry and algebraic methods.

Problems of interest:

Nonlinear sigma models with target supermanifold

e.g. $\frac{SU(m+n|n)}{S(U(1) \times U(m+n-1|n))}$

integer quantum Hall effect:

$$\frac{U(n, n|2n)}{U(n|n) \times U(n|n)} \quad \text{at } \theta = \pi$$

(Priskren, Zirnbauer)

spin quantum Hall effect:

$$\frac{OSp(2n|2n)}{U(n|n)} \quad \text{at } \theta = \pi,$$

$n=1$ is iso to $\frac{SU(2|1)}{S(U(1) \times U(1|1))}$ above
(Grossberg, Ludwig, NR)

Loop models inc percolation, polymers
(den Nijs, Nienhuis, Saleur-Duplantier, Cardy)

Quantum spin chains related to these (Haldane, Affleck)

Antiferromagnetic $SU(m)$ spin chain

(Affleck)

$2L$ sites, $i = 0, 1, \dots, 2L-1$

Vector space of $\dim = m$ on each site

i even \rightarrow transforming in fundamental of $SU(m)$

i odd \rightarrow " " dual (conjugate) fundamental

$SU(m)$ -invariant nearest-neighbor interaction

Rep. using bosons: b_i^a, b_{ia}^+ (i even), $[b_i^a, b_{i+1}^+] = \delta_{ii+1} \delta_{aa}$

($a = 1, \dots, m$) $\bar{b}_{ia}, \bar{b}_i^{a+}$ (i odd)

Constraints: $b_{ia}^+ b_i^a = 1$ (i even) } (Summ. over a)
 $\bar{b}_i^{a+} \bar{b}_{ia} = 1$ (i odd)

Symmetry ($SU(m)$) gens, each site:

$$J_{ia}^b = \begin{cases} b_{ia}^+ \bar{b}_i^a & (i \text{ even}) \\ -\bar{b}_i^{b+} \bar{b}_{ia} & (i \text{ odd}) \end{cases}$$

Ham: $H = -\epsilon \sum_{i \text{ even}} e_i - \epsilon^{-1} \sum_{i \text{ odd}} e_i$

where $e_i = \begin{cases} \bar{b}_{i+1}^{a+} b_{ia}^+ b_i^b \bar{b}_{i+1}^b & (i \text{ even}) \\ \bar{b}_i^{a+} b_{i+1,a}^+ b_{i+1}^b \bar{b}_i^b & (i \text{ odd}) \end{cases}$

- $SU(m)$ -inv coupling of $i, i+1$. $e_i = (\text{const}) J_{ia}^b J_{i+1,b}^a + \text{const}$

Phase transition at $\underline{\epsilon = 1}$, CP^{m-1} sigma model, $\begin{matrix} \epsilon=1 \\ \theta=0 \end{matrix}$

If represent a state of $i, i+1$ of form

$$b_{ia}^+ \bar{b}_{i+1}^{a+} |0\rangle$$

SU(m)-singlet
"valence bond"

and e_i by



(i even;
sin i odd)

(Also id=1 by $\uparrow\downarrow$.)

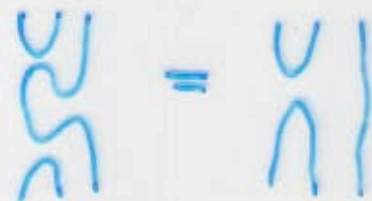
really $\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow$

Then e_i 's ($i=0, 1, \dots, 2L-2$) obey relations defining Temperley-Lieb algebra:

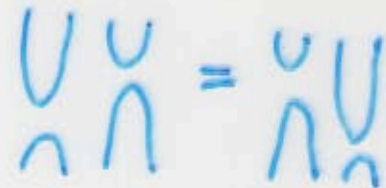
$$e_i^2 = m e_i$$



$$e_i e_{i\pm 1} e_i = e_i$$



$$e_i e_{i'} = e_{i'} e_i \quad (i' \neq i, i\pm 1)$$



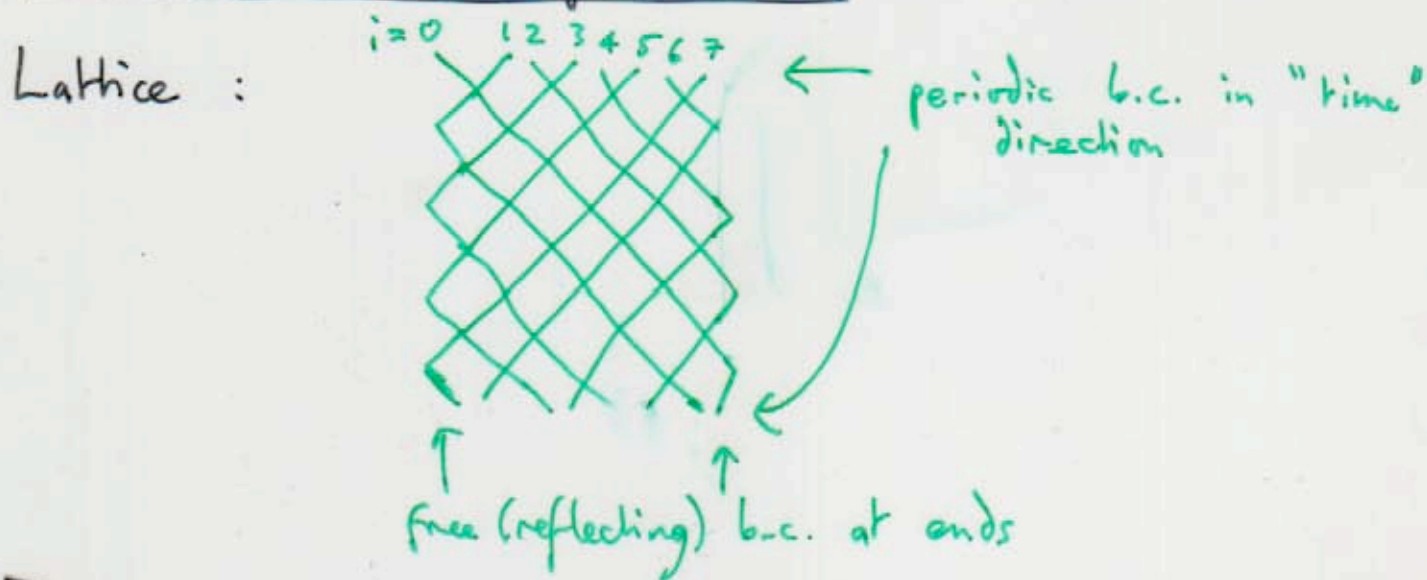
Also have $e_i^+ = e_i$.

