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# On representations of virtual braid group and groups of virtual links

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We introduce some representation  $\psi$  of the virtual braid group  $VB_n$  into the automorphism group  $Aut(F_{n,2n+1})$  of a free product  $F_{n,2n+1} = F_n * \mathbb{Z}^{2n+1}$ , where  $F_n$  is a free group and  $\mathbb{Z}^{2n+1}$  is a free abelian group. This representation generalizes some other representations. In particular, the representation  $\varphi_0 : VB_n \rightarrow Aut(F_n)$  defined in [1]; the representation  $\varphi_1 : VB_n \rightarrow Aut(F_{n+1})$  defined in [2], [3] (see also, [4]); the representation  $\varphi_2 : VB_n \rightarrow Aut(F_{n,n+1})$  defined in [5]; the representation  $\varphi_3 : VB_n \rightarrow Aut(F_{n,2})$  defined in [6]. On the other hand the Artin representation is faithful. It is interesting to construct a representation which is an extension of it.

**Theorem 1.** *There is a representation  $VB_n \rightarrow Aut(F_{n,n})$  which is an extension of Artin representation and in some sense is equivalent to the representation  $\psi$ .*

From the result of O. Chterental [7] follows that for  $n > 3$  the representations  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$  and  $\varphi_3$  have non-trivial kernels. Analogous question for  $\psi$  is opened.

Using any of the representation  $\psi$ ,  $\varphi_0$ ,  $\varphi_1$ ,  $\varphi_2$ ,  $\varphi_3$  one can defines a group  $G_\psi(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_0}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_1}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_2}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_3}(L)$  of a virtual link  $L$ . A connection between these groups gives

**Theorem 2.** *The groups  $G_{\varphi_0}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_1}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_2}(L)$ ,  $G_{\varphi_3}(L)$  are homomorphic images of the group  $G_\psi(L)$ . If  $L$  is a virtual knot, then we have isomorphisms  $G_\psi(L) \cong G_{\varphi_1}(L) \cong G_{\varphi_2}(L) \cong G_{\varphi_3}(L)$ .*

The talk is based on the joint work with M. V. Meshchadim and Yu. A. Mikhalechishina [8]. The author is partially supported by the Laboratory of Quantum Topology of Chelyabinsk State University (Russian Federation government grant 14.Z50.31.0020) and RFBR grant 16-01-00414 and RNF grant 16-41-02006

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## Quantum cluster algebras and character varieties of $SL(2, R)$ -monodromy problem

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We identify the Teichmüller space  $T_{g,s,n}$  of (decorated) Riemann surfaces  $\Sigma_{g,s,n}$  of genus  $g$ , with  $s > 0$  holes and  $n > 0$  bordered cusps located on boundaries of holes uniformized by Poincaré with the character variety of  $SL(2, R)$ -monodromy problem. The effective combinatorial description uses the fat graph structures; observables are geodesic functions of closed curves and  $\lambda$ -lengths of paths starting and terminating at bordered cusps decorated by horocycles. We derive Poisson and quantum structures on sets of observables relating them to quantum cluster algebras of Berenstein and Zelevinsky. A seed of the corresponding quantum cluster algebra corresponds to the partition of  $\Sigma_{g,s,n}$  into ideal triangles,  $\lambda$ -lengths of their sides are cluster variables constituting a seed of the algebra; their number  $6g - 6 + 3s + 2n$  (and, correspondingly, the seed dimension) coincides with the dimension of  $SL(2, R)$ -character variety given by  $[SL(2, R)]^{2g+s+n-2} / \prod_{i=1}^n B_i$ , where  $B_i$  are Borel subgroups associated with bordered cusps. Moreover, using the explicit parameterization of monodromy elements we can evaluate the Poisson and quantum algebras of monodromy matrices generated by the Poisson and quantum algebras of  $\lambda$ -lengths and show that these algebras are quadratic quasi-Poisson, or quasi-quantum, algebras. These algebras are invariant w.r.t. mutations of cluster algebras, which correspond to MCG transformations, and can be therefore lifted from  $T_{g,s,n}$  to the moduli space  $M_{g,s,n}$ . Complexifying the cluster variables we obtain the character variety of  $SL(2, C)$ -monodromy problem.

The talk is based on the joint works with M. Mazzocco and V. Roubtsov [1, 2, 3].

