

Perspectives on local covariance

CJ Fewster
University of York

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- ▶ The category of locally covariant theories
Can QFT be analysed fruitfully at the functorial level?
- ▶ Physical content of local covariance
Does it enforce the 'same physics in all spacetimes'?

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- ▶ Physical content of local covariance
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Slogan: the **S**ame **P**hysics in **A**ll **S**pacetimes = **SPASs**.

Work in progress; partly in collaboration with R Verch.

Verstehen Sie SPASs?

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- ▶ If a theory represents the same physics in all spacetimes, it should represent the same physics in the same spacetime.
Seek a generally covariant formulation.

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- ▶ If a theory represents the same physics in all spacetimes, it should represent the same physics in the same spacetime.
Seek a generally covariant formulation.
- ▶ If two theories both represent SPASs and are equivalent in one spacetime, then they should be equivalent in all spacetimes.

Example:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g} (\nabla^a \phi \nabla_a \phi - \xi R \phi^2)$$

Although the equation of motion and solution space are independent of $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$ in Ricci-flat spacetimes, these theories are distinguished by the stress-energy tensor.

However,

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{-g} (\nabla^a \phi \nabla_a \phi - \zeta(R) \phi^2)$$

with ζ smooth and vanishing in a neighbourhood of 0, cannot be distinguished from the $\zeta \equiv 0$ model in Ricci-flat spacetimes.

- ▶ SPASs can be ensured by restricting to actions depending analytically on the metric.
- ▶ Not a great problem when constructing models from known Lagrangians – use good taste and experience!
- ▶ More problematic in axiomatic settings.

In this talk we consider a restricted version of SPASs, only comparing theories by embedding one as a subtheory of the other.

Working definition:

A class of theories \mathcal{T} has the SPASs property if no proper subtheory \mathcal{T}' of \mathcal{T} in \mathcal{T} can fully account for the physics of \mathcal{T} in any single spacetime.

Locally covariant QFT BFV: Brunetti, Fredenhagen, Verch (2003)

Define a **locally covariant QFT** to be a functor \mathcal{A} from a category of spacetimes Man to a category of $*$ -algebras Alg

Man

Objects Globally hyperbolic spacetimes with orientation and time orientation.

Morphisms Hyperbolic embeddings, i.e., isometric embeddings with causally convex image that preserve the (time)-orientation.

Alg

Objects Unital $*$ -algebras (or C^* , to taste...)

Morphisms Unit-preserving $*$ -monomorphisms

Unpacking the definition:

- ▶ To each spacetime \mathbf{M} there is an algebra $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})$ of observables
- ▶ To each hyperbolic embedding $\mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbf{N}$ there is

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{A}(\psi)} \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{N})$$

embedding the observables on \mathbf{M} among the observables on \mathbf{N} with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}(\psi \circ \varphi) &= \mathcal{A}(\psi) \circ \mathcal{A}(\varphi) && \text{(covariance)} \\ \mathcal{A}(\text{id}_{\mathbf{M}}) &= \text{id}_{\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})} \end{aligned}$$

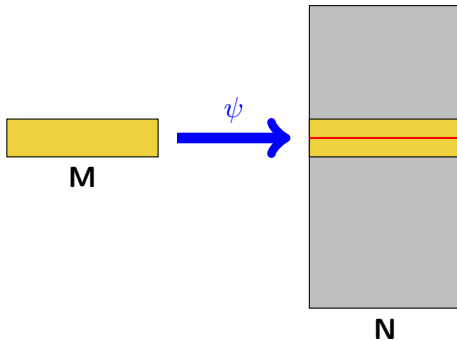
Successes of the locally covariant approach

- ▶ Spin and statistics – Verch
- ▶ Perturbation theory – Brunetti & Fredenhagen;
Hollands & Wald
- ▶ **Existence of a covariant stress-energy tensor** – BFV
- ▶ Superselection theory – Ruzzi; Brunetti & Ruzzi
- ▶ Quantum (Energy) Inequalities – CJF & Pfenning; Marecki
- ▶ Reeh–Schlieder theorem – Sanders

Two key tools

$\psi : \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ is **Cauchy** if $\psi(\mathbf{M})$ contains a Cauchy surface of \mathbf{N} .
 A locally covariant theory \mathcal{A} satisfies the **time-slice axiom** if

