

Noncommutative Geometry

from the

Perspective of Quantum Physics

— talk at WGMP, July 2025

OTTO C. W. KONG

— Nat'l Central U, Taiwan

Prologue : Quantum Gravity

(Geometro-)

Dynamics of Quantum Spacetime

rather than

Quantum Dynamics of (Classical)
Spacetime

Prologue : Geometrodynamics

Spacetime Geometry

Noncommutative G. \leftrightarrow Quantum Gravity

Non-Euclidean G. \leftrightarrow Classical Gravity

Algebra vs Geometry — Physics :-

Observable Algebra $\mathcal{A} \longleftrightarrow$ Symplectic Geometry \mathcal{S}

c-number picture : Commutative — Classical

- coordinates as basic observables
- states $[\phi]$ as functionals
- $[\phi](f) = f([\phi]) = f(x, p)|_{[\phi]}$

$[\phi] : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ — c-number (real number) value $[f]_\phi \equiv [\phi](f)$

- values of observables for a state – classical information
- evaluation map (functionals) $[\phi]$ is an algebraic homomorphism
- dynamics given by $\frac{d}{ds} f = \{f, H_s\}$, (t as s)

q-number picture : Noncommutative — Quantum +
 Symplectic Geometry – (projective) Hilbert/Krein space
 Observable Algebra \mathcal{A} – operators β

- operator coordinates as basic observables
- states $[\phi]$ as evaluation map : algebraic homomorphism
- $[\beta]_\phi \equiv [\phi](\beta) = [f_\beta(\phi)] = \beta(\hat{x}, \hat{p})|_\phi$
 $[\phi] : \mathcal{A} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}$ — ***q*-numbers noncommutative value**
- **value of observable for a state – quantum information**
- dynamics given by $\frac{d}{ds}\beta = \{\beta, \hat{H}_s\}_q \equiv \frac{1}{i\hbar}[\beta, \hat{H}_s]$, (***t* as *s***)

Evaluation as an Algebra Homomorphism :-

— real number is *only* an algebraic system

- classical $[\phi] : f(x_i, p_i) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (observables have real values)

e.g. $E = p^2 + x^2 = pp + xx$ (1-D SHO $m = \frac{1}{2}, k = 2$)

$$[\phi](x) = 2, [\phi](p) = 3 \implies$$

$$[\phi](E) = [\phi](p^2) + [\phi](x^2) = [\phi](p)[\phi](p) + [\phi](x)[\phi](x) = 13$$

$$[\phi](x_i p_i) = [\phi](x_i)[\phi](p_i) = [\phi](p_i)[\phi](x_i) = [\phi](p_i x_i)$$

- quantum $[\phi] : \beta(\hat{x}_i, \hat{p}_i) \rightarrow ?$

$$[\phi](\hat{x}_i)[\phi](\hat{p}_i) = [\phi](\hat{p}_i)[\phi](\hat{x}_i) + [\phi](i\hbar \hat{I})$$

$\implies [\phi](\beta(\hat{x}_i, \hat{p}_i))$ has to be a noncommutative algebra

Heisenberg & Dirac 1925/26 :-

— classical to quantum

only needs a new kinematic

- H : physical quantities *not* real number variables
- Quine : real number as ‘convenient fiction’
- D : q-number as the new convenient fiction

Dirac 1925/26 :-

— Hamiltonian formulation ; q-number

- \hat{x}^i, \hat{p}_i as canonical variables; P.B. = $\frac{1}{i\hbar}[\cdot, \cdot]$

“To distinguish the *two kinds of numbers*, we shall call the quantum variables q-numbers and the numbers of classical mathematics which satisfy the commutative law c-numbers”

“Owing to the fact that we count the time as a c-number, we are allowed to use the notion of *the value* of the dynamical variable at any instance of time. This value is a q-number, capable of being represented by a generalized ‘matrix’, . . . ”

“At present one can form no picture of what a q-number is like.”