Note: arrows always up on even sites, down on odd (they are not degrees of freedom)

Denote algebra $TL_{2L}(q)$, where $m = q + q^{-1}$.

Spin chain space $V = V_0 \otimes V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_{2L-1}$
 $V_i \cong \mathbb{C}^m$, all i

Connection with loop models:



Each vertex X , write $T_i = \begin{cases} (1-p_A) + p_A e; & (i \text{ even}) \\ p_B + (1-p_B) e; & (i \text{ odd}) \end{cases}$
 acting in same space V as spin chain.

Transfer matrix: $T = T_1 T_3 \dots T_{2L-3} T_0 T_2 \dots T_{2L-2}$

Partition function $Z = \text{Tr } T^L$

Writing $X = \begin{cases} (1-p_A) X + p_A X & (i \text{ even}) \\ p_B X + (1-p_B) X & (i \text{ odd}) \end{cases}$

Expand $Z = \sum_{\text{loops}} m^{\# \text{ loops}} p^{\#} (1-p)^{\#}$



in loops filling edges,
 with avoided crossings.
 $Q = m^2$ -state Potts model.

Percolation $\equiv m=1$

Algebraic analysis

We are interested in commutant algebra of \mathcal{T}_L in our chain — i.e. algebra of all linear operators on V that commute with all elements of $\mathcal{T}_{2L}(q)$ — sufficient " " generators e_i .

Motivation: ① provides common symmetry algebra of all Hams of form

$$H = -\sum_i \lambda_i e_i, \quad \lambda_i = \text{arbitrary real numbers}$$

(hence multiplicities of eigenvalues etc)

② in CFT generalization, commutes with Virasoro algebra — symmetry of CFT.

Facts: a) $\mathcal{T}_{2L}(q)$ is semisimple for $m \geq 2$ ($q \geq 1$)

\Rightarrow it is iso to alg of block diag matrices



Size $d_j \times d_j$

— $d_j = \dim$ of j^{th} irreducible repⁿ.

Here $d_j = \binom{2L}{L+j} - \binom{2L}{L+j+1}$, $j=0, 1, \dots, L$
(ind. of q).

b) Provided $TZ_{2L}(q)$ acts faithfully in V ,
 then we have a decomposition of V
 as direct sum of irreps, with non-zero multiplicities $D_j \neq 0$.

$$\Rightarrow \dim V = m^{2L} = \sum_{j=0}^{2L} d_j D_j$$

c) Commutant consists of all maps of TZ irreps
 into themselves

\Rightarrow semisimple, $D_j = \dim$ of irreps of commutant
 - blocks of sizes $D_j \times D_j$

We find that

$$D_j = [2j+1]_q$$

where $[n]_q = q^{n-1} + q^{n-3} + \dots + q^{-n+1}$

$$= \frac{q^n - q^{-n}}{q - q^{-1}}$$

D_j grow exp
 with j for $q > 1$
 ($m > 2$).

E.g. $m=3$ ($SU(3)$) case,

$$D_j = 1, 8, 55, 377, \dots$$

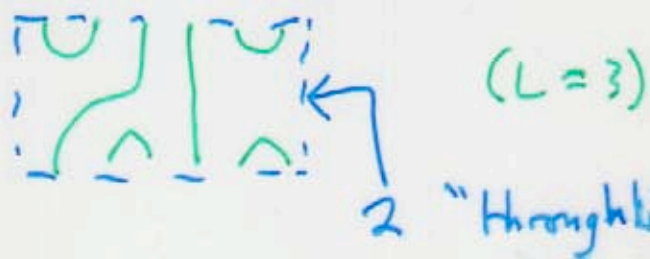
Fibonacci nos!

much larger than \dim s of irreps
 of $SU(3)$. But note $8 \times 8 = 55 + 8 + 1$
 Highly reducible under $SU(3)$.

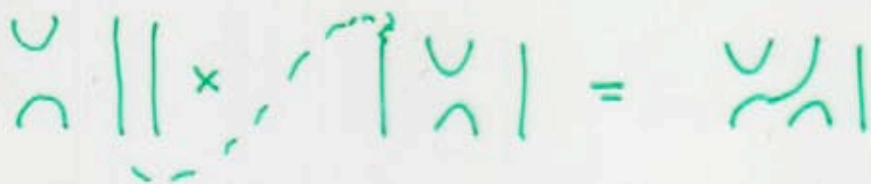
Algebra structure:

TZ alg = all lin combs of $\underbrace{\text{diagrams}}_{\text{isotopy classes of}}$
of non-crossing lines

e.g.



