

Title: Space(-time) structure in models of loop quantum gravity

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Abstract: Loop quantum gravity has suggested modifications of the dynamics of cosmological models that could lead to a bounce at large curvature. However, the same modifications may alter the gauge structure of the theory, which is related to the structure of space-time. In a large class of examples the space-time structure has been derived and shown to imply signature change just in the bounce region. The picture of a cyclic universe with a deterministic bounce then has to be replaced by the scenario of a non-singular beginning some finite time ago.

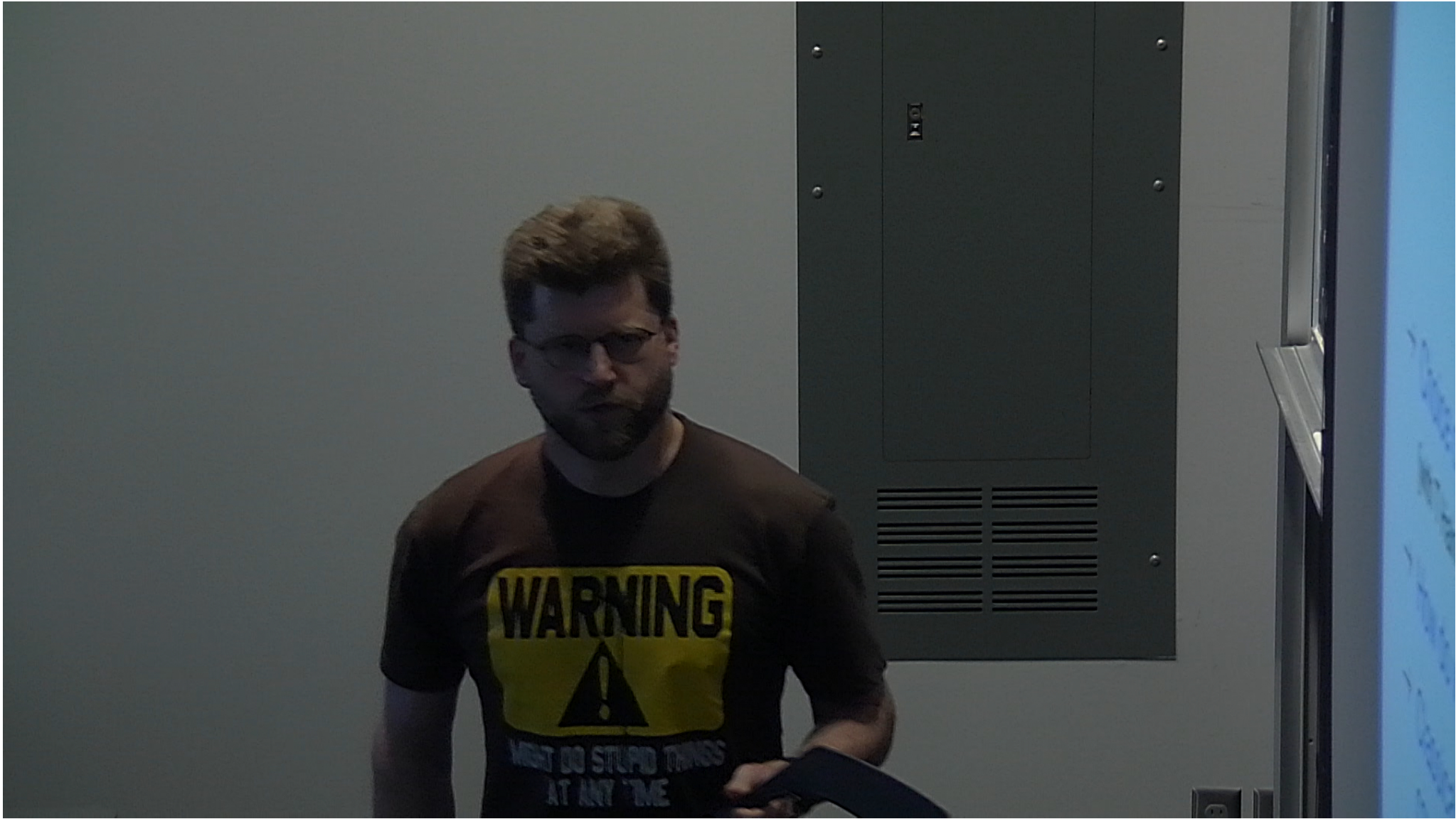
A cosmic scene featuring a vibrant red nebula that curves across the upper portion of the frame. In the center, a blue, textured planet is visible, surrounded by smaller celestial bodies and a bright star. The background is a deep black space filled with distant stars.

