

INTERMEDIATE SUBFACTORS WITH NO EXTRA STRUCTURE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $N \subseteq M$ be II_1 factors with $[M : N] < \infty$. There is a “standard invariant” for $N \subseteq M$, which we shall describe using the planar algebra formalism of [19]. The vector spaces P_k of $N - N$ invariant vectors in the $N - N$ bimodule $\otimes^k M$ admit an action of the operad of planar tangles as in [19] and [21]. In more usual notation the vector space P_k is the relative commutant $N' \cap M_{k-1}$ in the tower M_k of [16]. The conditional expectation E_N from M to N is in P_2 and generates a planar subalgebra called the Temperley–Lieb algebra. In [4], Bisch and the second author studied the planar subalgebra of the P_k generated by the conditional expectation onto a single intermediate subfactor $N \subseteq P \subseteq M$. The resulting planar algebra is called the Fuss–Catalan algebra and was generalised by Bisch and the second author to a chain of intermediate subfactors; see also [26]. These planar algebras are universal in that they are always planar subalgebras of the standard invariant for any subfactor possessing a chain of intermediate subfactors. If $P_i \subseteq P_{i+1}$ is the chain, there are no restrictions on the individual inclusions of P_i in P_{i+1} . Moreover the existence of the Fuss–Catalan planar algebra together with a theorem of Popa in [32] allows one to construct a “free” increasing chain where the individual inclusions $P_i \subseteq P_{i+1}$ have “no extra structure”; i.e., their own standard invariants are just the Temperley–Lieb algebra. Thus the standard invariants for the $P_i \subseteq P_{i+1}$ are “decoupled” from the algebraic symmetries coming from the existence of a chain of intermediate subfactors.

In [33], Sano and Watatani considered the angle between two subfactors $P \subseteq M$ and $Q \subseteq M$, which we shall here define via the square of its cosine, namely the spectrum of the positive self-adjoint operator $E_P E_Q E_P$ (on $L^2(M)$). In [25], Feng Xu and the second author proved that finiteness of the angle (as a subset of $[0, 1]$) is equivalent to finiteness of the index of $P \cap Q$ in M . If we suppose that $P \cap Q$ is an irreducible finite index subfactor of M , then we might expect that the angle is

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“quantized”; i.e., only a certain discrete countable family of numbers occurs (at least in a range close to 0 and $\pi/2$). Determining these allowed angle values is becoming a significant question in the abstract theory of subfactors. This paper can be considered a first step in answering that question.

In [36], Watatani considered the lattice of intermediate subfactors for a finite index inclusion and showed that if the inclusion is irreducible the lattice is finite. He gave some constructions which allowed him to realise many simple finite lattices, but even for two lattices with only six elements, the question of their realisation as intermediate subfactor lattices remains entirely open.

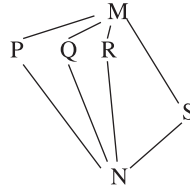
The present paper grew out of an attempt by Dietmar Bisch and the second author to extend the methods of [4] to attack both the angle quantization and the intermediate lattice problems. The hope was to construct universal planar algebras depending only on the lattice of intermediate subfactors, and possibly the angles between them, and use Popa’s theorem to construct subfactors realising the lattice and angle values. This project is probably sound, but it is hugely more difficult in the case where the lattice is not a chain or the angles are not all 0 or $\pi/2$. The reason is very simple: the planar algebra generated by the conditional expectations can no longer be decoupled from the standard invariants of the elementary subfactor inclusions in the lattice. This is surprisingly easy to see. The spectral subspaces of $E_P E_Q E_P$ are $N - N$ bimodules contained in P so that as soon as the angle operator has a significant spectrum the subfactor $N \subseteq M$ must have elements in its planar algebra that are not in the Temperley–Lieb subalgebra, a situation we shall refer to as having “extra structure” and which we will quantify using the notion of supertransitivity introduced in [23]. In particular, if there is no extra structure the spectrum of $E_P E_Q E_P$ can consist of at most one number besides 0 and 1. We will call the angle whose cosine is the square root of this number “the angle” between P and Q . Or “dually” if PQP is not equal to all of M , then it is a nontrivial $P - P$ bimodule between P and M so that the inclusion $P \subseteq M$ must have extra structure.

Thus we are led to the following question: what are the possible pairs of subfactors P and Q in M with $P \cap Q$ a finite index irreducible subfactor of M , for which the four elementary subfactors $N \subseteq P$, $N \subseteq Q$, $P \subseteq M$ and $Q \subseteq M$ all have no extra structure? More properly, since we are not trying to control the isomorphism type of the individual factors, one should ask what are the standard invariants that arise. One situation is rather easy to take care of: if the subfactors form a commuting cocommuting square in the sense of [33], then there is no obstruction. It was essentially observed by Sano and Watatani that in this case E_P and E_Q generate a tensor product of their individual Temperley–Lieb algebras. To realise any $N \subseteq P$ and $N \subseteq Q$ just take the tensor product II_1 factors. However, if we assume that the subfactors either do not commute or do not cocommute, then we will show in this paper the following unexpected result.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \subset & M \\ \cup & & \cup \\ N & \subset & Q \end{array}$$

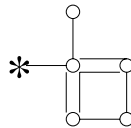
Theorem 1.1. *Suppose \cup is a quadrilateral of subfactors with $N' \cap M = \mathbb{C}$, $[M : N] < \infty$ and no extra structure. Then either the quadrilateral commutes or one of the following two cases occurs.*

a) $[M : N] = 6$ and N is the fixed point algebra for an outer action of S_3 on M with P and Q being the fixed point algebras for two transpositions in S_3 . In this case the angle between P and Q is $\pi/3$ and the full intermediate subfactor lattice is

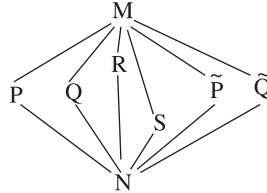


(Note that the dual of this quadrilateral is a commuting square.)

b) The subfactor N is of depth 3, $[M : N] = (2 + \sqrt{2})^2$ and the planar algebra of $N \subseteq M$ is the same as that coming from the GHJ subfactor (see [12]) constructed from the Coxeter graph D_5 with the distinguished vertex being the trivalent one. Each of the intermediate inclusions has index $2 + \sqrt{2}$ and the angle between P and Q is $\theta = \cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$. The principal graph of $N \subseteq M$ is



and the full intermediate subfactor lattice is



where the angle between \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} is also θ but P and Q both commute with \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} . Moreover $[M : R] = [S : N] = 2$ and M, N, R and S form a commuting cocommuting square. The planar algebra of $N \subseteq M$ is isomorphic to its dual—the planar algebra of $M \subseteq M_1$.

Note that from Ocneanu’s paragroup point of view, N is the fixed point algebra of an action of the paragroup given by the planar algebra on M . Thus if the ambient factor M is hyperfinite, then Popa’s theorem in [31] guarantees that the subfactors are unique up to an automorphism of M . Also note that it is a consequence of the theorem that any intermediate subfactor lattice with four elements and no extra structure is a commuting square.

Our methods rely heavily on planar algebras. Of crucial importance is the diagram discovered by Landau for the projection onto the product PQ . We give a proof of Landau’s result and some general consequences. The uniqueness of the subfactor of index $6 + 4\sqrt{2}$ mentioned in the theorem is proved using the “exchange relation” of [27] (the planar algebras have a very simple skein theory in the sense of [21]). The no-extra-structure hypothesis necessary for the theorem is in fact weaker than the one we have stated above. For a precise statement of the required supertransitivity, see Theorems 4.18 and 5.8.

After this paper was submitted, we learned from conversations with M. Izumi that he had found a way to obtain the restrictions on the index in our main theorem, and the uniqueness of the subfactor, by some bimodule arguments and [14]. Also, the second author has proved that if M is a II_1 factor and P and Q are finite index subfactors, then the purely algebraic decomposition of M as a $P - Q$ bimodule is the same as the decomposition of $L^2(M)$ as a $P - Q$ correspondence. This would allow one to avoid some awkward juggling of L^2 completions in discussions of the multiplication map between $N - N$ sub-bimodules of M in this paper.

The authors would like to thank Dietmar Bisch and Zeph Landau for several fruitful discussions concerning this paper.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Bimodules. We recall some basic facts about bimodules over II_1 factors. The treatment follows [3]. For more on this, look there and in [24].

Definition 2.1. Let M be a II_1 factor. A left M -module is a pair (H, π) where H is a Hilbert space and π is a unital normal homomorphism from M into the algebra of bounded operators on H . The dimension of H over M , denoted $\dim_M H$, is the extended positive number given by the Murray–von Neumann coupling constant of $\pi(M)$. Let M^{OP} be the opposite algebra of M (i.e., the algebra with the same underlying vector space but with multiplication reversed). Then a right M -module is defined as a left M^{OP} -module. An $M - N$ bimodule is a triple (H, π, ϕ) , where H is a Hilbert space and π and ϕ are normal unital homomorphisms from, respectively, M and N^{OP} into the algebra of bounded operators on H , such that $\pi(M)$ and $\phi(N^{OP})$ commute. Such a bimodule is denoted by ${}_M H_N$, or sometimes simply by H , if the action is understood. We write $m\xi n$ for $\pi(m)\phi(n)\xi$, where $m \in M$, $n \in N$, and $\xi \in H$.

There are obvious notions of submodules and direct sums. An $M - N$ bimodule is in particular both a left M -module and a left N^{OP} -module.

Definition 2.2. An $M - N$ bimodule is bifinite if $\dim_M H$ and $\dim_{N^{OP}} H$ are both finite.

All bimodules will be assumed to be bifinite.

Definition 2.3. Let ${}_M H_N^1$ and ${}_M H_N^2$ be bimodules. The intertwiner space, denoted $\text{Hom}_{M-N}(H^1, H^2)$, is the subspace of bounded operators from H^1 to H^2 consisting of those operators that commute with the bimodule action: $T \in \text{Hom}_{M-N}(H^1, H^2)$ iff $T(m\xi n) = m(T\xi)n$ for all $m \in M$, $n \in N$, $\xi \in H^1$.

Example 2.4. Let M be a II_1 factor. $L^2(M)$ is the Hilbert space completion of M with respect to the inner product induced by the unique normalized trace on M . Then $L^2(M)$ is an $M - M$ bimodule, and the left and right actions are simply the continuous extensions of ordinary left and right multiplication in M . If P and Q are subfactors of M , then $L^2(M)$ is a $P - Q$ bimodule by restriction, and it is bifinite iff the indices $[M : P]$ and $[M : Q]$ are finite.

Definition 2.5. Let ${}_M H_N$ be a bimodule. There is a dense subspace H^0 of H , called the space of bounded vectors, defined by the rule that $\xi \in H^0$ iff the map $m \mapsto m\xi$ extends to a bounded operator from $L^2(M)$ to H . To each pair of bounded vectors (ξ, η) there is associated an element of M , denoted $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle_M$, determined by the relation $\langle m\xi, \eta \rangle = \text{tr}(m\langle \xi, \eta \rangle_M)$.

Remark 2.6. It is in fact also true that $\xi \in H^0$ iff the map $n \mapsto n\xi$ extends to a bounded operator from $L^2(N)$ to H .

Remark 2.7. Let M be a II_1 factor, and consider $L^2(M)$ as a bimodule over a pair of finite index subfactors as in Example 2.0.5. Then $L^2(M)^0$ is simply the image of M in $L^2(M)$.

There is a notion of fusion of bimodules due to Connes:

Definition 2.8. Let ${}_M H_N$ and ${}_N K_P$ be bimodules. There is an $M - P$ bimodule, denoted $({}_M H_N) \otimes_N ({}_N K_P)$, called the relative tensor product, or fusion, of ${}_M H_N$ and ${}_N K_P$, which is characterized by the following property: there is a surjective linear map from the algebraic tensor product $H^0 \odot K^0$ to $(({}_M H_N) \otimes_N ({}_N K_P))^0$, $\xi \otimes \eta \mapsto \xi \otimes_N \eta$ satisfying the following three conditions:

- (i) $\xi n \otimes_N \eta = \xi \otimes_N n\eta$,
 - (ii) $m(\xi \otimes_N \eta)p = (m\xi) \otimes_N (\eta p)$,
 - (iii) $\langle \xi \otimes_N \eta, \xi' \otimes_N \eta' \rangle_M = \langle \xi \langle \eta, \eta' \rangle_N, \xi' \rangle_M$
- (for all $m \in M$, $n \in N$, and $p \in P$).

Remark 2.9. Among the properties enjoyed by fusion are: it is distributive over direct sums, it is associative, and it is multiplicative in dimension, i.e.,

$$\dim_M({}_M H_N \otimes_N {}_N K_P) = (\dim_M H)(\dim_N K).$$

Let $N \subset M$ be an inclusion of II_1 factors with finite index. $L^2(N)$ can be identified with a subspace of $L^2(M)$. Let e_1 denote the corresponding projection on $L^2(M)$, and let M_1 be the von Neumann algebra generated by M and e_1 . Then M_1 is a II_1 factor and $[M_1 : M] = [M : N]$. This procedure is called the basic construction [16]. Recall that the space of bounded vectors in $L^2(M)$ can be identified with M . e_1 leaves this space invariant, inducing a trace-preserving conditional expectation of M onto N .

Iterating the basic construction we get a sequence of projections e_1, e_2, \dots and a tower of algebras $M_{-1} \subset M_0 \subset M_1 \subset M_2 \subset \dots$, where $M_{-1} = N$, $M_0 = M$, e_k the projection onto $L^2(M_{k-2})$ in $B(L^2(M_{k-1}))$, and M_k is the von Neumann algebra generated by M_{k-1} and e_k , for $k \geq 1$. Restricting the tower to those elements that commute with N , we get a tower of finite-dimensional algebras, called the tower of relative commutants $N' \cap M_k$.

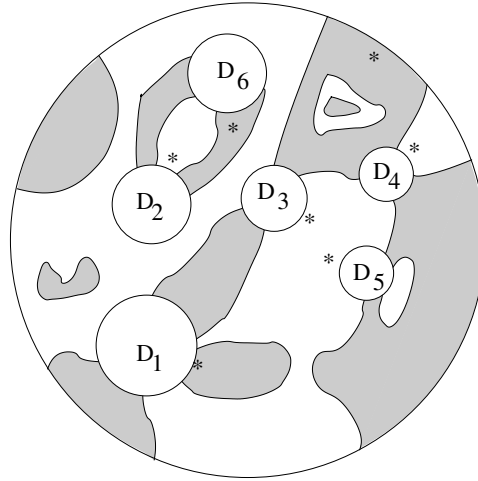
Each $L^2(M_k)$, $k \geq 0$ is an $N - N$ bimodule, and

Proposition 2.10. $L^2(M_k) \cong L^2(M) \otimes_N \dots \otimes_N L^2(M)$ ($k + 1$ factors) as an $N - N$ bimodule. Moreover, $\text{Hom}_{N-N} L^2(M_k) \cong N' \cap M_{2k+1}$. So an $N - N$ bimodule decomposition of $\otimes_N^{k+1} L^2(M)$ corresponds to a decomposition of the identity in $N' \cap M_{2k+1}$. Under this correspondence projections in $N' \cap M_{2k+1}$ correspond to submodules of $\otimes_N^{k+1} L^2(M)$, minimal projections correspond to irreducible submodules (those that have no proper nonzero closed submodules), and minimal central projections to equivalence classes of irreducible submodules.

2.2. Planar algebras. In [19] a diagrammatic calculus was introduced as an axiomatisation and calculational tool for the standard invariant of a finite index subfactor. We will use it heavily in this paper, so we recall some of the essentials. The specific uses of the calculus in this paper make possible a couple of simplifying conventions for the pictures.

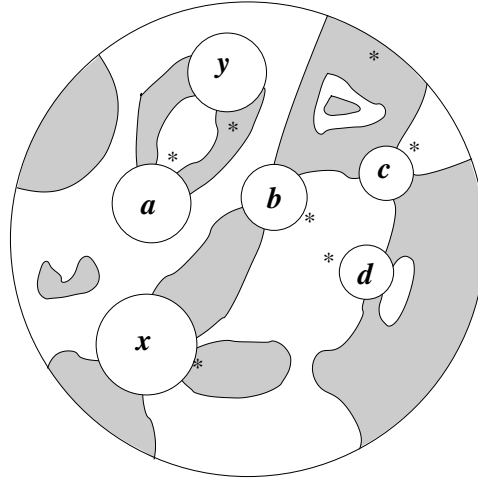
In its most recent formulation in [23] a planar algebra \mathfrak{P} consists of vector spaces P_k^\pm indexed by a nonnegative integer n and a sign $+$ or $-$. For the planar algebra of a subfactor $N \subseteq M$, $P_k^+ = N' \cap M_{k-1}$ and $P_k^- = M' \cap M_k$. The vector spaces P_k^\pm form an algebra over the planar operad which means that there are multilinear maps between the P_k^\pm indexed by planar tangles. A planar k -tangle \mathfrak{T} consists of (i) the unit disc D_0 with $2k$ distinguished boundary points, a finite number of disjoint interior discs $D_j \subset D_0$ for $k \geq 0$, each with an even number of distinguished boundary points, and smooth disjoint curves called strings, in D_0 meeting the D_j exactly (transversally) in the distinguished boundary points; (ii) a black and white shading of the regions of \mathfrak{T} whose boundaries consist of the strings and the boundaries of the discs between the distinguished points. Regions of the tangle whose closures intersect are shaded different colours. (iii) For each disc D_j there is a choice of distinguished boundary interval between two adjacent distinguished points.

An example of a k -tangle is shown below (where we have used a $*$ near a boundary interval to indicate the chosen one).



The multilinear map associated to the k -tangle \mathfrak{T} goes from the product of the $P_{k_j}^\pm$ for each internal disc, where k is half the number of boundary points for D_j , to P_k^\pm , the signs being chosen $+$ if the distinguished boundary region is shaded and $-$ if it is unshaded. The axioms of a planar algebra are that the multilinear maps be independent of isotopies globally fixing the boundary of D_0 and be compatible with the gluing of tangles in a sense made clear in [19]. To indicate the value of a tangle on its arguments one simply inserts the arguments in the internal discs. This notation for an element of P_k is called a labelled tangle. For instance for $x \in P_3^+$, $y \in P_2^+$ and $a, b, c, d \in P_2^-$, the labelled tangle below is the element of P_4^+ obtained by applying the multilinear map defined by the tangle above to the

elements x, y, a, b, c, d according to the discs in which they are placed.

