Towards Three-Dimensional Conformal Probability

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Abstract: In this outline of a program, based on rigorous renormalization group theory, we introduce new definitions which allow one to formulate precise mathematical conjectures related to conformal invariance as studied by physicists in the area known as higher-dimensional conformal bootstrap which has developed at a breathtaking pace over the last five years. We also explore a second theme, intimately tied to conformal invariance for random distributions, which can be construed as a search for a very general first and second-quantized Kolmogorov-Chentsov Theorem. First-quantized refers to regularity of sample paths. Second-quantized refers to regularity of generalized functionals or Hida distributions and relates to the operator product expansion. Finally, we present a summary of progress made on a $p$-adic hierarchical model and point out possible connections to number theory.

1 General context

The typical calculus sequence in North American universities goes as follows: Calculus I (differentiation in one variable), Calculus II (integration in one variable), Calculus III (differentiation and integration in finitely many variables). As is well known, the programmatic content of this sequence was worked out at the heuristic level by Newton, Leibniz and others in the 17th century. Yet it almost took two more centuries in order to become a fully rigorous part of mathematics. One may argue that this sequence continues well into the graduate curriculum, and far beyond, into the unknown. Calculus IV (differentiation in infinitely many variables) relates to the calculus of variations and the notions of Gateau and Fréchet differentiability. It became well understood in the beginning of the 20th century. By contrast, Calculus V (integration in infinitely many variables or functional integration) is at a less advanced stage. It started with the construction of Wiener measure for Brownian motion and most of modern probability theory or stochastic calculus can be seen as an effort to develop Calculus V. A deep theory for functional integration has been invented by Kenneth G. Wilson, namely, renormalization group (RG) theory. It is largely heuristic. However, as emphasized in [17] it is a systematic calculus with a wide range of applications. Indeed, a search on Google Scholar with the exact phrase “renormalization group” returns more than 160,000 articles! Most of this literature is non-rigorous and belongs to physics but there is also a substantial body of work where the RG is implemented in a mathematically rigorous way. The contents of this program fall within this research area known as rigorous RG theory or modern constructive quantum field theory. Rigorous RG theory started with the results [37, 38] on hierarchical models and it was shown to work in the Euclidean case in [94]. Recent results in the field are: 1) Falco’s work on the Coulomb gas in 2D [85, 86]; 2) the series of articles [24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 51, 52, 53, 54, 168] by Bauerschmidt, Brydges, Slade and Tomberg on the $N$-component $\phi^4$ model in four dimensions, including $N = 0$ or the weakly self-avoiding walk; and 3) the work by Chandra, Guadagni and the author [11, 12, 13, 60] on the $p$-adic Brydges-Mitter-Scoppola (BMS) model. The latter is both easier and harder than 2). It is easier since it deals with a hierarchical rather than Euclidean model,
although one must stress that the methods used are not ad hoc ones which only apply to hierarchical models (as, e.g., in the old work \cite{37} \cite{38}) but ones which have been developed and shown to work in the Euclidean setting \cite{50} \cite{2}. It is harder since the regime studied is below the upper critical dimension and involves a nontrivial RG fixed point corresponding to a highly non-Gaussian scaling limit (the word “highly” will be explained later).

Conformal probability (CP) is a very active area in probability. Its main objects of study are scaling limits of models from statistical mechanics. Such limits often exhibit a rich and nontrivial symmetry, namely, conformal invariance (CI). The simplest example is provided by the time-inversion invariance of Brownian motion $tB_{1/t} \overset{d}{=} B_t$ proved by Paul Lévy in \cite{122}. Much deeper is the analogous invariance under conformal transformation in the 2D space of “time parameters” for the Ising model critical scaling limit \cite{58} \cite{61} which represents the culmination of major effort led by Schramm, Smirnov and others. Define the lattice couplings $J_{x,y}$ for $x,y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ by the indicator function of $x,y$ being nearest neighbors. Given a single site probability measure $\nu_{ss} = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_1 + \delta_{-1})$ on $\{-1,1\}$, a nonnegative parameter $\beta$, and a finite set or volume $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$ one can define the probability measure $\nu_{\beta,\Lambda}$ on $\{-1,1\}^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ by

$$d \nu_{\beta,\Lambda}(\sigma) = \frac{1}{Z_{\beta,\Lambda}} \exp \left( \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{x,y \in \Lambda} J_{x,y} \sigma_x \sigma_y \right) \times d \left( \otimes_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \nu_{ss} \right)(\sigma)$$

where $Z_{\beta,\Lambda}$ is the normalization constant or partition function. Using the Griffiths inequalities it is easy to construct the infinite volume Gibbs measure $\nu_{\beta}$ at inverse temperature $\beta$ and zero magnetic field as the weak limit of $\nu_{\beta,\Lambda}$ when $\Lambda \nearrow \mathbb{Z}^2$. The corresponding spin correlations $\langle \sigma_{x_1} \cdots \sigma_{x_n} \rangle = E(\sigma_{x_1} \cdots \sigma_{x_n})$ are well defined and translation invariant. This choice of boundary condition is called “free” in rigorous statistical mechanics and “Dirichlet” in constructive quantum field theory. At the critical temperature, i.e., when $\beta = \beta_c = \frac{1}{2} \log(1 + \sqrt{2})$, the correlations exhibit power-law decay at large distances, e.g., $\langle \sigma_x \sigma_y \rangle \sim |x - y|^{-2[\phi]}$ where the symbol $[\phi]$ stands for the scaling dimension of the continuum field $\phi$ in the scaling limit. This is also minus the Hurst self-similarity exponent. For Ising in $d = 2$ dimensions, $[\phi] = \frac{1}{2}$. Let $L > 1$ be a fixed integer and let $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ and for given spin configuration $\sigma = (\sigma_x)_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2}$ define the tempered Schwartz distribution $\Phi_r = L^{r(d-[\phi])} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \sigma_x \delta_{L^r x}$ where $\delta_{L^r x}$ is the delta function located at $L^r x$. Let $\nu_{\phi,r}$ be the probability measure on $S'(\mathbb{R}^2)$ obtained as direct image by the previous map from $\nu_{\beta}$. It follows from the combined results of \cite{58} \cite{61} that the scaling limit $\nu_{\phi}$, obtained as weak limit of $\nu_{\phi,r}$ when $r \to -\infty$, exists, is non-Gaussian and satisfies (global) CI (in a sense to be explained later). The articles \cite{58} \cite{61} prove much more and in particular address local CI. However, this program focuses on the “full plane” situation and global CI. Indeed, only the latter is available in dimension $d = 3$ and the ultimate goal of this program is to prove a result analogous to the one mentioned above for the three-dimensional BMS model \cite{50} \cite{2} which conjecturally is the scaling limit of a long-range Ising model \cite{138} \cite{148}. The result in \cite{58} \cite{61} gives a rigorous proof for predictions \cite{31} \cite{32} made by physicists working in conformal field theory (CFT) which is a proper subset of quantum field theory (QFT). However, from the point of view of physics this is rather well understood and standard textbook material \cite{70}. By contrast, this program aims at establishing direct rigorous mathematical contact with very hot physics, i.e., the area of higher-dimensional conformal bootstrap (HDCB). The CI of the 3D BMS model is the object of a recent prediction \cite{148} by researchers in this area.
2 Long-term view and precise motivating conjectures

The BMS model corresponds to probability measures on distributions \( \phi \) in \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \) which can be formally written as

\[
\frac{1}{Z} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{2} (\phi, (-\Delta)^{\alpha} \phi)_{L^2} - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left\{ g \phi(x)^4 + \mu \phi(x)^2 \right\} \, d^3x \right) \, D\phi
\]

where the fractional power of the Laplacian is \( \alpha = \frac{3-4\epsilon}{4} \) with \( 0 < \epsilon \ll 1 \) and \( D\phi \) is the nonexistent Lebesgue measure on \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \). The rigorous study of such measures necessitates regularization. Let \( \rho_{UV} \) be a mollifier, namely, a smooth function \( \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R} \) that is invariant by the orthogonal group \( O(3) \), has compact support and integral equal to 1. Let also \( \rho_{IR} \) be a smooth cut-off function, namely, one that is nonnegative, \( O(3) \)-symmetric, compactly supported and identically equal to 1 in a neighborhood of the origin. Define the non-cut-off covariance formally written as \( \mu \) namely, one that is nonnegative, \( \mu_{C_{-\infty}} \) centered Gaussian measure \( S_{\text{Lebesgue}} \) with \( \rho \) mollifier \( \rho_{UV} \rho_{IR} (L^{-r}\bullet) \). For \( \phi \) sampled according to \( \mu_{C_{-\infty}} \) let \( \mu_{C_r} \) denote the law of \( \phi * \rho_{UV} \rho_{IR} \) and let \( C_r \) be the corresponding covariance. The sample paths of \( \mu_{C_r} \) are smooth and (with a slight abuse of notation) the kernel \( C_r(x,y) = C_r(x-y) \) of \( C_r \) is also smooth. For \( s \in \mathbb{Z} \) define the rescaled cut-off function \( \rho_{IR,s} \) by \( \rho_{IR}(L^{-s}\bullet) \). Given a bare ansatz \( (g_r, \mu_r)_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} \) or rather the germ of such a sequence at \( -\infty \), one has well defined probability measures \( \nu_{r,s} \) on \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \) given by

