

# Loop Quantum Gravity & Spinfoams: an Overview

Etera Livine

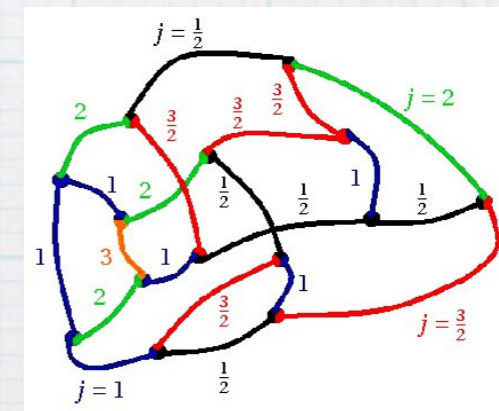
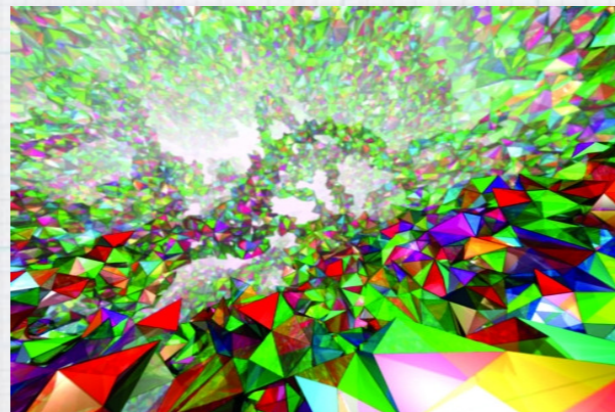
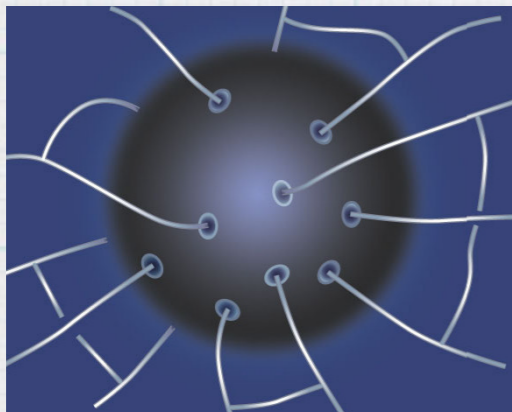
Laboratoire de Physique LP ENSL & CNRS

CEA Saclay - March '17



# (Loop) Quantum Gravity

1. What is Quantum Gravity about?
2. Loop Quantum Gravity 1.0.1
3. Spinfoam Path Integrals
4. Applications and Phenomenology



# (Loop) Quantum Gravity

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## 1. What is Quantum Gravity about?

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## 1. What is Quantum Gravity about?

- Why Quantum Gravity?
- The Basic Ingredients: what to expect?
- Loop Quantum Gravity in a Nutshell
- A Panorama of QG Approaches

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- General Relativity as a Gauge Field Theory
- Spin Network States for Quantum Geometry
- Discreteness of Space-Time ?!?
- Implementing the Dynamics

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  - Evolving Histories of Spin Networks
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  - Discretized Path Integral from TQFT
  - Group Field Theory and Tensor Models



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  - Loop Quantum Cosmology
  - Quantum Black Holes
  - Particle Physics: Non-Commutative Geometry

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# Quantum Gravity

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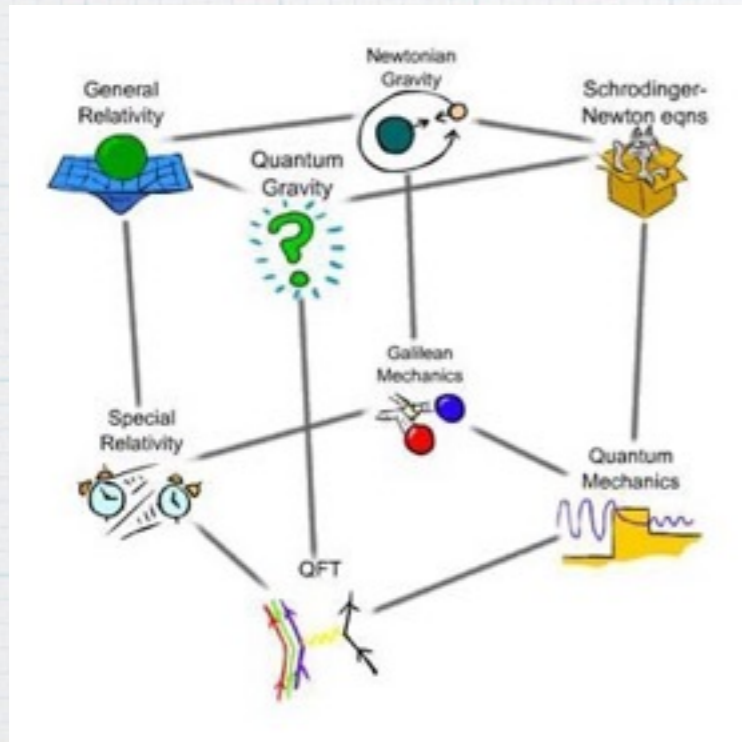
Why Quantum Gravity?

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## Why Quantum Gravity?

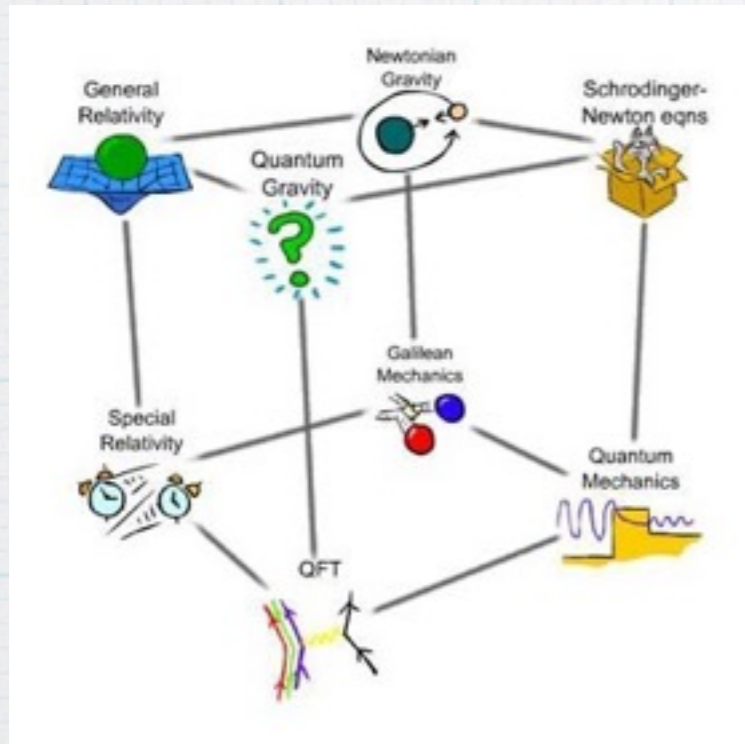
Consistent universal theory with  $c, G_N, \hbar$

- No infinite resolution; the BH argument
- Non-renormalisability of GR as QFT
- Equivalence Matter  $\leftrightarrow$  Geometry
- Solve GR singularities ?



# Quantum Gravity

## Why Quantum Gravity?



Consistent universal theory with  $c, G_N, \hbar$

- No infinite resolution; the BH argument
- Non-renormalisability of GR as QFT
- Equivalence Matter  $\leftrightarrow$  Geometry
- Solve GR singularities ?

But also: how fundamental is QM? thermodynamics origin of GR? ...

**Understand better the Structure of Space-Time !**

# Quantum Gravity

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What to expect from Quantum Gravity?

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top-down  
vs.  
bottom-up

fundamental principles  
vs.  
effective perturbative  
formalism



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- Define observables, measurables
- New meaning of « Geometry »
- A new relativity principle and definition of observers
- Revisiting foundations of QM
- Universal « UV » completion of QFTs

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Better understanding  
of length and energy  
and renormalization

# One-slide Loop Quantum Gravity

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**a non-perturbative quantization of GR**

# One-slide Loop Quantum Gravity

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What is Loop Quantum Gravity?

**a non-perturbative quantization of GR**

**A « simple » plan to quantum gravity :**

**We try to quantize GR as well as we can,**

**We see what new structures we get,**

**We understand the limitations of quantization procedure,**

**We have a glimpse of what's beyond, of new principles**

# One-slide Loop Quantum Gravity

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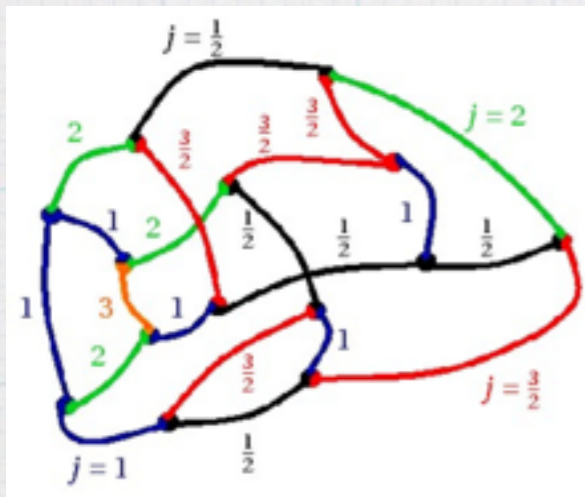
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## What is Loop Quantum Gravity?

