

The Tensor Track

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There are many approaches to quantum gravity: [string theory](#), [M-theory](#), [holography and AdS/CFT](#), higher spins, asymptotic safety, causal dynamical triangulations, loop quantum gravity, causal sets, Horava-Lifschitz gravity, ...

In 2010 Gurau discovered the tensor $1/N$ expansion, and in 2011, I coined the name “tensor track” for our program to explore this [new and exciting framework](#), since

- it may lead to interesting results for [quantum gravity](#) because it is related to [discretized random geometry](#) pondered by Einstein-Hilbert action
- It should be useful in other domains: statistical mechanics, condensed matter, disordered systems, [non-linear random flows](#), data analysis ...

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Simpler situation in $d = 2$

Three approaches to two-dimensional quantum gravity

- Random Matrices and Surface Triangulations
- Liouville Theory
- Moduli Spaces of Riemann Surfaces

They are essentially equivalent (Miller-Sheffield...)

The tensor track is an attempt to extend the first approach to higher dimensions.

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Quantizing Gravity \Leftrightarrow Randomizing Geometry

$$Z \simeq \sum_S \int Dg \ e^{\int_S A_{EH}(g)}$$

- How to sum over metrics ($\int Dg$)?
- Should we sum over space time topologies (\sum_S)? Probably **Yes** (Maldacena...)
- Difficult problem, huge gauge invariance \Rightarrow discretize the problem

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Regge calculus (60's) – > matrix models, 80's : David, Kazakov...
– > tensor models, 90's: Ambjorn, Durhuus, Jonsson, M. Gross, Sasakura...

Advantages

- No space-time to start with (background independence)
- No need for any gauge fixing (like in Wilson's lattice gauge theory)
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$d = 2$: Matrix Models

$$Z_{matrix} = \int dM e^{-\frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}M^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{N}}\text{Tr}M^3}$$

- Feynman graphs are **ribbon** graphs, hence have **faces**. 't Hooft $1/N$ expansion is dominated by **planar graphs**

$$Z_{matrix} = \sum_{n,g} a_{n,g} \lambda^n N^{2-2g}, \quad 2g - 2 = V - E + F \quad (1.1)$$

- \exists critical coupling λ_c . The $N \rightarrow \infty, \lambda \rightarrow \lambda_c$ single scaling limit leads to the **brownian sphere**.
- Double scaling limit, topological recursion... incorporate **all genera**.

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Discretized Einstein-Hilbert Action in dimension d

On a triangulation with Q_d equilateral d -simplices and Q_{d-2} $(d-2)$ -simplices:

$$A_{EH} = e^{\kappa_1 Q_{d-2} - \kappa_2 Q_d}.$$

On the dual graph G : $Q_d \rightarrow V$, number of vertices; $Q_{d-2} \rightarrow F$, number of faces, hence Regge action for equilateral simplices becomes

$$A_G(N) = \lambda^V N^F$$

the amplitudes of rank d tensor models.

The exact correspondence is (Ambjorn)

$$\ln N = \frac{\text{vol}(\sigma_{d-2})}{8G} = \frac{a_d}{G},$$

$$\ln \lambda = \frac{d}{16\pi G} \text{vol}(\sigma_{d-2}) \left(\pi(d-1) - (d+1) \arccos \frac{1}{d} \right) - 2\Lambda \text{vol}(\sigma_d)$$

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Still Problems ($d \geq 3$)

However the early 90's tensor models met some problems:

- no simple homology theory,
- no analog of 't Hooft $1/N$ expansion,
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The introduction of **unsymmetrized tensors** by Gurau (2009) and the subsequent discovery of the tensor $1/N$ expansion (2010) solved these problems

- canonical notion of **faces** and full d -homology,
- $1/N$ expansion, which is **not topological**,
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Random Vectors, Matrices, Tensors

Random Vectors \subset Random Matrices \subset Random Tensors

- Each class is richer than the previous one, having more and more invariants
- Each class has some universal aspects and a different $1/N$ expansion
- Each class is connected to the discretized random geometric approach to quantum gravity, where roughly speaking rank \simeq dimension
- Each class has or should have many concrete applications

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The Colored $U(N)$ Tensor Model

- uses $D + 1$ random tensors;
- its Feynman graphs are dual to **simplicial** (orientable) triangulations

Probability measure

$$d\nu = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{i, n_i} \frac{dT_{n_i}^i d\bar{T}_{\bar{n}_i}^i}{2\pi} e^{-S(T, \bar{T})}$$

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^D \bar{T}^i \cdot T^i + \frac{\lambda}{N^{D(D-1)/4}} \sum_{\{n\}} \prod_{i=0}^D T_{n_i}^i \prod_{i < j} \delta_{n_i, n_j} + cc$$

where $\sum_{\bar{n}}$ denotes the sum over all indices n_j from 1 to N . The $\frac{(D+1)D}{2}$ identifying δ functions follow the pattern of edges of the K_{D+1} complete graph on $D + 1$ vertices.

