



Phase transitions in Group field theory:

Towards the phase structure of the complete Lorentzian Barrett-Crane model

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in collaboration with

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mostly **based on** arXiv:

1904.00598 (Phys. Rev. D 98, 126006 (2018)),
2110.15336 (J. High Energ. Phys. 2021, 201 (2021)),
2112.00091 (JCAP 01 (2022) 01, 050),
2206.15442 &
wip

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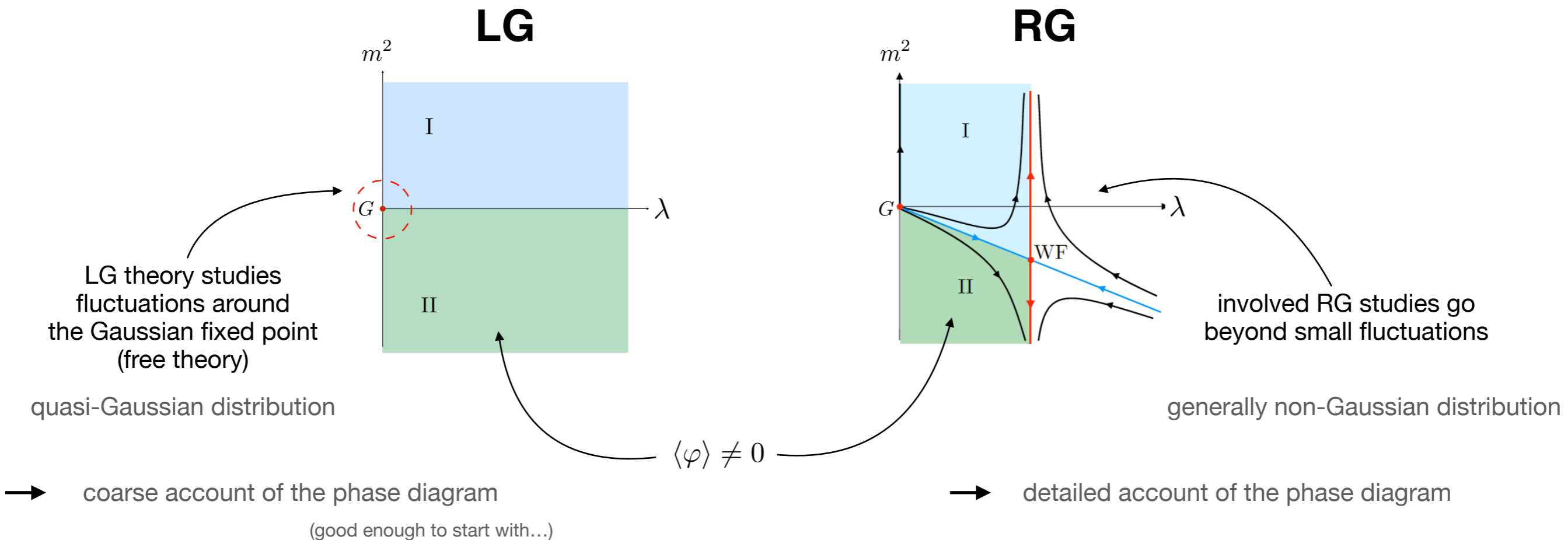
Outline

- General motivation: Landau-Ginzburg mean-field method
- Group field theory
- LG theory applied to Group field theory
- Conclusions

What is LG theory? How does it relate to the RG?

- statistical field theory method to describe **1st and 2nd order phase transitions at mean-field level**
- LG mean-field analysis **clarifies phase structure** of local field theories (coarse account)
- transition to condensate phase with **nontrivial VEV** (non-perturbative vacuum) $\langle \varphi \rangle \neq 0$

e.g.
$$S[\varphi] = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \varphi(x) (-\Delta + m^2) \varphi(x) + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \int d^3x \varphi(x)^4$$



What is LG theory? Setup (I)

- start with **free energy functional** as an expansion in terms of even + odd powers of the local field (order parameter) and its gradient
- consider **truncation** of this functional assumed to be valid from mesoscale to macroscale
- details on microphysics encoded in couplings and order parameter
- **order parameter** features only **universal properties** of the system (dimension of space, symmetries of order parameter)

$$S[\varphi] = \frac{1}{2} \int d^d x \varphi(x) (-\Delta + m^2) \varphi(x) + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \int d^d x \varphi(x)^4$$

↑ free energy functional ↑ order parameter here: global symmetry \mathbb{Z}_2 ← dimension of underlying space

goal: evaluate $Z = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{-S[\varphi]}$
 partition function (sums all configs)

- allows to **control thermodynamic phases** of the system by studying long-range correlations of order parameter fluctuations over the distance ξ (**correlation length**)
- beyond ξ correlations decay exponentially; it diverges at criticality

What is LG theory? Setup (II)

1) determine **uniform field configurations** which are minimizers of the free energy functional

$$\varphi_0 = 0 \text{ if } m^2 > 0 \text{ and } \varphi_0 = \pm \sqrt{-\frac{m^2}{\lambda/3!}} \text{ if } m^2 < 0.$$

2) study **correlations of fluctuations** around this uniform background (aka Gaussian approximation)