**a non-perturbative quantization of GR**

- Background independent and Diffeo invariant
- Quantum states of Geometry as Spin Networks
- Id non-local excitations of geometry, along loops

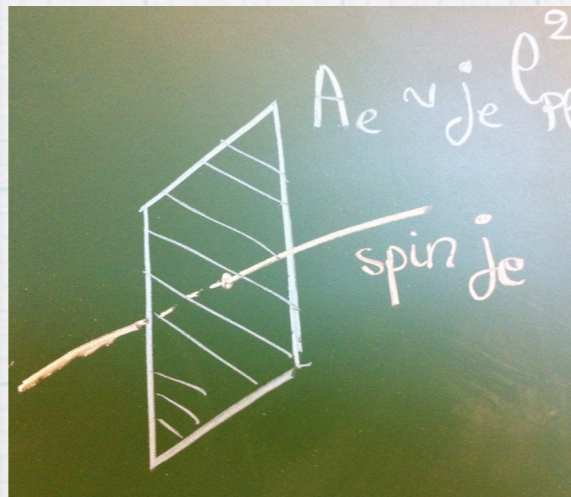
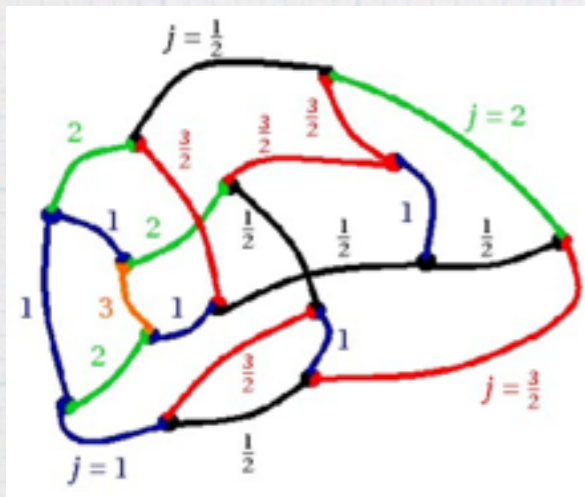


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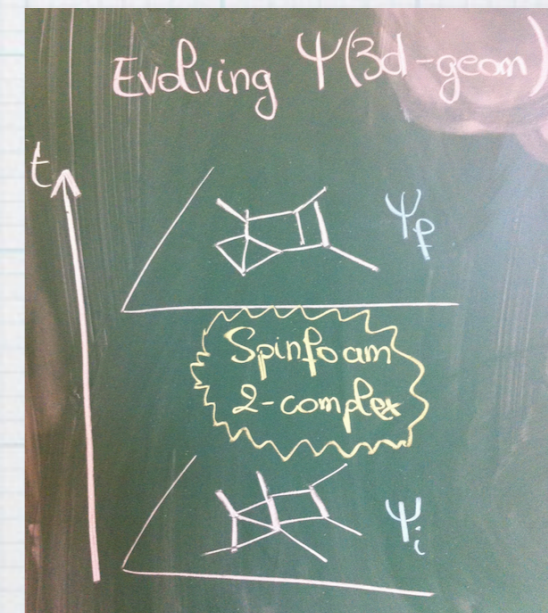
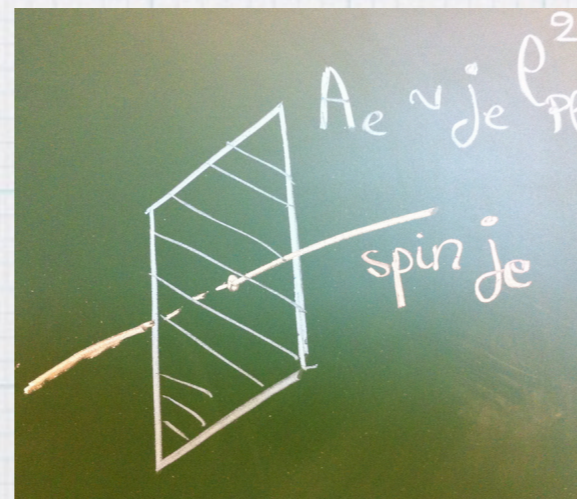
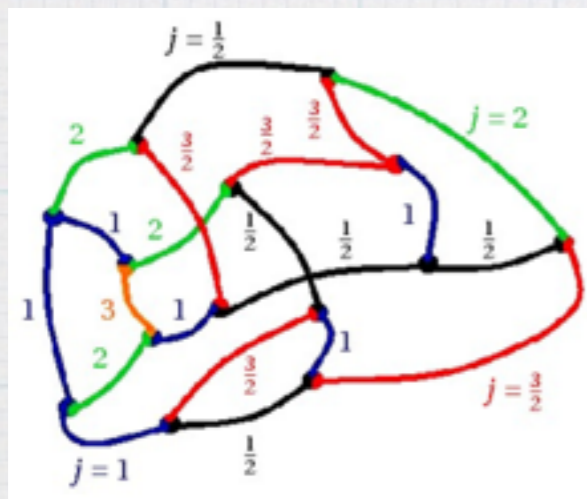


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### Framework ready to discuss:

- quantum black hole dynamics, Planck scale phenomenology
- bulk reconstruction for boundary data, gravity/CFT dualities, ...

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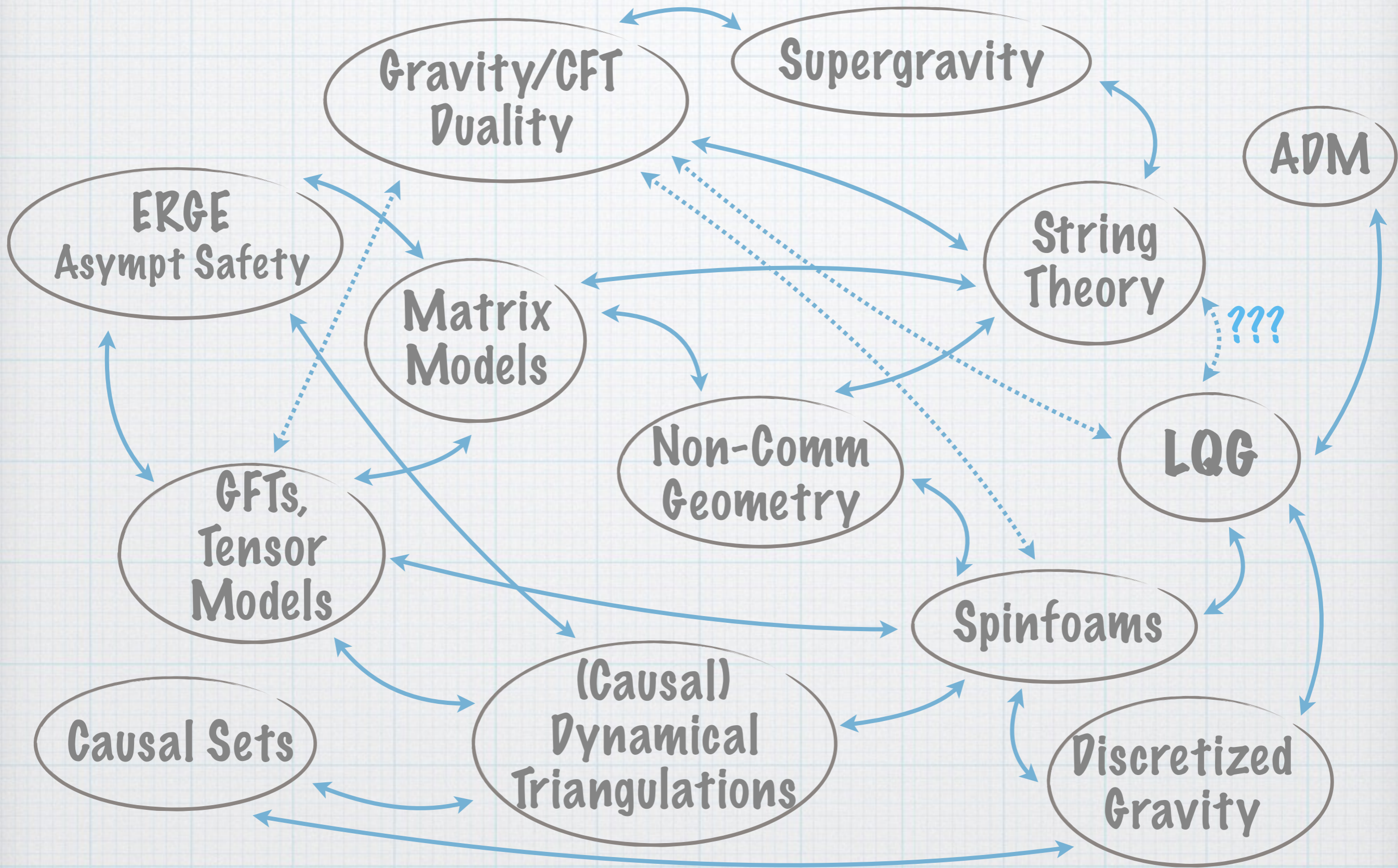
## Framework ready to discuss:

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But... hard to connect to perturbative QFT

& compute effective QG corrections

# LQG on the Map (without phenomenology)



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# General Relativity as a Gauge Field Theory

The metric is not a fundamental field, it will emerge from other degrees of freedom describing the (quantum) geometry

Start with Palatini action with tetrad and Lorentz connection:

$$S[e_{\mu}^I, \omega_{\mu}^{IJ}] = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \epsilon_{IJKL} e^I \wedge e^J \wedge F^{KL}[\omega]$$

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Now proceed to **3+1** splitting and canonical analysis



# General Relativity as a Gauge Field Theory

GR as constrained Hamiltonian system, with action:

$$S[E, A] = \int dt \int_{\Sigma} d^3x A_a^i \partial_t E_a^i - H$$

$$H = \Lambda_i \mathcal{G}^i + N^a \mathcal{H}_a + N \mathcal{H}$$

Canonical pair of Ashtekar variables living on space hypersurface:

- Triad field  $E_a^i$  giving 3d metric  $h_{ab} = E_a^i E_{ib}$
- Ashtekar-Barbero  $SU(2)$  connection  $A_a^i = \Gamma[E]_a^i + \gamma K_a^i$

Phase Space:  $\{K, E\} = \delta^{(3)} \quad \{A, E\} = \gamma \delta^{(3)}$

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First-class Constraints:

- « Gauss law » constraints  $\mathcal{G}^i$  generating SU(2) Gauge invariance
- Vector and Scalar constraints  $\mathcal{H}_a, \mathcal{H}$   
generating space-time diffeomorphisms

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No torsion

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Gravitational Waves

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GR with the same phase space that  $SU(2)$  Yang-Mills !