ψ is Cauchy $\implies \mathcal{A}(\psi)$ is an isomorphism

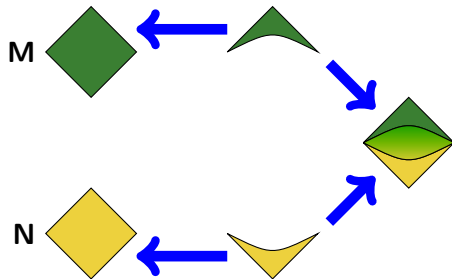


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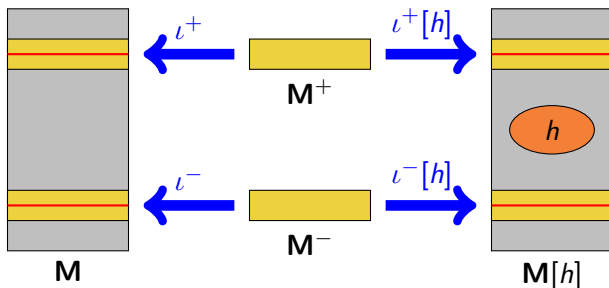
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Any two spacetimes with homeomorphic Cauchy surfaces are linked by Cauchy morphisms. **Fulling, Narcowich & Wald 1981**



Relative Cauchy evolution and the stress-energy tensor



If \mathcal{A} obeys timeslice, any metric perturbation h preserving global hyperbolicity defines an automorphism of $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})$,

$$\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}[h] = \mathcal{A}(\iota^-) \circ \mathcal{A}(\iota^-[h])^{-1} \circ \mathcal{A}(\iota^+[h]) \circ \mathcal{A}(\iota^+)^{-1}$$

whose functional derivative gives a stress-energy tensor:

$$[\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{M}}(f), A] = 2i \left. \frac{d}{ds} \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}[h(s)] A \right|_{s=0} \quad f = \left. \frac{dh(s)}{ds} \right|_{s=0} .$$

The category of locally covariant theories

LCT (= Fun(Man, Alg))

Objects functors from Man to Alg

Morphisms natural transformations

A **natural transformation** $\zeta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ between theories \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} assigns to each \mathbf{M} a morphism $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}) \xrightarrow{\zeta_{\mathbf{M}}} \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{M})$ so that for each hyperbolic embedding ψ ,

$$\zeta_{\mathbf{N}} \circ \mathcal{A}(\psi) = \mathcal{B}(\psi) \circ \zeta_{\mathbf{M}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{\mathbf{M}}} & \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{M}) \\
 \downarrow \mathcal{A}(\psi) & & \downarrow \mathcal{B}(\psi) \\
 \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{N}) & \xrightarrow{\zeta_{\mathbf{N}}} & \mathcal{B}(\mathbf{N})
 \end{array}$$

Interpretation: ζ embeds \mathcal{A} as a **sub-theory** of \mathcal{B} . If every $\zeta_{\mathbf{M}}$ is an isomorphism, ζ is an **equivalence** of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} .

Examples:

- ▶ Given any \mathcal{A} , define $\mathcal{A}^{\otimes k}$ by

$$\mathcal{A}^{\otimes k}(\mathbf{M}) = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})^{\otimes k}, \quad \mathcal{A}^{\otimes k}(\psi) = \mathcal{A}(\psi)^{\otimes k}$$

i.e., k independent copies of \mathcal{A} . Then

$$\eta_{\mathbf{M}}^{k,l} : \mathcal{A}^{\otimes k}(\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\otimes l}(\mathbf{M})$$

$$A \mapsto A \otimes \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})}^{\otimes (l-k)}$$

defines a natural $\eta^{k,l} : \mathcal{A}^{\otimes k} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\otimes l}$ for $k \leq l$.

Naturally, $\eta^{k,m} = \eta^{l,m} \circ \eta^{k,l}$ if $k \leq l \leq m$.

- ▶ Theories with distinct mass spectra in Minkowski space are inequivalent.

Some immediate questions:

- ▶ Is there any operational content to the morphisms of LCT?
Can two morphisms be distinguished on the basis of their action in a single spacetime?
- ▶ How large can the set of morphisms between two theories be?
Can the hom-sets be computed in concrete cases?

Suppose $\zeta, \zeta' : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and $\zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{M}}$ for some \mathbf{M} . Then:

- ▶ if $\mathbf{L} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbf{M}$ then $\zeta_{\mathbf{L}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{L}}$

- ▶ if $\mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathbf{N}$ is Cauchy and \mathcal{A} obeys timeslice then $\zeta_{\mathbf{N}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{N}}$

- ▶ if \mathcal{A} obeys timeslice and \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{N} have homeomorphic Cauchy surfaces then $\zeta_{\mathbf{N}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{N}}$

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$$\mathcal{B}(\psi) \circ \zeta_{\mathbf{L}} = \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \mathcal{A}(\psi) = \zeta'_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \mathcal{A}(\psi) = \mathcal{B}(\psi) \circ \zeta'_{\mathbf{L}}$$

and $\mathcal{B}(\psi)$ is monic.

