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### The Lagrangian of q-Poincaré Gravity

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### Abstract

The gauging of the  $q$ -Poincaré algebra of ref. [1] yields a non-commutative generalization of the Einstein-Cartan lagrangian.

We prove its invariance under local  $q$ -Lorentz rotations and, up to a total derivative, under  $q$ -diffeomorphisms. The variations of the fields are given by their  $q$ -Lie derivative, in analogy with the  $q = 1$  case. The algebra of  $q$ -Lie derivatives is shown to close with field dependent structure functions.

The equations of motion are found, generalizing the Einstein equations and the zero-torsion condition.

Key-words: Quantum groups; Gravitation; Non-commutative; Differential calculus.

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We describe in this Letter a geometric procedure to gauge the quantum Poincaré algebra found in ref. [1]. The lagrangian we obtain is a generalization of the Einstein-Cartan lagrangian, and has the same kind of symmetries (now  $q$ -deformed symmetries) as its classical counterpart: it is invariant under local Lorentz rotations and  $q$ -diffeomorphisms.

As one could expect, the differential calculus on the  $q$ -deformed Poincaré group is the correct framework for the program of finding a  $q$ -generalization of Einstein gravity. It was not obvious that this program could be carried to the end: in fact it can be done. We refer to [1] for most of the technicalities regarding the inhomogeneous quantum groups  $ISO_q(N)$  and their differential calculus. Here we concentrate directly on the  $ISO_q(3,1)$  quantum Lie algebra, and discuss its gauging. The method we follow is a natural  $q$ -extension of the geometric procedure described in [2] for classical gauge and (super)gravity theories <sup>1</sup>.

The starting point is the  $q$ -algebra  $ISO_q(3,1)$  of ref. [1]:

$$[\chi_{ab}, \chi_{cd}] = C_{bc}\chi_{ad} + C_{ad}\chi_{bc} - C_{bd}\chi_{ac} - C_{ac}\chi_{bd} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\chi_{12}, \chi_a]_{q^{-1}} &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{2a}\chi_1 - q^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{1a}\chi_2 \\ [\chi_{13}, \chi_a]_{q^{-1}} &= q^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{3a}\chi_1 - q^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{1a}\chi_3 \\ [\chi_{14}, \chi_a] &= C_{4a}\chi_1 - C_{1a}\chi_4 \\ [\chi_{23}, \chi_a] &= C_{3a}\chi_2 - C_{2a}\chi_3 \\ [\chi_{24}, \chi_a]_q &= q^{\frac{1}{2}}C_{4a}\chi_2 - q^{\frac{1}{2}}C_{2a}\chi_4 \\ [\chi_{34}, \chi_a]_q &= q^{\frac{1}{2}}C_{4a}\chi_3 - q^{\frac{1}{2}}C_{3a}\chi_4 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\chi_1, \chi_2]_{q^{-1}} &= 0, & [\chi_1, \chi_3]_{q^{-1}} &= 0 \\ [\chi_1, \chi_4]_{q^{-2}} &= 0, & [\chi_2, \chi_3] &= 0 \\ [\chi_2, \chi_4]_{q^{-1}} &= 0, & [\chi_3, \chi_4]_{q^{-1}} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $[A, B]_s \equiv AB - sBA$ . The subalgebra spanned by the Lorentz generators  $\chi_{ab}$  ( $= -\chi_{ba}$ ) is classical; the deformation parameter  $q$  appears only in the commutation relations (2) and (3), involving the momenta  $\chi_a$ . The metric  $C_{ab}$  is given by

$$C_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

with Lorentz signature  $(+, +, +, -)$ . Only in the classical limit  $q \rightarrow 1$  can one redefine the generators so as to diagonalize (4). The fact that the metric is diagonal in the indices 2,3 (and not completely antidiagonal as for the  $q$ -groups defined in [4])

<sup>1</sup>the so-called "group manifold approach" was initiated in ref.s [3].

is due to the existence of a particular real form on  $SO_q(4; \mathbf{C})$ . This real form, first discussed in ref. [5] for the uniparametric  $q$ -groups  $SO_q(2n; \mathbf{C})$ , was extended to the multiparametric case and to  $ISO_q(2n, \mathbf{C})$  in [1], and allows to redefine antihermitian (linear combinations of the) generators, bringing the antidiagonal metric of ref. [4] in the hybrid form (4).

