# NORMAL INTERMEDIATE SUBFACTORS

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### 1. Introduction

It is well known that if  $\alpha: G \to Aut(N)$  is an outer action of a finite group G on a type  $\Pi_1$  factor N and K is an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset N \rtimes_{\alpha} G$ , then there is a subgroup H of G such that  $K = N \rtimes_{\alpha} H$  (see for instance [19]). On the other hand, Y. Watatani [31] showed that there exist only finitely many intermediate subfactors for an irreducible inclusion with finite index. So it is natural to consider intermediate subfactors as "quantized subgroups" in the index theory for an inclusion of type  $\Pi_1$  factors. The notion of normality for subgroups plays important role in the theory of finite groups. In this paper we introduce the notion of normality for intermediate subfactors of irreducible inclusions.

D. Bisch [1] and A. Ocneanu [21] gave a nice characterization of intermediate subfactors of a given irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  in terms of Jones projections and Ocneanu's Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}: N' \cap M_1 \to M' \cap M_2$ . We define normal intermediate

subfactors as follows:

Definition. Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible inclusion of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor of the inclusion  $N \subset M$ . Then K is a normal intermediate subfactor of the inclusion  $N \subset M$  if  $e_K \in \mathcal{Z}(N' \cap M_1)$  and  $\mathcal{F}(e_K) \in \mathcal{Z}(M' \cap M_2)$ , where  $e_K$  is the Jones projection for the inclusion  $K \subset M$ .

Every finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra (Kac algebra) gives rise to an irreducible inclusion of AFD II<sub>1</sub> factors, which are characterized by depth 2 (see for example [21], [28], [29], [34]). Let M be the crossed product algebra  $N \times \mathbf{H}$  of N by an outer action of a finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathbf{H}$ . Unfortunately, there is no one-to-one correspondence between the intermediate subfactors of  $N \subset M$  and the subHopf  $C^*$ -algebras of  $\mathbf{H}$  in general. But we get the next result:

Theorem. Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors with finite index, i.e., M is described as the crossed product algebra  $N \rtimes \mathbf{H}$  of N by an outer action of a finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathbf{H}$ . Let K be an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  and  $e_K$  is the Jones projection for  $K \subset M$ . Then K is described as the crossed product algebra  $N \rtimes \mathbf{K}$  of N by an outer action of a subHopf  $C^*$  algebra  $\mathbf{K}$  of  $\mathbf{H}$  if and only if  $e_K$  is an element of the center of the relative commutant algebra  $N' \cap M_1$ , where  $M_1$  is the basic extension for  $N \subset M$ .

Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and  $M_1$  the basic extension for  $N \subset M$ . Let K be an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$ 

and  $K_1$  the basic extension for  $K \subset M$ . Then  $K_1$  is an intermediate subfactor of  $M \subset M_1$ . For the Jones projections  $e_K$  and  $e_{K_1}$  for the inclusions  $K \subset M$  and  $K_1 \subset M_1$ , respectively, since  $\mathcal{F}(e_K) = \lambda e_{K_1}$  for some scalar  $\lambda$ , we get the next theorem:

Theorem. If the depth of a given irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  is 2, then an intermediate subfactor K of  $N \subset M$  is normal in  $N \subset M$  if and only if the depths of  $N \subset K$  and  $K \subset M$  are both 2.

The author [30] showed that if M is the crossed product  $N \rtimes G$  of finite group G and  $K = N \rtimes H$ , then H is a normal subgroup of G if and only if  $K \subset M \simeq K \subset K \rtimes F$  for some finite group F, i.e., the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2. Hence we see by the previous theorem that H is a normal subgroup of G if and only if K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $K \subset M$ . Therefore our notion of normality for intermediate subfactors is an extension of that in the theory of finite groups.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**2.1. Intermediate subfactors.** We recall here some results for intermediate subfactors. Let  $N \subset M$  be a pair of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors. We denote by  $\mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$  the set of all intermediate von Neumann subalgebras of  $N \subset M$ . The set  $\mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$  forms a lattice under the two operations  $\vee$  and  $\wedge$  defined by

$$K_1 \vee K_2 = (K_1 \cup K_2)''$$
 and  $K_1 \wedge K_2 = K_1 \cap K_2$ .

If the relative commutant algebra  $N'\cap M$  is trivial, then  $\mathcal{L}(N\subset M)$  is exactly the lattice of intermediate subfactors for  $N\subset M$ . In fact for any  $K\in\mathcal{L}(N\subset M)$ ,  $\mathcal{Z}(K)=K'\cap K\subset N'\cap M=\mathbb{C}$ . If M is the crossed product  $N\rtimes_{\alpha}G$  for an outer action  $\alpha$  of a finite group G, then it is well known that the intermediate subfactor lattice  $\mathcal{L}(N\subset M)$  is isomorphic to the subgroup lattice  $\mathcal{L}(G)$  (see [18], [19]). In [31] Y. Watatani proved the next theorem.

Theorem. Let  $N \subset M$  be a pair of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors. If  $[M:N] < \infty$  and  $N' \cap M = \mathbb{C}$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$  is a finite lattice.

Later we were noted that this theorem was shown by S. Popa implicitly [23].

