

# 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD report

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# 1 Introduction

This project is concerned with the characterization of *random fuzzy spaces* by means of Markov chain Monte Carlo simulations. The chapter presents a brief introduction to the basic concepts (non-commutative, fuzzy and random).

## 1.1 Non-commutative geometry

The fundamental object of non-commutative geometry is a *spectral triple*  $(A, H, D)$  where  $A$  is an algebra with a representation in a Hilbert space  $H$  and  $D$  is an operator on  $H$ , called Dirac operator. A Riemannian spin manifold can be fully characterized by the commutative algebra  $A$  of functions on the manifold and by the Dirac operator, which encodes the metric [11] [10]. One could then consider a generalization in which the algebra is allowed to be non-commutative. Such geometries arise naturally in physics, and are tightly related to gauge theories [20]. Indeed it has been shown that the Standard Model has the structure of a non-commutative geometry [7] [1] [8]. This suggests a possible path to quantum gravity by replacing the ordinary commutative spacetime by a non-commutative one that presents a commutative behaviour as a limiting case.

## 1.2 Fuzzy spaces

There is a class of non-commutative geometries called *fuzzy spaces*, where the algebra is taken to be  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , the algebra of  $n \times n$  complex matrices, and the Hilbert space is finite dimensional. The Dirac operator of a fuzzy space takes the form [2]:

$$D = \sum_j \alpha_j \otimes [L_j, \cdot] + \sum_k \tau_k \otimes \{H_k, \cdot\} \quad (1)$$

where:

1.  $\tau_k$  and  $\alpha_j$  are respectively Hermitian and anti-Hermitian basis elements of the algebra generated by a  $(p, q)$  Clifford module;
2.  $H_k$  and  $L_j$  are  $n \times n$  Hermitian and anti-Hermitian matrices respectively;
3.  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  indicates a commutator and  $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$  an anti-commutator.

Fuzzy spaces are classified by the pair of integers  $(p, q)$  of the Clifford module. It is worth noting that any choice of  $H_k$  and  $L_j$  gives an admissible Dirac operator, as long as the Hermitian or anti-Hermitian character is preserved. See Appendix A for some remarks on the notation used.

### 1.3 Random geometries

A *random geometry* is a spectral triple  $(A, H, D)$  in which the Dirac operator fluctuates according to a certain probability measure. Here the probability measure is taken to be proportional to:

$$e^{-S[D]} dD \quad (2)$$

for a certain choice of  $S[D]$ . The expectation value of an observable  $f(D)$  on a random geometry is given by:

$$\langle f(D) \rangle = \int f(D) e^{-S[D]} dD. \quad (3)$$

Since  $D$  encodes the metric, this is in clear analogy with the Euclidean path integral of Quantum Field Theory.

So far no assumption has been made on the choice of Dirac operator. The purpose of this project is to study the path integral when  $D$  is taken to be the Dirac operator of a fuzzy space.

Fuzzy spaces provide an alternative type of regularization that is non-lattice [3]. Therefore the study of such random geometries is especially interesting in connection with models of (Euclidean) quantum gravity.

This line of research first appeared in [3], where the following action was considered:

$$S[D] = g_2 \text{Tr } D^2 + \text{Tr } D^4, \quad g_2 \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (4)$$

In the remainder, the action is taken to be of the form of Eq.(4).

The expectation value (3) is computed numerically using Monte Carlo methods. Eq.(3) is therefore replaced by:

$$\langle f(D) \rangle \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(D_i) \quad (5)$$

where  $\{D_i\}$  is a set of Dirac operators sampled from the distribution (2).

## 2 Results

### 2.1 Improvements in the numerical algorithm

The evaluation of integrals such as (3) requires a way to sample the most relevant configurations (the *typical set*) out of the entirety of parameter space. The simplest algorithm based on Markov chains for doing so is Metropolis-Hastings [17]. Two crucial shortcomings of Metropolis are a rather slow

exploration of the typical set based on a random walk in parameter space, and the large correlation between adjacent samples. A more sophisticated approach is Hybrid Monte Carlo, or HMC XXXX(duane): originally developed for lattice QCD computations, it allows a faster and more uniform exploration of the typical set by transposing the problem of sampling from a distribution to Hamiltonian evolution in a fictitious phase space.

