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## Operads and Planar Algebras

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The past decade has seen an explosion of "types" of algebra relevant in mathematics and physics. A good starting point to explore this new world is the notion of an Operad and its various generalizations. This talk introduces some of the basic concepts associated with the notion of an Operad. Such structures help us to understand and explore many of the exotic types of algebra appearing in the literature. In particular, we discuss the notion of Planar Algebra introduced by Vaughn Jones to study the standard invariant of a subfactor.