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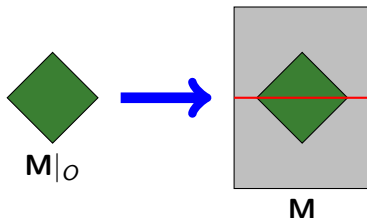
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Using spacetime deformation, there are Cauchy morphisms

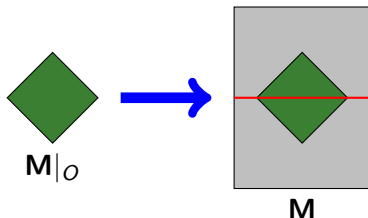
$$\mathbf{M} \leftarrow \mathbf{M}' \rightarrow \mathbf{M}'' \leftarrow \mathbf{M}''' \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$$

A **diamond** O of \mathbf{M} is the domain of determinacy of an open ball w.r.t. local coordinates in a Cauchy surface of \mathbf{M} .



Consider O as a spacetime $\mathbf{M}|_O$, with inclusion $\iota_O : \mathbf{M}|_O \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$.

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Consider O as a spacetime $\mathbf{M}|_O$, with inclusion $\iota_O : \mathbf{M}|_O \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$. Then

$$\zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{M}} \implies \zeta_{\mathbf{M}|_O} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{M}|_O}$$

But all diamonds have homeomorphic Cauchy surfaces:

$$\zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta'_{\mathbf{M}} \implies \zeta_{\tilde{\mathbf{M}}|_{\tilde{O}}} = \zeta'_{\tilde{\mathbf{M}}|_{\tilde{O}}}$$

where \tilde{O} is a diamond of any spacetime $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$.

If \mathcal{A} also obeys **additivity** in the form

$$\mathcal{A}(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}) = \bigvee_O \mathcal{A}(\iota_O)(\mathcal{A}(\tilde{\mathbf{M}}|_O))$$

where O ranges over the diamonds of $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$, then

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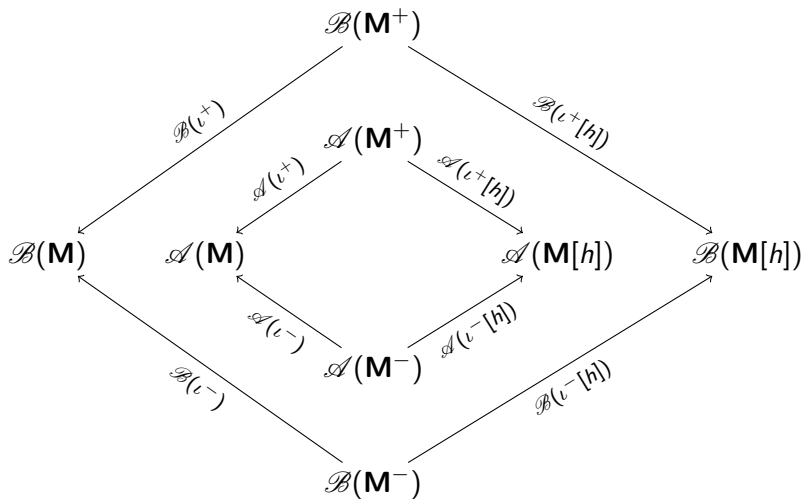
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This result is supplemented by a strong constraint from the r.c.e.:

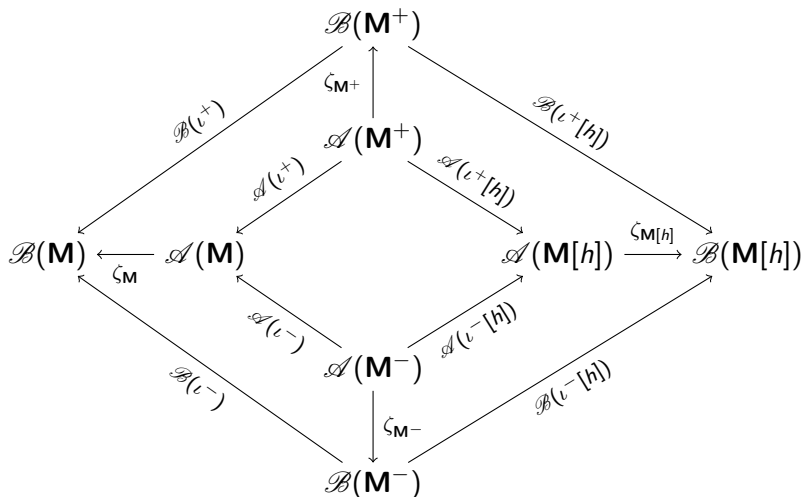
$$\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{B})}[h] \circ \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{A})}[h]$$

