

Landau-Ginzburg analysis of the causally complete Lorentzian Barrett- Crane model

based on 2112.00091, 2206.15442, 2404.04524, 2407.02325

Alexander F. Jercher

in collaboration with Roukaya Dekhil, Daniele Oriti and Andreas G. A. Pithis



Overview

- Background-independent gravity path integral approach
- consider $d = 4$ and $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$
- Barrett-Crane model is a spin foam and group field theory model
- “causally complete” means spacelike, lightlike, and timelike tetrahedra are included

Barrett, Crane gr-qc/9904025; Perez, Rovelli gr-qc/0009021; Baratin, Oriti 1108.1178; AFJ, Oriti, Pithis 2112.00091

AFJ, Oriti, Pithis 2206.15442

microscopic
quantum geometric
degrees of freedom

coarse-
graining 

continuum
spacetime
geometries

- LG mean-field theory as approximation method and for coarse account of phase structure

Landau-Ginzburg analysis of the
causally complete Lorentzian Barrett-
Crane model

BF-theory quantization

$$S_{\text{EH}}[g] \xrightarrow{1.} S_{\text{P}}[e, \omega] \xrightarrow{2.} S_{\text{BF}}[B, \omega] + \text{constr.} \xrightarrow[3.]{\text{disc.}} \underbrace{S_{\text{BF}}^{\text{disc}} + \text{constr.}}_{\text{?}}$$

1. First-order Palatini gravity

$$S_{\text{P}}[e, \omega] = \int_M \epsilon_{IJKL} e^I \wedge e^J \wedge F(\omega)^{KL}$$

no Holst-term

$$\frac{1}{\gamma_{\text{BI}}} \int_M e^I \wedge e^J \wedge F(\omega)_{IJ}$$

orthonormal frame

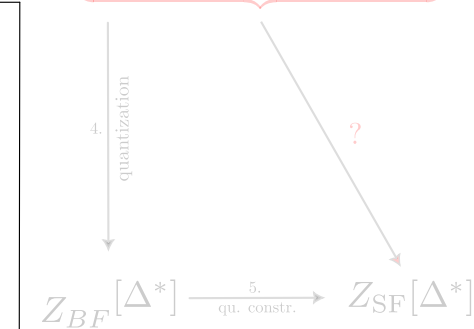
$$\{e_I\}, \quad g(e_I, e_J) = \eta_{IJ}$$

connection

$$\omega \in \Omega^1(M) \times \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$$

spin-connection

$$\frac{\delta S_{\text{P}}}{\delta \omega} = 0 \Rightarrow \omega(e)$$



BF-theory quantization

$$S_{\text{EH}}[g] \xrightarrow{1.} S_{\text{P}}[e, \omega] \xrightarrow{2.} S_{\text{BF}}[B, \omega] + \text{constr.} \xrightarrow[3.]{\text{disc.}} \underbrace{S_{\text{BF}}^{\text{disc}} + \text{constr.}}_{\text{no prop. d.o.f.'s}}$$

no prop. d.o.f.'s

2. Constrained BF-theory

$$S_{\text{BF}}[B, \omega] = \int B_{IJ} \wedge F(\omega)^{IJ}$$

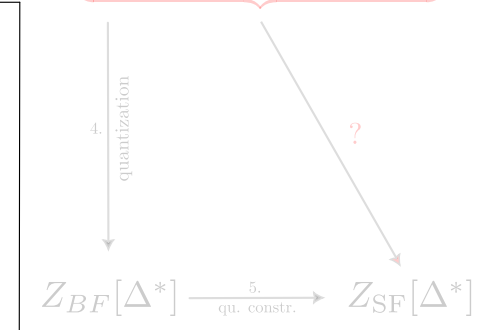
B-field 2-form

$$B \in \Omega^2(M) \times \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$$

simplicity constraints

$$n_I (*B)^{IJ} = 0 \Rightarrow B^{IJ} = \epsilon^{IJKL} e_K \wedge e_L$$

- normal vector field n
- defining ingredient of BC model
- other possibilities with γ_{BI}



