

Quantum field theories on Lorentzian manifolds

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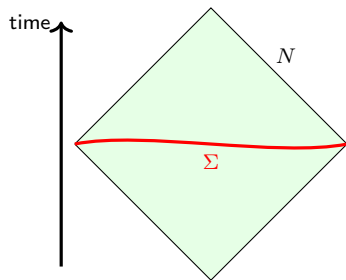
THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Geometric/Topological Quantum Field Theories and Cobordisms,
15–18 March 2023, NYU Abu Dhabi.

Based on a research program with [Marco Benini](#), with contributions from
S. Bruinsma, S. Bunk, V. Carmona, C. Fewster, L. Giorgetti, A. Grant-Stuart, J. MacManus,
G. Musante, M. Perin, J. Pridham, P. Safronov, U. Schreiber, R. Szabo and L. Woike.

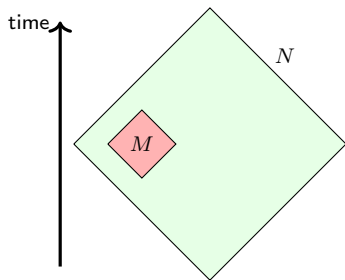
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- ◇ **Spacetime** := oriented and time-oriented globally hyperbolic Lorentzian manifold N



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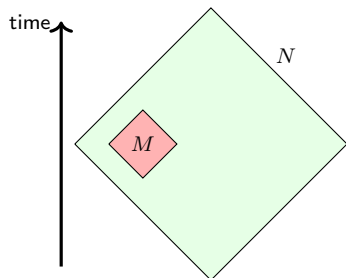
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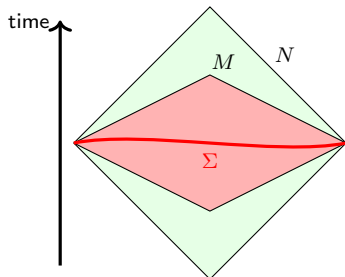


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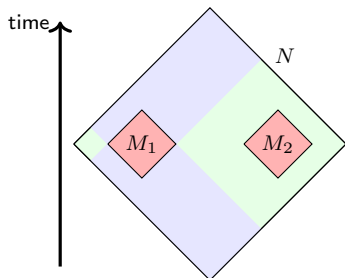
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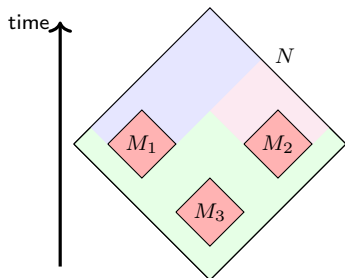


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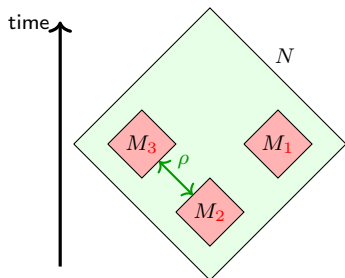


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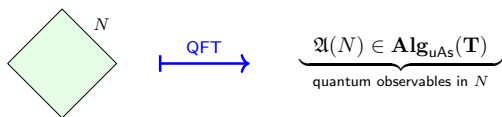
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What's a QFT on Lorentzian spacetimes?

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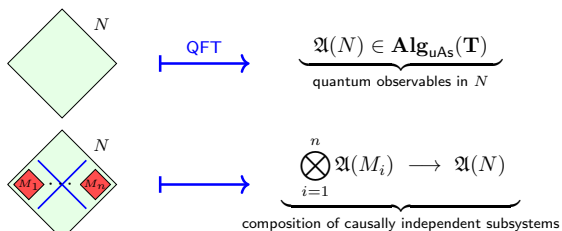
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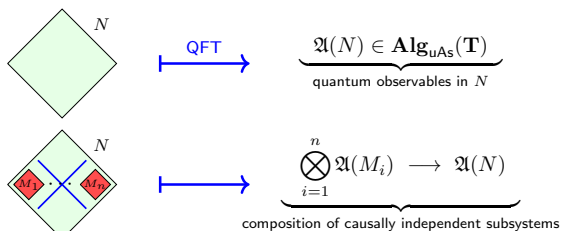
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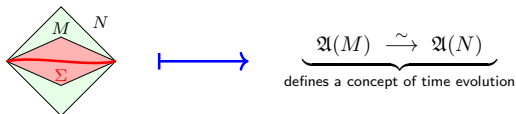


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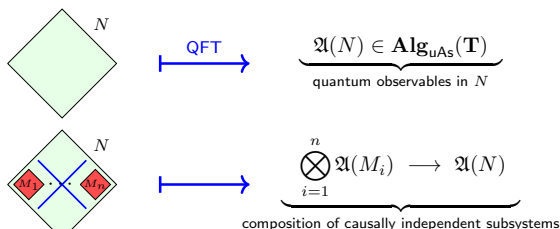


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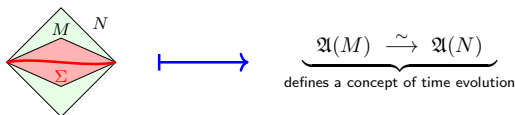


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- This is governed by the **AQFT operad** [Benini/AS/Woike, Benini/Carmona/AS]

$$\mathcal{O}_{(\text{Loc}_m, \perp)}[\text{Cauchy}^{-1}]^\infty \simeq (\mathcal{P}_{(\text{Loc}_m, \perp)} \otimes \text{uAs})[\text{Cauchy}^{-1}]^\infty$$

Classification in low dimensions (for target $\mathbf{T} = \text{SM 1-category}$)

Prop: [Benini/Woike/AS] Given orthogonal category (\mathbf{C}, \perp) and $W \subseteq \text{Mor } \mathbf{C}$, then

$$\mathcal{O}_{(\mathbf{C}, \perp)}[W^{-1}] \simeq \mathcal{O}_{(\mathbf{C}[W^{-1}], L_*(\perp))} \quad ,$$

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◇ *Open problem:* Higher dimensions? Some speculations later...

