

# Irrational near-groups

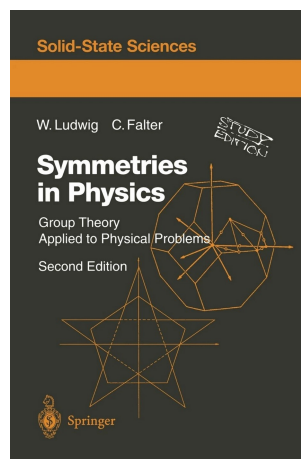
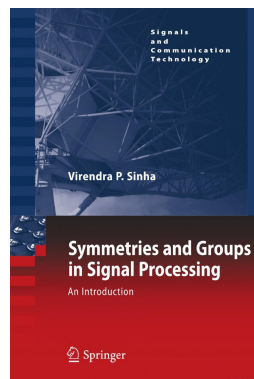
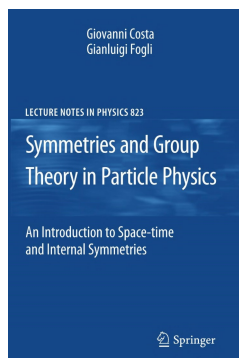


ANDREW SCHOPIERAY

University of Alberta  
&  
Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences

Finite groups act on various things

This is widely regarded as useful

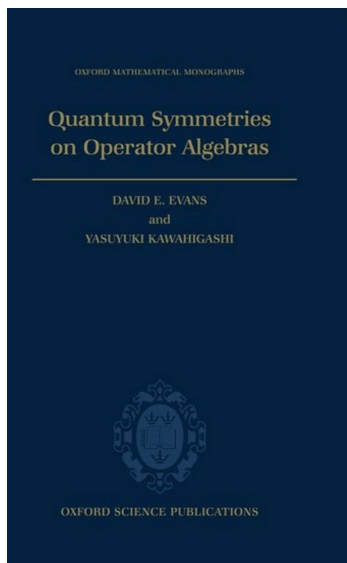


**Fusion categories** act on various things

We are still learning how useful this is

Lecture: [Various things acted on by fusion categories](#)

André Henriques



## **Fusion**

**Fusion Ring:**  $(R, B)$

Associative, unital ring  $R$ , free as a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module, with basis  $B = \{1_R = b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n\}$  with

- **(POSITIVITY)**  $b_i b_j = \sum_{k=0}^n c_{i,j}^k b_k$ , then  $c_{i,j}^k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$
- **(DUALITY)** there exists an involution of  $B$ ,  $x \mapsto x^*$  such that  $c_{i,j}^0 = \delta_{i,j^*}$

## E.g. Integral group rings

The most elementary of all fusion matrices are permutation matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fig. 0  $\mathbb{Z}S_3$

If all fusion matrices of elements of  $B$  are permutations, then  $B$  has the structure of a finite group  $G$

These fusion rings are precisely  $\mathbb{Z}G$  for finite groups  $G$

## E.g. Near-group rings

Assume there exists a unique basis element  $\rho$  whose fusion matrix is not a permutation

Then  $B - \{\rho\}$  has the structure of a finite group  $G$

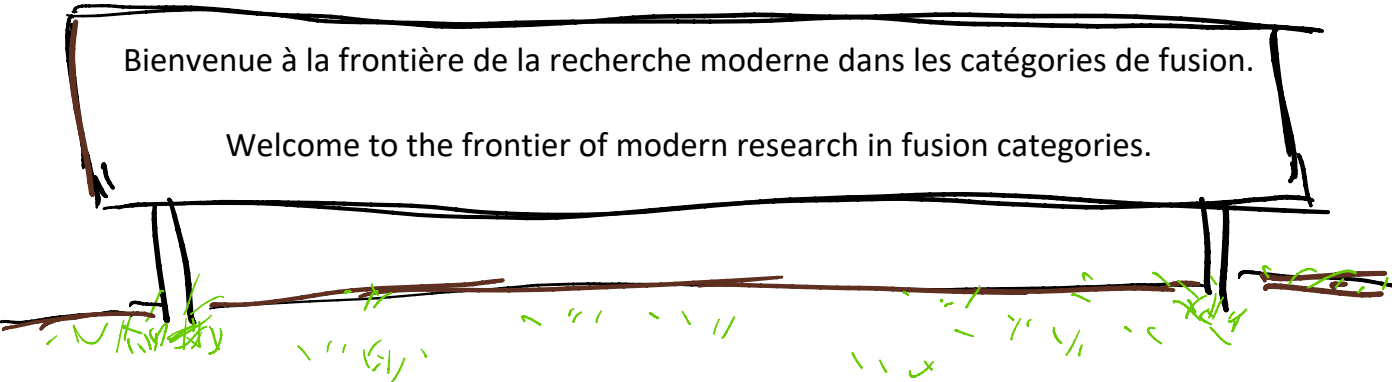
And the fusion of  $R$  is determined by  $c_{\rho,\rho}^\rho := \ell$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \ell \end{bmatrix}$$