The algebra (1)-(3) was obtained in ref. [1] via a consistent projection from the  $q$ -Lie algebra of a particular multiparametric deformation of  $SO(6)$ , for which the  $R$  matrix takes a very simple form: it is diagonal and satisfies  $\hat{R}^2 = 1$ , with  $\hat{R} \equiv PR$  ( $\hat{R}^{ab}{}_{cd} \equiv R^{ba}{}_{cd}$ ).

The  $q$ -Lie algebra (1)-(3) has the form

$$\chi_i \chi_j - \Lambda^{kl}{}_{ij} \chi_k \chi_l = C_{ij}{}^k \chi_k \quad (5)$$

where  $i, j, \dots$  are adjoint indices running on the 10 values corresponding to the indices  $(a, ab)$  of the generators of  $ISO_q(3, 1)$ . The non-vanishing components of the braiding matrix  $\Lambda$  and the structure constants  $C$ , implicitly defined by (1)-(3), are given below (no sum on repeated indices):

$$\Lambda^{ab}{}_{cd}{}^{ef}{}_{gh} = \delta_a^e \delta_b^f \delta_c^g \delta_d^h \quad (6)$$

$$\Lambda^{a}{}^{bc}{}_{de}{}^f = (\alpha_{de})^2 \delta_f^a \delta_d^b \delta_e^c \quad (7)$$

$$\Lambda^{bc}{}^a{}_f{}_{de} = (\alpha_{de})^{-2} \delta_f^a \delta_d^b \delta_e^c \quad (8)$$

$$\Lambda^{ab}{}_{cd} = \beta_{cd} \delta_a^b \delta_c^d \quad (9)$$

$$C_{ab}{}_{cd}{}^{ef} = \frac{1}{4} [C_{ad} \delta_b^e \delta_c^f + C_{bc} \delta_a^e \delta_d^f - C_{ac} \delta_b^e \delta_d^f - C_{bd} \delta_a^e \delta_c^f] - (e \leftrightarrow f) \quad (10)$$

$$C_{ab}{}^c{}^d = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{ab} (C_{bc} \delta_a^d - C_{ac} \delta_b^d) \quad (11)$$

$$C_{c}{}^{ab}{}^d = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{ab}^{-1} (C_{bc} \delta_a^d - C_{ac} \delta_b^d) \quad (12)$$

with

$$\alpha_{12} = \alpha_{13} = q^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \alpha_{24} = \alpha_{34} = q^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \alpha_{14} = \alpha_{23} = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$\beta_{12} = \beta_{13} = \beta_{24} = \beta_{34} = q^{-1}, \quad \beta_{14} = q^{-2}, \quad \beta_{23} = 1, \quad \beta_{ab} = \beta_{ba}^{-1} \quad (14)$$

Note that the  $\Lambda$  tensor has unit square, i.e.

$$\Lambda^{ij}{}_{kl} \Lambda^{kl}{}_{mn} = \delta_m^i \delta_n^j \quad (15)$$

so that the algebra in (1)-(3) is a minimal deformation of  $ISO(3, 1)$ . Deformations of Lie algebras whose braiding matrix has unit square were considered some time ago by Gurevich [6].

The  $\Lambda$  and  $C$  components in (6)-(12) satisfy the following conditions <sup>2</sup>

$$C_{ri}{}^n C_{nj}{}^s - \Lambda^{kl}{}_{ij} C_{rk}{}^n C_{nl}{}^s = C_{ij}{}^k C_{rk}{}^s \quad (q\text{-Jacobi identities}) \quad (16)$$

$$\Lambda^{nm}{}_{ij} \Lambda^{ik}{}_{rp} \Lambda^{js}{}_{kq} = \Lambda^{nk}{}_{ri} \Lambda^{ms}{}_{kj} \Lambda^{ij}{}_{pq} \quad (\text{Yang-Baxter}) \quad (17)$$

$$C_{mn}{}^i \Lambda^{ml}{}_{rj} \Lambda^{ns}{}_{lk} + \Lambda^{il}{}_{rj} C_{lk}{}^s = \Lambda^{pq}{}_{jk} \Lambda^{is}{}_{lq} C_{rp}{}^i + C_{jk}{}^m \Lambda^{is}{}_{rm} \quad (18)$$

$$C_{rk}{}^m \Lambda^{ns}{}_{ml} = \Lambda^{ij}{}_{kl} \Lambda^{nm}{}_{ri} C_{mj}{}^s \quad (19)$$