From now on we assume that  $[M:N]<\infty$  and  $N'\cap M=\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $N\subset M\subset M_1\subset M_2$  be the Jones tower of  $N\subset M$  obtained by iterating the basic extension. Let  $e_N\in M_1$  and  $e_M\in M_2$  be the Jones projections for  $N\subset M$  and  $M\subset M_1$ , respectively. We denote by  $\mathcal{F}$ , Ocneanu's Fourier transform from  $N'\cap M_1$  onto  $M'\cap M_2$  i.e.,

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = [M:N]^{-\frac{3}{2}} E_{M'}^{N'}(xe_M e_N), \ x \in N' \cap M_1,$$

where  $E_{M'}^{N'}$  is the conditional expectation from N' onto M'. For  $K \in \mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ , if  $e_K$  is the Jones projection for  $K \subset M$ , then  $e_K$  is an element of  $N' \cap M_1$ . In fact  $K_1 = \langle M, e_K \rangle = J_M K' J_M \subset J_M N' J_M = M_1$  and hence  $e_K \in K' \cap K_1 \subset N' \cap M_1$ .

D. Bisch [1] and A. Ocneanu [21] gave the next characterization of intermediate subfactors in terms of Jones projections in  $N' \cap M_1$ .

Theorem. Let p be a projection in  $N' \cap M_1$ . There exists an intermediate subfactor  $K \in \mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$  such that  $p = e_K$  if and only if

- (1)  $p \geq e_N$ ,
- (2)  $\mathcal{F}(p) = \lambda q$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and some projection  $q \in M' \cap M_2$ .

In this case, q is the Jones projection  $e_{K_1}$  for  $K_1 \subset M_1$ .

Lemma 2.1. With the above notations, we have

$$e_K = [K:N][M:N]E_{M_1}^{M_2}(e_M e_N e_{K_1}),$$

where  $E_{M_1}^{M_2}$  is the trace preserving conditional expectation form  $M_2$  onto  $M_1$ .

Lemma 2.2. Let K be an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$ . Let  $K \subset M \subset K_1 \subset K_2$  and  $N \subset M \subset M_1 \subset M_2$  be the Jones towers for  $K \subset M$  and  $N \subset M$ , respectively. If  $e_{K_1}$  is the Jones projection for  $K_1 \subset M_1$ , then there exists a \*-isomorphism  $\varphi$  of  $K_2$  onto  $e_{K_1}M_2e_{K_1}$  such that  $\varphi(x) = xe_{K_1}$  for  $x \in K_1$  and  $\varphi(e_M^{K_1}) = e_M$ , where  $e_M^{K_1}$  and  $e_M$  are the Jones projections for  $M \subset K_1$  and  $M \subset M_1$ , respectively.

see for example [1], [27].

**2.2. Finite dimensional Hopf**  $C^*$ -algebras. In this subsection we recall some facts about finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebras.

Let **H** be a finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra with a comultiplication  $\triangle_{\mathbf{H}}$  and an anti-pode  $S_{\mathbf{H}}$ . Let **K** be a subHopf  $C^*$ -algebra of **H**, i.e., **K** is a \*-subalgebra of **H**,

 $S_{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{K}) \subset \mathbf{K} \text{ and } \triangle_{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{K}) \subset \mathbf{K} \otimes \mathbf{K}.$ 

**Lemma 2.3.** Define the subset  $\mathbf{K}^{\perp}$  of  $\mathbf{H}^*$  by

$$\mathbf{K}^{\perp} = \{ f \in \mathbf{H}^* | (f, k) = 0, \ \forall k \in \mathbf{K} \},$$

where  $(\ ,\ ): \mathbf{H}^* \times \mathbf{H} \to \mathbb{C}$  is the dual pairing defined by  $(f,h) = f(h), f \in \mathbf{H}^*, h \in \mathbf{H}$ .

Then  $\mathbf{K}^{\perp}$  is an ideal of  $\mathbf{H}^*$ .

*Proof.* Let g be an element of  $\mathbf{K}^{\perp}$  and f an element of  $\mathbf{H}^*$ . Then the element gf of  $\mathbf{H}^*$  is determined by the equation

$$(gf,h) = (g \otimes f, \triangle_{\mathbf{H}}(h)), \ \forall h \in \mathbf{H}.$$

By virtue of  $\triangle_{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{K}) \subset \mathbf{K} \otimes \mathbf{K}$ , we get

$$(gf, k) = (g \otimes f, \triangle_{\mathbf{H}}(k)) = 0, \ \forall k \in \mathbf{K}.$$

Therefore gf is an element of  $\mathbf{K}^{\perp}.$  Similarly,  $fg \in \mathbf{K}^{\perp}.$ 

By the above lemma, there exists the central projection  $p \in \mathbf{H}^*$  such that  $\mathbf{K}^{\perp} = p\mathbf{H}^*$ . We put  $e_{\mathbf{K}} = 1 - p$ .

