Quantization of the Volume of the Simplest Grain of Space

Quantum Geometry, Picard-Fuchs Equations, and Perturbative/Non-Perturbative Relations

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Today's talk is based on unpublished work done in collaboration with Antu Santanu There is an argument that begins A. Ashtekar's book "Lectures on Non-Perturbative Canonical Gravity" that I've long found intriguing:

Are there features of classical GR that would indicate that non-perturbative quantum gravity is very different from perturbative quantum gravity? They proceed to a simple, but insightful computation:



Consider the self-energy of a shell of charge e and uniform mass density as the radius, ϵ , goes to zero.

Ignoring gravity,

$$m(\epsilon) = m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon}.$$

For a Newtonian self interaction

$$m(\epsilon) = m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon} - \frac{Gm_0^2}{\epsilon^2},$$

and in both cases the result diverges as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. In GR

$$m(\epsilon) = m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon} - \frac{G m^2(\epsilon)}{\epsilon^2} \implies m(\epsilon) = \frac{-\epsilon}{2G} + \sqrt{\frac{e^2}{G} + \frac{m_0}{G}\epsilon} + \frac{1}{4G^2}\epsilon^2$$

This has a finite limit as $\epsilon \to 0, \ m \to e/\sqrt{G}$!



Consider the self-energy of a shell of charge e and uniform mass density as the radius, ϵ , goes to zero.

But, if we expand around small G

$$m(\epsilon) = \frac{-\epsilon}{2G} + \frac{\epsilon}{2G} \sqrt{1 + \frac{4G}{\epsilon} \left(m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon}\right)}$$

$$= \left(m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon}\right) - \left(m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon}\right)^2 \frac{G}{\epsilon} + 2\left(m_0 + \frac{e^2}{\epsilon}\right)^3 \left(\frac{G}{\epsilon}\right)^2 + \cdots$$

Every term is divergent in the $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit.

I take this cautionary tale seriously; beware of over interpreting perturbative divergences! Today I want to take up, what is for me, a new theme:

Perturbative divergences carry interesting information & structure \rightsquigarrow known as resurgence

m, e

This Talk

Asymptotic resurgence is impressively broad and impactful. To the best of my knowledge the perturbative/non-perturbative relations found in resurgence have yet to be applied to quantum gravity.

I show that these tools shed light on the quantization of the simplest grain of space, a quantum tetrahedron. The talk has 3 parts:

- Resurgence and Perturbative/Non-Perturbative Relations

 (I draw heavily on the outstanding introductions by C. Howls, A.O. Daalhuis, and G. Dunne from the ARA School)
- 2. Grains of Quantum Space: the area geometry of tetrahedra, their classical phase space, and semiclassical quantization
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Two physical examples where Airy functions arise are quantum mechanics of turning points and supernumerary rainbows



The Schrödinger equation at the turning point is

$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} + (E + V'(0)x)\psi = E\psi \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \alpha^3 x\psi$$

with $\alpha = \hbar^{-2/3}[2mV'(0)]^{1/3}$.

WKB theory suggests we introduce the action

$$a(x) = \pm \int \sqrt{\alpha^3 x} \, dx = \pm \frac{2}{3} \alpha^{3/2} x^{3/2},$$

and consider solutions

$$\psi(x) \approx \# \frac{e^{-a(x)}}{\sqrt{a'(x)}} (1 + \cdots) \sim \frac{e^{\mp \frac{2}{3}(\alpha x)^{3/2}}}{(\alpha x)^{\frac{1}{4}}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_n}{[(\alpha x)^{3/2}]^n}.$$

A recursion relation determines the (factorially divergent) c_n :

$$c_n = (\mp 1)^n \frac{\Gamma\left(n + \frac{1}{6}\right)\Gamma\left(n + \frac{5}{6}\right)}{2\pi n! \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^n}.$$

The c_n are unexpectedly interesting

$$c_n^{+} = \frac{\Gamma\left(n + \frac{1}{6}\right)\Gamma\left(n + \frac{5}{6}\right)}{2\pi n! \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^n} \rightsquigarrow \begin{cases} c_0^{+}, c_1^{+}, c_2^{+}, c_3^{+}, \dots \\ 1, \frac{5}{48}, \frac{385}{4608}, \frac{85085}{663552}, \dots \end{cases}.$$

But, now consider the large *n* behavior of the c_n^+

$$c_n^+ \sim \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{(n-1)!}{\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^n} \left(1 - \frac{5}{36} \frac{1}{n} + \frac{25}{2592} \frac{1}{n^2} - \cdots\right)$$

If we organize this expansion in terms of factorial growth...

