

General Boundary Quantum Field Theory in Minkowski spacetime

Daniele Colosi

Centro de Ciencias Matemáticas
UNAM

Seminar *General Boundary Formulation*
10 April 2013

Based on: DC, R. Oeckl, PRD 78 (2008), arXiv:0802.2274.
DC, R. Oeckl, Phys. Lett. B665 (2008), arXiv:0710.5203.

Contents

Schrödinger-Feynman quantization

Klein-Gordon field in Minkowski

S-matrix in the standard setting

S-matrix in the hypercylinder setting

Summary

Schrödinger-Feynman quantization

- ▶ Schrödinger representation + Feynman path integral quantization
The state space \mathcal{H}_Σ for a hypersurface Σ is the space of functions on field configurations Q_Σ on Σ .
- ▶ We write the inner product there as

$$\langle \psi_2 | \psi_1 \rangle = \int_{Q_\Sigma} \mathcal{D}\varphi \psi_1(\varphi) \overline{\psi_2(\varphi)}.$$

- ▶ The amplitude for a region M and a state ψ in the state space $\mathcal{H}_{\partial M}$ associated to the boundary ∂M of M is

$$\rho_M(\psi) = \int_{Q_\Sigma} \mathcal{D}\varphi \psi(\varphi) Z_M(\varphi),$$

where the hypersurface Σ represents the boundary of M : $\Sigma = \partial M$.

- ▶ Z_M is the propagator given by the Feynman path integral,

$$Z_M(\varphi) = \int_{K_M, \phi|_\Sigma = \varphi} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS_M(\phi)}, \quad \forall \varphi \in Q_\Sigma.$$

The integral is over the space K_M of field configurations ϕ in the interior of M s.t. ϕ agrees with φ on the boundary Σ .

S-matrix in the standard setting

- ▶ We consider a massive Klein-Gordon field in Minkowski spacetime.

- ▶ The usual situation

Spacetime region: $M = [t_1, t_2] \times \mathbb{R}^3$

Boundary: $\partial M = \Sigma_1 \cup \bar{\Sigma}_2$

State space: $\mathcal{H}_{\partial M} = \mathcal{H}_{\Sigma_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\Sigma_2}^*$

$\psi_{1,2}$ wave functions of field config.

$\varphi_{1,2}$ at times $t_{1,2}$



- ▶ Standard transition amplitudes take the form

$$\langle \psi_2 | U_{[t_1, t_2]} | \psi_1 \rangle = \rho_{[t_1, t_2]}(\bar{\psi}_2 \otimes \psi_1) = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi_1 \mathcal{D}\varphi_2 \psi_1(\varphi_1) \overline{\psi_2(\varphi_2)} Z_{[t_1, t_2]}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2),$$

$U_{[t_1, t_2]}$: time-evolution operator from time t_1 to time t_2 .

$Z_{[t_1, t_2]}$: field propagator s.t. vacuum-to-vacuum amplitude equals one.

Free classical theory

- ▶ **Free action** of the real massive Klein-Gordon field

$$S_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \left((\partial_0 \phi)(\partial_0 \phi) - \sum_{i \geq 1} (\partial_i \phi)(\partial_i \phi) - m^2 \phi^2 \right).$$

the integral is extended over the region under consideration.

- ▶ Bounded solutions in the region M are parametrized by plane waves,

$$\phi(x, t) = \int \frac{d^3k}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega}} \left(a(k) e^{-i\omega t} e^{ikx} + c.c. \right).$$

where $\omega = \sqrt{-\sum_i \partial_i^2 + m^2}$.

- ▶ A classical solution that reduces to the field config. φ_1 at t_1 and φ_2 at t_2 is

$$\phi(x, t) = \frac{\sin \omega(t_2 - t)}{\sin \omega(t_2 - t_1)} \varphi_1(x) + \frac{\sin \omega(t - t_1)}{\sin \omega(t_2 - t_1)} \varphi_2(x).$$

- ▶ The **symplectic structure** on L_t reads

$$\omega_t(\phi_1, \phi_2) = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \left(\phi_1 \overset{\leftrightarrow}{\partial}_t \phi_2 \right)$$

Field propagator for the free theory

- ▶ **Field propagator**

$$Z_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = \int_{\phi|_{t_j} = \varphi_j} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\phi)},$$

the integral can be evaluated by shifting the integration variable by a classical solution matching the boundary configurations:

$$Z_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = N_{[t_1, t_2], 0} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \int d^3x (\varphi_1 \quad \varphi_2) W_{[t_1, t_2]} \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 \\ \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix}\right),$$

where $W_{[t_1, t_2]}$ is the operator valued 2×2 matrix

$$W_{[t_1, t_2]} = \frac{-i\omega}{\sin \omega(t_2 - t_1)} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \omega(t_2 - t_1) & -1 \\ -1 & \cos \omega(t_2 - t_1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ The evolution described by this field propagator is **unitary**.

