

Short Distance Analysis in Algebraic Quantum Field Theory I: General Framework

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Scaling Algebras and Scaling Limit
- 3 Examples
- 4 Back to Quantum Fields

Introduction

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Standard approach to study **short distance limit** in QFT (of a bosonic field ϕ of mass m and coupling constant g):

- define rescaled field

$$\phi_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = Z_\lambda \phi(\lambda \mathbf{x}), \quad \lambda > 0$$

- renormalization constant Z_λ fixed by requiring that, e.g., $\langle \Omega, \phi_\lambda(\mathbf{x}) \phi_\lambda(\mathbf{y}) \Omega \rangle$ has finite limit for $\lambda \rightarrow 0$
- actual calculation of Z_λ can be performed via **Renormalization Group (Callan-Symanzik) Equations**, providing

$$Z_\lambda = \lambda \exp \left[- \int_g^{g_\lambda} \frac{\gamma(g')}{\beta(g')} dg' \right], \quad \lambda \frac{dg_\lambda}{d\lambda} = -\beta(g_\lambda)$$

β, γ functions obtained from coupling constant and field renormalization

Introduction

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- with this choice ϕ_λ has mass λm and coupling g_λ
- if $\beta(g_\infty) = 0$ and $(g - g_\infty)\beta(g) < 0$ (**ultraviolet fixed point**)

$$g_\lambda \rightarrow g_\infty, \quad Z_\lambda \sim \lambda^{1+\gamma(g_\infty)}$$

$$\langle \Omega, \phi_\lambda(x_1) \dots \phi_\lambda(x_n) \Omega \rangle \rightarrow \langle \Omega_0, \phi_0(x_1) \dots \phi_0(x_n) \Omega_0 \rangle$$

ϕ_0 massless field with coupling g_∞

- e.g. for QCD one finds, perturbatively,

$$\beta(g) = -\frac{7}{(4\pi)^2} g^3 + O(g^5)$$

$\implies g_\infty = 0$ (**asymptotic freedom**, important in explaining experimental results of deep inelastic lepton-hadron scattering)

- several other important applications (confinement, operator product expansions, critical phenomena...)

Introduction

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Drawbacks of the standard approach

- difficult to use when perturbation theory is not reliable
- model dependent
- Lagrangian may not be always present (e.g., 2d integrable models)
- basic fields in general not observable (fermionic, gauge fields...)
⇒ interpretation of results may be ambiguous (e.g., confinement, see talk II)

Scaling Algebras [Buchholz-Verch '95]

Approach to RG and short distance limit in AQFT

- model independent
- fixed by the knowledge of the net of observables

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Basic Assumptions

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Standard framework of AQFT:

- $\gamma \in \Gamma \mapsto U(\gamma)$ unitary strongly continuous **representation of geometric symmetry group** $\mathbb{R}^{s+1} \subset \Gamma \subset \mathcal{P}$ acting on **vacuum Hilbert space** \mathcal{H} and with **positive energy**, $\alpha_\gamma := \text{Ad } U(\gamma)$
- $\Omega \in \mathcal{H}$ **vacuum vector**, unique translation invariant vector: $U(x)\Omega = \Omega$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^{s+1}$
- $O \mapsto \mathcal{A}(O) \subset B(\mathcal{H})$ **local net** of von Neumann algebras indexed by open bounded sets $O \subset \mathbb{R}^{s+1}$, **covariant** w.r.t. U :

$$\alpha_\gamma(\mathcal{A}(O)) = \mathcal{A}(\gamma \cdot O), \quad \gamma \in \Gamma,$$

and with Ω **cyclic**: $\overline{\mathcal{A}\Omega} = \mathcal{H}$

Basic Assumptions

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Further structures needed:

- C^* -algebra of **continuous elements** w.r.t. Γ

$$\mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{O}) := \{A \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{O}) : \gamma \mapsto \alpha_\gamma(A) \text{ norm-continuous}\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{O}) \subset \mathfrak{A}(\mathcal{O}_1)^- \text{ if } \bar{\mathcal{O}} \subset \mathcal{O}_1$$

- space of elements with **4-momentum transfer** in compact $\hat{\mathcal{O}} \subset \mathbb{R}^{s+1}$

$$\hat{\mathcal{A}}(\hat{\mathcal{O}}) := \{A \in \mathfrak{A} : \alpha_f(A) = 0 \text{ for all } f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^{s+1}), \text{supp } \hat{f} \cap \hat{\mathcal{O}} = \emptyset\}$$

$$\alpha_f(A) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^{s+1}} dx f(x) \alpha_x(A)$$

Renormalization Group and Scaling Algebras 1/2

Main issue in transferring RG to AQFT: **absence of quantum fields** used in the conventional approach to identify **RG transformation**

$$R_\lambda : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}, \quad R_\lambda(\phi(x)) = \phi_\lambda(x), \quad \lambda > 0$$

Key observation: RG scaling leaves fundamental constants c, \hbar unchanged

Abstract RG transformation

- c fixed $\implies R_\lambda(\mathcal{A}(O)) = \mathcal{A}(\lambda O)$
- \hbar fixed $\implies R_\lambda(\mathcal{A}(\hat{O})) = \mathcal{A}(\lambda^{-1}\hat{O})$
- definition of $Z_\lambda \implies \sup_{\lambda>0} \|R_\lambda\| < \infty$

Accordingly, for $A \in \mathfrak{A}(O)$,

- $R_\lambda(A) \in \mathfrak{A}(\lambda O)$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sup_{\lambda > 0} \|\alpha_{\lambda x}(R_\lambda(A)) - R_\lambda(A)\| = 0$

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Renormalization Group and Scaling Algebras 2/2

Spirit of the algebraic approach: physical information is encoded in the net, not in individual elements \implies all choices of $(R_\lambda)_{\lambda>0}$ should be equivalent \implies we can consider them **all the same time**

Definition ([Buchholz, Verch '95])

In the C^* -algebra $B(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathcal{A})$ of bounded functions $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+ \mapsto \underline{A}_\lambda \in \mathcal{A}$, with:

- pointwise defined operations
- norm $\|\underline{A}\| := \sup_{\lambda>0} \|\underline{A}_\lambda\|$
- Γ -action $\underline{\alpha}_\gamma(\underline{A})_\lambda := \alpha_{\gamma\lambda}(\underline{A}_\lambda)$, $(x, \Lambda)_\lambda := (\lambda x, \Lambda)$

the **local scaling algebra** attached to the region O is

$$\mathfrak{A}(O) := \{ \underline{A} \in B(\mathbb{R}_+, \mathcal{A}) : \underline{A}_\lambda \in \mathcal{A}(\lambda O), \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow e} \|\underline{\alpha}_\gamma(\underline{A}) - \underline{A}\| = 0 \}$$

$O \mapsto \mathfrak{A}(O)$ is a local net, covariant w.r.t. Γ -action $\underline{\alpha}$

$\mathfrak{A} := \bigcup_O \mathfrak{A}(O)$ **scaling algebra**

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Scaling Limits

1/2

φ (locally normal) state on $\mathcal{A} \rightsquigarrow \underline{\varphi}_\lambda(\underline{A}) := \varphi(\underline{A}_\lambda)$ states on $\underline{\mathcal{A}}$,

$SL^{\mathcal{A}}(\varphi) := \{\text{weak* limit points of } (\underline{\varphi}_\lambda)_{\lambda>0} \text{ for } \lambda \rightarrow 0\}$.