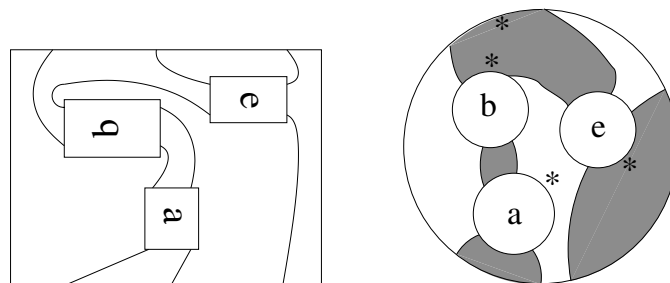


We refer to [19] for details on the meaning of various tangles and the fact that the standard invariant of a subfactor is a planar algebra. Recall that closed strings in a tangle can always be removed, each one counting for a multiplicative factor of the parameter δ , which is the square root of the index for a subfactor planar algebra.

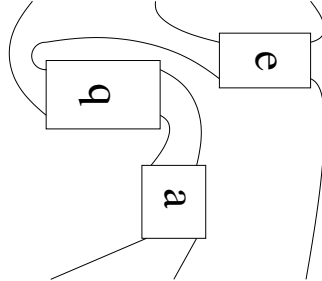
To avoid both the shading and the marking of the distinguished boundary interval we will adopt the following convention:

All discs will be replaced by rectangles called “boxes”. The distinguished boundary points will be on a pair of opposite edges of each box, called the top and bottom. Labels will be well chosen letters which have a top and bottom which will allow us to say which edge is top and which is bottom. The distinguished interval will be supposed shaded and will always be between the first and second strings on the top of a box. This allows us to put elements of P_k^+ in the boxes. So we further adopt the convention that if t is in P_k^- , then it will be inserted at right angles to the top-bottom axis of its rectangle, which is to be interpreted as an internal disc whose distinguished (unshaded) interval is the edge of the rectangle to which the letter points upwards.

Thus the two diagrams below, with $a \in P_2^-$ and $b, e \in P_2^+$ represent the same thing according to our convention.

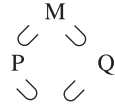


We will also from time to time simplify the diagrams further by suppressing the outside rectangle. Thus both of the above pictures are the same as the one below:



3. GENERALITIES

3.1. Multiplication. Let $N \subset M$ be an irreducible inclusion of II_1 factors with finite index, and suppose that P and Q are intermediate subfactors of this inclusion.



Following Sano and Watatani [33], we say that $\begin{matrix} M \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ P \quad Q \\ \searrow \swarrow \\ N \end{matrix}$ is a quadrilateral if $P \vee Q = M$ and $P \wedge Q = N$. (There is no real loss of generality here since in any case we can restrict our attention to $P \vee Q$ and $P \wedge Q$.)

Proposition 3.1. *The multiplication map from $P \otimes_N Q$ to M extends to a surjective $N - N$ bimodule intertwiner from $L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q)$ to $L^2(PQ)$.*

Proof. The extension is simply (a scalar multiple of) the composition

$$L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q) \rightarrow L^2(M) \otimes_N L^2(M) \cong L^2(M_1) \rightarrow L^2(M),$$

where the first map is the tensor product of the inclusions and the last map is the conditional expectation e_M . □

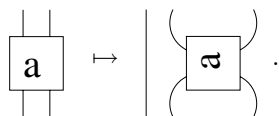
Corollary 3.2. *$L^2(PQ)$ is isomorphic as an $N - N$ bimodule to a submodule of $L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q)$.*

Remark 3.3. In a similar way, for any k , we can define a multiplication map from $\otimes_N^k (L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q))$ to $L^2((PQ)^k)$.

3.2. Comultiplication. Let $N \subset M$ be an irreducible inclusion of II_1 factors with finite index. (Irreducible here means that $N' \cap M \cong \mathbb{C}$.) Consider also the dual inclusion $M \subset M_1$.

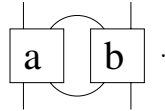
Proposition 3.4. *The first relative commutants $N' \cap M_1$ and $M' \cap M_2$ have the same vector space dimension, and the map $\phi : N' \cap M_1 \rightarrow M' \cap M_2$, $a \mapsto \delta^3 E_{M'}(ae_2e_1)$, is a linear isomorphism with inverse $a \mapsto \delta^3 E_{M_1}(ae_1e_2)$, where $\delta = [M : N]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ and $E_{M'}$, E_{M_1} are the conditional expectations of $N' \cap M_2$ onto $M' \cap M_2$ and $N' \cap M_1$ respectively.*

Remark 3.5. In the planar picture, ϕ is simply



Pulling back the multiplication in $M' \cap M_2$ via ϕ gives a second multiplication on $N' \cap M_1$. Using the inner product given by the trace one may identify the vector space $N' \cap M_1$ with its dual, and the second multiplication may thus be pulled back to the dual. If the depth of the subfactor is 2, then this multiplication on the dual induces a Hopf algebra structure on $N' \cap M_1$, but in general this does not work. We will abuse terminology by calling the second multiplication on $N' \cap M_1$ “comultiplication” and use the symbol \circ for it.

Definition 3.6. Let a and b be elements of $N' \cap M_1$. Then $a \circ b = \phi^{-1}(\phi(b)\phi(a)) = \delta^9 E_{M_1}(E_{M'}(be_2e_1)E_{M'}(ae_2e_1)e_1e_2)$. Diagrammatically, $a \circ b$ is given by the picture



Remark 3.7. Dually, there is a comultiplication on $M' \cap M_2$, also denoted by \circ , defined by pulling back the multiplication via ϕ^{-1} . Consequently, all of the formulas involving comultiplication have dual versions.

If V is a vector subspace of M which is closed under left and right multiplication by elements of N , then the closure of the image of V in $L^2(M)$ is an $N - N$ submodule of $L^2(M)$, denoted by $L^2(V)$, and the corresponding projection (necessarily in $N' \cap M_1$) by e_V . Conversely, any projection in $N' \cap M_1$ is of the form e_V for a strongly closed $N - N$ submodule V of M , which is self-adjoint and multiplicatively closed iff V is an intermediate subfactor. Bisch has shown that if e is an arbitrary projection in $N' \cap M_1$, then e is of the form e_P for an intermediate subfactor P iff e commutes with the modular conjugation on $L^2(M)$ and $e \circ e$ is a scalar multiple of e [2]. In that case e is called a *biprojection*.

NOTATION: In the planar algebra pictures, discs will be labelled simply by V instead of e_V .

Note that the set of biprojections inherits a partial order from the intermediate subfactor lattice. In particular, $e_1 = e_N = e_N e_P$ for any intermediate subfactor P .

If $N \subset P \subset M$ is an intermediate subfactor with biprojection e_P , then $\bar{P} = \langle M, e_P \rangle$ is an intermediate subfactor of the dual inclusion $M \subset M_1$ with biprojection $e_{\bar{P}} \in M' \cap M_2$.

Lemma 3.8. *Suppose e_P is a biprojection with dual biprojection $e_{\bar{P}}$. Then $E_{\bar{P}}(e_1) = \delta^{-2} tr(e_P)^{-1} e_P$.*

Proof. Let x and y be elements of M . Then

$$\begin{aligned} tr(e_1 x e_P y) &= tr(e_1 e_P x e_P y) = tr(e_1 E_P(x)y) = \delta^{-2} tr(E_P(x)y) \\ &= \delta^{-2} tr(e_P)^{-1} tr(e_P E_P(x)y) = \delta^{-2} tr(e_P)^{-1} tr(e_P x e_P y). \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 3.9. *With notation as above,*

$$\phi(e_P) = \left| \left(\begin{array}{c} \square \\ \text{P} \end{array} \right) \right| = \delta tr(e_P) e_{\bar{P}}.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{-1}(e_{\bar{P}}) &= \delta^3 E_{M_1}(e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2) = \delta^3 E_{M_1}(e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_{\bar{P}}e_2) = \delta^3 E_{M_1}(E_{\bar{P}}(e_1)e_2) \\ &= \delta^3 E_{\bar{P}}(e_1)E_{M_1}(e_2) = \delta^{-1}tr(e_P)^{-1}e_P. \end{aligned}$$

Applying ϕ to both sides of the equation gives the result. □

Let P and Q be intermediate subfactors of the inclusion $N \subset M$ with corresponding projections e_P and e_Q . Then $\bar{P} = \langle M, e_P \rangle$ and $\bar{Q} = \langle M, e_Q \rangle$ are intermediate subfactors of the dual inclusion $M \subset M_1$, with corresponding projections $e_{\bar{P}}$ and $e_{\bar{Q}}$ in $M' \cap M_2$.

The following result is due to Zeph Landau:

Theorem 3.10. (*Landau*)

$$e_P \circ e_Q = \begin{array}{c} | \quad | \\ \text{P} \quad \text{Q} \\ | \quad | \end{array} = \delta tr(e_P e_Q) e_{PQ}.$$

Proof. By Lemma 3.9 we have

$$\begin{aligned} e_P \circ e_Q &= \phi^{-1}(\phi(e_Q)\phi(e_P)) = \delta^2 tr(e_Q)tr(e_P)\phi^{-1}(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}) \\ &= \delta^5 tr(e_Q)tr(e_P)E_{M_1}(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2). \end{aligned}$$

By a small abuse of notation, we shall identify M with its image in $L^2(M)$. Let $x \in M$. For any $a \in N' \cap M_1$, we have $a(x) = \delta^2 E_M(axe_1)$. In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} e_P \circ e_Q(x) &= \delta^5 tr(e_P)tr(e_Q)E_{M_1}(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2)(x) \\ &= \delta^7 tr(e_P)tr(e_Q)E_M(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2xe_1). \end{aligned}$$

Let y be another element of M . Then

$$\begin{aligned} tr(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2xe_1y) &= tr(e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_{\bar{P}}e_2xe_2e_{\bar{Q}}e_1e_{\bar{Q}}y) \\ &= \delta^{-4}tr(e_P)^{-1}tr(e_Q)^{-1}tr(e_P e_2 x e_Q y) \quad (\text{by 3.8}) \\ &= \delta^{-6}tr(e_P)^{-1}tr(e_Q)^{-1}tr(e_P x e_Q y). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $E_M(e_{\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{P}}e_1e_2xe_1) = \delta^{-6}tr(e_P)^{-1}tr(e_Q)^{-1}E_M(e_P x e_Q)$ and $e_P \circ e_Q(x) = \delta E_M(e_P x e_Q)$.

So if $x = pq$, with $p \in P$ and $q \in Q$, then $e_P \circ e_Q(x) = \delta E_M(e_P x e_Q) = \delta E_M(e_P e_Q)x = \delta tr(e_P e_Q)(x)$.

To finish the proof, it suffices to show that $e_P \circ e_Q$ vanishes on the orthogonal complement of $L^2(PQ)$, or equivalently, that if $tr(xqp) = 0$ for all $p \in P, q \in Q$, then $E_M(e_P x e_Q) = 0$. So suppose $tr(xqp) = 0$ for all $p \in P, q \in Q$. Let $\{p_i\}, \{q_j\}$ be Pimsner–Popa bases over N for P and Q , respectively. Then $e_P = \sum p_i e_1 p_i^*$ and $e_Q = \sum q_i e_N q_i^*$. Suppose $y \in M$. For any i, j , we have $tr(p_i e_1 p_i^* x q_j e_1 q_j^* y) = \delta^{-2}tr(p_i^* x q_i E_N(q_j^* y p_i)) = \delta^{-2}tr(x q_i E_N(q_j^* y p_i) p_i^*) = 0$. This implies that $E_M(e_P x e_Q) = 0$. □

Corollary 3.11. $e_{PQ}(M) = PQ$.

Proof. From the proof we have $e_{PQ}(x) = tr(e_P e_Q)^{-1}E_M(e_P x e_Q)$. Moreover $e_P = \sum p_i e_1 p_i^*$ and $e_Q = \sum q_i e_N q_i^*$ with the same notation as in Theorem 3.10. We see that $e_{PQ}(M) \subset PQ$. □

Corollary 3.12. *PQ is strongly closed in M.*

Proof. Since e_{PQ} is strongly continuous and the identity on PQ , e_{PQ} is the identity on the strong closure of PQ . \square

Lemma 3.13. *Let $a \in N' \cap M_1$. Then*

$$\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{a} \\ | \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{a} \\ | \end{array} = \delta tr(a).$$

Proof. Labelled tangles with two boundary points are elements of $N' \cap M$, which by irreducibility must be scalars. So

$$\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{a} \\ | \end{array} = tr \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{a} \\ | \end{array} \right) = \delta^{-1} tr \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{a} \\ | \end{array} \right) = \delta tr(a).$$

\square

One corollary of Theorem 3.10 is the following multiplication formula:

Proposition 3.14. $tr(e_{PQ})tr(e_P e_Q) = tr(e_P)tr(e_Q)$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \delta tr(e_{PQ})tr(e_P e_Q) &= tr \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{P} \quad \boxed{Q} \\ | \end{array} \right) \\ &= \delta^{-2} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{P} \quad \boxed{Q} \\ | \end{array} \right) = \delta^{-2} \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{P} \\ | \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \boxed{Q} \\ | \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{c} | \\ \bigcirc \\ | \end{array} \right) \\ &= \delta tr(e_P)tr(e_Q). \end{aligned}$$

\square

Corollary 3.15. $tr(e_{PQ}) = tr(e_{QP})$.

And another trace formula:

Lemma 3.16. $tr(e_P e_Q) = \frac{1}{\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q})}$.

Proof. $\frac{1}{\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q})} = \frac{1}{\delta^2 tr(e_{PQ})} = \frac{tr(e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}})}{\delta^2 tr(e_{\bar{P}})tr(e_{\bar{Q}})}$, by Proposition 3.14 . By Lemma 3.9,

$$e_{\bar{P}} = \frac{1}{\delta tr(e_P)} \phi(e_P),$$

so we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q})} &= \frac{1}{\delta^4 \text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}})\text{tr}(e_{\bar{Q}})\text{tr}(e_P)\text{tr}(e_Q)} \text{tr}(\phi(e_P)\phi(e_Q)) \\ &= \text{tr}(\phi(e_P)\phi(e_Q)) \\ &= \delta^{-2} \left[\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{P} & \text{Q} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] . \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{P} & \text{Q} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] &= \delta^3 \text{tr}(e_1(e_P \circ e_Q)e_1) \\ &= \delta^4 \text{tr}(e_P e_Q)\text{tr}(e_1) = \delta^2 \text{tr}(e_P e_Q) . \end{aligned}$$

Combining these two equations gives the result. □

We mention one more formula which we will need later.

Lemma 3.17. $\text{tr}(e_P e_Q e_Q e_P) = (\delta \text{tr}(e_P e_Q))^2 \text{tr}((e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{P}})^2)$.

Proof. By Theorem 3.10,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(e_P e_Q e_Q e_P) &= \frac{\text{tr}((e_P \circ e_Q)(e_Q \circ e_P))}{(\delta \text{tr}(e_P e_Q))(\delta \text{tr}(e_Q e_P))} \\ &= \frac{1}{\delta^4 (\text{tr}(e_P e_Q))^2} \left[\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \text{P} & \text{Q} \\ \hline \text{Q} & \text{P} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] . \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 3.9,

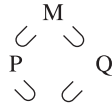
$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}((e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{P}})^2) &= \text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\delta^4 \text{tr}(e_P)^2 \text{tr}(e_Q)^2} \text{tr} \left(\left[\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{P} \\ \hline \text{Q} \\ \hline \text{P} \\ \hline \text{Q} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] \right) = \frac{1}{\delta^6 \text{tr}(e_P)^2 \text{tr}(e_Q)^2} \left[\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{P} \\ \hline \text{Q} \\ \hline \text{P} \\ \hline \text{Q} \\ \hline \end{array} \right] . \end{aligned}$$

By [2] the 2-box for a biprojection is invariant under rotation by π , so the two trace pictures are the same. Combining these two equations then gives

$$\text{tr}(e_{PQ}e_{QP}) = \delta^2 \frac{\text{tr}(e_P)^2 \text{tr}(e_Q)^2}{\text{tr}(e_P e_Q)^2} \text{tr}((e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{P}})^2),$$

which by Proposition 3.14 equals $(\delta \text{tr}(e_{PQ}))^2 \text{tr}((e_{\bar{P}} e_{\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{P}})^2)$. □

3.3. Commuting and cocommuting quadrilaterals. Following Sano and Watatani [33] we consider the condition that a quadrilateral forms a commuting square, which means that $e_P e_Q = e_Q e_P$. A quadrilateral is called a cocommuting square if the dual quadrilateral is a commuting square.



Lemma 3.18. *Let $\begin{array}{ccc} & M & \\ \swarrow & & \searrow \\ P & & Q \\ \searrow & & \swarrow \\ & N & \end{array}$ be a quadrilateral of II_1 factors, where $N \subset M$ is an irreducible finite-index inclusion. Consider the multiplication map of Proposition 3.1 from $L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q)$ to $L^2(PQ)$. The quadrilateral commutes iff this map is injective and cocommutes iff the map is surjective.*

Proof. The quadrilateral commutes iff $e_P e_Q = e_Q e_P$ iff $e_P e_Q = e_N$. By Proposition 3.14 this is equivalent to $\frac{1}{[M : N]} = \text{tr}(e_N) = \text{tr}(e_P e_Q) = \frac{\text{tr}(e_P) \text{tr}(e_Q)}{\text{tr}(e_{PQ})}$, or

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_N L^2(PQ) &= [M : N] \text{tr}(e_{PQ}) = [M : N]^2 \text{tr}(e_P) \text{tr}(e_Q) \\ &= \dim_N L^2(P) \cdot \dim_N L^2(Q) = \dim_N L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q). \end{aligned}$$

But by Corollary 3.2, $L^2(PQ)$ is isomorphic to a submodule of $L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q)$, so the two have the same N -dimension iff they are in fact isomorphic, which is equivalent to the injectivity of the multiplication map.

