

# Natural Construction of Ten Borcherds-Kac-Moody Algebras Associated with Elements in $M_{23}$

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## Section 1

### Introduction and Motivation

# Borcherds-Kac-Moody Algebras

BKMAs are infinite-dimensional generalisations of finite-dimensional simple Lie algebras.

They are defined by generators and relations encoded in a generalised Cartan matrix (not necessarily positive definite, diagonal entries not necessarily positive to allow imaginary simple roots) [Bor88].

They admit Weyl-Kac character formulae and a denominator identity

$$e^\rho \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} (1 - e^\alpha)^{\text{mult}(\alpha)} = \sum_{w \in W} \det(w) w \left( e^\rho \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi} \varepsilon(\alpha) e^\alpha \right).$$

The best-known example is the monster Lie algebra, used in Borcherds' proof of the monstrous moonshine conjecture [Bor92].

# General Problem

In many interesting examples the denominator identity of a BKMA is an automorphic form (automorphic product of singular weight) [Bor98].

Classification results for such BKMAs are obtained in [Sch06, GN02, GN18].

## Problem A (Borcherds)

Give natural constructions of those BKMAs whose denominator identities are automorphic products of singular weight [Bor01].

Here, “natural” means other than by generators and relations, and in a way that hopefully reveals part of the symmetry group of these algebras.

# General Problem

The fake monster Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  [Bor90] is the BKMA obtained naturally as string quantisation of the lattice vertex algebra  $V_{\mathbb{H}_{25,1}}$ .

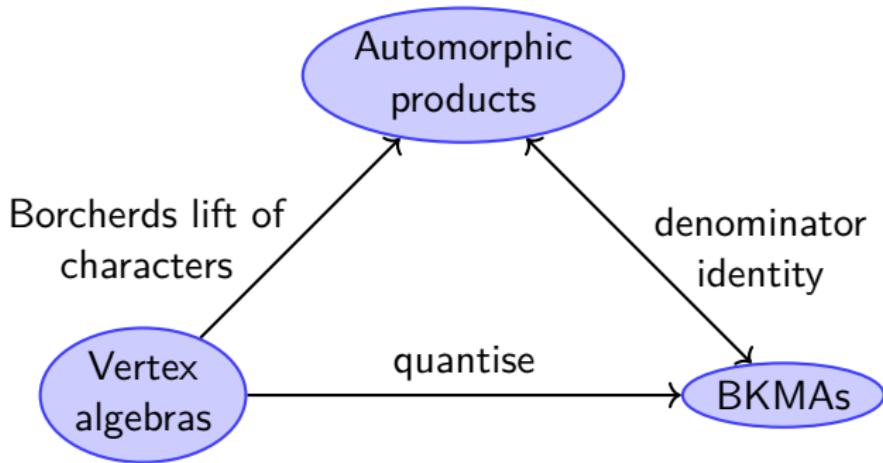
In [Bor92] Borcherds obtained a large family of Borcherds-Kac-Moody (super)algebras  $\mathfrak{g}_{\phi_\nu}$  by twisting the fake monster Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by elements  $\nu \in \text{Co}_0$ .

## Problem B (Borcherds)

Find natural constructions for this family of BKMAs [Bor92].

**Goal of this talk:** Give partial answer to both problems by giving BRST constructions of a nice subfamily of BKMAs associated with elements of square-free order in  $M_{23} < \text{Co}_0$ .

# Concepts



Examples:

- $V^\natural \otimes V_{\mathbb{II}_{1,1}} \rightarrow \text{monster Lie algebra} \leftrightarrow j(e^{(1,0)}) - j(e^{(0,1)}),$
- $V_{\mathbb{II}_{25,1}} \rightarrow \text{fake monster Lie algebra } \mathfrak{g} \leftrightarrow \text{automorphic product } \Psi \text{ of weight 12 for } O^+(\mathbb{II}_{26,2}).$

## Specific Problem

### Theorem (Classification [Sch06])

*There are exactly ten real BKMA<sub>s</sub> whose whose denominator identities are completely reflective automorphic products of singular weight  $-w = k/2 - 1$  on even lattices  $P$  of signature  $(k, 2)$  with  $k \geq 4$ , square-free level  $m$  and  $p$ -ranks of the discriminant form  $P'/P$  at most  $k + 1$ .*

*Moreover, these are exactly the ten real BKMA<sub>s</sub>  $\mathfrak{g}_{\phi_\nu}$  in [Bor92] obtained by twisting the fake monster Algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  by elements  $\nu$  of square-free order  $m$  in  $M_{23} < \text{Co}_0$ .*

### Specific Problem

Give natural constructions (as BRST quantisations from suitable vertex algebras) of these ten BKMA<sub>s</sub>.

(Done for  $m = 1$  [Bor90],  $m = 2$  [HS03],  $m = 2, 3, 5, 7$  [CKS07].)

## Section 2

### Vertex Algebras

## (Conformal) Vertex Algebras

- $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space  $V = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} V_n$ ,
- vacuum vector  $\mathbf{1} \in V_0$ , Virasoro vector  $\omega \in V_2$ ,
- algebra products  $V \otimes V \rightarrow V$ ,  $(a, b) \mapsto a_n b$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,
- satisfying generalised associativity and commutativity constraints.

