

# Universal Black Hole Microstates

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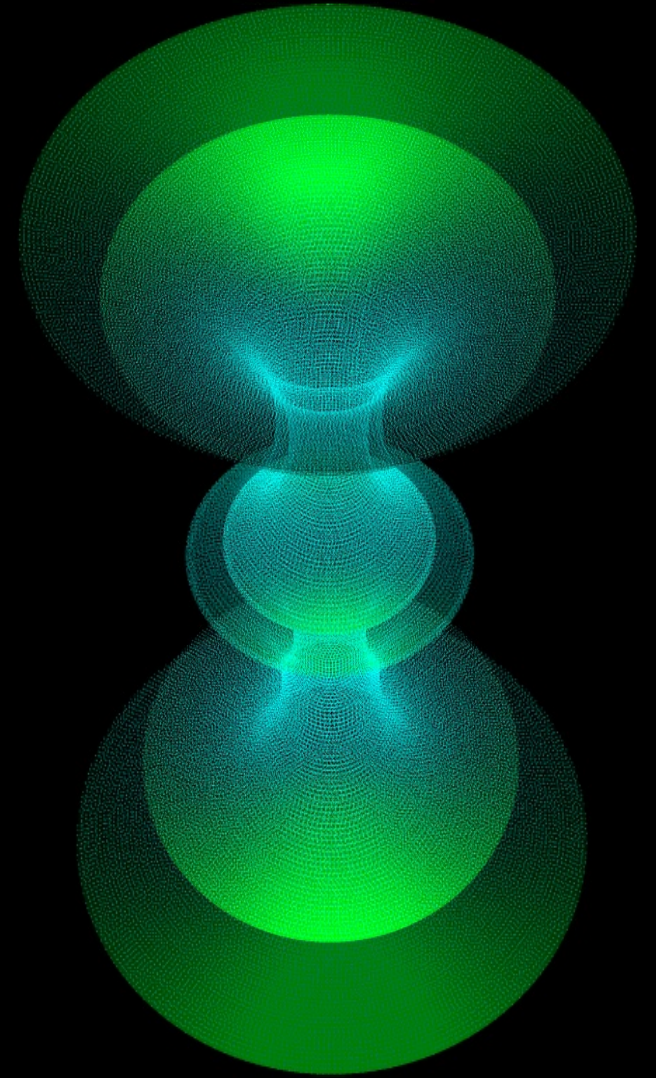
ROBERTO EMPARAN      ICREA+ICC UB

COPERNICUS WEBINAR

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WITH ANA CLIMENT  
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ARXIV 2401.08755



$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

and its discontents

# Not counting states

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$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

Bekenstein 1973

Hawking 1975

from phenomenological arguments

What microstates?

# Not counting states

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$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

Gibbons+Hawking 1976    from  $Z(\beta) = \int_{\beta} \mathcal{D}g e^{-I[g]}$     Gravitational Path Integral  
GPI

Entropy from *classical* saddle point?

# Counting states – but not black holes

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$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

Strominger+Vafa 1996      from D-branes in String theory

Non-gravitating states that are not black holes

# Counting black hole states – with wormholes

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$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

Balasubramanian+Lawrence

+Magan+Sasieta 2022

Penington+al (PSSY) 2019

and others

Black hole microstates from GPI-reloaded

$$\dim(\mathcal{H}) = e^S$$

Stochastic overlaps between states: from wormholes

# Counting black hole states – with wormholes

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$$S = \frac{A}{4G\hbar}$$

Stat-mech interpretation *from GPI*

**Universal construction**

Geometric microstates with smooth horizons



# Black Hole Microstates

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- 1. Constructing* – with the Gravitational Path Integral (GPI)
- 2. Computing* – overlaps from wormholes
- 3. Counting* – the dimension of the black hole Hilbert space

# Quantum States from Path Integrals

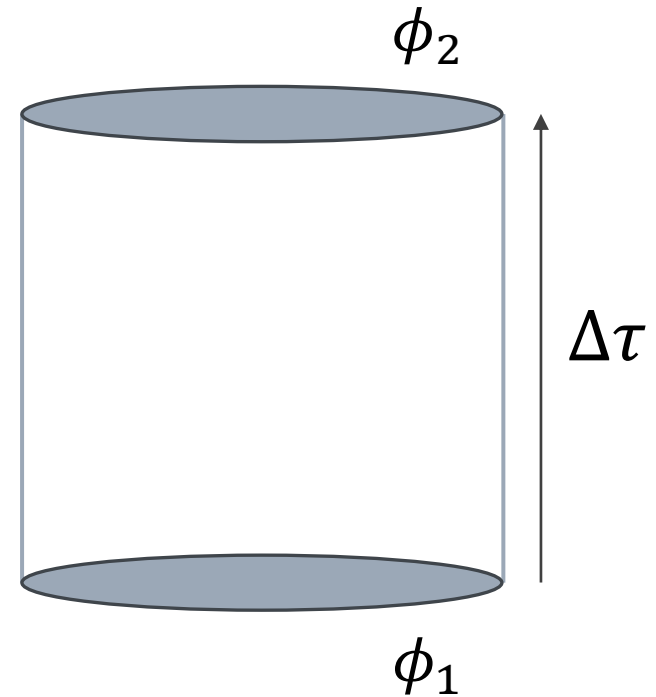
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FROM QUANTUM FIELD THEORY TO EUCLIDEAN QUANTUM GRAVITY

