



Rotational KMS States and Type I Conformal Nets

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Abstract: We consider KMS states on a local conformal net on S^1 with respect to rotations. We prove that, if the conformal net is of type I, namely if it admits only type I DHR representations, then the extremal KMS states are the Gibbs states in an irreducible representation. Completely rational nets, the $U(1)$ -current net, the Virasoro nets and their finite tensor products are shown to be of type I. In the completely rational case, we also give a direct proof that all factorial KMS states are Gibbs states.

1. Introduction

QFT, Quantum Field Theory, was originally designed to describe finitely many quantum, relativistic particles, with particle creation/annihilation due to the interaction. In this view, statistical mechanics aspects due to an infinitely many particle distribution are absent. There are however extreme situations where QFT shows a thermodynamical behaviour, a most important one being the black hole background Hawking radiation, that lead to consider thermal states in QFT.

As is known, thermal equilibrium states at infinite volume in quantum statistical mechanics are characterized by the KMS condition for the dynamical flow, a one-parameter automorphism group α_t of the observable C^* -algebra \mathfrak{A} . A state φ , i.e. a positive linear functional on \mathfrak{A} normalized with $\varphi(1) = 1$, satisfies the KMS condition w.r.t. τ at inverse temperature $\beta > 0$ if, for any $x, y \in \mathfrak{A}$, there is a function \overline{F}_{xy} analytic in the strip $S_\beta = \{0 < \text{Im } z < \beta\}$, bounded and continuous on the closure \overline{S}_β , such that

$$\begin{aligned} F_{xy}(t) &= \varphi(x\alpha_t(y)), \\ F_{xy}(t + i\beta) &= \varphi(\alpha_t(y)x). \end{aligned}$$

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At finite volume, where the degrees of freedom are finite, KMS states are Gibbs states: $\varphi(x) = \text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H} x) / \text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H})$ with H the Hamiltonian; at infinite volume, Gibbs states might not exist as $e^{-\beta H}$ is not necessarily trace class, yet the KMS condition is preserved under the infinite volume limit.

From the mathematical viewpoint, KMS states are of most importance, being related to the Tomita–Takesaki modular theory of von Neumann algebras. The KMS condition measures, in a sense, the deviation of the state φ from the tracial property $\varphi(xy) = \varphi(yx)$. In view of an infinite-dimensional quantum index theorem, one expects QFT to be the underlying framework and the role of the (super)-trace to be played by (super)-KMS states. The description of the KMS states then turns out a natural problem with different motivations.

This paper concerns KMS states in low dimensional CFT, Conformal Quantum Field Theory. On one hand the mathematical structure of CFT is much better understood, with very interesting connections with other mathematical subjects, and in particular the Operator Algebraic approach is powerful and deep. On the other hand, CFT is of much interest in Physics in various situations, e.g. Critical Phenomena or AdS/CFT correspondence.

CFT in (1+1)-dimensions is an extension of the tensor product of two one-dimensional (one could say $(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2})$ -dimensional) CFT, so initially one has to study CFT on the real line or on its compactification S^1 . The real line and the circle pictures are equivalent, however, the physical Hamiltonian as QFT is the one associated to the translation flow in the real line picture. The conformal Hamiltonian is the one associated with the rotation flow in the circle picture and one can usually extract more easily information from the conformal Hamiltonian since its spectrum is discrete.

An analysis of the KMS states w.r.t. the translation flow has been given in [CLTW12a, CLTW12b]. The main result in [CLTW12a] is that, in the completely rational case, for every fixed inverse temperature $\beta > 0$, there exists a unique KMS state w.r.t. translations, the geometric KMS state. In the non-rational case, however, there might be uncountably many KMS states. They are all described for the $U(1)$ -current net and possibly all for the Virasoro nets [CLTW12b].

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the KMS states with respect to the rotation flow. In the rotational case, the first point to clarify is the choice of the C^* -algebra that supports the rotational flow and on which the KMS state is to be defined. Such a choice is natural and well known in the translation case: the C^* -algebra generated by the local von Neumann algebras associated to bounded intervals of the real line. On the other hand, the intervals of the circle do not form an inductive family and a more thoughtful construction is necessary. A universal C^* -algebra was defined by Fredenhagen, and a different construction is in [Fre90, GL92]. We shall explain in detail the construction as we need it.

We shall first give a general, complete description in the completely rational case: every extremal KMS state is a Gibbs state in some irreducible representation. We shall make use of the structure of the universal C^* -algebra in this case [CCHW13]; a similar description for super-KMS states in this case is due to Hillier [Hil15]. Rotational KMS states in the completely rational case were also studied in [Iov15].

Our results are not restricted to the rational case. Indeed, we shall prove that any extremal rotational KMS state on a large class of non-rational conformal nets is a Gibbs state in some irreducible representation. The point is that, in general, the GNS representation with respect to a KMS state might be of type II or III and could not be decomposed

uniquely into irreducible (type I) representations. We exclude this possibility for many important conformal nets.

Actually, we prove that some conformal nets are of type I, namely they do not have type II or III representations at all. Moreover, at the moment, no example of conformal net not of type I is known. It is possible that diffeomorphism covariance implies the type I property. One can understand how general the type I property is by the following. Suppose \mathcal{A} is a conformal net such that, for any given $\lambda > 0$, there exists at most countably many irreducible representations ρ of \mathcal{A} such that λ is the lowest eigenvalue of the conformal Hamiltonian L_0^ρ of ρ . Then \mathcal{A} is of type I. Many conformal nets are then immediately shown to be of type I by this criterion. Among them are the Virasoro nets and the $U(1)$ -current net. Their finite tensor products can be shown to be of type I by a separate argument.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we recall our operator-algebraic setting for conformal field theory and introduce our main dynamical system, the universal C^* -algebra. The fundamental examples of KMS state, the Gibbs states, are also introduced. In Sect. 3, we present our classification result of KMS states. First we are concerned with the completely rational case where the structure of the universal C^* -algebra is completely understood, then we pass to the general case. We determine that an extremal KMS state on a type I net is a Gibbs state, and prove that some well-known nets are of type I. The problem of the possible occurrence of type II and III representations naturally arises here and we make some observations. In Sect. 4, we discuss possible applications of our results.

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Conformal nets and their representations. Let us recall our mathematical framework for conformal field theory on the compactified one-dimensional spacetime S^1 . See also [CLTW12a].

Let \mathcal{I} be the set of open, connected, non-empty and non-dense subsets (intervals) of the circle S^1 . A **(local) Möbius covariant net** is a triple (\mathcal{A}, U, Ω) where \mathcal{A} is a map that assigns to each $I \in \mathcal{I}$ a von Neumann algebra $\mathcal{A}(I)$ on a common Hilbert space \mathcal{H} and satisfies the following requirements:

1. **(Isotony)** If $I_1 \subset I_2$, then $\mathcal{A}(I_1) \subset \mathcal{A}(I_2)$.
2. **(Locality)** If $I_1 \cap I_2 = \emptyset$, then $\mathcal{A}(I_1)$ and $\mathcal{A}(I_2)$ commute.
3. **(Möbius covariance)** U is a strongly continuous unitary representation of the Möbius group $\text{Möb} = \text{PSL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ on \mathcal{H} and for any $g \in \text{Möb}$ and any interval $I \in \mathcal{I}$ we have

$$\text{Ad } U(g)(\mathcal{A}(I)) = \mathcal{A}(gI).$$

4. **(Positivity of energy)** The generator L_0 of the rotation one-parameter subgroup is positive ($U(R_t) = e^{itL_0}$ with R_t the rotation by t).
5. **(Vacuum vector)** Ω is a unit vector of \mathcal{H} , which is the unique (up to a scalar) U -invariant vector; Ω cyclic for $\bigcup_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \mathcal{A}(I)$.

