

# THE GROUP FIELD THEORY APPROACH TO QUANTUM GRAVITY: SOME RECENT RESULTS

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# OUTLINE

- the GFT formalism
  - the field and the GFT kinematics
  - classical GFT dynamics
  - quantum GFT: Feynman diagrams and Feynman amplitudes
  - interpretation and link with other approaches
  - examples: 3d Riemannian quantum gravity
- some recent results
  - perturbative GFT renormalization - the 3d case
  - effective non-commutative matter fields from GFT
  - new GFT models for 4d gravity
- conclusions

# The Group Field Theory formalism

L. Freidel, hep-th/0505016; DOI, gr-qc/0512103; DOI, gr-qc/0607032

## A QFT FOR QUANTUM GRAVITY?

- QFT is best formalism we have for quantum microscopic physics and many-particle physics (particle physics, atomic physics, condensed matter,...)
- A QFT on which spacetime?
  - a QFT of gravitons on some background doesn't work
  - QG should explain origin and properties of spacetime itself (geometry *and* topology?)
  - background independence!
  - it can be only<sup>1</sup> be a QFT on some auxiliary, internal or "meta-space"
  - only background structures in GR: Lorentz group, i.e. local gauge group - equivalence principle; space of geometries - superspace; spacetime topology (?)
- a QFT of what? what are the fundamental quanta?
  - gravitons do not work
  - quanta of space itself! fundamental excitations of space around the vacuum (nothing = not even space)
  - we are not starting from scratch: ideas and results from LQG, matrix models, simplicial QG,...

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## FROM POINT PARTICLES TO FIELDS, FROM MATRICES/TENSORS TO GFT

point particles

$$S(X) = \frac{1}{2} X^2 + \frac{\lambda}{3} X^3$$

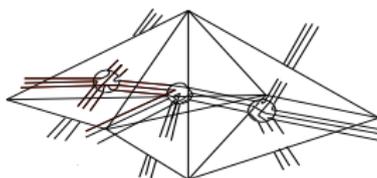
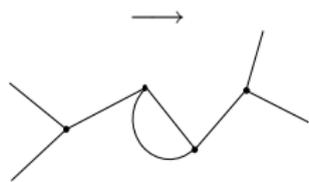
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matrices

$$S(M) = \frac{1}{2} M_{ij} M_{ji} + \frac{\lambda}{3} M_{ij} M_{jk} M_{ki}$$

↓  
tensors

$$S(T) = \frac{1}{2} T_{ijk} T_{kji} + \frac{\lambda}{3} T_{ijk} T_{klm} T_{mni} T_{nlj}$$

↓



fields

$$S(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \int dx \phi(x)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{3} \int dx \phi(x)^3$$

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Group Field Theory

$$S(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \int [dg] \phi(g_1, g_2) \phi(g_2, g_1) + \frac{\lambda}{3!} \int [dg] \phi(g_1, g_2) \phi(g_2, g_3) \phi(g_3, g_1)$$

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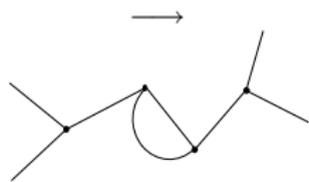
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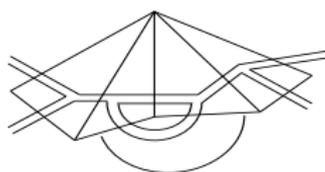
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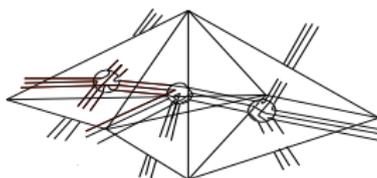
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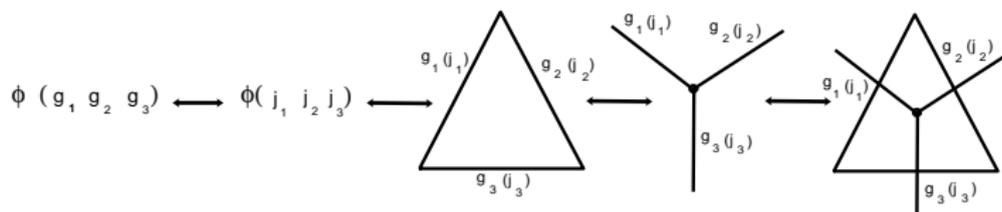
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# GFT KINEMATICS