Space(-time) structure in models of loop quantum gravity

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Space(-time) structure – p. 1





“There is a huge body of work in Loop Quantum Cosmology comprising of **several thousand** journal articles.”

[from an abstract at this workshop]

loop quantum cosmology x

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- 1. Diffeomorphism invariant cosmological sector in loop quantum gravity**
 Christopher Beetle, Jonathan Steven Engle, Matthew Ernest Hogan, Phillip Mendonca. Jun 7, 2017. 25 pp.
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 Published in *Chin.Phys.Lett.* **34** (2017) no.6, 069801
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- 3. Pre-inflationary universe in loop quantum cosmology**
 Tao Zhu (Zhejiang U. Tech. & Baylor U.), Anzhong Wang (Baylor U. & Zhejiang U. Tech.), Gerald Cleaver (Baylor U.), Klaus Kirsten, Qin Sheng (Baylor U., Math. Dept.). May 21, 2017. 32 pp.
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- 4. Measuring the effects of Loop Quantum Cosmology in the CMB data**
 Spyros Basilakos (RCAAM, Academy of Athens), Vahid Kamali, Ahmad Mehrabi (Bou Ali Sina U.). May 16, 2017. 7 pp.
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- 5. Testing different approaches to quantum gravity with cosmology: An overview**

Space(-time) structure - p. 4



Space-time structure



Easy to avoid divergences by introducing discreteness/bounded functions, in particular in minisuperspace models.

- Consistent with covariance? If not, how can one avoid low-energy problems? [J Polchinski: arXiv:1106.6346]
- How exactly are singularity theorems evaded?
Example: “Bounce” in some models of loop quantum cosmology without violating energy conditions.

Many open questions at different levels in loop quantum cosmology. Related to covariance:

- Choice of (internal) time.
- Averaging volume in minisuperspace truncation.
- Space(-time) structure.



Minisuperspace deparameterization



Quantum constraint of the form $\hat{C} = \hat{p}_\phi^2 - \hat{H}^2$.

If H does not depend on ϕ , can write constraint equation $\hat{C}\psi = 0$ for states as “evolution” equation

$$-\hat{p}_\phi\psi = i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial\phi} = \pm|\hat{H}\psi$$

- Choice of ϕ as time affects quantum corrections.
[with T Halnon: arXiv:1612.00353]
- How do we choose initial states for ϕ -“evolution”?
- Classical constraint strongly restricted by reduction from covariant theory.

Restrictions on quantum corrections in minisuperspace model?



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Restrictions on quantum corrections in minisuperspace model?



Model minisuperspace model



[with S Brahma: arXiv:1509.00640]

Lagrangian $L = \int d^3x \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla\phi|^2 - W(\phi) \right)$ reduced to

$$L_{\text{mini}} = V_0 \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - W(\phi) \right)$$

with $V_0 = \int d^3x$, ϕ spatially constant.

Momentum $p = \partial L_{\text{mini}} / \partial \dot{\phi} = V_0 \dot{\phi}$.

Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{mini}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{p^2}{V_0} + V_0 W(\phi)$$

quantized to

$$\hat{H}_{\text{mini}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\hat{p}^2}{V_0} + V_0 W(\hat{\phi})$$



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Minisuperspace:

$$W_{\text{eff}}^{\text{mini}}(\phi) = W(\phi) + \frac{1}{2V_0} \hbar \sqrt{W''(\phi)}$$

Coleman–Weinberg potential: [S Coleman, E Weinberg: PRD 7 (1973) 1888]

$$W_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = W(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} \hbar \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \log \left(1 + \frac{W''(\phi)}{||\mathbf{k}||^2} \right)$$

After k^0 -integration (or canonical derivation):

$$W_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = W(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} \hbar \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\sqrt{|\vec{k}|^2 + W''(\phi)} - |\vec{k}| \right)$$

[with S Brahma: arXiv:1411.3636]



Minisuperspace potential $W(\phi) + \frac{1}{2V_0} \hbar \sqrt{W''(\phi)}$ as infrared-contribution from quantum field theory: Integrate

$$\frac{1}{2} \hbar \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\sqrt{|\vec{k}|^2 + W''(\phi)} - |\vec{k}| \right)$$

over $|\vec{k}| \leq k_{\max} = 2\pi/V_0^{1/3}$

$$W_{\text{eff}}(\phi) \approx W(\phi) + \frac{\hbar}{12\pi^2} k_{\max}^3 \sqrt{W''(\phi)} = W(\phi) + \frac{2\pi}{3V_0} \hbar \sqrt{W''(\phi)}$$

→ Minisuperspace truncation can capture some quantum effects of full theory, as long as $V_0 \not\rightarrow \infty$.

