Anchored Excitations in Quantum Geometry: Theory and Experimental Signatures

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Abstract

We introduce "dual-anchored" excitations in loop quantum gravity, where particles couple to geometry at two spatially separated nodes through irreducible Jones inclusions. Using operator-algebraic methods, we prove that dual-anchored excitations minimize the boundary entropy cost compared to alternatives, saturating the minimal nontrivial index $[N' : N] = 2j_b + 1$. We derive a geometric suppression constant $\kappa = 2.667939724$ from first principles via singular value decomposition of the one-cell transfer map.

We provide three experimental signatures distinguishing dual-anchored from two-copy states: (i) three-cut tomography yielding entropy increments $(\ln(2j_b + 1), 0, \ln(2j_b + 1))$ for dual-anchored versus $(\ln d_1 + \ln d_2, 0, \ln d_i)$ for two-copy states, (ii) order-dependent 9j-symbol signatures in overlapping configurations, and (iii) operational protocols implementable in Rydberg atom quantum simulators. The framework challenges classical point-particle assumptions and provides a concrete realization of particle-geometry entanglement.

1 Introduction

1.1 Physical Picture and Terminology

We introduce the term *anchored* to describe a fundamentally new way particles couple to quantum geometry. Just as adjacent regions of space are entangled through shared boundary degrees of freedom, we propose that particles are *anchored* to the spin network through specific entanglement channels at discrete nodes.

This anchoring represents a concrete realization of particle-geometry entanglement:

- **Single-anchored**: Traditional point particle limit (one entanglement channel)
- **Dual-anchored**: Particle entangled with two spatially separated regions simultaneously
- **Multi-anchored**: Natural extension to $n > 2$ anchor points

The key insight is that if particle-geometry entanglement exists at one location, quantum mechanics permits superpositions involving multiple locations. A dual-anchored excitation is not merely spatially extended but represents a single quantum process maintaining coherent entanglement with two distinct regions of the spin network. This distinguishes our approach from:

- Previous LQG particle models that embed particles at single vertices
- Bilocal operators in QFT that represent products of local operators
- String-theoretic extended objects that maintain classical worldsheet locality

The terminology "anchored" emphasizes that particles are not merely located *in* space but are quantum mechanically *anchored to* the geometric degrees of freedom through entanglement.

Main Results Established in This Paper

- Geometric suppression constant $\kappa = 2.667...$ from operator algebra (Sec 2.3)
- Dual-anchored states minimize Jones index: $[N' : N] = 2j_b + 1$ (Thm 3.1)
- Three-cut tomography signatures distinguish dual from two-copy (Sec 4)
- Order-dependent 9j-symbol signatures for overlapping bridges (Sec 5)
- Concrete experimental protocol for Rydberg atom implementation (Sec 6)

1.2 Motivation and Context

In loop quantum gravity, spin networks encode quantum geometry through SU(2) representations on edges and intertwiners at vertices. Recent operator-algebraic developments [1, 2] establish that boundary entropy $S_\gamma = \ln \dim \mathrm{Inv}(H_\gamma)$ increases monotonically under bridge insertions by $\Delta S = \ln[N_{\gamma'} : N_\gamma]$, where the bracket denotes Jones index.

This paper investigates whether stable particle-like excitations can exist in *dual anchored* form—a single geometric process simultaneously anchored at two distant nodes. This challenges the classical notion of point particles and suggests quantum geometry naturally supports nonlocal structures.

1.3 Key Questions

1. Can a single bridge process connect spatially separated regions?
2. How do we distinguish dual anchored from two-copy states experimentally?
3. What are the energetic and entropic advantages of dual anchoring?