After a brief explanation of the idea behind HMC, the adaptation to the fuzzy space path integral is discussed and the results from numerical simulations are presented with a comparison between HMC and Metropolis.

### 2.1.1 Hybrid Monte Carlo

In Markov chain theory one is interested in a system specified by a finite set of parameters  $(q_1, \dots, q_N)$ ,  $q_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , collectively referred to as  $\mathbf{q}$ . The probability that the system be in a particular configuration is given by some probability measure  $\pi(\mathbf{q})d\mathbf{q}$ . Given an initial configuration  $\mathbf{q}$ , a Markov chain establishes a transition  $\mathbf{q} \rightarrow \mathbf{q}'$  from the old configuration to a new one in such a way that  $\mathbf{q}'$  is chosen with the desired probability.

This situation is analogous to the Monte Carlo estimation of the integral (3), where the parameters are the independent degrees of freedom of the Dirac operator and the probability measure is  $e^{-S[D]}dD$ .

The first step of Hybrid Monte Carlo is to enlarge parameter space by introducing a “conjugate momentum”  $p_i$  to each parameter  $q_i$ , thus effectively working in a fictitious phase space. The probability measure is extended to include the new variables  $\pi(\mathbf{q}) \rightarrow \pi(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$ . By defining the “Hamiltonian”  $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \equiv -\log \pi(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$ , a configuration is then evolved along a Hamiltonian trajectory by integrating Hamilton’s equations:

$$\frac{dq_i}{dt} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial p_i} \tag{6}$$

$$\frac{dp_i}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial q_i} \tag{7}$$

where  $t$  denotes a fictitious time that will be referred to as Monte Carlo time. This specifies a transition  $(\mathbf{q}(0), \mathbf{p}(0)) \rightarrow (\mathbf{q}(t), \mathbf{p}(t))$  from an initial configuration to a new one. The new configuration is then accepted with probability  $\min[1, \exp(H(t) - H(0))]$ .

Note that Hamiltonian dynamics preserves the value of the energy of the system, therefore  $H(t) = H(0)$  and  $\min[1, \exp(H(t) - H(0))] = 1$ . However, numerical integration of Hamilton’s equations is a non-trivial matter that introduces errors, therefore  $H(t) \neq H(0)$  in general. The standard choice of

numerical integrator in HMC is the so-called *leapfrog* integrator. For details see Appendix ZZZZ.

### 2.1.2 Adapting HMC to fuzzy spaces

In the matrix integral considered here, the dynamical variables are the  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices  $M_i$ , to which a corresponding set of Hermitian matrices  $P_i$  is added. The Hamiltonian is chosen to be simply:

$$H(M_i, P_i) = S[M_i] + \sum_i \frac{1}{2} P_i^2. \quad (8)$$

Schematically, the algorithm goes as follows:

1. extract the momenta  $P_i$  according to  $\exp(-P_i^2/2)$ ;
2. integrate Hamilton's equations for a certain time  $t$ ;
3. accept the new configuration with probability  $\min[1, \exp(H(t) - H(0))]$ .

The non-trivial step in the leapfrog integrator is the evaluation of the force term in Eq.(YYYY), which requires to take derivatives such as:

$$\frac{\partial S[M_i]}{\partial M_k} \quad (9)$$

which amounts to finding formulas for terms like:

$$\frac{\partial \text{Tr } D(M_i)^p}{\partial M_k}. \quad (10)$$

For the definition of matrix derivative see Appendix B. In the following, formulas for  $p = 2$  and  $p = 4$  are developed.

### 2.1.3 The case $p = 2$

When  $p = 2$  the  $M_i$  matrices are decoupled:

$$\text{Tr } D^2 = \sum_i \text{Tr } \omega_i^2 (2n \text{Tr } M_i^2 + 2\epsilon_i (\text{Tr } M_i)^2). \quad (11)$$

Taking a derivative with respect to  $M_k$  yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial M_k} \left( \sum_i \text{Tr } \omega_i^2 (2n \text{Tr } M_i^2 + 2\epsilon_i (\text{Tr } M_i)^2) \right) = \\ \sum_i \delta_{ik} \text{Tr } \omega_i^2 (4n M_i^T + 4\epsilon_i (\text{Tr } M_i) I) = \\ 4C (n M_k^T + \epsilon_k (\text{Tr } M_k) I) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $C \equiv \text{Tr } \omega_i^2$  is the dimension of the Clifford module.

