

# Quantum walks on Cayley graphs: theoretical physics and geometric group theory

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Università degli Studi di Pavia

*Topological and Homological Methods in Group Theory*  
Faculty of Mathematics, Bielefeld, April 4-8, 2016

# Geometric group theory: *summa theologica*

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*Goal of GGT is to study finitely-generated (f.g.) groups  $G$  as automorphism groups (symmetry groups) of physical theory.*

*Central question:* *How algebraic properties of a group  $G$  reflect in dynamical properties of a physical theory and, conversely, how dynamics of a physical theory reflects in algebraic structure of  $G$ .*

*This interaction between groups and physics theory is a fruitful 2-way road.*

From *Lectures on quasi-isometric rigidity*,  
by Michael Kapovich

# Program

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To derive the whole Physics axiomatically

from “principles” stated in form of purely mathematical axioms (without “physical primitives”), but having a thorough physical interpretation.

Solution: informationalism

# The sixth Hilbert problem

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*The investigations on the foundations of geometry suggest the problem: To treat in the same manner by means of axioms, those physical sciences in which mathematics plays an important part; in the first rank are the theory of probabilities and mechanics.*

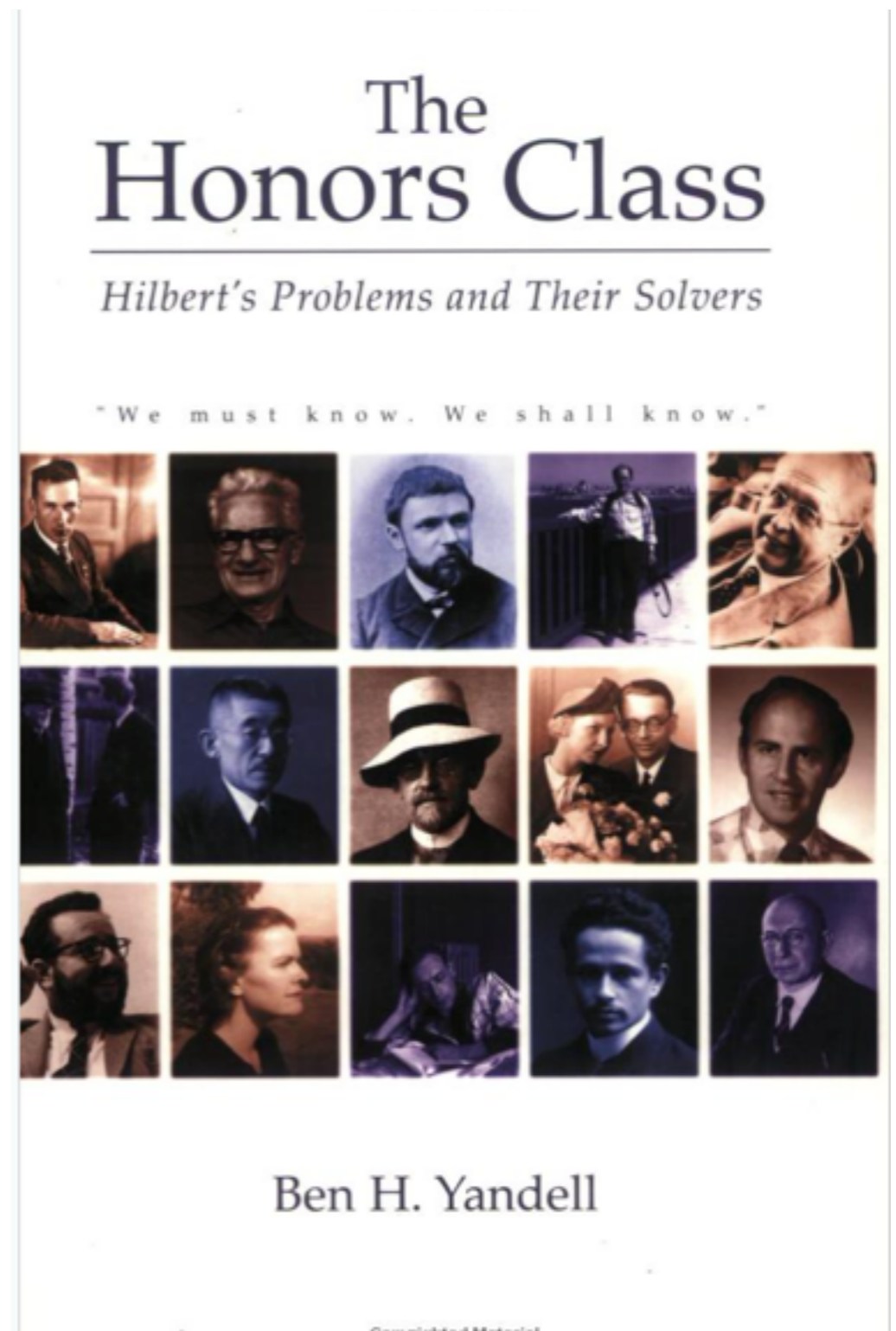
David Hilbert



# Mechanics: the Trojan horse

*Axiomatizing the theory of probabilities was a realistic goal: Kolmogorov accomplished this in 1933. The word 'mechanics' without a qualifier, however, is a Trojan horse."*

Benjamin Yandell



# Principles for Quantum Theory



Selected for a [Viewpoint](#) in *Physics*  
PHYSICAL REVIEW A **84**, 012311 (2011)

## Informational derivation of quantum theory

Giulio Chiribella\*



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Giacomo Mauro D'Ariano‡ and Paolo Perinotti§

*QUIT Group, Dipartimento di Fisica "A. Volta" and INFN Sezione di Pavia, via Bassi 6, I-27100 Pavia, Italy||*  
(Received 29 November 2010; published 11 July 2011)

We derive quantum theory from purely informational principles. Five elementary axioms—causality, perfect distinguishability, ideal compression, local distinguishability, and pure conditioning—define a broad class of theories of information processing that can be regarded as standard. One postulate—purification—singles out quantum theory within this class.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevA.84.012311](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.84.012311)

PACS number(s): 03.67.Ac, 03.65.Ta

## Principles for Quantum Theory

P1. Causality

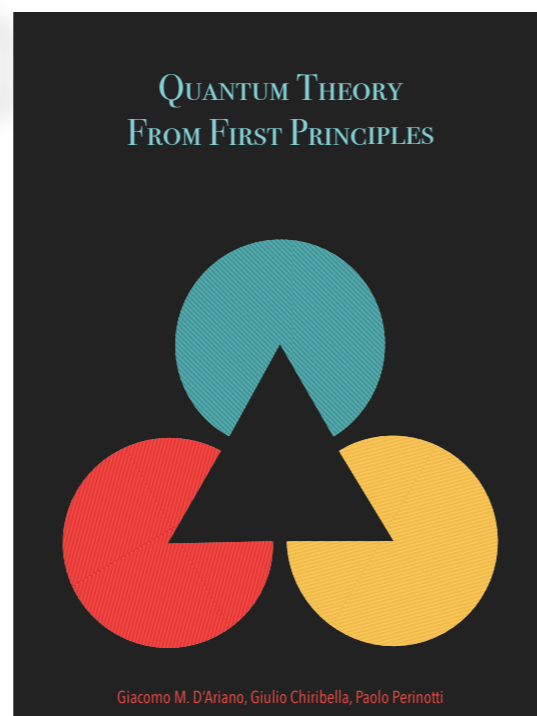
P2. Local discriminability

P3. Purification

P4. Atomicity of composition

P5. Perfect distinguishability

P6. Lossless Compressibility



## Principles for Mechanics



Paolo Perinotti



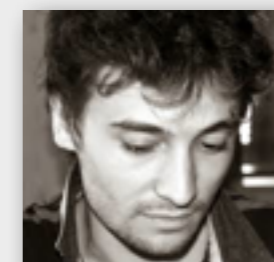
Alessandro Bisio



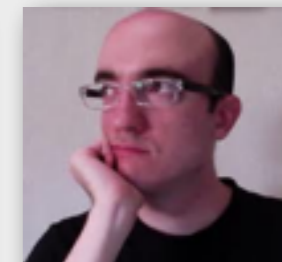
Alessandro Tosini



Marco Erba



Franco Manessi



Nicola Mosco

- *Mechanics (QFT) derived in terms of countably many quantum systems in interaction*

add principles

Min algorithmic complexity principle

- homogeneity
- locality
- isotropy

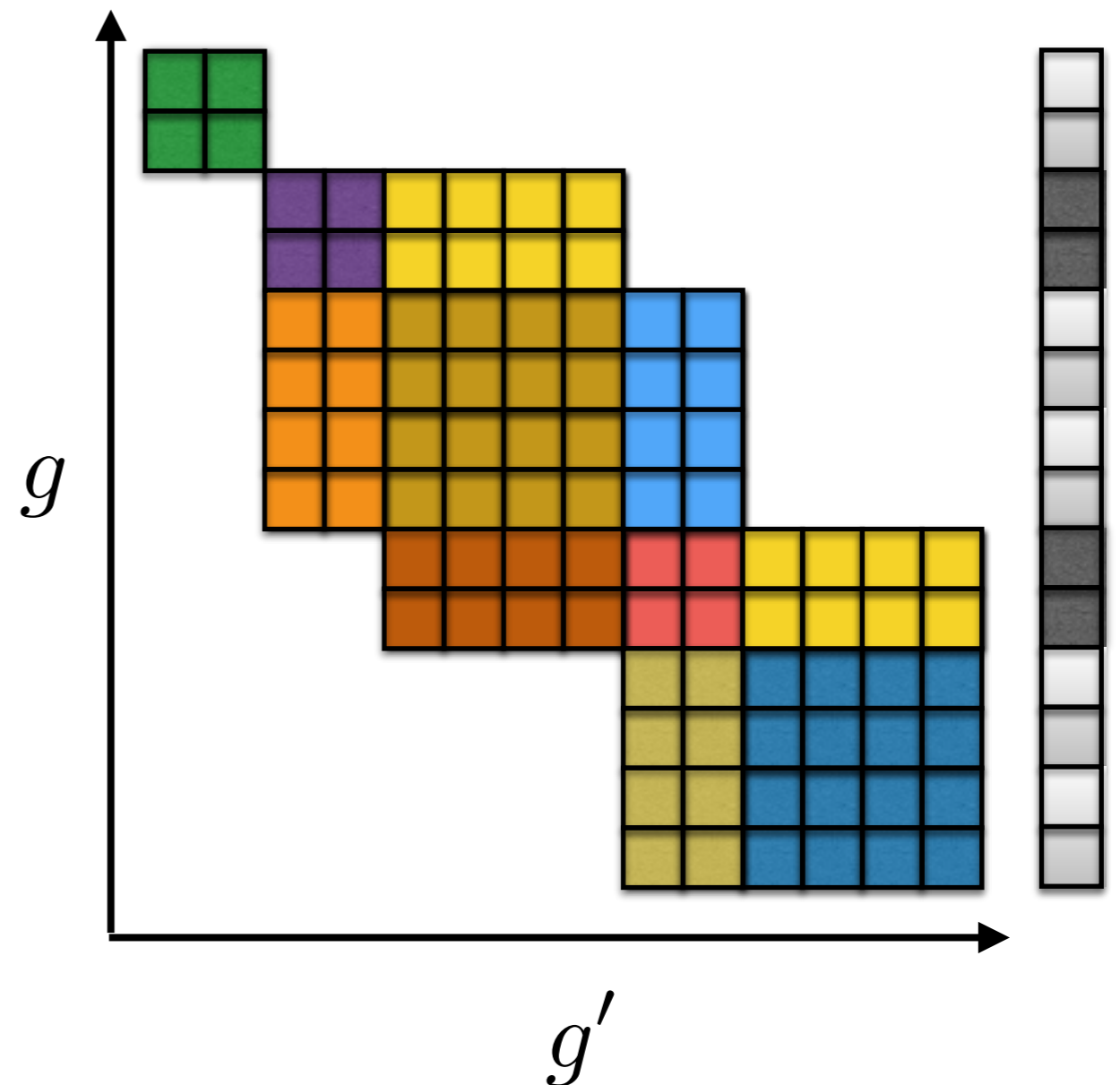
# Quantum walk on Cayley graph

w.l.g. Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{g \in G} \mathbb{C}^{s_g}$   $|G| \leq \mathcal{N}$ ,  $s_g \in \mathbb{N}$