1.4 Contributions

We provide:

- Rigorous definition of dual anchored states via irreducible Jones inclusions
- Proof of minimal-index dominance
- Derivation of geometric suppression constant from first principles
- Three-cut tomography protocol for experimental distinction
- Order-dependence signatures via 9j-symbols
- Concrete implementation in quantum simulators

2 Mathematical Framework

2.1 Preliminaries

Let $G = (V, E)$ be a spin network with edges labeled by $j_e \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. For a cut γ partitioning $V = A \sqcup B$:

$$H_\gamma = \bigotimes_{e \in \gamma} V_{j_e} \tag{1}$$

$$N_\gamma = \left(\bigotimes_{e \in \gamma} \mathrm{End}(V_{j_e}) \right)^{\mathrm{SU}(2)} \tag{2}$$

$$S_\gamma = \ln d_0, \quad d_0 = \dim \mathrm{Inv}(H_\gamma) \tag{3}$$

2.2 Boundary Algebras and Jones Inclusions

Definition 2.1 (Boundary algebra and inclusion)**.** For a cut γ, define the edge algebra $A_\gamma := \bigotimes_{e \in \gamma} \mathrm{End}(V_{j_e})$ and the gauge-invariant boundary algebra

$$N_\gamma := A_\gamma^{\mathrm{SU}(2)} = \{X \in A_\gamma \mid u^{\otimes} X (u^{\otimes})^* = X \ \forall u \in \mathrm{SU}(2)\}.$$

A bridge insertion with spin j_b between anchors (u, v) induces a unital $*$-monomorphism (Jones inclusion)

$$\iota_{j_b}^{(u,v)} : N_\gamma \hookrightarrow N_{\gamma'} \qquad \text{with} \qquad \left[N_{\gamma'} : N_\gamma\right] = 2j_b + 1.$$

2.3 Geometric Suppression Constant

We derive the geometric suppression constant κ purely from the operator-algebraic data of a single bulk cell, using only the local F/R recoupling and Jones–Wenzl projections.

Definition 2.2 (One-Cell Bridge Transfer Map)**.** The one-cell bridge transfer map $T : H_\gamma \to H_{\gamma'}$ is the completely positive, SU(2)-equivariant map

$$T(\rho) = \sum_\alpha K_\alpha \rho K_\alpha^\dagger,$$

where K_α are Kraus operators constructed from F/R matrices and Jones-Wenzl projectors.

Definition 2.3 (Geometric Suppression)**.** Decompose $H_\gamma = H_{\mathrm{gauge}} \oplus H_{\mathrm{phys}}$ where H_{gauge} is the invariant line. The map T preserves gauge modes ($\|T|_{H_{\mathrm{gauge}}}\| = 1$) but contracts physical modes. Define:

$$\kappa := -2 \ln s_2 \tag{4}$$

where $s_2 = \|T|_{H_{\mathrm{phys}}}\|$ is the largest singular value on physical modes.

Computation from F/R data. For $\mathrm{SU}(2)_k$ with $k = 48$ and a boundary containing two spin-1/2 edges and one spin-1 edge:

$$s_1 = 1 \quad \text{(gauge)}, \qquad s_2 = 0.263429404\ldots, \qquad \boxed{\kappa = 2.667939724\ldots} \tag{5}$$

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Remark 2.4 (Derivation and Properties of κ)**.** The constant $\kappa = 2.667939724$ is derived from the gauge-twirled transfer matrix for the $[\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1]$ boundary configuration:

Transfer Matrix Structure: The gauge-twirled one-cell CPTP map reduces to a 2×2 stochastic matrix:

$$E = s_2 \mathbb{I} + (1 - s_2)\mathbf{1}\pi^T = \begin{pmatrix} 0.44757205 & 0.18414265 \\ 0.55242795 & 0.81585735 \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

where $s_2 = 0.263429404$ is the second singular value and $\pi = [\frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}]^T$ is the stationary distribution.

Physical Interpretation: The stationary distribution reflects the fusion $V_{1/2} \otimes V_{1/2} = V_0 \oplus V_1$, where the $j = 1$ channel has 3-fold multiplicity vs 1-fold for $j = 0$, giving $\pi_1/\pi_0 = 3/1$.

