

Title: The Discrete Geometries of Schwinger-Keldysh and Correlation Functions

Speakers: Hadleigh Frost

Collection/Series: Mathematical Physics

Subject: Mathematical physics

Date: April 02, 2026 - 3:00 PM

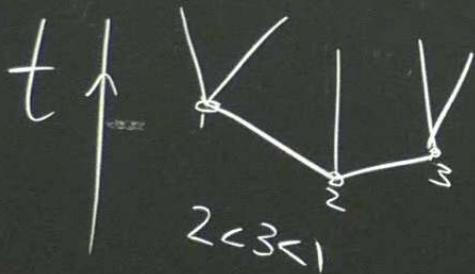
URL: <https://pirsa.org/26040078>

Abstract:

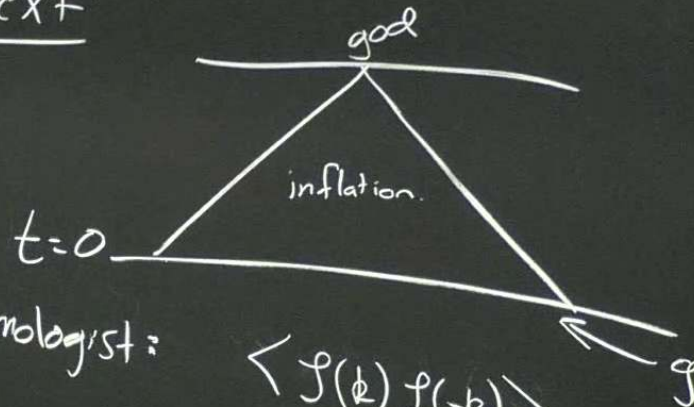
Cosmological correlation functions probe the origins of structure in the universe. We view them as a prototype for time-dependent correlators and finite-temperature correlators in QFT. I will share recent work on the simple discrete geometries and spacetime pictures that control these correlators at tree-level, give a single origin of the range of polytopes previously studied in connection with cosmological correlators, and recast the Born rule as one expansion among many. Based on 2602.21194 and ongoing work. N.B. A math version of this talk will be given on the same day in the Waterloo combinatorics seminar, and people may wish to "pick their flavor" of talk.

Discrete, SK, Cosmology

Lotter 2602.21194
Glew



Context



Cosmologist:

$$\langle f(k) f(-k) \rangle$$

$$g \sim -N^2 dt^2 + e^{2\phi} a^2(t) \times (dx + \dots)^2$$

$$\langle f(k_1) f(k_2) f(k_3) \rangle$$

$$f^M = -0.9 \pm 5.4$$

SIMPLE QFT:

$$S = \int (\partial\varphi)^2/2 + m^2\varphi^2 + \frac{1}{3!}\varphi^3$$

$$\Psi[\varphi_{t=0}] = \langle \varphi | U_{-\infty,0} | \Omega \rangle$$

$$\langle \varphi(k_1) \dots \varphi(k_n) \rangle = \langle \Omega | U_{-\infty,0}^\dagger \varphi \dots \varphi U_{-\infty,0} | \Omega \rangle$$

$$= \int D\varphi |\varphi|^2 \varphi(k_1) \dots \varphi(k_n)$$

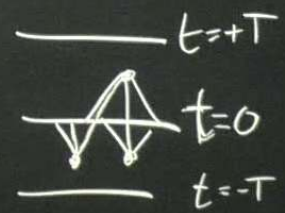
$\{U, S, \text{and } \varphi\}$
 angle
 affine frame
 HHH

SK:

$$\langle \Omega_{in} | U_{-T,0}^\dagger \varphi \dots \varphi U_{-T,0} | \Omega_{in} \rangle$$

$$T \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \Omega_{in} = \Omega$$

$$\text{Tr}_{\varphi \in H} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \text{Tr}(\rho^{-\beta H} \varphi_1 \dots \varphi_n)$$



CAUTION

CAUTION

SK Calculation

$$\Psi(t, \underline{x}) = \int d\tilde{k} e^{-i\tilde{k} \cdot \underline{x}} \psi(t, \tilde{k})$$