Product:



\Rightarrow # Throughlines cannot increase, can decrease

\Rightarrow ideals $T^{(2j)}$ = span of diagrams w. $\leq 2j$ Throughlines
 $0 \subset T^{(0)} \subset T^{(2)} \subset \dots \subset T^{(2L)} = T_{2L}^{(2)}$

- a "cellular algebra" (Graham + Lehrer)

Half-diagrams e.g. $| \cup | \cup | |$ (noncrossing $(2j \text{ Throughlines})$ B.S)

module those w. fewer Throughlines, so

$| | \cup | | \times | \cup | \cup = 0$ form "standard"
 or "cell" modules $\dim = d_j, (j=0,1,\dots,L)$. Irreducible $m > 2$

In chain (space V), map to valence bonds



\cup = singlet bond

..... = any state s.t. $\bigwedge_{i:i+1} \cup$ acts by zero

(ie adjoint rep for each pair of "neighboring" dots)

Dim of space \mathcal{V}_j of latter, any such "valid" pattern

$$\dim \mathcal{V}_j = D_j = [2j+1]_q$$

These are irreps of commutant algebra $\mathcal{A}_m(2L)$.

Basis elements:

$$\tilde{J}_{b_1 b_2 \dots b_k}^{a_1 a_2 \dots a_k} = \sum_{0 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k} J_{i_1 b_1}^{a_1} J_{i_2 b_2}^{a_2} \dots J_{i_k b_k}^{a_k}$$

$$(\tilde{J} = 1 \text{ for } k=0, \tilde{J}_{b_1}^{a_1} = \text{gens of } U(m))$$

Take subspace

$$J \begin{matrix} \dots a_e a_{e+1} \dots \\ b_e a_e \dots \end{matrix} = 0$$

$$J \begin{matrix} \dots a_e a_{e+1} \dots \\ \dots a_{e+1} b_{e+1} \dots \end{matrix} = 0$$

(using Jones-Wenzl projectors)

These commute with all a_i , those with k even span $\mathcal{A}(2L)$

Further J 's with $k > 2j$ annihilate j th irrep. Also cellular.

$L \rightarrow \infty$ limit

is nice for commutant \mathfrak{A}_m :

$$\mathfrak{A}_m = \lim_{\leftarrow} \mathfrak{A}_m(2L)$$

using natural projections of (abstract) algebras

$$p_{2L}: \mathfrak{A}_m(2L) \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_m(2L-2)$$

by annihilating \mathcal{V}_{2L+2} . "Pullback" rep^s using p_{2L} .

Note D_j ind of L , so \mathfrak{A}_m has irreps $\mathcal{V}_j, j=0,1,2,\dots$

T_L irreps corres to \mathcal{V}_j , each j .

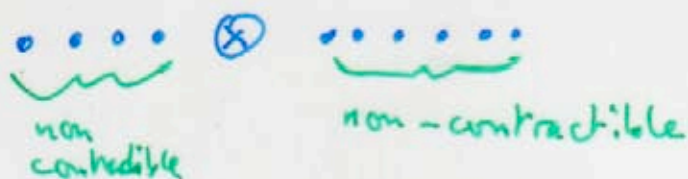
Corresponding limit, in terms of representations of T_L .

But no limit of T_L algebra this way.

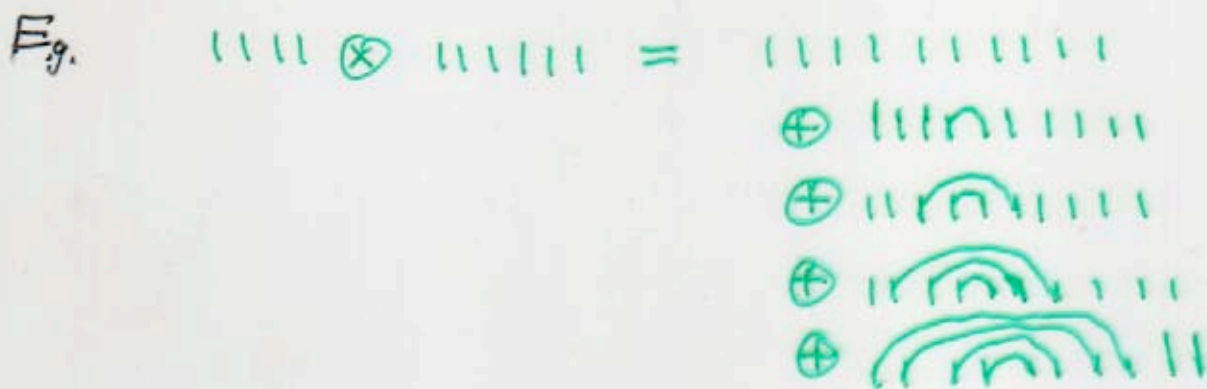
(Dims of "irreps" = ∞ .)

Fusion (tensor product) for commutant \mathcal{A}_m

In terms of irreps:



but might be able to contract in middle:



$$\text{I.e. } \mathcal{V}_{j_1} \otimes \mathcal{V}_{j_2} = \mathcal{V}_{|j_1 - j_2|} \oplus \mathcal{V}_{|j_1 - j_2 + 1|} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathcal{V}_{|j_1 + j_2|}$$

exactly as for $SU(2)$ (or $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$).