Evolution

$$\psi_g(t+1) = \sum_{g' \in S_g} A_{gg'} \psi_{g'}(t)$$

$$\sum_{g'} A_{gg'} A_{g''g'}^\dagger = \sum_{g'} A_{gg'}^\dagger A_{g''g'} = \delta_{gg''} I_{s_g}$$



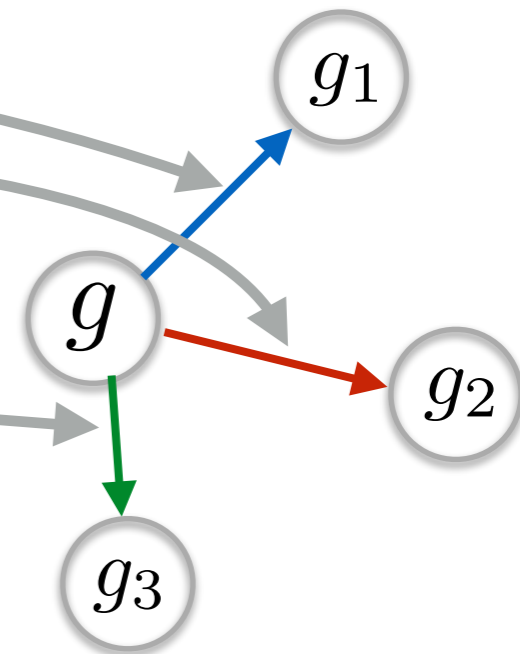
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Build a directed graph with an arrow from  $g$  to  $g'$  wherever they are connected by  $A_{gg'} \neq 0$



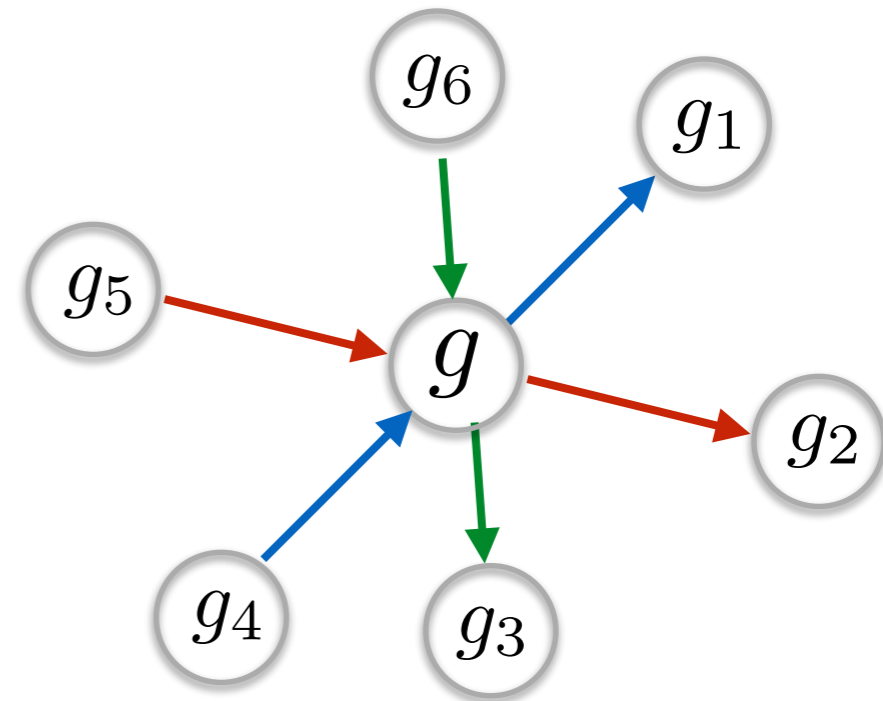
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- 1) Locality:  $S_g$  uniformly bounded
- 2) Reciprocity:  $A_{gg'} \neq 0 \implies A_{g'g} \neq 0$
- 3) Homogeneity: all  $g \in G$  are “equivalent”

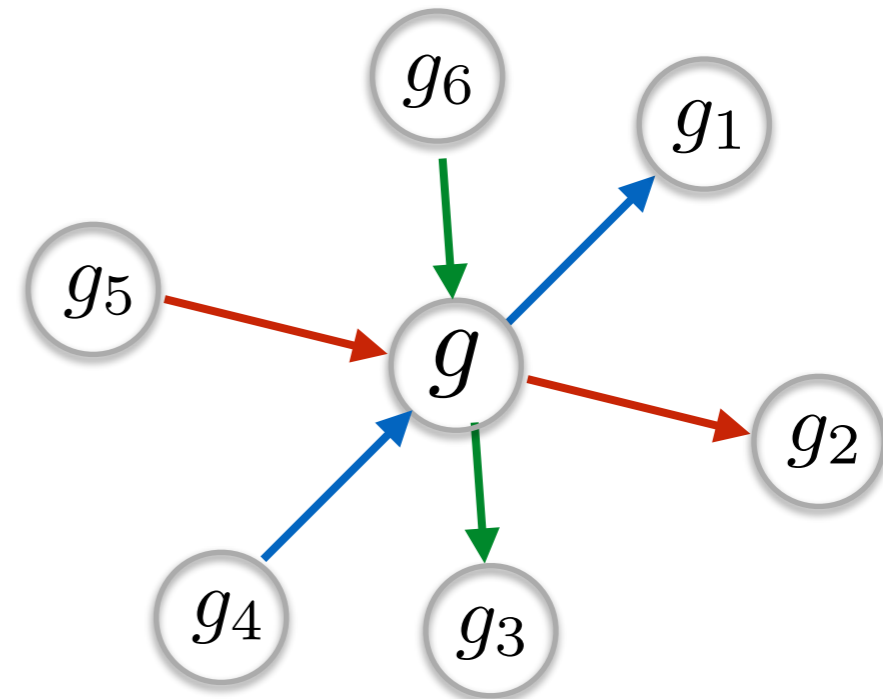
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$S_g = S, s_g = s \dots$  label  $A_{gg'} =: A_h, h \in S$

define the “action” on the set of vertices  $G$ :  $gh := g'$  whenever  $A_{gg'} = A_h$

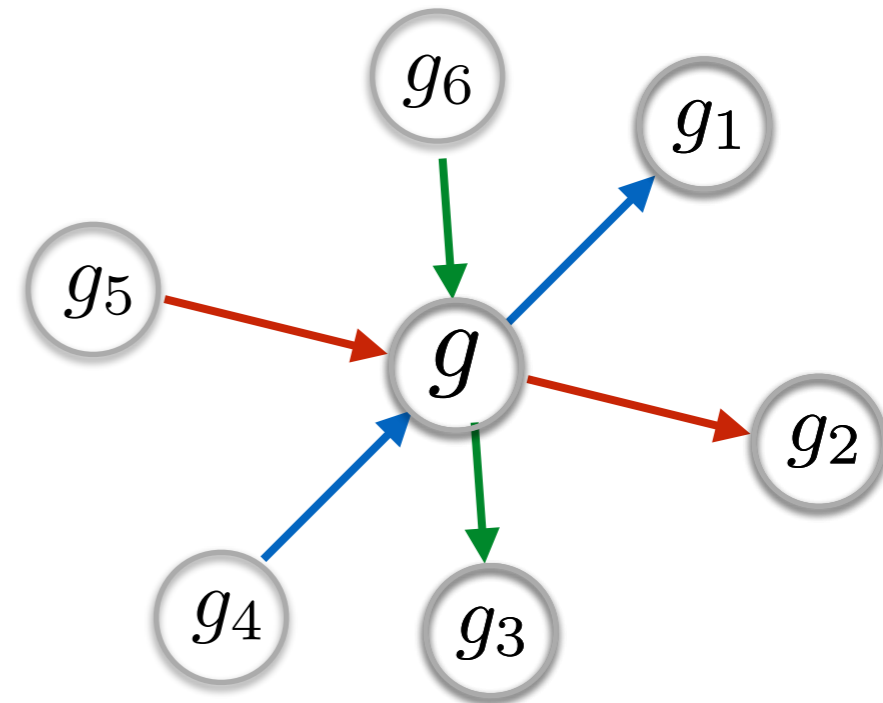
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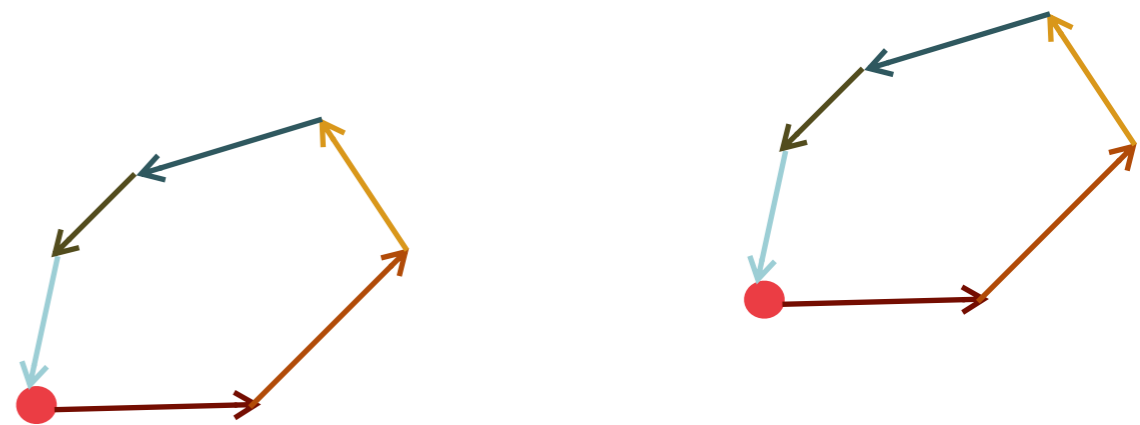


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A sequence  $A_{h_N} A_{h_{N-1}} \dots A_{h_1}$  connects  $g$  to itself, namely  $gh_1 h_2 \dots h_N = g$ , then it must also connect any other  $g'$  to itself, i.e.  $g' h_1 h_2 \dots h_N = g'$ .

