

Title: What's the Entropy of Gravity?

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Abstract: I present a proposal, originally motivated by a result in graph theory: the entropy function of a density matrix naturally associated to a simple undirected graph, is maximized, among all graphs with a fixed number of links and nodes, by regular graphs. I recover this result starting from the Hamiltonian operator of a non-relativistic quantum particle interacting with the loop-quantized gravitational field and setting elementary area and volume eigenvalues to a fixed value. This operator provides a spectral characterization of the physical geometry, and can be interpreted as a state describing the spectral information about the geometry available when geometry is measured by its physical interaction with matter. It is then tempting to interpret the associated entropy function as a genuine physical entropy: I discuss the difficulties of this interpretation and I present a possible viable definition of quantum-gravitational entropy.

## things you know

Yang-Mills Theory  
electric field, vector potential

angular momentum  
 $L^2 |j, m\rangle = \hbar^2 j(j+1) |j, m\rangle$

states

Hilbert space

## Loop Quantum Gravity

Gravity as a  $SU(2)$  gauge theory  
(  $E^{ai}(x), A_a^i(x)$  )

area  
 $E_{ie} E_e^i |s\rangle = (8\pi\gamma G\hbar)^2 j_e(j_e + 1) |s\rangle$

$|s\rangle := |\Gamma, j_e, \nu_n\rangle$

$\mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}} = \bigoplus_{\Gamma} \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma}$



# What's the entropy of gravity?

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Perimeter Institute July 19th, 2011

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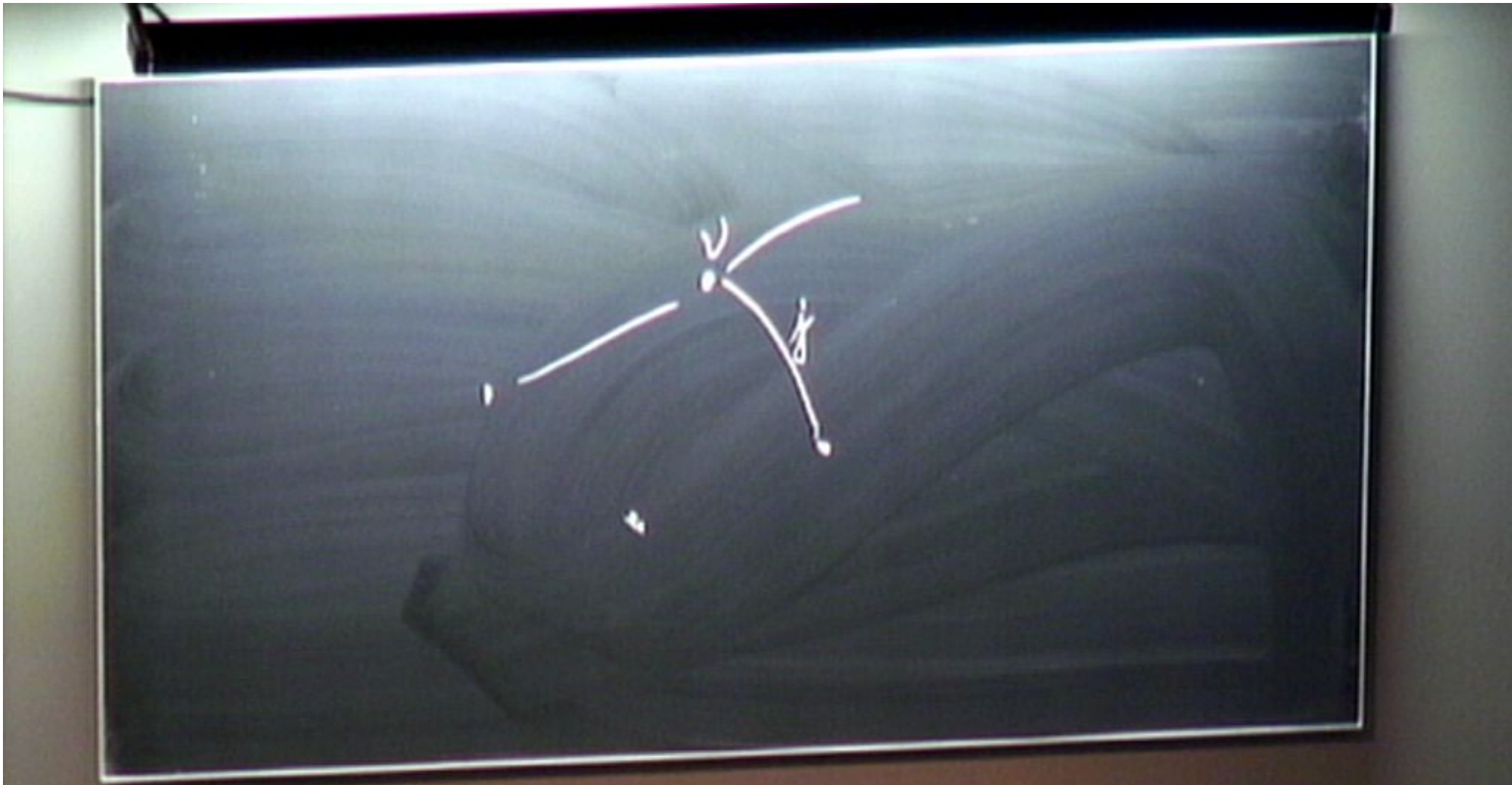
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$$q^{ab}(X) = \frac{E^{ai}(X)E^{bj}(X)}{q(X)}$$

