a tool to test Spinfoam Models **Graviton Propagator in LQG:**

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Plan of the talk

- Brief summary of LQG
- The LQG graviton propagator (diagonal components)
 - Tensorial structure of the propagator
- Problems of the Barret Crane model and a proposal for a solution
- New models: what do we know?
- Some lines of research with preliminary results (more questions than answers)
 - Conclusions

-oop quantum gravity in brief

- i) connection formulation of GR (Ashtekar 86, Barbero 95):
- $\mathbf{q} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$, $\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E} = \text{triad field}$ ("gravitational electric field") $\mathbf{A} = \text{spin connection}$

GR as a constrained hamiltonian system: H=0 (hamiltonian constraint) V=0 (vector constraint) G=0 (gauss constraint)

ii) quantum theory:

States: $\Psi(A)$ Operators: A, $E(x) = -i \hbar G \delta / \delta A(x)$

(Smolin Rovelli 88) Loop states: $\psi_{\alpha}(A) = \langle A | \alpha \rangle = Tr e^{\int_{\alpha} A}$ Spin network states: $\psi_{S(A)} = \langle A | S \rangle$

(Smolin Rovelli 95)

S >=|Γ,j,i> Γ Graph

- SU(2) quantum number associated to links
- SU(2) quantum number associated to nodes (intertwiner)
- E(x) acts on spin network states as a Grasping Operator

creating a new link in rep 1







Interpretation of the spin network states | S >

Look at the geometrical operators: Volume and area operators

Volume

V(R) function of the gravitational field

Quantization

- V(R) is a well-defined self-adjoint operator

-The Volume operator receives a discrete contribution

for each <u>node</u> of | S > inside R (Smolin, Rovelli 95)





s-knot state	omorphism invariant spinnetwork, alence class of spinnetworks r Diffeomorphisms	ose the information about the localization:	$ \mathbf{S}\rangle = \Gamma, \mathbf{j}_1, \mathbf{i}_n\rangle$		Intertwiners of the nodes:	Spin of the links:	quantum numbers of area	ace: they are excitations of space.	lanck scale
	IS > Diffeo Equiv	i of the lo		s-knots	I is not a graph in the	manifold but the information about the Connectivity	between the elementary quantum chunks of space	 Spin networks are not excitations in spa → Background independent QFT 	Discrete structure of space at the P

Area and volume are quantized

LQG Graviton Propagator

How to compute a propagator in a diff invariant theory?

$$G_0(x,y) = \int D\phi(x) \ \phi(x) \ \phi(y) \ e^{iS[\phi]}$$

Rovelli's strategy based on:

- Boundary formulation
- Define a new function with the information on the background around which the propagator is defined in the boundary state via q (the classical value of the field on Σ)

 Ψ a state picked on a geometry \mathbf{q} =(q,p) (metric and extrinsic curvature) of Σ

$$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}}^{abcd}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{y}) = \int [D\gamma] \ h^{ab}(\mathbf{x}) \ h^{cd}(\mathbf{y}) \ W[\gamma] \ \Psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\gamma)$$

 \sim



ianchi, Modesto, Rovelli,Speziale have found for the DIAGONAL components of the propagator	$G(L) \sim i \frac{8\pi \hbar G}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{ x-y _q^2} \sim i \frac{\hbar G}{L^2}$	Which is the correct graviton propagator component	This is only valid for L ² >> $\hbar G$ For small L the propagator is affected by pure quantum gravity effects	Equivalent to Newton law	erivation based on the use of the Barret Crane (98) model as Spinfoam vertex	This result has reinforced the idea that the Barret Crane model is able to reproduce General Relativity in the low energy limit
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Ð	Rovelli, Speziale	al structure	$ s\rangle\langle s \Psi_{\mathbf{q}} angle$	ominant term, is for Γ :	Each 4 valent node	as variables
Tensorial Structur	Try to extend the results of Bianchi, Modesto,	To compute the complete tensoria	$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}}^{abcd}(x,y) = \sum_{s,s'} \langle W s' \rangle \langle s' h^{ab}(x) \ h^{cd}(y)$	o first order in $\lambda \langle W s \rangle = W[s] = W[\Gamma, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{i}]$ the do	$s = i \underbrace{i_{2}}_{j_{4}} \underbrace{i_{2}}_{j_{3}} \underbrace{i_{2}}_{j_{3}$	We have 5 intertwiners and 10 spins a