From 2): two-loop  $ghh^{-1} = g$  defines uniquely  $h^{-1}$  for  $h$  and viceversa

$$A_{gg'} =: A_h, A_{g'g} =: A_{h^{-1}}, h \in S \equiv S_+ \cup S_-, S_- := S_+^{-1}$$



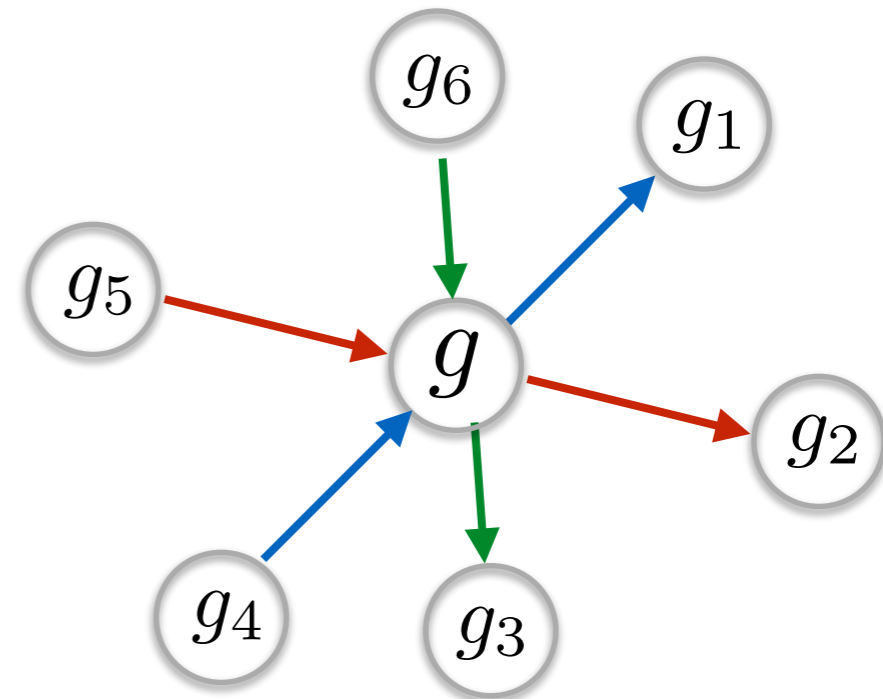
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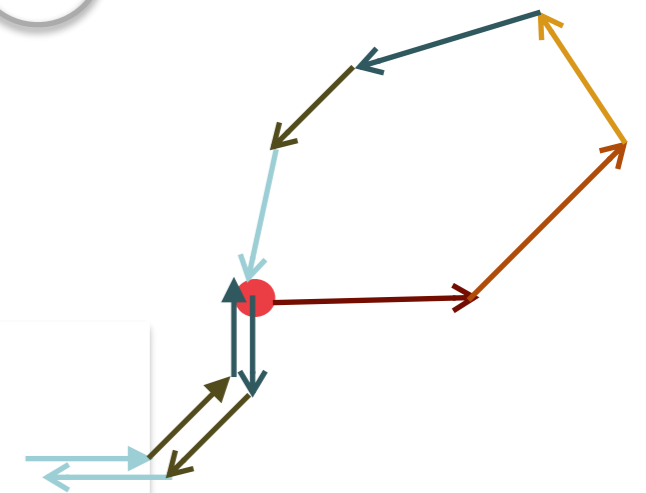
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Build the free group  $F$  of words made with letters:

$$h \in S := S_+ \cup S_-$$

with action on vertices in  $G: gh := g'$  whenever  $A_{gg'} = A_h$

Consider the subgroup  $H$  of closed paths  $H$  normal subgroup of  $F$



# Quantum walk on Cayley graph

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$\Gamma(G, S_+)$  colored directed graph with vertices  $g \in G$  and edges  $(g, g')$  with  $g' = gh$

Either the graph is connected, or it consists of disconnected copies.

W.l.g. assume it as connected.

- 1) Locality:  $S_g$  uniformly bounded
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- 3) Homogeneity: all  $g \in G$  are equivalent

Being  $H$  normal, one concludes that:

$G = F/H = \langle S | R \rangle$  is a group with Cayley graph  $\Gamma(G, S_+)$  (the identity any element  $e \in G$ ).

# Quantum walk on Cayley graph

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} iff for Quantum Walk on Cayley graph

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The following operator over the Hilbert space  $\ell^2(G) \otimes \mathbb{C}^s$  is unitary

$$A = \sum_{h \in S} T_h \otimes A_h$$

where  $T$  is the right regular representation of  $G$  on  $\ell^2(G)$  acting as

$$T_g |g'\rangle = |g'g^{-1}\rangle$$

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- 3) Homogeneity: all  $g \in G$  are equivalent
- 4) Isotropy:

There exist:

- a group  $L$  of permutations of  $S_+$ , transitive over  $S_+$  that leaves the Cayley graph invariant
- a unitary  $s$ -dimensional (projective) representation  $\{L_l\}$  of  $L$  such that:

$$A = \sum_{h \in S} T_h \otimes A_h = \sum_{h \in S} T_{lh} \otimes L_l A_h L_l^\dagger$$

# Quantum walk on Cayley graph

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The quantum walk on the Cayley graph (QWCG) is completely specified as

$$Q = (G, S_+, s, \{A_h\}_{h \in S})$$

In the following we will restrict to Cayley graphs qi-embeddable in  $R^d$

- **Thm.** [Misha Kapovich]  $G$  is a finitely-generated group whose Cayley graph qi embeds in  $R^d$  iff  $G$  contains a free Abelian subgroup  $H$  of finite index, with  $\text{rank}(A)=d$ .
- **Proof.**  $R^d$  has polynomial growth, equivalent to  $x^d$ . Thus,  $G$  also has growth at most  $x^d$ . By Gromov's theorem, it follows that  $G$  is virtually nilpotent. For nilpotent groups there is a precise formula for growth in terms of their derived series [Bass and Guivarch] which implies that the group has to be virtually Abelian of rank  $\leq d$ .



# Quantum walk on Cayley graph

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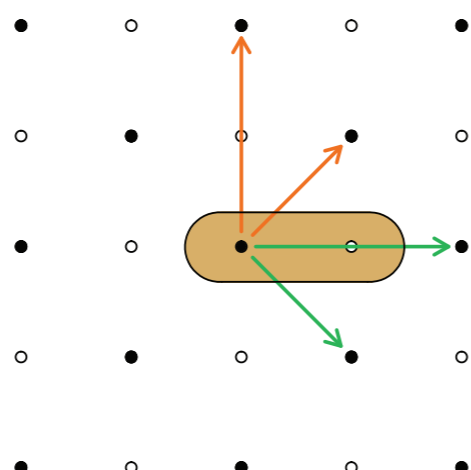
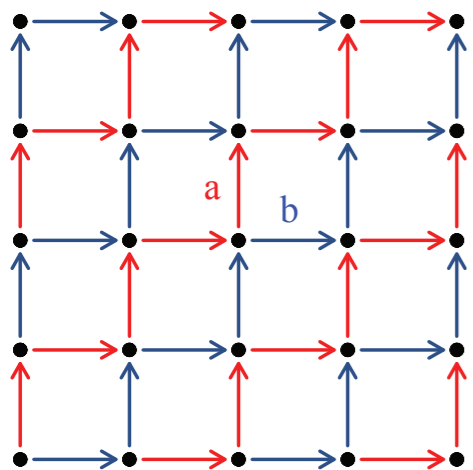
$$Q = (G, S_+, s, \{A_h\}_{h \in S})$$

In the more general case restrict to  $H$  with solvable word problem and finite generating set  $R$ , i.e.  $G$  finitely presented (true for virtually Abelian).

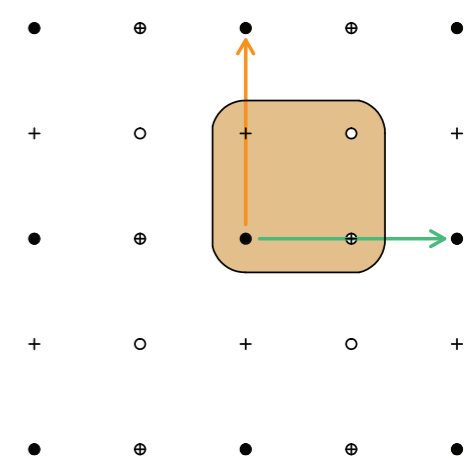
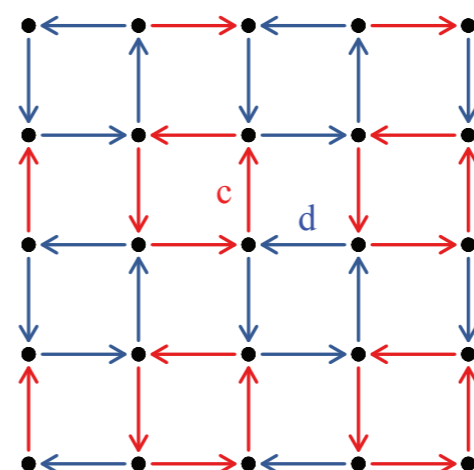
# Quantum walk on Cayley graph: “renormalization”

A QWCG  $Q = (G, S_+, s, \{A_h\}_{h \in S})$  with  $G$  virt. Abelian  
is equivalent to a QWCG  $Q' = (H, S_+, si_H, \{A_h\}_{h \in S})$   
with  $H \subset G$  with index  $i_H$  (induced representation).  
(but isotropy is not transferred between  $G$  and  $H$ )

$$\langle a, b \mid a^2 b^{-2} \rangle$$



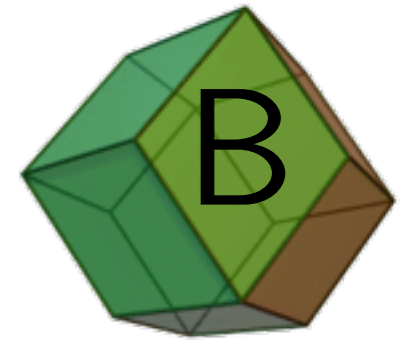
$$\langle c, d \mid c^4, d^4, (cd)^2 \rangle$$