BF-theory quantization

3. Discretization

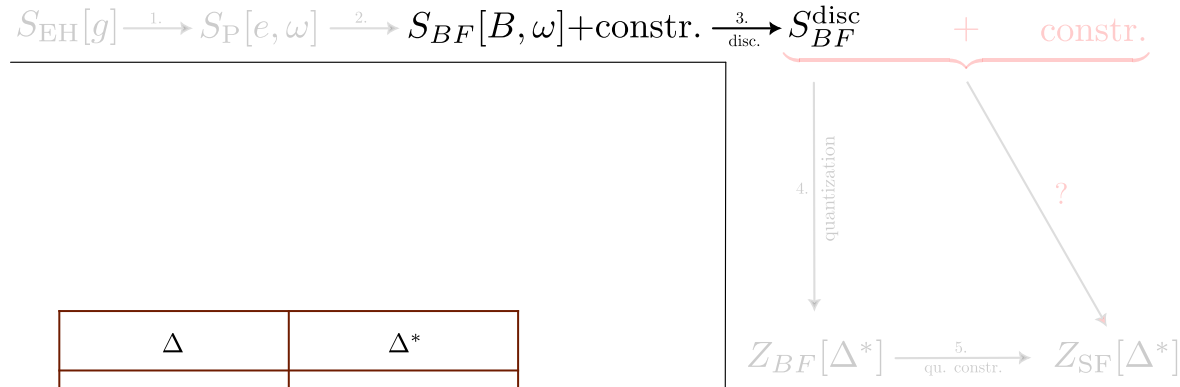
$$\omega \rightarrow g_e = \mathcal{P} \exp \left(\int_e \omega \right)$$

$$F \rightarrow g_f = \prod_{e \supset f} g_e$$

$$B \rightarrow b_f = \int_{t(f)} B$$

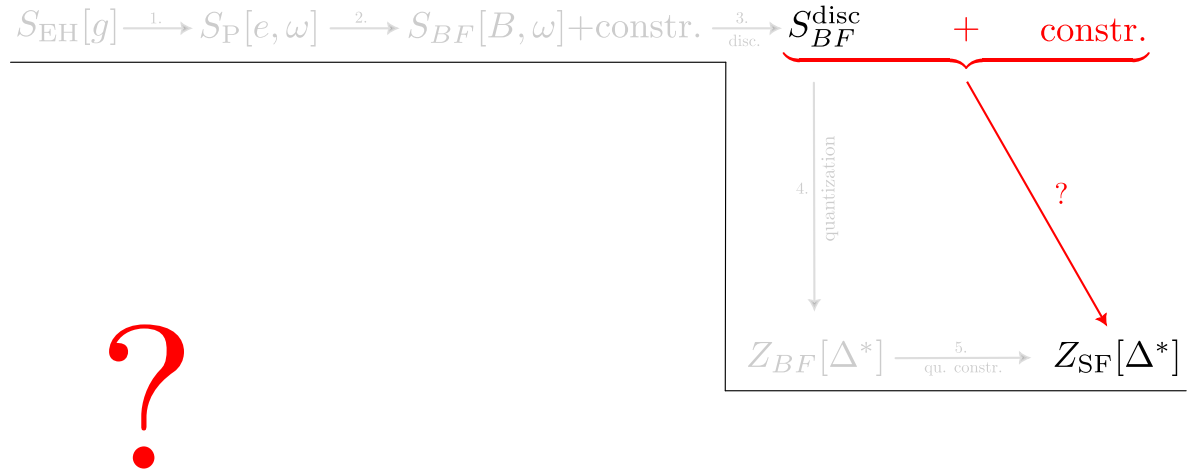
$$n \rightarrow X$$

$$S_{BF}^{\text{disc}} = \sum_f \text{Tr}[b_f g_f]$$



Δ	Δ^*
4-cell	vertex (v)
tetrahedron	edge (e)
triangle	face (f)
link	
point	

BF-theory quantization



BF-theory quantization

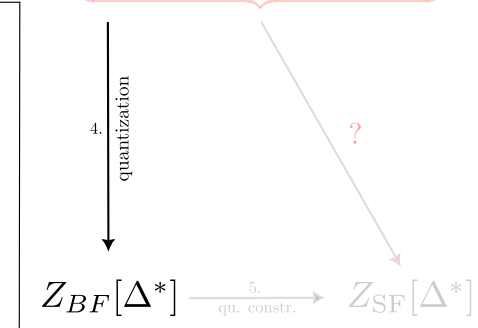
$$S_{\text{EH}}[g] \xrightarrow{1.} S_{\text{P}}[e, \omega] \xrightarrow{2.} S_{\text{BF}}[B, \omega] + \text{constr.} \xrightarrow[3.]{\text{disc.}} \underbrace{S_{\text{BF}}^{\text{disc}} + \text{constr.}}_{\text{?}}$$