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$$c_n^+ \sim \frac{(n-1)!}{2\pi \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^n} \left(1 - \left(\frac{4}{3}\right) \frac{5}{48} \frac{1}{(n-1)} + \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2 \frac{385}{4608} \frac{1}{(n-1)(n-2)} - \cdots\right)^n \right)$$

...we see the same coefficients! The late orders of c_n^+ are the early orders of c_n^- .

$$\operatorname{Ai}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_1} \exp\left(-zt + \frac{t^3}{3}\right) dt.$$

For $z = re^{i\theta}$, the critical points are at $t_c = \pm \sqrt{z} \sim \pm e^{i\theta/2}$.

For z real and positive, i.e. $\theta = 0$, the integral is dominated by a single real critical point and exponentially decays.



Shading shows the value of the real part of the exponent: Blue ---> decreasing real part Yellow --> increasing real part Two physical examples where Airy functions arise are quantum mechanics of turning points and supernumerary rainbows



$$\operatorname{Ai}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_1} \exp\left(-zt + \frac{t^3}{3}\right) dt$$

For $z = re^{i\theta}$, the normalized critical points are at $t_c = \pm e^{i\theta/2}$.

However, as we vary θ , the critical points and real-*t* landscape vary. At $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$ the second critical point begins to contribute.



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For $z = re^{i\theta}$, the normalized critical points are at $t_c = \pm e^{i\theta/2}$. This change in dominance is quite clear in the Airy function:





$$\operatorname{Ai}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_1} \exp\left(-zt + \frac{t^3}{3}\right) dt$$

As we continue θ further to $\theta = \pi$, both critical points become purely imaginary and jointly lead to oscillatory behavior.

This change of 1 crit. point into 2 is the Stokes' phenomenon.



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Two physical examples where Airy functions arise are quantum mechanics of turning points and supernumerary rainbows



$$\operatorname{Ai}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_1} \exp\left(-zt + \frac{t^3}{3}\right) dt.$$

But still the question remains: why do both critical points contribute? The answer is that both saddles were always contributing, it's just that one was exponentially sub-dominant

$$\operatorname{Ai}(e^{\pm \frac{2\pi i}{3}}z) = \frac{1}{2}e^{\pm \frac{\pi i}{6}}\operatorname{Bi}(z) + \frac{1}{2}e^{\pm \frac{\pi i}{3}}\operatorname{Ai}(z).$$

We can understand that such connection formulae must exist from the differential equation:

$$\frac{d^2\psi}{dx^2} = \alpha^3 x\psi,$$

which only has two independent solutions.





Gerald Dunne offers an elegant mnemonic image for these ideas: the wavelets surrounding droplets of water



The expansion of a quantity of physical interest around one of its critical points has late term contributions arising from the near term contributions of neighboring saddles.

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Classical Area Geometry — Areas, instead of lengths, can be used to describe all sorts of familiar geometry.

Heron's beautiful formula gives the area of a triangle as a function of its edge lengths

$$A_t^2(l_1, l_2, l_3) = \frac{1}{16} [l_1^2 - (l_2 - l_3)^2] [(l_2 + l_3)^2 - l_1^2].$$

A classical theorem due to H. Minkowski gives a tetrahedron's geometry via its area vectors:

$$\overrightarrow{A}_t = A_t \, \hat{n}_t,$$

where \hat{n}_t is the unit normal to triangle *t*.



$$\vec{A}_{2} \qquad \vec{A}_{3}$$

$$\vec{A}_{1} \qquad \vec{A}_{3} \qquad \longleftrightarrow \qquad \vec{A}_{1} + \vec{A}_{2} + \vec{A}_{3} + \vec{A}_{4} = 0$$

Indeed, we can make a rather profound change in perspective, and view \overrightarrow{A}_t as elements of the $\mathfrak{so}(3) \cong \mathbb{R}^3$ Lie algebra

$$R(\theta, \hat{u}) = e^{\theta(\vec{A}_1 + \vec{A}_2 + \vec{A}_3 + \vec{A}_4) \cdot \hat{u}}$$

With this choice, not only does the closure

$$\overrightarrow{A}_1 + \overrightarrow{A}_2 + \overrightarrow{A}_3 + \overrightarrow{A}_4 = 0$$

describe the tetrahedral geometry, but is also the diagonal generator of overall rotations and expresses the invariance of the geometry under these rotations; this is the Gauss constraint of discrete geometry. Counting edge lengths, we know that a tetrahedron has 6 independent parameters. The 12 components $\{\vec{A}_t\}_{t=1}^4$ are clearly overkill, while the 4 magnitudes $\{A_t\}_{t=1}^4$ are insufficient.