- consider a complex field  $\phi$  over  $D$  copies of a group manifold  $G$  (e.g. Lorentz group, for QG):  $\phi(g_1, \dots, g_D) : \underbrace{G \times \dots \times G}_D \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
- field can be expanded in modes (Peter-Weyl/Plancherel decomposition into unitary irreducible representations):  

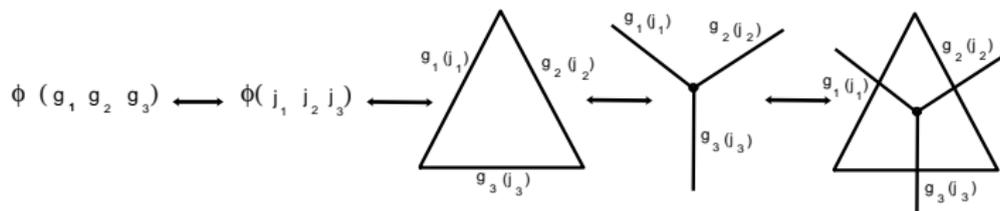
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- $\phi \simeq$  fundamental building block of quantum geometry - represented as  $(D-1)$ -simplex or vertex of dual graph (spin network vertex)
- $g_i \simeq$  gravity holonomies;  $J_i \simeq (D-2)$ -volumes (justified by quantum GFT amplitudes and 1st quantization of simplicial geometry)



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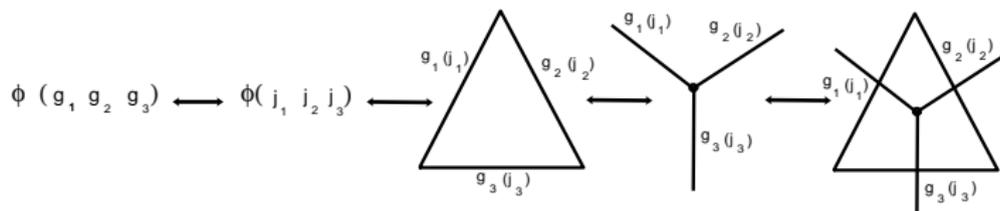
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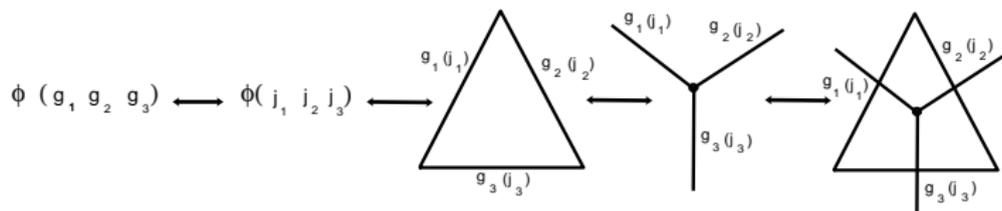
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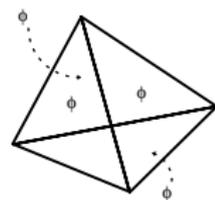
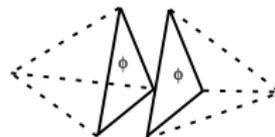
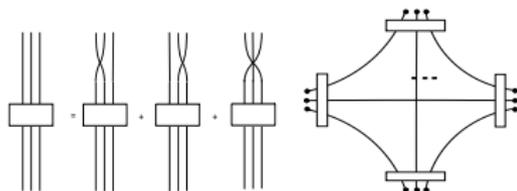
# GFT CLASSICAL DYNAMICS

