The propagation of fermions on curved backgrounds of matrix models

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THE GEOMETRICAL FRAMEWORK (1)

IKKT matrix model, defined by the action

$$S[T,\Psi] = \frac{1}{g^2} \operatorname{Tr}([T^A, T^B][T_A, T_B] + \overline{\Psi}\Gamma_A[T^A, \Psi])$$

where T^A (A = 0, 1, ..., 9) are hermitian matrices and Ψ fermionic matrices of SO(9,1)

• Propagation of fermions on some given background $\{T^A\}$ in the semiclassical regime, where

$$T^{A}: \mathscr{M} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{9,1}$$
$$[\cdot, \cdot] \sim i\{\cdot, \cdot\}$$

3+1-dimensional spacetime brane *M*^{3,1} embedded along the first
 3+1 matrix directions labelled by *a* = 0,...,3, setting the remaining matrices to zero (i.e, *T^a* ≠ 0 (*a* = 0,...,3) and *T^A* = 0 (*A* = 4,...,9))

THE GEOMETRICAL FRAMEWORK (2)

• The effective metric $G^{\mu\nu}$ on $\mathcal{M}^{3,1}$ is defined in terms of an auxiliary metric $\gamma^{\mu\nu}$ in the following way:

$$\gamma^{\mu\nu} = E^{a\mu}E^{b\nu}\eta_{ab}, \qquad G^{\mu\nu} := \frac{1}{\rho^2}\gamma^{\mu\nu} \qquad \qquad a, \beta, \dots = 0, \dots, 3: \text{ coordinate indices} \\ a, b, \dots = \hat{0}, \dots, \hat{3}: \text{ tetrad indices}$$

 $E^{a\mu} = \{T^a, y^{\mu}\}$: "Poisson" frame in local coordinates y^{μ}

 $\rho^2 = \rho_M \sqrt{|\gamma^{\mu\nu}|}$: conformal factor or dilation

 ho_M : symplectic density on $\mathscr{M}^{3,1}$

Effective frame

inverse fra

$$\mathcal{E}^{a\mu} = \rho^{-1} E^{a\mu} \longrightarrow G^{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{E}^{a\mu} \mathcal{E}^{b\nu} \eta_{ab}$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{a}_{\ \mu} \mathcal{E}^{\ \mu}_{b} = \delta^{a}_{b} \longrightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{ab} \mathcal{E}^{a}_{\ \mu} \mathcal{E}^{b}_{\ \nu}$$

THE GEOMETRICAL FRAMEWORK (3)

• Levi-Civita connection $\Gamma^{(G)}{}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\sigma}$ of the effective metric $G_{\mu\nu}$:

$$\Gamma^{(G)}{}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} G^{\sigma\rho} \left(\partial_{\mu} G_{\rho\nu} + \partial_{\nu} G_{\rho\mu} - \partial_{\rho} G_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

$$\nabla^{(G)}_{\mu}V^{\nu} = \partial_{\mu}V^{\nu} + \Gamma^{(G)}{}^{\nu}{}^{\nu}V^{\rho}$$

- Weitzenböck connection ${\tilde{\Gamma}}_{\mu
u}{}^{\sigma}$ of the effective frame ${\mathcal{E}}_{a}{}^{\mu}$:

$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{\nu} \mathcal{E}_{a}^{\ \mu} = 0$$
$$\widetilde{\nabla}_{\mu} V^{\sigma} = \nabla_{\mu}^{(G)} V^{\sigma} + \mathcal{K}_{\mu\kappa}^{\ \sigma} V^{\kappa}$$

 $\mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu}^{\ \sigma} = \widetilde{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\ \sigma} - \widetilde{\Gamma}_{\nu\mu}^{\ \sigma}$

$$\mathcal{K}_{\mu\nu}^{\ \sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu}^{\ \sigma} + \mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu}^{\sigma} - \mathcal{T}_{\nu\mu}^{\ \sigma} \right)$$

Torsion tensor

Contorsion tensor

$$\Gamma^{(G)}{}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\sigma} = \widetilde{\Gamma}^{\sigma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\sigma} - \mathcal{K}^{\sigma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\sigma}$$

Link between the two connections

FERMIONS IN IKKT MODEL (1)

Semiclassical Dirac-like action for fermions in the IKKT matrix model on a generic curved background and in arbitrary local coordinates y^{μ} :

$$S = \text{Tr}\overline{\Psi}\gamma_a[T^a,\Psi] \sim \int d^4y \,\rho_M(y)\,\overline{\Psi}i\gamma_a E^{a\mu}\partial_\mu\Psi$$

