The geometry of optimal functionals

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2019 East Asia Joint Workshop in Fields and Strings 2019 &Taiwan String workshop

We are interested in the structure of theory space: the constraint on the parameters or quantum numbers of the theory derived from fundamental principles (consistency conditions)

• S-matrix bootstrap (60s):

Unitarity + Lorentz invariance + locality + causality,

The definition of some of these properties are not known non-perturbatively

String Landscape/swampland:

Conjectural (WGC, distance, non-susy AdS, dS,...) Concrete (anomaly cancellation....)

CFT bootstrap:
 Unitarity + conformal symmetry

Non-perturbative definition

S El-Showk, M. Paulos , D Poland , S Rychkov, D Simmons-Duffine , A. Vichi





CFT bootstrap: start with the 4-pt functions

$$\langle \phi(x_1) \phi(x_2) \phi(x_3) \phi(x_4)
angle = rac{\mathcal{G}(z)}{|x_{12}|^{2\Delta_\phi} |x_{34}|^{2\Delta_\phi}}$$

Unitarity + conformal symmetry

$$Unitarity: \ \mathcal{G}(z) = \sum_{\Delta_O \in \phi imes \phi} c_{\Delta_O}^2 G_{\Delta_O}(z)$$

$$Crossing: \ \mathcal{G}(z) = \left(rac{z}{1-z}
ight)^{2\Delta_{\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z)$$

Quanta magazine February 23, 2017

GEOMETRY OF THEORY SPACE

Physicists are uncovering a high-dimensional polyhedron that defines the space of allowed conformal field theories (CFTs), which are the building blocks of all quantum theories. The plot below shows which three-dimensional CFTs are allowed. Viable theories have defining properties called "critical exponents" that fall in the pink region. Surprisingly, interesting theories like the 3-D Ising model — a model of a magnet that has the same critical exponents as real magnets, water and other materials at the points where they undergo phase transitions — seem to live at the corners of the polyhedron.

Unknown polyhedron



How do we characterize the boundary?

Let's consider 1 D CFT as an example

$$G_{\Delta}(z)=z^{\Delta}{}_2F_1(\Delta,\Delta,2\Delta,z)$$

 $Crossing: \; \mathcal{G}(z) = \left(rac{z}{1-z}
ight)^{2\Delta_{\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z)$

$$Unitarity: \ \mathcal{G}(z) = \sum_{\Delta_O \in \phi imes \phi} c_{\Delta_O}^2 G_{\Delta_O}(z)$$

let's consider the Taylor expansion

 $\mathcal{G}(z) o ec{\mathcal{G}} = egin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}^0 \ \mathcal{G}^1 \ \mathcal{G}^2 \ ec{\cdot} \ \mathcal{G}^n \end{pmatrix} \qquad G_{\Delta}(z) o ec{\mathbf{G}}_{\Delta} = egin{pmatrix} G_{\Delta}^0 \ G_{\Delta}^1 \ G_{\Delta}^2 \ ec{\cdot} \ \mathcal{G}_{\Delta}^2 \ ec{\cdot} \ \mathcal{G}_{\Delta}^n \end{pmatrix}$

The four point function lives in the convex hull of block vectors



Crossing says that the four-point function is on a sub plane

the crossing plane

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{G}^1 &= 4 \Delta_{\phi} \mathcal{G}^0 \ \mathcal{G}^3 &= rac{16}{3} (\Delta_{\phi} - 4 \Delta^3) \mathcal{G}^0 + 4 \Delta_{\phi} \mathcal{G}^2 \ \mathcal{G}^5 &= rac{64}{15} \Delta_{\phi} (32 \Delta_{\phi}^4 - 20 \Delta_{\phi}^2 + 3) \mathcal{G}^0 - rac{16}{3} \Delta_{\phi} (4 \Delta_{\phi}^2 - 1) \mathcal{G}^2 + 4 \Delta_{\phi} \mathcal{G}^4 \end{aligned}$$

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let's consider the Taylor expansion

Crossing says that the four-point function is on a sub plane the crossing plane

The four point function is consistent if it lies on the intersection between the crossing plane $X[\Delta \phi]$ and the unitarity polytope $U[{\Delta i}]$.