Concept of Numbers (in history) :

- $x + 2 = 0$ \rightarrow negative numbers
- $2x - 1 = 0$ \rightarrow rational numbers
- $x^2 - 2 = 0$ \rightarrow real numbers
- $x^2 + 1 = 0$ \rightarrow complex numbers
- $xy - x - i = 0$ \rightarrow $(i, 2), (\frac{1}{i-1}, -i), \dots$
- $xy - yx - 1 = 0$ \rightarrow noncommutative numbers

★ $\hat{x}\hat{p} - \hat{p}\hat{x} - i\hbar = 0$

needs NC/q-number values for the variables

The New Convenient Fiction — q-numbers :-

- $[\beta]_\phi = \{f_\beta|_\phi, V_{\beta_n}|_\phi\}$; $f_\beta(z_n, \bar{z}_n) = \frac{\langle\phi|\beta|\phi\rangle}{\langle\phi|\phi\rangle}$, $|\phi\rangle = \sum_n z_n |n\rangle$,
 $V_{\beta_n} = \frac{\partial f_\beta}{\partial z_n} = -f_\beta \bar{z}_n + \sum_m \bar{z}_m \langle m|\beta|n\rangle$

- Kähler product : $[\beta\gamma]_\phi = [\beta]_\phi \star_\kappa [\gamma]_\phi$

Cirelli et.al 90

$$f_{\beta\gamma} = f_\beta f_\gamma + \sum_n V_{\beta_n} V_{\gamma_{\bar{n}}} , \quad V_{\beta\gamma_n} = -f_{\beta\gamma} \bar{z}_n + \sum_{m,l} \bar{z}_m \langle m|\beta|l\rangle \langle l|\gamma|n\rangle$$

- locality of quantum information from/in Heisenberg picture

Deutsch & Hayden 00

- Substituting a **Qubit** for an Arbitrarily Large Number of Classical Bits'
- f_β Kählerian – Hamiltonian flows as isometries

Galvão & Hardy 03

The Symplectic Geometry — NC Vs C :-

- Heisenberg — $\frac{d}{ds}\alpha(\hat{P}_\mu, \hat{X}_\mu) = \frac{1}{i\hbar}[\alpha(\hat{P}_\mu, \hat{X}_\mu), \hat{H}_s]$
- Schrödinger — $\frac{d}{ds}f_\alpha(z^n, \bar{z}^n) = \{f_\alpha(z^n), f_{H_s}\}$
- $f_\alpha(z^n, \bar{z}^n) \equiv \frac{n\langle\phi|\alpha(\hat{P}_\mu, \hat{X}_\mu)|\phi\rangle}{n\langle\phi|\phi\rangle} \quad \left(|\phi\rangle = \sum_n z^n |n\rangle \right)$
 - as the pull-back of $\hat{\alpha}$ under $(z^n, \bar{z}^n) \longrightarrow (\hat{P}_\mu, \hat{X}_\mu)$
- → bijective homomorphism between NC Poisson algebras
 - NC Kähler product $f_\alpha \star_\kappa f_{\alpha'} = f_{\alpha\alpha'}$

Cirelli et.al 90

Schrödinger Vs Heisenberg – coordinate transformation :-

- coordinate map: $\hat{f} : (q_n, s_n) \longrightarrow (f_{\hat{x}_i}, f_{\hat{p}_i}) \rightarrow (\hat{x}_i, \hat{p}_i)$

- intuitively : \hat{x}_i, \hat{p}_i as coordinates of quantum phase space

- **noncommutative differential symplectic geometry :**

$$f_\beta, df_\beta = f_{d\beta}, d\beta, \mathcal{X}_\beta = \frac{1}{i\hbar}[\cdot, \beta], \dots \text{ as pull-backs}$$

$$\frac{d \cdot}{dt} \rightarrow d \cdot \quad (\langle \delta\phi | \beta | \phi \rangle + \langle \phi | \beta | \delta\phi \rangle) = \langle \phi | d\beta | \phi \rangle$$

$$|\delta\phi\rangle = dz_n |n\rangle \text{ with constant } \langle \phi | \phi \rangle$$

$$d\beta = (d\hat{x}^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{x}^i} + d\hat{p}^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{p}^i})\beta = [D, \beta], \quad d\eta = D\eta - (-1)^k \eta D,$$

$$d^2 = 0, \quad \beta^\dagger = \bar{\beta}, \quad (d\eta)^\dagger = (-1)^k d(\eta^\dagger), \quad (\eta\eta')^\dagger = \bar{\eta}'\bar{\eta}$$