Fig. 1 Fusion matrix of  $\rho$  in  $R(C_5, \ell)$

So we may denote the near-group fusion rings by  $R(G, \ell)$

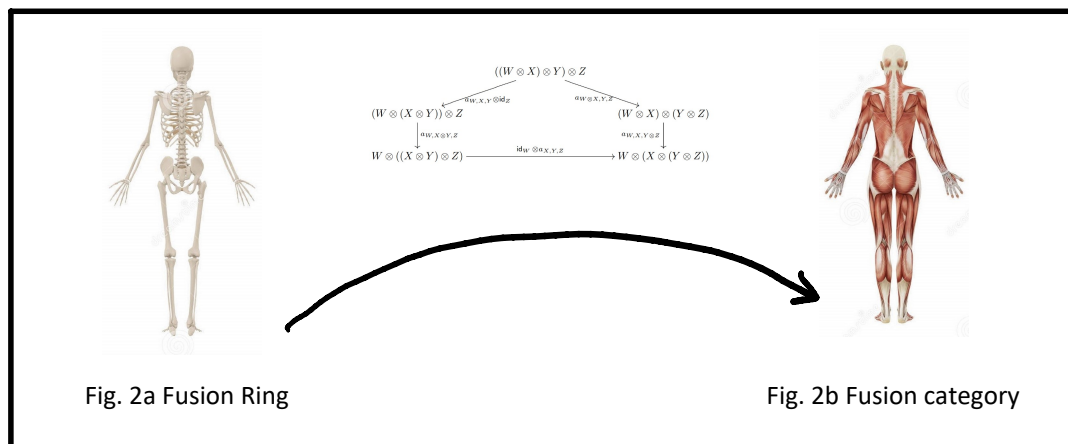
For specific examples, the character ring of  $S_3$  is  $R(C_2, 1)$  and the character ring of  $A_4$  is  $R(C_3, 2)$ .



Bienvenue à la frontière de la recherche moderne dans les catégories de fusion.

Welcome to the frontier of modern research in fusion categories.

## Categories



Fusion categories are fusion rings with a cohesive collection of associativity data (i.e. 6j-symbols, F-matrices, solutions to pentagons, etc.)

### E.g. Finite groups as fusion categories

The categorifications of the integral groups rings (over  $\mathbb{C}$ , up to equivalence) are the fusion categories of  $G$ -graded complex vector spaces...

$$\omega(g_1 g_2, g_3, g_4) \omega(g_1, g_2, g_3 g_4) = \omega(g_1, g_2, g_3) \omega(g_1, g_2 g_3, g_4) \omega(g_2, g_3, g_4)$$

Fig. 3 Pentagon equations for  $Vec_G^\omega$

...with associativity defined by  $\omega \in H^3(G, \mathbb{C}^\times)$

But essentially no fusion rings are categorifiable

There are 161 fusion rings of rank 3 and multiplicity  $\leq 16$

Five of the rank 3 fusion rings are categorifiable

	Rank								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	2	4	10	16	39	43	96	142
2	0	1	3	17	37	154	319	874+	
3	0	1	4	24	82	384	562+		
4	0	1	6	45	134	872	1236+		
5	0	1	5	55	209	533+			
6	0	1	9	81	336	872+			
7	0	1	6	92	477	976+			
8	0	1	10	137	733	1672+			
9	0	1	12	151	1463				
10	0	1	9	186	1794				
11	0	1	10	238	2283				
12	0	1	20	291	3049				
13	0	1	9	246	1300+				
14	0	1	13	340	1323+				
15	0	1	16	349	1550+				
16	0	1	25	525	1925+				

[On low rank fusion rings](#)

Gert Vercleyen, Joost Slingerland

There is a widespread belief that for a fixed rank, there are finitely-many fusion categories up to equivalence

This would imply Level Bounds™ for categorifiable near-group fusion rings:

**Conjecture:** Let  $G$  be a finite group. There exists  $N_G \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $R(G, \ell)$  is not categorifiable for all  $\ell \geq N_G$ .