The quadrilateral cocommutes iff $e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}} = e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}} = e_M$. By Lemma 3.16, this is equivalent to $\dim_N L^2(PQ) = \frac{1}{\text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}})} = \frac{1}{\text{tr}(e_M)} = \dim_N L^2(M)$, which is equivalent to $L^2(PQ) = L^2(M)$. □

Corollary 3.19. *The quadrilateral commutes iff*

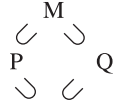
$$\dim_N L^2(PQ) = \dim_N(L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q)) = [P : N][Q : N].$$

Corollary 3.20. *The quadrilateral cocommutes iff $L^2(PQ) = L^2(QP)$.*

Proof. If the quadrilateral cocommutes, then $L^2(PQ) = L^2(M) = L^2(QP)$. Conversely, if $L^2(PQ) = L^2(QP)$, then $e_{PQ} = e_{QP}$. By Theorem 3.10, e_{PQ} is a scalar multiple of $e_P \circ e_Q$, so $e_{PQ} \circ e_{PQ}$ is a scalar multiple of $(e_P \circ e_Q) \circ (e_P \circ e_Q) = e_P \circ (e_Q \circ e_P) \circ e_Q = e_P \circ (e_P \circ e_Q) \circ e_Q = (e_P \circ e_P) \circ (e_Q \circ e_Q)$, which is a scalar multiple of $e_P \circ e_Q$. This implies that e_{PQ} is a biprojection. The corresponding subfactor has to contain both P and Q , so is all of M . So $L^2(PQ) = L^2(M)$ and

the quadrilateral cocommutes. □

In fact one doesn't need the Hilbert space completion for this:



Theorem 3.21. *Let $\begin{array}{ccc} & M & \\ \hookrightarrow & & \searrow \\ P & & Q \\ \searrow & & \hookrightarrow \\ & N & \end{array}$ be a quadrilateral of II_1 factors, where $N \subset M$ is an irreducible finite-index inclusion. Consider the multiplication map from the (algebraic) bimodule tensor product $P \otimes_N Q$ to M . The quadrilateral commutes iff this map is injective and cocommutes iff the map is surjective.*

Proof. (a) Injectivity. If the algebraic map from $P \otimes_N Q$ to M has a kernel, then it is obvious that the L^2 map does. On the other hand, the kernel \mathfrak{K} of the L^2 map μ is a closed $N - N$ sub-bimodule of $L^2(M_1)$ (under the isomorphism of $L^2(M) \otimes_N L^2(M)$ with $L^2(M_1)$), and by the form of elements in the first relative commutant the orthogonal projection onto \mathfrak{K} sends M_1 to itself, so there are elements of M_1 in $\ker \mu$. Moreover since $M_1 \cong M \otimes_N M$ the map $E_P \otimes E_Q$ produces an element of $\ker \mu$ in $P e_N Q$.

(b) Surjectivity. The algebraic map is surjective iff $PQ = M$. Clearly $PQ = M$ implies $L^2(PQ) = L^2(M)$. Conversely if $L^2(PQ) = L^2(M)$, then e_{PQ} is the identity, so $M = PQ$ by Corollary 3.11. □

Remark 3.22. Sano and Watatani have already shown that the quadrilateral is a cocommuting square iff $PQ = M$ under the additional hypothesis that the quadrilateral is a commuting square [33].

4. NO EXTRA STRUCTURE

4.1. Definition. Let $N \subset M$ be an inclusion of II_1 factors with associated tower $M_{-1} \subset M_0 \subset M_1 \subset \dots$, where $M_{-1} = N$, $M_0 = M$, and M_{k+1} , $k \geq 0$ is the von Neumann algebra on $L^2(M_k)$ generated by M_k and e_{k+1} , the projection onto $L^2(M_{k-1})$. Each e_k commutes with N , so $\{1, e_1, \dots, e_k\}$ generates a $*$ -subalgebra, which we will call TL_{k+1} , of the k^{th} relative commutant $N' \cap M_k$.

To motivate the following definition (which first occurs in [23]) consider the case where $N = R^G, M = R^H$, where G is a finite group of outer automorphisms of the II_1 factor R . It is well known that, as a vector space, $N' \cap M_k$ is the set of G -invariant functions on X^{k+1} , where $X = G/H$. Thus the *transitivity* of the action of G on X is measured by the dimension of $N' \cap M_k$ (an action is $(k+1)$ -transitive if its dimension is the same as that for the full symmetric group S_X). Moreover any function invariant under S_X is necessarily invariant under G , so the relative commutants for $R^G \subseteq R^H$ always contain a copy of those coming from S_X . The invariants under S_X in this context are sometimes called the partition algebra, so transitivity (or rather lack of it) is measured by how much bigger $N' \cap M_k$ is than the partition algebra. Now for a general subfactor $N \subseteq M$ a similar situation occurs: $N' \cap M_k$ always contains TL_{k+1} . Since this is, for $k > 3$, strictly smaller in dimension than the partition algebra, we see that if we think of subfactors as “quantum” spaces G/H they might be “more transitive” than finite group actions.

Definition 4.1. Call a finite-index subfactor $N \subseteq M$ k -supertransitive (for $k > 1$) if $N' \cap M_{k-1} = TL_k$. We will say that $N \subseteq M$ is supertransitive if it is k -supertransitive for all k .

Since $\dim TL_k$ is the same as the partition algebra for $k = 1, 2, 3$, it is natural to call a 1, 2 or 3-supertransitive subfactor transitive, 2-transitive or 3-transitive, respectively.

Remark 4.2. $N \subseteq M$ is transitive iff it is irreducible, i.e. $N' \cap M \cong \mathbb{C}$, it is 2-transitive iff the $N - N$ bimodule $L^2(M)$ has two irreducible components and 3-transitive iff $\dim N' \cap M_2 \leq 5$. Supertransitivity of $N \subseteq M$ is the same as saying its principal graph is A_n for some $n = 2, 3, 4, \dots, \infty$.

Lemma 4.3. *Suppose $N \subset M$ is supertransitive. If $[M : N] \geq 4$, then there is a sequence of irreducible $N - N$ bimodules V_0, V_1, V_2, \dots such that $L^2(N) \cong V_0$, $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus V_1$, and $V_i \otimes V_j \cong \bigoplus_{k=|i-j|}^{i+j} V_k$. If $[M : N] = 4 \cos^2(\frac{\pi}{n})$, then the sequence terminates at V_l , where $l = \lfloor \frac{n-2}{2} \rfloor$, and the fusion rule is*

$$V_i \otimes V_j \cong \bigoplus_{k=|i-j|}^{(\frac{n-2}{2}) - |(\frac{n-2}{2}) - (i+j)|} V_k$$

(see [5]).

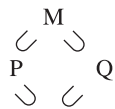
In either case, we have

$$\dim_N V_k = [M : N]^k T_{2k+1}(\frac{1}{[M : N]}),$$

where $\{T_k(x)\}$ is the sequence of polynomials defined recursively by $T_0(x) = 0$, $T_1(x) = 1$, and $T_{k+2}(x) = T_{k+1}(x) - xT_k(x)$.

Remark 4.4. $\dim_N V_1 = [M : N] - 1$ and $\dim_N V_2 = [M : N]^2 - 3[M : N] + 1$.

Remark 4.5. If $N \subset M$ is $2k$ -supertransitive, then there is a sequence of irreducible bimodules V_0, \dots, V_k for which the above fusion rules and dimension formula hold as long as $i + j \leq k$.



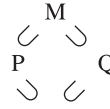
Now let N be a quadrilateral of finite index subfactors. We will call the four subfactors $N \subseteq P, N \subseteq Q, P \subseteq M$, and $Q \subseteq M$ the *elementary subfactors*.

Definition 4.6. A quadrilateral as above will be said to have no extra structure if all the elementary subfactors are supertransitive.

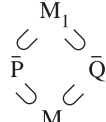
Note that if a quadrilateral has no extra structure, the dual quadrilateral also has no extra structure.

Example 4.7. Let $G = S_3$ and let H and K be distinct two-element subgroups of G . Given an outer action of G on a II_1 factor M , let $N = M^G$, and let $P = M^H$ and $Q = M^K$. Then $N \subset P, Q \subset M$ is a quadrilateral which cocommutes (since $M' \cap M_2 \cong l^\infty(G)$ is Abelian) but does not commute (since $HK \neq KH$).

This quadrilateral has no extra structure since the permutation actions of S_2 and S_3 are as transitive as possible.



4.2. **Consequences of supertransitivity.** Let $N \subset M$ be a quadrilateral of II_1 factors, where $N \subset M$ is an irreducible inclusion with finite index. We also have



the dual quadrilateral M_1 . Let $N \subset P \subset P_1 \dots$ be the tower for $N \subset P$, and similarly for Q .

Lemma 4.8. *If $N \subseteq P$ and $N \subseteq Q$ are 2-transitive and the quadrilateral does not commute, then $L^2(P) \cong L^2(Q)$ as $N - N$ bimodules, and therefore $[P : N] = [Q : N]$.*

Proof. By Remark 4.2 write $L^2(P) = L^2(N) \oplus V$, where V is an irreducible $N - N$ bimodule. Similarly $L^2(Q) = L^2(N) \oplus W$, for some irreducible $N - N$ bimodule W . Since $e_P e_Q$ is an $N - N$ intertwiner of $L^2(M)$ which fixes $L^2(N)$, leaves $L^2(N)^\perp$ invariant and whose range is contained in $L^2(P)$, it maps W into V . Since W is irreducible, $\ker(e_P e_Q|_W)$ must either be zero or all of W . The former is impossible since that would imply $e_P e_Q = e_N$, which is contrary to our assumption that the quadrilateral does not commute. Thus $V \cong W$, and $\dim_N V = \dim_N W$. \square

Corollary 4.9. $L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(Q) \cong L^2(P) \otimes_N L^2(P) \cong L^2(P_1)$.

Lemma 4.10. *If $P \subseteq M$ is 2-transitive, then $L^2(PQP) = L^2(M)$.*

Proof. By Remark 4.2 write $L^2(M) \cong L^2(P) \oplus W$ for some irreducible $P - P$ bimodule W . Since $L^2(PQP)$ is a $P - P$ submodule of $L^2(M)$ which is strictly larger than $L^2(P)$, it must in fact be equal to $L^2(M)$. \square

Remark 4.11. Suppose all of the elementary inclusions of the quadrilateral are $2k$ -supertransitive for some $k \geq 1$. Then the elementary inclusions of the dual quadrilateral are also $2k$ -supertransitive. Putting together Remark 3.3, Lemma 4.10, and Lemma 4.8, we find that as an $N - N$ bimodule, $L^2(M)$, is a quotient of $\otimes_N^3 L^2(P)$. If $k \geq 3$, then the irreducible submodules of $L^2(M)$ belong to $\{V_0, V_1, V_2, V_3\}$, where the $\{V_i\}$ are as in Remark 4.5 for the 6-supertransitive inclusion $N \subset P$. Similarly, as an $M - M$ bimodule, $L^2(M_1)$ is a quotient of $\otimes_M^3 L^2(\bar{P})$. We will write U_0, U_1 , etc., for the irreducible $M - M$ bimodules occurring in the decomposition of the first k tensor powers of $L^2(\bar{P})$.

For convenience we state the following rewording of a lemma in [30], which we will be using repeatedly:

Lemma 4.12. *If the $N - N$ bimodule decomposition of $L^2(M)$ contains k copies of the $N - N$ bimodule R , then $k \leq \dim_N R$. In particular, $L^2(M)$ contains only one copy of $L^2(N)$.*

Proof. ${}_N L^2(M)_N \cong ({}_N L^2(M)_M) \otimes_M ({}_M L^2(M)_N)$, so if ${}_N L^2(M)_N$ contains k copies of R , then by Frobenius reciprocity, $R \otimes_N ({}_N L^2(M)_M)$ contains k copies of the $N - M$ bimodule ${}_N L^2(M)_M$, which implies that

$$\dim_N(R \otimes_N {}_N L^2(M)_M) = \dim_N(R)[M : N] \geq k \cdot \dim_N({}_N L^2(M)_M) = k[M : N].$$

\square

Lemma 4.13. *If $N \subseteq P$ and $N \subseteq Q$ are 4-supertransitive and the quadrilateral does not commute, then the $N - N$ bimodule $L^2(PQ)$ is isomorphic to one of the following: $V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2$, $V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2$, or $V_0 \oplus 3V_1$, where the V_i are as in Lemma 4.3 (for the 4-supertransitive inclusion $N \subset P$).*

Proof. By Corollary 3.2, $L^2(PQ)$ is isomorphic to a submodule of $L^2(P_1)$. A decomposition of $L^2(P_1)$ into $N - N$ submodules corresponds to a decomposition of the identity in $N' \cap P_3$.

If $\dim(N' \cap P_3) = 14$, then $N' \cap P_3 \cong M_2(\mathbb{C}) \oplus M_3(\mathbb{C}) \oplus \mathbb{C}$, where the first summand corresponds to V_0 , the second to V_1 , and the third to V_2 . So $L^2(P_1) \cong 2V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2$. By Lemma 4.12, $L^2(PQ)$ contains only one copy of $L^2(N)$. Also, by Lemma 4.8, $L^2(Q) \cong L^2(P)$, but $L^2(P) \neq L^2(Q)$, so $L^2(PQ)$ contains at least two copies of V_1 . It is impossible that $L^2(PQ) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1$, since that would imply that $L^2(PQ) = L^2(P + Q) = L^2(QP) = L^2(M)$, which would imply that

$$[M : P] = \frac{\dim_N L^2(M)}{\dim_N L^2(P)} < 2.$$

That leaves the three possibilities above. If $\dim(N' \cap P_3) < 14$, then the argument is essentially the same, except there is no V_2 , so only one possibility remains. \square

4.3. Cocommuting quadrilaterals with no extra structure.

Notation. From now on the supertransitivity hypotheses will guarantee that $[M : P] = [M : Q]$. We introduce the following notational conventions:

$$[M : P] = \beta, \quad [P : N] = \alpha, \quad [M : N] = \gamma = 1/\tau,$$

which we will use without further mention.

Lemma 4.14. *If $N \subset P$ and $N \subset Q$ are 2-transitive, then $e_P e_Q e_P = e_N + \lambda(e_P - e_N)$, where*

$$\lambda = \frac{\text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}})^{-1} - 1}{[P : N] - 1}.$$

Proof. That $e_P e_Q e_P = e_N + \lambda(e_P - e_N)$ for some λ follows from the fact that $e_P e_Q e_P$ is an $N - N$ intertwiner of $L^2(P) \cong V_0 \oplus V_1$, which is the identity on $L^2(N)$. To compute λ , note that $\text{tr}(e_P e_Q e_P) = \text{tr}(e_N) + \lambda \text{tr}(e_P - e_N) = \frac{1}{\gamma} + \lambda \frac{\alpha - 1}{\gamma}$. Solving for λ and using $\text{tr}(e_P e_Q e_P) = \frac{1}{\gamma \text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}})}$ (by Lemma 3.16) completes the proof. \square

Corollary 4.15. $\text{tr}((e_P e_Q e_P)^2) = \frac{1 + \lambda^2([P : N] - 1)}{[M : N]}$.

Lemma 4.16. *If the quadrilateral cocommutes and $e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}} = e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}} e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}$, then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}\bar{P}) \\ &= [M : P]^2 \left(2 - \frac{[M : P]}{[P : N]} \left(1 + \left(\frac{[P : N] - [M : P]}{[M : N] - [M : P]} \right)^2 ([P : N] - 1) \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Since $e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}} = e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}} e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}$, $\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}\bar{P}) = \gamma(2\text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}) - \text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}} e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}}))$. Since the quadrilateral cocommutes,

$$\text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}) = \frac{\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q})}{\gamma} = \frac{\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}) \dim_M L^2(\bar{Q})}{\gamma} = \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma} = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}.$$

By (the dual version of) Lemma 3.17, $tr(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{Q}\bar{P}}) = (\delta tr(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}))^2 tr((e_{P\bar{Q}}e_{\bar{Q}P})^2)$
 $= tr(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}})^2(1 + \lambda^2(\alpha - 1)) = (\frac{\beta}{\alpha})^2(1 + \lambda^2(\alpha - 1))$. Also, since $tr(e_{\bar{P}\bar{Q}}) = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$, we
 have $\lambda = \frac{\alpha - \beta}{\gamma - \beta}$. Putting all this together gives the result. \square

Corollary 4.17. *In the special case that $[M : P] = [P : N] - 1$, the formula becomes $\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}\bar{P}) = [M : P]^2 + [M : P] - 1$.*

Theorem 4.18. *If the quadrilateral cocommutes but does not commute, and $N \subseteq P$ and $N \subseteq Q$ are 4-supertransitive, then N is the fixed point algebra of an outer S_3 action on M .*

Proof. Since the quadrilateral does not commute, $L^2(P) \cong L^2(Q)$ as $N - N$ bi-modules, by Lemma 4.8 . Since the quadrilateral cocommutes, $L^2(M) = L^2(PQ)$, and since $N' \cap P_3 \leq 14$, by Lemma 4.13 the isomorphism type of $L^2(M)$ is one of $V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2$, $V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2$, or $V_0 \oplus 3V_1$. For each of these cases we can explicitly compute β as a function of α using the formula $\beta = \gamma/\alpha = \dim_N L^2(M)/\alpha$ and the dimension formulas of Remark 4.4 .

Case 1: $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2$

In this case,

$$[\bar{P} : M] = \beta = \frac{\dim_N L^2(M)}{\alpha} = \frac{1 + 3(\alpha - 1) + \alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 1}{\alpha} = \alpha - \frac{1}{\alpha}.$$

Since the quadrilateral cocommutes, by Corollary 3.19 we have

$$\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) = (\alpha - \frac{1}{\alpha})^2.$$

But then the dimension of its orthogonal complement (in $L^2(M_1)$) is

$$\dim_M L^2(M_1) - \dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) = \alpha^2 - 1 - (\alpha - \frac{1}{\alpha})^2 = 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha^2} < 1,$$

which is impossible by Lemma 4.12 .