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 $\mathcal{G}(z)
ightarrow ec{\mathcal{G}} = egin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}^0 \ \mathcal{G}^1 \ \mathcal{G}^2 \ dots \ \mathcal{G}^n \end{pmatrix} \ G_\Delta(z)
ightarrow ec{\mathbf{G}}_\Delta = egin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}^0 \ \Omega \ \Delta \ \mathcal{G}^1 \ \mathcal{G}^2 \ \mathcal{G}^2 \ dots \ \mathcal{G}^2 \ dots \ \mathcal{G}^n \end{pmatrix}$

The problem is then finding the boundary of the spectrum for intersection

$$Crossing: \; \mathcal{G}(z) = \left(rac{z}{1-z}
ight)^{2\Delta_{\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z)$$

 $G_{\Delta}(z)=z^{\Delta}{}_2F_1(\Delta,\Delta,2\Delta,z)$



For numerical bootstrap, the boundary is defined through the root of optimal functionals. Reorganize crossing symmetry

$$\sum_{\Delta} c_{\Delta}^2 \Big[z^{-2\Delta_{\phi}} G_{\Delta}(z) - (1-z)^{-2\Delta_{\phi}} G_{\Delta}(1-z) \Big] = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{\Delta} c_{\Delta}^2 F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}}(z) = 0$$

Consider a linear functional

$$\omega(F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}}) = \left[a_1 \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}z} + \frac{a_3}{3!} \frac{\mathrm{d}^3}{\mathrm{d}z^3} + \dots + \frac{a_{2N+1}}{(2N+1)!} \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2N+1}}{\mathrm{d}z^{2N+1}}\right] F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}}(z)\Big|_{z=1/2} = \alpha \cdot \mathbf{F}_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}}(z)\Big|_{z=1/2}$$

when acted on crossing symmetry

$$\omega \Big[\sum_{\Delta} c_{\Delta}^2 F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}}(z) \Big] = \omega \Big[F_0^{\Delta_{\phi}} \Big] + \sum_{\Delta} c_{\Delta}^2 \omega \Big[F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\phi}} \Big] = 0$$

Thus



The optimal functional is the functional whose last single root is the lowest. The optimal

$$lpha=(a_1,a_3,\ldots,a_{2N+1})$$

- The original problem is geometric, the boundary of its solution is nongeometric ??
- There are strong indications that there is deep structure behind the optimal functionals

Optimal functional for modular bootstrap chiral algebra U(1)^c maps to the linear programing bound for sphere packing density with d=2c

Thomas Hartman, Dalimil Mazac, Leonardo Rastelli

Let us go back to the original geometric picture: we are asking for a unitary polytope that intersects with the crossing plane

The unitary polytope is special, it is a cyclic polytope! N. Arkani-Hamed, S. H. Shao, YTH

The vectors of the convex hull form positive determinants when ordered

$$\langle \mathbf{G}_{\Delta_1}, \mathbf{G}_{\Delta_2}, \cdots, \mathbf{G}_{\Delta_n} \rangle > 0, \quad \Delta_1 < \Delta_2 < \cdots < \Delta_n$$



This immediately leads to the conclusion that the boundaries are known

$$egin{array}{ll} d \in \ odd: & (0,\Delta_i,\Delta_{i+1},\Delta_j,\Delta_{j+1},\dots) \cup (\Delta_i,\Delta_{i+1},\Delta_j,\Delta_{j+1},\dots,\infty) \ \ d \in \ even: & (\Delta_i,\Delta_{i+1},\Delta_j,\Delta_{j+1},\dots) \end{array}$$

where

$$(\Delta_i, \Delta_{i+1}) \rightarrow (\Delta_i, \dot{\Delta}_i)$$

The boundaries of a convex hull:

$$A' = w_1 U'_1 + \cdots + w_n U'_n, \quad w_i > 0, \sum_{i=1}^n w_i = 1$$

The line (bc) is a boundary but (ac) is not. This is because while the hull (A) is ONLY on one side of (bc), it can be on either side of (ac), including on (ac)

 $det[A, U_a, U_c] = 0$

Thus for boundaries if must satisfy

 $det[A, U_i, U_j] > 0, \quad \forall A$



A new form of positivity trivializes the problem!