### 2.1.4 The case $p = 4$

First expand  $\text{Tr } D^4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Tr } D^4 = & \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4} \text{Tr}(\omega_{i_1} \omega_{i_2} \omega_{i_3} \omega_{i_4}) \cdot \\
& \left( n[1 + \epsilon *] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_2} M_{i_3} M_{i_4}) + \right. \\
& \epsilon_{i_1} \text{Tr } M_{i_1} [1 + \epsilon *] \text{Tr}(M_{i_2} M_{i_3} M_{i_4}) + \\
& \epsilon_{i_2} \text{Tr } M_{i_2} [1 + \epsilon *] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_3} M_{i_4}) + \\
& \epsilon_{i_3} \text{Tr } M_{i_3} [1 + \epsilon *] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_2} M_{i_4}) + \\
& \epsilon_{i_4} \text{Tr } M_{i_4} [1 + \epsilon *] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_2} M_{i_3}) + \\
& \epsilon_{i_1} \epsilon_{i_2} [1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_2}) \text{Tr}(M_{i_3} M_{i_4}) + \\
& \epsilon_{i_1} \epsilon_{i_3} [1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_3}) \text{Tr}(M_{i_2} M_{i_4}) + \\
& \left. \epsilon_{i_1} \epsilon_{i_4} [1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr}(M_{i_1} M_{i_4}) \text{Tr}(M_{i_2} M_{i_3}) \right) \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $*$  denotes complex conjugation of everything that appears on the right,  $\epsilon$  is defined as the product  $\epsilon \equiv \epsilon_{i_1} \epsilon_{i_2} \epsilon_{i_3} \epsilon_{i_4}$ , and the relation  $M^T = M^*$  has been used. Since  $D$  is Hermitian, the expression must be real. It is not immediate to see that this is the case because of the  $\epsilon = \pm 1$  factor inside the square brackets. Reality nonetheless holds, and becomes manifest by observing that a simultaneous index exchange  $i_1 \leftrightarrow i_4$  and  $i_2 \leftrightarrow i_3$  is equivalent to taking the complex conjugate (in fact, this is not the only index exchange that amounts to complex conjugation).

Taking a matrix derivative with respect to  $M_k$  results in non-vanishing contributions when  $k = i_1, k = i_2, k = i_3$  or  $k = i_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial M_k} \text{Tr } D^4 = & \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4} \text{Tr}(\omega_{i_1} \omega_{i_2} \omega_{i_3} \omega_{i_4}) \cdot \\
& \left( \delta_{ki_1} A(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4)^T + \delta_{ki_2} A(i_2, i_3, i_4, i_1)^T + \right. \\
& \left. \delta_{ki_3} A(i_3, i_4, i_1, i_2)^T + \delta_{ki_4} A(i_4, i_1, i_2, i_3)^T \right) \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $A(a, b, c, d)$  is the following  $n \times n$  matrix:

$$\begin{aligned}
A(a, b, c, d) \equiv & n[1 + \epsilon^\dagger] M_b M_c M_d + \\
& \epsilon_a I[1 + \epsilon^*] \text{Tr } M_b M_c M_d + \\
& \epsilon_b \text{Tr } M_b[1 + \epsilon^\dagger] M_c M_d + \\
& \epsilon_c \text{Tr } M_c[1 + \epsilon^\dagger] M_b M_d + \\
& \epsilon_d \text{Tr } M_d[1 + \epsilon^\dagger] M_b M_c + \\
& \epsilon_a \epsilon_b M_b[1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr } M_c M_d + \\
& \epsilon_a \epsilon_c M_c[1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr } M_b M_d + \\
& \epsilon_a \epsilon_d M_d[1 + \epsilon] \text{Tr } M_b M_c
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

and  $\dagger$  denotes Hermitian conjugation of everything that appears on the right. Upon relabeling the indices and cycling the  $\omega$  matrices in the trace, the equation becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial}{\partial M_k} \text{Tr } D^4 &= 4 \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4} \delta_{ki_1} \text{Tr}(\omega_{i_1} \omega_{i_2} \omega_{i_3} \omega_{i_4}) A(i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4)^T \\
&= 4 \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3} \text{Tr}(\omega_k \omega_{i_1} \omega_{i_2} \omega_{i_3}) A(k, i_1, i_2, i_3)^T \equiv 4 \sum_{i_1, i_2, i_3} \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_3)
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

with  $\mathcal{B}_k(a, b, c)$  denoting the generic term in the sum.

