

Dror Bar-Natan: Talks: Vienna-1402:  
 $\omega := \text{http://www.math.toronto.edu/~drorbn/Talks/Vienna-1402}$

**A Partial Reduction of BF Theory to Combinatorics, I**

**Abstract.** I will describe a semi-rigorous reduction to computable combinatorics of perturbative BF theory (Cattaneo-Rossi [CR]), in the case of ribbon 2-links. Also, I will explain how and why my approach may or may not work in the non-ribbon case. Weak this result is, and at least partially already known (Watanabe [Wa]). Yet in the ribbon case, the resulting invariant is a universal finite type invariant, a gadget that significantly generalizes and clarifies the Alexander polynomial and that is closely related to the Kashiwara-Vergne problem. I cannot rule out the possibility that the corresponding gadget in the non-ribbon case will be as interesting. (good news in highlight)

**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 for a 2-link  $(f)_{i \in T}$ ,

$$Z = \sum_{\text{diagrams } D} D \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \dots \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \dots \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \prod_{\text{red } e \in D} \Phi_e^* \omega_3 \prod_{\text{black } e \in D} \Phi_e^* \omega_1$$

is an invariant in  $CW(FL(T)) \rightarrow CW(T)$ , "cyclic words in  $T$ ".



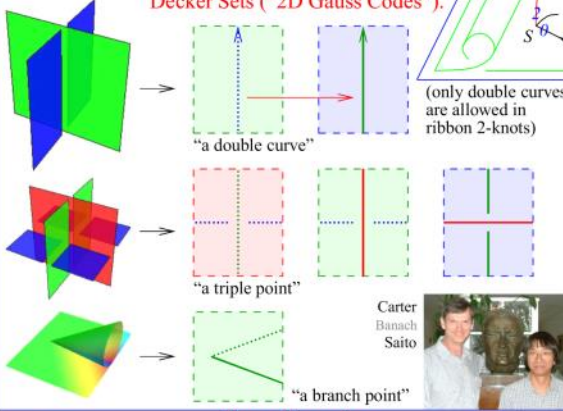
**BF Following [CR].**  $A \in \Omega^1(M = \mathbb{R}^4, \mathfrak{g})$ ,  $B \in \Omega^2(M, \mathfrak{g}^*)$ ,

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

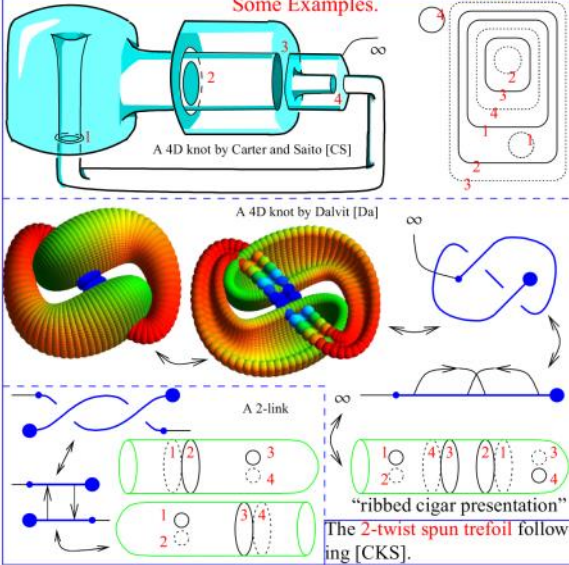
With  $f: (S = \mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow M$ ,  $\xi \in \Omega^0(S, \mathfrak{g})$ ,  $\beta \in \Omega^1(S, \mathfrak{g}^*)$ , set

