

Title: The gravitational Wilson loop and the non-Abelian Stokes' theorem

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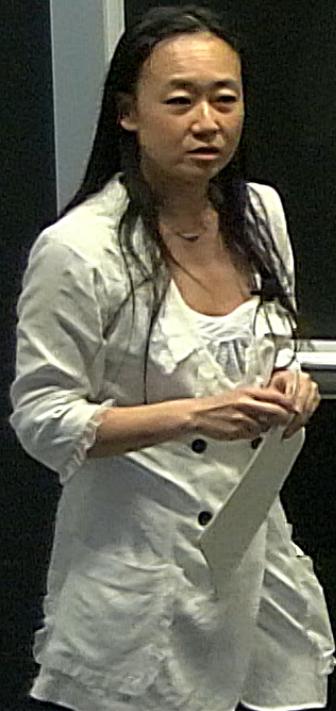
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Abstract: Finding suitable diffeomorphism-invariant observables to probe gravity at the Planck scale is essential in quantum gravity. The Wilson loop of the 4-dimensional Christoffel connection is a potentially interesting ingredient for the construction of such an observable. We have investigated to what extent and what form of curvature information of the underlying spacetime may be extracted from Wilson loops through a Stokes's theorem-like relation. We present an expression for the conservation of geometric flux as the quantity related to the gravitational Wilson loop. This expression is surface-independent and it holds for a certain class of manifolds with global symmetries.

Gravitational Wilson loops and non-Abelian Stokes' theorem
w/ Renate Loll, Nils Klitgaard, Marcus Reitz

$$W_{\lambda}^k(\gamma) : \text{holonomy of } \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^k \text{ on a manifold } M \text{ with } g_{\mu\nu} \text{ metric in } d\text{-dim.}$$
$$\uparrow$$
$$\text{loop} = \mathcal{P}_z \left(e^{-\oint dz \dot{\gamma}(z) \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^k(z)} \right)_{\lambda}$$



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loop

$$= \mathcal{P}_z \left(e^{-\oint_{\gamma(z)} \Gamma_{\mu}^i(z)} \right)^k_{\lambda}$$

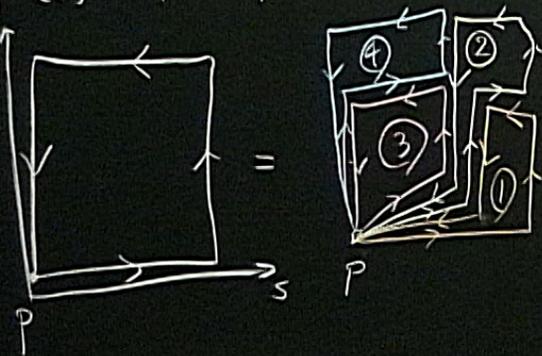
in Abelian-theories

$$W(c) = \cancel{\mathcal{P}} e^{-\oint_{c=\mathcal{S}} A_{\mu} dx^{\mu}} = e^{-\int_{\mathcal{S}} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A}}$$

↑
Stokes' theorem

non-Abelian Stokes' theorem for non-Abelian gauge theories

e.g. Araf'eva 1980.



$$W_\gamma = \mathcal{P}_{s,t} \prod W_{\square_{(s,t)}} = W_4 W_3 W_2 W_1$$

where $W_{\square_{(s,t)}} = f_{(s,t)}^{-1} g_{(s,t)}^{-1} W_{\square} g_{(s,t)} f_{(s,t)}$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} f_{(s,t)}^k &= \mathcal{P}_{s'} \left(e^{-\int_0^s ds' \frac{dx^\mu}{ds}(s',t) \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^k(s',t)} \right)_\lambda \\ g_{(s,t)}^k &= \mathcal{P}_t \end{aligned} \right.$$

