

An Adynamical, Graphical Approach to Quantum Gravity and Unification

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Abstract

We use graphical relations in an adynamical, background independent fashion to propose a new approach to quantum gravity and unification. Accordingly, worldtubes in spacetime are ultimately composed of fundamental graphical units of space, time and sources (in parlance of quantum field theory), rather than worldlines in spacetime. These are fundamental elements *of* space, time and sources, not source elements *in* space and time. The transition amplitude for these elements of “spacetimesource” is computed using a path integral with discrete graphical action. The unit of action for a spacetimesource element is constructed from a difference matrix K and source vector J on the graph, as in lattice gauge theory. K is constructed from graphical relations so that it contains a non-trivial null space and J is then restricted to the row space of K which ensures it is suffused in a divergence-free fashion with the spacetime defined by the element. This construct of K and J results in a “self-consistency criterion” for sources, the spacetime metric, and the stress-energy-momentum content of the element, rather than a dynamical law for time-evolved entities. In its most general form, the set of fundamental elements employed by lattice gauge theory contains scalar fields on nodes and links, and vector fields on nodes. To complete the fundamental set (unification in this view), we propose the addition of scalar fields on plaquettes (basis for graviton) and vector fields on links. In this view, quantum spacetime is not the graviton in M_4 , but rather is a field structure over a “micrograph” that underwrites the graph of K and J . We use this approach via modified Regge calculus to correct proper distance in the Einstein-deSitter cosmology model yielding a fit of the Union2 Compilation supernova data that matches Λ CDM without having to invoke accelerating expansion or dark energy.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview. In this paper, we introduce our relational, adynamical, background independent approach to quantum gravity (QG) and the unification of physics. This approach is based in and motivated by our foundations-driven account of quantum physics called *Relational Blockworld*⁽¹⁾ (RBW) whereby the fundamental elements of quantum physics are graphical amalgams of space, time and sources¹ (Figure 1) that we call “spacetimesource.” Accordingly, these are elements *of* space, time and sources, not source elements *in* space and time.

Per RBW, Nature is fundamentally a spatiotemporal “micrograph” from which one may construct statistically a much coarser spatiotemporal “macrograph” (Figure 2). In this view, quantum physics describes how a particular spatiotemporal region of the macrograph can be decomposed into various micrographs. We will begin by briefly unpacking this statement.

We start with sets of numbers (real or complex) associated with the nodes of a graph G (micrograph), such that one member of each set is associated with each node. It’s as if each set of numbers is a different coordinate system over the nodes of the graph. Since these sets are distributed over a graph, we call them “fields.” These fields give rise to, but are not equal to, the fields of quantum physics and the spacetime metric of general relativity (GR). We next construct a function S from differences in one field P relative to the differences in another field B , which we call the “base field.” If two field values are differenced in S , they are connected on the graph. For example, if S contains the term $[(P_2 - P_1)/(B_2 - B_1)]^2$, then the node harboring P_2 and B_2 is connected to the node harboring P_1 and B_1 . S is an extremum in these fields.

Now we superimpose a coarser graph G^* (macrograph) over G (Figure 2) and use the base field statistically to generate a spacetime metric ℓ_j^2 over the links of G^* . ℓ_j^2 is used

¹ We use the word “source” in formal analogy to quantum field theory (QFT) where it means “particle sources” or “particle sinks” (creation or annihilation events, respectively). However, our “sources” are not equivalent to the sources in QFT, just as our “fields” are not equivalent to those of quantum physics. When we want to specify “a source of particles” we will use “Source.” Strictly speaking, our “source” is not so localized, but rather reflects a divergence-free property of the graphical element responsible for some property of a trans-temporal object.

to construct the Hilbert action for a 4D vacuum lattice I_R (section 5.1 contains details on Regge calculus). Likewise, S generates statistically the matter-energy action I_{M-E} over G^*

such that $\frac{\delta I_R}{\delta \ell_j^2} = -\frac{\delta I_{M-E}}{\delta \ell_j^2}$ follows from $\delta S = 0$. This is how we imagine underwriting the

Regge calculus version of Einstein's equations² modified to account for "disordered locality" (section 1.2 contains details). Quantum physics is then understood to provide distributions of P and G in G^* (Figures 1 and 3) that are consistent with ℓ_j^2 and I_{M-E} . Again, P isn't equal to a field of quantum physics, but we imagine that the outcomes represented by the fields of quantum physics are due to the fields P as seen in G^* . Since G^* is the graph of (modified) Regge calculus, G^* and ℓ_j^2 are the spacetime structure of classical, quantum, and experimental physics³. One might, therefore, be inclined to think of G and B as constituting "quantum spacetime." In this view, the action of lattice gauge theory (LGT), also modified per disordered locality, involves terms like $(P_2 - P_1)^2 / \ell_j^2$ over G^* . It is this modified LGT that we explore herein. Specifically, we propose a relational approach to unification per our graphical amalgams of spacetimesource, so these fundamental elements of spacetimesource are our beables. Are such beables local?

There has been a great deal of handwringing lately in the foundations literature on quantum gravity as to whether the most fundamental unifying theory from which spacetime emerges, must have local beables to be empirically coherent and make full correspondence with higher-level physical theories and the experienced world⁽²⁾. Maudlin notes that⁽³⁾ "local beables do not merely exist: they exist somewhere," or as Bell puts it⁽⁴⁾, beables are "definitely associated with particular space-time regions." We share the consensus view that a successful theory of quantum gravity need not have local beables⁽⁵⁾. Of course there is less consensus about the necessary and sufficient conditions for being a local beable, and that discussion is beyond the scope of this paper. To return to the main question about the status of spacetimesources, local beables are thought of as being separate from but located somewhere *in* spacetime, whereas, again, spacetimesources are *of* space, time and sources. That said, the various source values

² This is the next step in our research program.

³ This is what we mean by "spacetime" herein.

(observables) of our fundamental elements are certainly localized on the graphs. As we described above, we recover a modified Regge calculus (and thus modified classical spacetime G^* and ℓ_j^2) in a way that makes clear why ordinary general relativity (GR) works as well as it does. Concerning the locality of beables, Einstein writes⁽⁶⁾

..if one asks what is characteristic of the realm of physical ideas independently of the quantum theory, then above all the following attracts our attention: the concepts of physics refer to a real external world, i.e., ideas are posited of things that claim a ‘real existence’ independent of the perceiving subject (bodies, fields, etc.), and these ideas are, on the other hand, brought into as secure a relationship as possible with sense impressions. Moreover, it is characteristic of these physical things that they are conceived of as being arranged in a spacetime continuum. Further, it appears to be essential for this arrangement of the things introduced in physics that, at a specific time, these things claim an existence independent of one another, insofar as these things ‘lie in different parts of space’. Without such an assumption of mutually independent existence (the ‘being-thus’) of spatially distant things, an assumption which originates in everyday thought, physical thought in the sense familiar to us would not be possible....

Einstein appears to conflate (or at least highlight) several different notions of “local” in this passage, including, (1) local as localized in spacetime, (2) local as possessing primitive thisness with intrinsic properties, (3) local as in no superluminal interactions and (4) local as in being otherwise independent (e.g., statistically) of entities at other points in spacetime. Our beables are local in the first and third sense.

The transition amplitude for these elements of spacetimesource is computed using a path integral with discrete graphical action constructed from $\Delta P^2 / \ell_j^2$ over G^* , where differences in the base field ΔB give rise statistically to ℓ_j^2 . Thus, akin to LGT, the action for a spacetimesource element is constructed from a difference matrix $\bar{\bar{K}}$ for field gradients ΔP on the graph G^* with a source vector \bar{J} denoting (relationally) some property of the trans-temporal objects in question (Figure 3). The action is constructed from field differences ΔP so that the spacetimesource element is relational, i.e., a particle Source and sink are inseparably and relationally co-constructed. Consequently, those parts of the action of quantum physics that contain an undifferentiated quantum field must be replaced with a difference in the more fundamental field ΔP . In this sense, $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is constructed (at bottom) from graphical relations ΔP and ΔB so that it contains a non-

trivial null space (whence gauge invariance), and \bar{J} is then restricted to the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ which ensures it is suffused in a divergence-free fashion with the spacetime ℓ_j^2 and G^* defined by the element. This construct of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ and \bar{J} results in a self-consistency relationship between sources, the spacetime metric ℓ_j^2 , and the stress-energy-momentum content of the element, so it is referred to as the “self-consistency criterion” (SCC). As we will explain below (section 1.3), this is an adynamical approach.

Essentially, first, we’re assuming quantum field theory (QFT) is an approximation of LGT, which is the opposite of conventional thinking. Second, we’re underwriting its fundamental computational element, i.e., the transition amplitude, in a relational and adynamical fashion. More significantly, third, since LGT is the fundamental theory and it involves differences rather than derivatives, we are assuming that the size of spacetimesource elements can be as small or large as the situation requires. We find these changes discharge the technical and conceptual difficulties of QFT and quantum mechanics (QM) while leaving their computational structures and empirical successes intact, for all practical purposes. For example, the flexibility in element size provides an adynamical explanation of twin-slit interference (section 3.4) and a novel solution to the dark energy problem (section 5.2). We expect of course that this view of fundamental physics will suggest new experiments in other areas, as well. We will only briefly touch on such issues here, leaving that task for another venue, but most consequences will be obvious to the reader familiar with quantum physics. The focus of this paper will be on explaining how our proposed SCC changes the approach and goals of unification and QG while vindicating the progress made to date on the Standard Model of particle physics⁴.

In short, the SCC of theory X^5 does not involve a group structure that subsumes $U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3)$ of the Standard Model, nor does it contain fundamental particles. Rather, it posits a spatiotemporally relational structure for Nature in which the

⁴ Hereafter simply “the Standard Model.”

⁵ Here we follow the possibility articulated by Wallace (p 45) that, “QFTs as a whole are to be regarded only as approximate descriptions of some as-yet-unknown deeper theory,” which he calls “theory X.” Wallace, D.: In defence of naiveté: The conceptual status of Lagrangian quantum field theory. *Synthese* 151, 33-80 (2006). Our use of the term “theory X” herein refers exclusively to our particular version.

fundamental elements are sources (representing the properties of trans-temporal objects) suffused in divergence-free fashion with units of spacetime. This “self-consistency criterion” is to theory X as $F = ma$ is to Newtonian mechanics, it dictates the structure of a spacetimesource element. The amalgamated spacetimesource elements of theory X then *underwrite* the action in the Standard Model. Thus, according to theory X, the Standard Model represents myriad and increasingly complex *applications* of the fundamental structure. That’s why the Lagrangian density of the Standard Model is quite complex (Figure 15), in stark contrast to the set of fundamental elements per theory X (Figure 14). Gravity as a spin-2 field is explained in analogous fashion since the terms in the expansion of the Einstein-Hilbert action are not needed for every application, so it too deals with increasingly complex applications of the fundamental structure⁽⁷⁾. Notice that in this view, spin-2 gravity does not deal with so-called “quantum spacetime,” which might best be associated with G and B. Rather, it is simply a quantum theory of gauge fields P on plaquettes. In order to round out what we would call quantum gravity, one would have to also provide distributions of B and G in G^* that are consistent with ℓ_j^2 and I_{M-E} . Therefore, the major questions that need to be answered for unification per theory X, while related to those under investigation in current attempts, are certainly novel by comparison. They will become clear to the reader as the formalism is introduced and we will articulate a few in section 4.

Conceptually, spacetimesource elements are responsible for the worldtubes of trans-temporal objects (TTOs, Figure 1), so that TTOs are understood as spatially distributed collections of sources \bar{J} identified through time in Lorentz invariant fashion. Since these spacetimesource elements account for the spatiotemporal distribution of \bar{J} , that two worldtubes have some spatial separation means that they must share elements, which entails that they exchange \bar{J} , i.e., they interact (Figure 1). Accordingly, LGT has been exploring the myriad forms of \bar{J} needed in the construct of the fundamental elements of spacetimesource, and the manner by which these elements are to be assembled, in order to relationally construct the spatiotemporal distribution of worldtubes. Obviously, LGT is physics that *builds on* theory X and needs to be done. In its most general form, the set of fundamental elements employed by LGT contains scalar fields on nodes and links, and

vector fields on nodes. To complete the fundamental set (unification in this view), we propose the addition of scalar fields on plaquettes and vector fields on links. The vector fields on links are parallel transported (for computation of field gradients) via the scalar fields on plaquettes (this is the standard view of particle physics). As stated immediately above, while this part of unification provides for the graviton (spin-2 gravity) via a field P , it falls short of quantum gravity because we must also provide distributions of B and G in G^* that are consistent with ℓ_j^2 and I_{M-E} . This outlines our approach to unification and QG. As a consequence of this approach, Regge calculus must be modified per disordered locality. For example, each graphical simplex in the curved assembly of graphical simplices (4D “tetrahedra”) of the Einstein-deSitter (EdS) cosmology model, harbors only a scalar field on plaquettes (Newtonian gravity), but a scalar field on links (photon field) is responsible for the distance modulus of supernovae. Correcting the proper distance in this cosmology model accordingly yields a fit⁽⁸⁾ of the Union2 Compilation supernova data that matches Λ CDM without having to invoke accelerating expansion or dark energy⁽⁹⁾.

1.2 Locality. The manner by which we correct EdS cosmology is a form of “disordered locality,” i.e., spacetimesource elements can be arbitrarily large, similar to the situation in quantum graphity⁽¹⁰⁾. Our physical model thus implements a suggestion made by Weinstein among others⁽¹¹⁾:

What I want to do here is raise the possibility that there is a more fundamental theory possessing nonlocal constraints that underlies our current theories. Such a theory might account for the mysterious nonlocal effects currently described, but not explained, by quantum mechanics, and might additionally reduce the extent to which cosmological models depend on finely tuned initial data to explain the large scale correlations we observe. The assumption that spatially separated physical systems are entirely uncorrelated is a parochial assumption borne of our experience with the everyday objects described by classical mechanics. Why not suppose that at certain scales or certain epochs, this independence emerges from what is otherwise a highly structured, nonlocally correlated microphysics?

As he says, every extant fundamental theory of physics assumes the non-existence of such nonlocal constraints⁽¹²⁾:

Despite radical differences in their conceptions of space, time, and the nature of matter, all of the physical theories we presently use, non-relativistic and

relativistic, classical and quantum, share one assumption: the features of the world at distinct points in space are understood to be independent. Particles may exist anywhere, independent of the location or velocity of other particles. Classical fields may take on any value at a given point, constrained only by local constraints like Gauss's law. Quantum field theories incorporate the same independence in their demand that field operators at distinct points in space commute with one another. The independence of physical properties at distinct points is a theoretical assumption, albeit one that is grounded in our everyday experience. We appear to be able to manipulate the contents of a given region of space unrestricted by the contents of other regions. We can arrange the desk in our office without concern for the location of the couch at home in our living room.

RBW provides an exact model (theory X) in which precisely this type of locality (type 2 and type 4 above) fails to obtain, thereby allowing us to explain a diverse range of phenomena from quantum entanglement to so-called dark energy. Furthermore, as will be explained, the failure of locality in question, the way it is implemented in theory X, is consistent with and driven by an appropriately modified Regge calculus. Bottom line, there are no space-like continuous worldlines in spacetime.

1.3 Adynamical Explanation. Our approach also differs from common practice (even quantum graphity) in that it is *adynamical*⁽¹³⁾. Carroll sums up nicely what we mean by a dynamical approach⁽¹⁴⁾:

Let's talk about the actual way physics works, as we understand it. Ever since Newton, the paradigm for fundamental physics has been the same, and includes three pieces. First, there is the "space of states": basically, a list of all the possible configurations the universe could conceivably be in. Second, there is some particular state representing the universe at some time, typically taken to be the present. Third, there is some rule for saying how the universe evolves with time. You give me the universe now, the laws of physics say what it will become in the future. This way of thinking is just as true for quantum mechanics or general relativity or quantum field theory as it was for Newtonian mechanics or Maxwell's electrodynamics.

Carroll goes on to say that all extant formal models of QG, even those attempting to recover spacetime⁽¹⁵⁾, are dynamical in this sense. While it is true that integral calculus and least action principles have been around for a long time, most assume these methods are formal tricks and not fundamental to dynamical equations. While our adynamical approach employs mathematical formalism akin to dynamical theories, e.g., LGT, we

redefine what it means to “explain” something in physics. Rather than finding a rule for time-evolved entities per Carroll (e.g., causal dynamical triangulations⁽¹⁶⁾), the SCC leads to the self-consistency of a graphical spacetime metric and its relationally defined sources. While we do talk about “constructing” or “building” spatiotemporal objects in this paper, we are not implying any sort of “evolving blockworld” as in causet dynamics⁽¹⁷⁾. Our use of this terminology is merely in the context of a computational algorithm. So, one might ask for example, “Why does link X have metric G and stress-energy tensor T ?” A dynamical answer might be, “Because link X-1 has metric G -1 and stress-energy tensor T -1 and the law of evolution thereby dictates that link X has metric G and stress-energy tensor T .” Notice how this answer is independent of future boundary conditions; indeed, it’s independent of conditions anywhere else on the graph other than those of the 3D hypersurface in the immediate past. Contrast this with an adynamical answer such as, “Because the values G and T on X satisfy the global self-consistency criterion for the graph as a whole.” The changes we are proposing to the practice and understanding of quantum physics actually rest largely on our form of adynamical explanation couched in ontic structural realism.