→ Covariance in minisuperspace models?
Fixed infrared scale breaks local Poincaré transformations.



Models of loop quantum gravity



Isotropic connection $A_a^i = c\delta_a^i$, $E_j^b = p\delta_j^b$ with $c = \gamma\dot{a}$, $|p| = a^2$
 Friedmann equation (flat space)

$$-\frac{c^2}{\gamma^2|p|} + \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho = 0$$

modified by using “holonomies”

$$\frac{c^2}{|p|} \mapsto \frac{\sin(\ell c/\sqrt{|p|})^2}{\ell^2}$$

Taken *in isolation*, holonomy modifications imply a “bounce” of isotropic models:

$$\frac{\sin(\ell c/\sqrt{|p|})^2}{\gamma^2\ell^2} = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho$$



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Higher-curvature contributions?



If unknown, should not trust full function $\sin^2(\ell c/\sqrt{|p|})/\ell^2$ but expand:

$$\frac{\sin(\ell c/\sqrt{|p|})^2}{\ell^2} \sim \frac{c^2}{|p|} \left(1 - \frac{1}{3} \ell^2 \frac{c^2}{|p|} + \dots \right)$$

If $\ell \sim \ell_P$, leading corrections $\ell_P^2 c^2/|p| \sim \rho/\rho_P$.

Same order as expected for higher-curvature terms.

Higher-derivative terms general feature in effective equations of quantum mechanics, state dependent.

→ Not clear whether “bounce” is generic if higher-derivative terms uncontrolled.

→ More controlled than specific dynamics:
Space-time structure.



Space(-time) structure



→ Lagrangian density and *measure* in

$$S[g] = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{|\det g|} (R[g] + \dots)$$

may be subject to quantum corrections.

→ Quantum-field theory on curved space-time different from quantum gravity.

→ Covariance in canonical quantum gravity:
Quantum version of Dirac's hypersurface deformations.



Perturbative inhomogeneity $A(x) = \bar{A} + \delta A(x)$, $h[A] := A(x)^2$.

Modified background dynamics: $\bar{A} \rightarrow \ell^{-1} \sin(\ell \bar{A})$.

→ *Classical*: $h[\bar{A}, \delta A] = \bar{A}^2 + 2\bar{A}\delta A(x) + \delta A(x)^2$

→ *QFT on modified space-time*:

$$h_\ell^{\text{QFT}}[\bar{A}, \delta A] = \ell^{-2} \sin(\ell \bar{A})^2 + 2\bar{A}\delta A(x) + \delta A(x)^2$$

[Martín-Benito, Garay, Mena Marugán; Ashtekar, Lewandowski, Kaminski; Dapor, Lewandowski, Puchta; Agulló, Ashtekar, Nelson]

→ *Effective quantum gravity*:

$$h_\ell^{\text{QG}}[\bar{A}, \delta A] = \ell^{-2} \sin(\ell \bar{A})^2 + F_\ell(\bar{A})\delta A(x) + G_\ell(\bar{A})\delta A(x)^2 \text{ with}$$

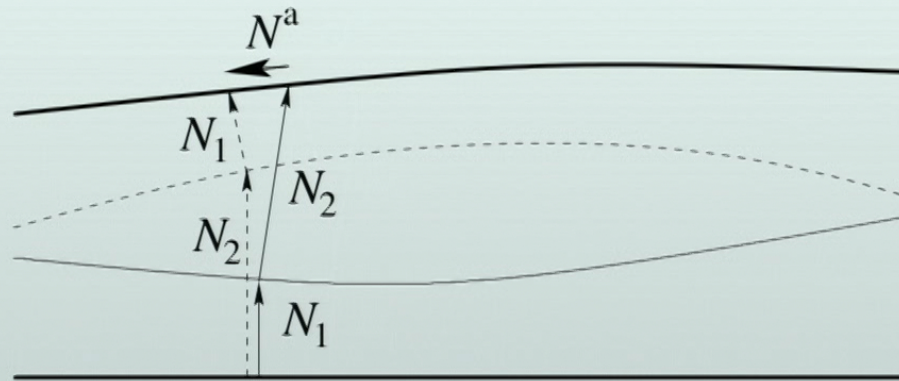
$$\lim_{\ell \rightarrow 0} F_\ell(\bar{A}) = 2\bar{A} \text{ and } \lim_{\ell \rightarrow 0} G_\ell(\bar{A}) = 1.$$

Subject to *covariance conditions*.

$$F_\ell/\bar{A} \text{ and } G_\ell \text{ comparable to } (\ell \bar{A})^{-2} \sin(\ell \bar{A})^2.$$

