

# Mixed Correlators in 3D Conformal Field Theories

Alex Atanasov

Supervised by: David Poland

May 2017

# Outline

Background on CFT and the Conformal Bootstrap

Prior Results in the Space of 3D Ising-Like CFTs

New Results from 3-Point Symmetry

New Results from “Theta Scan”

# Introduction to CFT

- ▶ Quantum field theory studies the expectation values of products of **quantum fields**,  $\mathcal{O}_i$  that transform under the **Poincare group** of symmetries preserving length + angle in spacetime.

# Introduction to CFT

- ▶ Quantum field theory studies the expectation values of products of **quantum fields**,  $\mathcal{O}_i$ ; that transform under the **Poincare group** of symmetries preserving length + angle in spacetime.
- ▶ Conformal field theories (CFTs) consist of fields that transform under the larger **conformal group** of transformations that preserve only angle: Poincare + scalings + inversions.

# Introduction to CFT

- ▶ Quantum field theory studies the expectation values of products of **quantum fields**,  $\mathcal{O}_i$ ; that transform under the **Poincare group** of symmetries preserving length + angle in spacetime.
- ▶ Conformal field theories (CFTs) consist of fields that transform under the larger **conformal group** of transformations that preserve only angle: Poincare + scalings + inversions.
- ▶ CFT plays a central role in the development of modern physics, appearing in the study of phase transitions, string theory, and dualities in quantum gravity.

# Introduction to CFT

- ▶ Quantum field theory studies the expectation values of products of **quantum fields**,  $\mathcal{O}_i$  that transform under the **Poincare group** of symmetries preserving length + angle in spacetime.
- ▶ Conformal field theories (CFTs) consist of fields that transform under the larger **conformal group** of transformations that preserve only angle: Poincare + scalings + inversions.
- ▶ CFT plays a central role in the development of modern physics, appearing in the study of phase transitions, string theory, and dualities in quantum gravity.
- ▶ A CFT gives rise to **correlation functions**:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \dots \mathcal{O}_n(x_n) \rangle .$$

Conversely, these correlators give information about a CFT.

# Correlation Functions

- ▶ Conformal symmetry constrains the form of all two point correlators

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2) \rangle = \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{2\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$

# Correlation Functions

- ▶ Conformal symmetry constrains the form of all two point correlators

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2) \rangle = \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{2\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$

- ▶ and the three point correlators:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2)\mathcal{O}(x_3) \rangle = \frac{C_{123}}{|x_{12}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}|x_{23}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}|x_{31}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$



# Correlation Functions

- ▶ Conformal symmetry constrains the form of all two point correlators

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2) \rangle = \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{2\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$

- ▶ and the three point correlators:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2)\mathcal{O}(x_3) \rangle = \frac{C_{123}}{|x_{12}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}|x_{23}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}|x_{31}|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$

$C_{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $C_{123}$  are constants depending only on the field  $\mathcal{O}$ .  
 $\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}$  is called the **scaling dimension** of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

# Crossing Symmetry: The Conformal Bootstrap

- ▶ **Operator product expansion (OPE):** The product of any two conformal fields can be written as a series of “primary” fields and their derivatives.

# Crossing Symmetry: The Conformal Bootstrap

- ▶ **Operator product expansion (OPE):** The product of any two conformal fields can be written as a series of “primary” fields and their derivatives.
- ▶ Associativity condition on the 4-point functions:

$$\langle \overbrace{\phi(x_1)\phi(x_2)} \overbrace{\phi(x_3)\phi(x_4)} \rangle = \langle \phi(x_1)\overbrace{\phi(x_2)\phi(x_3)}\phi(x_4) \rangle$$

# Crossing Symmetry: The Conformal Bootstrap

- ▶ **Operator product expansion (OPE):** The product of any two conformal fields can be written as a series of “primary” fields and their derivatives.
- ▶ Associativity condition on the 4-point functions:

$$\langle \overbrace{\phi(x_1)\phi(x_2)} \overbrace{\phi(x_3)\phi(x_4)} \rangle = \langle \overbrace{\phi(x_1)\phi(x_2)\phi(x_3)} \underbrace{\phi(x_4)} \rangle$$

- ▶ This constraint, together with the OPE allows us to determine whether a given set of CFT data (field scaling dimensions, etc.) can give rise to an actual CFT.

# The Space of 3D Ising-Like CFTs

- ▶ In 3D, operators of scaling dimension  $\leq 3$  are called **relevant**.

# The Space of 3D Ising-Like CFTs

- ▶ In 3D, operators of scaling dimension  $\leq 3$  are called **relevant**.
- ▶ The 3D ising model has two relevant operators:  $\sigma$ ,  $\varepsilon$  with scaling dimensions

$$\Delta_\sigma = 0.5181489, \quad \Delta_\varepsilon = 1.412625$$

# The Space of 3D Ising-Like CFTs

- ▶ In 3D, operators of scaling dimension  $\leq 3$  are called **relevant**.
- ▶ The 3D ising model has two relevant operators:  $\sigma$ ,  $\varepsilon$  with scaling dimensions

$$\Delta_\sigma = 0.5181489, \quad \Delta_\varepsilon = 1.412625$$

- ▶ Key Question:

Are there other 3D “Ising-like” CFTs?

# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )



# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )
2. One is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even, one is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd

# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )
2. One is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even, one is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd
  - ▶ Key question rephrased (open problem):

# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )
2. One is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even, one is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd

▶ Key question rephrased (open problem):

What other values of  $(\Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\varepsilon)$  give rise to valid 3D CFTs?

# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )
2. One is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even, one is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd

▶ Key question rephrased (open problem):

What other values of  $(\Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\varepsilon)$  give rise to valid 3D CFTs?

▶ Conjectured answer:

# What do we mean by “Ising-like”

1. Two relevant operators (scaling dimensions  $< 3$ )
2. One is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even, one is  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -odd

▶ Key question rephrased (open problem):

What other values of  $(\Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\varepsilon)$  give rise to valid 3D CFTs?

▶ Conjectured answer:

Literally none.

## Method of Attack

- ▶ Expansions of functions corresponding to the associativity of the correlators  $\langle \sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rangle$ ,  $\langle \varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma\sigma\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$  give us the constraints for the CFT.

# Method of Attack

- ▶ Expansions of functions corresponding to the associativity of the correlators  $\langle \sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rangle$ ,  $\langle \varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma\sigma\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$  give us the constraints for the CFT.
- ▶ Essentially, we want to see whether a given series can equal zero

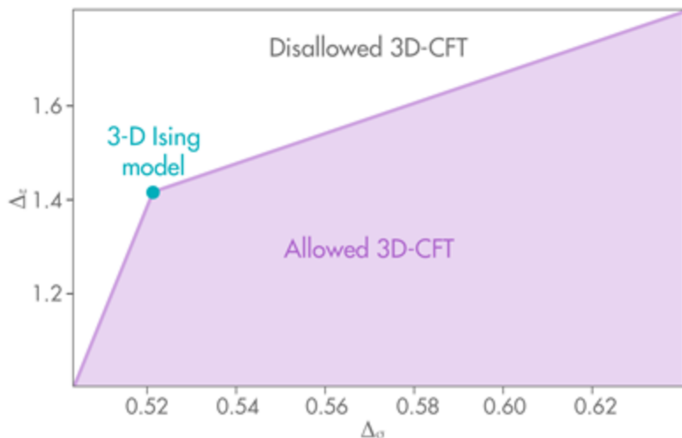
# Method of Attack

- ▶ Expansions of functions corresponding to the associativity of the correlators  $\langle \sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rangle$ ,  $\langle \varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$ ,  $\langle \sigma\sigma\varepsilon\varepsilon \rangle$  give us the constraints for the CFT.
- ▶ Essentially, we want to see whether a given series can equal zero
- ▶ This leads a task in semidefinite programming, implemented by David Simmons-Duffin's 'SDPB'



## Prior Results

Using just the associativity conditions on  $\langle \sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rangle$ <sup>1</sup>:



<sup>1</sup>No assumption on the number of relevant operators

THEORETICAL PHYSICS

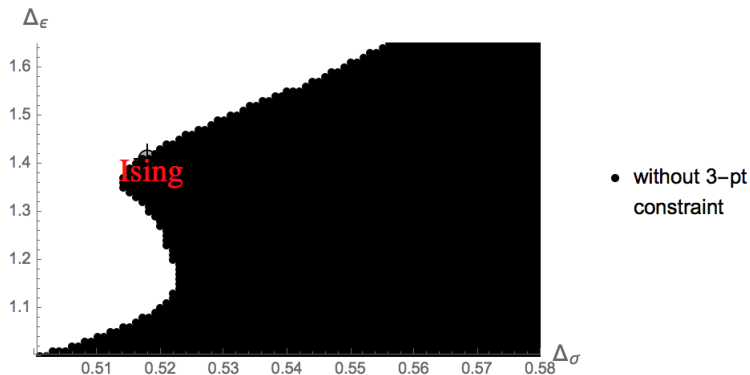
## Physicists Uncover Geometric ‘Theory Space’

 16 | 

*A decades-old method called the “bootstrap” is enabling new discoveries about the geometry underlying all quantum theories.*

# Prior Results

Using mixed correlators<sup>2</sup>:

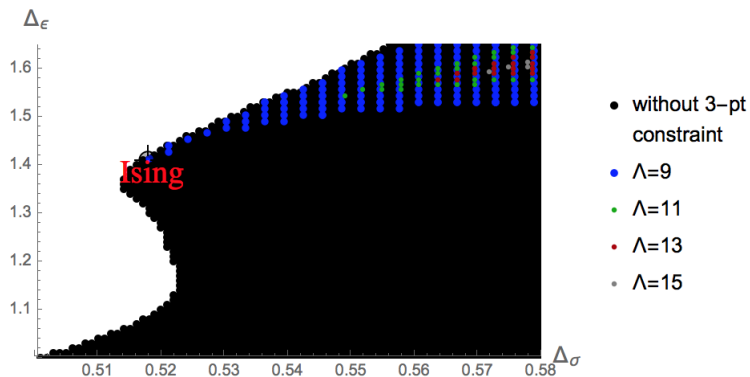


---

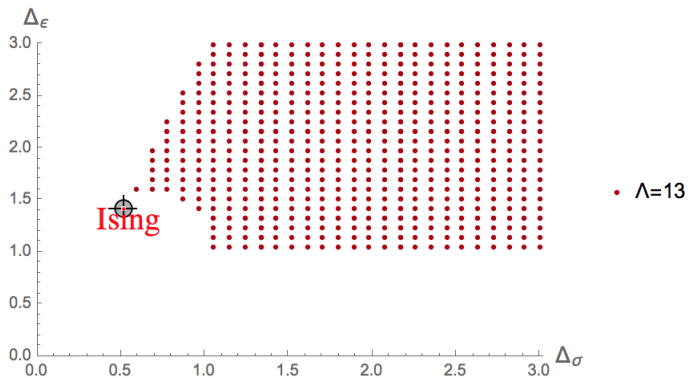
<sup>2</sup>Plotted from Aaron Hillman's work last semester

# Enforcing 3 point Symmetry

Using the package 'cboot' that makes use of a further symmetry in the 3-point coefficients  $\lambda_{\sigma\epsilon\sigma} = \lambda_{\sigma\sigma\epsilon}$ :



Not very close to being global...



## Scanning over 3-point Functions

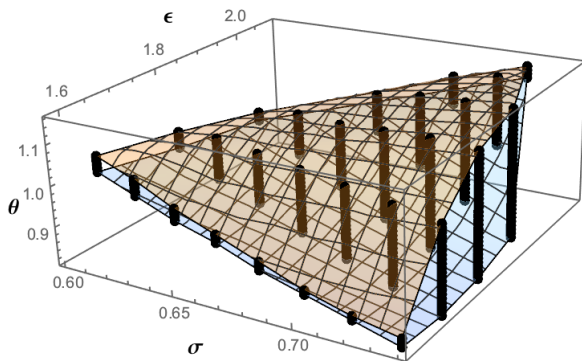
Define  $\tan \theta = \lambda_{\sigma\sigma\epsilon}/\lambda_{\epsilon\epsilon\epsilon}$ .

We now scan over all possible  $(\Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\epsilon, \theta)$ :

# Scanning over 3-point Functions

Define  $\tan \theta = \lambda_{\sigma\sigma\epsilon} / \lambda_{\epsilon\epsilon\epsilon}$ .

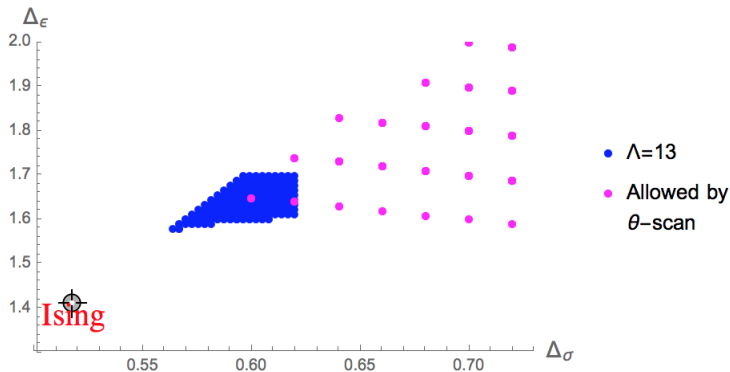
We now scan over all possible  $(\Delta_\sigma, \Delta_\epsilon, \theta)$ :



# Scanning over 3-point Functions

Define  $\tan \theta = \lambda_{\sigma\sigma\epsilon} / \lambda_{\epsilon\epsilon\epsilon}$ .

Projection to 2D:





# Results

1. Wrote a wrapper to SDPB/cboot that allows for a flexible user interface to check whether a given set of points could contain CFTs.

# Results

1. Wrote a wrapper to SDPB/cboot that allows for a flexible user interface to check whether a given set of points could contain CFTs.
2. Used the Yale HPC cluster to constrain the space of possible CFTs using 3-point symmetry

# Results

1. Wrote a wrapper to SDPB/cboot that allows for a flexible user interface to check whether a given set of points could contain CFTs.
2. Used the Yale HPC cluster to constrain the space of possible CFTs using 3-point symmetry
3. Theta scan now working, and obtained results at  $\Lambda = 13$

# Results

1. Wrote a wrapper to SDPB/cboot that allows for a flexible user interface to check whether a given set of points could contain CFTs.
2. Used the Yale HPC cluster to constrain the space of possible CFTs using 3-point symmetry
3. Theta scan now working, and obtained results at  $\Lambda = 13$

Next steps:

# Results

1. Wrote a wrapper to SDPB/cboot that allows for a flexible user interface to check whether a given set of points could contain CFTs.
2. Used the Yale HPC cluster to constrain the space of possible CFTs using 3-point symmetry
3. Theta scan now working, and obtained results at  $\Lambda = 13$

Next steps:

1. See how we can get results using much higher  $\Lambda$ , e.g.  $\Lambda = 30$ .
2. Trace the size of the region excluded as a function of  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$