Theorem ([Buchholz, Verch '95])

- $SL^{\mathcal{A}}(\varphi) = (\underline{\omega}_{0,l})_{l \in I}$ is independent of φ .
- $\underline{\omega}_{0,l} \in SL^{\mathcal{A}}$ with GNS representation $(\pi_{0,l}, \mathcal{H}_{0,l}, \Omega_{0,l})$. Then $\mathcal{A}_{0,l}(O) := \pi_{0,l}(\underline{\mathcal{A}}(O))''$ is a net of local algebras with Γ action defined by

$$U_{0,l}(\gamma)\pi_{0,l}(\underline{A})\Omega_{0,l} = \pi_{0,l}(\alpha_\gamma(\underline{A}))\Omega_{0,l}$$

(If $s = 1$ the vacuum $\Omega_{0,l}$ may be not unique, i.e. $\mathcal{A}_{0,l}$ not irreducible)

$O \mapsto \mathcal{A}_{0,l}(O)$ is the **scaling limit net** of \mathcal{A} .

Physical interpretation: $\mathcal{A}_{0,l}$ describes the short-distance (i.e. high-energy) behaviour of \mathcal{A} .

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Scaling Limits

2/2

Classification of short-distance behavior:

- \mathcal{A} has **trivial scaling limit** if $\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell} = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$ for all $\underline{\omega}_{0,\ell}$
- \mathcal{A} has **unique quantum scaling limit** if all nets $\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}$ are isomorphic and $\neq \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$
- \mathcal{A} has **degenerate scaling limit** otherwise

Theorem ([Buchholz, Verch '95])

If \mathcal{A} has unique quantum scaling limit, then $\exists (\delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)})_{\mu>0}$ automorphisms of $\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}$ s.t.

$$\delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)}(\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}(O)) = \mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}(\mu O), \quad \delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)}\alpha_\gamma^{(0,\ell)} = \alpha_{\gamma\mu}^{(0,\ell)}\delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)}$$

(In general $\mu \mapsto \delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)}$ not a representation of dilation group)

$\delta_\mu^{(0,\ell)}$ induced by the fact that if $\sigma_\mu(\underline{A})_\lambda := \underline{A}_{\mu\lambda}$, $\underline{A} \in \underline{\mathfrak{A}}$, scaling limit states $\underline{\omega}_{0,\ell}$ and $\underline{\omega}_{0,\ell} \circ \sigma_\mu$ give rise to isomorphic nets

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Dilation invariant theories

Local net \mathcal{A} :

- satisfies **Haag-Swieca compactness** if

$$A \in \mathcal{A}(O) \mapsto E(\hat{O})A\Omega \in \mathcal{H}$$

is compact for all O, \hat{O}

- is **dilation invariant** if $\exists \mu \in \mathbb{R}^+ \mapsto \delta_\mu \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ representation of dilation group s.t.

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Theorem ([Buchholz, Verch '95])

\mathcal{A} dilation invariant and satisfying Haag-Swieca (e.g. massless free field [Buchholz, Jacobi '87]) $\implies \mathcal{A}_{0,l} \simeq \mathcal{A}$ through

$$\phi(\pi_{0,l}(\underline{A})) = \text{w-lim}_{\kappa} \delta_{\lambda_\kappa^{-1}}(\underline{A}_{\lambda_\kappa})$$

In particular \mathcal{A} has unique quantum scaling limit

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Free scalar field for $s = 2, 3$

Theorem ([Buchholz, Verch '97])

$\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ net generated by mass $m \geq 0$ free scalar field in $s = 2, 3$ spatial dimension $\implies \mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}^{(m)} \simeq \mathcal{A}^{(0)}$. In particular $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ has unique quantum scaling limit

Main ingredient: **local normality** of $\omega^{(m)}$ w.r.t. $\omega^{(0)}$ [Eckmann, Fröhlich '74]

- existence of representation of $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$ on $\mathcal{H}^{(0)}$ such that

$$\mathcal{A}^{(m)}(O_0) = \mathcal{A}^{(0)}(O_0)$$

for double cones O_0 based on $t = 0$ plane

- massless dilations δ_λ act on $\mathcal{A}^{(m)}$

Isomorphism $\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}^{(m)} \simeq \mathcal{A}^{(0)}$ defined through