**Proposition 2.4.** With the above notation, the reduced algebra  $e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*$  is the dual Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra of  $\mathbf{K}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $k \in \mathbf{K}$  and (y, k) = 0,  $\forall y \in e_{\mathbf{K}} \mathbf{H}^*$ . Then

$$(f,k) = (e_{\mathbf{K}}f,k) + (pf,k) = (e_{\mathbf{K}}f,k) = 0, \ \forall f \in \mathbf{H}^*.$$

Therefore k=0. Conversely, suppose that  $y\in e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*$  and  $(y,k)=0,\ \forall k\in\mathbf{K}$ . Then  $y\in\mathbf{K}^\perp\cap e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*=\{0\}$ . Hence the form  $(\ ,\ )|_{e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*\times\mathbf{K}}$  establishes a duality between  $\mathbf{K}$  and  $e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*$ . So we can identify  $e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*$  with  $\mathbf{K}^*$ . Then for  $y\in\mathbf{K}^*$  and  $k_1,k_2\in\mathbf{K}$ , we have

$$(y, k_1k_2) = (\triangle_{\mathbf{H}^*}(y), k_1 \otimes k_2) = (\triangle_{\mathbf{H}^*}(y)(e_{\mathbf{K}} \otimes e_{\mathbf{K}}), k_1 \otimes k_2).$$

Hence  $\triangle_{\mathbf{K}^*}(y) = \triangle_{\mathbf{H}^*}(y)(e_{\mathbf{K}} \otimes e_{\mathbf{K}})$ . Similarly, we have  $S_{\mathbf{K}^*} = S_{\mathbf{H}^*}|_{\mathbf{K}^*}$  by the fact that

$$\overline{(y^*,k^*)} = (S_{\mathbf{H}^*}(y),k), \ \forall y \in \mathbf{K}^*, \ \forall k \in \mathbf{K}.$$

Therefore  $e_{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{H}^*$  is again a Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra with the dual algebra  $\mathbf{K}$ .  $\square$ 

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $\mathbf{H}$  be a finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra. The number of sub-Hopf  $C^*$ -algebras of  $\mathbf{H}$  is finite.

*Proof.* By the above proposition, the map  $\mathbf{K} \mapsto e_{\mathbf{K}}$  from the set of subHopf  $C^*$ algebras of  $\mathbf{H}$  to central projections of  $\mathbf{H}^*$  is injective. Since the number of central
projections of  $\mathbf{H}^*$  is finite, so is that of subHopf  $C^*$  algebras of  $\mathbf{H}$ .  $\square$ 

Remark. Since every finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$ -algebra (Kac algebra) admits an "outer" action on the AFD II<sub>1</sub> factor [34], the above theorem immediately follows from [31, Theorem 2.2].

Definition. Let **H** be any Hopf algebra.

(1) The left adjoint action of **H** on itself is given by

$$(ad_lh)(k)=\sum_{(h)}h_1k(S_{\mathbf{H}}(h_2)), ext{ for all } h,k\in\mathbf{H}.$$

(2) The right adjoint action of **H** on itself is given by

$$(ad_rh)(k) = \sum_{(h)} (S_{\mathbf{H}}(h_1))kh_2, \text{ for all } h, k \in \mathbf{H}.$$

(3) A subHopf algebra **K** of **H** is called *normal* if both  $(ad_l\mathbf{H})(\mathbf{K}) \subset \mathbf{K}$  and  $(ad_r\mathbf{H})(\mathbf{K}) \subset \mathbf{K}$  hold. (See [17, pp. 33].)

The next proposition is useful later.

**Proposition 2.6.** Let H be a finite dimensional Hopf algebra with a counit  $\varepsilon_H$  and K a subHopf algebra of H. Then K is normal if and only if  $HK^+ = K^+H$ , where  $K^+ = K \cap \ker \varepsilon_H$ .

See for a proof [17, pp. 35].

2.3. Bimodules. In this subsection we recall some facts about the bimodule calculus associated with an inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors (see for example [21],[32]).

Let A,B,C be type II<sub>1</sub> factors and let  $\alpha={}_AH_B,\beta={}_AK_B,\gamma={}_BL_C$  be A-B,A-B and B-C Hilbert bimodules, respectively. We write  $\alpha\gamma$  for the A-C Hilbert bimodule  ${}_AH_B\otimes_B{}_BL_C$ . We denote by  $\langle\alpha,\beta\rangle$  the dimension of the space of A-B intertwiners from  ${}_AH_B$  to  ${}_AK_B$ . The conjugate Hilbert space  $H^*$  of  ${}_AH_B$  is naturally a B-A bimodule with B-A actions defined by

$$b \cdot \xi^* \cdot a = (a^* \xi b^*)^*$$
 for  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ ,

where  $\xi^* = \langle \cdot, \xi \rangle_H \in H^*$  for  $\xi \in {}_AH_B$ . We denote by  $\overline{\alpha}$  the conjugate B-A Hilbert bimodule associated with  $\alpha$ .

Proposition 2.7 (Frobenius reciprocity). Let A, B, C be type  $II_1$  factors, and  $\alpha = {}_AH_B, \beta = {}_BK_C$  and  $\gamma = {}_AL_C$  be Hilbert bimodules. Then

$$\langle \alpha \beta, \gamma \rangle = \langle \alpha, \gamma \overline{\beta} \rangle = \langle \beta, \overline{\alpha} \gamma \rangle.$$

See for a proof [21], [32].

