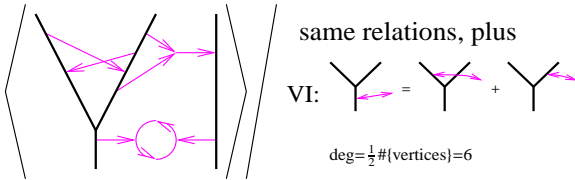
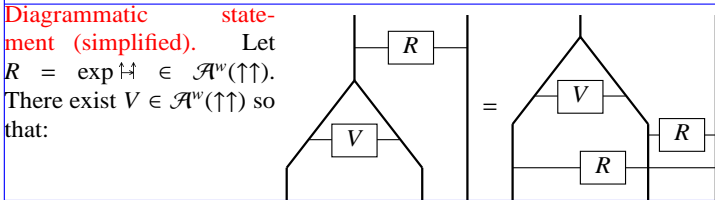


w-Jacobi diagrams and  $\mathcal{A}$ .  $\mathcal{A}^w(Y \uparrow) \cong \mathcal{A}^w(\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow)$  is



**Knot-Theoretic statement (simplified).** There exists a homomorphic expansion  $Z$  for trivalent w-tangles. In particular,  $Z$  should respect R4.



**Algebraic statement (simplified).** With  $r \in \mathfrak{g}^* \otimes \mathfrak{g}$  the identity element and with  $R = e^r \in \hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes \hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$  there exist  $V \in \hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes 2}$  so that  $V(\Delta \otimes 1)(R) = R^{13}R^{23}V$  in  $\hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})^{\otimes 2} \otimes \hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$

**Unitary statement (simplified).** There exists a unitary tangential differential operator  $V$  defined on  $\text{Fun}(\mathfrak{g}_x \times \mathfrak{g}_y)$  so that  $V e^{x+y} = e^x e^y V$  (allowing  $\hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$ -valued functions)

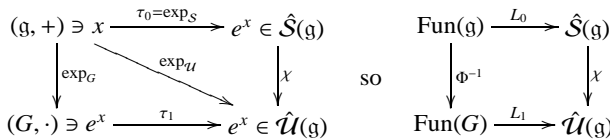
**Group-Algebra statement (simplified).** For every  $\phi, \psi \in \text{Fun}(\mathfrak{g})^G$  (with small support), the following holds in  $\hat{\mathcal{U}}(\mathfrak{g})$ :

$$\iint_{\mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g}} \phi(x)\psi(y)e^{x+y} = \iint_{\mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g}} \phi(x)\psi(y)e^x e^y \quad (\text{shhh, this is Duflo})$$

**Unitary  $\implies$  Group-Algebra.**  $\iint e^{x+y} \phi(x)\psi(y) = \langle 1, e^{x+y} \phi(x)\psi(y) \rangle = \langle V1, V e^{x+y} \phi(x)\psi(y) \rangle = \langle 1, e^x e^y V \phi(x)\psi(y) \rangle = \langle 1, e^x e^y \phi(x)\psi(y) \rangle = \iint e^x e^y \phi(x)\psi(y)$ .

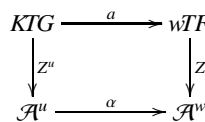
**Convolutions statement (Kashiwara-Vergne, simplified).** Convolutions of invariant functions on a Lie group agree with convolutions of invariant functions on its Lie algebra. More accurately, let  $G$  be a finite dimensional Lie group and let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be its Lie algebra, and let  $\Phi : \text{Fun}(G) \rightarrow \text{Fun}(\mathfrak{g})$  be given by  $\Phi(f)(x) := f(\exp x)$ . Then if  $f, g \in \text{Fun}(G)$  are Ad-invariant and supported near the identity, then  $\Phi(f) \star \Phi(g) = \Phi(f \star g)$ .

**Convolutions and Group Algebras** (ignoring all Jacobians). If  $G$  is finite,  $A$  is an algebra,  $\tau : G \rightarrow A$  is multiplicative then  $(\text{Fun}(G), \star) \rightarrow (A, \cdot)$  via  $L : f \mapsto \sum f(a)\tau(a)$ . For Lie  $(G, \mathfrak{g})$ ,

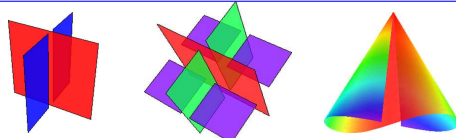


$$\star \text{ in } G : \iint \psi_1(x)\psi_2(y)e^x e^y \quad \star \text{ in } \mathfrak{g} : \iint \psi_1(x)\psi_2(y)e^{x+y}$$

$u \leftarrow w$  The diagram on the right explains the relationship between associators and solutions of the Kashiwara-Vergne problem.



The Full  
2-Knot Story



**Question.** Does it all extend to arbitrary 2-knots (not necessarily “simple”)? To arbitrary codimension-2 knots?

**BF Following [CR].**  $A \in \Omega^1(M = \mathbb{R}^4, \mathfrak{g})$ ,  $B \in \Omega^2(M, \mathfrak{g}^*)$ ,

$$S(A, B) := \int_M \langle B, F_A \rangle.$$

With  $\kappa : (S = \mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow M$ ,  $\beta \in \Omega^0(S, \mathfrak{g})$ ,  $\alpha \in \Omega^1(S, \mathfrak{g}^*)$ , set

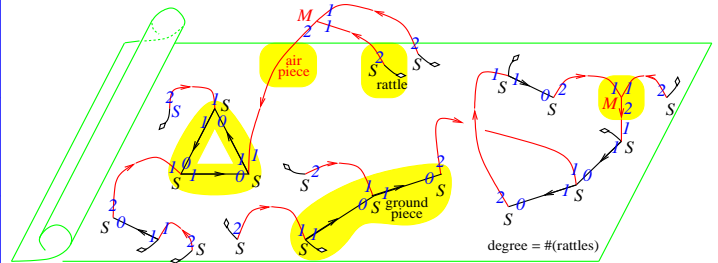
$$O(A, B, \kappa) := \int \mathcal{D}\beta \mathcal{D}\alpha \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_S \langle \beta, d_{\kappa^* A} \alpha + \kappa^* B \rangle\right).$$

**The BF Feynman Rules.** For an edge  $e$ , let  $\Phi_e$  be its direction, in  $S^3$  or  $S^1$ . Let  $\omega_3$  and  $\omega_1$  be volume forms on  $S^3$  and  $S^1$ . Then

$$Z_{BF} = \sum_{\text{diagrams } D} \frac{|D|}{|\text{Aut}(D)|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \dots \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \dots \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \prod_{e \in D} \Phi_e^* \omega_3 \prod_{e \in D} \Phi_e^* \omega_1$$

(modulo some IHX-like relations).

See also [Wa]



**Issues.** • Signs don't quite work out, and BF seems to reproduce only “half” of the wheels invariant on simple 2-knots.

- There are many more configuration space integrals than BF Feynman diagrams and than just trees and wheels.
- I don't know how to define / analyze “finite type” for general 2-knots.
- I don't know how to reduce  $Z_{BF}$  to combinatorics / algebra.

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“God created the knots, all else in topology is the work of mortals.”

Leopold Kronecker (modified)

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