# Tree tensor network approximations to conformal field theories

#### Dmytro Bondarenko, Robert König and Volkher Scholz

#### Leibniz Universität Hannover, TUM and ETHZ

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#### Ambitious goal

## tensor networks $\checkmark$ ? $\longrightarrow$ QFT

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#### Ambitious goal



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#### Ambitious goal



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#### Doable yet interesting goal



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## Outline

1. Build exact tree tensor network (TTN) for CFT correlation functions.



2. Truncate TTN to finite dimensional matrices and obtain error bounds.



3. Optimize TTN to get smaller bond dimensions.



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CFT can be defined via **vertex operator algebra**. Vertex operators  $Y(\psi, z)$  give axiomatic footing for field operators and also normal ordered products and derivatives of field operators.

The space V of fields  $\psi$  is graded by  $L_0$ . Eigenvalues of  $L_0$  are called **weights** or **energies**.

#### Useful relations

Vertex operators obey

$$q^{L_0}Y(\psi,z)q^{-L_0}=Y(q^{L_0}\psi,qz)$$

and

$$Y(\psi, x)Y(\phi, y) = Y(Y(\psi, x - y)\phi, y)$$

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but can be **unbounded** 

#### Scaled vertex operators

For a fixed space S,  $dim(S) < \infty$  scaled vertex operator

$$W_q(\psi, z) = q^{L_0/2} Y(q^{L_0/2}\psi, z) q^{L_0/2} \equiv - \psi$$

is bounded

 $\|W_q(\psi,z)\| \leq \vartheta_S(q,z)\|\psi\| \ \forall \psi \in S \text{ and } 0 < q < \min\{|z|^2,1/|z|^2\}.$ 

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Calculation of correlation functions on equidistant lattice  $(q = e^{-\text{spacing}})$  is equivalent to calculating expectation values of the **transfer operator** 

$$T_{l}(\{\psi_{i}\}_{i=1}^{n}; z, q) = q^{lL_{0}}W_{q}(\psi_{1}, z) \circ W_{q}(\psi_{2}, z) \circ \ldots \circ W_{q}(\psi_{n}, z)q^{-lL_{0}}$$

$$\cong \underbrace{\begin{array}{c} & & \\ & &$$

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#### Conditions for constituent tensor

What we **want** for the constituent tensor  $\epsilon_{z,q}$ :  $V \otimes V \rightarrow V$ 



Renormalized and initial fields should yield the same physics.



The map e<sub>q,z</sub>(ψ<sub>1</sub> ⊗ ψ<sub>2</sub>) should be bounded if ψ<sub>1</sub> and ψ<sub>2</sub> have only finite weight components in the weight decomposition (i.e. in eigenbasis of L<sub>0</sub>).

#### The exact TTN

#### The map

$$\epsilon_{z,q}:\psi\otimes\phi
ightarrow W\left(\psi,(1-q)z
ight)q^{L_0}\phi$$

and the map

$$z
ightarrow q^{5/2}z, \quad q
ightarrow q^2$$

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for parameters z and q such that  $0 < q < \min\left\{|(1-q)z|^2, \frac{1}{|(1-q)z|^2}\right\} \text{ does the job!}$ 

#### Uniqueness

- The TTN constituent tensor  $\epsilon_{z,q}$  is not unique.
- ▶ There is at least a one-parameter family  $\epsilon^{\alpha}_{z,q}, \ \alpha > 1$

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#### Truncation

**Truncated** scaled vertex operator  $W_q^{[N]}(\psi, z)$  does not change the weight of  $\psi$  by more than N. Using this object, we can introduce truncated TTN.



#### Truncation

$$\left\|\simeq \left[\begin{array}{c} & \\ & \\ \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} & \\ & \\ \end{array}\right]\right\| \propto q^{\Omega(N)}$$

If function  $w \to \vartheta_w(q, z)$  grows sub-exponentially for z, q fixed, truncated tree tensor is a good approximation for a certain region of z, l and q. For WZW models this assumption holds with a great margin.

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## Truncating full tree

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## Truncated tree approximates CFT correlation functions well



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Scaled vertex operators are bounded only for certain range of z and q.

For *n* initial fields this approximation holds on every level of the tree if  $1 - \frac{1}{2n} < q < 1$  and "gauge" parameters *z* and *l* are chosen appropriately.

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#### Example: free boson



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**Observation:** In our approximation scheme the resulting maximal weight of renormalized field depends only on the truncation parameter N and the right input -  $\phi$ , but **not** on the left input  $\psi$ .

$$\epsilon^{[\mathsf{N}]}_{z, q}: \psi \otimes \phi o \mathsf{W}^{[\mathsf{N}]}\left(\psi, (1-q)z
ight) q^{\mathsf{L}_0} \phi$$

**Idea:** Add a new "super-disentangler"  $\mu_{z,q} : V \otimes V \to \mathbb{C} \otimes V$  that rearranges the weights in such a way, that the in next layer of truncated tree tensors all the right inputs have weight 0.

## Properties of "super-disentangler"

Just like the tree tensor, the "super-disentangler" can be found by demanding the same physics on each level and boundedness. It can be truncated analogously to the tree tensor.



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Theorem: efficiency of approximation

Let us denote by d(w) the number of vectors of weight not more than w. We have proven that by using bond dimension not greater than D

$$D = d\left(\min\left\{\max\left\{-\frac{N}{\log(q)}, \frac{nN}{nN}\right\}\right\}, -\frac{nN}{a\log(q)}\right)$$

one can approximate transfer operators of *n* insertions, and thus *n*-point correlation functions of a given CFT with error  $\leq e^{-bN}f(q, n)$  for *a*, *b* of order 1 if  $w \rightarrow \vartheta_w(q, z)$  grows sub-exponentially (it is true for WZW).

#### Outlook

- We have constructed a tree tensor network that well approximates CFT correlation functions and (for WZW) converges to exact result with growth of bond dimension.
- ▶ We have established bounds on sufficient bond dimension.
- (Preliminary): entropy considerations may suggest that the construction is optimal.

- Question: what are the extra conditions for MERA?
- Question: Can we generalise the construction to other rigorously defined theories?

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