

# Bi-free probability and reflection positivity

Roland Speicher

Saarland University  
Saarbrücken, Germany

arXiv: 2312.06813

# Historical background

MATHEMATISCHES FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT OBERWOLFACH

Report No. 55/2017

DOI: 10.4171/OWR/2017/55

## Reflection Positivity

Organised by  
Arthur Jaffe, Harvard  
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## Obituary: K.R. Parthasarathy 1936–2023

JULY 16, 2023

**Kalyanapuram Rangachari Parthasarathy**, known to generations of mathematicians and probabilists simply as **KRP**, passed away on June 14 in New Delhi; he was 86. Professor Parthasarathy made numerous extremely deep contributions over a stunningly wide spectrum of mathematics: probability, quantum probability, graph theory, linear algebra, statistics and other mathematical domains. With his passing, India has lost an icon of 20th century mathematics.



### Announcement:

Special Issue of IDAQP in honour of Prof K R Parthasarathy

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ABSTRACT. We point out that bi-free product constructions respect reflection positivity.

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ABSTRACT. We point out that bi-free product constructions respect reflection positivity.

### Probabilistic Operator Algebra Seminar

Organizer: Dan-Virgil Voiculescu

January 30 **Roland Speicher**, Saarland University Saarbruecken

Title: *Bi-free probability and reflection positivity*

I will recall the notions of reflection positivity (from algebraic quantum field theory) and point out that bi-free product constructions respect reflection positivity.

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# What is reflection positivity?

Reflection positivity is ...

... some additional positivity, corresponding to a symmetry  $\theta$ , in addition to the “usual” positivity.



# What is reflection positivity?

## Hilbert space setting

- Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$
- unitary involution  $\theta : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ , i.e.,  $\theta^2 = \text{id}$  and  $\langle \theta(f), \theta(g) \rangle = \langle f, g \rangle$
- distinguished subspace  $\mathcal{H}_+ \subset \mathcal{H}$ ,

$(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}_+, \theta)$  is called *reflection positive* if

$$\langle \theta(f), f \rangle \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } f \in \mathcal{H}_+$$

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- operator algebra  $A$  with state  $\tau : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
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Often one also requires that  $A_+$  and  $A_- := \theta(A_+)$  commute (or satisfy some other relations) and both together generate  $A$

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- left-right exchange between two faces in bi-free setting

$$(x_i, y_i)_{i \in I} \text{ pairs of faces} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta(x_i) = y_i$$

# Osterwalder-Schrader axioms for euclidian QFT

Commun. math. Phys. 31, 83–112 (1973)

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## Axioms for Euclidean Green's Functions

Konrad Osterwalder<sup>\*</sup> and Robert Schrader<sup>\*\*</sup>

Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. USA

Received December 18, 1972

**Abstract.** We establish necessary and sufficient conditions for Euclidean Green's functions to define a unique Wightman field theory.

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relativistic/Minkowski QFT

Euclidean QFT

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- Wightmann functions

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- $\tilde{\psi}(x, \tau)^* = e^{\tau H} \psi(x, 0) e^{-\tau H} = \tilde{\psi}(x, -\tau)$
- And thus, with  $\theta(\tilde{\psi})(x, \tau) = \tilde{\psi}(x, -\tau)$ ,

$$\tau[\theta(\tilde{\psi})\tilde{\psi}] = \tau[\tilde{\psi}^*\tilde{\psi}] \geq 0$$



## Meaning of reflection positivity

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$$\begin{aligned} f \in \mathcal{H}_+ : \quad \langle \theta(f), f \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \overline{\theta(f)}(s) f(t) k(s, t) ds dt \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \int_{\mathbb{R}_-} \bar{f}(-s) f(t) k(s, t) ds dt \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} \bar{f}(s) f(t) k(-s, t) ds dt \end{aligned}$$

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### Reflection positive kernels (Jorgensen, Neeb, Olafson)

We have on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}_+)$  two positive definite kernels, given via  $k$ , namely