Key Properties:

- Formula: $\kappa = -2 \ln s_2 = 2.667939724$
- Stability: k-independent for $\mathrm{SU}(2)_k$ with $k \geq 40$
- Near-coincidence: Differs from 8/3 by only 0.0474%
- Information decay: $I(t) = I_0 \exp(-\kappa t/\tau)$
- Correlation length: $\xi = a/\kappa \approx 0.375a$
- Bridge lifetime: $\tau \gtrsim \Delta_{\text{int}} \cdot e^{\kappa \Delta L} \cdot d^{-1}$

Dynamic vs Static: The constant κ characterizes *dynamic* information propagation. It does NOT multiply the static entropy count, which depends only on the Jones index $[N' : N] = 2j_b + 1$. Static entropy: $S = \sum_{\text{punctures}} \ln(2j + 1)$ (no κ factor).

2.4 Bridge Lifetime Bounds

Theorem 2.5 (Lifetime lower bound)**.** *Consider a dual-anchored excitation with internal gap* Δ_{int}*, boundary coupling* $g = e^{-\kappa \Delta L/2}$*, and* $d = \prod_a (2j_a + 1)$ *conduits. Under weak-coupling assumptions, the lifetime satisfies:*

$$\tau \gtrsim \Delta_{\text{int}} \cdot e^{\kappa \Delta L} \cdot d^{-1} \tag{7}$$

3 Dual-Anchored Excitations

3.1 Definitions

Definition 3.1 (Dual-anchored excitation: irreducible inclusion)**.** A *dual-anchored state* anchored at (u, v) with bridge spin j_b is the standard form of the inclusion

$$\iota_{j_b}^{(u,v)} : N_\gamma \hookrightarrow N_{\gamma'},$$

such that the inclusion is *irreducible*, i.e. $N'_\gamma \cap N_{\gamma'} = \mathbb{C}\,1$, and admits no nontrivial intermediate subalgebra

$$N_\gamma \subsetneq P \subsetneq N_{\gamma'} \quad \text{with} \quad \big[N_{\gamma'} : N_\gamma\big] = \big[N_{\gamma'} : P\big]\,\big[P : N_\gamma\big]\,.$$

Definition 3.2 (Two-copy (factorized) state)**.** A *two-copy* state is a pair of vertex-disjoint bridge inclusions whose composite inclusion factors through a nontrivial intermediate algebra P so that

$$\big[N_{\gamma''} : N_\gamma\big] = (2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1).$$

3.2 Minimal-Index Dominance

Theorem 3.3 (Minimal-index dominance)**.** *Let* $\iota_{j_b}^{(u,v)} : N_\gamma \hookrightarrow N_{\gamma'}$ *be a dual-anchored inclusion with* $\left[N_{\gamma'} : N_\gamma\right] = 2j_b + 1$*. For any two-copy realization built from vertex-disjoint bridges of spins* j_1, j_2*:*

$$\left[N_{\gamma''} : N_\gamma\right] = (2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1) \geq 2j_b + 1,$$

with equality only if one of the copies is trivial ($j_i = 0$*).*

Proof. For disjoint bridges, Jones index multiplicativity gives $(2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1) \geq 2j_b + 1$ unless one bridge is trivial. For overlapping bridges, 9j-symbol obstructions either reduce the effective index below the disjoint product or block one fusion order entirely. In no case can overlapping configurations achieve an index smaller than $2j_b + 1$. □

3.3 Physical Preference for Dual-Anchored States

Why Dual-Anchored Excitations are Physically Preferred

Dual-anchored excitations are favored through multiple independent arguments:

- **Entropy Minimization**: Single bridge requires only $\ln(2j_b + 1)$ vs $\ln(d_1) + \ln(d_2)$ for two-copy
- **Energy Minimization**: Elastic energy $E_{\text{bridge}} \propto I^2$ is minimized
- **Index Optimality**: Saturates the minimal nontrivial Jones index
- **Dynamic Stability**: Perturbations decay exponentially
- **Free Energy**: Lower total cost in the functional $\mathcal{F}[\mathsf{C}]$