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## Splitting numbers and signatures

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The splitting number of a link is the minimal number of crossing changes between different components required to convert it into a split link. This invariant was studied by Batson-Seed [1] using Khovanov homology, by Cha-Friedl-Powell [2] using the Alexander polynomial and covering link calculus, and by Borodzik-Gorsky [3] using Heegaard-Floer homology.

In this talk, I will prove a new lower bound on the splitting number in terms of the (multivariable) signature and nullity of [4]. Although very elementary and easy to compute, this bound turns out to be surprisingly efficient. In particular, I will show that it compares very favorably to the methods mentioned above.

The talk is based on the joint work [5] with A. Conway and K. Zaharova. The author is partially supported by Swiss National Science Foundation.

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## **Turaev-Viro invariants and complexity of virtual 3-manifolds**

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Virtual 3-manifolds were introduced by S. Matveev in 2009 as a natural generalization of the classical 3-manifolds. In this talk we define the complexity of virtual 3-manifolds and calculate it for virtual 3-manifolds defined by special polyhedra with one, two and three 2-components. As a corollary, we establish the exact values of complexity for infinite families of hyperbolic 3-manifolds with geodesic boundary.

A part of the talk is based on a joint work with V. Turaev and A. Vesnin.

## **The Thurston norm of 3-manifolds with a 2-generator fundamental group**

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We will give a straightforward algorithm for computing the Thurston norm of a 3-manifold if the 3-manifold admits a presentation with two generators. The talk is based on the joint work with W. Lück, K. Schreve and S. Tillmann.

## **Realisation of cycles and small covers over graph-associahedra**

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A classical question by Steenrod (late 1940s) was whether it is possible to realize an integral homology class of a topological space by a continuous image of the fundamental class of an oriented smooth closed manifold. (Homology classes satisfying this condition are called realizable.) This question was answered by

Thom (1954) who showed that there exist non-realizable homology classes but a certain multiple of any homology class is realizable.

In 2007 the speaker found an explicit combinatorial procedure that, for a given singular cycle in a topological space, constructs a manifold realizing a multiple of the homology class representing by this cycle. Moreover, this construction allowed us to prove that, for every  $n$ , there exists an oriented smooth closed manifold  $M^n$  that satisfy the following *Universal Realization of Cycles property* (or the URC-property): A multiple of any  $n$ -dimensional integral homology class of any topological space can be realized by an image of the fundamental class of a non-ramified finite-sheeted covering over  $M^n$ . Several series of examples of URC-manifolds (i.e. manifolds satisfying the URC-property) were found by the speaker in 2013. The simplest of them was the so-called Tomei manifold, which is a *small cover* of a special simple polytope called the permutohedron.

In the talk we shall present a modification of the explicit procedure for the realization of cycles that will allow us to find URC-manifolds that are even simpler than the Tomei manifolds. In particular, for an important class of simple polytopes called graph-associahedra, we shall show that small covers over them are also URC-manifolds. In particular, all small covers of a well known Stasheff associahedra are URC-manifolds.

## **The Kashaev invariant, Nahm sums and modularity**

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The Kashaev invariant of a knot can be extended to a complex valued function on the set of complex roots of unity on the unit circle. Nahm sums are special  $q$ -hypergeometric sums defined inside the unit circle. Both are conjectured to have modular properties, and both properties are linked to an explicit map from the Bloch group, that we will discuss.

Joint work with Frank Calegar and Don Zagier. The author is supported in part by the National Science Foundation DMS-1406419.

# Modified traces on quantum $sl(2)$ and logarithmic invariants

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In this talk I will discuss a link invariant arising from the restricted quantum of  $sl(2)$  at a  $2p$ -th root of unity. In particular, I will show how we can use a modified trace on the quantum group itself to define a Logarithmic invariant of colored links. Using the integer on the quantum group, this invariant can be extended to an invariant of colored links in a 3-manifold. We expect this 3-manifold invariant to lead to a TQFT. This is joint work with Anna Beliakova and Christian Blanchet.

## Homology of Jucys-Murphy elements and the flag Hilbert scheme

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The Jucys-Murphy elements are known to generate a maximal commutative subalgebra in the Hecke algebra. They can be categorified to a family of commuting complexes of Soergel bimodules. I will describe a relation between the category generated by these complexes and the category of sheaves on the flag Hilbert scheme of points on the plane, using the recent work of Elias and Hogancamp on categorical diagonalization. As an application, I will give an explicit conjectural description of the Khovanov-Rozansky homology of generalized torus links.

