

# Topological Phases within CFT Interfaces

Im Memory of Krzysztof Gawedzki

Volker Schomerus, Eurostrings 2022, Lyon, 28. April 2022



**Krzysztof Gawedzki**

2. July 1947 – 21. January 2022

# Krzysztof Gawedzki

2. July 1947 (Zarki, Poland) – 21. January 2022 (Lyon, France)



- 1971 PhD in Warsaw, Poland
- 1975-76 Univ. Göttingen
- 1978-79 Univ. Gdansk
- 1979-80 Harvard Univ.
- 1982-2000 CNRS Researcher  
at IHES Bures-sur-Yvette
- 2001-2014 at ENS Lyon

# Krzysztof Gawedzki

## Selected Contributions

### Early contributions in

- Constructive Quantum Field Theory

### Iconic series of papers on

- WZW coset Conformal Field Theory
- Boundaries and defects in 2D CFT,  
*in particular for WZW cosets*
- Non-abelian bundle gerbes  
*& relation with topological insulators*
- Topological Chern-Simons theory
- Turbulence
  - 
  - 
  -

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Communications in  
**Mathematical  
Physics**  
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### Massless Lattice $\phi_4^4$ Theory: Rigorous Control of a Renormalizable Asymptotically Free Model

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Nuclear Physics B320 (1989) 625–668  
North-Holland, Amsterdam

### COSET CONSTRUCTION FROM FUNCTIONAL INTEGRALS

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Received 26 September 1988

A detailed study of the gauged Wess–Zumino–Witten models is presented. These models are shown to be conformal field theories realizing the Goddard–Kent–Olive coset construction. Partition functions are computed for an arbitrary group  $G$  with a subgroup  $H$  gauged. Correlation functions are shown to be computable in terms of WZW ones. Explicit cases of the minimal models and parafermionic theories are worked out.

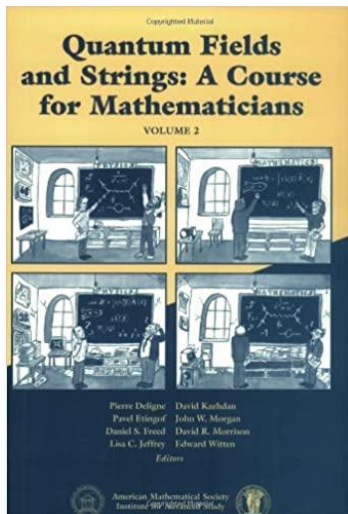
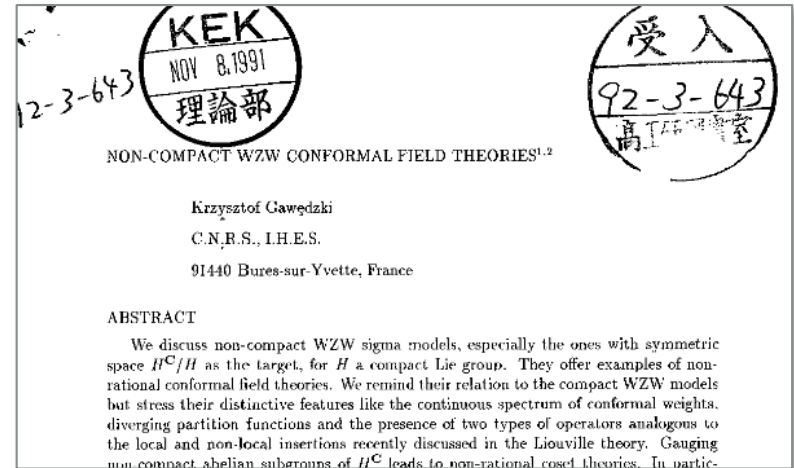
# Krzysztof Gawedzki

## Selected Contributions

Pioneering work on  
irrational CFT w. current algebra

symmetry

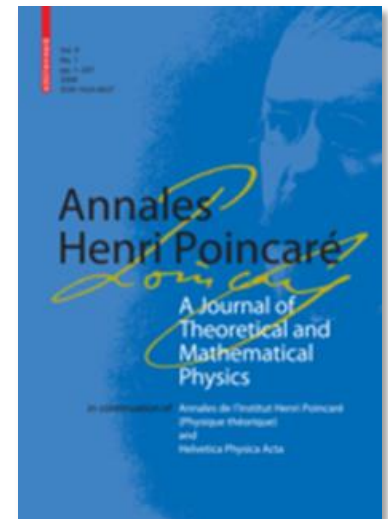
Strings in  $AdS_3$  with  
pure NSNS flux