4. Path integral quantization $Z_{\text{BF}}[\Delta^*] = \prod_f \int dg_f \int db_f i^{S_{\text{BF}}} = \prod_f \int dg_f \prod_{e \subset f} \delta(\prod g_e)$

Plancherel-decomposition $\delta(g) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\rho \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{Z}/2} (\rho^2 + \nu^2) \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}/2} \sum_{m=-j}^j D_{jm}^{(\rho, \nu)}(g)$

unitary irreps & can. basis $(\rho, \nu) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{Z}/2, \quad |(\rho, \nu); jm\rangle \in \mathcal{D}^{(\rho, \nu)}$

$$Z_{\text{BF}}[\Delta^*] = \prod_f \int dg_f \prod_f \delta(\prod_{e \subset f} g_e) = \prod_{\{\rho_f, \nu_f, \iota_e\}} \prod_f (\rho_f^2 + \nu_f^2) \prod_e \mathcal{A}_e \prod_v \mathcal{A}_v$$



From BF -theory to spin foams

5. Imposition of constraints on the quantum level

$$(\mathbf{L}^2 - \mathbf{K}^2) |(\rho, \nu), jm\rangle = (-\rho^2 + \nu^2 - 1) |(\rho, \nu), jm\rangle$$

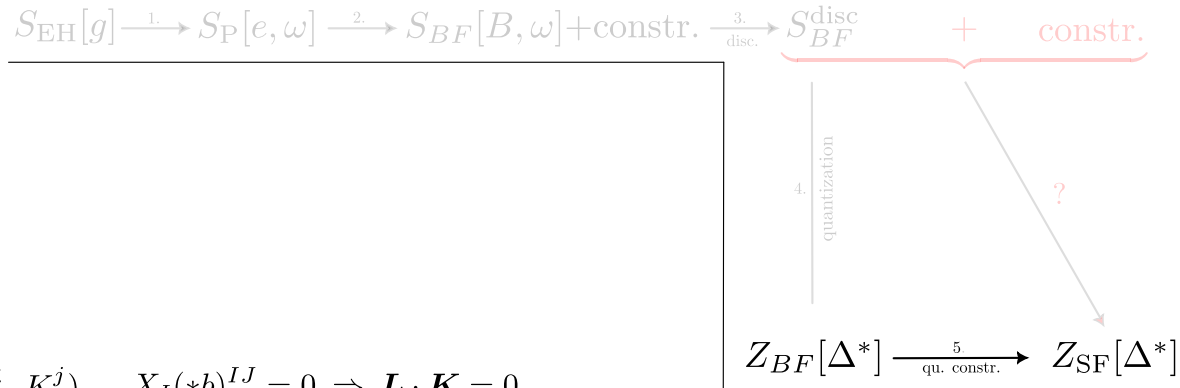
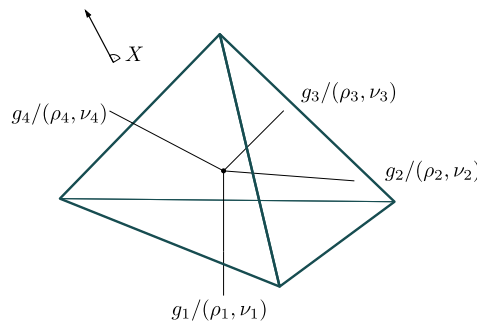
$$\mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{K} |(\rho, \nu), jm\rangle = \rho\nu |(\rho, \nu), jm\rangle$$

Identification of bi-vectors and generators $b_f^{IJ} \mapsto (L_f^i, K_f^j) \quad X_I(*b)^{IJ} = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{K} = 0$

$$Z_{\text{SF}}[\Delta^*] = \int_{\{\rho_f, \nu_f, \iota_e\}} \prod_f (\rho_f^2 + \nu_f^2) \prod_e \mathcal{A}_e \prod_v \mathcal{A}_v$$

|
simpl.