To see that Eq.(16) defines a Hermitian matrix, notice that an exchange of indices  $i_1 \leftrightarrow i_3$  is equivalent to taking the Hermitian conjugate:

$$\mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_3)^\dagger = \mathcal{B}_k(i_3, i_2, i_1) \tag{17}$$

therefore the sum in Eq.(16) reduces to:

$$\sum_{\substack{i_1 > i_3 \\ i_2}} [1 + \dagger] \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_3) + \sum_{i_1, i_2} \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_1). \tag{18}$$

In fact, by looking at the form of  $\mathcal{B}$ , it is clear that terms in the sum are qualitatively different based on the number of indices that coincide. Therefore it would be computationally convenient to write Eq.(18) in a way that emphasises this difference.

The only terms that contribute when all indices are different are the following:

$$\sum_{i_1 > i_2 > i_3} [1 + \dagger] \left( \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_3) + \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_3, i_2) + \mathcal{B}_k(i_2, i_1, i_3) \right). \tag{19}$$

The three inequivalent permutations of indices that appear in this formula are based on a group-theoretical argument that will generalize easily to powers of  $D$  higher than 4. First consider the symmetric group of order three  $S_3$  acting on the set of indices  $\{i_1, i_2, i_3\}$ , and the subgroup of permutations that induce a simple change in  $\mathcal{B}$ , which in this case is  $H = \{(), (13)\} \cong S_2$  (the first element being the identical permutation, and the second the exchange  $i_1 \leftrightarrow i_3$  which induces  $\mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^\dagger$ ). The idea is then to restrict the sum to  $i_1 > i_2 > i_3$  and quotient out the action of  $H$  by introducing a suitable pre-factor that accounts for it (in this case  $[1 + \dagger]$ ). Practically, the inequivalent permutations of indices that appear in Eq.(19) are found by computing the (left or right) cosets of  $H \subset S_3$  and acting on  $\{i_1, i_2, i_3\}$  with a representative from each coset. In this case the representatives were chosen to be  $()$ ,  $(23)$ ,  $(12)$ .

What is left are terms in which at least two indices are equal. These are:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i_1 > i_2} [1 + \dagger] \left( \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_1, i_2) + \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_2) \right) + \\ \sum_{i_1 \neq i_2} \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_1) + \sum_i \mathcal{B}_k(i, i, i). \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

At this point, a useful property of the  $\omega$  matrices can be exploited to simplify both Eq.(19) and Eq.(20):

$$\text{Tr}(\omega_{\sigma(i_1)} \omega_{\sigma(i_2)} \omega_{\sigma(j)} \omega_{\sigma(k)}) \propto \text{Tr}(\omega_j \omega_k) = 0 \quad \text{if } i_1 = i_2 \text{ and } j \neq k \quad (21)$$

for any permutation  $\sigma$  acting on  $\{i_1, i_2, j, k\}$ . In other words, if two indices are the same and the other two are different, the trace on the  $\omega$  matrices vanishes.

Putting together Eq.(19), Eq.(20) and Eq.(21), the final formula for  $\partial_k \text{Tr } D^4$  reads:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial M_k} \text{Tr } D^4 = 4 \left[ \sum_{\substack{i_1 > i_2 > i_3 \\ i_1, i_2, i_3 \neq k}} [1 + \dagger] \left( \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_2, i_3) + \mathcal{B}_k(i_1, i_3, i_2) + \mathcal{B}_k(i_2, i_1, i_3) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{\substack{i \\ i \neq k}} \left( [1 + \dagger] \mathcal{B}_k(i, i, k) + \mathcal{B}_k(i, k, i) \right) + \mathcal{B}_k(k, k, k) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

The explicit form of  $\mathcal{B}_k(i, i, k)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_k(i, k, i)$  and  $\mathcal{B}_k(k, k, k)$  is given in Appendix C.



### 2.1.5 Testing HMC against exact results

Although not many analytical results are available for the matrix integrals considered here, there is a non-trivial observable whose expectation value is known exactly for any geometry and any action polynomial in  $D$ . Computing this observable therefore provides a good test for the numerical implementation.

