

Constructing Majorana representations

Madeleine Whybrow, Imperial College London

Joint work with M. Pfeiffer, St Andrews

The Monster group

The Monster group

- ▶ Denoted \mathbb{M} , the **Monster group** is the largest of the 26 sporadic groups in the classification of finite simple groups

The Monster group

- ▶ Denoted \mathbb{M} , the **Monster group** is the largest of the 26 sporadic groups in the classification of finite simple groups
- ▶ It was constructed by R. Griess in 1982 as $\text{Aut}(V_{\mathbb{M}})$ where $V_{\mathbb{M}}$ is a 196 884 - dimensional, real, commutative, non-associative algebra known as the **Griess** or **Monster algebra**

The Monster group

- ▶ Denoted \mathbb{M} , the **Monster group** is the largest of the 26 sporadic groups in the classification of finite simple groups
- ▶ It was constructed by R. Griess in 1982 as $\text{Aut}(V_{\mathbb{M}})$ where $V_{\mathbb{M}}$ is a 196 884 - dimensional, real, commutative, non-associative algebra known as the **Griess** or **Monster algebra**
- ▶ The Monster group contains two conjugacy classes of involutions - denoted 2A and 2B - and $\mathbb{M} = \langle 2A \rangle$

The Monster group

- ▶ Denoted \mathbb{M} , the **Monster group** is the largest of the 26 sporadic groups in the classification of finite simple groups
- ▶ It was constructed by R. Griess in 1982 as $\text{Aut}(V_{\mathbb{M}})$ where $V_{\mathbb{M}}$ is a 196 884 - dimensional, real, commutative, non-associative algebra known as the **Griess** or **Monster algebra**
- ▶ The Monster group contains two conjugacy classes of involutions - denoted $2A$ and $2B$ - and $\mathbb{M} = \langle 2A \rangle$
- ▶ If $t, s \in 2A$ then ts is of order at most 6 and belongs to one of nine conjugacy classes:

$1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6A.$

The Monster group

The Monster group

- ▶ In 1984, J. Conway showed that there exists a bijection ψ between the $2A$ involutions and certain idempotents in the Griess algebra called $2A$ -axes

The Monster group

- ▶ In 1984, J. Conway showed that there exists a bijection ψ between the $2A$ involutions and certain idempotents in the Griess algebra called $2A$ -axes
- ▶ The $2A$ -axes generate the Griess algebra i.e. $V_M = \langle\langle \psi(t) : t \in 2A \rangle\rangle$

The Monster group

- ▶ In 1984, J. Conway showed that there exists a bijection ψ between the $2A$ involutions and certain idempotents in the Griess algebra called **$2A$ -axes**
- ▶ The $2A$ -axes generate the Griess algebra i.e. $V_{\mathbb{M}} = \langle\langle\psi(t) : t \in 2A\rangle\rangle$
- ▶ If $t, s \in 2A$ then the algebra $\langle\langle\psi(t), \psi(s)\rangle\rangle$ is called a **dihedral subalgebra** of $V_{\mathbb{M}}$ and has one of nine isomorphism types, depending on the conjugacy class of ts .

The Monster group

Example

The Monster group

Example

Suppose that $t, s \in 2A$ such that $ts \in 2A$ as well.

The Monster group

Example

Suppose that $t, s \in 2A$ such that $ts \in 2A$ as well. Then the algebra

$$V := \langle\langle \psi(t), \psi(s) \rangle\rangle$$

is a $2A$ dihedral algebra.

The Monster group

Example

Suppose that $t, s \in 2A$ such that $ts \in 2A$ as well. Then the algebra

$$V := \langle\langle \psi(t), \psi(s) \rangle\rangle$$

is a $2A$ dihedral algebra.

The algebra V also contains the axis $\psi(ts)$. In fact, it is of dimension 3:

$$V = \langle \psi(t), \psi(s), \psi(ts) \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}.$$

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

- ▶ In 1992, R. Borcherds famously proved Conway and Norton's Monstrous Moonshine conjectures, which connect the Monster group to modular forms

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

- ▶ In 1992, R. Borcherds famously proved Conway and Norton's Monstrous Moonshine conjectures, which connect the Monster group to modular forms
- ▶ The central object in his proof is the **Moonshine module**, $V^\# = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} V_n^\#$.