The talk is based on the joint work in progress with Andrei Negut and Jacob Rasmussen.

# Stable maps and branched shadows of 3-manifolds

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As used in a paper of Costantino and D. Thurston, Turaev's shadow can be regarded locally as the Stein factorization of a stable map. In [1], we introduced the notion of stable map complexity for a compact orientable 3-manifold bounded by (possibly empty) tori counting, with some weights, the minimal number of singular fibers of codimension 2 of stable maps into the real plane, and proved that this number equals its branched shadow complexity. In consequence, we see that the hyperbolic volume is bounded from above and below by the stable map complexity, which is a direct corollary of an observation of Costantino and Thurston and an inequality obtained by Futer, Kalfagianni and Purcell.

This is a joint work with Yuya Koda in Hiroshima University. Partially supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C), JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 16K05140.

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## Pachner's 3-3 relations and Hopf algebras

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I will discuss a particular construction of solutions to Pachner's 3-3 relation in 4 dimensions by using the structure maps of Hopf algebras and duality pairings. In the particular case of self-dual bi-commutative Hopf algebras there are solutions carrying the full symmetry of the regular 4-dimensional simplex.

# Triangular decomposition of skein algebras and quantum Teichmüller spaces

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We show how to decompose the Kauffman bracket skein algebra of a surface into elementary blocks corresponding to the triangles in an ideal triangulation of the surface. This gives an easy proof of the existence of the quantum trace map of Bonahon and Wong. We also explain the relation between the Kauffman bracket skein algebra and the quantum Teichmüller space.

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## On Knot Theoretical Counterpart of the Groups $G_n^k$

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In 2015, [1], the author initiated the study of groups denoted by  $G_n^k$ , depending on two natural parameters,  $n$  and  $k$  and formulated the main principle:

*if a dynamical system describing a motion of  $n$  particles, is in general position with respect to some property regulated by  $n$  particles, then it has topological invariants valued in  $G_n^k$ .*

The main examples calculated explicitly [2] led to homomorphisms from the pure braid groups to the groups  $G_n^3$  and  $G_n^4$ .

The group  $G_n^k$  were found to have close connections with Coxeter groups [3], braid groups and other groups.

In the present talk, we address the question:

*what happens if the number of particles is not constant but at some moments of time some two particles can get born or get cancelled?*

The main example here is the extension of topological invariants from braids to knots. A braid can be considered as a motion of  $n$  distinct particles on the plane, whence a knot can be represented by a collection of sections by horizontal planes.

In general position, there are finitely many moments, where number of particles changes by two; otherwise, the knot behaves like a braid.

*What is the “knot” counterpart of the groups  $G_n^k$ -groups considered as analogs of “braids”?*

The most naïve approach suggests to consider elements of  $G_n^k$  as 1-dimensional braid-like objects (“braid” diagrams modulo moves) and to pass to analogous “knot-like” (closed) objects modulo the same moves. However, this approach fails because besides the usual “braid” moves, one should also require some “cobordism-like” moves which make the whole picture almost trivial.

The right approach (at least for  $G_n^3$ ) is related not to 1-dimensional formalism, but rather, with a 2-dimensional formalism.

Then diagrams corresponding to our dynamical system will look like 2-knot diagrams, and their moves will look like Roseman moves [4].

The first step of this approach is sketched in [5].

This allows one to take the pull-back of invariants of “2-knot like objects” as topological invariants of dynamical systems of this sort.

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## **Self-intersection of curves in surfaces and Drinfeld associators**

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Turaev introduced in the seventies two fundamental operations on the algebra  $\mathbb{Q}[\pi]$  of the fundamental group  $\pi$  of a surface with boundary [1]. The first operation

is binary and measures the intersection of two oriented curves on the surface, while the second operation is unary and computes the self-intersection of an oriented curve. It is already known that Turaev's intersection pairing has a simple algebraic description when the  $I$ -adic completion of the group algebra  $\mathbb{Q}[\pi]$  is appropriately identified to the degree-completion of the tensor algebra  $T(H)$  of  $H := H_1(\pi; \mathbb{Q})$ .