Case 2: $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1$

In this case,

$$\beta = \frac{1 + 3(\alpha - 1)}{\alpha} = 3 - \frac{2}{\alpha},$$

which necessarily equals $4 \cos^2 \frac{\pi}{5}$. (The only other admissible index value less than three is two, but that would imply that the total index is four and then the quadrilateral would commute.) Then we have the identity $\beta^2 = 3\beta - 1$, and $\alpha = 2\beta$. Since $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1$, any intermediate subfactor must have index equal to

$$\frac{1 + 3(\alpha - 1)}{1 + k(\alpha - 1)}$$

for $k = 1$ or $k = 2$. So to eliminate this case it suffices to find a proper subfactor of M with an integer-valued index, for which it suffices to find an $M - M$ submodule of $L^2(M_1)$ whose dimension over M is 1.

$L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q})$ has M -dimension $2 \dim_M L^2(\bar{P}) - \dim_M L^2(M) = 2\beta - 1$. Its orthogonal complement in $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q})$, which we shall call T , has M -dimension $\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) - \dim_M L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q}) = \beta^2 - (2\beta - 1) = \beta$. Since $\beta < 3$, if T is reducible, one of its irreducible components must have M -dimension 1, and we are finished. Similarly, if T' , the orthogonal complement of $L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q})$ in $L^2(\bar{Q}\bar{P})$, is reducible, then we get a submodule of M -dimension 1.

If T and T' are both irreducible, then $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) \cap L^2(\bar{Q}\bar{P}) = L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q})$. Then if S is the orthogonal complement of $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}\bar{P})$ in $L^2(M_1)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_M S &= \dim_M L^2(M_1) - (2 \dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) - \dim_M L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q})) \\ &= 2\beta^2 - (2\beta^2 - (2\beta - 1)) = 2\beta - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\dim(M' \cap M_2) = \dim(N' \cap M_1) = 10$, S must break into 3 components, one of which must have M -dimension 1.

Case 3: $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2$

In this case

$$\beta = \frac{1 + 2(\alpha - 1) + \alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 1}{\alpha} = \alpha - 1.$$

Note that $\dim(N' \cap M_1) = 6$, and therefore also $\dim(M' \cap M_2) = 6$. Because $L^2(M) \subset L^2(\bar{P}) \subset L^2(\bar{P} + \bar{Q}) \subset L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) \subset L^2(M_1)$ is a strictly increasing chain of $M - M$ bimodules ($\bar{P}\bar{Q}$ cannot be all of M_1 because the quadrilateral does not commute), $M' \cap M_2$ must be Abelian. If we let $x = \beta$ (so that $\alpha = x + 1$), then $\gamma = x^2 + x$, and by Corollary 4.17 we have that $\dim_M L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q} + \bar{Q}\bar{P}) = x^2 + x - 1$, and so the dimension of its orthogonal complement in $L^2(M_1)$ is 1.

It is then easy to see that the dimensions of the six distinct irreducible submodules of $L^2(M_1)$ are $1, x - 1, x - 1, x^2 - 2x - 1, x^2 - 2x - 1, 1$. But then summing we find that $2x^2 - 2x - 2 = \dim_M L^2(M_1) = x^2 + x$, which implies that $x = 2$. So $[\bar{P} : M] = [\bar{Q} : M] = 2$, and $[M_1 : M] = 6$.

So by Goldman's theorem [11], M_1 is the crossed product of M by S_3 , or, equivalently, N is the fixed point subalgebra of an outer S_3 action on M . \square

5. RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRINCIPAL GRAPH

If the quadrilateral has no extra structure, then we obtain severe restrictions on the principal graph. Specifically, for a noncommuting, noncocommuting quadrilateral with no extra structure the principal graph is completely determined.

5.1. Structural restrictions.

Lemma 5.1. *If the quadrilateral neither commutes nor cocommutes, and all the elementary subfactors are 6-supertransitive, then $N' \cap M_1$ and $M' \cap M_2$ both have more than two simple summands.*

Proof. First suppose that $N' \cap M_1$ and $M' \cap M_2$ both have exactly two simple summands. Then $L^2(M) = V_0 \oplus kV_1$ for some integer k . So we have

$$\beta = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha} = \frac{\dim_N(V_0 \oplus kV_1)}{\alpha} = \frac{1 + k(\alpha - 1)}{\alpha} = k - \frac{k - 1}{\alpha} < k.$$

By Lemma 4.12, $k \leq \dim_N V = \alpha - 1 < \alpha$, and so $\beta < \alpha$. But we can perform the same calculation in the dual quadrilateral to find that $\alpha < \beta$, which is a contradiction.

Now suppose that only $M' \cap M_2$ has exactly two simple summands, and write $L^2(M_1) \cong U_0 \oplus lU_1$. Note that because of the 6-supertransitivity hypothesis, the first few tensor powers of U_1 decompose according to the fusion rules of Lemma 4.3. By Lemma 4.13, $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) \cong U_0 \oplus 3U_1$, and since the quadrilateral does not commute, by Corollary 3.20, $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) \neq L^2(\bar{Q}\bar{P})$, so l must be at least 4. By Lemma 4.10 and Remark 3.3, $L^2(M_1)$ is a quotient of $L^2(\bar{P}\bar{Q}) \otimes_M L^2(\bar{P}) \cong (U_0 \oplus 3U_1) \otimes_M$

$(U_0 \oplus U_1) \cong 4U_0 \oplus 7U_1 \oplus 3U_2$, where the last isomorphism comes from the fusion rule $U_1 \otimes_M U_1 \cong U_0 \oplus U_1 \oplus U_2$ (if $\alpha < 3$, then $U_2 = 0$). So we find that $4 \leq l \leq 7$.

Similarly, $L^2(M)$ is a quotient of $L^2(PQ) \otimes_N L^2(P)$, which in all cases of Lemma 4.13 is a quotient of $(V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2) \otimes_N (V_0 \oplus V_1) \cong V_0 \oplus 8V_1 \oplus 5V_2 \oplus V_3$. Thus we may write $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus aV_1 \oplus bV_2 \oplus cV_3$, where a, b , and c are integers such that $2 \leq a \leq 8, 0 \leq b \leq 5$, and $0 \leq c \leq 1$, and b and c are not both 0.

But because we have $\dim(N' \cap M_1) = \dim(M' \cap M_2)$, we necessarily have $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = l^2$. A quick examination reveals that the only possibility is that $l = 5, c = 0$, and $\{a, b\} = \{3, 4\}$. But if $l = 5$, then

$$\alpha = \frac{\gamma}{\beta} = \frac{[M_1 : M]}{[P : M]} = 5 - \frac{4}{\beta} < 5,$$

which implies that $a \leq \dim_N V_1 < 4$ (by Lemma 4.12), so we may assume that $a = 3$ and $b = 4$. Then

$$\beta = \frac{\dim_N V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus 4V_2}{\alpha} = \frac{1 + 3(\alpha - 1) + 4(\alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 1)}{\alpha} = 4\alpha^2 - 9\alpha + 2,$$

and since $\alpha \geq 3$, we must have $\beta \geq 4$, and then also $\alpha = 5 - 4/\beta \geq 4$, so the generic fusion rules of Lemma 4.3 apply.

Then as an $N - N$ bimodule, $L^2(M_1) \cong L^2(M) \otimes_N L^2(M) \cong (V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus 4V_2) \otimes_N (V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus 4V_2) \cong 10V_0 \oplus 39V_1 \oplus 41V_2 \oplus 12V_3 \oplus 16(V_2 \otimes_N V_2)$, where the last isomorphism comes from the fusion rules $V_1 \otimes_N V_1 \cong V_0 \oplus V_1 \oplus V_2$ and $V_1 \otimes_N V_2 \cong V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus V_3$. Since the $N - N$ intertwiner space of $L^2(M_1)$ is $N' \cap M_3$, this implies that $\dim(N' \cap M_3) \geq 10^2 + 39^2 + 41^2 + 12^2 = 3446$.

On the other hand, as an $M - M$ bimodule, $L^2(M_2) \cong L^2(M_1) \otimes_M L^2(M_1) \cong L^2(M) \oplus 5U_1 \otimes L^2(M) \oplus 5U_1 \cong 26U_0 \oplus 35U_1 \oplus 25U_2$, so $\dim(M' \cap M_4) = 26^2 + 35^2 + 25^2 = 2526$. But this contradicts the fact that $\dim(N' \cap M_3) = \dim(M' \cap M_4)$. \square

Lemma 5.2. *If the quadrilateral neither commutes nor cocommutes and all the elementary subfactors are 6-supertransitive, then $[N : P]$ and $[M : P]$ are both less than 4.*

Proof. Suppose on the contrary that the hypotheses are satisfied and that $\alpha \geq 4$. (There is no loss of generality here since if only $\beta \geq 4$ we may consider the dual quadrilateral instead.) Then by Lemma 5.1, $N' \cap M_1$ has at least three simple summands. Because the quadrilateral is not cocommuting, by Corollary 3.20, $L^2(PQ) \neq L^2(QP)$, but they must have the same dimension since by Corollary 3.15, $\text{tr}(e_{PQ}) = \text{tr}(e_{QP})$. We consider three cases, corresponding to the three cases of Lemma 4.13:

Case 1: $L^2(PQ) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1$. Then also $L^2(QP) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1$. Note that these two bimodules intersect in $L^2(P + Q) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1$, so $L^2(PQ + QP) \cong V_0 \oplus 4V_1$. Since $N' \cap M_1$ has a third summand, $L^2(M)$ must also contain an irreducible submodule whose dimension is at least as great as that of V_2 , by Lemma 4.3, so we find that $\gamma = \dim_N L^2(M) \geq \dim_N V_0 \oplus 4V_1 \oplus V_2 \geq 1 + 4(\alpha - 1) + (\alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 1) = \alpha^2 + \alpha - 2$, and so $\beta = \gamma/\alpha = \alpha + 1 - 2/\alpha > \alpha$.

Case 2: $L^2(PQ) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2$. Then $L^2(PQ + QP) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus 2V_2$. So $\gamma \geq \dim_N V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus 2V_2 = 2\alpha^2 - 4\alpha + 1$, and again we find that $\beta = 2\alpha - 4 + 1/\alpha > \alpha$ (because $\alpha \geq 4$).

Case 3: $L^2(PQ) \cong V_0 \oplus 3V_1 \oplus V_2$. Then $L^2(PQ + QP)$ contains either at least four copies of V_1 or at least two copies of V_2 and again we find that $\beta > \alpha$.

But since $\beta > \alpha \geq 4$, we can perform these same calculations in the dual quadrilateral to deduce that $\alpha > \beta$, which is absurd. \square

Lemma 5.3. *If the quadrilateral neither commutes nor cocommutes and all the elementary subfactors are 6-supertransitive, then $[P : N] = [M : P]$.*

Proof. By the previous lemma we may assume that α and β are both less than four. Because $\alpha < 4$, $\dim_N V_1 < 3$, so by Lemma 4.12, $L^2(M)$ contains at most, and therefore exactly, two copies of V_1 , and so $L^2(PQ) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2$. Now $L^2(M)$ is a quotient of $L^2(PQ) \otimes_N L^2(P) \cong (V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus V_2) \otimes_N (V_0 \oplus V_1) \cong 3V_0 \oplus 6V_1 \oplus 4V_2 \oplus V_3$, so it contains at most four copies of V_2 and at most one copy of V_3 (and nothing higher). Also, since $L^2(QP)$ is isomorphic, but not equal, to $L^2(PQ)$, $L^2(M)$ contains at least two copies of V_2 .

So we may write $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus bV_2 \oplus cV_3$, with $2 \leq b \leq 4$ and $0 \leq c \leq 1$. Similarly, we may write $L^2(M_1) \cong U_0 \oplus 2U_1 \oplus b'U_2 \oplus c'U_3$, with $2 \leq b' \leq 4$ and $0 \leq c' \leq 1$. Since $1^2 + 2^2 + b^2 + c^2 = \dim(N' \cap M_1) = \dim(M' \cap M_2) = 1^2 + 2^2 + b'^2 + c'^2$ and c and c' are each either 0 or 1, we must have $b = b'$ and $c = c'$.

Define the function

$$\begin{aligned} f_{b,c}(x) &= [1 + 2(x - 1) + b(x^2 - 3x + 1) + c(x^3 - 5x^2 + 6x - 1)]/x \\ &= cx^2 + (b - 5c)x + (2 - 3b + 6c) + \frac{(b - c - 1)}{x}. \end{aligned}$$

Then $f_{b,c}(\alpha) = \beta$ and $f_{b,c}(\beta) = \alpha$. Define $g_{b,c}(x) = f_{b,c}(x) - x$. Then $g'_{b,c}(x)$ is either $b - 1 - (b - 1)/x^2$, or $2x + b - 6 - (b - 2)/x^2$, depending upon whether c is 0 or 1. In either case, $g'(x)$ is positive when $x \geq 2$ and so $g(x)$ is then an increasing function.

Now if $\alpha > \beta$, then $g_{b,c}(\beta) = f_{b,c}(\beta) - \beta = \alpha - \beta > 0$, and since $\alpha > \beta$ and $g_{b,c}(x)$ is increasing, $g_{b,c}(\alpha) > 0$ as well, so we also have $\beta > \alpha$, which is a contradiction. Similarly we find that $\beta > \alpha$ is impossible. Therefore we must have $\beta = \alpha$. \square

5.2. The principal graph.

Lemma 5.4. *There does not exist a noncommuting quadrilateral of subfactors with $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus 2V_2$ and with the principal graph of the elementary subfactors equal to A_{11} .*

Proof. Suppose such a quadrilateral exists. Then $L^2(M_1) \cong L^2(M) \otimes_N L^2(M) \cong 9V_0 \oplus 20V_1 \oplus 20V_2 \oplus 12V_3 \oplus 4V_4$, and $L^2(M_2) \cong L^2(M_1) \otimes_N L^2(M_1) \cong 89V_0 \oplus 222V_1 \oplus 254V_2 \oplus 196V_3 \oplus 108V_4 \oplus 32V_5$, by the A_{11} fusion rules. (Lemma 4.3 with $n = 12$ gives $V_i \otimes_N V_j = \bigoplus_{|i-j|}^{5-|5-(i+j)|} V_k$.)

Recalling the principle that each level of the Bratteli diagram for the tower of relative commutants is obtained by reflecting the previous level and adding some “new stuff”, with the rule that the “new stuff” connects only to the “old new stuff” (see [12]), it is easy to deduce that the Bratteli diagram must include the graph in Figure 5.5.

Let m and n be the number of bonds which connect the two “2”s in the fourth row with “12” in the fifth row, respectively. Then we must have $2m + 2n = 12$, or $m + n = 6$. By the reflection principle, there must also be m and n bonds connecting “12” with “ x ” and “ y ” respectively, as well as “ x ” and “ y ” with “196”. This implies that $x \geq 20 + 12m$, $y \geq 20 + 12n$, and $196 \geq m(20 + 12m) + n(20 + 12n) = 20(m + n) + 12(m^2 + n^2)$, which is absurd since $m + n = 6$. \square

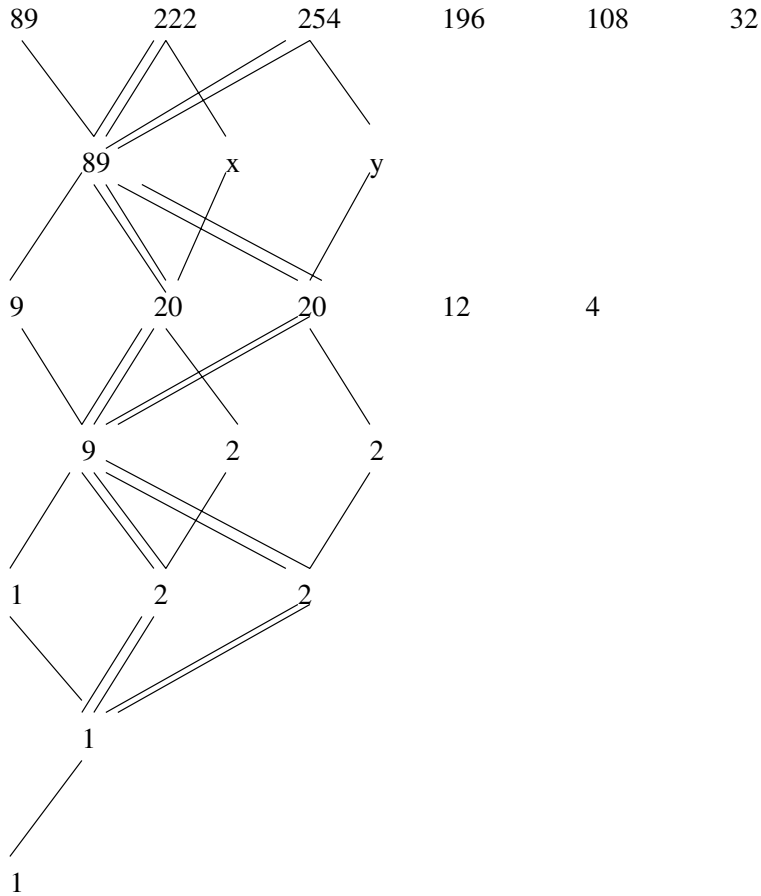


FIGURE 5.5.

Lemma 5.6. *If the quadrilateral neither commutes nor cocommutes, and the elementary inclusions are 6-supertransitive, then $[P : N] = [M : P] = 2 + \sqrt{2}$ and $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus 2V_2 \oplus V_3$.*

Proof. As in the proof of Lemma 5.3, there are six possible isomorphism types for $L^2(M) \cong V_0 \oplus 2V_1 \oplus bV_2 \oplus cV_3$, corresponding to $b = 2, 3, 4$ and $c = 0, 1$. We will eliminate them all except $b = 2, c = 1$.

