

Loop quantum gravity and twisted geometries

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Zakopane 7-03-2011



Outline

1. Motivations and overview
Why do we need discrete geometries?
2. Twisted geometries
Definition and relation to holonomy and fluxes
3. From spinors to twisted geometries
Spinorial tools and derivation of the holonomy-flux algebra from harmonic oscillators
4. Applications
polyhedra, new volume operators, cosmology, simplicity constraints, etc
5. Comments on the simplicity constraints
The risks of relaxing them too much: bi-metric theories of gravity

Outline

Motivations

Twisted geometries

From spinors to twisted geometries

Applications

Motivations: a paradigm shift

kinematics

QFT:

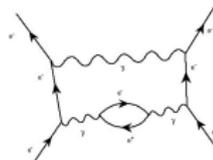
$$|n, p_i, h_i\rangle$$

quanta: momenta, helicities, etc.

observables

n : # of quantum particles

dynamics



Feynman diagrams

perturbative expansion

degree of the graph



order of approximation desired

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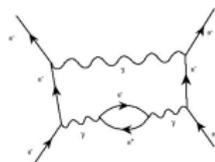
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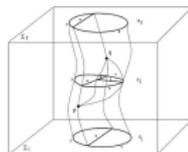
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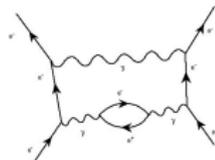
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link to classical geometries?
meaning of Γ ?

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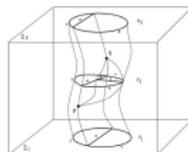
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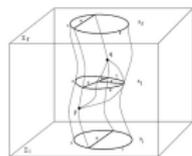
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what approximation?

Loop gravity and discrete geometries

LQG: $|\Gamma, j_e, i_v\rangle$

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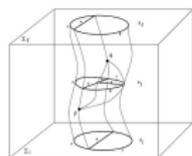
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spin foams suggest
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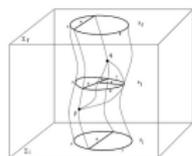
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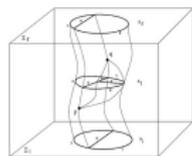
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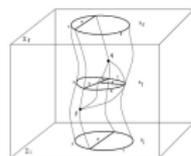
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- Consider a **single graph** Γ , and the associated Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_{Γ} .
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- Standard interpretation: A and E distributional along the graph

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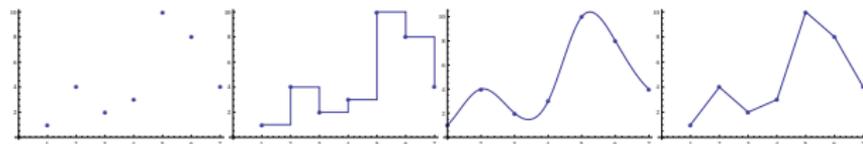


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- Can they represent a *discrete* geometry, approximation of a smooth one?



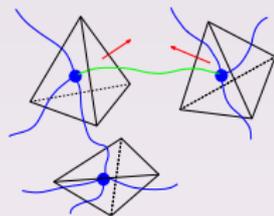
A convenient choice: twisted geometries

L. Freidel and SS, 1001.2748 and 1006.0199, C. Rovelli and SS, 1005.2927

For each point on the phase space at fixed graph, there are infinite continuous metrics that can correspond to it

Twisted geometries are a particular choice of interpolating geometry associated with a cellular decomposition of the manifold dual to Γ :

each classical holonomy-flux configuration on a fixed graph can be visualized as a collection of adjacent polyhedra with extrinsic curvature between them



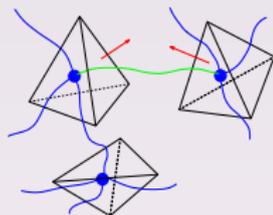
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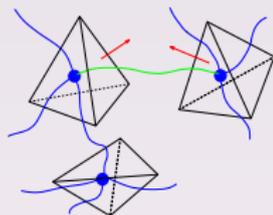
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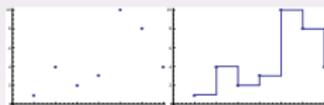
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The geometries are twisted in the sense that they are well-defined locally (on each polyhedron), but are *discontinuous* at the intersections (the faces)