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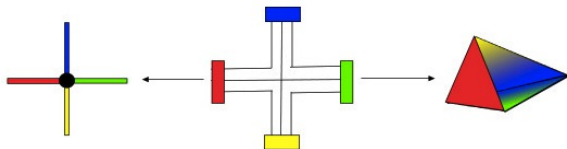
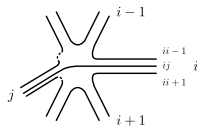
$$d\nu = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{i, n_i} \frac{dT_{n_i}^i d\bar{T}_{\bar{n}_i}^i}{2\pi} e^{-S(T, \bar{T})}$$

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^D \bar{T}^i \cdot T^i + \frac{\lambda}{N^{D(D-1)/4}} \sum_{\{n\}} \prod_{i=0}^D T_{n_i}^i \prod_{i < j} \delta_{n^{ij}, n^{ji}} + cc$$

where $\sum_{\bar{n}}$ denotes the sum over all indices n_{ij} from 1 to N . The $\frac{(D+1)D}{2}$ identifying δ functions **follow the pattern of edges of the K_{D+1} complete graph** on $D + 1$ vertices.

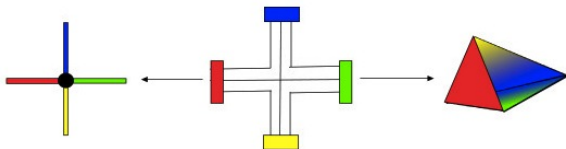
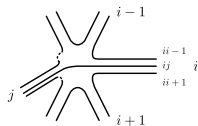
Feynman Graphs

- Colors can conveniently encode strands
- and gluing rules for dual triangulations



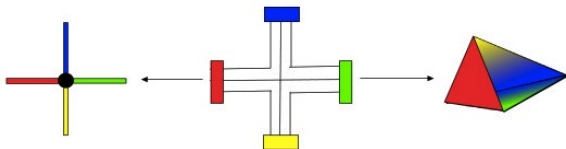
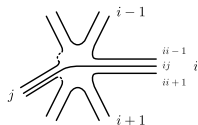
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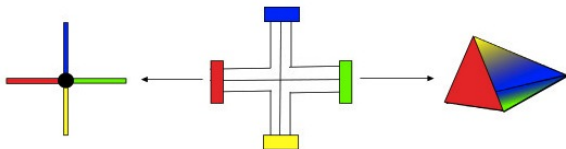
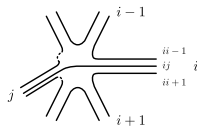
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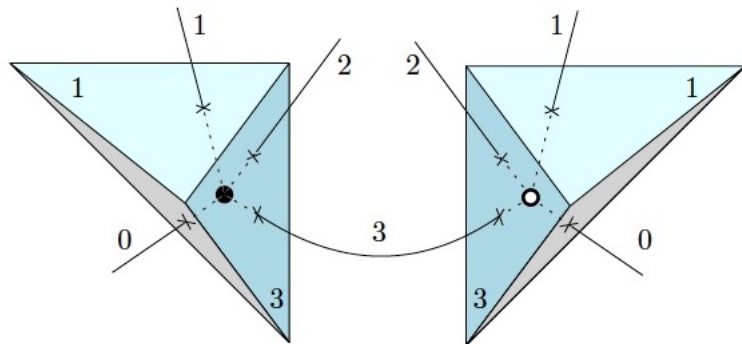