Quantum Physics is simply
a **q-number version** of classical physics
about the q-number reality

Quantum geometry is then
q-number geometry
— *a true geometric picture of NCG*

Reference Frame Transformations :-

- \longleftrightarrow **Relativity Symmetry**
 - spacetime symmetry/reference frame
- physical/quantum frame Vs absolute/classical frame
 - relative ‘uncertainty’ / entanglement
- example of quantum spatial translation
$$\hat{x}_B^{(A)} \longrightarrow -\hat{x}_A^{(B)}, \quad \hat{x}_C^{(A)} \longrightarrow \hat{x}_C^{(B)} - \hat{x}_A^{(B)},$$
$$\hat{p}_B^{(A)} \longrightarrow -(\hat{p}_A^{(B)} + \hat{p}_C^{(B)}), \quad \hat{p}_C^{(A)} \longrightarrow \hat{p}_C^{(B)}.$$
- quantum model of space(time) — the phase space

Unitary Q Spatial Translation :-

— generated by \hat{p}_C

- $e^{ix_B \hat{p}_C} \rightarrow e^{i\hat{x}_B^{(A)} \hat{p}_C^{(A)}} \rightarrow \hat{S}_x = \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{AB} e^{i\hat{x}_B^{(A)} \hat{p}_C^{(A)}}$ Giacomini et.al. 19
 — $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{AB} : |x\rangle_B \otimes |y\rangle_C \rightarrow |-x\rangle_A \otimes |y\rangle_C , \quad \hat{x}_B^{(A)} \rightarrow -\hat{x}_A^{(B)}$
 $\mathcal{H}_B^{(A)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_C^{(A)} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_A^{(B)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_C^{(B)}$
- but $\hat{x}_B^{(A)}$ generates $\hat{p}_B^{(A)}$ momentum translation
- Schrödinger picture : on $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B \otimes \mathcal{H}_C$

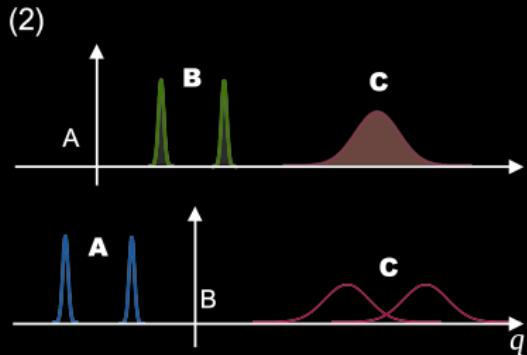
$$\hat{U}_x = \hat{\mathcal{S}}_{AB}^W \hat{I}_A \otimes \int dx' dy' |-x'\rangle \langle x'|_B \otimes |y' - x'\rangle \langle y'|_C$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}}_{AB}^W : |z\rangle_A \otimes |x\rangle_B \otimes |y\rangle_C \rightarrow |x\rangle_A \otimes |z\rangle_B \otimes |y\rangle_C$$

$$for \quad |\psi\rangle = |\emptyset\rangle_A \otimes \int dx dy \psi(x, y) |x\rangle_B \otimes |y\rangle_C$$

$$\hat{U}_x |\psi\rangle = \int dx dy \psi(x, y + x) |-x\rangle_A \otimes |\emptyset\rangle_B \otimes |y\rangle_C$$

The 4 scenarios: Case 2



$$\begin{aligned}
 & |\emptyset\rangle_A \otimes \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|x_1\rangle + |x_2\rangle)_B \otimes \int dy \psi(y) |y\rangle_C \\
 \longrightarrow & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|-x_1\rangle_A \otimes |\emptyset\rangle_B \otimes \int dy \psi(y) |y - x_1\rangle_C \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + |-x_2\rangle_A \otimes |\emptyset\rangle_B \otimes \int dy \psi(y) |y - x_2\rangle_C \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Distance Translated (A -frame to B -frame) ?

