

Group measure space construction, ergodicity and W^* -rigidity for stable random fields

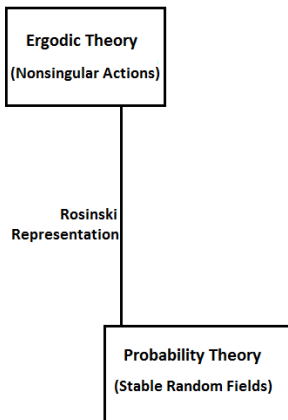
Parthanil Roy, Indian Statistical Institute

[arXiv:2007.14821](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.14821)

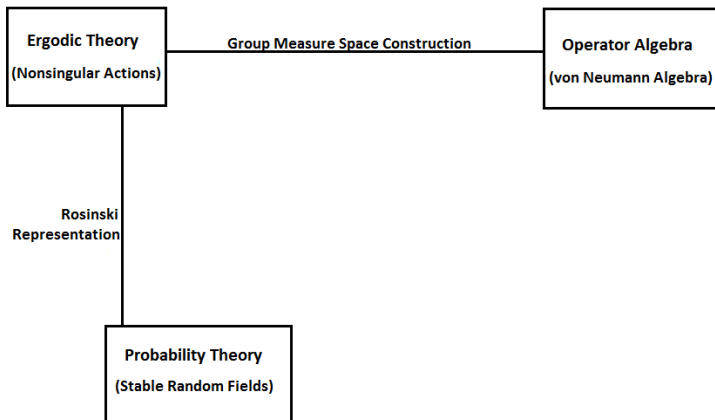
Dedicated to the memory of Prof. Jayanta Kumar Ghosh



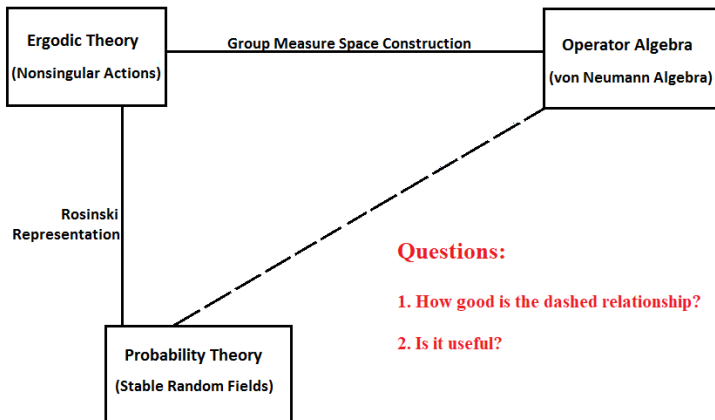
What is this work about?



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Questions:

1. How good is the dashed relationship?
2. Is it useful?

A Crash Course on Stable Random Fields

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- In particular, $\mathbb{E}(|X|^p) < \infty$ if and only if $p < \alpha$.

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Important special cases: $G = \mathbb{Z}$, $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$, $G = \mathbb{F}_d$ ($d > 1$), discrete Heisenberg groups, discrete hyperbolic groups, lamplighter groups, etc.

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See, for instance, Varadarajan (1970), Zimmer (1984), Krengel (1985), Aaronson (1997).

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$\{f_t\}_{t \in G} =$ a Rosinski representation of $\{X_t\}$.

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The present work carries this link forward to the realm of von Neumann algebras via Murray and von Neumann (1936)'s crossed product construction.

A Crash Course on von Neumann Algebras

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Topologies on operators

$\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) :=$ all bdd linear operators on a separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H} over \mathbb{C} .

- **Norm topology** (metrizable): $T_\alpha \rightarrow T$ in NT iff $\|T_\alpha - T\| := \sup_{\|\xi\| \leq 1} \|(T_\alpha - T)\xi\| \rightarrow 0$. [Topology of uniform convergence on bounded subsets of $(\mathcal{H}, \text{inner-product topology})$.]
 - ▶ Too strong and restrictive.
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Theorem (von Neumann)

Suppose M is a $*$ -subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ containing 1 , the identity operator. Then the following are equivalent:

- 1 M is closed in weak operator topology.
- 2 M is closed in strong operator topology.
- 3 $M = (M')' =: M''$.

Here $M' := \{T \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}) : TA = AT \text{ for all } A \in M\}$ is the commutant of M .