\[
\frac{1}{\nu_{r,s}} \exp \left( -\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \rho_{IR,s}(x) \{ g_r : \phi^4 : C_r (x) + \mu_r : \phi^2 : C_r (x) \} \, d^3x \right) \, d\mu_r(\phi)
\]

where Hermite-Wick ordering \( : \phi^2 : C_r (x) = \phi(x)^2 - C_r(0) \) and \( : \phi^4 : C_r (x) = \phi(x)^4 - 6C_r(0)\phi(x)^2 + 3C_r(0)^2 \) is introduced as a matter of convenience. The mathematical study of the formal BMS measures \( \{ \} \) amounts to parametrizing the set of all weak limits of \( \nu_{r,s} \) when \( r \to -\infty \) and \( s \to \infty \). Since the choice of bare ansatz is infinite-dimensional one may naively expect that this set is also infinite-dimensional. Conjecturally, because of the universality phenomenon, this should be a two-dimensional family (parametrized by the unstable manifold of the trivial RG fixed point as explained in [5] p. 6]). Of particular interest are isolated points in this set corresponding to self-similar or scale invariant (see [71] [72]) weak limits where the resulting random Schwartz distribution \( \phi \) satisfies \( \lambda^{[\phi]} \phi(\lambda \bullet) \overset{d}{=} \phi(\bullet) \) (doubly!) in the sense of distributions, for suitable exponent \( [\phi] \) and all \( \lambda > 0 \). The high temperature fixed point is Gaussian white noise on \( \mathbb{R}^3 \) with \( [\phi] = \frac{3}{4} \) and should result when \( \mu_r \) is too large relative to \( g_r \). Taking \( g_r = \mu_r = 0 \) gives the previous Gaussian \( \mu_{C_{-\infty}} \), i.e., the fractional Gaussian field \( FGF_{\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^3) \) of \( \alpha = \frac{3-4\epsilon}{4} \) and \( [\phi] = \frac{3}{4-\epsilon} \). However, there should be a third much more interesting, i.e., highly non-Gaussian, self-similar measure \( \nu_{\phi} \) with the same \( [\phi] = \frac{3}{4-\epsilon} \).

**Conjecture 1:** Set \( [\phi] = \frac{3}{4} \) for \( \epsilon \) positive and small enough. Then there exists a nonempty open interval \( I \subset (0, \infty) \) and a function \( \mu_c : I \to \mathbb{R} \) such that for all \( g \in I \), if one sets \( g_r = L^{-r(3-4[\phi])} g \) and \( \mu_r = L^{-r(3-2[\phi])} \mu_c(g) \), the weak limit \( \nu_{\phi} = \lim_{r \to -\infty} \lim_{s \to \infty} \nu_{r,s} \) exists and is
non-Gaussian, translation-invariant (stationary), $O(3)$-invariant (isotropic), scale-invariant (self-similar) with exponent $[\phi]$. Moreover this limit is independent of $L$, $g \in I$ as well as the choice of cut-off functions $\rho_{UV}$ and $\rho_{R}$.

Some readers may not be familiar with what “weak limit” means in the above conjecture. Indeed, probability measures in spaces such as $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ are not popular among probabilists who often prefer the use of abstract Wiener spaces or probability measures on Banach spaces [41]. Although not justified this is certainly excused by the rather sorry state of the literature on random Schwartz distributions. Most of the references are from the 1960’s and they are written in the somewhat unfriendly style of Bourbaki and Grothendieck. As a pedagogical part of this program, the author intends to write an efficient, user-friendly (for the working probabilist), and systematic exposition of this theory. The need for such an overhaul of the theory of random distributions is evident from references such as [30]. The probabilist’s first choice for a reference on the subject usually is the pedagogically excellent [177] but it does not cover enough ground for the needs of constructive QFT references such as [30]. The probabilist’s first choice for a reference on the subject usually is the pedagogically excellent [177] but it does not cover enough ground for the needs of constructive QFT

white noise theory [107] is too limited in scope since it only treats one probability measure on $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$: white noise! For instance, a glaring gap in the literature is the absence of a very general “first-quantized” Kolmogorov-Chentsov (KC) Theorem which roughly says: if a probability measure $\mu$ on $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ has finite moments of all orders with smooth kernels $S_n(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ away from the diagonal behaving like $|S_n(x + \lambda x_1, \ldots, x + \lambda x_n)| \sim \lambda^{-n[\phi]}$ when $\lambda \to 0$, then $\mu(C^n) = 1$ for all $\alpha < -[\phi]$. Here the $C^n$ denote the spaces used by Hairer [102]. They generalize $\alpha$-Hölder spaces and are micro-local versions of the Besov spaces $B^\alpha_{0,\infty}$ featuring in [21]. A first approximation to such an ideal theorem is [14] Thm. 1.4.2 for Gaussian measures. An almost perfect approximation is [139] Lemma 5.2. Note that there is no need for versions and modifications since we are talking about random distributions [87] Ch. III rather than the weaker notion of generalized random field [87] Ch. II and, furthermore, the spaces $C^\alpha$ are measurable subsets of $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ (see [102] Prop. 3.20). The above statement of the ideal KC Theorem is not strictly-speaking correct since one needs a hypothesis on the correlations as distributions on the diagonal which would follow, e.g., if $[\phi] < \frac{\alpha}{2}$, i.e., the kernel is locally integrable, and correlations are given by integration against this kernel. This issue is well taken care of in [139] Lemma 5.2. Finally, this ideal KC Theorem should include the case $[\phi] < 0$ and the most basic KC Theorem for Brownian motion. This requires the use of spaces of test functions $S_\kappa(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with vanishing spatial moments up to order $k$ as in [71], or non-canonical lifts for incremental fields as in [123]. The simplest example of such a lift is the convention $B_t = 0$ at $t = 0$ for Brownian motion. The author’s point of view is to take as practical definition of a nuclear space: a locally convex topological vector space which is isomorphic to $s$, $s_0$ or $s_0 \otimes s$. Here $s = s(\mathbb{N})$ is the space of sequences with faster than power-law decay. One can similarly define $s(\mathbb{N}^d)$ and $s(\mathbb{Z}^d)$. For instance, if one used a $\phi^4$-type single site measure $d\rho_{\phi^4}(u) \sim \exp(-au^4 - bu^2)du$, the theory of superstability (see [60] §4.7 and references therein) would realize the infinite volume lattice measure in $s'(\mathbb{Z}^2)$ before transfer to $S'(\mathbb{R}^2)$ for the study of the scaling limit. As topological vector spaces $s \simeq s(\mathbb{N}^d) \simeq s(\mathbb{Z}^d) \simeq S(\mathbb{R}^d)$ [166]. The space $s_0 = \oplus_{N} \mathbb{R}$ is that of almost finite sequences with the finest locally convex topology, i.e., the one generated by the uncountable set of all possible seminorms. The Schwartz-Bruhat spaces $S(\mathbb{Q}^d)$ are isomorphic to $s_0$. Finally $s_0 \otimes s = \oplus_{N} s$ with topology defined by the set of all seminorms that are continuous on individual summands. The adelic Schwartz-Bruhat space $S(\mathbb{A}_Q)$ is isomorphic to $s_0 \otimes s$ but so is the classical space of test functions $D(U)$, for $U$ a nonempty open set in $\mathbb{R}^d$. Explicit Schauder bases realizing the last Valdivia-Vogt isomorphism [173] [175] were not known until recently [22]. In the statement of Conj. 1, $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is to be understood as a topological space with the weak-* topology (the coarsest
which makes the maps $\phi \mapsto \phi(f)$ continuous for all test functions $f \in S(\mathbb{R}^d)$. The $\sigma$-algebra is the Borel $\sigma$-algebra for this topology. One can also use the strong topology, but the Borel $\sigma$-algebra would be the same and it would also equal the cylinder $\sigma$-algebra (that makes the maps $\phi \mapsto \phi(f)$ measurable) \cite{36,39}. More importantly, weak convergence of probability measures is defined as usual via expectations of bounded continuous functions. By a remarkable theorem of Fernique \cite{36, Thm. III.6.5}, this definition is insensitive to the choice of topology between the weak-$*$ and strong ones in the definition of bounded continuous functions. While $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is non-metrizable and thus not Polish (the popular tools in \cite{93} fail), probability theory on this space is in some sense nicer than in Banach spaces. Prokhorov’s Theorem, Bochner’s Theorem and the Lévy Continuity Theorem all apply to $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and their statements are identical to their finite-dimensional analogues (see \cite{36,177}). A probability measure $\mu$ on $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ has the moments of all orders (MAO) property if $\phi \mapsto \phi(f)$ is in $L^p(S'(\mathbb{R}^d), \mu)$ for all $f \in S(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and all $p \in [1, \infty)$. By \cite{36, Cor. II.2.5}, the moments $S_n(f_1, \ldots, f_n) = \langle \phi(f_1) \cdots \phi(f_n) \rangle = \int \phi(f_1) \cdots \phi(f_n) \, d\mu(\phi)$ are automatically continuous as $n$-linear forms on $S(\mathbb{R}^d)$. By the Schwartz-Grothendieck Nuclear Theorem (see \cite{166, Thm. 6} for an easy proof), the moments $S_n$ can be seen as distributions, i.e., elements of $S'(\mathbb{R}^{nd})$. An MAO measure $\mu$ is determined by correlations (DC) if the only MAO measure with the same sequence of moments $S_n$ as $\mu$ is $\mu$ itself. A DC measure will be called determined by pointwise correlations (DPC) if: 1) for all $n$, the $S_n \in S'(\mathbb{R}^{nd})$ have singular support (see, e.g., \cite{45}) contained in the big diagonal $\text{Diag}_n = \{(x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{nd} | \exists i \neq j, x_i = x_j\}$ (this property uniquely defines the smooth pointwise functions $S_n(x_1, \ldots, x_n) = \langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle$ on $\mathbb{R}^{nd} \setminus \text{Diag}_n$); 2) these pointwise correlations are $L^1_{\text{loc}}$ on $\text{Diag}_n$; and 3) for all $n$ and all test functions $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in S(\mathbb{R}^d)$ one has