2. Quantum Physics Reconceived: Ontic Structural Realism in a Blockworld

2.1 Dynamism Denied. Our account of spacetime and matter is very much in keeping with Rovelli’s intuition that⁽¹⁸⁾:

General relativity (GR) altered the classical understanding of the concepts of space and time in a way which...is far from being fully understood yet. QM challenged the classical account of matter and causality, to a degree which is still the subject of controversies. After the discovery of GR we are no longer sure of what is space-time and after the discovery of QM we are no longer sure of what matter is. *The very distinction between space-time and matter is likely to be ill-founded....*I think it is fair to say that today we do not have a consistent picture of the physical world. [italics added]

We agree with Rovelli and believe a current obstacle to unification is the lack of a true marriage of spacetime with matter. That is, we believe one of the main obstacles to unification has been a form of ‘spacetime-matter dualism’ whereby the spacetime metric (or simply “metric”) is subject to quantization distinct from the matter and gauge fields. This view is carried over from QFT and GR. In QFT, although matter-energy fields are

imagined to pervade space, the metric is independent of the matter-energy content of spacetime. And, although Weyl characterized GR as providing *RaumZeitMaterie*⁽¹⁹⁾, there are vacuum solutions in GR, i.e., spacetime regions where the stress-energy tensor is zero. Thus, neither QFT nor GR embody a true unity of “spacetime-matter” and both employ a differentiable manifold structure for spacetime⁶. Herein we propose unification based on a true unity of space, time and sources, finishing Einstein’s dream so to speak.

Fundamental theories of physics (e.g., M-theory, loop quantum gravity, causal sets) may deviate from the norm by employing radical new fundamental entities (e.g., branes, loops, ordered sets), but the game is always dynamical, broadly construed (e.g., vibrating branes, geometrodynamics, sequential growth process). As Healey puts it⁽²⁰⁾:

Physics proceeds by first analyzing the phenomena with which it deals into various kinds of systems, and then ascribing states to such systems. To classify an object as a certain kind of physical system is to ascribe certain, relatively stable, qualitative intrinsic properties; and to further specify the state of a physical system is to ascribe to it additional, more transitory [time dependent], qualitative intrinsic properties. . . . A physical property of an object will then be both qualitative and intrinsic just in case its possession by that object is wholly determined by the underlying physical states and physical relations of all the basic systems that compose that object.

Dynamism then encompasses three claims: (A) the world, just as appearances and the experience of time suggest, evolves or changes in time in some objective fashion, (B) the best explanation for A will be some dynamical law that “governs” the evolution of the system in question, and (C) the fundamental entities in a “theory of everything” will themselves be dynamical entities evolving in some space however abstract, e.g., Hilbert space. Our model rejects not only tenets A and B of dynamism, but also C. In our view time-evolved *entities* or *things* are not fundamental and, in fact, it is in accord with ontic structural realism⁽²¹⁾ (OSR):

Ontic structural realists argue that what we have learned from contemporary physics is that the nature of space, time and matter are not compatible with standard metaphysical views about the ontological relationship between

⁶ For an overview of problems associated with “the manifold conception of space and time” in quantum gravity see Butterfield, J., & Isham, C.J.: *Spacetime and the Philosophical Challenge of Quantum Gravity* (1999) <http://arxiv.org/abs/gr-qc/9903072>.

individuals, intrinsic properties and relations. On the broadest construal OSR is any form of structural realism based on an ontological or metaphysical thesis that inflates the ontological priority of structure and relations.

More specifically, our version of OSR (RBW⁽²²⁾) agrees that⁽²³⁾ “The relata of a given relation always turn out to be relational structures themselves on further analysis.” Note that OSR does not claim there are relations without relata, just that the relata are not individuals (e.g., things with primitive thisness and intrinsic properties), but always ultimately analyzable as relations as well (Figure 3). OSR already violates the dynamical bias by rejecting *things* with intrinsic properties and their dynamics as fundamental *building blocks* of reality – the world isn’t fundamentally *compositional* – the deepest conception of reality is not one in which we decompose things into other things at ever smaller length and time scales⁷.

A good deal of the literature on OSR is driven by philosophical concerns about scientific realism and intertheoretic relations, rather than motivated by physics itself⁽²⁴⁾. There has also been much debate in the philosophical literature as to whether OSR provides any real help in resolving foundational issues of physics such as interpreting quantum mechanics or in advancing physics itself. Consider the following claims for example:

OSR is not an interpretation of QM in addition to many worlds-type interpretations, collapse-type interpretations, or hidden variable-type interpretations. As the discussion of the arguments for OSR from QM in section 2 above has shown, OSR is not in the position to provide on its own an ontology for QM, since it does not reply to the question of what implements the structures that it poses. In conclusion, after more than a decade of elaboration and debate on OSR about QM, it seems that the impact that OSR can have on providing an answer to the question of what the world is like, if QM is correct, is rather limited. From a scientific realist perspective, the crucial issue is the assessment of the pros and cons of the various detailed proposals for an ontology of QM, as it was before the appearance of OSR on the scene⁽²⁵⁾.

While the basic idea defended here (a fundamental ontology of brute relations) can be found elsewhere in the philosophical literature on ‘structural realism’, we have yet to see the idea used as an argument for advancing physics, nor have we seen a truly convincing argument, involving a real construction based in modern

⁷ This is an ontological claim. Computationally, of course, the spacetime lattice of LGT is “composed of” hypercubes with fields on nodes and links.

physics, that successfully evades the objection that there can be no relations without first (in logical order) having things so related⁽²⁶⁾.

As this paper will attest, theory X is a counterexample to Esfeld's claim and it provides exactly the physical model that Rickles and Bloom are looking for. As they say in the following passage, OSR has the potential to re-ground physics, dissolve current quagmires and lead to new physics⁽²⁷⁾:

Viewing the world as structurally constituted by primitive relations has the potential to lead to new kinds of research in physics, and knowledge of a more stable sort. Indeed, in the past those theories that have adopted a broadly similar approach (along the lines of what Einstein labeled 'principle theories') have led to just the kinds of advances that this essay competition seeks to capture: areas "where thinkers were 'stuck' and had to let go of some cherished assumptions to make progress." Principle theory approaches often look to general 'structural aspects' of physical behaviour over 'thing aspects' (what Einstein labeled 'constructive'), promoting invariances of world-structure to general principles.

Rickles and Bloom lament the fact that OSR has yet to be so motivated and further anticipate theory X almost perfectly when they say⁽²⁸⁾:

The position I have described involves the idea that physical systems (which I take to be characterized by the values for their observables) are exhausted by extrinsic or relational properties: they have no intrinsic, local properties at all! This is a curious consequence of background independence coupled with gauge invariance and leads to a rather odd picture in which objects and [spacetime] structure are deeply entangled. Inasmuch as there are objects at all, any properties they possess are structurally conferred: they have no reality outside some correlation. What this means is that the objects don't *ground* structure, they are nothing independently of the structure, which takes the form of a (gauge invariant) correlation between (non-gauge invariant) field values. With this view one can both evade the standard 'no relations without relata' objection and the problem of accounting for the appearance of time (in a timeless structure) in the same way.

In this paper we provide physics that embodies their suggestion. Broadly speaking, we relate gauge invariance, gauge fixing, divergence-free sources, and relationally defined trans-temporal objects in an adynamic, graphical fashion. Specifically speaking, each row of our difference matrix $\bar{\bar{K}}$ for field gradients in the action for our spacetimesource element is a vector constructed relationally via the connectivity of some graphical entity,

i.e., nodes connected by links, links connected by plaquettes, or plaquettes connected by cubes. Thus, $\bar{\bar{K}}$ might rather be called the “relations matrix.” Since each vector is relationally defined, its components sum to zero, which means $[111\dots]^T$ is a null eigenvector of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Our SCC then demands that the source vector \bar{J} in the action for our spacetimesource element reside in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$, so that it is orthogonal to $[111\dots]^T$ which means its components sum to zero, i.e., it is divergence-free. A divergence-free source in each spacetimesource element then underwrites relationally defined, spatially distributed, trans-temporally identified properties, i.e., it provides the fundamental element for relationally defined trans-temporal objects per OSR. That $\bar{\bar{K}}$ possesses a non-trivial null space is the graphical equivalent of gauge invariance and restricting \bar{J} to the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ provides a natural gauge fixing, i.e., restricting the path integral of the transition amplitude to the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. That $\bar{\bar{K}}$ possesses a non-trivial null space also means the determinant of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is zero, so the set of vectors constituting the rows of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is not linearly independent. That some subset of these vectors is determined by its complement follows from having the graphical set relationally constructed. Thus, divergence-free \bar{J} follows from relationally defined $\bar{\bar{K}}$ as a direct result of our SCC. Consequently, we agree with Rovelli that⁽²⁹⁾, “Gauge is ubiquitous. It is not unphysical redundancy of our mathematics. It reveals the relational structure of our world.”

2.2 Blockworld. As stated, we must further exacerbate this violation of dynamism by applying OSR to a blockworld. The blockworld perspective (the reality of all events past, present and future including the outcomes of quantum experiments) is suggested for example by the relativity of simultaneity in special relativity or, more generally, the lack of a preferred spatial foliation of spacetime in GR, and even by quantum entanglement according to some of us⁽³⁰⁾. Geroch writes⁽³¹⁾:

There is no dynamics within space-time itself: nothing ever moves therein; nothing happens; nothing changes. In particular, one does not think of particles as moving through space-time, or as following along their world-lines. Rather, particles are just in space-time, once and for all, and the world-line represents, all at once, the complete life history of the particle.

When Geroch says that “there is no dynamics within space-time itself,” he is not denying that the mosaic of the blockworld possesses patterns that can be described with dynamical laws. Nor is he denying the predictive and explanatory value of such laws. Rather, given the reality of all events in a blockworld, dynamics are not “event factories” that bring heretofore non-existent events (such as measurement outcomes) into being; fundamental dynamical laws that are allegedly responsible for discharging fundamental “why” questions in physics are not brute unexplained explainers that “produce” events on our view. Geroch is advocating for what philosophers call Humeanism about laws. Namely, the claim is that relatively fundamental dynamical laws are *descriptions of regularities* and not the *brute explanation* for such regularities. His point is that in a blockworld, Humeanism about laws is an obvious position to take because everything is just “there” from a “God’s eye” (Archimedean) point of view.

In addition there is the problem of time in canonical general relativity. That is, in a particular Hamiltonian formulation of GR the reparametrization of spacetime is a gauge symmetry. Therefore, all genuinely physical magnitudes are constants of motion, i.e., they don’t change over time. In short, change is merely a redundancy of the representation.

Finally, the problem of frozen time in canonical QG is that if the canonical variables of the theory to be quantized transform as scalars under time reparametrizations, which is true in practice because they have a simple geometrical meaning, then⁽³²⁾ “the Hamiltonian is (weakly) zero for a generally covariant system.” The result upon canonical quantization is the famous Wheeler-DeWitt equation, void of time evolution. While it is too strong to say a generally covariant theory must have $H = 0$, there is no well-developed theory of quantum gravity that has avoided it to date⁽³³⁾. It is supremely ironic that the dynamism and unificationism historically driving physics led us directly to blockworld and frozen time.

Rickles notes that the problem of time can be solved by⁽³⁴⁾, “(1) global quantities defined over the whole spacetime and (2) ‘relational’ quantities built out of correlations between field values and/or invariants. There seems to be some consensus forming that the latter type are the way to go, and these will serve as the appropriate vehicle for defining time in an unchanging mathematical structure, as well as defining the structures themselves.”

Theory X, it will become clear, provides a solution precisely in terms of number 2.

We think therefore that both quantum mechanics, e.g., delayed-choice experiments, and relativity are telling us that Nature is a block universe, so it is time to promote this idea from mere metaphysics to physics. This is what RBW does.

2.3 OSR in a Blockworld. Putting it all together, reality is a blockworld best characterized as spacetimesource, as opposed to the “spacetime + sources” picture of current physics. In the foundations literature on the eternalism debate and the structural realism debate respectively, the biggest complaint is that the fate of these topics makes no real difference for physics itself, i.e., it does not lead to new models, new insights, or new predictions and it does not resolve conceptual problems. In short, the complaint is that such debates are nothing but pure metaphysics. We, however, actually do provide a new formal model for fundamental physics based on blockworld with relationally defined sources that has all the aforementioned virtues. Our approach employs an adynamical self-consistency criterion.

2.4 Self-Consistency Criterion. Our use of a self-consistency criterion is not without precedent, as we already have an ideal example in Einstein’s equations of GR

$$R_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\alpha\beta} R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\alpha\beta}$$

Momentum, force and energy all depend on spatiotemporal measurements (tacit or explicit), so the stress-energy tensor cannot be constructed without tacit or explicit knowledge of the spacetime metric (technically, the stress-energy tensor can be written as the functional derivative of the matter-energy Lagrangian with respect to the metric). But, if one wants a “dynamic spacetime” in the parlance of GR, the spacetime metric must

depend on the matter-energy distribution in spacetime. GR solves this dilemma by demanding the stress-energy tensor be “consistent” with the spacetime metric per Einstein’s equations⁸. This self-consistency hinges on divergence-free sources, which finds a mathematical counterpart in $\partial\partial = 0$, i.e., the boundary of a boundary principle⁽³⁵⁾. So, Einstein’s equations of GR are a mathematical articulation of the boundary of a boundary principle in classical physics, i.e., they constitute a self-consistency criterion in classical physics. In fact, our SCC is based on the same topological maxim ($\partial\partial = 0$) for the same reason, as is the case with quantum and classical electromagnetism⁽³⁶⁾.

3. Underwriting the Free Field Transition Amplitude

3.1 Boundary of a Boundary Principle. In Figure 4, the boundary of plaquette \mathbf{p}_1 is given by links $\mathbf{e}_4 + \mathbf{e}_5 - \mathbf{e}_2 - \mathbf{e}_1$, which also provides an orientation. The boundary of \mathbf{e}_1 is given by nodes $\mathbf{v}_2 - \mathbf{v}_1$, which likewise provides an orientation. Using these conventions for the orientations of links and plaquettes we have the following boundary operator for $C_2 \rightarrow C_1$, i.e., space of plaquettes mapped to space of links in the spacetime chain complex:

$$\partial_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

The first column is simply the links for the boundary of \mathbf{p}_1 and the second column is simply the links for the boundary of \mathbf{p}_2 . We have the following boundary operator for $C_1 \rightarrow C_0$, i.e., space of links mapped to space of nodes in the spacetime chain complex:

⁸ Concerning the stress-energy tensor, Hamber and Williams write, “In general its covariant divergence is not zero, but consistency of the Einstein field equations demands $\nabla^\alpha T_{\alpha\beta} = 0$,” Hamber, H.W., & Williams, R.: Nonlocal Effective Gravitational Field Equations and the Running of Newton’s G (2005) <http://arxiv.org/pdf/hep-th/0507017.pdf>

$$\partial_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

which completes the spacetime chain complex, $C_0 \xleftarrow{\partial_1} C_1 \xleftarrow{\partial_2} C_2$. The columns are simply the nodes for the boundaries of the edges or conversely, each row shows which links leave (-1) or enter (1) each node. These boundary operators satisfy $\partial_1 \partial_2 = 0$ as required by the boundary of a boundary principle.

3.2 Graphical Harmonic Oscillator and the SCC. The Lagrangian for the coupled masses of Figure 5 is

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{q}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{q}_2^2 - \frac{1}{2} k (q_1 - q_2)^2 \quad (3)$$

so our transition amplitude is ($\hbar = 1$)

$$Z = \int Dq(t) \exp \left[i \int_0^T dt \left[\frac{1}{2} m \dot{q}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} m \dot{q}_2^2 - \frac{1}{2} k q_1^2 - \frac{1}{2} k q_2^2 + k q_1 q_2 + J_1 q_1 + J_2 q_2 \right] \right] \quad (4)$$

giving

$$\bar{\bar{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & 0 & k \Delta t & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & \left(\frac{2m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & 0 & k \Delta t & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & \left(\frac{m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) & 0 & 0 & k \Delta t \\ k \Delta t & 0 & 0 & \left(\frac{m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & 0 \\ 0 & k \Delta t & 0 & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & \left(\frac{2m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} \\ 0 & 0 & k \Delta t & 0 & \frac{-m}{\Delta t} & \left(\frac{m}{\Delta t} - k \Delta t \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

on the graph of Figure 4. The eigenvalues are $0, -2k\Delta t, \frac{m}{\Delta t}, 3\frac{m}{\Delta t}, \frac{m}{\Delta t} - 2k\Delta t, 3\frac{m}{\Delta t} - 2k\Delta t$ and the null space (space of eigenvalues 0) is spanned by the eigenvector $[111111]^T$. The space orthogonal to the null space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is called the row space⁹ of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Therefore, any source vector \bar{J} in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ has components which sum to zero and this is referred to in graphical approaches to physics as “divergence-free \bar{J} .” If \bar{J} is a force, this simply reflects Newton’s third law. If \bar{J} is energy, this simply reflects conservation of energy. We will use \bar{J} on spacetimesource elements to underwrite conserved properties defining TTOs, so we require that \bar{J} reside in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Thus, $\bar{\bar{K}}$ must be constructed so as to possess a non-trivial null space, which is the graphical equivalent of gauge invariance. As we shall see, this fundamental, adynamical construct of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ and \bar{J} results in a self-consistency relationship between sources, the spacetime metric, and dynamical properties such as mass, energy, and momentum, so we call it a “self-consistency criterion” (SCC). That explains the role \bar{J} plays in the SCC, now we explain the graphical construction of $\bar{\bar{K}}$.