Easily proven true for nonabelian groups  $G$ .

- If  $\text{FPdim}(R(G, \ell))$  is an integer, then  $\ell < |G|$ .
- If  $R(G, \ell)$  is categorifiable and  $\text{FPdim}(R(G, \ell))$  is **irrational**, then  $G$  is abelian. (and  $\ell = k|G|$ )

[ALGEBRAIC REALIZATION OF NONCOMMUTATIVE  
NEAR-GROUP FUSION CATEGORIES](#)

Masaki Izumi & Henry Tucker

Proven ``incidentally" for three abelian groups  $G$ .

- ( $G = C_1$ ) Victor Ostrik classified all rank 2 fusion categories [20 years ago].
- ( $G = C_2$ ) Victor Ostrik classified all (pivotal) rank 3 fusion categories [10 years ago].
- ( $G = C_3$ ) Hannah Larson classified all pseudounitary non-self dual rank 4 fusion categories [8 years ago].

**Open problem:** Let  $G$  be a finite abelian group. Is the collection of  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $R(G, k|G|)$  is categorifiable a finite set?

[Tensor Categories with Fusion Rules of Self-Duality for Finite Abelian Groups](#)

Daisuke Tambara & Shigeru Yamagami

[A Cuntz algebra approach to the classification of near-group categories](#)

Masaki Izumi

[Near-group fusion categories and their doubles](#)

David Evans & Terry Gannon

[PhD thesis of Paul Budinski](#)

**Theorem (Schopieray, 2022):** Let  $G$  be an elementary abelian 2-group. Then  $R(G, \ell)$  is categorifiable if and only if

- $\ell = 0$ ;

(categorification: 20+ years ago)

- $G = C_2$  and  $\ell = 1$  or  $\ell = 2$ ;

(categorification: 25+ years ago)

- $G = C_2^2$  and  $\ell = 4$ .

(categorification: 20+ years ago)

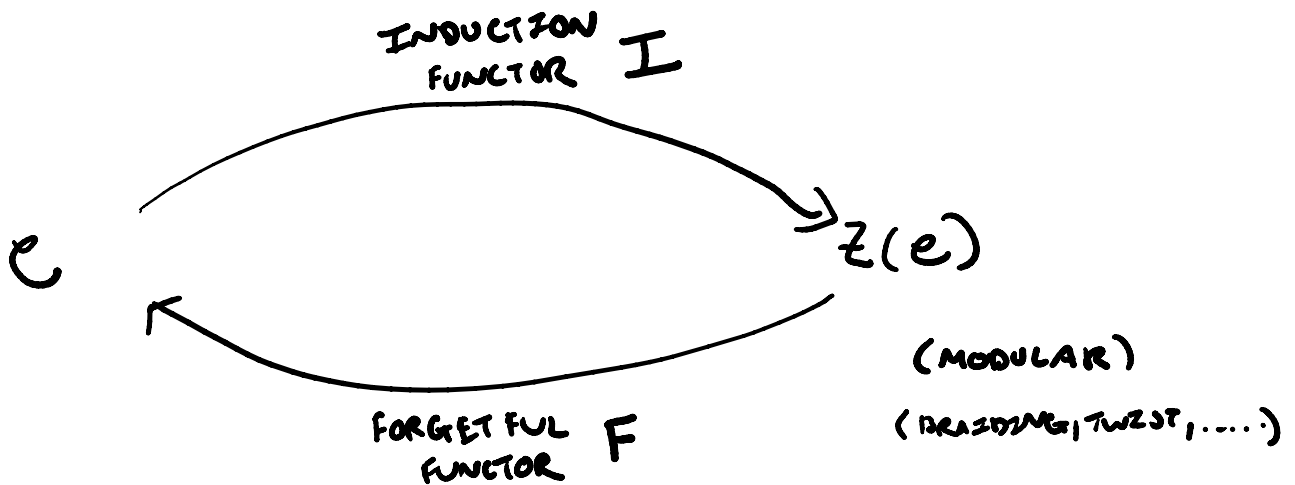
Contained in:

[Categorification of integral group rings extended by one dimension](#)



Proof outline:

Induction & restriction:



Motivation:  $Z(\text{Vec}_Q^\omega)$  ARE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD  
IN PARTICULAR,  $I(g)$  FOR INVERTIBLE OBJECTS.

