

Constraint Structure of the two-dimensional Polynomial BF theory

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Outline

- 1 Background Field (BF) Model
- 2 Two-Dimensional BF Gravity
- 3 MacDowell-Mansouri Gravity from BF Theory
- 4 Quadratic Gravity from BF Theory

Topological Quantum Field Theories

Topological Quantum Field Theories:

- Witten (Cohomological) Type.
- Schwarz Type.

Schwarz Type: Chern-Simons

- Topologically Massive Gauge Theories: S. Deser, R. Jackiw, S. Templeton, Annals Phys. 140 (1982) 372.
- $(2+1)$ -Dimensional Gravity as an Exactly Soluble System: E. Witten, Nucl. Phys. B311 (1988) 46.

Schwarz Type: BF model

- Topological Field Theory, D. Birmingham, M. Blau, M. Rakowski, G. Thompson, Phys. Rep. 209 (1991) 129.

Background Field (BF) Model

Ingredients:

- n -dimensional Manifold $\mathcal{M}$.
- Gauge Group G .
- Gauge field (or Connection) 1-form A .
- 2-form Field Strength (or Curvature) $F = DA = dA + A \wedge A$.
- $(n-2)$ -form B .

Action

$$S_{BF} = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}(B \wedge F).$$

Background Field (BF) Model

Equations of Motion:

$$\delta S = \int \text{Tr} \left[\delta B \wedge F + (-1)^{n-1} DB \wedge \delta A \right].$$

- $F = 0$: The connection A is flat.
- $DB = 0$.

Gauge Transformation

- Gauge: $\delta A = D\eta$.
- Shift: $\delta B = D\chi$. (Due to Bianchi Identity $DF = 0$)

Background Field (BF) Model

BF in Two Dimensions

$$\mathcal{L}_{2D} = \text{tr}(B \wedge F).$$

BF in Three Dimensions

$$\mathcal{L}_{3D} = \text{tr}(B \wedge F) + \alpha_1 \text{tr}(B \wedge B \wedge B).$$

BF in Four Dimensions

$$\mathcal{L}_{4D} = \text{tr}(B \wedge F) + \alpha_2 \text{tr}(B \wedge B) + \alpha_3 \text{tr}(F \wedge F).$$

Einstein-Hilbert Action

Einstein-Hilbert Action:

$$S_{EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^n x \sqrt{g} (R - 2\Lambda).$$

Equation of motion:

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R + g_{\mu\nu} \Lambda = 0.$$

Considerations in two dimensions:

- For $\Lambda = 0$ the metric is undetermined.
- For $\Lambda \neq 0$ the metric is zero.
- Two-dim Gravity cannot be described by a Einstein-Hilbert Action!

Jackiw-Teitelboim Gravity

Jackiw-Teitelboim

$$S_{JT} = \int d^2x \sqrt{g} X (R - 2\Lambda).$$

- R. Jackiw, C. Teitelboim, Quantum Theory of Gravity (1984).
- EoM: $R - 2\Lambda = 0$.

JT from BF Theory

- Gauge Theory of Two-Dimensional Quantum Gravity, K. Isler, C. A. Trugenberger, Phys. Rev. Lett. 63 (1989) 834.
- Gauge theory of Topological Gravity in $1+1$ dimensions, A. H. Chamseddine, D. Wyler, Phys. Lett. B 228 (1989) 75.
- Quadratic gravity from BF theory in two and three dimensions, R. Paszko, R. da Rocha, Gen. Rel. Grav. 47, (2015) 94.

Two-dimensional BF (1)

Ingredients: Group and Generators

- Group: $SO(3)$.
- Generators: $M_{IJ} = -M_{JI}$.
- Algebra: $[M_{IJ}, M_{KL}] = \eta_{IL}M_{JK} - \eta_{IK}M_{JL} + \eta_{JK}M_{IL} - \eta_{JL}M_{IK}$.