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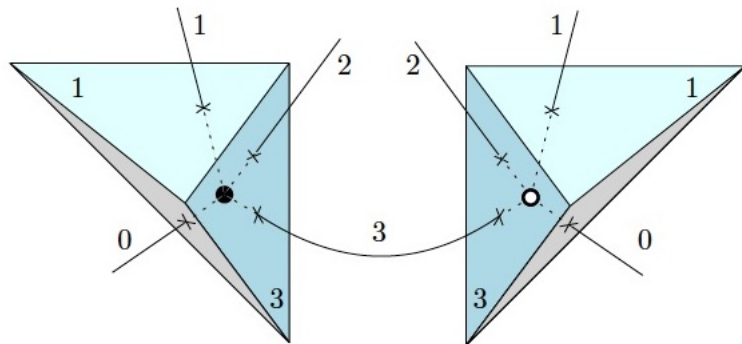
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Feynman Graphs



D -Homology

- For D -regular edge-colored graphs there is a simple canonical definition of faces
- k -dimensional objects = connected components with k colors
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Basic objects: $U(N)^{\otimes d}$ tensor invariants = regular d -edge-colored connected bipartite graphs

- are dual to colored triangulations
- are the interactions (vertices) of rank- d random tensors
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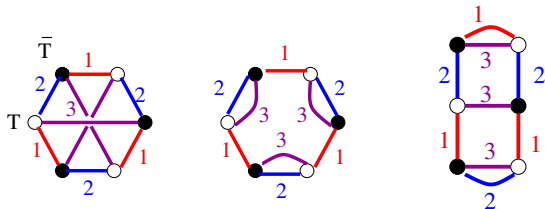
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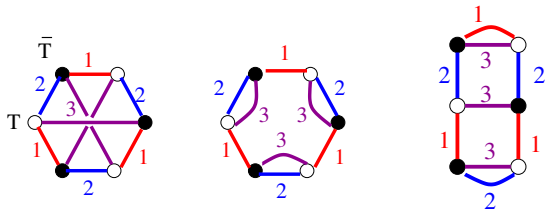
Tensor Invariants



Tensor invariants can be counted as equivalence classes of permutations (J. Ben Geloun and S. Ramgoolam)

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 Z_2^c(n) &= 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots & \text{Tr}(MM^\dagger)^n \\
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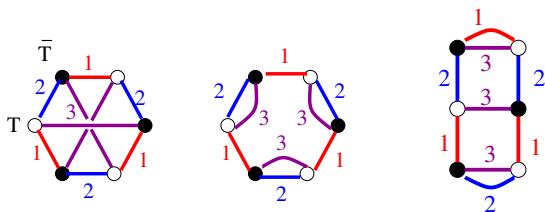
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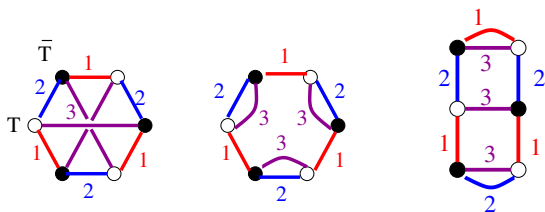
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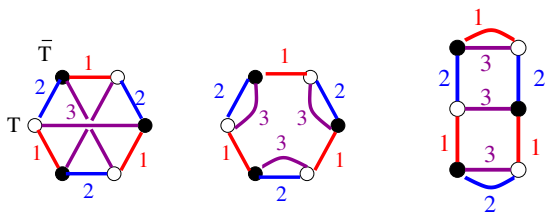
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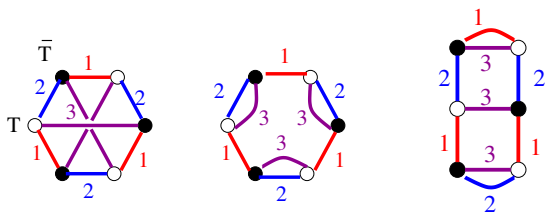
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Melonic Graphs

Elementary vacuum melon: two vertices, $D + 1$ edges:

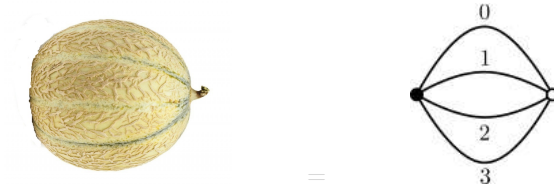


2-point elementary melon of color $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$: cut the line of color i .

Definition (Vacuum) melonic graphs are the graphs obtained from the elementary vacuum melon by finitely many recursive insertions of a 2-point elementary melon of color $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, D\}$ on any edge of the same color i .

