

# Quasilocal holography from quantum gravity in 3 dimensions

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Largely based on works in collaboration with  
Bianca Dittrich  
Christophe Goeller  
Etera Livine

Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics  
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# Introduction



# Finite & Quantum

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## Holography from non-perturbative Quantum Gravity ?

Finite (v. asymptotic) boundaries

Quantum (v. classical) boundary conditions

### Questions

- What are the dual degrees of freedom?
- What is their dynamics?
- How does it compare with “standard” holography?
- And to (semi)classical computations  
e.g. Hamilton-Jacobi for linearized GR, Regge calculus [Dittrich et al]

# ... in 3d

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We need a nonperturbative theory of Quantum Gravity

And in 3d (Euclidean,  $\Lambda=0$ ) we have one: the **Ponzano-Regge** model

- it is *under mathematical control*
- it provides a clear picture of *quantum geometry*
- it has an *exact* realization of quantum *diffeomorphism* symmetry  
(in the bulk: not at the boundary!)
- it is *topological* (no bulk-local dof)

## Talk (mostly) based on:

Dittrich, Goeller, Livine, AR "Quasi-local holographic dualities in non-perturbative 3d quantum gravity" series (NPB, CQG 2018)

AR "Quantum edge modes in 3d gravity and 2+1d topological phases of matter" PRD 2018

Goeller, Livine, AR "Non-Perturbative 3D Quantum Gravity: Quantum Boundary States & Exact Partition Function" to appear



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Congratulations  
Dr. Christophe !



# Take home messages

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## **3d QG is the ideal framework to investigate boundaries and holography in QG**

We have full control of the theory at the quantum/classical/geometric/finite/asymptotic levels

Ideal testbed to try and test ideas about holography, edge modes, continuum v. classical limit (renormalization, criticality, etc...)

Possibility to use tools and insights from other fields

E.g. AdS/CFT, spin chains, 2d stat models, integrability, condensed matter...

First...

- derivation of holographic duality from non-perturbative q-Gravity/q-Geometry model
- computation of extended spinfoam amplitude (check e.g. orientation “problem”)
- matching of a QG computation with a QFT one
  - + proposal for nonperturbative QG effects/corrections (winding numbers  $\sim$  curvature resonances)

**A lot to do, to clarify, and to play with!**

# Boundaries

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Part of a larger project: understand quasilocal dof of gauge theories & gravities

Setup: consider finite & bounded regions, and how gauge & diffeos interact with boundaries

Advertisement: in the symplectic context, I have been developing new tools for YM theory:  
many new results on factorization/gluing of YM dof, symmetries, and SSS [1]  
and on the fate of symmetries in the asymptotic limit [2]

This is not only my interest!

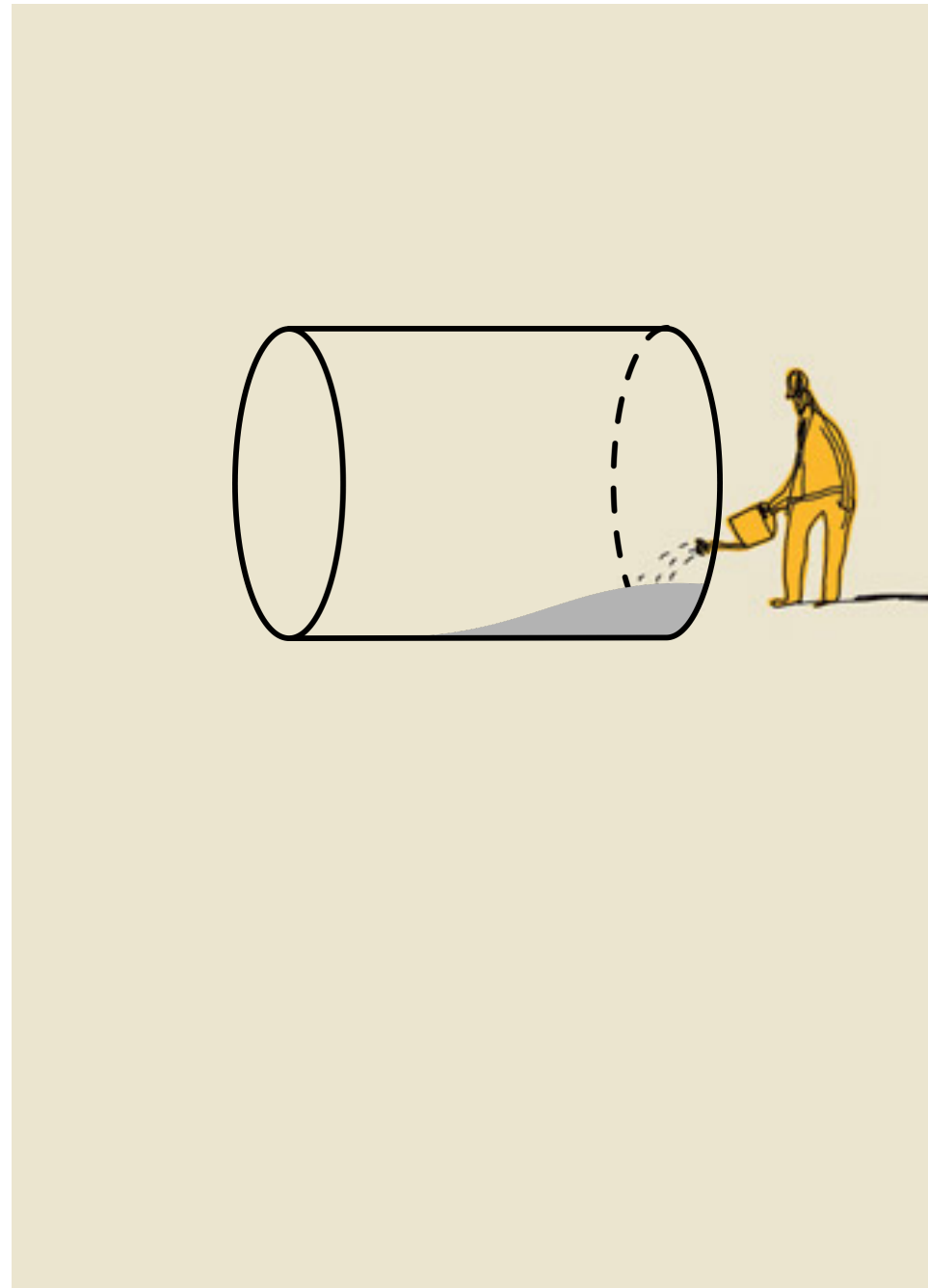
Boundaries are alive and well in the LQG community (already 2 other ILQGS this year)...  
[Bodendorfer, Corichi, Dittrich, Freidel, Geiller, Livine, Perez, Pranzetti, Wieland ... ]

...as well as in the larger theoretical/mathematical physics community!  
[holography, asymptotic symmetries, condensed matter, entanglement entropy, extended tqft, BV-BFV, ... ]

[1] Gomes & AR, “The quasilocal degrees of freedom of Yang-Mills theory” arXiv:1910.04222

[2] AR, “Soft charges from the geometry of field space” arXiv:1904.07410

# Part I - Preliminaries



# A quick review of 3d gravity

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$$S_{\text{EC}}[e, \omega] = \int_M \text{tr}(e \wedge F[\omega])$$

First order 3d gravity = SU(2) BF **topological field theory**

EoM :

flatness  $F[\omega] = d\omega + \omega \wedge \omega = 0$

torsion-freeness  $T[\omega, e] = de + \omega \wedge e = 0$

$\rightarrow \begin{cases} \omega = g^{-1}dg \\ e = g^{-1}(d\lambda)g \end{cases}$  on-shell (trivial topology)

Pullback of EoM on a Cauchy hypersurface gives the constraints

flatness  $\rightarrow$  BF shift symmetry  $\begin{cases} \delta_\lambda e = d_\omega \lambda \\ \delta_\lambda \omega = 0 \end{cases}$

torsion-freeness  $\rightarrow$  “Lorentz” symmetry  $\begin{cases} \delta_\xi e = [e, \xi] \\ \delta_\xi \omega = d_\omega \xi \end{cases}$



# A quick review of 3d gravity

$$S_{\text{EC}}[e, \omega] = \int_M \text{tr}(e \wedge F[\omega])$$

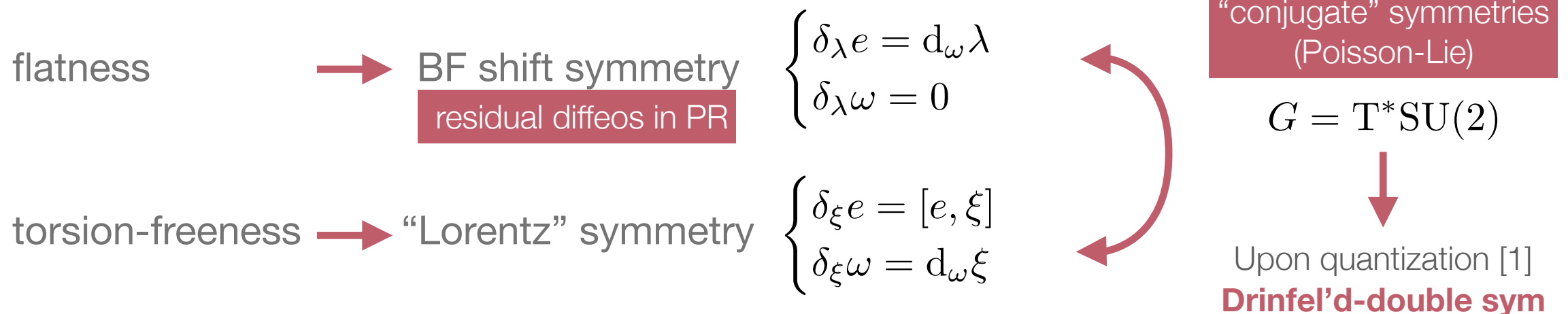
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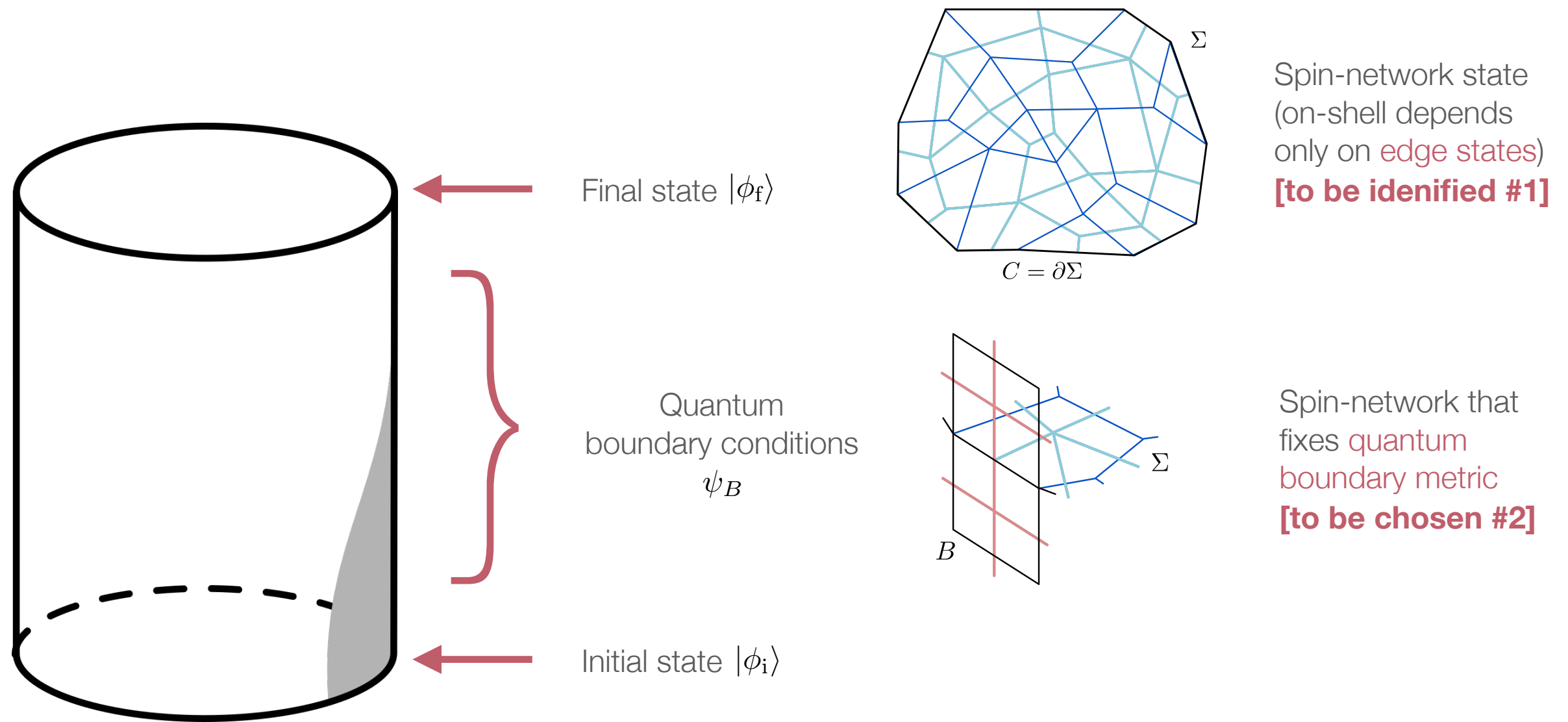
$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} \omega = g^{-1} dg \\ e = g^{-1} (d\lambda) g \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{on-shell} \\ \text{(trivial topology)} \end{array}$$

Pullback of EoM on a Cauchy hypersurface gives the constraints



[1] E.g.  
 Meusburger, Noui, “The Hilbert space of 3d gravity: quantum group symmetries and observables”, ATMP 14 (2010)  
 Delcamp, Dittrich, AR “Fusion basis for lattice gauge theory and loop quantum gravity”, JHEP 02 (2016)

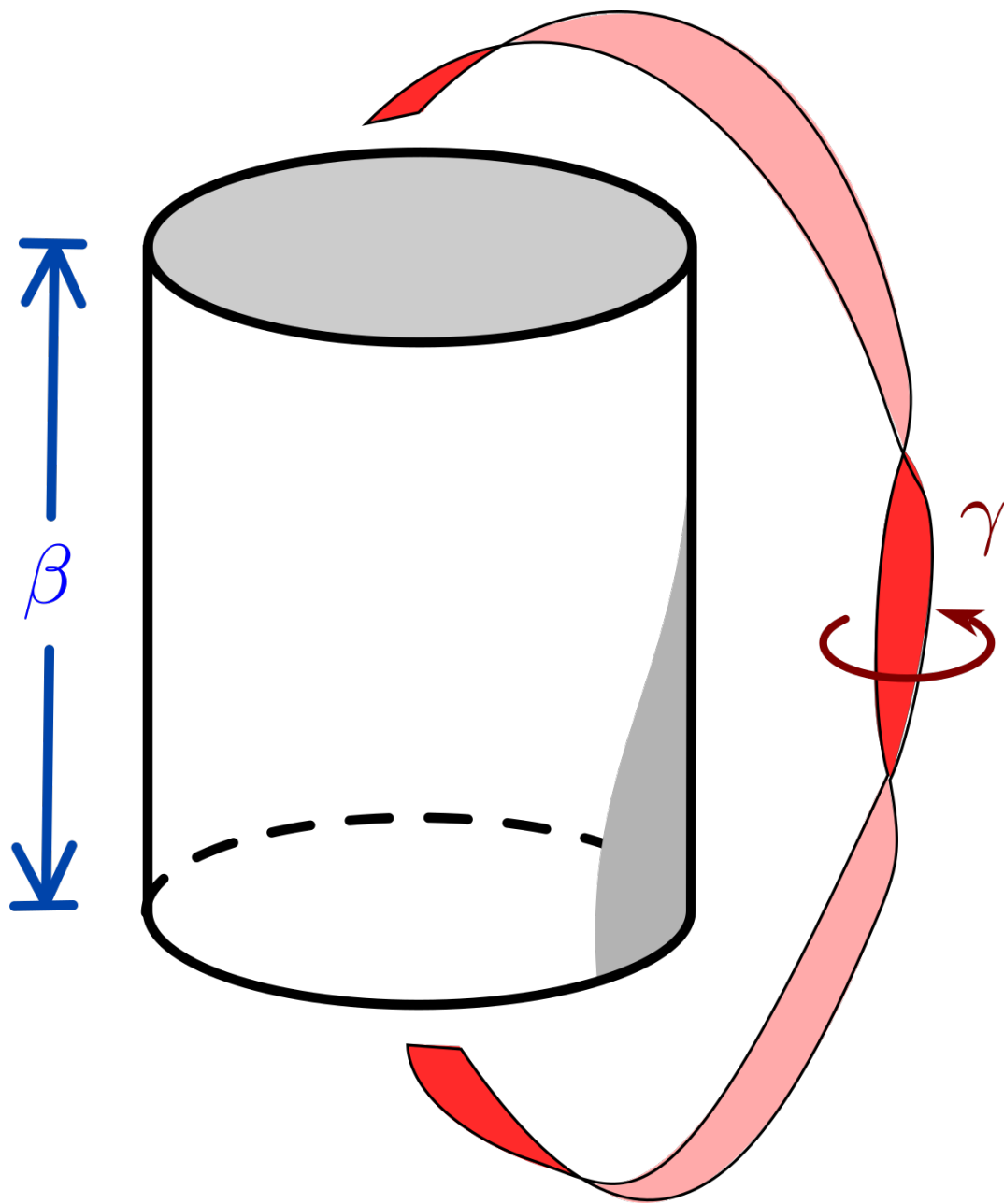
# Holographic setup #1



$$\langle \phi_f | W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi_i \rangle =$$