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Applications

Phase spaces of LQG

Hilbert space: $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{\Gamma} \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma}$

• kinematical loop gravity $\implies \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma} = L_2(SU(2)^E)$

↓ *Gauss law*

• gauge-inv. loop gravity $\implies \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma} = L_2(SU(2)^E/SU(2)^V)$

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Closed twisted geometries: a collection of polyhedra associated to the dual of the graph, describing discrete, possibly *discontinuous* geometries

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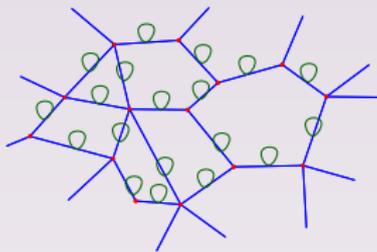
Closed twisted geometries: a collection of polyhedra associated to the dual of the graph, describing discrete, possibly *discontinuous* geometries

Focus first at the non gauge-inv. level:

- $L_2(SU(2))$ is the quantization of the classical phase space $T^*SU(2)$
- \mathcal{H}_{Γ} is the quantization of the classical phase space $\times_e T^*SU(2)_e$

Phase space of loop gravity on a fixed graph

$$\times_e T^* SU(2)_e$$



A **spinning top** for each link of the graph

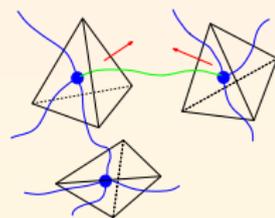
$$T^* SU(2) = R^3 \times S^3 \longrightarrow \text{Flux:} \quad X_e = \int_{e^*} (gE^a) \hat{u}_a d^2 S$$
$$(X_e, g_e)$$

$$\text{Holonomy:} \quad g_e = \mathcal{P}e^{\int_e A}$$

Change of parametrization: $(X, g) \leftrightarrow (j, N, \tilde{N}, \xi)$

Twisted geometries: definition

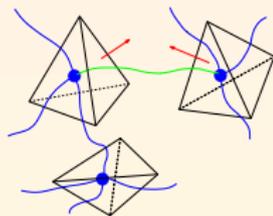
On each edge:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} X, g \\ \text{---} \end{array} & \Rightarrow & \begin{array}{c} N, j, \xi, \tilde{N} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\
 T^*SU(2) = R^3 \times S^3 & \simeq & R \times S^2 \times S^2 \times S^1 \\
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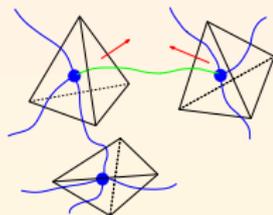
Isomorphism

$$(N, \tilde{N}, j, \xi) \implies (X, g) : \quad X = jN$$

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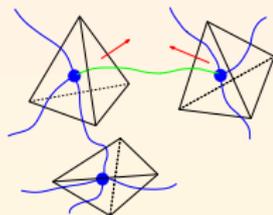
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Notice also that $\tilde{X} = j\tilde{N} = -g^{-1}Xg$

Poisson brackets on the twisted geometries

- Poisson algebra of $T^*SU(2)$

$$\{X^i, X^j\} = \epsilon^{ij}{}_k X^k, \quad \{X^i, \tilde{X}^j\} = 0 \quad \{X^i, g\} = -\tau^i g, \quad \{\tilde{X}^i, g\} = g \tau^i$$

- Symplectic potential

$$\Theta_{T^*SU(2)} = \text{Tr}[X dg g^{-1}]$$

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Twisted geometries parametrization
(see also G.Immirzi '95)

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$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Twisted geometries} & \iff & \text{Loop gravity} \\ \times_e \left(T^* S^1 \times S^2 \times S^2 \right) & & \times_e T^* SU(2) \end{array}$$