Consider the following vanishing integral:

$$0 = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} (D_{ij} e^{-S[D]}) dD \quad (23)$$

where  $D_{ij}$  is one of the independent degrees of freedom of the Dirac operator and  $S[D]$  is in general sum of terms like  $g_p \text{Tr } D^p$ .

An explicit calculation of the right-hand side of Eq.(23) gives:

$$0 = \int \left( 1 - \sum_p g_p D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \text{Tr } D^p \right) e^{-S[D]} dD \quad (24)$$

dividing by the partition function and rearranging the terms:

$$1 = \frac{1}{\int e^{-S[D]}} \int \left( \sum_p g_p D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \text{Tr } D^p \right) e^{-S[D]} dD \quad (25)$$

and finally summing over all  $i, j$  corresponding to independent degrees of freedom:

$$\# \text{d.o.f.}(D) = \frac{1}{\int e^{-S[D]}} \int \left( \sum_p g_p p \text{Tr } D^p \right) e^{-S[D]} dD = \left\langle \sum_p g_p p \text{Tr } D^p \right\rangle \quad (26)$$

where the following identity, a proof of which is given in Appendix D, was used:

$$\sum_{ij} D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \text{Tr } D^p = p \text{Tr } D^p. \quad (27)$$

To estimate the number of degrees of freedom recall that in the decomposition (48) the  $M_i$  matrices are all Hermitian, therefore  $\# \text{d.o.f.}(D) = n^2 m$  where  $n$  is the dimension and  $m$  the total number of  $M_i$  matrices.

## 2.2 Yang-Mills matrix models from Dirac operators

Yang-Mills matrix models have been studied extensively in the past both analytically XXXX(some citations) and numerically XXXX(other citations, like

denjoe). Fuzzy spaces arise as classical solutions of these models, and perturbations around them give rise to non-commutative gauge theories XXXX(harold review).

The purpose of this section is to show a formal similarity between Yang-Mills matrix models and a certain choice of Dirac operator, despite the very different origin of the two models.

### 2.2.1 Yang-Mills matrix models

A Yang-Mills matrix model is given by the following action:

$$S \propto -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}[M_i, M_j]^2 + \frac{2}{3} i g_3 \epsilon_{ijk} \text{Tr} M_i M_j M_k + \frac{1}{2} g_2 \text{Tr} M_i^2 \quad (28)$$

where  $M_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ , are  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrices and a sum is intended on repeated indices. Actions without the quadratic or cubic term can also be considered. Note that in general one can consider models with more than three matrices (for example the IKKT model XXXX(ikkt) has 10 matrices). The variation of this action gives the following classical equation of motion for the generic matrix  $M_i$ :

$$[M_j, [M_j, M_i]] + i g_3 \epsilon_{ijk} [M_j, M_k] + g_2 M_i = 0 \quad (29)$$

where again sum on repeated indices is implied. Diagonal matrices satisfy Eq.(29), but a more interesting class of solutions is given by matrices forming an  $n$ -dimensional representation of the  $su(2)$  Lie algebra:

$$[M_i, M_j] = i \epsilon_{ijk} M_k. \quad (30)$$

In this sense fuzzy spheres are classical solutions of (28).

### 2.2.2 Type (0, 3) geometry as a Yang-Mills matrix model

Consider now a type (0, 3) fuzzy Dirac operator:

$$D_{(0,3)} = I \otimes \{M_0, \cdot\} + \sum_i \sigma_i \otimes [M_i, \cdot] \quad (31)$$

where  $\sigma_i$  are the three Hermitian Pauli matrices, and  $M_0, M_i$  are Hermitian matrices. Two simplifications can be made that still yield a valid Dirac operator of (0, 3) type, although not the most general one: the term  $I \otimes \{M_0, \cdot\}$

will be ignored, as well as the commutator substructure. In other words, the following Dirac operator will be considered:

$$D = \sum_i \sigma_i \otimes M_i \quad (32)$$

for Hermitian matrices  $M_i$ .