Ponzano-Regge dynamics defines 3d QG transition amplitudes at fixed (quantum) boundary conditions

# Holographic setup #2



Identify initial and final states up to a twist  $\gamma$   
[curvature around non contractible cycle]

**Thermal/torus partition function**

[to be computed #3]

compare to semiclassical/continuous results

$$Z_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B, \gamma] := \sum_{\phi} \langle \phi | R[\gamma] W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi \rangle$$

**Holographic dual theory?** [to be determined #4]

i.e. can we interpret this amplitude as the partition function for the edge dof on a certain background?

$$\int_{g_{\partial M} = h} \mathcal{D}g e^{-iS_{\text{GR-3d}}[g]} \stackrel{?}{=} \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-iS_{2\text{d}}[\phi|h]}$$

# Some results [a very incomplete list]

**AdS<sub>3</sub>**

$\Lambda < 0$

Brown, Henneaux 86 : weaken **AdS<sub>3</sub>** b.c. to obtain **Virasoro** sym at scri  
Bañados et al 90s : BTZ + applications of Chern-Simons / WZW  
Carlip 05 : identifies **normal diffeos** at scri **as boundary dof**  
Maloney, Witten 07 : compute **partition function** via rep. theory  
Giombi, Maloney, Yin 08 : compute **partition function @ 1-loop** from GR  
Cotler, Jensen 19: new interpretation of boundary dof + Schwarzian action;  
and resolution of some puzzle in Maloney-Witten  
(on modular invariance)

[+ many many others]



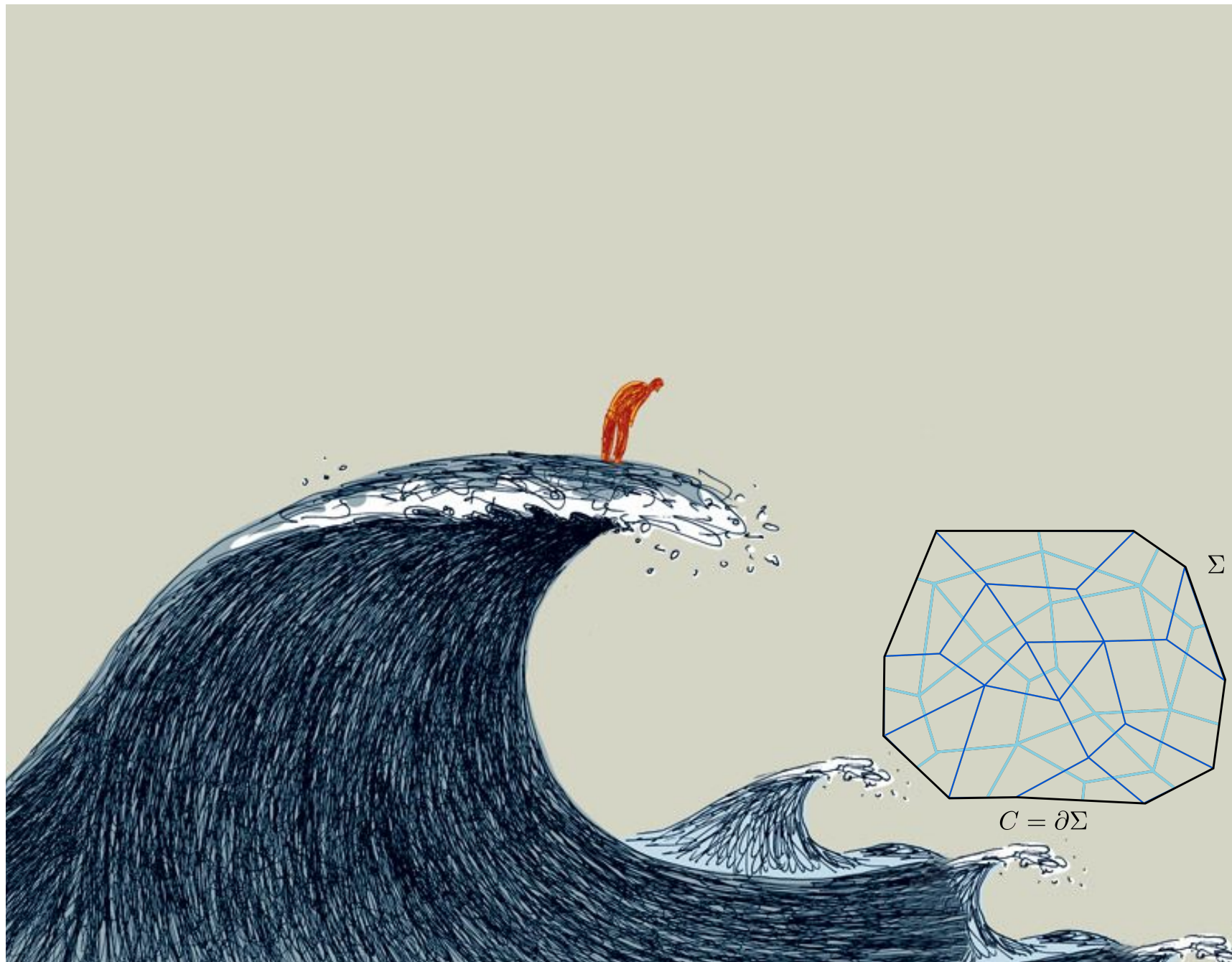
Interesting parallels  
and differences

**Minkowski<sub>3</sub>**

$\Lambda = 0$

Oblak 15 : **Characters of BMS<sub>3</sub>** = flat limit of Virasoro  
Barnich et al 15 : compute **partition function @ 1-loop** from GR  
Bonzom, Dittrich 15 : compute partition function @ 1-loop in quantum  
Regge calculus: agreement modulo discrete truncation  
**Dittrich, Goeller, Livine, AR** 17-19 : quantum PR computations & dualities  
**AR** 17 : quantum edge states for PR, dualities & 3d QG symmetries  
Castro, Dittrich 19 : point particles leads to massive BMS<sub>3</sub> character  
Asante, Dittrich, Hopfmüller 19 : linearized HJ theory for general boundaries  
Asante, Haggard, Dittrich 18 : “flat-Regge” (KBF) generalization to 4d  
AR, Artigas-Guimarey 19 : PR with Wilson-line observables [wip]

# Part II - Edge States

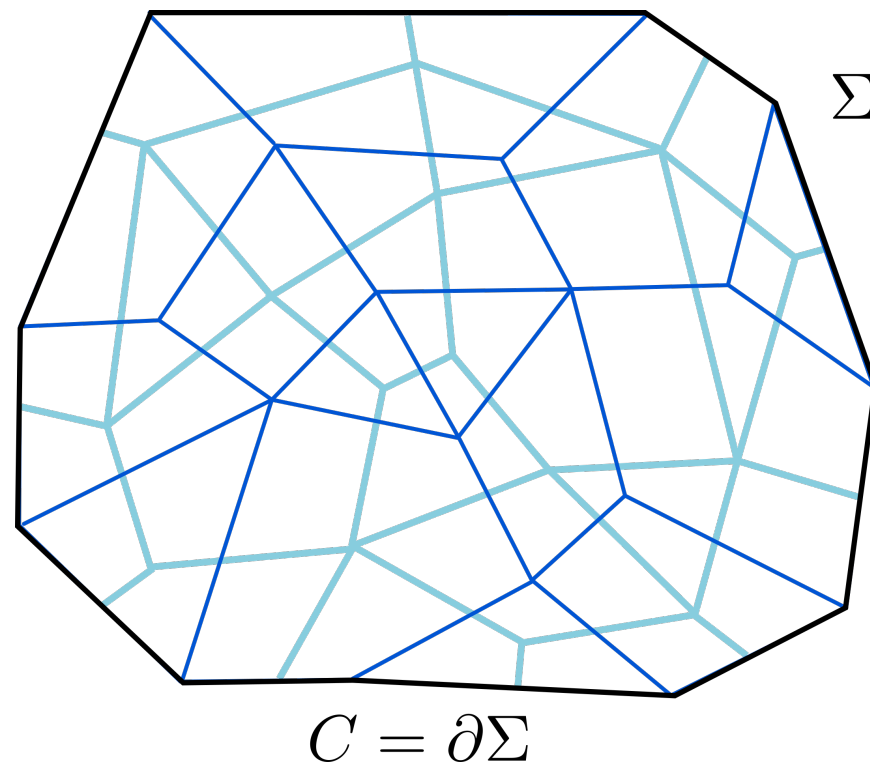




# Kinematic states

Dark blue = cellular decomposition  $\Delta$  of hypersurface  $\Sigma$

Light blue = Poincaré dual graph  $\Gamma$  (spin-network)

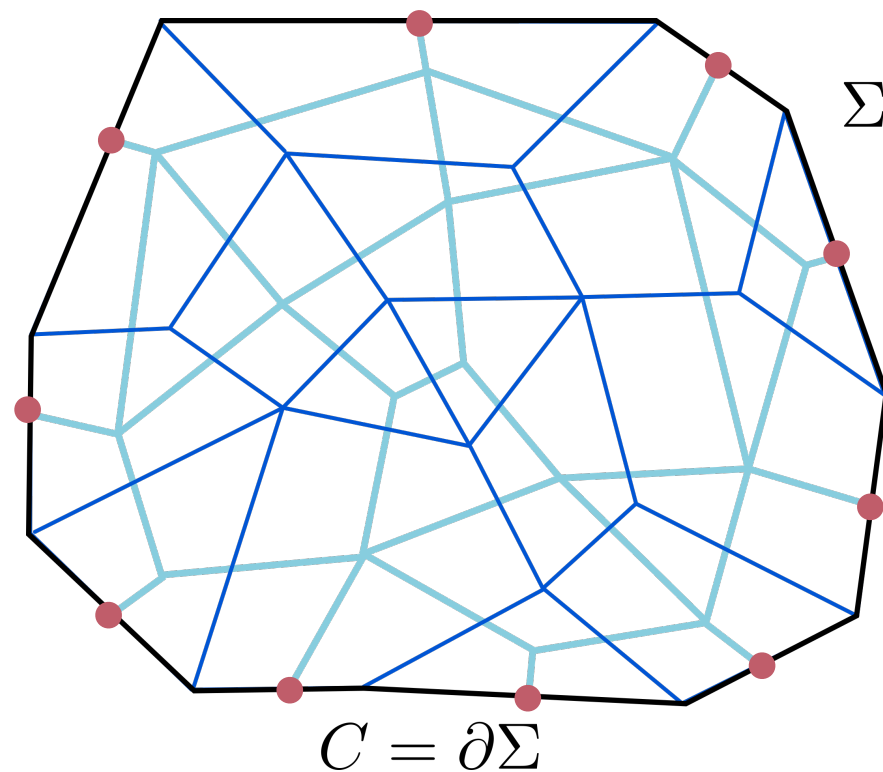


$$\phi(g_\ell) = \phi(u_t^{-1} g_\ell u_s) \quad \text{bulk}$$

# Kinematic states

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$$\phi(g_\ell) = \phi(u_t^{-1} g_\ell u_s) \quad \text{bulk}$$

**Boundary breaks gauge**

need for “compensating” fields:

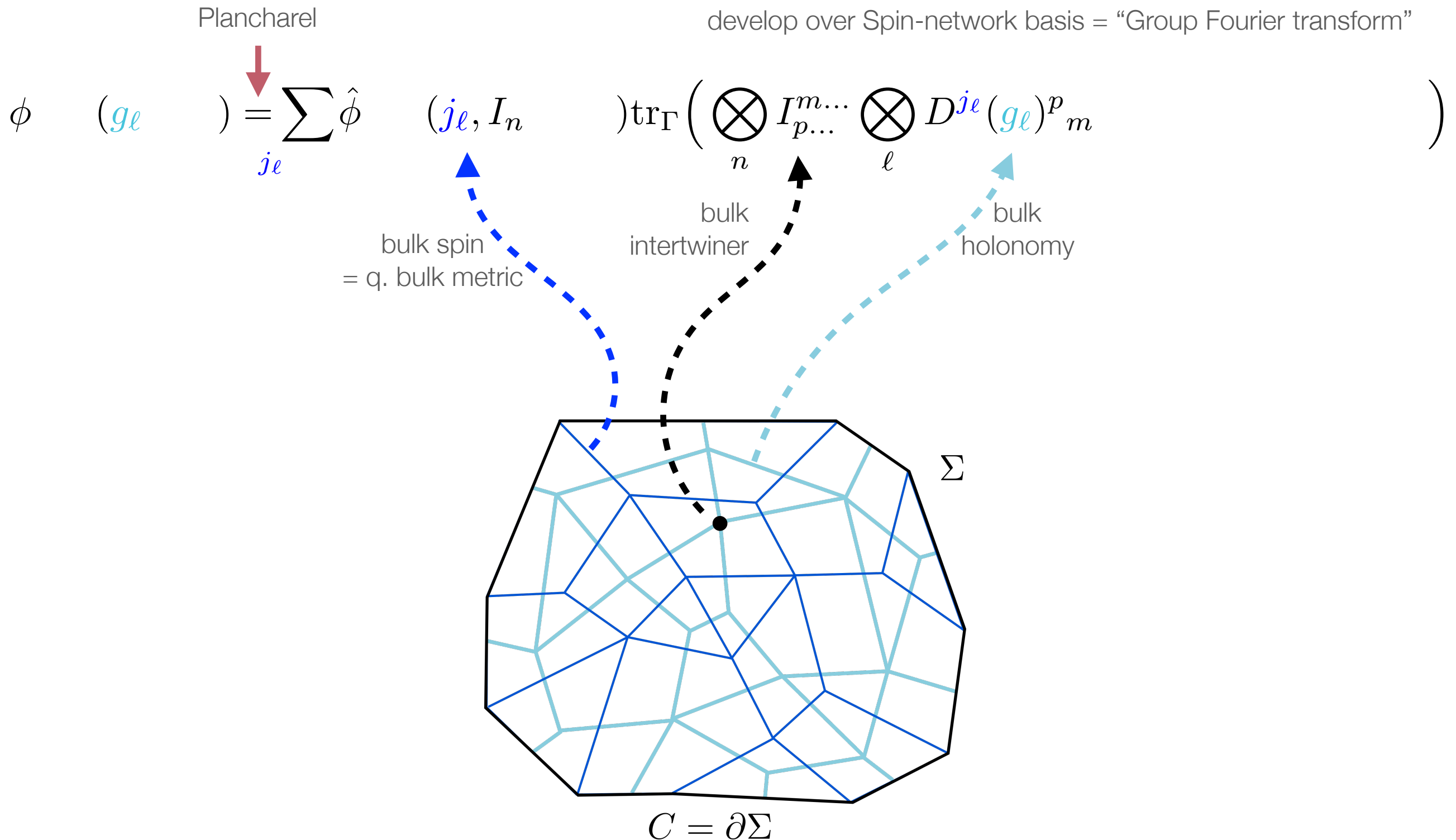
Carlip’s “would-be-gauge” dofs, or “edge modes”



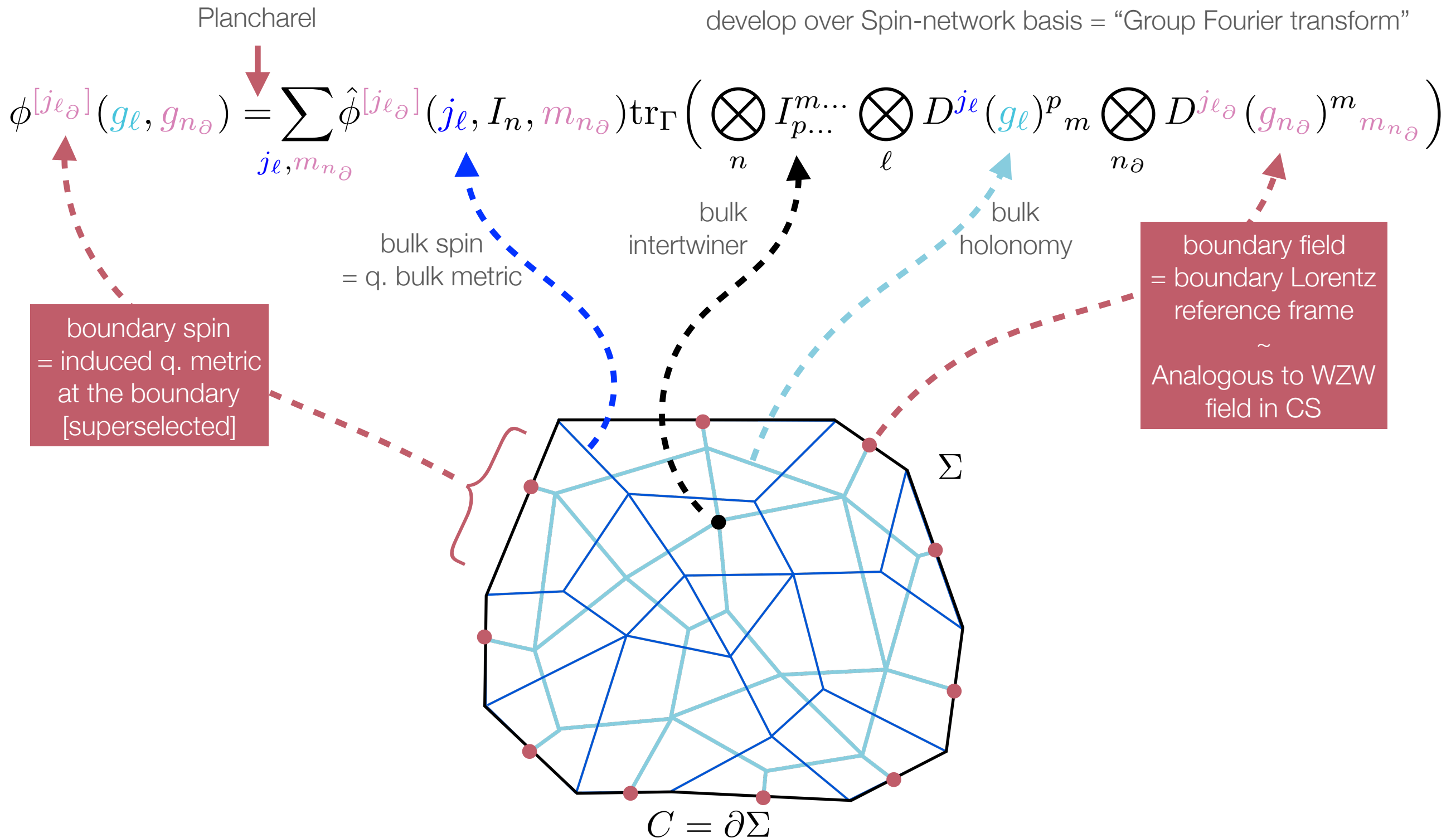
$$\phi(g_\ell, g_{n_\partial}) = \phi(u_t^{-1} g_\ell u_s, u_{n_\partial}^{-1} g_{n_\partial})$$