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↓ *Gauss law reduction*

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Twisted geometries	\iff	Loop gravity
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\downarrow <i>closure reduction</i>		\downarrow <i>Gauss law reduction</i>
Closed twisted geometries	\iff	Gauge-inv. loop gravity
S_Γ		$\times_e T^* SU(2) // \times_v SU(2)$

Gauge-invariance and polyhedra

- on a vertex: $N_e \in \times_{e \in v} S_{j_e}^2$
- gauge-invariance condition: $C = \sum_{e \in v} j_e N_e = 0$

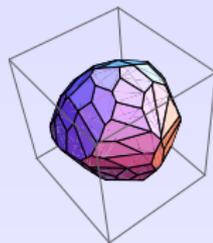
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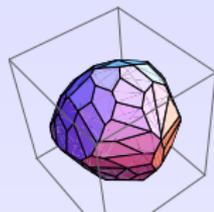
[E.Bianchi,P.Doná,SS 1009.3402]



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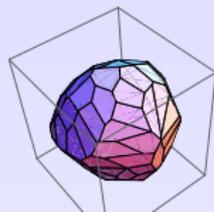


Just as the **intertwiners** are the building block of the Hilbert space, **polyhedra** are the building blocks of the classical phase space

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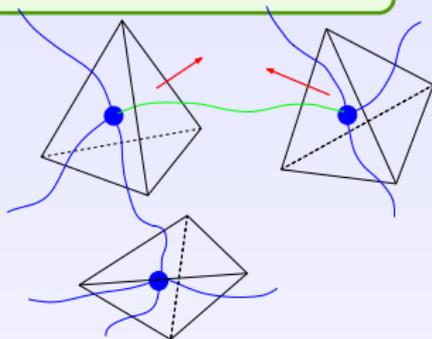
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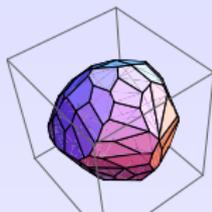
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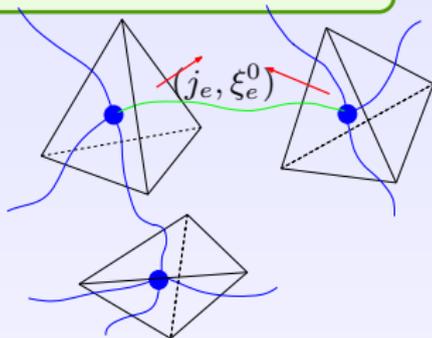


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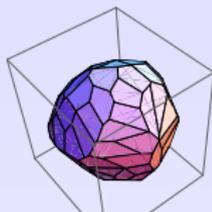
Caveat: the j_e are gauge-invariant, but $\{C_v, \xi_e\} \neq 0$!
 \Rightarrow need to gauge-fix, $\xi_e \rightarrow \xi_e^0$



Gauge-invariance and polyhedra

- on a vertex: $N_e \in \times_{e \in v} S_{j_e}^2$
- gauge-invariance condition: $C = \sum_{e \in v} j_e N_e = 0$
- Kapovich and Millson phase space: $\mathcal{S}_F = \{N_e \in \times_{e \in v} S_{j_e}^2 \mid C = 0\} / \text{SO}(3)$
- Points in this phase space represent bounded convex flat polyhedra in \mathbb{R}^3

[E.Bianchi,P.Doná,SS 1009.3402]



Just as the **intertwiners** are the building block of the Hilbert space, **polyhedra** are the building blocks of the classical phase space

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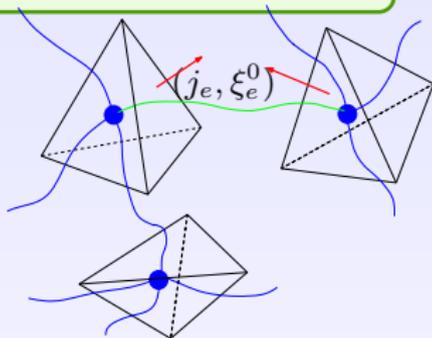
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Reduced parametrization?

Compare Dittrich and Ryan:

for triangulations, $\xi^{\text{gauge-inv.}}$ = "pre"-dihedral angle

(It can not be just the dihedral angle because of the discontinuity!)