These are the "bicovariance conditions", see ref.s [7, 8, 9], necessary for the existence of a bicovariant differential calculus (see also the discussion in Appendix B of [1]). Whenever we have a set of matrices  $\Lambda^{ij}{}_{kl}$ ,  $C_{ij}{}^k$  satisfying (16)-(19) we can construct a differential calculus on the quantum group  $Fun_q(M_i{}^j)$ , generated by the elements (adjoint representation of the  $q$ -groups)  $M_i{}^j$  satisfying the " $\Lambda MM$ " relations:

$$M_i{}^j M_r{}^s \Lambda^{ir}{}_{pk} = \Lambda^{jq}{}_{ri} M_p{}^r M_k{}^i \quad (20)$$

Consistency of these relations is ensured by the QYB equations (17). One can define in the usual way a coproduct  $\Delta(M_i{}^j) = M_i{}^k \otimes M_k{}^j$  and a counit  $\varepsilon(M_i{}^j) = \delta_i^j$ . When  $\Lambda^2 = 1$  one can also define a coinverse  $\kappa(M_i{}^j)$  with  $\kappa^2 = 1$  (This is done by enlarging the algebra  $Fun_q(M_i{}^j)$ , see Appendix B of [1]).

The generators  $\chi_i$  of the  $q$ -Lie algebra (5) are functionals on  $Fun_q(M_i{}^j)$ :

$$\chi_j(M_i{}^k) = C_{ij}{}^k \quad (21)$$

We recall that products of functionals are defined via the coproduct  $\Delta$ , i.e.  $\chi_i \chi_j \equiv (\chi_i \otimes \chi_j) \Delta$ , whereas functionals act on products as  $\chi_i(ab) = \Delta'(\chi_i)(a \otimes b)$ ,  $a, b \in Fun_q(M_i{}^j)$  (see below the definition of  $\Delta'$ ).

Next we introduce new functionals  $f^i{}_j$  via their action on the basis  $M_k{}^j$ :

$$f^i{}_j(M_k{}^j) = \Lambda^{ij}{}_{kl} \quad (22)$$

The co-structures of  $\chi$  and  $f$  are given by:

$$\Delta'(\chi_i) = \chi_j \otimes f^j{}_i + I' \otimes \chi_i \quad (23)$$

$$\varepsilon'(\chi_i) = 0 \quad (24)$$

$$\kappa'(\chi_i) = -\chi_j \kappa'(f^j{}_i) \quad (25)$$

$$\Delta'(f^i{}_j) = f^i{}_k \otimes f^k{}_j \quad (26)$$

$$\varepsilon'(f^i{}_j) = \delta_j^i \quad (27)$$

$$\kappa'(f^i{}_j) = f^i{}_j \circ \kappa \quad (28)$$

The algebra generated by the  $\chi$  and  $f$  is a Hopf algebra, and defines a bicovariant differential calculus on the  $q$ -group generated by the  $M_i{}^j$  elements. For example,

<sup>2</sup>this can be checked directly without too much effort. In [1] a general proof is given for all  $ISO_q(N)$  obtained by the projective method.

one can introduce left-invariant one-forms  $\omega^i$  as duals to the "tangent vectors"  $\chi_i$ , an exterior product

$$\omega^i \wedge \omega^j \equiv \omega^i \otimes \omega^j - \Lambda^{ij}{}_{kl} \omega^k \otimes \omega^l, \quad (29)$$

an exterior derivative on  $Fun_q(M_i^j)$  as

$$da = (id \otimes \chi_i) \Delta(a) \omega^i, \quad a \in Fun_q(M_i^j) \quad (30)$$

and so on. The commutations between one-forms and elements  $a \in Fun_q(M_i^j)$  are given by:

$$\omega^i a = (id \otimes f^i{}_j) \Delta(a) \quad (31)$$

The exterior derivative can be extended to the (left-invariant) one-forms via the deformed Cartan-Maurer equations [7, 9]

$$d\omega^i + C_{jk}{}^i \omega^j \wedge \omega^k = 0 \quad (32)$$

The  $C$  structure constants appearing in the Cartan-Maurer equations are related to the  $C$  constants of the  $q$ -Lie algebra as [9]:

$$C_{jk}{}^i = C_{jk}{}^i - \Lambda^{rs}{}_{jk} C_{rs}{}^i \quad (33)$$

In the particular case  $\Lambda^2 = I$  it is not difficult to see that  $C = \frac{1}{2}C$ .