area

$$E_{je} E_e^i |s\rangle = (8\pi\gamma G\hbar)^2 j_e(j_e + 1) |s\rangle$$

$$\sqrt{q(X)} |s\rangle = \sum_{n \in N(s)} \nu_n \delta(X, X_n) |s\rangle$$

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References:

- 2004 The Laplacian of a graph as a density matrix: a basic combinatorial approach to separability of mixed states. Braunstein, Ghosh, Severini. quant-ph/0406165
- 2008 The Von Neumann entropy of networks. Passerini, Severini. 0812.2597

$\Gamma = (N, L)$  undirected simple graph



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$\Gamma = (N, L)$  undirected simple graph

**Adjacency**  $[A(\Gamma)]_{n,m} = 1$  if  $\{n, m\} \in L(\Gamma)$  and  $[A(\Gamma)]_{u,v} = 0$  otherwise

**Degree**  $[\Delta(\Gamma)]_{n,n} := d_n = \#$  links adjacent to the node  $n$

**Laplacian**  $L(\Gamma) := \Delta(\Gamma) - A(\Gamma)$

**Density**  $\rho_\Gamma := \frac{L(\Gamma)}{d_\Gamma} = \frac{L(\Gamma)}{\text{Tr}(\Delta(\Gamma))}$  Hermitian, positive semi-definite, trace-1

**Entropy**  $S(\Gamma) = -\text{Tr}[\rho_\Gamma \log \rho_\Gamma]$

## Plan of the talk

- 1 Interaction Hamiltonian**  
single quantum particle on the quantum gravitational field  
- construction and properties -
- 2 comparison with Graph Theory**  
our Hamiltonian provides (up to a certain approximation)  
the same objects already studied in Graph Theory
- 3 Loop Quantum Thermodynamics**  
this Hamiltonian is a tool to construct statistical objects in LQG

Phase Space  $(q_{ab}(X), \pi^{ab}(X), X^a, P_a)$

Hamiltonian constraint  $C(X) = H_{ADM}(X) + \delta^3(X, X)P_0$

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$$P^2 = q^{ab}(X) P_a P_b$$

$$H = \int dX \delta^3(x, X) N(x) q^{ab}(X) \frac{P_a P_b}{2m}$$

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connection variables

Phase Space  $(q_{ab}(X), \pi^{ab}(X), X^a, P_a) \rightarrow (E^{ai}(X), A_a^i(X), X^a, P_a)$