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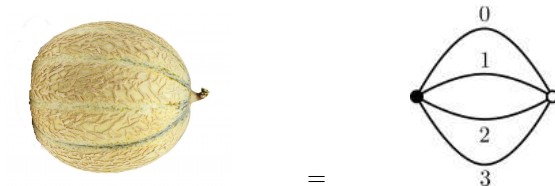


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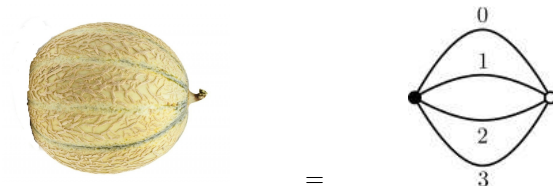


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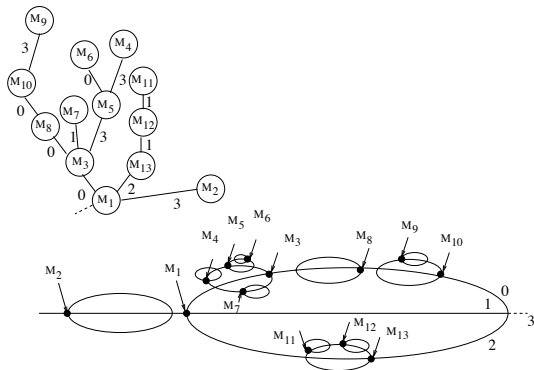
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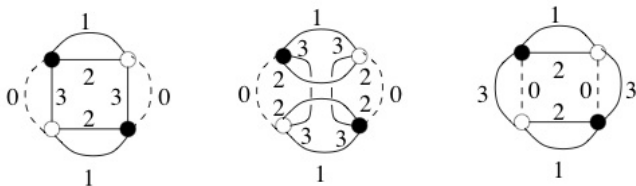
The Result of the Recursion



Jackets, Degree, $1/N$ Expansion

Jacket $J =$ color cycle up to orientation ($D!/2$ at rank D)

Defines a ribbon graph G_J with same number of lines and vertices than G .
 This ribbon graph has a genus g_J .



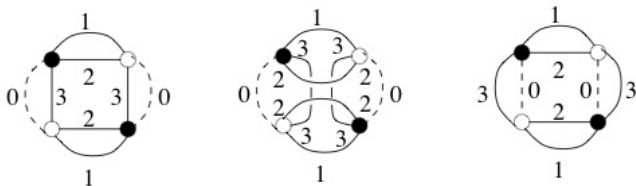
$A(G) \propto N^{D - \frac{2}{D!} \omega(G)}$, where $\omega = \sum_J g(J) \geq 0$, the Gurau degree, governs the expansion.

For $D \geq 3$ this degree is not a topological invariant of the space dual to G .

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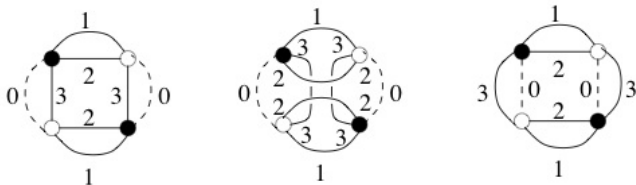
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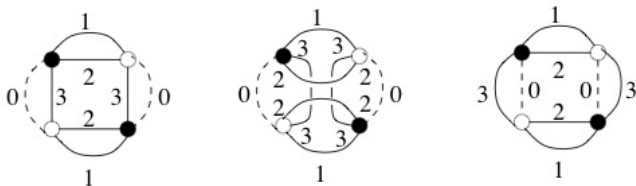
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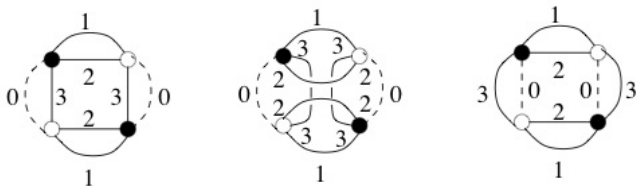
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Counting Faces with Jackets

Each face f_{ij} belongs to $(D-1)!$ jackets (the ones in which i and j are adjacent).

$$2 - 2g_J = V - L + F_J.$$

Since $L = \frac{D+1}{2}V$, summing over all jackets we get

$$\sum_J F_J = (D-1)!F = -2 \sum_J g_J + \frac{D!}{2} \left(2 + \frac{D-1}{2}V \right)$$

$$(D-1)!F - \frac{D!(D-1)V}{4} = D! - 2\omega$$

$$F = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4}V - \frac{2}{D!}\omega$$

Choosing the $N^{-\frac{D(D-1)}{4}}$ scaling we get

$$A_G = |\lambda|^V N^{F - \frac{D(D-1)}{4}V} = |\lambda|^V N^{D - \frac{2\omega}{D!}}$$

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Melonic Graphs have Zero Degree

Recall that $F = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4} V - \frac{2}{D!} \omega$ hence

$$\omega = 0 \iff F = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4} V \quad (A)$$

The elementary melon has $V = 2$ and $F = D(D+1)/2 = D + 2 \frac{D(D-1)}{4}$.