Closure provides a way out of this quandary. We seek rotational invariants to complete the characterization of the tetrahedral geometry. We can work with any two of:

the dot products

 $\overrightarrow{A}_{t} \cdot \overrightarrow{A}_{t'}$, or the same $A_{tt'}^{2} = (\overrightarrow{A}_{t} + \overrightarrow{A}_{t'})^{2} = A_{t}^{2} + A_{t'}^{2} + 2\overrightarrow{A}_{t} \cdot \overrightarrow{A}_{t'}$ or the rotationally invariant triple products

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{t} \cdot (\overrightarrow{A}_{t'} \times \overrightarrow{A}_{t''}).$$

It's striking that the latter gives the volume squared of the tetrahedron $Q \equiv V_{\tau}^2 = \frac{2}{9} \overrightarrow{A}_t \cdot (\overrightarrow{A}_{t'} \times \overrightarrow{A}_{t''}).$

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{1}$$

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{2}$$

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{1}$$

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{3}$$

$$\overrightarrow{A}_{4}$$

In sum, we have a classical phase space for tetrahedra!

We adopt canonical coordinates by rearranging closure as vector addition:



Because we understand the vectors as elements of $\mathfrak{so}(3)$, the coords are naturally equipped with a Poisson bracket and:

$$\{q, p\} = \{\phi, A\} = 1.$$

In 2011, Eugenio Bianchi and I considered the evolution generated by *V*, more precisely $Q = V^2 = \frac{2}{9}\vec{A_1} \cdot (\vec{A_2} \times \vec{A_3})$, on this space with fixed $\{A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4\}$:



In 2011, Eugenio Bianchi and I considered the evolution generated by the volume *V*; this evolution is integrable:



The flow along the curves of constant *V* is integrable and describes a family of tetrahedra with different shapes, but equal volumes



At left: the phase space of shapes with a constant volume contour; at right: two different views of the same tetrahedron as it undergoes the volume flow (click to play) Our first result was a semiclassical quantization of the volume eigenvalues: $V \downarrow V$



Here the Bohr-Sommerfeld values (solid dots) are compared to the numerical eigenvalues from a full quantum treatment (open circles). More on the quantum treatment below... A new result that I can share with you today is that Antu and I have been able to find the WKB wave functions too



$$\psi_q(k) = \sqrt{\frac{4A}{gK(m)}} \frac{\eta}{|[(16\Delta\bar{\Delta})^2 - (18AQ)^2]^{1/4}|} \cos\left(\frac{1}{2}(\Delta S_q - \Delta S_A) - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

where

$$S_{q,m} = 18gq \left[\frac{\lambda_{p_m}}{9g} - \sum_i \left(\frac{r_1}{r_1 - \bar{r}_i} \lambda_{p_m} - \frac{\bar{r}_i(r_2 - r_1)}{(r_2 - \bar{r}_i)(r_1 - \bar{r}_i)} \Pi \left(\alpha_i^2, \operatorname{am} \left(\frac{\lambda_{p_m}}{9g}, m \right), m \right) \right) \right]$$

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Constructive Resurgence — There is a remarkable second version of resurgence, often called constructive resurgence

Results are detailed and explicit, but largely restricted to phase spaces representable by (genus 1) Riemann surfaces

Canonical Example

$$V(q) = (2q^2 - 1)^2, \ p = \sqrt{2m[E - V]}$$

 $p = \sqrt{2m[E - (2q^2 - 1)^2]}$

Volume Evolution Example
 $\frac{dA^2}{d\lambda} = \frac{1}{9}\sqrt{(4\Delta)^2(4\bar{\Delta})^2 - A^2(18Q)^2}$
 $= \frac{1}{9}\sqrt{[A^2 - \bar{r}_1^2][A^2 - \bar{r}_2^2][\bar{r}_3^2 - A^2][\bar{r}_4^2 - A^2] - A^2(18Q)^2}$
 V^{15}

 $P(A^2, Q)$

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In both examples we can view the phase space as a genus 1 torus by complexifying variables and gluing along branch cuts

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We can now borrow a nice result from algebraic topology: the # of independent cycles = # of independent 1-forms

A 1D complex manifold with genus g and p punctures, has # indep cycles = 2g + 2p - 1.