**Example 2.8.** Let M be a type  $II_1$  factor with the normalized trace  $\tau_M$ . As usual we let  $L^2(M)$  be the Hilbert space obtained by completing M in the norm  $||x||_2 = \sqrt{\tau_M(x^*x)}$ ,  $x \in M$ . Let  $\eta: M \to L^2(M)$  be the canonical implementation. Let  $J: L^2(M) \to L^2(M)$  be the modular conjugation defined by  $J\eta(x) = \eta(x^*)$ ,  $x \in M$ . For  $\theta \in \operatorname{Aut}(M)$ , we define  $M(L^2(M)_\theta)_M$ , the M-M Hilbert bimodule, by

- (1)  $_{M}(L^{2}(M)_{\theta})_{M}=L^{2}(M)$  as a Hilbert space,
- $(2)\ x\cdot\xi\cdot y=xJ\theta(y)^*J\xi,\ x,y\in M,\ \xi\in L^2(M).$

Then for  $\theta, \theta_1, \theta_2 \in Aut(M)$  we have

$$\overline{{}_M(L^2(M)_\theta)_M} \simeq {}_M(L^2(M)_{\theta^{-1}})_M$$

$$_M(L^2(M)_{ heta_1})_M \mathop{\otimes}_{M} _M(L^2(M)_{ heta_2})_M \simeq {}_M(L^2(M)_{ heta_1 heta_2})_M \,.$$

A bimodule  $\alpha = {}_A H_B$  is called irreducible if  $\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = 1$ , i.e.,  $\operatorname{End}_{A - B}({}_A H_B) \simeq \mathbb{C}$ . If  $\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle < \infty$ ,  $\alpha = {}_A H_B$ , then we can get an A - B irreducible bimodule by cutting  ${}_A H_B$  by a minimal projection in  $\operatorname{End}_{A - B}({}_A H_B)$ .

**Example 2.9.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an inclusion of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors. We define the N-M bimodule  ${}_NL^2(M)_M$  by actions  $x \cdot \xi \cdot y = xJy^*J\xi, \quad \xi \in L^2(M), x \in N, y \in M$ . Then we can see that  $\mathrm{End}({}_NL^2(M)_M) \simeq N' \cap M$ . In particular, if  $N' \cap M = \mathbb{C}$ , then  ${}_NL^2(M)_M$  is an irreducible N-M bimodule.

The next lemma is well known.

**Lemma 2.10.** Let  $N \subset M$  be a pair of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and  $M_1$  the basic extension for the inclusion  $N \subset M$ . For  $\theta \in \operatorname{Aut}(N)$ ,  ${}_N(L^2(M)_\theta)_N \simeq {}_NL^2(M)_N$  if and only if there exists a unitary  $u \in M_1$  such that  $uxu^* = \theta(x)$ , for all  $x \in N$ , where  ${}_N(L^2(M)_\theta)_N$  ( =  $L^2(M)$  as a Hilbert space ) is defined as in Example 2.8.

**Example 2.11.** Let  $\gamma:G\to \operatorname{Aut}(N)$  be an outer action of a finite group G on a type  $\operatorname{II}_1$  factor N. Let  $M=N\rtimes_{\gamma}G$  be the crossed product and  $\rho$  the N-M bimodule  ${}_NL^2(M)_M$  defined as in Example 2.9. If  $\{\lambda_g|\ g\in G\}$  is a unitary implementation for the crossed product, then each element  $x\in M$  is written in the form  $x=\sum_{g\in G}x_g\lambda_g, x_g\in N$ . This implies that the irreducible decomposition of  $\rho\overline{\rho}={}_NL^2(M)_N$  is

$$igoplus_{g \in G} {}_N (\overline{N \lambda_g}^{\|\cdot\|_2})_N \simeq igoplus_{g \in G} {}_N (L^2(N)_{\gamma_g})_N,$$

where  $_{N}(L^{2}(N)_{\gamma_{g}})_{N}$  is the N-N bimodule as in Example 2.8.

## 3. Definition of normal intermediate subfactors

In this section, we shall introduce the notion of normality for intermediate subfactors and study its properties.

Let  $N \subset M$  be a pair of type II<sub>1</sub> factors with  $[M:N] < \infty$ . Let  $N \subset M \subset M_1 \subset M_2$  be the Jones tower of  $N \subset M$ , obtained by iterating the basic extensions. We denote by  $\mathcal{F}$ , Ocneanu's Fourier transform from  $N' \cap M_1$  onto  $M' \cap M_2$ , i.e.,

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = [M:N]^{-\frac{3}{2}} E_{M'}^{N'}(xe_M e_N), \ x \in N' \cap M_1,$$

where  $E_{M'}^{N'}$  is the conditional expectation from N' onto M'.

**Definition 3.1.** Let K be an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  and  $e_K$  the Jones projection for the inclusion  $K \subset M$ . Then we call that K is normal in  $N \subset M$  if  $e_K$  and  $\mathcal{F}(e_K)$  are elements of the centers of  $N' \cap M_1$  and  $M' \cap M_2$ , respectively.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let K be an intermediate subfactor for an irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. Let  $K_1$  and  $M_1$  be the basic extensions for  $K \subset M$  and  $N \subset M$ , respectively. Then K is normal in  $N \subset M$  if and only if  $K_1$  is normal in  $M \subset M_1$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\mathcal{F}(e_K) = \lambda e_{K_1}$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , it is obvious by the definition.  $\square$ 

**Proposition 3.3.** Let  $\alpha: G \to \operatorname{Aut}(P)$  be an outer action of a finite group G on a type  $II_1$  factor P and H a subgroup of G. Let M be the fixed point algebra  $P^{(H,\alpha)}$  and N the fixed point algebra  $P^{(G,\alpha)}$ . For  $K \in \mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ , there is a subgroup A of G

such that  $H \subset A \subset G$  and  $K = P^{(A,\alpha)}$ . Then K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  if and only if AgH = HgA for  $\forall g \in G$ . In particular, K is normal in  $N \subset P$  if and only if A is normal subgroup of G.