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And Immirzi parameter  $\gamma$

- canonical transformation
- similar to  $\theta$  parameter in QCD (Nieh-Yan invariant)
- as coupling for torsion if we include fermions
- controls  $CP$  violations in LQG
- $\gamma = \pm i$  is (anti-)self dual Lorentz connection



# Loop Quantization

- Choose polarization: **wave-functions**  $\Psi[A]$
- Choose **algebra of observables** to promote to operators

Holonomies  $U_c[A] = \mathcal{P}e^{\int_c ds A_a^i \tau_i \dot{c}^a} \in \text{SU}(2)$

and Flux  $\int_S \epsilon^{abc} E_a^i dx_b \wedge dx_c \in \mathfrak{su}(2)$

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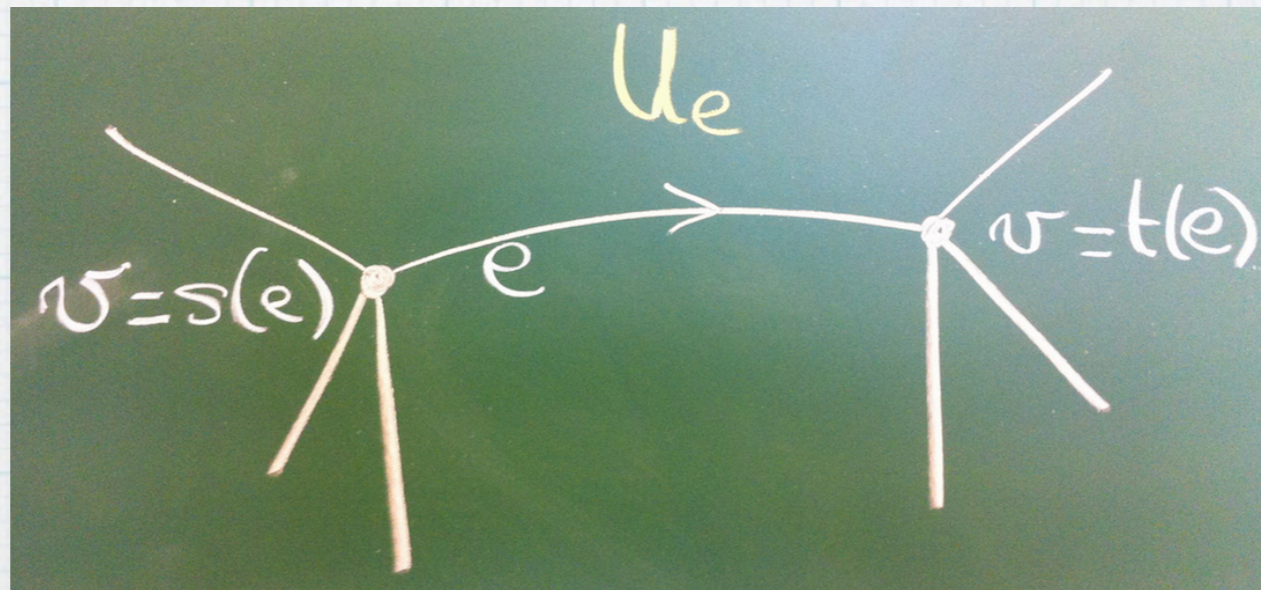
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- **Study Dynamics given by Time Diffeomorphisms**

# Spin Network States

Define Wave-functions of Holonomies along edge of Graph  $\Gamma$

$$\Psi_{\Gamma}(\{U_e[A]\}_{e \in \Gamma})$$

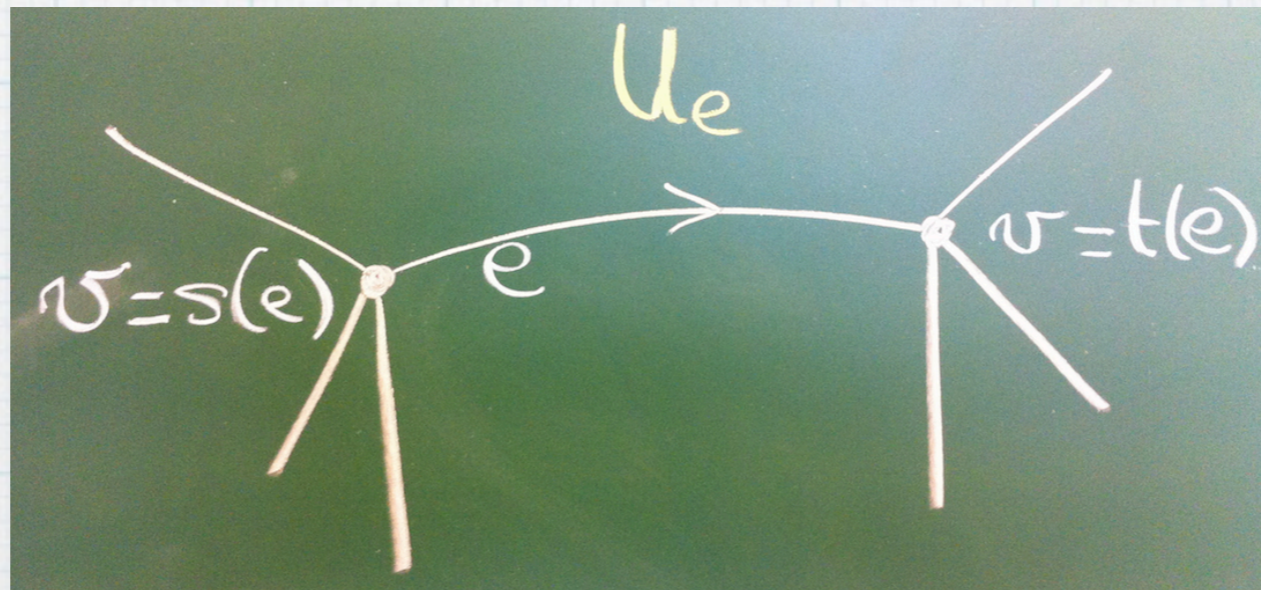


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- Then consider equivalence class of graphs under Diffeos
- Sum over all possible graphs by projective limit

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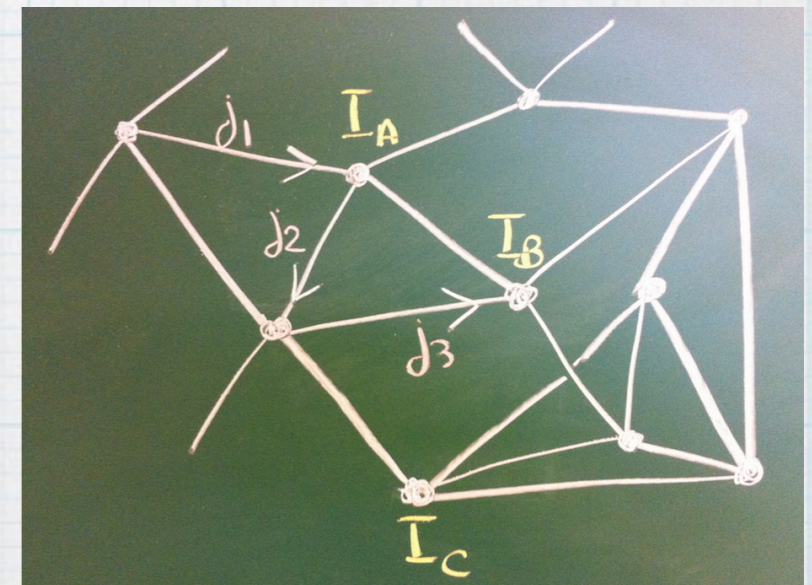
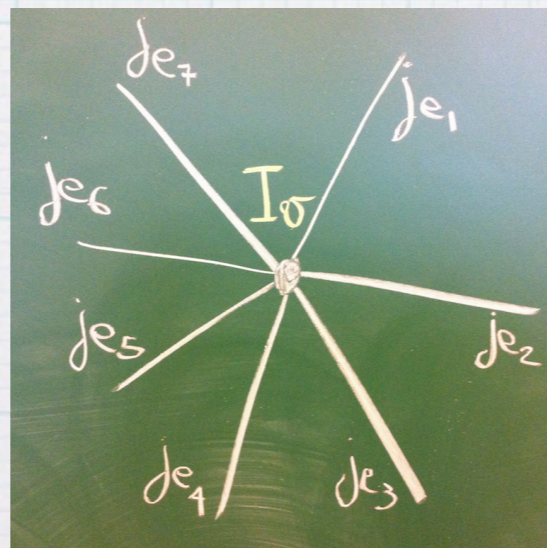
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**Basis given by Spin network states**

- $SU(2)$  representation on edges  $j_e \in \mathbb{N}/2$

- Intertwiners around vertices

( Singlet state in tensor product )