Semiclassical Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{i}{2} \rho_M \left[\overline{\Psi} \gamma^a E_a{}^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \Psi - (\partial_{\mu} \overline{\Psi}) \gamma^a E_a{}^{\mu} \Psi \right] + i \rho \rho_M m \overline{\Psi} \Psi$$

$$\overline{\Psi} = \Psi^{\dagger} \gamma^{\widehat{0}}$$

$$\gamma^a \ (a = \hat{0}, \hat{1}, \hat{2}, \hat{3})$$

flat-space Dirac matrices

Mass term from the six "transversal" matrices $T^A (A = 4, 5, \dots, 9)$

Spin connection is "missing"!

Rewrite the Lagrangian in terms of the covariant derivative D_{μ} for spinors

$$\widehat{D}_{\mu}\Psi = \left(\widehat{\partial}_{\mu} - \frac{i}{2}\widehat{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{bc}\Sigma_{bc}\right)\Psi$$

$$\widehat{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} = \mathcal{E}^{a\nu} \, \nabla^{(G)}_{\mu} \mathcal{E}^{b}{}_{\nu}$$

$$\Sigma_{ab} = \frac{i}{4} [\gamma_a, \gamma_b]$$

associated with $G_{\mu\nu}$

Spinor representation of the generators of the Lorentz group

FERMIONS IN IKKT MODEL (2)

we obtain

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\rho} \left[\frac{i}{2} \left(\overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} \widehat{D}_{\mu} \Psi - (\widehat{D}_{\mu} \overline{\Psi}) \gamma^{\mu} \Psi \right) + im \overline{\Psi} \Psi - \frac{i}{4} \mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]} \overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\alpha} \gamma^{\beta} \gamma^{\gamma} \Psi \right]$$

$$\boxed{\gamma^{\mu} := \mathcal{E}_{a}^{\ \mu} \gamma^{a}}$$
$$\mathcal{E} := \det \left(\mathcal{E}_{\ \mu}^{a} \right) = \sqrt{-G} = \rho_{M} \rho^{2}$$

The same, up to $1/\rho$, as the Dirac Lagrangian in Riemann-Cartan spacetime

• Introduce a general frame e^a_{μ} via

$$\eta_{ab}e^a{}_{\mu}e^b{}_{\nu} = G_{\mu\nu}$$

 Ψ is allowed to transform as usual under local Lorentz transformations

• Introduce the spin connection $\tilde{\omega}^{ab}_{\mu}$ via

Levi-Civita spin connection associated with e_{μ}^{a}

$$\widetilde{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} = e^{a\nu} \widetilde{\nabla}_{\mu} e^{b}{}_{\nu} = \widehat{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} - \mathcal{K}_{\mu}{}^{a}$$



 $\widehat{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} = e^{a\nu} \nabla^{(G)}_{\mu} e^{b}{}_{\nu}$

Contorsion tensor of the Weitzenböck connection $ilde{\Gamma}_{\mu
u}{}^{\sigma}$

Note that
$$\tilde{\omega}_{\mu}^{\ ab} = 0$$
 if $e^{a}_{\ \mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^{a}_{\ \mu}$

FERMIONS IN IKKT MODEL (3)

• In the general frame $e^a_{\ \mu}$, the Dirac Lagrangian becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{e}{\rho} \left[\frac{i}{2} \left(\overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} \widetilde{D}_{\mu} \Psi - (\widetilde{D}_{\mu} \overline{\Psi}) \gamma^{\mu} \Psi \right) + im \overline{\Psi} \Psi \right]$$
$$= \frac{e}{\rho} \left[\frac{i}{2} \left(\overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \Psi - (\partial_{\mu} \overline{\Psi}) \gamma^{\mu} \Psi \right) + im \overline{\Psi} \Psi + \frac{i}{4} \widetilde{\omega}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]} \overline{\Psi} \gamma^{\alpha} \gamma^{\beta} \gamma^{\gamma} \Psi \right]$$

$$\gamma^{\mu} := e_{a}^{\ \mu} \gamma^{a},$$
$$e := \det \left(e_{\ \mu}^{a} \right) = \sqrt{-G}$$

$$\widetilde{D}_{\mu}\Psi = \left(\partial_{\mu} - \frac{i}{2}\widetilde{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab}\Sigma_{ab}\right)\Psi = \widehat{D}_{\mu}\Psi + \frac{i}{2}\mathcal{K}_{\mu}{}^{ab}\Sigma_{ab}\Psi$$

