Jakub Gizbert-Studnicki

in collaboration with J. Ambjørn, A. Görlich and D. Németh

From IR to UV Making contact of CDT with FRG

10th Conference of POTOR Kazimierz Dolny, 18th September 2024

Is Lattice Quantum Gravity Asymptotically Safe?

Making contact between Causal Dynamical Triangulations and the Functional Renormalization Group. [arXiv:2408.07808]



- As early as in 1916 Einstein* pointed out that "quantum theory would have to modify not only Maxwellian electrodynamics, but also the new theory of gravitation"
- After more than 100 years a complete, consistent quantum theory of gravity is still missing
- ♦ We have a number of interesting but incomplete research programs
 - \diamond string theory
 - $\diamond~$ loop quantum gravity
 - \diamond group field theory
 - \diamond causal set theory
 - \diamond noncommutative geometry _ _ .

asymptotic safety (functional RG flow)

Jattice QFT approaches (CDT, quantum Regge_colc., ...)



A. Einstein triangulation by J. Bryan

* Sitzungsber. Preuss. Akad. Wiss. Berlin (1916) 688

- \diamond Lack of experimental guidance
- ♦ Conceptual issues
 - ♦ QFT based on Einstein's GR is perturbatively non-renormalizable in D > 2 dimensions
- One is forced to use non-perturbative &
 background-independent approaches (difficult !)
- Non-perturbative renormalizability of QG ?
 Asymptotic safety (AS) conjecture:
 - renormalization group (RG) flow leads to a non-Gaussian UV fixed point
 - \diamond where QG becomes scale invariant (UV complete)



K. S. Stelle, Phys. Rev. D 16 (1977) 953

- \diamond Lack of experimental guidance
- ♦ Conceptual issues
 - QFT based on Einstein's GR is perturbatively non-renormalizable in D > 2 dimensions
 - Renormalizable extensions (eg. with R² terms) have problems with unitarity
- One is forced to use non-perturbative & background-independent approaches (difficult !)
- Non-perturbative renormalizability of QG ?
 Asymptotic safety (AS) conjecture: S. Weinberg, 1980
 - renormalization group (RG) flow leads to a non-Gaussian UV fixed point
 - ♦ where QG becomes scale invariant (UV complete)
 - in the vicinity of the UV fixed point the RG flow trajectories lie in a finite dim. hypersurface (in the theory space of coupling constants): only a finite numer of relevant couplings should be fixed (measured) to make QG predictive at all scales





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- Lattice QFT formulation can allow to check AS in a unitary, non-perturbative, backgroundindependent & diffeomorphism-invariant QG
 - ♦ we need dynamical lattices (DT) to encode geometric d.o.f.
 - continuum limit (UV fixed point ?) should be associated with a phase transition
 - one must be able to reproduce semi-classical gravity (IR limit)
 - causal structure is an important ingredient: CDT (J. Amjørn, J. Jurkiewicz, R. Loll)

♦ Main goals of QG as a Lattice QFT:

- ♦ Formulate a UV complete (non-perturbatively renormalizable) and unitary theory of QG
- ♦ with a correct IR limit (consistent with GR)
- \diamond Study the emerging background geometry
- $\diamond\,$ and fluctuations around this geometry
- Study properties of a quantum spacetime at the Planck scale; find some non-trivial predictions / observational effects (construct phenomenology ?)
- \diamond (Unify with QFT(s) of the matter content)
- $\diamond \dots$







2D: J. Ambjorn, R. Loll, Nucl.Phys. B 536 (1998) 407

- 3D: J. Ambjorn, J. Jurkiewicz, R. Loll, Phys.Rev.Lett. 85 (2000) 924
- 4D: J. Ambjorn, J. Jurkiewicz, R. Loll, Nucl. Phys. B610 (2001) 347