**RMK** this choice of compensating fields, focuses on Lorentz symmetry  
 it corresponds to the “electric center” prescription of CHR14

# Kinematic states



# Kinematic states



Kinematic states

# Boundary dof

group elements  
as boundary dof

develop over Spin-network basis = “Group Fourier transform”

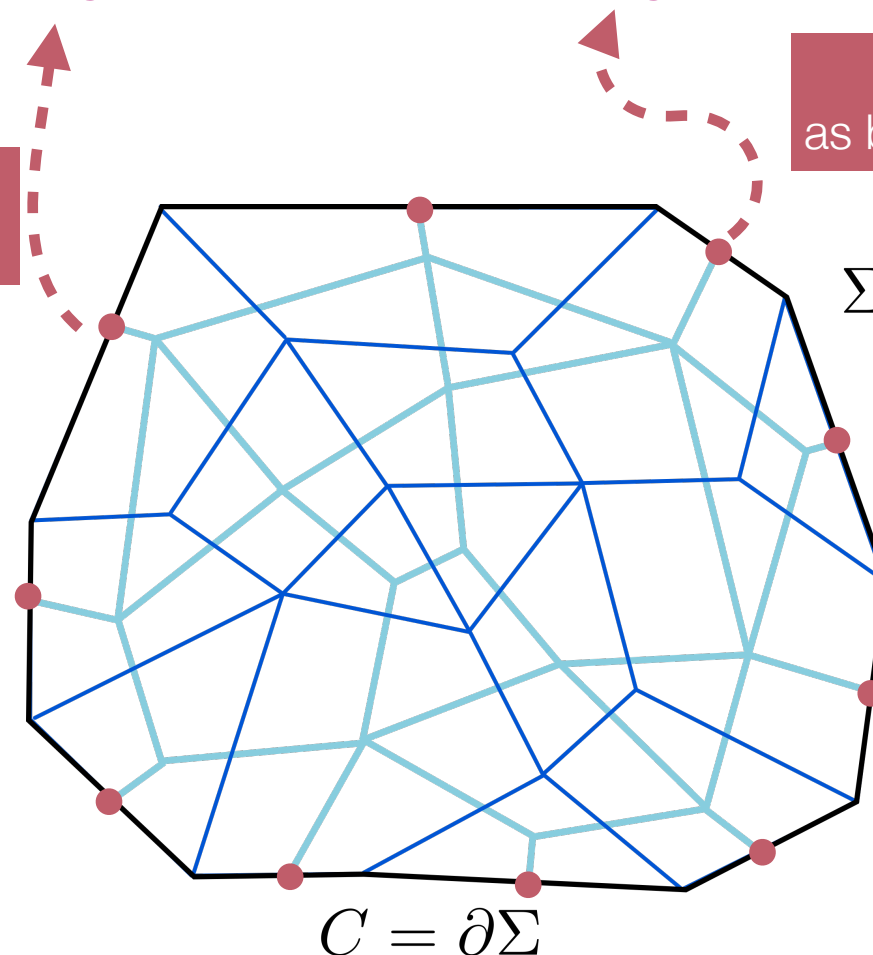
$$\phi^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, g_{n_{\partial}}) = \sum_{j_{\ell}, m_{n_{\partial}}} \hat{\phi}^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(j_{\ell}, I_n, m_{n_{\partial}}) \text{tr}_{\Gamma} \left( \bigotimes_n I_{p\dots}^{m\dots} \bigotimes_{\ell} D^{j_{\ell}}(g_{\ell})^p_m \bigotimes_{n_{\partial}} D^{j_{\ell\partial}}(g_{n_{\partial}})^m_{m_{n_{\partial}}} \right)$$

Partial Fourier  
Transform

$$\longrightarrow \check{\phi}^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, m_{n_{\partial}}) \longleftrightarrow \tilde{\phi}^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, \xi_{n_{\partial}})$$

magnetic indices  
as boundary dof

spinors  
as boundary dof





Kinematic states

# Boundary dof - summary

group elements  
as boundary dof

magnetic indices  
as boundary dof

spinors  
as boundary dof

$$\phi^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, g_{n_{\partial}}) \longrightarrow \check{\phi}^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, m_{n_{\partial}}) \longleftrightarrow \tilde{\phi}^{[j_{\ell\partial}]}(g_{\ell}, \xi_{n_{\partial}})$$

in analogy with:

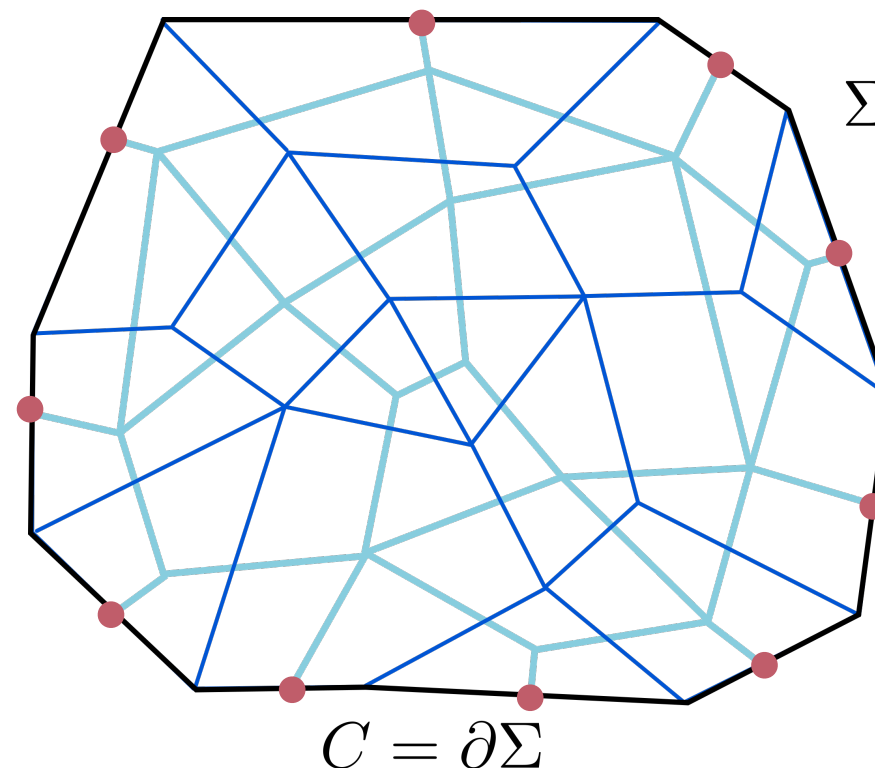
~ WZW

~ Wieland

$$\eta_{\text{Wie}} \sim j\xi$$

The induced (quantum) **boundary metric is externally given**  
(superselected)

Mathematically, it is encoded  
in the **boundary spins**



The **boundary dof** geometrically  
represent the orientation of the  
reference frame at/**orientation of  
the boundary** (~extrinsic curvature)

Mathematically, this is encoded  
either in a group element,  
a spinor, or a magnetic index

Kinematic states

# Boundary dof - summary

group elements  
as boundary dof

magnetic indices  
as boundary dof

spinors  
as boundary dof

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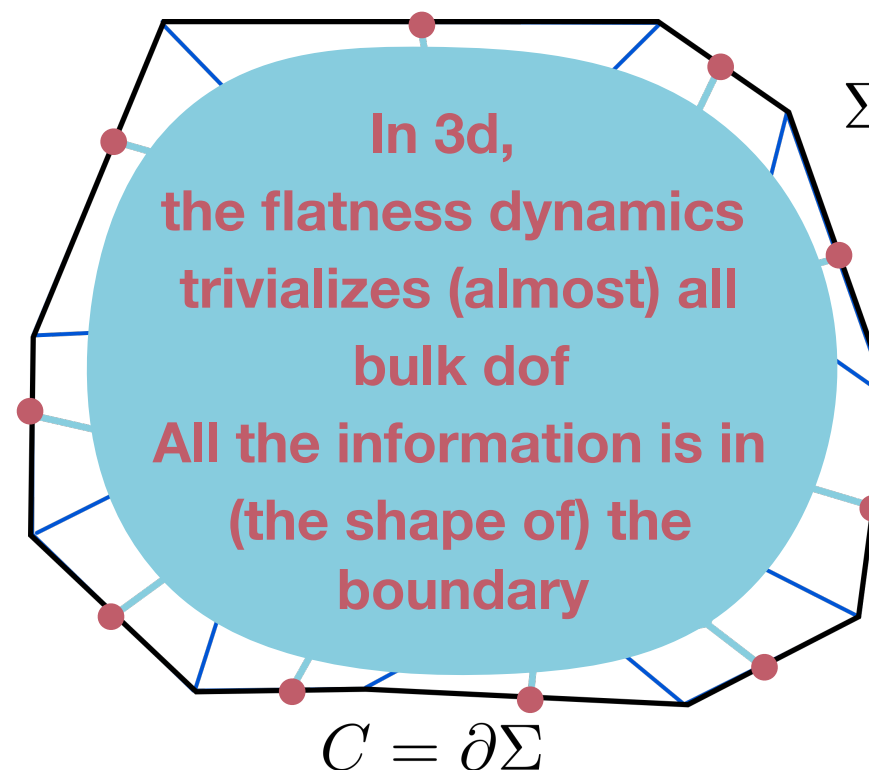
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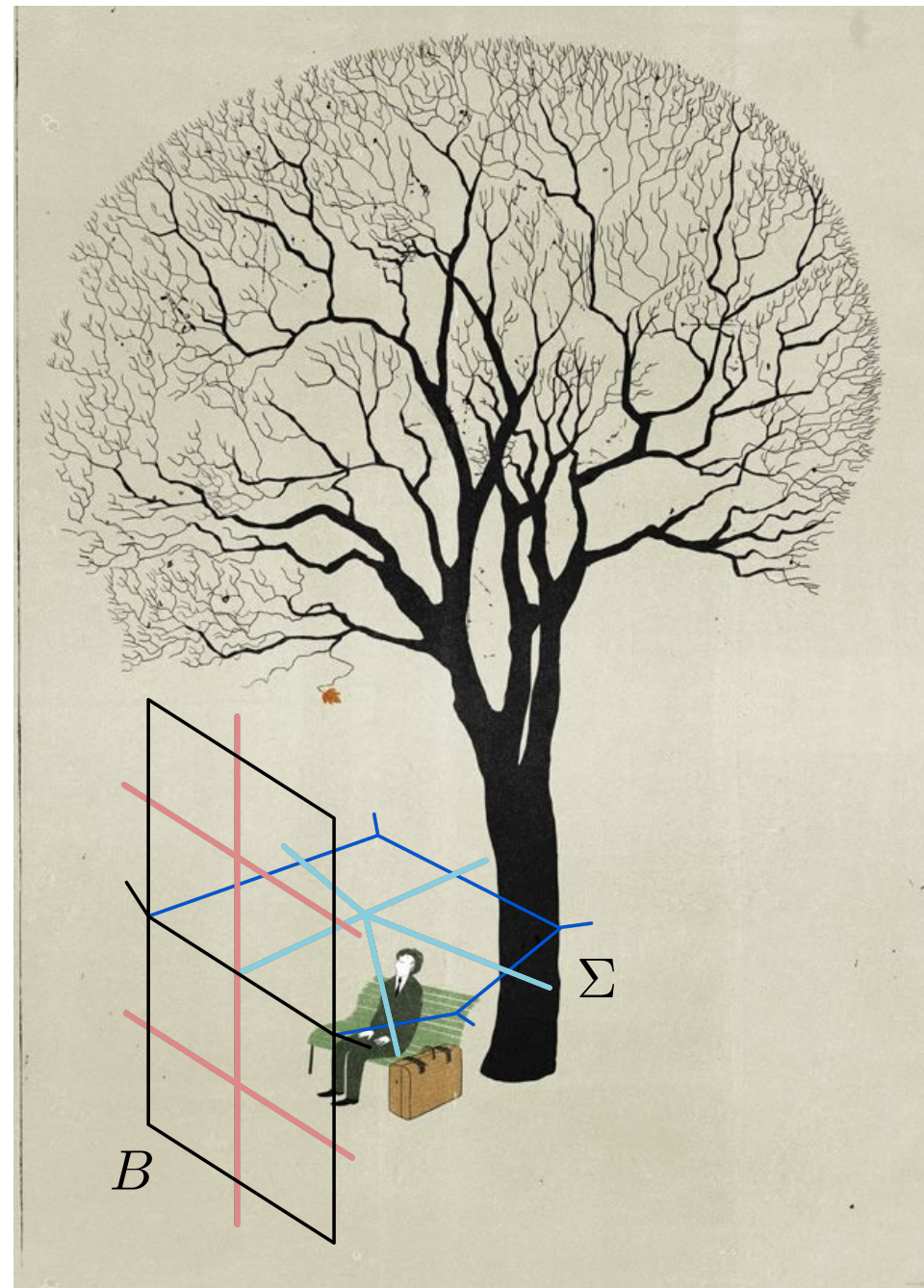
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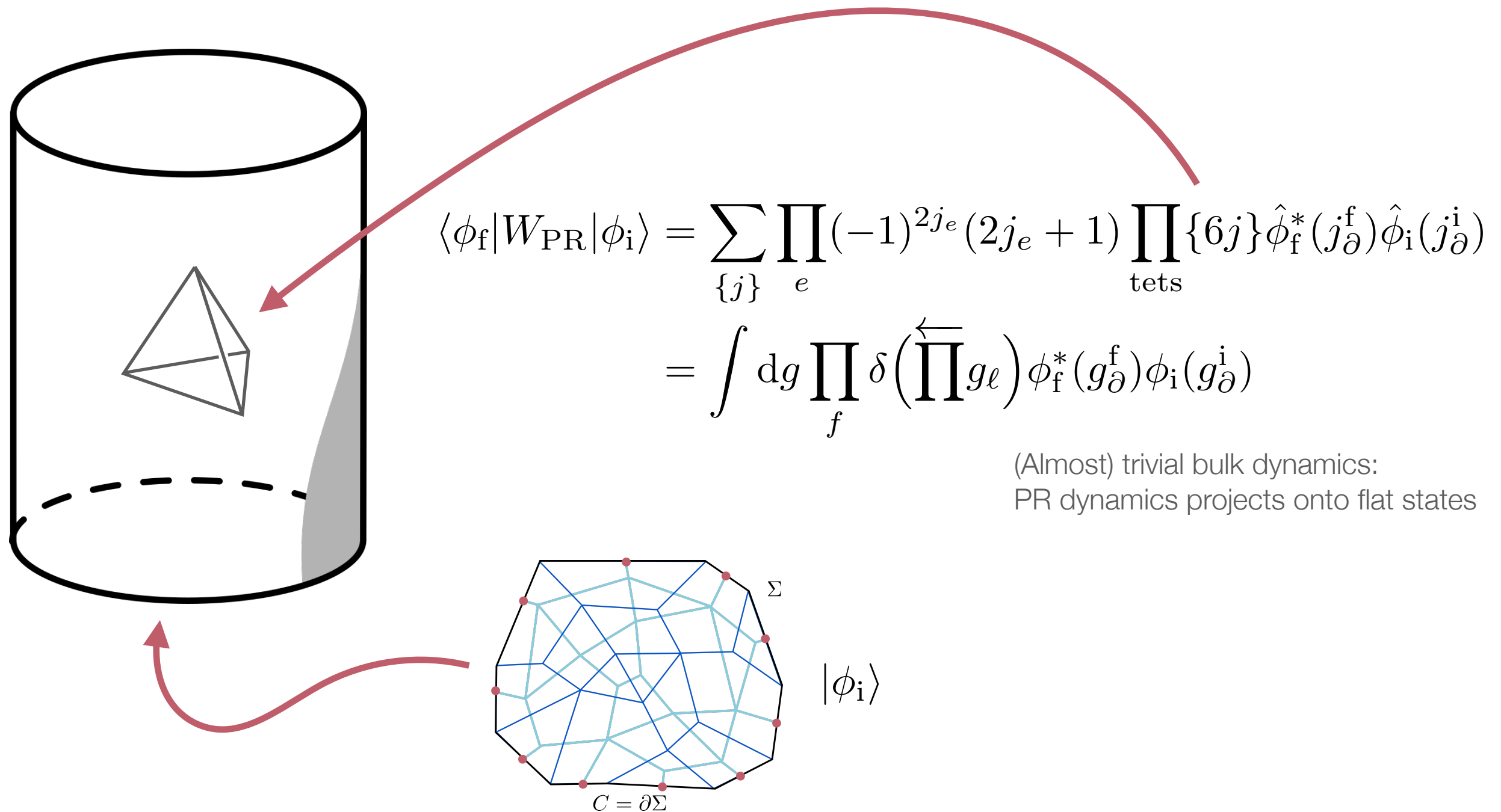
The **boundary dof** geometrically represent the orientation of the reference frame at/**orientation of the boundary** (~extrinsic curvature)