Prop. $(-\partial_t^2 + E^2) G(t, E) = \delta(t)$ $E = \|\tilde{k}\|$

$$G(t, E) \rightarrow 0 \quad |t| \rightarrow \infty$$

$$G(t, t'; E) = \frac{1}{2E} e^{-E|t-t'|}$$

Dirichlet. $G_D(t, t'; E) \rightarrow 0 \quad t \rightarrow 0$

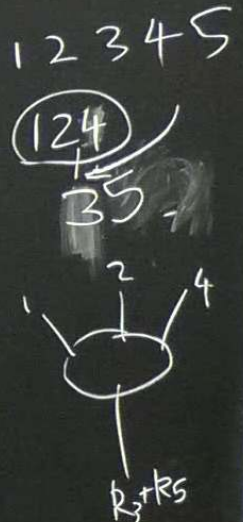
$$G_D(t, t'; E) = G(t, t'; E) - G(t, t'; E)$$

Correlator: $C_A = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-\sum E_i |t_i|} \prod_{e=ij} G(t_i, t_j; E)$ $E_I = \sum_{i \in I} k_i$

Wavefunction: $\Psi_A = \int_{-\infty}^0 dt e^{-E|t|} \prod_{e=ij} G_D(t_i, t_j; E)$

Born rule: $\langle \psi_1 \dots \psi_n \rangle = \sum_{\pi \text{ part } \{1 \dots n\}} \sum_{\text{Trees on part } \pi_i} \prod_{e \in T} G(2, 4, \pi_i, T)$

If color ordered: $\langle \psi_1 \dots \psi_n \rangle_{col} = \sum_{\pi \text{ noncrossing partition of } 1 \dots n}$ Same



Wavefunction $\sum k_i = 0$ $E_{\mathbf{r}} = \left\| \sum_{i \in \mathbf{r}} \mathbf{k}_i \right\|$

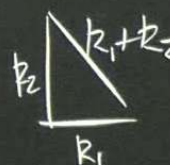
e.g. $\Psi_{123} = \frac{1}{E_1 + E_2 + E_3}$; $\Psi_{234} = \frac{1}{E_2 + E_3 + E_4}$

$\Psi_{12345} = \frac{1}{E_1 + E_{23} + E_{12}} \frac{1}{E_{12} - E_1 - E_2}$

$\Psi_n = \sum_a \Psi_a$

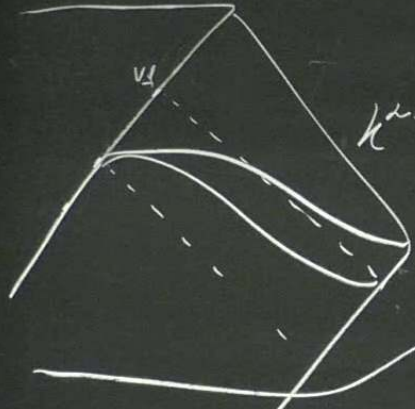
$\frac{1}{|V| + |E|} \frac{1}{E_1} \frac{1}{E_{12}^+} \frac{1}{E_{123}^+} () () ()$

$\frac{1}{E_2 + E_1 + E_2} \frac{1}{E_{123} + E_1 + E_2 + E_3}$



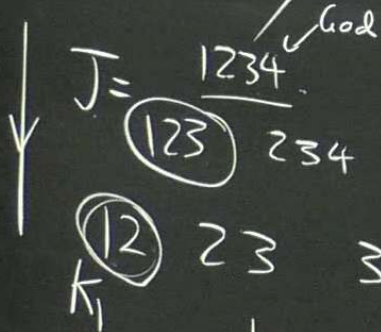
$\Psi_h = \text{Vol Cone} (W_t | t \text{ of } h)$ $W_t \cdot E = E_t$

$= \int dt e^{-tE} = \frac{\det [W_{t_i} \dots W_{t_{N+1|E_1}}]}{\prod W_{t_i} E}$ (E_1, E_2, \dots)

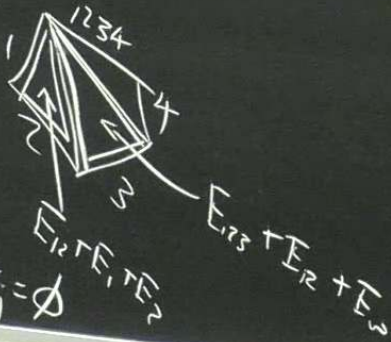


$$k^\mu (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu - g_{\mu\nu} \square + g_{\mu\nu}) \phi = -8\pi G N T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\partial_\nu \phi = -8\pi G_N^{(\alpha)} T_{\nu\alpha} \quad \begin{matrix} \epsilon_I^\pm \\ E_I^\pm \end{matrix}$$