Giving weights to the links of Figure 4 to give Figure 6 we have the following boundary operator on Figure 6

$$\partial_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & 0 & 0 & -\sqrt{-k\Delta t} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & -\sqrt{-k\Delta t} & -\sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\sqrt{-k\Delta t} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{-k\Delta t} & -\sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{-k\Delta t} & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{\frac{m}{\Delta t}} & -\sqrt{-k\Delta t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \sqrt{-k\Delta t} & \sqrt{-k\Delta t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

⁹ The column space is equal to the row space here, since $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is symmetric.

constructed analogously to Eq (2). One then finds *a la* Wise⁽³⁷⁾ that $\bar{\bar{K}} = \partial_1 \partial_1^T$. One can also read off the rows of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ by noting that row 1 says links of weight $\frac{m}{\Delta t}$ and $-k\Delta t$ are connecting nodes 1, 2 and 4, respectively. All other rows can be read off the same way. Either way, $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is understood to be constructed via graphical relations, so it might be called the “relations matrix.”

The SCC is fundamental to quantum physics, as its status in theory X is akin to Newton’s laws of motion or Einstein’s equations of GR. Just as Newton’s second law co-defines force and mass, and Einstein’s equations co-define the spacetime metric and stress-energy tensor, the SCC co-defines relations and sources in quantum physics. We will provide examples in this section for the Schrödinger, Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, and Einstein-Hilbert actions. In section 4, we will show how the idea extends to U(1), SU(2) and SU(3) interactions.

Now that we have explained the SCC, our choice of gauge fixing is obvious. The discrete, graphical counterpart to Eq (4) is

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dQ_1 \dots dQ_N \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} \vec{Q} \cdot \bar{\bar{K}} \cdot \vec{Q} + i \vec{J} \cdot \vec{Q} \right] \quad (7)$$

with solution

$$Z = \left(\frac{(2\pi i)^N}{\det(K)} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[-i \frac{1}{2} \vec{J} \cdot \bar{\bar{K}}^{-1} \cdot \vec{J} \right] \quad (8)$$

However, $\bar{\bar{K}}^{-1}$ does not exist because $\bar{\bar{K}}$ has a non-trivial null space. This is the graphical characterization of the effect of gauge invariance on the computation of Z . Because we require that \vec{J} reside in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$, the graphical counterpart to Fadeev-Popov gauge fixing is clear, i.e., we simply restrict our path integral to the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Nothing of physical interest lies elsewhere, so this is a natural choice. In the eigenbasis of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ with our gauge fixing Eq (7) becomes

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tilde{Q}_2 \dots d\tilde{Q}_N \exp \left[\sum_{n=2}^N \left(i \frac{1}{2} \tilde{Q}_n^2 a_n + i \tilde{J}_n \tilde{Q}_n \right) \right] \quad (9)$$

where \tilde{Q}_n are the coordinates associated with the eigenbasis of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ and \tilde{Q}_1 is associated with eigenvalue zero, a_n is the eigenvalue of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ corresponding to \tilde{Q}_n , and \tilde{J}_n are the components of \bar{J} in the eigenbasis of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Our gauge independent approach revises Eq. (8) to give

$$Z = \left(\frac{(2\pi i)^{N-1}}{\prod_{n=2}^N a_n} \right)^{1/2} \prod_{n=2}^N \exp \left[-i \frac{\tilde{J}_n^2}{2a_n \hbar} \right] \quad (10)$$

Thus, we find that the self-consistent co-construction of space, time and divergence-free sources entails gauge invariance and gauge fixing. After quickly checking the general structure for unweighted scalar fields on the hypercube, we will apply this idea to the Schrödinger, Klein-Gordon, Dirac, Maxwell, and Einstein-Hilbert actions.

3.3 Unweighted Scalar Fields on the Hypercube. We now provide $\bar{\bar{K}}1 = \partial_1 \partial_1^T$, $\bar{\bar{K}}2 = \partial_2 \partial_2^T$, $\bar{\bar{K}}3 = \partial_3 \partial_3^T$, the eigenvalues for each $\bar{\bar{K}}$, and the structure of the row space for each $\bar{\bar{K}}$ on the hypercube (Figure 11) with unweighted links, plaquettes and cubes. These boundary operators satisfy $\partial_n \partial_{n+1} = 0$. We have for $\bar{\bar{K}}1 = \partial_1 \partial_1^T$ (note that there are 16 nodes, the nodal numbering system does not use 9 and 10 for obvious reasons, as you can see in Figure 11):

	v_1	v_2	v_3	v_4	v_5	v_6	v_7	v_8	v_{11}	v_{12}	v_{13}	v_{14}	v_{15}	v_{16}	v_{17}	v_{18}
v_1	4	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
v_2	-1	4	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
v_3	-1	0	4	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0
v_4	0	-1	-1	4	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
v_5	-1	0	0	0	4	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0
v_6	0	-1	0	0	-1	4	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0
v_7	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	4	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0
v_8	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
v_{11}	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0
v_{12}	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	4	0	-1	0	-1	0	0
v_{13}	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	4	-1	0	0	-1	0
v_{14}	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	4	0	0	0	-1
v_{15}	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	4	-1	-1	0
v_{16}	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	-1	4	0	0	-1
v_{17}	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	4	-1
v_{18}	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	4

The eigenvalues are $\{8,6,6,6,6,4,4,4,4,4,4,2,2,2,2,0\}$ and the null space is

$\text{span}\{[111\dots]^T\}$, which we know from the fact that the rows of \bar{K} sum to zero. The SCC then means \bar{J} sums to zero globally (all 16 nodes).

We have for $\bar{\bar{K}}3 = \partial_3 \partial_3^T$:

```

2  -1 -1  1  1  0 -1 -1  0  1  1  0  0 -1  0  0  0  0 -1  0  0  0  0  0
-1  2  -1 -1  0  1  1  0 -1 -1  0  0  0  1  1  0  0  0  0 -1  0  0  0  0
-1 -1  2  0 -1 -1  0  1  1  0 -1  0  0  0 -1  0  0  0  1  1  0  0  0  0
1  -1  0  2 -1  1 -1  0  0  1  0 -1  0 -1  0  1  0  0  0  0 -1  0  0  0
1  0  -1 -1  2 -1  0 -1  0  0  1  1  0  0  0 -1  0  0 -1  0  1  0  0  0
0  1  -1  1 -1  2  0  0 -1  0  0 -1  0  0  1  1  0  0  0 -1 -1  0  0  0
-1  1  0 -1  0  0  2 -1  1 -1  0  0 -1  1  0  0  1  0  0  0  0 -1  0  0
-1  0  1  0 -1  0 -1  2 -1  0 -1  0  1  0  0  0 -1  0  1  0  0  1  0  0
0  -1  1  0  0 -1  1 -1  2  0  0  0 -1  0 -1  0  1  0  0  1  0 -1  0  0
1  -1  0  1  0  0 -1  0  0  2 -1  1 -1 -1  0  0  0  1  0  0  0  0 -1  0
1  0  -1  0  1  0  0 -1  0 -1  2 -1  1  0  0  0  0 -1 -1  0  0  0  1  0
0  0  0 -1  1 -1  0  0  0  1 -1  2 -1  0  0 -1  0  1  0  0  1  0 -1  0
0  0  0  0  0  0 -1  1 -1 -1  1 -1  2  0  0  0 -1 -1  0  0  0  1  1  0
-1  1  0 -1  0  0  1  0  0 -1  0  0  0  2 -1  1 -1  1  0  0  0  0  0 -1
0  1  -1  0  0  1  0  0 -1  0  0  0  0 -1  2 -1  1 -1  0 -1  0  0  0  1
0  0  0  1 -1  1  0  0  0  0  0 -1  0  1 -1  2 -1  1  0  0 -1  0  0 -1
0  0  0  0  0  0  1 -1  1  0  0  0 -1 -1  1 -1  2 -1  0  0  0 -1  0  1
0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  1 -1  1 -1  1 -1  1 -1  2  0  0  0  0 -1 -1
-1  0  1  0 -1  0  0  1  0  0 -1  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  2 -1  1 -1  1 -1
0  -1  1  0  0 -1  0  0  1  0  0  0  0  0 -1  0  0  0 -1  2 -1  1 -1  1
0  0  0 -1  1 -1  0  0  0  0  0  1  0  0  0 -1  0  0  1 -1  2 -1  1 -1
0  0  0  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  0  0  0  1  0  0  0 -1  0 -1  1 -1  2 -1  1
0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  1  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  1 -1  2 -1  1
0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  1  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  1 -1  2 -1
0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0  0 -1  1 -1  1 -1  1 -1  1 -1  2

```

The eigenvalues are $\{8,8,8,6,6,6,6,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0\}$. The null space contains $[111\dots]^T$, since the rows of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ sum to zero. The SCC then means \bar{J} sums to zero globally (all 24 plaquettes). There are vectors in the null space which correspond to \bar{J} conserved on the plaquettes at each link (Figure 13). Thus, we can understand the 7 dimensions of the row space as follows. Start by specifying \bar{J} on the six plaquettes of the “inner” cube. Then local conservation dictates the value of \bar{J} on all plaquettes connecting the “inner” cube to the “outer” cube. That means we need only specify the value of \bar{J} on one plaquette of the “outer” cube and local conservation will dictate the rest of its values on the “outer” cube. We next apply this approach to the free-particle Schrödinger action.

3.4 Non-relativistic Scalar Field on Nodes. The non-relativistic limit of the Klein-Gordon (KG) equation gives the free-particle Schrödinger equation (SE) by factoring out the rest mass contribution to the energy E , assuming the Newtonian form for kinetic energy, and discarding the second-order time derivative⁽³⁸⁾. To illustrate the first two steps, plug

$\varphi = Ae^{i(px-Et)/\hbar}$ into the KG equation and obtain $(-E^2 + p^2c^2 + m^2c^4) = 0$, which tells us E is the total relativistic energy. Now plug $\psi = Ae^{i(px-Et)/\hbar}$ into the free-particle SE and obtain $\frac{p^2}{2m} = E$, which tells us E is only the Newtonian kinetic energy. Thus, we must factor out the rest energy of the particle, i.e., $\psi = e^{imc^2t/\hbar} \varphi$, assume the low-velocity limit of the relativistic kinetic energy, and discard the relevant term from our Lagrangian density (leading to the second-order time derivative) in going from φ of the KG equation to ψ of the free-particle SE. We will make these changes to Z for the KG equation and obtain $\psi(x,t)$, which we will then compare to $\psi(x,t)$ from QM to obtain a self-consistency relationship between source and space *à la* Einstein's equations of GR. We will also contrast QM's "mediated" account of twin-slit interference with the adynamical spacetimesource account of our theory X.

For the KG equation we have

$$Z = \int D\varphi \exp \left[i \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial\varphi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}^2 \varphi^2 + J\varphi \right] \right] \quad (11)$$

which in (1+1)D is

$$Z = \int D\varphi \exp \left[i \int dxdt \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \frac{c^2}{2} \left(\frac{\partial\varphi}{\partial x} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}^2 \varphi^2 + J\varphi \right] \right] \quad (12)$$

($\hbar = 1$ and $\bar{m} \equiv \frac{mc^2}{\hbar}$). Making the changes described above with $\psi = e^{imt} \sqrt{\bar{m}} \varphi$, Eq (12)

gives the non-relativistic KG transition amplitude corresponding to the free-particle SE⁽³⁹⁾

$$Z = \int D\varphi \exp \left[i \int dxdt \left[i\psi^* \left(\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} \right) - \frac{c^2}{2\bar{m}} \left(\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + J\psi \right] \right] \quad (13)$$

To obtain the spacetimesource graphical element for Eq (13), we use a simple four-node graph (Figure 7) so that

$$Z = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dQ_2 dQ_3 dQ_4 \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} \vec{Q} \cdot \vec{K} \cdot \vec{Q} + i \vec{J} \cdot \vec{Q} \right] \quad (14)$$

Since ψ^* appears undifferentiated in the action, we do not have a fully relational form. Again, we imagine that this is because ψ needs to be underwritten by a “coordinate” field P on G that reveals the underlying relational form of the action. For example, if one writes the spring potential of section 3.2 in terms of the displacement x from equilibrium, one obtains the term $\frac{1}{2} kx^2$ in the action, but this obscures the relational structure revealed using coordinates q , i.e., $\frac{1}{2} k(q_1 - q_2)^2$. So, we replace ψ^* with a relational structure

$\psi^* \rightarrow \left(\frac{\psi_2^* + \psi_1^*}{2} \right)$ in the following discretizations (with extrapolations):

$$\begin{aligned} i\psi^* \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right) &\rightarrow i \left(\frac{\psi_2^* + \psi_1^*}{2} \right) \left(\frac{\psi_2 - \psi_1}{\Delta t} \right) \\ -\frac{c^2}{2m} \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)^2 &\rightarrow -\frac{\hbar}{2m} \left(\frac{\psi_3^* - \psi_1^*}{\Delta x} \right) \left(\frac{\psi_3 - \psi_1}{\Delta x} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where ψ_2 is at node $\psi_1 + \Delta t$, ψ_3 is at node $\psi_1 + \Delta x$, and ψ_4 is at node $\psi_1 + \Delta x + \Delta t$. We

obtain for \vec{K} in $\frac{1}{2} \vec{\psi}^* \cdot \vec{K} \cdot \vec{\psi}$:

$$\vec{K} = \begin{bmatrix} \left(-i\Delta x - \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} \right) & i\Delta x & \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} & 0 \\ -i\Delta x & \left(i\Delta x - \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} \right) & 0 & \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} \\ \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} & 0 & \left(-i\Delta x - \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} \right) & i\Delta x \\ 0 & \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} & -i\Delta x & \left(i\Delta x - \frac{\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x} \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

after multiplying by the volume element $\Delta x \Delta t$ and factoring out the $\frac{1}{2}$. The eigenvalues

of \vec{K} are doubly degenerate in 0 and $-\frac{2\hbar\Delta t}{m\Delta x}$ and, by construction, one eigenvector in the

null space of \bar{K} is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$. We choose \bar{J} proportional to the unit eigenvector associated with

the nonzero eigenvalue. Computing Z per Eq (10) and using this as a propagator with a delta function Source we have

$$\psi(x,t) \propto \exp \left[\frac{iJ_o^2}{2 \frac{2\hbar t}{m} \hbar} \right] \quad (16)$$

where J_o is the magnitude of \bar{J} ($\Delta t \rightarrow t$ and $\Delta x \rightarrow x$ for notational simplicity).

The corresponding QM propagator is obtained via the path integral with action

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2} m \left(\frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2 dt \quad (17)$$

which gives⁽⁴⁰⁾

$$\psi(x,t) = A \sqrt{\frac{m}{2\pi\hbar it}} \exp \left[\frac{imx^2}{2\hbar t} \right] \propto \exp \left[\frac{imx^2}{2\hbar t} \right] \quad (18)$$

with delta function Source $\psi(x,0) = A\delta(x)$. In this view, a particle of mass m is moving through space from Source to detector, so we call this a “mediated” view (as with standard field theoretic accounts).

Comparing the exponents of Eq (16) and Eq (18) we have $J_o^2 = 2\hbar x$. Thus, in GR-like fashion, we obtain a self-consistency relationship between source and space.

Eq (16) is an oscillatory solution like that of Eq (18), so it is easy to see how both results lead to twin-slit interference. However, the results are quite different conceptually.

Eq (16) was obtained in spatiotemporally holistic fashion, as we described in section 1 (and Figure 7), and the view of how its amplitudes are combined is shown in Figure 8. By contrast, QM’s Eq (18) was obtained dynamically and the view of how its amplitudes are

combined is shown in Figure 9. This illustrates nicely that per theory X the interference pattern of the twin-slit experiment does not entail “quantum entities” moving through space as a function of time to “cause” detector events. Rather, interference is understood adynamically via ‘competition’ between fundamental elements of spacetimesource.

Again, in our view, physics is concerned with explaining the relative spatiotemporal locations of TTOs and physics currently says TTOs are composed of smaller TTOs, i.e., smaller subsets of trans-temporally identified properties (fundamental particles). We propose a more fundamental decomposition of TTOs in terms of spacetimesource elements. Accordingly, quantum physics is telling us something very important about the composition of TTOs, i.e., their properties combine via interference at the level of spacetimesource elements. We next study the Klein-Gordon action and compare it to the Schrödinger result.

3.5 Scalar Field on Nodes. We now consider Eq (12). The 4-node graph of Figure 10 depicts our spacetimesource element for this case. Again, we have an undifferentiated field in the action so we will have to replace it with a coordinate form. Since there is no basis for choosing between spatial differences and temporal differences, we choose a mixture, i.e., we use $(\varphi_4^* - \varphi_2^* + \varphi_3^* - \varphi_1^*)(\varphi_4 - \varphi_3 + \varphi_2 - \varphi_1)$ for the discretization of φ^2 in our spacetimesource element. This gives

$$\bar{\bar{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \right) & -\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \\ -\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \right) & -\bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \\ \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & -\bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \right) & -\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \\ \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & -\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x & \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} - \frac{c^2 \Delta t}{\Delta x} - \bar{m}^2 \Delta t \Delta x \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

The eigenvalues of \bar{K} are $a_1 = 0$, $a_2 = -2\left(\frac{c^2\Delta t}{\Delta x}\right)$, $a_3 = \frac{2\Delta x}{\Delta t}$, and

$a_4 = -2\left(\frac{c^2\Delta t}{\Delta x} - \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}\right) = a_2 + a_3$. As always, an eigenvector for a_1 is $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ by construction.