The procedure we have advocated in refs [10] for the "gauging" of quantum groups essentially retraces the steps of the group-geometric method for the gauging of usual Lie groups, described for instance in refs [2].

We consider one-forms  $\omega^i$  which are not left-invariant any more, so that the Cartan-Maurer equations are replaced by:

$$R^i = d\omega^i + C_{jk}{}^i \omega^j \wedge \omega^k \quad (34)$$

where the curvatures  $R^i$  are now non-vanishing, and satisfy the  $q$ -Bianchi identities:

$$dR^i - C_{jk}{}^i R^j \wedge \omega^k + C_{jk}{}^i \omega^j \wedge R^k = 0 \quad (35)$$

due to the Jacobi identities on the structure constants  $C_{ij}{}^k$  [9]. As in the classical case we can write the  $q$ -Bianchi identities as  $\nabla R^i = 0$  (these define the covariant derivative  $\nabla$ ).

Consider now the definition (34) of the curvature  $R^i$ , and apply it to the  $q$ -Poincaré algebra of (1)-(3): the one-forms dual to  $\chi_{ab}$ ,  $\chi_a$  are respectively denoted by  $\omega^{ab}$ ,  $V^a$  and the corresponding curvatures read (we omit wedge symbols):

$$R^{ab} = d\omega^{ab} + C_{cd}{}^{ab} \omega^{cd} \quad (36)$$

$$R^a = dV^a + \alpha_{af} C_{fb}{}^a \omega^{fb} \quad (37)$$

where  $V_a \equiv C_{ab} V^b$ ,  $\alpha_{af}$  and  $C_{ab}$  are given in (13) and (4), and we used  $C_{ij}{}^k = \frac{1}{2} C_{ij}{}^k$ . We have also rescaled  $\omega^{ab}$  by a factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  to obtain standard normalizations.

$R^{ab}$  is the  $q$ -Lorentz curvature, coinciding with the classical one (as a function of  $\omega^{ab}$ ), and  $R^a$  is the  $q$ -deformed torsion.

The Bianchi identities, deduced from (35), are:

$$dR^{ab} - C_{fe}R^{af}\omega^{eb} + C_{fe}\omega^{af}R^{eb} = 0 \quad (38)$$

$$dR^a + \alpha_{af}C_{fb}R^{af}V^b - \alpha_{af}C_{fb}\omega^{af}R^b = 0 \quad (39)$$

From the definition (29) of the exterior product we see that for  $\Lambda^2 = I$  the one-forms  $\omega^i$   $q$ -commute as:

$$\omega^i\omega^j = -\Lambda^{ij}{}_k\omega^k\omega^i \quad (40)$$

Inserting the  $\Lambda$  tensor corresponding to (6)-(9) we find:

$$\begin{aligned} V^a\omega^{12} &= -q^{-1}\omega^{12}V^a \\ V^a\omega^{13} &= -q^{-1}\omega^{13}V^a \\ V^a\omega^{14} &= -\omega^{14}V^a \\ V^a\omega^{23} &= -\omega^{23}V^a \\ V^a\omega^{24} &= -q\omega^{24}V^a \\ V^a\omega^{34} &= -q\omega^{34}V^a \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V^2V^1 &= -q^{-1}V^1V^2 \\ V^3V^1 &= -q^{-1}V^1V^3 \\ V^4V^1 &= -q^{-2}V^1V^4 \\ V^3V^2 &= -V^2V^3 \\ V^4V^2 &= -q^{-1}V^2V^4 \\ V^4V^3 &= -q^{-1}V^3V^4 \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

and usual anticommutations between the  $\omega^{ab}$  (components of the Lorentz spin connection). The exterior product of two identical one-forms vanishes (this is not true in general when  $\Lambda^2 \neq I$ ). As a consequence, the exterior product of five vielbeins is zero.