Facets of Cone:

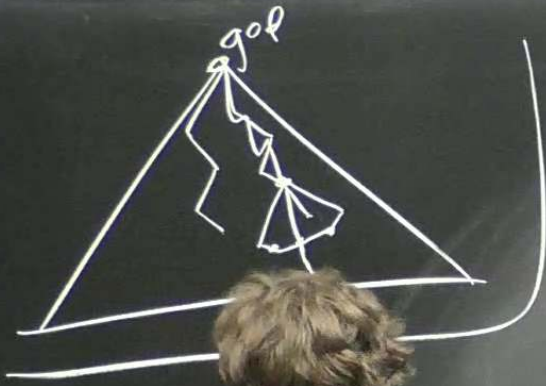


$$A_{123} = \epsilon_{123}^+ - \epsilon_{123}^- \geq 0$$

$$A_{12} = \epsilon_{12}^+ - \epsilon_{12}^- + \epsilon_{123}^+ - \epsilon_{123}^- \geq 0$$

$$\epsilon_I^\pm \geq 0$$

$K_i \subseteq J \quad K_i \cap K_j = \emptyset$



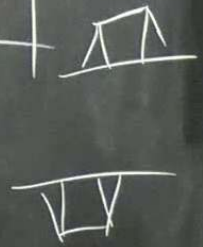
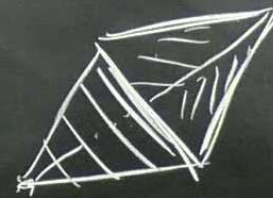
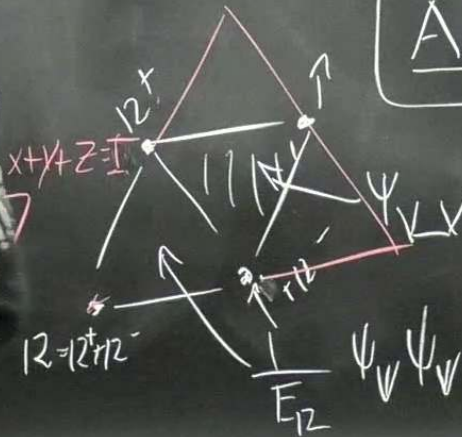
Correlator

Edner: 1 6 13 13 6 1

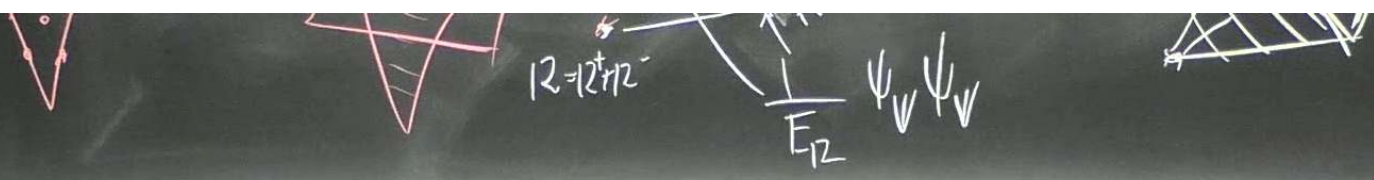
$$C_{\psi\psi\psi} = \frac{19 \text{ term cubic}}{(\text{same}) E_{12} E_{123}}$$

Facets:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} A_{123} + t_{123}^+ &\geq 0 \\ A_{12} + t_{12}^+ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}}$$



CAUTION
 Bewahren Sie diesen und weitere Original-
 Kopien sorgfältig auf und vermeiden Sie
 jegliche Kopier- und Reproduktionsversuche.
 © 2019 Universität Wien
 www.univie.ac.at



$$G_{\beta}(t, t'; E) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{1}{2E} e^{-E(t-t' + m\beta)}.$$

$$(G_T) \quad \frac{1}{2E} (1 - e^{-ET}) \int e^{-Et}.$$

CAUTION
 Do not touch the surface of the blackboard.
 All other instructions on the board.
 Please do not touch the board.