- ▶ **Vacuum state** $\psi_{t,0} \in \mathcal{H}_t$

$$\psi_{t,0}(\varphi) = C_t \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \varphi(x)(\omega\varphi)(x)\right),$$

where C_t is a normalization factor. This state corresponds to the standard Minkowski vacuum state in the Schrödinger representation.

- ▶ **Coherent states** in the **interaction picture** (time-independent description of free states)

$$\psi_{t,\eta}(\varphi) = K_{t,\eta} \exp\left(\int \frac{d^3x d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \eta(k) e^{-i(Et-kx)} \varphi(x)\right) \psi_{t,0}(\varphi),$$

η complex function; $K_{t,\eta}$ normalization factor.

S-matrix in the standard setting: Free theory

- ▶ S-matrix for the **free theory**

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_0 | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle &= \lim_{\substack{t_1 \rightarrow -\infty \\ t_2 \rightarrow +\infty}} \langle \psi_{t_2, \eta_2} | U_{[t_2, t_1], 0} | \psi_{t_1, \eta_1} \rangle \\ &= \lim_{\substack{t_1 \rightarrow -\infty \\ t_2 \rightarrow +\infty}} \rho_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\overline{\psi_2} \otimes \psi_1) \\ &= \exp \left(\int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3 2E} \left(\eta_1(k) \overline{\eta_2(k)} - \frac{1}{2} |\eta_1(k)|^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\eta_2(k)|^2 \right) \right),\end{aligned}$$

where $E = \sqrt{k^2 + m^2}$.

S-matrix in the standard setting: Source interaction (I)

- ▶ Klein-Gordon field interacting with a **source field** μ ; the action takes the form

$$S_{[t_1, t_2], \mu}(\phi) = S_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\phi) + \int d^4x \mu(x)\phi(x),$$

the support of μ vanishes outside the interval $[t_1, t_2]$.

- ▶ The field propagator for the theory with the source interaction takes the form

$$Z_{[t_1, t_2], \mu}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = \int_{\substack{\phi|_{t_1}=\varphi_1 \\ \phi|_{t_2}=\varphi_2}} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS_{[t_1, t_2], \mu}(\phi)}.$$

Shifting the integration variable by a classical solution ϕ_{cl} of the homogeneous Klein-Gordon equation interpolating between φ_1 at t_1 and φ_2 at t_2 ,

$$Z_{[t_1, t_2], \mu}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = Z_{[t_1, t_2], 0}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x)\phi_{\text{cl}}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \mu(x)\alpha(x)},$$

where α is a solution of the **inhomogeneous Klein-Gordon equation**

$$(\square + m^2)\alpha(t, \mathbf{x}) = \mu(t, \mathbf{x}),$$

with boundary conditions $\alpha(t_1, \mathbf{x}) = 0$ and $\alpha(t_2, \mathbf{x}) = 0$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$.

S-matrix in the standard setting: Source interaction (II)

- ▶ The term $e^{i \int \mu \Phi_{cl}}$ modifies the coherent states as

$$\tilde{\eta}_1(k) := \eta_1(k) + \int d^3x e^{i(Et_1 - kx)} \mu_1(x),$$

$$\tilde{\eta}_2(k) := \eta_2(k) + \int d^3x e^{i(Et_2 - kx)} \mu_2(x).$$

- ▶ The transition amplitude results to be

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_\mu | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle &= \langle \psi_{\tilde{\eta}_2} | \mathcal{S}_0 | \psi_{\tilde{\eta}_1} \rangle \frac{K_{t_1, \eta_1} \overline{K_{t_2, \eta_2}}}{K_{t_1, \tilde{\eta}_1} \overline{K_{t_2, \tilde{\eta}_2}}} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \mu(x) \alpha(x)}, \\ &= \langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_0 | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\eta}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \mu(x) \gamma(x)}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\eta}$ is the complex classical solution of the Klein-Gordon equation determined by η_1 and η_2 via

$$\hat{\eta}(t, x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2E} \left(\eta_1(k) e^{-i(Et - kx)} + \overline{\eta_2(k)} e^{i(Et - kx)} \right).$$

S-matrix in the standard setting: Source interaction (III)