$$\langle \phi(f_1) \cdots \phi(f_n) \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{nd} \setminus \text{Diag}_n} \langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle f(x_1) \cdots f(x_n) \, dx_1 \cdots dx_n$$

where on the left one has an honest expectation with respect to $\mu$ whereas on the right, the expectation-like notation $\langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle$ is merely symbolic.

Conjecture 2: The measure $\nu_\phi$ from Conj. 1 is DPC.

Note that from self-similarity the pointwise correlations must satisfy $\langle \phi(\lambda x_1) \cdots \phi(\lambda x_n) \rangle = \lambda^{-n|\phi|} \langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle$. If one keeps in mind translation invariance, then local integrability, e.g., for $n = 2$ amounts to $d - 2|\phi| > 0$ which is luckily satisfied for $d = 3$ and $|\phi| = \frac{3 - d}{2}$.

Conjecture 3: The measure $\nu_\phi$ is Osterwalder-Schrader (OS) positive (see \cite{92, §6.1}).

Thus the measure should satisfy all the OS axioms and should provide a nontrivial Euclidean QFT in the traditional sense of constructive QFT. Although the last conjecture does not pertain to probability per se, it has important consequences with relation to probability. For instance it would imply real analyticity for the pointwise correlations $\langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle$ (see \cite{92, Cor. 19.5.6}). OS positivity can also help prove bounds on correlations (see \cite{33} for a famous example and \cite{103} for a review). Since the recent work of Hairer \cite{102,103} (see also \cite{59,117}) on the stochastic quantization SPDE for the $\phi^4_3$ model there has been renewed attention devoted to the latter. However, in \cite{112}, the author expresses some criticism for this approach seen as a way to construct the $\phi^4_3$ model and show that it satisfies the OS axioms. Such criticism is based on the premise that it would essentially be impossible to prove OS positivity for a nontrivial limit (such as $\nu_\phi$) if it did not hold for the approximants (such as $\nu_{r,s}$). This premise is too pessimistic. Indeed, the author noticed a few years ago (and mentioned in his talk at the conference “Rigorous Quantum Field Theory in The LHC Era”, Vienna, 2011) that all one needs is a partial OS positivity for approximants that becomes full OS positivity in the limit. Namely, one only needs positivity for observables that are “$L^r$ away” from the
reflection hyperplane. This is what regularization on a lattice of mesh \( L^r \) does! Thus our strategy for proving Conj. 3 is as follows. Let \( \theta(x_1, \ldots, x_d) = \theta(-x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_d), \theta f(x) = f(\theta x), \theta \phi(f) = \phi(\theta f) \) and \( \theta F(\phi) = F(\theta \phi) \) denote the reflection respectively for points, test functions, distributional fields and measurable functionals. OS positivity would follow if one can show \( \int \theta F(\phi) F(\phi) d\nu(\phi) \geq 0 \) for all \( F \)'s given by a polynomial in “coordinates” \( \phi(f_1), \ldots, \phi(f_n) \) with test functions \( f_1, \ldots, f_n \) having compact support in the open half-space \((0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^{d-1}\). Once these functions are fixed then there is a lower bound \( a > 0 \) for the distance between these supports and the reflection hyperplane. Now replace the couplings \( g_r, \mu_r \) in [2] by space-dependent functions \( \tilde{g}_r(x) \) and \( \tilde{\mu}_r(x) \) which vanish in a corridor of thickness \( L^r \) around the reflection hyperplane, are essentially equal to the previous uniform values \( g_r, \mu_r \) further away, and may eventually be bigger at the edges of the corridor in order to compensate for the inside loss. Then the analogue of \( \int \theta F(\phi) F(\phi) d\nu(\phi) \) can be written as \( \int \theta F(\phi * \rho_{UV,r}) e^{-\theta \tilde{V}_r(\phi * \rho_{UV,r})} F(\phi * \rho_{UV,r}) e^{-\tilde{V}_r(\phi * \rho_{UV,r})} d\mu_{C_{-\infty}}(\phi) \) for a suitable functional \( \tilde{V}_r \). Roughly speaking, the latter lives in \((L^r, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^{d-1}\). The needed positivity then is a result of OS positivity for the non-cut-off Gaussian \( \mu_{C_{-\infty}} \), the size \( \sim L^r \) for the compact support of \( \rho_{UV,r} \) and taking \( L^r \ll a \). Hence, the problem is reduced to showing that this evanescent corridor modification has no effect on the weak limit \( \nu_\phi \). One thus needs a robustness result with respect to a perturbation of the interaction (the part inside the exponential in [2]) corresponding to a hypersurface defect in the middle of the bulk. Note that a similar robustness is needed in Conj. 1 in order to deal with the smooth fall-off of \( \rho_{RR,s} \). While \( O(d) \) invariance in Conj. 1 is trivial as stated, this is not the case for translation invariance. One needs similar robustness with respect to boundary effects due to the symmetric difference of two large spheres. The latter should be negligible compared to the bulk since the shape satisfies the Van Hove criterion (see [155, Def. 2.1.1]) for thermodynamic limits, but one has to prove it.

Given two nonempty simply connected open sets \( U \) and \( V \) in \( \mathbb{R}^d \), a \( C^k \)-diffeomorphism \( f : U \to V \), with \( k \geq 1 \) finite or infinite, is called conformal if there exists a function \( \tau : U \to \mathbb{R} \) such that \( \forall x \in U, e^{-\tau(x)} D_x f \in O(d) \). The condition is void for \( d = 1 \). If \( d = 2 \), then \( f(z) \) must be of the form \( g(z) \) or \( g(\overline{z}) \) for some holomorphic map \( g \). If one does not fix the domain \( U \) and target \( V \) this gives a rich infinite-dimensional flexibility (as in the titles of [31, 32]); but if one does then one is reduced to \( SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \) or \( SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \) Möbius symmetry. Finally, if \( d \geq 3 \) then by a theorem of Liouville (see, e.g., [104]) \( f \) must be the restriction of an element of the Möbius group \( \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) of global conformal maps. This group can be defined as the group of bijective transformations of the “sphere” \( \mathbb{R}^d = \mathbb{R}^d \cup \{\infty\} \) generated by Euclidean isometries, scaling transformations \( x \mapsto \lambda x \) with \( \lambda > 0 \) and the unit-sphere inversion \( J(x) = |x|^{-2} x \). By definition the first two preserve the point at infinity while \( J \) exchanges the origin and \( \infty \). Another more elegant definition of \( \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) can be given using the absolute cross-ratio. In the convention of [15] (there is no standard choice in the literature) it is given by \( CR(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{|x_1 - x_2|}{|x_2 - x_4|} \frac{|x_2 - x_3|}{|x_1 - x_4|} \frac{|x_2 - x_4|}{|x_2 - x_3|} \) for quadruples in \( (\mathbb{R}^d)^4 \setminus \text{Diag}_4 \). It can be extended by continuity (\( \mathbb{R}^d \) is seen as the one-point compactification of \( \mathbb{R}^d \) to \( \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \text{Diag}_4 \) where \( \text{Diag}_4 \) is the new big diagonal, by omitting factors which contain \( \infty \). Then \( \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) is the group of bijective transformations which leave the cross-ratio invariant (see [179, Thm. 4] or [152, Thm. 4.3.1]).