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Bicommutant theorem of von Neumann

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Definition (see, e.g. Sunder (1987), Jones (2009), Peterson (2013))

A unital $*$ -subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$ satisfying one (and hence all) of the above equivalent conditions is called a **von Neumann algebra** (or a **W^* -algebra**).

The central decomposition

Note that if M is a von Neumann algebra, then so is M' . We now define a very important class (**building blocks**) of von Neumann algebras.

Definition

A von Neumann algebra M is called a factor if $Z(M) := M \cap M' := \{T \in M : TA = AT \text{ for all } A \in M\} = \mathbb{C}1$ (i.e., the centre is trivial).

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$$M = \int_Y M_y \rho(dy) \quad (\text{direct integral; see Knudby (2011)},$$

where M_y is a factor for ρ -almost all $y \in Y$.

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Enough (for a von Neumann algebraist) to study and classify factors.

“Definition”

*A factor M is of type II_1 if M is infinite-dimensional and it admits a normalized trace, i.e., there exists a “continuous” linear functional $tr : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $tr(1) = 1$, $tr(ab) = tr(ba)$ and $tr(a^*a) \geq 0$ for all $a, b \in M$.*

Type II_1 factors

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Definition (R. (2020+))

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Recall: nonsingular G -action

Let (G, \cdot) be a countable group with identity element e . $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is called a **nonsingular** (also known as **quasi-invariant**) G -action on a σ -finite **standard measure space** (S, \mathcal{S}, μ) if

- $\phi_t : S \rightarrow S$ is a measurable map for each $t \in G$,
- $\phi_e(s) = s$ for all $s \in S$,
- $\phi_{t_1.t_2} = \phi_{t_2} \circ \phi_{t_1}$ for all $t_1, t_2 \in G$,
- $\mu \circ \phi_t \sim \mu$ for all $t \in G$.

“Group measure space construction”

- (G, \cdot) is a countable group with identity element e .
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Following the work of [Murray and von Neumann \(1936\)](#) (in the measure-preserving case), one can construct a von Neumann algebra (as a subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(\ell^2(G) \otimes \mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu))$) that “encodes the ergodic theoretic features” of $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ by internalizing a crossed product relation that normalizes $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$ inside $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu))$ through the Koopman representation. This von Neumann algebra is called group measure space construction.

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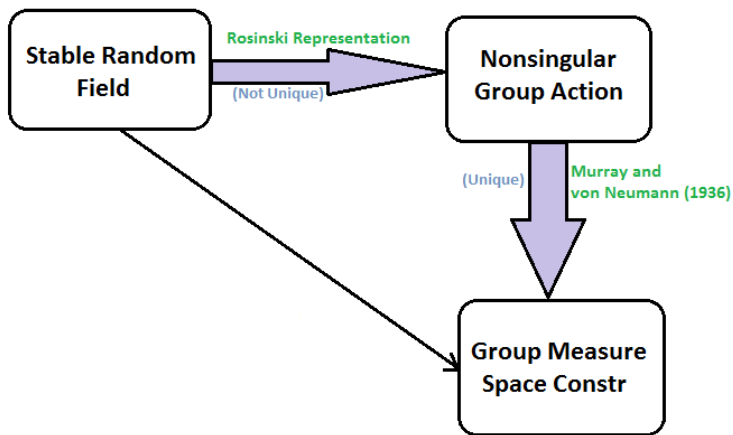
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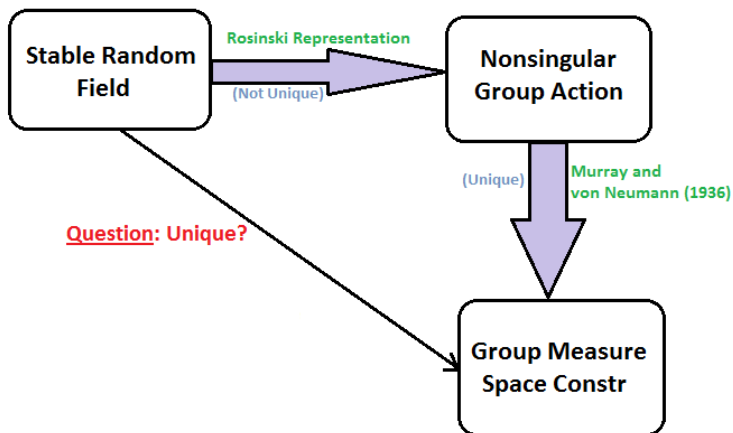
Notation: $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes_{\{\phi_t\}} G$ or simply $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$.