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Lutz model

Local covariant net \mathcal{A}_L defined by:

- ϕ generalized free scalar field with mass measure $d\rho(m) = dm$ in $s = 2, 3$
- $\mathcal{A}_L(O) := \{\exp(i\int n(O)\phi(f)) : \text{supp } f \subset O\}$ with $n(O) \rightarrow +\infty$ monotonically as “radius of O ” $\rightarrow 0$

Morally: $\mathcal{A}_L(\lambda O)$ contains only observables with **energy transfer growing faster than λ^{-1}** (apart from $c\mathbb{1}$) \implies RG orbits $\lambda \mapsto R_\lambda(A)$ converge to multiples of $\mathbb{1}$

Theorem ([Lutz '97])

\mathcal{A}_L has trivial scaling limit

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2d Models with factorizing S-matrix

1/4

\mathcal{A}_m 2d local net with mass $m > 0$ and factorizing S-matrix S [Lechner '08]:

- $\mathcal{A}_m(W_{L/R})$ generated by Zamolodchikov-Schroer wedge-local fields ϕ_m, ϕ'_m
- non-trivial local algebras obtained as intersections of wedge algebras

Scaling limit of \mathcal{A}_m **difficult to compute**: local operators not sufficiently explicit

Some information can be obtained through the **scaling limit of wedge local fields**

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2d Models with factorizing S-matrix

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Theorem ([Bostelmann, Lechner, M. '11])

If $f_j \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ are derivatives of test functions and $f_{j,\lambda}(x) = \lambda^{-2} f_j(\lambda^{-1}x)$

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \langle \Omega_m, \phi_m^{[l]}(f_{1,\lambda}) \cdots \phi_m^{[l]}(f_{n,\lambda}) \Omega_m \rangle = \langle \Omega_0, \phi_0^{[l]}(f_1) \cdots \phi_0^{[l]}(f_n) \Omega_0 \rangle$$

with ϕ_0 the Zamolodchikov-Schroer field associated to

$$S_0(p, q) := \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0^+} S_{\lambda m}(p, q) = \begin{cases} S(\infty) = \pm 1 & pq < 0 \\ S(0) & p = q = 0 \\ S(\log p - \log q) & p > 0, q > 0 \\ S(\log(-q) - \log(-p)) & p < 0, q < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$S_m(p, q) = S(\theta_m(p) - \theta_m(q))$$

Massless model defined by ϕ_0 is at least a subnet (tensor factor?) of the complete scaling limit and it is also interesting in its own right.

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2d Models with factorizing S-matrix

3/4

$S_0(p, q) = \pm 1$ for $pq < 0 \implies \phi_0$ splits into (translation-dilation covariant) **chiral fields on the real line**

$$\varphi(x) = \int_0^{+\infty} dp (e^{-ipx} z(p) + e^{ipx} z^\dagger(p)), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

with z, z^\dagger Zamolodchikov operators defined by S_0 :

$$\begin{aligned} z(p)z(q) &= S_0(p, q)z(q)z(p) \\ z(p)z^\dagger(q) &= S_0(q, p)z^\dagger(q)z(p) + \frac{1}{p}\delta(p - q) \end{aligned} \quad p, q > 0$$

“Half-line” and interval algebras:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_+ &:= \{e^{i\varphi(f)} : f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}(0, +\infty)\}'' , \quad \mathcal{M}_- := \mathcal{M}_+^\dagger \\ \mathcal{A}(a, b) &:= \alpha_a(\mathcal{M}_+) \cap \alpha_b(\mathcal{M}_-) \end{aligned}$$

$I \mapsto \mathcal{A}(I)$ local translation-dilation-reflection covariant net on \mathbb{R}

Question: are they non-trivial?