Inserting resolution of the identi	ty, using the base $ s angle= \Gamma,\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i} angle$
$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}}^{abca}(x,y) = \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{i},\mathbf{i}'} W(\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{i}') < \mathbf{j}',\mathbf{i}' ^{J}$	$a^{ab}(x) h^{ca}(y) \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{i} > \Psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{j}, \mathbf{i})$
The recipe: Three	ngredients
$W(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}) = W[\Gamma_5,\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}]$	PROPAGATION KERNEL
$\Psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i})=\Psi_{\mathbf{q}}[\Gamma_5,\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}]=\langle\Gamma_5,\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i} \Psi_{\mathbf{q}} angle$	BOUNDARY STATE
$<\mathbf{j}',\mathbf{i}' h^{ab}(x)\ h^{cd}(y) \mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}>$	QUANTUM OPERATORS
Now explicit dependenc	e on the interwiners I
Consider the propagator projection on the that bounds the tetrahedra n and i and so	normals $ n_a^{(ni)} $ to the triangle t_{ni} on
$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}n,m}^{^{ij,kl}} \coloneqq \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}}^{abcd}(x_n,x_m)$	$n_a^{(ni)} n_b^{(nj)} \; n_c^{(mk)} n_d^{(ml)}$

$$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}\,n,m}^{ij,kl} := \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}}^{abcd}(x_n, x_m) \; n_a^{(ni)} n_b^{(nj)} \; n_c^{(mk)} n_d^{(mk)} n_d^{(mk)}$$

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Diagonal components: Area correlators

Not-Diagonal components: Angle correlators

 $= \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}} W(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}) \left(E_n^{(ni)} \cdot E_n^{(nj)} - n^{(ni)} \cdot n^{(nj)} \right) \left(E_m^{(mk)} \cdot E_m^{(ml)} - n^{(mk)} \cdot n^{(ml)} \right) \Psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i})$ on the spin networks states. They are double grasping operators Since $h^{ab} = g^{ab} - \delta^{ab} = E^{ai}E^b_i - \delta^{ab}$ defining $E^{(ml)}_n = E^a(\vec{x})n^{(ml)}_a$ $\langle W | \left(E_n^{(ni)} \cdot E_n^{(nj)} - n^{(ni)} \cdot n^{(nj)} \right) \left(E_m^{(mk)} \cdot E_m^{(ml)} - n^{(mk)} \cdot n^{(ml)} \right) | \Psi_{\mathbf{q}} \rangle$ Jnderstand the action of the non diagonal operator E.E We have to compute $E_n^{(ni)} \cdot E_n^{(nj)} \mid \Gamma, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{i}
angle$ || ${
m G}_{{
m q}\,n,m}^{_{ij,kl}}$

<u>1</u>3



New boundary state

To compute the DIAGONAL terms was sufficient a state of the kind

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{q}}[\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}] = C \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2j^0} \sum_{(ij)(mr)} \alpha_{(ij)(mr)} (j^{(ij)} - j^0)(j^{(mr)} - j^0) + i\Phi \sum_{(ij)} j^{(ij)}\right\}$$

q is the geometry of the 3d boundary (Σ , q) of a spherical 4d ball, with linear size L >> $\sqrt{h}G$

 $\Psi q(s)$ is a Gaussian state with correlation matrix α

peacked on the "background" spins
$$j^0$$

(Variables coniugate to spins). They code the *extrinsic* 3-geometry *q* The Φ are the background dihedral angles between tetrahedra

The operators call into play the intertwiner i, we have to consider the kinematics of intertwiners and introduce an intertwiner dependance in the boundary state

New state

Old one

$$\begin{split} i_{\mathbf{q}}[\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}] = \mathcal{C} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2j^0} \sum_{(ij)(mr)} \alpha_{(ij)(mr)} (j^{(ij)} - j^0)(j^{(mr)} - j^0) + i\Phi \sum_{(i,j)} j^{(ij)} \right\} \\ \cdot \exp\left\{-\sum_n \left\{\frac{(i_n - i^0)^2}{4\sigma_{in}} + \sum_{a \neq n} \phi_{j_{na},i_n}(j^{(na)} - j^0)(i_n - i^0) + i\chi_{i_n}(i_n - i^0) \right\} \right\} \\ \end{split}$$

(background dihedral angles) with variance σ , phase factor χ , correlation spin-intertwiner ϕ . Fixing these parameters we can create a semiclassical 4-symplex,

picked on classical values of areas and angles (4-d and 3-d)