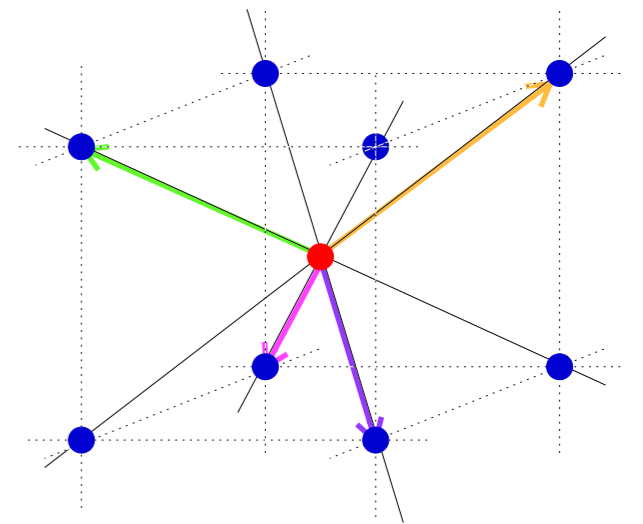
# The Weyl QW

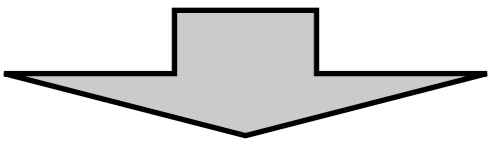
☞ Minimal dimension for nontrivial unitary  $A$ :  $s=2$

- Unitarity  $\Rightarrow$  for  $d=3$  the only possible  $G$  is the BCC!!
- Isotropy  $\Rightarrow$  Fermionic  $\psi$  ( $d=3$ )



Unitary operator: 
$$A = \int_B^{\oplus} d\mathbf{k} A_{\mathbf{k}}$$



  
 Two QWs  
 connected  
 by P

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = & -i\sigma_x (s_x c_y c_z \pm c_x s_y s_z) \\
 & \mp i\sigma_y (c_x s_y c_z \mp s_x c_y s_z) \\
 & -i\sigma_z (c_x c_y s_z \pm s_x s_y c_z) \\
 & + I (c_x c_y c_z \mp s_x s_y s_z)
 \end{aligned}$$

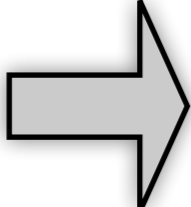
$$\begin{aligned}
 s_{\alpha} &= \sin \frac{k_{\alpha}}{\sqrt{3}} \\
 c_{\alpha} &= \cos \frac{k_{\alpha}}{\sqrt{3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

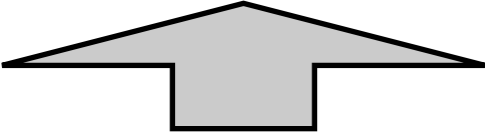
# The Weyl QW

D'Ariano, Perinotti,  
PRA **90** 062106 (2014)

$$i\partial_t\psi(t) \simeq \frac{i}{2}[\psi(t+1) - \psi(t-1)] = \frac{i}{2}(A - A^\dagger)\psi(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{i}{2}(A_{\mathbf{k}}^\pm - A_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm\dagger}) = & + \sigma_x (s_x c_y c_z \pm c_x s_y s_z) \quad \text{“Hamiltonian”} \\ & \pm \sigma_y (c_x s_y c_z \mp s_x c_y s_z) \\ & + \sigma_z (c_x c_y s_z \pm s_x s_y c_z) \end{aligned}$$

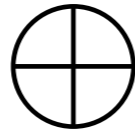
$k \ll 1$    $i\partial_t\psi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\boldsymbol{\sigma}^\pm \cdot \mathbf{k} \psi$   Weyl equation!  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}^\pm := (\sigma_x, \pm\sigma_y, \sigma_z)$

  
Two QCAs  
connected  
by P

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mathbf{k}}^\pm = & -i\sigma_x (s_x c_y c_z \pm c_x s_y s_z) \\ & \mp i\sigma_y (c_x s_y c_z \mp s_x c_y s_z) \\ & -i\sigma_z (c_x c_y s_z \pm s_x s_y c_z) \\ & + I (c_x c_y c_z \mp s_x s_y s_z) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_\alpha &= \sin \frac{k_\alpha}{\sqrt{3}} \\ c_\alpha &= \cos \frac{k_\alpha}{\sqrt{3}} \end{aligned}$$

# Dirac QW



Local coupling:  $A_{\mathbf{k}}$  coupled with its inverse with off-diagonal identity block matrix

$$E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = \begin{pmatrix} nA_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} & imI \\ imI & nA_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm\dagger} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$n^2 + m^2 = 1 \quad n, m \in \mathbb{R}$$

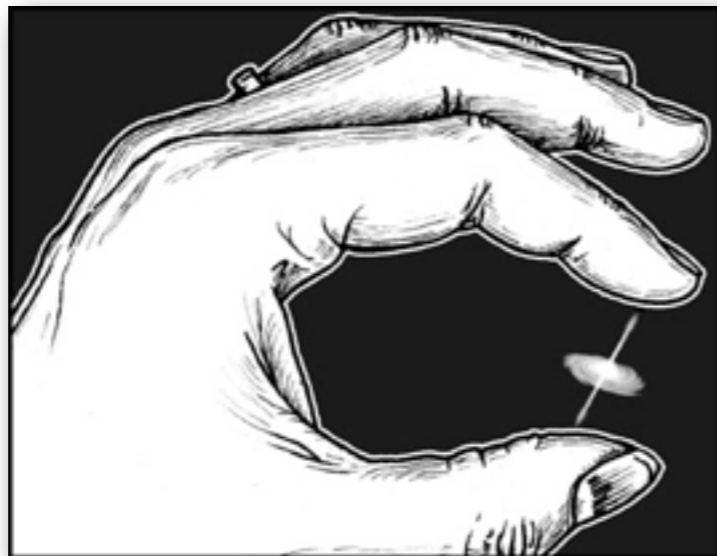
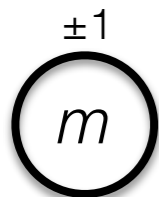
$E_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm}$  CPT-connected!

$$\omega_{\pm}^E(\mathbf{k}) = \cos^{-1} [n(c_x c_y c_z \mp s_x s_y s_z)]$$

Dirac in relativistic limit  $k \ll 1$

$m$ : mass,  $m^2 \leq 1$

$n^{-1}$ : refraction index



# Maxwell QW

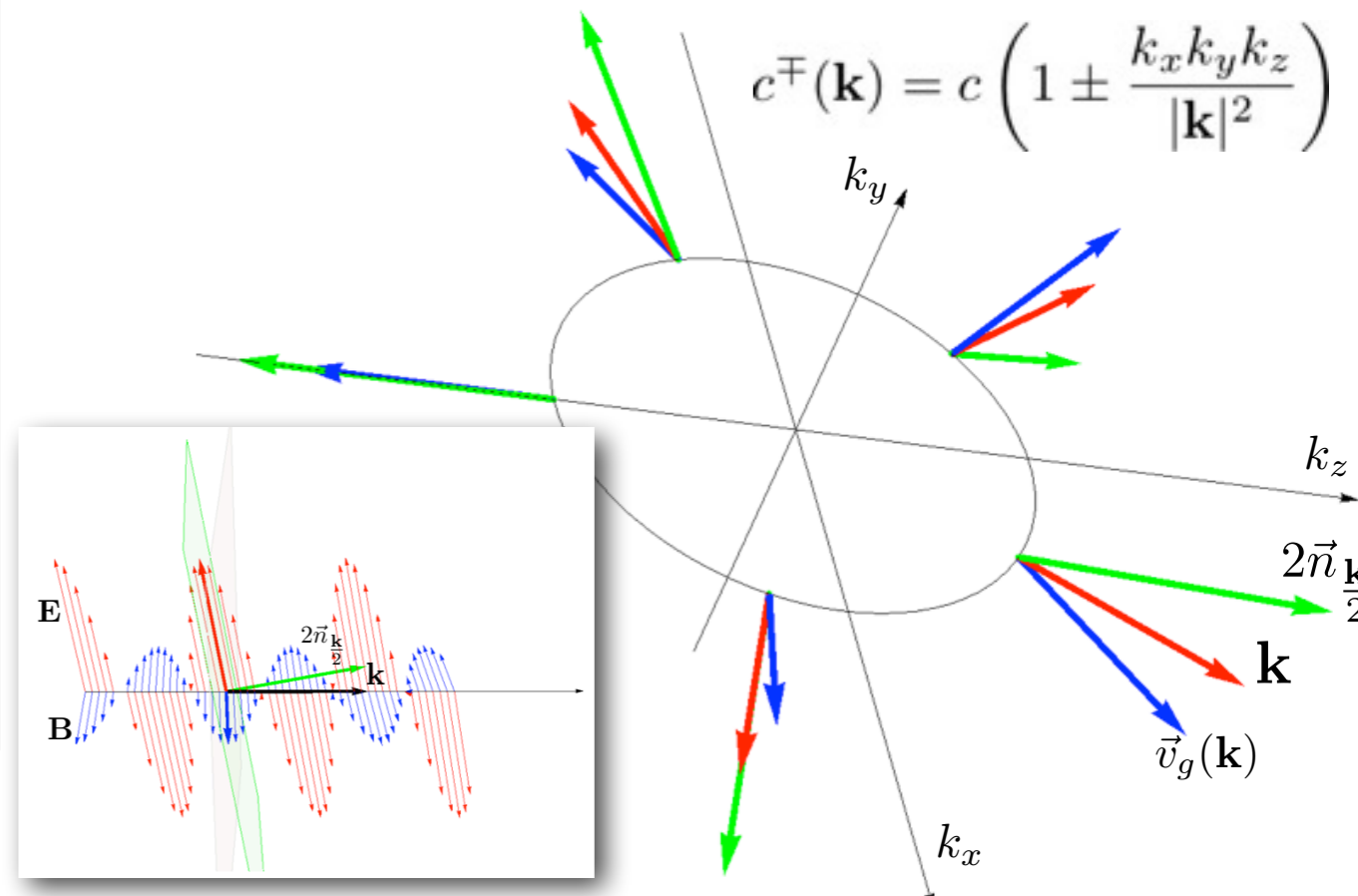


$$M_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} = A_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm} \otimes A_{\mathbf{k}}^{\pm*}$$

$$F^{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) = \int \frac{d\mathbf{q}}{2\pi} f(\mathbf{q}) \tilde{\psi}(\frac{\mathbf{k}}{2} - \mathbf{q}) \sigma^{\mu} \varphi(\frac{\mathbf{k}}{2} + \mathbf{q})$$

Maxwell in relativistic limit  $k \ll 1$

Boson: emergent from convolution of fermions  
(De Broglie neutrino-theory of photon)



