The Tameness of QFTs and CFTs

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Based on:

2209.nnnn with Mike Douglas, Lorenz Schlechter2112.08383 Tameness conjecture

B2S workshop series - 2022



Tameness conjecture [TG '21]

Is tameness a general property of quantum gravity?

QG

QFTs

Is tameness general property of landscape of effective theories compatible with QG?

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- Grothendieck's dream to develop math. framework for geometry:
 → tame topology [Esquisse d'un programme]

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sets in o-minimal structure S: tame sets

functions with graph being a tame set: tame functions

→ tame manifold, tame bundles... a tame geometry

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Some evidence from string theory

Type IIB/F-theory pure flux vacuum landscape is tame
 pure flux vacua: G₄ ∈ H⁴(Y₄, Z) G₄ = *G₄ ∫_{Y₄} G₄ ∧ G₄ = ℓ

Theorem: This vacuum landscape given by fluxes and moduli is a tame set! [Bakker,TG,Schnell,Tsimerman '21]

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 Coupling functions in effective actions are tame functions of moduli [TG][TG,van Vliet] in progress

Relation between tameness, distance, and axionic string conjecture
 [TG,Lanza,Li]

[Lanza, Marchesano, Martucci, Valenzuela]

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Conjecture:All correlation functions are tame functions.Set of all CFTs is tame if d.o.f. are bounded (and gap in 2d).

Tameness in perturbative QFTs

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- tameness is useful already without gravity

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$$I(p,m) = \int \left(\prod_{r=1}^{L} \frac{\mathrm{d}^{d}k}{i\pi^{d/2}}\right) \left(\prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{D_{j}^{v_{j}}}\right) \longrightarrow I(z) = \int_{\gamma} \Omega$$

review book by [Weinzierl]

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- Use: all steps only involve tame maps, period integrals are tame maps in o-minimal structure R_{an,exp}
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Idea of the proof

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- Key point: renormalizable theories have only finitely many counterterms → tameness preserved by finite composition

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2d theories: (2,2) GLSMs appearing in Type II CY compactifications $Z_{S^2} = e^{-K} = \overline{\Pi}\eta\Pi$ tame due to relation to periods

• Consider in 0d:
$$S = \frac{m^2}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4 \rightarrow Z = \sqrt{\frac{3}{\lambda}}e^{\frac{3m^4}{4\lambda}} m K_{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{3m^4}{4\lambda}\right)$$

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 General question: What are the precise conditions on Lagrangians in *d*=0,1 such that *Z* is tame?

proposal in [Douglas, TG, Schlechter] - should be answerable!

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Fancy: $W_{\xi} = YP_{\xi}(X_1, \dots, X_k)^2 + \sum Z_a(\sin 2\pi i X_a)^2$ [Tachikawa] (susy or not susy is undecidable)

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Integrate out $\mathcal{M}_{\text{vac}} = \left\{ \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi_1} = 0 \right\} \cap \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \text{intersection of tame spaces}$ heavy $\phi_1:$ $m_1 > \Lambda$ $V(\phi_1, \phi_2) \rightarrow V(\langle \phi_1 \rangle, \phi_2) \rightarrow \text{projection of tame function}$

Tameness of CFTs



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 - \rightarrow finiteness of CFTs,

non-zero radius of convergence in CFT perturbation theory, ...

[Douglas,TG,Schlechter]

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CFT Tameness Conjecture

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Call the o-minimal structure: \mathbb{R}_{CFTd}

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• Tameness question: Is $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{T}}$ an o-minimal/tame structure?

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structure generated by real polynomials:
R_{alg} o-minimal

start with $P(x_1, ..., x_n) = 0$ $\stackrel{\text{structure}}{\text{axioms}}$ $P_i(x_1, ..., x_n) = 0$ $\tilde{P}_k(x_1, ..., x_n) > 0$

- Add correlation functions + set \mathcal{P} of the set \mathcal{T} of *d*-dim. CFTs $P(x_1, ..., x_n, f_1(x), f_2(x), ..., f_n(x)) = 0 \xrightarrow{\text{structure}} \mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{T}}$
- Tameness question: Is $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{T}}$ an o-minimal/tame structure?
- Note: well-known o-minimal structures are \mathbb{R}_{\exp} , \mathbb{R}_{an} , $\mathbb{R}_{an,\exp}$ - recently: $\mathbb{R}_{\mathcal{G}^*,\exp}$ defines $\Gamma(x)|_{(0,\infty)}$ and $\zeta(x)|_{(0,1)}$ [Rolin etal '22]

Tameness in Quantum Gravity

[Douglas,TG,Schlechter]

Interesting: perturbative string theory is not tame
→ perturbative amplitudes have infinitely many poles

[Douglas,TG,Schlechter]

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Is non-perturbative string theory tame?

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perturbative 2d non-critical string partition function not tame

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perturbative 2d non-critical string → 3d non-critical M-theory [Horava, partition function not tame × 4d non-critical M-theory [Horava]

[Douglas,TG,Schlechter]

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Does tameness require that strings become membranes?

[Douglas,TG,Schlechter]

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Does tameness require that strings become membranes?

- AdS/CFT correspondence: quantum gravity in AdS_{d+1} space is defined in the o-minimal structure \mathbb{R}_{CFTd}



Thanks!

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