Observation: IF  $C$  IS A NEAR-GROUP FUSION CATEGORY,  
 $I(g)$ ,  $g \in G$  ARE "UNCHANGED" FOR  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$

$\uparrow$  ACCOUNTS FOR  
 $\frac{1}{2}|G|(1+|G|)$  SIMPLE OBJECTS IN  $Z(C)$

Consequence: IF  $K$  IS UNBOUNDED,  $I(p)$  MUST BE  
"INFINITELY INTERESTING".

Spoiler: IT'S NOT. (FROM A NUMBER-THEORETIC  
PERSPECTIVE)

**E.g.** The above argument fails to prove finiteness when  $G = C_7$  (for example)

But a computer check of the constraints for low levels implies

$$\begin{array}{llll} R(C_7, 7), & R(C_7, 42), & R(C_7, 70), & R(C_7, 672) \\ R(C_7, 10\,710), & R(C_7, 49\,210), & R(C_7, 170\,688) & \\ R(C_7, 2\,720\,298) & & & \end{array}$$

are the only possible categorifiable  $R(C_7, \ell)$  with  $\ell < 14\,000\,000$

**A vast generalization to this finiteness:**

If  $(R, B)$  is a fusion ring, and there exists  $d \notin \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\text{FPdim}(b) \in \{1, d\}$  for all  $b \in B$ , then the set of invertible basis elements  $G$  acts transitively on  $B - G$ .

The stabilizer subgroups of  $b \in B - G$  are the same (normal) subgroup  $H \leq G$ .

**Integral counterexamples:** character rings of extraspecial  $p$ -groups,  $p > 2$

These include irrational near-group rings, Haagerup-Izumi rings, "quadratic" rings, and much much more!

**Lemma (Schopieray, 2022):** If such a fusion ring is categorifiable, then  $d$  is a root of  $x^2 - k|H|x - |H|$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

**Note:** The case  $G = H$  is the well-known result for near-group fusion categories

The Frobenius-Perron dimension of the category in this case is  $|G|(2 + kd)$ .

The global dimension of such a fusion category is  $|G|(2 + kd)$  or its Galois conjugate.

[PhD thesis of Josiah Thornton](#)

**Conjecture:** Let  $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ . Then there exists  $\delta_N > 0$  such that for all fusion categories  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $N$  invertible objects up to isomorphism,  $\dim(\mathcal{C}) > N + \delta_N$  or  $\dim(\mathcal{C}) = N$ .

**Note:** the case  $N = 1$  was proven by Victor Ostrik in 2018. ( $\delta_1 = 1/3$  suffices)

**Proof in the modular case:**  $\dim(\mathcal{C}) = N \cdot \dim(\mathcal{C}_{ad}) > \frac{4}{3} \cdot N$

**Proof in the braided case:** Exercise.

**Proof in general:** Let me know when you've proven it.

**For a fixed  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ , there exist finitely-many categorifiable fusion rings of rank  $r$  whose basis elements take exactly one nontrivial Frobenius-Perron dimension  $d$ .**

Rank-finiteness is known for integral fusion categories.

So assume  $d \notin \mathbb{Z}$ .

There are finitely-many possible  $G$  since  $|G| < r$ . Fix  $G$ .

Now  $d$  is a root of  $x^2 - k|H| - |H|$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and subgroup  $H \leq G$ .

Let  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$  be a Galois automorphism with  $\sigma(d) \neq d$ .

We may assume  $\dim(\mathcal{C}) = |G|(2 + kd)$  since  $\mathcal{C}$  is Galois conjugate to a pseudounitary fusion category.

Then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{C}^\sigma = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sigma(\dim(\mathcal{C})) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} |G|(2 + k\sigma(d)) = |G|.$$

Therefore, (**conjecturally**)  $k$  is bounded above for a fixed  $G$ .

Moreover, there are only finitely-many categorifiable fusion rings for fixed  $G$  and  $k$ .

Thank you for your attention!