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Outline

- ♦ Causal Dynamical Triangulations (CDT)
- ♦Phase structure and phase transitions
- *♦Semi-classical phase*
- ♦ Functional Renormalization Group
- *♦RG flow on the lattice*
- \diamond IR limit
- \diamond UV limit
- \diamond *Conclusions*

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- CDT approach to QG is via a lattice QFT, using the path integral (PI) quantization
- \diamond One has to give a precise meaing to:
 - what class of geometries should be included in the PI
 - \diamond what (classical) action should be used
 - which symmetries (GR diffeomorhisms ?) should be preserved and how to do that
 - \diamond what is the integration measure
 - ♦ how to compute the PI in practice
 - how to deal with unitarity and (generic)
 PI divergencies
 - \diamond (how to include matter fields)

$$Z_{QG} = \int_{g \in \frac{Lor(M)}{Diff(M)}} D[g] \exp(i S_{\text{grav}}[g])$$
(Lorenzian) geometries

- CDT approach to QG is via a lattice QFT, using the path integral (PI) quantization
- ♦ CDT (quantum) geometries:
 - In classical GR one deals with smooth (pseudo-)Riemannian manifolds
 - In the PI one should most likely also include non-smooth, but continuous (Lorenzian) geometries
 - CDT assumes globally hypebolic spacetimes which can be foliated into spacial slices of equal cosmological proper time*
 - CDT takes a minimalistic approach and fixes topology of the manifold, with compact space & time periodic b.c. (S¹xS³ or S¹xT³)
 - We use a subset of continuous geometries, the so-called piecewise linear manifolds, that can be constructed from identical simplicial building blocks. We hope they are dense in the set of continuous geometries

* Nature of the imposed foliation is not fully understood: 4-d diffeo. symetry breaking vs convenient gauge choice



- CDT approach to QG is via a lattice QFT, using the path integral (PI) quantization
- ♦ CDT action & diffeom. symmetry:
 - ♦ We use the Einstein-Hilbert action

 - ♦ Curvature is defined by deficit angles around D-2 dim. "hinges" (triangles in 4D)
 - Regge's formulation uses only geometric invariants (geodesic edge lengths and deficit angles) making it coordiante free and therefore manifestly (at least spatial*) diffeomorphism invariant
 - As CDT uses only 2 types of building blocks with fixed edge lenghts the Regge action is very simple

 $D[g] \exp(i S_{\text{grav}}[g])$ $Z_{QG} =$ $g \in \frac{Lor(M)}{Diff(M)}$ (Lorenzian) geometries $Z_{CDT}^{(L)} =$ $\frac{1}{C_T} \exp(i S_R[T])$ triangulations $d^4x\sqrt{-\det g}\left(R-2\Lambda\right)$ $S_{\text{grav}} =$ # 4-simplices # {4,1} 4-simpl. # vertices $+k_0N_0 + K_4N_4 +$ (4,1) $S_R =$ $\alpha (l_t^2 = -\alpha l_s^2)$ 1/GΛ

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- CDT approach to QG is via a lattice QFT, using the path integral (PI) quantization
- ♦ CDT PI measure and MC computations:
 - $\Leftrightarrow CDT uses a trivial measure 1/C_{T}$ (plans to investigate other measures)
 - In order to investigate the 4D PI one has to use Monte Carlo (MC) simulations
 - MC requires Euclidean formulation (Wick's rotation)
 - Due to the CDT imposed time foliation each Lorentzian geometry can be Wick-rotated to an Euclidean geom.
 - ↔ A the level of the Regge action Wick's rotation is achieved by an analytical continuation (α → −α): coupling constants are appropriately changed, but general form of the action S_R remains the same in (L) and (E)

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- CDT approach to QG is via a lattice QFT, using the path integral (PI) quantization
- ♦ CDT unitarity and PI divergencies:
 - CDT has a (time) reflection positive*, symmetric and bounded transfer matrix. In standard lattice QFT it guarantees unitarity if continuum limit exists
 - For finite N₄ there is no problem with the PI convergence as the number of configurations is exponentially bounded
 - ♦ Lattice spacing (l_s) plays a role of the UV cutoff l_s^{-1} as in ordinary lattice QFT
 - ♦ We want to investigate continuum limit ($l_s \rightarrow 0, N_4 \rightarrow \infty$), hopefully consistent with the UV fixed point of QG
 - CDT does not assume that spacetime is discrete in any sense !