Proof. Let  $\{u_g | g \in G\}$  be unitary operators on  $L^2(P)$  defined by  $u_g \eta(x) = \eta(\alpha_g(x))$ ,  $x \in P$ , where  $L^2(P)$  and  $\eta$  are defined as in Example 2.8. Let  $P_1$  be the basic extension for  $N \subset P$ . Then  $N' \cap P_1 = \{\sum_{g \in G} x_g u_g \mid x_g \in \mathbb{C}\} \simeq \mathbb{C}G$ . Let  $e_M^P$  be the Jones projection for  $M \subset P$ . Then  $e_M^P = \frac{1}{\#H} \sum_{h \in H} u_h$ . Let  $M_1$  be the basic extension for  $N \subset M$ . Then by Lemma 2.2,

$$N'\cap M_1\simeq e_M^P(N'\cap P_1)e_M^P=\{\sum_{g\in G}\sum_{h,k\in H}x_gu_{hgk}\mid x_g\in\mathbb{C}\}.$$

Therefore

$$e_K^M \in \mathcal{Z}(N' \cap M_1) \Leftrightarrow e_M^P e_K^P e_M^P (= e_K^P = \frac{1}{\#_A} \sum_{a \in A} u_a) \in \mathcal{Z}(e_M^P (N' \cap P_1) e_M^P)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sum_{a \in A} \sum_{h,k \in H} u_{ahgk} = \sum_{a \in A} \sum_{h,k \in H} u_{hgka} \text{ for } \forall g \in G$$

$$\Leftrightarrow AgH = HgA \text{ for } \forall g \in G.$$

Since  $M' \cap M_2$  is a commutative algebra, we get the the result.  $\square$ 

We obviously have the dual version of this proposition by Lemma 3.2.

In [31] Y. Watatani introduced the notion of quasi-normal intermediate subfactors to study the modular identity for intermediate subfactor lattices.

Definition. Let  $N \subset M$  be an inclusion of type II<sub>1</sub> factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$ . Then K is quasi-normal (or doubly commuting)

if for any  $L \in \mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ ,

and

$$K_1 \subset K_1 \lor L_1$$
 $\cup \qquad \cup$ 
 $K_1 \land L_1 \subset L_1$ 

are commuting squares (see for example [5]), where  $K_1$  and  $L_1$  are the basic extension for  $K \subset M$  and  $L \subset M$ , respectively.

**Proposition 3.4.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. If K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  then K is quasinormal in  $N \subset M$ 

*Proof.* Suppose that the Jones projection  $e_K$  for  $K \subset M$  is an element of the center of  $N' \cap M_1$ . Then for any intermediate subfactor L of  $N \subset M$ , since the Jones projection  $e_K^{K \vee L}$  for  $K \subset (K \vee L)$  is also a central projection in  $K' \cap (K \vee L)_1$ , we

have

is a commuting square. Similarly, if  $\mathcal{F}(e_K)$  is an element of the center of  $M'\cap M_2$ , then

$$K_1 \subset K_1 \lor L_1$$
 $\cup \qquad \cup$ 
 $K_1 \land L_1 \subset L_1$ 

is a commuting square. Therefore if K is normal in  $N\subset M,$  then K is quasi-normal.  $\square$ 

We have a characterization of normal intermediate subfactors in terms of bimodules. Let K be an intermediate subfactor of an irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  of type  $\mathrm{II}_1$  factors with finite index. We note that  $e_K$  is in the center of  $N' \cap M_1$  if and only if for any  $T \in \mathrm{End}(_NL^2(M)_N)$ ,  $TL^2(K) \subset L^2(K)$ .

**Proposition 3.5.** Let K be an intermediate subfactor for an irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. Let  $\alpha$  be the N-K bimodule  $_NL^2(K)_K$  and  $\beta$  the K-M bimodule  $_KL^2(M)_M$ . If  $\rho$  is the N-M bimodule  $\alpha\beta = _NL^2(M)_M$ , then K is normal in  $N \subset M$  if and only if

- $(1) \ \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle = \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle,$
- (2)  $\langle \overline{\beta}\beta, \overline{\rho}\rho \rangle = \langle \overline{\beta}\beta, \overline{\beta}\beta \rangle$ .

Proof. Since  $\operatorname{End}(_N L^2(K)_N) = N' \cap \langle N, e_N^K \rangle \simeq e_K(N' \cap M_1)e_K$  by Lemma 2.2, if  $e_K$  is an element of the center of  $N' \cap M_1$ , then for any irreducible N-N bimodule  $\sigma$  contained in  $\alpha \overline{\alpha}$ , the multiplicity of  $\sigma$  in  $\alpha \overline{\alpha}$  is equal to the multiplicity of  $\sigma$  in  $\rho \overline{\rho}$ . Therefore we have  $\langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle = \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle$ . Conversely, suppose that  $e_K$  is not an element of the center of  $N' \cap M_1$ . Then there exist minimal projections  $p \sim q$  in  $(N' \cap M_1)$  such that  $p \in e_K(N' \cap M_1)e_K$  and  $q \notin e_K(N' \cap M_1)e_K$ . Therefore we have  $\langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle \neq \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle$ . And hence  $e_K$  is an element of the center of  $(N' \cap M_1)$  if and only if  $\langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle = \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle$ . Similarly, we can see that  $e_{K_1}$  is an element of the center of  $(M' \cap M_2)$  if and only if  $\langle \overline{\beta}\beta, \overline{\rho}\rho \rangle = \langle \overline{\beta}\beta, \overline{\beta}\beta \rangle$ . Since  $\mathcal{F}(e_K) = \lambda e_{K_1}$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , we get the result.  $\square$ 