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$$q^{ab}(X) = \frac{E^{ai}(X)E^{bi}(X)}{q(X)}$$

$$H = \int dX f_R(x, X) \frac{E^{ai}(X)E^{bi}(X)}{\sqrt{q(X)}} \frac{P_a P_b}{2m}$$

pointlike nature of the particle  $\rightarrow$  regularization by a smearing function

$$f_R(x, X) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{V_R} = \frac{3}{4\pi R^3} & \text{if } |x - X| \leq R \\ 0 & \text{if } |x - X| \geq R \end{cases}$$



## Quantum States

Spin network states  $|s, x\rangle \equiv |s\rangle \otimes |x\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_P$ .

$$\mathbb{I}_P = \int dx \quad |x\rangle\langle x|$$

$$\langle x|y\rangle = \delta(x, y)$$

## Quantum States

restriction to the nodes

Spin network states  $|s, x\rangle \equiv |s\rangle \otimes |x\rangle \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{P}}$ .

$$\mathbb{I}_{\text{P}} = \int dx \sqrt{q} |x\rangle \langle x|$$

$$\langle x|y\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q(x)}} \delta(x, y)$$

$$\langle s, x|s, x\rangle = \int dx \langle s|\sqrt{q}|s\rangle |x\rangle \langle x|$$

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$$\langle s, x|s, x\rangle = \int dx \langle s|\sqrt{q}|s\rangle |x\rangle \langle x|$$

the volume operator vanishes everywhere except at the nodes

$$\sqrt{q(x)} |s\rangle = \sum_{n \in N(s)} \nu_n \delta(x, x_n) |s\rangle$$

## Quantum States

restriction to the nodes

Spin network states  $|s, x\rangle \equiv |s\rangle \otimes |x\rangle \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{P}}$ .

$$\mathbb{I}_{\text{P}} = \int dx \sqrt{q} |x\rangle \langle x| \rightarrow \langle s | \mathbb{I}_{\text{P}} | s \rangle = \sum_{n \in N(s)} \nu_n |X_n\rangle \langle X_n|$$

$$\langle x | y \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q(x)}} \delta(x, y)$$

$$\langle s, X_n | s', X_{n'} \rangle = \nu_n^{-1} \delta_{ss'} \delta_{nn'} \quad \mathbb{I} \equiv \sum_s \sum_{n \in N(s)} \nu_n |s, X_n\rangle \langle s, X_n|$$