**Conjecture 4:** The BMS fixed point theory satisfies global CI. Namely, the pointwise correlations for \( \nu_\phi \) obey

\[
\langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle = \left( \prod_{i=1}^n |J_f(x_i)|^{\frac{\nu}{2}} \right) \times \langle \phi(f(x_1)) \cdots \phi(f(x_n)) \rangle
\]  

(3)
for all \( f \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^3) \), and all collections of distinct points in \( \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{ f^{-1}(\infty) \} \). Here, \( J_f(x) = \text{det}(D_x f) \) denotes the Jacobian determinant of \( f \) at \( x \).

This is the analogue of the self-similarity property stated after Conj. 2 where now the rescaling factor \( \lambda \) is allowed to be space-dependent. Conj. 4 is supported by the arguments in \cite{148}. CI for the BMS model thus joins similar physically motivated conjectures in 3D for the self-avoiding walk \cite{114}, percolation \cite{100} or the short-range Ising model (see, e.g., \cite{67}). The 2D analogue of Conj. 4 immediately follows from the explicit formula proved in \cite{61} Eq. 1.6 for the full plane walk \cite{114}, percolation \cite{100} or the short-range Ising model (see, e.g., \cite{67}). The 2D analogue of Conj. 4 is supported by the arguments in \cite{148}. CI makes fundamental use of the point of view known in the physics literature as AdS/CFT correspondence and holography (see, e.g., \cite{181, 113}) which involves a notion of extension from the boundary to the bulk as in \cite{57}. Indeed, \( \mathbb{R}^d \) can be identified with the unit sphere \( S^d \) inside \( \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \). This sphere is the topological boundary of the open unit ball \( B^d \). Although not a conformal invariant, the metric induced from the Euclidean one on \( \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \) is a reasonable one to put on \( S^d \). As for \( B^d \), the good metric to use is the hyperbolic one given by \( ds = \frac{2|dx|}{1-|x|^2} \). The AdS/CFT point of view is based on the classical theorem in geometry which establishes a one-to-one correspondence between elements of \( \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) acting on the boundary \( \mathbb{R}^d \simeq S^d \) and hyperbolic isometries acting on \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \) (see, e.g., \cite{152} Thm. 4.5.2). Instead of using the previous conformal ball model of hyperbolic geometry one can also use the upper half-space model where \( \mathbb{R}^d \) is identified with the hyperplane \( \mathbb{R}^d \times \{0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \) together with the point at infinity \( \{0, \ldots, 0, \infty\} \). The hyperplane is equipped with the usual Euclidean metric and appears as the boundary (in \( \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \)) of the upper half-space \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} = \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty) \). The latter is equipped with the hyperbolic metric \( ds = |dx|/x_{d+1} \). The spaces \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \) or \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \) are what physicists call the Euclidean Anti-de Sitter space \( \text{AdS}_{d+1} \) (the word “Euclidean” is not in the sense of geometry but in the sense of the Euclidean vs. Lorentzian/Minkowskian distinction in axiomatic and constructive QFT).

The article \cite{148} not only covers the 3D BMS model but, more generally, critical scaling limits of long-range Ising models in any dimension. Indeed, instead of using the mollifier \( \rho_{UV} \) one can use a lattice regularization, as in \cite{49}, in order to make sense of \cite{11}. The fractional Laplacian \( (-\Delta)^{\alpha} \) with \( \alpha = \frac{3+\sigma}{4} \) would be replaced by the lattice analogue \( (-\Delta_{L^m}^{\alpha}) \) adapted to the fine lattice with mesh \( L^m \). This is a rescaled version of the unit lattice fractional Laplacian \( (-\Delta_{Z^d}^{\alpha}) \) with off-diagonal matrix elements \(-J_{X,Y}\). It is an easy exercise to check that \( J_{X,Y} > 0 \) (the model is ferromagnetic) and \( J_{X,Y} \sim |x - y|^{-(d+\sigma)} \) at long distance, with \( d = 3 \) and \( \sigma = \frac{3+\sigma}{4} \). Long-range models were rigorously studied in \( d = 1 \) by Dyson \cite{82, 83} and for general \( d \) and \( \sigma \) in \cite{17} where the existence of a critical inverse temperature \( \beta_c \) is shown. The corresponding critical scaling limits were the object of non-rigorous investigations by physicists \cite{88, 157, 158}. For \( d = 3 \), as one increases \( \sigma \) one should see three regimes: mean-field, intermediate, and short-range (see \cite{148} Fig. 1). The \( \epsilon \sim 1 \) regime of the BMS model where one would transition into the more mysterious scaling limit for the 3D short-range Ising model has been the object of recent controversy among physicists \cite{149, 34, 20, 44}. This program pertains to the other more mathematically tractable end \( 0 < \epsilon \ll 1 \) of the intermediate region, where one is close to the mean-field regime. Note that if one uses the lattice regularization for \cite{11} and makes the same choices as in Conj. 1 for the bare ansatz \( g_r, \mu_r \) then one is taking the scaling limit of a fixed critical lattice measure for the long-range model (similarly to the discussion of \cite{58, 61} in relation to the 2D short-range Ising model).

**Conjecture 5:** The measure \( \nu_{\phi} \) can be obtained as a critical lattice scaling limit starting with 1)
a single site measure \( \rho_{ss} \) of \( \phi^4 \) type as well as with \( 2 \) \( \rho_{ss} = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_{-1} + \delta_1) \).

We have nothing to say at this point about Conj. 5. Indeed Part 1) of the latter amounts to robustness with respect to the choice of regularization or perturbations of the Gaussian measure (independence from the choice of \( \rho_{UV} \) in Conj. 1). This is very hard to do with rigorous RG methods (see however [27] where a particular instance of this issue was overcome). The leitmotiv of this program is robustness with respect to changes in the interaction potential (e.g., the choice of \( \rho_{IR} \) in Conj. 1). Part 2) of Conj. 5 seems even more difficult. Some probabilists may doubt the validity of the analogue of 2) for 2D Ising but physicists would probably not. Indeed, this made it into physics textbooks [70, §7.4.7] and goes under the heading of effective Ginzburg-Landau (or multi-critical model) description of the unitary minimal models \( M(m + 1, m) \) of CFT [183]. If one uses block-spins to implement the RG then one would sum unit-lattice spins \( \sigma_x \) over blocks of size \( L \) and multiply by \( L^{-(d-\phi)} \). The usual coarse-graining for the central limit theorem is when \( [\phi] = \frac{d}{2} \) as in [142, 143] or [134]. If one repeats the operation \( N \) times then the spacing between spin values is \( \sim L^{-N(d-\phi)} \) \( \rightarrow 0 \) whereas the extreme values go as \( L^N[\phi] \rightarrow \infty \) so the spin distribution looks like a law on \( \mathbb{R} \) with continuous density. If one starts with \( \rho_{ss} = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_{-1} + \delta_1) \) it is therefore intuitively reasonable to expect the same scaling limit as if one started with a double-well \( \phi^4 \)-type \( \rho_{ss} \) (see also [116, §12.3]). Finally, with regard to the \( \phi_2^4 \)/Ising conjectural equivalence in 2D, note that massless measures \( \nu_{m=0} \) are known to exist (also for \( \phi_2^4 \)) from the works [134, 98] (see also [49, §9]). However, these are not self-similar and thus \( \nu_{m=0} \neq \nu_\phi \) since the bare coupling \( g_\phi \) is kept fixed with respect to the UV cut-off \( r \) (see [49, §4]). One would need to take the large distance scaling limit (see [72, Eq. 3.1]) of \( \nu_{m=0} \) in order to recover \( \nu_\phi \). From the RG perspective, \( \nu_{m=0} \) corresponds to a two-sided RG trajectory starting at a Gaussian fixed point and ending at a nontrivial fixed point, just like the one constructed in [2] for the 3D BMS model.