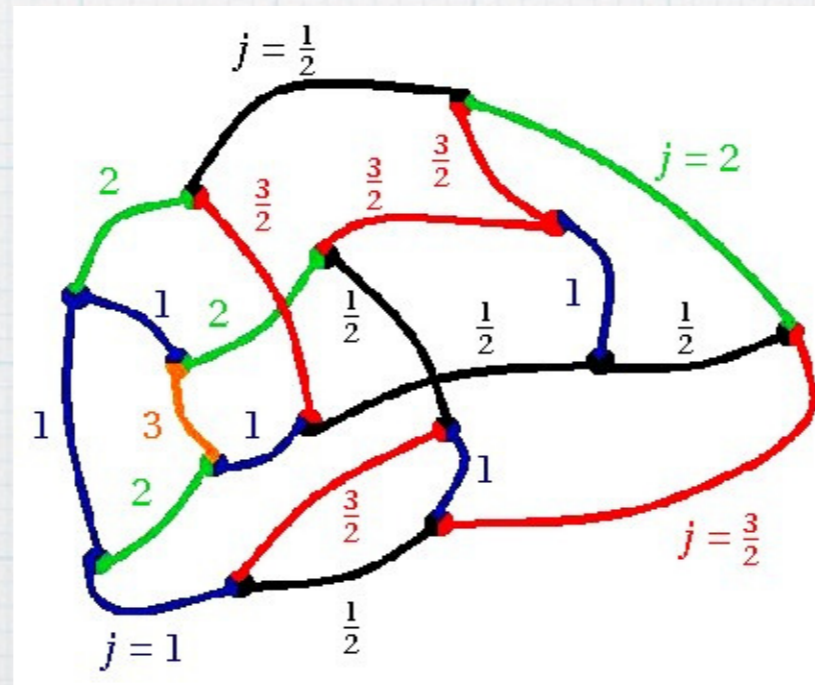
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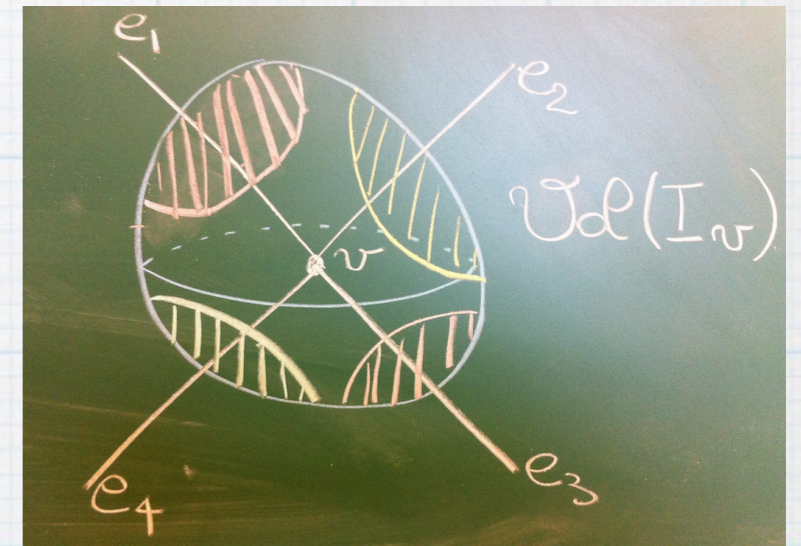
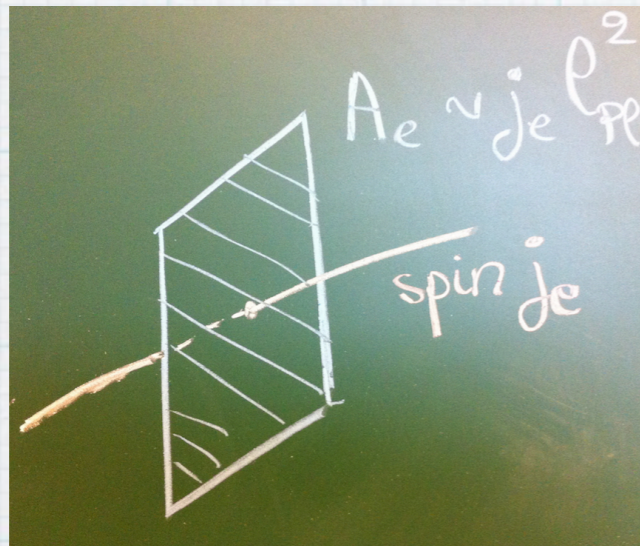




# The Geometry of Spin Networks

## Area and Volume becomes Quantum Operators

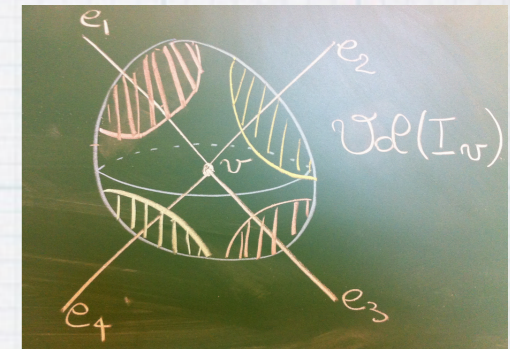
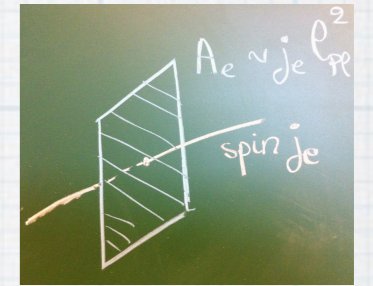
- Area given by spin on edges
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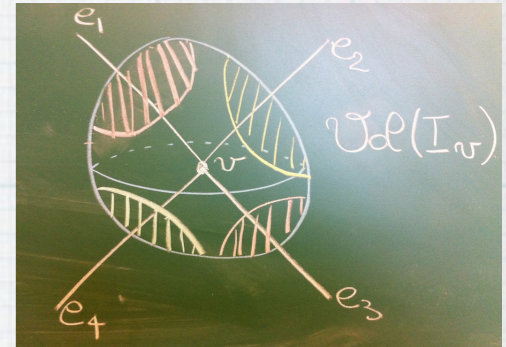
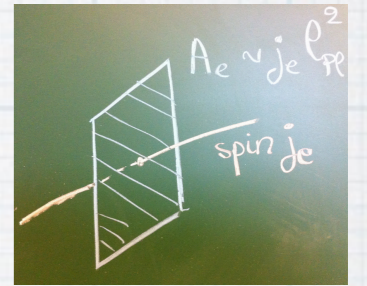


## Spin network states as Quantum Discrete Geometries

# The Geometry of Spin Networks

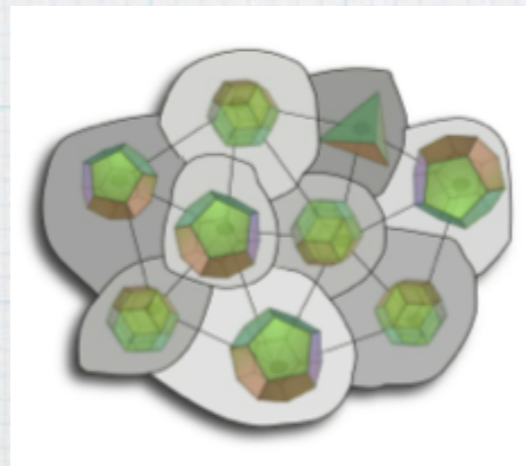
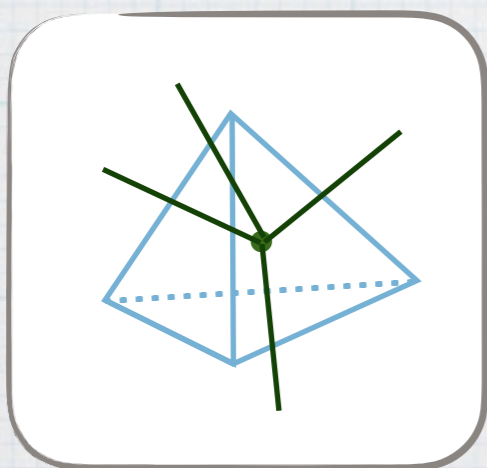
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## Spin network states as Quantum Discrete Geometries

- Twisted Geometries, extending Regge geometries
- Torsion of connection comes from Extrinsic Curvature!



Chunks of volume glued  
without face matching  
( only area matching )

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Discrete geometry at Planck scale is expected in QG

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Two sources of discreteness:

- States built on Graphs

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Discrete geometry at Planck scale is expected in QG

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But compatible with known physics? with Lorentz invariance?

but also area, length,.. are operators. No problem with rotations or boosts.

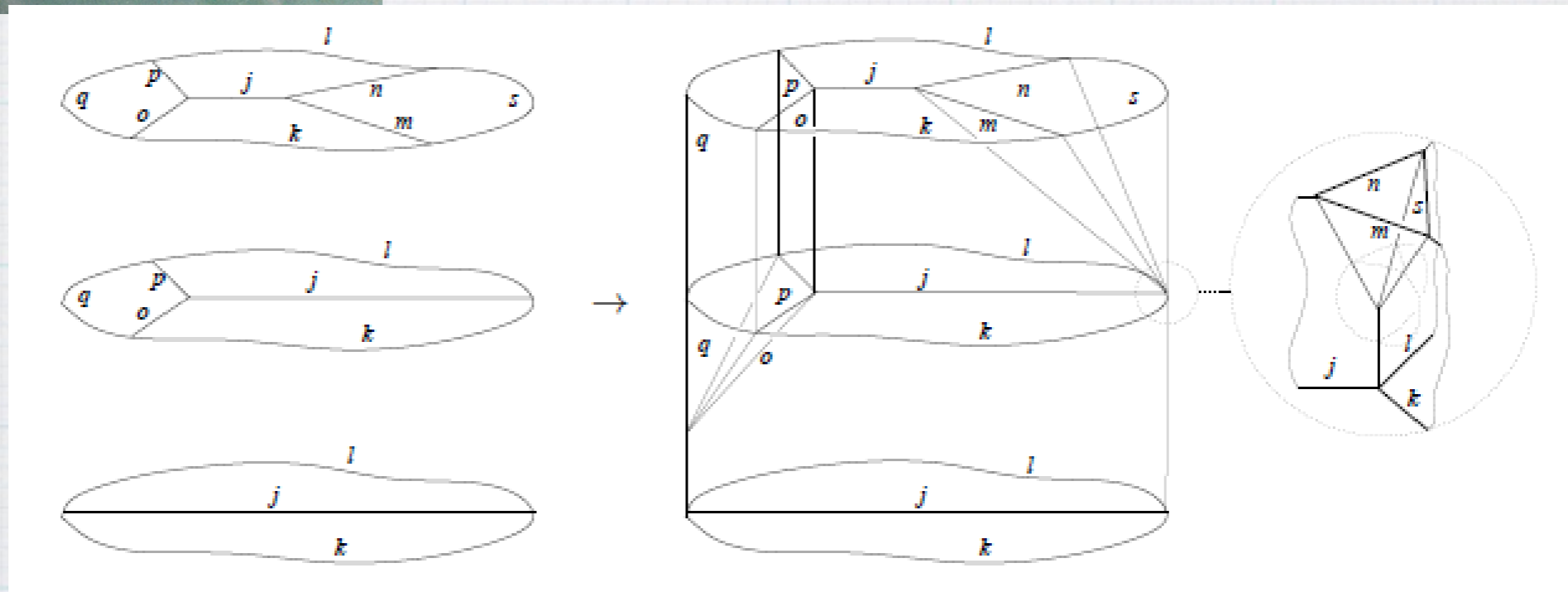
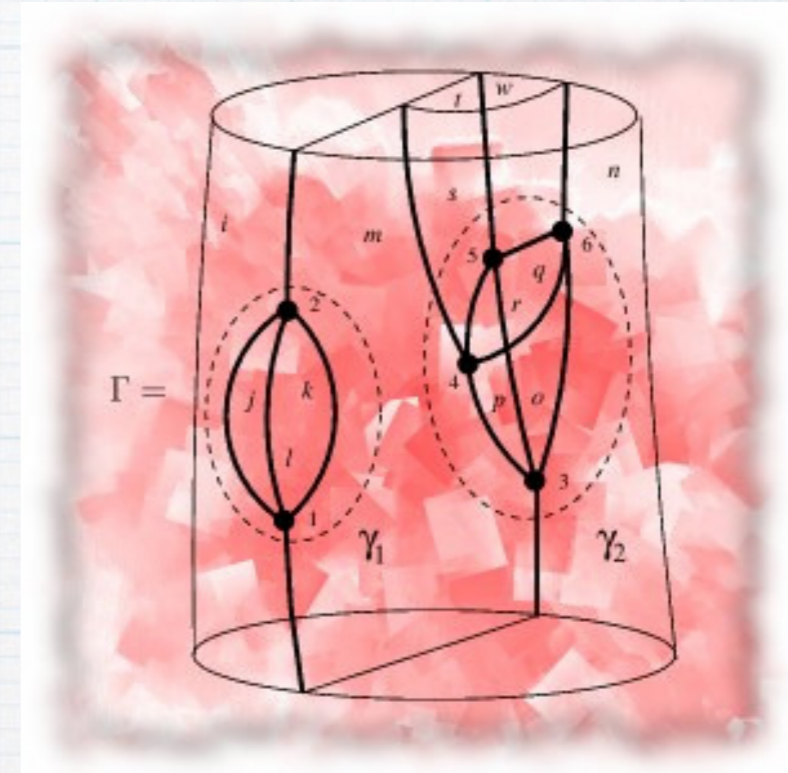
Hints to wards non-commutative geometry with deformed Poincaré symmetry