Mathematically, this is encoded either in a group element, a spinor, or a magnetic index

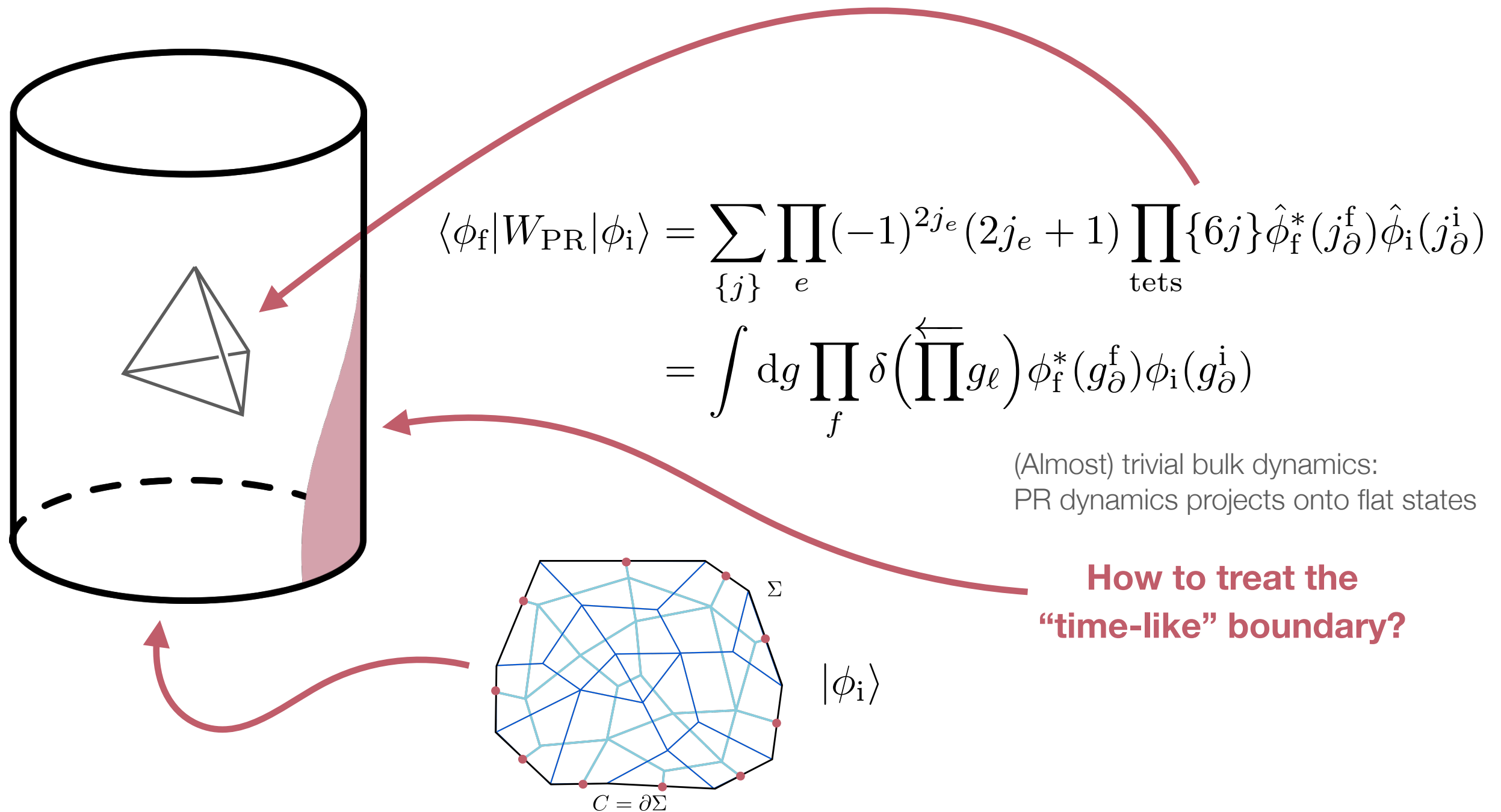
# Part III - Boundary dynamics



# From bulk to boundary dynamics

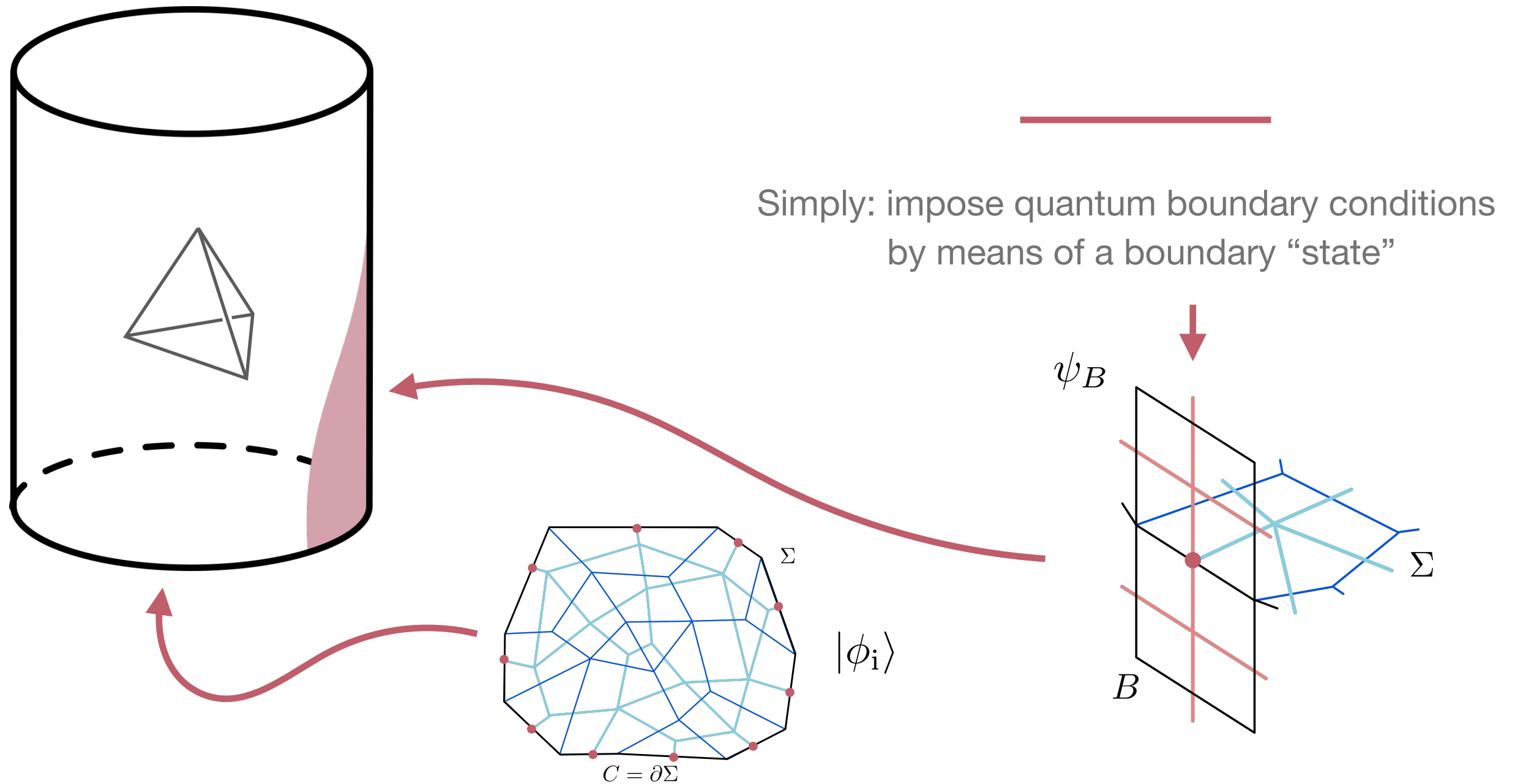


# From bulk to boundary dynamics



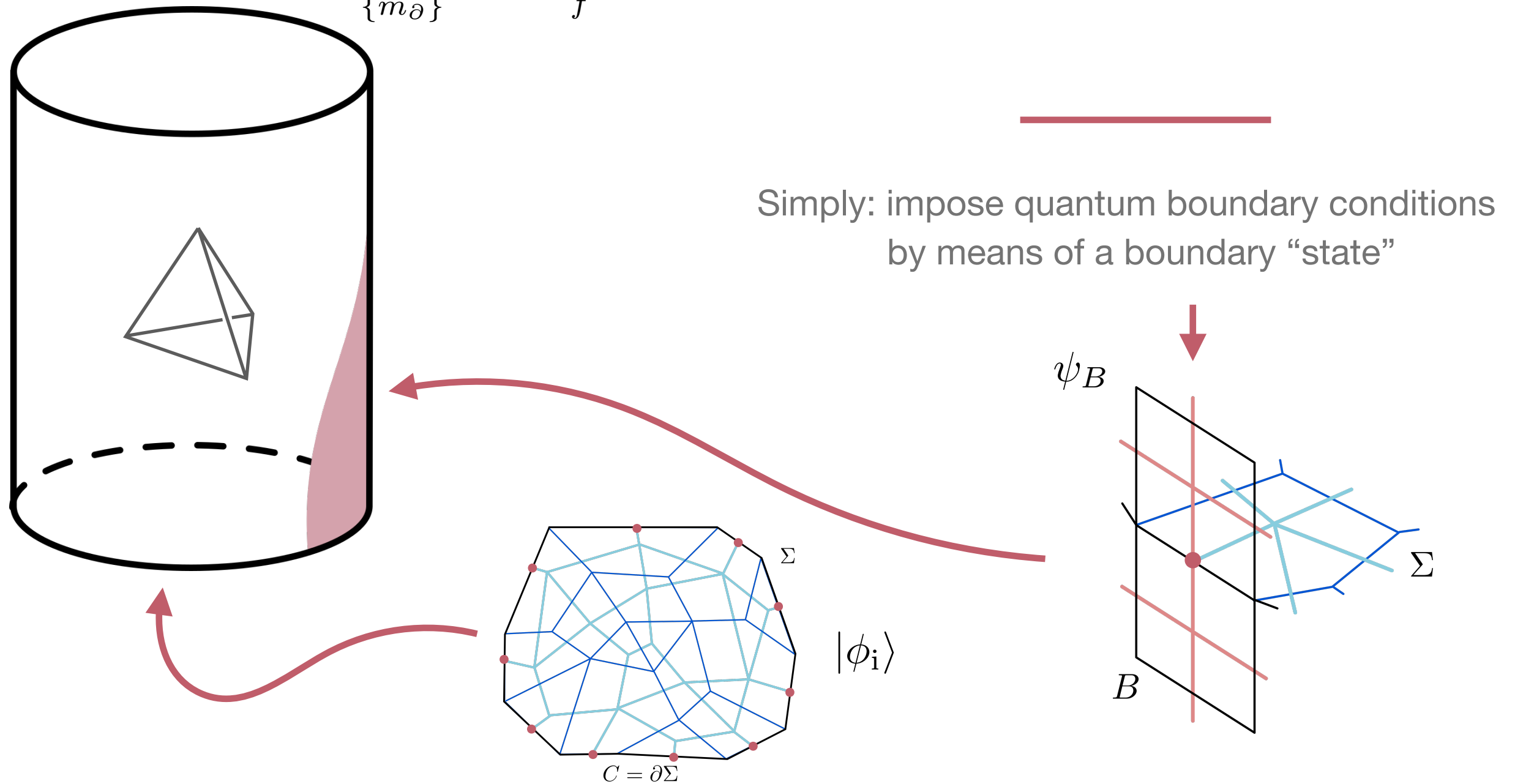


# From bulk to boundary dynamics



# From bulk to boundary dynamics

$$\langle \phi_{\text{f}} | W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi_{\text{i}} \rangle = \sum_{\{m_{\partial}\}} \int \text{d}g \prod_f \delta\left(\overleftarrow{\Pi} g_{\ell}\right) \phi_{\text{f}}^*(g_{\partial}^{\text{f}}, m_{\partial}^{\text{f}}) \psi_B(g_{\partial}^{\text{B}}, m_{\partial}^{\text{f}}, m_{\partial}^{\text{i}}) \phi_{\text{i}}(g_{\partial}^{\text{i}}, m_{\partial}^{\text{i}})$$

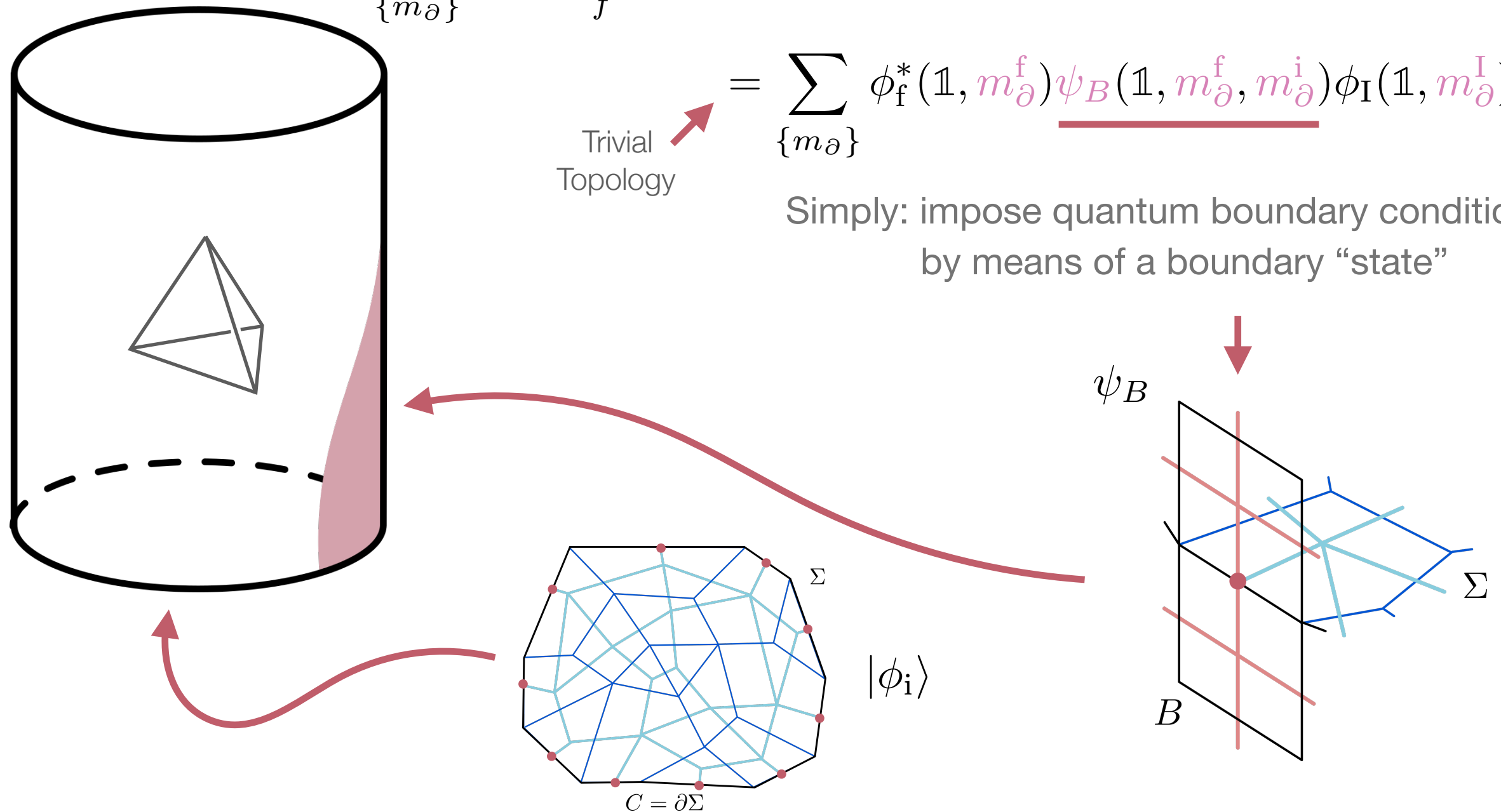


# From bulk to boundary dynamics

$$\langle \phi_f | W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi_i \rangle = \sum_{\{m_\partial\}} \int dg \prod_f \delta\left(\overleftarrow{\prod} g_\ell\right) \phi_f^*(g_\partial^f, m_\partial^f) \psi_B(g_\partial^B, m_\partial^f, m_\partial^i) \phi_i(g_\partial^i, m_\partial^i)$$