From these assumptions, the following automatically follow, see [FJ96, Section 3]

6. **(Additivity)** If $I \subset \bigcup_k I_k$, then $\mathcal{A}(I) \subset \bigvee_k \mathcal{A}(I_k)$, where $\bigvee_k \mathcal{M}_k$ denotes the von Neumann algebra generated by $\{\mathcal{M}_k\}$.
7. **(Reeh–Schlieder property)** Ω is cyclic for each local algebra $\mathcal{A}(I)$.

A **representation** of a Möbius covariant net \mathcal{A} is a family $\rho = \{\rho_I\}_{I \in \mathcal{I}}$, where ρ_I is a unital $*$ -representation of $\mathcal{A}(I)$, on a common Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_ρ such that $\rho_{I_2}|_{\mathcal{A}(I_1)} = \rho_{I_1}$ for $I_1 \subset I_2$. We say that ρ is **locally normal** if each ρ_I is normal. We say ρ is **factorial** if $\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \rho_I(I)$ is a factor.

A Möbius covariant net (\mathcal{A}, U, Ω) is called a **conformal net** if the representation U of the Möbius group extends to a strongly continuous projective representation of the group $\text{Diff}(S^1)$ of orientation-preserving diffeomorphisms of S^1 , that is covariant, namely $\text{Ad } U(g)(\mathcal{A}(I)) = \mathcal{A}(gI)$, and $\text{Ad } U(g)$ acts trivially on $\mathcal{A}(I)$ if g acts identically on I .

We say that the net \mathcal{A} has the **split property** if for each pair I_1, I_2 of intervals such that $\overline{I_1} \subset I_2$, there is a type I factor $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2)$ such that $\mathcal{A}(I_1) \subset \mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2) \subset \mathcal{A}(I_2)$. The split property follows from the conformal covariance [MTW16].

2.2. The universal C^* -algebra. For a given Möbius covariant net \mathcal{A} , Fredenhagen [Fre90] proposed to consider a C^* -algebra which is universal in the sense that any representation of the net \mathcal{A} can be regarded as a representation of this algebra. This notion has been used widely in the study of superselection sectors in conformal field theories, and we will take it as the algebra of our physical system.

Yet, there seems to be a confusion in the literature about the construction. The first paper which introduced the universal C^* -algebra was [Fre90, Section 2]. We take a slight variation of it: one considers the free $*$ -algebra \mathcal{A}_0 generated by $\{\mathcal{A}(I)\}$, modulo the relations due to the inclusions $\mathcal{A}(I_1) \subset \mathcal{A}(I_2)$, for $I_1, I_2 \in \mathcal{I}$, $I_1 \subset I_2$. Clearly a representation ρ of \mathcal{A} defines a representation of \mathcal{A}_0 , still denoted by ρ . For a given $x \in \mathcal{A}_0$, one defines the seminorm by

$$\sup_{\rho \in \Gamma} \|\rho(x)\|,$$

where Γ is the class of all representations. In the Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with the axiom of Choice (ZFC), Γ is not a set (an intuitive explanation would be the following: on each set with cardinality larger or equal to the cardinality of the continuum, one can define a structure as a Hilbert space. Hence the class of all Hilbert spaces is “as large as” the class of all sets (with cardinality larger or equal to the cardinality of the continuum), and would cause Russell’s paradox. A precise reason is that the sets in ZFC are only those which are constructed by axiom schemas). However, the above supremum can be justified in ZFC as follows:¹ For a given $x \in \mathcal{A}_0$, we consider the following:

$$\{s \in \mathbb{R} : \text{there is a representation } \rho \text{ of } \mathcal{A}_0 \text{ such that } s = \|\rho(x)\|\},$$

which is a subset of \mathbb{R} in ZFC by the axiom schema of separation² (see standard textbooks on axiomatic set theory, e.g. [Sup60, Jec78]). Hence one can take the supremum and the rest follows.

Another commonly cited paper [GL92, Section 8] has a problem, because one has to take the direct sum parametrized by “all the representations”, which is definitely not a set.

¹ We owe this observation to Sebastiano Carpi.

² The axiom schema of separation reads, for a given predicate $F(x)$ with a variable x as follows: $(\exists B)(\forall x)(x \in B \leftrightarrow x \in A \ \& \ F(x))$. In words, it states that for a set A there is a subset B which consists of all elements of A which satisfy F .

Let us also provide a construction of the universal algebra which is closer to that of [GL92]. We consider as before the free $*$ -algebra \mathcal{A}_0 generated by $\{\mathcal{A}(I)\}$ modulo the inclusion relations as above. We denote by ι_I the embedding of $\mathcal{A}(I)$ into \mathcal{A}_0 . Let \mathcal{S}_0 be the set of states (positive, unital linear functionals in the sense $\varphi(x^*x) \geq 0, x \in \mathcal{A}_0$) φ on \mathcal{A}_0 . By definition of \mathcal{A}_0 , the GNS representation ρ_φ of \mathcal{A}_0 with respect to φ satisfies for $I \subset J$

$$\rho_\varphi \circ \iota_J|_{\mathcal{A}(I)} = \rho_\varphi \circ \iota_I.$$

Note that, for any φ , an element $x \in \mathcal{A}(I)$ is represented by a bounded operator $\rho_\varphi(x)$. Indeed, $x^*x \leq \|x\|^2 \mathbb{1}$ in $\mathcal{A}(I)$, hence $\rho_\varphi(x^*x) \leq \|x\|^2 \mathbb{1}$ because $\rho_\varphi|_{\mathcal{A}(I)}$ is a representation of a von Neumann algebra and a representation of a C^* -algebra is order preserving.

Now let x be an element of \mathcal{A}_0 ; then x is a finite sum $\sum_k \prod_l x_{k,l}$ of finite products of elements of $\mathcal{A}(I_{k,l})$, $I_{k,l} \in \mathcal{I}$.

Let ρ be a representation of the net \mathcal{A} . Then ρ gives rise to a representation of \mathcal{A}_0 . With $x = \sum_k \prod_l x_{k,l}$ as above, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\rho(x)\| &= \left\| \rho \left(\sum_k \prod_l x_{k,l} \right) \right\| = \left\| \sum_k \prod_l \rho(x_{k,l}) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_k \left\| \prod_l \rho(x_{k,l}) \right\| \leq \sum_k \prod_l \|\rho(x_{k,l})\| \leq \sum_k \prod_l \|x_{k,l}\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\|\rho(x_{k,l})\|$ is the norm of $r(x_{k,l})$ in $\mathcal{A}(I_{k,l})$. Thus $\|\rho(x)\| \leq C_x < \infty$, where the constant C_x does not depend on ρ .