We are now ready to write the lagrangian for the  $q$ -gravity theory based on  $ISO_q(3,1)$ . The lagrangian looks identical to the classical one, i.e.:

$$\mathcal{L} = R^{ab}V^cV^d\epsilon_{abcd} \quad (43)$$

The Lorentz curvature  $R^{ab}$ , although defined as in the classical case, has non-trivial commutations with the  $q$ -vielbein:

$$\begin{aligned} V^aR^{12} &= q^{-1}R^{12}V^a \\ V^aR^{13} &= q^{-1}R^{13}V^a \\ V^aR^{14} &= R^{14}V^a \\ V^aR^{23} &= R^{23}V^a \\ V^aR^{24} &= qR^{24}V^a \\ V^aR^{34} &= qR^{34}V^a \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

deducible from the definition (36). As in ref. [10, 9], we make the assumption that the commutations of  $d\omega^i$  with the one-forms  $\omega^j$  are the same as those of  $C_{jk}^i \omega^j \omega^k$  with  $\omega^l$ , i.e. the same as those valid for  $R^i = 0$ . For the definition of  $\varepsilon_{abcd}$  in (43) see below.

We discuss now the notion of  $q$ -diffeomorphisms. It is known that there is a consistent  $q$ -generalization of the Lie derivative (see ref.s [9, 11, 12, 1] ) which can be expressed as in the classical case as:

$$\ell_V = i_V d + di_V \quad (45)$$

where  $i_V$  is the  $q$ -contraction operator defined in ref.s [9, 11], with the following properties:

- i)  $i_V(a) = 0, a \in A, V$  generic tangent vector
- ii)  $i_t \omega^j = \delta_t^j I$
- iii)  $i_t(\theta \wedge \omega^k) = i_t(\theta) \omega^k \wedge \Lambda^{rk}{}_{li} + (-1)^p \theta \delta_t^k, \theta$  generic  $p$ -form
- iv)  $i_V(a\theta + \theta') = ai_V(\theta) + i_V\theta', \theta, \theta'$  generic forms
- v)  $i_{\lambda V} = \lambda i_V, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$
- vi)  $i_{\varepsilon V}(\theta) = i_V(\theta)\varepsilon, \varepsilon \in A$  (46)

As a consequence, the  $q$ -Lie derivative satisfies:

- i)  $\ell_V a = i_V(da) \equiv V(a)$
- ii)  $\ell_V d = d\ell_V$
- iii)  $\ell_V(\lambda\theta + \theta') = \lambda\ell_V(\theta) + \ell_V(\theta')$
- iv)  $\ell_{\varepsilon V}(\theta) = (\ell_V\theta)\varepsilon - (-1)^p i_V(\theta)d\varepsilon, \theta$  generic  $p$ -form
- v)  $\ell_t(\theta \wedge \omega^k) = (\ell_t\theta) \wedge \omega^k \wedge \Lambda^{rk}{}_{li} + \theta \wedge \ell_t\omega^k$  (47)

In analogy with the classical case, we define the  $q$ -diffeomorphism variation of the fundamental field  $\omega^i$  as

$$\delta\omega^k \equiv \ell_{\varepsilon^i t} \omega^k \quad (48)$$

where according to iv) in (47):

$$\ell_{\varepsilon^i t} \omega^k = (i_t d\omega^k + di_t \omega^k)\varepsilon^i + d\varepsilon^k = (i_t d\omega^k)\varepsilon^i + d\varepsilon^k \quad (49)$$

As in the classical case, there is a suggestive way to write this variation:

$$\ell_{\varepsilon^i t} \omega^k = i_{\varepsilon^i t} R^k + \nabla \varepsilon^k \quad (50)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \varepsilon^k &\equiv d\varepsilon^k - C_{rs}{}^k i_t(\omega^r \wedge \omega^s)\varepsilon^i = \\ &d\varepsilon^k - C_{rs}{}^k \varepsilon^r \omega^s + C_{rs}{}^k \omega^r \varepsilon^s \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$



Proof: use the Bianchi identities (35) and iii) in (46).