The article [148] belongs to HDCB which has known tremendous activity in the last five years. For a long time, it was believed that conformal symmetry in \( d \geq 3 \) was too poor to produce precise predictions for critical exponents as 2D CFT did; but the situation changed! The, soon to explained, operator product expansion (OPE) is the main conceptual foundation for HDCB [156, 84] as well as for 2D CFT [31, 32]. The OPE is expected to hold in any QFT conformal or not, and it gives precise predictions for the asymptotic behavior of pointwise correlations near \( \text{Diag}_m \). Supplemented with CI and the associative property (crossing symmetry), the OPE essentially allows one to compute the correlations of the CFT at hand. Recent progress was made possible by better formulas for conformal blocks [73, 74], and the discovery [151] of a universal bound \( [\phi^2] \leq f([\phi]) \) relating the scaling dimension of the field \( \phi \), with law \( \nu_\phi \), to the scaling dimension \( [\phi^2] \) of a suitably renormalized pointwise square \( N[\phi^2] \). The 2D Ising model was found to be a “kink” which saturates this bound at the point \( ([\phi], [\phi^2]) = (\frac{1}{8}, 1) \). Similarly to thinking of \( \phi \) as the scaling limit of the spin field, a good way to think of \( N[\phi^2] \) is as the scaling limit of the energy field whose correlations were studied in [109, 110]. It was observed (see [150]) that a similar positioning at a kink happens for 3D Ising and this could give a clue to the pair \( ([\phi], [\phi^2]) \) for 3D Ising. The most precise theoretical predictions for 3D Ising critical exponents are in [165], namely: \( [\phi] \approx 0.518151 \) and \( [\phi^2] \approx 1.41264 \). The author previously thought that such HDCB predictions were the result of an appealing but unjustified “kink hypothesis” for 3D Ising, but in fact they rest on much more solid arguments using OS positivity, the OPE and crossing symmetry applied to the mixed four-point functions of the fields \( \phi \) and \( N[\phi^2] \) [115]. For the BMS model in \( \mathbb{R}^3 \) one expects \( [\phi^2] - 2[\phi] = \frac{\epsilon}{2} + o(\epsilon) \) (see, e.g., [148, Eq. 2.18]). This is exactly the relation proved in [12, p. 155] for the hierarchical BMS model. Such composite field anomalous scaling is reminiscent of multifractality (see, e.g., [19]).
an ordinary random field \( \phi(x) \), with moments satifying \( \mathbb{E}|\phi(x) - \phi(y)|^m \sim |x - y|^{\lfloor \sigma^m \rfloor} \), multifractal behavior can be described as a nonlinear variation of the scaling exponent \( \lfloor \sigma^m \rfloor \) in terms of the power \( m \). When the Hurst exponent \( -\lfloor \phi \rfloor \) is positive, the process is not a generalized one, and the power is a “true power”, then such behavior is ruled out by strict self-similarity. For the BMS model the strictly self-similar field \( \phi \) sampled according to \( \nu_\phi \) is a generalized one and the square \( N[\phi^2] \) is not a naive product of the field with itself. In addition to additive renormalizations as in the usual Wick product construction \([61]\) or the much deeper work \([102]\), one needs a nontrivial multiplicative renormalization which is responsible for this “multifractal” relation \( \lfloor \sigma^2 \rfloor > 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor \). It is remarkable for the simplified model in \([12]\) to produce, if one boldly keeps the \( O(\epsilon) \) terms and extrapolates to \( \epsilon \sim 1 \) (3D short-range Ising), a value \( 1/3 = 0.33 \ldots \) for the quantity \( \lfloor \sigma^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor \) that is quite close to the value 0.3763 . . . deduced from \([162]\).

**Conjecture 6:** There exists \( \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor \), a function of \( \epsilon \) only, satisfying \( \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor = \frac{3}{4} + o(\epsilon) \) where \( \lfloor \phi \rfloor = \frac{3}{4} \) and \( \epsilon \) is supposed to be small for which the following is true. Let \( \phi_{r,s} \) be a random (smooth) distribution in \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \) sampled according to \( \nu_{r,s} \) defined by \([3]\). Define a new smooth field \( N_{r,s}[\phi^2] \) which is given deterministically in terms of \( \phi_{r,s} \) by \( N_{r,s}[\phi^2](x) = L^{-r(\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor)} \left[ \phi_{r,s}(x)^2 - \mathbb{E}(\phi_{r,s}(x)^2) \right] \) where the expectation is with respect to \( d\nu_{r,s}(\phi_{r,s}) \). Then the pair of random variables \( (\phi_{r,s}, N_{r,s}[\phi^2]) \) in \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3)^2 \) converges in distribution to a pair \( (\phi, N[\phi^2]) \) with joint law \( \nu_{\phi \times \phi^2} \) such that \( \text{var}(N[\phi^2](f)) > 0 \) for some test function \( f \).

Clearly, the non-Gaussian measure \( \nu_\phi \) must be the first marginal of \( \nu_{\phi \times \phi^2} \).

**Conjecture 7:** The joint law \( \nu_{\phi \times \phi^2} \) is DPC as well as translation, rotation, scale and conformal invariant as in the previous conjectures 1, 2 and 4.

Of course, \( \lfloor \phi \rfloor \) needs to be replaced by \( \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor \) where appropriate in the statements obtained by trivially adapting those of the previous conjectures. Also, the symmetries act diagonally: the same geometric transformation is applied to \( \phi \) and \( N[\phi^2] \). A result of Conj. 7 is to give access to all mixed pointwise correlations \( \langle \phi(x_1) \cdots \phi(x_n) \rangle N[\phi^2](y_1) \cdots N[\phi^2](y_m) \) for the measure \( \nu_{\phi \times \phi^2} \) on \( S'(\mathbb{R}^3)^2 \). Note that for 2D Ising, the 1st marginal \( \nu_\phi \) has been obtained in \([53]\) but the existence of the joint law \( \nu_{\phi \times \phi^2} \) or even just the 2nd marginal \( \nu_{\phi^2} \) is more problematic because \( \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor = 1 \) and the covariance kernel fails to be \( L^{1,loc} \). Nevertheless, the mixed pointwise correlations still make sense and they should be the scaling limits of mixed spin-energy correlations (promised by the authors of \([61]\) on p. 1089). For 3D BMS the situation is better because of the relation \( \lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor = \frac{3}{4} + o(\epsilon) \) which implies the \( L^{1,loc} \) property \( 3 - 2\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor > 0 \).

**Conjecture 8:** There exists positive constants \( c_{1,1,0} \) and \( c_{1,1,2} \) such that \( \phi(x)\phi(y) = c_{1,1,0}|x - y|^{-2\lfloor \phi \rfloor} + c_{1,1,2}|x - y|^{\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor} N[\phi^2](x) + o(|x - y|^{\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor}) \) when \( y \to x \), inside arbitrary mixed pointwise correlations.

The meaning of ‘inside correlations’ should be clear. It implies, e.g., \( \langle \phi(x)\phi(y)\phi(z_1) \cdots \phi(z_n) \rangle = c_{1,1,0}|x - y|^{-2\lfloor \phi \rfloor} \langle \phi(z_1) \cdots \phi(z_n) \rangle + c_{1,1,2}|x - y|^{\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor} \langle N[\phi^2](x)\phi(z_1) \cdots \phi(z_n) \rangle + o(|x - y|^{\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor}) \) when \( y \to x \) for fixed \( (x, z_1, \ldots, z_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \setminus \text{Diag}_{n+1} \). The simplest example of the OPE is Conj. 8. Note that complete dependence of pairs of random variables does not necessarily survive convergence in distribution. Stronger notions than weak limits of probability measures would be needed in order to preserve that property (see, e.g., \([164]\)). While \( N_{r,s}[\phi^2] \) is a function of \( \phi_{r,s} \) it is not clear from Conj. 6 that the “energy” field \( N[\phi^2] \) should be a deterministic function, i.e., a pathwise renormalized square of the “spin” field \( \phi \).

**Conjecture 9:** Consider \( \phi \) sampled according to \( \nu_\phi \), and construct the smooth field \( \tilde{N}_\phi[\phi^2](x) = L^{-r(\lfloor \phi^2 \rfloor - 2\lfloor \phi \rfloor)} \left[ (\phi \ast \rho_{UV,r})(x)^2 - \mathbb{E}((\phi \ast \rho_{UV,r})(x)^2) \right] \) where the expectation is with respect to \( d\nu_\phi(\phi) \).
Then for all test functions \( f \), the smeared quantities \( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathbb{N}_r[\phi^2](x) f(x) \, d^3x \) converge in every \( L^p(S'(\mathbb{R}^3), \nu_\phi) \), for \( p \in [1, \infty) \), and almost surely to a limit \( \mathcal{N}[\phi^2](f) \). Moreover, there exists a Borel measurable map \( \mathbb{N} : S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \to S'(\mathbb{R}^3) \) such that 1) for all \( f \), \( \mathbb{N}[\phi^2](f, \nu_\phi) = \mathcal{N}[\phi^2](f, \nu_\phi) \), a.s. in \( \phi \); and 2) the law of \( (\phi, \lambda \mathbb{N}[\phi]) \) is \( \nu_{\phi \times \mathbb{N}[\phi]} \), for a suitable constant \( \lambda > 0 \).