We define a seminorm on \mathcal{A}_0 by

$$\|x\| = \sup_{\varphi \in \mathcal{S}_0} \|\rho_\varphi(x)\|,$$

which is finite since $\|x\| \leq C_x$, and we take the C^* -completion (modulo null elements), that we denote by $C^*(\mathcal{A})$.

Let us remark that this construction avoids the set-theoretical problem: while “the class of all representations” is too large to be a set, one can consider the set of all states, because it is a subset of all maps from \mathcal{A}_0 into \mathbb{C} with linearity, positivity and unitarity, which can be formulated again by the axiom schema of separation.

Now, as $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ is not defined through the supremum over all representations, we have to check the universal property.

Proposition 2.1. *For each representation $\{\rho_I\}$ of the net \mathcal{A} , there is a representation ρ of the algebra $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ constructed above such that $\rho_I = \rho \circ \iota_I$.*

Proof. $\{\rho_I\}$ gives rise to a representation ρ of \mathcal{A}_0 . In order to prove that ρ extends to $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ we have to show that ρ is continuous w.r.t. the norm of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$, namely $\|\rho(x)\| \leq \|x\|$, $x \in \mathcal{A}_0$. This follows because every representation of a C^* -algebra is direct sum of cyclic representations, thus $\|\rho(x)\|$ is the supremum of $\rho_\varphi(x)$ with φ running in a family of states. \square

Now we may properly call $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ the universal C^* -algebra of the net \mathcal{A} . By the very universal property, it is unique up to an isomorphism.

Actually, we are mostly interested in locally normal representations, hence it is natural to take account of locally normal representations only. This has been done by [CCHW13]:

we take our $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ and consider the locally normal universal representation ρ_{ln} , which is the direct sum of all GNS representations over all states φ on $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ such that ρ_φ is locally normal. The universal property can be again proven by decomposing an arbitrary representation into cyclic representations. We take the quotient $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}) := C^*(\mathcal{A}) / \ker \rho_{\text{ln}}$ and call it the locally normal universal C^* -algebra of the net \mathcal{A} . The properties of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ claimed in [CCHW13] can be restored without any modification, since the actual construction is not needed in the proofs but only the universality is used.

If the net \mathcal{A} is conformal, any locally normal representation ρ is covariant with respect to the universal cover $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ of the Möbius group and one can take the unique implementing operators from $\rho(C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}))$, and indeed they are finite products of local elements [DFK04, Theorem 6]. From this it follows that the action of $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ on $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ is inner.

Proposition 2.2. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Möbius covariant net with the split property and ρ be a locally normal representation of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ with a cyclic vector Φ . Then the representation space \mathcal{H}_ρ is separable.*

Proof. As in [KLM01, Appendix C], we consider the set $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ of intervals with rational end points, an intermediate type I factor $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2)$ between $\mathcal{A}(I_1) \subset \mathcal{A}(I_2)$, $I_1, I_2 \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}$, $I_1 \subset I_2$ (we just choose one $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2)$ for each pair $I_1 \subset I_2$, not necessarily the canonical choice of [DL84]), let $\mathcal{K}(I_1, I_2)$ be the algebra of compact operators in $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2)$ (under the identification $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2) \cong \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$) and denote by \mathfrak{A} the C^* -algebra generated by $\{\mathcal{K}(I_1, I_2)\}$. Note that \mathfrak{A} is a separable C^* -algebra.

As ρ is locally normal, for each I we have $\rho(\mathcal{A}(I)) \subset \rho(\mathfrak{A})''$. Indeed, if $I_1 \subset I_2 \subset I$, $I_1, I_2 \in \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}$, then $\mathcal{K}(I_1, I_2) \subset \mathcal{A}(I)$ and as I_1 tends to I , any element in $\mathcal{A}(I)$ can be approximated from \mathfrak{A} in the σ -weak topology. Then the claim follows from the local normality of ρ , and it also follows that $\rho(C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})) \subset \rho(\mathfrak{A})''$.

Now, by assumption there is a cyclic vector Φ for $\rho(C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}))$, hence it is also cyclic for $\rho(\mathfrak{A})''$. As $\rho(\mathfrak{A})$ is a C^* -algebra, $\rho(\mathfrak{A})''$ is the closure of $\rho(\mathfrak{A})$ in the strong operator topology and we have $\overline{\rho(\mathfrak{A})\Phi} = \overline{\rho(\mathfrak{A})''\Phi} = \mathcal{H}_\rho$. As $\rho(\mathfrak{A})$ is separable, \mathcal{H}_ρ is also separable. \square

Remark 2.3. The converse of Prop. 2.2 is also true. If \mathcal{A} is a Möbius covariant net and ρ a representation of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ with separable \mathcal{H}_ρ , then ρ is locally normal. Indeed the $\mathcal{A}(I)$'s are type III factors, and every representation of a σ -finite type III factor on a separable Hilbert space is normal [Tak02, Theorem V.5.1], while the local algebras $\mathcal{A}(I)$ are automatically σ -finite by the Reeh–Schlieder property: the vacuum state is faithful [Tak02, Proposition II.3.9].

2.3. KMS states with respect to rotations, Gibbs states. Let \mathfrak{A} be a C^* -algebra and α a one-parameter automorphism group of \mathfrak{A} (not necessarily pointwise norm-continuous).

A **KMS state** of \mathfrak{A} w.r.t. α at inverse temperature $\beta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ is a state φ on \mathfrak{A} such that for any pair of elements $x, y \in \mathfrak{A}$ there is a bounded analytic function F_{xy} on $\mathbb{R} + i(0, \beta)$, which is continuous on $\mathbb{R} + i[0, \beta]$, such that

$$F_{xy}(t) = \varphi(\alpha_t(x)y), \quad F_{xy}(t + i\beta) = \varphi(y\alpha_t(x)).$$

Given a conformal net \mathcal{A} , we are interested in states on the universal C^* -algebra $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ w.r.t. the rotation one-parameter automorphism group. Any state ψ on $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ gives rise to a GNS representation ρ_ψ of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$, whose restriction to $\{\mathcal{A}(I)\}$ (i.e.

$\{\rho_\psi|_I\}_{I \in \mathcal{I}}$ is a representation of the net. We say that ψ is locally normal if its restriction to each local algebra $\mathcal{A}(I)$ is normal. We do not know whether this implies in general that the GNS representation ρ_ψ is locally normal. Yet, for KMS states, we have the following Lemmas. The proof of the first one is essentially the same as that of [TW73, Theorem 1], one should only note that the funnel structure is not necessary.