$$\sqrt{q(x)} |s\rangle = \sum_{n \in N(s)} \nu_n \delta(x, X_n) |s\rangle$$

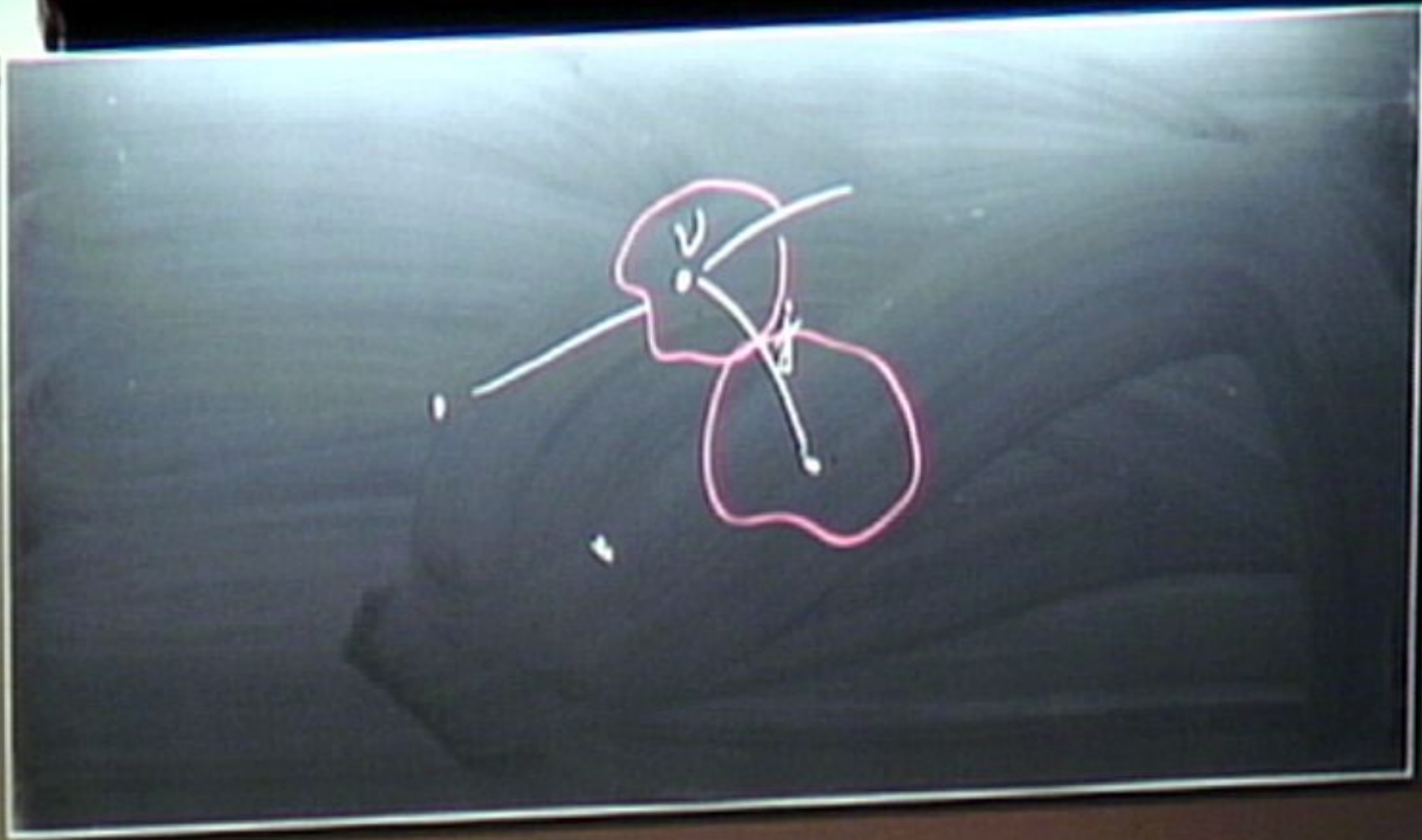
## Quantum Operators

$$E^{ai}(x) |s\rangle = \kappa \hbar \sum_{\ell} \int_{\ell} dt \dot{\ell}^a(t) \delta^3(x, \ell(t)) |s, \tau^i\rangle$$

$$E^{ai}(x) E^{bi}(x) |s\rangle = (\kappa \hbar)^2 \sum_{\ell, \ell'} \int_{\ell} dt \int_{\ell'} dt' \dot{\ell}^a(t) \dot{\ell}^b(t') \delta^3(x, \ell(t)) \delta^3(x, \ell(t')) j_{\ell}(j_{\ell} + 1) |s\rangle$$

$$P_a = -i \hbar D_a \quad \text{covariant derivative}$$

$$\langle s, \psi | H | s, \phi \rangle = \frac{\kappa^2 \hbar^4}{2m} \sum_{\ell} j_{\ell}(j_{\ell} + 1) \int_{\ell} ds \int_{\ell} dt \overline{\partial_s \psi(\ell(s))} \partial_t \phi(\ell(t)) f_R(\ell(s), \ell(t))$$



$$\langle s, v | H | s, 0 \rangle = \frac{\kappa^2 \hbar^4}{2m} \sum_{\ell} j_{\ell}(j_{\ell} + 1) \overline{\Delta_{\ell 0}} \Delta_{\ell v} \frac{1}{V_R}$$