Looking ahead to comparison with the non-relativistic case, we choose \bar{J} proportional to the unit vector along the eigenvector for a_4 . In this case, our Z gives (dropping Δ)

$$\varphi(x, t) \propto \exp\left[\frac{iJ_o^2}{4\left(\frac{c^2t}{x} - \frac{x}{t}\right)\hbar}\right] \quad (20)$$

Again, we wish to compare with the mediated counterpart, so we compare with the two-point correlation function for the free scalar field⁽⁴¹⁾

$$G(x, t) \propto \exp\left[i\left(\frac{px}{\hbar} - \frac{Et}{\hbar}\right)\right] \quad (21)$$

Comparing Eq (20) with Eq (21) we obtain $J_o^2 = 4\left(\frac{c^2t}{x} - \frac{x}{t}\right)(px - Et)$. Here the SCC

leads to the self-consistent relationship between source, time, space, mass, momentum, and energy. To see how this reduces to our non-relativistic result, we first reintroduce the

scaling factor \sqrt{m} so that $a_4 = -2\left(\frac{c^2t}{x} - \frac{x}{t}\right) \rightarrow -2\left(\frac{c^2t}{\bar{m}x} - \frac{x}{\bar{m}t}\right) = -\frac{2\hbar}{mv}\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)$, where

$v = \frac{x}{t}$. Then, letting $p = m\frac{x}{t}$ and $E = \frac{1}{2}m\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^2$, we obtain $J_o^2 = 2\hbar x\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)$ whence our

non-relativistic result $J_o^2 = 2\hbar x$. We next study the Dirac action.

3.6 Vector Field on Nodes. We apply this approach to vector fields on nodes and note that the KG operator for scalar fields is the square of the Dirac operator for vector fields, i.e., $(-i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu - m)(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu - m) = (\partial^2 + m^2)$. In order to construct $\bar{\bar{K}}$ for the Dirac operator on the hypercube of Figure 11 we have the following link weights on t , x , y , and z links respectively:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{t} - m & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{t} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t} \end{bmatrix} & X &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{x} \\ 0 & -m & \frac{1}{x} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{x} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{x} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 Y &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{i}{y} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{y} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{i}{y} & m & 0 \\ \frac{i}{y} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} & Z &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{z} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{z} \\ \frac{1}{z} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{z} & 0 & m \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Then the 64 x 64 matrix $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is simply given by:

$$\bar{\bar{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} (-T - X - Y - Z) & Z & Y & 0 & X & \dots \\ \vdots & & & & & \end{bmatrix} \tag{23}$$

This has the same form as $\bar{\bar{K}}$ for the Schrödinger (Eq (15)) and KG (Eq (19)) actions. That is, reading across the rows for each node one simply has a collection of the link weights relating the nodes which are connected. Thus, as claimed in section 2, we can understand how $\bar{\bar{K}}$ instantiates graphical relationalism and divergence-free \bar{J} per the SCC as follows.

Each row of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is a vector constructed relationally via the connectivity of some graphical element, i.e., nodes connected by links, links connected by plaquettes, or plaquettes

connected by cubes. Since each vector is relationally defined, its elements sum to zero, which means $[111\dots]^T$ is a null eigenvector of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. Thus, the determinant of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is zero, so the set of row vectors is not linearly independent. That some subset of the vectors is determined by its complement follows from having the graphical set relationally defined. This allows for divergence-free \bar{J} as we showed with the hypercube in section 3.3.

Therefore, divergence-free \bar{J} follows from relationally defined $\bar{\bar{K}}$ as a consequence of the SCC.

To study the eigenstructure, we point out that $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is in nested form. $\bar{\bar{K}}_{block} = \begin{bmatrix} A & TI \\ TI & A \end{bmatrix}$

where TI is the 8×8 identity matrix I times T and A is the 8×8 matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} B & XI \\ XI & B \end{bmatrix}$.

Continuing the nesting we have $B = \begin{bmatrix} C & YI \\ YI & C \end{bmatrix}$ where $C = \begin{bmatrix} D & ZI \\ ZI & D \end{bmatrix}$ and

$D = [-T - X - Y - Z]$. The eigenvalue problem for $\bar{\bar{K}}$ then takes a nested form in terms of Hadamard matrices $H_1, H_2, H_4, H_8,$ and H_{16} as follows. $DH_1 = H_1[-T - X - Y - Z]$ where

$$H_1 = [1]. \quad C \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -T - X - Y & 0 \\ 0 & -T - X - Y - 2Z \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } H_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$BH_4 = H_4 \text{diag}[-T - X, -T - X - 2Z, -T - X - 2Y, -T - X - 2Y - 2Z]$ where

$$H_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$AH_8 = H_8 \text{diag}[-T, -T - 2Z, -T - 2Y - 2Z, -T - 2X, -T - 2X - 2Z, -T - 2X - 2Y, -T - 2X - 2Y - 2Z]$

where $H_8 = \begin{bmatrix} H_4 & H_4 \\ H_4 & -H_4 \end{bmatrix} = H_2 \otimes H_4$. Thus, $\bar{\bar{K}}_{block} H_{16} = H_{16} \text{diag}[\text{vector}]$ where

$H_{16} = H_2 \otimes H_8$ and

energy via photons, we use the Maxwell Lagrangian density L for free electromagnetic radiation

$$L = -\frac{1}{4\mu_o} F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} \quad (24)$$

with the field strength tensor given by

$$F_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha = \left[\frac{(A_\beta(n + \hat{\alpha}) - A_\beta(n))}{\ell_\alpha} - \frac{(A_\alpha(n + \hat{\beta}) - A_\alpha(n))}{\ell_\beta} \right] \quad (25)$$

on the graph⁽⁴²⁾ where n is the node number, ℓ_i the lattice spacing in the i^{th} direction, and $\hat{\alpha}$ and $\hat{\beta}$ are displacements to adjoining nodes in those directions. Applying this to the (1+1)D case $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is Eq (26)

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} \\ -\frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} \\ -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} \\ \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{t^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} \end{array}$$

where we have ignored overall factors $\frac{-1}{4\mu_o}$ and the volume of the element, and $c = 1$. The

eigenvalues are 0, 0, 0, $2\left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{t^2}\right)$. The dimensionality of the row space represents the

degrees of freedom available with local conservation of $\bar{\bar{J}}$, as explained in

section 3.3. That is, specifying $\bar{\bar{J}}$ on just one link dictates the other three values per conservation of $\bar{\bar{J}}$ on the links at each node.

On the cube \bar{K} is Eq (27)

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
 -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{xy} & 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 \\
 \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{xy} & 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} \\
 -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{x^2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{ty} & 0 & 0 \\
 \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{ty} \\
 \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 & \frac{1}{xy} & 0 \\
 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 & \frac{1}{xy} \\
 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{ty} & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{y^2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{ty} \\
 \frac{1}{xy} & 0 & -\frac{1}{ty} & 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 & \frac{1}{ty} & 0 & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & \frac{1}{x^2} & 0 \\
 0 & \frac{1}{xy} & \frac{1}{ty} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} & -\frac{1}{ty} & 0 & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{x^2} & 0 & \frac{1}{x^2} \\
 -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{xy} & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{x^2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} \\
 0 & -\frac{1}{xy} & 0 & \frac{1}{ty} & 0 & \frac{1}{xy} & 0 & -\frac{1}{ty} & 0 & \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{1}{x^2}
 \end{array}$$

with eigenvalues

$$\left\{ 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, -\frac{2(t^2 + x^2)}{t^2x^2}, -\frac{2(t^2 + y^2)}{t^2y^2}, -\frac{2(x^2 + y^2)}{x^2y^2}, -\frac{2(t^2x^2 + t^2y^2 + x^2y^2)}{t^2x^2y^2}, -\frac{2(t^2x^2 + t^2y^2 + x^2y^2)}{t^2x^2y^2} \right\}$$

of a combinatorial nature analogous to (1+1)D. Again, the dimensionality of the row space (five) represents the degrees of freedom available with local conservation of \bar{J} .

That is, specifying \bar{J} on the four links of one face (front, say) gives \bar{J} on the links connecting the front face to the back face by local conservation. Then specifying \bar{J} on just one link of the back face specifies the remaining links by local conservation.

$\bar{\bar{K}}$ for the hypercube is too large to display here, but its eigenvalues are

$$\begin{aligned} & \{0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0\}, \left\{-\frac{2}{t^2} - \frac{2}{x^2}\right\}, \\ & \left\{-\frac{2}{t^2} - \frac{2}{y^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2}{x^2} + \frac{2}{y^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2(t^2 - x^2)}{t^2 x^2} + \frac{2}{y^2}\right\}, \left\{-\frac{2(t^2 + x^2)}{t^2 x^2} - \frac{2}{y^2}\right\}, \\ & \left\{-\frac{2}{t^2} - \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2}{x^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2(t^2 - x^2)}{t^2 x^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{-\frac{2(t^2 + x^2)}{t^2 x^2} - \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2}{y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \\ & \left\{\frac{2(t^2 - y^2)}{t^2 y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{-\frac{2(t^2 + y^2)}{t^2 y^2} - \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2(x^2 + y^2)}{x^2 y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2(x^2 + y^2)}{x^2 y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \\ & \left\{\frac{2(t^2 x^2 + t^2 y^2 - x^2 y^2)}{t^2 x^2 y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{\frac{2(t^2 x^2 + t^2 y^2 - x^2 y^2)}{t^2 x^2 y^2} + \frac{2}{z^2}\right\}, \left\{-\frac{2(t^2 x^2 + t^2 y^2 + x^2 y^2)}{t^2 x^2 y^2} - \frac{2}{z^2}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

of a combinatorial nature akin to the lower-dimensional versions. Again, the dimensionality of the row space (17) represents the degrees of freedom available with local conservation of \bar{J} , as explained in section 3.3 for links of the hypercube. We next study the Einstein-Hilbert action.

3.8 Scalar Field on Plaquettes. This is linearized GR, i.e., the harmonic terms only. We have for the Einstein-Hilbert Lagrangian density⁽⁴³⁾

$$L = -\partial_\lambda h_{\alpha\beta} \partial^\lambda h^{\alpha\beta} + 2\partial_\lambda h_{\alpha\beta} \partial^\beta h^{\alpha\lambda} \quad (28)$$

omitting a trace term not relevant to our application¹⁰. To discretize this on the hypercube (Figure 11) we first label our scalar field on each plaquette according to its span. For example, the front face of the “inner” cube is spanned by x and z , so it’s labeled h_{13} . Of course, there are three other such plaquettes, one displaced from the front towards the back (in y) of the “inner” cube, one displaced in t to the front of the “outer” cube, and one displaced in t and y to the back of the “outer” cube. There are six fields ($h_{01}, h_{02}, h_{03}, h_{12}, h_{13}, h_{23}$) which generate such a quadruple, accounting for all 24 plaquettes of the hypercube. Likewise, for the cube we have (h_{01}, h_{02}, h_{12}) and their pairing partners giving us the six plaquettes.

¹⁰ The missing trace term is gauge equivalent to $2\partial_\alpha h_\mu^\alpha$ which would be used for juxtaposed graphical elements, i.e., a more complex arrangement.

We see that the first term of L is just the sum of the squares of the gradients formed in each set of $h_{\alpha\beta}$ values, e.g.,

$$\left(\frac{h_{13}(\text{back} - \text{in})}{y} - \frac{h_{13}(\text{front} - \text{in})}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{h_{13}(\text{back} - \text{out})}{y} - \frac{h_{13}(\text{front} - \text{out})}{y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{h_{13}(\text{back} - \text{out})}{ct} - \frac{h_{13}(\text{back} - \text{in})}{ct}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{h_{13}(\text{front} - \text{out})}{ct} - \frac{h_{13}(\text{front} - \text{in})}{ct}\right)^2$$

for h_{13} where ‘‘in’’ stands for ‘‘inner’’ cube and ‘‘out’’ stands for ‘‘outer’’ cube. The second term of L is formed by mixing gradients, just as with the photon field in section 3.7. For example, we would have terms like $(\partial_0 h_{12})(\partial_2 h_{10})$ which on the lattice would have forms such as

$$\left(\frac{h_{12}(\text{bottom} - \text{out})}{t} - \frac{h_{12}(\text{bottom} - \text{in})}{t}\right)\left(\frac{h_{10}(\text{back} - \text{in})}{y} - \frac{h_{10}(\text{front} - \text{in})}{y}\right)$$

Using these conventions on the cube (again, ignoring overall scaling factors and letting $c = 1$), $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is Eq (29)

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} \\ -\frac{1}{t^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & \frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} \\ -\frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{ty} & \frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{x^2} & -\frac{1}{xy} & \frac{1}{xy} \\ \frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{ty} & -\frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{x^2} & \frac{1}{xy} & -\frac{1}{xy} \\ -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{xy} & \frac{1}{xy} & \frac{1}{y^2} & -\frac{1}{y^2} \\ \frac{1}{tx} & -\frac{1}{tx} & \frac{1}{xy} & -\frac{1}{xy} & -\frac{1}{y^2} & \frac{1}{y^2} \end{array}$$

which looks much like Eq (26) for the scalar field on links. The eigenvalues of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ are

$$\left\{0, 0, 0, 2\left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{y^2}\right), \frac{xy - \sqrt{x^2y^2 + 4t^2(x^2 + y^2)}}{t^2xy}, \frac{xy + \sqrt{x^2y^2 + 4t^2(x^2 + y^2)}}{t^2xy}\right\}$$

and a basis for the null space is

$$\{\{0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1\}, \{0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0\}, \{1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0\}\}$$

which represents conservation of \bar{J} among each pair of plaquettes associated with

$$\tilde{\psi}_i \text{ and } \psi. \bar{\bar{K}} \text{ now has the form } \bar{\bar{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Dirac} \\ \text{plus} \\ \text{parallel} \\ \text{transport} \end{array} \right) & 0 \\ 0 & (\text{Maxwell}) \end{bmatrix} \text{ where Dirac } \bar{\bar{K}} \text{ has been}$$

modified to contain A_μ

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{t} + eA_0 - m & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{t} + eA_0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t} + eA_0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t} + eA_0 \end{bmatrix} \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{x} + eA_1 \\ 0 & -m & \frac{1}{x} + eA_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{x} + eA_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{x} + eA_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{i}{y} - ieA_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{i}{y} + ieA_2 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{i}{y} - ieA_2 & m & 0 \\ \frac{i}{y} + ieA_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad Z = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{z} + eA_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{z} - eA_3 \\ \frac{1}{z} + eA_3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{z} - eA_3 & 0 & m \end{bmatrix}$$

A_μ can have different values on different links, as required for non-zero $F_{\alpha\beta}$. But, even when A_μ has different values on different links, each row of the Dirac-plus-parallel-transport $\bar{\bar{K}}$ sums to zero, since it still has the form of Eq (23), so it possesses a non-trivial null space (that of Maxwell $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is obviously unaffected). The transition amplitude no longer has the simple Gaussian form since Dirac $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is now a function of one of the fields of integration. And \bar{J} in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ now contains terms on links and nodes, representing conservation of 4-momentum between the interacting fields.

By introducing two vectors at each node, this same standard requires

$$\gamma^\mu D_\mu \psi = \gamma^0 \left(\frac{\begin{bmatrix} C_{011} & C_{012} \\ C_{021} & C_{022} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\psi}_0^1 \\ \tilde{\psi}_0^2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \psi^1 \\ \psi^2 \end{bmatrix}}{ct} \right) + \gamma^1 \left(\frac{\begin{bmatrix} C_{111} & C_{112} \\ C_{121} & C_{122} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\psi}_1^1 \\ \tilde{\psi}_1^2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \psi^1 \\ \psi^2 \end{bmatrix}}{x} \right) + \dots \quad (31)$$

where the matrix $C_{\mu ab}$ is an element of SU(2) associated with the link in the positive μ^{th}

direction from $\begin{bmatrix} \psi^1 \\ \psi^2 \end{bmatrix}$. Again, we have the same form for our field gradients, i.e., the

nodal field gradients parallel transported by the link field, which still contributes a

gradient to the Lagrangian density $-\frac{1}{4g^2} \sum_{a,\alpha,\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}^a F_{\alpha\beta}^a$ where g is the coupling constant

and $a = 1, 2, 3$, since SU(2) has three generators. Each link now has three different values

for the gauge field, which we label A_μ^a with $a = 1, 2, 3$. And, each of the three values can

be different on different links. We have $F_{\alpha\beta}^a = \partial_\alpha A_\beta^a - \partial_\beta A_\alpha^a - gf_{bc}^a A_\alpha^b A_\beta^c$, where f_{bc}^a are

the SU(2) structure constants, $i\epsilon^a_{bc}$. So, for example, Eq (25) modified for SU(2) gives

$$F_{01}^1 = \frac{\tilde{A}_1^1 - A_1^1}{t} - \frac{\tilde{A}_0^1 - A_0^1}{x} - igA_0^2 A_1^3 + igA_0^3 A_1^2 - ig\tilde{A}_0^2 \tilde{A}_1^3 + ig\tilde{A}_0^3 \tilde{A}_1^2, \text{ and you can see that now}$$

the pure gauge part (“Maxwell” part) of the Lagrangian density contains third and fourth-

order terms in the gauge field. Thus, Maxwell $\bar{\bar{K}}$ now contains the gauge field, just like

Dirac-plus-parallel-transport $\bar{\bar{K}}$. We can symmetrize this Maxwell+ $\bar{\bar{K}}$ so that the rows

sum to zero and it possesses a non-trivial null space.