Vertex (super)algebras and their representations give rigorous descriptions of 2-dimensional conformal field theories.

The Moonshine module  $V^\natural$  [FLM88] provides the only *natural* construction of the Monster group  $M \cong \text{Aut}(V^\natural)$ .

The character of a vertex algebra is often a modular form [Zhu96].

# Matter Sector

In the following we describe the vertex algebras  $M_{\phi_\nu}$  that will serve as the input of the BRST quantisation.

Let  $V_\Lambda$  be the strongly rational, holomorphic VOA of central charge 24 associated with the Leech lattice  $\Lambda$ . Consider the ten automorphisms  $\nu \in M_{23} < \mathrm{Co}_0 = \mathrm{O}(\Lambda)$  of square-free order, i.e. their standard lifts  $\phi_\nu \in \mathrm{Aut}(V_\Lambda)$ .

By the orbifold theory in [EMS20]  $V_\Lambda^{\phi_\nu}$  has  $m^2$  irreducible modules  $V_\Lambda^{\phi_\nu}(i, j)$  for  $i, j$  in the finite quadratic space  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m$ .

## Definition (Conformal Vertex Algebra of Central Charge 26)

$$M_{\phi_\nu} := \bigoplus_{\alpha+K \in K'/K} V_\Lambda^{\phi_\nu}(\varphi(\alpha + K)) \otimes V_{\alpha+K}$$

with isometry  $\varphi : K'/K \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m}$  and lattice  $K = \mathbb{II}_{1,1}(m)$ .

# Matter Sector

There is a well-known lattice decomposition that induces

$$V_\Lambda \cong \bigoplus_{\alpha + \Lambda^\nu \in (\Lambda^\nu)' / \Lambda^\nu} V_{\psi(\alpha + \Lambda^\nu)} \otimes V_{\alpha + \Lambda^\nu}$$

with isometry  $\psi: (\Lambda^\nu)' / \Lambda^\nu \rightarrow \overline{(\Lambda_\nu)' / \Lambda_\nu}$ .

Let  $\hat{\nu} \in \text{Aut}(V_{\Lambda_\nu})$  be a standard lift of  $\nu$  restricted to  $\Lambda_\nu$ . By the orbifold theory in [Lam20]  $V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}$  has  $m^2|(\Lambda_\nu)' / \Lambda_\nu|$  irreducible modules  $V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\alpha + \Lambda_\nu, i, j)$  with fusion described by the finite quadratic space  $(\Lambda_\nu)' / \Lambda_\nu \times \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m$ .

More generally, the decomposition

$$V_\Lambda^{\phi_\nu}(i, j) \cong \bigoplus_{\alpha + \Lambda^\nu \in (\Lambda^\nu)' / \Lambda^\nu} V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\psi(\alpha + \Lambda^\nu), i, j) \otimes V_{\alpha + \Lambda^\nu}$$

holds for all  $i, j \in \mathbb{Z}_m$  [Lam20].

# Matter Sector

Define the lattice  $L := \Lambda^\nu \oplus K$  of signature  $(k-1, 1)$  and the isometry  $\chi := (\psi, \varphi): L'/L \rightarrow \overline{(\Lambda_\nu)'/\Lambda_\nu \times \mathbb{Z}_m \times \mathbb{Z}_m}$ .

## Proposition ([Mö121])

The conformal vertex algebra  $M_{\phi_\nu}$  decomposes as

$$M_{\phi_\nu} \cong \bigoplus_{\gamma+L \in L'/L} V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\chi(\gamma+L)) \otimes V_{\gamma+L}.$$

This implies that  $M_{\phi_\nu}$  has the  $L'$ -grading

$$M_{\phi_\nu} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in L'} V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\chi(\alpha+L)) \otimes \pi_\alpha^{(k-1,1)}$$

with Heisenberg modules  $\pi_\alpha^{(k-1,1)}$ , rather than just a grading by the lattice  $K'$  of signature  $(1, 1)$ .

# Characters

By [Möl16] the characters

$$\mathrm{ch}_{V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\alpha+\Lambda_\nu, i, j)}(\tau) / \eta(\tau)^{\mathrm{rk}(\Lambda^\nu)}$$

form a vector-valued modular form of weight  $w = 1 - k/2$  for the dual Weil representation of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$  on  $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$ .

There is a procedure (see [Sch06]) to lift modular forms for congruence subgroups to vector-valued modular forms for  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ . Let  $F(\tau)$  be the lift of  $1/\eta_\nu(\tau) = \prod_{t|m} \eta(t\tau)^{-24/\sigma_1(m)}$ , a modular form for  $\Gamma_0(m)$ .

**Proposition ([Möl21])**

$$\mathrm{ch}_{V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\alpha+\Lambda_\nu, i, j)}(\tau) / \eta(\tau)^{\mathrm{rk}(\Lambda^\nu)} = F(\tau).$$

## Section 3

### Quantisation

# BRST Quantisation

Consider the semi-infinite cohomology of graded Lie algebras [Fei84, FGZ86] applied to the Virasoro algebra.