Planck scale!  $\Delta_{\ell v} := \int_{\ell} ds \partial_s v(\underline{\ell}(s)) = v(\underline{\ell}_f) - v(\underline{\ell}_i)$

particle states

$$|\underline{\ell}\rangle := |\underline{\ell}_f\rangle - |\underline{\ell}_i\rangle$$

$$H = \frac{\hbar^2 \ell_{\text{Pl}}^4}{2m^*} \sum_{s, \ell \in s} j_{\ell}(j_{\ell} + 1) |s, \underline{\ell}\rangle \langle s, \underline{\ell}|$$



$\langle E \rangle$

mean energy of the particle on a gravitational field

from a measure of the particle  
(geometry known)

from a measure of the geometry  
(particle position known)

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$$\langle E \rangle = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}}} [H' \tilde{\rho}]$$

mean energy of the particle on a gravitational field

$$|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{P}}$$

$$H' = \langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle$$

operator in  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}}$

$$\tilde{\rho} = \frac{1}{Z(\mu)} e^{-\mu H'}$$

$$\langle E \rangle = \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{L}\text{QG}}[H' \tilde{\rho}] = -d(\ln Z) / d\mu \quad \text{mean energy of the particle on a gravitational field}$$

$$|v\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_P \quad H' = \langle v | H | v \rangle \quad \text{operator in } \mathcal{H}_{\text{LQG}} \quad \tilde{\rho} = \frac{1}{Z(\mu)} e^{-\mu H'}$$

$$\text{Jayne's principle of maximum entropy} \quad S = -\text{Tr}_{\mathbb{L}\text{QG}}[\tilde{\rho} \log \tilde{\rho}] = \log Z + \mu \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{L}\text{QG}}[H' e^{-\mu H'}]$$

$$\text{Partition function:} \quad Z = \text{Tr}_{\mathbb{L}\text{QG}}[e^{-\mu H'}]$$

$$Z = \sum_s e^{-\frac{E_s}{kT}} \quad \text{where} \quad E_s = E_0 d_s \quad \text{and take} \quad \frac{E_0}{kT} := \mu \quad \rightarrow \quad Z(\mu) = \sum_s e^{-\mu d_s}$$

Partition Function

$$Z(\mu) = \sum_s e^{-\mu \bar{d}_s}$$

$$\bar{d}_s(\mu) = \frac{\sum_n^N d_n}{N} = \frac{2\ell}{N}$$

Partition Function  $Z(\mu) = \sum_s e^{-\mu \bar{d}_s} = \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)^L$

Energy Density  $\rho_s(\mu) = \frac{1}{Z(\mu)} e^{-\mu \bar{d}_s} = e^{-\frac{2}{N} \ell} \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)^{-L}$

$$\langle d \rangle = \frac{1}{Z(\mu)} \sum_s \bar{d}_s e^{-\mu \bar{d}_s} = -\frac{1}{Z(\mu)} \frac{d}{d\mu} Z(\mu) = \frac{2}{N} L \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\Delta d = \langle d^2 \rangle - \langle d \rangle^2 = -\frac{4L}{N^2} e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}} \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)^{-2}$$