## ■ field action:

$$S_D(\phi, \lambda) = \int dg_i d\tilde{g}_i \phi(g_i) \mathcal{K}(g_i, \tilde{g}_i^{-1}) \phi(\tilde{g}_i) + \lambda \int dg_{ij} \phi(g_{1j}) \dots \phi(g_{D+1j}) \mathcal{V}(g_{ij})$$

exact choice of the  $\mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  defines the model

- combinatorics of arguments in  $\mathcal{V}$  reflects gluing of (D-2)-faces in a D-simplex, interaction of (D-1)-simplices to form D-simplices
- $\mathcal{K} \rightarrow$  gluing of D-simplices along (D-1)-simplices



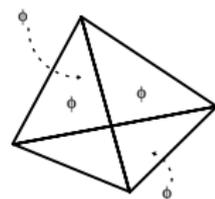
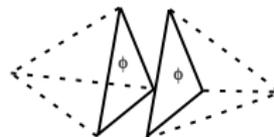
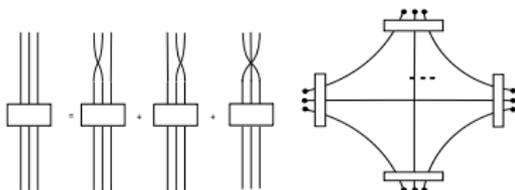
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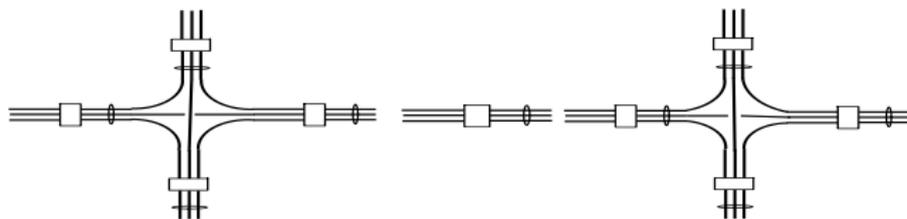


## GFT QUANTUM DYNAMICS

- the quantum theory is defined by the partition function, in terms of its Feynman expansion:

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS[\phi]} = \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{\lambda^{N_{\Gamma}}}{\text{sym}[\Gamma]} Z(\Gamma)$$

- building blocks of FD are:
  - lines of propagation, with  $D$  labelled strands (dual to  $(D-1)$ -simplices),
  - vertices of interaction (made of  $(D+1) \times D$  labelled strands re-routed following the combinatorics of a  $D$ -simplex) (thus dual to  $D$ -simplices),



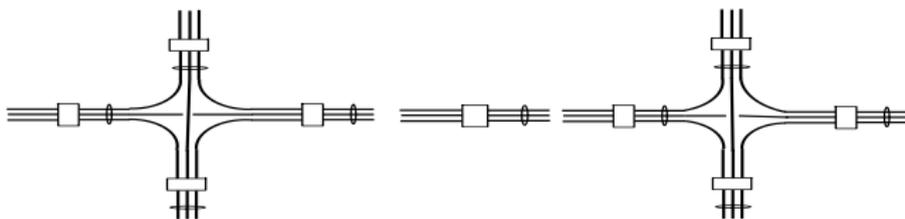
- Feynman graphs  $\Gamma$  are fat graphs/cellular complexes topologically dual to  $D$ -dimensional triangulated (pseudo-)manifolds of ALL topologies
- Quantum Gravity formulated as a sum over simplicial complexes of all topologies, as interaction processes