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“Half-line” and interval algebras:

$$\mathcal{M}_+ := \{e^{i\varphi(f)} : f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}(0, +\infty)\}'' , \quad \mathcal{M}_- := \mathcal{M}_+'$$

$$\mathcal{A}(a, b) := \alpha_a(\mathcal{M}_+) \cap \alpha_b(\mathcal{M}_-)$$

$I \mapsto \mathcal{A}(I)$ **local translation-dilation-reflection covariant net** on \mathbb{R}

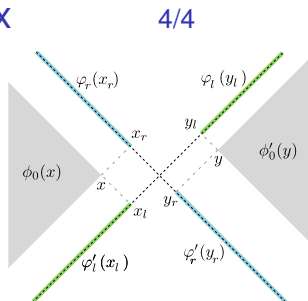
Question: are they non-trivial?

2d Models with factorizing S-matrix

$\varphi_{l/r}, \mathcal{A}_{l/r}$ copies of φ, \mathcal{A} on left/right light ray

Theorem ([BLM '11])

- $\phi_0(x) \cong \frac{1}{2\pi} (\varphi'_l(x_l) \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbf{S}(\infty)^{N_l} \otimes \varphi_r(x_r))$
- $\mathcal{A}_0(I \times J) \supset \mathcal{A}_l(I) \otimes \mathcal{A}_r(J)$



Examples of chiral nets:

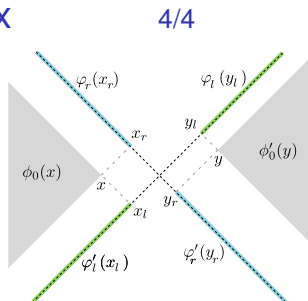
- for $S = 1$ we have the **free U(1) current**:
 - ▶ Ω cyclic and separating for $\mathcal{A}(I)$
 - ▶ conformal symmetry with $c = 1$
- for $S = -1$ we have the **critical Ising model**
 - ▶ $\mathcal{H}_{\text{loc}} = \overline{\mathcal{A}(I)\Omega}$ states of even particle number
 - ▶ $\mathcal{A}(I)$ generated by energy density of free Fermi field
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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Scaling Algebras and Scaling Limit
- 3 Examples
- 4 Back to Quantum Fields**

Pointlike Fields from Local Algebras

1/3

Basic idea [Haag, Ojima '96]: assume

$$\Sigma_{E,r} = \{\sigma \upharpoonright \mathcal{A}(O_r) : \sigma \in P(E)B(\mathcal{H})_*P(E)\}$$

is compact and “does not change” for small r

\implies “finite” number of states describe short distance behaviour

\implies basis (ϕ_j) of $\Sigma_{E,r}^*$ are pointlike fields.

Quantitative version:

- $\Sigma = B(\mathcal{H})_*$, $C^\infty(\Sigma) = \bigcap_{\ell > 0} R^\ell \Sigma R^\ell$, $R = (1 + H)^{-1}$;
- $\|\sigma\|^{(\ell)} = \|R^{-\ell} \sigma R^{-\ell}\|$, $\sigma \in C^\infty(\Sigma)$;
- $\Xi : \sigma \in C^\infty(\Sigma) \rightarrow \sigma \in \Sigma$.

Definition ([Bostelmann '05])

$O \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(O)$ satisfies the **microscopic phase space condition I** if $\forall \gamma > 0$, $\exists \ell > 0$, $\psi : C^\infty(\Sigma) \rightarrow \Sigma$ of finite rank such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi\|^{(\ell)} &< \infty, \\ \|\Xi - \psi\|(\cdot) \upharpoonright \mathcal{A}(O_r) &\|^{(\ell)} = o(r^\gamma). \end{aligned}$$

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rank ψ minimal, $\psi = \sum_j \sigma_j \phi_j$, $\sigma_j \in \Sigma$, $\phi_j \in C^\infty(\Sigma)^*$.
 Define $\Phi_\gamma := \text{span}\{\phi_j\}$. $\Phi_\gamma \subseteq \Phi_{\gamma'}$ if $\gamma < \gamma'$.