Ingredients: Fields

$$A = \frac{1}{2} A_{\mu}^{IJ} M_{IJ} dx^{\mu}, \quad B = \frac{1}{2} B^{IJ} M_{IJ}.$$

Ingredients: Field Strength

$$F_{\mu\nu}^{IJ} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu}^{IJ} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu}^{IJ} + A_{\mu K}^I A_{\nu}^{KJ} - A_{\nu K}^I A_{\mu}^{KJ}.$$

Two-dimensional BF (2)

The Action:

$$S = \frac{1}{4} \int d^2x \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} B_{IJ} F_{\mu\nu}^{IJ} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} B_{IJ} \left(\partial_\mu A_\nu^{IJ} + A_{\mu K}^I A_\nu^{KJ} \right).$$

Characteristics of the BF action

- It is first-order: Linear in the velocities $\partial_0 A_V^{IJ}$.
- There is no $\partial_0 A_0^{IJ}$ (like electromagnetism).
- The system is constrained.

BF model is constrained

Dirac's Constraint Analysis

- P. A. M. Dirac, *Lectures on Quantum Mechanics* (New York: Yeshiva University) (1964).
- M. Henneaux, C. Teitelboim, *Quantization of Gauge Systems*, Princeton Univ. Press (1992).

BF and Gravity (1)

Generators

- Generators: $M_{IJ} = (M_{ab} = \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} M, M_{a2} = P_a)$.
- Algebra: $[M, P_a] = -\bar{\epsilon}_a{}^b P_b$, $[P_a, P_b] = -\bar{\epsilon}_{ab} M$.

Cartan variables $(e_\mu^a, \omega_\mu^{ab})$: Zweibein

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{ab} e_\mu^a e_\nu^b.$$

Torsion and Curvature

$$\begin{aligned} T^a &\equiv de^a + \omega_b^a \wedge e^b. \\ R^{ab} &\equiv d\omega^{ab} + \omega_c^a \wedge \omega^{cb}. \end{aligned}$$

BF and Gravity (2)

Gauge field:

$$A_\mu = \frac{1}{2} \omega_\mu^{ab} M_{ab} + \frac{1}{l} e_\mu^a P_a.$$

Field Strength:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mu\nu}^{ab} &= R_{\mu\nu}^{ab} - \frac{1}{l^2} \left(e_\mu^a e_\nu^b - e_\nu^a e_\mu^b \right), \\ F_{\mu\nu}^{a2} &= \frac{1}{l} T_{\mu\nu}^a. \end{aligned}$$

BF and Gravity (3)

BF action

$$S = \frac{1}{4} \int d^2x \, \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} \left[B_{ab} F_{\mu\nu}^{ab} + 2B_{a2} F_{\mu\nu}^{a2} \right],$$

BF Action

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \left[B \left(\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} \bar{\varepsilon}_{ab} R_{\mu\nu}^{ab} - \frac{2}{l^2} e \right) + \frac{1}{l} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} B_a T_{\mu\nu}^a \right].$$

Equation of motion for the B_a field:

$$0 = \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu}^a.$$

BF and Gravity (4)

Implication of the equations of motion

- Relation zweibein and spin-connection
 $0 = \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} (\partial_\mu e_\nu^a + \vec{\varepsilon}_b^a \omega_\mu e_\nu^b).$
- Curvature form and Riemann tensor $R_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha\beta} = R_{\mu\nu}^{ab} e_a^\alpha e_b^\beta.$
- Furthermore: $\varepsilon^{\mu\nu} \bar{\varepsilon}_{ab} R_{\mu\nu}^{ab} = 2eR.$

BF and JT Gravity

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} B \left(R - \frac{2}{l^2} \right), \quad \Lambda = \frac{1}{l^2}.$$

More on two-dimensional BF (1)

Modifications

- Group $SO(2,1)$ with metric $\eta^{IJ} = \text{diag}(1, -1, 1)$ or $\eta^{IJ} = \text{diag}(1, -1, -1)$.
- Inonu-Wigner Contraction.

BF SUSY

- Orthosymplectic group $OSP(1,1;1)$.