# Amplitudes from Path Integral (PI)

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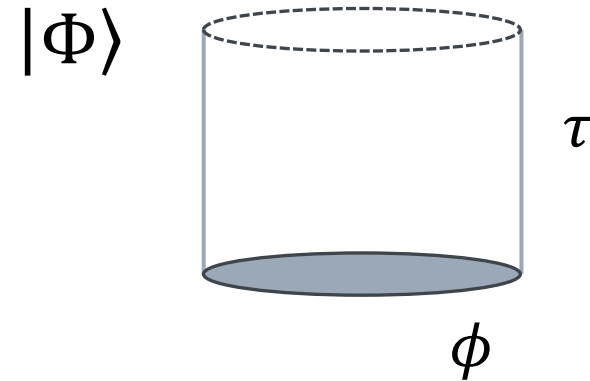
$$\langle \phi_2 | e^{-\Delta\tau H} | \phi_1 \rangle = \int_{\phi(0)=\phi_1}^{\phi(\Delta\tau)=\phi_2} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-I_E[\phi]}$$



# Cutting the PI: “State preparation”

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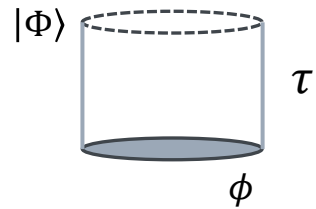
$$|\Phi\rangle = |\phi(\tau)\rangle = e^{-\tau H} |\phi\rangle$$



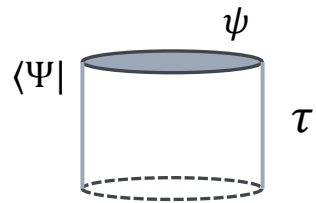
# State overlaps

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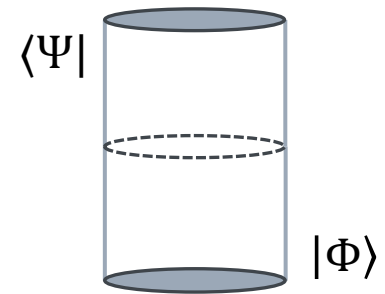
$$|\Phi\rangle = e^{-\tau H} |\phi\rangle$$



$$\langle\Psi| = \langle\psi| e^{-\tau H}$$



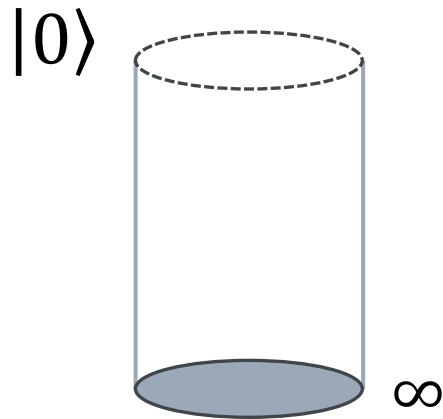
$$\langle\Psi|\Phi\rangle =$$



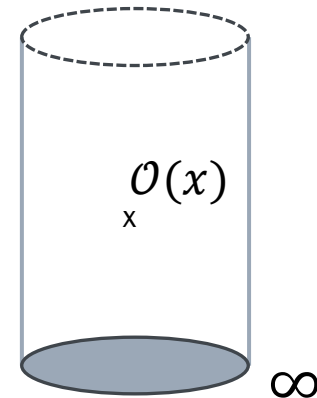
# Ground state & States from operators

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$$|0\rangle = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\tau H} |\phi\rangle$$



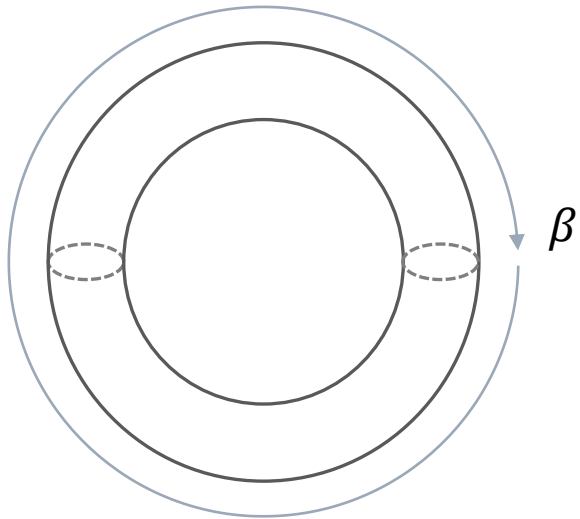
$$|\Psi\rangle = \mathcal{O}(x)|0\rangle$$