Let's say we have a set of vectors, with a well defined ordering. If its ordered determinant is positive:

$$det[U_{i_1}, U_{i_2}, \cdots, U_{i_k}] > 0, \quad \forall \ i_1 < i_2 < i_3 \cdots < i_k$$

The convex hull of U_i is a cyclic polytope

It's boundaries are known

 $d = 2: (i, i+1), \quad d = 3: (0, i, i+1), (i, i+1, \infty), \quad d = 4: (i, i+1, j, j+1) \cdots$

Exp: Let $A = aU_6 + bU_9$ with a, b > 0

 $Det[A, U_4, U_5, U_7, U_8] = a Det[U_6, U_4, U_5, U_7, U_8] + b Det[U_9, U_4, U_5, U_7, U_8]$ = $a Det[U_4, U_5, U_6, U_7, U_8] + b Det[U_4, U_5, U_7, U_8, U_9]$ = a (positive) + b (positive)

Let us go back to the original geometric picture: we are asking for a unitary polytope that intersects with the crossing plane

Consider d=2N+1, the crossing plane is N-dimensional

$$N=2 \qquad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4\Delta_{\phi} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{16}{3}(\Delta_{\phi} - 4\Delta_{\phi}^3) & 4\Delta_{\phi} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \frac{64}{15}\Delta_{\phi}(32\Delta_{\phi}^4 - 20\Delta_{\phi}^2 + 3) & \frac{16}{3}(\Delta_{\phi} - 4\Delta_{\phi}^3) & 4\Delta_{\phi} \end{pmatrix}$$

The crossing plane intersects the an N dimensional face of the polytope

$$(\Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \Delta_{i_2}, \Delta_{i_3}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N})$$

at a point A,

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{G}_{\Delta_{i_1}} \langle \Delta_{i_1+1}, \Delta_{i_2}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N}, \mathbf{X} \rangle - \mathbf{G}_{\Delta_{i+1}} \langle \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N}, \mathbf{X} \rangle + \dots \\ + (-1)^N \mathbf{G}_{i_N} \langle \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N-1}, \mathbf{X} \rangle$$

for the point to be inside the polytope

$$egin{aligned} &\langle \Delta_{i_1+1}, \Delta_{i_2}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N}, \mathbf{X}
angle, \ (-1)^N \langle \Delta_{i_2}, \Delta_{i_3}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N}, \Delta_{i_1}, \mathbf{X}
angle, \ &\langle \Delta_{i_3}, \dots, \Delta_{i_N}, \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \mathbf{X}
angle, \quad same \ sign \end{aligned}$$

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After projecting through (X,0), the geometry is N dim and we are seeking N+1 points on the block curve such that origin is enclosed.



What does this have to do with optimal functionals?



From the fact that the vectors form a cyclic polytope, we conjecture the functional for N = 2k+1 is $\omega(F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\psi}}) = \begin{vmatrix} \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \Delta_{i_2}, \Delta_{i_2+1}, \dots, \Delta_{i_k}, \Delta_{i_k+1}, \Delta \rangle \end{vmatrix}$

We need a collection of k points to define the functional.

The geometry at fixed N is N-dimensional when projected through X,0. We are looking for a set of N+1 vertices to enclose the origin. For the gap, we must be on a degenerate simplex where the gap is one of it's vertices. Thus we are looking for k points and the gap (k+1 points on the curve) that form an k-dimensional sub plane!