↑
explicit discretization dependence



tet.	s.l.	l.l.	t.l.	
X_I	t.l.	l.l.	s.l.	
face	s.l.	s.l.	s.l.	t.l.
	$(\rho, 0)$	$(\rho, 0)$	$(\rho, 0)$	$(0, \nu)$

From spin foams to group field theories

Dual complex Δ^* can be understood as stranded graph and $Z_{\text{SF}}[\Delta^*]$ as Feynman amplitude

Group field theories generate spin foam amplitudes in a perturbative expansion, i.e.

$$Z_{\text{GFT}} = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-S_{\text{GFT}}[\Phi]} = \sum_{\Delta^*} \frac{\lambda^V}{\text{sym}(\Delta^*)} Z_{\text{SF}}[\Delta^*]$$

Other paths to the theory are:

- 3rd quantization of gravity [Giddings, Strominger '89]
- generalization of matrix and tensor models
- quantum cosmology as hydrodynamics on minisuperspace

$$\Phi : \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4 \times \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{loc}}} \times \mathbb{H} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

scalar field coupling

$$(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X) \longmapsto \Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X)$$

• closure $\Phi(\mathbf{g}h^{-1}, \phi, h \cdot X) = \Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X), \quad h \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$

• simplicity $\Phi(\mathbf{g}\mathbf{u}, \phi, X) = \Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X), \quad \mathbf{u} \in \text{Stab}_X^4$

$$S_{\text{GFT}} = K[\Phi] + V[\Phi]$$

$$K[\Phi] = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{g} d\phi d\mathbf{g}' d\phi' dX \Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X) \mathcal{K}(\mathbf{g}^{-1}\mathbf{g}', |\phi - \phi'|) \Phi(\mathbf{g}', \phi', X)$$

kinetic: "propagation" of tetrahedra

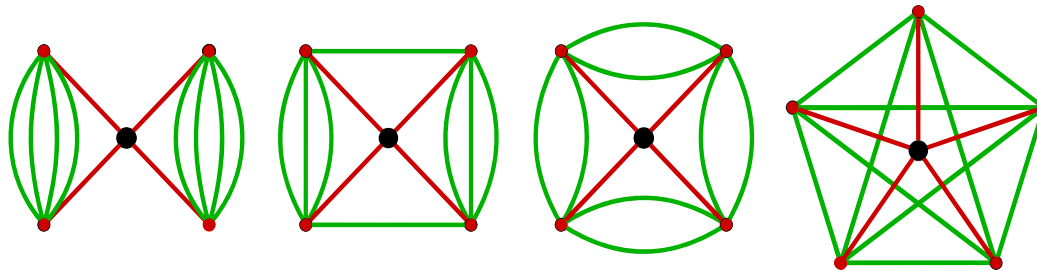
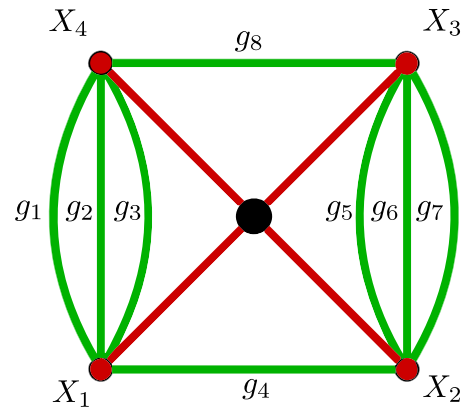
$$\sim \mathcal{A}_e^{-1}$$

$$V[\Phi] = \lambda \int d\phi \text{Tr}_\gamma \left[\prod_\tau \int dX^\tau \Phi(\mathbf{g}^\tau, \phi, X^\tau) \right] \sim \mathcal{A}_v$$

vertex: glueing of tetrahedra, non-local in g and local in ϕ

Example: $\gamma = \text{quartic melon}$

$$V[\Phi] = \int d^8g d\phi d\mathbf{X} \Phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4, \phi, X_1) \Phi(g_5, g_6, g_7, g_4, \phi, X_2) \Phi(g_5, g_6, g_7, g_8, \phi, X_3) \Phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_8, \phi, X_4)$$



The causally complete Barrett-Crane GFT model

Resolving restriction to spacelike tetrahedra (X_+ timelike) to include timelike tetrahedra (X_- spacelike) and lightlike tetrahedra (X_0 lightlike)

$$\Phi_\alpha : \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})^4 \times \mathbb{R}^{d_{\mathrm{loc}}} \times \mathbb{H}_\alpha \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_\alpha) \longmapsto \Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_\alpha)$$