Notice that if we postulate:

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda^{rk}{}_{ii}\omega^j\epsilon^i &= \epsilon^r\omega^k \\ \Lambda^{rk}{}_{ii}\omega^j \wedge d\epsilon^i &= -d\epsilon^r \wedge \omega^k\end{aligned}\quad (52)$$

we find

$$\delta(\omega^j \wedge \omega^k) = \delta\omega^j \wedge \omega^k + \omega^j \wedge \delta\omega^k \quad (53)$$

i.e. a rule that any "sensible" variation law should satisfy. To prove (53) use iv) and v) of (47). The  $q$ -commutations (52) were already proposed in [10] in the context of  $q$ -gauge theories. A consequence of (52) are the following commutations between the variation parameter and  $d\omega^i$ :

$$\Lambda^{rk}{}_{ii}d\omega^l\epsilon^i = \epsilon^r d\omega^k \quad (54)$$

As discussed in ref.s [10], it is consistent to postulate that  $R^i$  has the same commutations with  $\epsilon$  as  $d\omega^i$ :

$$\Lambda^{rk}{}_{ii}R^l\epsilon^i = \epsilon^r R^k \quad (55)$$

We have now all the tools we need to investigate the invariances of the  $q$ -gravity lagrangian (43). The result will be analogous to the classical one: after imposing the horizontality conditions

$$i_{t_{ab}}R^{cd} = i_{t_{ab}}R^c = 0 \quad (56)$$

along the Lorentz directions one finds that, provided the  $\epsilon$  tensor in (43) is appropriately defined, the lagrangian is invariant under  $q$ -diffeomorphisms and local Lorentz rotations. Note that, as in the  $q = 1$  case, the horizontality conditions (56) can be obtained as field equations (see later).

We first consider Lorentz rotations. Under these, the curvature  $R^{ab}$  and the vielbein  $V^c$  transform as:

$$\delta R^{ab} \equiv \ell_{e\rho\lambda}{}_{t_{\rho\lambda}} R^{ab} = C_{ef}{}_{g\lambda}{}^{ab} R^{cf} \epsilon^{g\lambda} - C_{g\lambda}{}_{ef}{}^{ab} \epsilon^{g\lambda} R^{cf} \quad (57)$$

$$\delta V^c \equiv \ell_{e\rho\lambda}{}_{t_{\rho\lambda}} V^c = -C_{ef}{}_{g}{}^c \epsilon^{ef} V^g + C_{g}{}_{ef}{}^c V^g \epsilon^{ef} \quad (58)$$

To obtain these variations, use the definition (45), iv) of (47), the Bianchi identity (38) and the horizontality conditions (56).

Now we have the lemma:

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = [(\delta R^{ab})V^c V^d + R^{ab}(\delta V^c)V^d + R^{ab}V^c(\delta V^d)]\epsilon_{abcd} \quad (59)$$

Proof: use v) of (47) and the first of (52).

Inserting the variations (57) and (58) inside (59) we find, after ordering the terms as  $\epsilon RVV$  with (52) and (55):

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = 2(C_{\epsilon f \rho h}{}^{ab} \epsilon_{abcd} - C_{\rho h \ c}{}^s \epsilon_{efsd} - C_{rs \ d}{}^p \Lambda^q{}^{rs}{}_{\rho h \ c} \epsilon_{efqp}) \epsilon^{\rho h} R^{cf} V^c V^d \quad (60)$$

Using the explicit form of the  $\Lambda$  and  $C$  tensors into (6)-(12) and imposing  $\delta\mathcal{L} = 0$ , yields a set of equations for the  $\epsilon_{abcd}$  tensor. These can in fact be solved and yield:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{1234} &= 1, & \epsilon_{1243} &= -q, & \epsilon_{1324} &= -1, & \epsilon_{1342} &= q, \\ \epsilon_{1423} &= q^{\frac{3}{2}}, & \epsilon_{1432} &= -q^{\frac{3}{2}}, & \epsilon_{2134} &= -1, & \epsilon_{2143} &= q, \\ \epsilon_{3124} &= 1, & \epsilon_{3142} &= -q, & \epsilon_{4123} &= -q^{\frac{3}{2}}, & \epsilon_{4132} &= q^{\frac{3}{2}}, \\ \epsilon_{2314} &= q^{\frac{1}{2}}, & \epsilon_{2341} &= -q^{\frac{5}{2}}, & \epsilon_{2413} &= -q^2, & \epsilon_{2431} &= q^3, \\ \epsilon_{3214} &= -q^{\frac{1}{2}}, & \epsilon_{3241} &= q^{\frac{5}{2}}, & \epsilon_{4213} &= q^2, & \epsilon_{4231} &= -q^3, \\ \epsilon_{3412} &= q^2, & \epsilon_{3421} &= -q^3, & \epsilon_{4312} &= -q^2, & \epsilon_{4321} &= q^3 \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