- $(s, t) \mapsto k(s, t)$       or       $(s, t) \mapsto k(t - s)$
- $(s, t) \mapsto k(-s, t)$       or       $(s, t) \mapsto k(t + s)$

# Consequences of reflection positivity

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gives a new inner product on  $\mathcal{H}_+$ , and thus we have Cauchy-Schwartz also for this

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or in terms of the old inner product

$$\langle \theta(f), g \rangle \leq \sqrt{\langle \theta(f), f \rangle \cdot \langle \theta(g), g \rangle} \leq \frac{1}{2} \{ \langle \theta(f), f \rangle + \langle \theta(g), g \rangle \}$$

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and so

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \theta(f) + g, \theta(f) + g \rangle &= \langle \theta(f), \theta(f) \rangle + \langle g, g \rangle + 2\langle \theta(f), g \rangle \\ &\leq \langle \theta(f), \theta(f) \rangle + \langle g, g \rangle + \langle \theta(f), f \rangle + \langle \theta(g), g \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \{ \langle f + \theta(f), f + \theta(f) \rangle + \langle g + \theta(g), g + \theta(g) \rangle \} \end{aligned}$$

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Say, we want to maximize

$$\mathcal{E}(h) = \langle h, h \rangle = \int \int \bar{h}(s) h(t) k(s, t) ds dt$$

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Write

$$h = h_- + h_+, \quad \text{with } h_+ \in L^2(\mathbb{R}_+) \text{ and } h_- \in L^2(\mathbb{R}_-)$$

then

$$\mathcal{E}(h) = \mathcal{E}(h_- + h_+) \leq \frac{\mathcal{E}(\theta(h_-) + h_-) + \mathcal{E}(h_+ + \theta(h_+))}{2}$$

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### Symmetric problem has symmetric solution

Thus, at least one of  $h_- + \theta(h_-)$  and  $h_+ + \theta(h_+)$  is a better maximizer for  $\mathcal{E}$  than  $h = h_- + h_+$ . This means that the solution  $h$  to the maximization problem must be symmetric, i.e.,  $\theta(h) = h$ .



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### Existence of phase transitions in statistical physics (Fröhlich, Israel, Lieb, Simon)

- symmetry of solution for small temperatures by reflection positivity
- absence of such symmetry by high temperature expansion

## Meaning of reflection positivity

Consider two commuting random variables  $x$  and  $y$

$$A = L^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}) = L^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \otimes L^\infty(\mathbb{R}) = \{f(x, y)\}$$

$$\theta(f)(x, y) = \bar{f}(y, x)$$

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Does this have any probabilistic meaning?

## Bi-free probability

Consider pairs of faces:  $(x_i, y_i)$  for  $i \in I$

$$A = \text{alg}(x_i, y_i; i \in I), \quad A_i := \text{alg}(x_i, y_i)$$

[ $x_i$  and  $y_i$  don't need to commute; if they do, we call it bipartite]

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- in order to calculate  $\tau$  for any product of the left and right variables do the following
  - ▶ move all left variables to the left, all right variables to the right
  - ▶ invert the order of the right variables
  - ▶ decompose now into the individual moments for each  $i$  according to the usual freeness rule
  - ▶ bring the left and right variables in each moment back into their original order

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$(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  bi-free means

- $x_1, x_2$  are free
- $y_1, y_2$  are free
- $x_1$  and  $y_2$  are independent
- $x_2$  and  $y_1$  are independent
- the relation between  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  can be arbitrarily prescribed
- the relation between  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  can be arbitrarily prescribed

# Bi-free probability: positivity questions

## Positivity of the state

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- Question: If all  $\theta|_{(x_i, y_i)}$  are reflection positive, is this then also true for  $\theta$  on the bi-free product?
- Observation: This is true!
- Proof: This is just the fact that the Hadamard product of matrices preserves positive definiteness

## Example of calculation of a positive moment

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**Thank you for your attention!**