# The LTM standards of the theory

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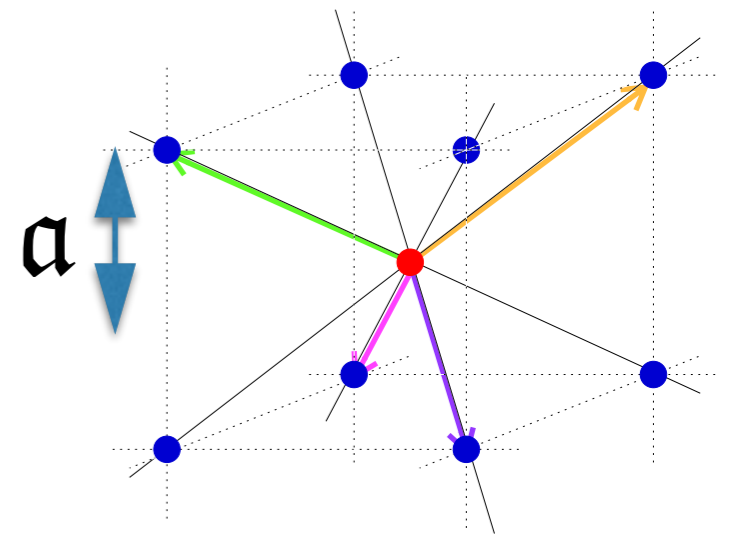
Dimensionless variables

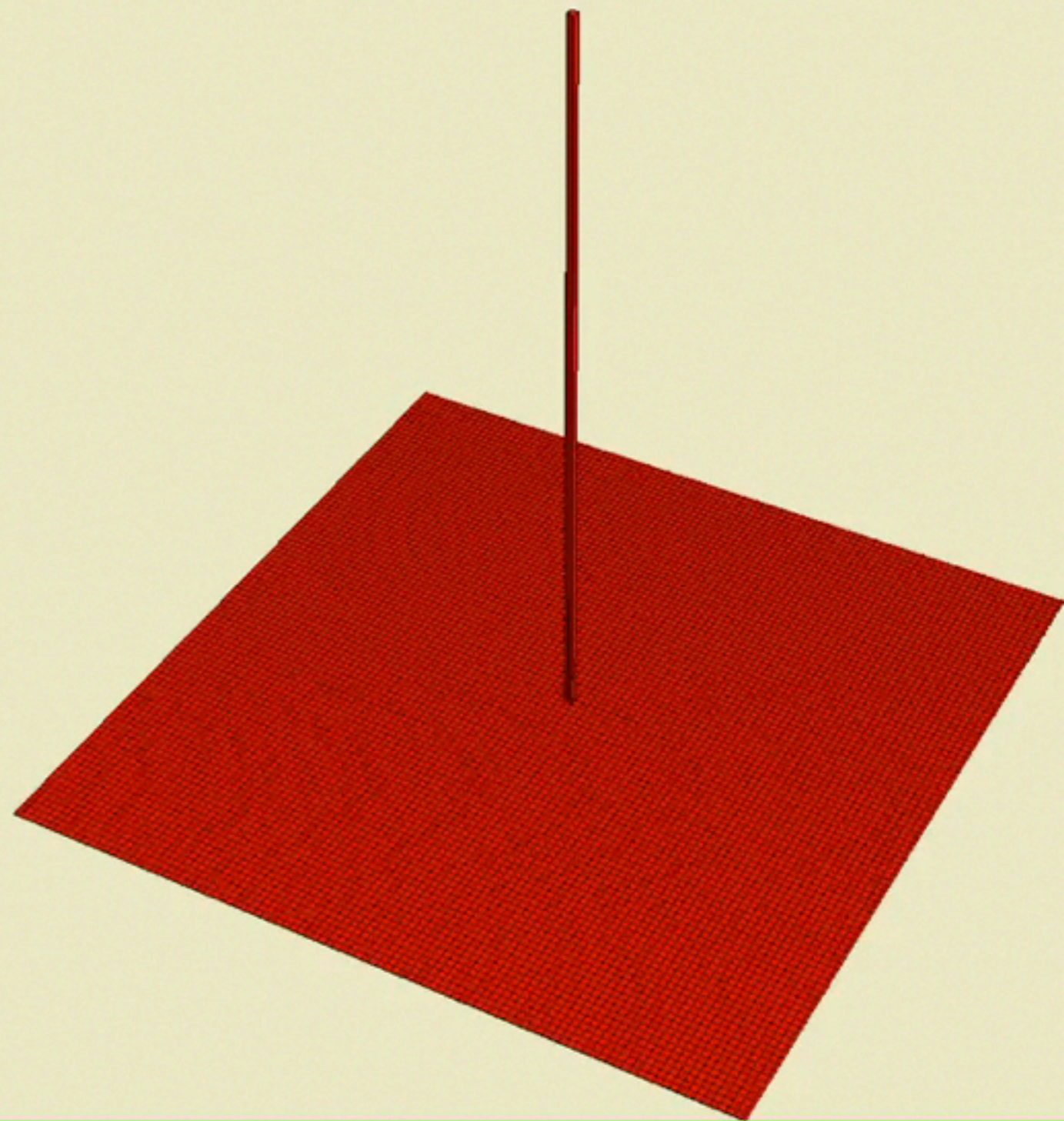
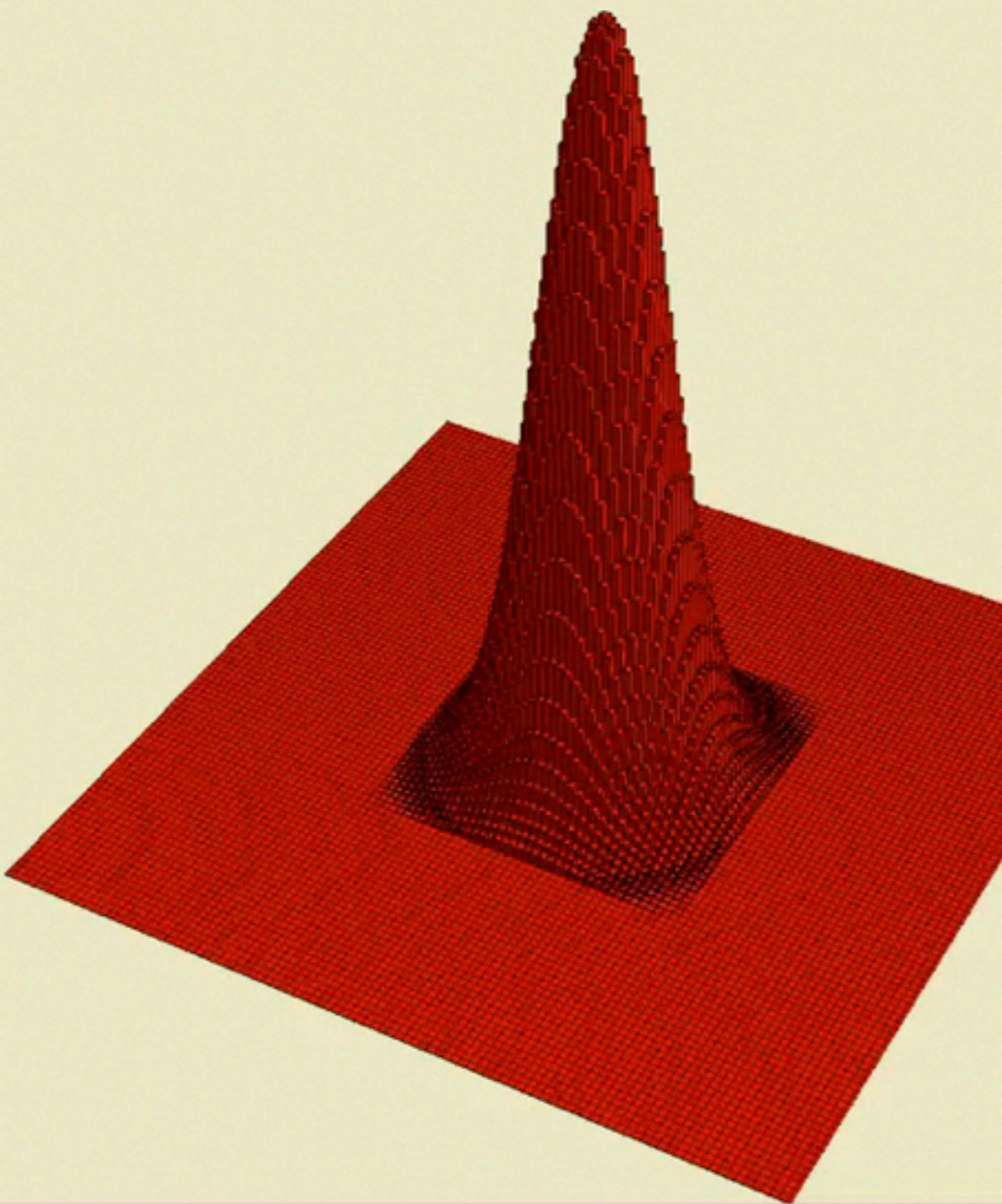
$$x = \frac{x_{[m]}}{\mathbf{a}} \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad t = \frac{t_{[sec]}}{\mathbf{t}} \in \mathbb{N}, \quad m = \frac{m_{[kg]}}{\mathbf{m}} \in [0, 1]$$

Relativistic limit:  $\rightarrow c = \mathbf{a}/\mathbf{t} \quad \hbar = \mathbf{m}ac$