By induction, since melonic insertion increases V by 2 and F by $\frac{D(D-1)}{2}$, any melonic graph has $F = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4} V$ hence has $\omega = 0$, hence is a ZDG.

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Zero Degree Graphs are melonic

Consider a ZDG. Call F_k the number of its faces of length $2k$. Recall that

$$F = \sum_{k \geq 1} F_k = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4} V \quad (A)$$

- Check by edge counting that

$$2F_1 + 4F_2 + \sum_{k \geq 3} 2kF_k = \frac{D(D+1)}{2} V \quad (B)$$

- Compute $2A - B/2$ to prove that

$$F_1 = 2D + \sum_{k \geq 3} (k-2)F_k + \frac{D(D-3)}{4} V \geq 2D$$

Conclude that vacuum (and also 2-point) ZDG's have **faces of length 2**.

- Conclude that any ZDG is a melon, hence $ZDG = \text{Melons}$ (Bonzom, Gurau, Riello, R, 2011, Witten 2016).

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Conclude that vacuum (and also 2-point) ZDG's have **faces of length 2**.

- Conclude that any ZDG is a melon, hence $ZDG = \text{Melons}$ (Bonzom, Gurau, Riello, R, 2011, Witten 2016).

Zero Degree Graphs are melonic

Consider a ZDG. Call F_k the number of its faces of length $2k$. Recall that

$$F = \sum_{k \geq 1} F_k = D + \frac{D(D-1)}{4} V \quad (A)$$

- Check by edge counting that

$$2F_1 + 4F_2 + \sum_{k \geq 3} 2kF_k = \frac{D(D+1)}{2} V \quad (B)$$

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It is more difficult to count faces for symmetrized or antisymmetrized tensors... because the colors are no longer there to help.

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- **Constructive Aspects**
- Numerical exploration of **infrared critical points through FRG**,

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- At the melonic critical point $\lambda = \lambda_c$ the melonic series diverge. The corresponding continuous random space for the graph distance is the **Aldous tree** (Gurau and Ryan 2013)
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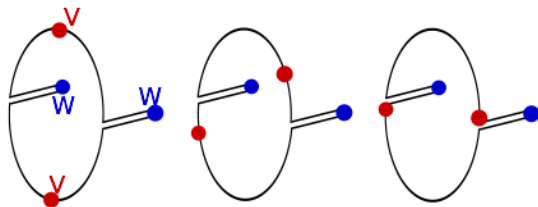
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A bound on chaos

In March 2015 Maldacena, Shenker and Stanford wrote that in any quantum system at temperature T the Lyapunov exponent for transient chaos in a four point correlator maximally spaced on the thermal circle

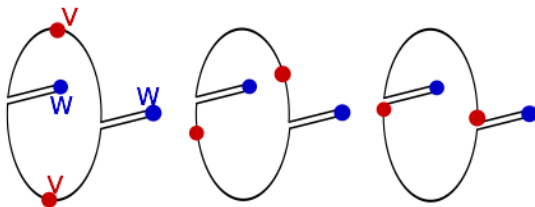


$$F(t) = \text{Trr}[yVyW(t)yVyW(t)], \quad y := Z^{-1/4}e^{-\beta H/4},$$

is bounded by $\lambda_L \leq 2\pi T/\hbar$ under very general assumptions (analyticity in a strip of width $\beta/2$ in complex time and reasonable decay at infinity).