Let $x = \alpha$. From the proof, and the conclusion, of Lemma 5.3 we have

$$cx^3 + (b - 5c - 1)x^2 + (2 - 3b + 6c)x + (b - c - 1) = 0.$$

Let us consider the cases one at a time:

$c = 0, b = 2$

Then $x = 2 + \sqrt{3}$ and the only principal graphs possible for $N \subseteq P$ are A_{11} and E_6 . But E_6 is not 4-supertansitive and A_{11} was eliminated in Lemma 5.4.

$c = 0, b = 3$

Then $2x^2 - 7x + 2 = 0$, neither root of which is an allowed index value.

$c = 0, b = 4$

Then $3x^2 - 10x + 3 = 0$, so $\alpha = 3$, which implies $\dim_N(V_2) = 1$, which is impossible by Lemma 4.12.

$c = 1, b = 3$

Then $x^3 - 3x - x + 1 = 0$ or $x(x^2 - 3x + 1) = 2x - 1$, which implies $\dim_N(V_2) < 2$. Again by Lemma 4.12 this is impossible.

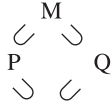
$c = 1, b = 4$

Then $x^3 - 2x^2 - 4x + 2 = 0$. The largest root of this equation is between 3 and $4 \cos^2 \pi/7$, so it is not a possible index value.

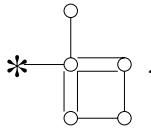
Finally, in the case $c = 1, b = 2$, $x(x^2 - 4x + 2) = 0$, so $\alpha = 2 + \sqrt{2}$ (which is $4 \cos^2 \pi/8$). □

Corollary 5.7. *With the hypotheses of the previous lemma, $tr(e_{PQ}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, tr(e_{PEQ}) = \frac{1}{4+3\sqrt{2}}$ and the angle between P and Q is $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$.*

Proof. By 2-transitivity we know that $e_{PEQ}e_P = e_N + t(e_P - e_N)$ for some number t which is the square of the cosine of the angle. Moreover, by Lemma 4.13 we know that $\dim_N(L^2(PQ)) = 1 + 3(1 + \sqrt{2})$. Taking the trace, using Proposition 3.14 and solving for t we are done. □



Theorem 5.8. *Let $N \subset M$ be a noncommuting noncocommuting quadrilateral with all elementary inclusions 6-supertransitive. Then $[M : P] = [M : Q] = [P : N] = [Q : N] = 2 + \sqrt{2}$ and the principal and dual principal graphs for $N \subset M$ are both*



Proof. Reduction to this one case is a consequence of the previous results. We need only compute the principal graph. Since there is no subfactor with principal graph D_5 , all the elementary subfactors must have principal graph A_7 . Thus there are only the 4 possible isomorphism types V_0, V_1, V_2 and V_3 for the $N - N$ bimodules in $L^2(M), L^2(M_1), \dots$; i.e., the Bratteli diagram for the tower of relative commutants $N' \cap M_k$ has at most 4 simple summands for k odd. Since there are 4 simple summands in $N' \cap M_1 = \text{End}_{N-N} L^2(M)$, the subfactor $N \subset M$ is of depth 3. Moreover if we let $V_a = V_0 \oplus V_3$ and $V_b = V_1 \oplus V_2$, then $L^2(M) \cong V_a \oplus 2V_b$, and the fusion rules are very simple: $V_a \otimes V_a = 2V_a, V_a \otimes V_b = 2V_b$, and $V_b \otimes V_b = 2V_a \oplus 4V_b$. So $L^2(M_1) \cong L^2(M) \otimes L^2(M) \cong 10V_a \oplus 24V_b \cong 10V_0 \oplus 24V_1 \oplus 24V_2 \oplus 10V_3$, and there is only one way to fill in the $N' \cap M_2$ level of the Bratteli diagram for the tower of relative commutants, which will thus begin as in Figure 5.9.

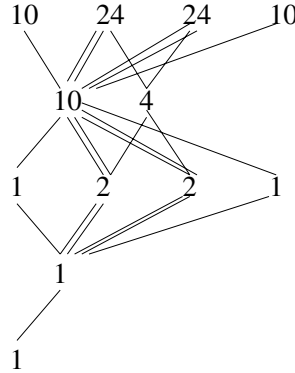


FIGURE 5.9.

By depth 3 we are done.

The dual principal graph has to be the same as the principal graph since $M \subset M_1$ satisfies the same hypotheses as $N \subset M$. □

6. THE $6 + 4\sqrt{2}$ EXAMPLE

6.1. Material from “Coxeter graphs and towers of algebras”. We give a general construction for pairs of intermediate subfactors which seems to be of some interest. Recall two constructions of subfactors from [12]:

Let Γ be a Coxeter–Dynkin diagram of type A, D or E with Coxeter number k , with $\Gamma = \Gamma_0 \sqcup \Gamma_1$ a particular bipartite structure. Construct a pair $A_0 \subset A_1$ of finite-dimensional C^* -algebras the underlying graph of whose Bratteli diagram is Γ . Thus the minimal central projections in A_i are indexed by Γ_i for $i = 0, 1$. Using the Markov trace tr on A_1 , iterate the basic construction to obtain the tower $A_{i+1} = \langle A_i, e_i \rangle$, e_i being the orthogonal projection onto A_{i-1} . There is a unitary braid group representation inside the tower obtained by sending the usual generators σ_i of the braid group (see [17]) to the elements $g_i = (t+1)e_i - 1$ with $t = e^{2\pi i/k}$.

First construction: commuting squares.

If we attempt to obtain a commuting square from the tower by conjugating A_1 inside A_2 by a linear combination of e_1 and 1 , we find that there are precisely two choices up to scalars: g_1 and g_1^{-1} . Then the following is a commuting square:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B_1 = g_1 A_1 g_1^* & \subset & A_2 \\ \cup & & \cup \\ B_0 = A_0 & \subset & A_1 \end{array}$$

We may then define B_i to be the C^* -algebra generated by B_{i-1} and e_i to obtain II_1 factors $B_\infty \subseteq A_\infty$ with index $4 \cos^2 \pi/k$. This construction is known to give all subfactors of index less than 4 of the hyperfinite II_1 factor. The Dynkin diagram Γ is the principal graph of the subfactor in the cases A_n, D_{2n}, E_6 and E_8 but not otherwise. For D_{2n+1} the principal graph is A_{4n-1} . See [10].

Second construction: GHJ subfactors.

The e_i 's in the II_1 factor A_∞ above generate a II_1 factor TL and by a lemma of Skau (see [12]) $TL' \cap A_\infty = A_0$. Thus one may obtain irreducible subfactors $N \subseteq M$ by choosing a minimal projection p in A_0 , i.e. a vertex of Γ in Γ_0 , and setting $N = pTL$ and $M = pA_\infty p$. These subfactors are known as ‘‘GHJ’’ subfactors as they first appeared in [12]. We will call the subfactor $TL \subseteq A_\infty$ the ‘‘full GHJ subfactor’’. The indices of the GHJ subfactors are all finite and were calculated in [12] (but note the error there: for D_n using the two univalent vertices connected to the trivalent one, it should be divided by 2).

Remark 6.1. The cut-down Temperley–Lieb projections pe_1, pe_2, \dots satisfy the same relations in the cut-down algebra $pA_\infty p$ that the projections e_1, e_2, \dots do in A_∞ . Therefore when discussing $pA_\infty p$ we will denote the cut-down Temperley–Lieb projections simply by e_i .

Using Skau’s lemma, Okamoto in [29] calculated the principal graphs for the GHJ subfactors as follows: if TL_n is the C^* -algebra generated by e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{n-1} , then the inclusions:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} pTL_{n+1} & \subset & pA_{n+1}p \\ \cup & & \cup \\ pTL_n & \subset & pA_n p \end{array}$$

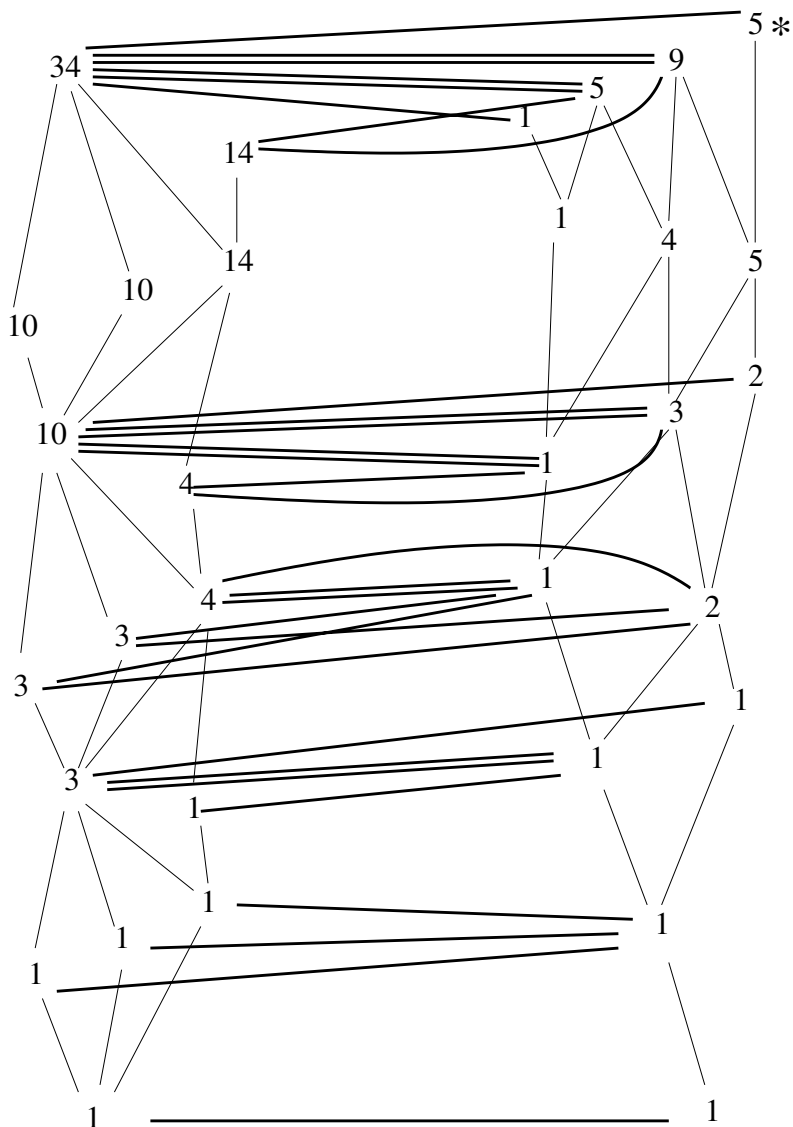
are commuting squares for which the Bratteli diagram of the unital inclusion $pTL_n \subseteq pA_n p$ may be calculated explicitly inductively using one simple rule which follows from the basic construction.

Rule: If q is a minimal projection in pTL_n and r is a minimal projection in $pA_n p$, then $e_{n+1}q$ and $e_{n+1}r$ are minimal projections in pTL_{n+1} and $pA_{n+1}p$ respectively, and the number of edges connecting q to r is equal to the number connecting $e_{n+1}q$ to $e_{n+1}r$.

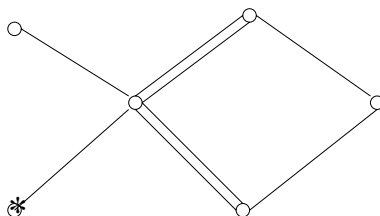
Thus one obtains two Bratteli diagrams depending on the parity of n . For sufficiently large n the inclusion matrices for these Bratteli diagrams do not change and the principal graph for the GHJ subfactor is the underlying bipartite graph of the stable Bratteli diagram for the inclusion $pTL_n \subseteq pA_n p$, with distinguished vertex $*$ being the $*$ vertex in the Temperley–Lieb type A graph. This specifies the parity of n that is needed. Note that the dual principal graph is not in general the inclusion graph with the other parity!

Example 6.2. We take Γ to be the Coxeter graph D_5 with the minimal projection p being that corresponding to the trivalent vertex. The two vertical Bratteli diagrams are those for $pA_\infty p$ and pTL , and the inclusions $pTL_n \subseteq pA_n p$ are given by approximately horizontal heavy lines; the one which is the GHJ subfactor principal graph is made up of the heavy lines at the top of the figure. We have suppressed the heavy lines for $pTL_5 \subseteq pA_5 p$ to avoid confusion and because this inclusion graph is not the principal graph. The figure has been constructed from the bottom up

using the basic construction and the above rule.



Making the principal graph more visible we obtain:



6.2. **GHJ Subfactor pairs.** Looking again at the commuting square construction from the original Coxeter–Dynkin diagram we see that we may in fact construct two subfactors of A_∞ by conjugating initially by g and g^{-1} ! This construction

works in great generality and gives a pair of subfactors whenever a subfactor is constructed using the endomorphism method of [12], [22]. In fact there is a way to obtain the quadrilateral with no extra structure by a simpler method, with simpler angle calculation and using only the real numbers. It seems to be a bit less general than the method using the braid group, so we present it second.

Definition 6.3. The full GHJ subfactor pair is the pair \mathfrak{P} and \mathfrak{Q} of subfactors of the (hyperfinite) II_1 factor A_∞ defined as the von Neumann algebras generated by the P_n and Q_n in the following towers:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & \cup & & \cup & & \cup \\ P_{n+1} & \subset & A_{n+1} & \supset & Q_{n+1} \\ & \cup & & \cup & & \cup \\ P_n & \subset & A_n & \supset & Q_n \\ & \cup & & \cup & & \cup \end{array}$$

FIGURE 6.4.

where A_n is as above, $P_1 = Q_1 = A_0$, $P_2 = g_1 A_1 g_1^*$, $Q_2 = g_1^* A_1 g_1$ and $P_{n+1} = \{P_n, e_n\}''$, $Q_{n+1} = \{Q_n, e_n\}''$.

Note that in Figure 6.4, all squares involving just A 's and P 's or just A 's and Q 's are commuting but squares involving P 's and Q 's may not be.

Definition 6.5. Let $TL2$ be the subfactor of A_∞ generated by all the e_i with $i \geq 2$.

Proposition 6.6. $[A_\infty : \mathfrak{P} \cap \mathfrak{Q}] < \infty$.

Proof. By construction $e_i \in \mathfrak{P} \cap \mathfrak{Q}$ for all $i \geq 2$. Moreover $TL2$ is of index $4 \cos^2 \pi/k$ in the full GHJ subfactor TL which is in turn of finite index in A by [12]. \square

Note that A_0 is in $TL'_2 \cap A_\infty$ and $A_0 \subseteq \mathfrak{P} \cap \mathfrak{Q}$. We suspect that $\mathfrak{P} \cap \mathfrak{Q}$ is the von Neumann algebra $TL2 \otimes A_0$ generated by $TL2$ and A_0 . We hope to answer this question in a future systematic study of the GHJ subfactor pairs.

Our interest in this paper has been in pairs of subfactors $P, Q \subseteq M$ with $(P \cap Q)' \cap M = \mathbb{C}id$.

Definition 6.7. Let p be a projection in A_0 that is minimal in A_1 . Then the GHJ subfactor pair corresponding to p is the pair of subfactors

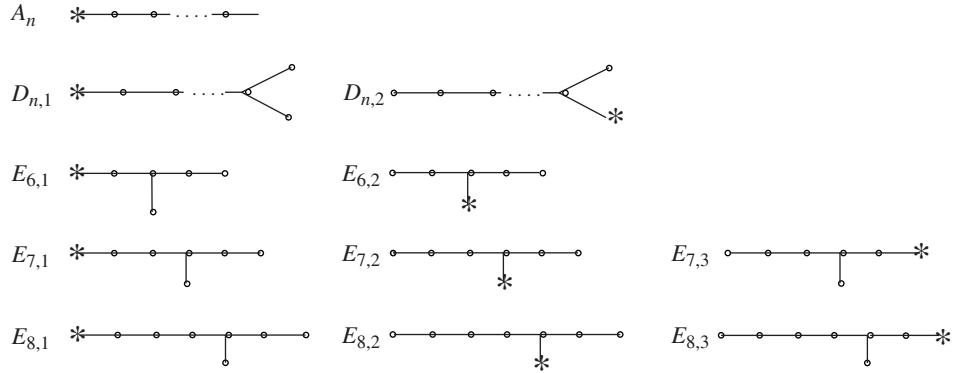
$$P = p\mathfrak{P}p, Q = p\mathfrak{Q}p \subseteq M = pA_\infty p.$$

Proposition 6.8. If $P, Q \subseteq M$ is a GHJ subfactor pair, then $(P \cap Q)' \cap M = \mathbb{C}id$.

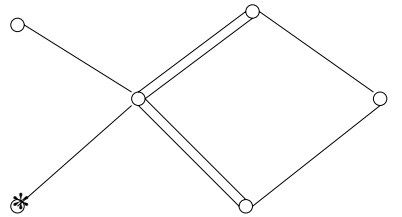
Proof. By Skau's lemma we know that the commutant of $TL2$ in M is A_1 . \square

A projection in A_0 that is minimal in A_1 is the same thing as a univalent vertex in Γ_0 . Note that the subfactor $TL2 \subseteq A_\infty$ is then the full GHJ subfactor for the other bipartite structure on Γ , and the subfactor $pTL2 \subseteq pA_\infty p$ is the GHJ subfactor obtained by choosing the unique neighbour of the original univalent vertex. (This is because the inclusion $A_1 \subseteq A_2$ can be used as the initial inclusion to construct the full GHJ subfactor for the other bipartite structure and p is a minimal projection in A_1 since we started with a univalent vertex.)

There are not too many choices for the univalent vertex, especially up to symmetry. We enumerate them below, the chosen univalent vertex being indicated with a * :



Proposition 6.9. *The subfactor $pTL2 \subseteq M$ in the case $D_{5,2}$ has index $(2 + \sqrt{2})^2$ and principal graph*



Proof. This is just the calculation done in Example 6.2. □

At this stage it looks very likely that the $D_{5,2}$ pair realises the case in Theorem 5.8 of a no-extra-structure quadrilateral. In order to be sure of this we need to know that P and Q in this case do not commute. To do this we shall compute the angle between them. At this stage we do not even know if P and Q are distinct.