Measure  $\mathbf{a}$  from light-refraction-index

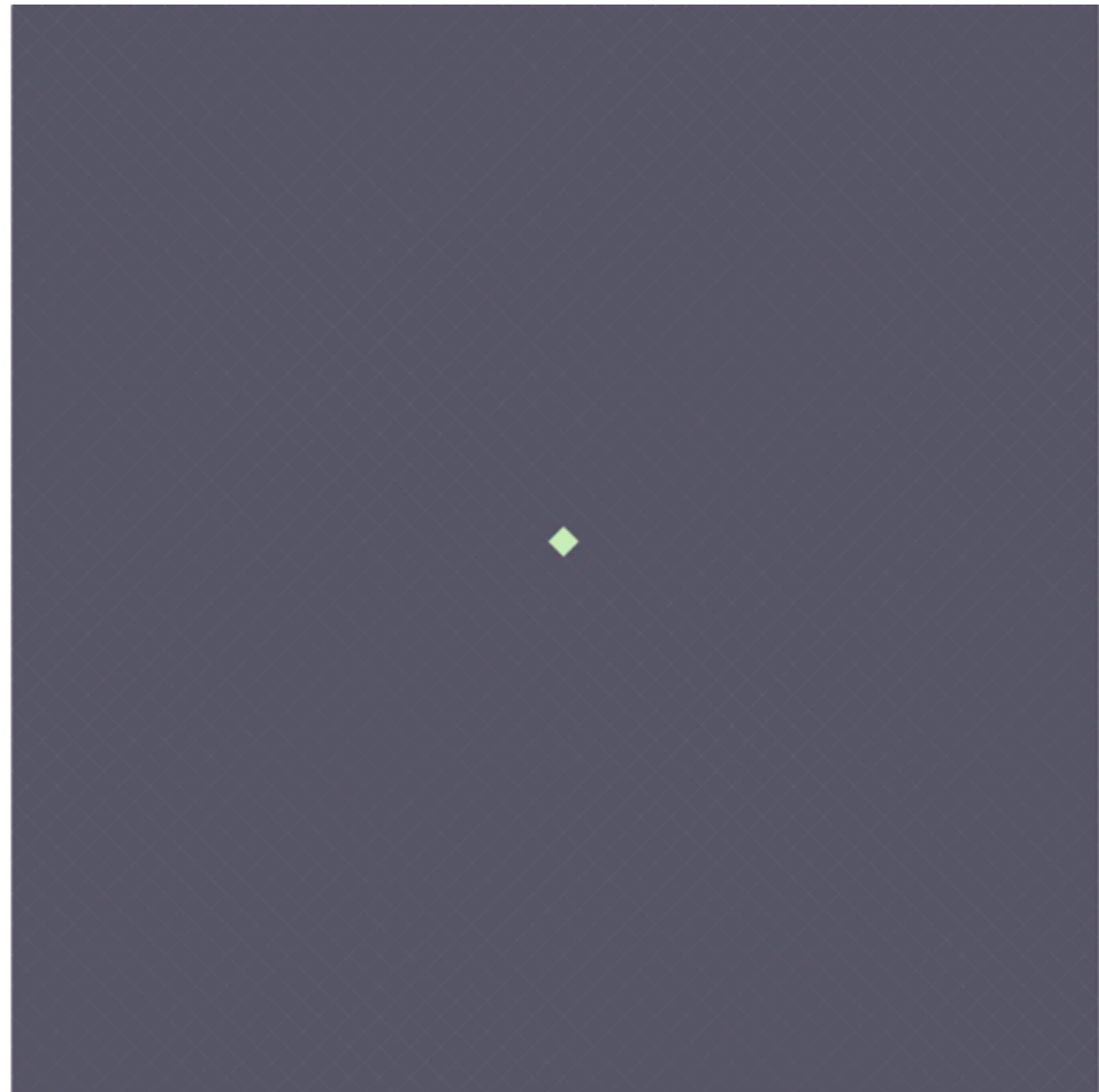
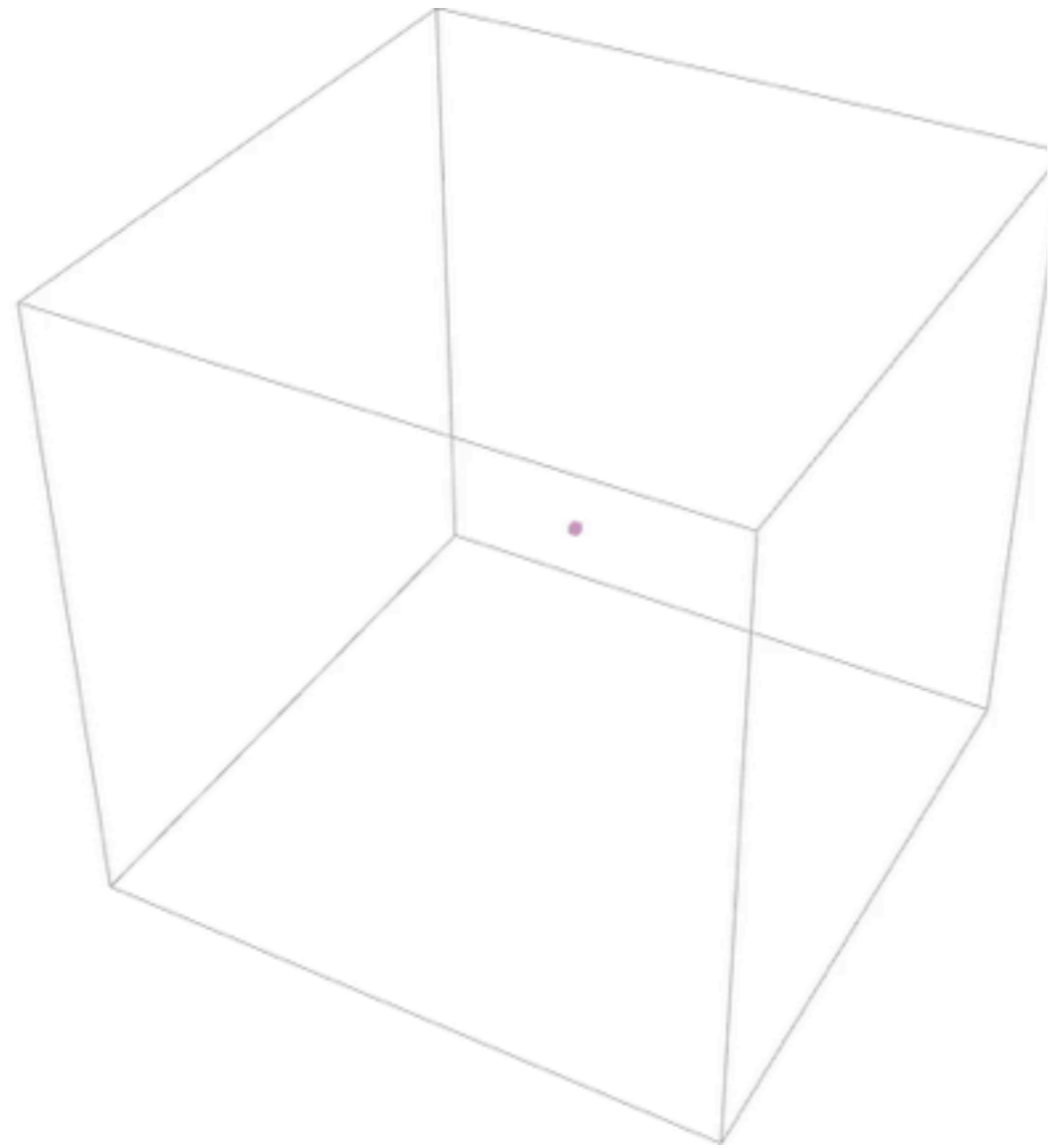
$$\rightarrow c^{\mp}(k) = c \left( 1 \pm \frac{k}{\sqrt{3}k_{max}} \right)$$