- ▶ The quantity γ is the solution of the inhomogeneous Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\square + m^2)\gamma = \mu,$$

with boundary conditions

$$\text{for } t < t_1, \quad \gamma(t, k) = e^{iEt} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} d\tau i e^{-iE\tau} \mu(\tau, k),$$

$$\text{for } t > t_2, \quad \gamma(t, k) = e^{-iEt} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} d\tau i e^{iE\tau} \mu(\tau, k).$$

The function γ contains only negative energy modes at early times ($t < t_1$) and positive energy modes at late times ($t > t_2$). We recognize these as the *Feynman boundary conditions*. Thus, γ takes the form,

$$\gamma(x) = \int d^4x' G_F(x, x') \mu(x'),$$

G_F is the Feynman propagator

normalized: $(\square_x + m^2)G_F(x, x') = \delta^4(x - x')$.

S-matrix in the standard setting: Source interaction (IV)

- ▶ S-matrix for the theory with source interaction,

$$\langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_\mu | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle = \langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_0 | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle \cdot \exp \left(i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\eta}(x) \right) \exp \left(\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x d^4x' \mu(x) G_F(x, x') \mu(x') \right),$$

$\hat{\eta}$ is the **complex solution** of the Klein-Gordon given by equation

$$\hat{\eta}(t, x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2E} \left(\eta_1(k) e^{-i(Et - kx)} + \overline{\eta_2(k)} e^{i(Et - kx)} \right).$$

S-matrix in the standard setting: General interaction

- ▶ We use functional derivative techniques to work out the S-matrix in the case of a general interaction. The action of the scalar field with an arbitrary potential V can be written as

$$S(\phi) = S_0(\phi) + \int d^4x V(x, \phi(x)) = S_0(\phi) + \int d^4x V\left(x, \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(x)}\right) S_\mu(\phi) \Big|_{\mu=0},$$

- ▶ We assume that the interaction vanishes outside the interval $[t_1, t_2]$,

$$V((t, x), \phi(t, x)) = 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^3, \forall t \notin [t_1, t_2].$$

- ▶ The S-matrix

$$\langle \psi_2 | S_V | \psi_1 \rangle = \exp\left(i \int d^4x V\left(x, -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(x)}\right)\right) \langle \psi_2 | S_\mu | \psi_1 \rangle \Big|_{\mu=0}.$$

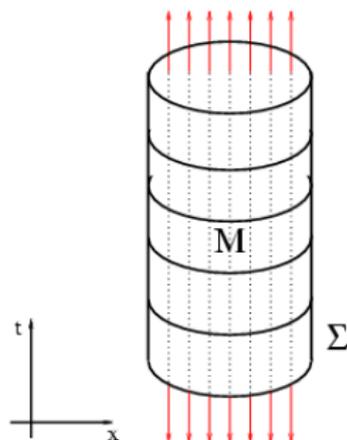
The hypercylinder

We consider the Klein-Gordon field in a spacetime region with a **connected** boundary.

Spacetime region: $M = \mathbb{R} \times B_R^3$, ball of radius R in space extended over all of time, the *solia hypercylinder*.

Boundary: $\partial M = \mathbb{R} \times S_R^2$, the *hypercylinder*.

State space: $\mathcal{H}_{\partial M} = \mathcal{H}_{\Sigma} = \mathcal{H}_R$.



Solutions of the Klein-Gordon equation

$$\phi(t, r, \Omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l \alpha_{l,m}(E) e^{-iEt} f_l(pr) Y_l^m(\Omega),$$

where f_l denotes a certain kind of spherical Bessel function. Ω is a collective notation for the angle coordinates (θ, ϕ) . Y_l^m denotes the spherical harmonic.

Classical solutions

Different types of spherical Bessel functions are used depending of the value of the energy

- ▶ If $E^2 > m^2 \rightarrow$ real momentum, (ordinary) spherical Bessel functions of the first and second kind: $j_l(pr)$ and $n_l(pr)$
- ▶ If $E^2 < m^2 \rightarrow$ real imaginary, modified spherical Bessel functions of the first and second kind: $i_l^+(i pr)$ and $i_l^-(i pr)$