Or construct comultiplication for \mathcal{A}_m .

Stable in $L \rightarrow \infty$ limit.

Used restriction: $\mathcal{A}_m(2L_1) \otimes \mathcal{A}_m(2L_2) \supseteq \mathcal{A}_m(2L_1 + 2L_2)$

Fusion (induction product) for TZ algebras

Join end to end:

1 1 1 1 \otimes 1 1 1 1 1 1

$e_1, e_2, e_3, e_5, e_6, e_7, e_8, e_9$

Introduce e_{2L_1} to join ($= e_4$)

$$TL_{2L_1}(g) \otimes TL_{2L_2}(g) \subset TL_{2(L_1+L_2)}(g)$$

Must use induction to get rep of larger alg from rep of subalgebra

- does not obey $\dim W_1 \cdot \dim W_2 = \dim W_1 \times W_2$

Fusion rules (for reps of appropriate algs)
same as in \mathcal{A}_m :

$$W_{j_1} \times W_{j_2} = \text{ind}_{TL_{2L_1} \oplus TL_{2L_2}(g)}^{TL_{2(L_1+L_2)}(g)} (W_{j_1} \otimes W_{j_2})$$
$$= \bigoplus_{j=|j_1-j_2|}^{j_1+j_2} W_j$$

Note for $SU(2)$ (and a gen to $SU(m)$) this is classical Frobenius-Schur-Weyl duality (\rightarrow rep. th. of $SU(m)$ using Young tableaux etc).

Spin $-1/2$ chain and $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

For spin $-1/2$ chain, $2L$ sites,

$$e_i = \frac{q+q^{-1}}{2} - \frac{1}{2} (\sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_{i+1}^y) - \left(\frac{q+q^{-1}}{4}\right) \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z - \left(\frac{q-q^{-1}}{4}\right) (\sigma_i^z - \sigma_{i+1}^z)$$

represent TL algebra faithfully (TL), all $q \in \mathbb{C}$

Commutant is $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ — a quantum group.

For q^2 not a root of unity, both $TL_{2L}(q)$ and $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ are semisimple, fusion as above etc.

Can define antipode, braiding and twist for \mathcal{A}_m as well as for $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$. \rightarrow ribbon Hopf algebras

E.g. $\sigma_i = i(q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2} e_i)$ (Jones, Kaufman)

$\begin{matrix} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{matrix} = i q^{1/2} \begin{matrix} | \\ | \end{matrix} - i q^{-1/2} \begin{matrix} \diagdown \\ \diagup \end{matrix}$ — repⁿ of braid gp.

Can then say

\mathcal{A}_m is Morita equivalent to $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ as ribbon Hopf algebras

(Here $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2) = \varprojlim U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{(2L)}$ using finite chains)

Super algebra generalization

$m=1$: percolation
 $m \neq 1, n \neq 1$: spin QH transition

Replace $V_0 = \mathbb{C}^m$ by $V_0 = \mathbb{C}^{m+n|n}$, \mathbb{Z}_2 graded

$V = V_0 \otimes V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_{2L-1}$ graded tensor product

Even sites b_{ia}^+ , $a=1, \dots, m+n$ bosonic

f_{ia}^+ , $a=m+n+1, \dots, 2n$ fermionic

constraints $b_{ia}^+ b_i^a + f_{ia}^+ f_i^a = I$

Odd sites similar except $\{\bar{f}_i^{a+}, \bar{f}_i^{b-}\} = -\delta_{i,i'} \delta_{a,b}$
 - odd states have negative norm-sq. ↑ Note!

TL generators e_i : similar $e_i^+ = a_i$
 - commute with $gl(m+n|n)$

$$\bigcup_0 = m \bigcup \bigwedge \quad e_i^2 = m e_i$$

$$m = (m+n) - n = \text{str}_{V_0} I = \text{sdim } V_0$$

Now makes sense for any integer m
 (but $m+n \geq 0, n \geq 0$). Independent of n .

For $|m| \geq 2$, theory v. similar \rightarrow semisimple $\mathcal{A}_{m+n|n}$

$$\text{sdim } \mathcal{V}_j = [2j+1]_q, \quad \dim \mathcal{V}_j = [2j+1]_{q'}, \quad m+2n = q' + q'^{-1}$$

Nonsemisimple cases $|\mathfrak{m}| < 2$

Not semisimple $\Rightarrow \exists$ finite dim modules
that are reducible but indecomposable
ie representations
ie not decomp as direct sum

E.g. \mathbb{T}_2 , $|\mathfrak{m}| < 2$, and $q^{2r} = 1$, some $r > 0$
($\frac{1}{2}$ is a root of unity")

Standard modules not all irreducible: (P. Martin)

$W_j \cong \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \downarrow \\ \bullet \end{array}$ for some j

\bullet = submodule (simple) \rightarrow irreducible

\circ = quotient module (simple)

\downarrow = action of algebra connects these

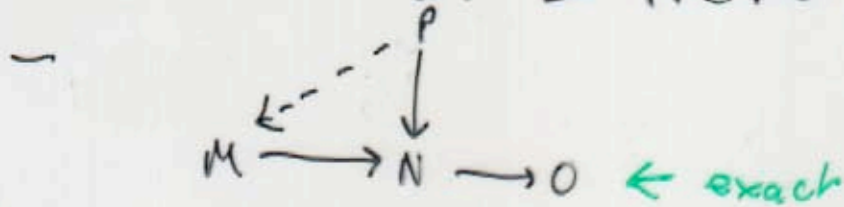
Same occurs for standard (Weyl) modules of
 $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ - those of dim $2j+1$.