Consider next the variation of  $\mathcal{L}$  under  $q$ -diffeomorphisms, i.e.:

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \ell_{\epsilon^g} \mathcal{L} = (\ell_{i_g} \mathcal{L}) \epsilon^g - (i_{i_g} \mathcal{L}) d\epsilon^g = \quad (62)$$

$$= d[i_{i_g} (R^{ab} V^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd}) \epsilon^g] + i_{i_g} [d(R^{ab} V^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd})] \epsilon^g \quad (63)$$

Then the variation  $\delta\mathcal{L}$  is a total derivative if

$$d(R^{ab} V^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd}) = 0 \quad (64)$$

After using the expression for  $dR^{ab}$  given by the Bianchi identity (38) and the torsion definition (37) to find  $dV^a$  (note that  $R^{ab} R^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd} = 0$  because of horizontality of  $R^{ab}, R^c$  and the vanishing of the product of five vielbeins), eq. (64) yields a set of conditions on  $\epsilon_{abcd}$ . These conditions in fact coincide with those found to ensure local Lorentz invariance of the  $q$ -lagrangian. This is not a miracle: indeed we could have computed the Lorentz variation of  $\mathcal{L}$  in the same way as in (63); the total derivative term would have vanished because  $i_{i_{\rho h}} (R^{ab} V^c V^d) = 0$  (horizontality of  $R^{ab}$ ), and we would have found again eq. (64) as a condition for  $\delta\mathcal{L} = 0$ .

Thus the lagrangian (43) with the  $\epsilon_{abcd}$  tensor as given in (61) is invariant (up to a total derivative) also under  $q$ -diffeomorphisms.

We discuss now the algebra of  $q$ -Lie derivatives. We have the theorem, analogous to the classical one:

$$\ell_{i_j} \ell_{i_k} - \Lambda^{kl}{}_{ij} \ell_{i_k} \ell_{i_l} = \ell_{(C_{i_j}{}^n - R^n{}_{ij}) i_n} \quad (65)$$

with

$$R^i \equiv R^i{}_{jk} \omega^j \wedge \omega^k \quad (66)$$

$$R^i{}_{jk} \equiv R^i{}_{jk} - \Lambda^{rs}{}_{jk} R^i{}_{rs} \quad (67)$$

As for the structure constants, we have  $R_{jk}^i = \frac{1}{2}R^i_{jk}$  when  $\Lambda^2 = 1$ . The proof of the composition law (65) is computational: one applies its left-hand side to  $\omega^k$ , and uses the properties of the  $q$ -Lie derivative. *Hint 1*: rewrite the Lie derivative of  $\omega^k$  as:

$$\ell_{t_j} \omega^k = (C_{r_j}^k - R^k_{r_j}) \omega^r \quad (68)$$

*Hint 2*: use the following expression for  $\Lambda^{ij}_{kl}$  (no sums on repeated indices) :

$$\Lambda^{ij}_{kl} = [kl] \delta_i^j \delta_k^l \quad (69)$$

and the identities

$$[kl] = \frac{1}{[lk]} \quad (70)$$

$$C_{rk}^s [lk] [lr] = C_{rk}^s [ls] \quad (71)$$

due to  $\Lambda^2 = 1$  and the bicovariance condition (19).