Strictifying the time-slice axiom (for $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{Ch}_{\mathbb{K}}$ with $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$)

- ◇ There are two (i.g. different) model categories for $\mathbf{Ch}_{\mathbb{K}}$ -valued AQFTs:
 - (i) Strict time-slice axiom (projective model structure)

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Thm: [Benini/Carmona/AS] The localization functor $L : (\mathbf{C}, \perp) \rightarrow (\mathbf{C}[W^{-1}], L_*(\perp))$ defines a Quillen adjunction

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Rem: Very different behavior to topological QFTs (via locally constant factorization algebras on \mathbb{R}^m) $\leftrightarrow \mathbb{E}_m$ -algebras [Lurie, Ayala/Francis]

Construction of free (non-interacting) QFTs on \mathbf{Loc}_m

- ◇ *Input data:* A natural collection $\{\mathcal{F}(M), Q_M, \omega_M\}_{M \in \mathbf{Loc}_m}$ of **free BV theories** [Costello/Gwilliam], i.e. $(\mathcal{F}(M), Q_M)$ is a complex of differential operators and ω_M is a (-1) -shifted symplectic structure.

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Ex: Linear Yang-Mills theory [Benini/Bruinsma/AS]

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \Omega_K^0(M)^{(-1)} & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega_K^1(M)^{(0)} & \xrightarrow{\delta d} & \Omega_K^1(M)^{(1)} & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \Omega_K^0(M)^{(2)} \\
 \downarrow \subseteq & \swarrow \delta G_{\square}^\pm & \downarrow \subseteq & \swarrow G_{\square}^\pm & \downarrow \subseteq & \swarrow dG_{\square}^\pm & \downarrow \subseteq \\
 \Omega_{J_M^\pm(K)}^0(M) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega_{J_M^\pm(K)}^1(M) & \xrightarrow{\delta d} & \Omega_{J_M^\pm(K)}^1(M) & \xrightarrow{\delta} & \Omega_{J_M^\pm(K)}^0(M)
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Comparison to factorization algebras (à la [Costello/Gwilliam])

- ◇ Time-orderable prefactorization algebras on \mathbf{Loc}_m [Benini/Perin/AS]:

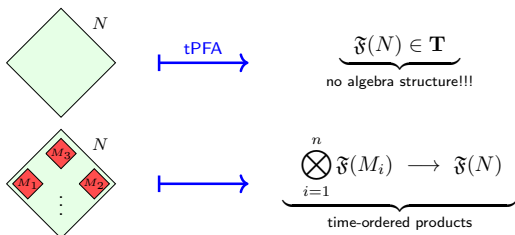
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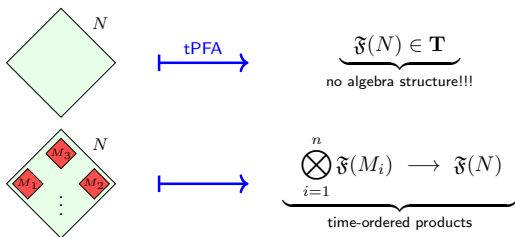
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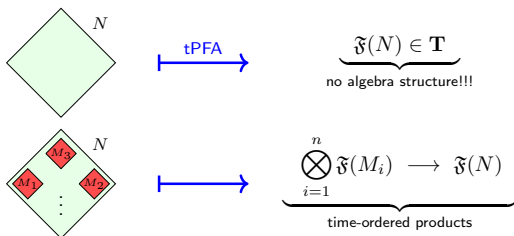
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- ◇ With some Lorentzian geometry, one shows that there exists an operad morphism $\Phi : \mathfrak{tP}_{\mathbf{Loc}_m} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{(\mathbf{Loc}_m, \perp)}$ to the AQFT operad.

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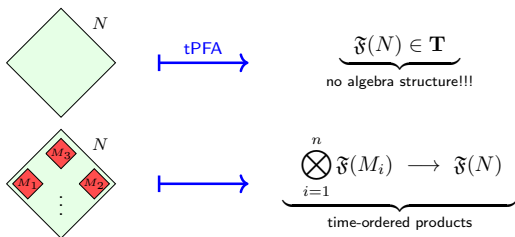
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Thm: [Benini/Perin/AS] For target $\mathbf{T} =$ cocomplete SM 1-category, we have an equivalence of categories

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Comparison to factorization algebras (à la [Costello/Gwilliam])

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- ◇ *Open problem:* Generalization to $\mathbf{T} =$ SM ∞ -category, in particular $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{Ch}_{\mathbb{K}}$? In this case there are so far only example-based comparisons [Gwilliam/Rejzner, Benini/Musante/AS].

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- Open problem:* What corresponds on the FFT side to the additional AQFT structure given by spatial locality? Is this related to extended field theories?

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- Ex:**
- (i) Orbifold σ -models with fields $\phi : M \rightarrow [X/G_{\text{finite}}]$ [Benini/Perin/AS/Woike]
 - (ii) Non-Abelian Yang-Mills theory on spatial lattices [Benini/Pridham/AS]