TL modules useful in the analysis

Projective (left) L modules of algebra R (\neq projective rep^{ns})

- can be defined in various ways
- as direct summand in a free module:

$$P \oplus P' \cong R \oplus R \oplus \dots \oplus R$$

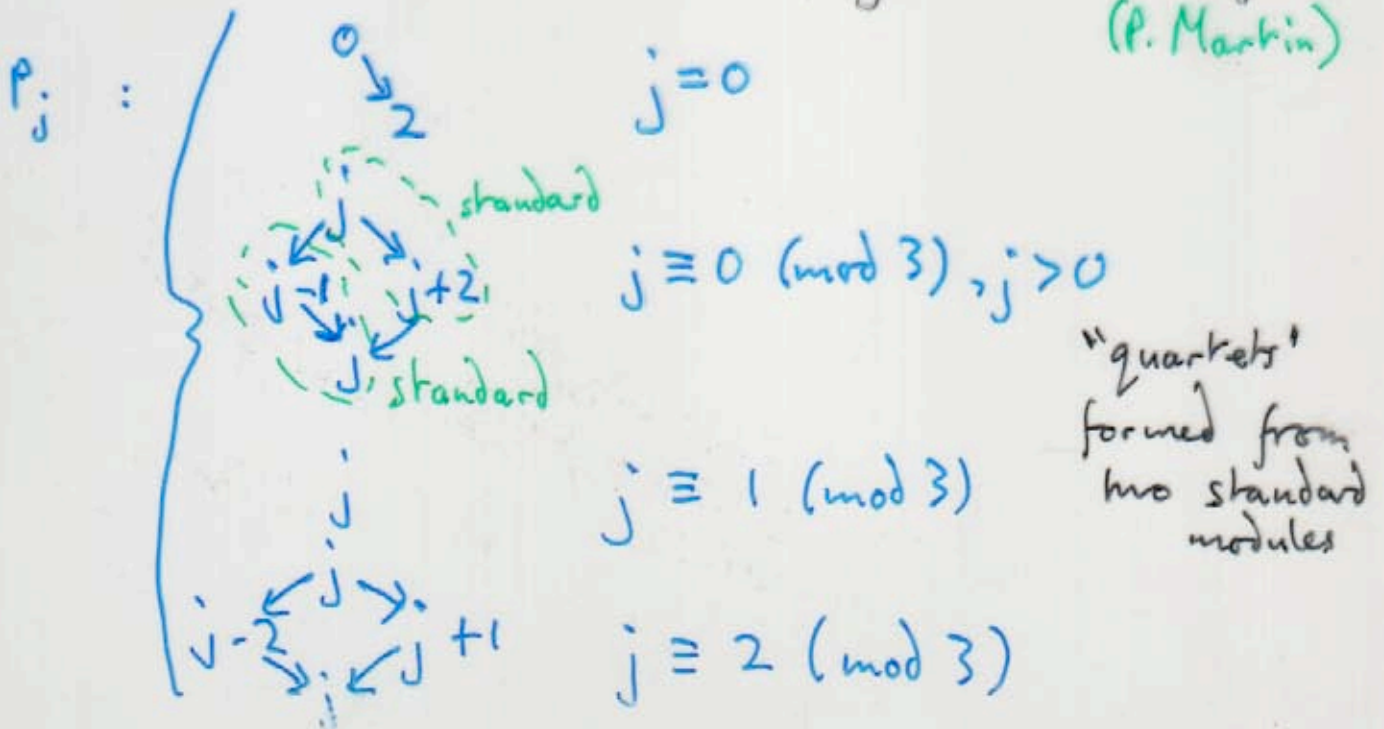


- never occurs as a quotient except in a direct sum

- if R finite dim, all indecomp projectives occur

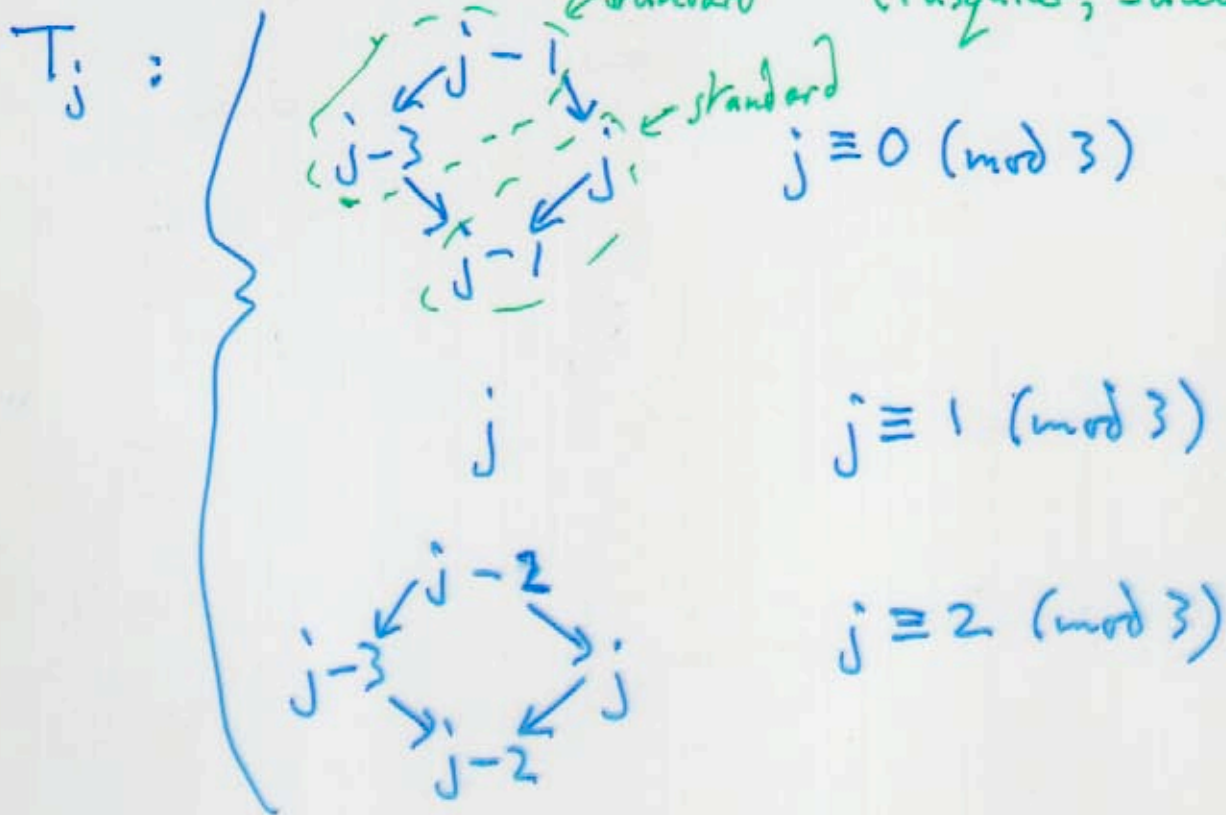
- one for each simple module (viewed as module over itself)

For $q = e^{i\pi/3}$ ($m=1$), indecomp. projectives have forms (P. Martin)



$U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ at same q