for all hyperbolic perturbations h of \mathbf{M} .

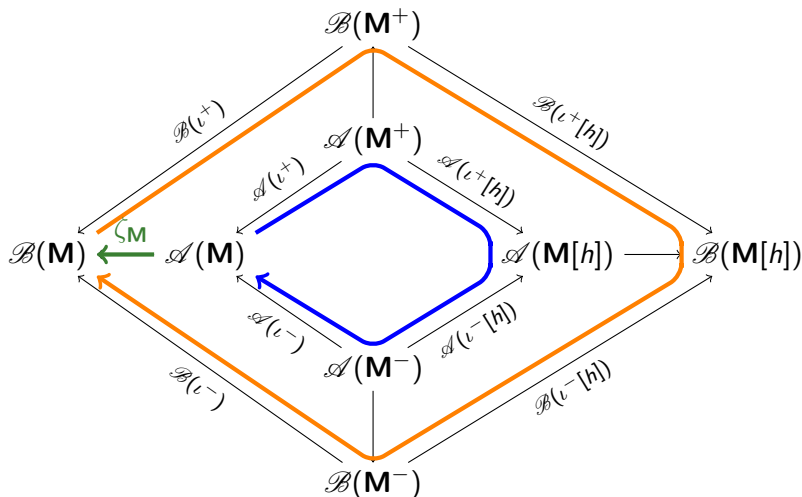
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$$\text{rce}_M^{(\mathcal{B})}[h] \circ \zeta_M = \zeta_M \circ \text{rce}_M^{(\mathcal{A})}[h]$$



Summarising:

Theorem

If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} obey timeslice and \mathcal{A} is additive then

- ▶ $\zeta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ is uniquely determined by any of its components
- ▶ $\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{B})}[h] \circ \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{A})}[h]$
- ▶ if the stress-energy tensors exist as derivations

$$[\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{B})}(f), \zeta_{\mathbf{M}}A] = \zeta_{\mathbf{M}}[\mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{A})}(f), A]$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})$ and symmetric C_0^∞ -tensors f .

Computation in concrete examples now becomes possible.

Example: For $\mathcal{A} =$ real Klein–Gordon field of mass m ,

$$\text{End}(\mathcal{A}^{\otimes N}) = \text{Aut}(\mathcal{A}^{\otimes N})$$

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$$(\zeta_R \Phi)_M(f) = \Phi_M(Rf)$$

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$$(\zeta_{R,\alpha}\Phi)_{\mathbf{M}}(f) = \Phi_{\mathbf{M}}(Rf) + \left(\int d\text{vol}_{\mathbf{M}} \alpha^T f \right) \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})}$$

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Interpretation & consequences:

- ▶ $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ is the global gauge group of ‘field functor’ \mathcal{A}
- ▶ $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ is trivial for an ‘observable functor’.
- ▶ Linear fields of the theory appear in $\text{Aut}(\mathcal{A})$ -multiplets.
- ▶ Superselection theory at the functorial level?
(Complementary to Ruzzi/Brunetti–Ruzzi results)

Fun with functors

Return to the question of whether local covariance implies SPASs.

Any functor $\varphi : \text{Man} \rightarrow \text{LCT}$, i.e.,

$$\varphi \in \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{Alg}))$$

is a locally covariant choice of locally covariant theory.

- ▶ Each $\varphi(\mathbf{M})$ is a theory $\varphi(\mathbf{M}) \in \text{LCT}$
- ▶ Each hyperbolic embedding ψ corresponds to an embedding $\varphi(\psi)$ of $\varphi(\mathbf{M})$ as a sub-theory of $\varphi(\mathbf{N})$.

We use φ to define a **diagonal theory** $\varphi_{\Delta} \in \text{LCT}$.