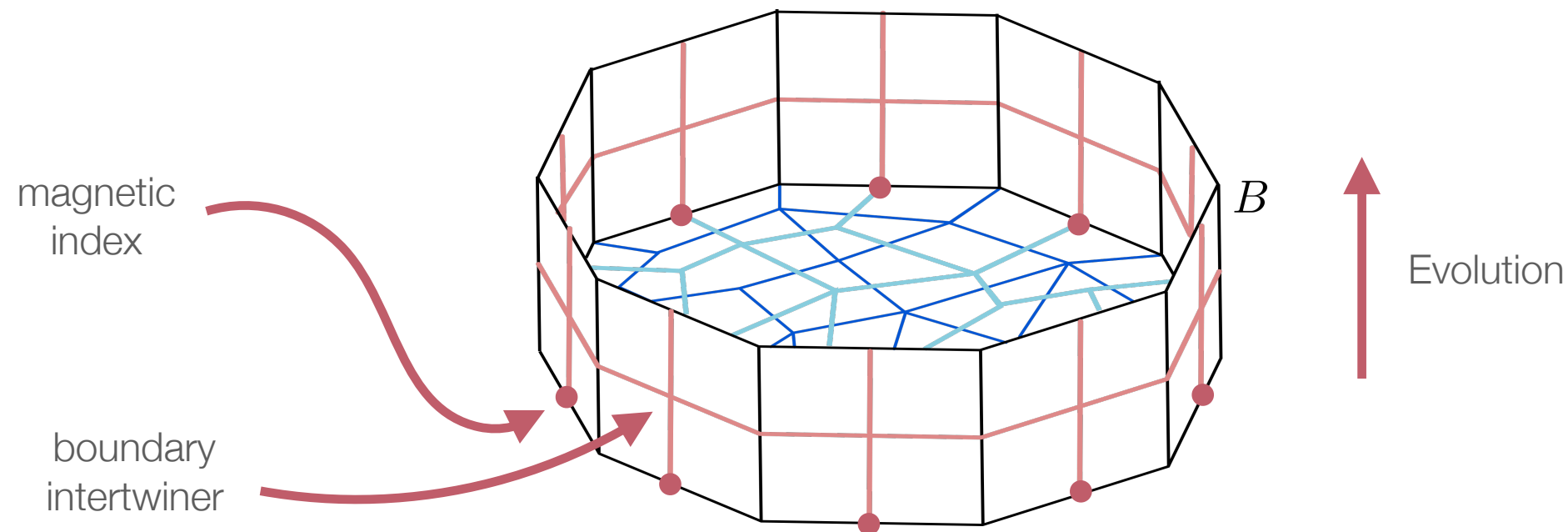
$$\stackrel{\text{Trivial Topology}}{\rightarrow} = \sum_{\{m_\partial\}} \phi_f^*(1, m_\partial^f) \psi_B(1, m_\partial^f, m_\partial^i) \phi_i(1, m_\partial^i)$$

Simply: impose quantum boundary conditions by means of a boundary “state”



# Boundary spin-chain

$\psi_B$  is a spin-network state, i.e. **fixed boundary spins** = fixed intrinsic metric



$$\langle \phi_f | W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi_i \rangle = \sum_{\{m_\partial\}} \phi_f^*(1, m_\partial^f) \underbrace{\psi_B(1, m_\partial^f, m_\partial^i)}_{\text{spin-chain transfer matrix}} \phi_i(1, m_\partial^i)$$

Recall : initial state is an edge state for the magnetic indices  $m$

Thus, **edge states are states of a spin-chain**

*One layer of boundary evolution (as prescribed by boundary state) = spin-chain transfer matrix*

# 1/2 Boundary Spins

If all boundary spins are **1/2**, the dual theory is given by the following integrable system:

Heisenberg spin chain [1d QM]

$$H_{XXZ} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^{N_x} \left( \sigma_n^1 \sigma_{n+1}^1 + \sigma_n^2 \sigma_{n+1}^2 + \Delta \sigma_n^3 \sigma_{n+1}^3 \right) \xrightarrow{\Delta \rightarrow 1}$$

isotropic H. spin chain

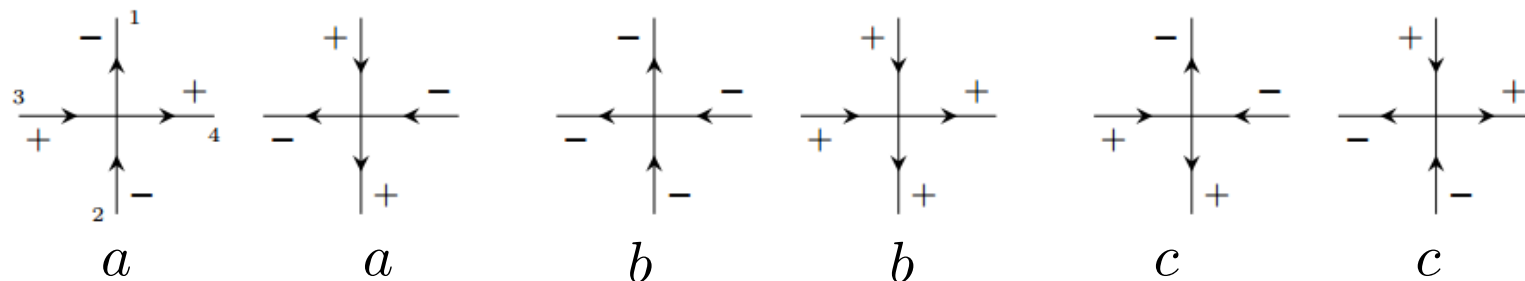
$$H_{XXX} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^{N_x} \vec{\sigma}_n^1 \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{n+1}^1$$



**6-vertex model** [2d Stat Mech]



**stochastic 6-vertex m.**



$$\Delta = \frac{a^2 + b^2 - c^2}{2ab}$$

Vertex type # with Boltzmann weight  $a, b, c$ ; model is said stochastic if

$$a = b + c$$

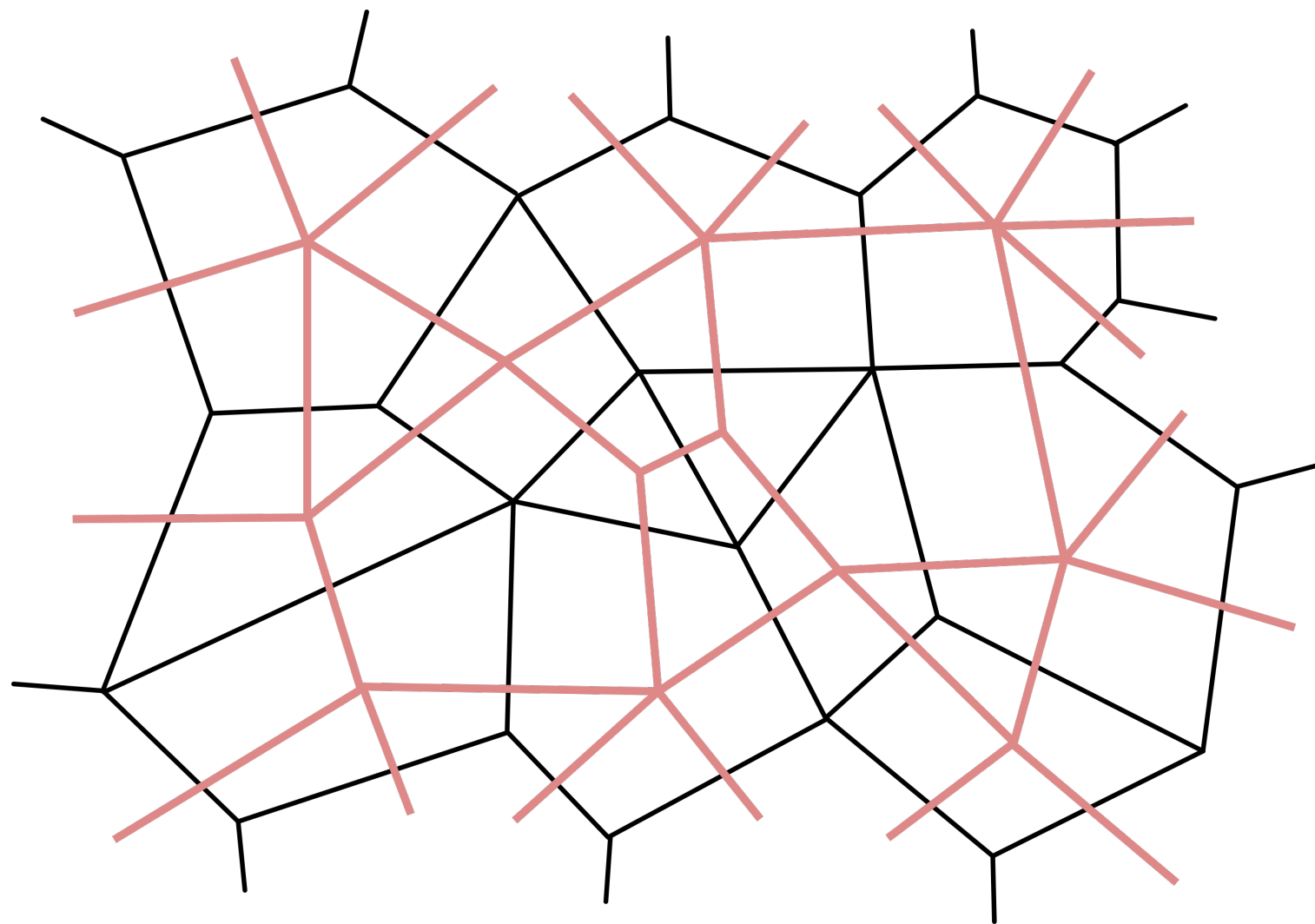
intertwiner space  
 $(1/2)^{\otimes 4}$  is 2d

**REMARK:** there are many techniques to study continuum limits of these models

[see e.g. Reshetikhin & Sridhar 2016]  $\rightarrow$  new tools to study large-spin v. many spins?

# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

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# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

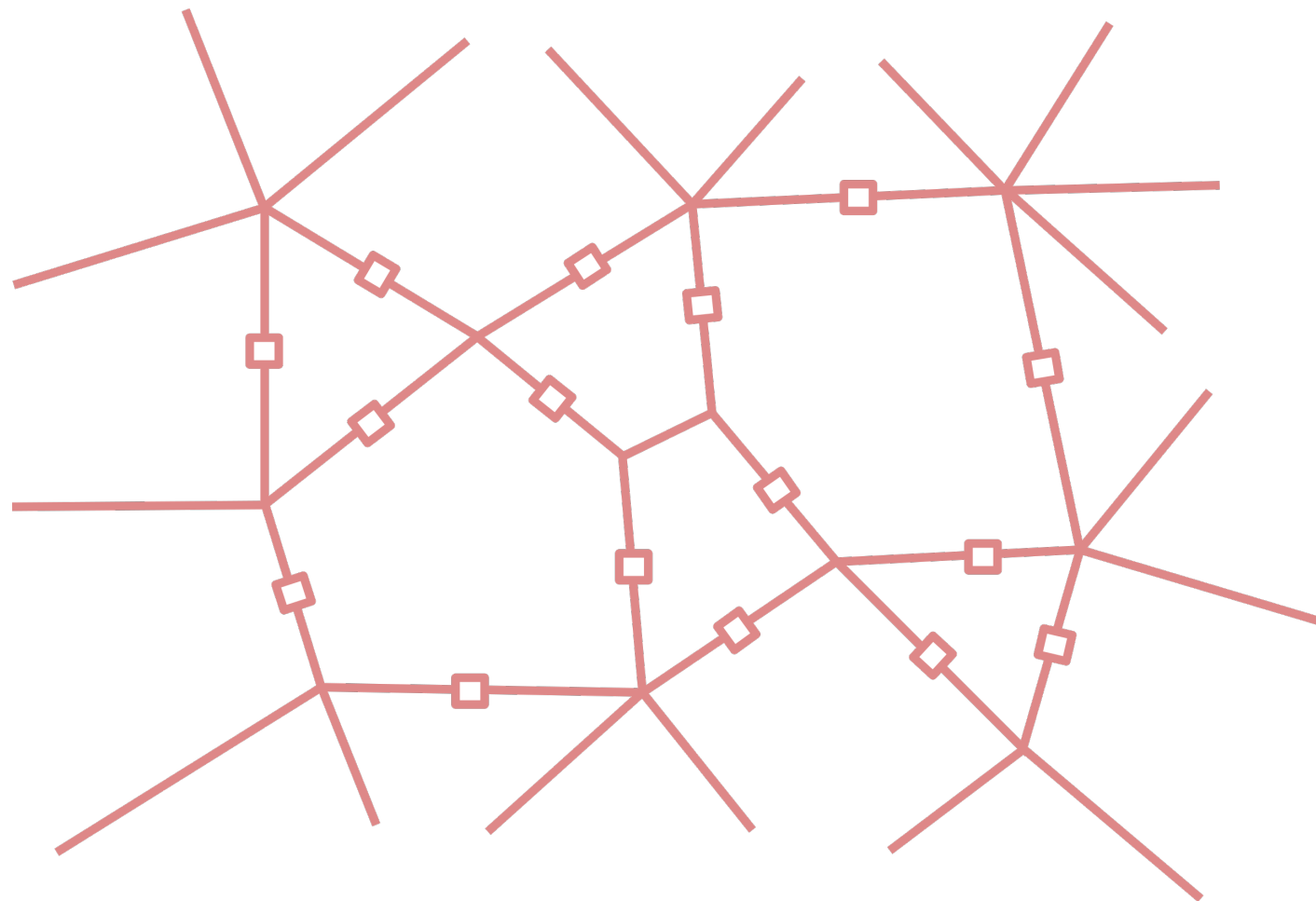
Spin-chain model // Vertex model

[  $m \sim$  **Lorentz symmetry** compensator fields ]

1. Boundary dynamics from spin-network evaluation

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{---} \square \text{---} & \sum_{m_\partial} \\ \times & \ell^{m_\partial \dots} \end{array}$$

[ boundary spins  $j = \text{background}$  ]



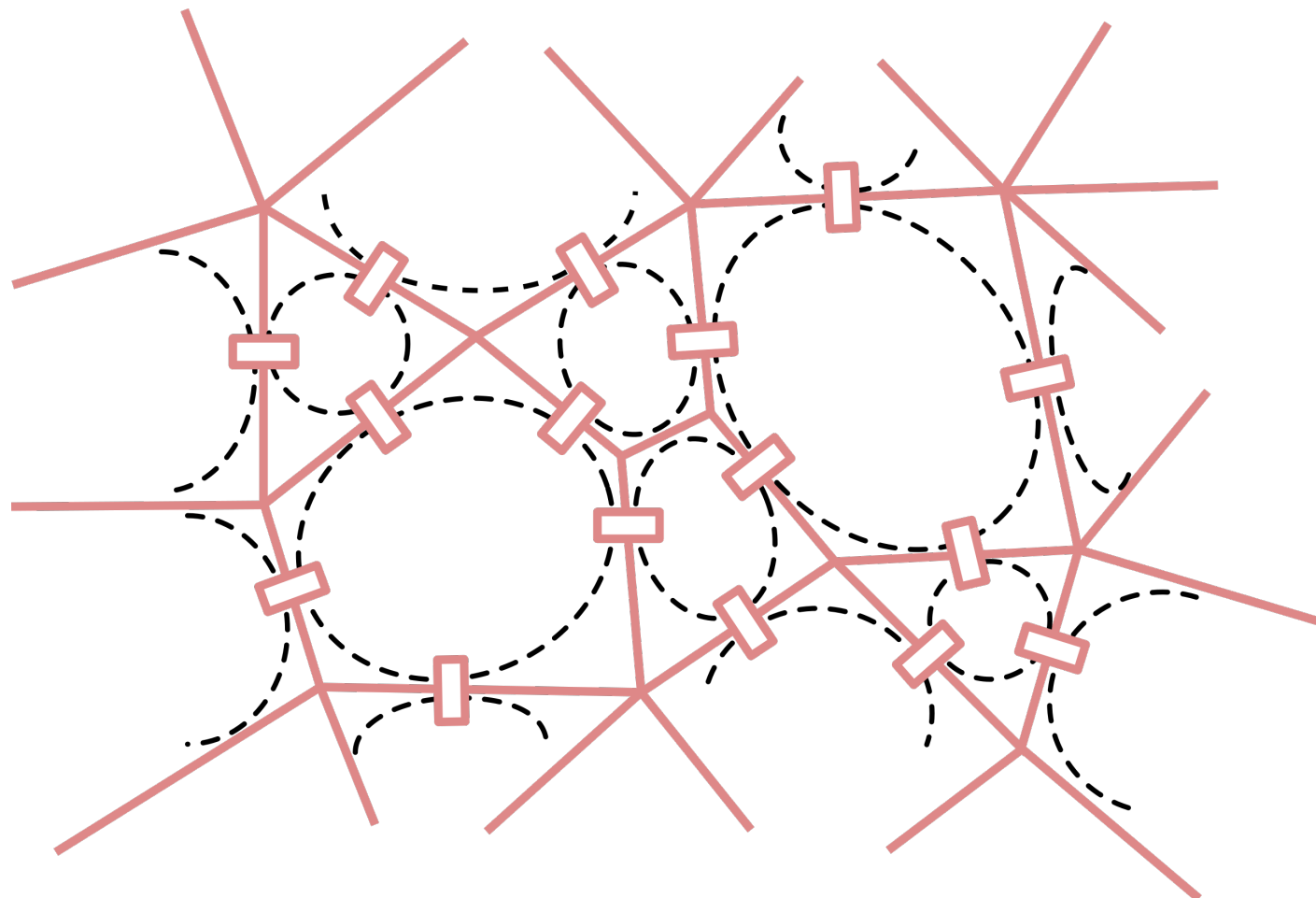


# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

Spin-chain model // Vertex model

[  $m \sim$  **Lorentz symmetry** compensator fields ]