Unique teacher

&

Perfect editor-in-chief  
of *Annales Henri Poincaré*





On Nov 24 2021 the AIP & APS announced that  
**2022 Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics**

*is awarded to*

**Krzysztof Gawedzki and Antti Kupianen**

*for “fundamental contributions to quantum field theory, statistical mechanics, and fluid dynamics using geometric, probabilistic, and renormalization group ideas.”*



# **Topological Phases within CFT Interfaces**

# Interfaces in Conformal Field Theory

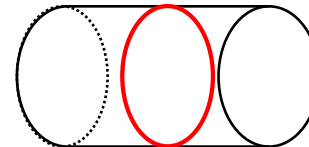
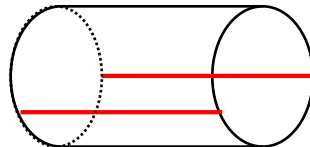
Interfaces (and boundaries) in CFT have fascinating features:

- Significant freedom even for fixed bulk
- Host a lot of information about the bulk

## Illustration in 2D:

- Even in rational 2D CFT moduli space of boundary conditions often continuous (e.g. in WZW models) **D-brane moduli**
- Through modular bootstrap one can recover bulk from boundary

**open string  
spectrum**



**closed string  
couplings**



# Half-BPS interface of 4D $N=4$ SYM

A host for supergroup Chern-Simons theory

Half-BPS boundaries in  $N = 4$  in 4D  $SU(N)$  SYM theory are consistent with  
Kapustin-Witten topological twist  $\rightarrow$   $SU(N)$  Chern-Simons theory [Witten]

$\rightarrow$  S,T duality provide new insight into Chern-Simons theory

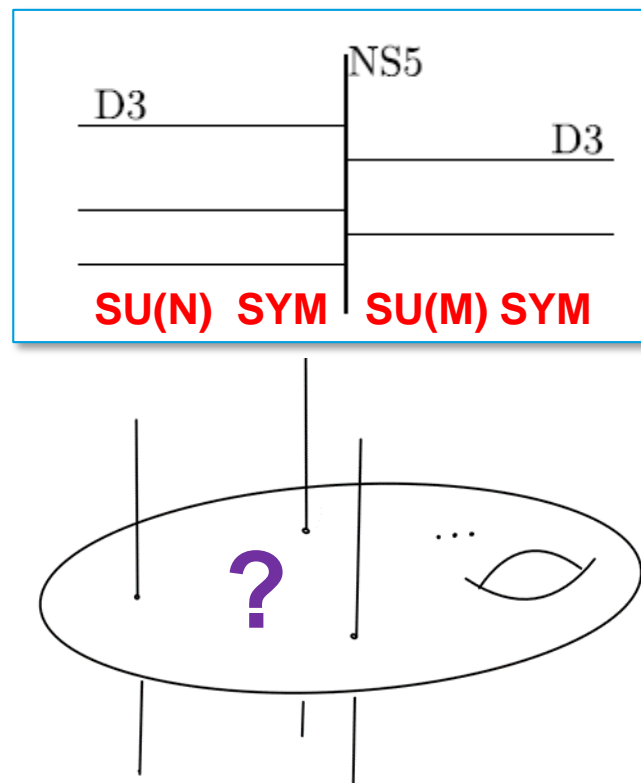
Half-BPS (Janus) interface between  
4D  $N=4$  SYM with  $G = SU(N), SU(M)$   
hosts  $SU(N|M)$  Chern-Simons theory.

[Gaiotto, Witten]

[Kapustin, Witten]

Supergroup CS theory  
is poorly understood.