Twisted geometries	\iff	Loop gravity
$\times_e \left(T^* S^1 \times S^2 \times S^2 \right)$		$\times_e T^* SU(2)$
\downarrow <i>closure reduction</i>		\downarrow <i>Gauss law reduction</i>
Closed twisted geometries	\iff	Gauge-inv. loop gravity
S_Γ		$\times_e T^* SU(2) // \times_v SU(2)$

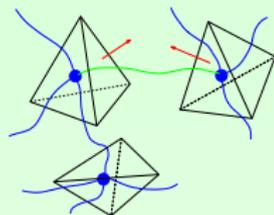
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Twisted geometries} & \iff & \text{Loop gravity} \\ \times_e \left(T^* S^1 \times S^2 \times S^2 \right) & & \times_e T^* SU(2) \end{array}$$

↓ *closure reduction*

↓ *Gauss law reduction*

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Gluing constraints

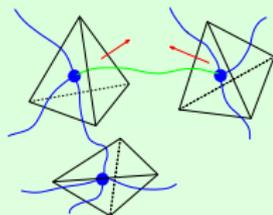


And the connection to Regge calculus?

Consider only 4-valent graphs, dual to triangulations

When closure conditions hold, a triangle acquires two geometries, one from each of the tetrahedra sharing it

Gluing constraints



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To match the shapes one needs additional **gluing constraints**:

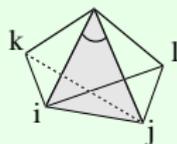
B.Dittrich and SS 0802.0864

$$F(\phi_{ee'}^v) = 0$$

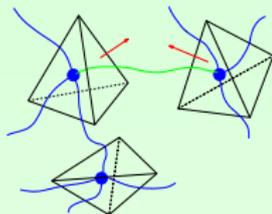
among the scalar products

$$N_e(v) \cdot N_{e'}(v) \equiv \cos \phi_{ee'}^v$$

of the normals belonging to the two tetrahedra



Gluing constraints



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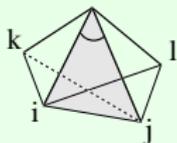
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When the gluing conditions hold, we recover Regge calculus

Twisted geometries

↓ *closure reduction*

Closed twisted geometries

⇔

Loop gravity

↓ *Gauss law reduction*

⇔

Gauge-inv. loop gravity

Twisted geometries



Loop gravity

\downarrow *closure reduction*

\downarrow *Gauss law reduction*

Closed twisted geometries



Gauge-inv. loop gravity

\downarrow *matching shapes reduction*

Regge calculus

Spinors

↓ *matching area reduction*

Twisted geometries

↔

Loop gravity

↓ *closure reduction*

↓ *Gauss law reduction*

Closed twisted geometries

↔

Gauge-inv. loop gravity

↓ *matching shapes reduction*

Regge calculus

Outline

Motivations

Twisted geometries

From spinors to twisted geometries

Applications

Spinors

- $|\mathbf{z}\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} z_0 \\ z_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$, complex structure $J|z\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} -\bar{z}_1 \\ \bar{z}_0 \end{pmatrix} = |z]$

- Hermitian inner product

$$\langle w|z\rangle = \bar{w}_0 z_0 + \bar{w}_1 z_1$$

- Antisymmetric bilinear form

$$[w|z] = w_0 z_1 - w_1 z_0 = \epsilon^{ab} w_a z_b$$

- Geometrical meaning: null pole plus null flag: $|\mathbf{z}\rangle \mapsto (X^i, \phi)$

$$|\mathbf{z}\rangle\langle\mathbf{z}| = X^0 \mathbb{1} + X^i \sigma_i, \quad \phi = \arg z_0 + \arg z_1$$

$$X^0 = \frac{1}{2} \langle\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{z}\rangle, \quad X^i = \langle\mathbf{z}|\frac{\sigma^i}{2}|\mathbf{z}\rangle$$

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- Poisson brackets

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Edge phase space

Consider two spinors, $|z\rangle$ and $|\tilde{z}\rangle$, with canonical Poisson brackets:

$$(z_0, z_1, \tilde{z}_0, \tilde{z}_1) \in \mathbb{C}^4, \quad \{z_a, \bar{z}_b\} = -i\delta_{ab}, \quad \{\tilde{z}_a, \bar{\tilde{z}}_b\} = -i\delta_{ab}$$