[MB, Hossain, Kagan, Shankaranarayanan; Barrau, Cailleteau, Grain, Mielczarek; Wilson–Ewing]

Covariance: Hypersurface deformations



Generators $D[N^a]$ (tangential deformations along $N^a(x)$) and $H[N]$ (normal deformations by $N(x)$) obey

$$[D[N^a], D[M^b]] = -D[\mathcal{L}_{M^b} N^a]$$

$$[H[N], D[M^b]] = -H[\mathcal{L}_{M^b} N]$$

$$[H[N_1], H[N_2]] = D[q^{ab}(N_1 \partial_b N_2 - N_2 \partial_b N_1)]$$

with induced metric q_{ab} on spatial slice. (Lie algebroid.)

Covariance in canonical quantum gravity



Anomaly-free representation of brackets by operators \hat{D} , \hat{H} , \hat{q}
 (or effective constraints) with

$$\{D[N^a], D[M^b]\} = -D[\mathcal{L}_{M^b} N^a]$$

$$\{H[N], D[M^b]\} = -H[\mathcal{L}_{M^b} N]$$

$$\{H[N_1], H[N_2]\} = D[q^{ab}(N_1 \partial_b N_2 - N_2 \partial_b N_1)]$$

in *classical limit*.

“Off-shell” property.

Stronger than anomaly-free reformulated system.

Examples: $\{H + D, H + D\} = 0$ [Gambini, Pullin]

$\{H, H\} = \{D', D'\}$ [Tomlin, Varadarajan]



Scalar field $\phi(x)$, momentum $p(x)$, one spatial dimension.

$$H[N] = \int dx N \left(f(p) - \frac{1}{4}(\phi')^2 - \frac{1}{2}\phi\phi'' \right) \quad , \quad D[w] = \int dx w \phi p'$$

Spatial diffeomorphisms:

$$\delta_w \phi = \{ \phi, D[w] \} = -(w\phi)' \quad , \quad \delta_w p = \{ p, D[w] \} = -wp'$$

H -bracket:

$$\{ H[N], H[M] \} = D[\beta(p)(N'M - NM')]$$

with $\beta(p) = \frac{1}{2}d^2 f/dp^2$.

Lorentzian-type hypersurface deformations for $f(p) = p^2$.



Signature change



“Holonomy” modifications, $f(p) = p_0^2 \sin^2(p/p_0)$:

$$\beta(p) = \frac{1}{2} d^2 f / dp^2 = \cos(2p/p_0)$$

can be negative. At maximum of $f(p)$:

$$\{H[N], H[M]\} = D[-(N'M - NM')]$$

Euclidean signature:

- Linear N and M give boosts for $\beta(p) = 1$: $\Delta x = v\Delta t$.
Rotation if $\beta(p) = -1$: $\Delta x = -\theta\Delta y$ if y transversal to hypersurfaces.
- Opposite sign if hypersurface-deformation brackets derived for Euclidean gravity.
- Elliptic field equations if $\beta(p) < 0$.



$\{H[N], D[w]\}$ does not close in the scalar model,
but does so in several gravity versions: spherical symmetry and
cosmological perturbations. [Reyes; Barrau, Cailleteau, Grain, Mielczarek]

Replacing $K^2 \rightarrow f(K)$ modifies bracket

$$\{H[N_1], H[N_2]\} = D[\beta q^{ab} (N_1 \partial_b N_2 - N_2 \partial_b N_1)]$$

with

$$\beta(K) = \frac{1}{2} d^2 f(K) / dK^2 = \cos(2\ell K)$$

for $f(K) = \ell^{-2} \sin^2(\ell K)$.

Signature change: $\beta(K) < 0$ around maximum of $f(K)$.

“Bounce” indeterministic.



- Not undone by quantum back-reaction or higher time derivatives. Distinct from higher-curvature corrections.
- No effective line element on standard space-time: dx^a in

$$ds_{\text{eff}}^2 = \tilde{q}_{ab} dx^a dx^b$$

do not transform by changes dual to deformed gauge transformations $\{\tilde{q}_{ab}, H[N] + D[w]\}$.

Field redefinition to standard q_{ab} possible as long as β does not change sign.

With signature change: New model of non-classical space-time. [with Brahma, Buyukcam, D'Ambrosio: arXiv:1610.08355]

- Evaluate theory using canonical observables of deformed gauge theory.