The Dirac-plus-parallel-transport $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is obtained using the 2x2 matrix-valued A_μ associated

with each link given by $A_\mu = \sum_{a=1}^3 A_\mu^a \frac{\sigma^a}{2}$ where σ^a is a Pauli matrix. So, for example, T is

now an 8x8 matrix and the (1,1) entry of its 4x4 U(1) form becomes

$$\frac{1}{t} + eA_0 - m \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{t} + \frac{gA_0^3}{2} - m & \frac{gA_0^1 - igA_0^2}{2} \\ \frac{gA_0^1 + igA_0^2}{2} & \frac{1}{t} - \frac{gA_0^3}{2} - m \end{bmatrix}$$

As with U(1), each row of the Dirac-plus-parallel-transport $\bar{\bar{K}}$ sums to zero, since it still has the form of Eq (23), so it and Maxwell+ $\bar{\bar{K}}$ possess a non-trivial null space. It is now the case that both the matter field and gauge field portions of $\bar{\bar{K}}$ contain the gauge field. Thus, we see the progression from free field $\bar{\bar{K}}$ to abelian-interaction $\bar{\bar{K}}$ to non-abelian-interaction $\bar{\bar{K}}$ is a simple progression from $\bar{\bar{K}}$ with no gauge field terms to Dirac $\bar{\bar{K}}$ with gauge field terms to both Dirac and Maxwell $\bar{\bar{K}}$ with gauge field terms.

This pattern contains SU(3) where each link has eight different values for the gauge field (one for each generator of SU(3)) which we label A_μ^a with $a = 1, 2, \dots, 8$. And, each of the eight values can be different on different links. As with SU(2), we have

$$F_{\alpha\beta}^a = \partial_\alpha A_\beta^a - \partial_\beta A_\alpha^a - gf_{bc}^a A_\alpha^b A_\beta^c, \text{ where } f_{bc}^a \text{ are now the SU(3) structure constants}^{12}.$$

Again, the pure gauge part (“Maxwell” part) of the Lagrangian density contains third and fourth-order terms in the gauge field and we can symmetrize Maxwell+ $\bar{\bar{K}}$ such that the rows sum to zero and it possesses a non-trivial null space.

The 3x3 matrix-valued A_μ associated with each link is given by $A_\mu = \sum_{a=1}^8 A_\mu^a \frac{\lambda^a}{2}$ where λ^a is a Gell-Mann matrix¹³. So, for example, T is now a 12x12 matrix and the (1,1) entry of its 4x4 U(1) form becomes

$$\frac{1}{t} + eA_0 - m \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{t} + \frac{gA_0^3}{2} + \frac{gA_0^8}{2\sqrt{3}} - m & \frac{gA_0^1 - igA_0^2}{2} & \frac{gA_0^4 - igA_0^5}{2} \\ \frac{gA_0^1 + igA_0^2}{2} & \frac{1}{t} - \frac{gA_0^3}{2} + \frac{gA_0^8}{2\sqrt{3}} - m & \frac{gA_0^6 - igA_0^7}{2} \\ \frac{gA_0^4 + igA_0^5}{2} & \frac{gA_0^6 + igA_0^7}{2} & \frac{1}{t} - \frac{gA_0^8}{\sqrt{3}} - m \end{bmatrix}$$

¹² In fact, this pattern extends to SU(N).

¹³ This also generalizes to SU(N).

As with SU(2) and U(1), each row of the Dirac-plus-parallel-transport \bar{K} sums to zero, so it and Maxwell+ \bar{K} possess a non-trivial null space. All possible mixing between U(1), SU(2) and SU(3) forms the Standard Model.

With this understanding of the Standard Model, we see that the next logical addition to our collection of fundamental spacetimesource elements would be those constructed from the gradient of vector fields on links. The scalar field on plaquettes (basis for graviton) would define parallel transport for this field gradient in the manner scalar fields on links defines parallel transport for the vector fields on nodes. Thus, underwriting TTOs via spacetimesource elements leads to a relatively simple picture of unification (Figure 14) compared to that based on fundamental particles (Figure 15). However, while we do not view particle physics as the study of what is ultimately fundamental in Nature, it has been essential to understanding how the fundamental elements of spacetimesource are to be combined, and what properties are represented by \bar{J} .

The major questions to be answered in this view of unification are clear. Is there a limit to the number of vectors that can be (or need be) introduced on nodes and links? If so, does it have to do with information density? Is it related to quark confinement? Or, is there a purely mathematical fact that underwrites it? Why is there no physical counterpart to a scalar field on cubes? Is this because it requires (4+1)D to close graphically and satisfy the boundary of a boundary principle for all graphical entities? What physical objects correspond to vector fields on links? Are they just quarks and leptons interacting gravitationally? Or, will this generate new fermions that only interact gravitationally, e.g., dark matter? How exactly does $\delta S = 0$ on G give rise to modified Regge calculus? How exactly does quantum physics yield distributions of P and G over G*? Does the Born rule follow from this? What quantum equations obtain from variations of B and G over G* (which completes QG)? Obviously, the program of unification changes non-trivially in this approach. We next explain particle physics per theory X.

4.2 Particle Physics. In our approach, the role of the field is very different than in QFT where it pervades otherwise empty, continuous space to mediate the exchange of matter-energy between sources. Per theory X, the field of LGT is an amplitude on the graph G^* constructed from fields P on G. One obtains QFT results from LGT by letting the lattice spacing of G^* go to zero. In fact, one can understand QFT renormalization through this process of lattice regularization⁽⁴⁵⁾. As it turns out, however, this limit does not always exist, so calculated values are necessarily obtained from small, but non-zero, lattice spacing⁽⁴⁶⁾. With this picture in mind, we can say simply what we are proposing: The lattice is fundamental, not its continuum limit. Once one accepts this premise, it's merely a matter of degree to have large spacetime source elements, which is the basis for our explanation of the twin-slit experiment (section 3.4 above) and dark energy (section 5.2 below). In this approach, *there is no graphical counterpart to “quantum systems” traveling through space as a function of time from Source to sink to “cause” detector clicks*. This implies the empirical goal at the fundamental level is to tell a unified story about detector events to include individual clicks – how they are distributed in space (e.g., interference patterns, interferometer outcomes, spin measurements), how they are distributed in time (e.g., click rates, coincidence counts), how they are distributed in space and time (e.g., particle trajectories), and how they generate more complex phenomena (e.g., photoelectric effect, superconductivity). Thus in theory X, particle physics per QFT is in the business of characterizing large sets of detector data, i.e., all the individual clicks.

As was eminently apparent from our examples in section 3, it is practically impossible to compute Z in theory X for all possible spatiotemporally relative click locations in a particle physics “event,” which contains “approximately 100,000 individual measurements of either energy or spatial information⁽⁴⁷⁾.” However, we know from theory⁽⁴⁸⁾ and experiment that, with overwhelming probability, detector clicks will trace classical paths¹⁴, so it makes sense to partition large click distributions into individual

¹⁴ Individual detector clicks (called “hits in the tracking chamber”) are first localized spatially (called “preprocessing”), then associated with a particular track (called “pattern recognition”). The tracks must then be parameterized to obtain dynamical characteristics (called “geometrical fitting”). See Fernow, R.C.:

trajectories and treat these as the fundamental constituents of high energy physics experiments¹⁵. This is exactly what QFT does for particle physics according to our interpretation. Since the individual trajectories are themselves continuous, QFT uses propagators in continuous spacetime which entails an indenumerably infinite number of locations for both clicks and interaction vertices. *Thus, issues of regularization and renormalization are simply consequences of the continuum approximation necessary to deal with very large click distributions, having decided to parse the click distributions into continuum trajectories.*

Essentially, we're saying a particle physics detector event is one giant interference pattern and the way to understand a particular pattern involving thousands of clicks can only realistically be accomplished by parsing an event into smaller subsets, and the choice of subsets is empirically obvious, i.e., spacetime trajectories. These trajectories are then characterized by mass, spin, and charge. The colliding beams in the accelerator 'create' a spatiotemporally small but complex configuration of spacetimesource elements linking the accelerator beam collision event to the surrounding detectors. The possible field configurations on the graph are used to compute Z with anharmonicity terms in the action used to offset disordered locality and deviations from regular lattice spacing. In standard LGT \rightarrow QFT the calculated outcomes are found by taking the limit as the lattice spacing goes to zero via renormalization, but we needn't assume the spacing goes to zero, only that G is sufficiently dense relative to G^* so that the statistical definition of ℓ_j^2 from B holds. Likewise, assuming the accelerator and detectors are sufficiently isolated during the brief period of data collection, the graph size is not infinite as in QFT.

Introduction to experimental particle physics. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1986), sections 1.7.1, 1.7.2 & 1.7.3, respectively.

¹⁵ Some assumptions are required, e.g., "Sometimes it is necessary to know the identity (i.e., the mass) of at least some of the particles resulting from an interaction" (Fernow, 1986, p 17), "Within the errors [for track measurements], tracks may appear to come from more than one vertex. Thus, the physics questions under study may influence how the tracks are assigned to vertices" (Fernow, 1986, p 25), and "Now there must be some minimum requirements for what constitutes a track. Chambers may have spurious noise hits, while the chambers closest to the target may have many closely spaced hits. The position of each hit is only known to the accuracy of the chamber resolution. This makes it difficult to determine whether possible short track combinations are really tracks" (Fernow, 1986, p 22). Despite these assumptions, no one disputes the inference. While we do not subscribe to the existence of "click-causing entities," we agree that clicks trace classical paths. Indeed, this is the basis for our approach and consequently, the results and analysis of particle physics experiments are very important.

This severely undermines the dynamical picture of perturbations moving through a continuum medium (naïve field) from source to source, i.e., it undermines the naïve notion of a particle. In fact, the typical notion of a particle is associated with the global particle state of n-particle Fock space and “the notion of global particle state is ambiguous, ill-defined, or completely impossible to define⁽⁴⁹⁾.” What we mean by “particle” is a collection of detector hits forming a spacetime trajectory and doesn’t entail the existence of an object with intrinsic properties, such as mass and charge, moving through the detector to cause the hits.

Our view of particles agrees with Colosi & Rovelli⁽⁵⁰⁾ on two important counts. First, that particles are best modeled by local particle states rather than Fock n-particle states computed over infinite regions, squaring with the fact that particle detectors are finite in size. The advantage to this approach is that one can unambiguously define the notion of particles in curved spacetime as excitations in a local M_4 region, which makes it amenable to Regge calculus. Second, this theory of particles is much more compatible with the quantum notion of complementary observables in that every detector has its own Hamiltonian (different sized graph), and therefore its own particle basis (unlike the unique basis of Fock space). Per Colosi & Rovelli, “In other words, we are in a genuine quantum mechanical situation in which distinct particle numbers are complementary observables. Different bases that diagonalize different H_R [Hamiltonian] operators have equal footing. Whether a particle exists or not depends on what I decide to measure.” Thus, in our view, particles simply describe how detectors and Sources are relationally co-defined. There are no unique “fundamental particles” understood as the “elements of matter.” Rather, spacetime trajectories of identified properties, i.e., particles, are constructed from fundamental elements of spacetimesource.

That the spacetimesource elements of theory X can be large suggests a modification of the graphical approach to GR. We next explain how such a modification to graphical GR, i.e., Regge calculus, can be used to eliminate the need for dark energy.

5. Implications for Astrophysics and Cosmology

5.1 Regge Calculus. In Regge calculus, the spacetime manifold is replaced by a lattice geometry where each 4D cell (simplex) is Minkowskian (flat). Curvature is represented by “deficit angles” (Figure 16) about any plane orthogonal to a “hinge” (triangular side to a tetrahedron, which is a 3D side of a 4D simplex). The Hilbert action for a 4D vacuum

lattice is $I_R = \frac{1}{8\pi} \sum_{\sigma_i \in L} \varepsilon_i A_i$ where σ_i is a triangular hinge in the lattice L , A_i is the area of

σ_i and ε_i is the deficit angle associated with σ_i . The counterpart to Einstein’s equations is

then obtained by demanding $\frac{\delta I_R}{\delta \ell_j^2} = 0$, where ℓ_j^2 is the squared length of the j^{th} lattice

edge, i.e., the metric. To obtain equations in the presence of matter-energy, one simply adds the appropriate term I_{M-E} to I_R and carries out the variation as before to obtain

$\frac{\delta I_R}{\delta \ell_j^2} = -\frac{\delta I_{M-E}}{\delta \ell_j^2}$. One finds the stress-energy tensor is associated with lattice edges, just as

the metric, and Regge’s equations are to be satisfied for any particular choice of the two tensors on the lattice.

5.2 Dark Energy and Other Astrophysical Implications. Since one recovers GR from Regge calculus by making the simplices small (as in LGT \rightarrow QFT), it seems that empirical evidence of the deviation from GR phenomena posed by large spacetime source elements, i.e., modified Regge calculus (MORC), might be found in the exchange of photons on cosmological scales. Therefore, we modified the Regge calculus approach to Einstein-deSitter cosmology (EdS)⁽⁵¹⁾ and compared this MORC model, EdS, and the concordance model Λ CDM (EdS plus a cosmological constant Λ to account for dark energy) using the data from the Union2 Compilation, i.e., distance moduli and redshifts for type Ia supernovae⁽⁵²⁾ (Figure 17). We found that a best fit line through $\log(D_L/\text{Gpc})$ versus $\log(z)$ gives a correlation of 0.9955 and a sum of squares error (SSE) of 1.95. By comparison, the best fit Λ CDM gives SSE = 1.79 using a Hubble constant of $H_0 = 69.2$ km/s/Mpc, $\Omega_M = 0.29$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.71$. The parameters for Λ CDM yielding the most robust fit to⁽⁵³⁾ “the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe data with the latest

distance measurements from the Baryon Acoustic Oscillations in the distribution of galaxies and the Hubble constant measurement” are $H_0 = 70.3 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$, $\Omega_M = 0.27$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$, which are consistent with the parameters we find for its Union2 Compilation fit. The best fit EdS gives $SSE = 2.68$ using $H_0 = 60.9 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$. The best fit MORC gives $SSE = 1.77$ and $H_0 = 73.9 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$ with the EdS proper distance D_p corrected by a factor of $\sqrt{1 + \frac{D_p}{A}}$ where $A = 8.38 \text{ Gcy}$. A current “best estimate” for the Hubble constant is $H_0 = (73.8 \pm 2.4) \text{ km/s/Mpc}^{(54)}$. Thus, MORC improves EdS as much as Λ CDM in accounting for distance moduli and redshifts for type Ia supernovae even though the MORC universe contains no dark energy is therefore always decelerating. So, per theory X, it is quite possible that this data does not constitute “the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe,” (Nobel citation, 2011), i.e., there is no accelerating expansion, so there is no need of a cosmological constant or dark energy in any form⁽⁵⁵⁾.

Theory X has other possible implications for astrophysics and cosmology as well. Perhaps MORC’s version of the Schwarzschild solution will negate the need for dark matter as its counterpart to Einstein-deSitter cosmology did with dark energy. What will MORC have to say about the event horizon and singularity in the Schwarzschild solution, i.e., black holes? Perhaps, the singularity will be avoided as in Regge calculus cosmology where backwards time evolution “stops” at a time determined by the choice of lattice spacing¹⁶. And, with an adynamical approach, cosmological explanation takes on an entirely new form. No longer is one seeking explanation in the form of a time-evolved spatial hypersurface of homogeneity – an explanation that cannot be satisfied with the Big Bang or even a non-singular “stop point.” Thus, such dynamical explanation results in contentious, misleading or unverifiable notions about⁽⁵⁶⁾ “creation from nothing,” the multiverse, etc. Rather, explanation via adynamical self-consistency writ large doesn’t rest ultimately on the Big Bang or any other region of the graph. The reason the fields on node X and link Y have the values they do is required by the solution for the entire graph,

¹⁶ This is the “stop point problem” of Regge calculus cosmology. Of course it’s not a “problem” for our approach, since Regge calculus is fundamental to GR, not the converse, one does not require Regge calculus reproduce the initial singularity of GR cosmology.

i.e., it is required by the values of the fields on all the other nodes and links. As we pointed out in section 1 when we contrasted dynamical explanation with our adynamical/self-consistency explanation, no region of the graph is distinguished over any other in this explanatory scheme.