Claim: there is a phase space reduction s.t. $\mathbb{C}^4 : 8d \longrightarrow 6d : T^*SU(2)$

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- The constraint generates a U(1) action:

$$\{H, z_A\} = \frac{i}{2}z_A, \quad \{H, \tilde{z}_A\} = -\frac{i}{2}\tilde{z}_A, \quad (|\mathbf{z}\rangle, |\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\rangle) \mapsto (e^{i\frac{\theta}{2}}|\mathbf{z}\rangle, e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2}}|\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\rangle),$$

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Symplectic reduction by $H = 0$ gives $T^*SU(2)$

H reduction

- initial Poisson brackets $\{z_a, \bar{z}_b\} = -i\delta_{ab}$ $|\mathbf{z}\rangle \mapsto (X^i, \phi)$

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$$j \equiv \frac{1}{2}(X^0 + \tilde{X}^0), \quad \xi_A \equiv i \left(\ln \frac{z_A}{\bar{z}_A} + \ln \frac{\tilde{z}_A}{\tilde{\bar{z}}_A} \right)$$

and evaluate

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- in terms of the standard holonomy-flux parametrization:

$$X^i(z_A) \equiv \langle \mathbf{z} | \frac{\sigma^i}{2} | \mathbf{z} \rangle, \quad g(z_A, \tilde{z}_A) \equiv \frac{|\mathbf{z}\rangle \langle \tilde{\mathbf{z}}| - |\mathbf{z}\rangle \langle \tilde{\mathbf{z}}|}{\sqrt{\langle \mathbf{z} | \mathbf{z} \rangle \langle \tilde{\mathbf{z}} | \tilde{\mathbf{z}} \rangle}}$$

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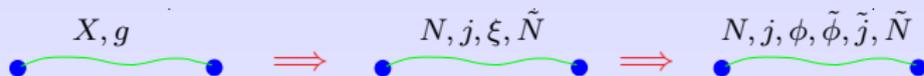
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We obtain a spinorial parametrization of holonomies and fluxes:

$$\mathbb{C}^4 \ni (|\mathbf{z}\rangle, |\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\rangle) \xrightarrow{H=0} (X(\mathbf{z}), g(\mathbf{z})) \in T^*SU(2)$$

H interpretation

Interpretation of \mathbb{C}_e^4 : twisted geometries with areas non matching:



Remark: from the two spinors I can define a twistor
 $\Rightarrow H = 0$ is a condition that the twistor is null

Overview

Twistor space



\downarrow *matching area reduction*

Twisted geometries



Loop gravity

\downarrow *closure reduction*

\downarrow *Gauss law reduction*

Closed twisted geometries



Gauge-inv. loop gravity

\downarrow *matching shapes reduction*

Regge calculus

Overview

Twistor space $\implies \times_v (\mathbb{C}^2)^{E(v)}$

\downarrow *matching area reduction*

Twisted geometries \iff Loop gravity

\downarrow *closure reduction*

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Closed twisted geometries \iff Gauge-inv. loop gravity

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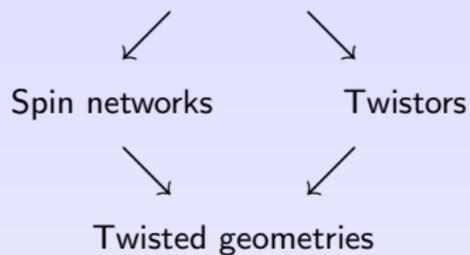
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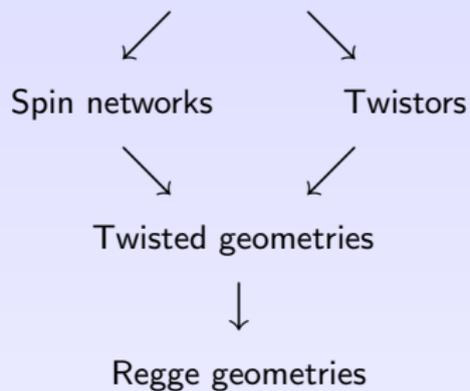
Overview



