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**Cris Negron\***, Department of Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02142. *Modular quantum groups at even roots of 1*. Preliminary report.

I will discuss recent work on constructing small quantum groups—also known as Frobenius-Lusztig kernels—at even roots of unity. In particular, for any simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and even root of unity  $q$ , we would like to associate a corresponding finite-dimensional, factorizable, ribbon (i.e. modular) quasi-Hopf algebra. The main issue here is that, for  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$  at any even root of unity, for example, naive construction of such quantum groups produce finite tensor categories which admit no braiding, by a result of Kondo and Saito. Our investigation is motivated by conjectural relations between triplet vertex algebras and such modular quantum groups, and intersects with works of Gainutdinov, Runkel, and coauthors. (Received September 06, 2018)