Independence is up to an exact form. Taking m = 1, let

$$\theta(q, E) \equiv pdq = \sqrt{2[E - V(q)]},$$

then only 2g + 2p - 1 of θ and

$$\theta_1 = \partial_E p dq = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2[E - V(q)]}} dq, \ \theta_2 \equiv \partial_E^2 p dq, \ \dots, \ \theta_k \equiv \partial_E^k p dq$$

are independent. Express the dependency as $\sum c_k \theta_k(E) = df$,

$$\sum_{k} c_k \oint_{\gamma} \theta_k = \oint df = 0 \implies c_k \partial_E^k a = 0 \quad (\text{Picard-Fuchs Eqn})$$

For the symmetric quartic well this Picard-Fuchs equation is

$$E(1-E)\frac{d^2a}{dE^2} - \frac{3}{16}a = 0.$$

This equation captures the fact that as we vary E, the turning points, and hence the actions, vary in a predictable way.

Both a and a^D , which only differ by their integration cycles, satisfy this equation. Further, it implies a Wronskian relation:

$$a\partial_{E}a^{D} - a^{D}\partial_{E}a = \frac{4}{3}\pi i$$

or
$$a\omega^{D} - a^{D}\omega = \frac{4}{3}\pi i.$$

A connection formula between a and a^{D} .



Antu and I have found an explicit 3rd order Picard-Fuchs equation for the volume evolution

$$D(r_i, Q)\frac{d^3a}{dQ^3} + c_2(r_i, Q)\frac{d^2a}{dQ^2} + c_1(r_i, Q)\frac{da}{dQ} = 0.$$

Here $D(r_i, Q)$ is the quartic discriminant, an 8th order polynomial in Q that vanishes iff r_i coalesce and c_1 and c_2 are respectively of 10th and 12th order in Q.

The evident constant solution has a nice explanation: it is due to punctures in the Riemann surface.