# Thermal states

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Imaginary time periodicity

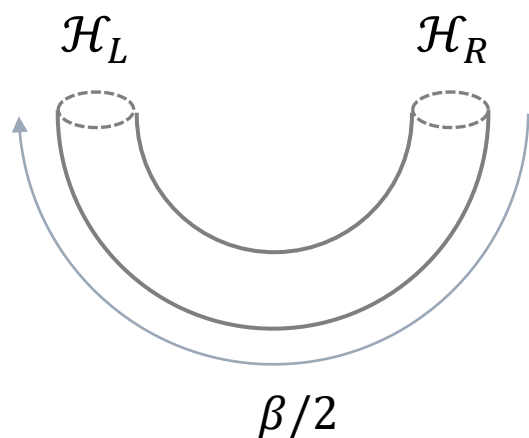


$$\begin{aligned} Z[\beta] &= \int_{\phi(0)=\phi(\beta)} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-I_E[\phi]} \\ &= \sum_i \langle E_i | e^{-\beta H} | E_i \rangle \\ &= \text{Tr} e^{-\beta H} \end{aligned}$$

# Thermofield Double State – TFD

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Cut open the path integral



$$|\text{TFD}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_i e^{-\beta H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

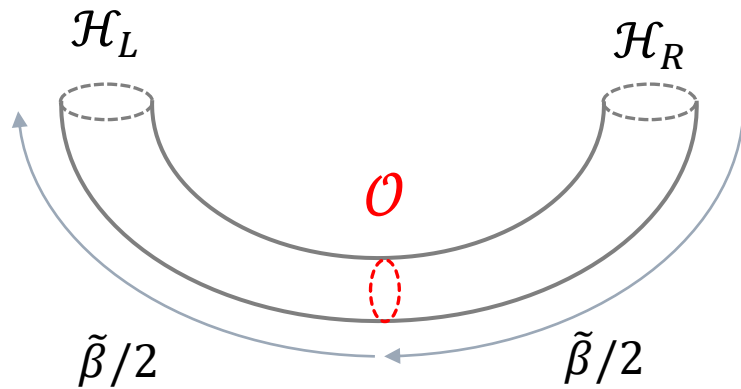
Maximally entangled state



# Partially Entangled Thermal States

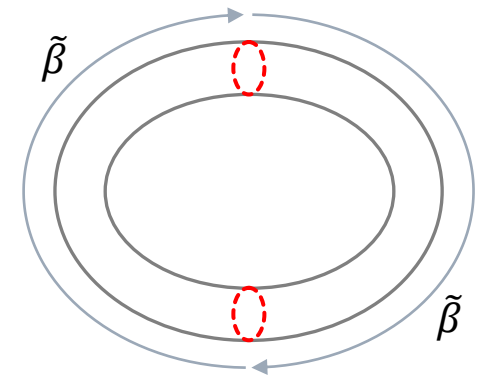
PETS

Goel+Lam+Turiaci+Verlinde



$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_1}} \sum_i e^{-\tilde{\beta}H/2} \mathcal{O} e^{-\tilde{\beta}H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

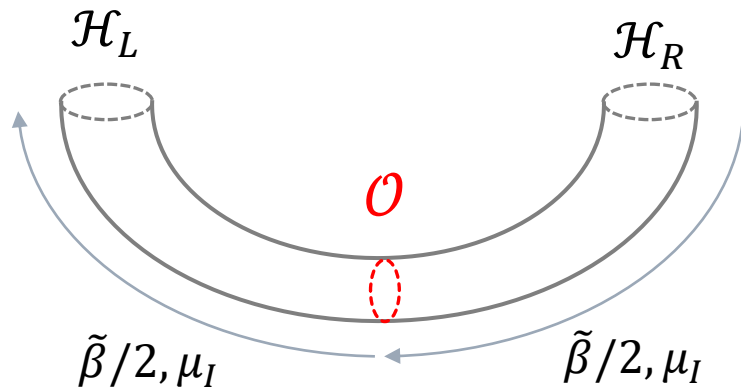
$$Z_1 = \text{Tr} \left( e^{-\tilde{\beta}H} \mathcal{O} e^{-\tilde{\beta}H} \mathcal{O}^\dagger \right) =$$



# Partially Entangled Grand-canonical States

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Add charge & rotation: **PEGS**

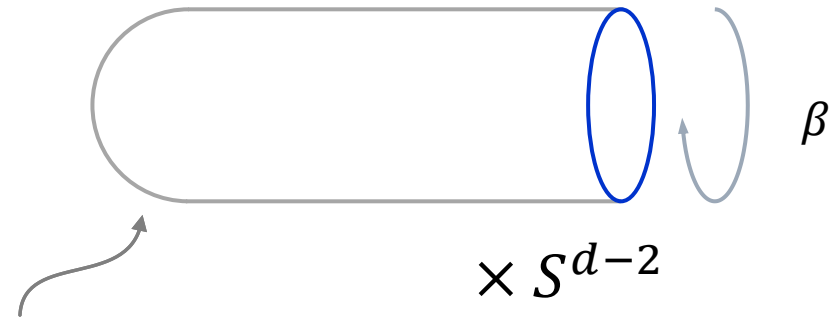


$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_1}} \sum_i e^{-(\tilde{\beta}-\mu_I Q_I)H/2} \mathcal{O} e^{-(\tilde{\beta}-\mu_I Q_I)H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

# Gravitational Partition Function

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$$Z[\beta] = \int_{g(0)=g(\beta)} \mathcal{D}g e^{-I_{EH}[g]}$$



Euclidean black hole

# Black Magic

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$$Z[\beta] = \int_{g(0)=g(\beta)} \mathcal{D}g e^{-I_{EH}[g]} \approx e^{-I_{EH}[g_{cl}]} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{semiclassical saddle-point} \\ g_{cl} = \text{Euclidean black hole} \end{array}$$