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- Spin on graph links
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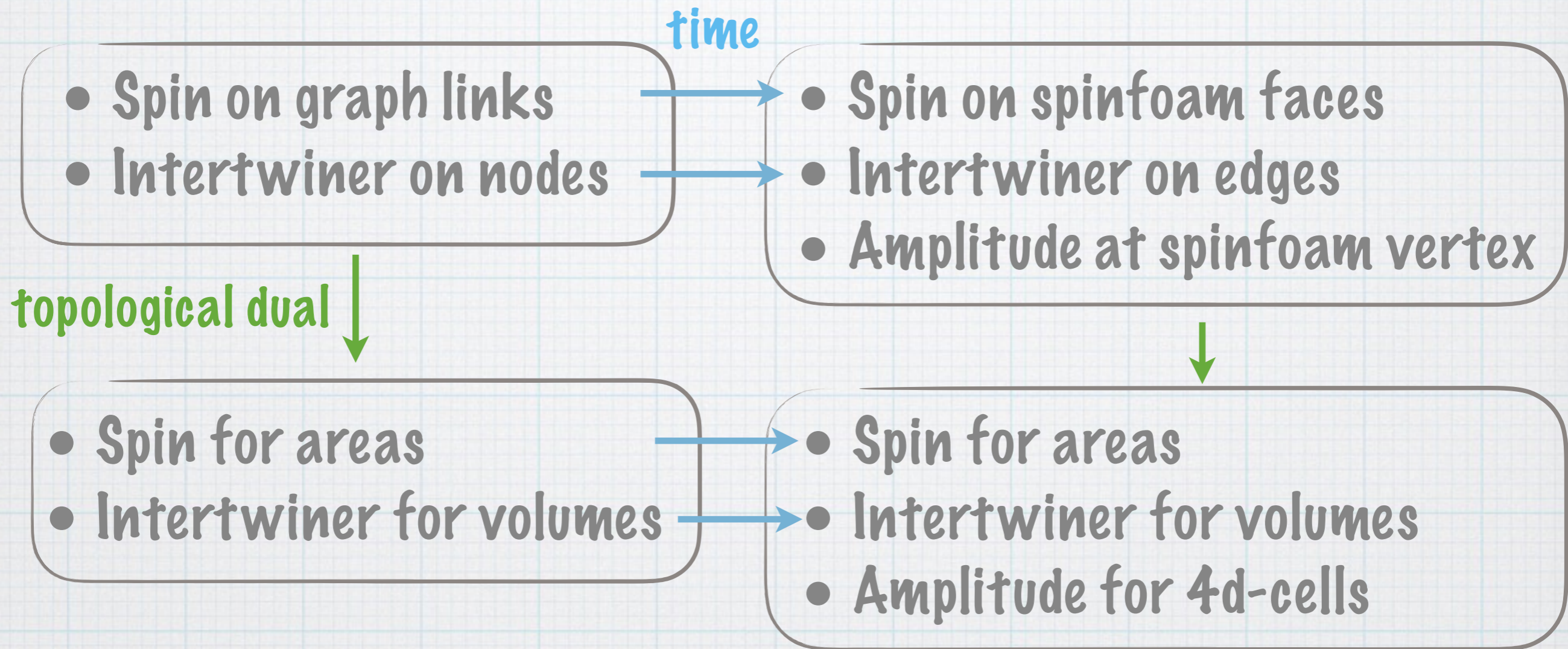
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topological dual ↓

- Spin for areas
- Intertwiner for volumes

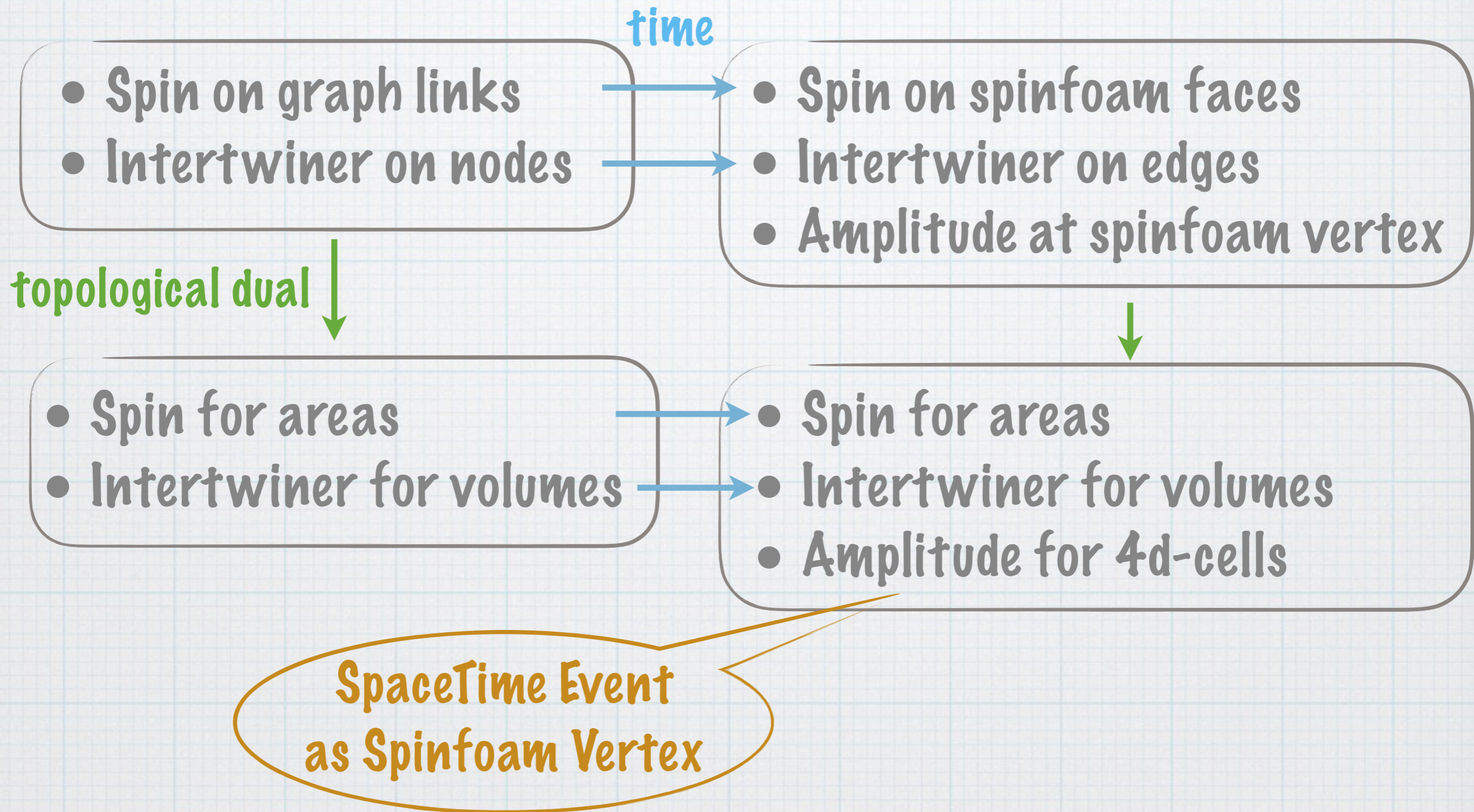
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# State-Sum Models

Local Ansatz for Spinfoam Amplitude:

$$A_{\Delta}[j_{\partial}, \mathcal{I}_{\partial}] = \sum_{\{j_f, \mathcal{I}\}} \prod_f d_{j_f}^{\nu} \prod_e \mathcal{A}_e[j_{f \ni e}, \mathcal{I}_e] \prod_v \mathcal{W}_v[j_{f \ni v}, \mathcal{I}_{e \ni v}]$$

- Face and edge amplitudes are measure factors
- **Vertex amplitude contain all the dynamics**
- Defines transition amplitude between initial and final states
- But also allows for arbitrary boundary/bulk topology

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Can derive  $\mathcal{W}_v$  from Hamiltonian constraint,  
but better to define it from TQFT discretized path integral

# Spinfoam Models from TQFT

Topological field theory has no local d.o.f. :  
path integral can be discretized with no information loss