6. Summary

We proposed a graphical, adynamical version of theory X underwriting QFT based on our OSR interpretation of quantum physics called Relational Blockworld (RBW). Per RBW, the fundamental ontology of Nature contains sets of numbers (fields) distributed over a graph G . These fields extremize a function S constructed from the differences in one field P relative to the differences in another field B (base field). The spacetime structure of Regge calculus and QFT is that of a coarser graph G^* over G (Figure 2) and its metric ℓ_j^2 is generated statistically via B . Accordingly, ℓ_j^2 and G^* constitute the spacetime of classical, quantum and experimental physics. ℓ_j^2 is used to construct the Hilbert action for a 4D vacuum lattice I_R and S generates statistically the matter-energy

action I_{M-E} over G^* such that $\frac{\delta I_R}{\delta \ell_j^2} = -\frac{\delta I_{M-E}}{\delta \ell_j^2}$ follows from $\delta S = 0$. Quantum physics is

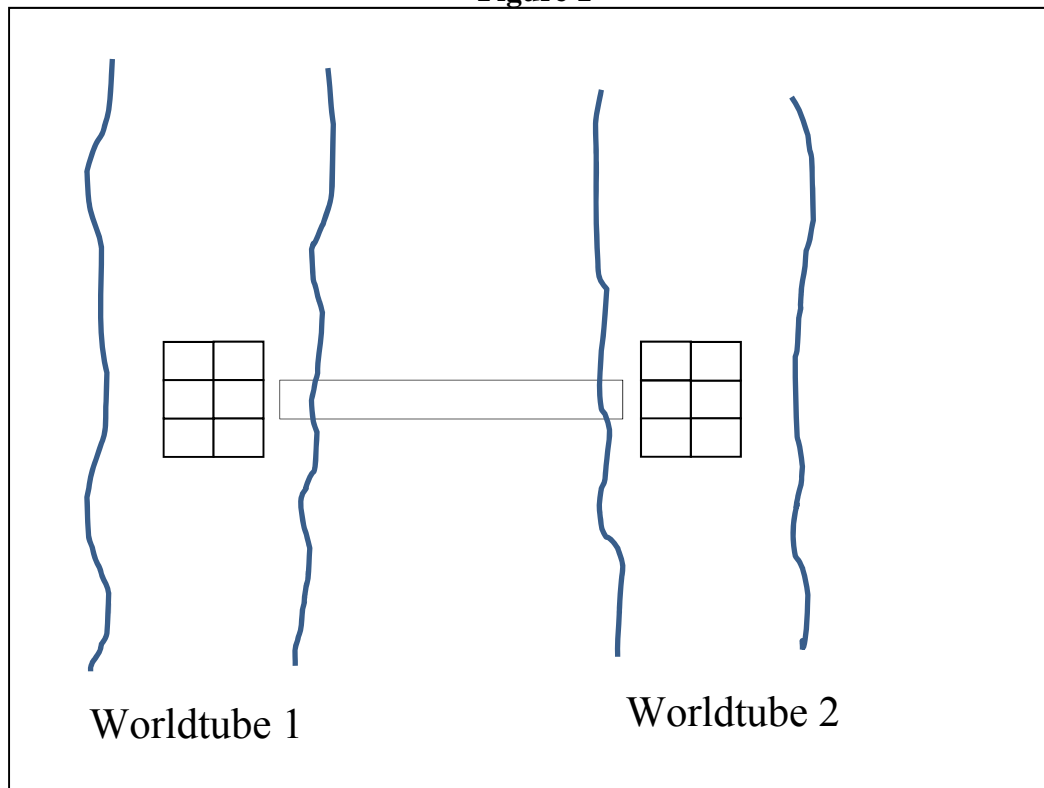
then understood to provide distributions of P and G that fix I_{M-E} and ℓ_j^2 over G^* (Figures 1 and 3). Equations of quantum gravity would have to also consider distributions of B and G (“quantum spacetime”) that are consistent with I_{M-E} and ℓ_j^2 over G^* . Thus, future research along these lines must produce derivations of ℓ_j^2 from B and I_{M-E} from S such that $\delta S = 0$ on G gives rise to modified Regge calculus over G^* . And, we must show how the equations of quantum physics follow from distributions of P and G over G^* .

We showed how theory X results in a novel approach to unification and quantum gravity whereby temporally identified spatial distributions of properties, i.e., worldtubes of trans-temporal objects (TTOs), are ultimately decomposed into simple units of space, time and source. These spacetimesource elements are not themselves TTOs, so this differs from the current view that TTOs are ultimately decomposed into fundamental particles, which are themselves TTOs. Since the spacetimesource elements are not TTOs, their construction is not dynamical, but as these elements must account for TTOs, the method

for their construct must underwrite dynamism. The method we proposed is the graphical counterpart to gauge invariance and divergence-free sources. That is, the difference matrix $\bar{\bar{K}}$ for field gradients of the discrete graphical action is constructed with a non-trivial null space from graphical relations, and the source vector \bar{J} resides in the row space of $\bar{\bar{K}}$. This leads to the self-consistent relationship of sources, space, time, and stress-energy-momentum of the graph, so it is called the “self-consistency criterion” (SCC). Therefore, the SCC is perfectly consistent with the notion that symmetry is the key to quantum physics. However, we did introduce a major formal deviation from current practice by allowing spacetimesource elements to be large and irregularly shaped. Thus, anharmonicity terms in the actions of QFT and GR are required to account for the disordered locality and the irregular structure of the spacetimesource elements of theory X. Correcting for disordered locality in the Einstein-deSitter cosmology solution leads to a fit of the Union2 Compilation supernova data that matches Λ CDM without accelerating expansion, a cosmological constant or dark energy. Other possible astrophysical implications were noted.

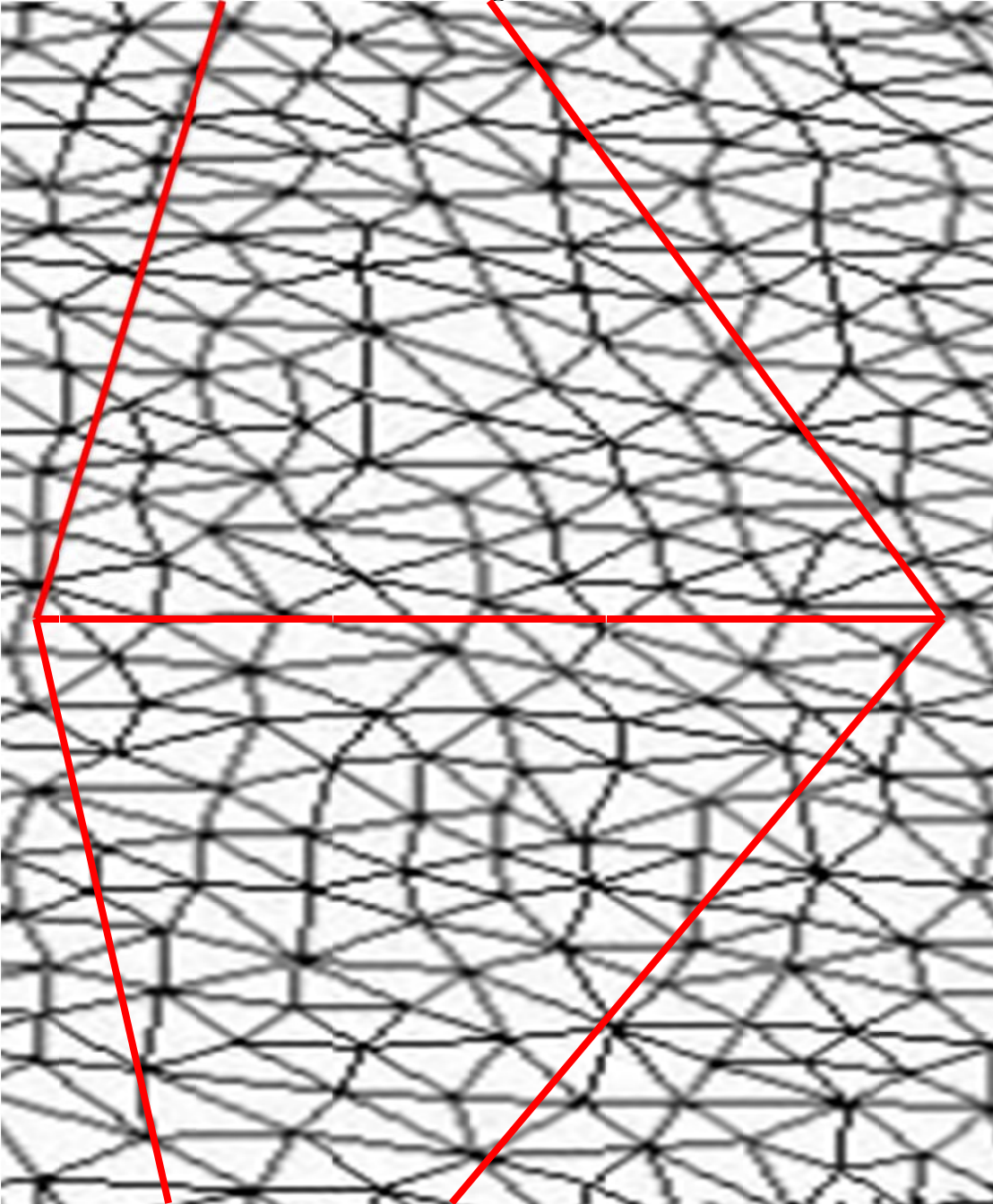
Theory X is certainly not complete, as indicated by some major outstanding questions we presented in section 4. And, until all such questions are answered, we cannot say exactly what a unified picture will contain. How much GR will be modified also remains to be seen, but it will have to be modified as indicated by our approach to dark energy, for example. In contrast, the Standard Model of particle physics with its focus on gauge symmetry is viewed as a direct application/extension of theory X to aggregates of spacetimesource elements. Thus, theory X doesn’t suggest any sweeping change to the formalism of particle physics, rather it vindicates the formalism by providing rationale for some of its questionable techniques, e.g., UV and IR cutoffs in regularization. However, theory X does move the focus of unification away from fundamental particles and dynamical explanation as a whole. So, particle physics does not escape unscathed, at least conceptually, in our view. Given the incipient nature of theory X, we won’t speculate further.

Figure 1



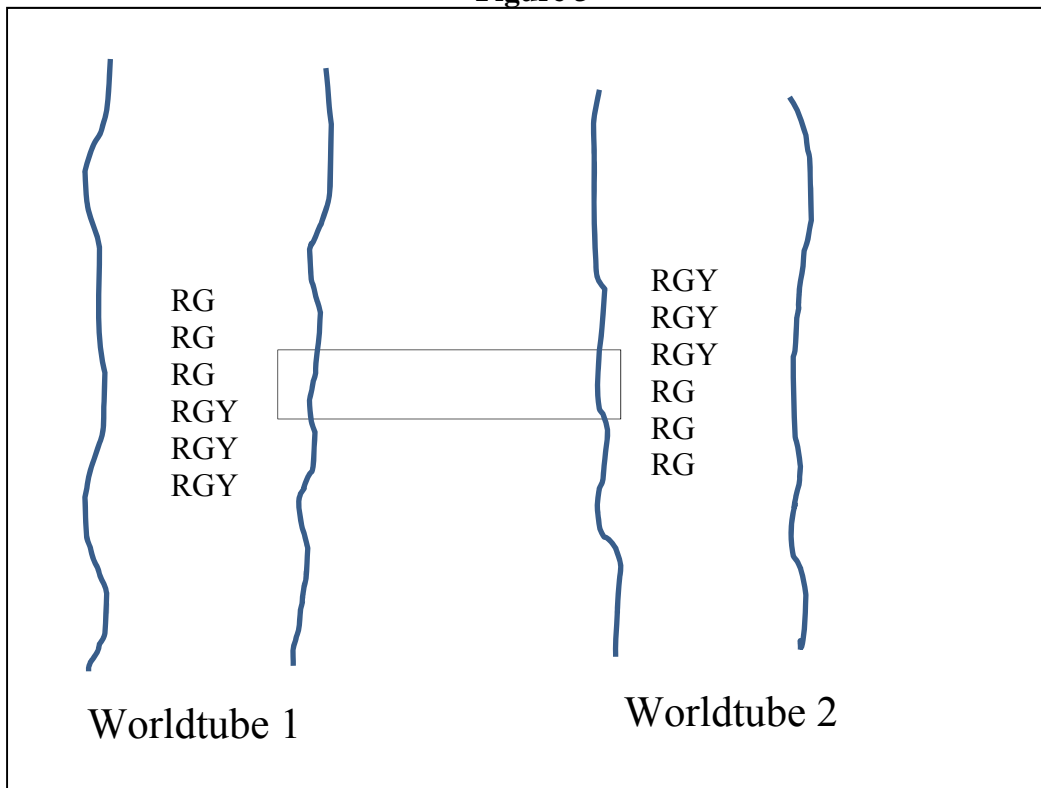
Composition of Trans-Temporal Objects (TTOs) – Six elements of spacetime are shown in each TTO's worldtube. A TTO is simply a compilation of such elements, as they account for the spatial extent of the TTO and the time-identified properties \vec{J} that define the TTO. That the TTOs are themselves spatially separated means they must share elements of spacetime, so they must exchange \vec{J} (interact). One such element is shown in this figure.

Figure 2



The black mesh is the micrograph G and the red lines are macrograph G^* . The fundamental fields P and B satisfying $\delta S = 0$ are associated with G . The base field B gives rise statistically to the spacetime metric ℓ_j^2 of G^* whence the Hilbert vacuum action I_R . S generates statistically the matter-energy action I_{M-E} over G^* such that the discrete Einstein's equations $\frac{\delta I_R}{\delta \ell_j^2} = -\frac{\delta I_{M-E}}{\delta \ell_j^2}$ follow from $\delta S = 0$. Quantum physics is then understood to provide distributions of P and G in G^* consistent with ℓ_j^2 and I_{M-E} .

Figure 3



Analogy – The property Y is associated with the source \bar{J} on the spacetimesource element shared by the worldtubes. As a result, property Y disappears from worldtube 1 (Y Source) and reappears later at worldtube 2 (Y detector). While these properties are depicted as residing in the worldtubes, they don't represent something truly intrinsic to the worldtubes, but are ultimately contextual/relational, i.e., being a Y Source only makes sense in the context of/in relation to a Y detector, and vice-versa.