Consider then the usual action for  $D$  (with an additional cubic term and some convenient numerical factors):

$$S[D] = \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr } D^4 + \frac{1}{3} g_3 \text{Tr } D^3 + \frac{1}{4} g_2 \text{Tr } D^2. \quad (33)$$

It follows from the properties of the Pauli matrices that such action, rewritten explicitly in terms of the  $M_i$  matrices, takes a form very similar to (28):

$$\begin{aligned} S[D(M_i)] = & -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}[M_i, M_j]^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr } M_i^2 M_j^2 \\ & + \frac{2}{3} i g_3 \epsilon_{ijk} \text{Tr } M_i M_j M_k \\ & + \frac{1}{2} g_2 \text{Tr } M_i^2. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

The only difference is in fact an extra term  $\text{Tr } M_i^2 M_j^2$  in the quartic part. The role of this term becomes clear by writing the equation of motion:

$$[M_j, [M_j, M_i]] - \{M_j^2, M_i\} + i g_3 \epsilon_{ijk} [M_j, M_k] + g_2 M_i = 0 \quad (35)$$

which still has the  $su(2)$  algebra solution (30), provided that  $\sum_j M_j^2$  is a Casimir. The extra term in the action for the Dirac operator therefore forces the representation to be irreducible.

It is interesting to see what happens if the commutator structure is reintroduced, so that the Dirac operator is now:

$$D = \sum_i \sigma_i \otimes [M_i, \cdot] \quad (36)$$

which is formally equivalent to replacing  $M_i$  with  $[M_i, \cdot]$  in each formula so far. First notice that if the Lie algebra relations hold for the matrices, then they hold for the commutators as well:

$$[M_i, M_j] = i \epsilon_{ijk} M_k \implies [[M_i, \cdot], [M_j, \cdot]] = [[M_i, M_j], \cdot] = i \epsilon_{ijk} [M_k, \cdot] \quad (37)$$

however, what spoils the solutions is the extra quartic term that is not present in the Yang-Mills model.

### 3 Future directions

As the field of random fuzzy spaces is reasonably new and unexplored, a lot can be done. The following plan for future lines of research includes both computational and theoretical aspects.

On the computational side, two (compatible) improvements of increasing complexity can be implemented:

1. Parallel Tempering: allows a more efficient and simultaneous exploration of the relevant Dirac operators in a range of coupling constants. Especially suited for the study of phase transitions.
2. Hamiltonian Monte Carlo: the standard algorithm for unquenched LQCD [18]. Faster than Metropolis, can be applied to any system with continuous parameter space.

On the theoretical side, two possible lines of research will be mentioned:

1. Finding a ground state for the  $(1, 3)$  geometry.
2. Characterize the  $(2, 0)$  phase transition.

#### 3.1 Parallel Tempering

A first version of parallel tempering was introduced in 1986 by Swendsen and Wang [21].

The idea behind it is to run parallel simulations of the system at different values of the coupling constant  $g_1 < g_2 < \dots < g_N$ . After a certain number of iterations of the Monte Carlo algorithm, a configuration swap is proposed between adjacent systems  $g_i, g_{i+1}$  with probability:

$$p(i \leftrightarrow i + 1) = \min \{1, \exp [(g_{i+1} - g_i)(S[D_{i+1}] - S[D_i])]\}. \quad (38)$$

The swap preserves detailed balance [14], and therefore it does not affect the ergodicity of the Markov chain.

When studying phase transitions, one wants to run simulations in a range of coupling constants around the critical point. By tuning the separation between adjacent systems and swapping configurations as explained above, the autocorrelation time can drop significantly [6] yielding less correlated measurements.

### 3.2 Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

Hamiltonian Monte Carlo was introduced in 1987 to optimize Lattice QCD simulations with fermionic degrees of freedom [13]. The idea is to double up the space of parameters by introducing fictitious momenta and treating the Monte Carlo move proposal as Hamiltonian evolution in this new phase space.

The Hamiltonian function is built as follows. By denoting  $q_i$  the independent degrees of freedom of a Dirac operator  $D$  and  $p_i$  the fictitious conjugate momenta, the distribution (2) becomes:

$$e^{-S[D]} = e^{-S[q_i]} \longrightarrow e^{-(S[q_i] + K[p_i])} \equiv e^{-H[q_i, p_i]}. \quad (39)$$

The “kinetic energy”  $K[p_i]$  is typically chosen to be of the form [19]:

$$K[p_i] = \sum_i \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} \quad (40)$$

for positive  $m_i$ . A non-diagonal mass matrix can also be used [4].