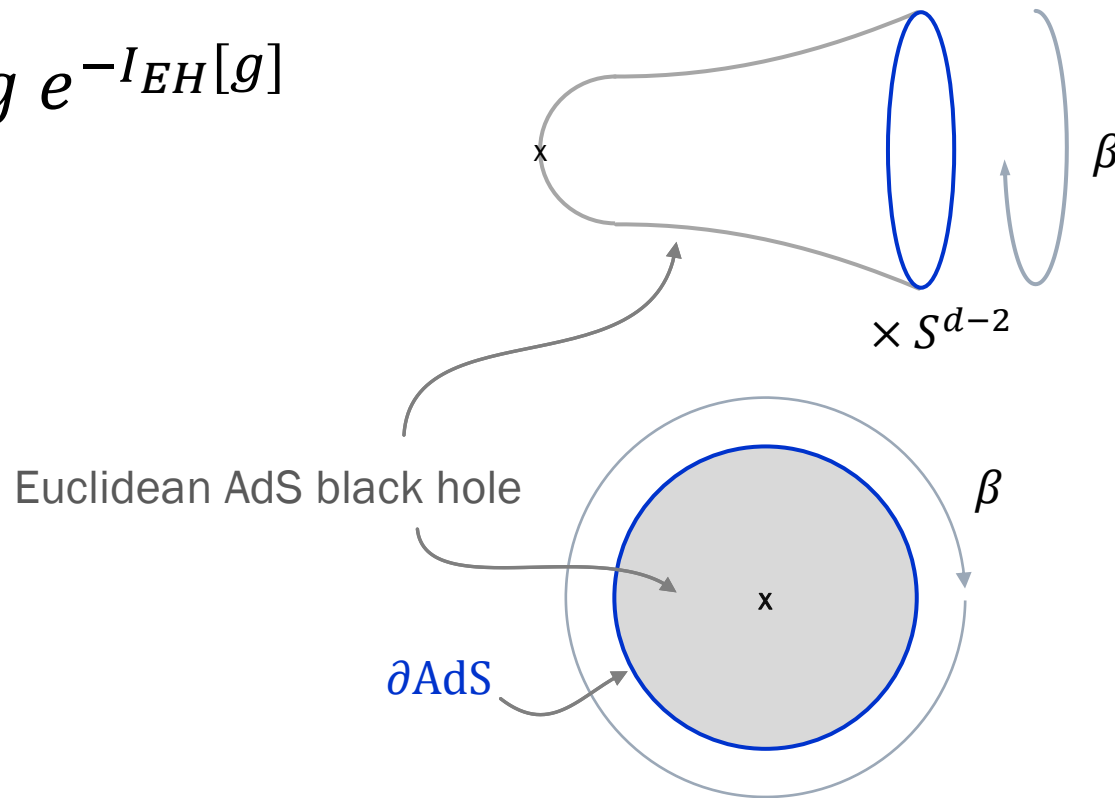
$$S = (\beta \partial_\beta - 1) I_{EH}[g_{cl}] = \frac{A}{4G} \quad \text{Gibbons+Hawking}$$

- $I_{EH}[g_{cl}]$  = Euclidean action of **classical** field configuration: zero-loop
- Not a trace over states: Trace = sum over all states running in a loop: one-loop contribution
- Not a sum over microstates – but still gives non-zero & correct  $S = A/4G$

# Gravitational Partition Function in AdS

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$$Z_{\text{AdS}}[\beta] = \int_{g(0)=g(\beta)} \mathcal{D}g e^{-I_{EH}[g]}$$



# AdS / CFT

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$$Z_{\text{AdS}_d}[\beta] = Z_{\text{CFT}_{d-1}}[\beta]$$

$$Z[\beta] = \text{Tr} e^{-\beta H}$$

$$Z_{\text{CFT}_{d-1}}[\beta] = \text{Diagram 1} = \text{Diagram 2} = \text{Diagram 3} = Z_{\text{AdS}_d}[\beta]$$

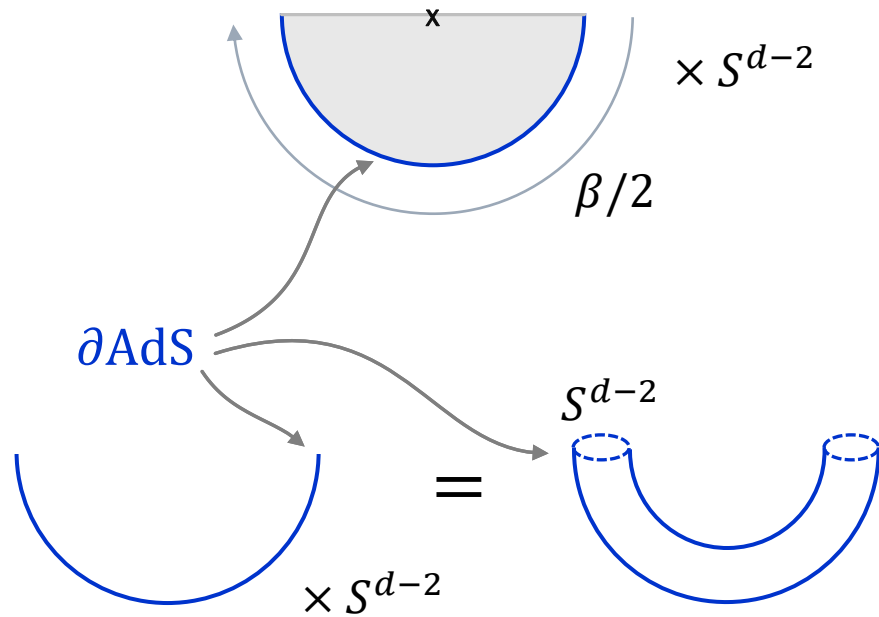
The diagram illustrates the equivalence between the CFT and AdS descriptions of the partition function. It consists of three main parts connected by equals signs:

- Diagram 1:** A blue circle representing the CFT boundary. It contains a smaller blue circle labeled  $S^{d-2}$ . Two dashed blue circles are drawn on the left and right sides of the inner circle, representing a trace operation. The label  $\beta$  is placed above the outer circle.
- Diagram 2:** A single blue circle representing the boundary of AdS space, labeled  $\times S^{d-2}$  at the bottom.
- Diagram 3:** A gray-shaded circle representing the bulk of AdS space, labeled  $\times S^{d-2}$  at the bottom. A small 'x' is marked in the center. The label  $\beta$  is placed above the circle.

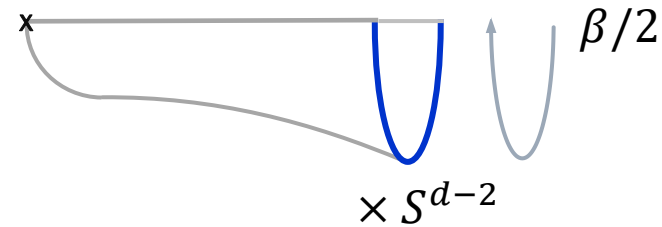
Two gray arrows labeled  $\partial\text{AdS}$  point from the top of Diagram 2 to the top of Diagram 3, indicating the boundary of the AdS space.

# Thermal quantum states from cut GPI

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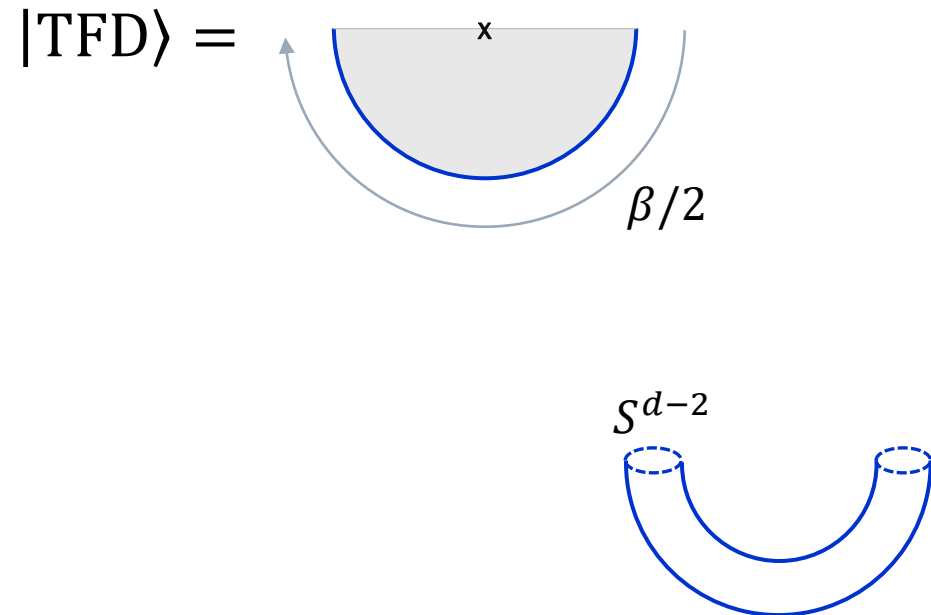


$$|\text{TFD}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_i e^{-\beta H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

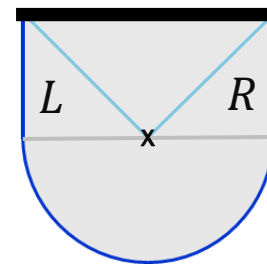


# Thermofield double = Eternal black hole

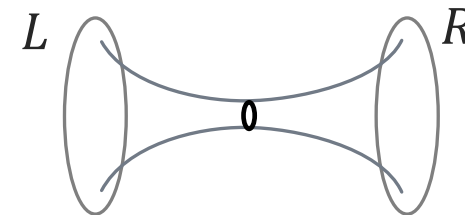
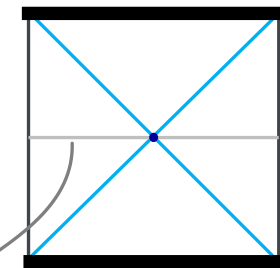
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Lorentzian evolution



AdS black hole



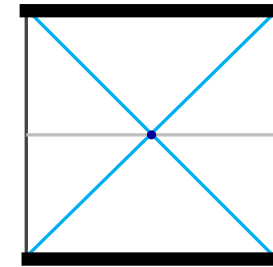
Maldacena 2001



# Thermofield double = Eternal black hole

$$|\text{TFD}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_i e^{-\beta E_i/2} |i\rangle_L |i\rangle_R$$

