

Ordinary quantum field theories are characterized by their particle spectrum, and the S -matrices describing interactions between the particles. The analog of these concepts for CFTs are the *primary operators* $O_a(x)$ and their *operator product expansions* (OPEs). Each primary operator is associated with a scaling dimension Δ_a , defined by the ($T = 0$) expectation value (for the simplest case of scalar operators):

$$\langle O_a(x) O_b(0) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{ab}}{|x|^{2\Delta_a}}$$