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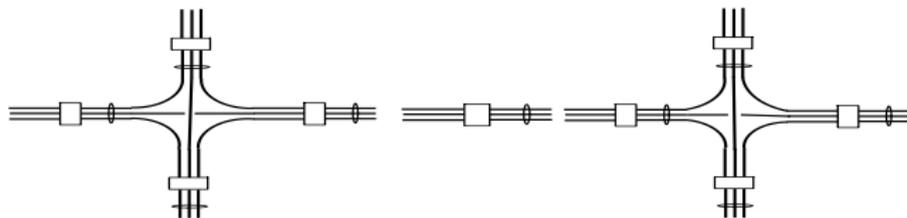
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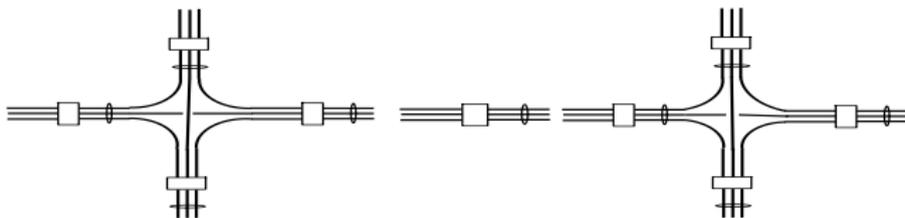
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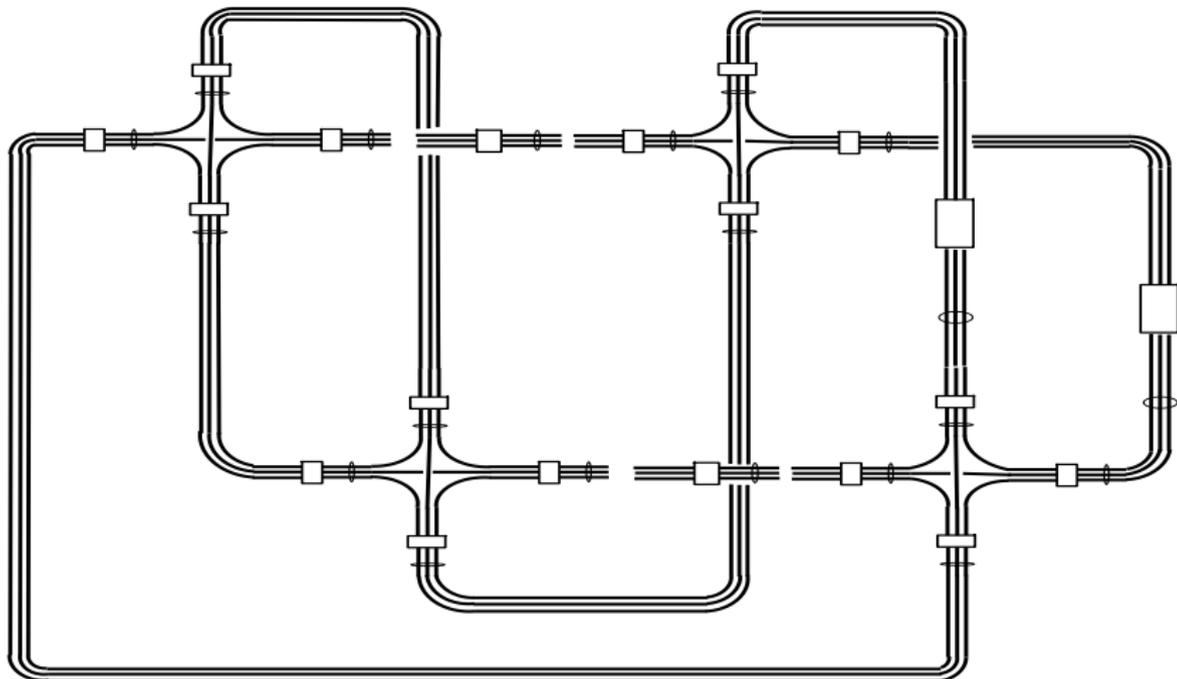
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## GFT QUANTUM DYNAMICS