Lemma 2.4. *Let \mathfrak{A} be a C^* -algebra which contains a σ -finite properly infinite von Neumann algebra \mathcal{M} , and φ a state on \mathfrak{A} such that the GNS vector Φ (for the GNS representation ρ_φ with respect to φ) is separating for $\rho_\varphi(\mathfrak{A})''$. Then $\varphi|_{\mathcal{M}}$ is normal and $\rho_\varphi|_{\mathcal{M}}$ is normal.*

Proof. As Φ is separating for $\rho_\varphi(\mathfrak{A})''$, $\rho_\varphi(\mathfrak{A})''$ is σ -finite, hence $\rho_\varphi(\mathcal{M})''$ is σ -finite as well. Then the restriction ρ_φ to a properly infinite algebra \mathcal{M} is normal [Tak02, Theorem V.5.1]. \square

Lemma 2.5. *Let φ be a KMS state on $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ with respect to the rotation flow α . Then φ is locally normal and its GNS representation ρ_φ is locally normal.*

Proof. The local algebras in the vacuum representation have a separating vector Ω , hence they are σ -finite, and are known to be of type III₁ [GL96, Proposition 1.2]. Now the claim follows from Lemma 2.4 and the fact that the GNS vector Φ is separating for $\rho_\varphi(\mathcal{A})''$ for any KMS state φ (see [BR97, Lemma 5.3.8 and Corollary 5.3.9]. The pointwise norm-continuity assumption of α is not necessary for this result). \square

Thanks to these Lemmas, we do not have to distinguish $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ and $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ as long as we are interested in KMS states.

Remark 2.6. In the real line case, the GNS representation of every locally normal state (i.e. normal on each local algebra) is locally normal. To see this, let φ be a locally normal state of the quasi-local C^* -algebra $\mathfrak{A} \equiv \overline{\bigcup_{I \in \mathbb{R}} \mathcal{A}(I)}^{\|\cdot\|}$ with GNS triple $(\mathcal{H}, \rho, \Phi)$ and fix an interval $I \in \mathcal{I}$. The restriction of ρ_I to $\mathcal{H}_I \equiv \overline{\rho(\mathcal{A}(I))\Phi}$ is normal as it is the GNS representation of a normal state. For any larger interval $\tilde{I} \supset I$ we have $\rho_I = \rho_{\tilde{I}}|_{\mathcal{H}_I}$, so ρ_I is normal on $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{I}}$ too. Since the $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{I}}$'s form an inductive family whose union is dense in \mathcal{H} by the cyclicity of Φ , it follows that ρ_I is normal on \mathcal{H} .

Let ρ be a locally normal, rotation-covariant, irreducible representation of \mathcal{A} in which $e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}$ is trace class for $\beta > 0$, where L_0^ρ is the generator of the one-parameter unitary group of rotations. This is a typical situation that holds true in most important cases. Then one can define the following **Gibbs state** on $C^*(\mathcal{A})$:

$$\varphi_{\rho, \beta}(x) = \frac{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} \rho(x))}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho})}. \quad (1)$$

$\varphi_{\rho, \beta}$ is a (locally normal) rotational β -KMS state of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$. Thus we have a natural class of KMS states. The relation between the KMS condition and the Gibbs states at the given temperature can be found in [Haa96]. An early consideration of rotational Gibbs states can be found in [Sch94].

For some important class of nets, the structure of the irreducible representations is well understood. This is the case, in particular, for the class of completely rational nets, which we will consider in Sect. 3.1. In such cases, we shall see that all extremal KMS states are Gibbs states as in (1). Our main question is whether this is always true. We show this to be true under a mild condition in Sect. 3.2.3, but the question remains open in general.

2.4. Energy expectation value. The stress energy density in a Gibbs state can be computed through the character formula. For a test function f with support in an interval $I \in \mathcal{I}$, the stress energy tensor T in the vacuum representation, smoothed with f , is an unbounded operator $T(f)$ affiliated to $\mathcal{A}(I)$. If ρ is an irreducible representation of \mathcal{A} , we may define $T_\rho(f) = \rho(T(f))$, making use that bounded functions, e.g. the resolvent, of $T(f)$ belong to $\mathcal{A}(I)$. The expectation value of the stress-energy tensor in the Gibbs state is then

$$\varphi_{\rho,\beta}(T(f)) = \frac{\text{Tr}\left(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} T_\rho(f)\right)}{\text{Tr}\left(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}\right)}.$$

This is indeed finite if, for example, there is $\epsilon > 0$ such that $\text{Tr}(e^{-(\beta-\epsilon)L_0^\rho})$ is finite because the polynomial energy bound holds for the Virasoro algebra [CW05, Lemma 4.1] (which implies that $e^{-\epsilon L_0^\rho} T(f)$ is bounded). This condition is quite generic.

Furthermore, in such a case, one can compute this value by expanding $T_\rho(f) = \sum f_n L_n^\rho$, where the $f_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(e^{it}) e^{-int} dt$ are the Fourier modes of f . As L_n^ρ , $n \neq 0$ changes the energy eigenvalues while Tr can be computed by expanding along a basis of L_0^ρ eigenvectors, all the contributions from L_n^ρ , $n \neq 0$ drop out and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\rho,\beta}(T(f)) &= f_0 \frac{\text{Tr}\left(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} L_0^\rho\right)}{\text{Tr}\left(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}\right)} = f_0 \frac{-d\chi_\rho(e^{-s})/ds|_{s=\beta}}{\chi_\rho(e^{-\beta})} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(e^{it}) dt \cdot \frac{d\chi_\rho(e^{-s})/ds}{\chi_\rho(e^{-s})} \Big|_{s=\beta}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\chi_\rho(q) = \text{Tr } q^{L_0^\rho}$ is known as the character of the representation ρ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\rho,\beta}(T(1)) &= -\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\chi_\rho(e^{-s})/ds}{\chi_\rho(e^{-s})} \Big|_{s=\beta} \\ &= \frac{q}{2\pi} \frac{d\chi_\rho(q)/dq}{\chi_\rho(q)} \Big|_{q=e^{-\beta}} = \frac{q}{2\pi} \frac{d \log(\chi_\rho(q))}{dq} \Big|_{q=e^{-\beta}}. \end{aligned}$$

The characters for some specific examples can be found in the literature, e.g. [KR87].

3. Classification of KMS States

3.1. Completely rational case. In this section we determine all KMS states in the completely rational case.

Let \mathcal{A} be a Möbius covariant net on S^1 . Following [KLM01], one defines the μ -index $\mu_{\mathcal{A}}$ of \mathcal{A} as the Jones index of the 4-interval inclusion:

$$\mu_{\mathcal{A}} \equiv [(\mathcal{A}(I_1) \vee \mathcal{A}(I_3))' : \mathcal{A}(I_2) \vee \mathcal{A}(I_4)],$$

where $I_k \in \mathcal{I}$, $k = 1 \dots 4$, are disjoint intervals in S^1 whose union is dense in S^1 and I_k, I_{k+2} , $k = 1, 2$, have no common boundary point.

\mathcal{A} is said to be *completely rational* if $\mu_{\mathcal{A}} < \infty$ and \mathcal{A} satisfies the split property and the strong additivity property [KLM01]. The split property follows from the trace class

property of $e^{-\beta L_0}$, for all $\beta > 0$ in the vacuum representation [BDL07]; it holds automatically for a conformal net [MTW16]. The strong additivity property automatically holds for a conformal net with the split property and finite μ -index [LX04]. Thus, for a local conformal net \mathcal{A} , the only condition for \mathcal{A} to be completely rational is $\mu_{\mathcal{A}} < \infty$.