[Rozansky, Saleur] ... [Mikhaylov]



# Quantum Holonomy

The Weyl Algebra of Quantum CS Theory

# Chern–Simons Holonomies

## Classical description

Chern-Simons gauge field  $A_\mu^a(x)$  equipped with the Atiyah-Bott PB:

$$\{A_\mu^a(x), A_\nu^b(y)\} \sim \frac{1}{k} \delta^{ab} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \delta(x-y) \quad A \mapsto g^{-1} A g + g^{-1} dg$$

$$\{A_\mu^1(x), A_\nu^2(y)\} \sim \frac{1}{k} \kappa^{12} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \delta(x-y)$$

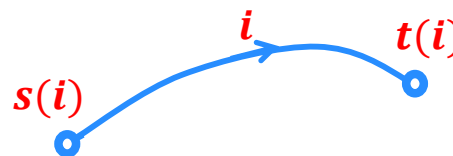
Gauge invariant observables built from holonomies along paths  $i$  :

$$U(i) = P \exp\left(\int_{s(i)}^{t(i)} A\right) \quad U \mapsto g^{-1}(s(i)) U(i) g(t(i))$$

Poisson bracket takes the form

$$\{U^1, U^2\} = \frac{1}{k} (r_-^{12} U^1 U^2 + U^1 U^2 r_+^{12})$$

$$[r^{12}, r^{23}] + [r^{12}, r^{13}] + [r^{13}, r^{23}] = 0$$



$$r_\pm = \sum_{i \text{ simple}} h^i \otimes h^i + 2 \sum_{\alpha \text{ pos}} t^{\pm\alpha} \otimes t^{\mp\alpha}$$

# Chern–Simons Holonomies

## Quantization

Suppose we have a solutions  $R_{\pm}$  of quantum Yang-Baxter equation s.t.

$$R_{\pm} = 1 + \frac{1}{k} r_{\pm} + \dots$$

→ quantization of holonomy along open curve gives rise to link algebra

**Definition:** [Alekseev, Grosse, VS] The link algebra is generated by matrix elements of  $U$  satisfying quadratic relations

$$R_-^{12} U^1 U^2 = U^2 U^1 R_+^{12}$$

- $R_{\pm}$  can be constructed for all simple Lie superalgebras  $g$  from the generators of the quantum deformed enveloping algebra  $\mathcal{G} = U_q(g)$
- Link algebra admits two (graded) commuting actions of  $\mathcal{G}$

quantization gauge trafo in  $s$  and  $t$

# Quantum Holonomies

Example:  $GL(1|1)$

$$q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}}$$

$$\mathcal{G} = U_q( gl(1/1) )$$

$k_\alpha, k_\beta, e_\pm$   
 bosonic  $\uparrow$   
 fermionic

$$\begin{aligned} [k_\alpha, k_\beta] &= 0 & k_\alpha^p &= k_\beta^p = 1 \\ [k_\alpha, e_\pm] &= 0 & k_\beta e_\pm &= q^{\pm 1} e_\pm k_\beta \\ \{e_\pm, e_\pm\} &= 0 & \{e_+, e_-\} &= \frac{k_\alpha - k_\alpha^{-1}}{q - q^{-1}} \end{aligned}$$

$$R = \frac{1}{p^2} (1 \otimes 1 - (q - q^{-1}) e_+ \otimes e_-) \sum_{n,m=0}^{p-1} \sum_{s,t=0}^{p-1} q^{nt+ms} k_\alpha^n k_\beta^m \otimes k_\alpha^{-s} k_\beta^{-t}$$

Link algebra  $\mathcal{U}$  is  
 a q-deformation of

$$\mathcal{F}un( GL(1/1) )$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_\alpha \ell_\beta &= \ell_\beta \ell_\alpha & \ell_\alpha^p &= 0 = \ell_\beta^p \\ \ell_\alpha \xi_\pm &= \xi_\pm \ell_\alpha & \ell_\beta \xi_\pm &= q^{\mp 1} \xi_\pm \ell_\beta \\ \{\xi_\pm, \xi_\pm\} &= 0 & \{\xi_+, \xi_-\} &= q - q^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