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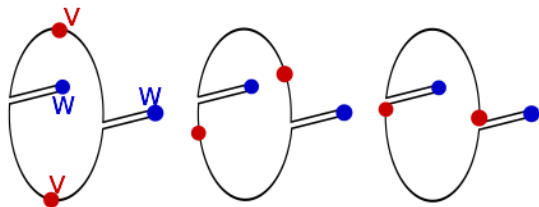


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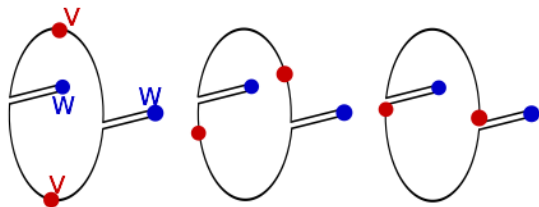


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The MSS bound

More precisely they found that

$$F \simeq \left(a - \frac{b}{N^2} e^{\lambda_L t}\right)^{-b}, t_d < t < t_s$$

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The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev Model

In 2015 Kitaev found a very simple quasi-conformal one dimensional quantum mechanics model which saturates the MSS bound, indicating the surprising presence of a gravitational dual.

The action is

$$I = \int dt \left(\frac{i}{2} \sum_i \psi_i \frac{d}{dt} \psi_i - i^{q/2} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_q \leq N} J_{i_1, \dots, i_q} \psi_{i_1} \dots \psi_{i_q} \right) \quad (3.2)$$

with J a quenched iid random tensor ($\langle J_I J_{I'} \rangle = \delta_{II'} J^2 (q-1)! N^{-(q-1)}$), and ψ an N -vector Majorana Fermion.

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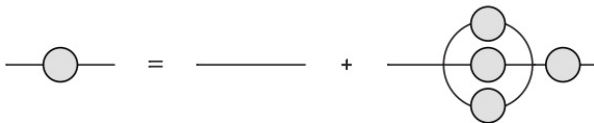
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This model is solvable as $N \rightarrow \infty$, being approximately conformal and reparametrization invariant in the infra-red limit.

The reason it can be solved in the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$ is because the leading Feynman graphs are melons.



For instance the two point function in that limit reads

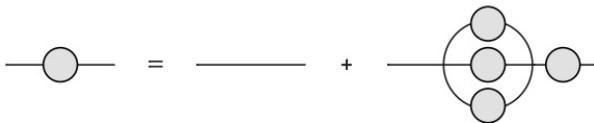
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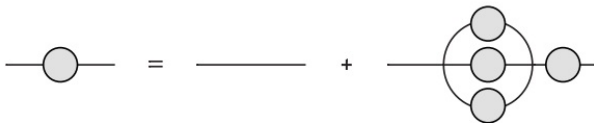
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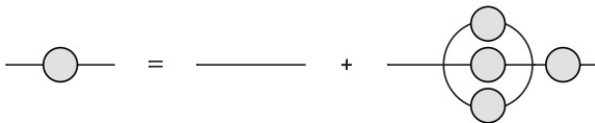
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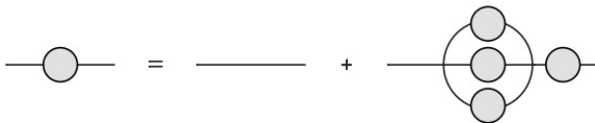
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He proposed a modification to eliminate the quenched disorder with action

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where ψ 's are $D + 1$ fermionic tensors and the pattern of index contraction is exactly the one of Gurau's initial colored tensor model, hence this new model is now called the [Gurau-Witten model](#).

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Random Geometry and Holography

- Tensor models à la Gurau-Witten are true quantum tensor theories, not quenched averages of tensor-vectors theories like SYK.
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Random Holography?

An Application: Melonic Turbulence

Dartois-Evnin-Lionni-R-Valette considered recently (arXiv:1810.01848) a specific **resonant non-linear equation**, namely

$$i \frac{d\alpha_j}{dt}(t) = \sum_{\substack{j', k, k'=0 \\ j+j'=k+k'}}^{\infty} C_{jj'kk'} \bar{\alpha}_{j'}(t) \alpha_k(t) \alpha_{k'}(t)$$

on the (infinite) collection of modes α_n , $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Such equations naturally emerge in many weakly non-linear PDEs with highly resonant linearized spectra (cubic Szegő, non-linear Schrödinger, Bose-Einstein condensates in harmonic trap, non-linear dynamics in AdS space...)