The Hamiltonian Monte Carlo algorithm is comprised of three steps:

1. Draw the momenta  $p_i$  from their Gaussian distribution;
2. Evolve the system on phase space using Hamiltonian dynamics, obtaining new parameters  $q'_i, p'_i$ ;
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1. Resampling the momenta at each iteration ensures that the exploration is not confined to a single “energy” orbit in phase space.
2. The numerical integration of Hamilton equations is usually done using symplectic integrators, the most common choice being the leapfrog method [4]. Free parameters of the integrator are the stepsize  $\epsilon$  and the total number  $L$  of integration steps.
3. Compared to Metropolis, Hamiltonian Monte Carlo has a higher number of free parameters that need tuning for optimal performance:  $m_i$ ,  $\epsilon$  and  $L$ .

### 3.3 A ground state for the $(1, 3)$ geometry

The results of section ?? seem to suggest that on one side of the phase transition the  $L$  matrices of a typical  $(1, 3)$  Dirac operator form some sort of non-trivial algebraic structure.

A possibility is that, in the limit of infinite matrix size, the typical Dirac operator looks like the fuzzy sphere of Eq.(??). However, the degeneracy in the spectrum of the fuzzy sphere makes an exact correspondence unlikely<sup>†</sup>. Further simulations could help in making a plausible guess for the ground state, around which the path integral can be expanded in Feynman diagrams. Another way of finding the ground state goes through the minimization of an effective action, since a simple minimization of the bare action would not take into account the volume of the gauge orbits. A useful analogy is the problem of finding the typical radius in:

$$\int e^{-(x^2+y^2)} dx dy.$$

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The minimum of the “effective potential”  $r^2 - \log r$  is now different from zero, and represents the typical value of the radius.

In the case of Dirac operators, one expects to write an effective action by introducing anticommuting ghost fields.

### 3.4 Characterization of the $(2, 0)$ phase transition

Although the  $(2, 0)$  geometry is of limited interest from a quantum gravity viewpoint, the newly discovered “double jump” can be an interesting feature in itself.

Most notably, the same phenomenon has been predicted in 1960 by Erdős and Rényi for a certain model of random graphs [15]. Since then, this behaviour has been observed in other models of clustered networks, for example [5] and [9]. A potential link between random fuzzy spaces and random graphs might be an interesting topic to explore.

On the other hand, double jumps are not limited to random graphs. In [22] such behaviour is observed in a modified XY model with a purely nematic Hamiltonian.

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As the field of random fuzzy spaces is reasonably new and unexplored, a lot can be done. The following plan for future lines of research includes both computational and theoretical aspects.

On the computational side, two (compatible) improvements of increasing complexity can be implemented:

1. Parallel Tempering: allows a more efficient and simultaneous exploration of the relevant Dirac operators in a range of coupling constants. Especially suited for the study of phase transitions.
2. Hamiltonian Monte Carlo: the standard algorithm for unquenched LQCD [18]. Faster than Metropolis, can be applied to any system with continuous parameter space.

On the theoretical side, two possible lines of research will be mentioned:

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2. Characterize the  $(2, 0)$  phase transition.

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## Appendix A: Notation

1. To avoid dealing with both Hermitian and anti-Hermitian matrices in Eq.(1), it is convenient to redefine  $i\tilde{L}_j \equiv L_j$  and  $\tilde{\alpha}_j \equiv i\alpha_j$ . Eq.(1) becomes:

$$D = \sum_j \tilde{\alpha}_j \otimes [\tilde{L}_j, \cdot] + \sum_k \tau_k \otimes \{H_k, \cdot\} \quad (47)$$

and all the matrices are Hermitian.

2. Commutators and anti-commutators are represented in matrix form as:

$$[A, \cdot] = A \otimes I - I \otimes A^T$$

$$\{A, \cdot\} = A \otimes I + I \otimes A^T.$$

As a shorthand, the following notation will be used:

$$[A, \cdot]_\epsilon \equiv A \otimes I + \epsilon I \otimes A^T.$$

The final form of Eq.(1) is then:

$$D = \sum_{i \in I} \omega_i \otimes [M_i, \cdot]_{\epsilon_i} \quad (48)$$

for Hermitian matrices  $M_i$ , with  $\omega_i \in \{\tilde{\alpha}_j\} \cup \{\tau_k\}$ , and  $\epsilon_i = \pm 1$  depending on  $\omega_i$  being a  $\tau$  matrix or a  $\tilde{\alpha}$  matrix.