2. a) **linearize classical equations of motion** using fluctuations over the background $\varphi(\vec{x}) \rightarrow \varphi_0 + \delta\varphi(\vec{x})$

$$\longrightarrow (-\Delta + m^2) \delta\varphi(\vec{x}) + \frac{\lambda\varphi_0^2}{2} \delta\varphi(\vec{x}) = 0$$

2. b) solve for **correlation function** $\left(-\Delta + m^2 + \frac{\lambda\varphi_0^2}{2}\right) C(\vec{x}) = \delta(\vec{x})$ (go to Fourier representation)

2. c) correlator is exponentially decaying function \longrightarrow determine **correlation length** $\xi^2 = \frac{1}{-2m^2}, m^2 < 0$

3) determine **domain of validity**

\longrightarrow fluctuations and coupling should remain small then mean-field theory self-consistent

Ginzburg parameter $Q = \frac{\int_{\xi} d^d x C(\vec{x})}{\int_{\xi} d^d x \varphi_0^2}$

(measures strength of fluctuations)

$$Q \sim \lambda \xi^{4-d} \longrightarrow d_c = 4$$

critical dimension (of flat space) below which MFT ceases to be accurate; accounts for coarse picture of phase diagram (good enough)

Why bother in Group field theory? Applicable?

What is GFT?

Motivation via Matrix models for 2d gravity

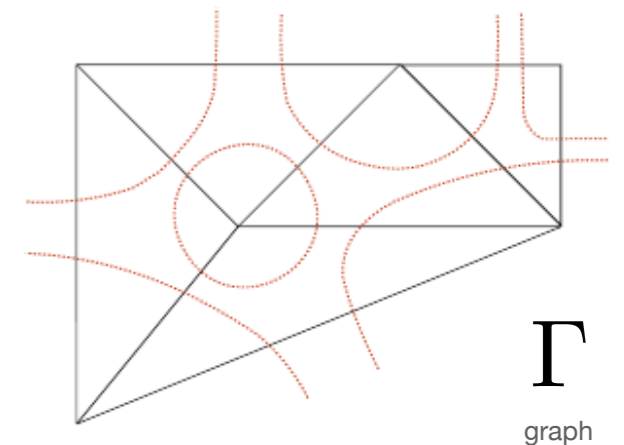
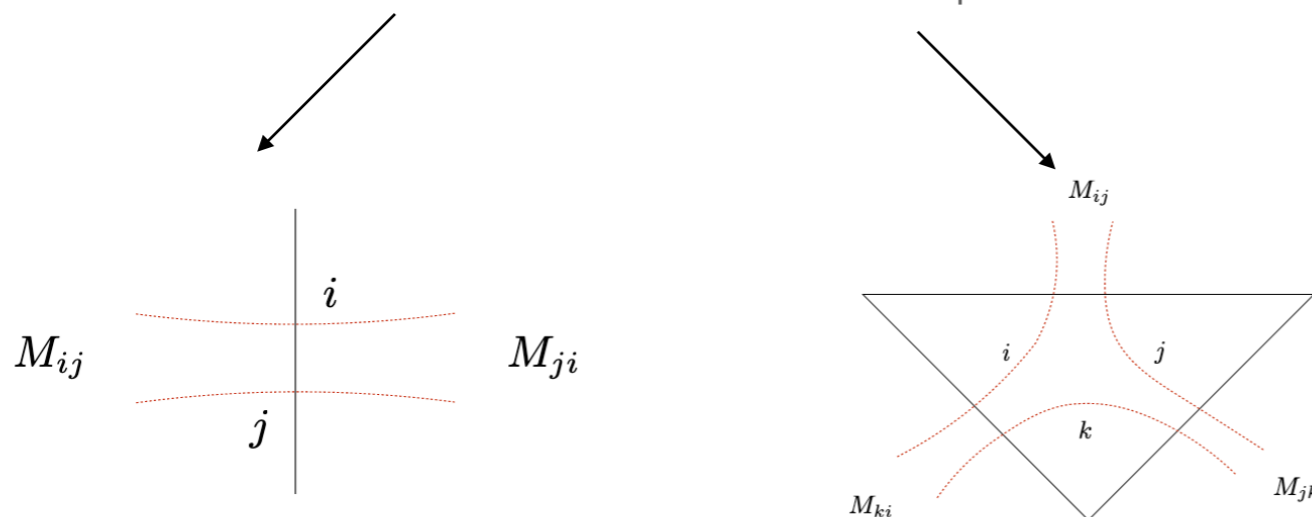
- Matrix models generate 2d random lattices
- at criticality they give rise to continuum geometries of dimension $d \leq 2$
- phase diagram of simple matrix models obtainable via diagonalization of matrices, computation of the partition function for large matrixes and then checking the (non-) analyticity of the free energy
- alternative route: phase structure via functional renormalization group
- continuum limit of simple matrix models agrees with that of 2d Liouville gravity

for example

$$S(M) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(M^2) + \frac{\lambda}{3!} \text{tr}(M^3)$$

$$Z_{\text{MM}} = \int dM e^{-S(M)} = \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{\lambda^{n(\Gamma)}}{\text{sym}(\Gamma)} \mathcal{A}_{\Gamma}$$