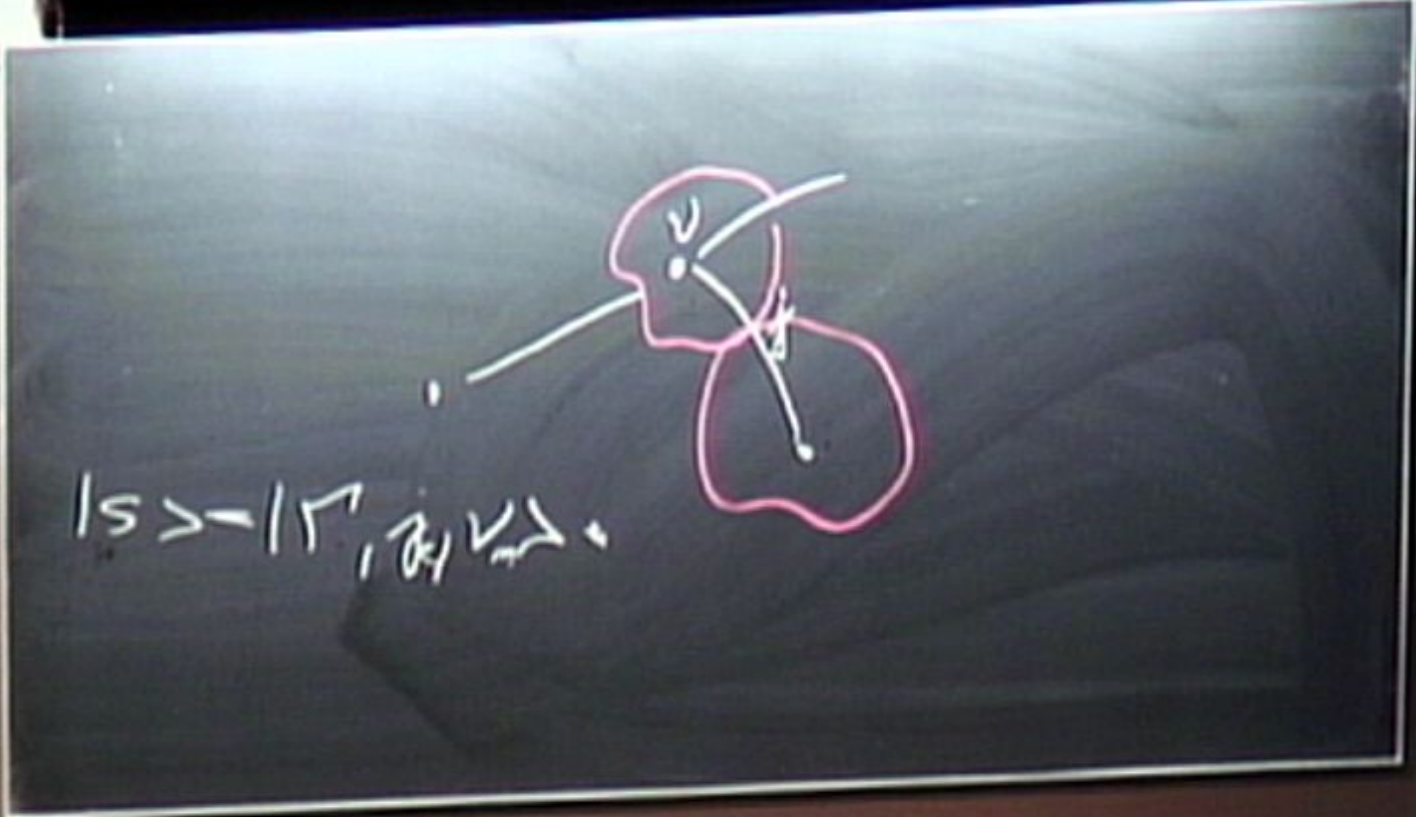
Entropy

$$S = \mu \langle d \rangle - \ln Z(\mu) = \mu \frac{2}{N} L \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)^{-1} - L \ln \left(1 + e^{-\mu \frac{2}{N}}\right)$$

## Summary

- Hamiltonian of a non-relativistic particle on a gravitational field described by a spinnetwork:
- we have calculated a partition function, and from this other statistical quantities... is this a first step through a viable thermodynamics of the gravitational field?

“Single particle in quantum gravity and BGS entropy of a spin network”  
by C. Rovelli and FV. *Phys.Rev.D81:044038,2010* (arXiv:0905.2983)



$$|S\rangle = |\uparrow, \downarrow, \downarrow\rangle$$