Spin networks

Twistors





Outline

Motivations

Twisted geometries

From spinors to twisted geometries

Applications

Applications

1. Geometry of polyhedra and volume operator
2. New coherent states and representation of the algebra
3. Parametrization of the gauge-invariant phase space
4. $U(N)$ coherent states
5. Cosmological models
6. Simplicity constraints

Geometry of polyhedra

E. Bianchi, P. Doná and SS, 1009.3402

Explicit reconstruction procedure: $(j_e, N_e) \mapsto$ edge lengths, volume, adjacency matrix

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For $F > 4$ there are many different combinatorial structures, or *classes*

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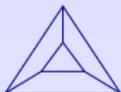
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For $F > 4$ there are many different combinatorial structures, or *classes*

$F = 5$

Dominant:



Codimension 1:



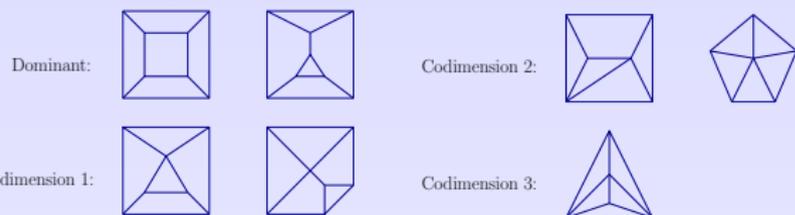
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Explicit reconstruction procedure: $(j_e, N_e) \mapsto$ edge lengths, volume, adjacency matrix

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$F = 6$



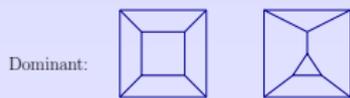
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E. Bianchi, P. Doná and SS, 1009.3402

Explicit reconstruction procedure: $(j_e, N_e) \mapsto$ edge lengths, volume, adjacency matrix

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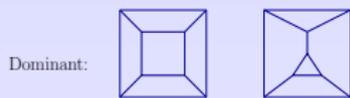
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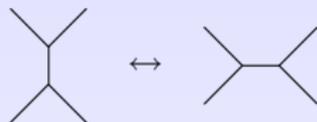
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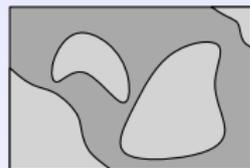
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– *Dominant classes* have all 3-valent vertices.

[maximal n. of vertices, $V = 3(F - 2)$, and edges, $E = 2(F - 2)$]

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[lowest-dimensional class for maximal number of triangular faces]



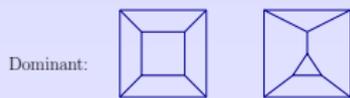
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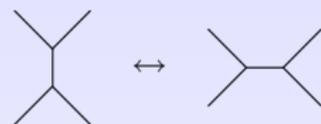
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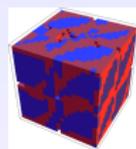
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3d slice of \mathcal{S}_6 , cuboids blue

A new volume operator

E. Bianchi, P. Doná and SS, 1009.3402

Use:

1. classical expression known from reconstruction algorithm $V(j_e, N_e)$
(for the moment only numerical for $F > 4$ – work in progress Hal Haggard)
2. coherent intertwiners labelled by N_e form an (over)-complete basis

\Rightarrow define the operator on \mathcal{H}_v

$$\hat{V} = \int d\mu(N_e) V(j_e, N_e) ||j_e, N_e\rangle\langle j_e, N_e|| .$$

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- Correct semiclassical limit by construction on vertices of any valency
- **But** not simply related to fundamental holonomy-flux operators