**Theorem 3.6.** Let K be an intermediate subfactor for an irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. If the depths of  $N \subset K$  and  $K \subset M$  are both 2, then K is normal in  $N \subset M$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha$  be the N-K bimodule  ${}_NL^2(K)_K$  and  $\beta$  the K-M bimodule  ${}_KL^2(M)_M$ . By the assumption, we have

$$\alpha\overline{\alpha}\alpha\simeq\underbrace{\alpha\oplus\alpha\oplus\cdots\oplus\alpha}_{[K:N]\text{times}}$$

and

$$\overline{\beta}\beta\overline{\beta}\simeq \underline{\overline{\beta}\oplus \overline{\beta}\oplus \cdots \oplus \overline{\beta}}_{[M:K]\text{times}}.$$

And hence  $\langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle = \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha} \alpha, \alpha \rangle = [K:N]$  and  $\langle \overline{\beta} \beta, \overline{\beta} \beta \rangle = \langle \overline{\beta} \beta \overline{\beta}, \overline{\beta} \rangle = [M:K]$  by Frobenius reciprocity. Since  $N \subset M$  is irreducible, if  $\rho$  is the N-M bimodule  ${}_{N}L^{2}(M)_{M}(=\alpha \beta)$ , then  $1 = \langle \rho, \rho \rangle = \langle \alpha \beta, \alpha \beta \rangle = \langle \overline{\alpha} \alpha, \beta \overline{\beta} \rangle$ . And hence we have

$$egin{aligned} \langle lpha \overline{lpha}, 
ho \overline{
ho} 
angle &= \langle lpha \overline{lpha}, lpha eta \overline{eta} \overline{lpha} 
angle &= \langle lpha \overline{lpha} lpha, lpha eta \overline{eta} 
angle \\ &= [K:N] \langle lpha, lpha eta \overline{eta} 
angle &= [K:N] \langle \overline{lpha} lpha, eta \overline{eta} 
angle &= [K:N], \end{aligned}$$

i.e.,  $\langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle = \langle \alpha \overline{\alpha}, \alpha \overline{\alpha} \rangle$ . Similarly, we have  $\langle \overline{\beta} \beta, \overline{\rho} \rho \rangle = \langle \overline{\beta} \beta, \overline{\beta} \beta \rangle$ . So we get the result by Proposition 3.5.  $\square$ 

**Proposition 3.7.** Let  $M_0, N_0, K$  be intermediate subfactors for an irreducible inclusion  $N \subset M$  of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index such that  $N \subset N_0 \subset K \subset M_0 \subset M$ . If K is normal in  $N \subset M$ , then K is also normal in  $N_0 \subset M_0$ .

### 4. Normal intermediate subfactors for depth 2 inclusions

It is well-known that the crossed product of a finite dimensional Hopf  $C^*$  algebra (Kac algebra) is characterized by the depth 2 condition. In this section we study normal intermediate subfactors for depth 2 inclusions.

**4.1.** The action of  $K' \cap K_1$  on M. Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type II<sub>1</sub> factors with finite index. Let  $N \subset M \subset M_1 \subset M_2$  be the Jones tower for

 $N \subset M$ . We put  $A = N' \cap M_1$  and  $B = M' \cap M_2$ . Then A and B are dual pair of Hopf  $C^*$ -algebras with a pairing

$$(a,b)=[M:N]^2 au(ae_Me_Nb), ext{ for } a\in A ext{ and } b\in B,$$

where  $e_N$  and  $e_M$  are the Jones projections for  $N \subset M$  and  $M \subset M_1$ , respectively. Define a bilinear map  $A \times M \to M$  (denoted by  $a \odot x$ ) by setting

$$a\odot x=[M:N]E_{M}^{M_{1}}(axe_{N}),$$

for  $x \in M$  and  $a \in A$ . This map is a left action of Hopf  $C^*$  algebra A and

$$N = M^A = \{ x \in M \mid a \odot x = \varepsilon(a)x, \forall a \in A \},\$$

where  $\varepsilon: A \to \mathbb{C}$  is the counit determined by  $ae_N = \varepsilon(a)e_N$  (see [29]).

**Proposition 4.1.** Let K be an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  and  $K_1$  the basic extension for  $K \subset M$ . We put  $H = K' \cap K_1$ . If a is an element of H, then

$$[M:K]E_{M}^{K_{1}}(axe_{K}) = [M:N]E_{M}^{M_{1}}(axe_{N}), \ \forall x \in M.$$

This implies  $K=M^H=\{\ x\in M\ |\ a\odot x=arepsilon(a)x,\ \forall a\in H\ \}.$ 

*Proof.* Since  $e_K = \frac{[M:N]}{[M:K]} E_{K_1}^{M_1}(e_N)$  by [27], we have

$$egin{aligned} [M:K]E_M^{K_1}(axe_K) &= [M:K]E_M^{K_1}(axrac{[M:N]}{[M:K]}E_{K_1}^{M_1}(e_N)) \ &= [M:N]E_M^{K_1}(E_{K_1}^{M_1}(axe_N)) \ &= [M:N]E_M^{M_1}(axe_N) \end{aligned}$$

for  $\forall a \in H \text{ and } \forall x \in M$ .  $\square$ 

**4.2.** Hopf algebra structures on  $K' \cap K_1$ . Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$ . Then the depth of  $K \subset M$  is not 2 in general. In this subsection we shall prove that if the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2, then  $H = K' \cap K_1$  is a subHopf  $C^*$  algebra of  $A = N' \cap M_1$ .