As is well known, one cannot define the pointwise product of distributions in general [161]. One could argue that the whole history of stochastic calculus can be seen as an effort to circumvent this no-go theorem, albeit in a stochastic sense or, even better, in an almost sure or pathwise sense. This was nicely recalled in [101] pp. 5–6 starting with the simplest case: Itô’s integral. Indeed, when considering \( \int f(B_t) dB_t \) with \( f \) smooth, or rather \( \int f(B_t) \dot{B}_t dt \) the issue is not so much integration as it is pointwise multiplication of \( f(B_t) \) (of regularity \( C^\alpha \), \( \alpha < \frac{1}{2} \)) with \( \dot{B}_t \) (of regularity \( C^\beta \), \( \beta < -\frac{1}{2} \)). Deterministic multiplication theorems, for instance based on Bony paraproducts [21], require \( \alpha + \beta > 0 \) which one barely misses in the case of Brownian motion. Itô’s theory circumvents this issue by using a stochastic construction. Later (see, e.g., [89]) one could do this construction in a pathwise or almost sure sense. Typical pathwise approaches amount to identifying a set \( \mathcal{G} \) of good paths for which one can do the wanted construction deterministically. Then, one brings in probability by showing that sample paths are a.s. in \( \mathcal{G} \). Conj. 9 gives a similar pathwise construction of the pointwise square of \( \phi \), except the set \( \mathcal{G} \) is implicitly defined and the separation with probability is not as clear-cut. Still, Conj. 9 is clearly related to pathwise approaches for products of random distributions as in [102, 101] which took their inspiration from the theory of rough paths [125]. Going from Conj. 8 to Conj. 9 can be done using what we would like to call a “second-quantized” KC Theorem as in the soon to be released [8].

**Conjecture 10:** The field \( \phi \) sampled according to \( \nu_\phi \) for the 3D BMS model is not subordinated to a Gaussian field in the sense of [77, 128] if one only allows finite Wiener chaos representations.

Conj. 10 is the explanation of the word “highly” used when saying that \( \nu_\phi \) is a highly non-Gaussian measure. In constructive QFT one has different grades of nontriviality which can be ranked by increasing strength as: NT1) the Euclidean probability measure is non-Gaussian; NT2) the corresponding quantum field obtained by OS reconstruction is not in the Borchers class (see, e.g., [169 §4.6]) of a generalized free field; NT3) the S-matrix is not the identity; NT4) the S-matrix exhibits particle production/ destruction. Only NT4 gives Einstein’s \( E = mc^2 \) its full punch! Note that a Wick square of a free field would be non-Gaussian, i.e., one can have NT1 but not NT2 (see [153, 154] and thus a trivial S-matrix [42 Cor. 12.2]). Conj. 10 is related to property NT2 and it follows easily from Conj. 9 and the existence of an anomalous dimension \( \frac{\phi^2}{2} - 2[\phi] > 0 \) from Conj. 6. Indeed, Conj. 9 says \( \mathcal{N}[\phi^2] \) is a functional of \( \phi \). If the latter was itself a functional, say \( \psi^F \), of a Gaussian field \( \psi \), then by the easy analogues of Conj. 8 and 9 for \( \psi \) one should be able to rule out a relation such as \( \frac{\phi^2}{2} - 2[\phi] = \frac{\beta}{2} + o(\epsilon) \) and get a contradiction. Interestingly, Conj. 10 leaves the door open to an infinite chaos-order representation. In some sense, the Coulomb gas formalism of CFT [70 Ch. 9] supports that idea: correlations of nontrivial CFTs like 2D Ising can be obtained using infinite chaos-order fields: \( e^{i\alpha \psi(x)} \): where \( \psi \) is the massless free field, modulo suitable screening charges. This ties in with the multifractal story told earlier. The first precise mathematical model for such behavior, following earlier insights by Kolmogorov and Yaglom, is Mandelbrot’s cascade (see [19] and references therein) initially defined by an RG-like fixed point equation but which can also be seen as a random measure with density (with respect to Lebesgue measure) given by an infinite chaos-order field: \( e^{i\alpha \psi(x)} \): with \( \psi \) similar to a hierarchical \( \mathbb{Q}_2 \) field (with \( [\phi] = 0 \), i.e., log-correlated as in [75]) in the notations of the next section. Note that for 3D BMS it is not clear how one can even formulate NT3 and NT4, so Conj. 10 might be the best
one can do in the near future. Indeed, there is no reasonable notion of particles even for the free QFT corresponding to $\mu_{\infty}$ studied, e.g., in [79 80]. The current frontier regarding scattering theory for massless QFTs does not concern relativistic ones (as the one obtained from $\nu_\phi$ by OS reconstruction) but non-relativistic models (see [62 81 69] for recent work in the area).

From the probabilistic point of view, Conj. 4 using moments and their pointwise limits may seem as a poor way to formulate CI for a probability measure such as $\nu_\phi$. A more satisfactory approach would be to define $T_f\phi$ resulting from the covariant action of a conformal map $f \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ on a distribution $\phi \in S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$. As far as we know, this issue was not addressed in the 2D CP literature, perhaps because of the emphasis on local rather than global CI. If $f : U \rightarrow V$ is a diffeomorphism, then $(T_f\phi)(x)$ in $\mathcal{D}'(V)$ is easy to define as $|J_f^{-1}(x)| d\phi(f^{-1}(x))$ in the sense of distributions as in [78 p. 5]. Namely, for a test function $g \in \mathcal{D}(V)$, define $(T_f\phi)(g) = \phi(T_{f^{-1}}g)$ where $(T_{f^{-1}}g)(x) = |J_f(x)|^{-\frac{d}{2}} g(f(x))$. However, this results in the unpleasant feature that domains $U$, $V$ will change with the map $f$. If one wants to implement a true action of the group $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ at the level of Schwartz distributions in $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$, one must stomach the point at infinity. This was done in white noise theory (see [108 and 107 §5.3]) by changing the space of test functions from $S(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to the $D_\chi$ used in [96] in order to revisit Bargmann’s study [23] of unitary representations of $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^2)$. A similar idea is used in [120 119]. However, most computations in physics are done in Fourier space and the ideal setting for Fourier analysis is provided by the distribution space $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$. In order not to give up the beloved space $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the following can be done when $0 < [\phi] < \frac{d}{2}$. If one does not second-guess Schwartz’s intentions when choosing the letter “$S$” for his space, the explanation for the latter is the word “spherical”. Indeed, Schwartz proves (see [160 or 162 §VII.4]) that an element $\phi \in D'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ belongs to $S'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ if an only if it admits an extension to an element of $\mathcal{D}'(S^d)$ via $\mathbb{R}^d \subset \mathbb{R}^d \simeq S^d$ (see [16] for a far-reaching generalization). For a measure such as $\mu_{\infty}$ or $\nu_\phi$, with $0 < [\phi] < \frac{d}{2}$, by the 1st-quantized KC Theorem [139 Lemma 5.2], the $\phi$’s would almost surely be in $C^\alpha$ for $\alpha < -[\phi]$. The key remark, is that by taking $\alpha > -d$, the extension is unique (and it is also in the space $C^\alpha$ for the sphere $S^d$). Namely, one is in a removable singularity situation similar to that of Riemann’s Theorem (see [65 §8.1]). One can also realize the unique extension in a Borel measurable way by avoiding the Hahn-Banach Theorem used in [162 §VII.4] and relying instead on a more constructive extension procedure (see [42 p. 88] or [133 Thm. 2.1]). This gives a definition of the push-forward $(T_f)_*\nu$ of the original measure $\nu$ by an almost sure pathwise construction. The additional restriction $[\phi] < \frac{d}{2}$, rather than just $[\phi] < d$, comes from the need for the DPC property in order to reduce an equation $(T_f)_*\nu = \nu$ to a statement about pointwise correlations as in Conj. 4. For the Gaussian measure $\mu_{\infty}$, and contrary to what a hasty reading of [78 p. 5] might suggest, CI (in the stronger probabilistic sense just explained) holds for all $[\phi] \in (0, \frac{d}{2})$ because the DPC property holds as well as the easy analogue of Conj. 4 [150]. The latter reduces to the fundamental identity $|J(x) - J(y)| = |x - y| \times |x|^{-1} \times |y|^{-1}$ for the unit-sphere inversion. It is somewhat surprising that CI needs the 1st-quantized KC Theorem and thus a condition such as $[\phi] < \frac{d}{2}$. As for the “second-quantized” KC Theorem and the OPE, even for Gaussian fields, going beyond this barrier is rather problematic. This relates, e.g., to the construction of iterated integrals of fractional Brownian motion for low Hurst exponent. Very little is known, apart from the findings from the courageous work by J. Unterberger, with help from J. Magnen [171 172 126 127]. Finally, before moving on to the $p$-adic toy model, it is worth remarking that if CI and OS positivity hold, then so do more exotic forms of the latter. One would have inversion positivity [90 141] with respect to say the unit sphere instead of a reflection
hyperplane.