We introduce a unified notation

$$a_l(E, r) := \begin{cases} j_l(r\sqrt{E^2 - m^2}) & \text{if } E^2 > m^2, \text{ regular at the origin} \\ i_l^+(r\sqrt{m^2 - E^2}) & \text{if } E^2 < m^2, \text{ regular at the origin} \end{cases}$$

and

$$b_l(E, r) := \begin{cases} n_l(r\sqrt{E^2 - m^2}) & \text{if } E^2 > m^2, \text{ singular at the origin} \\ i_l^-(r\sqrt{m^2 - E^2}) & \text{if } E^2 < m^2, \text{ singular at the origin} \end{cases}$$

as well as $c_l(E, r) := a_l(E, r) + i b_l(E, r)$, and $p := \begin{cases} \sqrt{E^2 - m^2} & \text{if } E^2 > m^2, \\ i\sqrt{m^2 - E^2} & \text{if } E^2 < m^2. \end{cases}$

Classical theory

- ▶ Free action

$$S_{R,0}(\phi) = -\frac{1}{2} \int dt d\Omega R^2 \phi(t, R, \Omega) (\partial_r \phi)(t, R, \Omega).$$

- ▶ Classical solution well defined inside the solid hypercylinder in terms of boundary configurations

$$\phi(t, \Omega, r) = \frac{a_l(E, r)}{a_l(E, R)} \varphi(t, \Omega).$$

Quantum theory

- ▶ Free field propagator

$$Z_{R,0}(\varphi) = N_{R,0} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \int dt d\Omega \varphi(t, \Omega) iR^2 \frac{a'_l(E, R)}{a_l(E, R)} \varphi(t, \Omega) \right),$$

where a'_l is the derivative of a_l w.r.t. r and $R^2 \frac{a'_l(E, R)}{a_l(E, R)}$ is to be understood as an operator via the mode decomposition of the field.

- ▶ Vacuum state

$$\psi_{R,0}(\varphi) = C_R \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \int dt d\Omega \varphi(t, \Omega) (B_R \varphi)(t, \Omega) \right),$$

C_R : normalization factor

B_R : family of operators indexed by R given by

$$B_R = -iR^2 \frac{c'_l(E, R)}{c_l(E, R)}.$$

- ▶ Coherent states in the interaction picture (radius-independent description of free states)

$$\psi_{R,\xi}(\varphi) = K_{R,\xi} \exp \left(\int_{|E| \geq m} dE \sum_{l,m} \frac{\xi_{l,m}(E)}{c_l(pR)} \varphi_{l,m}(E) \right) \psi_{R,0}(\varphi),$$

$K_{R,\xi}$: normalization factor

$\xi_{l,m}(E)$: complex function s.t. $\xi_{l,m}(E) = 0$ if $|E| < m$.

S-matrix on the hypercylinder: Free theory

- ▶ Amplitude of the coherent state for the solid hypercylinder

$$\rho_{R,0}(\psi_{R,\xi}) = \exp \left(\int_{|E| \geq m} dE \sum_{l,m} \frac{\rho}{8\pi} \left(\xi_{l,m}(E) \xi_{l,-m}(-E) - |\xi_{l,m}(E)|^2 \right) \right).$$

By construction this expression is independent of the radius R . The limit $R \rightarrow \infty$ gives the **asymptotic amplitude for the free theory**,

$$\mathcal{S}_0(\psi_\xi) = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{R,0}(\psi_{R,\xi}) = \exp \left(\int dE \sum_{l,m} \frac{\rho}{8\pi} \left(\xi_{l,m}(E) \xi_{l,-m}(-E) - |\xi_{l,m}(E)|^2 \right) \right).$$

S-matrix on the hypercylinder: Source interaction (I)

- ▶ We consider an interaction with a **source field** μ that vanishes outside the solid hypercylinder ($r \geq R$).
- ▶ The amplitude associated with the solid hypercylinder $\mathbb{R} \times B_R^3$ is

$$\rho_{R,\mu}(\psi_{R,\xi}) = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \psi_{R,\xi}(\varphi) Z_{R,\mu}(\varphi).$$

- ▶ The field propagator is evaluated by shifting the integration variable by a solution ϕ_{cl} matching the boundary data, $\phi_{\text{cl}}|_R = \varphi$

$$Z_{R,\mu}(\varphi) = Z_{R,0}(\varphi) e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x) \phi_{\text{cl}}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \mu(x) \alpha(x)},$$

α satisfies the **inhomogeneous Klein-Gordon equation** with vanishing boundary conditions at radius R ,

$$(\square + m^2)\alpha = \mu, \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha|_R = 0.$$

- ▶ The the amplitude has the form

$$\rho_{R,\mu}(\psi_{R,\xi}) = \rho_{R,0}(\psi_{R,\xi}) e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\xi}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \mu(x) \gamma(x)}$$

S-matrix on the hypercylinder: Source interaction (II)

- ▶ The quantity γ solves the inhomogeneous Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\square + m^2)\gamma = \mu,$$

with boundary conditions (expressed in momentum space)

$$\gamma_{l,m}(E, r) \Big|_{r>R} = i p \int_0^\infty dr r^2 a_l(E, r) c_l(E, r) \mu_{l,m}(E, r). \quad (1)$$

- ▶ The solution is

$$\gamma(x) = \int d^4x' G_F(x, x') \mu(x'),$$

G_F is the **Feynman propagator**

\Rightarrow the spatially asymptotic boundary conditions (1) are *equivalent* to the usual temporally asymptotic Feynman boundary conditions.