* TM² is positive-definite

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♦ Phase structure:

- ♦ We perform MC simulations with fixed N₄ The cosmological constant K₄ is tuned to N₄ and we effectively have two coupling constants: k₀ and Δ
- ♦ Four phases (A, B, C_{dS}, C_b) of different generic geometries were discovered
- ♦ The observable*: physical 3-volume of spatial layers: $V_3(t_i) \propto N_3(i) \cdot l_s^3$
- In toroidal CDT one can even visualize generic geometries using "harmonic" coordinates defined by scalar fields
- ♦ One can also use "automatic" Machine Learning classification methods !



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♦ Phase structure:

physical proper time $t_i = i \cdot l_t$,

lattice time

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 spatial layers: V₃(t_i) ∝ N₃(i) · l_s³ ← lattice spacin¹g⁰
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- \diamond The difference between phases C_{dS} and C_b is captured by effective dimensions
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lattice spacing

of tetrahedra at lattice time i

Spherical CDT Phase C_{dS} (sphere) $N_3(k)$ 0.6 Phase C_b (sphere) $N_3(k)$ 12000 r **U**dS 10 000 0.4 8000 ^k A 0.2 4000 C_b 2000 0.0 Phase B (sphere) -Rhase A (sphere) *N*₃(k) $N_3(k)$ B 20.000 -0.2 5000 15 000 3 3000 2000 k_0 **Toroidal CDT** Phase C_{dS} (torus) $N_3(k)$ 0.0 Phase Ch (torus) N₃(k) 14 000 C_{dS} 12 000 0.4 10 000 8000 <⊉™ C_b 4000 0.2 2000 0.0 Phase B (torus) $N_3(\mathbf{k})$ 40.000 -0.2 30 000 2 3 4 5 20 000 k_0 10 000

-10-* This is formally not a gauge invariant observable if we insist to keep full 4-d diffeo. symetry

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 * Dimensional reduction appears in many approaches to QG
 (S. Carlip, CQG 34 (2017) 193001)



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♦ Phase transitions:

- Even though we don't study changes of the field configurations on the fixed spacetime but the changes of the spacetime geometry itself, we assume that it makes sense to use standard (lattice) statistical physics techniques
- They require to define order parameters which capture symmetry differences between generic configurations (geometries) in different phases
- Finite size scaling analysis is used to distinguish between 1st and 2nd order phase transitions
- ♦ We are especially intersted in phase transitions sourrounding (the semiclassical, see next slides) phase C_{dS}



 OP_{4}

small

large

small

large

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Phase C_{dS} (de Sitter phase) has good semiclassical properties !

- \diamond Effective dimensions consistent with d = 4
- \diamond Dynamicaly emerging background geom. \triangleleft
 - $\langle N_3(i) \rangle$ profile of elongated ($\widetilde{\omega} \neq \omega_0$) 4-sphere

 - $\diamond\,$ local (average) curvature* consistent with S^4
 - ♦ ~homogenous and isotropic** on large scales
- \diamond Minisuperspace behaviour of the scale factor
 - \diamond From quantum fluctuations of $N_3(i)$ one can recover the effective action of the scale factor
 - The effective action is consistent with the MS action (spatial homogeneity and isotropy)

 \diamond This was "derived" from first principles !