Calculation with B	C vertex
In the calculation of the diagonal terms, was used a B	C vertex with a projection map
$W(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}) = W(\mathbf{j}) \prod_n \langle i_{BC} i_n \rangle = W(\mathbf{j}) \prod_n (2i_n+1)$ Where W(j) is the 10j symbol	Map Simple SO(4)->SU(2) supported by the physical interpretation
We have to compute terms of the kind,	
$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}n,m}^{ij,kl} = \sum_{\mathbf{j}\mathbf{i}} W(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}) \left(D_n^{ij} - n^{(ni)} \cdot n^{(nj)} \right) \left(D_m^{kl} - n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(nj)} \right) \left(D_m^{kl} - n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(nj)} \right) \left(D_m^{kl} - n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \right) \left(D_m^{kl} - n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \right) \left(D_m^{kl} - n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \cdot n^{(mi)} \right)$	$^{\scriptscriptstyle (i)}\cdot n^{^{(ml)}})\Psi_{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i})$
ر. Keeping the dominat terms (we are interested in the	large j^0 limit)
Intertwiners and spins as var	ables
$\mathbf{\widehat{\mathbf{\mathcal{A}}}}_{\mathbf{q}n,m}^{ij,kl} = j_0^2 \sum_{\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}} W(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i}) \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \delta i_n - \delta j_{ni} - \delta j_{nk}\right) \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \delta \right)$	$_{m}-\delta j_{mk}-\delta j_{ml} ight) \Psi _{\mathbf{q}}(\mathbf{j},\mathbf{i})$



SUPPRESS THE SUM

If we proceed with the calculation, we can recast the problem introducing the 15 components vectors $\delta I^{\alpha} = (\delta j^{ab}, \delta i_n) \delta \Theta^{\alpha} = (0, \chi_{i_n})$ and the 15 x 15	Correlation Matrix M that contains the 3 free parameters of the gaussian plus dynamics	$\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{q}^{ij,kl}}^{ij,kl} = \mathcal{N}' j_0^2 \int d\delta I^{\alpha} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \delta i_n - \delta j_{ni} - \delta j_{nj}\right) \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \delta i_m - \delta j_{mk} - \delta j_{ml}\right) e^{-\frac{M_{\alpha\beta}}{j^0} \delta I^{\alpha} \delta I^{\beta}} e^{i\Theta_{\alpha} \delta I^{\alpha}}$	We get a sum of terms of the kind	$\left(\frac{M_{\alpha\beta}^{-1}}{j_0} - M_{\alpha\gamma}^{-1}\Theta^{\gamma}M_{\beta\delta}^{-1}\Theta^{\delta}\right)j^0 \to \infty \text{Wrong large distance propagator}$	The Barret Crane model don't reproduce GR in the low energy limit !!!	
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same as BC but with the crucial phase (pink) in the intertwiner variable ble to compensate the one in the boundary state.	Correlation spin-intertwiner usefull but not crucial.
	Same as BC but with the crucial phase (pink) in the intertwiner variable able to compensate the one in the boundary state.

The same kind of terms as before becomes

$$\Im_{\mathbf{q}\,n,m}^{ij,kl} = \mathcal{N}' j_0^2 \int d\delta I^{\alpha} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \,\delta i_n - \delta j_{ni} - \delta j_{ni} \right) \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \,\delta i_m - \delta j_{mk} - \delta j_{ml} \right) \,e^{-\frac{M_{\alpha\beta}}{j0} \delta I^{\alpha} \delta I^{\beta}} \,e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\delta I^{\alpha}}$$

The propagator is then a sum of terms of the kind



 $M_{\alpha\beta}^{\prime-1}$. Contains a linear combination of the derivatives of Regge Action and of the correlation matrix in the gaussian