# Quantum Holonomies

## Realization on Kitaev Spin DOF

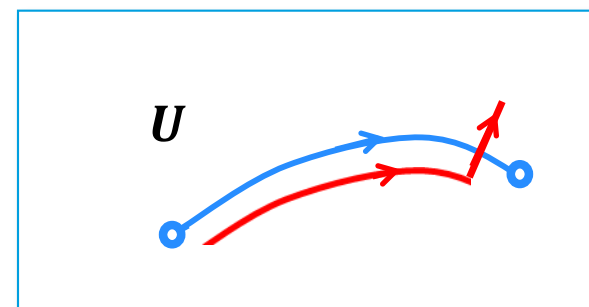
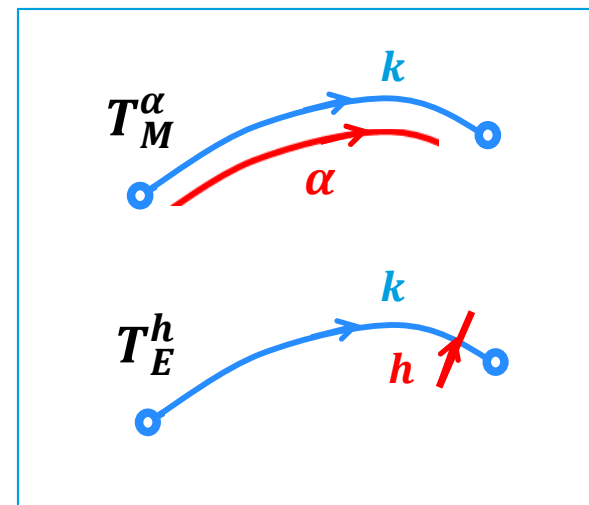
Suppose that  $\mathcal{G} = D(\mathcal{H})$  is Drinfel'd double of some Hopf algebra  $\mathcal{H}$   $\mathcal{G} \sim \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}^*$

Kitaev's triangle operators  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$

$$T_E^h k = h k \quad h \in \mathcal{H} \quad \text{``electric''}$$

$$T_M^\alpha k = \langle \alpha, k_2 \rangle k_1 \quad \alpha \in \mathcal{H}^* \quad \text{``magnetic''}$$

**Theorem:** [Meusburger]  $U \sim T_E T_M : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$   
 behaves like quantum holonomy for algebra  $\mathcal{G} = D(\mathcal{H})$  of gauge trasos given by DrinfeldD





# Super-Chern-Simons

## Observables & States

# Quantum Group Lattice Gauge Theory

## The Combinatorial Quantization Approach

[Fock, Rosly]  
[Alekseev, Grosse, VS]

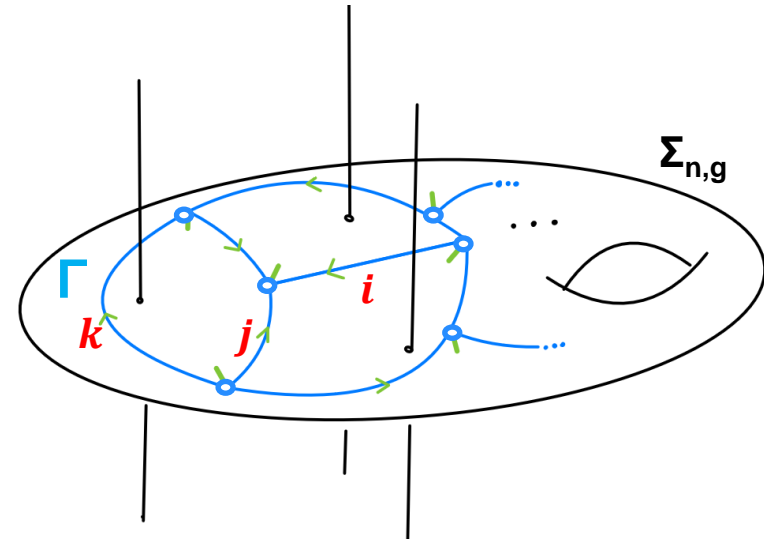
Draw graph  $\Gamma$  on the surface  $\Sigma_{n,g}$   
& glue link algebras accordingly:

choose cilia, orient links

$$U^1(i)U^2(j) = U^2(j)U^1(i) R^{12}$$

$$U^1(i)U^2(k) = U^2(k)U^1(i) \quad \partial i \cap \partial k = \emptyset$$

$$U(j)U(-j) = v \quad \text{ribbon element}$$



- Defines graph algebra  $\mathcal{F}(\Gamma_{cil})$   $\rightarrow$  Factorization algebras
- Consistent with local deformed gauge symmetry at the vertices
- Chern-Simons observables: algebra  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma_{n,g})$  of gauge invariants

