

# Noncommutative Geometry Methods in Number Theory

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*Thesis submitted for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy  
in  
Pure Mathematics  
at  
The University of Adelaide  
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October 5, 2014

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# Signed Statement

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

I consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being available for loan and photocopying.

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# Acknowledgements

I undertook a Master of Philosophy program at the University of Adelaide, predominantly for one reason: to be able to study under Elder Professor Mathai Varghese. It has been an incredible experience not hampered at all by the fact that this area of research was new to the both of us. I would like to strongly accentuate how rewarding this experience has been for me and how much I have learnt about the process of research and the life of a mathematician.

Very importantly, I must add that I appreciate Professor Varghese's infinite patience. Beset by health issues throughout my Masters and other personal tragedies, the timeframe of progress has been rather non-linear and would no doubt try the patience of any other supervisor. I appreciate Professor Varghese sticking by me and believing that I would get past my issues. That is not to say that he did not take me to task on several occasions, but I am much stronger and better off for it.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to friends and family who have supported me throughout the process. My lovely Phoebe, both my parents Leszek and Ewa, my brother Wiktor; best friend Brad; mates at the Adelaide University Volleyball Club, Ryan, Dan, Ming, Andy, Mark, Adriana; friends at the Australian Mathematics Olympiad Committee training program Angelo, Ivan, Sampson, Andrew and Ross have all consistently given me encouragement and heaped inordinate amounts of confidence in my direction. I feel blessed to have had a support network I could depend on.

Additionally, my studies have been supported by an Australian Postgraduate Award provided by the federal government, which has given me the ability to support myself while studying. I am very grateful for this generosity.

I would like to add a sincere thank you to the examiners of this thesis, who gave me significant words of encouragement as well as advice for improvement. Moreover, I appreciate

them taking time out of their busy schedules to read through this thesis and provide me with a list of errata and recommended fixes that have been fixed and implemented, respectively, for this final edition.

# Abstract

Noncommutative geometry deals with many natural spaces for which the classical set-theoretic tools of analysis, such as measure theory, topology, calculus, and metric ideas lose their pertinence, but which correspond very naturally to a noncommutative algebra. While looking for new ways to get information about the Riemann zeta function (as an essential ingredient of the Riemann Hypothesis), Alain Connes and Benoît Bost published a paper [5] in 1995 discussing the use of certain quantum statistical mechanical systems (noncommutative geometric objects) called Bost-Connes systems to recover the class field theory for number fields. The Bost-Connes system surprisingly relates to Galois theory and the maximal abelian extensions of number fields. This has led to speculation that it may have use in trying to get a deeper understanding of abelian extensions of number fields and thus has been seen as one approach to solving Hilbert's 12<sup>th</sup> problem, which aims to generalise an incredible result called the Kronecker-Weber Theorem, which asserts that the maximal abelian extension of the rationals,  $\mathbb{Q}^{ab}$ , is generated by the roots of unity. Hilbert's 12<sup>th</sup> problem asks, for any given number field  $K$ , to describe the generators of the maximal abelian extension  $K^{ab}$  of  $K$  in terms of algebraic values of a transcendental function of  $K$ . While there has been progress in this area using modern number theoretic methods, it remains unsolved.

This thesis is predominantly an exposition of the research that has been done in this very young and exciting area. In particular, the Bost-Connes system will be reformulated as an enveloping C\*-algebra of commensurability classes of  $\mathbb{Q}$ -lattices, as a groupoid C\*-dynamical system and as a semigroup crossed product system.

In the thesis a new Bost-Connes type system is constructed, called the partial Connes-Marcolli system and it generalises the systems that are currently studied. It also satisfies a generalised Bost-Connes Problem statement. At the end of the thesis there is also a discussion on how these systems could be used to try to deduce the Kronecker-Weber Theorem from purely noncommutative geometry objects.