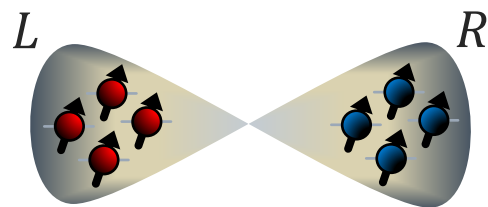
=



Eternal black hole

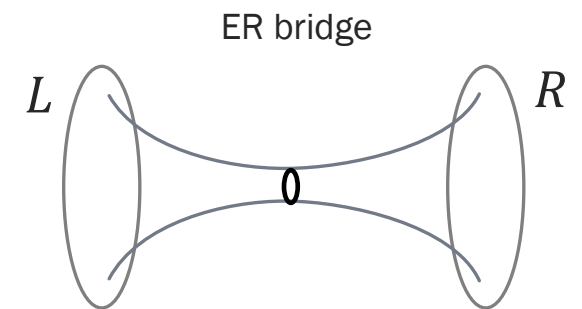
Bell/EPR pair

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle_L |0\rangle_R + |1\rangle_L |1\rangle_R)$$



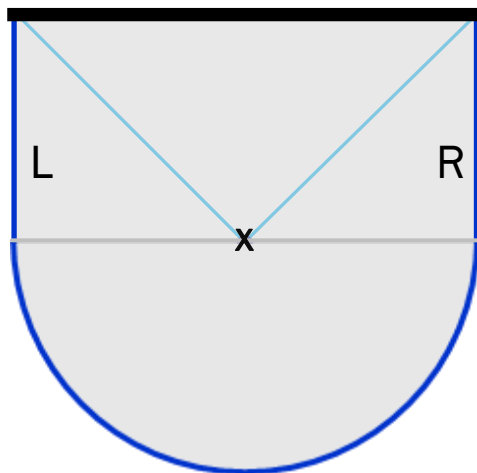
Correlation/connection, but no communication between sides

Thermal behavior when only one side is probed



# Thermofield double

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$$|\text{TFD}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_i e^{-\beta H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

A specific (micro)state of the dual CFT

Dual geometry has a horizon and a singularity

# Constructing

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BLACK HOLE MICROSTATES FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL PATH  
INTEGRAL

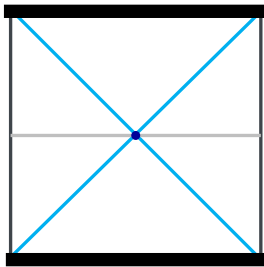
# Black Hole Microstates

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Microscopic pure states  $|\Psi\rangle$  that are almost indistinguishable (for simple observables) from thermal state  $\rho_{\text{th}}$

$$\langle\Psi|\mathcal{O}(t)|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow \text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{th}}\mathcal{O}), \quad \langle\Psi|\mathcal{O}(t)\mathcal{O}(0)|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow \text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{th}}\mathcal{O}(t)\mathcal{O}(0))$$

Geometric microstates look like a black hole when probed with simple operations



$$|\text{TFD}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_i e^{-\beta H/2} |E_i\rangle_L \otimes |E_i\rangle_R$$

A black hole microstate,  
though not very typical

# Geometric PEGS

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CFT

$|\Psi_m\rangle =$

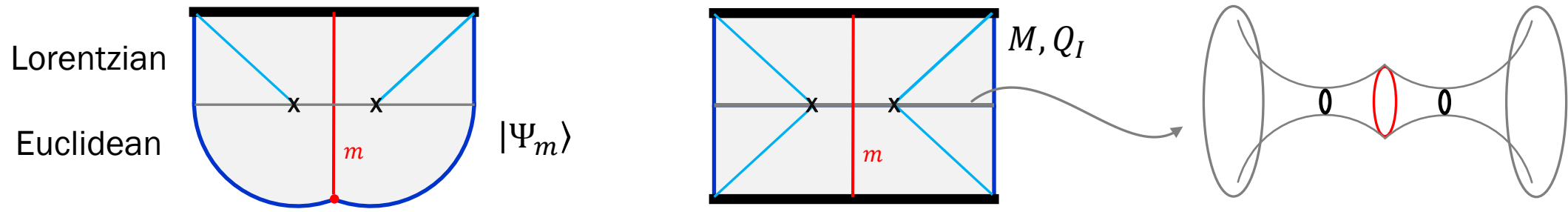
$\tilde{\beta}/2, \mu_I$   $\mathcal{O}_m$   $\tilde{\beta}/2, \mu_I$   $=$   $M, Q_I$   $m$   $M, Q_I$   $\tilde{\beta}/2, \mu_I$   $\mathcal{O}_m$   $\tilde{\beta}/2, \mu_I$   $= |\Psi_m\rangle$  Gravity

Operator  $\mathcal{O}_m$  inserted at boundary creates particles in the bulk – a ‘shell of dust’ matter  $m$