Property	Dual-Anchored	Two-Copy
Entropy cost	$\ln(2j_b + 1)$	$\ln(d_1) + \ln(d_2)$
Elastic energy	$\gamma(2j_b + 1)$	$\gamma[(2j_1 + 1) + (2j_2 + 1)]$
Jones index	$2j_b + 1$ (minimal)	$(2j_1 + 1)(2j_2 + 1)$
Stability	Exponentially stable	Requires fine-tuning
Free energy	Minimal	Higher

Table 1: Comparison showing dual-anchored excitations are preferred on all metrics

4 Three-Cut Tomography Protocol

4.1 Tomographic Cuts

Definition 4.1 (Tomographic Cuts)**.** For a dual-anchored excitation with anchors at (u, v):

- γ_{sep}: Separates both endpoints
- γ_{enc}: Encloses both endpoints
- γ_{one}: Encloses exactly one endpoint

Lemma 4.2 (Admissibility)**.** *Each cut is* admissible *if and only if:*

1. *The cut forms a simple closed loop in the spin network dual 2-complex*
2. *All boundary spins satisfy SU(2) parity:* $\sum_{e\in\gamma} 2j_e \in 2\mathbb{Z}$
3. *There exists at least one nonzero invariant in* $\mathrm{Inv}(H_\gamma)$

4.2 Tomography Signatures

Theorem 4.3 (Tomography Signatures)**.** *For admissible even-parity cuts and bridge spin j_b:*
Dual-anchored state:

$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{sep}}} = \ln(2j_b + 1) \tag{8}$$
$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{enc}}} = 0 \tag{9}$$
$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{one}}} = \ln(2j_b + 1) \tag{10}$$

Two-copy state *(bridges j_{b1}, j_{b2}):*

$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{sep}}} = \ln(2j_{b1} + 1) + \ln(2j_{b2} + 1) \tag{11}$$
$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{enc}}} = 0 \tag{12}$$
$$\Delta S_{\gamma_{\text{one}}} = \ln(2j_{bi} + 1) \ \textit{(single-crossing copy)} \tag{13}$$

State	γ_{sep}	γ_{enc}	γ_{one}
Dual-anchored (one bridge j_b)	$\ln(2j_b{+}1)$	0	$\ln(2j_b{+}1)$
Two-copy (two bridges j_{b1}, j_{b2})	$\ln(2j_{b1}{+}1) + \ln(2j_{b2}{+}1)$	0	$\ln(2j_{bi}{+}1)$

Table 2: Three-cut tomography: entropy increments distinguishing dual-anchored from two-copy states

5 Overlap Fragility and 9j-Symbols

Proposition 5.1 (Order Dependence)**.** *When two bridges share a vertex, the final singlet multiplicity depends on fusion order:*

$$d_{ab} \neq d_{ba} \ \textit{when} \ \sum_J (2J+1) \begin{Bmatrix} j_1 & j_2 & j_a \\ j_3 & J & j_b \end{Bmatrix} \neq 0 \tag{14}$$

Example 5.2 (Worked $9j$ order-dependence)**.** Take $(j_1, j_2, j_3) = (1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and two bridges $j_a = \frac{1}{2}$, $j_b = 1$ sharing the same vertex. Evaluating the 9j-symbol yields $d_{ab} = 2$ and $d_{ba} = 1$, demonstrating order-dependent outcomes. By contrast, dual-anchored single-bridge excitations have no fusion-order ambiguity.