Useful modules are "tilting" modules
 - view as direct summands in $\text{spin} \frac{1}{2}$ chain under $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ (Pasquier, Saleur)



$j = 0, 1, \dots, L$. (Values outside this range dropped)

(Projectives of $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{(2\ell)}$, and tilting modules of $\mathcal{T}_{2\ell}(q)$ also exist.)

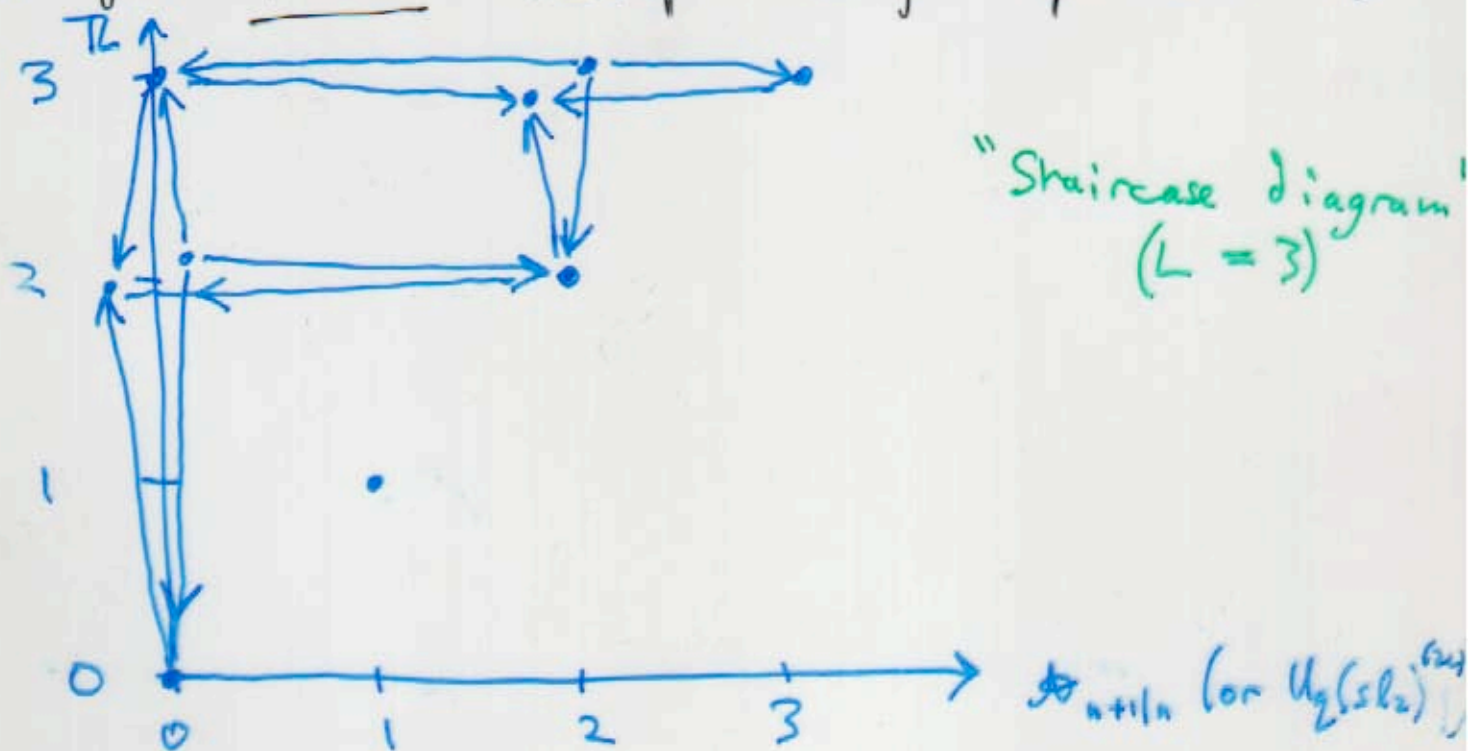
Important lemma:

Finite dim alg R acting in finite dim V ,
 with comm alg S . Then the two
 categories of modules $\text{Tilt}(R)$ and $\text{Proj}(S)$
 are equivalent, equivalence given by V .