Make it heavy enough to backreact on geometry

# Geometric PEGS

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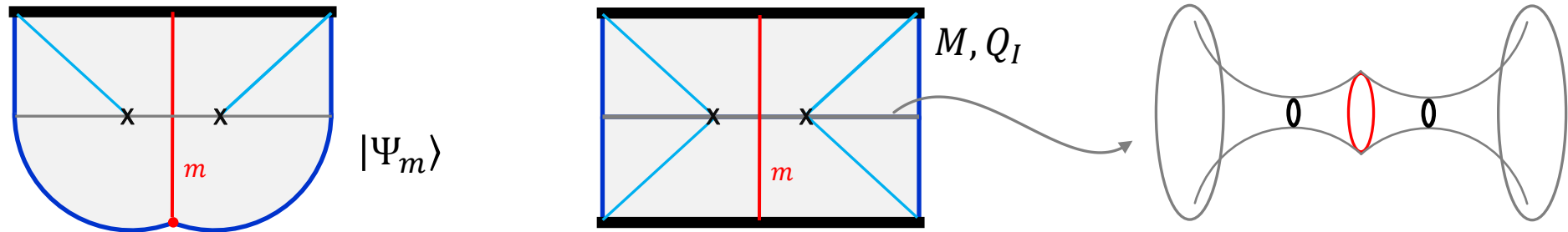


Shell moves inside black hole

Creates space within the black hole: 'bag of gold'

# Geometric PEGS

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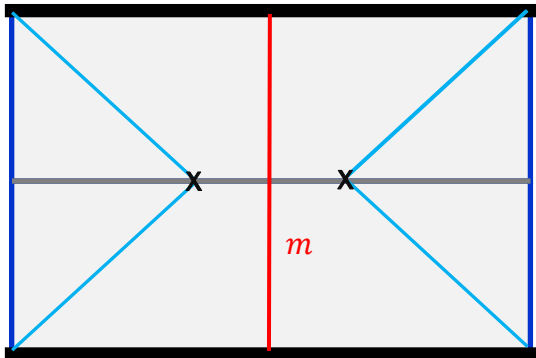


Shell mass  $m$  can be arbitrarily large for fixed black hole  $M, Q_I$

Huge (infinite!) number of states

# Shell PEGS are Black Hole Microstates

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$|\Psi_m\rangle$

Almost indistinguishable (for simple observables) from grand-canonical state  $\rho_{\text{th}}$

$$\langle \Psi_m | \mathcal{O}(t) | \Psi_m \rangle \rightarrow \text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{th}} \mathcal{O})$$

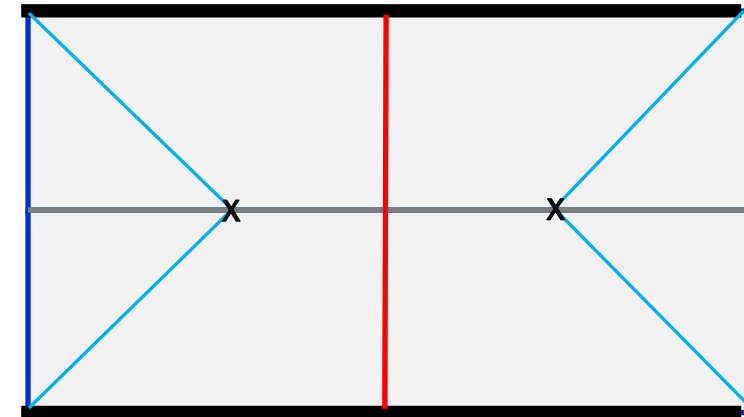
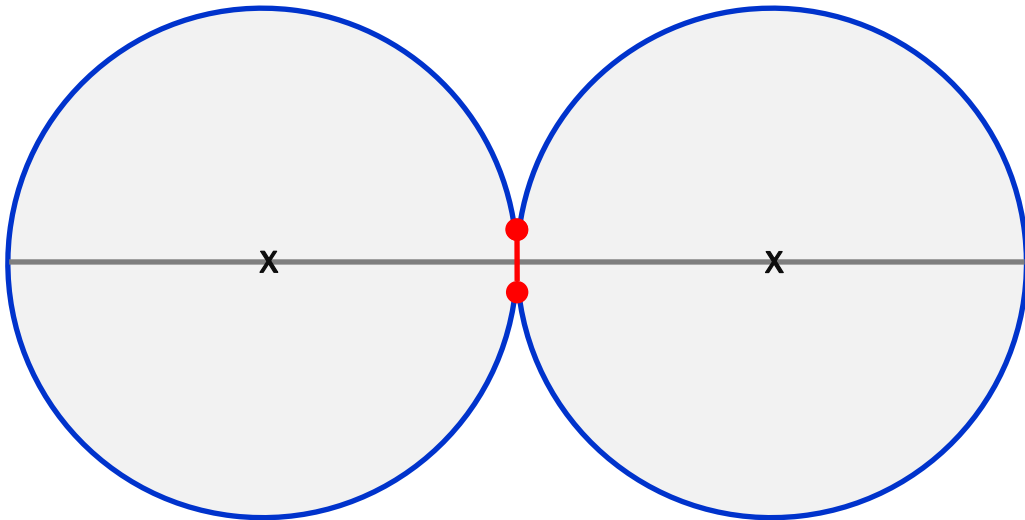
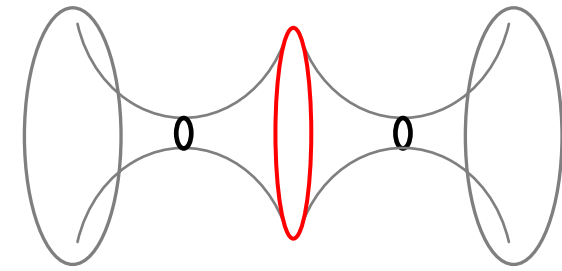
Looks like a black hole when probed with simple operations