combinatorics of a 2-simplex

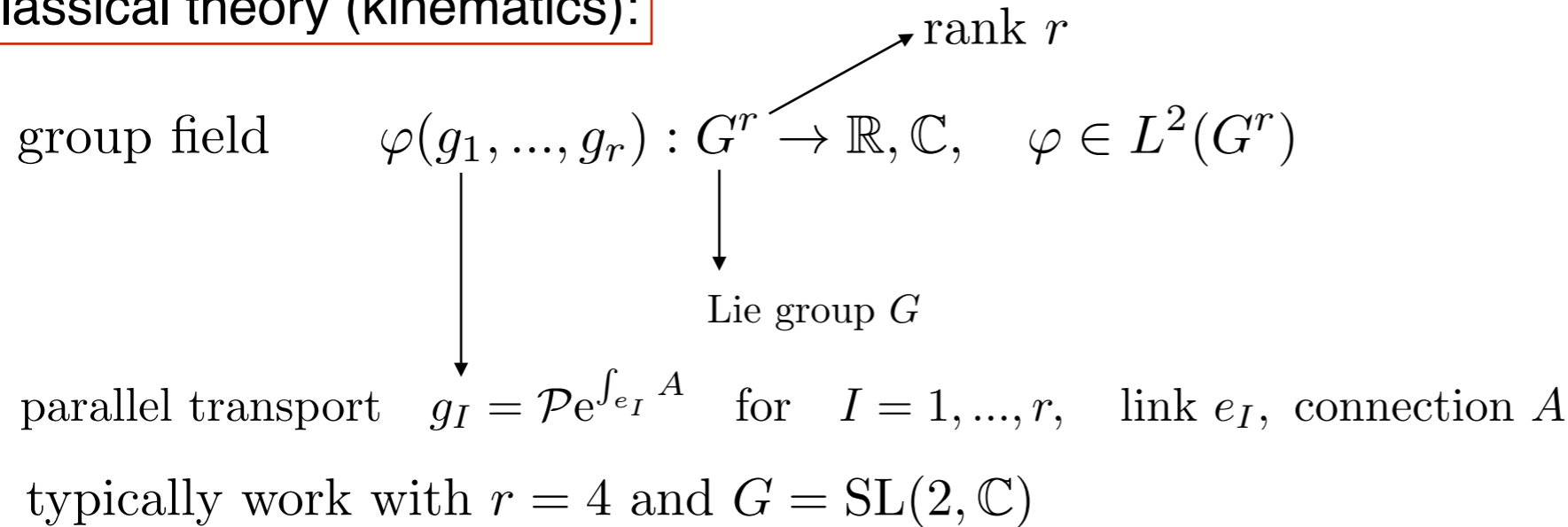


snapshot of a triangulation

Group Field Theory

[Oriti, Freidel, Rovelli, Livine, Gurau, Baratin,...]

classical theory (kinematics):



→ to model 4-dimensional Lorentzian quantum geometries

supplement field with invariance property:
(known as closure constraint)

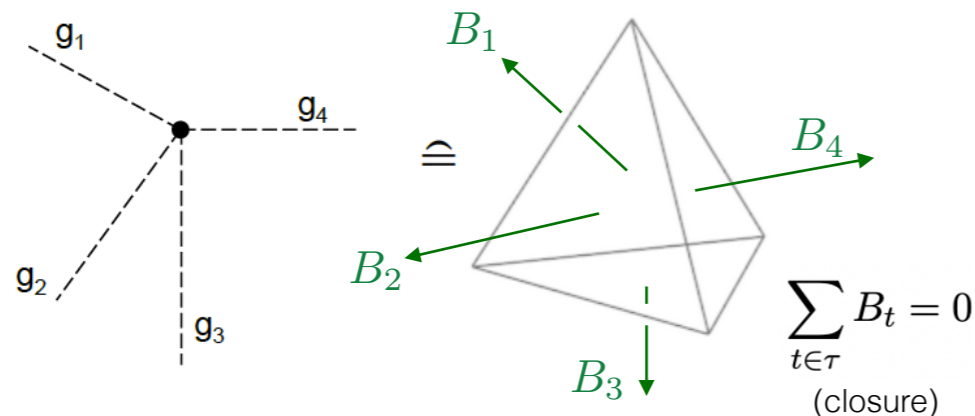
$$\varphi(g_1, \dots, g_r) = \varphi(g_1 h^{-1}, \dots, g_r h^{-1}), \quad \forall h \in G$$

→ phase space: $T^*G^d \cong G^d \times \mathfrak{g}^d$

→ dual formulation:

$$\tilde{\varphi}(B_1, \dots, B_4) = \int (dg)^4 \varphi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4) \prod_{I=1}^4 e_{g_I}(B_I)$$

e.g. for $r=4$ invariant field corresponds to a 3-simplex/tetrahedron \mathcal{T}



e.g. for $G = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ recover metric information:

$$(B_1, B_2, B_3) \mapsto g_{ij} = e_{iA} e_j^A = \frac{1}{8\text{tr}(B_1 B_2 B_3)} \epsilon_i^{kl} \epsilon_{jmn} (B_k^{AB} B_{AB}^m) (B_l^{CD} B_{CD}^n)$$

bivectors $B_i^{AB} = \epsilon_i^{jk} e_j^A e_k^B$; e_i^A tetrads

Lorentz index $A \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$

$B_i \in \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}), i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

Group Field Theory

classical theory (dynamics):

