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**Cyril Houdayer** and **Dimitri Shlyakhtenko\*** ([shlyakht@math.ucla.edu](mailto:shlyakht@math.ucla.edu)), Department of Mathematics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095. *II<sub>1</sub> factors with an exotic MASA.*

Using an extension of techniques of Ozawa and Popa, we give an example of a non-amenable strongly solid II<sub>1</sub> factor  $M$  containing an "exotic" maximal abelian subalgebra  $A$ : as an  $A, A$ -bimodule,  $L^2(M)$  is neither coarse nor discrete. Thus we show that there exist II<sub>1</sub> factors with such property but without Cartan subalgebras. It also follows from Voiculescu's free entropy results that  $M$  is not an interpolated free group factor, yet it is strongly solid and has both the Haagerup property and the complete metric approximation property. (Received September 14, 2009)