Diagonal theories

Given $\varphi \in \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{LCT})$, define, for spacetime \mathbf{M} and hyperbolic embedding $\psi : \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$

$$\varphi_{\Delta}(\mathbf{M}) = \varphi(\mathbf{M})(\mathbf{M}) \quad \varphi_{\Delta}(\psi) = \varphi(\psi)_{\mathbf{N}} \circ \varphi(\mathbf{M})(\psi)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \mathbf{M} & & \varphi(\mathbf{M})(\mathbf{M}) & \xrightarrow{\varphi(\psi)_{\mathbf{M}}} & \varphi(\mathbf{N})(\mathbf{M}) \\
 \downarrow \psi & & \downarrow \varphi(\mathbf{M})(\psi) & \searrow \varphi_{\Delta}(\psi) & \downarrow \varphi(\mathbf{N})(\psi) \\
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 \mathbf{N} & & \varphi(\mathbf{M})(\mathbf{N}) & \xrightarrow{\varphi(\psi)_{\mathbf{N}}} & \varphi(\mathbf{N})(\mathbf{N})
 \end{array}$$

φ_{Δ} is a functor and therefore defines a locally covariant theory!

Example:

- ▶ Write $\Sigma(\mathbf{M}) = \text{Cauchy surface of } \mathbf{M} / \text{homeomorphisms}$
- ▶ Let $\mu : \text{Man} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ be a topological invariant of Cauchy surfaces s.t. $\mu(\mathbf{M}) = 1$ if $\Sigma(\mathbf{M})$ is noncompact.
- ▶ Set

$$\varphi(\mathbf{M}) = \mathcal{A}^{\otimes \mu(\mathbf{M})} \quad \varphi(\mathbf{M} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbf{N}) = \eta^{\mu(\mathbf{M}), \mu(\mathbf{N})}$$

Then $\varphi \in \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{LCT})$.

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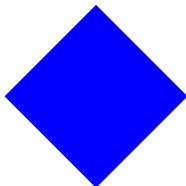
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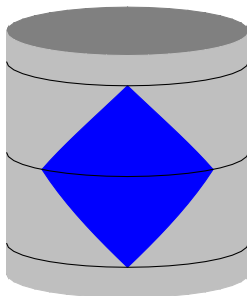
Then $\varphi \in \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{LCT})$.

Key point: If $\Sigma(\mathbf{M})$ is compact and $\exists \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$ then $\Sigma(\mathbf{M}) = \Sigma(\mathbf{N})$. Thus $\mu(\mathbf{M}) \leq \mu(\mathbf{N})$ whenever $\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$; functorial properties follow immediately from properties of $\eta^{k,l}$.

$$\text{E.g. } \mu(\mathbf{M}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \Sigma(\mathbf{M}) \text{ noncompact} \\ 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



$$\varphi_{\Delta}(\mathbf{D}) = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{D})$$



$$\varphi_{\Delta}(\mathbf{C}) = \mathcal{A}^{\otimes 2}(\mathbf{C})$$

The subtheory embeddings $\mathcal{A} \xrightarrow{\varphi_{\Delta}} \mathcal{A}^{\otimes 2}$ are isomorphisms in some spacetimes but not in others. SPASs fails in LCT.

Properties of φ_Δ

1. φ_Δ is more than one copy of \mathcal{A} , but less than two!

$$\mathcal{A} \dashrightarrow \varphi_\Delta \dashrightarrow \mathcal{A}^{\otimes 2}$$

2. φ_Δ shares the **timeslice** and **causality** properties with the underlying theory \mathcal{A} .
3. For any diamond O of any spacetime, $\varphi_\Delta(\mathbf{M}|_O) = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}|_O)$.

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3. For any diamond O of any spacetime, $\varphi_\Delta(\mathbf{M}|_O) = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}|_O)$.
 - ▶ In particular φ_Δ is not additive.
 - ▶ The local algebras are insensitive to the ambient algebra
 - ▶ Is φ_Δ really just one copy of \mathcal{A} in disguise?

Relative Cauchy evolution again

The intertwining rule $\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{B})}[h] \circ \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} = \zeta_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\mathcal{A})}[h]$ implies

$$\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi_{\Delta})}[h] = (\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi)}[h])_{\mathbf{M}} \circ \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi(\mathbf{M}))}[h]$$

where $\text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi)}[h] \in \text{Aut}(\varphi(\mathbf{M}))$ is the r.c.e. of φ in LCT!