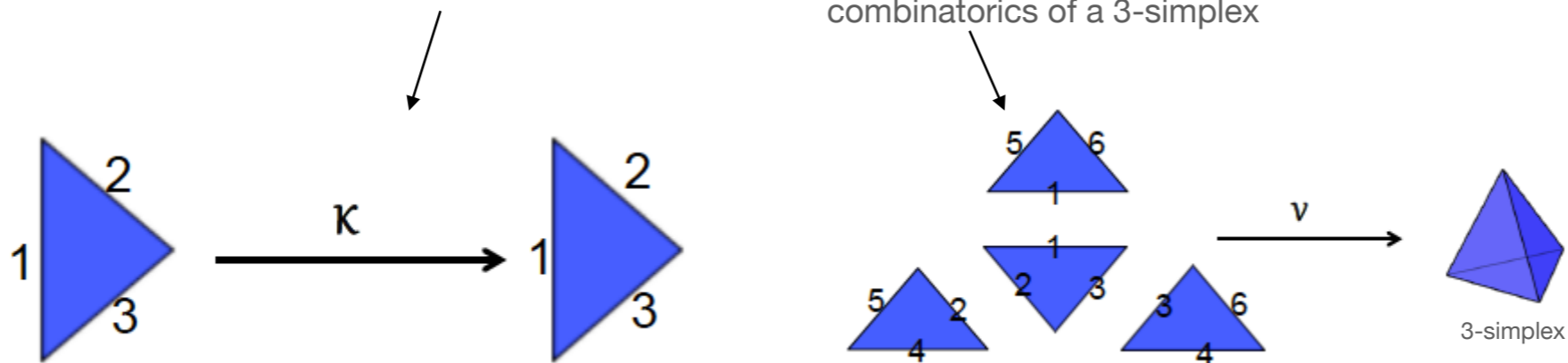
$$S_{\text{GFT}} = \int (dg)^r \bar{\varphi}(g_I) \mathcal{K} \varphi(g_I) + \mathcal{V}[\bar{\varphi}(g_I), \varphi(g_I)]$$

\mathcal{K} : kinetic operator, \mathcal{V} : non-linear and non-local interaction term
 model specified by: G , dimension d , \mathcal{K} , \mathcal{V} and symmetries of φ

crucial feature of GFT models: combinatorially non-local interaction

example in 3d:
(Boulatov)

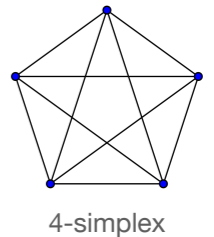
$$S = \int (dg)^3 |\varphi_{123}|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \int (dg)^6 \varphi_{123} \varphi_{145} \varphi_{256} \varphi_{364} + \text{c.c.}, \quad \varphi_{123} \equiv \varphi(g_1, g_2, g_3)$$



example in 4d:
(Ooguri)

$$S = \int (dg)^4 |\varphi_{1234}|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{5!} \int (dg)^{10} \varphi_{1234} \varphi_{4567} \varphi_{7389} \varphi_{962(10)} \varphi_{(10)851} + \text{c.c.}$$

combinatorics of a 4-simplex



$$Z_{\text{GFT}} = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \mathcal{D}\bar{\varphi} e^{-S_{\text{GFT}}[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}]} = \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{\lambda^{V_{\Gamma}}}{\text{Sym}(\Gamma)} \mathcal{A}_{\Gamma}$$

GFT Feynman amplitude \mathcal{A}_{Γ}
graph corresponds to discrete geometries

Boulatov and Ooguri model provide GFT quantizations of BF-theory in 3d & 4d

→ build models starting with **BF-theory** (TFT)

BF-theory and Plebanski action

$$S[\omega, B, \mu] = \int \left[B_{IJ} \wedge F^{IJ}(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \mu_{IJKL} B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL} \right]$$

\swarrow \searrow \downarrow \downarrow
 $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ – valued 2-form $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ – valued 1-form Lagrange multiplier

field strength: $F^{IJ}(\omega) = d\omega^{IJ} + \omega_J^I \wedge \omega^{KJ}$

variation wrt $\mu \longrightarrow$ “simplicity constraint” on B:

$$B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL} = e \epsilon^{IJKL}, \quad e = \frac{1}{4!} \epsilon_{IJKL} B^{IJ} \wedge B^{KL}$$

solve for B \longrightarrow solutions in two sectors: (1) topological sector vs.
 (2) gravitational sector (Palatini)

first-order formulation

$$\longrightarrow S_{\text{Palatini}}[e, \omega] = \frac{1}{2} \int \epsilon_{IJKL} e^I \wedge e^J \wedge F^{KL}$$

\searrow tetrad field

$\delta_e S = 0 \rightarrow$ Einstein field eqns.

$\delta_\omega S = 0 \rightarrow$ 1st Cartan: $d_\omega e^I + \omega_J^I \wedge e^J = 0$

\searrow spin connection

Quantization of BF-theory via GFT [Ooguri]

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}\omega \mathcal{D}B e^{iS[\omega, B]} = \int \mathcal{D}\omega \delta(F(\omega)) \quad (\text{integral over flat connections, i.e. no local dof})$$

(=volume of space of flat connection, infinitely large?!)

ill-defined in the continuum \longrightarrow **quantization on a lattice**

\longrightarrow **agrees with GFT path integral quantization of Boulatov and Ooguri model via**

$$Z_{\text{GFT}} = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \mathcal{D}\bar{\varphi} e^{-S_{\text{GFT}}[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}]} = \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{\lambda^{V_{\Gamma}}}{\text{Sym}(\Gamma)} \mathcal{A}_{\Gamma}$$

How to impose simplicity constraints at GFT level to render this model one for gravitational dof?