By Lemma 2.2, there exists an isomorphism  $\varphi$  of  $K_2$  onto  $e_{K_1}M_2e_{K_1}$  such that  $\varphi(x)=xe_{K_1}$  for  $x\in K_1$  and  $\varphi(e_M^{K_1})=e_M$ , where  $K\subset M\subset K_1\subset K_2$  is the Jones tower for the inclusion  $K\subset M$  and  $e_M^{K_1}$  is the Jones projection for  $M\subset K_1$ .

Lemma 4.2. With the above notation, we have

$$[M:K]^2 \tau(he_M^{K_1}e_K k) = [M:N]^2 \tau(he_M e_N \varphi(k))$$

for  $\forall h \in H = K' \cap K_1 \text{ and } \forall k \in M' \cap K_2$ .

**Lemma 4.3.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$ . Let  $N \subset M \subset M_1 \subset M_2$  and  $K \subset M \subset K_1 \subset K_2$  be the Jones towers for  $N \subset M$  and  $K \subset M$ , respectively. If the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2, then for any  $b \in M' \cap M_2$ , there exist elements  $\{x_i\}$ ,  $\{y_i\}$  of  $N' \cap M_1$  such that

$$b = \sum_{i} x_i e_M y_i$$

and

$$\sum_{i} E_{K_{1}}^{M_{1}}(x_{i})e_{M}E_{K_{1}}^{M_{1}}(y_{i}) \in (K' \cap K_{1})e_{M}(K' \cap K_{1}),$$

where  $E_{K_1}^{M_1}$  is the trace preserving conditional expectation from  $M_1$  onto  $K_1$ .

**Proposition 4.4.** Suppose that  $N \subset M$  is irreducible and the depth of  $N \subset M$  is 2. Let K be an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$  and  $K_1$  the basic extension for  $K \subset M$ . If the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2, then  $H = K' \cap K_1$  is a subHopf algebra of  $A = N' \cap M_1$ .

**Theorem 4.5.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$ . Let  $N \subset M \subset M_1 \subset M_2$  and  $K \subset M \subset K_1 \subset K_2$  be the Jones towers for  $N \subset M$  and  $K \subset M$ , respectively. Then the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2 if and only if  $e_{K_1}$  is an element of the center of  $M' \cap M_2$ , where  $e_{K_1}$  is the Jones projection for  $K_1 \subset M_1$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2. Then by the proof of Theorem 3.6,  $e_{K_1}$  is an element of the center of  $M' \cap M_2$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $e_{K_1}$  is an element of the center of  $M' \cap M_2$ . Then for any  $h \in H = K' \cap K_1$ , we have

$$(S_A(h), b) = \overline{(h^*, b^*)} = [M:N]^2 \tau(be_N e_M h)$$

$$= [M:N]^2 \tau(e_{K_1} be_{K_1} e_N e_M h)$$

$$= (S_A(h), e_{K_1} be_{K_1}) \quad \text{for } \forall b \in B = M' \cap M_2$$

and hence  $S_A(H) \subset H$ . Similarly, for any  $h \in H$ , we have

$$(\Delta_A(h),x\otimes y)=(h,xy)=(h,e_{K_1}xe_{K_1}ye_{K_1})$$
 
$$=(\Delta_A(h),e_{K_1}xe_{K_1}\otimes e_{K_1}ye_{K_1})\quad \text{for } \forall x,y\in M'\cap M_2,$$

and hence  $\Delta_A(H) \subset H \otimes H$ . Therefore H is a subHopf algebra of  $N' \cap M_1$ . By Proposition 4.1, we have  $K = M^H$ . So the depth of  $K \subset M$  is 2.  $\square$ 

We obviously have the dual version by Lemma 3.2.

Remark. Later we noted by the referee that this theorem follows from the next characterization of depth 2 inclusions by bimodules: Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible inclusion of type II<sub>1</sub> factors with finite index and  $\rho$  the N-M bimodule  ${}_NL^2(M)_M$ . Then the depth of  $N \subset M$  is 2 if and only if for any irreducible bimodule  ${}_NX_N \prec \rho \overline{\rho}$ ,  $\dim_N X = \langle X, \rho \overline{\rho} \rangle$ .

**Theorem 4.6.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$ . Then K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  if and only if the depths of  $N \subset K$  and  $K \subset M$  are both 2.

*Proof.* This immediately follows from Theorem 4.5 and Lemma 3.2.  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 4.7.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index and K an intermediate subfactor for  $N \subset M$ . Then K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  if and only if  $K' \cap K_1$  is a normal subHopf algebra of  $N' \cap M_1$ , where  $K_1$  and  $M_1$  are the basic extensions for  $N \subset M$  and  $K \subset M$ , respectively.