3d gravity is exactly topological

$$S[A, e] = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr} e \wedge F[A] + \Lambda e \wedge e \wedge e$$

# Spinfoam Models from TQFT

Topological field theory has no local d.o.f. :  
path integral can be discretized with no information loss

3d gravity is exactly topological

- Ponzano-Regge model
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simplicity  
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- Crane-Yetter for BF theory
- EPRL model for 4d gravity

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## Spinfoam Path integral for QG as Constrained BF Theory

- Path integral of discretized Lagrangian for discretized fields
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- Should define projector onto Hamiltonian constraints
  - Should lead back to GR in coarse-grained large scale limit

# Spinfoam Models: The Ponzano-Regge model

3d quantum gravity given by Ponzano-Regge path integral :

- 3d bulk triangulations or dual 2-complex
- Spins on edges  $j_e$
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$$A_{\Delta} = \sum_{\{j_e\}} \prod_e (2j_e + 1) \prod_T \{6j\}$$

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Topological  
Invariance

solve Hamiltonian  
constraints

# Spinfoam Amplitudes as Feynman Diagrams

Back to Matrix Models: consider matrices of size  $N$

$$S[M] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} M^2 - \lambda \text{Tr} M^3$$

We expand the path integral in Feynman diagrams:

$$Z = \int [dM] e^{-S[M]} = \sum_n \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \int [dM] (\text{Tr} M^3)^n e^{\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} M^2}$$

$$= \sum_{g \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_V \lambda^V N^{2-2g} \mathcal{N}_g(V)$$

**It expands as a sum  
over 2d triangulations !**

Large  $N$  expansion, double scaling limit, continuum limit,  
can include all polygon interactions, mapping to CFTs ...

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Identify field theory that generate spinfoam amplitudes  
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→ Partition function defines Sum over all Spinfoams !



# Group Field Theories: a 2nd quantization of LQG

---

- Consider spin foams as dual to 4d triangulations

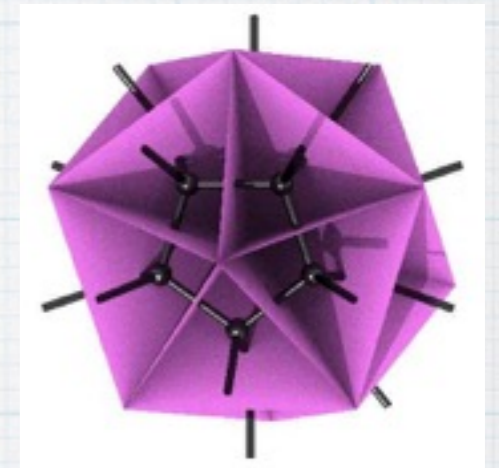
SF vertex  $\leftrightarrow$  4-simplex

SF edge  $\leftrightarrow$  tetrahedron

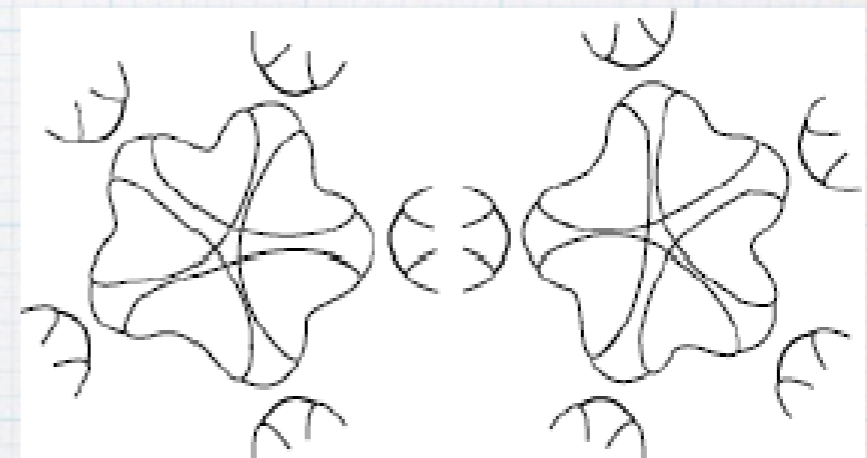
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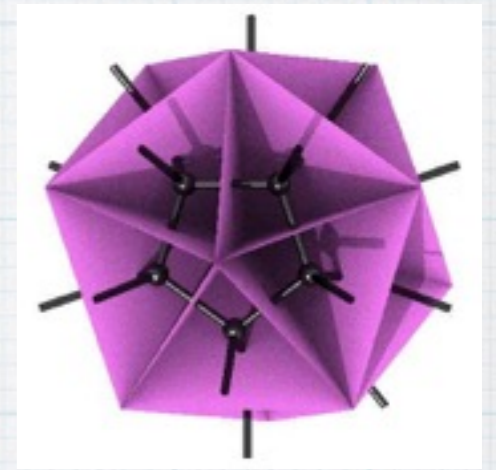


SF vertex  $\leftrightarrow$  4-simplex  
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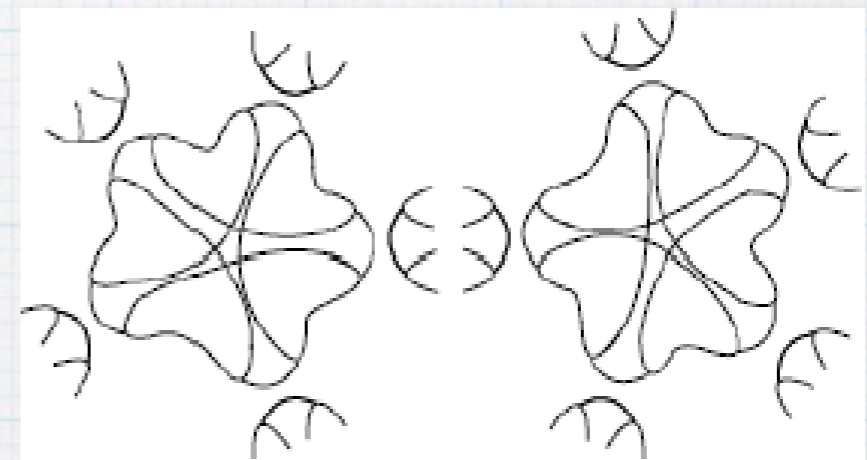


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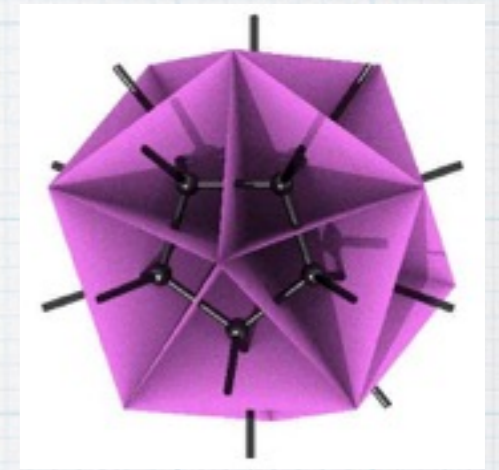
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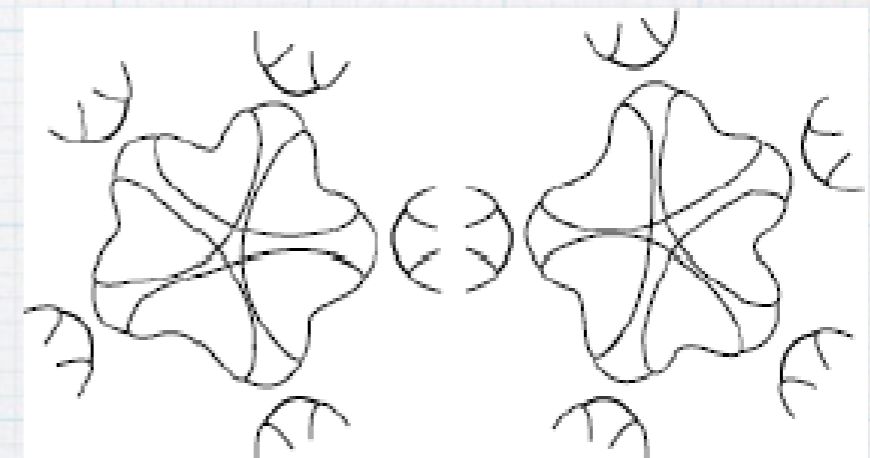
$$\phi(g_1, g_2, g_3, g_4) \in L^2(\mathrm{SU}(2)^{\times 4} / \mathrm{SU}(2))$$

# Group Field Theories: a 2nd quantization of LQG

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- Generate 4d triangulations as Feynman diagrams
- Introduce field that represents quantum tetrahedron
- Define « Group Field Theory » such that Feyn diag evaluations reproduce SF amplitudes



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**a non-local  
Field Theory**

$$S[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \int [dg] |\phi|^2 + \lambda \int [dg] \phi \phi \phi \phi \phi + \dots$$

# Group Field Theories: Tensor Model Renormalization

---

**Group Field Theory is the Non-Perturbative Definition of Spinfoams**

But do they make sense non-perturbatively ??

# Group Field Theories: Tensor Model Renormalization

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Recent Progress (breakthrough !):

- Large N limit for tensor models **Gurau, Bonzom**
- Controlling 4d topologies and taming sum through coloring/decoupling tensor models
- Renormalisable GFTs **Rivasseau, Carrozza**
- Application to Condensed Matter :
  - Tensor Networks
  - SYK models

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**We want a whole class of Spinfoam models,  
with a renormalization/coarse-graining flow**

# Group Field Theories: Tensor Model Renormalization

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**Still a lot of work to do on spinfoams !**



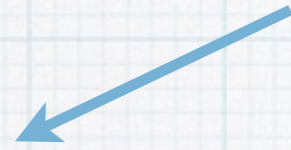
# (Loop) Quantum Gravity

---

1. What is Quantum Gravity about?
2. Loop Quantum Gravity 1.0.1
3. Spinfoam Path Integrals
4. Applications and Phenomenology
  - Loop Quantum Cosmology
  - Quantum Black Holes
  - Particle Physics: Non-Commutative Geometry

# Quantum Cosmology for LQG

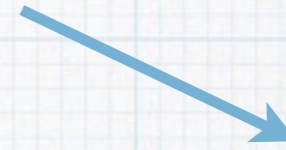
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## Loop Quantum Cosmology

Ashtekar, ...