[ boundary spins  $j = \text{background}$  ]



1. Boundary dynamics from spin-network evaluation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \sum \\ m_{\partial} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \\ l^{m_{\partial} \dots} \end{array}$$

2. Boundary dynamics from boundary delta functions + integration over  $h$ 's

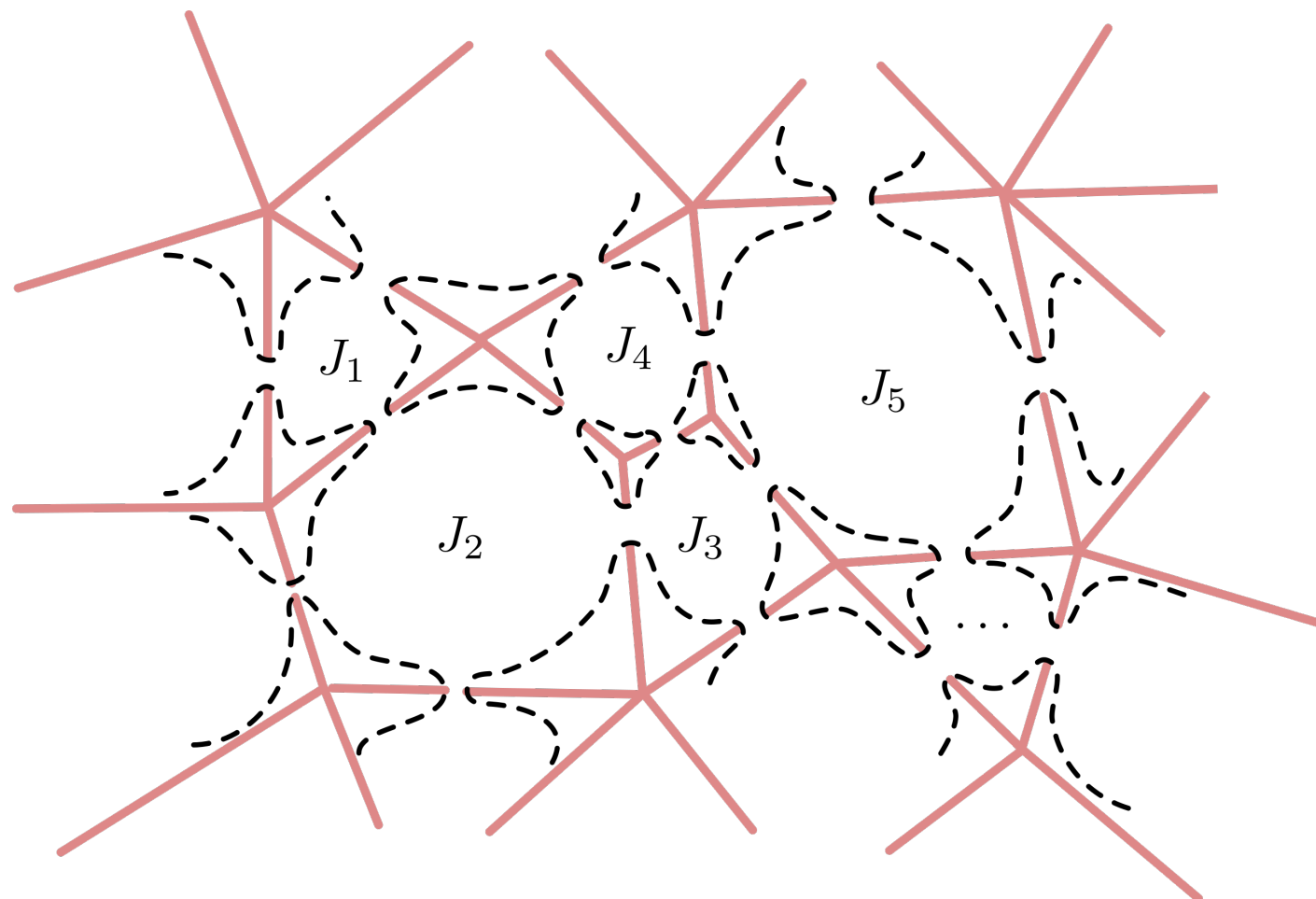
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \int dh_{\ell_{\partial}} \\ \delta\left(\prod h_{\ell_{\partial}}\right) \end{array}$$

# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

Spin-chain model // Vertex model

[  $m \sim$  **Lorentz symmetry** compensator fields ]

[ boundary spins  $j = \text{background}$  ]



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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \end{array} \quad \int dh_{\ell_\partial} \delta\left(\prod h_{\ell_\partial}\right)$$

3. Peter-Weyl over deltas

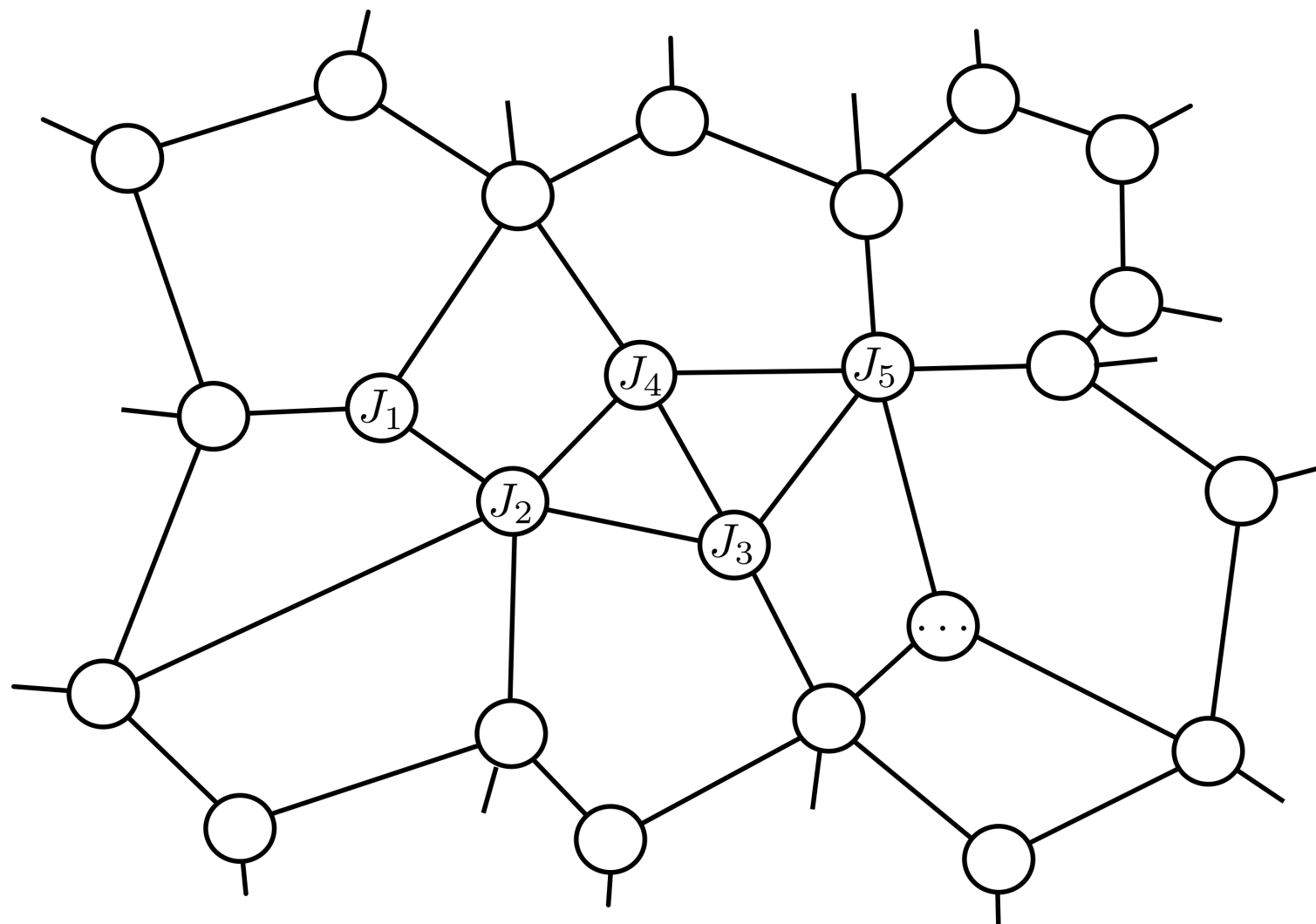
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \text{---} \square \text{---} \end{array} \quad \sum_J d_J \chi^J\left(\prod h_{\ell_\partial}\right)$$

# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

Spin-chain model // Vertex model

[  $m \sim$  **Lorentz symmetry** compensator fields ]

[ boundary spins  $j =$  **background** ]



1. Boundary dynamics from spin-network evaluation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \sum_{m_\partial} \ell^{m_\partial \dots}$$

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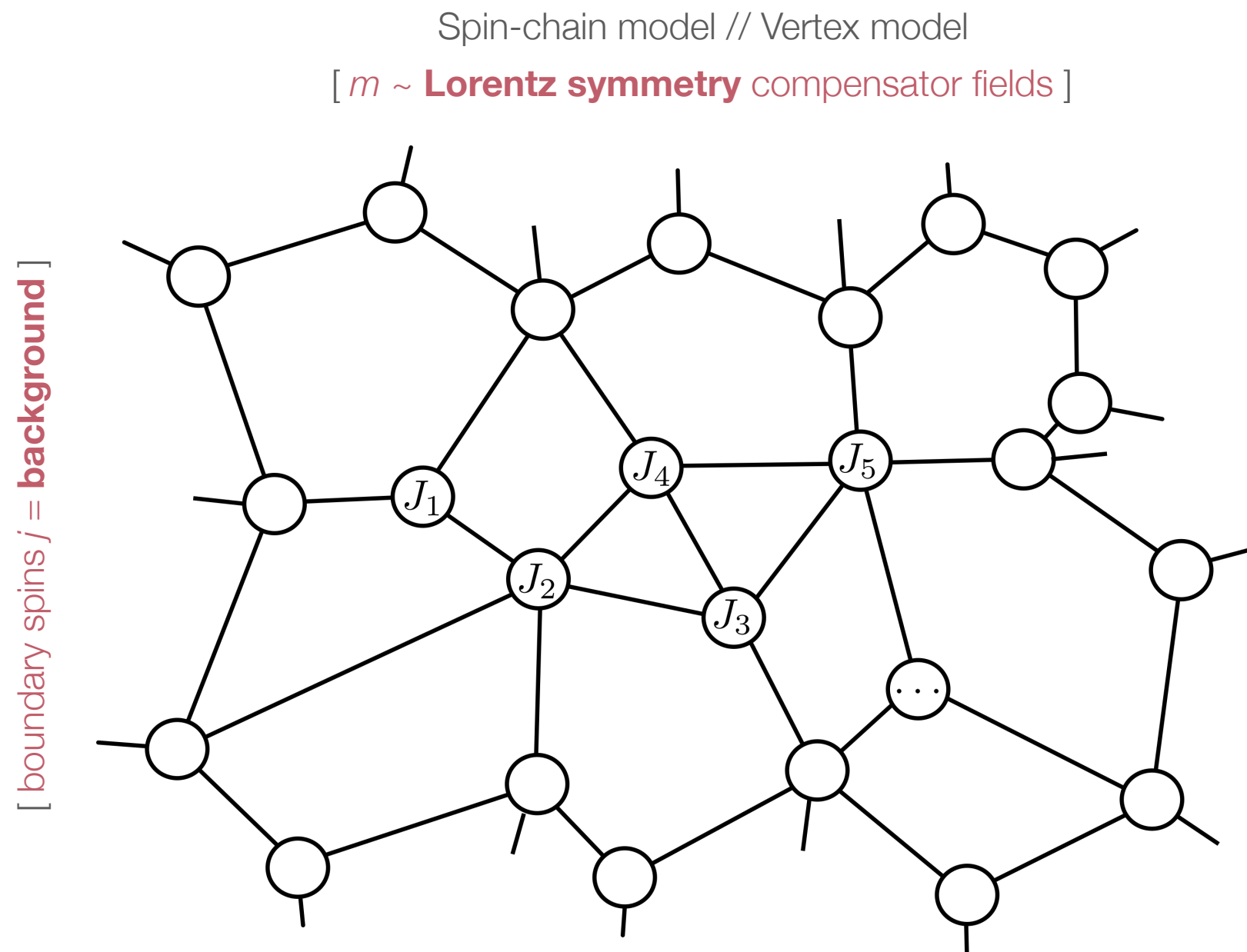
3. Peter-Weyl over deltas

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \sum_J d_J \chi^J\left(\overleftarrow{\prod} h_{\ell_\partial}\right)$$

4. Integrate over  $h$ 's (recoupling)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} J_1 & J_2 & J_3 \\ j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \end{array} \right\}$$

# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG



Interaction Round Face model  
 [  $J \sim$  **shift symmetry** compensator fields ]

1. Boundary dynamics from spin-network evaluation

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \sum_{m_\partial} \ell^{m_\partial \dots}$$

2. Boundary dynamics from boundary delta functions + integration over  $h$ 's

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \int dh_{\ell_\partial} \delta\left(\prod h_{\ell_\partial}\right)$$

3. Peter-Weyl over deltas

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \square \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \quad \sum_J d_J \chi^J\left(\prod h_{\ell_\partial}\right)$$

4. Integrate over  $h$ 's (recoupling)

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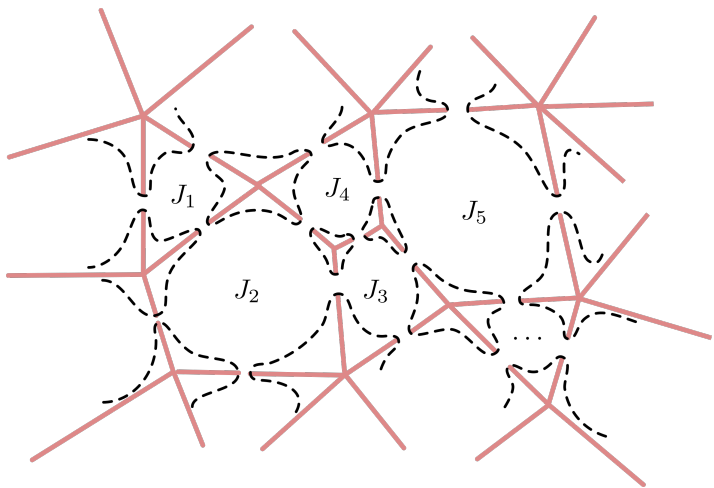
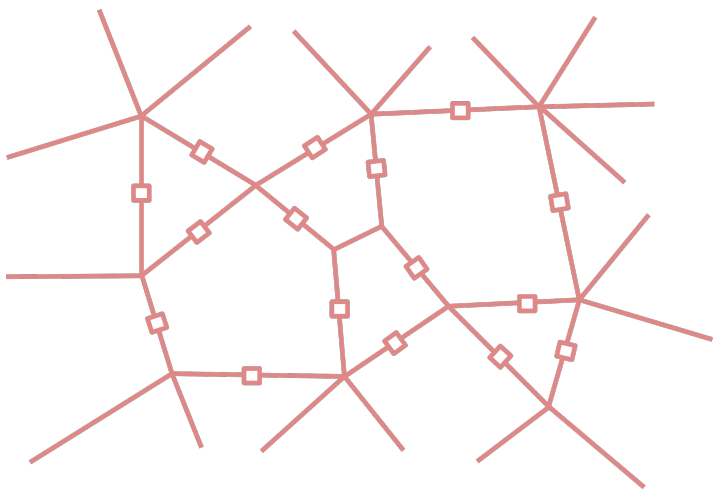
5. Sum over face spins  $J$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \end{array} \quad \sum_{J_\partial}$$

# Boundary Face-Vertex duality from 3d QG

Spin-chain model // Vertex model

[  $m \sim$  **Lorentz symmetry** compensator fields ]



Interaction Round Face model

[  $J \sim$  **shift symmetry** compensator fields ]

1. Boundary dynamics from spin-network evaluation

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$$W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] = \psi_B(1) = \sum_{m_\partial} \prod_v \ell^{m_\partial \dots}$$

$$W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] = \sum_{\{J_\partial\}} \prod_f W_f[J|j, i]$$

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$$W_f[J|j, i] = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{Y} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} J_1 & J_2 & J_3 \\ j_1 & j_2 & j_3 \end{array} \right\}$$