3 The hierarchical toy model

It should be apparent from the previous discussion that Conj. 1-10 (except perhaps 5) are connected by a unifying theme: robustness with respect to space-dependent perturbations of the interaction, e.g., replacing \( g_r, \mu_r \) in (2) by functions \( g_r(x), \mu_r(x) \). The long-term goal of this program is to solve these nine conjectures which is a battle that has to be fought simultaneously on all fronts. The chosen RG approach is very expensive: proofs such as \([21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 51, 52, 53, 54, 108]\) tend to take monumental proportions. Besides, the latter work addresses simpler issues than: the OPE, anomalous dimensions and CI. The last thing one would want is to build a big RG machine and then, at the last step towards proving say CI, to discover with horror that some choice of cut-off made at the beginning will not work and one has to start over. It is thus essential to find a toy model where all the problems in Conj. 1-10 are present yet in cleaner smaller-scale form. This is what the \( p \)-adic hierarchical BMS model of [12] provides. When studying complex multiscale phenomena it is often important to decompose functions into time-frequency atoms which live on a tree, e.g., when using a wavelet decomposition. Unfortunately for most questions of interest the metric which governs how these atoms interact with each other is not the natural (from the tree point of view) ultrametric distance, but the Euclidean metric of the underlying continuum. Hierarchical models in physics amount to changing the model so it is the ultrametric distance which defines atomic correlations. The same idea also appears in mathematics where such toy models are often called “dyadic models” [170]. Given a problem in Euclidean space, there are lots of ways of setting up a hierarchical model for it. The \( p \)-adics, in some sense provide the most canonical, structured and principled way of doing this. In order not to spook the reader, the \( p \)-adic BMS model will be introduced without appealing to \( p \)-adic analysis as covered, e.g., in [18, 159, 174] but instead by relying on the well developed probabilistic intuition for trees (Galton-Watson processes, branching Brownian motion, etc.). The few remarks needing \( p \)-adic analysis will be placed between the symbols \( ♠ \) and \( ♣ \).

Take an integer \( p > 1 \) and let \( \mathbb{L}_k \) denote the set of boxes \( \prod_{i=1}^{d} [p^k a_i, p^k (a_i + 1)) \), \( (a_1, \ldots, a_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d \) which form a partition of the orthant \( [0, \infty)^d \) by cubes of size \( p^k \), \( k \in \mathbb{Z} \). The set \( \mathcal{T} = \cup_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{L}_k \) naturally has the structure of a doubly-infinite tree. Now forget about how the tree was defined using an artificial embedding in \( [0, \infty)^d \) and just remember the tree structure and its organization into layers \( \mathbb{L}_k \). There is a clear notion of rays or leaves at infinity forming a set \( \mathbb{L}_\infty = : \mathbb{Q}_p^d \) (see [6]). Pick a ray and call it the origin \( 0 \). Give the name \( \infty \) to the common root of all these rays. For \( x, y \in \mathbb{Q}_p^d \) define their distance \( |x - y| = p^k \) where \( k \) labels the layer \( \mathbb{L}_k \) where the two rays split. This is an ultrametric, whose closed balls are in one-to-one correspondence with vertices \( x \in \mathcal{T} \). One can easily define a “Lebesgue measure” \( d^d x \) on \( \mathbb{Q}_p^d \) which assigns a volume \( p^{kd} \) for a ball corresponding to an \( x \) in \( \mathbb{L}_k \). Thus, \( \text{Volume} = (\text{Linear size})^d \) as in \( \mathbb{R}^d \). The layer \( \mathbb{L}_0 \) (the set of unit balls in \( \mathbb{Q}_p^d \)) plays the role of the lattice \( \mathbb{Z}^d \). Define the center \( \Omega \in \mathcal{T} \) as the site where the bi-infinite path \( \infty \to 0 \) meets \( \mathbb{L}_0 \). Define a centered Gaussian random field \( (\zeta_x)_{x \in \mathcal{T}} \) by letting \( \mathbb{E} \zeta_x \zeta_y \) if \( x, y \) are in different layers or are in the same layer \( \mathbb{L}_k \) but have different mothers. The remaining case is settled by letting \( \mathbb{E} \zeta_x \zeta_y \) be equal to \( -p^{-d} p^{-k[\phi]} \) if \( x \neq y \) and to \( (1 - p^{-d}) p^{-k[\phi]} \) if \( x = y \). The Gaussian \( \mu_{\infty} \) is the law of the field \( \phi(x) = \sum_x \zeta_x \) where the sum is over all sites along the ray \( \infty \to x \). It lives in \( S(\mathbb{Q}_p^d) \simeq \mathbb{R}^N \) obtained as the dual of the space \( S(\mathbb{Q}_p^d) \simeq \mathfrak{h}_0 \simeq \mathbb{C}^\mathbb{N} \) of smooth
(i.e., _locally constant_ compactly supported) functions $f : \mathbb{Q}_p^d \to \mathbb{R}$ with the locally convex topology defined by all seminorms. Note that the usually trivial part of Bochner’s Theorem is nontrivial but true for $s_0$ since it is sequential [144, pp. 795–796]. Fix $L = p^l$ for some integer $l > 0$. If one stops the summation over $\mathbf{x}$, coming from $\infty$, at the layer $L_{l'}$, then this defines the analogue of the smooth field $\phi * \rho_{UV, x}$ and its law $\mu_{C^*}$. The volume cut-off $\rho_{IR, x}$ is the indicator function of the closed ball of radius $L^s$ around 0. Combine analogues of translations and $O(d)$ elements into the group of bijective isometries of $\mathbb{Q}_p^d$ for the ultrametric. Scaling corresponds to vertical shifts between layers $L_k$. Now the hierarchical analogues of Conj. 1–10 should be clear except for Conj. 5 and statements related to property in Conj. 7 and have since developed a clear strategy to prove all the conjectures except for which $\phi$ is the smooth field $\rho_{UV, x}$ and its law $\mu_{C^*}$. The volume cut-off $\rho_{IR, x}$ is the indicator function of the closed ball of radius $L^s$ around 0. Combine analogues of translations and $O(d)$ elements into the group of bijective isometries of $\mathbb{Q}_p^d$ for the ultrametric. Scaling corresponds to vertical shifts between layers $L_k$. Now the hierarchical analogues of Conj. 1–10 should be clear except for Conj. 5 and statements related to property in Conj. 7 and have since developed a clear strategy to prove all the conjectures except Conj. 5 and statements related to $\rho_{UV}$ independence. Note that [12, 13] not only prove conjectures but introduce new methods. The article [12] develops the _space-dependent_ rigorous RG, i.e., one

4 What has been done

For the $p$-adic model the following has been proved. The article [12] proves Conj. 1 except independence with respect to $L$, $\rho_{UV}$ and $\rho_{IR}$ and scale invariance. Only discrete scale invariance by powers of $L = p^l$ is proved. Reference [12] also proves Conj. 6 with $[\phi^2]$ possibly depending on $L$ as well as Conj. 7 except the DPC and CI properties. Scale-invariance is also discrete. Later in [13] (see [60, Ch. 4]), the possible dependence of $[\phi^2]$ on $L$ is ruled out and discrete scale invariance is upgraded to full one by powers of $p$ for Conj. 1 and Conj. 7. In May 2015, the author proved the DPC property in Conj. 7 and have since developed a clear strategy to prove all the conjectures except Conj. 5 and statements related to $\rho_{UV}$ independence. Note that [12, 13] not only prove conjectures but introduce new methods. The article [12] develops the _space-dependent_ rigorous RG, i.e., one
able to handle couplings \( g_r(x), \mu_r(x) \). The non-rigorous version is called *local RG* in the physics literature (see \[180, \S 12.4\] and \[75, 145, 111, 140\]). The new method in \[13\], based on a successful marriage of RG and correlation inequalities techniques, shows that the measures \( \nu_0 \) obtained by the RG with two ratios \( L \) and \( pL \) are the same and thus inherit both discrete scale invariances. This method should work in \( \mathbb{R}^d \) too since the ratio of \( \log(L) \) and \( \log(L + 1) \) is irrational (see, e.g., \[176\]) and the DPC property would imply scale invariance by the full group \((0, \infty)\).