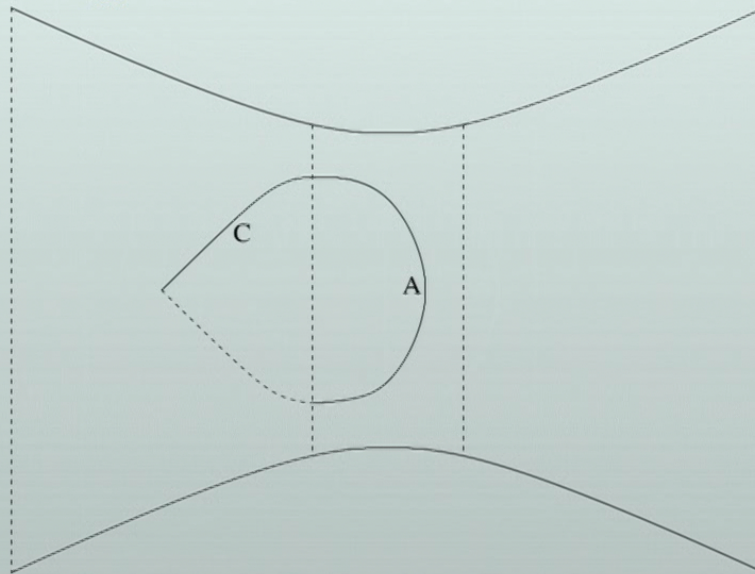


Tricomi problem



[with Mielczarek: arXiv:1503.09154]

Well-posed $-\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + \beta(\mathcal{H})\Delta u = 0$: Data on characteristic C , arc A .



- Need future data: No deterministic evolution.
- Poles generic: Cosmic boom.
- Non-singular beginning.



Non-singular black-hole model:

Evolve through classical singularity by quantum evolution of homogeneous interior.

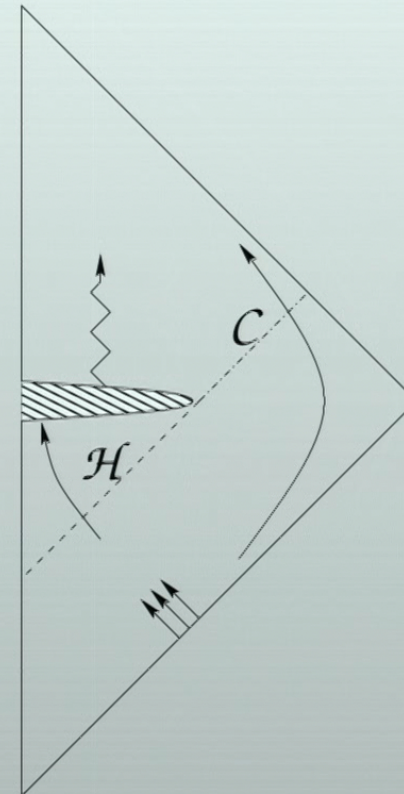
No event horizon. [Ashtekar, MB 2006]

Quantum space-time structure:

High-curvature region Euclidean.

Arbitrary boundary values affect future space-time.

Event horizon \mathcal{H} and Cauchy horizon \mathcal{C} .



[arXiv:1409.3157]



Structure functions



Systems with several constraints \hat{C}_I : $[\hat{C}_I, \hat{C}_J] = \hat{f}_{IJ}^K \hat{C}_K$.

- Effective constraints: $C_I = \langle \hat{C}_I \rangle$ and “fluctuation constraints” ΔC_I expanded in terms of $\langle \cdot \rangle$ and $\Delta(\cdot)$ for basic operators \cdot .
- Poisson bracket for $\langle \cdot \rangle$ and $\Delta(\cdot)$.
- No quantum corrections in structure functions: [arXiv:1407.4444]

$$\{C_I, C_J\} = f_{IJ}^K(\langle \cdot \rangle) C_K + \dots$$

Consistent with higher-curvature effective actions in gravity.

Holonomy modifications in \hat{C}_I change \hat{f}_{IJ}^K .



Related results (real connections)



- Closely related behavior in spherically symmetric models and cosmological perturbations.
[with Barrau, Calcagni, Grain, Kagan: arXiv:1404.1018]
- Operator version in spherical symmetry. [Brahma: arXiv:1411.3661]
- Different operator versions in $2 + 1$ dimensional models, based on reformulations of constraint algebra.
[Perez, Pranzetti; Henderson, Laddha, Tomlin, Varadarajan]
- Partially Abelianized constraints: [Gambini, Pullin]
After holonomy modifications, can reconstruct hypersurface-deformation brackets only if deformed.
[with Brahma, Reyes: arXiv:1507.00329]
- Obstructions to anomaly freedom in models with local physical degrees of freedom. [with Brahma: arXiv:1507.00679]

Not much is known about dynamics of loop quantum gravity.
Modified space-time structures generic.