The Picard-Fuchs coefficients are below: here
$$Q_b = 18Q$$
,
 $s_0 = r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4, \dots, s_3 = r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4$ are symm root functions
 $P = (4 (w^{b} - s1) (12 s0 + s2^2) + (2 (w^{b} - s1)^2 + 22 s0 s2) s3 + (-w^{b} + s1) s2 s2^2 - 9 s0 s3^2)$
 $(27 w^{b} - 256 s^{b} - 108 w^{b} s1 + 152 w^{b} s1^2 - 108 w^{b} s1^3 + 27 s1^4 - 144 w^{b} s0 s2 + 288 w^{b} s1 s2 - 144 s0 s1^2 s2 + 128 s0^2 s2^2 + 4 w^{b} s2^2 - 8 w^{b} s1 s2^2 + 4 s1^2 s2^2 - 158 s0s^4 + 2 (w^{b} - s1) (9 (w^{b} - s1)^2 s2 - 8 s0 (12 s0 + 5 s2^2)) s3 + (6s (w^{b} - s1)^2 - 144 s0^2 s2 - (w^{b} - s1)^2 (2 (w^{b} - s1)^2 - 9 s0 s2) s3^3 + 27 s0^2 s3^4)$
 $(6s (w^{b} - s1)^2 - 144 s0^2 s2 - (w^{b} - s1) (9 (w^{b} - s1)^2 s2 - 8 s0 (12 s0 + 5 s2^2)) s3 + (26 s0 s) s2^2 - 4 s2^2) s3^2 + 128 s0^4 s2^4 + 48^2 s2^3) + (9 (w^{b} - s1)^2 - 124 s0 s2^2 - s2^2) - 378 s1 s3 - 27 s2 s3^2 - 4 s3^4)$
 $3 y b^4 (-6644 s1 (12 s0 + s2^2) + (675 s1^2 + 8074 s0 s2 + 68 s2^2) s3 + 117 s1 s2 s2^3 - 3 (255 s0 + 11 s2^2) s3^3 + 128 s0 s0 s0^2 - 297 s1^2 s2 + 188 s0 s0 s0^2 + 4 s2^4) s3^2 + 4 s1 (12 s0 + s2^2) (185 s1^2 + 72 s0 s2 + 2 s2^2) s1 s1 (135 s1^4 + 8 (1822 s0^4 + 291 s0 s0^2 + 297 s1^2 s2 + 188 s0 s0 s0^2 + 4 s2^4) s3^2 + 4 s1 (12 s0 + s2^2) (185 s1^2 + 72 s0 s2 s2 + 2 s2^2) s3^4 - 2 (2817 s0 s1^2 - 27 s0 s0^2 + 2 s3^2) + 2 s2^3 (4 s2 - s3^2) + 18 s0 s0^2) s3^2 - s1 (24 s1^2 - 294 s0 s2 s1 s3^2 s1^2 + 33 (-65 s0 s1^2 s2 - 118 s0 s0^2) + 2 s1^2 (24 s1^2 - 294 s0 s2 s1 s3 s1^3 + 3 (8 s1^2 s2 + 3 s0 (-65 s0 s1 s2^2) s3^3 + 2 2 s3^3 + 2 s3 (-40 s2 + 9 s3^2))) = s1^2 (12 s2^2 - s1^2 + s2^2 (4 s2 - s3^2) + s1 s2 s3 (-40 s2 + 9 s3^2)) + s1^2 (12 s2 s1^2 + s2^2 (-48 s2 s1 s2^3 + 38 s1 s3^2 + s2 s1 (28 s2^2 - 21 s2 s3^2 + 48 s1 s3^4)) + s1^2 (12 s2^2 + 12 s2^3 + 54 s1 s2 s3 (-40 s2 + 9 s3^2))) + s1^2 (12 s2^2 + s2^2 (4 s2 - s3^2) + s1 s2 s3 (-40 s2 + 9 s3^2)) + s1^2 (12 s2 - s1^2 + s2^2 (-48 s2^2 + s3^2 + 8 s0 s2 s3^2 + s5 s3^2) + s1^2 s2^2 (-48 s2^2 + 23 s3^2 + s3 s1 s3^4)) + s1^2 (12 s2^2 - 21 s2 s3^2 + 48 s1 s3^4)) + s1^2 (12 s2 + s2^2 + 12 s2 s2^2 + s2 s3^2 +$

Why is, even such a messy, Picard-Fuchs equation of interest?

These equations allow us to express the all orders in \hbar quantization conditions of a genus-1 phase space in terms of the lowest order actions, i.e solutions of the Picard-Fuchs eqn.

The proof is delicate, but quite elegant [Basar, Dunne, Ünsal]: 1. The classical actions a_0 and a_0^D are solutions to the Picard-Fuchs equation. They are related via a Wronskian condition. Hence \exists only 1 indep classical action function on the torus.

2. WKB analysis can be extended to all orders in \hbar : $a(E,\hbar) = \sqrt{2} \left(\oint_{\alpha} \sqrt{E - V} dq - \frac{\hbar^2}{2^6} \oint_{\alpha} \frac{(V')^2}{(E - V)^{5/2}} dq - \frac{\hbar^4}{2^{13}} \oint_{\alpha} \left(\frac{49(V')^4}{(E - V)^{11/2}} - \frac{16V'V''}{(E - V)^{7/2}} \right) \right) + \cdots$ The integrands are rational functions of q and $p = \sqrt{\text{quartic.}}$ These equations allow us to express the all orders in \hbar quantization conditions of a genus-1 phase space in terms of the lowest order actions, i.e solutions of the Picard-Fuchs eqn.

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The integrands are rational functions of q and $p = \sqrt{q}$ quartic.

For genus 1 systems, the classical action and all higher order actions can be expressed in terms of the complete elliptic integrals: \mathbb{K} , \mathbb{E} , Π , which are closed under differentiation.

Hence the higher order actions $a_{\ell}(E) = \mathscr{D}_{E}^{\ell} a_{0}(E)$, for some \mathscr{D}_{E}^{ℓ} .

