

# On the UV/IR mixing problem on the noncommutative Minkowski space

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## Main point

### Quantum Field Theory

Quantum fields in position space  
Noncommutative flat spacetime  
UV-IR Mixing

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Euclidean noncommutative field theory and Minkowskian noncommutative field theory have very different properties, especially regarding renormalization.

There are indications that hard ultraviolet/infrared mixing might be **absent** on the noncommutative Minkowski space. Certainly it would be **different**: absence proved for a certain class of graphs.

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Example [**Spoiler**]: contrary to Euclidean ncQFT, the insertion of



into higher order graphs, e.g.



is **well defined** in Minkowskian ncQFT.

# Quantum Field Theory on $\mathbb{R}^4$

- ▶ Starting point: partial differential equation (free field eqn)

$$(\partial_t^2 \pm \Delta + m^2)\varphi = 0$$

mass  $m > 0$ . The **signature** matters:

- hyperbolic (Minkowskian) versus
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- ▶  $\varphi$  is an operator valued **distribution**.
- ▶ **Interaction:**

$$(\partial_t^2 \pm \Delta + m^2)\varphi = -g P'(\varphi)$$

$P'$  derivative of a polynomial,  $g$  coupling constant

# Operator valued distributions

The free field  $\varphi$  is in fact an operator valued distribution. We write

$$\varphi(f) = \int d^4x \varphi(x) f(x)$$

for a testfunction  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ .

$u$  is an operator valued distribution provided

- ▶ it maps a Schwartzfunction  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4)$  to an **operator on Fockspace**  $u(f)$
- ▶ such that for any two elements  $\psi_1, \psi_2$  of Fockspace, the map

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4) \ni f \mapsto \langle \psi_1, u(f) \psi_2 \rangle$$

defines a **tempered distribution**.



# Free fields

- ▶ Free field

$$\varphi(f) = \int d^4x \varphi(x) f(x)$$

- ▶ For **signature**  $(\partial_t^2 - \Delta + m^2)$  we have:

$$\varphi(x) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}^{-1} (a(\mathbf{k}) e^{ikx} + a^*(\mathbf{k}) e^{-ikx})|_{k=(\omega_{\mathbf{k}}, \mathbf{k})}$$

- ▶ with  $\omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + m^2}$   
annihilation, creation operators  $a(\mathbf{k}), a^*(\mathbf{k})$  on Fock space  
and  $kx = k_{\mu} \eta^{\mu\nu} x_{\nu}$  with  $\eta = (+1, -1, -1, -1)$  (**signature**)
- ▶ Eventually, testfunctions  $f$  are removed in the formalism (adiabatic limit).

# Perturbation theory

Idea: interacting theory determined by free field

- ▶ Functional integral approach [[Euclidean](#)]
- ▶ S-matrix approach (Dyson series) [[Minkowskian](#)]
- ▶ Yang-Feldman approach (based on the field equation) [[both signatures](#)]

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 # edges + # open edges at a given vertex **determined by  $P$**
- ▶ Graphs correspond to distributions

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \\ x \qquad y \end{array} \leftrightarrow \Delta_E(x - y) \quad \text{Euclidean propagator}$$

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$\Delta_E =$  distributional fundamental solution for  $(\partial_t^2 + \Delta + m^2)$   
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# Feynman graph example

Example: fish graph [Minkowskian]

$$\begin{array}{c} p_1 \\ \hline \bullet \\ x \end{array} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ y \\ \hline p_2 \end{array} \leftrightarrow \int d^4x d^4y \Delta_F(x-y)^2 e^{ip_1x} e^{ip_2y} g(x,y)$$

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and perform the integrals over  $x$  and  $y$

$$\int d^4x d^4y \int d^4k_1 d^4k_2 \tilde{\Delta}_F(k_1) \tilde{\Delta}_F(k_2) e^{-i(k_1+k_2)(x-y)} e^{ip_1x} e^{ip_2y}$$

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and 2-point-function (distribution)  $f \mapsto \Delta_+(f)$  with kernel

$$\Delta_+(x - y) = \langle \Omega, \varphi(x)\varphi(y)\Omega \rangle$$

with  $\varphi$  the free field.

