BF2C Handout on April 14, 2014

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Dror Bar-Natan: Academic Pensieve: 2014-04: BF2C:
http://drorbn.net/AcademicPensieve/2014-04/BF2C
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A Partial Reduction of BF Theory to Combinatorics, 1

Abstract. I will describe a semi-rigorous reduction of perturbative BF theory (Cattaneo-Rossi [CR]) to computable combinatorics, 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)

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

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

$(\xi\beta) \to$ (β, α)

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

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

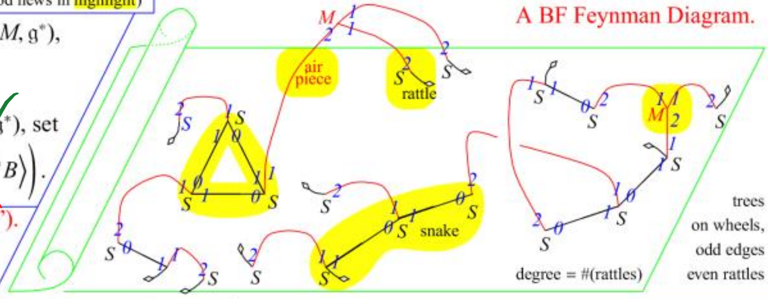
The BF Feynman Rules. For an edge e, let Φ_e be its direction, in S^3 or S^1. Let ω_3 and ω_1 be volume forms on S^3 and S_1. Then for a 2-link $(f_t)_{t\in T}$,

$$\zeta = \log \sum_{\substack{\text{diagrams}\\ D}} \frac{\boxed{D}}{|\mathrm{Aut}(D)|} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \cdots \int_{\mathbb{R}^2}}_{S\text{-vertices}} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \cdots \int_{\mathbb{R}^4}}_{M\text{-vertices}} \prod_{\text{red } e\in D} \Phi_e^*\omega_3 \prod_{\text{black } e\in D} \Phi_e^*\omega_1$$

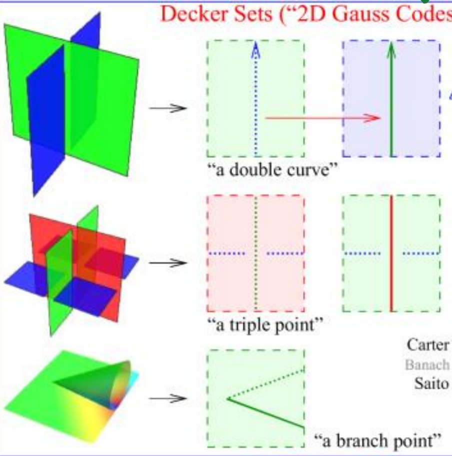
Symmetrized

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

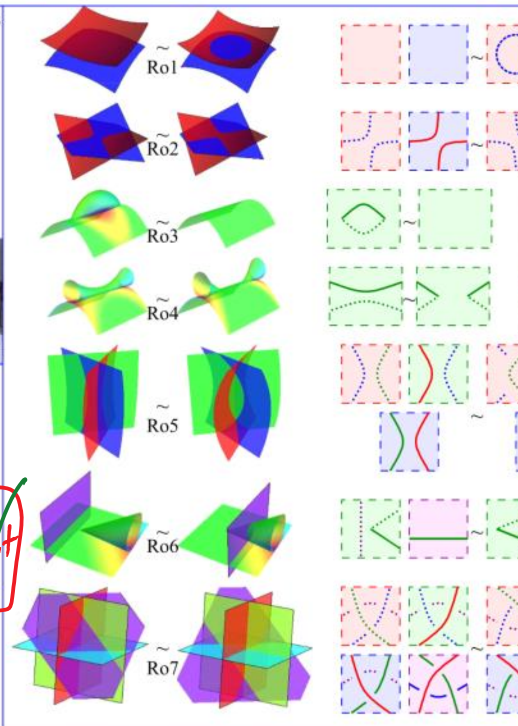
A BF Feynman Diagram.



Decker Sets ("2D Gauss Codes").

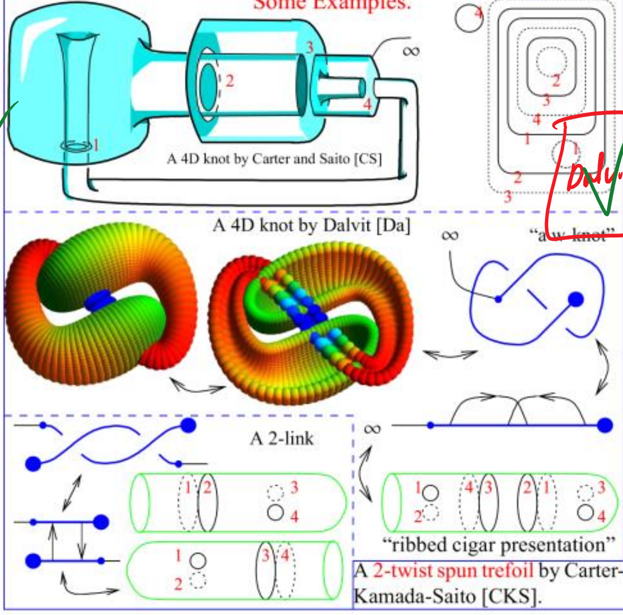


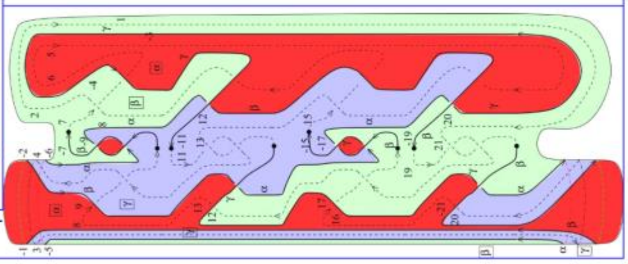
Carter
Banach
Saito



Roseman [Ro]

Some Examples.