Figure 4

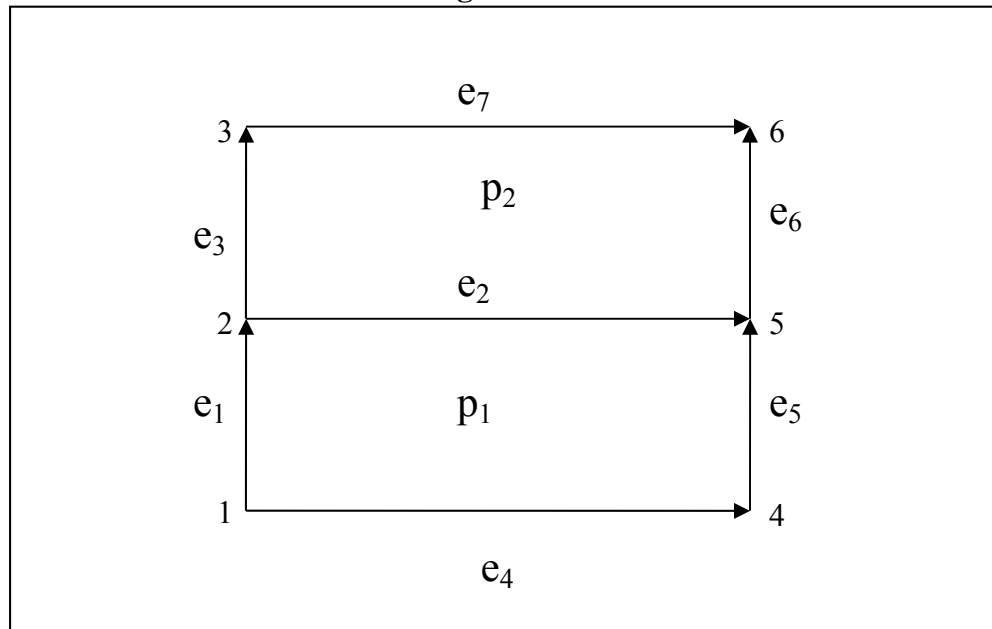


Figure 5

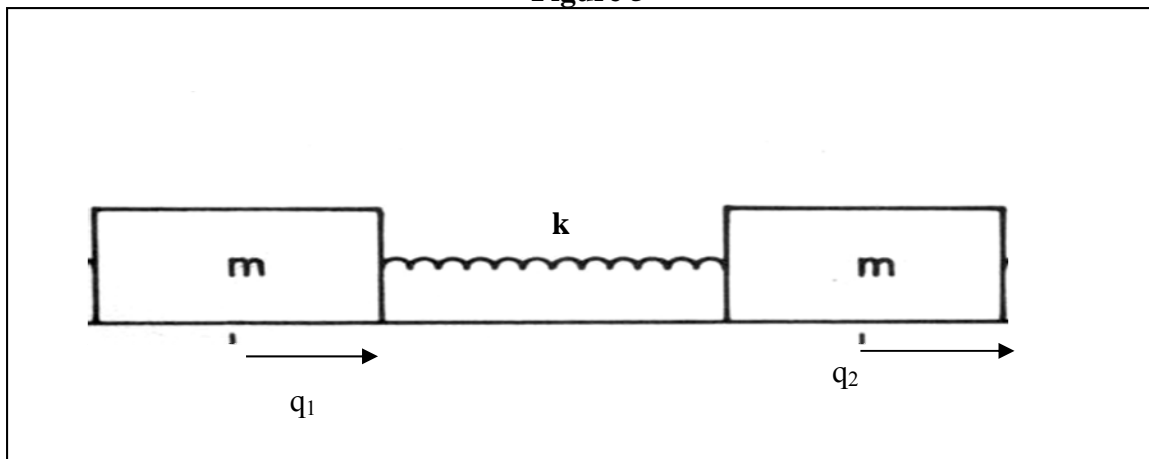


Figure 6

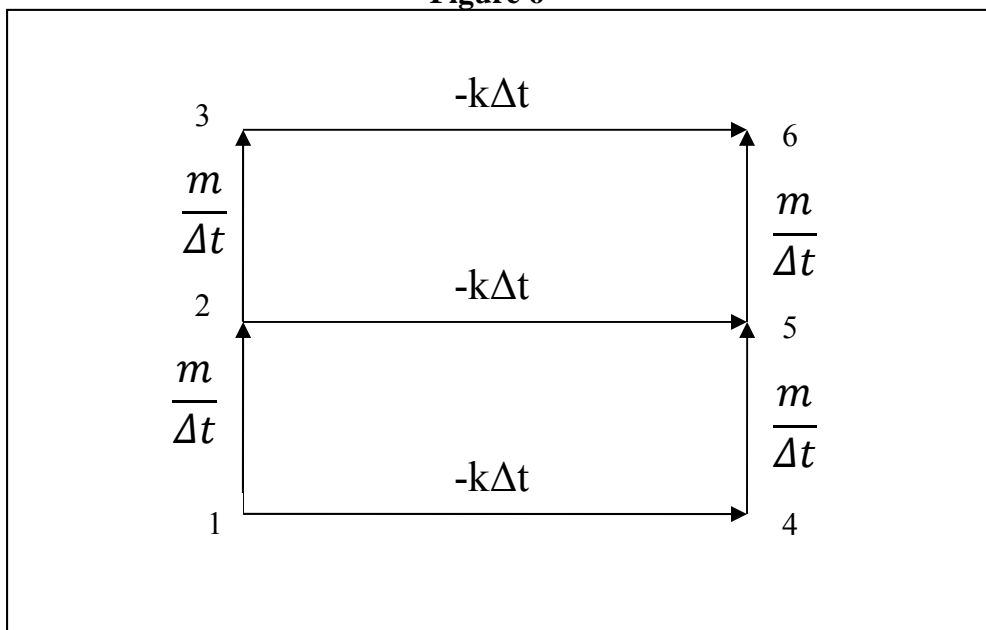


Figure 7

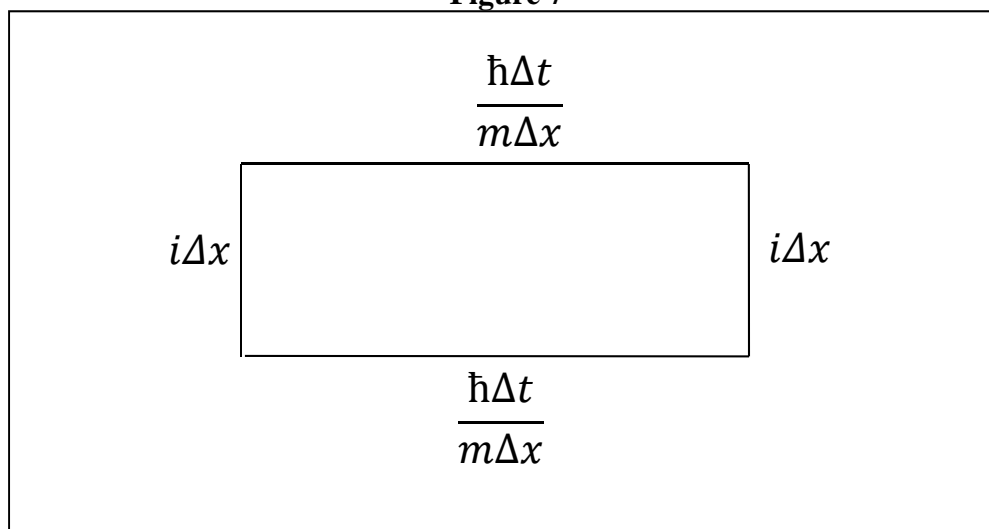


Figure 8

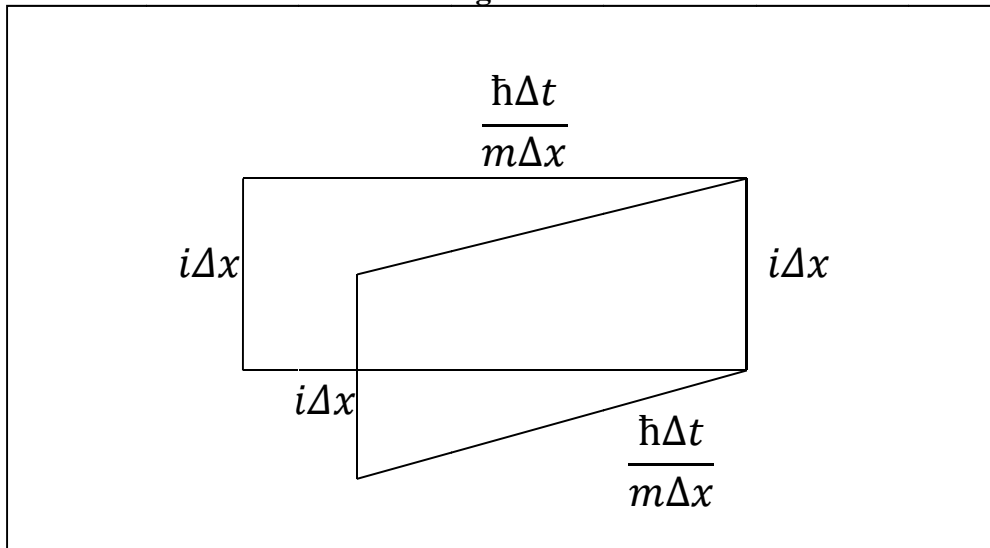


Figure 9

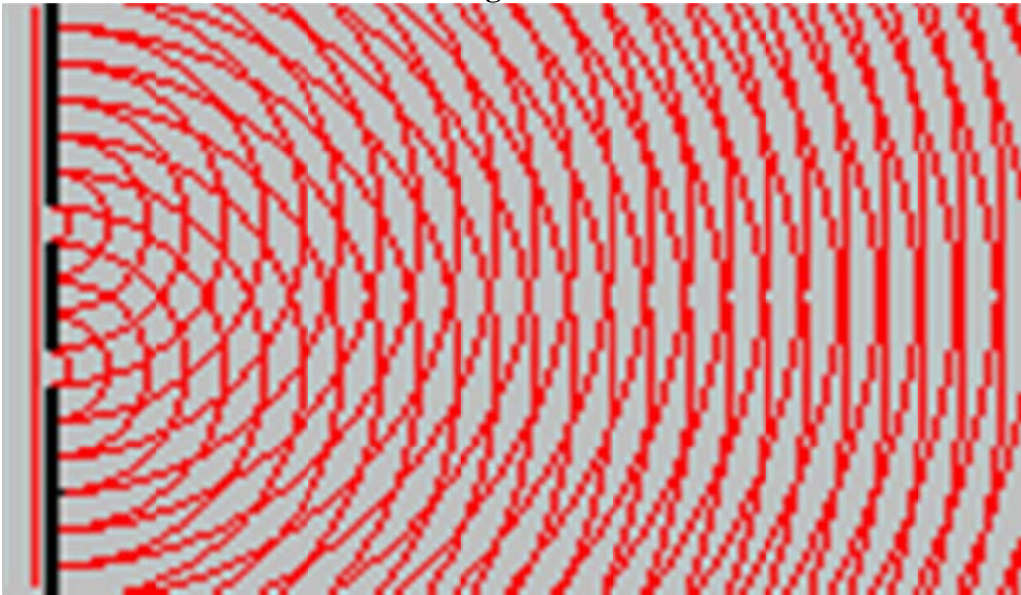


Figure 10

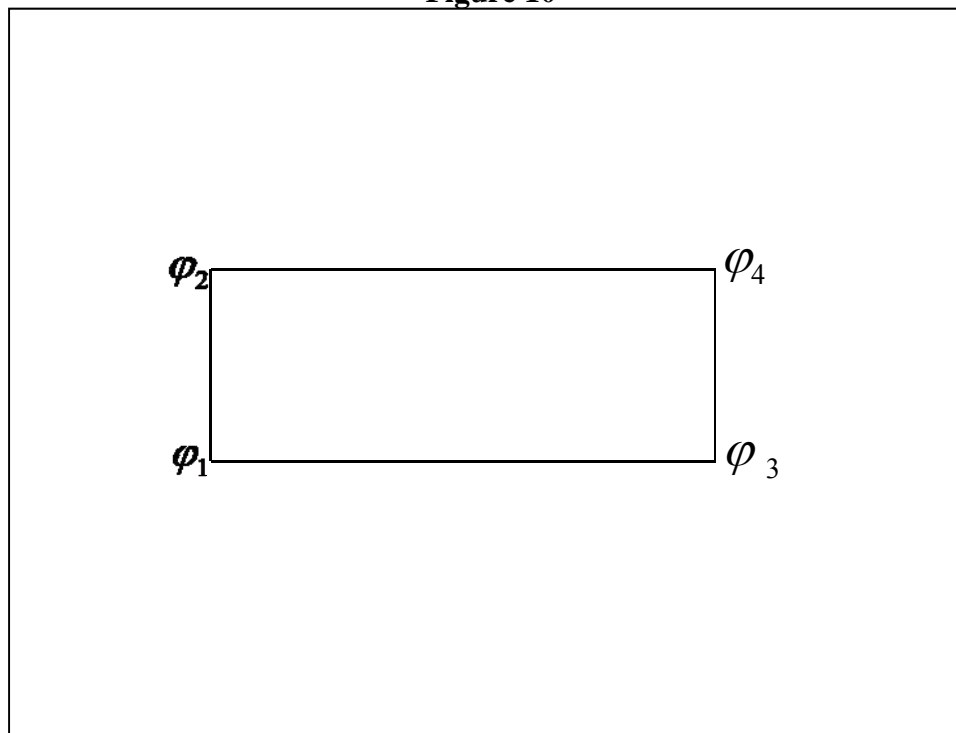


Figure 11

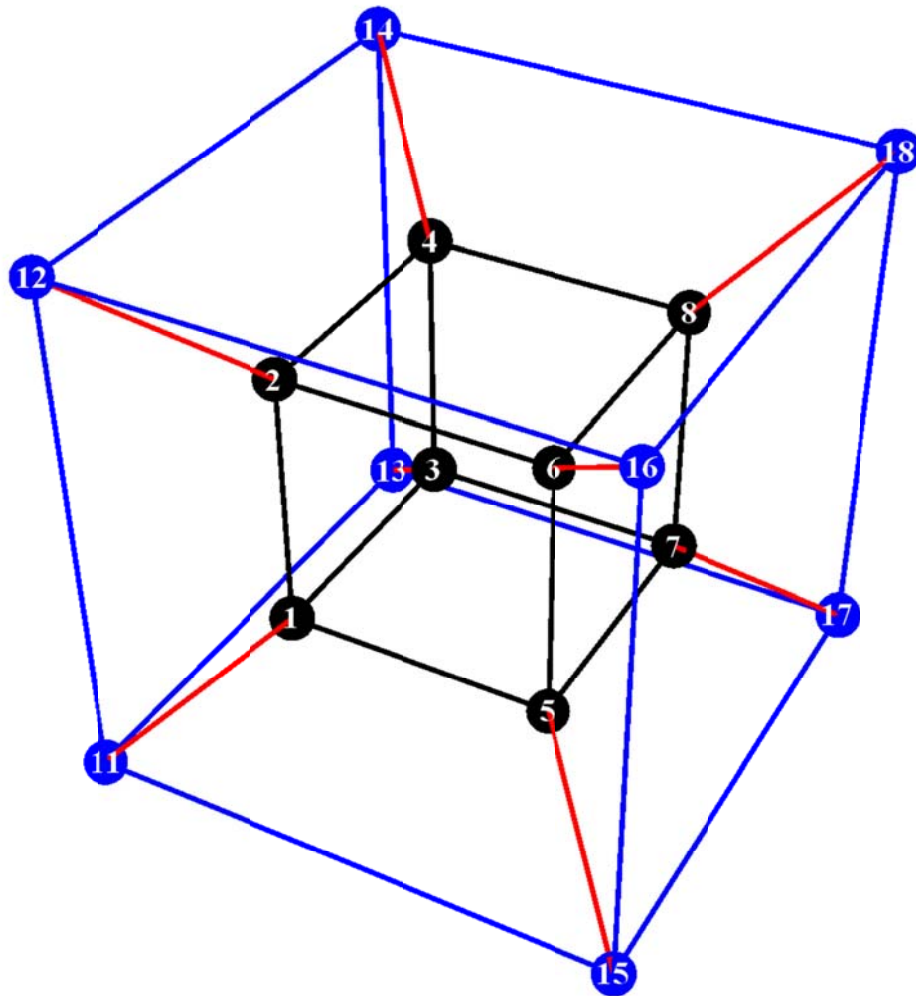


Figure 12

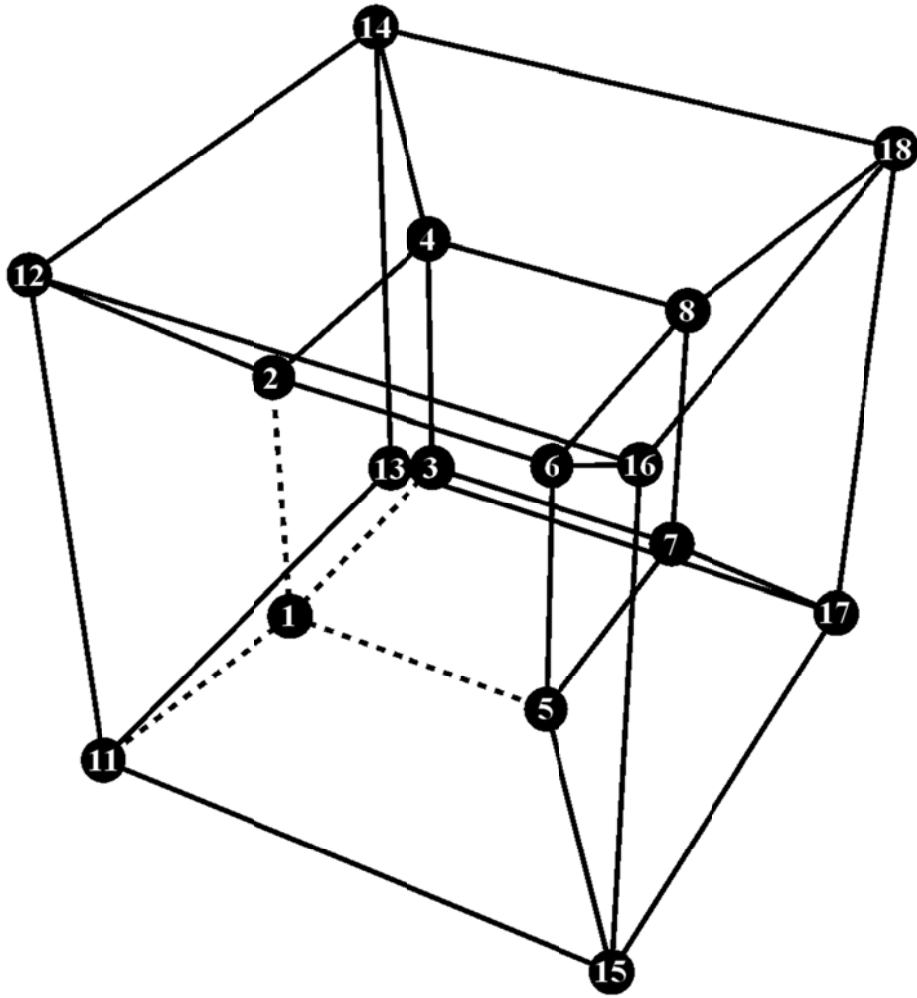


Figure 13

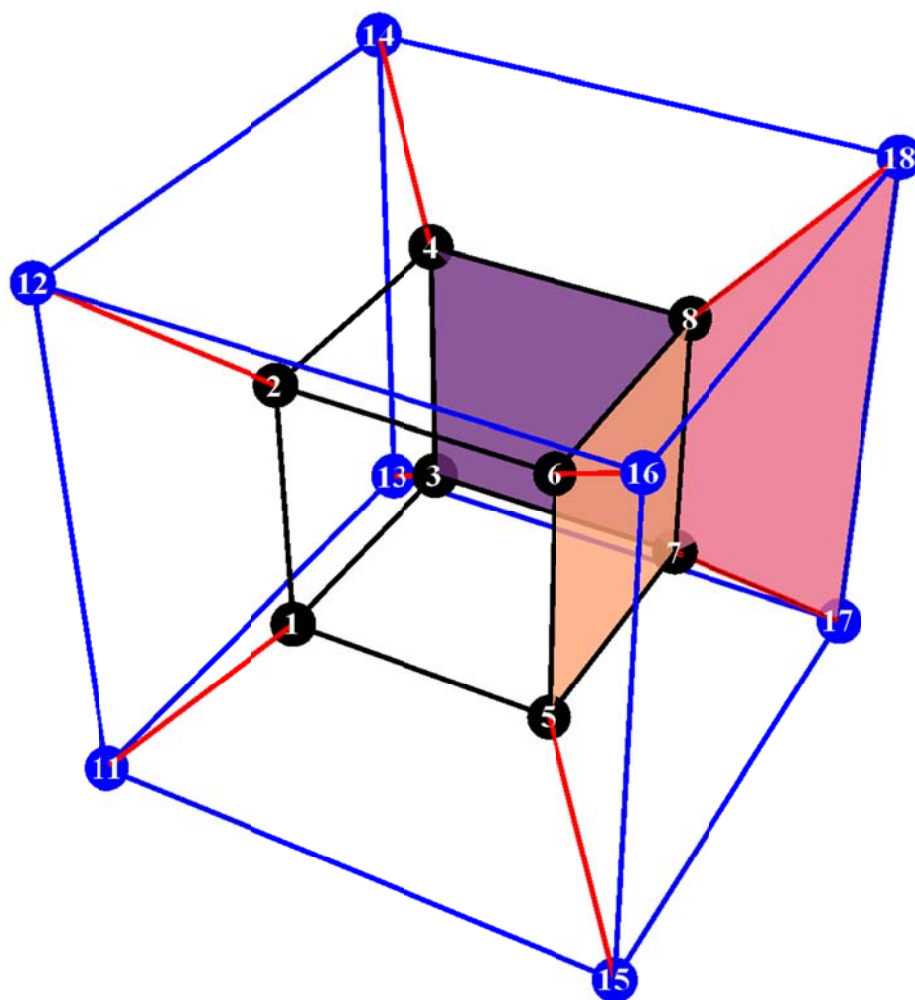


Figure 14**Fundamental spacetimesource elements for unification via theory X**

Scalar field on nodes	One vector each node	One vector each link
Scalar field on links	Two vectors each node	Two vectors each link
Scalar field on plaquettes	Three vectors each node	Three vectors each link