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

- ▶ In 1992, R. Borcherds famously proved Conway and Norton's Monstrous Moonshine conjectures, which connect the Monster group to modular forms
- ▶ The central object in his proof is the **Moonshine module**, $V^\# = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} V_n^\#$.
- ▶ It belongs to a class of graded algebras known as **vertex operator algebras**, or **VOA's**

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

- ▶ In 1992, R. Borcherds famously proved Conway and Norton's Monstrous Moonshine conjectures, which connect the Monster group to modular forms
- ▶ The central object in his proof is the **Moonshine module**, $V^\# = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} V_n^\#$.
- ▶ It belongs to a class of graded algebras known as **vertex operator algebras**, or **VOA's**
- ▶ In particular, we have $\text{Aut}(V^\#) = \mathbb{M}$

Monstrous Moonshine and VOAs

- ▶ In 1992, R. Borcherds famously proved Conway and Norton's Monstrous Moonshine conjectures, which connect the Monster group to modular forms
- ▶ The central object in his proof is the **Moonshine module**, $V^\# = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} V_n^\#$.
- ▶ It belongs to a class of graded algebras known as **vertex operator algebras**, or **VOA's**
- ▶ In particular, we have $\text{Aut}(V^\#) = \mathbb{M}$ and $V_2^\# \cong V_{\mathbb{M}}$.

Majorana Theory

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product $(\ , \)$ such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad (a, a) = 1 \text{ and } a \cdot a = a;$$

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad (a, a) = 1 \text{ and } a \cdot a = a;$$

$$\mathbf{M4} \quad V = V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \text{ where } V_{\mu}^{(a)} = \{v : v \in V, a \cdot v = \mu v\};$$

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product (\cdot, \cdot) such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad (a, a) = 1 \text{ and } a \cdot a = a;$$

$$\mathbf{M4} \quad V = V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \text{ where } V_{\mu}^{(a)} = \{v : v \in V, a \cdot v = \mu v\};$$

$$\mathbf{M5} \quad V_1^{(a)} = \{\lambda a : \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product $(\ , \)$ such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad (a, a) = 1 \text{ and } a \cdot a = a;$$

$$\mathbf{M4} \quad V = V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \text{ where } V_{\mu}^{(a)} = \{v : v \in V, a \cdot v = \mu v\};$$

$$\mathbf{M5} \quad V_1^{(a)} = \{\lambda a : \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Suppose furthermore that V obeys the [fusion rules](#).

Majorana Theory

We now let V be a real vector space equipped with a commutative algebra product \cdot and an inner product $(\ , \)$ such that for all $u, v, w \in V$, we have:

$$\mathbf{M1} \quad (u, v \cdot w) = (u \cdot v, w);$$

$$\mathbf{M2} \quad (u \cdot u, v \cdot v) \geq (u \cdot v, u \cdot v).$$

Suppose that $A \subseteq V$ such that for all $a \in A$ we have:

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad (a, a) = 1 \text{ and } a \cdot a = a;$$

$$\mathbf{M4} \quad V = V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \text{ where } V_{\mu}^{(a)} = \{v : v \in V, a \cdot v = \mu v\};$$

$$\mathbf{M5} \quad V_1^{(a)} = \{\lambda a : \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Suppose furthermore that V obeys the [fusion rules](#). Then V is a [Majorana algebra](#) with [Majorana axes](#) A .

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A .

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

$$\tau(a)(u) = \begin{cases} u & \text{for } u \in V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \\ -u & \text{for } u \in V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \end{cases}$$

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

$$\tau(a)(u) = \begin{cases} u & \text{for } u \in V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \\ -u & \text{for } u \in V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \end{cases}$$

called a **Majorana involution**.

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

$$\tau(a)(u) = \begin{cases} u & \text{for } u \in V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \\ -u & \text{for } u \in V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \end{cases}$$

called a **Majorana involution**.

Given a group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$, if there exists a Majorana algebra V such that

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

$$\tau(a)(u) = \begin{cases} u & \text{for } u \in V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \\ -u & \text{for } u \in V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \end{cases}$$

called a **Majorana involution**.