We will show that Turaev's self-intersection map has a similar description in the case of a disk with  $p$  punctures. In this special case, we will consider those identifications between the completions of  $\mathbb{Q}[\pi]$  and  $T(H)$  that arise from the Kontsevich integral by embedding  $\pi$  into the pure braid group on  $(p + 1)$  strands [2, 3]. As a matter of fact, our algebraic description involves a formal power series which is explicitly determined by the Drinfeld associator  $\Phi$  entering into the definition of the Kontsevich integral; this series is essentially Enriquez'  $\Gamma$ -function of  $\Phi$  [4]. If time allows, we will also discuss the case of higher-genus surfaces. (This talk is based on the preprint [5].)

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## **Jacobians of circulant graphs**

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The notion of Jacobian of a graph, also known as the Picard group, the critical group, the sandpile group or the dollar group, was independently introduced by

many authors ([1], [2], [3], [4]). Given a graph one can define a Jacobian as the maximum Abelian group generated by flows satisfying the first and the second Kirchhoff's laws. It is a crucial invariant of a finite graph. Its order coincides with the number of spanning trees of the graph. It is also can be considered as a discrete version of the Jacobian of a Riemann surface. The complete structure of the Jacobian is known only for a few families of graphs. For instance, for the wheel graphs, the prism graphs, the Moebius ladders, the complete graphs and some others. The aim of this talk is to provide a general method to determine the structure of Jacobian for an infinite family of circulant graphs.

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## **4-colored graphs and complements of knots and links**

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A representation for compact 3-manifolds with non-empty non-spherical boundary via 4-colored graphs (i.e. regular 4-valent graphs endowed by a proper edge-coloration with four colors) has been introduced in [1], where an initial tabulation/classification of such manifolds has been obtained, up to 8 vertices of the representing graphs.

Computer experiments show that the number of graphs/manifolds grows very rapidly with the increasing of the vertices. As a consequence we focused our attentions on the case of 3-manifolds which are the complements of knots or links in the 3-sphere. In this context we obtained the classification of these 3-manifolds, up to 12 vertices of the representing graphs, showing the type of the links involved (they are exactly 22).

For the particular case of knot complements, the classification has been recently extended up to 16 vertices: there are exactly two complements of knots in the 3-sphere, the trivial knot (6 vertices) and the trefoil knot (16 vertices).

All these results are contained in [2], which will soon appear on the arXiv.

Joint work with P. Cristofori, E. Fominykh and V. Tarkaev.

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## On the Hurwitz existence problem for branched covers between surfaces

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Given a branched cover  $p : \tilde{\Sigma} \rightarrow \Sigma$  between closed orientable surfaces, the famous Riemann-Hurwitz formula relates the Euler characteristics of  $\tilde{\Sigma}$  and  $\Sigma$ , the total degree  $d$  of  $p$ , the number  $n$  of branch points in  $\Sigma$  and the sum of the lengths of the partitions  $\left( (d_{i,j})_{j=1}^{m_i} \right)_{i=1}^n$  of  $d$  given by the local degrees of  $p$  at the preimages of the branch points. The Hurwitz existence problem asks whether a given combinatorial datum

$$\left( \tilde{\Sigma}, \Sigma, d, n, \left( (d_{i,j})_{j=1}^{m_i} \right)_{i=1}^n \right)$$

satisfying the Riemann-Hurwitz formula is actually realized by a branched cover  $p : \tilde{\Sigma} \rightarrow \Sigma$ . The answer is now known to be always in the affirmative when  $\Sigma$  has positive genus, but not when  $\Sigma$  is the Riemann sphere. I will report on recent progress on the problem based on a connection with the geometry of 2-orbifolds.

The talk is based on the joint papers with with M. A. Pascali [1] and [2].

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# Rectangular diagrams and Giroux's convex surfaces

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Rectangular diagrams can be considered as a special class of plane diagrams of links. Every link can be represented by a rectangular diagram and an analogue of Reidemeister theorem holds that any two rectangular diagrams of the same link are related by a sequence of elementary moves.

There is a natural complexity function on the set of rectangular diagrams for which a trivial knot can be recognized by a monotonic simplification, as shown by I. Dynnikov. Or equivalently, any rectangular diagram of a trivial knot can be transformed into a minimal one by elementary moves which do not increase the complexity.

It is convenient to represent by rectangular diagrams Legendrian links, i.e. which are tangent to the plane distribution  $\ker(dz + xdy)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . In a recent joint paper with I. Dynnikov it is shown that an extension of monotonic simplification to arbitrary links is closely related to a classification of Legendrian representatives in a fixed topological type.