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 - \diamond local (average) curvature* consistent with S⁴
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- ♦ Minisuperspace behaviour of the scale factor
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N. Klitgaard, R. Loll, EPJ C 80 (2020) 990

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* Def. by Quantum Ricci Curvature: N. Klitgaard, R. Loll, PRD 97 (2018) 046008 ** Homogeneity measures in CDT: R. Loll, A. Silva, PRD 107 (2023) 086013



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 $V_4 = l_s^4 \left(\frac{\omega_0}{\infty}\right)^4$

 Λ is fixing V₄

 $1/\left(\frac{\widetilde{\omega}}{\omega}\right)^{4/3} \widetilde{\Gamma} l_s^2$

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- - ♦ Consider a (potenitally ∞ dim.) space of all effective actions* of QG (or in practice their truncations)
 - Alternatively one has a space of scale-dependent dimensionless couplings related to operators appering in the effective actions
 - \diamond Compute the RG flow (based on solving β-functions) of the couplings with the cutoff scale k
 - ↔ Find RG trajectories linking IR (k → 0) and UV (k → ∞) fixed points (β = 0) of the RG flow

♦ Asymptotic Safety conjecture (S. Weinberg)

- Scale invariance of the UVFP imposes strong constraints on most operators (couplings)
- On RG flow trajectories leading from IR to UV fixed points there is only a finite numer of relevant operators (finite dim. subspace of relevant couplings)
- Even though the values of the couplings in the UV limit are not small one one can get a predictive theory of QG at all scales (nonperturbative renormalizability)
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* Effective actions govern the expectation value and quantum fluctuations of the field





♦ Making contact of FRG with CDT:

$$S_k = \frac{1}{16\pi G_k} \int d$$

 $\frac{1}{\pi G_{\mathbf{k}}} \int d^4x \sqrt{\det g} (R - 2\Lambda_{\mathbf{k}}) + gauge + ghost$

- In CDT one measures the (minisuperspace) Einstein-Hilbert effective action
- ♦ Therefore in FRG we take the simplest Einstein-Hilbert truncation of the (Euclidean) effective actions with two scale-dependent couplings: G_k , Λ_k
- An extremum of the E-H effective action is a de Sitter universe (the four-sphere S⁴) with a 4-volume given by the cosmological constant V₄ ∝ Λ_k^{-2}
- ♦ As in CDT we measure only a behaviour of the scale factor a(t) (or the 3-volume $V_3(t)$) we will also consider only minisuperspace fluctuations
- ↔ The (relative) fluctuations are goverened by a dimensionless effective coupling $g_{ef}^2 ∝ G_k Λ_k$
- $\diamond~$ There are both the IR and the UV fixed points
 - ♦ In the IR $(k \to 0)$: $G_k \Lambda_k \to 0$ as $G_k \to G_0 \approx G_N$, $\Lambda_k \to 0$ so one recovers semiclassical universe with $V_4 \to \infty$

$$\Rightarrow \text{ In the UV } (k \to \infty): G_k \Lambda_k \to g^* \lambda^* \sim 1 \text{ as} \\ G_k \to g^* k^{-2} \to 0, \Lambda_k \to \lambda^* k^2 \to \infty \text{ so } V_4 \to 0$$



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∻

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 \diamond There are both the IR and the UV fixed points

- ♦ In the IR $(k \to 0)$: $G_k \Lambda_k \to 0$ as $G_k \to G_0 \approx G_N$, $\Lambda_k \to 0$ so one recovers semiclassical universe with $V_4 \to \infty$
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-14-

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 $S_{k} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_{k}} \int d^{4}x \sqrt{\det g} (R - 2\Lambda_{k}) + gauge + ghost$







-14-

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RG flow on the lattice

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$\diamond~$ 4D ϕ^4 (lattice) field theory example*

- ↔ 2 dimensionless bare couplings: m₀, κ₀
- ↔ for each choice of m_0 , κ_0 one can compute the renormalized m_R , κ_R and the correl. length ξ
- \Rightarrow physical correl. length $\xi_{ph} = m_R^{-1} = \xi l_s$
- ♦ one can find **RG** flow where κ_R , $m_R = const$.
- ↔ there is a phase transition (where ξ → ∞ so following the RG flow trajectory $l_s → 0$)