- Classical symmetry reduction
- Explicit & Predictive
- Full Cosmology with inflation & inhomogeneities

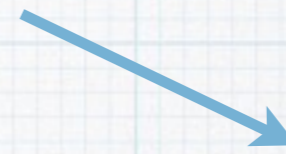
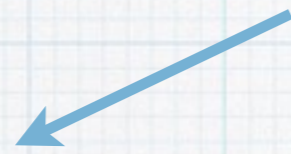


## GFT Cosmological Condensate

Oriti

- Gross-Pitaevski eqn from GFT perturbations
- Gives effective Friedman eqn

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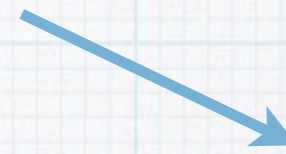
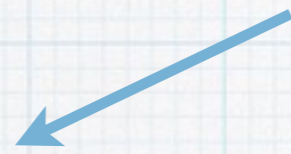
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$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho \left( 1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_c} \right)$$

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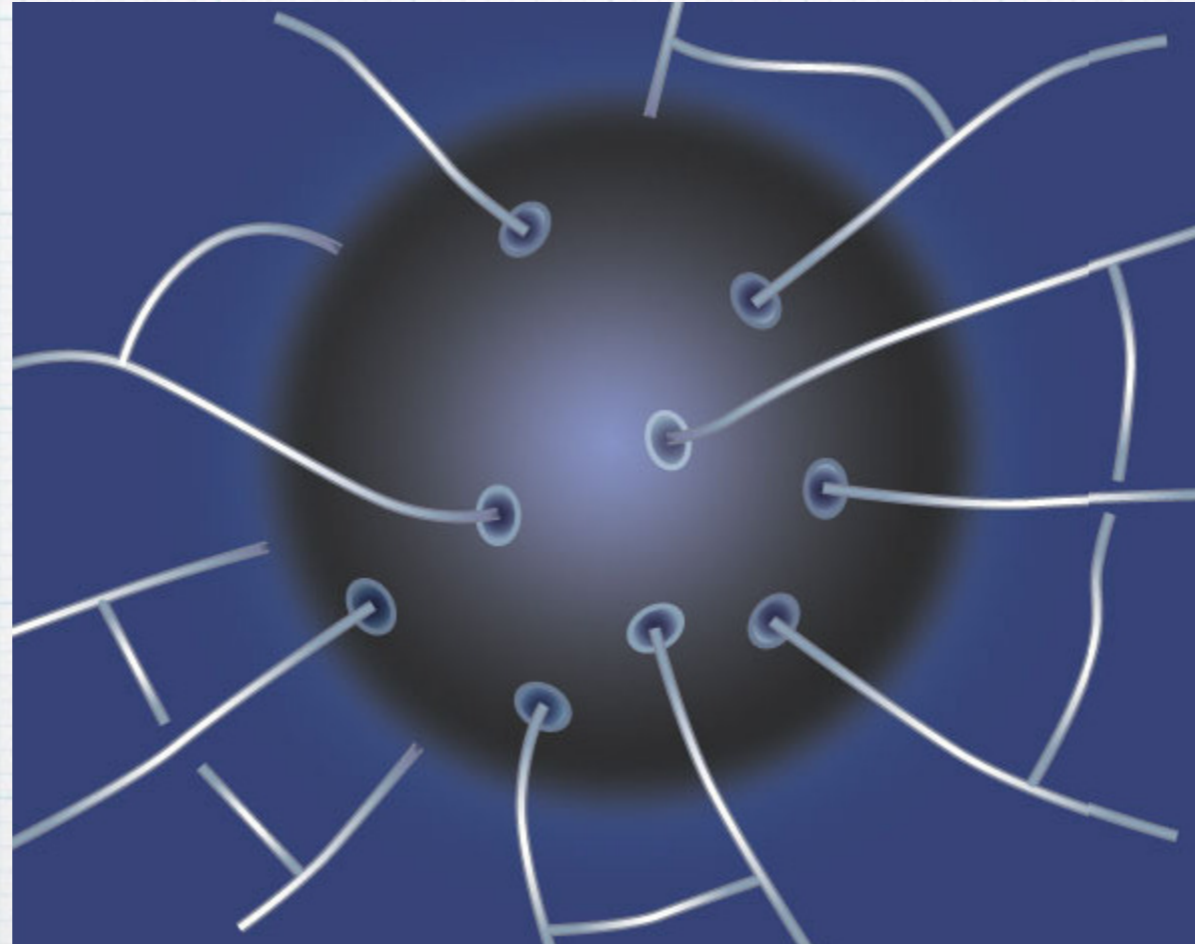
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## Modified Friedman eqn

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Regularized singularity  
with Big Bounce

# Black Holes and Horizons in LQG



Perez, Noui, ...

# Effective QFT for matter: NC Geometry

Integrating out Quantum Gravity effects :

$$e^{iS_{eff}[\phi]} = \int [dg] e^{iS_{grav}[g] + iS_{matter}[\phi, g]}$$

Program can be carried out explicitly for 3d QG : **Freidel, L**

- Particles as defects in Spinfoam
- Particle properties in terms of geometrical observables ( LQG holonomy-flux )
- Interpret spinfoam amplitudes with particles as deformed Feynman diagrams for matter field
- **Emergent non-commutative Geometry**

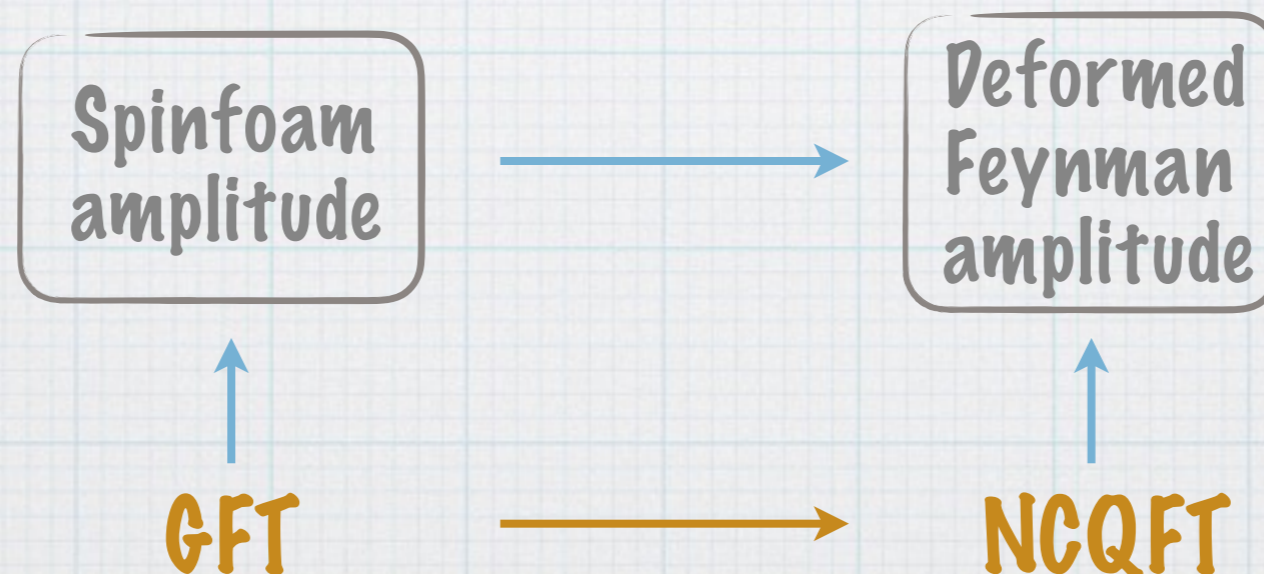
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- Can be seen directly at GFT level



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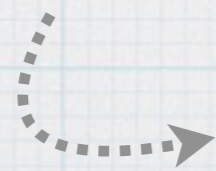
Integrating out Quantum Gravity effects :

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Similar Expectation for 4d spinfoam QG :

**Effective deformed special relativity**  
with kappa-deformed Poincaré symmetry  
**Amelino-Camelia**

*c, m<sub>Planck</sub>*  
**Universal constants**



**Relative locality** **Freidel & al.**



# Reconstructing the Geometry (in Progress)

---

## Towards explicit Holography in LQG

Geometry from Entanglement on Spin Network

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Bulk-Boundary Dualities

**e.g. Duality between 3d Spinfoam QG & 2d Ising on boundary**

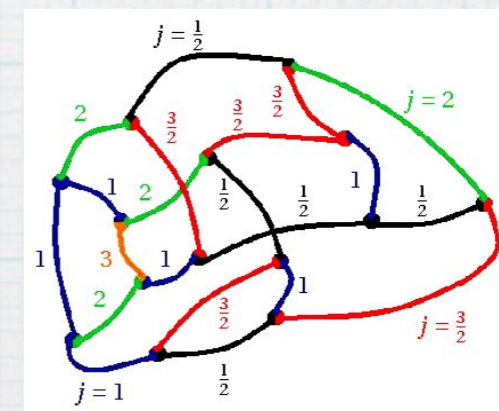
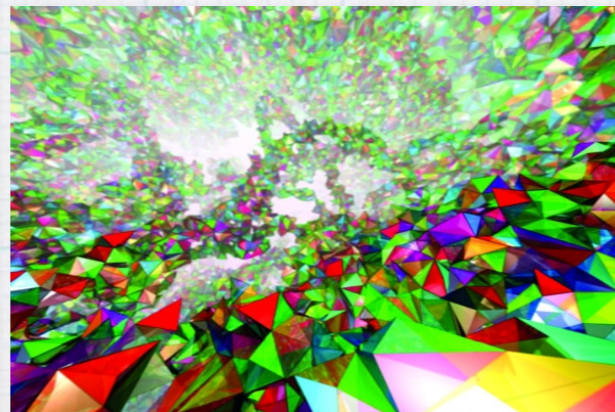
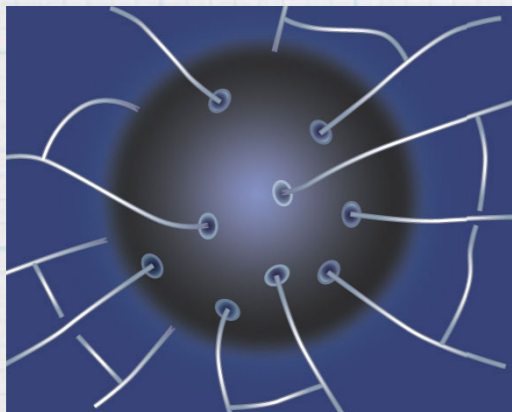
Bonzom, L

**LQG as Evolving Network of Surfaces (Bubbles)**

Freidel, Pranzetti

# (Loop) Quantum Gravity

Thank you for your attention!