Linking Stable Random Fields with von Neumann Algebras

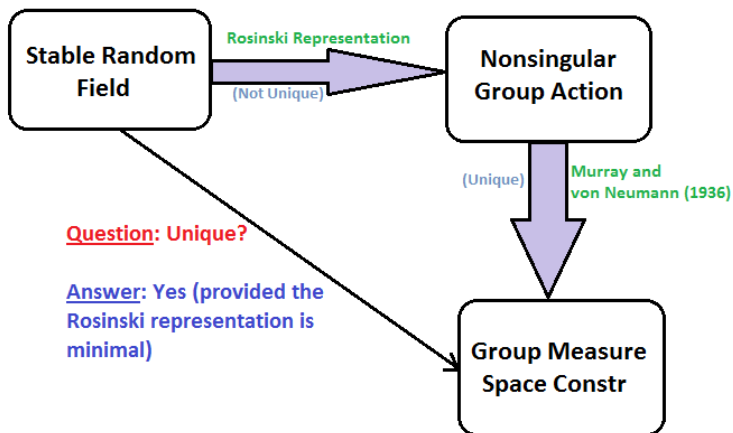
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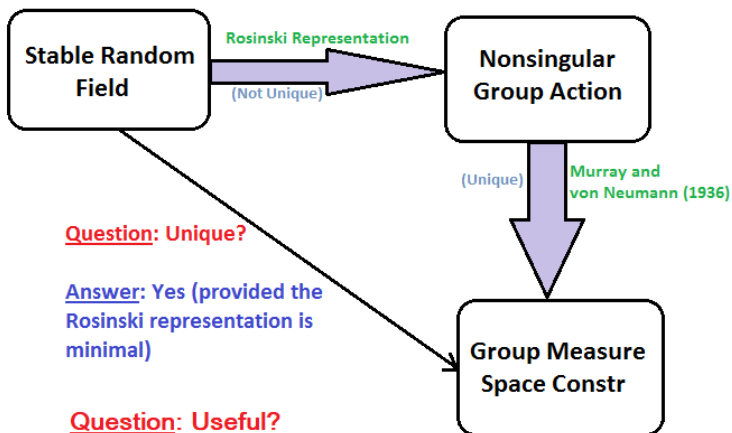
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The minimal group measure space construction

Theorem (R. (2020+))

Suppose $\{X_t\}_{t \in G}$ is a (left) stationary $S\alpha S$ random field indexed by a countable group G . Let $\{\phi_t^{(1)}\}_{t \in G}$ and $\{\phi_t^{(2)}\}_{t \in G}$ be two nonsingular G -actions (on $(S^{(1)}, \mu^{(1)})$ and $(S^{(2)}, \mu^{(2)})$, respectively) obtained from two minimal (and hence Rosinski) representations. Then

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See also the ICM 2018 lecture of Adrian Ioana from YouTube.

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- From now on $G = \mathbb{Z}^d$ (unless mentioned otherwise).

Operator Algebraic Characterization of Ergodicity for Stable Random Fields ($G = \mathbb{Z}^d$)

Ergodicity of \mathbb{Z}^d -indexed stable fields

Recall that any stationary S α S random field $\mathbf{X} = \{X_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{Z}^d}$ induces a measure-preserving shift action (of \mathbb{Z}^d) on $(\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{Z}^d}, \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{X}})$, where

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- R. (2020+): New characterization using group measure space construction for $d \geq 1$.

Theorem (R. (2020+))

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“Admitting no II_1 factor in the central decomposition” is an invariant for any “free Rosinski group measure space construction” of a fixed stationary stable random field indexed by \mathbb{Z}^d .

In other words, if a free Rosinski group measure space construction of such a random field admits no II_1 factor in its central decomposition, then the same is true about any free Rosinski group measure space construction of that random field.

Corollary (R. (2020+) - Ergodicity is W^* -rigid and hence OE-rigid)

If two stationary $S\alpha S$ random fields indexed by \mathbb{Z}^d (possibly with two different d 's) have isomorphic free Rosinski group measure space constructions, then one is ergodic (equiv., weakly mixing) if and only if the other one is so.