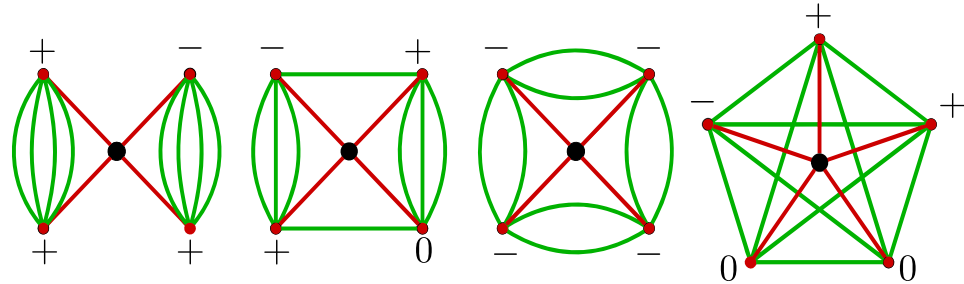
- closure $\Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{g}h^{-1}, \phi, h \cdot X_\alpha) = \Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_\alpha), \quad h \in \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$

- simplicity $\Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{g}\mathbf{u}_\alpha, \phi, X_\alpha) = \Phi_\alpha(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_\alpha), \quad \mathbf{u}_\alpha \in \mathrm{Stab}_{X_\alpha}^4$

$$K[\Phi_+, \Phi_0, \Phi_-] = \sum_\alpha (\Phi_\alpha, \mathcal{K}_\alpha \Phi_\alpha)$$

$$V[\Phi_+, \Phi_0, \Phi_-] = \lambda \int d\phi \mathrm{Tr}_\gamma [\Phi_+^{n_+} \Phi_0^{n_0} \Phi_-^{n_-}]$$

diagonal in causal characters



Landau-Ginzburg analysis of the
causally complete Lorentzian Barrett-
Crane model

Landau-Ginzburg mean-field theory

microscopic quantum
geometric degrees of freedom

coarse-graining

continuum spacetime
geometries

Spin foam
renormalization via
refinement

Asante, Dittrich, Steinhaus 2211.09578;
Bahr, Steinhaus 1605.07649; Dittrich,
Mizera, Steinhaus 1409.2407

FRG methods applied to
tensor models in large-N
expansion

Gurau 1011.2726; 1105.3122, Bonzon,
Riello, Gurau, Rivasseau; Carrozza
2404.07834

Homogeneous and
inhomogeneous cosmology
from GFT condensates

Oriti, Sindoni, Wilson-Ewing 1602.05881;
Pithis, Sakellariadou 1904.00598 ; AFJ,
Marchetti, Pithis 2308.13261

Landau-Ginzburg mean-
field analysis applied to
non-local field theories

Marchetti, Oriti, Pithis, Thürigen
2110.15336, 2211.12768; Dekhil, AFJ,
Oriti, Pithis 2404.04524, 2407.02325

Asante, Dittrich, Steinhaus 2211.09578; Carrozza 2404.07834; Oriti, Sindoni, Wilson-Ewing 1602.05881; Marchetti, Oriti, Pithis, Thürigen 2110.15336, 2211.12768

Landau-Ginzburg mean-field theory

microscopic quantum
geometric degrees of freedom

coarse-graining

continuum spacetime
geometries

Spin foam
renormalization via
refinement

Asante, Dittrich, Steinhaus 2211.09578;
Bahr, Steinhaus 1605.07649; Dittrich,
Mizera, Steinhaus 1409.2407

FRG methods applied to
tensor models in large-N
expansion

Gurau 1011.2726; 1105.3122, Bonzon,
Riello, Gurau, Rivasseau; Carrozza
2404.07834

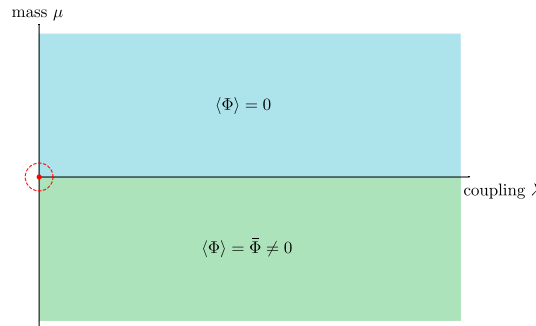
Homogeneous and
inhomogeneous cosmology
from GFT condensates

Oriti, Sindoni, Wilson-Ewing 1602.05881;
Pithis, Sakellariadou 1904.00598; AFJ,
Marchetti, Pithis 2308.13261

Landau-Ginzburg mean-
field analysis applied to
non-local field theories

Marchetti, Oriti, Pithis, Thürigen
2110.15336, 2211.12768; Dekhil, AFJ,
Oriti, Pithis 2404.04524, 2407.02325