Noncommutative FJ

- Noncommutative Gravity in two dimensions, S. Cacciatori, et al. Class.Quant.Grav. 19 (2002) 4029.

More on two-dimensional BF (2)

Constraints Analysis

- Canonical Analysis of the Jackiw-Teitelboim Gravity in the Temporal Gauge, C. P. Constantinidis et. al. Class. Quant. Grav. 25 (2008), 125003.
- Quantization of the Jackiw-Teitelboim model, C. P. Constantinidis et. al. Phys. Rev. D 79 (2009) 084007.

Constraints from Hamilton-Jacobi

- Two-dimensional background field gravity: A Hamilton-Jacobi analysis, M. C. Bertin, et. al. J. Math. Phys. 53 (2012), 102901.
- Three-dimensional background field gravity: A Hamilton-Jacobi analysis, N. T. Maia, et. al. Class.Quant.Grav. 32 (2015), 185013.

Palatini formulation

Palatini formulation

$$S_{Pal} = \int d^4x \, \bar{\epsilon}^{abcd} \left(R_{ab} \wedge e_c \wedge e_d - \frac{\Lambda}{6} e_a \wedge e_b \wedge e_c \wedge e_d \right).$$

MacDowell-Mansouri

$$S_{MM} = \int Tr \left(\hat{F} \wedge \star \hat{F} \right) = S_{Pal} + \int Tr (R \wedge \star R).$$

- Unified Geometric theory of gravity and supergravity, S.W. MacDowell, F. Mansouri. Phys.Rev.Lett. 38 (1977) 739.

Four-dimensional BF (1)

Ingredients for the Riemannian case

- Group $SO(5)$: Spherical space $\Lambda > 0$.
- Group $SO(4,1)$: Hyperbolic space $\Lambda < 0$.
- Group $ISO(4)$: Euclidean space $\Lambda = 0$.

L. Freidel, A. Starodubtsev (2005)

$$S = \int \left[B_{IJ} \wedge F^{IJ} - \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \bar{\epsilon}^{IJKL} B_{IJ} \wedge B_{KL} \right].$$

- Quantum gravity in terms of topological observables, e-Print: hep-th/0501191.
- General relativity with a topological phase: an action principle, L. Smolin, A. Starodubtsev, e-Print: hep-th/0311163.

Four-dimensional BF (2)

BF Action

$$S = \int \left[B_{ab} \wedge F^{ab} + 2B_{a4} \wedge F^{a4} - \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \varepsilon^{abcd} B_{ab} \wedge B_{cd} \right],$$

Equation of Motion

- $\delta B_{a4} = 0 \rightarrow 0 = F^{a4} = \frac{1}{l} T^a,$
- $\delta B_{ab} = 0 \rightarrow F^{ab} = \frac{\kappa^2}{2} \bar{\varepsilon}^{abcd} B_{cd} = R^{ab} - \frac{1}{l^2} e^a \wedge e^b.$

MacDowell-Mansouri

$$S = \frac{1}{4\kappa^2} \int \bar{\varepsilon}^{abcd} F_{ab} \wedge F_{cd}.$$

Four-dimensional BF (3)

MacDowell-Mansouri

$$S = -\frac{1}{2\kappa^2 l^2} \int \bar{\epsilon}^{abcd} \left[R_{ab} \wedge e_c \wedge e_d - \frac{1}{2l^2} e_a \wedge e_b \wedge e_c \wedge e_d \right] \\ + \frac{1}{4\kappa^2} \int \bar{\epsilon}^{abcd} [R_{ab} \wedge R_{cd}].$$

Terms:

- First line: Palatini Action with Cosmological Constant.
- Second line: Euler Class (Topological).
- Conserved charges for Gravity with locally AdS asymptotics, R. Aros et. al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 84 (2000),1964.

Extensions

Adding more topological invariant terms:

- The presence of the term $Tr[B \wedge B]$ adds more topological term: Euler, Pontryagin, Nieh-Yan. We also obtain the Holst term.
- The BF action reduce the number of parameters of this theory.
- The ratio of the cosmological term and the interaction is related to the Immirzi parameter.