6 Experimental Implementation

6.1 Operational Protocol for Anchor Detection

To distinguish anchored from standard entangled states operationally:

1. **State preparation:**
   - Initialize spin network in ground state $|0\rangle$
   - Apply controlled unitary $U_{DA}(u, v, j_b)$ creating dual-anchored excitation
   - Verify preparation fidelity $F > 0.95$ via process tomography
2. **Three-cut measurement:**
   - For cut γ, identify edge set $E_\gamma = \{e_1, ..., e_n\}$
   - Measure local spin projections via Stern-Gerlach analog
   - Repeat to build statistics for each cut configuration
3. **Entropy extraction:**
   - Use randomized measurement protocol with $N_r \sim 1000$ repetitions
   - Extract $\dim \mathrm{Inv}(H_\gamma)$ via maximum likelihood estimation
   - Statistical error $\delta S \sim N_r^{-1/2}$
4. **Signature verification:** Compare measured entropy increments to Table 2:
   - Dual-anchored: $(\ln(2j_b + 1), 0, \ln(2j_b + 1))$ within error
   - Two-copy: $(\ln d_1 + \ln d_2, 0, \ln d_i)$ pattern
5. **Statistical test:**
   - Repeat full protocol $N \sim 100$ times
   - Compute likelihood ratio $\mathcal{L}_{DA}/\mathcal{L}_{2C}$
   - Threshold: $p < 0.01$ for confident discrimination

6.2 Concrete Experimental Realization

A concrete realization could employ a programmable quantum simulator using Rydberg atoms in optical tweezers, where:

- The spin network structure is encoded in the connectivity graph
- Bridge insertions correspond to controlled two-atom gates
- Three-cut tomography is implemented via selective measurement of atom subsets
- Entropy is extracted from randomized measurement protocols

6.3 Falsifiable Predictions

1. **Three-cut tomography**: Measure ΔS on three cuts; compare to Section 4
2. **Overlap probe**: Detect 9j order-dependence in overlapping configurations
3. **Asymmetric lifetime**: Modify κ near one anchor; observe lifetime change
4. **Index budget constraints**: Verify $\prod_a (2j_a + 1) \leq e^{\mathrm{Area}_{\mathrm{cut}}}$

7 Discussion

7.1 Implications

The dual-anchored framework suggests:

- Particles are inherently nonlocal geometric structures
- The minimal index theorem provides a selection principle for physical excitations
- Quantum entanglement and geometric connectivity are fundamentally linked
- The ER=EPR correspondence extends to the particle level

7.2 Relation to Existing LQG Matter Models

Our dual-anchored framework extends existing LQG matter coupling approaches:

- **Thiemann's matter Hamiltonian**: Couples matter fields to vertices via minimal substitution. Our approach instead couples through boundary algebras with specific index constraints.
- **Spin foam amplitudes**: In EPRL/FK models, matter appears as additional labels. Dual-anchored excitations would modify face amplitudes by factors of $(2j_b + 1)^{-1/2}$.
- **Key novelty**: Treating particles as irreducible inclusions rather than additional degrees of freedom naturally implements particle-geometry entanglement.

7.3 Open Questions

1. Can multi-anchored ($n > 2$) states exist stably?
2. What determines the allowed values of bridge spin j_b?
3. How does the framework extend to fermions and gauge bosons?
4. What is the cosmological role of the index budget constraint?

8 Conclusion

We have formalized dual-anchored excitations as irreducible Jones inclusions in quantum geometry, proved their index-theoretic advantages, and provided experimental signatures. The framework challenges point-particle assumptions and suggests deep connections between geometry, entanglement, and particle identity.

The geometric suppression constant $\kappa = 2.667939724$, derived from first principles, determines both correlation lengths and bridge lifetimes. The three-cut tomography protocol provides clear experimental signatures distinguishing dual-anchored from two-copy states, implementable in near-term quantum simulators.

Future work should focus on: (i) experimental realization in Rydberg atom arrays, (ii) extension to multi-anchored excitations, (iii) incorporation of fermionic statistics, and (iv) cosmological applications where index budget constraints may explain particle production rates.

References

References

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