An example:  $D = 3$



## GFT QUANTUM DYNAMICS

- Feynman amplitudes can be written in both configuration ( $g_i$ ) and momentum ( $J_i$ ) space

$$Z(\Gamma) = \prod \int dg_i A(g_i) = \prod \sum_{J_i} A(J_i)$$

- $Z(\Gamma)$  are, in momentum space, Spin Foam models (labelled 2-complexes), histories of spin networks

$$\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}\phi O_{\Psi_1}(\phi) O_{\Psi_2}(\phi) e^{iS(\phi)} = \sum_{\Gamma/\partial\Gamma=\gamma_{\Psi_1} \cup \gamma_{\Psi_2}} \frac{\lambda^{N_\Gamma}}{\text{sym}[\Gamma]} Z(\Gamma)$$

- $Z(\Gamma) \simeq$  discrete and algebraic QG path integral  $\rightarrow$  "  $\int \mathcal{D}g_\Delta e^{iS_\Delta(g)}$  "
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## EXAMPLE: 3D RIEMANNIAN QUANTUM GRAVITY

$$G = SU(2), \text{ Real field: } \phi(g_1, g_2, g_3) = \phi(g_1 g, g_2 g, g_3 g) : \frac{SU(2)^{\times 3}}{SU(2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$S[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \int dg_i \phi(g_1, g_2, g_3)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \int dg_j \phi(g_1, g_2, g_3) \phi(g_3, g_4, g_5) \phi(g_5, g_6, g_1) \phi(g_6, g_4, g_2)$$

The **Feynman amplitudes** for this model are:

$$Z(\Gamma) = \prod_{e^* \in \Gamma} \int dg_{e^*} \prod_{f^*} \delta\left(\prod_{e^* \in \partial f^*} g_{e^*}\right)$$

If expanded in  $SU(2)$  representations, it gives Ponzano-Regge spin foam model  
 Same result from **path integral quantization of 3d BF theory**  $\approx$  **3d Riemannian gravity in 1st order form** on **triangulation  $\Delta$  dual to  $\Gamma$**

$$S_{\mathcal{M}}(e, \omega) = \int_{\mathcal{M}} tr(e \wedge F(\omega)) \rightarrow S_{\Delta}(X_e, g_{e^*}) = \sum_e tr(X_e G_e(g_{e^*}))$$

$$Z(\Gamma) = \prod_e \int_{su(2)} dX_e \prod_{e^*} \int_{SU(2)} dg_{e^*} e^{i \sum_e tr(X_e G_e(g_{e^*}))}$$

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- **GFT can be common framework for various approaches:**
  - **Loop Quantum Gravity and spin foam models:**
    - GFT states are Spin Networks, GFT perturbative expansion defines physical scalar product (dynamics)
    - GFT Feynman amplitudes are Spin Foam models (sum over histories of spin networks)
  - **Quantum Regge Calculus:** GFT defines simplicial QG path integral, with unique (for given GFT) measure
  - **Dynamical Triangulations:** GFT describes QG (perturbatively) as sum over triangulations, but contains also non-perturbative info
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## GFT: some recent results

- GFT perturbative renormalization
- From GFT to matter non-commutative QFT
- GFT model(s) for 4D quantum gravity

## PERTURBATIVE GFT RENORMALIZATION - THE 3D CASE

L. Freidel, R. Gurau, DO, 0905.3772 [hep-th]

(newest developments: J. Magnen, K. Noui, V. Rivasseau, M. Smerlak, 0906.5477 [hep-th])

Question: can you control the perturbative GFT sum over Feynman diagrams?