## Connection with $S$ -matrix formalism

In  $S$ -matrix formalism, **two ingredients**:

Heaviside functions  $\theta$  from **time order  $T$** ,

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$S$ -matrix:

$$S = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^n}{n!} T \int dt_1 \dots dt_n H_I(t_1) \dots H_I(t_n)$$

with **interaction Hamiltonian**  $H_I(t) = \int_{x^0=t} d^3\mathbf{x} g P(\varphi)$ ,

time ordering  **$T$** , the free field  $\varphi$  i.e.  $(\partial_t^2 - \Delta + m^2)\varphi = 0$ .

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Example:  $H_I(t) = \int_{x^0=t} d^3\mathbf{x} g \varphi^3(x)$

$$S_2 \propto \int d^4x d^4y (\theta(x_0 - y_0) : \varphi(x)^3 : : \varphi(y)^3 : + (x \leftrightarrow y)) g(x)g(y)$$

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$$\langle p | : \varphi(x)^3 : : \varphi(y)^3 : | q \rangle \rightarrow e^{-ipx} e^{iqy} \Delta_+^2(x - y) + \dots$$

$\theta$  and  $\Delta_+$  appear such that together they yield **product** of Feynman propagators  $\Delta_F$ .

long known – success story of Feynman over Dyson rules.

Euclidean vs. Minkowskian on  $\mathbb{R}^4$ 

The Euclidean propagator  $\Delta_E$  is distributional fundamental solution for  $(\partial_t^2 + \Delta + m^2)$ ,

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**Theorem** (Osterwalder+Schrader): Perturbation theory based on  $\Delta_E$  is in 1:1 relation with that based on  $\Delta_F$ . They can be transformed into one another via the Wick rotation.

## Excursion: Renormalization in position space

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- ▶ Products of Feynman propagators  $\Delta_F^n$  (in position space) are ill-defined.
- ▶ Idea: products of Feynman propagators are well-defined distributions on testfunctions  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , **not** on testfunctions  $g$  with  $0 \in \text{supp}(g)$  (method: **wavefront sets**).
- ▶ Renormalization  $\simeq$  **extension of distributions**.
- ▶ Example: , for  $g \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int dx dy (\Delta_F(x-y)^2)_R e^{ip_1 x} e^{ip_2 y} g(x) g(y) \\ &= \int du dy \Delta_F(u)^2 (e^{ip_1(u+y)} e^{ip_2 y} g(u+y) g(y) \\ & \quad - w(u) e^{i(p_1+p_2)y} g(y) g(y)) \end{aligned}$$

$w$  **renormalization functions** (counterterms) with  $w(0) = 1$ , fixed by **renormalization conditions**.

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The combinatorics is taken care of by Zimmermann’s forest formula (more recently reformulated in the framework of the Hopf algebras by Connes+Kreimer)



# Noncommutative flat spacetime: $M_\theta$ and $E_\theta$

**Weyl algebra** generated by  $e^{ikq}$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{R}^4$ ,  $q_0, \dots, q_3$  generators of the Heisenberg algebra, i.e.

$$e^{ikq} e^{ipq} = e^{i(k+p)q} e^{-\frac{i}{2}k\theta p}, \quad k, p \in \mathbb{R}^4$$

with  $\theta$  antisymmetric **maximal rank**  $4 \times 4$ -matrix over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

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**Signature:** linear combinations  $kq = k_\mu \eta^{\mu\nu} q_\nu$  with

$$\eta = (1, +1, +1, +1) \quad \rightarrow \quad E_\theta \quad (\text{Euclidean})$$

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and accordingly for the **twisting**.

# Quantum Fields on $M_\theta$ and $E_\theta$

1. Let  $S$  be the set of states  $\omega$  on the Weyl algebra whose associated Wigner functions  $\psi_\omega$  are Schwartzfunctions. The free field  $\phi$  on the Weyl algebra  $E_\theta$  or  $M_\theta$  is the operator valued distribution  $S \ni \omega \mapsto \phi(\omega) := \varphi(\psi_\omega)$  with  $\varphi$  the ordinary **free field** of Euclidean or Lorentz signature.

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2. **Effective picture:** define  $\mathcal{S}(M_\theta)$  and  $\mathcal{S}(E_\theta)$  via  $(\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4), \star)$  with **twisted convolution product**  $\star$ ,

$$f \star g(x) = \int d^4k d^4p \tilde{f}(k) \tilde{g}(p) e^{-\frac{i}{2}k\theta p} e^{i(k+p)x}$$

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3. Formally, we do the same with free fields  $\varphi$ . Formulas for  $\phi$  look the same as when definition 1. is extended to products of fields. **Interaction term**:  $\varphi^{\star n}(x)$ .

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- ▶ Rules comparatively simple (**ribbon graphs**).