Another formulations:

- Supergravity as constrained BF theory, R. Durka, J. Kowalski-Glikman, Phys. Rev. D 83 (2011) 124011.
- Gauged AdS-Maxwell algebra and Gravity, R. Durka et. al. Mod. Phys. Lett. A 26 (2011) 2689.

Polynomial BF

Back to two dimensions!

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{tr} \left[-\frac{1}{2} B \wedge F + \kappa^2 (PB)(PB)(QA) \wedge A \right].$$

- Quadratic gravity from BF theory in two and three dimensions, R. Paszko, R. Rocha, Gen. Rel. Grav. 47 (2015) 8, 94.

Projectors

$$P_{IJ,KL} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon}_{IJ2} \bar{\epsilon}_{KL2}, \quad Q_{IJ,KL} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon}_{IJM} \bar{\epsilon}_{KLN} \bar{\epsilon}_{MN2}.$$

Action of the projectors

- $(PM)_{ab} = M_{ab}, (PM)_{a2} = 0.$
- $(QM)_{a2} = \bar{\epsilon}_a^b M_{b2} \quad (QM)_{ab} = 0.$

Polynomial BF (2)

Polynomial BF Action

$$S = \int d^2x \left[\frac{1}{2} B \left(\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} \bar{\varepsilon}_{ab} R_{\mu\nu}^{ab} - \frac{2}{l^2} e \right) + \frac{1}{2l} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu} B_a T_{\mu\nu}^a + \frac{2\kappa^2}{l^2} B^2 e \right].$$

- Torsion free condition: $\varepsilon^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu}^a = 0$.
- $B = -\frac{l^2}{8\kappa^2} \left(R - \frac{2}{l^2} \right)$.

Quadratic Gravity from Polynomial BF: $2\Lambda = 1/l^2$

$$S = \frac{1}{8\kappa^2} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} (R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{64\Lambda\kappa^2} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} R^2.$$

Polynomial BF (3)

Some considerations

- R^2 is the lowest order higher derivative term introduced to get rid of the triviality of the Einstein-Hilbert action in two-dimensions.
- R^2 is important in UV renormalization.

Canonical Formalism

Foliation of space-time

$$S = \int d^2x \left[B \partial_0 \omega + \frac{1}{l} B_a \partial_0 e_1^a + \omega_0 \mathcal{G} + \frac{1}{l} e_0^a \mathcal{G}_a \right].$$

- Where: $\mathcal{G} \equiv D_1 B$ and $\mathcal{G}_a \equiv D_1 B_a + \frac{2\kappa^2}{l} \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} e_1^b B^2$.
- We do not have $\partial_0 \omega_0$ and $\partial_0 e_0^a$.
- Canonical Momenta $\Pi^0 = 0$, $\pi_a^0 = 0$.
- Primary Constraints: $\phi \equiv \Pi^0 \approx 0$, $\phi_a \equiv \pi_a^0 \approx 0$.

- $\{\omega(x), B(y)\} = \delta(x-y)$, $\{e_1^a(x), B_b\} = l \delta_b^a \delta(x-y)$.
- Canonical Hamiltonian: $\mathcal{H}_0 = -\omega_0 \mathcal{G} - \frac{1}{l} e_0^a \mathcal{G}_a$.

Secondary Constraints

Consistency Condition: Primary Constraints must be conserved in time

- Primary Hamiltonian: $\mathcal{H}_P \equiv \mathcal{H}_0 + v\phi + v^a\phi_a$.
- Consistency: $\dot{\phi} = \{\phi, \mathcal{H}_P\} = 0$.