If \mathcal{A} is completely rational, then

$$\mu_{\mathcal{A}} = \sum_k d(\rho_k)^2$$

where $\{\rho_k\}$ is a complete family of irreducible inequivalent representations of \mathcal{A} and $d(\rho_k)$ is the dimension of ρ_k . It follows that \mathcal{A} has only finitely many irreducible representations, all of them have finite index and every representation is a direct sum of irreducible finite index representations [KLM01].

As shown in [CCHW13], the locally normal universal C^* -algebra $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ takes a particularly simple form in the completely rational case.

Theorem 3.1 [CCHW13]. *If \mathcal{A} is a completely rational net, then $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ is isomorphic to a finite direct sum of type I factors:*

$$C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{F}_0 \oplus \mathcal{F}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{F}_n,$$

with $\mathcal{F}_k = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_k)$, where \mathcal{H}_k , $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ corresponds to inequivalent irreducible representations of the net \mathcal{A} . In particular, $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ is a von Neumann algebra and its center is finite dimensional.

The minimal central projections e_k of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ are thus in one-to-one correspondence with the irreducible representations ρ_k of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$:

$$\rho_k(x) = x e_k, \quad x \in C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}), \quad (2)$$

say with ρ_0 the vacuum representation.

Recall that, as a completely rational net, it admits only finitely many irreducible representations (up to equivalence), so any representation is Möbius covariant (see [GL92, Corollary 7.2], and the modification to the circle is straightforward). With U_0 the unitary representation of Möb associated with the net \mathcal{A} , the adjoint action of U_0 on the net \mathcal{A} gives, by the universal property of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$, an automorphism group of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ that acts trivially on the center. In view of Theorem 3.1,

$$U = U_0 \oplus \cdots \oplus U_n,$$

with U_k the covariance unitary representation of $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ in the representation ρ_k .

Let now φ be an extremal β -KMS state of $C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A})$ w.r.t. the rotation one-parameter group α_t . As the GNS representation of φ acts on a separable Hilbert space by Proposition 2.2 and Lemma 2.5, it must either be faithful on or annihilate the components $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_k)$. Being extremal, the support of φ is e_k for some k , namely $\varphi(e_j) = \delta_{jk}$. Thus φ can be viewed as a normal state on $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_k)$ and we have:

Theorem 3.2. *Let \mathcal{A} be a completely rational net as above, and φ an extremal, rotational β -KMS state. Then there exists an irreducible representation ρ of \mathcal{A} such that*

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} \rho(x))}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho})}, \quad x \in C_{\text{ln}}^*(\mathcal{A}),$$

In particular $e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}$ is trace class.

Proof. By the above discussion, ρ is equal to a ρ_k given in (2), so the proof follows by the following lemma, which is essentially known. \square

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ be a type I factor, ϑ a one-parameter automorphism group, and φ a normal β -KMS state of \mathcal{R} w.r.t. ϑ . Then there exists a positive, non-singular, selfadjoint operator H on \mathcal{H} (thus affiliated to \mathcal{R}) such that*

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H} x)}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H})}, \quad x \in \mathcal{R}.$$

We have $\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H}) < \infty$ and $\vartheta_t(x) = \text{Ad } e^{itH}(x)$, $x \in \mathcal{R}$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. Since \mathcal{R} is a factor, φ is faithful due to the KMS property: this follows from the faithfulness of the GNS representation and the fact that the GNS vector is separating for a KMS state [BR97, Lemma 5.3.8 and Corollary 5.3.9]. As \mathcal{R} is a type I factor, there exists a positive, non-singular trace class operator T with trace one [BR97, Proposition 2.4.3] such that $\varphi(x) = \text{Tr}(Tx)$. We may write $T = e^{-\beta H}$ with a self-adjoint operator H and, as T is bounded, the spectrum of H is bounded below. By adding a scalar, we may assume that H is positive, but then the trace $\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H})$ is no longer 1, so we have the formula $\varphi(x) = \frac{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H} x)}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H})}$.

Then $t \mapsto \text{Ad } e^{-i\beta t H}$ is the modular group of φ [BR97, Example 2.5.16]. Therefore, we have $\text{Ad } e^{itH} = \vartheta_t$ as there is a unique one-parameter automorphism group which satisfies the KMS condition with respect to the state φ [Tak03a, Theorem VIII.1.2]. \square

3.2. General case. Let \mathcal{A} be a Möbius covariant net. We say that a (locally normal) representation ρ of \mathcal{A} is of **type I** if $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ is a type I von Neumann algebra.

3.2.1. Factorial decomposition

Proposition 3.4. *Let \mathcal{A} be a Möbius covariant net with the split property and φ a β -KMS state on $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ with respect to the rotation flow α . Then φ can be decomposed a.e. uniquely as follows:*

$$\varphi = \int_X^\oplus d\mu(\lambda) \varphi_\lambda,$$

where the GNS representation ρ_{φ_λ} with respect to φ_λ is factorial. If ρ_{φ_λ} is type I, then

$$\varphi_\lambda(x) = \frac{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\lambda} \rho_{\varphi_\lambda}(x))}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta L_0^\lambda})},$$

where L_0^λ is the conformal Hamiltonian in the representation ρ_{φ_λ} .

Proof. By Lemma 2.5, the GNS representation ρ_φ is locally normal, and by Proposition 2.2 ρ_φ acts on a separable Hilbert space. By considering the central disintegration of $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$, we also obtain the disintegration of the representation of $\rho|_{\mathfrak{A}}$, with \mathfrak{A} any separable, suitably chosen C^* -subalgebra of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$, by a similar argument as [KLM01, Proposition 56] (see also [Dix77, Theorem 8.4.2], [Tak02, Theorem IV.8.21 and Section V.1]):

$$\rho_\varphi|_{\mathfrak{A}} = \int_X d\mu(\lambda) \rho_{\varphi_\lambda}|_{\mathfrak{A}}$$

and ρ_{φ_λ} are locally normal for almost all λ . According to this disintegration, the GNS vector Φ_φ disintegrates

$$\Phi_\varphi = \int_X d\mu(\lambda) \Phi_{\varphi_\lambda}$$

and the state $\langle \Phi, \cdot \Phi \rangle$ on $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ gets the disintegration [Tak02, Proposition IV.8.34]:

$$\varphi(x) = \langle \Phi_\varphi, \rho_\varphi(x) \Phi_\varphi \rangle = \int_X^\oplus d\mu(\lambda) \langle \Phi_{\varphi_\lambda}, \rho_{\varphi_\lambda}(x) \Phi_{\varphi_\lambda} \rangle.$$

Hence we can define $\varphi_\lambda(x) = \langle \Phi_{\varphi_\lambda}, \rho_{\varphi_\lambda}(x) \Phi_{\varphi_\lambda} \rangle$ first for $x \in \mathfrak{A}$ and then extend it to $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ by local normality, which is the first statement. φ_λ are again KMS states with respect to rotations for almost all λ , by considering the disintegration of the modular operator.