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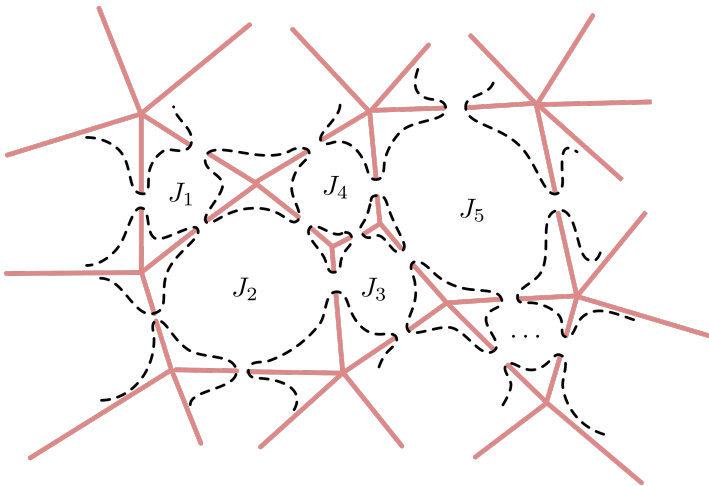
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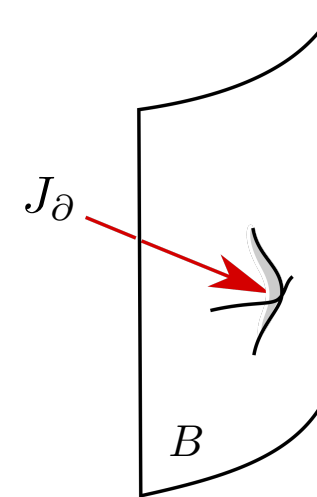
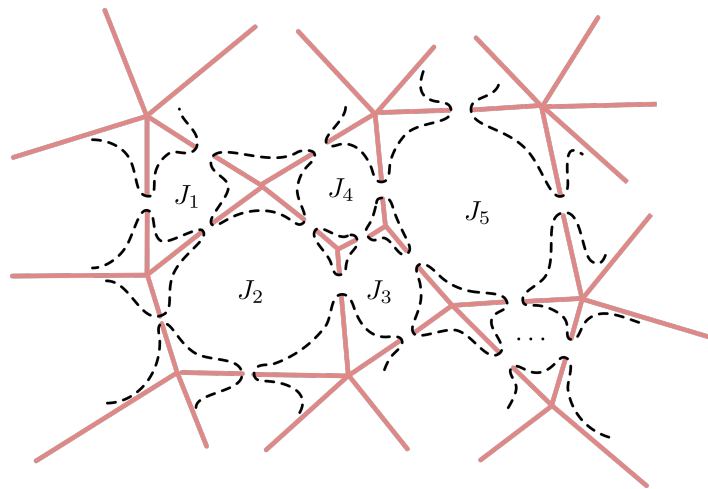
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# Geometric Interpretation of the Face model

We know that  $m$ 's = (quantized) Lorentz frames. What is the interpretation of the  $J$ 's ?



We obtained the  $J$ 's by “Fourier-transforming” the boundary spin-network evaluation

→ Dual theory in terms of **shift symmetry compensating field**

[Lorentz and shift sums are “conjugate ~ Drinfel’d double sym of 3d QG]

“conjugate” symmetries  
(Poisson-Lie)

$$G = T^*SU(2)$$

Geometrically,  $J \sim$  distance of boundary vertex from fiducial “bulk central point”

→ **quantum version of Carlip’s would-be-diffeos as boundary dof**

Semiclassical analysis in terms of the  $J$ 's was performed by Dittrich & Bonzom (2016) through q-Regge calculus  
Mutatis mutandis, results are compatible with Carlip’s analysis (**Liouville-like boundary theory**)

Also: generalizations to flat sector of 4d gravity (Regge-KBF model) gives similar results [Asante, Dittrich, Haggard 2018]

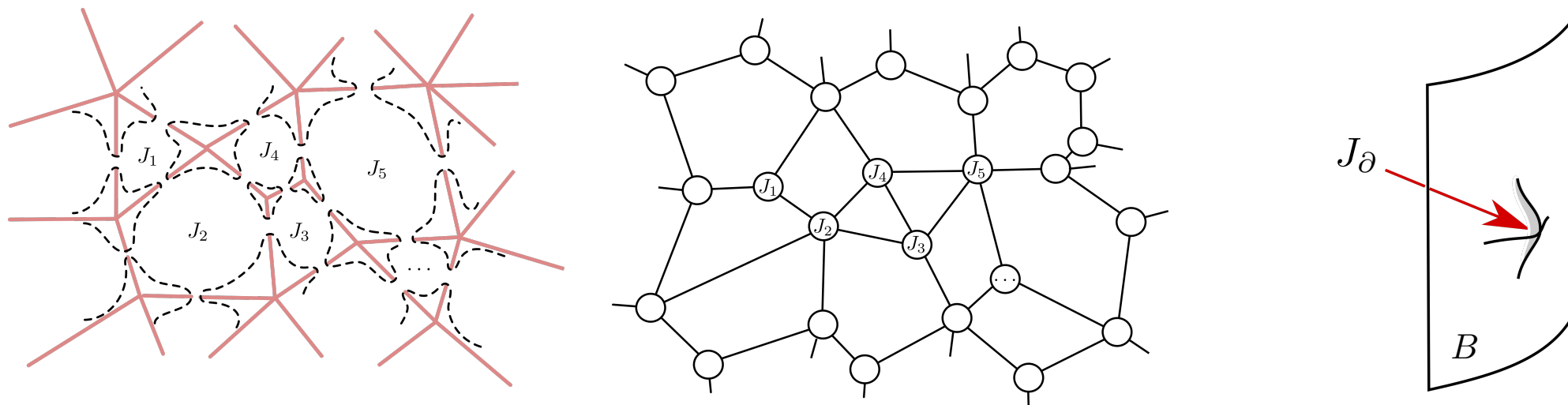
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# Other boundary states

---

Which other boundary states could be interesting to look at?

[For simplicity, we will restrict attention to quadrangulation of boundary]

For fixed spins  $j > 1/2$ , large choice of boundary intertwiners !

E.g. for semiclassical analysis we can use **LS (semi-)coherent states**

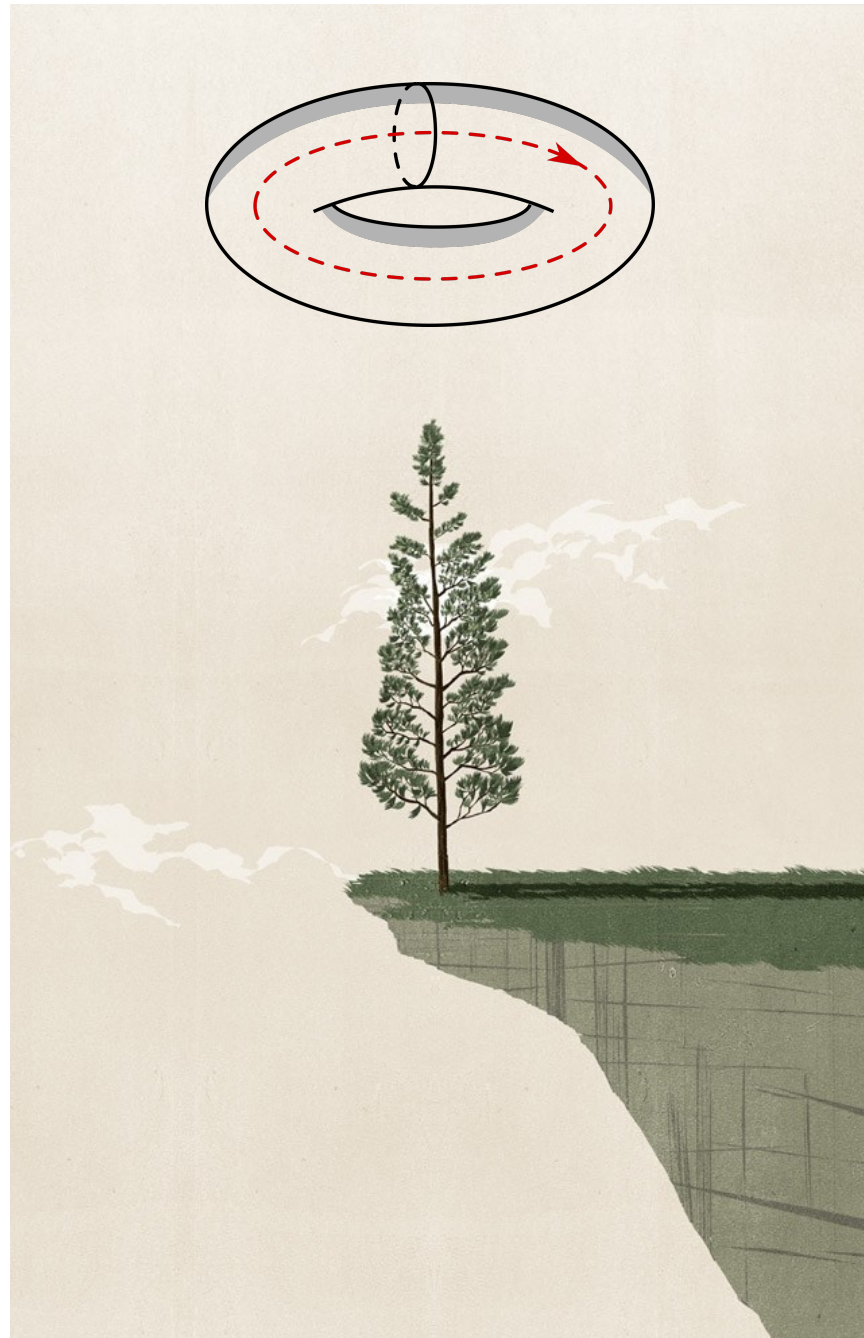
But we can also introduce superpositions of spins :

E.g. nice states closely related to **spin-network generating functions** (Poisson spin distribution)

[Freidel, Hnybida JMP 13; Bonzom, Livine CQG 13; Bonzom, Costantino, Livine CQG 15; also Dittrich, Hnybida 13]

- Known to be closely related to Ising model on planar trivalent graphs [more generally?]
- Nice geometric interpretation [global scale invariance]
- Exactly computable! [Gaussian when expressed in terms of spinors]

## Part IV - Torus' partition function(s)



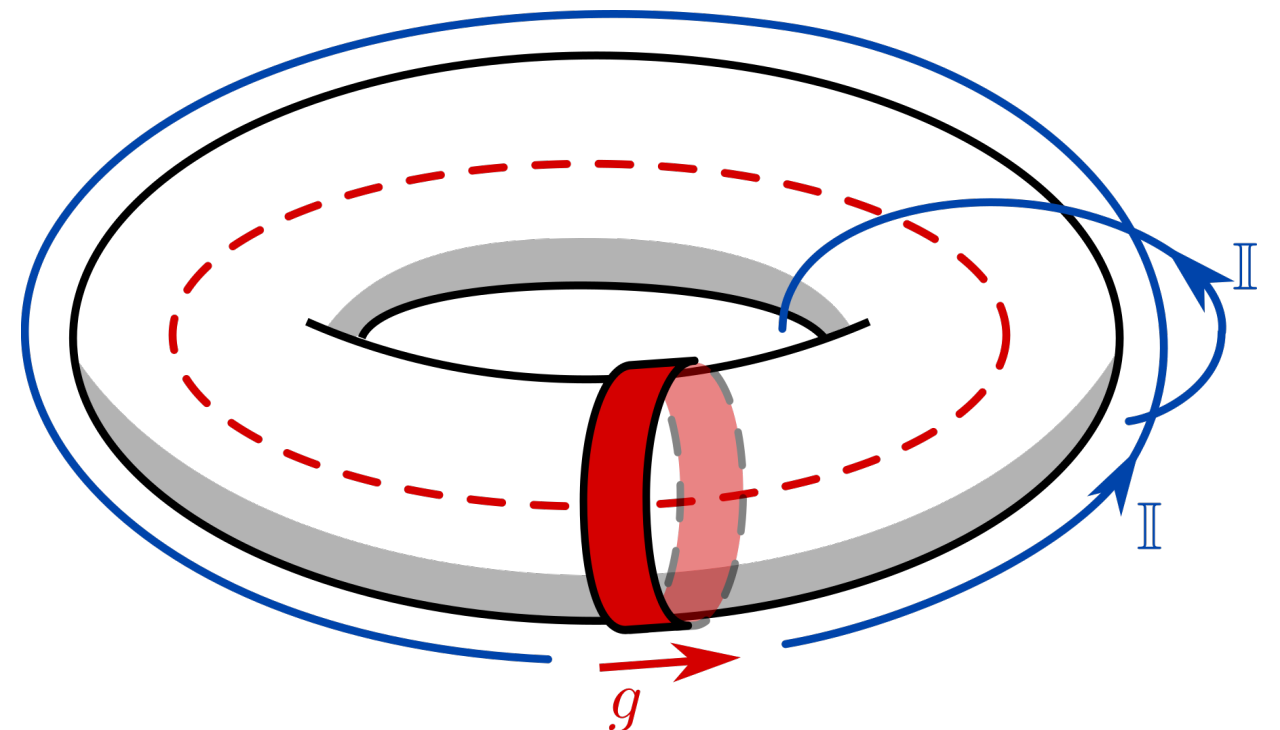
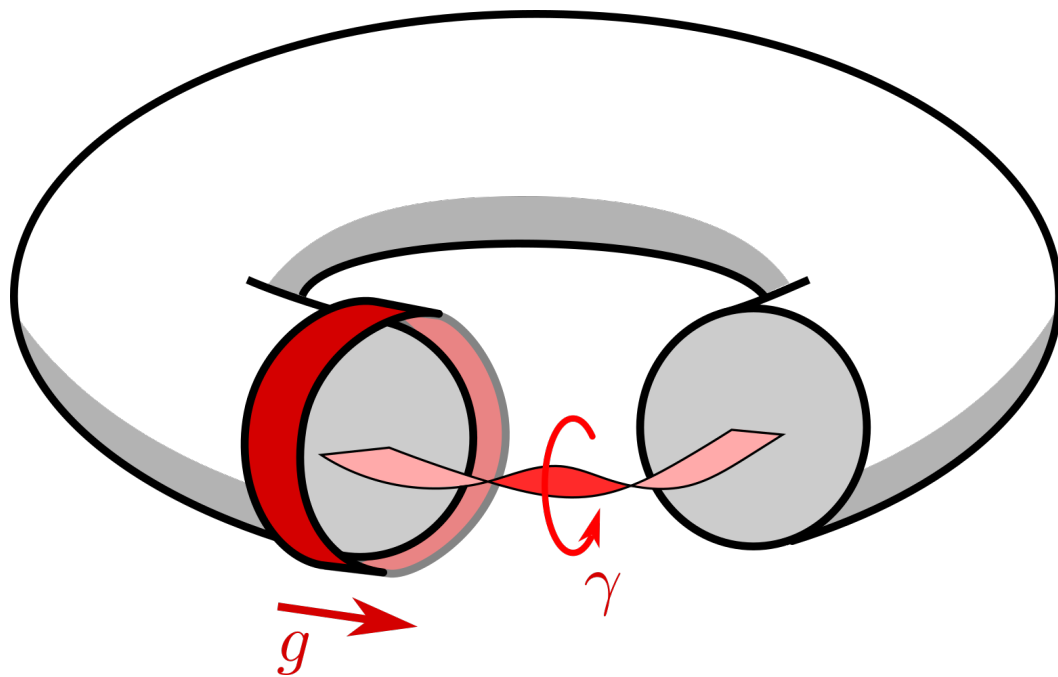
# Thermal partition function

$$Z_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B, \gamma] := \sum_{\phi} \langle \phi | R[\gamma] W_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B] | \phi \rangle \quad \leftarrow \text{Glue initial and final state}$$

$$= \int dg \, \psi_B^{\gamma}(h_{\ell \notin \text{ring}} = 1, h_{\ell \in \text{ring}} = g) \quad \leftarrow \text{Because of gauge invariance, gluing defined up to gauge transf. } g$$

New boundary state defined by "closing"  $\psi_B$  into a torus with a twist  $\gamma$

Coupling of boundary theory to bulk dof



# Gluing the cylinder: the spin chain perspective

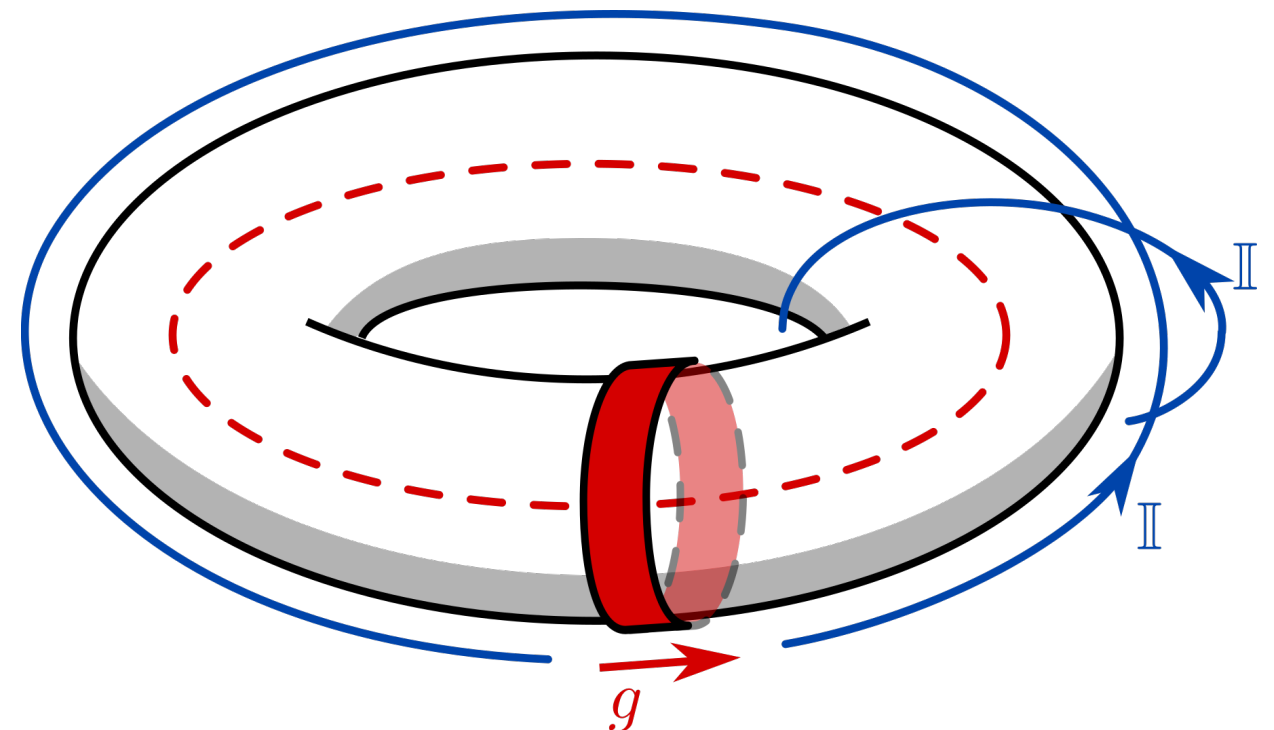
$$Z_{\text{PR}}[\psi_B, \gamma] = \int dg \, \psi_B^\gamma(h_{\ell \notin \text{ring}} = \mathbb{1}, h_{\ell \in \text{ring}} = g) = \text{tr} \left( U_{N_\gamma} T^{N_t} \mathbb{P}_{S=0} \right)$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the partition function formula:

- Coupling to bulk dof = Haar projector** (points to  $dg$ )
- Boundary state** (points to  $\psi_B^\gamma$ )
- Angle twist = translation by  $N_\gamma$  steps** (points to  $h_{\ell \in \text{ring}} = g$ )
- Transfer-matrix evolution** (points to  $U_{N_\gamma}$ )
- Insertion of Haar's intertwiner projects the spin chain's edge state onto its 0-Spin sector** (points to  $\mathbb{P}_{S=0}$ )

The entire expression is labeled as  $\psi_B^\gamma(\mathbb{1}, m_\partial^f, m_\partial^i)$ .