## Appendix B: Matrix derivatives

Let  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $f(A)$  be a complex valued function of  $A$ . The derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $A$  is defined in components as the  $n \times n$  matrix:

$$\left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial A} \right)_{lm} \equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial A_{lm}}. \quad (49)$$

The two special cases of interest here are:

$$\frac{\partial \text{Tr } A}{\partial A} = I \quad (50)$$

$$\frac{\partial \text{Tr } AB}{\partial A} = B^T. \quad (51)$$

## Appendix C

The explicit form of  $\mathcal{B}_k(i, i, k)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}_k(i, k, i)$  and  $\mathcal{B}_k(k, k, k)$  is given.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B}_k(i, i, k) &= \text{Tr}(\omega_k \omega_i \omega_i \omega_k) A(k, i, i, k)^T = C A(k, i, i, k)^T \\ \mathcal{B}_k(i, k, i) &= \text{Tr}(\omega_k \omega_i \omega_k \omega_i) A(k, i, k, i)^T \\ \mathcal{B}_k(k, k, k) &= \text{Tr}(\omega_k \omega_k \omega_k \omega_k) A(k, k, k, k)^T = C A(k, k, k, k)^T\end{aligned}\tag{52}$$

where  $C$  is the dimension of the Clifford module and the  $A$  matrices are:

$$\begin{aligned}A(k, i, i, k) &= n[1 + \dagger] M_i^2 M_k + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_k I \text{Tr} M_i^2 M_k + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_i \text{Tr} M_i [1 + \dagger] M_i M_k + \\ &\quad 4\epsilon_k \epsilon_i M_i \text{Tr} M_i M_k + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_k M_i^2 \text{Tr} M_k + \\ &\quad 2M_k \text{Tr} M_i^2\end{aligned}\tag{53}$$

$$\begin{aligned}A(k, i, k, i) &= 2n M_i M_k M_i + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_k I \text{Tr} M_i^2 M_k + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_i \text{Tr} M_i [1 + \dagger] M_i M_k + \\ &\quad 4\epsilon_k \epsilon_i M_i \text{Tr} M_i M_k + \\ &\quad 2\epsilon_k M_i^2 \text{Tr} M_k + \\ &\quad 2M_k \text{Tr} M_i^2\end{aligned}\tag{54}$$

$$\begin{aligned}A(k, k, k, k) &= 2n M_k^3 + 2\epsilon_k I \text{Tr} M_k^3 + \\ &\quad 6M_k \text{Tr} M_k^2 + 6\epsilon_k M_k^2 \text{Tr} M_k.\end{aligned}\tag{55}$$

## Appendix D

Suppose  $D$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix in which  $m$  entries are linearly independent. An arbitrary entry can then be written as:

$$D_{ab} = \sum_{ij} c_{ab}^{ij} D_{ij}\tag{56}$$

where  $c_{ab}^{ij}$  are coefficients and the sum runs over the independent components. This is the case for fuzzy Dirac operators.

The following identity will be proven:

$$\sum_{ij} D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \text{Tr} D^p = p \text{Tr} D^p.\tag{57}$$

An explicit calculation gives:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{ij} D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \text{Tr } D^p &= \sum_{ij} D_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial D_{ij}} \sum_{a_1 \dots a_p} D_{a_1 a_2} \dots D_{a_p a_1} = \\
\sum_{ij} D_{ij} \sum_{a_1 \dots a_p} \left( c_{a_1 a_2}^{ij} D_{a_2 a_3} \dots D_{a_p a_1} + \dots + D_{a_1 a_2} \dots D_{a_{p-1} a_p} c_{a_p a_1}^{ij} \right) &= \\
\sum_{a_1 \dots a_p} \left( \left( \sum_{ij} c_{a_1 a_2}^{ij} D_{ij} \right) D_{a_2 a_3} \dots D_{a_p a_1} + \dots + D_{a_1 a_2} \dots D_{a_{p-1} a_p} \left( \sum_{ij} c_{a_p a_1}^{ij} D_{ij} \right) \right) &= \\
p \sum_{a_1 \dots a_p} D_{a_1 a_2} \dots D_{a_p a_1} &= p \text{Tr } D^p
\end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

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