If ρ_{φ_λ} is of type I, then it follows that the state φ_λ is given by the Gibbs state by Lemma 3.3. \square

3.2.2. General remarks If we assume conformal covariance, type III representations do not occur since the rotations are inner. Furthermore, for type II states on a conformal net, a Gibbs-like formula is valid by replacing Tr by the unique tracial weight τ , c.f. Lemma 3.3.

Lemma 3.5. *If \mathcal{A} is conformal, then for any KMS states φ , $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ contains no type III component.*

Proof. As we saw in Sect. 2.2, $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$, especially the rotations, is inner. Thus, the modular automorphisms of $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ with respect to φ are inner, hence the $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ cannot have a type III component (see [Tak02, Theorem IV.8.21, Section V.1], [Tak03a, Theorem VIII.3.14]). \square

Let \mathcal{A} be a conformal net and ρ a representation of \mathcal{A} on \mathcal{H}_ρ . As we recalled in Sect. 2.2, by conformal covariance, there is a canonical inner implementation U_ρ on \mathcal{H}_ρ with $U_\rho(g) \in \rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ of $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$. The generator of the associated unitary rotation one-parameter subgroup of U_ρ is positive [Wei06], which we denote by L_0^ρ and we call it the conformal Hamiltonian of ρ . Of course, in case ρ is irreducible, this gives the usual definition of the conformal Hamiltonian.

Lemma 3.6. *Let \mathcal{A} be a conformal net and φ an extremal, rotational β -KMS state. Suppose the GNS representation ρ_φ of φ is of type II, namely $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ is a type II factor.³ Let τ denote the semi-finite trace of $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$. Then there is a positive self-adjoint operator L_0^ρ affiliated to $\rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ as above and we obtain*

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\tau(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} \rho(x))}{\tau(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho})}, \quad x \in C^*(\mathcal{A}),$$

In particular $\tau(e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}) < \infty$.

³ In this case, it would be necessarily type II_∞ as the local algebras are of type III.

Proof. Set $\mathcal{M} \equiv \rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$. By the KMS property, the GNS vector ξ_φ is cyclic and separating for \mathcal{M} and $\text{Ad} e^{-i\beta t L_0^{\rho_\lambda}}$ is the modular group of \mathcal{M} w.r.t. to the state $\bar{\varphi} \equiv \langle \xi_\varphi, \cdot \xi_\varphi \rangle$ on \mathcal{M} . By the Radon-Nikodym theorem, $\bar{\varphi} = \tau(h \cdot)$ with h a positive operator on \mathcal{H}_ρ affiliated to \mathcal{M} , and $\tau(h) = 1$. The modular group of $\bar{\varphi}$ is then equal to $\text{Ad} h^{it}$. Then h is proportional to $e^{-\beta L_0^{\rho_\lambda}}$, thus $h = e^{-\beta L_0^{\rho_\lambda}} / \tau(e^{-\beta L_0^{\rho_\lambda}})$ and the Lemma follows. \square

3.2.3. Nets of type I We say that a Möbius covariant net is of **type I** if it admits only locally normal representations ρ such that $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ is of type I.

Some important conformal nets turn out to be type I, therefore, any extremal KMS state is the Gibbs state in one of the irreducible representations.

Theorem 3.7. *If a conformal net \mathcal{A} is of type I, then any rotational β -KMS state φ is a convex combination (integration) of the Gibbs states in irreducible representations.*

Proof. Immediate from Lemma 3.3 and Proposition 3.4 (note that the split property follows from conformal covariance [MTW16]). \square

As we recalled in Sect. 2.2, for a conformal net the representatives of $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ are inner and unique, hence any locally normal representation ρ of the net (or the universal algebra $C^*(\mathcal{A})$) is $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ -covariant. The implementation is unique if we assume that the representatives belong to $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$. With this unique inner implementation, the lowest eigenvalue l_0 of the generator L_0^ρ of rotations is non-negative [Wei06, Theorem 3.8].

Proposition 3.8. *Let \mathcal{A} be a conformal net and assume that there are only countably many equivalence classes of locally normal irreducible representations with a specified lowest eigenvalue of the generator of rotations. Then \mathcal{A} is of type I.*

Proof. By local normality and its disintegration restricted to \mathfrak{A} as in Proposition 3.4, it is enough to treat factorial representations. Let us consider a locally normal factorial representation ρ of \mathcal{A} . The implementation of the 2π -rotation commutes with any local element, hence with $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$, on the other hand, it belongs to $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ by our choice that it is inner. When $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ is a factor, the implementation is then a scalar. This applies to any integer-multiple of 2π , hence the spectrum of L_0^ρ must be included in $\mathbb{N}_0 + l_0$, where $l_0 \geq 0$, and \mathbb{N}_0 is the set of non-negative integers.

Now, we consider any disintegration of $\rho|_{\mathfrak{A}}$ into irreducible representations where \mathfrak{A} is the separable C^* -subalgebra of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ as in Proposition 3.4 (this is possible, by choosing a maximally abelian algebra in $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))'$ because we have the split property: see [KLM01, Proposition 56] for disintegration and [MTW16] for the implication of the split property from conformal covariance):

$$\rho_{\mathfrak{A}} = \int_X^{\oplus} \rho_\lambda d\mu(\lambda),$$

where X is a certain index set. Let us assume, by contradiction, that $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))''$ is a factor of not type I. Then by [KLM01, Proposition 57, Corollary 58], for a fixed λ , ρ_λ is locally normal, hence extends to $C^*(\mathcal{A})$ and must be inequivalent to $\rho_{\lambda'}$ for almost all λ' , and there are uncountably many such λ' 's. But on the other hand, the inner implementation of $\widetilde{\text{Möb}}$ also disintegrates and the lowest eigenvalue of L_0 remains in $\mathbb{N}_0 + l_0$ for each λ . By assumption, there are only countably many such inequivalent representations, which contradicts the above uncountable family of representations. This concludes the proof that ρ is of type I. \square

We have two basic examples with this property.

Example 3.9. The $U(1)$ -current net $\mathcal{A}_{U(1)}$: In two-dimensional spacetime, the naively defined massless free field is plagued by the infrared problem. Yet it is possible to consider its derivative. Its chiral components are called the $U(1)$ -current. See [BMT88, Lon08] for its operator-algebraic formulation.

The algebra is generated by the Fourier modes $\{J_n\}$ of the current which satisfy the following relations $[J_m, J_n] = m\delta_{m+n,0}$. This algebra has a distinguished representation with the vacuum vector Ω such that $J_m\Omega = 0$ for $m \geq 0$, $J_m^* = J_{-m}$. For a smooth function f on S^1 , one defines the Weyl operator $W(f)$ by $W(f) = \exp\left(i \sum_m \hat{f}_m J_m\right)$, where \hat{f}_m are the Fourier components of $f(z) = \sum_m \hat{f}_m e^{imz}$.