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Therefore, it is now possible to associate a stationary $S\alpha S$ process to any stationary $S\alpha S$ random field indexed by \mathbb{Z}^d in an ergodicity-preserving manner. **This may help in classification of such fields.**

Sketch of proof

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 - ▶ **a fact from von Neumann Algebras:** *if $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is free and ergodic, then the factor $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$ is of type II_1 if and only if there exists a $\{\phi_t\}$ -invariant finite measure $\nu \sim \mu$, and*
 - ▶ Theorem 4.1 of **Wang, R. and Stoev (2013)** (**probabilistic input**).
- What about the general case? Use
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 - ▶ same characterization of ergodicity holds for max-stable fields.

Future directions

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Thank You Very Much for Your Patience.

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Supplementaries: Technicalities + References

Koopman representation

G -action $\{\phi_t\}$ lifts to the space of all real-valued measurable functions on S by

$$\sigma_t g = g \circ \phi_t, \quad t \in G.$$

This lifted action preserves the \mathcal{L}^∞ -norm but not other \mathcal{L}^p -norms.

However, for each $t \in G$, $\pi_t : \mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)$ given by

$$(\pi_t g)(s) = g \circ \phi_t(s) \left(\frac{d\mu \circ \phi_t}{d\mu}(s) \right)^{1/2}, \quad s \in S$$

defines an isometry. The unitary representation $\{\pi_t\}_{t \in G}$ of G inside $\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)$ is called the Koopman representation.

The crossed product relation

Using the cocycle relationship

$$\frac{d\mu \circ \phi_{uv}}{d\mu} = \frac{d\mu \circ \phi_u}{d\mu} \sigma_u \left(\frac{d\mu \circ \phi_v}{d\mu} \right), \quad u, v \in G,$$

one gets that for all $a \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$ (thought of as acting on $\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)$ by multiplication), for all $t \in G$ and for all $g \in \mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)$,

$$(\pi_t a \pi_{t^{-1}} g)(s) = ((\sigma_t a)g)(s), \quad s \in S. \quad (2)$$

In other words, the Koopman representation “normalizes” $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$ inside $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu))$. The group measure space construction is a space, where the crossed product relation (2) is internalized.

Group measure space construction

Consider the von Neumann algebra

$$\mathcal{B}(l^2(G) \otimes \mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)) = \overline{\mathcal{B}(l^2(G)) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu))}$$

(with the closure being taken with respect to the weak/strong operator topology). Define a representation of G by $t \mapsto u_t := \lambda_t \otimes \pi_t$, where $\{\lambda_t\}$ is the left regular representation and $\{\pi_t\}$ is the Koopman representation. We also represent $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$ by $a \mapsto 1 \otimes \mathcal{M}_a$, where \mathcal{M}_a is the multiplication (by a) operator on $\mathcal{L}^2(S, \mu)$. It can be checked that the following “internal” crossed product relation holds:

$$u_t(1 \otimes \mathcal{M}_a)u_{t^{-1}} = 1 \otimes \mathcal{M}_{\sigma_t a}.$$

Define the *group measure space construction* (also known as *crossed product construction*) as

$$\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G := \{u_t, 1 \otimes \mathcal{M}_a : t \in G, a \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)\}''.$$

Connections to ergodic theory

It can be shown that the internal crossed product relation implies that any $x \in \mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$ can be uniquely written as $x = \sum_{t \in G} a_t u_t$ with $\{a_t : t \in G\} \subseteq \mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$. Thus, we can view x as a $|G| \times |G|$ matrix with entries coming from $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu)$ that are the same along each left group-diagonal; see, e.g. [Jones \(2009\)](#).

Theorem (see, e.g. [Peterson \(2013\)](#))

The following results hold for a nonsingular G -action $\{\phi_t\}$ and the corresponding group measure space construction defined above.

- 1 If the action $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is free and ergodic, then $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$ is a factor.
- 2 If $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$ is a factor, then $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is ergodic.
- 3 If $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is free and ergodic, then the factor $\mathcal{L}^\infty(S, \mu) \rtimes G$ is of type II_1 if and only if $\{\phi_t\}_{t \in G}$ is a positive action.

Furthermore, if the two nonsingular actions (not necessarily of the same group) are orbit-equivalent, then the corresponding group measure space constructions are isomorphic as von Neumann algebras

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