For “positive-energy” Virasoro representation  $M$  of central charge 26 define  $W = M \otimes V_{\text{gh.}}$  of central charge 0 and BRST operator  $Q$  with  $Q^2 = 0$ . Obtain cohomological spaces  $H_{\text{BRST}}^p(M)$ .

If  $M$  is conformal vertex algebra, then  $H_{\text{BRST}}^1(M)$  is a Lie algebra [LZ93] (also inherits invariant bilinear form).

If  $M = V \otimes \pi_\alpha^{(k-1,1)}$  (+ some conditions), vanishing theorem [Zuc89] and Euler-Poincaré principle yield:

$$H_{\text{BRST}}^1(V \otimes \pi_\alpha^{(k-1,1)}) \cong \begin{cases} (V \otimes \pi_0^{(k-2,0)})_{1-\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle / 2} & \text{if } \alpha \neq 0, \\ (V \otimes \pi_0^{(k-1,1)})_1 & \text{if } \alpha = 0. \end{cases}$$

# Results

Define the  $L'$ -graded Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu} := H_{\text{BRST}}^1(M_{\phi_\nu}) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in L'} H_{\text{BRST}}^1(V_{\Lambda_\nu}^{\hat{\nu}}(\chi(\alpha + L)) \otimes \pi_\alpha^{(k-1,1)}).$$

With the results on the previous slide we show:

Theorem ([Möll21])

$\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}$  is a complex BKMA of rank  $k = \text{rk}(L)$ , graded by  $L'$ , with Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{g}(0)$ .

$\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}$  is isomorphic to (the complexification of)  $\mathfrak{g}_{\phi_\nu}$ .

Moreover, the Borcherds lift [Bor98] of the vector-valued modular form  $F$  is an automorphic product  $\Psi_{\phi_\nu}$  whose expansion at any cusp is the denominator identity of  $\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{\phi_\nu}$  [Sch04, Sch08].

# Properties

For convenience we rescale the quadratic form on  $L$  to obtain the even lattice  $\Delta := L'(m) \cong \Lambda^\nu \oplus \mathbb{H}_{1,1}$ .

The dimensions of the root spaces are

$$\dim(\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}(\alpha)) = [F_{\alpha+L}](-\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle/2) = \sum_{d|m} \delta_{\alpha \in \Delta \cap d\Delta'} [1/\eta_\nu](-\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle/2d)$$

for all  $\alpha \in \Delta \setminus \{0\}$ .

The denominator identity of  $\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}$  may be written as

$$e^\rho \prod_{d|m} \prod_{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \cap d\Delta'} (1 - e^\alpha)^{[1/\eta_\nu](-\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle/2d)} = \sum_{w \in W} \det(w) w(\eta_\nu(e^\rho))$$

with Weyl vector  $\rho$ . Here, the Weyl group  $W$  is the full reflection group of  $\Delta$ .

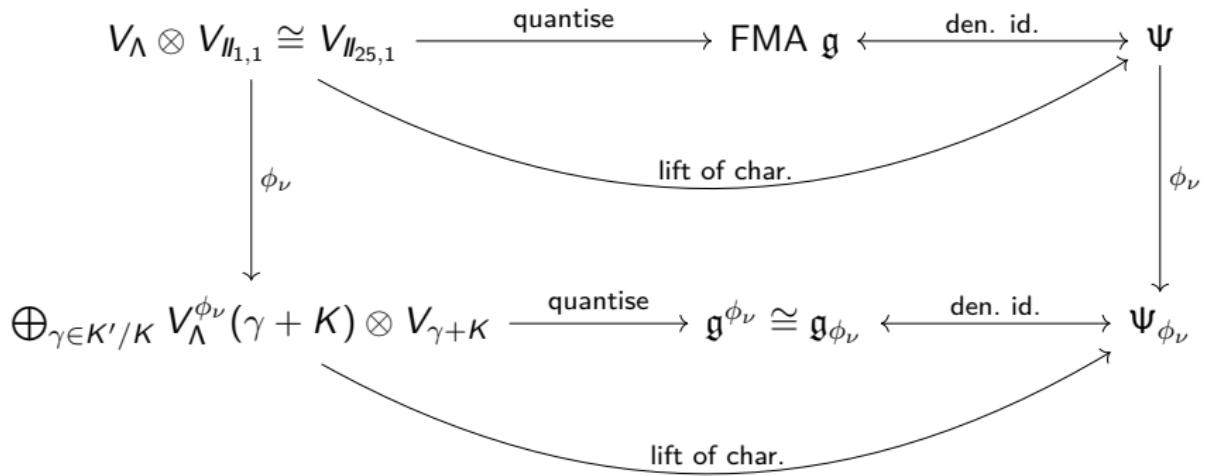
The real roots of  $\mathfrak{g}^{\phi_\nu}$  are the roots of the lattice  $\Delta$ . The imaginary roots are  $n\rho$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ , with multiplicities  $24\sigma_0((m, n))/\sigma_1(m)$ .

# Summary

Vertex Alg.

BKMA

Aut. Prod.



Thank you for your attention!

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