(For $\mathcal{T}_{2\ell}(q)$ and $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{(2\ell)}$, labeling agrees with this equiv.)
 i.e. $P_i \leftrightarrow T_i$

To analyze our susy chain V , use known \mathcal{TL} rep. thy. and our standard modules of \mathcal{TL} and $\mathcal{A}_{n+1|n}$, plus self-duality of V .

We find identical decompⁿ as for $\text{spin}-\frac{1}{2}$ chain.



Simple subquotients are dots at (j, j') under $\mathcal{A}_{n+1|n}$ (or $U_2(sl_2)$), $\mathcal{TL}_{2L}(q)$. Those occurring here are offset for clarity, as are the arrows:
 vertical arrows \leftrightarrow action of \mathcal{TL}
 horizontal arrows \leftrightarrow action of \mathcal{A}

Exercise:

Verify consistent with commutation of these algebras!

\mathcal{A} modules are killing.

\mathcal{TL} modules are projective, except one simple at highest j , and P_0 is absent.

Consequence: M. equivalence of $\mathcal{A}_{m+nln}(2L)$ and $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{(2L)}$
 (as associative algebras) for each $L, |m|$.

Also $L \rightarrow \infty$.

Fusion rules:

defⁿ of fusion as before

Fusion rules for tilting modules of $\mathcal{A} = \lim_{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}(2L)$
 same as for $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$ (studied in Par-Sal)

$S, 0, 0$
 $\xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty}$ M. equiv as ribbon Hopf algebras

Calculation (using characters)
 - 6 cases

$$\text{e.g. } T_{3p_1} \otimes T_{3p_2} \cong \bigoplus_r' (2 T_{3r+2} \oplus \underline{T_{3r}} \oplus T_{3r+3} \oplus 4 T_{3r+1})$$

\bigoplus_r' = direct sum over $r = |p_1 - p_2|, |p_1 - p_2| + 1, \dots, p_1 + p_2 - 1$

$\underline{T_{3r}}$ = omitted if $r = 0$

Also $T_0 \otimes T_j \cong T_j$ all j

Fusion rules for TZ projectives P_j identical.
 under induction product

cf important lemma above

Continuum limit

"Purely algebraic" $L \rightarrow \infty$ limit as for semisimple case

More useful is continuum limit, uses a choice of Ham.

Here use

$$H = - \sum_i e_i$$

As $L \rightarrow \infty$

- rescale to keep length of system fixed
- rescale H to obtain limiting (low-energy) spectrum of discrete levels

This should work when $-2 < m \leq 2$,
system is critical \Rightarrow cont. limit is (boundary) CFT.

$L_n \propto$ Fourier modes of a_i 's

Now TL modules become Virasoro modules,
but structure same as in algebraic $L \rightarrow \infty$ limit.

\rightarrow same fusion rules

Use results from earlier work to obtain conformal weights: (Bauer + Saleur 1989)

j th standard module of $T\bar{L}/\text{Virasoro}$ becomes Kac/BPZ "standard" module with

$$h_j = h_{1, 1+2j} = \frac{(2jx-1)^2 - 1}{4x(x+1)}$$

with $c = 1 - \frac{6}{x(x+1)}$

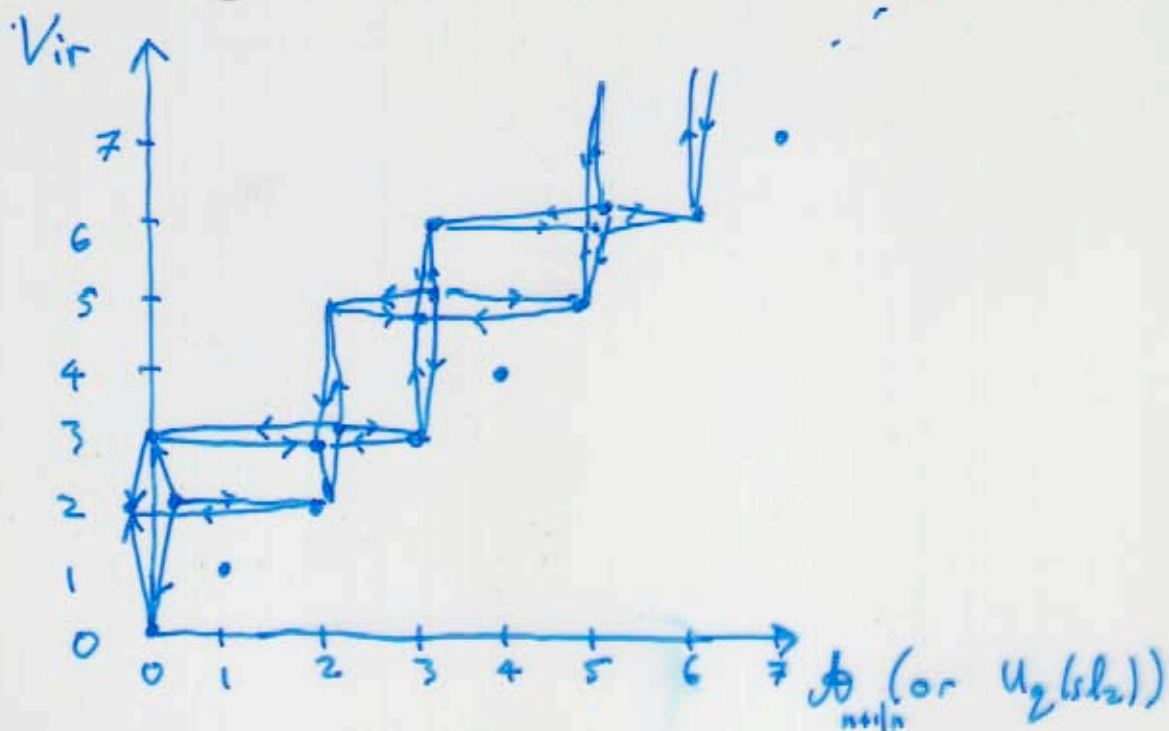
where $q = e^{i\pi/(x+1)}$.