# Kitaev Models

A special case of combinatorial CS theory

If  $\mathcal{G} = D(\mathcal{H})$  Drinfeld double there exists a  $\mathcal{H}$ -spin model realization:

$$U(i): \mathcal{H}^{\otimes E} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^{\otimes E} \quad E = \# \text{ of edges}$$

Kitaev's time evolution operator

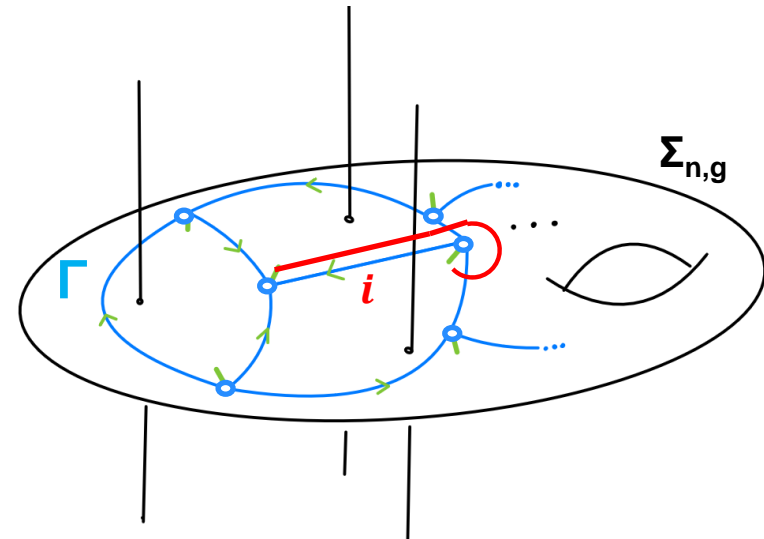
$$U_K \sim \prod_{x \in V} A_x^m \circ \prod_{p \in P} B_p^\eta$$

constructed from

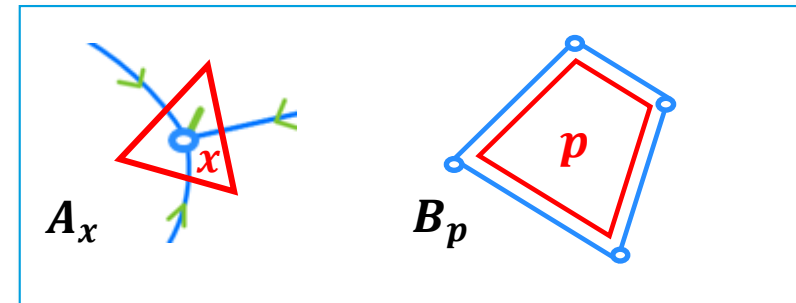
Vertex operators  $A_x = \prod_{t(j)=x} T_{E,j}$

Face operators  $B_p = \prod_{j \in \partial p} T_{M,j}$

[Kitaev] [Levin, Wen]



$\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}(\mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow$  Kitaev's toric code