One defines the net by $\mathcal{A}_{U(1)}(I) = \{W(f) : \text{supp } f \subset I\}''$. It turns out that this net is conformally covariant. The generator of rotations is given by the Sugawara formula

$$L_0 = \frac{1}{2}J_0 + \sum_{m>0} J_{-m}J_m.$$

For each $q \geq 0$, there are irreducible representations of the net $\mathcal{A}_{U(1)}$ given by the state Ω_q such that $J_m\Omega = 0$ for $m > 0$ and $J_0\Omega_q = q\Omega$ [BMT88].

It can be proved that they are indeed all irreducible locally normal representations [CW16]. By their local energy bounds, $\{J_m\}$ can be also defined in any locally normal representation. In each ρ of these representations, L_0^ρ is again given by the above Sugawara formula and the lowest eigenvalue is $\frac{q^2}{2}$. Namely, only two values q and $-q$ share the same lowest energy. By Proposition 3.8 and Theorem 3.7, all KMS states with respect to rotations are a direct integral of Gibbs states.

We also note that the regular KMS states (namely, those in whose GNS representation the generators $\{J_m\}$ can be defined) have been classified by [BMT88].

Example 3.10. Virasoro nets Vir_c : the net generated by the conformal covariance itself is called the Virasoro net. More precisely, one considers the group $\text{Diff}(S^1)$ and its projective unitary representations. There is a natural action of rotations, and if this action is also implemented by unitary operators and the generator is positive, then we call such a projective representation of $\text{Diff}(S^1)$ a positive-energy representation. Such positive-energy irreducible representations have been classified by the so-called central charge $c > 0$ and the lowest energy $h \geq 0$ [GKO86, KR87, GW85, NS15]. The possible values of c and h are: $c = 1 - \frac{6}{m(m+1)}$ and $h = \frac{((m+1)r-ms)^2-1}{4m(m+1)}$, where $m = 2, 3, 4, \dots$ and $r = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m-1$ and $s = 1, 2, 3, \dots, r$, or $c \geq 1$ and $h \geq 0$.

For each such a positive-energy representation π_c with $h = 0$, one can construct the corresponding Virasoro net by $\text{Vir}_c(I) = \{\pi_c(g) : \text{supp } g \subset I\}''$ and it constitutes a conformal net (see [Car04]). If $c < 1$, Vir_c is completely rational [KL04].

Let us consider $c \geq 1$. To any irreducible (hence type I) locally normal irreducible representation of Vir_c there corresponds a positive-energy representation of $\text{Diff}(S^1)$ with $c \geq 1$ and $h \geq 0$ (see [Car04, Proposition 2.1]). Conversely, for the values $c \geq 1, h \geq 0$ there is a corresponding locally normal irreducible representation π_h^c of Vir_c [BSM90][Car04, Section 2.4][Wei16].

Therefore, our Proposition 3.8 applies to any value of $c \geq 1$ and obtain that any KMS state on Vir_c whose GNS representation is factorial is the Gibbs state corresponding to the value h , and all such $h \geq 0$ are possible, the latter can be read off from the character formula, e.g. [KR87].

For a Möbius covariant net (\mathcal{A}, U, Ω) , one can naturally consider the tensor product $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}, U \otimes U, \Omega \otimes \Omega)$. Any finite tensor product of these nets has again the same property. Indeed we have the following.

Proposition 3.11. *A Möbius covariant net with the split property \mathcal{A} is of type I if and only if⁴ any factorial locally normal representation of $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$ is of the form $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2$.*

Proof. Suppose that \mathcal{A} has only locally normal type I representations. Take a locally normal factorial representation $\tilde{\rho}$ of $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$. We show that the center $\mathcal{Z}(\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}))$ is trivial. Indeed, on one hand we have $\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}) \subset \tilde{\rho}(C^*(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}))''$. On the other hand, let us take

$$p \in \mathcal{Z}\left(\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})\right) = \left(\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})\right) \cap \left(\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})\right)'.$$

By additivity of the net and local normality of $\tilde{\rho}$, we have $p \in \bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}, |I| < \frac{\pi}{2}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})$. Any element in the latter algebra commutes with $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I_k))$, where $|I_k| < \frac{\pi}{2}$, because for any pair of two intervals I_1, I_2 shorter than $\frac{\pi}{2}$, one can find an interval which contains both, and it follows that the images $\tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I_1) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})$ and $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I_2))$ commute. Again by additivity, p commutes with $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I))$ for any I and, therefore, $p \in \tilde{\rho}(C^*(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}))'$. Namely, $p \in \mathcal{Z}(\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1})) \subset \mathcal{Z}(\tilde{\rho}(C^*(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})))'' = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$ as $\tilde{\rho}$ is factorial. This implies that the restriction of $\tilde{\rho}$ to $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$ is already factorial, and by assumption, it is of type I, namely its image is of the form $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$, where $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{\rho}} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2$. As the image $\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I))$ commutes with $\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{A}(I) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}) = \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_1) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$ by the same argument as above, we have $\bigvee_{I \in \mathcal{I}} \tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I)) \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_2)$. In other words, $\tilde{\rho}$ is a product representation of the form $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2$.

To show the converse under the split property, we take a non-type I factorial representation ρ of \mathcal{A} and construct $\tilde{\rho}(x) = J_\rho \rho(JxJ) J_\rho$, where J_ρ is the modular conjugation of $\rho(\mathcal{A})''$ with respect to a certain faithful normal weight and J is an antilinear conjugation which maps local algebras to local algebras, for example, the modular conjugation of an interval with respect to the vacuum state. We define $\tilde{\rho}(x \otimes y) = \rho(x)\tilde{\rho}(y)$. We first show that this is a locally normal representation. By the split property, $\mathcal{A}(I_1)$ is included in a type I factor $\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2)$, where $\overline{I_1} \subset I_2$. As ρ is locally normal, the image $\tilde{\rho}(\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}) = \rho(\mathcal{N}(I_1, I_2))$ is again a type I factor. The image $\tilde{\rho}(\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathcal{A}(I_1))$ commutes with this, therefore, $\tilde{\rho}$ is locally a tensor product representation, and therefore, locally normal. The consistency condition for $\tilde{\rho}$ is obvious, hence it is a locally normal representation of $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$. Yet its image is $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_\rho)$, and its restriction is not of type I, thus $\tilde{\rho}$ cannot be a product representation. \square

3.3. Remarks on non-type I representations: open problems. As we saw, important classes of conformal nets are of type I. It is an open problem whether there exists a Möbius covariant net not of type I. The situation is quite different from the case of nets on the real line, where any translation KMS state on the quasilocal algebra is of type III₁ [CLTW12a] or of nets on the Minkowski space where one can have any type of representation [DS82, DS83, BD84, DFG84].

One concrete open case is the cyclic orbifold [LX04]. Take a conformal net \mathcal{A} , make the tensor product $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$ and consider the fixed point net $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})^{\text{flip}}$ with respect to

⁴ Actually, the split property is not necessary for the “only if” part.

the flip between two components. If \mathcal{A} is completely rational, then $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})^{\text{flip}}$ is again completely rational and all the sectors can be explicitly written in terms of sectors of \mathcal{A} and twisted sectors. On the other hand, if \mathcal{A} is not completely rational, then we do not have a complete classification of sectors of $(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})^{\text{flip}}$. In particular, we are not able to exclude the possibility of non-type I representations, although all known sectors are of type I.