6.3. Angle computation. Our strategy for calculating the angle between P and Q will work whenever the subfactors $TL2 \subseteq P$ and $TL2 \subseteq Q$ are 2-transitive. So in this subsection we only assume that of the Coxeter graph with chosen univalent vertex.

Definition 6.10. Let Γ be a pointed Coxeter graph of type D_n for $n > 4$ or E on the list above. Then $d = d(\Gamma)$ will denote the distance from * to the trivalent vertex.

Thus $d(E_{6,1}) = 2$ and $d(D_{5,2}) = 1$.

Theorem 6.11. *Suppose Γ to be a pointed Coxeter graph of type D_n for $n > 4$ or E , with Coxeter number ℓ , and that the GHJ subfactor with the starred vertex is 2-transitive. Then the angle between the two intermediate subfactors is*

$$\{0, \pi/2, \cos^{-1}(|\frac{\cos(2d+3)\pi/\ell}{\cos \pi/\ell}|)\}.$$

Proof. The idea is as follows: by 2-transitivity, $E_P E_Q E_P$ is a multiple of the identity on the orthogonal complement of $TL2$ in P , so it suffices to find an element x of this orthogonal complement and calculate $\|E_Q(x)\|_2$. We will find our element x in $pP_{d+2}p$, which is the smallest $pP_k p$ that is strictly larger than $pTL2_k$. It will be convenient to pull back the calculations to $pA_n p$. So in the next lemma we give the unitaries which conjugate A_n to P_{n+1} and Q_{n+1} . These unitaries may be deduced from [12] but we give a proof here for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 6.12. *Let $v_n = g_1 g_2 \dots g_n$ and $w = g_1^{-1} g_2^{-1} \dots g_n^{-1}$. Then*

- (a) $P_{n+1} = v_n A_n v_n^*$ and $Q_{n+1} = w_n A_n w_n^*$;
- (b) $TL2_n = v_n TL_n v_n^* = w_n TL_n w_n^*$.

Proof. Braid group relations give $v_n g_i v_n^* = g_{i+1}$ and $w_n g_i^{-1} w_n^* = g_{i+1}^{-1}$; hence $v_n e_i v_n^* = e_{i+1}$ and $w_n e_i w_n^* = e_{i+1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$. This proves the assertion (b) about the Temperley–Lieb algebras. Since $[e_i, A_1] = 0$ for $i \geq 2$ we get $v_n A_1 v_n^* = g_1 A_1 g_1^* = P_1$ and $w_n A_1 w_n^* = Q_1$. By the definition of P_n and Q_n we are done. □

As in Example 6.2 the Bratteli diagram for $pA_\infty p$ is given by taking the full Bratteli diagram for A_∞ and considering only edges emanating from the starred vertex. Thus by the definition of $d(\Gamma)$ there is an element y of $pA_{d+1}p$ which is orthogonal to TL_d and is unique up to a scalar multiple. We may assume $\|y\|_2 = 1$ and $y = y^*$. Define $x \in P_{d+2}$ by $x = v_{d+1} y v_{d+1}^*$. By Lemma 6.12 we know that x is orthogonal to e_2, e_3, \dots, e_{d+1} . Moreover since $tr(x) = 0$ (since $x \perp 1$), $E_{P_{d+1}}(x) = 0$ so $e_{d+2} x e_{d+2} = 0$ and taking the trace, $x \perp e_{d+2}$. By the usual properties of the Markov trace in a tower, $x \perp e_n$ for $n > d + 2$. Thus $x \perp TL2$.

Since the inclusions of $pQ_n p$ in $pA_n p$ are commuting squares we may calculate $E_Q(x)$ by $E_{pQ_{d+2}p}(x)$ (inside $pA_{d+2}p$). But this element of $pQ_{d+2}p$ is orthogonal to $TL2$, so is a multiple of $w_{d+1} y w_{d+1}^*$. So the cosine of the angle between P and Q is the absolute value of the inner product

$$tr(x w_{d+1} y w_{d+1}^*) = tr(v_{d+1} y v_{d+1}^* w_{d+1} y w_{d+1}^*).$$

The algebras $pA_n p$ are all included in the planar algebra for the bipartite graph Γ as defined in [20], so we may use the diagrams therefrom. In particular the inner product we need to calculate is given by the partition function in Figure 6.13 (up to a power of $\delta = 2 \cos \pi/\ell$).

The crossings in Figure 6.13 are the braid elements g_i with some convention as to which is positive and which is negative, read from bottom to top. We have illustrated with $d = 2$ for concreteness. They may be evaluated using the Kauffman picture:



where $s = e^{\pi i/\ell}$.

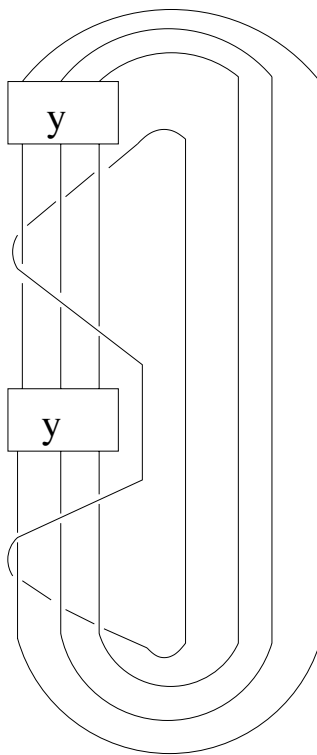




FIGURE 6.13.

The orthogonality of y to TL is equivalent to the fact that, if any tangle contains a y box with two neighbouring boundary points connected by a planar curve (in which case we say the box is “capped off”), the answer is zero. Thus one may evaluate Figure 6.13 as follows.

Using the Kauffman relation in Figure 6.13 inside the dotted circle one obtains Figure 6.14

Consider the first diagram on the right-hand side of the equation in Figure 6.14. Following the curve in the direction indicated by the arrow, observe that one choice of the two possibilities in applying the Kauffman relation at each crossing always results in one of the y boxes being capped off. The first d such crossings thus

contribute a factor of s each. Then one meets the situation  which is easily seen to be the same as s^2 times  One then meets d more crossings, each of which contributes s . After this (the crossings below the bottom y box in Figure 6.13) the only contributing terms in the Kauffman relation just give the sign -1 . Since there are an even number of them we deduce that the diagram of the first term on the right-hand side of Figure 6.14 is s^{2d+2} times a tangle which is $tr(y^2)$ up to a power of δ . A similar analysis of the diagram of the second term gives $-s^{-(2d+3)}$ times

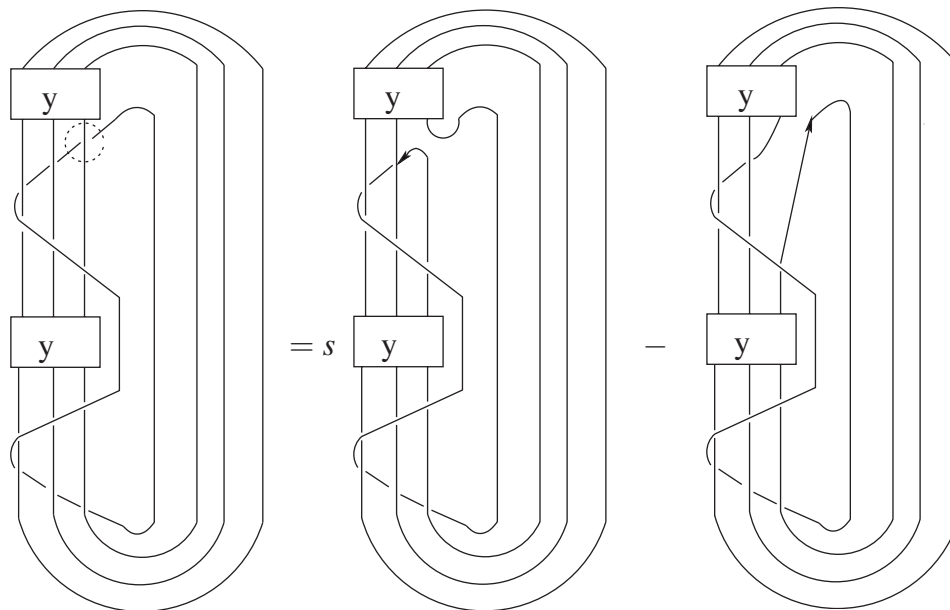


FIGURE 6.14.

$tr(y^2)$. A little thought concerning the powers of δ gives the final result that

$$tr(v_{d+1}y v_{d+1}^* w_{d+1}y w_{d+1}^*) = \frac{s^{2d+3} + s^{-2d-3}}{s + s^{-1}}.$$

This ends the proof of Theorem 6.11. □

Corollary 6.15. *For the GHJ subfactor pair given by $D_{5,2}$, there is no extra structure, and the angle between P and Q is $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$, and $P \cap Q = TL_2$.*

Proof. We have $[M : P] = 4 \cos^2 \pi/8$ from the D_5 commuting square. Also $pTL_2 \subseteq P$ has the same index from a GHJ calculation, or from the one already done for D_5 . So there cannot be subfactors between pTL_2 and P or Q , and $pTL_2 \subseteq P$ is 2-transitive. So we can apply the previous theorem to get the angle. The only possible principal graph with index $4 \cos^2 \pi/8$ is A_7 , so there is no extra structure. □

6.4. A simpler quadrilateral with no extra structure. Note that the definition of the GHJ pair will require the use of certain roots of unity. But at least in the $D_{n,2}$ case it is possible to find another pair \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} between pTL_2 and M , which is defined over \mathbb{R} ! We will see that both \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} form commuting cocommuting squares with both P and Q . One of these two intermediate subfactors is quite canonical and exists whenever $P \cap Q = TL_2$.

Definition 6.16. Let Γ etc. be as above. Let \tilde{P} be the GHJ subfactor for p , i.e. the subfactor generated by pTL_2 and pe_1 .

Proposition 6.17. *The quadrilaterals $N \subset \tilde{P}, P \subset M$ and $N \subset \tilde{P}, Q \subset M$ are commuting squares.*

Proof. Reducing by p is irrelevant, so we can do the computation in the full GHJ factor. As in the proof of Theorem 6.11 it suffices to find a nonzero element of \tilde{P} orthogonal to TL_2 and show that its projection onto P is zero. Let $x = e_1 - \tau id$, where $\tau = (4 \cos^2 \pi/\ell)^{-1}$. Then since the P_n 's form commuting squares with the A_n 's and $e_1 \in A_2$ we need only project onto $P_2 = Adg_1(A_1)$. But $E_{P_2} = Adg_1 E_{A_1} Adg_1^{-1}$ and $Adg_1(x) = x$. But $E_{A_1}(x) = 0$ is just the Markov property for the trace on A_2 . The same argument applies to \tilde{Q} . □

Lemma 6.18. *Let Γ be $D_{n,2}$ for $n \geq 5$. Then there is a projection f in pA_2 with the following properties:*

- (a) $tr(f) = \tau$;
- (b) $fpe_1 = 0$;
- (c) $pe_2 fpe_2 = \tau e_2$ and $fpe_2 f = \tau f$.

Proof. From the Bratteli diagram for pA_2 , it has three minimal projections, which are central. One is clearly pe_1 and one of the other two has the same trace by symmetry. Let f be that other one. Then (a) and (b) are obvious. The first part of (c) follows from $\dim(pA_1) = 1$ and the second part follows since, from the Bratteli diagram, f is a minimal projection in pA_3 . □

Definition 6.19. Let Γ be $D_{n,2}$ for $n \geq 5$. Let \tilde{Q} be the von Neumann algebra generated by pTL_2 and the f of Lemma 6.18.

Theorem 6.20. *Let Γ be $D_{n,2}$ for $n \geq 5$. Then \tilde{Q} is a II_1 factor with $[\tilde{Q} : pTL_2] = 4 \cos^2 \pi/\ell$, and the angle between \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} is $\cos^{-1}(\frac{\tau}{1-\tau})$.*

Proof. Lemma 6.18 and the properties of the basic construction show that f has exactly the same commutation relations and trace properties with pe_i for $i \geq 2$ as does pe_1 . Thus by [16] \tilde{Q} is a II_1 factor with the given index. Moreover the subfactor $pTL_2 \subset \tilde{Q}$ is 2-transitive, so we can speak of the angle between \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} .

The angle calculation is not hard. As in Theorem 6.11 it suffices to compute the length of the projection onto \tilde{P}_1 of a unit vector in \tilde{Q} orthogonal to pTL_2 . By Lemma 6.18, the element $x = f - \tau id$ is orthogonal to the two-dimensional algebra pTL_2 and $tr(x^*x) = \tau(1 - \tau)$. Since the pTL_n form commuting squares with the pA_n , $E_{\tilde{P}}(x)$ is just the projection $E(x)$ of x onto pTL_2 . By the bimodule property of E , $E(x)pe_1 = -\tau pe_1$, so $E(x) = \tau pe_1 + \lambda(p - pe_1)$. Using $tr(x) = 0$ we find $\lambda = -\tau^2/(1 - \tau)$. So

$$\|E(x)\|^2 = \tau^3 + (\frac{\tau^2}{1-\tau})^2(1-\tau) = \frac{\tau^3}{1-\tau},$$

and finally,

$$\frac{\|E(x)\|^2}{\|x\|_2^2} = \frac{\tau^2}{(1-\tau)^2}. \quad \square$$

Observe that for $\tau^{-1} = 4 \cos^2 \pi/\ell$, $\tau/(1 - \tau) = \sqrt{2} - 1$, so the angle between \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} is indeed the same as that between P and Q , and the quadrilateral formed by \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} has no extra structure for the same reasons as the one formed by P and Q . As a last detail observe that the quadrilaterals $N \subset \tilde{Q}, P \subset M$ and $N \subset \tilde{Q}, Q \subset M$ are commuting squares. We leave the argument to the reader.

7. UNIQUENESS

Outer actions of finite groups are extremely well understood, so we need say nothing more in the case $[M : N] = 6$. Uniqueness up to conjugacy in the hyperfinite case follows from [15].

So from now on we assume that $[M : N] = 6 + 4\sqrt{2}$ and that there are two intermediate subfactors P and Q which neither commute nor cocommute. We will eventually show that all the constants in a planar algebra presentation of the standard invariant of $N \subseteq M$ are determined by this data.

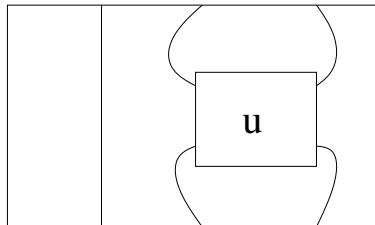
From the structure of the principal graph we see that there is exactly one projection in $N' \cap M_1$ different from e_1 but with the same trace as e_1 . By [30] this means that there is a self-adjoint unitary in the normaliser of M in M_1 (and in the normaliser of M_1 in M_2). We record some useful diagrammatic facts about normalisers below. It is convenient to work with the normaliser of M_1 in M_2 , but any subfactor is dual, so the result can be modified for the normaliser of M .

7.1. Diagrammatic relations for the normaliser. If $N \subseteq M$ is an irreducible finite index subfactor, then we will consider an element u in the normaliser of M_1 inside $M' \cap M_2$, that is to say, a unitary in $M' \cap M_2$ with $uM_1u^* = M_1$. First observe that such a unitary defines an automorphism α of M_1 by $\alpha(x) = uxu^*$.

Proposition 7.1. $\alpha(x) = x$ for all $x \in M$.

Proof. This follows immediately from $u \in M'$. □

The automorphism α in turn defines a unitary on $L^2(M_1)$ which is in $M' \cap M_2$ and by irreducibility differs from u by a scalar. Thus we may alter u so that $u = \alpha$ as maps on $L^2(M_1)$. The element u is in $N' \cap M_2$, so in the planar algebra picture it may be represented by a diagram:



and the relation $uxu^* = \alpha(x)$ for $x \in N' \cap M_1$ is the equality in Figure 7.2.

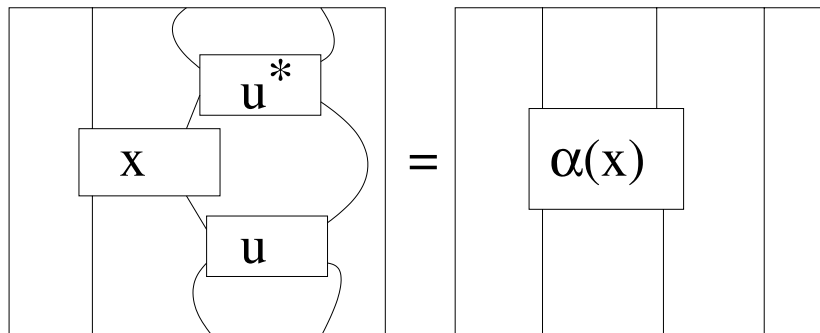
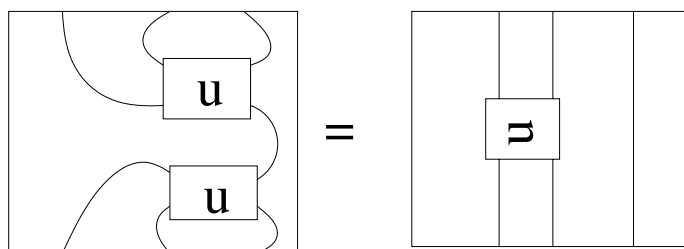


FIGURE 7.2.

We will make considerable use of the following result:

Lemma 7.3. *If $u = u^*$ is in the normaliser as above, then*



Proof. We first establish the result for any u in the normaliser with $u = \alpha$ as above, and $x \in N' \cap M_1$ (see Figure 7.4).

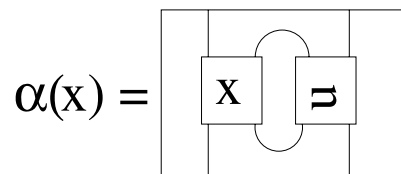


FIGURE 7.4.