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The integrands are rational functions of q and $p = \sqrt{\text{quartic.}}$ Hence the higher order actions $a_{\ell}(E) = \mathscr{D}_{E}^{\ell} a_{0}(E)$, for some \mathscr{D}_{E}^{ℓ} . Repeated use of the Picard-Fuchs eqn allows us to reduce the order of this differential operator until:

$$a_{\ell}(E) = f_{\ell}^{(2)}(E) \frac{d^2 a_0}{dE^2} + f_{\ell}^{(1)}(E) \frac{da_0}{dE} + f_{\ell}^{(0)}(E) a_0$$

We have found explicit modular relations between the actions

The closed action integrals in the classically allowed region and the classically forbidden regions ($A^2 > r_3$ and $A^2 < r_2$) are:

$$a_{1} = 18gQ\left(\left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \frac{r_{1}}{r_{1} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] K(m) - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left[\frac{r_{2}}{r_{2} - \bar{r}_{i}} - \frac{r_{1}}{r_{1} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] \Pi(\alpha_{i}^{2}, m)\right)$$

$$a_{2}^{D} = \frac{18gQ}{i} \left(\left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \frac{r_{2}}{r_{2} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] K(m_{f}) - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left[\frac{r_{3}}{r_{3} - \bar{r}_{i}} - \frac{r_{2}}{r_{2} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] \Pi(\alpha_{if}^{2}, m_{f})\right)$$

$$a_{3}^{D} = \frac{18gQ}{i} \left(\left[1 - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \frac{r_{3}}{r_{3} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] K(m_{f}) - \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left[\frac{r_{2}}{r_{2} - \bar{r}_{i}} - \frac{r_{3}}{r_{3} - \bar{r}_{i}}\right] \Pi(\alpha_{if}^{2}, m_{f})\right)$$

$$\alpha_i^2 = \frac{(r_3 - r_2)(r_1 - \bar{r}_i)}{(r_3 - r_1)(r_2 - \bar{r}_i)}; \qquad \alpha_{if}^2 = \frac{(r_4 - r_3)(r_2 - \bar{r}_i)}{(r_4 - r_2)(r_3 - \bar{r}_i)}; \qquad \alpha_{iF}^2 = \frac{(r_2 - r_1)(r_3 - \bar{r}_i)}{(r_3 - r_1)(r_2 - \bar{r}_i)}; \qquad m_f = \frac{(r_3 - r_2)(r_4 - r_1)}{(r_4 - r_2)(r_3 - r_1)}; \qquad m_f = \frac{(r_4 - r_3)(r_2 - r_1)}{(r_4 - r_2)(r_3 - r_1)};$$

Using $\alpha_{if}^2 \alpha_{iF}^2 = m_f$ and $\Pi(\alpha^2, m) = K(m) - \Pi(m/\alpha^2, m)$, one can show $a_2^D = a_3^D$.

Much still remains to be understood: the quantum equation underlying this geometry is rich, and differs from the Schrödinger equation (c.f. Bianchi, HMH 2011 for derivation)

The matrix elements of the \hat{Q} operator in a recoupling basis satisfy the recursion relation

$$a_{k+1}\langle k+1 | q \rangle - a_k\langle k-1 | q \rangle + iq\langle k | q \rangle = 0$$

with

$$a_{k} = \frac{1}{8\sqrt{k - \frac{1}{2}}\sqrt{k + \frac{1}{2}}} \left(\sqrt{\left[(j_{1} + j_{2} + 1)^{2} - k^{2}\right]\left[k^{2} - (j_{1} - j_{2})^{2}\right]}\sqrt{\left[(j_{3} + j_{4} + 1)^{2} - k^{2}\right]\left[k^{2} - (j_{3} - j_{4})^{2}\right]}\right)$$

This can be viewed as a difference equation, which in the semiclassical limit gives a differential equation

$$\frac{\Delta^2 \Phi_k^q}{\Delta k^2} + 2 \frac{\Delta \Phi_k^q}{\Delta k} + \frac{iqK}{2\Delta(K, J_1, J_2)\Delta(K, J_3, J_4)} \Phi_k^q = 0.$$

At lowest order this is in excellent agreement with $a = -\oint \phi dA$, but both the coefficients and the wave function contribute at all orders in \hbar ! Quantization of geometry provides a remarkable laboratory for understanding resurgent perturbative/non-perturbative relations and, due to the richness of its underlying quantum structure, may even require extensions of this formalism.