Dirac equation

$$\gamma^{\mu}\hat{D}_{\mu}\Psi + m\Psi - \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]}\gamma^{\alpha}\gamma^{\beta}\gamma^{\gamma}\Psi + \frac{\rho}{2}\left(\partial_{\mu}\rho^{-1}\right)\gamma^{\mu}\Psi = 0$$

Local Lorentz invariance is broken on nontrivial background

PARTICLE LIMIT OF THE DIRAC FIELD (1)

• Particle limit of the Dirac field by applying the JWKB approximation

 $(\mathbf{0})$

$$\Psi(x) = \exp\left(-\frac{i}{\hbar}W(x)\right)\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\hbar^{n}\psi^{(n)}(x)$$

Leading order

Next-to-leading order

$$\begin{bmatrix} (i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}W - m)\psi^{(0)} = 0, \\ (i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}W - m)\psi^{(1)} = \gamma^{\mu}\hat{D}_{\mu}\psi^{(0)} - \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]}\gamma^{\alpha}\gamma^{\beta}\gamma^{\gamma}\psi^{(0)} + \frac{\rho}{2}\left(\partial_{\mu}\rho^{-1}\right)\gamma^{\mu}\psi^{(0)}$$

PARTICLE LIMIT OF THE DIRAC FIELD (2)

 The leading-order result leads to the Hamilton-Jacobi equation for a relativistic nonspinning particle

$$G^{\mu\nu}p_{\mu}p_{\nu} = -m^2$$

 u_{α}

where

$$p_{\mu} = -\partial_{\mu}W$$

$$= \frac{-\partial_{\alpha}W}{|G^{\mu\nu}\partial_{\mu}W\partial_{\nu}W|^{1/2}} = \frac{1}{m}p_{\alpha}$$

$$G^{\mu\nu}u_{\mu}u_{\nu} = -1$$

$$G^{\mu\nu}u_{\mu}u_{\nu} = -1$$

$$u^{\alpha}\nabla_{\alpha}^{(G)}u^{\beta} = 0$$
Geodesic motion

PARTICLE LIMIT OF THE DIRAC FIELD (3)

The spinor $\psi^{(0)}$ describes the positive-energy solutions of the flat-space Dirac equation

$$\psi^{(0)}(x) = \beta_1(x)u^{(1)}(x) + \beta_2(x)u^{(2)}(x), \qquad \beta_1(x), \beta_2(x) \in \mathbb{C},$$

the spin-up and spin-down spinors being

$$u^{(1)} = \left(\frac{p^{\hat{0}} + m}{2m}\right)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\ 0\\ p^{\hat{3}}/(p^{\hat{0}} + m)\\ (p^{\hat{1}} + ip^{\hat{2}})/(p^{\hat{0}} + m) \end{bmatrix}$$
$$u^{(2)} = \left(\frac{p^{\hat{0}} + m}{2m}\right)^{1/2} \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ 1\\ (p^{\hat{1}} - ip^{\hat{2}})/(p^{\hat{0}} + m)\\ -p^{\hat{3}}/(p^{\hat{0}} + m) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$p^a = e^a{}_\mu p^\mu$$

PARTICLE LIMIT OF THE DIRAC FIELD (4)

• The next-to-leading-order result implies the following propagation equation for $\psi^{(0)}$:

$$u^{\alpha}\widetilde{D}_{\alpha}\psi^{(0)} = -\frac{\widehat{\theta}}{2}\psi^{(0)} - \frac{i}{2}\mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta]\gamma}\sigma^{\alpha\beta}u^{\gamma}\psi^{(0)} - \frac{\rho}{2}\left(\partial_{\mu}\rho^{-1}\right)u^{\mu}\psi^{(0)}$$

Expansion scalar of the geodesic congruence

$$\sigma^{\alpha\beta} = 2\Sigma^{\alpha\beta}$$

If we introduce the normalized spinor $b^{(0)}(x)$ via the relations

$$\psi^{(0)}(x) = f(x)b^{(0)}(x)$$
 $\overline{ib}^{(0)}b^{(0)} = 1$ with $f^2(x) = |\beta_1(x)|^2 + |\beta_2(x)|^2$

then we obtain

 $\widehat{\theta} = \nabla^{(G)}_{\beta} u^{\beta}$

$$u^{\alpha}\widetilde{D}_{\alpha}b^{(0)} = -\frac{i}{2}\mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta]\gamma}\sigma^{\alpha\beta}u^{\gamma}b^{(0)}$$

$$u^{\alpha} \widetilde{D}_{\alpha} \overline{b}^{(0)} = \frac{\imath}{2} \mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta]\gamma} \overline{b}^{(0)} \sigma^{\alpha\beta} u^{\gamma}$$