For this observe that if $a = xe_2y$ for $x, y \in M_1$ and $b \in M_1 \subseteq L^2(M_1)$, $E_{M_1}(abe_2) = \delta^{-2}xE_M(yb) = a(b)$. Since linear combinations of elements of the form xe_2y span M_2 we have

$$E_{M_1}(abe_2) = \delta^{-2}a(b)$$

for all $a \in M_2$ and $b \in M_1$. Drawing this relation diagrammatically for $a = u$ and $b = x$ in $N' \cap M_1$ we obtain the diagram for $\alpha(x)$. Finally apply Figure 7.2 with $x = e_1$ and the above diagram to obtain the lemma. \square

Corollary 7.5. *With notation as above, u is a coprojection.*

Proof. Use the property that α is a $*$ -automorphism in the previous lemma. \square

7.2. The structure of $N' \cap M_1$. We need to adopt some conventions for the position of certain operators in $N' \cap M_1$. Since the angle between P and Q consists of one value (different from $0, \pi/2$), we know that e_P and e_Q generate a 2×2 matrix algebra modulo e_N . We also know from the dual principal graph that there is an intermediate subfactor S with $[S : N] = 2$. If e_S is the projection onto S , then the trace of e_S is $\frac{2}{6+4\sqrt{2}}$ and it is e_N plus a minimal projection in $N' \cap M_1$. This means that e_S must be orthogonal to both of the 2×2 matrix algebras in $N' \cap M_1$ since the traces of minimal projections therein do not match.

Definition 7.6. We write $N' \cap M_1 = e_N\mathbb{C} \oplus A \oplus B \oplus (e_S - e_N)\mathbb{C}$, where A and B are 2×2 matrix algebras with $e_P A \neq 0$.

This definition specifies A uniquely since $tr(e_P) = (2 + \sqrt{2})^{-1}$, $tr(E_N) = (2 + \sqrt{2})^{-2}$ and the trace of a minimal projection in A is $\frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{(2+\sqrt{2})^2}$. Thus $e_P B = 0$.

7.3. Relations between elements in $N' \cap M_1$. From Theorem 5.8 we know that the principal and dual principal graphs are the same and that there is a single projection of trace equal to that of e_N in all the (second) relative commutants. This means by [30] that for each inclusion $M_i \subset M_{i+1}$ there is an intermediate inclusion R_i with $[R_i : M_i] = 2$. By duality there are thus S_i with $M_i \subset S_i \subset M_{i+1}$ so that $S_i \subset M_{i+1} \subset R_{i+1}$ is a fixed point/crossed product pair for an outer action of $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. In particular there are unitaries u_i satisfying the conditions of the previous section at every step in the tower. So let α be the period two automorphism of M (which is the identity on N) defining an element u of $N' \cap M_1$. Then $\frac{u+1}{2}$ is the projection onto an intermediate subfactor of index 2 for $N \subset M$ which we shall call R . Thus

$$[M : R] = 2 \text{ or } tr(e_R) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{and } u = 2e_R - 1.$$

Lemma 7.7. *The subfactors P and R cocommute but do not commute, $e_P e_R e_P = e_N + (1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})(e_P - e_N)$ and $e_R B \neq 0$.*

Proof. Since $L^2(M_1) \cong U_0 \oplus 2U_1 \oplus 2U_2 \oplus U_3$ as $M - M$ bimodules, where $L^2(\bar{P}) \cong U_0 \oplus U_1$ and $L^2(\bar{R}) \cong U_0 \oplus U_3$, the dual subfactors \bar{P} and \bar{R} commute. However, $[\bar{P} : M][\bar{R} : M] < [M_1 : M]$, so by Lemma 3.18, \bar{P} and \bar{R} do not cocommute. Thus P and R cocommute but do not commute. Then $L^2(R)$ must be of the form $V_0 \oplus V_1 \oplus V_2$, so $e_R B \neq 0$. Since $N \subset P$ is 2-supertransitive, by Lemma 4.14 we have

$$e_P e_R e_P = e_N + \frac{tr(e_{\bar{P}\bar{R}})^{-1} - 1}{[P : N] - 1}(e_P - e_N).$$

Since the dual quadrilateral commutes, by Corollary 3.19 we have

$$\text{tr}(e_{\bar{P}\bar{R}}) = \frac{[\bar{P} : M][\bar{R} : M]}{[M : N]} = \frac{2}{2 + \sqrt{2}}.$$

Combining these equations gives the result. □

We want to investigate the algebraic and diagrammatic relations between e_P , e_Q and u . First we give a simple but crucial computation:

Lemma 7.8. $\text{tr}(ue_P) = \text{tr}(ue_Q) = 0$.

Proof. Since P and R cocommute, by Proposition 3.14, $\text{tr}(e_P e_R) = \text{tr}(e_P)\text{tr}(e_R) = 1/2\text{tr}(e_P)$, and $u = 2e_R - 1$. □

We will use on several occasions the following result, which is no doubt extremely well known. We include a proof for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 7.9. *Let P, Q, R, S be distinct projections onto four one-dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{C}^2 all making the same angle with respect to one another. Then that angle is $\cos^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.*

Proof. If we choose a basis so that

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

then any other projection at $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{a})$ to P is of the form

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} a & \omega\sqrt{a(1-a)} \\ \omega^{-1}\sqrt{a(1-a)} & 1-a \end{pmatrix},$$

where $|\omega| = 1$. Equating a to the traces of QR , RS and QS we see that ω must be a proper cube root of unity and that $3a^2 - 4a + 1 = 0$. □

Corollary 7.10. $ue_P u = e_Q$ and $ue_P Q u = e_Q P$.

Proof. These are equivalent to $\alpha(P) = Q$. By Lemma 7.7, $ue_P u \neq P$. If $\alpha(P)$ were not equal to Q , then $P, Q, \alpha(P)$ and $\alpha(Q)$ are four distinct intermediate subfactors. But $ue_P u = e_{\alpha(P)}$ and $ue_Q u = e_{\alpha(Q)}$, so the $N - N$ bimodules defined by these four intermediate subfactors are all isomorphic to $L^2(P)$ and none of them commutes with any other. By Lemma 7.7, which guarantees that $\alpha(P)$ and P do not commute, the angles between all four subfactors are the same and, by Corollary 5.7, equal to $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$. By Lemma 7.9, this is impossible. □

Corollary 7.11. $ue_P = e_N + \frac{1}{1-\sqrt{2}}(e_Q e_P - e_N)$; $ue_Q = e_N + \frac{1}{1-\sqrt{2}}(e_P e_Q - e_N)$.

Proof. $u(e_P - e_N)$ and $e_Q(e_P - e_N)$ are in A , and both are multiples of a partial isometry with initial domain $e_P - e_N$ and final domain $e_Q - e_N$. They are thus proportional. Taking the trace we get the result using Lemma 7.8 and Corollary 5.7. □

This yields a different derivation of the angle between P and Q . We see that modulo the ideal, $\mathbb{C}e_N$, we have $ue_P = \frac{1}{1-\sqrt{2}}e_Q e_P$ so that mod this ideal $e_P = e_P u u e_P = (\frac{1}{1-\sqrt{2}})^2 e_P e_Q e_P$, which determines the constant in the angle formula $e_P e_Q e_P - e_N = \text{constant}(e_Q - e_N)$.

Corollary 7.12. *The identity 1_A of the 2×2 matrix algebra $A \subseteq N' \cap M_1$ is $\frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{2}(e_P + e_Q) + 1/2(ue_P + ue_Q) - (2 + \sqrt{2})e_N$.*

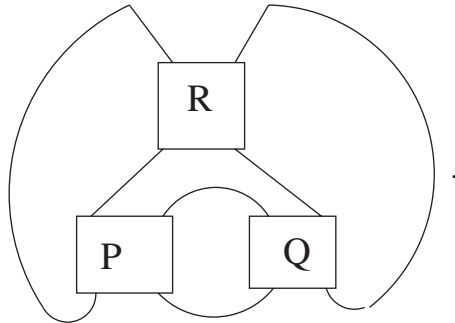
Proof. From Corollary 5.7,

$$(e_P - e_N)(e_Q - e_N)(e_P - e_N) = (\sqrt{2} - 1)^2(e_P - e_N).$$

So $1_A = \frac{\sqrt{2}+1}{2}(e_P - e_Q)^2$. Corollary 7.11 gives $e_P e_Q = \sqrt{2}e_N + (1 - \sqrt{2})ue_Q$, hence the result. \square

Lemma 7.13. $tr(ue_{PQ}) = 0$.

Proof. Since $u = 2e_R - 1$, $tr(ue_{PQ}) = 2tr(e_R e_{PQ}) - 1/\sqrt{2}$ by Corollary 5.7. But $tr(e_R e_{PQ})$ is given by $\frac{1}{\delta^3 tr(e_P e_Q)}$ times the following diagram:



This is essentially the cotrace of $e_R \circ e_P \circ e_Q$, and we know that $e_R \circ e_P$ is $(2 + \sqrt{2})tr(e_R)tr(e_P)id$ by Theorem 3.10 since P and R cocommute. Using this in the figure we obtain

$$tr(e_R e_{PQ}) = \frac{1}{\delta^3 tr(e_P e_Q)} (2 + \sqrt{2})tr(e_R)tr(e_P)\delta^2 tr(e_Q) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}.$$

\square

Lemma 7.14. $tr(e_{PQ}e_{QP}) = \frac{5\sqrt{2}-6}{2}$.

Proof. As in Lemma 3.17 we recognise $tr(e_{PQ}e_{QP})$ as being $\frac{1}{2[M:N]}$ times the cotrace of $e_P \circ e_Q \circ e_P \circ e_Q$. But since $[M : P] = [P : N]$, e_P and e_Q are coprojections and the angles between them as coprojections are the same as the angles between them as projections. So $tr(e_{PQ}e_{QP}) = \frac{1}{2}tr((e_P e_Q e_P)^2)$. However from Corollary 5.7, $e_P e_Q e_P = e_N + \frac{\sqrt{2}-1}{\sqrt{2}+1}(e_P - e_N)$. Squaring and taking the trace gives the answer. \square

Corollary 7.15. $ue_{PQ} = e_N + u1_A - (\sqrt{2} + 1)(e_Q e_P e_Q - (e_N + 1_A))$.

Proof. As in Corollary 7.11, $u(e_{PQ} - e_N - 1_A)$ and $e_Q e_P e_Q - e_N - 1_A$ are both in B (certainly $e_{PQ} > e_Q$ and the trace of e_{PQ} is the trace of e_N plus 3 times the trace of a minimal projection in A so that $e_P e_Q e_S = 0$) and are multiples of the same partial isometry. Taking the trace using the last two lemmas we get $u(e_{PQ} - e_N - 1_A) = \frac{3+2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2}-1}(e_Q e_P e_Q - e_N - 1_A)$ and the result follows. \square

Corollary 7.16. $e_P e_Q e_Q e_P e_Q - 1_A - e_N = (\sqrt{2} - 1)^2(e_{PQ} - 1_A - e_N)$.

Proof. Modulo the ideal spanned by e_N and A , $ue_{PQ} = -(\sqrt{2} + 1)e_{QP}e_{PQ}$. So mod this ideal, $e_{PQ}ue_{PQ} = (\sqrt{2} + 1)^2e_{PQ}e_{QP}e_{PQ}$. The left-hand and right-hand sides are proportional, and this determines the constant. \square

Taking the trace of this equality provides a useful check on our calculations. It is curious that e_{PQ} and e_{QP} make the same angles as e_P and e_Q .

7.4. A basis and its structure constants.

Definition 7.17. Let $\mathfrak{C} = \{e_N, 1\} \cup \mathfrak{A} \cup \mathfrak{B}$ where $\mathfrak{A} = \{e_P, e_Q, ue_P, ue_Q\}$ and $\mathfrak{B} = \{e_{PQ}, e_{QP}, ue_{PQ}, ue_{QP}\}$.

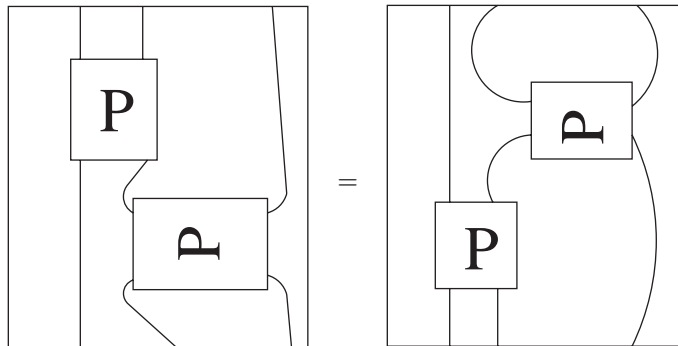
Theorem 7.18. \mathfrak{C} is a basis for $N' \cap M_1$, and all multiplication and comultiplication structure constants for this basis are determined.

Proof. That \mathfrak{C} is a basis follows easily from the previous results: $\{e_N\} \cup \mathfrak{A}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{C}e_N \oplus A$ by Corollary 7.11 and (2×2) -matrix calculations. Similarly \mathfrak{B} forms a basis for B modulo $\mathbb{C}e_N \oplus A$ by Corollary 7.16. The identity spans $N' \cap M_1$ modulo $\mathbb{C}e_P \oplus A \oplus B$.

With the results so far, it is easy to see that all the structure constants for multiplication are determined: multiplication of any basis element by e_N produces e_N ; multiplication within \mathfrak{A} is determined by Corollaries 7.11 and 5.7. Similarly multiplication within \mathfrak{B} is determined by Corollaries 7.15, 7.16 and the explicit form of 1_A in Corollary 7.12. This leaves only multiplication between \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} . But $e_{PQ}e_P = e_P$ (and other versions with P and Q interchanged) takes care of this. Note also that $\mathfrak{C} = \mathfrak{C}^*$ so that the $*$ -algebra structure of $N' \cap M$ is explicitly determined on the basis \mathfrak{C} .

We now turn to comultiplication. The $*$ structure for comultiplication is rotation by π and insertion of $*$'s of elements. Inspection shows that the basis \mathfrak{C} is stable under this operation since $u = u^*$ is a projection for comultiplication by Corollary 7.5. The subsets \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} no longer correspond to the algebraic structure, but it will be convenient to organise the calculation according to them. Determination of all the structure constants will just be a long sequence of cases, the most difficult of which will be diagrammatic and make frequent use of Lemma 7.3. Note that the shading of the picture will be the opposite of that in Lemma 7.3 since u is in M_1 and not in M_2 . Occasionally the diagrammatic reductions will produce the element u itself. It is easy to express u as a linear combination of basis elements since $u(1 - e_N - 1_A - 1_B) = 1 - e_N - 1_A - 1_B$ and u times any element of $\mathfrak{A} \cup \mathfrak{B}$ is another element of $\mathfrak{A} \cup \mathfrak{B}$.

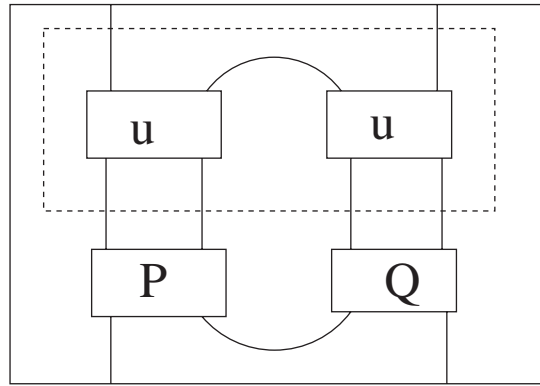
We will also use the exchange relation for biprojections from [2]:



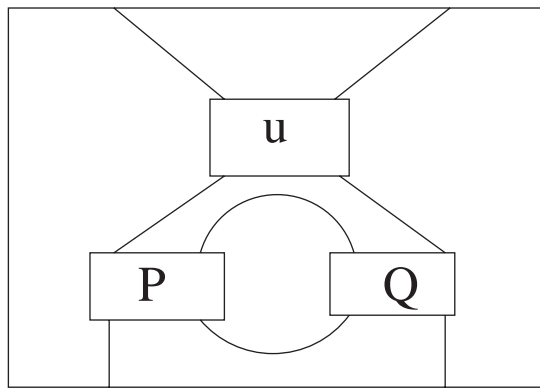
We have no need for the exact values of the structure constants; we only need to know that they could be calculated explicitly. Thus we introduce the notation $x \approx y$ to mean that the elements x and y of $N' \cap M_1$ are equal up to multiplication by a constant that could be calculated explicitly.

Thus for instance $e_N \approx \tilde{1}$ when $\tilde{1}$ is the identity for comultiplication. So all structure constants for comultiplication by e_N are determined. Comultiplication by 1 is easy by the formula $x \circ 1 \approx \text{tr}(x)1$ for $x \in N' \cap M_1$, and the only trace that requires any work at all is that of ue_{PQ} , which is determined from Corollaries 7.15 and 7.16.

Case 1. Comultiplication within \mathfrak{A} . We may replace ue_P by e_Qe_P which is \approx the projection onto $L^2(PQ)$ for comultiplication. It is thus greater than e_P and e_Q , so $e_P \circ (e_Pe_Q) \approx e_P$. The first case where any work is required is $(ue_P) \circ (ue_Q)$ and up to simple modifications of the argument this handles all comultiplications within \mathfrak{A} . The labelled tangle defining $(ue_P) \circ (ue_Q)$ is:



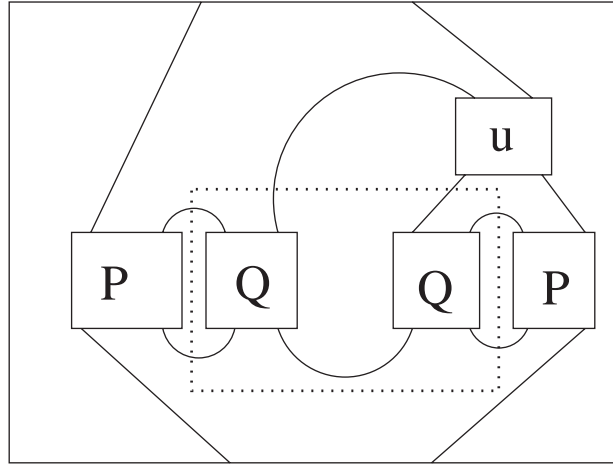
Applying Lemma 7.3 to the region inside the dotted rectangle we obtain:



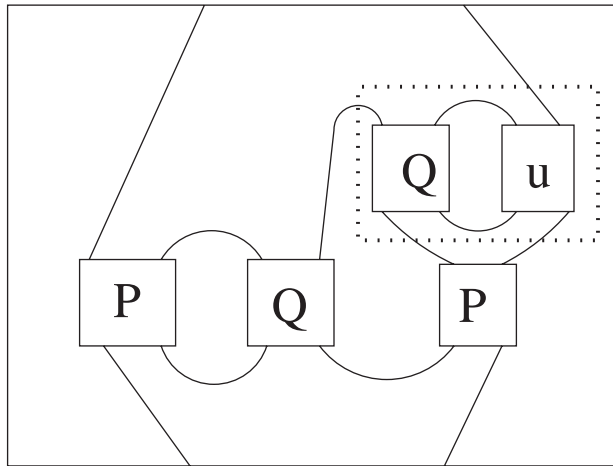
But this is $\approx e_{PQu}$, which is a basis element.