\longrightarrow **Example: Barrett-Crane model**

complete Barrett-Crane GFT model

[Barrett, Crane; Perez, Rovelli; Oriti, Baratin; Jercher, Oriti, Pithis]

a model for Lorentzian quantum gravity in 4d

- start with Ooguri model: GFT model for BF-theory in 4d (topological theory)
- impose so-called simplicity constraints to turn it into a theory of gravity (first-order Palatini)
- **add non-dynamical timelike, spacelike and light like normal vector X to domain**
 - **allows to impose closure and simplicity covariantly and commutatively**
 - **unique model**

$$\varphi(g_1, \dots, g_4; X_\alpha) : \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4 \times \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})/U^{(\alpha)} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \alpha \in \{+, 0, -\}$$

$$U^{(+)} = \mathrm{SU}(2), \quad U^{(-)} = \mathrm{SU}(1, 1), \quad U^{(0)} = \mathrm{ISO}(2) \quad \text{stabilizers of} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X_+ = (1, 0, 0, 0), & X_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 0, 0, 1), & X_- = (0, 0, 0, 1) \\ \text{timelike} & \text{lightlike} & \text{spacelike} \end{array}$$

symmetries:

$$\varphi(g_1, \dots, g_4; X_\alpha) = \varphi(g_1 h^{-1}, \dots, g_4 h^{-1}; h \cdot X_\alpha), \quad \forall h \in \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \quad \text{(closure)}$$

$$\varphi(g_1, \dots, g_4; X_\alpha) = \varphi(g_1 u_1, \dots, g_4 u_4; X_\alpha), \quad \forall u_1, \dots, u_4 \in U_{X_\alpha} \quad \text{(simplicity)}$$

→ **fields correspond to spacelike, timelike and lightlike tetrahedra**

$$S[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = K[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] + V[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}]$$

$$K[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = \sum_{\alpha} \int_{\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4} (dg)^4 \int_{\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})/U^{(\alpha)}} dX_{\alpha} \bar{\varphi}(g_1, \dots, g_4; X_{\alpha}) \varphi(g_1, \dots, g_4; X_{\alpha})$$

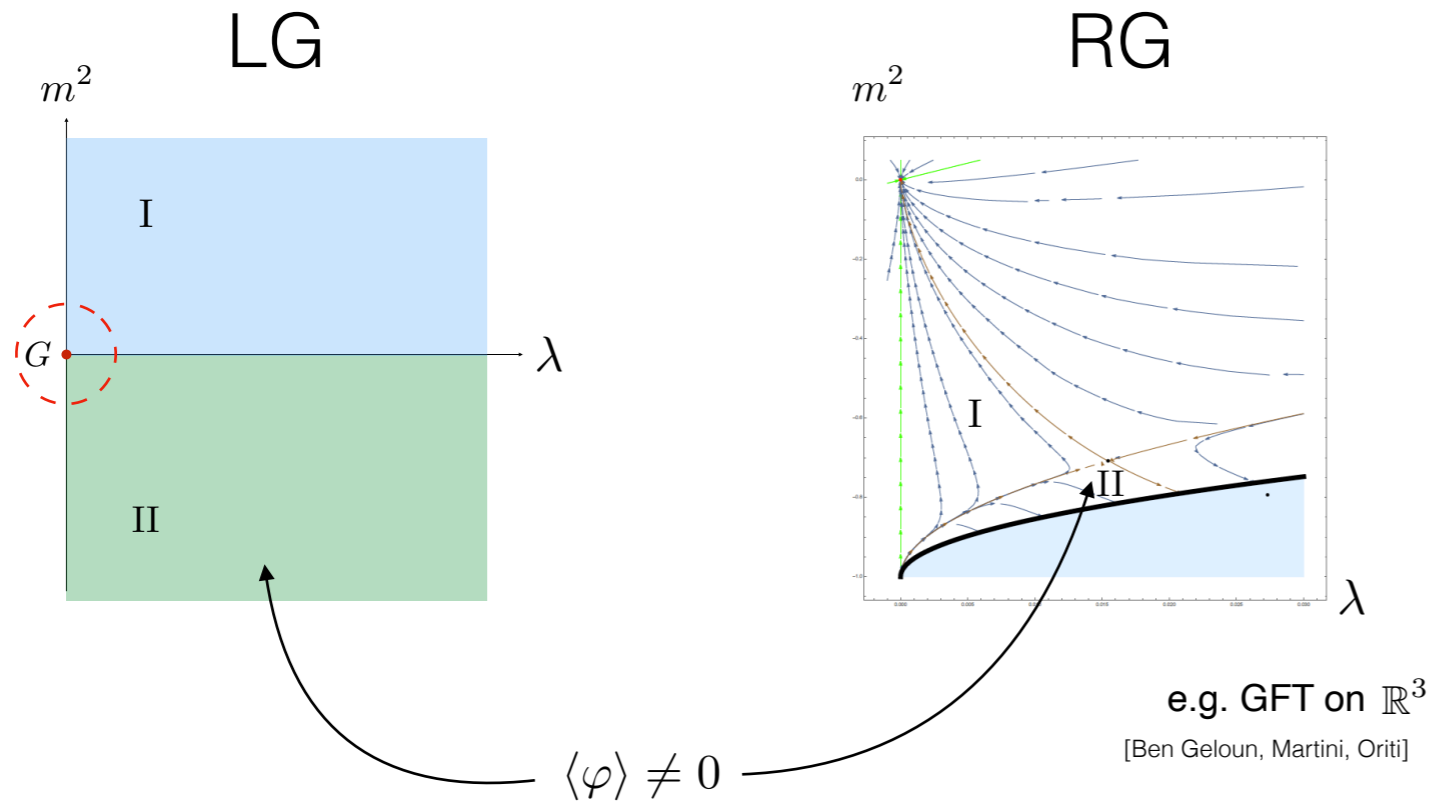
$$V[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = \int (dg)^{10} \sum_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_5} \int dX_{\alpha_1} \dots \int dX_{\alpha_5} \varphi_{1234}(X_{\alpha_1}) \varphi_{4567}(X_{\alpha_2}) \varphi_{7389}(X_{\alpha_3}) \varphi_{962(10)}(X_{\alpha_4}) \varphi_{(10)851}(X_{\alpha_5}) + \text{c.c}$$