Secondary Constraints

$$\dot{\phi} = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \quad \dot{\phi}^a = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_a.$$

Algebra of Constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{G}(x), \mathcal{G}_a(y)\} &= -\bar{\epsilon}_a^b \mathcal{G}_b(x). \\ \{\mathcal{G}_a(x), \mathcal{G}_b(y)\} &= -\bar{\epsilon}_{ab} (1 - 4\kappa^2 B) \mathcal{G}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Generators of gauge transformations

Smeared constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{G}(\zeta) &\equiv \int dx \zeta(x) \mathcal{G}(x), & \mathcal{G}_a(\zeta^a) &\equiv \int dx \zeta^a(x) \mathcal{G}_a(x), \\ \tilde{\mathcal{G}}(\lambda) &\equiv \int dx \lambda(x) \phi(x), & \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_a(\lambda^a) &\equiv \int dx \lambda^a(x) \phi_a(x).\end{aligned}$$

Generators

$$\begin{aligned}\left\{e_0^a, \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_b(\lambda^b)\right\} &= \lambda^a, \left\{\omega_0, \tilde{\mathcal{G}}(\lambda)\right\} = \lambda. \\ \left\{e_1^a, \mathcal{G}(\zeta) + \mathcal{G}_b(\zeta^b)\right\} &= ID_1 \zeta^a. \\ \left\{\omega, \mathcal{G}(\zeta) + \mathcal{G}_b(\zeta^b)\right\} &= -D_1 \zeta + \frac{4\kappa^2}{l} \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} \zeta^a e_1^b B.\end{aligned}$$

Degrees of Freedom

Counting degrees of freedom (d.o.f) in Dirac's canonical formalism:

$$d.o.f = N - 2M - S.$$

- N is the dimension of the phase-space.
- M is the number of first-class constraints.
- S is the number of second-class constraints.

For Polynomial BF action we have

- $N = 12$: Due to (e_μ^a, ω_μ) and their canonical momenta.
- $M = 6$. Since we have $(\phi, \phi_a, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}_a)$
- $S = 0$. There is no second-class constraints

BFV Quantization

Batalin-Fradkin-Vilkovisky Formalism:

- E.S. Fradkin, G.A. Vilkovisky, Phys. Lett. B 55 (1975) 244.
- A. Batalin, G.A. Vilkovisky, Phys. Lett. B 69 (1977) 309.

Conditions for BFV

- The collection of primary and secondary constraints $G_A = (\phi, \phi_a, \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}_a)$.
- Algebra $\{G_A, G_B\} = U_{AB}^C G_C$ and $\{H_0, G_A\} = V_A^B G_B$.
- It is possible: $U_{AB}^C = U_{AB}^C(q, p)$.

BFV quantization

For the Polynomial BF action we have

$$U_{34}^4 = -\bar{\epsilon}_a^b, U_{44}^3 = -\bar{\epsilon}_{ab} (1 - 4\kappa^2 B).$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_1^3 &= -1, V_2^4 = -\frac{1}{l} \delta_b^a, V_3^4 = -\frac{1}{l} \bar{\epsilon}_a^b e_0^a. \\ V_4^3 &= -\frac{1}{l} \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} e_0^b (1 - 4\kappa^2 B), V_4^4 = \bar{\epsilon}_a^b \omega_0. \end{aligned}$$

Introduction of ghost

- Vector of ghost $\eta^A = (P, P^a, c, c^a)$ and $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_A = (\bar{c}, \bar{c}_a, \bar{P}, \bar{P}_a)$.
- Brackets $\{\eta^A, \bar{\mathcal{P}}_B\} = -\delta_B^A \delta(x - y)$.

BRST Charge and Invariant Hamiltonian

BRST Charge

$$\Omega = \eta^A G_A + \frac{1}{2} \overline{\mathcal{P}}_C U_{AB}^C \eta^A \eta^B.$$

$$\Omega = P\phi + P^a \phi_a + c\mathcal{G} + c^a \mathcal{G}_a - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} (1 - 4\kappa^2 B) \bar{P} c^a c^b + \bar{\epsilon}_b^a \bar{P}_a c c^b.$$

BRST Invariant Hamiltonian: $\{\mathcal{H}_B, \Omega\} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_B &= \mathcal{H}_0 + \eta^A V_A^B \overline{\mathcal{P}}_B. \\ \mathcal{H}_U &= \mathcal{H}_B + \{\Psi, \Omega\}. \end{aligned}$$