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$$\phi(f) = \int dx f(x) U(x) \phi U(x)^*, \quad \phi \in \Phi_\gamma,$$

Wightman field on $C^\infty(H) = \bigcap_{\ell > 0} R^\ell \mathcal{H}$, and $\phi(f) \eta_{\mathcal{A}}(O)$.

ϕ free: $\Phi_0 = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$, $\Phi_1 = \text{span}\{\mathbb{1}, \phi\}$, $\Phi_2 = \text{span}\{\Phi_1, \partial_\mu \phi, : \phi^2 : \}$, ...

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Pointlike Fields from Local Algebras

3/3

According to phase space condition, if $A \in \mathcal{A}(O_r)$:

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Can be generalized to local fields by $\varepsilon/3$ argument.

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where $f, f' \in \mathcal{S}$ and $f_d(x) = d^{-4}f(d^{-1}x)$.

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Renormalization of Pointlike Fields: Basic Idea

- Is the microscopic phase space condition valid for $\mathcal{A}_{0,\iota}$?
- Can we recover Z_λ such that $\phi_0(x) = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} Z_\lambda \phi(\lambda x)$?

$\psi : C^\infty(\Sigma) \rightarrow \Sigma$ as above of rank 1:

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Typically $\|\sigma \upharpoonright \mathcal{A}(\lambda O)\| \rightarrow 0$ as $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ (e.g. as $O(\lambda)$ for free fields).

Let $\underline{A} \in \underline{\mathfrak{A}}(O)$: $\psi^*(\underline{A}_\lambda) = \sigma(\underline{A}_\lambda)\phi$ should be thought as a field at scale λ
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Message: maps ψ are the good scale independent objects.

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Phase Space and Scaling Limit

1/2

Scaling: $r \rightarrow \lambda r$, $E \rightarrow \lambda^{-1} E \implies$ phase space condition needs sharpening:

Definition

$\mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{O})$ satisfies the **microscopic phase space condition II** if $\forall \gamma > 0$, $\exists c, \varepsilon > 0$ and $\psi : C^\infty(\Sigma) \rightarrow \Sigma$ of finite rank such that for large E , small r ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi \upharpoonright \Sigma_E, \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{O}_r)\| &\leq c(1 + Er)^\gamma, \\ \|(\Xi - \psi) \upharpoonright \Sigma_E, \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{O}_r)\| &\leq c(Er)^{\gamma+\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Satisfied by free fields in $s = 3$ [Bostelmann '00].

Reasonable for asymptotically free theories (logarithmic corrections to naive scaling).

Note: PSC II \implies PSC I.

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Theorem ([Bostelmann, D'Antoni, M. '09])

Let $O \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(O)$ satisfy PSC II. Then:

- $\pi_{0,\ell}$ extends to Φ and $\pi_{0,\ell}(\underline{\phi}) \in C^\infty(\Sigma_{0,\ell})^*$ is a local field of $\mathcal{A}_{0,\ell}$ and $\exists \underline{A}_r \in \underline{\mathcal{A}}(O_r), \ell > 0$ s.t.

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Uniform Operator Product Expansion

Define $\underline{\alpha}_f \underline{\phi} = \int dx f(x) \underline{\alpha}_x(\underline{\phi})$, unbounded operator $\forall \lambda > 0$.
Thanks to uniform approximation of $\underline{\alpha}_f \underline{\phi}$ by $\underline{\alpha}_f \underline{A}_r$,

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Renormalization constants:

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- therefore $Z_{j,\lambda} = \sigma_j(\underline{A}_\lambda)$ are **renormalization constants**.
- in particular for 2-point Wightman functions:

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