This is a report on joint work by Vijay Kodiyalam and the speaker, where we obtain a complete family of numerical invariants for a 'good' subfactor. This uses the planar algebraic description—due to Jones—of the so-called standard invariant of a subfactor. We combine the diagrammatic approach made possible by the planar algebraic framework, and use methods reminiscent of 'invariant theory' and prove that certain 'picture invariants' form a spanning set for all invariants; this is one of the key steps in the proof.

Although all this sounds quite technical, the talk will be addressed to a 'lay audience' and will attempt to convey a flavour of the methods used.