PARTICLE LIMIT OF THE DIRAC FIELD (5)

It will prove to be useful the introduction of a new connection.
 Let us define the new affinities

$$\begin{split} \overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda} &= \widetilde{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda} + 2\mathcal{K}_{[\nu\epsilon]\mu}G^{\epsilon\lambda} = \Gamma^{(G)}{}^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu} + 3\mathcal{K}_{[\mu\nu\epsilon]}G^{\epsilon\lambda}, \\ \overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} &= \widetilde{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} - 2\mathcal{K}^{[ab]}{}_{\mu} = \widehat{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} - 3\mathcal{K}^{[ab\epsilon]}G_{\epsilon\mu}, \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda} &= e_{a}{}^{\lambda}\overset{*}{D}_{\mu}e_{\nu}^{a} = e_{a}{}^{\lambda}\left(\partial_{\mu}e_{\nu}^{a} + \overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{a}_{b}e_{\nu}^{b}\right) \\ \overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} &= e^{a\nu}\overset{*}{\nabla}_{\mu}e_{\nu}^{b} = e^{a\nu}\left(\partial_{\mu}e_{\nu}^{b} - \overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda}e_{\lambda}^{b}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla_{\alpha}G_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Compatible with the effective metric

Then we obtain

$$u^{\alpha} \overset{*}{D}_{\alpha} b^{(0)} = 0$$
$$u^{\alpha} \overset{*}{D}_{\alpha} \overline{b}^{(0)} = 0$$

The normalized spinor is parallelly propagated along the geodesic path

SPIN PRECESSION EQUATION (1)

• The spin vector of the Dirac particle can be written via the JWKB approximation as

$$S^{\alpha} = S^{\alpha}_{(0)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\hbar\right),$$

where

$$S^{\alpha}_{(0)} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} u_{\beta} \overline{b}^{(0)} \sigma_{\gamma\delta} b^{(0)}$$

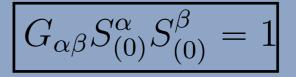
$$\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = e_a^{\ \alpha} e_b^{\ \beta} e_c^{\ \gamma} e_d^{\ \delta} \epsilon^{abcd}$$

Lowest-order correction

$$e^{abcd}$$
:Levi-Civita symbol

• $S^{\alpha}_{(0)}$ satisfies

$$u_{\alpha}S^{\alpha}_{(0)} = 0$$



SPIN PRECESSION EQUATION (2)

• $S^{\alpha}_{(0)}$ is characterized by propagation equation

$$u^{\mu} \nabla_{\mu} S^{\alpha}_{(0)} = 0$$

The lowest-order spin vector is parallelly transported along the particle's classical geodesic trajectory

Spin precession equation in terms of the Levi-Civita connection of $G_{\mu\nu}$

$$u^{\rho} \nabla^{(G)}_{\rho} S^{\mu}_{(0)} = 3\varepsilon^{\mu\alpha\lambda\epsilon} \mathcal{A}_{\alpha} S_{(0)\lambda} u_{\epsilon}$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{\mu} = \frac{1}{6} \varepsilon^{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]}$$

Axial-vector part of the contorsion tensor

TRANSLATIONAL MOTION (1)

• It follows from the Dirac equation that the effective Dirac current $\rho^{-1}J^{\mu}$ is conserved, i.e.,

$$\nabla^{(G)}_{\mu} \left(\rho^{-1} J^{\mu} \right) = 0,$$

where $J^{\mu} := \bar{\Psi} \gamma^{\mu} \Psi$

Gordon decomposition of the effective Dirac current

$$\rho^{-1}J^{\mu} \equiv \mathcal{J}_{\mathrm{M}}^{\mu} + \mathcal{J}_{\mathrm{C}}^{\mu}$$

where

TRANSLATIONAL MOTION (2)

Conserved quantities

$$\nabla^{(G)}_{\mu} \mathcal{J}^{\mu}_{\mathrm{M}} = 0,$$
$$\nabla^{(G)}_{\mu} \mathcal{J}^{\mu}_{\mathrm{C}} = 0.$$