**Remark:** coupling to  $g$  breaks symmetry between two cycles of the torus!  
 [cf. modular invariance in AdS/CFT  
 e.g. Maloney & Witten 2007  
 v. Cotler & Jensen 2019]



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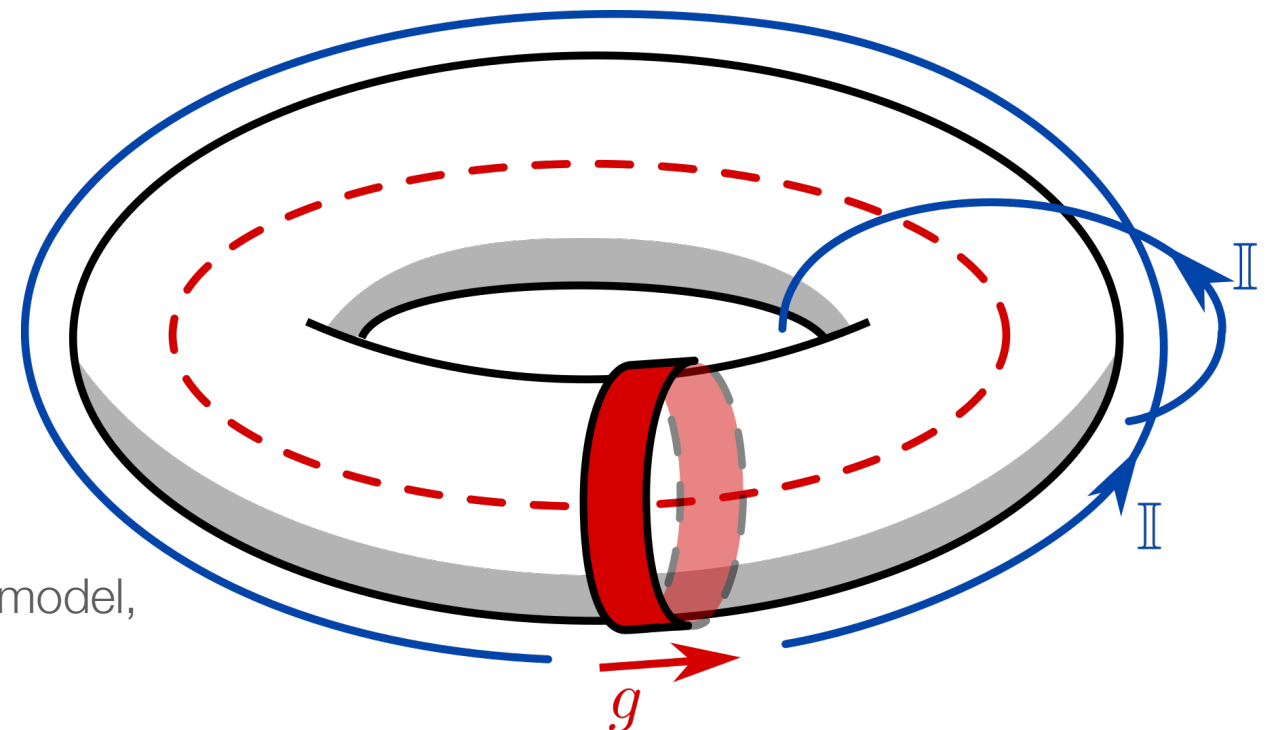
- Coupling to bulk dof = Haar projector** (red box) points to  $dg$  and  $h_{\ell \in \text{ring}} = g$ .
- Boundary state** (blue box) points to  $\psi_B^\gamma$ .
- Angle twist = translation by  $N_\gamma$  steps** (blue box) points to  $U_{N_\gamma}$ .
- Transfer-matrix evolution** (blue box) points to  $T^{N_t}$ .
- Insertion of Haar's intertwiner projects the spin chain's edge state onto its 0-Spin sector** (red box) points to  $\mathbb{P}_{S=0}$ .

A bracket under the first three terms indicates the boundary state  $\psi_B^\gamma(\mathbb{1}, m_\partial^f, m_\partial^i)$ .

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**Remark:** other ways of coupling boundary to bulk dof is to insert bulk Wilson lines anchored at the boundary

→ insertion of disorder-like operators in the stat model, that create vortex/antivortex pairs  
 [with Danilo Artigas Guimarey]



# Semiclassics: what are we looking for?

## Twisted-thermal AdS

$$Z_{\text{TTAdS}}[\beta, \gamma] = e^{-\frac{\pi\beta}{\ell_{\text{Pl}}}} \prod_{k \geq 2} \frac{1}{\left| 1 - e^{i\gamma k - \frac{\beta}{\ell_c} k} \right|^2}$$

Classical action  
(with boundary term)

1-loop determinant

[Giombi, Maloney, Yin 08]

**OR**

Boundary CFT  
ground state's  
contribution to

Boundary CFT  
descendant states'  
contribution to

$$Z_{\partial\text{CFT}}[\beta, \gamma] = \text{tr} \left( e^{\gamma J} e^{-\beta H} \right) \quad [\text{Maloney, Witten 07}]$$

Virasoro character



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$$\ell_c \rightarrow \infty$$

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[Barnich, Gonzalez, Maloney, Oblak 15]

OR BMS3 character [Oblak 15]

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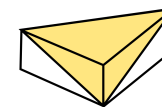
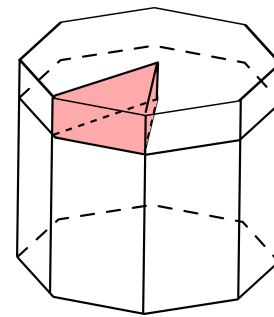
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## Quantum Regge calculus on a cylinder

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[Bonzom, Dittrich 15]

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# From Regge calculus to the Ponzano-Regge model

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The **Ponzano-Regge** model is a full-blown quantum version of Regge calculus

Contrary to perturbative quantum Regge calculus, it requires **no background**, only boundary conditions

## Question:

*Can we recover Bonzom & Dittrich's result in PR?*

## Answer:

Yes, and one finds more.

## What? How?

- We consider a LS (semi-)coherent boundary state to describe a semiclassical cylinder
- We take the **boundary large-spin limit** (semiclassical *boundary* state: bulk fully resummed)
- We reconstruct the semiclassical geometries and compute the 1-loop determinant (Hessian)
- We find that there are **many viable “semiclassical” backgrounds**, indexed by a **winding number** *coming from the integral over the only bulk dof* (holonomy around non contractible cycle)
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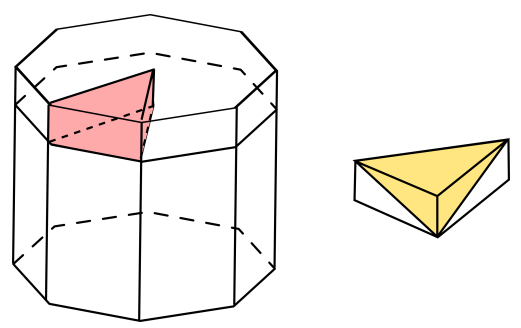
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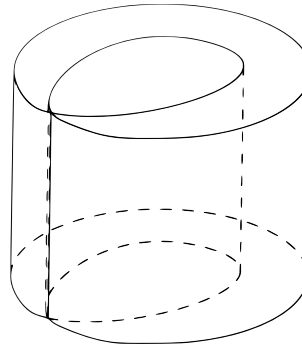
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$n = 2$   
 sum over  
backgrounds

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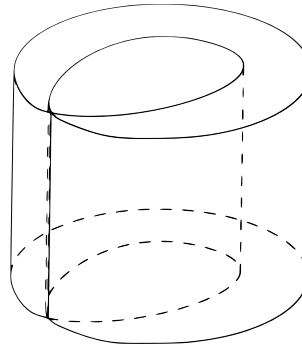
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Classical action (with boundary term)



$n = 2$  sum over backgrounds

# Exact computation from PR

Previous result was obtained in the semiclassical limit (for *boundary* spins)

Can we find boundary states that allow for an **exact computation**?

Motivation:

- Asymptotic computations are “exact” and their results reflect the *symmetries of the boundary theory* (Virasoro/BMS3 character): is there a class of states for the *quantum geometry of a finite boundary that encodes a similar correspondence*?
- Can we find a correspondence with a class of discrete *integrable* systems?

These questions are left open for now, but we know of a class of exactly computable states:

$$\psi_{\lambda,\tau}(h_{t,x}^{\text{time}}, h_{t,x}^{\text{space}}) = \sum_{T_{t,x}} \sum_{L_{t,x}} \prod_{t,x} \left( \frac{\lambda^{2L_{t,x}} \tau^{2T_{t,x}}}{(2L_{t,x})! (2T_{t,x})!} (J_{t,x} + 1)! \right) \psi_{L_{t,x}, T_{t,x}}^{\text{LS}}(h_{t,x}^{\text{time}}, h_{t,x}^{\text{space}})$$

“Time”-like spins

“Space”-like spins

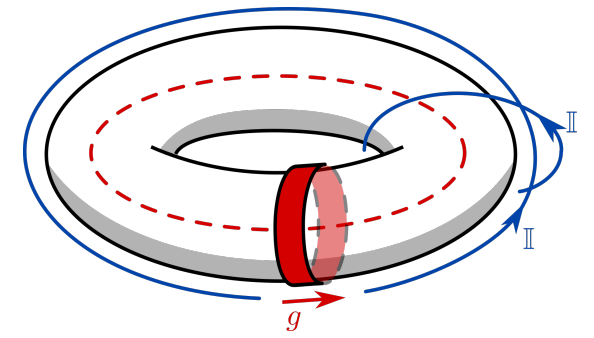
Poisson(ish) distribution

LS semicoherent states

[Goeller, Livine, AR to appear]



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$$Z_{\text{PR}}[\psi_{\lambda,\tau}^\gamma] = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\varphi \sin^2(\varphi) \int_{\mathbb{C}^2} \prod_{t,x=0}^{N_t-1, N_x-1} \frac{d^4 w_{t,x}}{\pi^2} e^{-S_{\lambda,\tau}[\{w_{t,x}\}, \varphi]}$$

↑

1 bulk dof  
(class angle of  $g$ )

↑

Boundary dof as spinors

↑

Quadratic action  
in  $w$

# Exact computation from PR

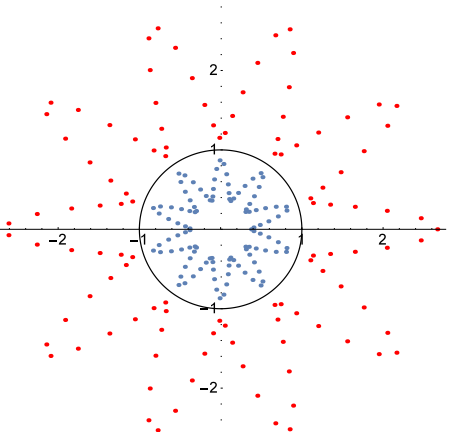
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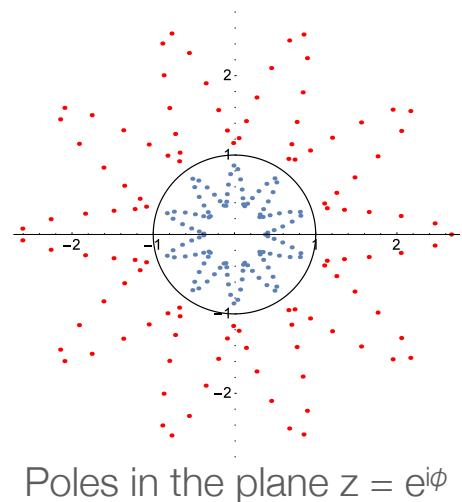


$$Z^{\text{PR}}[\psi_{\lambda,\tau}^\gamma] = \sum_{n=0}^{N_x-1} \frac{\sin^2(\gamma n + iX_n)}{\sinh(X_n)} \underbrace{\prod_{k=1}^{N_x-1} \frac{1}{2(\cosh(X_k) - \cos(k\gamma + iX_k))}}_{\text{Regularized BMS3 character}}$$

sum over backgrounds

Poles in the plane  $z = e^{i\phi}$  (poles of integrand in  $\phi$ )

# Exact computation from PR



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Poles in the plane  $z = e^{i\phi}$  (poles of integrand in  $\phi$ )

Regularized BMS3 character

This should be compared with the AdS regularization of the flat-space result:

$$Z_{\text{TAdS}}[\beta, \gamma] = \prod_{k=2} \frac{1}{2(1 - \cos(k\gamma + i\beta/\ell_c))}$$

In both cases, the theory lives in “box”.

Whereas in AdS the box’s size is controlled by the deformed dynamics ( $\Lambda \neq 0$ ), in our case the “size of the box” is not related to the dynamics of the theory. Nonetheless around a given background (e.g.  $n=1$ ) regularization takes a *similar* albeit more complicated form.

## Questions:

- Can we interpret this result in terms of a dual boundary theory with interesting properties?
- Is the partition function the signature of some special symmetry group?

[Goeller, Livine, AR to appear]

# Summary

---

## PART I

- Review of 3d gravity and its symmetries

## PART II

- We discussed the nature of the edge dof; their relation to the symmetries of the theory; and their different representations as magnetic indices, group elements, spinors

## PART III

- We introduced quantum boundary conditions and showed how they induce an edge dynamics (dual spin-chain/statistical model)
- We discussed how the Poisson-Lie symmetry structure of 3d gravity underpins the face-vertex duality of the dual 2d statistical models and how the face models encode a quantum version of Carlip's edge dof as would-be-gauge normal-diffeos.

## PART IV

- We briefly presented computations of the twisted torus partition function in the PR model and discussed how they generalize previous QFT/holographic results

# Outlook

---

- Lab for study of renormalization & continuum limit *without* having to solve 4d QG:  
**Although 3d QG (PR) is triangulation invariant in the bulk, it isn't at the boundary!**  
Dual theory: **classical v. asymptotic v. continuum limit?** (few large spins v. many small spins?)
- Extension to (A)dS by replacing PR with Turaev-Viro model  
Prima facie difficulty: no group representation
- Clarify status of exactly computable boundary states:
  - do they encode some special/**integrable dual theory?** (E.g. Ising model?)
  - is the amplitude we computed the character of a **symmetry group that deforms BMS3?**
- Relations to **AdS3/CFT2?** And to TTbar holography? [cf Cotler, Jensen 19; Shyam 19; also Freidel 08]
- Relation to AdS/MERA (tensor network Ansatz for AdS/CFT)?  
PR offers a general-covariant, geometric version of this Ansatz [Dittrich, Donnelly, AR wip]
- Study **observables** and establish nonperturbative holographic dictionary [Artigas Guimarey, AR wip]
- Generalizations to **4d**: e.g. for a geometric (topological) theory of flat space  
[Cf. the Korepanov-Baratin-Freidel model — Baratin, Freidel 08; Asante, Dittrich, Haggard 19; Asante, Dittrich, Girelli, AR, Tsimiklis 19]

# Thank you