Case 2. Comultiplication within \mathfrak{B} . Comultiplying e_{PQ} with itself or with e_{QP} is easy since under comultiplication e_P and e_Q generate a 2×2 matrix algebra mod 1 and $e_P \circ e_Q \approx e_{PQ}$. Comultiplying e_{PQ} or e_{QP} with ue_{PQ} or ue_{QP} can, after

applying Corollary 7.10 if necessary, yield a labelled tangle like:



The point of using Corollary 7.10 is to ensure that in the dotted rectangle we see either two P 's or two Q 's. The u may thus end up below the P 's and Q 's but that does not affect the rest of the argument. In the dotted rectangle we may thus apply the exchange relation for Q to obtain, after a little isotopy:

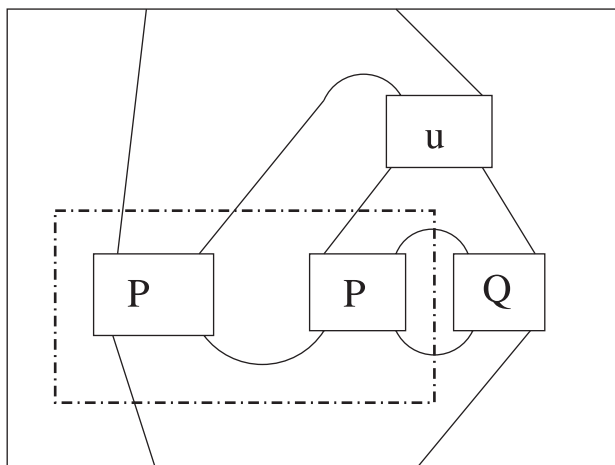


Notice that inside the dotted rectangle we see the comultiplication of e_Q and u . Replacing u by $2e_R - 1$ gives 2 tangles, the one with the identity being $\approx e_P \circ e_Q \circ e_P$. The tangle with e_R can be handled easily since $e_Q \circ e_R = 1$, which also yields $e_P \circ e_Q \circ e_P$.

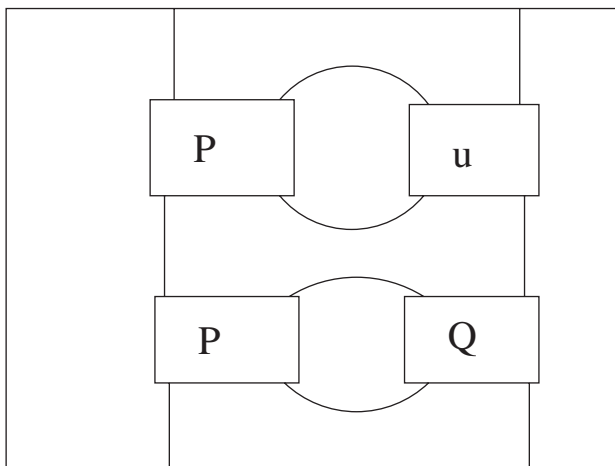
Finally, we need to be able to comultiply ue_{PQ} with itself and ue_{QP} . This is done very much like comultiplying ue_P and ue_Q except that after applying Lemma 7.3 we find a coproduct of more than two terms on e_P and e_Q . These words may be reduced to e_P , e_Q , e_{PQ} or e_{QP} modulo e_N . The term with e_N will produce a u by itself, but as observed above we know how to write u as an explicit linear combination of basis elements.

Case 3. Comultiplication between \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} . Terms without u like $e_P \circ e_{PQ}$ are simple. The most difficult case is of the form $e_P \circ ue_{QP}$, but as above we may

rearrange it so that there are two like terms in the dashed rectangle below:



Applying the exchange relation as before we obtain:

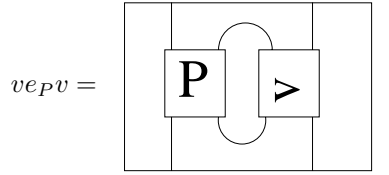


Note the comultiplication of u and e_P which can be reduced to an explicit linear combination of basis elements using $u = 2e_R - 1$ and $e_R \circ e_P \approx 1$.

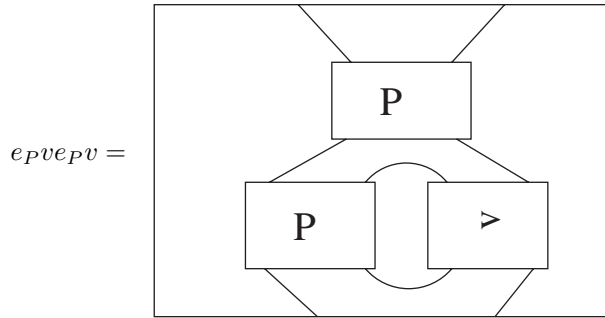
The coproduct of ue_P with e_{PQ} works similarly except that applying the exchange relation immediately produces an explicit multiple of a basis element. Finally, terms like $ue_P \circ ue_{PQ}$ can be reduced to explicit linear combinations of basis elements using Lemma 7.3 and comultiplication of words on e_P and e_Q . Once again u terms may be produced. \square

Lemma 7.19. *Let $v \in M' \cap M_2$ be the self-adjoint unitary in the normaliser of M_1 guaranteed by the form of the dual principal graph in Theorem 5.8. Then $vAv = B$.*

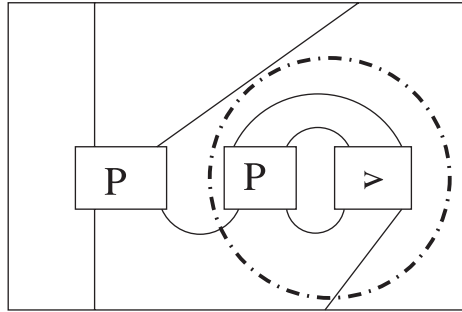
Proof. By Figure 7.4 we have



So



Applying the exchange relation to this we obtain



Inside the dashed circle we recognise a multiple of the trace in M_2 of the product in $M' \cap M_2$ of the projection $e_{\overline{P}}$ defined by e_P and v . But v bears the same relation to this coprojection as u does to e_P , so by Lemma 7.8 we obtain zero. Thus $e_Pve_Pv = 0$. We may apply Corollary 7.10 to $e_{\overline{P}}$ and v to deduce in the same way that $e_Qve_Pv = 0$. This is enough to conclude that $vAv = B$ from the structure of $N' \cap M_1$ which is normalised by v . \square

Corollary 7.20. *If e_M is the projection onto $L^2(M)$ in the basic construction of M_2 from M_1 , then $\mathfrak{D} = \mathfrak{C}e_M\mathfrak{C} \cup v\mathfrak{A} \cup v\mathfrak{B}$ is a basis for $N' \cap M_2$.*

Proof. From the principal graph, $N' \cap M_2$ is the direct sum of the ideal \mathfrak{J} generated by e_M , which is isomorphic to a basic construction coming from the pair $N' \cap M \subseteq N' \cap M_1$, and a 4×4 matrix algebra. Since $N \subseteq M$ is irreducible the map $x \otimes y \mapsto xe_My$ is a vector space isomorphism from $N' \cap M_1 \otimes N' \cap M_1$ to \mathfrak{J} . Thus $\mathfrak{C}e_M\mathfrak{C}$ is a basis for \mathfrak{J} .

Since v is in the normaliser of M_1 , it is orthogonal to M_1 by irreducibility and $N' \cap M_2$ contains a copy of the crossed product of $N' \cap M_1$ by the period 2 automorphism given by $Ad v$. By the previous lemma the algebra generated by A, B , and v is a 4×4 matrix algebra—call it \mathfrak{E} . It is spanned modulo \mathfrak{J} by $\mathfrak{A} \cup v\mathfrak{A} \cup \mathfrak{B} \cup v\mathfrak{B}$ since A

and B are spanned modulo e_N by \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B} respectively (see the proof of Theorem 7.18). Since a matrix algebra is simple, to check that \mathfrak{E} spans $N' \cap M_2 \text{ mod } \mathfrak{J}$ we need only show that it is not contained in \mathfrak{J} . But from the principal graph we see that A itself is nonzero mod \mathfrak{J} .

□

7.5. The uniqueness proof and some corollaries. We can now give the main argument for the uniqueness of a subfactor of index $(2 + \sqrt{2})^2$ with noncommuting intermediate subfactors. It relies on the “exchange relation” developed by Landau in [27]. We begin with a planar algebra result from which our uniqueness will follow.

NOTE: We will assume that all planar algebras P satisfy $\dim P_1 = 1$.

Definition 7.21. Let $P = P_n$ be a planar algebra and \mathfrak{R} a self-adjoint subset of P_2 . Let \mathfrak{Y} be the set of planar 3-tangles labelled with elements of \mathfrak{R} , with at most one internal disc. We say that \mathfrak{R} satisfies an exchange relation if there are constants $b_{Q,R,Y}$, $c_{Q,R,S,T}$ and $d_{Q,R,S,T}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[\text{Diagram 1: Box R on left, Box Q on right, connected by lines} \right] \\
 &= \sum_{S,T \in \mathfrak{R}} c_{Q,R,S,T} \left[\text{Diagram 2: Box S on left, Box T on right, connected by lines} \right] \\
 &+ \sum_{S,T \in \mathfrak{R}} d_{Q,R,S,T} \left[\text{Diagram 3: Box T on top, Box S on bottom, connected by lines} \right] \\
 &+ \sum_{Y \in \mathfrak{Y}} b_{Q,R,Y} \left[\text{Diagram 4: Box Y with internal disc} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

The constants will be called the exchange constants for \mathfrak{R} .

Theorem 7.22 (Landau,[27]). *A subfactor planar algebra P generated by $\mathfrak{R} = \mathfrak{R}^* \subseteq P_2$ is determined up to isomorphism by the exchange constants for \mathfrak{R} and the traces and cotraces of elements in \mathfrak{R} .*

The idea of the proof is that one may calculate the partition function of any labelled tangle in P_0 by applying the exchange relation. The strategy is to take any face and reduce it to a bigon, which is either a multiplication or comultiplication of

elements in \mathfrak{A} . But multiplication and comultiplication are also determined by the exchange relation by suitably capping off the pictures in the above definition. As soon as the planar algebras in question are nondegenerate in the sense that they are determined by the partition functions of labelled planar tangles in P_0 , the theorem will hold. The isomorphism between two planar algebras with the same subset \mathfrak{A} is defined by extending the identity map from \mathfrak{A} to itself to all labelled tangles on \mathfrak{A} . Then any relation for one planar algebra is necessarily a relation for the other by the nondegenerate property of the partition function as a bilinear/sesquilinear form on the P_n . This strategy for proving uniqueness was already used for a proof of the uniqueness of the E_6 and E_8 subfactors in [21].

Lemma 7.23. *Let P be a subfactor planar algebra with \mathfrak{A} a self-adjoint subset of P_2 which satisfies an exchange relation. Then the exchange constants for \mathfrak{A} are determined by the traces and cotraces of elements of \mathfrak{A} together with the structure constants for multiplication and comultiplication of elements of \mathfrak{A} .*

Proof. Using positive definiteness of the inner product given by the trace on P_3 , it suffices to prove that the partition function of any planar diagram with at most 4 internal discs, all labelled with elements of \mathfrak{A} , is determined by the given structure constants.

For this, we may suppose that the labelled diagrams are connected and by our hypothesis on $\dim P_1$, we may suppose that no 2-box is connected to itself. If there are 4 internal discs, one must be connected to another with a multiplication or a comultiplication. This reduces us to the case of 3 internal boxes where it is even clearer. To see these assertions it is helpful to view the labelled tangles as the generic planar projections of links in \mathbb{R}^3 which are obtained by shrinking the internal 2-boxes to points. \square

Putting the previous results together we have:

Theorem 7.24. *Let $N_1 \subseteq M_1$ and $N_2 \subseteq M_2$ be two irreducible II_1 subfactors of index $(2 + \sqrt{2})^2$ with pairs P_1, Q_1 and P_2, Q_2 of noncommuting intermediate subfactors of index $2 + \sqrt{2}$. Then there is a unique isomorphism from the planar algebra for $N_1 \subseteq M_1$ to the planar algebra of $N_2 \subseteq M_2$ which extends the map sending e_{P_1} and e_{Q_1} to e_{P_2} and e_{Q_2} respectively.*

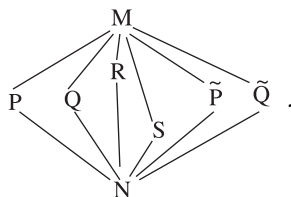
Proof. The only allowed principal graph for the elementary subfactors is A_7 . So there is no extra structure, and we know the principal graph and dual principal graph. The normalising unitaries $u_i, i = 1, 2$ can be written as an explicit linear combination of $e_N, 1$ and products and coproducts of e_{P_i} and e_{Q_i} . Then form the sets \mathfrak{A}_i and $\mathfrak{B}_i, i = 1, 2$ in the obvious way. The planar algebra for $N_i \subseteq M_i$ is generated by \mathfrak{A}_i and \mathfrak{B}_i by Corollary 7.20. By Theorem 7.18 and Lemma 7.23 we may apply Theorem 7.22 to the sets $\mathfrak{A}_i = \mathfrak{A}_i \cup \mathfrak{B}_i$ to deduce the result. (The traces and cotraces of the basis elements of \mathfrak{C} were determined in the course of proving Theorem 7.18.) \square

Corollary 7.25. *Given a quadrilateral $N \subset P, Q \subset M$ with $[M : N] = 6 + 4\sqrt{2}$ and such that P and Q do not commute, there are further subfactors \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} with $[M : \tilde{P}]$ and $[M : \tilde{Q}]$ equal to $2 + \sqrt{2}$, which commute with both P and Q and are at an angle $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$ to each other.*

Proof. This is the case for the example, so by uniqueness it is always true. \square

It is obvious that the projections onto \tilde{P} and \tilde{Q} are in $B \bmod e_N$.

Corollary 7.26. *The only subfactors between N and M are $P, Q, \tilde{P}, \tilde{Q}, R$ and S , so the intermediate subfactor lattice is*



Proof. Let T be a seventh intermediate subfactor. From the principal graph and obvious index restrictions the possible values of $(6 + 4\sqrt{2})tr(e_T)$ are $2 + \sqrt{2}$, $3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ and 2. The cases $3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ and 2 correspond to index 2 subfactors and would show up as extra vertices on either the dual or dual principal graphs, so we must have $tr(e_T) = 1/(2 + \sqrt{2})$. This forces $e_T - e_N$ to be a minimal projection in either A or B , so by the previous corollary and the observation after it we may suppose wolog that $e_T - e_N \in A$. If $e_P e_T = e_N$, then by a 2×2 matrix calculation, T makes a forbidden angle with Q . So the angle between all three of P, Q and T is $\cos^{-1}(\sqrt{2} - 1)$. But by Lemma 7.7 applied to T, T and R do not commute. So there must be a fourth subfactor $\alpha(T)$ which makes the same angle with all of P, Q , and T . By Lemma 7.9 this is not allowed. This contradicts the existence of T . \square

Corollary 7.27. *If M is hyperfinite, then there is an automorphism of M sending P to \tilde{P} and Q to \tilde{Q} .*

Proof. This follows from Theorem 7.24 and Popa’s classification theorem [31], which states that in finite depth one may construct the subfactor directly as the completion of the inductive limit of the tower of relative commutants. \square

It is not obvious what the automorphism of the previous corollary looks like in the GHJ realisation of section 6. It will certainly require the complex numbers to write it down as guaranteed by the next result. Observe first that the D_5 -based GHJ example of Figure 6.4 is defined over the real numbers, so the intermediate subfactors exist in the setting of real II_1 factors. That the GHJ pair for $D_{5,2}$ needs the complex numbers is the next result.

Corollary 7.28. *If $N \subset P, Q \subset M$ is a noncommuting quadrilateral of real II_1 factors with $[M : N] = 6 + 4\sqrt{2}$, then P and Q are the only intermediate subfactors of index $2 + \sqrt{2}$.*

Proof. Let $N \subset M$ be the subfactor for the $D_{5,2}$ Coxeter graph. Since this subfactor may be defined over the reals (as the GHJ subfactor for the trivalent vertex), complex conjugation defines a conjugate linear $*$ -automorphism σ of $N \subset M$ with $\sigma(\tilde{P}) = \tilde{P}$ and $\sigma(\tilde{Q}) = \tilde{Q}$ but with $\sigma(g_i) = g_i^*$, so $\sigma(P) = Q$. Thus σ will act on the planar algebra of $N \subset M$ exchanging e_P and e_Q . However, the fixed points for σ acting on the planar algebra form again a planar algebra. So there is a real subfactor $N_{\mathbb{R}} \subset M_{\mathbb{R}}$ with $[M_{\mathbb{R}} : N_{\mathbb{R}}] = 6 + 4\sqrt{2}$ having a pair $(\tilde{P}^\sigma$ and $\tilde{Q}^\sigma)$ of noncommuting intermediate subfactors of index $2 + \sqrt{2}$ and no other intermediate subfactors of the same index since $\sigma(e_P) = e_Q \neq e_P$. Our uniqueness result never used the complex numbers (all the structure constants were real) so that no other such real subfactor can have more than two intermediate subfactors of index $2 + \sqrt{2}$. \square

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