Four-velocity for the translational motion

$$v^{\alpha} = \frac{\mathcal{J}_{C}^{\alpha}}{\sqrt{-G_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{J}_{C}^{\mu}\mathcal{J}_{C}^{\nu}}},$$

$$v^{\mu} = u^{\mu} + \frac{\hbar}{2m} \left[\left(\overset{*}{D}^{\mu}\overline{b}^{(0)} \right) b^{(0)} - \overline{b}^{(0)} \overset{*}{D}^{\mu}b^{(0)} \right] + O\left(\hbar^{2}\right)$$

The spin forces the particle to follow a quantum corrected trajectory which deviates from the classical geodesic motion

TRANSLATIONAL MOTION (3)

Four-acceleration of the translational motion

$$a_{\alpha} = v^{\beta} \nabla^{(G)}_{\beta} v_{\alpha} = -\frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{\hbar}{2m}\right) \overset{*}{R}_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} u^{\beta} \overline{b}^{(0)} \sigma^{\mu\nu} b^{(0)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\hbar^{2}\right)$$

where, in our conventions,

$$\overset{*}{R}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda}{}_{\sigma} = e_{a}{}^{\lambda}e_{\sigma}^{b}\overset{*}{R}_{\mu\nu}{}^{a}{}_{b} = \partial_{\mu}\overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\nu\sigma}{}^{\lambda} - \partial_{\nu}\overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\sigma}{}^{\lambda} + \overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\rho}{}^{\lambda}\overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\nu\sigma}{}^{\rho} - \overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\nu\rho}{}^{\lambda}\overset{*}{\Gamma}_{\mu\sigma}{}^{\rho}$$

$$\overset{*}{R}_{\mu\nu}{}^{ab} = \partial_{\mu}\overset{*}{\omega}_{\nu}{}^{ab} - \partial_{\nu}\overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ab} + \overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu}{}^{ac}\overset{*}{\omega}_{\nu c}{}^{b} - \overset{*}{\omega}_{\nu}{}^{ac}\overset{*}{\omega}_{\mu c}{}^{b}$$

Our model predicts a spin precession equation and translational motion having the same form as in standard Einstein-Cartan theory

APPLICATION TO THE FLRW BACKGROUND (1)

• In the FLRW spacetime and adopting Cartesian coordinates x^{μ} , the SO(3,1)-invariant effective metric reads as

 $ds_G^2 = G_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu} = -R^2 |\sinh \eta|^3 d\eta^2 + R^2 |\sinh \eta| \cosh^2 \eta \, d\Sigma^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t) d\Sigma^2$

 $d\Sigma^2 = d\chi^2 + \sinh^2 \chi (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$

Invariant length element on the spacelike hyperboloids H^3

Frames

$$E_a^{\ \mu} = (\sinh \eta) \,\delta^a_\mu \,,$$
$$\mathcal{E}^a_{\ \mu} = \rho E^a_{\ \mu}.$$

Dilaton

$$\rho^2 = |\sinh\eta|^3$$

APPLICATION TO THE FLRW BACKGROUND (2)

Dirac equation

$$\gamma^{\mu}\hat{D}_{\mu}\Psi + m\Psi + \frac{3}{4}\frac{\tau_{\mu}}{\rho^2 R^2}\gamma^{\mu}\Psi = 0,$$

where $\tau = a(t)\partial_t$ is the SO(3,1)-invariant cosmic timelike vector field which is responsible for the breaking of the local Lorentz invariance

 The analysis of the propagation of fermions is greatly simplified as

$$\mathcal{K}_{[\alpha\beta\gamma]} = 0$$

SUMMARY (1)

- We have examined the evolution of a Dirac particle on a generic curved 3+1-dimensional background brane within the IKKT matrix model
- The fermionic action resembles the one given in Einstein-Cartan theory and differs from the one given in general relativity only through a coupling to the totally antisymmetric part of the Weitzenböck contorsion
- Both the spin precession and the translation motion assume the same form as in Einstein-Cartan theory
- We have considered the particular case of the FLRW cosmological background

SUMMARY (2)

Further details can be found in:

Emmanuele Battista and Harold C. Steinacker, "Fermions on curved backgrounds of matrix models", Phys. Rev. D **107**, 046021 (2023), arXiv: 2212.08611

...and the best is yet to come!