If $\text{rce}^{(\varphi)}$ is trivial and stress-energy tensors exist:

$$[T_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi_{\Delta})}(f), A] = [T_{\mathbf{M}}^{(\varphi(\mathbf{M}))}(f), A]$$

E.g., in the example above:

$$T_{\mathbf{D}}^{(\varphi_{\Delta})}(f) = T_{\mathbf{D}}^{(\mathcal{A})}(f); \quad T_{\mathbf{C}}^{(\varphi_{\Delta})}(f) = T_{\mathbf{C}}^{(\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A})}(f)$$

R.c.e. detects ambient degrees of freedom missed by local algebras.

Intrinsic local algebras

For any compact set K define

$$\mathcal{A}^\bullet(\mathbf{M}; K) = \{A \in \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}) : \text{rce}_{\mathbf{M}}[h]A = A \text{ for all } h \in H(\mathbf{M}; K^\perp)\}$$

i.e., the subalgebra insensitive to spacetime geometry in the causal complement K^\perp .

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For any open O , define

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{int}}(\mathbf{M}; O) = \bigvee_{K \subset O} \mathcal{A}^\bullet(\mathbf{M}; K)$$

running over compact K with a diamond neighbourhoods.

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i.e., the subalgebra insensitive to spacetime geometry in the causal complement K^\perp .

For any open O , define

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{int}}(\mathbf{M}; O) = \bigvee_{K \subset O} \mathcal{A}^\bullet(\mathbf{M}; K)$$

running over compact K with a diamond neighbourhoods.
Say that \mathcal{A} is **strongly local** if

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{int}}(\mathbf{M}; O) = \mathcal{A}^{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{M}; O) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{A}(\iota_O)(\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}|_O))$$

for all open globally hyperbolic subsets O of \mathbf{M} .

Consequences of strong locality

- ▶ Additivity: if \mathcal{A} is strongly local then

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M}) = \bigvee_O \mathcal{A}^{\text{int}}(\mathbf{M}; O) = \bigvee_O \mathcal{A}^{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{M}; O)$$

for O running over the diamonds of \mathbf{M} .

- ▶ **SPASs**: Suppose
 - ▶ \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are strongly local,
 - ▶ $\zeta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ and
 - ▶ $\zeta_{\mathbf{M}}$ is an isomorphism for some \mathbf{M}

Then ζ is an equivalence.

The category of strongly local theories has the SPASs property.

Strongly local diagonal theories

Suppose φ_Δ is a diagonal theory (with rce^φ trivial) such that φ_Δ and every $\varphi(\mathbf{M})$ are strongly local.

Then

- ▶ $\varphi(\mathbf{M}) \cong \varphi(\mathbf{N})$ for all $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{N} \in \text{Man}$
- ▶ $\varphi_\Delta \cong \mathcal{A}$ for \mathcal{A} with

$$\mathcal{A}(\psi) = \eta(\psi)_{\mathbf{N}} \circ \varphi(\mathbf{M}_0)(\psi)$$

for every $\psi : \mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$, where $\eta \in \text{Fun}(\text{Man}, \text{Aut}(\varphi(\mathbf{M}_0)))$ and $\mathbf{M}_0 \in \text{Man}$ is arbitrary.

- ▶ If $\text{Aut}(\varphi(\mathbf{M}_0))$ is trivial, then $\varphi_\Delta \cong \varphi(\mathbf{M}_0)$.

Example The Klein–Gordon theory of mass $m > 0$ is strongly local:

$\mathcal{A}^\bullet(\mathbf{M}; K) =$ subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{M})$ generated by
 $\Phi_{\mathbf{M}}(f)$ with $\text{supp } f \subset K$

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Complication: if $m = 0$ and $\Sigma(\mathbf{M})$ is compact then

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{int}}(\mathbf{M}; O) = \mathcal{A}^{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{M}; O) \vee \langle A_0 \rangle$$

where A_0 is the ‘pure gauge’ generator induced by the classical solution $\phi \equiv 1$.

Related to other pathologies (e.g., absence of static ground state).

Summary and outlook

Summary

Local covariance does not enforce SPASs, but does open new ways of analysing QFT.

- ▶ Global gauge group
- ▶ Diagonal theories
- ▶ Strong locality
- ▶ Key role of the r.c.e. and stress-tensor.

Outlook

- ▶ Analysis at the functorial level:
QFT in CST without the spacetimes?
- ▶ Superselection theory?
- ▶ Cohomology of Man

Traditionally: QFT in CST is 'hard' because of the absence of global symmetries available in Minkowski space.

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But perhaps: QFT in Minkowski space is 'hard' because of the absence of the stress-energy tensor available in locally covariant QFT in CST.