For q a root of unity (x rational), some of these are reducible, e.g. for $m=1$ ($q = e^{i\pi/3}$), $j \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$

- $T\bar{L}$ and Vir analysis agree

$$q = e^{i\pi/3} : h_j = \frac{j(2j-1)}{3}$$

Staircase diagram for limit:



TL projectives $P_j \rightarrow$ "Vir projective modules" R_j

- same structure

- same fusion rules !! obtainable from $U_2(sl_2)$

$$R_{j_1} \times R_{j_2} = \text{sum of } R_j \text{ 's.}$$

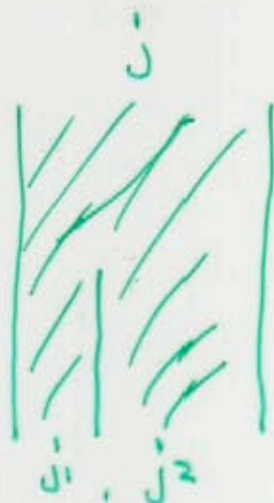
Correspondence of fields and states

Picture of fusion:

$$V_{11111} \otimes V_{11111} \rightarrow V_{11111111}$$

picture as

↑ time

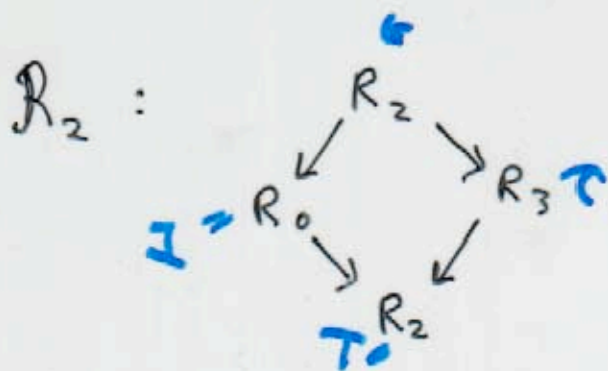


cf
"slit strip"
picture of open-string
interactions

Conf mapping:



Ex of indecomp "proj" module: \mathcal{R}_2



R_j = simple Vir modules

Conf weights:

$$h_0 = 0$$

$$h_2 = 2$$

$$h_3 = 5$$

Primary Fields:

$$1$$

$$T(z), t(z)$$

$$\tau(z)$$

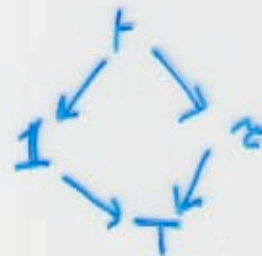
In CFT, alg action is op_{er} with stress tensor:

$$T(z)t(0) \sim \frac{b}{z^4} 1 + \frac{2t(0) + T(0)}{z^2} + \frac{t'(0)}{z} + \dots + z c_{Tt}^{\tau} \tau(0) + \dots$$

(Gurarie - Ludwig)

$$T(z)\tau(0) \sim \frac{c_{T\tau}^T T(0)}{z^5} + \dots$$

as shown in diagram above



Also \mathcal{R}_0 : $R_0 \rightarrow R_2$ ie $1 \rightarrow T$

acts as identity in fusion rules \leftrightarrow reps of Vir, gen. by T

What about $j = \text{half-integer}$, $j = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \dots$?

Violates rules for orientation
Odd length, $2L = \text{odd}$



- changes boundary condition for even-length chains
- need even number:



$$h_{1/2} = 0$$

- Cardy's b.c. changing operator, crossing probability formulas
- can do fusion rules, etc.

Main Results (Theorems)

Construction of ribbon Hopf algebras \mathcal{A}_{m+nl_n}

\mathcal{A}_{m+nl_n} Morita equiv to $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$
(as r. h. a.)

- used Ringel duality with $TL(q)$

$\text{Proj}(TL(q))$ is a ribbon category,
equiv to $\text{Tilt}(U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2))$

A ribbon cat of "projective" Virasoro
modules, equiv to $\text{Tilt}(U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2))$

All come in two variants, and

$$m \leftrightarrow q \leftrightarrow c$$

Conclusion

- 1) Can also do unoriented $O(m)$ models. $j = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}$.
Dense and dilute phases \rightarrow 4 series of theories
- 2) Periodic case: much richer
some results, NR - Saleur 2001
still in progress
- 3) Main points:
 - a) Morita equiv of symm alg with $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$
 - b) fusion rules from lattice using symmetry alg.