# Chern-Simons Observables & Ground States

## General construction

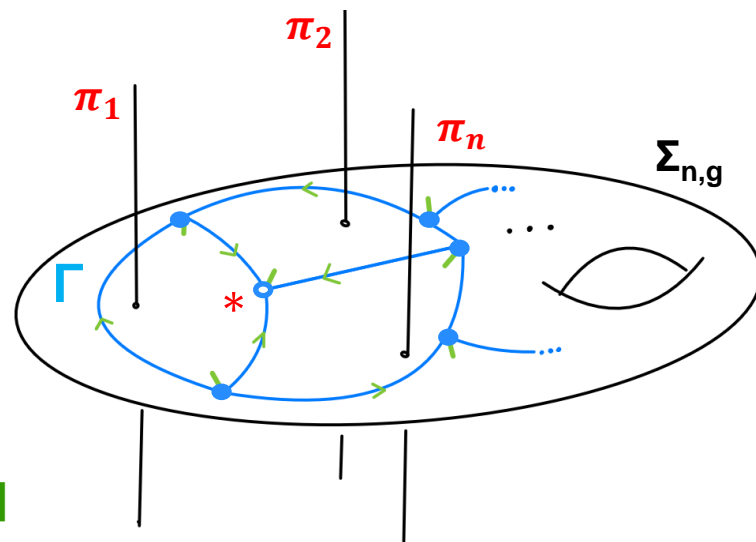
Pick irrep  $\pi_a$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  for each vertical WL and introduce the space

$$V^{\pi_a, g} := V^{\pi_1} \otimes V^{\pi_2} \dots \otimes V^{\pi_n} \otimes \mathcal{G}^{\otimes g}$$

**Theorem:** [Aghaei, Gainutdinov, Pawelkiewicz, VS]

One can define an action Chern-Simons observables  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma_{n,g})$  on the space  $V^{\pi_a, g}$  that centralizes the canonical action of  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_*$ .  $\leftrightarrow$  like  $SU(N)$  and permutation group

- Provides complete control of representation theory of CS observables as intricate as representation theory of  $\mathcal{G}$
- Algebra  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma_{n,g})$  of observables contains Dehn twist generators of the mapping class group  $\rightarrow$  reps of  $MCG/\sim$  “quantum gates”



# Chern-Simons Observables & Ground States

Example:  $GL(1|1)$  Chern-Simons Theory in a torus

Space  $W^{g=1}$  of ground states given by  $\mathcal{Q}$  invariants within  $V^{g=1} = \mathcal{Q}$

$$\dim W^{g=1} = p^2 + 1$$

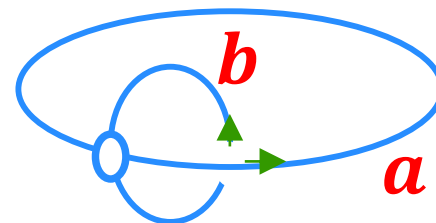
$$\mathcal{Q} \cong (p^2 - 1) P_0 \oplus 2 \pi_0 \oplus \pi_1 \oplus \pi_{-1}$$

Carries  $(p^2+1)$  –dim. projective representation of modular group  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$

$$S = \hat{v}(b) \hat{v}(a) \hat{v}(b)$$

$$T = \hat{v}(a)^{-1}$$

↑ ↑  
generators of Dehn twists along a,b cycles



$$Sw_{e,n} = \frac{i}{p} \sum_{\substack{s,t=0 \\ s \neq 0}}^{p-1} q^{-2s(n-\frac{1}{2})-2e(t-\frac{1}{2})} w_{s,t} - \frac{i}{p} (q^e - q^{-e}) \sum_{t=0}^{p-1} q^{-2et} w_t$$

$$Sw_n = \frac{i}{p(q - q^{-1})} \sum_{\substack{s,t=0 \\ s \neq 0}}^{p-1} \frac{q^{-2ns}}{[s]_q} w_{s,t} - \frac{i}{2p(q - q^{-1})} w$$

$$Sw = 2i(q - q^{-1}) \sum_{t=0}^{p-1} w_t \quad W^{g=1} = \text{span} \{w_{e,n}, w_n, w\}_{e=1, n=0}^{p-1, p-1}$$

[Aghaei, Gainutdinov,  
Pawelkiewicz, VS]

↔ [Lyubashenko, Majid]

... [Mikhaylov] for  $gl(1|1)$

# Conclusions and Outlook

Efficient algebraic algorithm to determine the space of ground states along w. representations of MCG for supergroup Chern-Simons theory

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathfrak{gl}(1|1) \rightarrow \mathfrak{sl}(1|2), \mathfrak{psl}(2|2) ?$$

Applications include calculation of topological invariants for knots and 3-manifolds

From MCG reps using Heegaard representation  
& Dehn surgery

Extension of Kitaev/Levin-Wen string-net models to graded spin DOF  $\mathcal{H}$