- coarse account for the phase structure
- self-consistency check near phase-transition
- condensate phase tentatively connected to continuum geometries



phenom. models for 2nd-order phase
transitions via SSB

approximate quantum gravity
models via MF near the point
 $\mu \rightarrow 0$

Asante, Dittrich, Steinhaus 2211.09578; Carrozza 2404.07834; Oriti, Sindoni, Wilson-Ewing 1602.05881; Marchetti, Oriti, Pithis, Thürigen 2110.15336, 2211.12768

LG-theory applied to spacelike BC model

$$S[\Phi] = (\Phi, \mathcal{K}\Phi) + \lambda \int d\phi \text{Tr}_\gamma \left[\prod_\tau \int dX_\tau^\pm \Phi(\mathbf{g}^\tau, \phi, X_\tau^\pm) \right], \quad \mathcal{K} = \mu \delta(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') - Z(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') \Delta_\phi - \sum_{c=1}^4 \Delta_c$$

- spacelike tetrahedra
- spacelike faces $(\rho, 0)$

uniform sol. of equations of motion

linearization and effective action

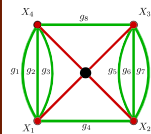
effective mass

correlation function
 $\langle \delta\Phi(\mathbf{e}, 0) \delta\Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi) \rangle$

correlation length

Ginzburg-Q

$$\bar{\Phi} = \left(\frac{|\mu|}{\lambda n_\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{n_\gamma - 2}} V_L^{-\frac{r}{2}} V_L^{-\frac{n_\gamma - 1}{n_\gamma - 2}}$$



$$b^\rho = |\mu|(\chi^\rho - 1)$$

$$\chi^\rho = \prod_{c=1}^4 \delta_{\rho_c, i} + \prod_{c \neq 4} \delta_{\rho_c, i} + \delta_{\rho_4, i}$$

- effective mass momentum dep.
- χ^ρ encodes non-locality
- projection onto zero-modes
- local result $b = 2|\mu|$ for 4 zero modes otherwise, $b^\rho \leq 0$ [Dekhil, AFJ, Pithis 2404.04524]

$$C_{\text{loc}}(\phi) = \int d\mathbf{g} C(\mathbf{g}, \phi)$$

$$C_{\text{nloc}}(\mathbf{g}) = \int d\phi C(\mathbf{g}, \phi)$$

$$\xi_{\text{loc}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{b^i}} \sim |\mu|^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\xi_{\text{nloc}} = \frac{2}{ab^{e_1 \dots e_s}} \sim (a|\mu|)^{-1}$$

$$Q = \frac{\int_{\Omega_\xi} d\mathbf{g} d\phi C(\mathbf{g}, \phi)}{\int_{\Omega_\xi} d\mathbf{g} d\phi \bar{\Phi}^2}$$

$$Q \sim \tilde{\lambda}^{\frac{2}{n_\gamma - 2}} \xi_{\text{loc}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(d_{\text{loc}} - 2 \frac{n_\gamma}{n_\gamma - 2} \right) e^{-2(4-s_0)\xi_{\text{nloc}}/a}$$