4-valent spectrum

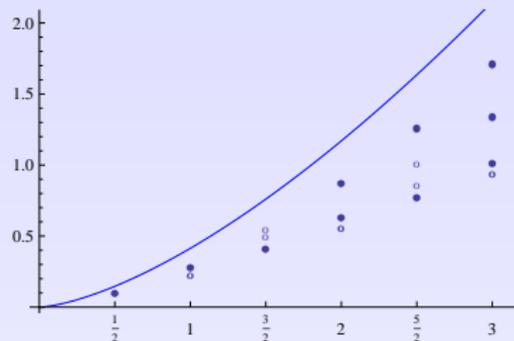


Figure: Some eigenvalues of \hat{V} . For comparison, the curve is the classical volume of an equilateral tetrahedron as a function of the area j (units $8\pi\gamma L_P^2 = 1$). The empty circles are single eigenvalues, the full circles have double degeneracy. The spectrum is gapped and bounded from the above by the classical maximal volume, which provides a large spin asymptote.

New coherent states

L. Freidel and SS, in (relaxed...) progress

- Heat-Kernel coherent states (Thiemann, Hall, Winkler, Sahlmann, Bahr)
- Edge factor: parametrize phase space via $SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \ni H = e^{iX} g$

$$\psi_H(g) = \sum_j d_j e^{-\frac{i}{2}j(j+1)} \chi_j(Hg^{-1}), \quad \chi_j(Hg^{-1}) = \sum_{ab} D_{ab}^{(j)}(H) D_{ba}^{(j)}(g^{-1})$$

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- The resulting states provide an overcomplete basis with interesting minimization properties

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Borja-Freidel-Garay-Livine 1010.5451

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$$S = \sum_t A_t \epsilon_t(\phi) + \sum_v \mu_v C_v + \sum_e \mu_{ee'} C_{ee'}$$

Compare with area-angle Regge calculus (Dittrich-SS 0802.0864)
and its canonical description (Dittrich-Ryan 1006.4295)

U(N) framework

E. Livine, F. Girelli, M. Dupuis, L. Freidel
Enrique Borja, Jacobo Diaz-Polo, Inaki Garay

$$\text{N-valent vertex: } \mathcal{H}_{\{j_e\}} \equiv \text{Inv} \left[\bigotimes_{e \in v} V^{(j_e)} \right] \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}_J = \bigoplus_{\sum_e j_e = J} \mathcal{H}_{\{j_e\}}$$

Each \mathcal{H}_J carries an irrep of U(N)

- U(N) algebra (related to standard algebra)
applications in cosmology: new characterization of isotropy and homogeneity
E. Borja, J. Diaz-Polo, I. Garay, E. Livine, 1006.2451
- U(N) coherent states (related to coherent intertwiners)
simpler formulas, more control on the properties of the states

Outline

Motivations

Twisted geometries

From spinors to twisted geometries

Applications

On the simplicity constraints

Plebanski action: $S(B, \omega, \Phi) = \int B_{IJ} \wedge F^{IJ}(\omega) + \Phi_{IJKL} B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL}$

$$\delta_{\Phi} S = 0 \mapsto C = B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL} - \frac{1}{12} \epsilon^{IJKL} \langle B, \star B \rangle = 0 \mapsto B = e \wedge e$$

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Remark: same modification in the self-dual theory

\implies NO extra degrees of freedom! Krasnov '07

- Why extra degrees of freedom in the non-chiral action?
- What is their physical interpretation?

Revisiting the simplicity constraints 1

- The role of the constraint is not to introduce a metric: a metric is already present in the formalism, through Urbantke's formula $g \sim BBB$
- The role of the constraints is to single out these (10) metric degrees of freedom out of the initial components of the B field

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$$\sqrt{g^U} g_{\mu\nu}^U = \frac{1}{12} \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} B_{\mu\alpha}^i B_{\beta\gamma}^j B_{\delta\nu}^k$$
$$\implies B_{\mu\nu}^i = B(g^U, b)$$

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SO(4): **Two** Urbantke metrics

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{g^{U(\pm)}} g_{\mu\nu}^{U(\pm)} &= \frac{1}{12} \delta_{IN} \left(\delta_{JMKL} \pm \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{JMKL} \right) \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} B_{\mu\alpha}^{IJ} B_{\beta\gamma}^{KL} B_{\delta\nu}^{MN} \\ \implies B_{\mu\nu}^{IJ} &= B(g^{U^+}, g^{U^-}, b^+, b^-)\end{aligned}$$

corresponding to the decomposition into self-dual and antiself-dual parts of SO(4)