S-matrix on the hypercylinder: Source interaction (III)

- ▶ Amplitude on the hypercylinder

$$\rho_{R,\mu}(\psi_{R,\xi}) = \rho_{R,0}(\psi_{R,\xi}) \cdot \exp\left(i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\xi}(x)\right) \exp\left(\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x d^4x' \mu(x) G_F(x, x') \mu(x')\right), \quad (2)$$

where $\hat{\xi}$ is a complex solution of the Klein-Gordon equation parametrized by functions ξ (correspondence between complex solutions and coherent states),

$$\hat{\xi}(t, r, \Omega) := \int_{|E| \geq m} dE \sum_{l,m} \frac{\rho}{2\pi} \xi_{l,m}(E) j_l(pr) e^{iEt} Y_l^{-m}(\Omega).$$

- ▶ No explicit dependence on the radius R is present in (2). The limit $R \rightarrow \infty$ gives the asymptotic amplitude in the case of a source interaction,

$$\mathcal{S}_\mu(\psi_\xi) = \mathcal{S}_0(\psi_\xi) \exp\left(i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\xi}(x)\right) \exp\left(\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x d^4x' \mu(x) G_F(x, x') \mu(x')\right).$$

S-matrix on the hypercylinder: General interaction

- ▶ We consider a general interaction vanishing outside a finite spatial region

$$V((t, \mathbf{x}), \phi(t, \mathbf{x})) = 0, \quad \text{if } |\mathbf{x}| \geq R.$$

- ▶ We use functional derivative techniques to work out the amplitude

$$\rho_{R,V}(\psi_R) = \exp\left(i \int d^4x V\left(x, -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(x)}\right)\right) \rho_{R,\mu}(\psi_R) \Big|_{\mu=0}.$$

- ▶ No dependence on $R \Rightarrow$ the asymptotic amplitude for a general interaction

$$\mathcal{S}_V(\psi) = \exp\left(i \int d^4x V\left(x, -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(x)}\right)\right) \mathcal{S}_\mu(\psi) \Big|_{\mu=0}.$$

Equality of asymptotic amplitudes

The asymptotic amplitudes with source interaction in the two settings are very similar:

- ▶ standard setting

$$\langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_\mu | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle = \langle \psi_{\eta_2} | \mathcal{S}_0 | \psi_{\eta_1} \rangle e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\eta}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x d^4x' \mu(x) G_F(x, x') \mu(x')},$$

- ▶ hypercylinder

$$\rho_{R, \mu}(\psi_{R, \xi}) = \rho_{R, 0}(\psi_{R, \xi}) e^{i \int d^4x \mu(x) \hat{\xi}(x)} e^{\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x d^4x' \mu(x) G_F(x, x') \mu(x')},$$

- ▶ The same Feynman propagator appears in both expressions
- ▶ We can identify asymptotic states at temporal and at spatial infinity,

$$\hat{\xi} = \hat{\eta}$$

⇒ isomorphism of Hilbert spaces $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2^* \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_R$

- ▶ Indeed this isomorphism makes the free amplitudes equals

$$\left. \langle \psi_{\eta_2, t_2} | \mathcal{U}_{0, [t_1, t_2]} | \psi_{\eta_1, t_1} \rangle \right|_{\hat{\eta} = \hat{\xi}} = \rho_{R, 0}(\Psi_{R, \xi}). \quad (3)$$

- ▶ Consequently an n -particles states in $\mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2^*$ can be expressed as a linear combination of n -particles states in \mathcal{H}_R , and viceversa!

Summary

- ▶ General interacting QFTs in Minkowski fit into the GBF
- ▶ New representation of the Feynman propagator and the S-matrix using the hypercylinder geometry
- ▶ Existence of an isomorphism between the state space associated with **two connected spacelike hypersurfaces** and the state space associated **one connected timelike hypersurface**.
- ▶ New perspective on QFT: crossing symmetry is implicit in the hypercylinder case (no distinction between in- and out-states)
- ▶ The "hypercylinder" quantization scheme has been applied to dS and AdS QFTs.