$$\lim_{\xi_{\text{nloc}} \rightarrow \infty} Q = 0$$

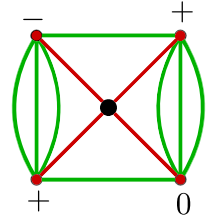
LG-theory applied to spacelike BC model

Key results

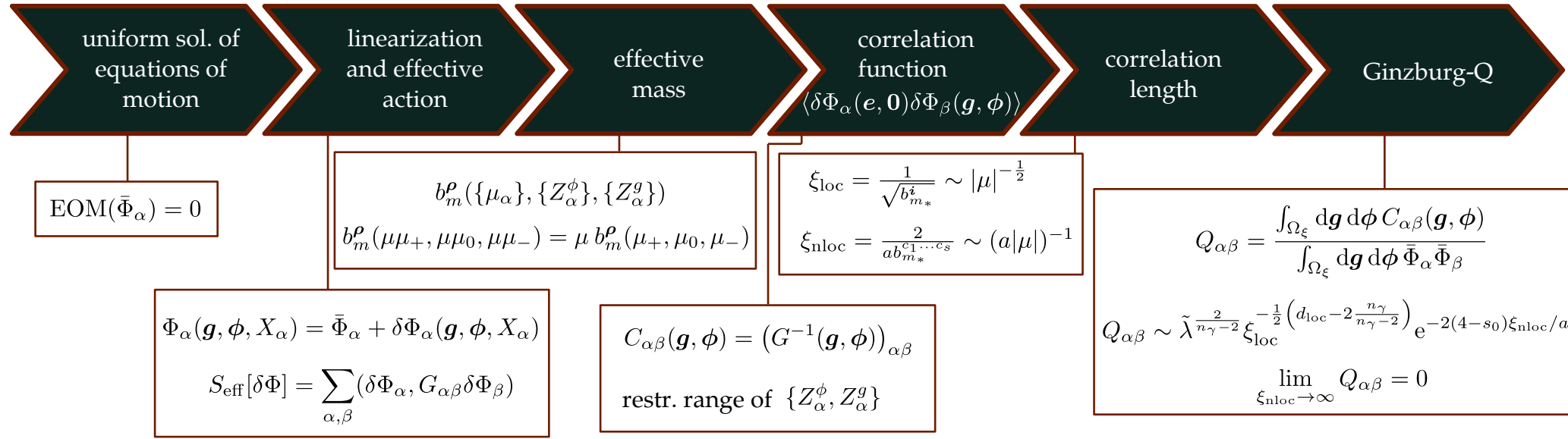
- exponential suppression of fluctuations
- hyperbolic part of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ crucial
- holds for vanishing effective mass
- generalizes to multiple interactions
- supports the mean-field hypothesis of GFT condensate cosmology

Extension to causally complete BC model

$$S[\Phi_+, \Phi_0, \Phi_-] = \sum_{\alpha} (\Phi_{\alpha}, \mathcal{K}_{\alpha} \Phi_{\alpha}) + \lambda \int d\phi \operatorname{Tr}_{\gamma} [\Phi_+^{n_+} \Phi_0^{n_0} \Phi_-^{n_-}], \quad \mathcal{K}_{\alpha} = \mu_{\alpha} \delta(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') - Z_{\alpha}^{\phi}(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') \Delta_{\phi} - Z_{\alpha}^g(|\phi - \phi'|) \sum_{c=1}^4 \Delta_c$$



- multi-field theory (Φ_+, Φ_0, Φ_-)
- no $O(3)$ only discrete \mathbb{Z}_2
- matrix-valued correlator $C_{\alpha\beta}$
- timelike tetrahedra with timelike faces $(0, \nu)$



Extension to causally complete BC model

Key results

- exponential suppression of fluctuations in restricted regime of $\{Z_\alpha^\phi, Z_\alpha^g\}$
- generalizes: multiple interactions, CDT-like model, colored model

- $SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \sim \mathbb{H}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^3$

$(\rho, 0)$

spacelike faces

drive criticality

$(0, \nu)$

timelike faces

projected out

- supports studies on cosmological perturbations from GFT condensates

Summary

- GFTs are combinatorially non-local field theories
- causally complete BC model
- exponential suppression of fluctuations
- hyperbolic structure of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$
- spacelike faces drive criticality
- timelike faces projected out

Open Questions

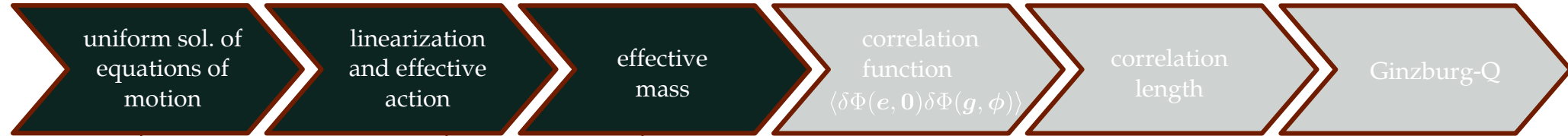
- extension to other causally complete models
- geometrical characterization of mean-field
- limited range of parameters
- FRG-methods applied to QG models
- is classical GFT already capturing QG?