♦ The IR limit

- ↔ we approach the phase transition (ξ → ∞) keeping the bare coupling κ_0 fixed
- ↔ we cross the $κ_R$ = const RG trajectories in the direction of $κ_R$ → $κ_R^{ir}$

- ↔ we approach the phase transition (ξ → ∞) keeping the renormalized coupling κ_R fixed
- $\Leftrightarrow~$ in order to do that we have to tune the bare coupling κ_0



$$L = (\partial_{\mu}\phi)^{2} + m_{o}\phi^{2} + \kappa_{0}\phi^{4}$$
$$\kappa_{R} \propto \Gamma_{4}(p_{i} = 0; m_{0}, \kappa_{0})$$



-15-

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*Unfortunately there is no UV fixed point in ϕ^4 -15-



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♦ CDT

- ♦ 3 dimensionless bare couplings: k_0 , Δ , K_4
- ♦ The bare cosmol. const. K_4 is related to lattice volume $N_4 : K_4 \to K_4^{crit}(k_0, \Delta)$ when $N_4 \to ∞$
- ♦ One can argue (based on 2-dim CDT results) that incide phase C_{dS} the correl. length: $ξ ∝ N_4^{1/4}$
- ♦ We assume that the CDT MS effective action is consistent with the E-H truncation in FRG
- This implies relations between the effective couplings
- \diamond The IR limit
 - ↔ we will approach the $K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface (ξ → ∞) keeping the bare couplings k_0 , Δ fixed
 - \diamond we associate it with the IR limit of FRG
- ♦ The UV limit
 - ↔ we will approach the $K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface (ξ → ∞) tuning the bare couplings k_0 , Δ such that the effective coupling GΛ stays fixed
 - \diamond we associate it with the UV limit of FRG16-



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♦ The IR limit

- $\begin{array}{c} k \rightarrow 0 : \ G_k \Lambda_k \rightarrow 0 \\ G_k \rightarrow G_0 \approx G_N, \Lambda_k \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$
- $↔ we will approach the K_4^{+}(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface (ξ → ∞) keeping the bare couplings k₀, Δ fixed
- ♦ we associate it with the IR limit of FRG

\diamond The UV limit

- ↔ we will approach the $K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface (ξ → ∞) tuning the bare couplings k_0 , Δ such that the effective coupling GΛ stays fixed
- \diamond we associate it with the UV limit of FRG16-



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- \diamond This implies relations between the effective couplings $k \to 0: \ G_k \Lambda_k \to 0$ $G_k \to G_0 \approx G_N, \Lambda_k \to 0$

\diamond The IR limit

- \Leftrightarrow we will approach the $K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface $(\xi \to \infty)$ keeping the bare couplings k_0 , Δ fixed
- $\begin{array}{c} \Leftrightarrow \text{ we associate it with the IR-limit-of FRG} \\ \hline k \to \infty : \ G_k \Lambda_k \to g^* \lambda^* \\ \hline G_k \to g^* k^{-2}, \ \Lambda_k \to \lambda^* k^2 \end{array}$

- \Leftrightarrow we will approach the $K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface $(\xi \to \infty)$ tuning the bare couplings k_0 , Δ such that the effective coupling $G\Lambda$ stays fixed
- \diamond we associate it with the UV limit of FRG₁₆₋