WE CAN FIND THE GRAVITON PROPAGATOR FROM LQG	THIS RESULT HAS MOTIVATED THE SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL ABLE TO REPRODUCE GR	Engle-Pereira-Rovelli, Alexandrov, Livine-Speziale, Freidel-Krasnov
$\mathcal{G}_{linearized}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2L^2} \left(\delta_{\mu\rho} \delta_{\nu\sigma} + \delta_{\mu\sigma} \delta_{\nu\rho} - \delta_{\mu\nu} \delta_{\rho\sigma} \right)$ Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory	$\mathcal{G}_{linearized}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2L^2} \left(\delta_{\mu\rho} \delta_{\nu\sigma} + \delta_{\mu\sigma} \delta_{\nu\rho} - \delta_{\mu\nu} \delta_{\rho\sigma} \right)$ Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory WE CAN FIND THE GRANTON PROPAGATOR FROM LQG	$\mathcal{G}_{linearised}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2L^2} \left(\delta_{\mu\rho} \delta_{\nu\sigma} + \delta_{\mu\sigma} \delta_{\rho\rho} - \delta_{\mu\nu} \delta_{\rho\sigma} \right)$ Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory linearized theory This RESULT HAS MOTIVATED THE SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL ABLE TO REPRODUCE GR
Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory	Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory WE CAN FIND THE GRAVITON PROPAGATOR FROM LQG	Using symmetrized gaussian state containing at least 5 free parameters as Boundary state we can reproduce exactly the same tensorial structure and the same behavior of the linearized theory WE CAN FIND THE GRAVITON PROPAGATOR FROM LQG THIS RESULT HAS MOTIVATED THE SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL ABLE TO REPRODUCE GR
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THIS RESULT HAS MOTIVATED THE SEARCH FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL ABLE TO REPRODUCE GR Engle-Pereira-Rovelli, Alexandrov, Livine-Speziale, Freidel-Krasnov	Engle-Pereira-Rovelli, Alexandrov, Livine-Speziale, Freidel-Krasnov	

The new Models

$$\mathbf{A}_{EPR}^{\gamma}(j_{ij}, i_n) = \sum_{\substack{i_n^-, i_n^+ \\ n \\ i_n^-, i_n^+}} 15j(j_{ij}\frac{(1+\gamma)}{2}, i_n^-) \ 15j(j_{ij}\frac{(1-\gamma)}{2}, i_n^+) \ \bigotimes_n \ f_{i_n^-, i_n^+}^{i_n^-}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{FK}^{\gamma}(j_{ij}, i_n, k_n) = \sum_{i_n^-, i_n^+} \mathbf{15} j(j_{ij} \frac{(1+\gamma)}{2}, i_n^-) \mathbf{15} j(j_{ij} \frac{(1-\gamma)}{2}, i_n^+) \bigotimes_{n} f_{i_n^-, i_n^+}^{i_n, k_n}$$

All these new models show the proposed SU(2) intertwiner dependance contained in the fusion coefficients f

In this language the BC model is

$$A_{BC}(j_{ij}) = \sum 15j(j_{ij\frac{1}{2}}, i_n^-) 15j(j_{ij\frac{1}{2}}, i_n^+) \bigotimes \dim i_n^+ \delta_{i_n^+, i_n^-} \delta_{i_n, 0} \xrightarrow{23}$$

It is a map from the space of the SU(2) (SO(3) in the EPR case) The new fundamental object is $\,{f f}\,$ that defines the new models: intertwiners to the space of the SO(4) intertwiners.



Note that they differ only in the way in which the two channels j⁺⁺ j⁻ compose in the resulting SU(2) representation (k for FK, 2 for EPR, 0 for BC)

What do we know about the new vertices show the proposed phase? The semiclassical limit? Do the new vertices show the proposed phase? Is there any link of the models with the canonical approach at dynamical level (a kinematical level: yes EPR model) and in particular with Thiemann hamiltonian constraint? There we present some research directions to answer the first question To answer the first question we need : The asymptotic of the 15 symbol : To answer the first question for f _{FK} and the exact analytic expression for f _{EPR} we have found a simplification for f _{FK} and the exact analytic expression for f _{EPR} for answer the second question we need : E.Alesci, K.Noui, F.Sardelli to appear ophysical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model we have found a Physical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model we have found a Physical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model we have found a Physical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model we have found a Physical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model we have found a Physical scalar product and the constraint like Thiemann's one	S S
What do we know about the	
new Models ?	
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kinematical level: yes EPR model) and in particular with Thiemann hamiltonian constraint?	
Here we present some research directions to answer the first question	
To answer the first question we need :	
 The asymptotic of the 15j symbol : missing: very complicated in terms of recoupling theory, 	
• An exact or at least asymptothic formula expression of the $ \hat{\mathrm{f}} :$	
we have found a simplification for f_{FK} and the exact analytic expression for f_{EPR}	
To answer the second question we need : E.Alesci, K.Noui, F.Sardelli to appear • An extension of the 3d constuction of Perez and Noui to these models, to obtain a	
physical scalar product involving the hamiltonian operator that defines the new model	 S
we have tound a Physical scalar product able to reproduce these spintoam amplit@6e No clear relation with an Hamiltonian constraint like Thiemann's one	S