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FD are cellular complexes  $\Gamma$  dual to 3d triangulations

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- highly involved combinatorial structure, all topologies included and pseudo-manifolds  $\rightarrow$  difficult to isolate divergences, unclear which subclass of FD needs renormalization
- results:
  - algorithm for identifying bubbles in FD, and their boundary triangulations
  - identification of subclass of FD, natural generalization of 2d planar graphs, allowing for contraction procedure
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# EFFECTIVE NON-COMMUTATIVE MATTER FIELDS FROM GFT

- Insights from analog gravity models in condensed matter (C. Barcelo, S. Liberati, M. Visser, gr-qc/0505065, G. Volovik, gr-qc/0005091):
  - effective metric and its dynamics from hydrodynamics of microscopic system  $\Rightarrow$  (modified) GR from GFT hydrodynamics?
  - quasi-particles (perturbations around ground state) see only effective metric  $\Rightarrow$  effective QFT for matter in emergent metric from GFT? which effective matter QFT? incorporate QG effects? (DO, 0903.3970 [hep-th])
- General hypothesis
  - effective QG spacetime is non-commutative with Lie algebra structure:
 
$$[x_\mu, x_\nu] = C_{\mu\nu}^\alpha x_\alpha$$
  - by duality, corresponding momentum space is a (curved) group manifold (Majid)
  - symmetry group of such NC spacetimes is Hopf algebra
  - suggests QFT in such NC spacetime, in momentum space, is a GFT

These NC spacetimes are arena for much current QG phenomenology (G. Amelino-Camelia, 0806.0339 [gr-qc]), especially in the context of Deformed Special Relativity (DSR) (J. Kowalski-Glikman, hep-th/0405273)

Task: derive such NC field theories from more fundamental GFT models

3d Riemannian: W. Fairbairn, E. Livine, gr-qc/0702125

4d Lorentzian: DSR on  $\kappa$ -Minkowski: F.Girelli, E.Livine, DO, 0903.3475 [gr-qc]

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4d Lorentzian: DSR on  $\kappa$ -Minkowski: F.Girelli, E.Livine, DO, 0903.3475 [gr-qc]

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$$[x_\mu, x_\nu] = C_{\mu\nu}^\alpha x_\alpha$$
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# NC FIELD THEORY FROM GFT: 2D PERTURBATIONS AND EFFECTIVE FT

Look at "two-dimensional" perturbation  $\psi(g_1, g_3) = \psi(g_1 g_3^{-1})$  of field  $\varphi$  around  $\varphi_0$ :  
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The effective action  $S_{\text{eff}}$  depends on the solution  $\varphi_0$  through  $F$ , and is invariant under  $DSU(2)$  (quantum double of  $SU(2)$ ), deformation of Poincaré group

$F$  can be expanded in group characters:  $F(g) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}/2} F_j \chi_j(g)$

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# NEW GFT MODELS FOR 4D QUANTUM GRAVITY

- main theme: gravity as constrained (BF) topological field theory

$$S(B, \omega, \lambda) = \int B \wedge F(\omega) + \int \lambda C(B) \approx_{C(B)=0} S_{GR}(e, \omega)$$

$\Rightarrow$  strategy: construct SF/GFT models as **properly** constrained SF/GFT models for 4D discrete BF theory ( $B \rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(4)$  elements,  $\omega \rightarrow \text{SO}(4)$  elements)

$$S[\phi] = \int dg_i \phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4)^2 + \lambda \int dg_j \phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4) \phi(g_4, g_5, g_6, g_7) \dots \phi(g_{10}, g_8, g_6, g_1)$$

- ANY spin foam model gives rise to/is defined by a GFT  $\Rightarrow$  new SF models (EPR, Freidel-Krasnov) (cf. Barrett's talk)  $\approx$  new GFT models for 4D QG
- work directly at GFT level: encode simplicial geometry in GFT action  $\Rightarrow$  GFT amplitudes are simplicial gravity path integrals
- immediate difficulty: constraints have to be imposed on B variables.....but no B variables in GFT formulation
- a possible strategy (usual SF/GFT construction)(from geometric quantization):
  - expand functions of  $G$  in representations  $j$
  - identify  $B^{\mu\nu} \approx T_j^{\mu\nu}$  generators of  $SO(4)$  (use conjugacy relation between B and  $\omega$ )
  - identify (some) quantum parameters in representation space  $j$  as discrete B variables and impose constraints  $C(B) = 0$  on them
  - issues.....