IR limit

IR limit

♦ IR limit

- $↔ we approach the K_4^*(k_0, \Delta)$ critical surface (ξ → ∞, i.e. $N_4 → \infty$) keeping the bare couplings k₀, Δ fixed
- \Leftrightarrow for fixed k_0 , Δ we have $\tilde{\Gamma}$, $\tilde{\omega} = const. > 0$
- ♦ from FRG for $k \rightarrow 0$: $G_k \rightarrow G_0 \approx G_N = \ell_{Pl}^2$
- ♦ therefore in CDT lattice spacing remains constant : $l_s \sim \ell_{Pl}$
- ♦ as $N_4 \rightarrow \infty$ and $l_s > 0$ the volume of the CDT universe $V_4 \rightarrow \infty$
- ♦ this is consistent with FRG as for $k \to 0$: $\Lambda_k \to 0 \text{ so } V_4 \propto \Lambda_k^{-2} \to \infty$
- CDT (relative) fluctuations vanish and one reproduces (semi) classical spacetime
- ♦ this is also consistent with FRG where $\frac{G_k \Lambda_k \rightarrow 0}{G_k \Lambda_k} = 0$



 $V_4 = l_s^4 \left(\frac{\omega_0}{\infty}\right)^{4/3}$

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 $124\pi G =$

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- ♦ we approach the K^{*}₄(k₀, Δ) critical surface (ξ → ∞, i.e. N₄ → ∞) tuning the bare couplings k₀, Δ such that the effective G_kΛ_k = g^{*}λ^{*} = const
- ♦ from FRG: $G_k \rightarrow g^* k^{-2} \rightarrow 0$
- ♦ therefore in CDT : $l_s \sim k^{-1} \rightarrow 0$
- ♦ (relative) fluctuations stay constant
- ♦ This requires finding RG flow trajectories $\binom{k_0(N_4), \Delta(N_4)}{parametrized by N_4}$
- ♦ Is only possible by approaching the $C_{dS} A \text{ phase transition line}$
 - $\diamond \,$ we fix Δ ($\Delta=0$)* and change only k_0

 - the results show that it may be possible to approach the UV limit
 - \diamond however it is done at the 1st order transition



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- ♦ Is only possible by approaching the $C_{dS} A \text{ phase transition line}$
 - \Leftrightarrow we fix Δ ($\Delta = 0$)* and change only k_0
 - ↔ one can compute critical exponents related to scaling of Γ and ω̃ at the transition
 - the results show that it may be possible to approach the UV limit
 - ♦ however it is done at the 1st order transition



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 $\kappa_0^{ir} = 0$

♦ UV limit

- $\Rightarrow we approach the K_4^*(k_0, \Delta) \text{ critical surface}_{15000} \\ (\xi \to \infty, \text{ i.e. } N_4 \to \infty) \text{ tuning the bare} \\ \text{ couplings } k_0, \Delta \text{ such that the effective} \\ G_k \Lambda_k = g^* \lambda^* = const$
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 κ_0

 κ_0^{uv}

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 κ_0

 κ_0^{uv}

Conclusions

- CDT is a lattice QFT and a promising candidate for a unitary and (if asymptotic safety is valid) UV complete (?) theory of QG formulated in a fully non-perturbative and background independent way
- ♦ One can study dynamically emerging background geometry and quantum fluctuations
- \diamond CDT has a rich phase structure including the semi-classical phase C_{dS}
- Phase C_{dS} is surrounded by a 2nd order phase transition (in S³ CDT) & 1st order phase transitions with potentially higher order endpoints
- CDT can provide independent tests of the asymptotic safety conjecture in a fully nonperturbative setting, not dependent on FRG truncations
- One can make contact with FRG approach to QG by defining RG flow in CDT and search for the UV fixed point (?). The results seem promising.
- \diamond Open problems and questions:
 - ♦ the UV limit of CDT is obtained at the 1st order phase transition (non-standard)
 - \diamond this is possible because we <u>assumed</u> (following 2-dim CDT) that $\xi \propto N_4^{1/4}$
 - \Leftrightarrow flow in FRG cutoff (k) seems to be independent from the flow in the CDT bare coupling space (k_0, Δ) and thus renormalized $\tilde{\Gamma}$, $\tilde{\omega}$. Probably more "observables" needed.



Thank You !