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

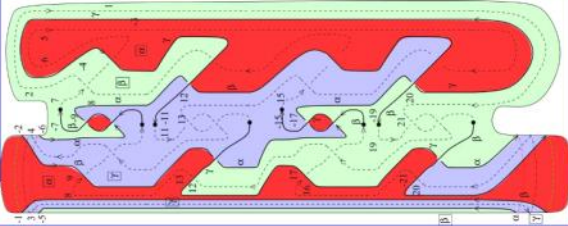
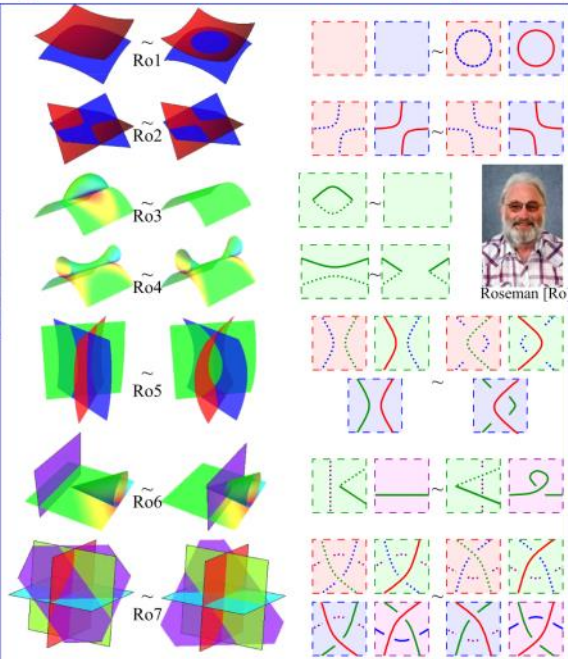
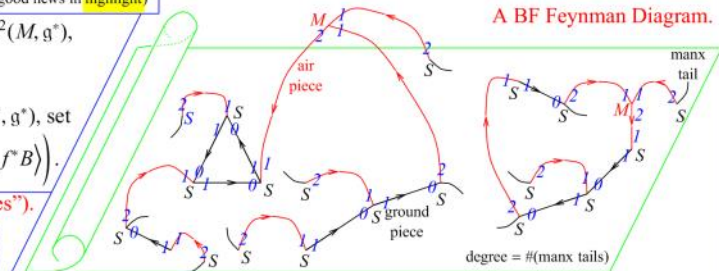
**Decker Sets ("2D Gauss Codes").**



**Some Examples.**

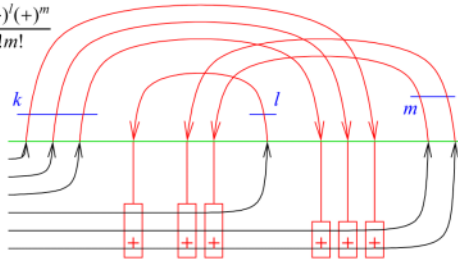


**A BF Feynman Diagram.**



Theorem. **Finish** (also note relationship w/ KBH)

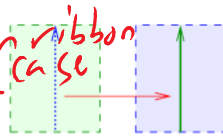
$$\sum_{k,l,m \geq 0} \frac{(+)^k (-)^l (+)^m}{k! l! m!}$$



Also add a link example

In 4D Axial Gauge.

- "Drop down" red propagators.
- No trivalent  $M$  vertices.
- No need for black cycles(?).



References.

[CKS] J. S. Carter, S. Kamada, and M. Saito, *Diagrammatic Computations for Quandles and Cocycle Knot Invariants*, *Contemp. Math.* **318** (2003) 51–74.  
 [CS] J. S. Carter and M. Saito, *Knotted surfaces and their diagrams*, *Mathematical Surveys and Monographs* **55**, American Mathematical Society, Providence 1998.  
 [Da] E. Dalvit, <http://science.unitn.it/~dalvit/>.  
 [CR] A. S. Cattaneo and C. A. Rossi, *Wilson Surfaces and Higher Dimensional Knot Invariants*, *Commun. in Math. Phys.* **256-3** (2005) 513–537, arXiv:math-ph/0210037.  
 [Ro] D. Roseman, *Reidemeister-Type Moves for Surfaces in Four-Dimensional Space*, *Knot Theory*, Banach Center Publications **42** (1998) 347–380.  
 [Wa] T. Watanabe, *Configuration Space Integrals for Long  $n$ -Knots, the Alexander Polynomial and Knot Space Cohomology*, *Alg. and Geom. Top.* **7** (2007) 47-92, arXiv:math/0609742.

Issues.

- ~~A decker set example with a triple point.~~





"God created the knots, all else in topology is the work of mortals."  
 Leopold Kronecker (modified)

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Musings.

- \* Why does BF restrict to CS? ✓
- \* Is this all? The  $v$ -invariant. ✓
- \* Something about knots. ✓
- \* what are finite-type invariants? what are ✓

- \* "chord diagrams" ✓
- \* Bubble-wrap-Finite-type. ✓
- \* "shielded 2-tangles" / foams; ✓  
make pictures of the 3D
- 

 is this related to KV? ✓
- \* Something about invariants of plane curves. ✓

Decide on a booklet! ✓

A bubble wrap