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- ▶ This talk: approach which bears most similarity with noncommutative Euclidean Field Theory (cf. V. Rivasseau's talk):  $S$ -matrix with interaction term  $\varphi^{*n}$ .

# Perturbation theory on $M_\theta$ – continued

- ▶  $S$ -matrix formalism. Described as an effective noncommutative field theory on  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , by replacing products of fields by twisted convolution products  $\star$ , i.e. with interaction Hamiltonian

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**But:** in general no Feynman propagators on  $M_\theta$ .

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$$\theta \Delta_+^{*2}(x - y) + \theta \Delta_+^{*2}(y - x) \neq \Delta_F^{*2}(x - y)$$

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- ▶ In **nonplanar graphs** (with crossing lines), time ordering (Heaviside function  $\theta$ ) and 2-point function  $\Delta_+$  can **not** in general be joined to yield (twisted convolution products of) **Feynman propagators** [B04].

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 No problem with unitarity in careful analysis (based on effective Hamiltonian), where Heaviside and 2-point-function treated on a different footing [B, Doplicher, Fredenhagen, Piacitelli 03] as sketched above.



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- ▶ Price to pay: rules **very complicated** [B04, Piacitelli 04, Sibold 04, Denk+Schweda 04]. Not many calculations done so far.

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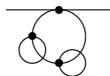
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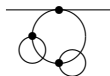


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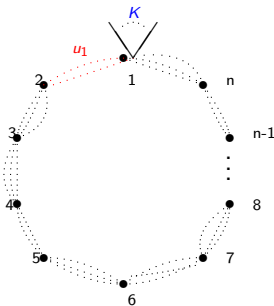
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- ▶ Only way out: special models with translation invariance breaking term (**harmonic oscillator**) [Grosse+Wulkenhaar]  $\rightarrow$  resummable? [Rivasseau]

Calculations were done in momentum space, actual mechanism not very well understood. Let's have another look (ordinary QFT):



$$\int d^D x_1 \dots d^D x_n u_1(x_1 - x_2) u_2(x_2 - x_3) \dots u_n(x_n - x_1) e^{iKx_1}$$

$$= \delta(K) \int d^D p \tilde{u}_1(p) \tilde{u}_2(p) \dots \tilde{u}_n(p)$$

The **product** of Fourier transforms of the distributions  $u_i$  appears!

On  $E_\theta$ : exactly the same expression for the circle graph, different only in the distributions  $u$  that can appear,  
e.g.

$$\text{circle graph with points } x \text{ and } y \leftrightarrow u_E(x-y)$$

with

$$u_E(x-y) = \int d^D k d^D p \frac{1}{k^2 + m^2} \frac{1}{p^2 + m^2} e^{-ik\theta p} e^{ip(x-y)}$$

which is a  $C^\infty$ -function if and only if **twisting** is present. In fact,

$$u_E(x-y) = \int d^D p \Delta_E(\theta p) \tilde{\Delta}_E(p) e^{ip(x-y)}$$

$\Rightarrow$  the **Fourier transform** of  $u_E$  contains both the Fourier transform  $\tilde{\Delta}_E$  and  $\Delta_E$  itself!

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$\Rightarrow$  If  $u_E$  appears more than  $(D - 2)$  times in a circle graph: **divergence**.

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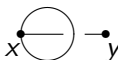
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Dispersion relation: IR behaviour is strange but (possibly) no hard mixing.

# Outlook

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What makes this so difficult?

- No cyclic symmetry, only 3-momentum conservation at vertex.
- Often graphs only make sense as oscillatory integrals, whereas in Euclidean framework, often finite graphs correspond to  $C^\infty$ -functions.
- Mixture of position/momentum space renormalization methods needed.
- Lack of Feynman propagators  $\Rightarrow$  only limited use of known techniques.

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# Outlook (speculation)

- ▶ On a more general level: understand Lorentz invariance violation... Gauge theories: where is the  $S$  of  $SU(n)$ ?...
- ▶ Possibly necessary: think about noncommutative space as a space of **internal degrees of freedom** – as in Connes' standard model!

Framework [?]: tensor products of fields defined for quasiplanar Wick products [BDFP]:

$$\int dx_1 \dots dx_n f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \phi(q + x_1) \dots \phi(q + x_n)$$

Rethink: not  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^4$  are auxiliary, but the noncommuting coordinates  $q$ !

- ▶ Connection with work by Grosse and Lechner? Buchholz and Lechner?