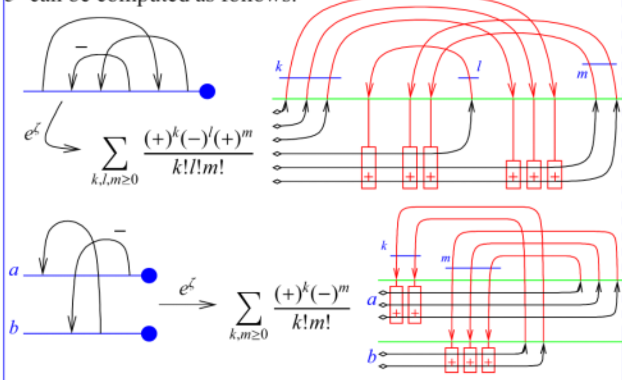


A 2-twist spun trefoil by Carter-Kamada-Saito [CKS].

Dalvit

A Partial Reduction of BF Theory to Combinatorics, 2

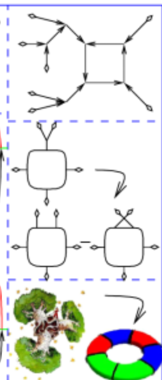
Theorem 1 (with Cattaneo (credit, no blame)). In the ribbon case, e^ζ can be computed as follows:



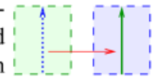
$e^\zeta \quad \sum_{k,l,m\geq 0} \frac{(+)^k(-)^l(+)^m}{k!l!m!}$

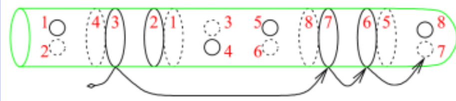
$e^\zeta \quad \sum_{k,m\geq 0} \frac{(+)^k(-)^m}{k!m!}$

Theorem 2. Using Gauss diagrams to represent knots and T-component pure tangles, the above formulas define an invariant in $CW(FL(T)) \to CW(T)$, "cyclic words in T".
• Agrees with BN-Dancso [BND] and with [BN2]. • In-practice computable! • Vanishes on braids. • Extends to w. • Contains Alexander. • The "missing factor" in Levine's factorization [Le] (the rest of [Le] also fits, hence contains the MVA). • Related to / extends Farber's [Fa]? • Should be summed and categorified.



Sketch of Proof. In 4D axial gauge, only "drop down" red propagators, hence in the ribbon case, no M-trivalent vertices. S integrals are ± 1 iff "ground pieces" run on nested curves as below, and exponentials arise when several propagators compete for the same double curve. And then the combinatorics is obvious...



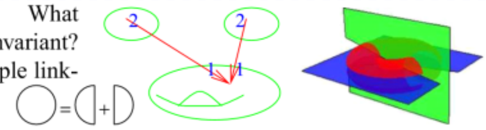


Musings

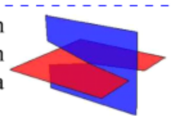
Chern-Simons. When the domain of BF is restricted to ribbon knots, and the target of CS is restricted to trees and wheels, they agree. Why?

Chern-Simons.

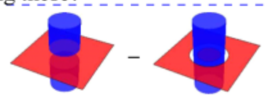
Is this all? What about the $\vee$-invariant? (the "true" triple linking number)



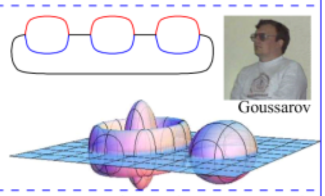
Gnots. In 3D, a generic immersion of S^1 is an embedding, a knot. In 4D, a generic immersion of a surface has finitely-many double points (a gnot?). Perhaps we should be studying these?



Finite type. What are finite-type invariants for 2-knots? What would be "chord diagrams"?



Bubble-wrap-finite-type. There's an alternative definition of finite type in 3D, due to Goussarov (see [BN1]). The obvious parallel in 4D involves "bubble wraps". Is it any good?



Goussarov

Shielded tangles. In 3D, one can't zoom in and compute "the Chern-Simons invariant of a tangle". Yet there are well-defined invariants of "shielded tangles", and rules for their compositions. What would the 4D analog be?

"an associator"

Will the relationship with the Kashiwara-Vergne problem [BND] necessarily arise here?

Plane curves. Shouldn't we understand integral / finite type invariants of plane curves, in the style of Arnold's J^+, J^-, and St [Ar], a bit better?

Arnold

	$a(\cdot)$	$a(\cdot)$	$a(\cdot)$	∞	$\bigcirc$				...
St	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	...
J^+	0	2	0	0	0	−2	−4	−6	...
J^-	0	0	−2	−1	0	−3	−6	−9	...

References.

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Continuing Joost Slingerland...

http://youtu.be/YCA0VIExVhge

http://youtu.be/mHyT0cfF99o

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

Leopold Kronecker (modified)

www.katlas.org

virtual 2-knots? Group only?