he tested process is the evolution of an initial state formed by four coherent tetrahedra $ \underbrace{\swarrow}_{i} \psi(i) = N \sqrt{d_i} e^{-\frac{3}{4j_0}(i-i_0)^2 + i\frac{\pi}{2}i} \begin{array}{c} \text{Coherent tetrahedron} \\ \text{S.Speziale, C.Rovelli} \end{array} $	$\bigvee (i_n) = \sum_{\substack{i_n^+, i_n^- \\ i_n^+, i_n^-}} 15j \left(\frac{j_0}{2}, i_n^+\right) 15j \left(\frac{j_0}{2}, i_n^-\right) \prod_n f_{i_n^+, i_n^-}^{i_n} $ Propagation kernel 26
	he tested process is the evolution of an initial state formed by four coherent tetrahedra $ \overbrace{\psi(i) = N \sqrt{d_i}}^{3} e^{-\frac{3}{4j_0}(i-i_0)^2 + i\frac{\pi}{2}i} Coherent tetrahedron$ S.Speziale, C.Rovelli



We have improved the previous result numerically,

E.Alesci, E.Bianchi E.Magliaro, C.Perini, "Intertwiners dynamics in the flipped vertex" work in progress (also Igor Khavkine is working on the same subject)



Not only the mean values but the entire gaussian shape is exactly reproduced

The phase in the outgoing state $(\pi/2)$ should come from the vertex This could indicate that the vertex has the appropriate phase $(\pi/2)$



"Asymptotic properties of the EPR fusion coefficients" to appear E.Alesci, E.Bianchi E.Magliaro, C.Perini,



In the case k=j++j- (EPR model) simple analytical formula, involving only factorials and a single Clebsh Gordan coefficient (**no Sums!**)

Information about the boundary state

In the special case of all j's equal (used to compute the wave packets propagation), The f_{EPR} has a simple asymptotic expression.



The σ has a remarkable feature: for i=i $_0$ (the value of the angle in the classical region) it is exactly the σ of the coherent tetrahedron. Does the vertex itself codes the information about the boundary state? (as in ordinary free quantum field theory). No answer for the moment but it is an interesting possibility...

Factorization of the Dynamics

produces two SU(2) coherent tetrahedra; Centered around i₀/2 with the SAME phase The contraction of f_{EPR} with an SO(3) coherent tetrahedron



If we think to the wave packets propagation we have Two consequences:

- Dynamic at leading order factorizes
- This indicate that the EPR model could have the correct phase dependance to

reproduce the propagator

To confirm this prediction we need exact informations on 15js: still missing....

Conclusions	ANGE THE DYNAMICS: THE BARRET CRANE MODEL S NO INTERTWINER DEPENDANCE; USING A BC VERTEX WE ARE T ABLE TO REPRODUCE THE RIGHT LONG DISTANCE BEHAVIOR OF E GRAVITON PROPAGATOR. In this sense the BC VERTEX DOESN'T WOR	lesci, Rovelli Phys.Rev.D 76,104012 (2007), <u>arXiv:0708.0883</u> RESULT HAS MOTIVATED THE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE MODELS Engle-Pereira-Rovelli, Alexandrov, Livine-Speziale, Freidel-Krasnov	 Ull tensorial structure and right long distance behavior: SSUMING A VERTEX ITH NON TRIVIAL INTERTWINER DEPENDANCE, IS POSSIBLE TO RECOVER 	ROM LQG USING ROVELLI'S TECHNIQUES TO COMPUTE SCATTERING MPLITUDES IN BACKGROUND INPEPENDENT FORMALISM	Vesci, Rovelli Phys.Rev.D77, 044024 (2008), <u>arXiv:0711.1284</u>	RESULT GIVES INDICATIONS ON THE BEHAVIOR THAT 32 TERNATIVE VERTEX CAN HAVE TO REPRODUCE GR
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On the new models

Indications E.Alesci, E.Bianchi E.Magliaro, C.Perini

- Good numerical behavior for the packets propagation
- The vertex seem to show the required phase numericaly (without it the wave propagation could not be possible) Factorization of SO(3) dynamics in left and right ones Great simplifications in the numerical calculations Analythical formulas for f:

Open Questions

- The vertex know the boundary state? (like in free QFT)
- It gives the projector that realize the vertex. E.Alesci, K.Noui, F.Sardelli to appear Integral formulation can give asymptotics?
 - Can this projector be related to the canonical theory?