Self-duality and metricity

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Plebanski's basis of self-dual 2-forms:

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma^i(e) &= e^0 \wedge e^i + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^i{}_{jk} e^j \wedge e^k \\ \implies B_{\mu\nu}^i &= \sum_a b_a^i \Sigma_{\mu\nu}^a(e), \quad \sqrt{g^U} g_{\mu\nu}^U = (\det b_a^i) e e_\mu^I e_\nu^J \delta_{IJ}\end{aligned}$$

Take $\det b_a^i = 1$, $\implies g_{\mu\nu}^U = e e_\mu^I e_\nu^J \delta_{IJ}$

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- **SO(4) case:** constraints freeze the b fields and equate the two metrics

Revisiting the simplicity constraints 2

The constraints

$$B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL} = \frac{1}{12} \epsilon^{IJKL} \langle B, \star B \rangle$$

can be decomposed into irreps:

$$(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{0}) \oplus (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{2}) \oplus (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}) \oplus (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})$$

$$b_a^i = \delta_a^i \quad \bar{b}_a^i = \delta_a^i \quad \Sigma_+^i(e) \wedge \Sigma_-^j(\bar{e}) = 0 \quad e = \bar{e}$$

Use the parametrization:

$$B^{IJ} = P_{(+i)j}^{IJ} b_a^i \Sigma^a(e) + \eta P_{(-i)j}^{IJ} \bar{b}_a^i \bar{\Sigma}^a(\bar{e})$$

- **SU(2) case:** constraints freeze the b fields
- **SO(4) case:** constraints freeze the b fields and equate the two metrics

relaxing the constraints in the two formulations leads to very different theories

The 6 extra degrees of freedom

- $SU(2)$ case: the lagrangian is degenerate: the b fields do not propagate
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Why 6 extra dofs in bi-metric theories?

Simplest counting: expand around “doubly flat” spacetime

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}, \quad \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}$$

and define

$$h_{\mu\nu}^{(\pm)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(h_{\mu\nu} \pm \bar{h}_{\mu\nu})$$

$h_{\mu\nu}^{(-)}$ is diffeo-invariant ⇒ masslessness no more protected by symmetry

It will generically acquire a mass term,

$$ah_{\mu\nu}^{(-)2} + bh^{(-)2}$$

the explicit form depending on the specific deformation of the constraints done

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⇒ One massive spin-2 particle (5 dofs) and one massive scalar (1dof)

Caveat! The scalar is a ghost
[Fierz-Pauli '39, Boulware-Deser '72]

Unification playground

These type of generalized Plebanski theories are interesting for a number of reasons
One idea is to use them for grand unification schemes

[Smolin '08, Lisi, Smolin and SS '10]

- Enlarge the local gauge group, e.g. $so(3, 1) \mapsto so(N + 3, 1)$
- Spontaneously break the symmetry, e.g. $so(N) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} so(3, 1) & 4N \\ 4N & so(N) \end{pmatrix}$
- Perturbations around the symmetry-breaking vacuum give (modified) dynamics for
 - ▶ gravity
 - ▶ gauge fields
 - ▶ Higgs scalars from the off-diagonal sector

Moral...

All these is fun to play with... but the moral is:
do not mess with your constraints, unless you know what you are doing!

Outline

Motivations

Twisted geometries

From spinors to twisted geometries

Applications

Conclusions

- It is possible to visualize the truncation \mathcal{H}_Γ as capturing a discretization of 3-geometries
- These are the assignment to each triangle of its oriented area, the two unit normals as seen from the two tetrahedra sharing it, and an additional angle related to the extrinsic curvature $(N, \tilde{N}, A, \xi) \iff (X, g)$
- The 3-geometries are piecewise-flat but in general discontinuous
- At the saddle point of the EPRL model the shape-matching conditions are satisfied \Rightarrow Regge action
- The twisted geometries can be easily derived from spinors associated to half-edges through the area-matching constraints \Rightarrow introduction of spinorial techniques with potentially many applications

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- graph structure

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