Gauge Fermion

Gauge Fermion $\Psi = \overline{\mathcal{P}}_A \chi^A$

- Gauge functions $\chi^A = (\chi, \chi^a, 0, 0)$. Then $\Psi = \overline{c}\chi + \overline{c}_a \chi^a$.
- Temporal Gauge $\chi = \frac{1}{\gamma} \omega_0$, $\chi^a = \frac{1}{\gamma} (\epsilon_0^a - \delta_1^a)$.

$$\{\Psi, \Omega\} = -\frac{1}{\gamma} \omega_0 \Pi^0 - \frac{1}{\gamma} (\epsilon_0^a - \delta_1^a) \pi_a^0 - \frac{1}{\gamma} P \overline{c} - \frac{1}{\gamma} P^a \overline{c}_a.$$

Transition Amplitude:

$$Z = \int D[\text{Fields}] D[\text{Ghosts}] \times \exp i \int dt \left[\dot{q}_i p^i + \dot{\eta}^A \overline{\mathcal{P}}_A - \mathcal{H}_U \right].$$

Path Integral Transition Amplitude

Transition amplitude:

$$Z = \int D\mathbf{e}_1^a D\omega DB_a DB \exp i \int dt \left[\dot{\mathbf{e}}_1^a B_a + \dot{\omega} B + \frac{1}{I} \mathcal{G}_1 \right] \times Z_{gh},$$

Ghost part

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{gh} = & \int D\bar{c} Dc D\bar{c}^a Dc^a \exp i \int dt [-\bar{c}\dot{c} - I\bar{c}_a \dot{c}^a] \\ & \exp i \int dt \left[-\frac{1}{I} \bar{\mathcal{E}}_{a1} (1 - 4\kappa^2 B) \bar{c}c^a + \bar{\mathcal{E}}_1^a \bar{c}_a c \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Quadratic Gravity From Dilaton Theory

Two dimensional dilaton theories

$$S(g, X) = \int d^2x \sqrt{g} \left[\frac{R}{2} X - \frac{1}{2} U(X) (\partial X)^2 - V(X) \right].$$

- *Dilaton gravity in two dimensions*, D. Grumiller, W. Kummer, D. V. Vassilevich, Phys. Rep. 369, (2002) 327.
- Jackiw-Teitelboim Gravity: $U(X) = 0$ and $V(X) = \Lambda X$.
- KV Model: $U(X) = cte$ and $V(X) = \frac{\beta}{2} X^2 - \Lambda$. (R^2 gravity with dynamical torsion).
- Almheiri-Polchinski model: Quadratic potential and RX^2 (2014).

Modeling the potential

Let us consider $U(X) = 0$. Then, for the dilaton field we have

$$R = 2 \frac{dV}{dX}.$$

We can choose $V(X) = 2\Lambda X (1 - 2\kappa^2 X)$

$$S = \frac{1}{8\kappa^2} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} (R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{64\Lambda\kappa^2} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} R^2.$$

Dilaton with Cartan variables

Introducing Cartan variables:

$$S = \int \left[X d\omega + X_a \left(de^a + \omega_b^a \wedge e^b \right) - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon}_{ab} e^a \wedge e^b V(X) \right].$$

Pros and Cons

- Dilaton theories englobe a large class of two-dimensional gravity models.
- BF theory is build as a gauge theory.
- Dilaton Gravity can be written as a Poisson-Sigma model.
- The first-order Dilaton Gravity is valid on two dimensions.
- BF can be build in three and four dimensions.

Perspectives

In two dimensions

- Are valid the same extensions of Jackiw-Teitelboim gravity?
- Are valid the same extensions of MacDowell-Mansouri gravity?
- It is possible to introduce a dynamical torsions?
- Loop quantum gravity as in Jackiw-Teitelboim?

In three dimensions

- Is it useful to introduce a cosmological term in the three dimensional Polynomial BF action?.