Figure 15

The Standard Model Lagrangian Density. Credit: T.D. Gutierrez

<http://nuclear.ucdavis.edu/~tgutierrez/files/sml.pdf>

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\nu g_\mu^a \partial_\nu g_\mu^a - g_s f^{abc} \partial_\mu g_\nu^a g_\mu^b g_\nu^c - \frac{1}{4}g_s^2 f^{abc} f^{ade} g_\mu^b g_\nu^c g_\mu^d g_\nu^e + \\
& \frac{1}{2}ig_s^2 (\bar{q}_i^\sigma \gamma^\mu q_j^\sigma) g_\mu^a + \bar{G}^a \partial^2 G^a + g_s f^{abc} \partial_\mu \bar{G}^a G^b g_\mu^c - \partial_\nu W_\mu^+ \partial_\nu W_\mu^- - \\
& M^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\nu Z_\mu^0 \partial_\nu Z_\mu^0 - \frac{1}{2c_w^2} M^2 Z_\mu^0 Z_\mu^0 - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu A_\nu \partial_\mu A_\nu - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu H \partial_\mu H - \\
& \frac{1}{2}m_h^2 H^2 - \partial_\mu \phi^+ \partial_\mu \phi^- - M^2 \phi^+ \phi^- - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu \phi^0 \partial_\mu \phi^0 - \frac{1}{2c_w^2} M \phi^0 \phi^0 - \beta_h [\frac{2M^2}{g^2} + \\
& \frac{2M}{g} H + \frac{1}{2}(H^2 + \phi^0 \phi^0 + 2\phi^+ \phi^-)] + \frac{2M^4}{g^2} \alpha_h - ig_{c_w} [\partial_\nu Z_\mu^0 (W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- - \\
& W_\nu^+ W_\mu^-) - Z_\nu^0 (W_\mu^+ \partial_\nu W_\mu^- - W_\nu^- \partial_\mu W_\mu^+) + Z_\mu^0 (W_\nu^+ \partial_\nu W_\mu^- - \\
& W_\nu^- \partial_\nu W_\mu^+) - ig_{s_w} [\partial_\nu A_\mu (W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- - W_\nu^+ W_\mu^-) - A_\nu (W_\mu^+ \partial_\nu W_\mu^- - \\
& W_\nu^- \partial_\nu W_\mu^+) + A_\mu (W_\nu^+ \partial_\nu W_\mu^- - W_\nu^- \partial_\nu W_\mu^+)] - \frac{1}{2}g^2 W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- W_\nu^+ W_\mu^- + \\
& \frac{1}{2}g^2 W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- W_\nu^+ W_\mu^- + g^2 c_w^2 (Z_\mu^0 W_\nu^+ Z_\nu^0 W_\mu^- - Z_\mu^0 Z_\nu^0 W_\nu^+ W_\mu^-) + \\
& g^2 s_w^2 (A_\mu W_\nu^+ A_\nu W_\mu^- - A_\mu A_\nu W_\nu^+ W_\mu^-) + g^2 s_w c_w [A_\mu Z_\nu^0 (W_\mu^+ W_\nu^- - \\
& W_\nu^+ W_\mu^-) - 2A_\mu Z_\mu^0 W_\nu^+ W_\nu^-] - g\alpha [H^3 + H\phi^0 \phi^0 + 2H\phi^+ \phi^-] - \\
& \frac{1}{8}g^2 \alpha_h [H^4 + (\phi^0)^2 + 4(\phi^+ \phi^-)^2 + 4(\phi^0)^2 \phi^+ \phi^- + 4H^2 \phi^+ \phi^- + 2(\phi^0)^2 H^2] - \\
& gM W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- H - \frac{1}{2}g \frac{M}{c_w^2} Z_\mu^0 Z_\mu^0 H - \frac{1}{2}ig [W_\mu^+ (\phi^0 \partial_\mu \phi^- - \phi^- \partial_\mu \phi^0) - \\
& W_\mu^- (\phi^0 \partial_\mu \phi^+ - \phi^+ \partial_\mu \phi^0)] + \frac{1}{2}g [W_\mu^+ (H \partial_\mu \phi^- - \phi^- \partial_\mu H) - W_\mu^- (H \partial_\mu \phi^+ - \\
& \phi^+ \partial_\mu H)] + \frac{1}{2}g \frac{1}{c_w} [Z_\mu^0 (H \partial_\mu \phi^0 - \phi^0 \partial_\mu H) - ig \frac{s_w^2}{c_w} M Z_\mu^0 (W_\mu^+ \phi^- - W_\mu^- \phi^+) + \\
& ig_{s_w} M A_\mu (W_\mu^+ \phi^- - W_\mu^- \phi^+) - ig \frac{1-2c_w^2}{2c_w} Z_\mu^0 (\phi^+ \partial_\mu \phi^- - \phi^- \partial_\mu \phi^+) + \\
& ig_{s_w} A_\mu (\phi^+ \partial_\mu \phi^- - \phi^- \partial_\mu \phi^+) - \frac{1}{4}g^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- [H^2 + (\phi^0)^2 + 2\phi^+ \phi^-] - \\
& \frac{1}{4}g^2 \frac{1}{c_w^2} Z_\mu^0 Z_\mu^0 [H^2 + (\phi^0)^2 + 2(2s_w^2 - 1)^2 \phi^+ \phi^-] - \frac{1}{2}g^2 \frac{s_w^2}{c_w} Z_\mu^0 \phi^0 (W_\mu^+ \phi^- + \\
& W_\mu^- \phi^+) - \frac{1}{2}ig^2 \frac{s_w^2}{c_w} Z_\mu^0 H (W_\mu^+ \phi^- - W_\mu^- \phi^+) + \frac{1}{2}g^2 s_w A_\mu \phi^0 (W_\mu^+ \phi^- + \\
& W_\mu^- \phi^+) + \frac{1}{2}ig^2 s_w A_\mu H (W_\mu^+ \phi^- - W_\mu^- \phi^+) - g^2 \frac{s_w}{c_w} (2c_w^2 - 1) Z_\mu^0 A_\mu \phi^+ \phi^- - \\
& g^4 s_w^2 A_\mu A_\mu \phi^+ \phi^- - \bar{e}^\lambda (\gamma \partial + m_e^\lambda) e^\lambda - \bar{\nu}^\lambda \gamma \partial \nu^\lambda - \bar{u}_j^\lambda (\gamma \partial + m_u^\lambda) u_j^\lambda - \bar{d}_j^\lambda (\gamma \partial + \\
& m_d^\lambda) d_j^\lambda + ig_{s_w} A_\mu [-(\bar{e}^\lambda \gamma e^\lambda) + \frac{2}{3}(\bar{u}_j^\lambda \gamma u_j^\lambda) - \frac{1}{3}(\bar{d}_j^\lambda \gamma d_j^\lambda)] + \frac{ig}{4c_w} Z_\mu^0 [(\bar{\nu}^\lambda \gamma^\mu (1 + \\
& \gamma^5) \nu^\lambda) + (\bar{e}^\lambda \gamma^\mu (4s_w^2 - 1 - \gamma^5) e^\lambda) + (\bar{u}_j^\lambda \gamma^\mu (\frac{4}{3}s_w^2 - 1 - \gamma^5) u_j^\lambda) + \\
& (\bar{d}_j^\lambda \gamma^\mu (1 - \frac{8}{3}s_w^2 - \gamma^5) d_j^\lambda)] + \frac{ig}{2\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^+ [(\bar{\nu}^\lambda \gamma^\mu (1 + \gamma^5) e^\lambda) + (\bar{u}_j^\lambda \gamma^\mu (1 + \\
& \gamma^5) C_{\lambda\kappa} d_j^\kappa)] + \frac{ig}{2\sqrt{2}} W_\mu^- [(\bar{e}^\lambda \gamma^\mu (1 + \gamma^5) \nu^\lambda) + (\bar{d}_j^\kappa C_{\lambda\kappa}^\dagger \gamma^\mu (1 + \gamma^5) u_j^\lambda)] + \\
& \frac{ig}{2\sqrt{2}} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} [-\phi^+ (\bar{\nu}^\lambda (1 - \gamma^5) e^\lambda) + \phi^- (\bar{e}^\lambda (1 + \gamma^5) \nu^\lambda)] - \frac{g}{2} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} [H (\bar{e}^\lambda e^\lambda) + \\
& i\phi^0 (\bar{e}^\lambda \gamma^5 e^\lambda)] + \frac{ig}{2M\sqrt{2}} \phi^+ [-m_d^\lambda (\bar{u}_j^\lambda C_{\lambda\kappa} (1 - \gamma^5) d_j^\kappa) + m_u^\lambda (\bar{u}_j^\lambda C_{\lambda\kappa} (1 + \\
& \gamma^5) d_j^\kappa)] + \frac{ig}{2M\sqrt{2}} \phi^- [m_d^\lambda (\bar{d}_j^\lambda C_{\lambda\kappa}^\dagger (1 + \gamma^5) u_j^\kappa) - m_u^\lambda (\bar{d}_j^\lambda C_{\lambda\kappa}^\dagger (1 - \gamma^5) u_j^\kappa)] - \\
& \frac{g}{2} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} H (\bar{u}_j^\lambda u_j^\lambda) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} H (\bar{d}_j^\lambda d_j^\lambda) + \frac{ig}{2} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} \phi^0 (\bar{u}_j^\lambda \gamma^5 u_j^\lambda) - \frac{ig}{2} \frac{m_\lambda^2}{M} \phi^0 (\bar{d}_j^\lambda \gamma^5 d_j^\lambda) + \\
& \bar{X}^+ (\partial^2 - M^2) X^+ + \bar{X}^- (\partial^2 - M^2) X^- + \bar{X}^0 (\partial^2 - \frac{M^2}{c_w^2}) X^0 + Y \partial^2 Y + \\
& ig_{c_w} W_\mu^+ (\partial_\mu \bar{X}^0 X^- - \partial_\mu \bar{X}^- X^0) + ig_{s_w} W_\mu^+ (\partial_\mu \bar{Y} X^- - \partial_\mu \bar{X}^- Y) + \\
& ig_{c_w} W_\mu^- (\partial_\mu \bar{X}^+ X^0 - \partial_\mu \bar{X}^0 X^+) + ig_{s_w} W_\mu^- (\partial_\mu \bar{X}^- Y - \partial_\mu \bar{Y} X^+) + \\
& ig_{c_w} Z_\mu^0 (\partial_\mu \bar{X}^+ X^+ - \partial_\mu \bar{X}^- X^-) + ig_{s_w} A_\mu (\partial_\mu \bar{X}^+ X^+ - \partial_\mu \bar{X}^- X^-) - \\
& \frac{1}{2}g M [\bar{X}^+ X^+ H + \bar{X}^- X^- H + \frac{1}{c_w} \bar{X}^0 X^0 H] + \frac{1-2c_w^2}{2c_w} ig M [\bar{X}^+ X^0 \phi^+ - \\
& \bar{X}^- X^0 \phi^-] + \frac{1}{2c_w} ig M [\bar{X}^0 X^- \phi^+ - \bar{X}^0 X^+ \phi^-] + ig M s_w [\bar{X}^0 X^- \phi^+ - \\
& \bar{X}^0 X^+ \phi^-] + \frac{1}{2}ig M [\bar{X}^+ X^+ \phi^0 - \bar{X}^- X^- \phi^0]
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 16

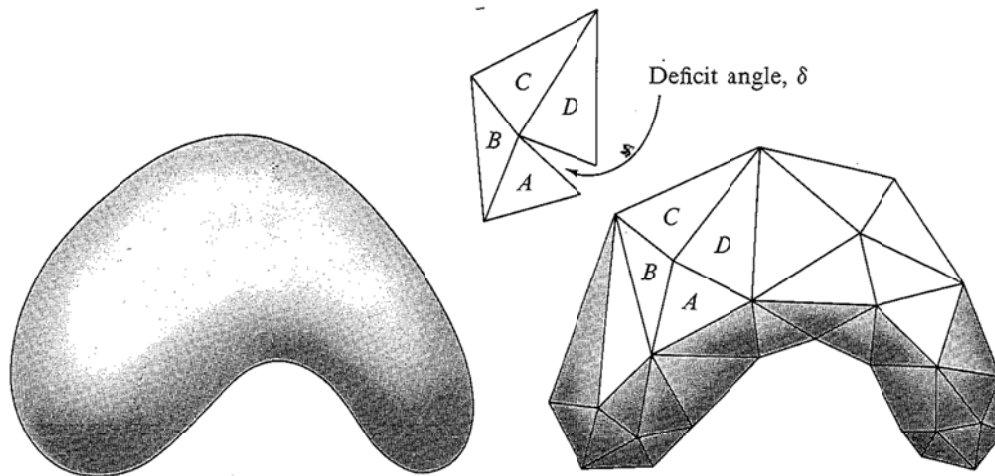
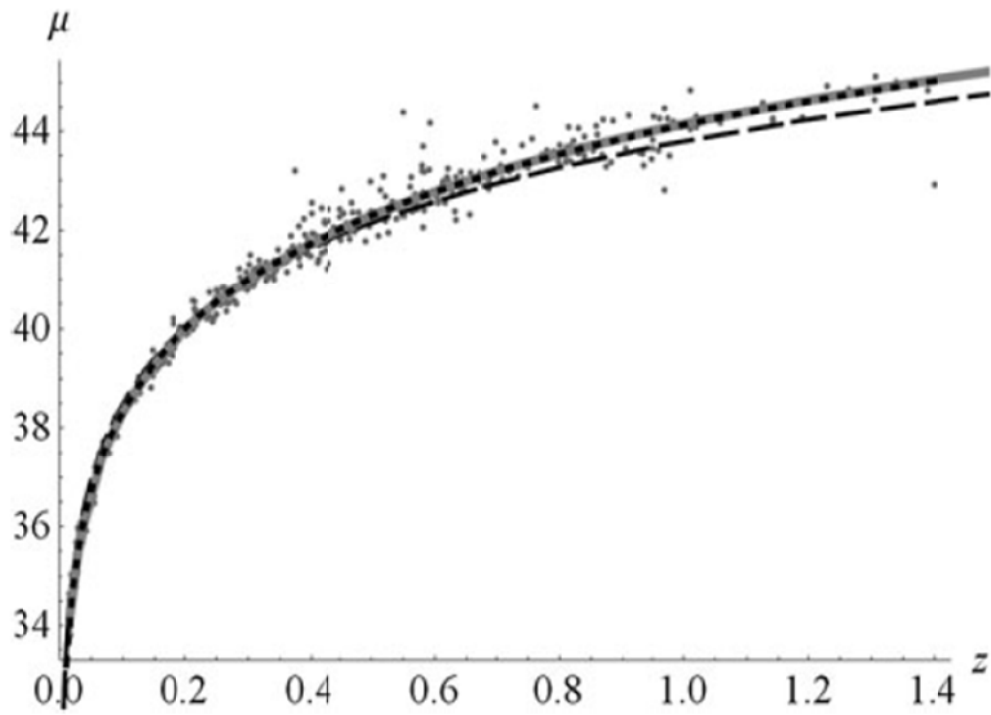


Figure 42.1.

A 2-geometry with continuously varying curvature can be approximated arbitrarily closely by a polyhedron built of triangles, provided only that the number of triangles is made sufficiently great and the size of each sufficiently small. The geometry in each triangle is Euclidean. The curvature of the surface shows up in the amount of deficit angle at each vertex (portion $ABCD$ of polyhedron laid out above on a flat surface).

Reproduced from Misner, C.W., Thorne, K.S., Wheeler, J.A.: Gravitation. W.H. Freeman, San Francisco (1973), p. 1168.

Figure 17



Plot of Union2 data along with the best fits for EdS (*dashed*), Λ CDM (*gray*), and MORC (*dotted*). The MORC curve is terminated at $z = 1.4$ in this figure so that the Λ CDM curve is visible underneath.

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