Back to Landau-Ginzburg method

Applicable in GFT?

Why bother in GFT? Applicable?

- transition to condensate phase in GFT with non-trivial VEV?!



- problem of the continuum limit in GFT/spin foam models
- mapping phases/phase structure of such models
- to this aim: exploit field theory character of GFTs

- condensate remains **hypothesis** for realistic models (but getting there); **test with LG theory applied to GFT**
- important for group field theory condensate cosmology: condensate phase is important pillar

- upshot: LG MFT applicable in GFT in spite of non-locality of its interactions, gauge invariance and simplicity

Landau-Ginzburg mean-field theory of GFTs

[Thürigen, Pithis; Marchetti, Oriti, Thürigen, Pithis]

(goal: determine ingredients to realize phase transition)

local scalar field theory:

LG theory gives coarse picture of phase structure thus sufficient to point to the formation of a condensate phase; fully accurate only above critical dimension

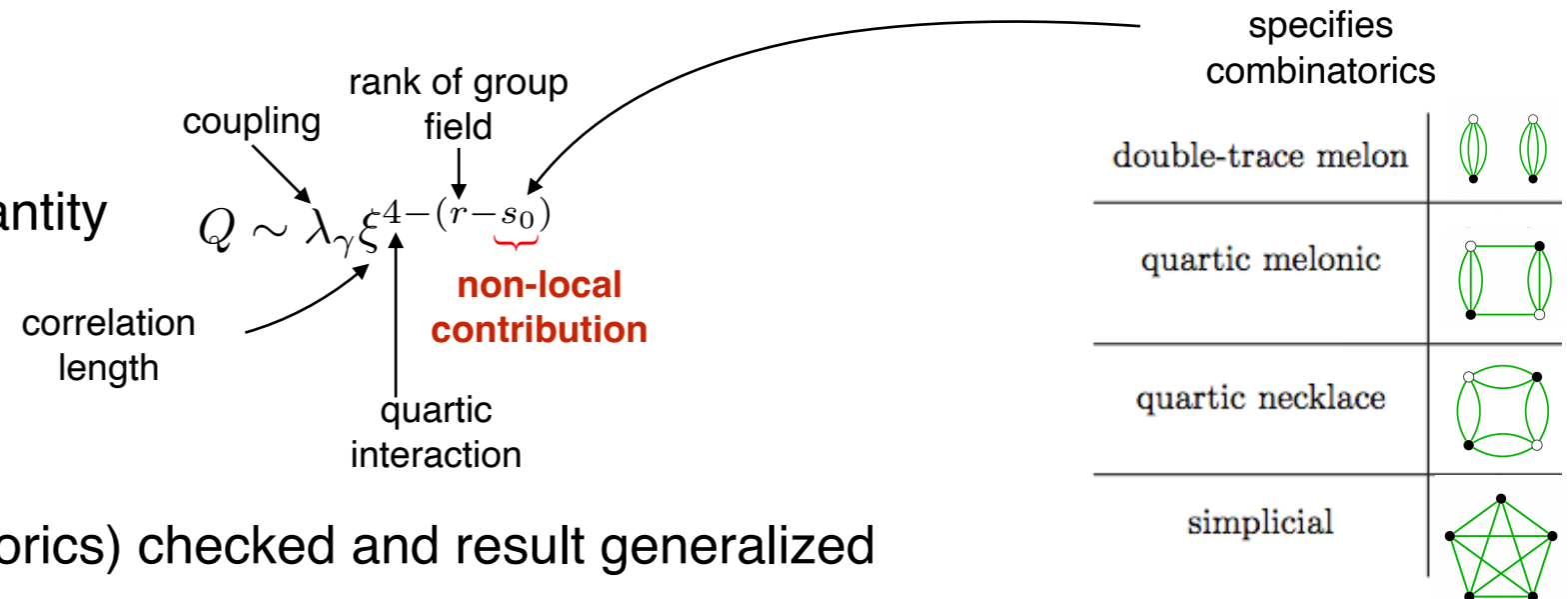
→ **method works also for GFTs** (non-local)