From the  $q$ -algebra (65) it is not difficult to find the following composition law for  $q$ -variations:

$$\ell_{\epsilon_2^i t_i} \ell_{\epsilon_1^j t_j} - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) = \ell_{(C_{ij}^n - R^n_{ij}) \epsilon_2^i \epsilon_1^j t_n} \quad (72)$$

The order of the factors is important in the composite parameter  $(C_{ij}^n - R^n_{ij}) \epsilon_2^i \epsilon_1^j$ . Note also that

$$(C_{ij}^n - R^n_{ij}) \epsilon_2^i \epsilon_1^j = \frac{1}{2} (C_{ij}^n - R^n_{ij}) (\epsilon_2^i \epsilon_1^j - \epsilon_1^i \epsilon_2^j) \quad (73)$$

if we postulate the commutation rule

$$\epsilon_1^i \epsilon_2^j = \Lambda^{ij}_{kl} \epsilon_2^k \epsilon_1^l \quad (74)$$

Indeed  $(C_{ij}^n - R^n_{ij}) \Lambda^{ij}_{kl} = -(C_{kl}^n - R^n_{kl})$  (due to  $\Lambda^2 = 1$ ). Then the composite parameter is explicitly  $(1 \leftrightarrow 2)$  antisymmetric.

Let us derive the equations of motion corresponding to the  $q$ -lagrangian (43). We assume the same variational rule as with the Lie derivative. The  $q$ -Einstein equations are obtained by varying the vielbein in  $\mathcal{L}$ :

$$\delta \mathcal{L} = R^{ab} (\delta V^c V^d + V^c \delta V^d) \epsilon_{abcd} = 0 \quad (75)$$

Postulating that  $\delta \omega^i$  has the same commutations as  $\omega^i$ , and noticing that

$$\epsilon_{abef} = -\Lambda^{cd}_{ef} \epsilon_{abcd} \quad (76)$$

(use the explicit entries in (9) and (61), or notice that since  $\epsilon_{abcd}$  multiplies  $V^c V^d$  in (43), it must be  $\Lambda$ -antisymmetric in the indices  $c, d$ ), one arrives at:

$$R^{ab} V^c \epsilon_{abef} = 0 \quad (77)$$

The  $q$ -Einstein equations are found as in the classical case: expand (77) along three vielbeins:

$$R^{ab}{}_{cd} V^c V^d V^e \epsilon_{abef} = 0, \quad (78)$$

multiply by another vielbein  $V^g$  and use:

$$\epsilon^{cdeg} V^1 V^2 V^3 V^4 \equiv V^c V^d V^e V^g \quad (79)$$

(N.B.: the entries of  $\epsilon^{abcd}$  are different from those of  $\epsilon_{abcd}$ ) so that finally we have:

$$R^{ab}{}_{cd} \epsilon^{cdeg} \epsilon_{abef} = 0 \quad (80)$$

The contraction of the two alternating tensors yields a  $q$ -weighted product of Kronecker deltas. We leave to the reader to find the final form of the  $q$ -Einstein equations. Expanding (77) on  $\omega VV$ ,  $V\omega V$  and  $\omega\omega V$  yields instead the horizontality condition on  $R^{ab}$ .

The torsion equation is obtained by varying (43) in the spin connection  $\omega^{ab}$ . The final result is again an equation that formally looks identical to the classical one:

$$R^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd} = 0 \quad (81)$$

As for  $q = 1$ , this equation implies that the torsion vanishes as a two-form:  $R^c = 0$  (hence also horizontality of  $R^c$ ).

*Note 1:* The  $q$ -volume 4-form  $V^1 V^2 V^3 V^4 = f(q) V^a V^b V^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd}$  (with  $f(q) = \epsilon^{abcd} \epsilon_{abcd}$ ) is invariant under Lorentz rotations and, up to a total derivative, under  $q$ -diffeomorphisms. The proof is similar to the one used for the lagrangian. This means that the  $q$ -symmetries allow a cosmological constant term  $V^a V^b V^c V^d \epsilon_{abcd}$ .

*Note 2:* It would be worthwhile to give a recipe for extracting numbers out of a  $q$ -theory of the kind discussed in this Letter. We think that there are two possible ways of doing this:

i) by finding a consistent definition of path-integral on  $q$ -commuting fields, leading to C-number amplitudes. On this question, see for example [13].

ii) by representing  $q$ -commuting objects as matrices of ordinary C-numbers. For instance,  $\omega^i = \xi^i \eta^i$  (no sum on  $i$ ) where  $\xi^i$  are ordinary anti-commuting one-forms and  $\eta^i \equiv (\eta^i)^\alpha_\beta$  are constant matrices. Then the  $q$ -lagrangian becomes a C number after taking its (ordinary) trace.

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