Back-up

LG-theory applied to spacelike BC model

$$S[\Phi] = (\Phi, \mathcal{K}\Phi) + \lambda \int d\phi \operatorname{Tr}_\gamma \left[\prod_v \int dX_+^v \Phi(\mathbf{g}^v, \phi, X_+^v) \right], \quad \mathcal{K} = \mu \delta(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') - Z(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') \Delta_\phi - \sum_{c=1}^4 \Delta_c$$

- spacelike tetrahedra
- spacelike faces $(\rho, 0)$



$$0 = \mu \bar{\Phi} + \lambda n_\gamma V_L^{\frac{\gamma}{2}(n_\gamma-2)} V_L^{n_\gamma-1} \bar{\Phi}^{n_\gamma-1}$$

$$\bar{\Phi} = \left(\frac{|\mu|}{\lambda n_\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{n_\gamma-2}} V_L^{-\frac{\gamma}{2}} V_L^{-\frac{n_\gamma-1}{n_\gamma-2}}$$

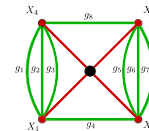
- volume factors $V_L = e^{2L/a}$ from group and normal integration
- cf. quartic scalar field theory

$$\bar{\phi} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{|\mu|}{4\lambda}}$$

$$\Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_+) = \bar{\Phi} + \delta\Phi(\mathbf{g}, \phi, X_+)$$

$$S_{\text{eff}}[\delta\Phi] = (\delta\Phi, G\delta\Phi)$$

$$G^\rho(\mathbf{k}) = Z^\rho \mathbf{k}^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} \sum_{c=1}^4 (\rho_c^2 + 1) + b^\rho$$



$$b^\rho = |\mu|(\chi^\rho - 1)$$

$$\chi^\rho = \prod_{c=1}^4 \delta_{\rho_c, i} + \prod_{c \neq 4} \delta_{\rho_c, i} + \delta_{\rho_4, i}$$

- effective mass momentum dep.
- χ^ρ encodes non-locality
- projection onto zero-modes
- local result $b = 2|\mu|$ for 4 zero modes otherwise, $b^\rho \leq 0$ [Dekhil, AF], Pithis 2404.04524]

LG-theory applied to spacelike BC model

$$S[\Phi] = (\Phi, \mathcal{K}\Phi) + \lambda \int d\phi \operatorname{Tr}_\gamma \left[\prod_v \int dX_+^v \Phi(\mathbf{g}^v, \phi, X_+^v) \right], \quad \mathcal{K} = \mu \delta(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') - Z(\mathbf{g}^{-1} \mathbf{g}') \Delta_\phi - \sum_{c=1}^4 \Delta_c$$

- spacelike tetrahedra
- spacelike faces $(\rho, 0)$



$$C^\rho(\mathbf{k}) = (Z^\rho \mathbf{k}^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} \sum_{c=1}^4 (\rho_c^2 + 1) + b^\rho)^{-1}$$

$$C_{\text{loc}}(\phi) = \int d\mathbf{g} C(\mathbf{g}, \phi) = \int \frac{d\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{d_{\text{loc}}}} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}\phi}}{Z^i \mathbf{k}^2 + b^i}$$

$$C_{\text{nloc}}(\mathbf{g}) = \int d\phi C(\mathbf{g}, \phi) = \prod_c \int d\rho_c \rho_c^2 \frac{\prod_c \operatorname{Tr} [D^{(\rho_c, 0)}(g_c)]}{\frac{1}{a^2} \sum_c (\rho_c^2 + 1) + b^\rho}$$

$$C_{\text{nloc}}(\mathbf{g}) \rightarrow \sum_{s=s_0(\gamma)}^4 V_L^{-s} \sum_{(c_1 \dots c_s)} C_{\text{nloc}}^s(\mathbf{g}_{4-s})$$

$$Z^i > 0: C_{\text{loc}}(\phi) \xrightarrow{|\phi| \gg 1} e^{-|\phi|/\xi_{\text{loc}}}$$

$$\xi_{\text{loc}} \sim |\mu|^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$C_{\text{nloc}}^s(\eta_{4-s}) \Big|_{\eta_{c_{s+1}} \dots \eta_{c_{4-s}} \equiv \eta} \xrightarrow{\eta \gg 1} e^{-\eta/\xi_{\text{nloc}}^s}$$

$$\xi_{\text{nloc}} = \frac{2}{ab_{c_1 \dots c_s}} \sim (a|\mu|)^{-1}$$

$$Q = \frac{\int_{\Omega_\xi} d\mathbf{g} d\phi C(\mathbf{g}, \phi)}{\int_{\Omega_\xi} d\mathbf{g} d\phi \bar{\Phi}^2}$$

$$Q \sim \tilde{\lambda}^{\frac{2}{n_\gamma - 2}} \xi_{\text{loc}}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(d_{\text{loc}} - 2 \frac{n_\gamma}{n_\gamma - 2} \right) e^{-2(4-s_0)\xi_{\text{nloc}}/a}$$

Hyperbolic part of Lorentz group renders MF-theory valid