an Noncommutative Value :-

- classical $e^{i\mathbf{x}_B \hat{\mathbf{p}}_C}$: translation by \mathbf{x}_B
 - say $x_B^i = 2$, $x_C^f = x_C^i - 2$, $x_A^f = -2$
- quantum : $[\hat{x}_B]_\phi^i$ as the value
 - $[\hat{x}_C]_{\phi'}^f = [\hat{x}_C]_\phi^i - [\hat{x}_B]_\phi^i$, $[\hat{x}_A]_{\phi'}^f = -[\hat{x}_B]_\phi^i$
 - $[\hat{x}_B]_\phi^i$ contains full quantum information of position
- evaluation $\hat{\mathcal{O}} \rightarrow [\hat{\mathcal{O}}]_\phi$: *algebraic homomorphism*

Quantum Relativity Principle :-

- Penrose : Relativity Principle $\rightarrow \otimes$ Quantum
- Heisenberg picture – \hat{x} and \hat{p} as coordinates
 - Noncommutative Geometry for Spacetime
- Rel. Sym. \leftarrow Quantum Ref. Frame Transformations
 - e.g. translation by the NC value of $\hat{x}_A - \hat{x}_B$ (ans. Penrose)
- Quantum Gravity as General Quantum Relativity

Lorentz Covariant Quantum Physics :-

- Schrödinger wavefunction $\phi(x^\mu)$
 - basic operators x_μ and $-i\hbar\partial_\mu$
- abstract operators as Minkowski four-vectors
 - $\hat{X}_i \longrightarrow \hat{X}_\mu$ and $\hat{P}_i \longrightarrow \hat{P}_\mu$
 - $[\hat{X}_\mu, \hat{P}_\nu] = i\hbar\eta_{\mu\nu}$
- Heisenberg-Weyl symmetry — $[Y_\mu, E_\nu] = i\hbar c \eta_{\mu\nu} M$
 - M is an effective Casimir element \rightarrow Newtonian mass m
 - $m \hat{X}_\mu \longleftarrow Y_\mu$, different m for different irr. representations
 - $\hat{P}_\mu \longleftarrow \frac{1}{c} E_\mu$, constant c (... $c \rightarrow \infty$ limit)

Minkowski Metric Operator $\hat{\eta}$ on Krein Space :-

- Minkowski nature of proper invariant **inner product**
 - effectively, bra as $\eta\langle \cdot | = \langle \cdot | \hat{\eta}$
 - naive $|\phi(x^\mu)|^2$ integral cannot avoid **divergence**
- **observables** (pseudo-)Hermitian, $\eta\langle \cdot | \hat{A}^{\dagger\eta} \cdot \rangle = \eta\langle \hat{A} \cdot | \cdot \rangle$
 - $\hat{X}_\mu = \hat{\eta}\hat{X}^\mu\hat{\eta}^{-1}$ and $\hat{P}_\mu = \hat{\eta}\hat{P}^\mu\hat{\eta}^{-1}$
- **noncommutative geometric picture**
 - \hat{X}^μ and \hat{P}^μ as coordinates

Towards Gravity : on a particle -

- quantum geodesic equation (Heisenberg)
 - *e.g.* instantaneous frame of free-fall

$$\frac{d^2\hat{x}^\mu}{ds^2} + \frac{d\hat{x}^\nu}{ds}\Gamma_{\nu\sigma}^\mu(\hat{x})\frac{d\hat{x}^\sigma}{ds} = 0$$

→ maintaining (Weak) Equivalence Principle

- $\{\hat{x}^a, \hat{p}_b\} = \delta_b^a, \quad \{\hat{x}^a, \hat{x}^b\} = 0 = \{\hat{p}_a, \hat{p}_b\}$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{x}^a} \equiv \{\cdot, \hat{p}_a\}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{p}_a} \equiv -\{\cdot, \hat{x}^a\}$$