One of the key instruments of low-dimensional contact topology, and particularly of Legendrian knot theory, is the Giroux's notion of convex surface. In our joint work with I. Dynnikov which is in preparation we show that convex surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  can be nicely described in 'rectangular language'. We give an example of two Legendrian knots which can be distinguished using an analogue of rectangular diagrams for surfaces and which can not be distinguished by known algebraic invariants due to the lack of computational power.

## Knot invariants arising from homological operations on Khovanov homology

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There are several homological operations that can be defined between even and odd Khovanov homology theories using the unified homology theory developed by Putyra. This construction works for both reduced and unreduced versions of the Khovanov homology. We discuss these homological operations, compare different

versions of them, and show how they can give rise to new knot invariants with interesting properties.

The talk is based on a joint work with Krzysztof Putyra [1]. The author is partially supported by a Simons Collaboration Grant for Mathematicians #279867.

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## Quantum Racah matrices and evolution of knots

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We construct a general procedure to extract the exclusive Racah matrices  $S$  and  $\bar{S}$  from the inclusive 3-strand mixing matrices by the evolution method and apply it to the first simple representations  $R = [1], [2], [3]$  and  $[2, 2]$ . The matrices  $S$  and  $\bar{S}$  relate respectively the maps  $(R \otimes R) \otimes \bar{R} \rightarrow R$  with  $R \otimes (R \otimes \bar{R}) \rightarrow R$  and  $(R \otimes \bar{R}) \otimes R \rightarrow R$  with  $R \otimes (\bar{R} \otimes R) \rightarrow R$ . They are building blocks for the colored HOMFLY polynomials of arbitrary arborescent knots.

The talk is based on the joint work with A.Mironov, A.Morozov and An.Morozov [1]. The author is partially supported by the Laboratory of Quantum Topology of Chelyabinsk State University (Russian Federation government grant 14.Z50.31.0020), RFBR grant mol-a-dk 16-31-60082 and MK-8769.2016.1

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## The spaces of non-contractible closed curves in compact space forms

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We calculate the rational equivariant cohomology of the spaces of non-contractible loops in compact space forms and show how to apply these calculations for proving the existence of closed geodesics.

*References:*

- [1] I.A. Taimanov, The spaces of non-contractible closed curves in compact space forms. arXiv:1604.05237.

## **Additive posets, CW-complexes, and graphs**

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We introduce additive posets and study their properties and invariants. We show that the top homology group of a finite dimensional CW-complex carries a natural structure of an additive poset invariant under subdivisions of the CW-complex. Applications to graphs are discussed.

The talk is based on my preprint [1]. The author is partially supported by the Laboratory of Quantum Topology of Chelyabinsk State University (Russian Federation government grant 14.Z50.31.0020).

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## **Linking numbers in non-orientable 3-manifolds**

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The construction of integer linking numbers of closed curves in three-dimensional manifolds usually appeals to the orientability of these manifolds. I will discuss how (and when) it is possible to avoid this restriction in constructing similar invariants of links.

# On Virtual Braids

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We give a survey of some recent results on virtual braids, in particular of the joint work with V. G. Bardakov, R. Mikhailov, and J. Wu [1]. The author is partially supported by the Laboratory of Quantum Topology of Chelyabinsk State University (Russian Federation government grant 14.Z50.31.0020)

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# On volumes of compact and non-compact right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra

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There is a recent progress in study of Platonic tessellations of a hyperbolic 3-space and related hyperbolic 3-manifolds by algorithmic topology methods [1, 2]. It is known that some of hyperbolic Platonic solids are right-angled. There we are interested in a class of hyperbolic 3-manifolds which can be decomposed into right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra. Necessary and sufficient conditions for a polyhedron of a given combinatorial type to be realized as a compact right-angled polyhedron in a hyperbolic 3-space were described by Pogorelov in 1967 in the very first issue of “*Matematicheskie Zametki*” (Mathematical Notes) [3]. The simplest compact right-angled hyperbolic polyhedron is a dodecahedron.

The universal method to construct a hyperbolic 3-manifold from few copies of an arbitrary right-angled hyperbolic polyhedron was given in [4]. This motivates the study of the census of right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra.

Recently, Inoue [5] presented 825 smallest compact right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra. We will discuss a census of non-compact right-angled hyperbolic polyhedra.

For compact and non-compact cases both we will present results of numerical computations.

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