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- main theme: gravity as constrained (BF) topological field theory

$$S(B, \omega, \lambda) = \int B \wedge F(\omega) + \int \lambda C(B) \approx_{C(B)=0} S_{GR}(e, \omega)$$

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- ANY** spin foam model gives rise to/is defined by a GFT  $\Rightarrow$  new SF models (EPR, Freidel-Krasnov) (cf. Barrett's talk)  $\approx$  new GFT models for 4D QG
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- alternative 1(DO, 0902.3903 [gr-qc]) :
  - extend the GFT formalism  $\phi(g_i) \rightarrow \phi(g_i, B_i) : (G \times \mathfrak{g})^{\times 4}$
  - relax relation  $B^{IJ} \simeq T_j^{IJ} \rightarrow$  kinetic operator:  $\mathcal{K} = \prod_i (B_i^2 + \square_i)$
  - simple BF vertex term
  - impose constraints  $C(B_i)$  on  $B$  variables in GFT action

$$S = \int C(B_i) \phi(g_i, B_i) \left( \prod_{i=1} (\square_i + B_i^2) \right) \phi(g_i, B_i) + \lambda \int [\phi(g, B)]^5$$

result: simplicial path integral for BF-like simplicial gravity

$$Z(\Gamma) = \int dB \int dg \mu(g, B) e^{iS_R[B, H(g)]} e^{iS_c[B, H(g)]}$$

measure contains primary constraints on  $B$  and secondary constraints on  $g$ ,  $S_R$  is Regge action,  $S_c$  is quantum correction to bare action

- issues: measure,  $S_c$  corrections, boundary configurations  
 $\Rightarrow$  conjugate nature of  $(B_i, g_i)$ , non-commutative nature of  $B_i$

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- turn GFT into non-commutative, combinatorially non-local QFT on algebra  $\mathfrak{g}^{\times 4}$
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results:

- pure BF:

$$Z(\Gamma) = \int dB \int dg e^{i \sum_e \mathrm{Tr}(B_e H_e(g))}$$

correct simplicial geometry, correct symmetries, correct boundary terms, .....

- 4D gravity:  $C(B_i)$  correctly implemented:

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$$Z(\Gamma) = \int \mathcal{D}B \int \mathcal{D}g C(\{B_e\}) e^{i \sum_e \text{Tr}(B_e H_e(g))}$$

correct secondary constraints?, relation to other SF models?, details of simplicial geometry?, .....

- in progress.....

# NEW GFT MODELS FOR 4D QUANTUM GRAVITY

- alternative 2 (A. Baratin, DO, in preparation) :
  - introduce  $B$  variables by no-commutative Fourier transform  $\phi(g_i) \rightarrow \phi(B_i)$   
 $C(\mathrm{SO}(4)) \rightarrow C_{*,\kappa}(\wedge^2 \mathbb{R}^3) =$  functions on  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq \wedge^2 \mathbb{R}^3$  with star product, based on plane waves satisfying:  $e^{i \mathrm{Tr}(B g_1)} * e^{i \mathrm{Tr}(B g_2)} = e^{i \mathrm{Tr}(B g_1 g_2)}$
  - turn GFT into non-commutative, combinatorially non-local QFT on algebra  $\mathfrak{g}^{\times 4}$
  - impose constraints  $C(B_i)$  on  $B$  variables in GFT action

results:

- pure BF:

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# CONCLUSIONS

- **Group Field Theories are promising framework for quantum gravity**
- they are a generalization of matrix models to dimensions higher than 2
- they arise naturally from and share structures with several other approaches to quantum gravity
- allow for the use of **quantum field theory tools** and ideas in a **background independent** context, for studying both the kinematics and, most important, the dynamics of quantum spacetime, and continuum/semi-classical approximation
- many results have already been obtained, but there is plenty more to explore and understand!

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