A New Matrix Model

for

Noncommutative Field Theory

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The Noncommutative torus is the archetypical Noncommutative geometry. A compact exponentiated version of the 'quantum mechanical' canonical commutation $[x, y] = i\theta$

Ordinary Torus: $a(x, y) = \sum_{mn} e^{2\pi imx} e^{2\pi iny}$

Define the noncommutative generalization defining two noncommuting unitary generators

$$UV = e^{2\pi i\theta} VU$$

Noncommutative Torus: $a = \sum_{mn} U^m V^n$

The noncommutative Torus is an extremely rich mathematical structure, with interesting applications (among others) in string theory.

It is possible to study field theories on a NCTorus with the use an integral (trace)

$$\int\!\!\!\!-\, a := a_{0,0}$$

and two derivatives

$$\partial_1 U = 2\pi \mathrm{i}\, U \ , \quad \partial_1 V = 0 \quad ; \quad \partial_2 U = 0 \ , \quad \partial_2 V = 2\pi \mathrm{i}\, V$$

We can therefore construct, for example, a scalar field theory with action

$$S = \int\!\!\!\!-\, \mathcal{L}[\Phi, \partial_\mu \Phi]$$

When $\theta = \frac{p}{q}$ is rational we have a finite dimensional representation of the relation $UV = e^{2\pi \mathrm{i} \theta} VU \equiv \omega VU$ in terms of clock and shift matrices

$$\mathcal{C}_q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \omega^{\frac{p}{q}} & & & \\ & & \omega^{\frac{2p}{q}} & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \omega^{\frac{(q-1)p}{q}} \end{pmatrix} \quad , \quad \mathcal{S}_q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & 0 \\ & 0 & 1 & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & 1 \\ 1 & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Using the fact that any irrational is the limit of rationals (with increasing denominators) we can use clock and shift to define a matrix approximation to the noncommutative Torus.

Thus the noncommutative field theory becomes a matrix model with the projection

$$\pi(a) = \sum_{m,r=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{m,r} \; (\mathcal{C}_q)^m \; (\mathcal{S}_q)^r \; .$$

Note however that the noncommutative torus, like the ordinary torus, is not the inductive limit of finite dimensional algebras.

There are no approximations of the derivations on the matrix algebra.

I will now present a different approximation, based on nonlocal solitons, whereby the elements of the approximate algebra are matrix valued functions

The noncommutativity of the algebra allows nontrivial projections, selfadjoint elements of the algebra with the property $P^2 = P$ and partial isometries $TT^\dagger T = T$

Projections and partial isometries represent D-brane configurations for type IIA and IIB superstrings respectively. They are local minima of the potential and therefore can be considered solitons of the theory

There are 'bump'-like localized solitons (Boca projections), the torus equivalent of the gaussian GMS soliton on the Moyal plane. And there are 'ring'-like solitons (Powers-Rieffel solitons) which 'wrap' around the torus

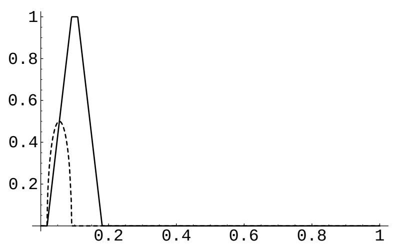
Of course is impossible to 'see' these solitons, but we can plot them using the fact that the NCtorus is obtained by the Weyl quantization of the torus, and use the inverse Wigner map $\Omega^{-1}(a)(x,y) = \sum_{m,r=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{m,r} e^{-\pi\,\mathrm{i}\,m\,r\,\theta} e^{2\pi\,\mathrm{i}\,(m\,x+r\,y)}$

For our purposes we need a slight generalization of the Powers-Rieffel projection

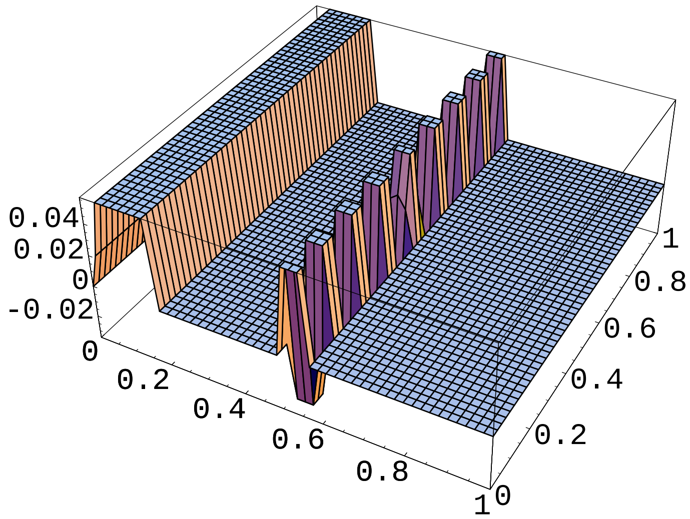
Consider a particular sequence of $\theta_n = \frac{p_n}{q_n} \to \theta$ and the two sequences of projections

$$\mathsf{P}_n^{11} = V^{-q_{2n-1}}\,\Omega(g_n) + \Omega(f_n) + \Omega(g_n)\,V^{q_{2n-1}}$$

$$\mathsf{P}_n^{11\prime} = U^{q_{2n}}\,\Omega(g_n') + \Omega(f_n') + \Omega(g_n')\,U^{-q_{2n}}$$

with f, g one-dimensional bump functions 

The complete projection looks like



As n increases the bumps narrow down and the number of spikes increases

P' is obtained exchanging axis

Shifting f and g by $1/q_{2n}$ is possible to obtain other $q_{2n} - 1$ projections P_n^{ii}, the same can be done in the second set