Another candidate for a net with non-type I representations would be an infinite tensor product. Recall that (see e.g. [CW05, Section 6]) for a given countable family of Möbius covariant nets $\{(\mathcal{A}_k, U_k, \Omega_k)\}$, one can define a Möbius covariant net by

$$\mathcal{A}(I) := \bigotimes \mathcal{A}_k(I), \quad U(g) := \bigotimes U_k(g),$$

with respect to the reference vector $\Omega = \bigotimes \Omega_k$ (see e.g. [Tak03b, Section XIV.1]). Let us assume that each \mathcal{A}_k admits a representation ρ_k which is converging to the vacuum representation in some sense. Then one may hope that the infinite tensor product of representations $\bigotimes \rho_k$ could make sense. Even if each ρ_k is of type I, the resulting product could be of non type I. However, this discussion depends on the nature of the sequence ρ_k and a detailed analysis is needed.

We note that the type I property for rotational β -KMS states can be characterized by a compactness criterion similar to the Haag–Swieca compactness condition (and the Buchholz–Wichmann nuclearity condition, see [Haa96]).

Proposition 3.12. *Let \mathcal{A} be a local conformal net and φ a rotational, factorial β -KMS state of $C^*(\mathcal{A})$. Then $\rho \equiv \rho_\varphi$ is of type I if and only if the closure of $e^{-\frac{\beta}{4}L_0^\rho} \rho_\varphi(C^*(\mathcal{A})_1)\Psi$ is compact in the norm topology of \mathcal{H} for some, hence for every, non-zero vector Ψ of the GNS Hilbert space \mathcal{H} of φ . Here the suffix 1 denotes the unit ball.*

In this case $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \rho_\varphi(C^(\mathcal{A})_1)\Psi$ is compact for every $s > 0$, $\Psi \in \mathcal{H}$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{M} be the weak closure of $\rho(C^*(\mathcal{A}))$. By assumption \mathcal{M} is a factor. Moreover, $\overline{\mathcal{M}_1\Psi} = \overline{C^*(\mathcal{A})_1\Psi}$ by Kaplansky density theorem. Note that $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \in \mathcal{M}$ for $s > 0$. Let $T_\Psi^{(s)} : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ be the map $x \mapsto e^{-sL_0^\rho} x\Psi$. Clearly $T_\Psi^{(s)}$ is compact if and only if $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \mathcal{M}_1\Psi$ is compact. Now if $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \mathcal{M}_1\Psi$ compact, then $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \mathcal{M}_1\Psi'$ is compact for any other vector Ψ' in the linear span of $\{xx'\Psi : x \in \mathcal{M}, x' \in \mathcal{M}'\}$, which is a dense subspace of \mathcal{H} as \mathcal{M} is a factor. Since $\|T_{\Psi_1} - T_{\Psi_2}\| = \|T_{\Psi_1 - \Psi_2}\| \leq \|e^{-sL_0^\rho}\| \|\Psi_1 - \Psi_2\| \leq \|\Psi_1 - \Psi_2\| (\|e^{-sL_0^\rho}\| \leq 1 \text{ as } L_0^\rho \text{ is positive})$, $T_{\Psi'}^{(s)}$ is then compact for all $\Psi' \in \mathcal{H}$.

Assume first that \mathcal{M} is of type I. As \mathcal{M} is in the standard form, we may identify $\mathcal{M} \simeq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{K}) \otimes \mathbb{C}\mathbb{1}$ where $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{K} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{K}}$, and further \mathcal{H} with the Hilbert space $\text{HS}(\mathcal{K})$ of the Hilbert-Schmidt operators, so every vector $\Psi \in \mathcal{H}$ with a Hilbert-Schmidt operator S . In this identification, an element $x \in \mathcal{M}$ acts by left multiplication on $\text{HS}(\mathcal{K})$. Thus $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \mathcal{M}_1\Psi$ is identified with $e^{-sL_0^\rho} \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{K})_1 S$, whose closure is compact because $e^{-\beta L_0^\rho}$ is of trace class (Lemma 3.3), hence $e^{-sL_0^\rho}$ is compact for any $s > 0$ hence for $s = \frac{\beta}{4}$, thus $x \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{K}) \mapsto e^{-\frac{\beta}{4}L_0^\rho} xS$ is compact (c.f. [BDL90]).

On the other hand, assume now that $T_\Psi^{(\frac{\beta}{4})}$ is compact for some non-zero Ψ , then by the above argument $T_{\Phi'}^{(\frac{\beta}{4})}$ is compact for any vector Φ' . As the rotation one-parameter group is inner, the modular operator Δ of \mathcal{M} w.r.t. Ψ is given by $\Delta = e^{-\beta L_0^\rho} J e^{\beta L_0^\rho} J$ with J the modular conjugation of (\mathcal{M}, Φ) . Thus the map $x \in \mathcal{M} \mapsto e^{-\frac{\beta}{4}L_0^\rho} J e^{\frac{\beta}{4}L_0^\rho} J x \Phi =$

$T_{\Phi'}^{(\frac{\beta}{4})}(x)$, with $\Phi' = J e^{\frac{\beta}{4} L_0^{\rho}} J \Phi$ is compact (Φ belongs to the domain of $J e^{s L_0^{\rho}} J$ if $s < \frac{\beta}{2}$). As this is the modular nuclearity map $x \in \mathcal{M} \mapsto \Delta^{\frac{1}{4}} x \Phi \in \mathcal{H}$, \mathcal{M} is of type I by [BDL90, Corollary 2.9]. \square

4. Outlook

Although the conformal Hamiltonian is not the physical Hamiltonian, namely it does not implement the time translation QFT flow, there is some physical interest in considering rotational KMS states in CFT.

One example comes from the three-dimensional quantum gravity. If the cosmological constant is assumed to be negative, one should then look at the solutions of the Einstein equation which are asymptotically close to the AdS_3 spacetime. Different solutions have different boundary data and such solutions (with certain fall-off conditions) have been classified in [GL14]. Two copies of the Virasoro group make the transformations between these solutions. Such an action of the Virasoro group is called a coadjoint action [Wit88]. Maloney and Witten [MW10] tried to compute the partition function of the AdS_3 gravity, but they arrived at an expression that cannot be interpreted as a trace over a Hilbert space of the exponential of a self-adjoint operator. It has been proposed to study each orbit of the Virasoro group first, e.g. [GL14]. In particular, one can consider the so-called BTZ black hole solutions [BnTZ92]. In a hypothetical quantum theory, the Virasoro group should appear as a symmetry of the theory, while the black hole should be in a thermal state. Furthermore, the energy, hence the mass, of the black hole corresponds to the conformal Hamiltonian (see [GL14, Eq. (50)]). In this way, KMS states on the Virasoro nets with respect to rotations should appear naturally. From our results, one can conclude that all such KMS states can be represented on the direct sum or integral of the Verma module.

Besides, it is an interesting question to make sense of quantum entropy of such black hole states from the operator-algebraic point of view.

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