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A Typical Example

$d = 1$ non-linear Schrödinger equation in harmonic trap

$$i \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + x^2 \right) \Psi + g |\Psi|^2 \Psi,$$

The linearized problem ($g = 0$) is a Schrödinger equation with solution

$$\Psi = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha_n \psi_n(x) e^{-iE_n t}, \quad E_n = n + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + x^2 \right) \psi_n = E_n \psi_n,$$

with constant α_n . In the weakly non-linear regime $g \ll 1$, α_n acquire slow drifts. Substituting and projecting on $\psi_k(x)$ yields

$$i \frac{d}{dt} \alpha_j(t) = g \sum_{j', k, k' = \emptyset}^{\infty} C_{jj'kk'} \bar{\alpha}_{j'}(t) \alpha_k(t) \alpha_{k'}(t) e^{i(E_j + E_{j'} - E_k - E_{k'})t},$$

where $C_{jj'kk'} = \int dx \psi_j \psi_{j'} \psi_k \psi_{k'}$. Discarding fast oscillations leads to our equation with **resonant condition** $E_j + E_{j'} - E_k - E_{k'} \equiv j + j' - k - k' = 0$.

Any classical non linear flow $\dot{q}_i = \lambda T_{ijk\dots} q_j q_k \dots$ can be solved in power series in t as a **sum over trees** (Poincaré-Linstedt...).

We Gaussian-average over initial conditions which **excite many modes**

$$\langle \alpha_j(0) \bar{\alpha}_{j'}(0) \rangle_\alpha = \frac{\delta_{jj'}}{N} \chi_N(j),$$

where e.g. $\chi_N(j) = 1$ if $j < N$ and $\chi_N(j) = 0$ if $j \geq N$, and over the non-linear couplings C .

The averaged Poincaré-Linstedt series becomes a **Feynman graphs** series. In turbulence this approach goes back to **Kraichnan (Direct Interaction Approximation)** and in disordered systems goes under the name of **Mode Coupling Approximation (Bouchaud-Cugliandolo 1996)**.

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Our Results

Consider the averaged Sobolev norms

$$S_\gamma(t) = \left\langle \sum_{r \geq 0} r^\gamma \bar{\alpha}_r(t) \alpha_r(t) \right\rangle_{\alpha(0), C}$$

Theorem 1 *The dominant graphs as $N \rightarrow \infty$ for $S_\gamma(t)$ are **exactly the melonic graphs**. The corresponding approximation $S_\gamma^{\text{melo}}(t)$ is an analytic function of time in a disk $|t| < \rho$ of finite radius $\rho > 0$.*

Theorem 2 *For any $\gamma > 1$ there exists a constant δ such that $S_\gamma^{\text{melo}}(t)$ **grows monotonically in time for $t \in [0, \delta]$** .*

It means that *in the melonic approximation*, energy spreads at least for a while from the low modes to the higher modes, as expected in a turbulent cascade. We call this phenomenon *melonic turbulence*,

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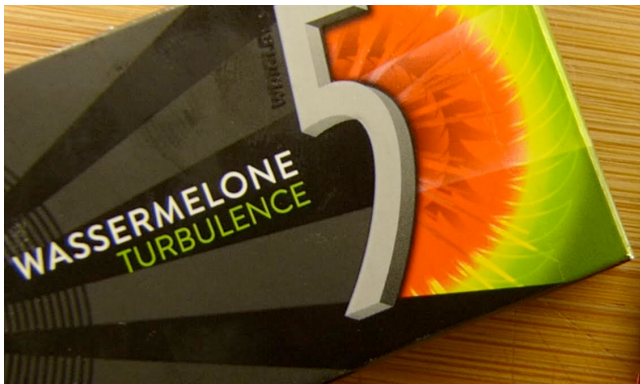
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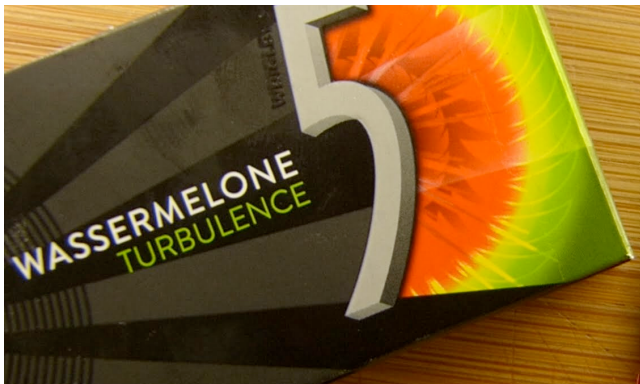
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WasserMelone



although we may have copyright problems...

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Conclusion



A theory of some things...

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with more surprises to come?

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