We can now perform a construction, due to Elliott and Evans, in which we construct a subalgebra of the NCtorus isomorphic to the sum of matrix valued functions on two circles

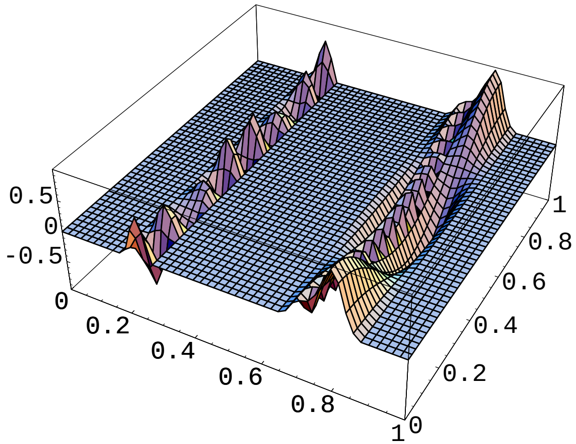
As $\theta_n \longrightarrow \theta$ the subalgebra grows and in the limit becomes exactly the algebra of the NCtorus

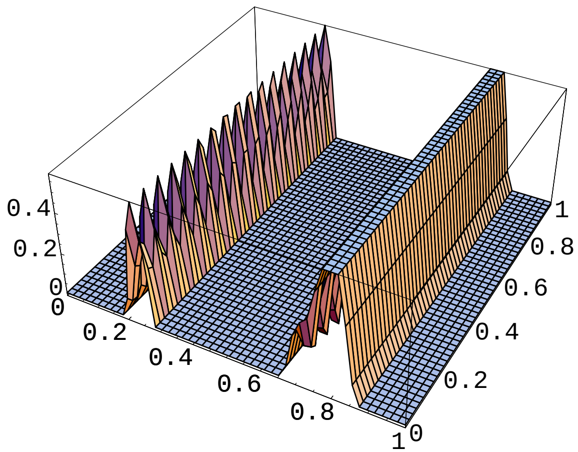
This is not a contradiction since the algebra of functions on a circle is infinite dimensional

As the notation suggests the P^{ii} will be the diagonal elements

The nondiagonal elements are built from the partial isometry part of the operators interpolating between the ranges of the projectors: $P^{ii} V P^{jj}$

Since the operator is not selfadjoint its Wigner function is not real, we plot real part and modulus (the imaginary part is qualitatively similar to the real part)





We give the set of projections and isometries, obtained from P or P', the name of tower

The P^{ij} behave as 'matrix units', the basis for a matrix algebra

$$\mathsf{P}^{ij}\,\mathsf{P}^{kl} = \delta_{jk}\,\mathsf{P}^{il}$$

The only problem is in the definition of P^{1q}, which can be done in two different ways, either shifting q times P^{21} and identifying $P^{q+1\ q}$ with P^{1q}, or from $\mathsf{P}^{1q} = \mathsf{P}^{12}\,\mathsf{P}^{23}\ldots\mathsf{P}^{q-1,q}$

The two expressions differ for a partial isometry z

With the identification of $z = e^{2\pi\,\mathrm{i}\,\tau}$ with the exponential of an angle coordinate of a circle, elements of the form $\sum_{i,j=1}^{q}\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} C_{ij}^{k} P^{ij} z^{k}$

close the algebra of matrix valued functions on a circle

After a rotation to make the two towers orthogonal, the same construction can be made in the second tower

Remember that the algebra we have constructed is a subalgebra of the NC-torus at each level of the approximation.

There are two elements of the matrix algebra approximations of U and V, in the sense that $\|U - \mathsf{U}\| \to 0$ and $\|V - \mathsf{V}\| \to 0$

Hence we can project all elements of the NCtorus to the sum of matrix valued functions on two circles, making a 'small' error. And, unlike the usual matrix approximations, the approximation converges strongly

To construct a field theory we need to define derivatives and integral. The integral can be expressed to act on matrix valued functions of τ and τ'

$$\oint \mathsf{a} = \beta \int_0^1 d\tau Tr\, \mathsf{a}(\tau) + \beta' \int_0^1 d\tau' Tr'\, \mathsf{a}'(\tau')$$

with β, β' quantities depending on p, q, p', q'

It is possible to define approximate derivatives $\nabla_1 \mathsf{U} = \mathsf{U}, \nabla_2 \mathsf{V} = \mathsf{V}, \nabla_1 \mathsf{V} = \nabla_2 \mathsf{U} = 0$

The approximation is that they close a Leibnitz rule only in the limit

The expression for the two derivatives is slightly complicated, but it can be given solely in terms of the matrix valued functions, so that it is possible to map the field theory on the noncommutative torus on the action of matrix valued functions of one variable, a Matrix Quantum Mechanics

Three applications

- Perturbative Dynamics of ϕ^4 theory

  Graphs have ribbon structure. No UV/IR mixing at finite level.

- Tachyon Dynamics

  'time' independent stable configurations correspond to diagonal matrices (all classical vacua commute).

- Yang-Mills Matrix Quantum Mechanics

  Topological Theory. Possibility to sum over the moduli space

We may venture to conclude that this construction shows that branes configurations point to an highly 'delocalized' geometry described better by solitonic vacua that by a deformation of a local theory