(shown for simplified models on Abelian compact/non-compact group with/out closure constraint with/out additional local dof; **wip** on Lorentz group and simplicity constraints imposed)

mean-field analysis for $\varphi(\mathbf{g}) : G^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ take $G = \mathbb{R}$

- devise regularisation scheme due to non-locality together with projection onto uniform fields: $G \rightarrow U(1)$

- extract critical dimension via Ginzburg quantity



- various interactions (power and combinatorics) checked and result generalized

- impose closure constraint $r \rightarrow r - 1$

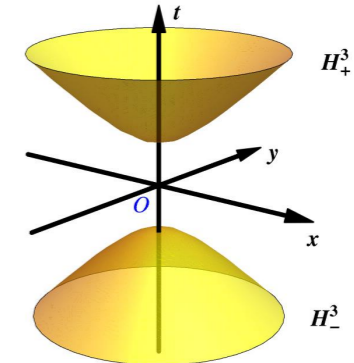
More realistic scenario - kinematics

[wip: Marchetti, Oriti, Thürigen, Pithis]

- work within context of the complete Barrett-Crane model

Here:

- caveat: restrict to spacelike tetrahedra/timelike normals**



$$\varphi(\mathbf{g}, X) = \varphi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, X) = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4 \times \mathbb{H}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} \quad \xrightarrow{\quad} \quad \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})/\text{SU}(2) \cong \mathbb{H}^3$$

- decomposition of the field in terms of irreducible representations

$$\varphi(\mathbf{g}, X) = \prod_{i=1}^4 \left(\int d\rho_i \rho_i^2 \sum_{j_i, m_i} D_{j_i m_i 00}^{\rho_i, 0}(g_i X) \right) \varphi_{j_1 m_1 j_2 m_2 j_3 m_3 j_4 m_4}^{\rho_1 \rho_2 \rho_3 \rho_4}$$

Wigner matrices of $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ in the so-called unitary principal series

- integration over normal to get rid of irrelevant information on embedding

$$\varphi(\mathbf{g}) = \int_{\mathbb{H}^3} dX \varphi(\mathbf{g}, X) = \prod_{i=1}^4 \left(\int d\rho_i \rho_i^2 \sum_{j_i, m_i, l_i, n_i} D_{j_i m_i 00}^{\rho_i, 0}(g_i) \right) B_{l_1 n_1 l_2 n_2 l_3 n_3 l_4 n_4}^{\rho_1 \rho_2 \rho_3 \rho_4} \varphi_{j_1 m_1 j_2 m_2 j_3 m_3 j_4 m_4}^{\rho_1 \rho_2 \rho_3 \rho_4}$$

Barrett-Crane intertwiner $B_{j_1 m_1 j_2 m_2 j_3 m_3 j_4 m_4}^{\rho_1 \rho_2 \rho_3 \rho_4} \equiv \int dX \prod_{i=1}^4 D_{j_i m_i 00}^{(\rho_i, 0)}(X)$

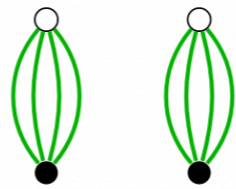
More realistic scenario - dynamics

$$S[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = S_0[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] + S_{\text{IA}}[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}]$$

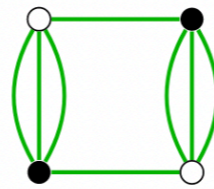
GFT action kinetic term interaction(s)

$$S_0[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = \int_{\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4} d\mathbf{g} \int_{\mathbb{H}^3} dX \bar{\varphi}(\mathbf{g}, X) \left(- \sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta_i + \mu \right) \varphi(\mathbf{g}, X)$$

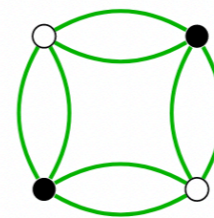
consider interactions of type:



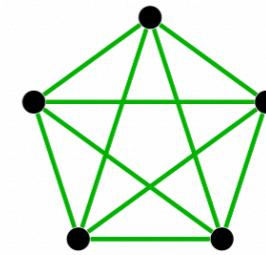
double-trace melon



simple melon



necklace



simplicial

e.g.

$$S_{\text{IA, simplex}}[\varphi, \bar{\varphi}] = \frac{\lambda}{5!} \int_{\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^{10}} [dg]^{10} \int_{\mathbb{H}^{3.5}} [dX]^5 \varphi_{1234}(X_1) \varphi_{4567}(X_2) \varphi_{7389}(X_3) \varphi_{9620}(X_4) \varphi_{0851}(X_5) + \text{c.c.}$$

More realistic scenario - regularization

- due to closure constraint together with projection onto uniform fields Φ_0 one has infinite volume factors as $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ is non-compact

→ have to regularize models: done by analytic continuation and compactification of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ to $Spin(4)$ [Dona, Gozzini, Nicotra]

concretely:

- at local level it amounts to **map** between corresponding **Lie algebras** $spin(4) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2) \leftrightarrow sl(2, \mathbb{C}) \cong su(2) \oplus isu(2)$
- at global level it amounts to map between corresponding Lie groups via **mapping respective Cartan decompositions** into each other:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) & & \text{Spin}(4) \\
 \text{SU}(2) \times A^+ \times \text{SU}(2) \rightarrow \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) & & \text{SU}(2) \times T^+ \times \text{SU}(2) \rightarrow \text{Spin}(4) \\
 (u, e^{\frac{1}{2}\frac{\eta}{a}\sigma_3}, v) \mapsto ue^{\frac{1}{2}\frac{\eta}{a}\sigma_3}v^{-1} & & (u, e^{-i\frac{1}{2}\frac{t}{a}\sigma_3}, v) \mapsto (ue^{-i\frac{1}{2}\frac{t}{a}\sigma_3}v^{-1}, ue^{i\frac{1}{2}\frac{t}{a}\sigma_3}v^{-1}) \\
 A^+ = \{e^{\frac{1}{2}\frac{\eta}{a}\sigma_3} | \eta \in \mathbb{R}_+\} \xrightarrow[\Lambda]{\text{introduce regulator}} A^+_\Lambda = \{e^{\frac{1}{2}\frac{\eta}{a}\sigma_3} | \eta \in [0, \Lambda]\} \xrightarrow[\eta \rightarrow -it]{\text{Wick rotate}} T^+_\Lambda = \{e^{-i\frac{1}{2}\frac{t}{a}\sigma_3} | t \in [0, \Lambda]\} \xrightarrow[\Lambda \rightarrow 2\pi a]{\text{compactify}} T^+ = \{e^{-i\frac{1}{2}\frac{t}{a}\sigma_3} | t \in [0, 2\pi a)\}
 \end{array}$$

- essentially amounts to mapping of respective homogeneous spaces into each other

$$\mathbb{H}^3 \cong \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})/\text{SU}(2) \\
 dH^2 = a^2 \left(\left(\frac{d\eta}{a} \right)^2 + \sinh^2 \left(\frac{\eta}{a} \right) d\Omega_2 \right)$$

↑
skirt radius

$$S^3 \cong \text{Spin}(4)/\text{SU}(2) \\
 dS^2 = a^2 \left(\left(\frac{dt}{a} \right)^2 + \sin^2 \left(\frac{t}{a} \right) d\Omega_2 \right)$$

- map representation labels $\rho \rightarrow -ip$ → work with $Spin(4)$ -representation theory instead

More realistic scenario - correlation function and length

Starting from regularized action:

→ **linearize equations of motion** over non-trivial background Φ_0

→ solve for regularized correlation function:

$$C(\mathbf{g}) = \prod_{i=1}^4 \left(\sum_{p_i} \frac{p_i^2}{\text{vol}(\mathbb{T}^+)} \sum_{\substack{j_i, m_i; \\ l_i, n_i}} D_{j_i m_i l_i n_i}^{(p_i, 0)}(g_i) \right) B_{l_1 n_1 l_2 n_2 l_3 n_3 l_4 n_4}^{p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4} \hat{C}_{j_1 m_1 j_2 m_2 j_3 m_3 j_4 m_4}^{p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4}$$

$$\hat{C}_{j_1 m_1 j_2 m_2 j_3 m_3 j_4 m_4}^{p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{a^2} \sum_i (-\text{Cas}_{1, p_i}) + b_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{m}}}$$

encapsulates remaining non-locality of interactions after projection onto Φ_0

→ **analyze correlation function mode-by-mode**

→ turns out that only the zero-mode behaviour of the correlator is important for us; there we can Wick rotate back and decompactify to $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$

→ **only these zero-modes contribute to the correlation length and determine** the behaviour of the **Ginzburg Q**-parameter

→ **result for correlation length** (via asymptotic analysis or second-moment-method): $\xi^2 \sim \frac{1}{a^2 \mu^2} + \frac{1}{\mu}$

modification due to hyperbolicity of domain

(see also Benedetti, 1403.6712)

More realistic scenario - Ginzburg Q

- results for local scalar field theory on one 3-hyperboloid

for finite skirt radius a :

flat limit:
 $a \rightarrow \infty$

impact of closure constraint via the BC intertwiner:

- can be generalized to arbitrary interactions
- local degrees of freedom can be added straightforwardly

→ **Ginzburg Q always very small**

→ **LG mean-field theory can self-consistently describe phase transition** ($\Phi_0 = 0 \leftrightarrow \Phi_0 \neq 0$)

$$Q \sim \lambda_\gamma \xi^2 e^{-2.1 \frac{\xi}{a}} \quad \text{(Benedetti, 1403.6712)}$$

↑
coupling

rank of the group field

$$Q \sim \lambda_\gamma \xi^2 e^{-2(4-s_0) \frac{\xi}{a}}$$

↑
combinatorics of interaction $s_0 \leq 4$

dimension of 3-hyperboloid

$$Q \sim \lambda_\gamma \xi^{4-3(4-s_0)}$$

(agrees with our results 2110.15336)

exponential suppression due to hyperbolicity of domain

$$s_0 \rightarrow s_0 + 1 \quad (\text{i.e. one more zero-mode, or one rank less } r \rightarrow r - 1)$$

Conclusions

- LG theory is also applicable to GFT models in spite of their non-local interactions
- it informs us about the coarse phase structure of different models
- apply it to Barrett-Crane model for Lorentzian first order Palatini gravity
- from there we can extract the rescaling relations of couplings needed for RG studies

Extensions

- consider all the bare causal structure (spacelike, timelike and lightlike tetrahedra)
- extension to other relevant models
- conduct full-fledged (functional) **RG and 1/N analyses** of these models
- devise **observables** & tools to characterize different phases wrt their geometric properties

Thank you for your attention!