Goedesic from Free Particle Motion:-

- all positions coordinates Hermitian
- $\hat{H}_{\text{free}} = \frac{1}{2m} \hat{p}_A g^{Ab}(\hat{x}) \hat{p}_b$, $\hat{p}^b = \hat{p}_A g^{Ab}(\hat{x})$
 - four vectors : $\hat{V}'^a = \hat{V}^i \frac{\partial \hat{x}'^a}{\partial \hat{x}^i}$, $\hat{W}'_a = \frac{\partial \hat{x}^i}{\partial \hat{x}'^a} \hat{W}_i$,
 $\hat{V}'^A \equiv \hat{V}'^a \dagger = \left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}'^a}{\partial \hat{x}^i} \right)^\dagger \hat{V}^i \dagger \equiv \left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}^A}{\partial \hat{x}'^I} \right) \hat{V}^I$, $\hat{W}'_A = \hat{W}_I \left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}^I}{\partial \hat{x}'^A} \right)$.
 - Schrödinger representation fails
- \hat{x}^a and \hat{p}^a as \hat{g} -Hermitian within the ref. frame
- Hamilton's Eqs. → mass-indep. E.O.M.

...

- $\hat{p}^a = m \frac{d\hat{x}^a}{ds}$ (not $\hat{p}_b = \hat{g}_{bA} \hat{p}^B$) **$g(\hat{x})$ -Hermitian**
- **Quantum Geodesic Equation :** $\frac{d^2 \hat{x}^i}{ds^2} =$
$$\frac{d\hat{x}^h}{ds} \frac{\partial_J \hat{g}_{hK}}{2} \frac{d\hat{x}^K}{ds} \hat{g}^{Ji} - \frac{d\hat{x}^h}{ds} \frac{\partial_K \hat{g}_{hJ}}{2} \hat{g}^{Ji} \frac{d\hat{x}^K}{ds} - \frac{d\hat{x}^k}{ds} \hat{g}_{kM} \frac{d\hat{x}^h}{ds} \hat{g}^{Ml} \frac{\partial_h \hat{g}_{lJ}}{2} \hat{g}^{Ji}$$
 - s a real number Hamiltonian evolution parameter
 - proper time a quantum observable
- a quantum \hat{s} ? $- d\hat{s}^2 = d\hat{x}^b \hat{g}_{bA} d\hat{x}^A$
 - notion of q-number length in NCG (integral)
- Note : $d(\hat{H}\hat{K}) = d\hat{x}^a \frac{\partial \hat{H}\hat{K}}{\partial \hat{x}^a} = d\hat{x}^a \frac{\partial \hat{H}}{\partial \hat{x}^a} \hat{K} + \hat{H} d\hat{x}^a \frac{\partial \hat{K}}{\partial \hat{x}^a}$
 - $d = (d\hat{x}^a \partial_a) \neq d\hat{x}^a \partial_a$ (or $2d = [d\hat{x}^a \partial_a] + [\partial_A(\cdot) d\hat{x}^A]$)

(Naive) Quantum Einstein Equation :-

$$\hat{G}_{aB} + \Lambda \hat{g}_{aB} = \kappa \hat{T}_{aB}$$

- Hermitian components of the geometric tensors

$$\hat{G}_{ab} = \hat{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\hat{R}\hat{g}_{ab}$$

- more intriguing : $\hat{\Lambda}$
- Schwarzschild solution, with plausibly \hat{M}

Future ($H \& D \rightarrow \dots$) :-

- **q-number physics** – Q gravity as GQR
more NC physics : $[\hat{x}^i, \hat{x}^j] \neq 0$?
- **q-number geometry** – NC Geo. as symplectic coordinate picture : ‘Euclidean NC Geo.’
- **q-number theory** – algebra beyond algebra
- **q-number technology** – q-information

Quine: To be is to be the (q-number) value of a (physical) variable.

- C^*/\ast -algebra as observable algebra
 - (Hilbert) space as NC symplectic geometry
 - local NC canonical coordinates
 - : Gel'fand-Kirillov dimension
- Lie symmetry (*cf.* Heisenberg-Weyl)
 - group C^* -algebra / universal enveloping algebra (*cf.* Weyl)
- extended to q-number bimodule
 - Hilbert's Nullstellensatz
 - Lie skew field : Gel'fand-Kirillov conjecture

THANK YOU !