*Proof.* Suppose that K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$ . Then H =

 $K'\cap K_1$  is a subHopf algebra of  $A=N'\cap M_1$  by Proposition 4.4. Let  $\varepsilon_H$  is a counit of H. Then  $xe_K=\varepsilon_H(x)e_K$  for  $x\in H$ . Therefore  $H^+=H\cap\ker\varepsilon_H=H(1-e_K)$ . Since  $(1-e_K)$  is an element of the center of A by the assumption, we have  $H^+A=AH^+$ . Hence H is a normal subHopf algebra of A by Proposition 2.6. Conversely, we suppose that H is a normal subHopf algebra of A. Then by Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 4.5,  $e_{K_1}$  is element of the center of  $M'\cap M_2$ . Since  $H^+=H(1-e_K)$ , we have  $(1-e_K)A=A(1-e_K)$  by Proposition 2.6. This implies  $e_K$  is an element of the center of  $N'\cap M_1$  and hence K is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N\subset M$ .  $\square$ 

**4.3.** Lattices of normal intermediate subfactors. Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type II<sub>1</sub> factors with finite index. In this subsection we shall prove that the set of all normal intermediate subfactors of the inclusion  $N \subset M$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$ , is a sublattice of  $\mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$  is a modular lattice.

**Lemma 4.8.** Let L and K be intermediate subfactors of  $N \subset M$  and  $L_1$  and  $K_1$  the basic extensions for  $L \subset M$  and  $K \subset M$ , respectively. Then the basic extension  $(L \wedge K)_1$  for  $(L \wedge K) \subset M$  is  $L_1 \vee K_1$  and the basic extension  $(L \vee K)_1$  for  $(L \vee K) \subset M$  is  $L_1 \wedge K_1$ .

We note that if we denote by  $e_A$  the Jones projection for  $A \subset M$ , then for  $L, K \in \mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ , we have  $e_{L \wedge K} = e_L \wedge e_K$ . But  $e_{L \vee K} \neq e_L \vee e_K$  in general (see [27]).

**Theorem 4.9.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. Then the set of all normal intermediate subfactors  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$  is a sublattice of  $\mathcal{L}(N \subset M)$ 

*Proof.* Let L and K be normal intermediate subfactors of  $N \subset M$ . Since  $e_L$  and  $e_K$  are elements of the center of  $N' \cap M_1$  by the assumption, we have  $e_{L \wedge K} = e_L \wedge e_K \in \mathcal{Z}(N' \cap M_1)$  by the above argument. Observe that

$$(L \vee K)' \cap (L \vee K)_1 = (L' \cap L_1) \cap (K' \cap K_1).$$

Since  $L' \cap L_1$  and  $K' \cap K_1$  are invariants under the left and right adjoint action of  $N' \cap M_1$  (see Definition in 2.2), so is  $(L \vee K)' \cap (L \vee K)_1$ . Therefore we can see that  $(L \vee K)' \cap (L \vee K)_1$  is a normal subHopf algebra  $N' \cap M_1$  by the definition. Since  $L \vee K$  is a normal intermediate subfactor of  $N \subset M$  by Theorem 4.7, we have  $e_{L \vee K} \in \mathcal{Z}(N' \cap M_1)$ . Applying the same argument for the dual inclusion  $M \subset M_1$ , we conclude that  $L \wedge K$  and  $L \vee K$  are normal intermediate subfactors of  $N \subset M$ .  $\square$ 

Corollary 4.10. Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors. Then  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$  is a modular lattice.

*Proof.* This immediately follows from Proposition 3.4, Theorem 4.9 and [31, Theorem 3.9].  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 4.11.** Let  $N \subset M$  be an irreducible, depth 2 inclusion of type  $II_1$  factors with finite index. Then every maximal chain from M to N in  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$  has the

same length, i.e., for  $A_i (i = 1, 2, ..., m)$ ,  $B_j (j = 1, 2, ..., n) \in \mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$ , if

$$M=A_0>A_1>\cdots>A_m=N$$

and

$$M=B_0>B_1>\cdots>B_n=N,$$

then m=n, where X>Y means  $X\supset Y$  and  $X\supseteq K\supseteq Y$ , implies K=X or K=Y for  $X,Y,K\in \mathcal{N}(N\subset M)$ .

Proof. Since we have the Jordan-Dedekind chain condition holding in modular latteces, this immediately follows from the previous corollary. (see for example [6].)  $\square$  **Example 4.12.** We denote by  $S_n$  the symmetric group on n letters,  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  and  $\sigma = (1, 2, 3, \dots, n)$  the element of  $S_n$  with order n and  $\langle \sigma \rangle$  the cyclic group generated by  $\sigma$ . Let  $\gamma: S_n \to \operatorname{Aut}(P)$  be an outer action of  $S_n$  on a type II<sub>1</sub> factor P and let  $N = P^{\gamma_{\sigma}} \subset M = P \rtimes_{\gamma} S_{n-1}$ . Then we can see that  $S_n = S_{n-1} \langle \sigma \rangle = \langle \sigma \rangle S_{n-1}$  and  $S_{n-1} \cap \langle \sigma \rangle = \{e\}$ . Therefore the depth of  $N \subset M$  is 2 (see [26, 33]). We put  $K = P \rtimes_{\gamma} A_{n-1}$ , where  $A_{n-1}$  is the alternating group consists of the even permutations on  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}$ . If n is odd, then the length of  $\mathcal{N}(N \subset M)$  is 3 and if n is even, then that is 2.

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