Given a group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$, if there exists a Majorana algebra V such that

$$T = \{\tau(a) : a \in A\}.$$

Majorana Theory

Let V be a Majorana algebra with Majorana axes A . For each $a \in A$, we can construct an involution $\tau(a) \in \text{Aut}(V)$ such that

$$\tau(a)(u) = \begin{cases} u & \text{for } u \in V_1^{(a)} \oplus V_0^{(a)} \oplus V_{\frac{1}{2^2}}^{(a)} \\ -u & \text{for } u \in V_{\frac{1}{2^5}}^{(a)} \end{cases}$$

called a **Majorana involution**.

Given a group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$, if there exists a Majorana algebra V such that

$$T = \{\tau(a) : a \in A\}.$$

then the tuple (G, V, T) is called a **Majorana representation**.

Majorana Theory

Majorana Theory

Sakuma's Theorem (A. A. Ivanov et al, 2010)

Any Majorana algebra generated by two Majorana axes is isomorphic to a dihedral subalgebra of the Griess algebra.

The Algorithm

The Algorithm

In 2012, Ákos Seress announced the existence of an algorithm in GAP to construct the 2-closed Majorana representations of a given finite group.

The Algorithm

In 2012, Ákos Seress announced the existence of an algorithm in GAP to construct the 2-closed Majorana representations of a given finite group.

He never published his code or the full details of his algorithm and reproducing his work has been an important aim of the theory ever since.

The Algorithm

The Algorithm

Input: A finite group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$.

The Algorithm

Input: A finite group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$.

Output: A spanning set C of V along with matrices indexed by the elements of C giving the inner and algebra products on V .

The Algorithm

Input: A finite group G and a normal set of involutions T such that $G = \langle T \rangle$.

Output: A spanning set C of V along with matrices indexed by the elements of C giving the inner and algebra products on V .

If at any point in the algorithm a contradiction with the Majorana axioms is found, an appropriate error message is returned.

The Algorithm

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

Step 1 - fusion rules. Use the fusion rules to find additional eigenvectors.

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

Step 1 - fusion rules. Use the fusion rules to find additional eigenvectors.

Step 2 - products from eigenvectors. Use eigenvectors to construct a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $a_t \cdot v$ for $v \in C$.

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

Step 1 - fusion rules. Use the fusion rules to find additional eigenvectors.

Step 2 - products from eigenvectors. Use eigenvectors to construct a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $a_t \cdot v$ for $v \in C$.

Step 3 - the resurrection principle. Use a key result in Majorana theory to find a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $u \cdot v$ for $u, v \in C$.

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

Step 1 - fusion rules. Use the fusion rules to find additional eigenvectors.

Step 2 - products from eigenvectors. Use eigenvectors to construct a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $a_t \cdot v$ for $v \in C$.

Step 3 - the resurrection principle. Use a key result in Majorana theory to find a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $u \cdot v$ for $u, v \in C$.

Step 4 - rinse and repeat. Loop over steps 1 - 3 until all products are found.

The Algorithm

Step 0 - dihedral subalgebras. For every $s, t \in T$ determine the isomorphism type of the algebra $\langle\langle a_t, a_s \rangle\rangle$.

Step 1 - fusion rules. Use the fusion rules to find additional eigenvectors.

Step 2 - products from eigenvectors. Use eigenvectors to construct a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $a_t \cdot v$ for $v \in C$.

Step 3 - the resurrection principle. Use a key result in Majorana theory to find a system of linear equations whose unknowns are of the form $u \cdot v$ for $u, v \in C$.

Step 4 - rinse and repeat. Loop over steps 1 - 3 until all products are found.

Results

We have so far constructed lots of small examples plus representations of:

Results

We have so far constructed lots of small examples plus representations of:

- ▶ S_4, A_5, A_6 - all examples also constructed by hand.

Results

We have so far constructed lots of small examples plus representations of:

- ▶ S_4, A_5, A_6 - all examples also constructed by hand.
- ▶ S_5, S_6, A_7 - new examples.

Results

We have so far constructed lots of small examples plus representations of:

- ▶ S_4, A_5, A_6 - all examples also constructed by hand.
- ▶ S_5, S_6, A_7 - new examples.

Next steps:

Results

We have so far constructed lots of small examples plus representations of:

- ▶ S_4, A_5, A_6 - all examples also constructed by hand.
- ▶ S_5, S_6, A_7 - new examples.

Next steps:

- ▶ $A_8, L_2(11), M_{11}$ and beyond!