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We need a collection of k points to define the functional.

Thus we are looking for k points and the gap (k+1 points on the curve) that form an k-dimensional sub plane! This allows us to solve the functional at any derivative order with arbitrary precision!

For arbitrary $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k, \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_{gap}, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \ldots, \Delta_k, \mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{v}_k \rangle = 0$

For 2N+1 derivative expansion, after projecting through the crossing plane and 0, the collection of k+1 (N=2k+1) points that enclose the origin is unique, and gives the optimal functional

$$\omega(F^{\Delta_{\phi}}_{\Delta}) = \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \Delta_{i_2}, \Delta_{i_2+1}, \dots, \Delta_{i_k}, \Delta_{i_k+1}, \Delta
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$$\omega(F_{\Delta}^{\Delta_{\psi}}) = \langle \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{0}, \Delta_{i_1}, \Delta_{i_1+1}, \dots, \Delta_{i_{k-1}}, \Delta_{i_{k-1}+1}, \infty, \Delta \rangle$$

This predicts that at the infinite derivative order, the optimal functional should yield a series of double zero above the gap, which corresponds to the complete spectrum of the theory



This simplex picture also allows us to develop a recursive method to carve out the entire spectrum!

For fixed N, a consistent CFT must contain N+1 set of operators that form a simplex containing the origin.

- Any set of operators $\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_n, \Delta_{n+1}\}$ that contain the origin.
- There must exists an N subset $\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_n\}$ such that when combined with ∞ encloses the origin. Denote this set as \mathbf{S}_n
- For each element in S_n , consider all Δ_{n+1} such that the resulting tuple enclosed the origin. Denote this set as T_n . The space of all possible vertices for such simplex is $S_n \cup T_n$
- Now lets move to N+1. The set \mathbf{S}_{n+1} is now the set of all $\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_n, \Delta_{n+1}\}$ such that when combined with ∞ , encloses zero

$$\begin{split} &\langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_n \rangle > 0 \\ &\langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_{n-1}, \infty \rangle < 0, \quad \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_{n+1}, \infty \rangle > 0, \cdots, \quad \text{e.t.c.} \end{split}$$

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- There must exists an N subset $\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \cdots, \Delta_n\}$ such that when combined with ∞ encloses the origin.
 - Denote this set as S_n
- For each element in S_n , consider all Δ_{n+1} such that the resulting tuple enclosed the origin. Denote this set as vertices for such simplex is $S_n \cup T_n$. The space of all possible
- Now lets move to N+1. The set S_{n+1} is now the set of all such that when combined with ∞ , encloses zero $\{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \dots, \Delta_n, \Delta_{n+1}\}$

The space of $|\mathbf{S}_{n+1}|$ is a subspace of $|\mathbf{S}_n \cup \mathbf{T}_n|$, i.e. \mathbf{S}_n is further constrained

Let's consider explicit example, up to 5 Bounding ($\Delta 1, \Delta 2, \Delta 3$)



Let's consider explicit example, up to 5, 7 deriv. Bounding ($\Delta 1, \Delta 2, \Delta 3$)



Let's consider explicit example, up to 5. Bounding ($\Delta 1, \Delta 2, \Delta 3, \Delta 4, \Delta 5...$)



The convex hull being a cyclic polytope can be found in

• Diagonal limit of 2D global blocks K. Sen, A. Sinha and A. Zahed

$$G_{d,\Delta,0}(z) = \left(rac{z^2}{1-z}
ight)^{rac{\Delta}{2}} {}_3F_2 igg[rac{1+rac{\Delta-d}{2},rac{\Delta}{2},rac{\Delta}{2}}{rac{\Delta+1}{2}};rac{z^2}{4(z-1)}igg]$$



when $\Delta_{\phi} < \Delta_{kink}, \omega(\Delta) = \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta^*, \Delta \rangle$ when $\Delta_{\phi} > \Delta_{kink}, \omega(\Delta) = \langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \infty, \Delta \rangle$