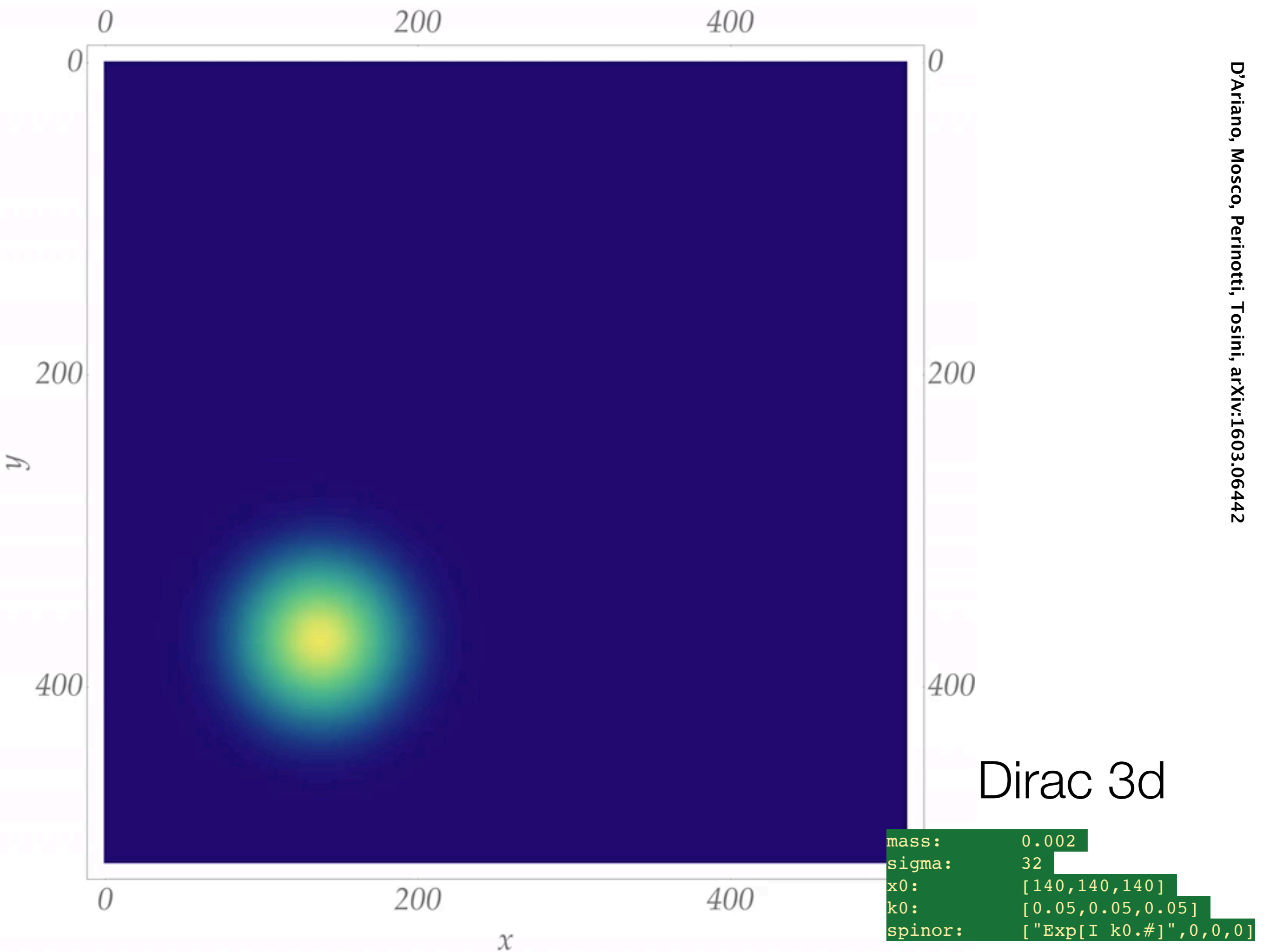
## 2d Dirac

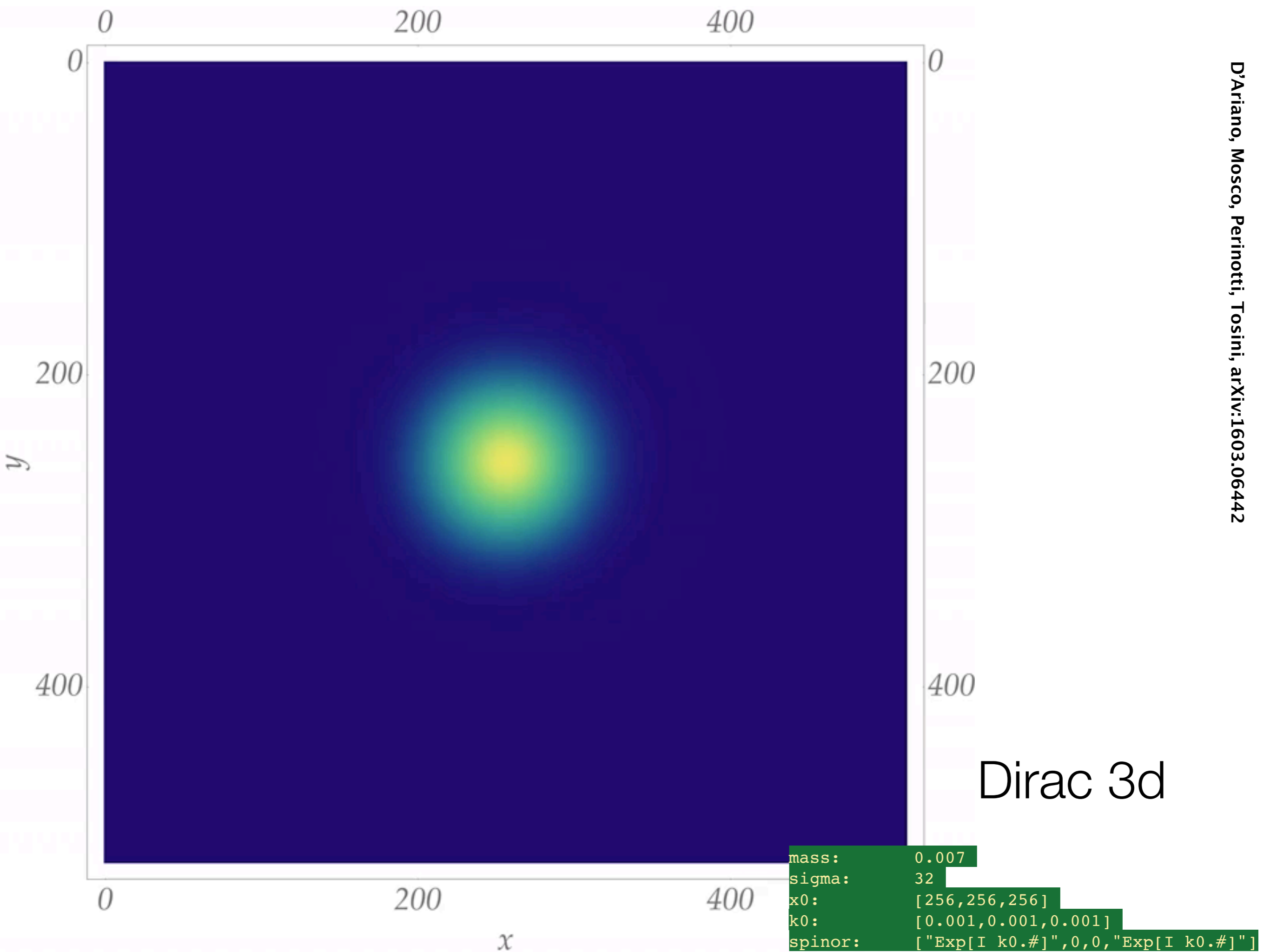
- Evolution of a *narrow-band particle-state*
- Evolution of a *localized state*

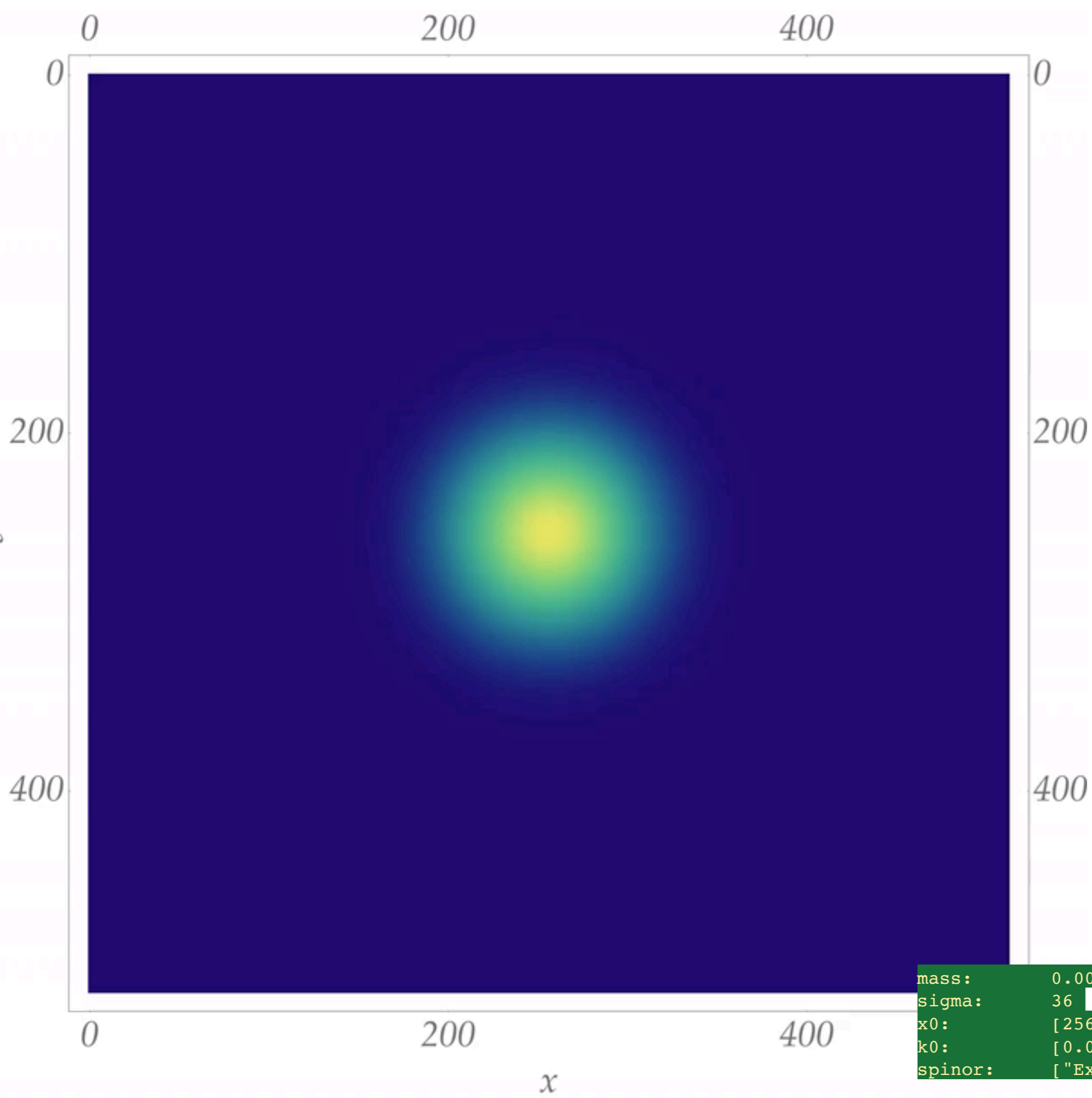


Weyl 3d









Dirac 3d

```
mass: 0.008  
sigma: 36  
x0: [256,256,256]  
k0: [0.05,0.05,0.05]  
spinor: ["Exp[I k0.#]",0,0,"Exp[I k0.#]"]
```

# Dirac emerging from the QCA

D'Ariano, Perinotti,  
PRA **90** 062106 (2014)

fidelity with Dirac for a narrowband packets in the relativistic limit  $k \simeq m \ll 1$

$$F = |\langle \exp[-iN\Delta(\mathbf{k})] \rangle|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(\mathbf{k}) &:= \left(m^2 + \frac{k^2}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \omega^E(\mathbf{k}) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{3}k_x k_y k_z}{\left(m^2 + \frac{k^2}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} - \frac{3(k_x k_y k_z)^2}{\left(m^2 + \frac{k^2}{3}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \frac{1}{24} \left(m^2 + \frac{k^2}{3}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} + \mathcal{O}(k^4 + N^{-1}k^2) \end{aligned}$$

relativistic proton:  $N \simeq m^{-3} = 2.2 * 10^{57} \Rightarrow t = 1.2 * 10^{14} \text{ s} = 3.7 * 10^6 \text{ y}$

UHECRs:  $k = 10^{-8} \gg m \Rightarrow N \simeq k^{-2} = 10^{16} \Rightarrow 5 * 10^{-28} \text{ s}$

# Analytical solution of Dirac (d=1) and Weyl (d=1,2,3)

---

The analytical solution of the Dirac automaton can also be expressed in terms of Jacobi polynomials  $P_k^{(\zeta, \rho)}$  performing the sum over  $f$  in Eq. (16) which finally gives

$$\psi(x, t) = \sum_y \sum_{a, b \in \{0, 1\}} \gamma_{a, b} P_k^{(1, -t)} \left( 1 + 2 \left( \frac{m}{n} \right)^2 \right) A_{ab} \psi(y, 0),$$

$$k = \mu_+ - \frac{a \oplus b + 1}{2},$$

$$\gamma_{a, b} = -(\mathrm{i}^{a \oplus b}) n^t \left( \frac{m}{n} \right)^{2+a \oplus b} \frac{k! \left( \mu_{(-)ab} + \frac{\overline{a \oplus b}}{2} \right)}{(2)_k}, \quad (18)$$

where  $\gamma_{00} = \gamma_{11} = 0$  ( $\gamma_{10} = \gamma_{01} = 0$ ) for  $t + x - y$  odd (even) and  $(x)_k = x(x+1) \cdots (x+k-1)$ .

# Dispersive Schrödinger equation

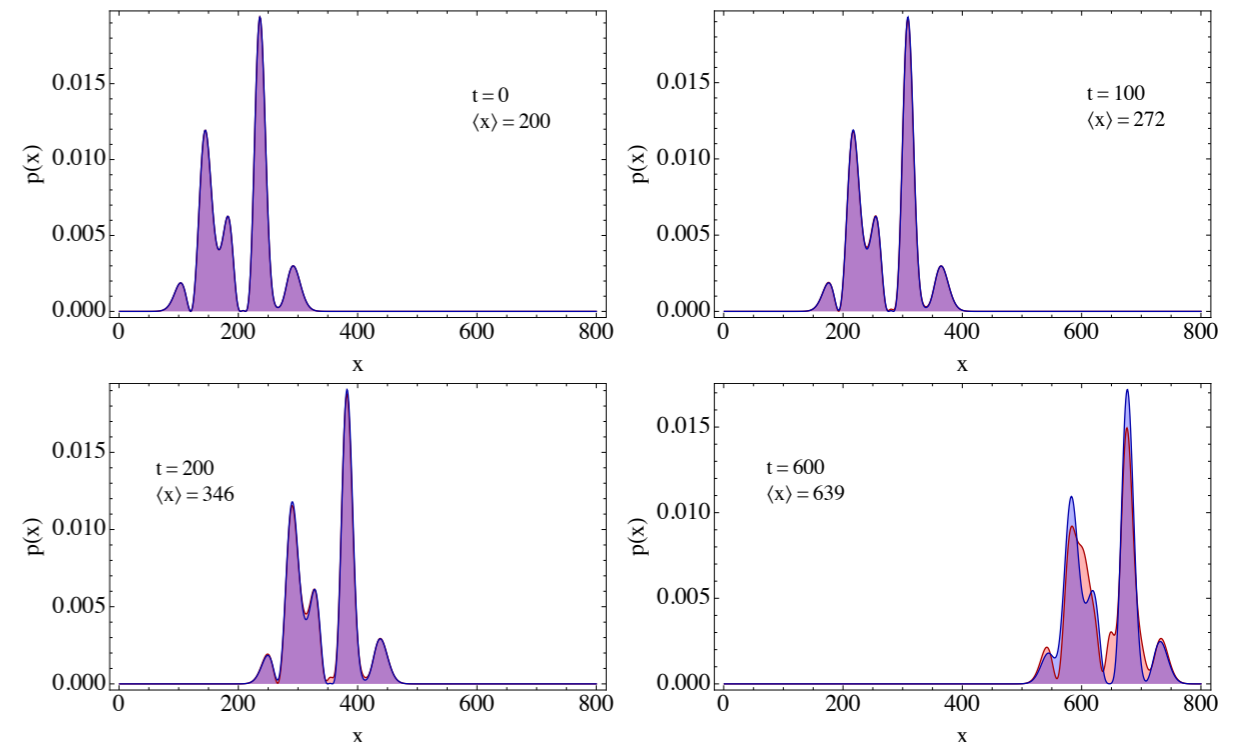
$$i\partial_t e^{-i\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{x} + i\omega_0 t} \psi(\mathbf{k}, t) = s[\omega(\mathbf{k}) - \omega_0] e^{-i\mathbf{k}_0 \cdot \mathbf{x} + i\omega_0 t} \psi(\mathbf{k}, t)$$