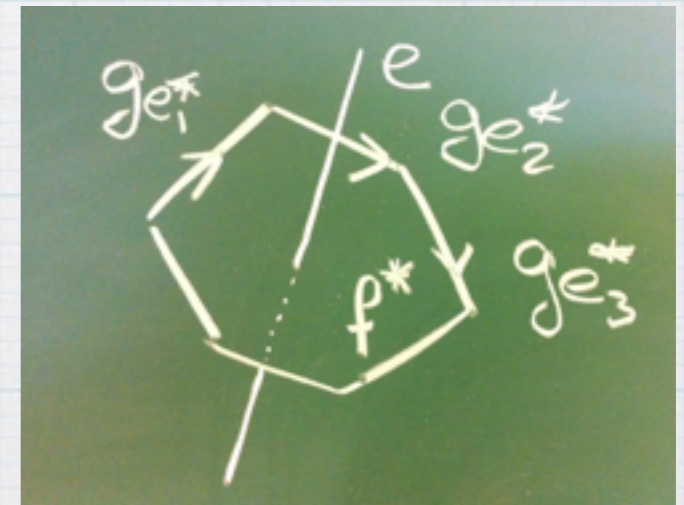
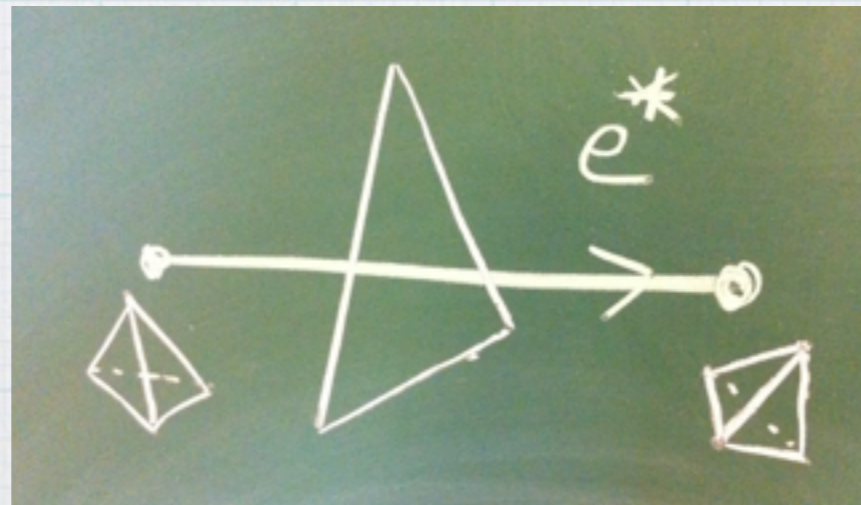
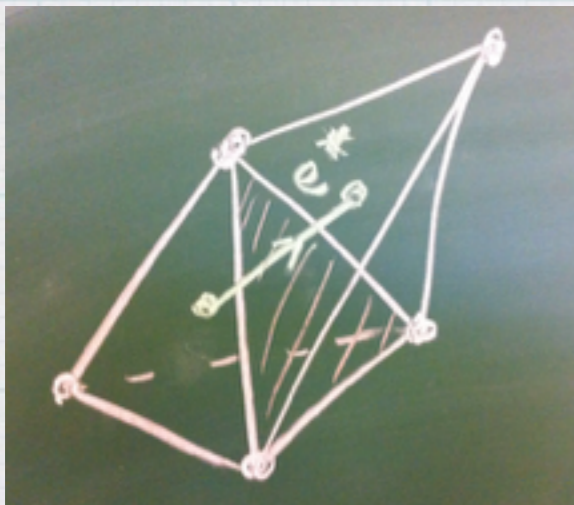


# 3d Quantum Gravity: Spinfoams & Spin Networks

3d gravity as a TQFT can be exactly spinfoam quantized:

Topological field theory  $\longrightarrow$  Can be discretized exactly

1. Choose a 3d triangulation (cellular decomposition works too)
2. Define dual 2-complex, the **spinfoam**
3. Discretize connection along dual edges  $g_{e^*} \in \text{SU}(2)$
4. Discretize triad along edges  $X_e \in \text{su}(2)$



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$X$ 's are Lagrange multipliers  
imposing flatness of connection  
around dual faces (i.e around edges)

$$G_e = G_{f^*} = \overrightarrow{\prod_{e^* \in \partial f^*}} g_{e^*}$$

$$Z = \int \text{ded}A e^{iS[e,A]} = \int \text{d}A \delta(F[A]) = \int \prod_{e^*} \text{d}g_{e^*} \prod_e \delta(G_e)$$



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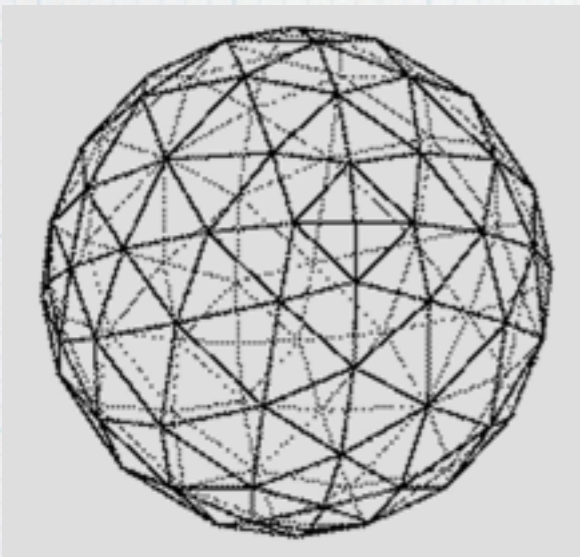
We decompose onto irreps of  $SU(2)$  i.e **spins** :

$$Z = \int \prod_{e^*} dg_{e^*} \sum_{\{j_e \in \frac{\mathbb{N}}{2}\}} \prod_e (2j_e + 1) \chi_{j_e}(G_e)$$

and we integrate over all group elements,  
leaving us with spin recoupling symbols

# 3d Quantum Gravity: Spinfoams & Spin Networks

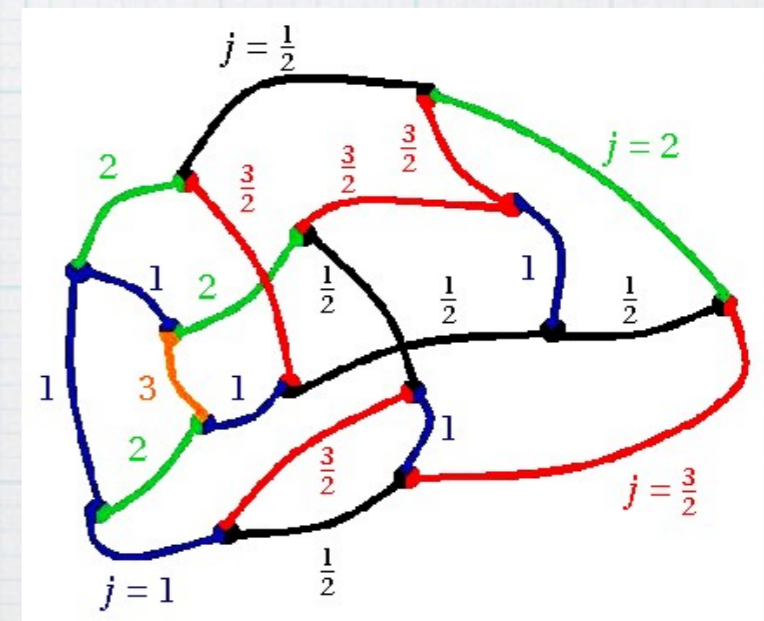
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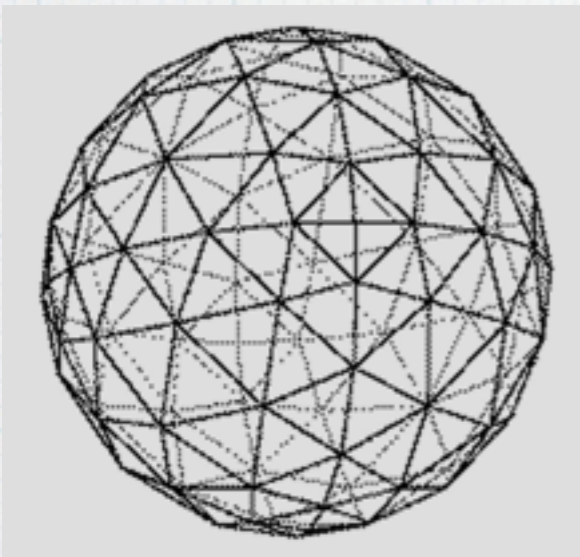
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- Boundary 2d triangulated surface or dual 3-valent graph
- Spins on boundary edges or dual links: **boundary spin network**



# 3d Quantum Gravity: Spinfoams & Spin Networks

3d gravity as a TQFT can be exactly spinfoam quantized:



- Assume trivial spherical topology
- Use topological invariance to gauge fix bulk
- PR amplitude becomes projector on flat connection

$$\mathcal{A}_\Delta = \mathcal{A}_{\partial\Delta} = \langle \mathbb{1} | \psi \rangle = \psi(\mathbb{1})$$

For a trivial topology, amplitude expressed explicitly in terms of boundary data:

evaluation of boundary spin network