For arbitrary \mathbf{v}_1 , $\langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_+, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle = 0$

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We again find, for 2N+1 derivative expansion, after projecting through the crossing plane and 0, the collection of k+1 (N=2k+1) points that enclose the origin is unique, and gives the optimal functional



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 $\Delta_T (\Delta_+)$

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For arbitrary \mathbf{v}_1 , $\langle \mathbf{X}, 0, \Delta_{gap}, \infty, \mathbf{v}_1 \rangle = 0$

The convex hull being a cyclic polytope can be found in

• Modular bootstrap:

$$F(\zeta) = \sum_{d>0} N_d \exp(-d \exp(\zeta) + d), \quad N_d \ge 0,$$

$$q = e^{-2\pi e^{\zeta}}$$

$$S: \zeta \to -\zeta$$
expanding around $\zeta = 0$

$$F(\zeta) = \sum_{\mu=0}^{\infty} F_n \zeta^n,$$

$$\exp(-d \exp(\zeta) + d) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(d) \zeta^n,$$

$$F_1 = -\frac{\pi(c-1)+3}{6} F_0 - \frac{\pi}{6} (1-q_0)^2 c = \frac{1}{6} (1-q_0) (3q_0 - 3 - 25\pi q_0 + \pi),$$

$$F_2,$$

$$F_3 = -\frac{\pi(c-1)+3}{6} F_2 + \left[\frac{\pi^3}{648} c^2 - \frac{\pi^2(\pi-3)}{216} c^2 + \frac{\pi(\pi^2 - 6\pi + 3)}{216} c + \frac{27 - 9\pi + 9\pi^2 - \pi^3}{648} \right] F_0$$

$$+ \frac{\left[\frac{\pi^3(1-q_0)^2}{648} c^3 - \frac{\pi^2(\pi-3)(1-q_0)^2}{216} c^2 + \frac{\pi(\pi^2 - 6\pi + 3)}{216} c + \frac{27 - 9\pi + 9\pi^2 - \pi^3}{648} \right] F_0$$

$$+ \frac{(27 - 9\pi + 9\pi^2 - \pi^3) - 2(27 + 531\pi - 2043\pi^2 + 1079\pi^3) g_0 + (27 + 1071\pi - 7983\pi^2 + 7775\pi^3) g_0^2}{648}$$

The convex hull being a cyclic polytope can be found in

Modular bootstrap:

expanding around
$$\zeta = 0$$

 $\begin{pmatrix} F_0 \\ F_1 \\ F_2 \\ F_3 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \sum_d N_d \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$

We again have a convex hull problem, where the vertices are simply a GL transformation from the moment curve, i.e. a canonical cyclic polytope!

$$c_{0} = 1, c_{1} = -d, c_{2} = \frac{1}{2}(d^{2} - d), c_{3} = -\frac{1}{6}(d^{3} - 3d^{2} + d), c_{4} = \frac{1}{24}(d^{4} - 6d^{3} + 7d^{2} - d)$$

$$GL \text{ transform} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ x^{2} \\ \vdots \\ x^{d} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{P}^{d}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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expanding around $\zeta = 0$

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The numerical optimal functional again given by the degenerate intersection conditions



SUMMARY

- We have seen that the geometry behind the bootstrap program can be approached analytically in many instances, 1 D CFT, 2D CFT diagonal limit, Modular bootstrap
- The optimal functionals, which characterize the boundary of the theory space, is given by a degenerate simplex, which is unique. Allows us to analytically solve the functional
- The same approach applies globally for the spectrum, where the optimal functional for each operator is given by intersection condition, and the space is carved out recursively.
- The same geometric interpretation leads to a geometric definition of the kink
- Similarly there is a geometric definition of the bound for OPE coefficients
- Inclusion of spins, and move off-diagonal

A.Sinha, A. Zahed, Wei Li, YTH coming to theater soon!