The first nontrivial example of successful use of the RG method is not due to Wilson but rather Landen and Gauss in the late 18th century \[135, \S 2.3\]. For \( \vec{V} = (a, b) \in (0, \infty)^2 \), let \( Z(\vec{V}) = \int_0^{\pi/2} (a^2 \cos^2 \theta + b^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \, d\theta \) which is trivial to compute on the “line of fixed points” \( \{a = b\} \). The identity \( Z(\vec{V}) = Z(RG(\vec{V})) \) for the transformation \( RG : (a, b) \mapsto \left( \frac{a+b}{2}, \sqrt{ab} \right) \) is the basis for Gauss’s algorithm to compute \( Z(\vec{V}) \) in general. The RG method in \[12\] (see \[5\] for a quick review) is based on the same idea. Since the Lévy Continuity Theorem holds for \( s_0' \simeq s'_0 \times s'_0 \), weak convergence follows from that of characteristic functions which is proved by showing uniform convergence in a small complex neighborhood of the origin \[124\]. The characteristic function is the ratio of \( Z(\vec{V}[f, j]) \) over \( Z(\vec{V}[0, 0]) = Z_{r,s} \) from \[2\] where \( \vec{V}[0, 0] \) is some data that encodes the integrand. Similarly, \( \vec{V}[f, j] \) accounts for the addition of source terms \( \phi(f) \) (or \( \phi_{r,s}(f) \) in the notation of Conj. 6) and \( N_{r,s} [\phi^2](j) \) due to two test functions \( f \) and \( j \). For suitable \( \rho_{UV}, \Gamma = C_0 - C_1 \) is positive semidefinite and one has a decomposition of Gaussian measures \( \mu_{C_0} = \mu_{T} + \mu_{C_1} \). The RG transformation is the operation of performing the \( \mu_{T} \) integration followed by rescaling. It results in identities similar to that of Gauss. One then iterates, and carefully compares the trajectories for the numerator and denominator using dynamical systems tools, some of which new like the infinite-dimensional Poincaré-Koenigs Theorem of \[12, \S 9\]. Although the author was unaware of it at the time when \[12\] was written, it turns out that \[12, \S 9\] share a similar flavor with the treatment in \[147, \S 2.6 \text{ and } \S 2.7\] of the Stable Manifold Theorem and the \( \lambda\)-Lemma. The main difference is that \[147, \S 2.6 \text{ and } \S 2.7\] is in the differentiable category whereas \[12, \S 9\] is in the analytic category. Other works in rigorous RG theory handle the \( \phi(f) \) source by completing the square and translating the Gaussian measure. This causes problems if one iterates \( RG \) too many times. This is why \[48, 24, 138\] produce scaling/continuum limits in finite volume. The new method of \[12\] allows one to take both \( r \to -\infty \) and \( s \to \infty \) limits and shows the commutation of these limits. For the \( N_{r,s} [\phi^2](j) \) source the previous translation trick does not work and one has to introduce space-dependent RG techniques as in \[12\]. One could say that obtaining a CFT compactified on torus \[138\] is a good thing and indeed it is \[70, \text{ Ch. 10}\], provided one can extract the full space CFT from it by a short distance scaling limit \[72, \text{ Eq. 3.2}\]. However, this exactly means doing \( s \to \infty \) after \( r \to -\infty \) which again seems to require techniques as in \[12\].

5 What remains to be done

**Phase 1**: It is to complete the proofs of the conjectures in the \( p \)-adic case, namely, polishing \[12, 13\] and writing up \[7, 8, 9, 10\]. Conj. 3 only needs the stable manifold theorem \[12, \S 8.2\]. Although technical, the OPE and pathwise squares simply form a natural continuation of \[12\]. The new idea concerns CI in Conj. 4 (CI in Conj. 7 follows from Conj. 4 and Conj. 8). The claim in the remarkable article \[119\] amounts to Conj. 4 but the article has two shortcomings: 1) some mathematical details are missing 2) CI is shown for the “wrong” model. Namely, Lerner uses the *conformal ball model* for his cut-off, i.e., spheres with center \( \Omega \) instead of the layers \( \mathbb{L}_k \). Our
solution is simple: show that the “right” and “wrong” models are the same. All the needed tools are in [12] whose space-dependent RG philosophy needs to be pushed one step further by allowing space-dependent cut-offs! Namely, reprove Conj. 1 with \( r \to r(x) \) in (2) and some tweaks to the Lebesgue measure involving \( (\min\{1,|x|^{-1}\})^d d^d x \) which is the \( p \)-adic analogue of \( (1 + |x|^2)^{-d} d^d x \) defining the conformal Cauchy distribution [121, 77].

**Phase 2:** One needs to tackle the main problem: developing a rigorous space-dependent RG for \( \mathbb{R}^d \) using work on the \( p \)-adic side as a guide, following the philosophy in Weil’s de profundis letter to his sister [178]. The proof of CI in [148] is in the sense of formal power series (FPS) and also in that of theoretical physics. As a warm-up, one should give a mathematical proof (still in the FPS sense).

A thorough rigorous perturbative study of the BMS model on \( \mathbb{R}^3 \) is available [35, 36, 136, 137] as well as an ingenious proof of CI on \( \mathbb{Q}_p \) in the FPS sense [120]. One just needs to combine the two. For the non-perturbative study, the first step is to find the right partition of unity for, e.g.,

\[
\int g(x)\phi(x)^4 \, d^d x
\]

in order to satisfy the localization property [5, p. 5]. The sharp indicator functions used in [50, 2] do not look promising. One would need smooth decompositions, e.g., as in [1 Ch. 4]. The first thing to try are Daubechies wavelets which served Hairer well in [102]. The wavelet transform will play a crucial role since it provides an extension to the upper half-space model. A wavelet basis corresponds to sampling at the vertices of a 2-adic \( T \) embedded in the real \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \). One has to see how \( \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d) \) acts on such a basis. There is a coupling/field duality in

\[
\int g(x)\phi(x)^4 \, d^d x
\]

which may signal the need for different dual treatments of \( g \) and \( \phi \), perhaps using [66, 91]. It is important for the reader who is not an expert in rigorous RG theory to understand, that if the main problem is solved then most of the remaining steps towards the conjectures would follow by “copy-and-paste” from the similar ones for the \( p \)-adic case.

**Phase 3:** If enough progress is made on the main problem, one may also explore possible applications to number theory. By a remark of Burnol [55, 56] and Bochner’s Theorem for \( \mathcal{D}'((0,\infty)) \) [87, §6], the Riemann Hypothesis (RH) is equivalent to the existence of a certain multiplicatively translation-invariant probability measure on \( \mathcal{D}'((0,\infty)) \). The covariance kernel behaves like \(|x-y|^{-1}\) on the diagonal and the ideal KC Theorem would suggest the corresponding field has regularity \( \alpha < -\frac{1}{2} \) so one really needs random distributions. While Burnol’s explanation for Weil positivity is a quantum one (in the sense of quantum versus classical mechanics), that in the approaches by Connes [63] and Deninger [68] are classical. Let \( G \) be a finite group with a left action on a finite set \( X \) and denote by \( g \mapsto T(g) \) the corresponding unitary representation in \( L^2(X) \). Then, clearly, the matrix \((M_{g_1, g_2})_{g_1, g_2 \in G} \) given by \( M_{g_1, g_2} = \text{tr} \left( T(g_1 g_2^{-1}) \right) \) is positive semidefinite. Connes’ mechanism for positivity [63, p. 66] is a sophisticated elaboration on the previous fact. In Deninger’s approach it is clear that RH is related to an action of the scaling group \((0,\infty)\), but action on what? That is the question. A possibility suggested in [68, p. 99] is that the relevant finite-dimensional dynamical system might emerge as an attractor inside an infinite-dimensional one, similarly to renomalizable QFT’s inside theory space where \((0,\infty)\) acts as the RG. This tantalizing possibility was further investigated in [118]. Perhaps one should try to reconcile the quantum point of view of Burnol with the classical one of Connes and Deninger, and holography [132] may provide some clues for doing so. Although not yet very well understood, the holographic RG is a way to geometrize the scale direction in Wilson’s RG, roughly, using the \{0\} \( d \times (0,\infty) \) axis in \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \) (see, e.g., [40, 106, 140]). For instance, take a random field \( \phi \) on \( \mathbb{R}^d \) and extend it to \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \) using the wavelet transform. This is the continuous analogue of the block-spinning procedure for the \( p \)-adic case in [120, 119] which goes back to [182]. Then restrict to the \((0,\infty)\) axis in \( \mathbb{H}^{d+1} \). Multiplicative translation-invariance for the resulting field, as in Burnol’s remark, means that the original field is self-similar which
most often than not translates into CI. However, this construction is too naive because the extended field is smooth which is incompatible with the expected $-\frac{1}{2}$ Hölder regularity. In any case, a good example to look at would be the simplest nontrivial case of elliptic curves over finite fields where RH is not a conjecture but a theorem from 1936 [105]. Quite ironically, the profound unity in the book series by Gel’fand and co-authors on generalized functions was literally lost in translation. Volumes 5 [96] and 6 [95] focused on the unitary representations of groups such as $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R})$ or $\mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^2)$, over local fields such as $\mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{Q}_p$. The corresponding applications to number theory form a flourishing and vibrant area in mathematics (see [92] for review emphasizing connections to CFT). It would be desirable to develop number theoretical applications, preferably easier ones than the RH bogeyman, for Volume 4 [97] too.

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