$$i\partial_t \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{k}, t) = s[\omega(\mathbf{k}) - \omega_0] \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{k}, t)$$

$$i\partial_t \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{x}, t) = s[\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{D} \cdot \nabla \nabla] \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$\mathbf{v} = (\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \omega)(\mathbf{k}_0)$$

$$\mathbf{D} = (\nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \nabla_{\mathbf{k}} \omega)(\mathbf{k}_0)$$



# Special Relativity recovered ... and more

Relativity principle: invariance of the physical law under change of inertial reference frame  
 → invariance of eigenvalue equation under change of representation.

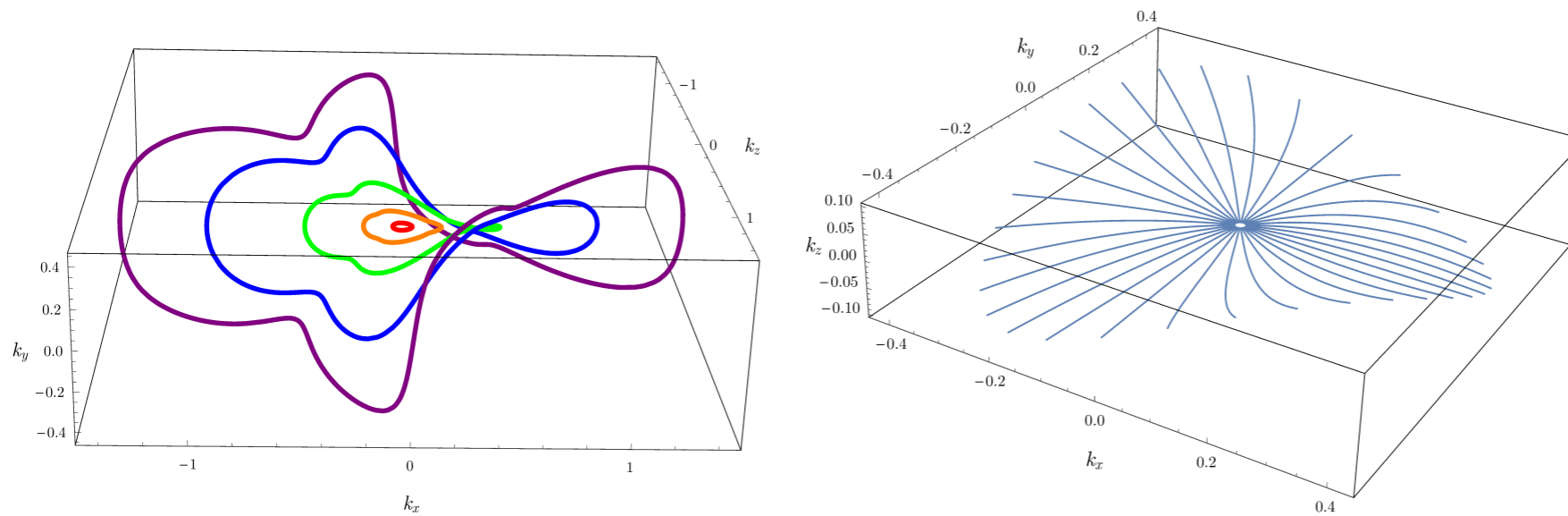


FIG. 2: The distortion effects of the Lorentz group for the discrete Planck-scale theory represented by the quantum walk in Eq. (6). Left figure: the orbit of the wavevectors  $\mathbf{k} = (k_x, 0, 0)$ , with  $k_x \in \{.05, .2, .5, 1, 1.7\}$  under the rotation around the  $z$  axis. Right figure: the orbit of wavevectors with  $|\mathbf{k}| = 0.01$  for various directions in the  $(k_x, k_y)$  plane under the boosts with  $\beta$  parallel to  $\mathbf{k}$  and  $|\beta| \in [0, \tanh 4]$ .

- Lorentz transformations are perfectly recovered for  $k \ll 1$ .
- For  $k \sim 1$ :
  - *Double Special Relativity* (Camelia-Smolin).
  - *Relative locality* (in addition to relativity of simultaneity)
  - For  $m \neq 0$  *De Sitter*  $SO(1,4)$
  - mass  $m$  and proper-time  $\tau$  are conjugated

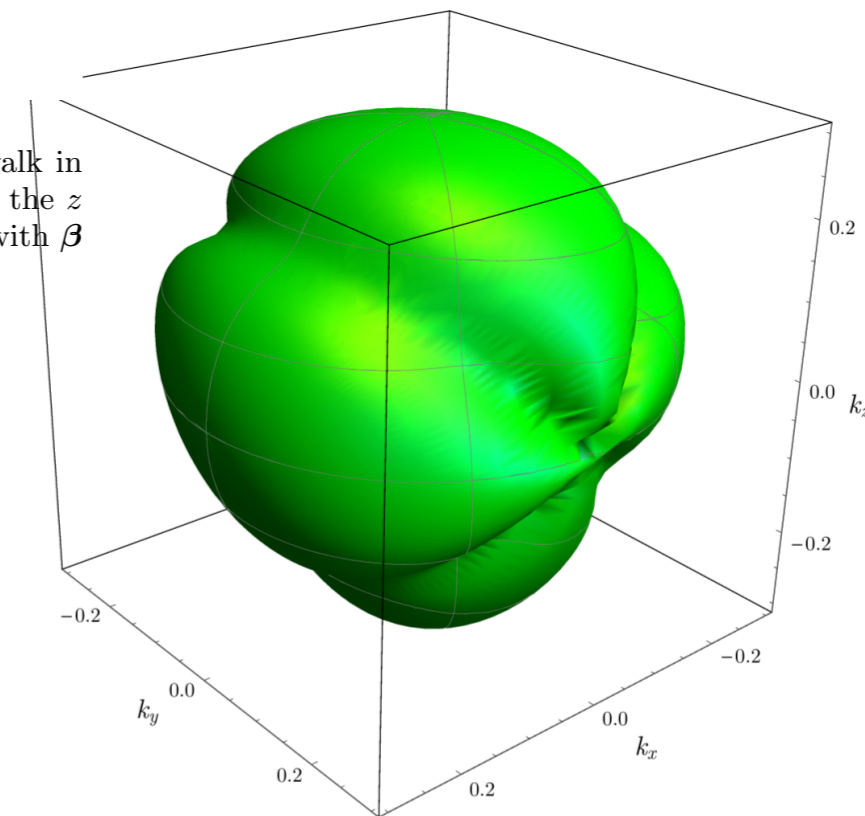
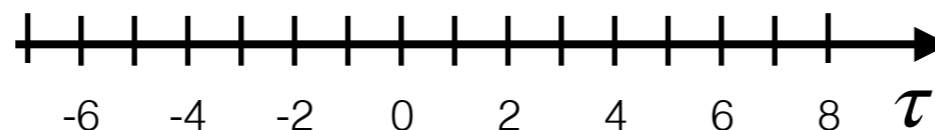
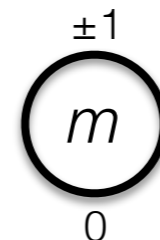


FIG. 3: The green surface represents the orbit of the wavevector  $\mathbf{k} = (0.3, 0, 0)$  under the full rotation group  $SO(3)$ .

Things we would like to know



# Things we would like to know

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A QWCG for  $G$  qi-embeddable in  $H^2$  would provide a Weyl/Dirac free QFT on a curved space, without using quantization rules. A decomposition into irreps. of the right-regular rep. for a finitely presented group  $G$  qi-embeddable in  $H^2$  would be needed.

1. Is there a result of *qi-rigidity* (similar to that for  $R^d$ ) for  $H^2$ ? What about a generic Riemannian manifold  $M$  with dimension  $d=1,2,3$ ?

Is the free group  $F^2$  qi to  $H^2$ ? What about the converse, namely: if  $G$  is qi to  $H^2$  then  $G$  is virtually free?

If the previous statement is true, then the right-reg. representation of  $F^2$  would provide the right-reg. representation of the virtually-free group through induced representation (*“renormalization”*).

# Things we would like to know

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2. How the condition of symmetric Cayley graph restricts the structure of its  $G$ ? [\*]
3. Given  $G$ ,  $S_+$ , and  $s > 0$ , find all the unitary nonequivalent sets of matrices  $\{A_h\}_{h \in S}$  that provide a nontrivial WQ  $Q = (G, S_+, s, \{A_h\}_{h \in S})$ .

The unitarity equations for the transfer matrices  $\{A_h\}_{h \in S}$  depend only on  $|S_+|$  and on the 4-cycles.

4. Do groups sharing the same 4-cycles have something in common?
5. Does the property of being presentable with relators  $|r| \leq 4$  correspond to some group property?

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[\*] A directed colored graph is symmetric if its automorphism group acts transitively upon ordered pairs of adjacent vertices.

# Things we would like to know

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6. Given a group  $G$  with Cayley graph  $q_i$  to a smooth Riemannian manifold  $M$  with a nonzero curvature, can a “tangent group” be defined (similarly to what we do for tangent space to  $M$ ) as a sort of “local Abelianization” of  $G$ ? The QWCG on  $G$  should correspond to a Schrödinger equation with a Laplace-Beltrami diffusion on  $M$ .
7. What happens for negative curvature (exponential growth of  $G$ ?)
8. What is the equivalent of Fourier-transform decomposition into irreps. for finitely presented hyperbolic  $G$ ? What is the notion of wave-vector  $k$ ? What does it mean  $k \ll 1$  (relativistic regime)?
9. The universal covering of an arbitrary graph is a Cayley graph. Given a QW on a graph, can a QW be induced on his universal covering (and viceversa)?

This is more or less what I wanted to say

Thank you for your attention