continuum limit,

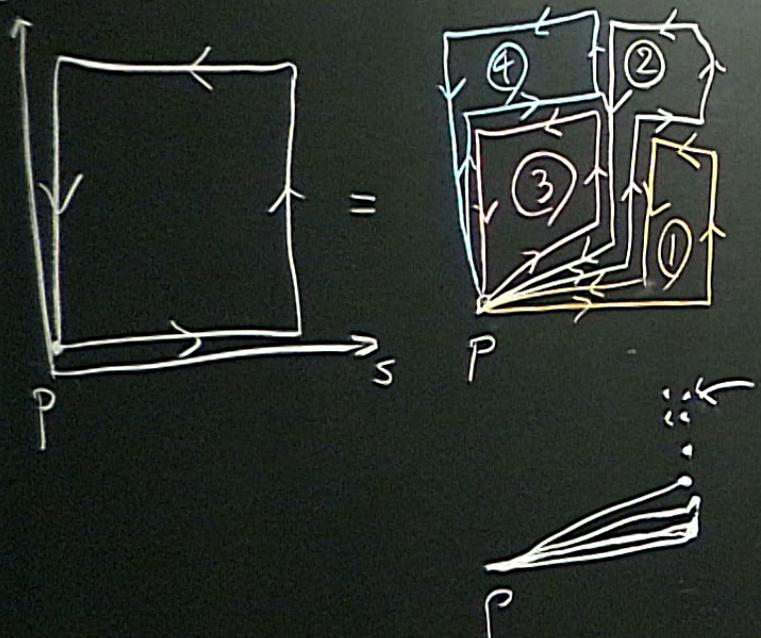
$$(W_\gamma)^K_\lambda = P_\alpha \left(e^{-\int d\tau \dot{\gamma}(\tau) P_{\mu \cdot}(\tau)} \right)_\lambda^K$$

in the continuum limit \rightarrow

$$P_S \left(e^{-\iint f^{-1} g^{-1} R_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{ds} \frac{dx^\nu}{dt} g \frac{ds}{dt}} \right)_\lambda^K$$

non-Abelian Stokes' theorem for non-Abelian gauge theories

e.g., Aréféeva 1980.



$$W_\gamma = \mathcal{P}_{s,t} \prod_{\square(s,t)} W_{\square(s,t)} = W_{\textcircled{4}} W_{\textcircled{3}} W_{\textcircled{2}} W_{\textcircled{1}}$$

where

$$W_{\square(s,t)} = f_{(s,t)}^{-1} g_{(s,t)}^{-1} W_{\square} g_{(s,t)} f_{(s,t)}$$

$$\begin{cases} f_{(s,t)\lambda}^K = \mathcal{P}_{s'} \left(e^{-\int_0^s ds' \frac{dx^\mu}{ds}(s',t) \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}(s',t)} \right)_\lambda \\ g_{(s,t)\lambda}^K = \mathcal{P}_{t'} \end{cases}$$

Stokes' theorem:

$$\int_{\partial \Sigma} \omega = \int_{\Sigma} d\omega$$

\uparrow $n-1$ dim \uparrow n -dim

e.g., in 3-dim, \mathcal{QED} ,

$$\oint_{\lambda = \partial S} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{C} = \int_S \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} \stackrel{\vec{B} = \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}}{=} \int_S \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S} = \Phi_B$$

\uparrow
 magnetic flux

$$\oint_{S = \partial V} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int_V dV \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \rightarrow \text{surface indep.}$$

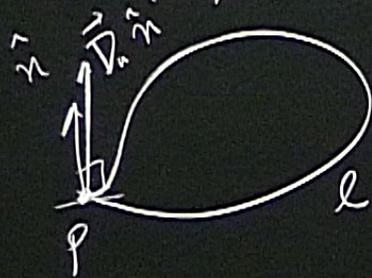
\uparrow
 $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0$

$$\int_{S_1} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int_{S_2} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{S}$$

$\partial S_1 = \partial S_2 = \ell$

on a total geodesic surface, normal vector

$$II(u, v) = - \langle \underbrace{\nabla_u \hat{n}}_{\text{tangent vectors}}, v \rangle = 0$$



$$\Rightarrow W_Y \in SO(2)$$

$$\Rightarrow [W_{\hat{n}}(p), W_{\hat{n}}(p)] = 0$$

no more surface ordering.

$$SO(d) \rightarrow SO(2) \oplus SO(d-2)$$

