

Symmetry, the Monster and Conformal Field Theory



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Place: 110 Engineering Bldg. 4 N103

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The symmetry of Nature with its beauty and mystery has inspired us to look for its origin. The Monster group of Fischer and Griess is the most exceptional finite group in mathematics and is the automorphism, i.e., symmetry group, of the monster V.O.A. This vertex operator algebra is a special kind of 2-dimensional conformal field theory or string theory. The studying of the monster CFT of central charge 24 is related to the study of modular functions, finite groups, Lie algebras, quantum field theory and string theory. Recently we found a set of pairs of CFTs which decompose the monster CFT. The larger parts of these CFT pairs have the automorphisms, corresponding to the sporadic groups appearing in McKay's extended E8 dynkin diagram.

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