Shell microstates have semiclassical description with horizons and singularities



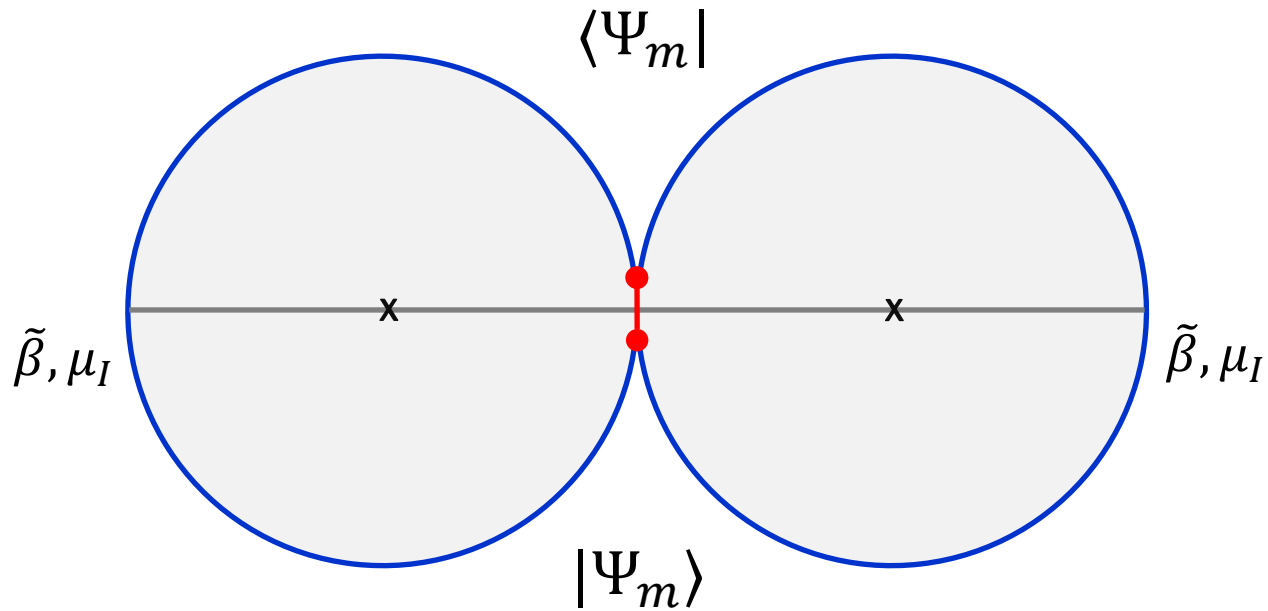
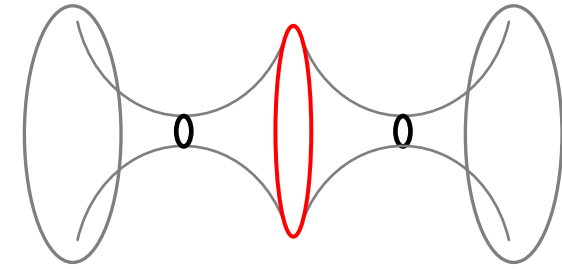
# Heavy-shell Microstates

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Shell close to the (would-be) boundary – little sensitivity to bulk black hole

# Heavy-shell Microstates



$\langle \Psi_m | \Psi_m \rangle$  factorizes into  $\approx Z[\tilde{\beta}, \mu_I]^2$

All calculations simplify a lot

**Shell does not affect horizon properties**

Dependence on shell  $m$  drops out  $\rightarrow$

**universality**

# Computing

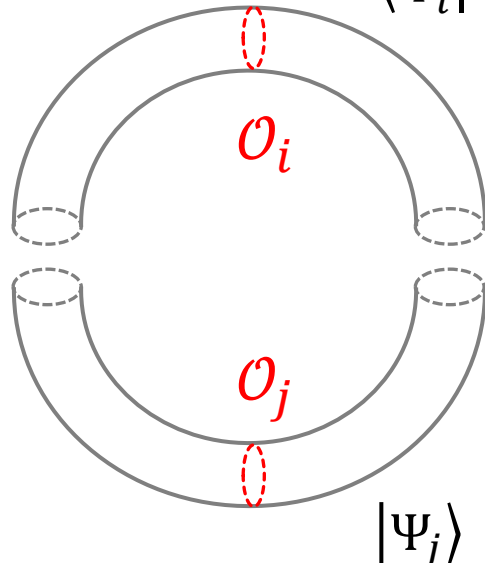
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STATE OVERLAPS FROM WORMHOLES: UNIVERSALITY

# How many states?

$$|\Psi_i\rangle = \text{[Diagram of a semi-circle with a vertical red line from the center to the arc, labeled } m_i \text{, and two 'x' marks on the arc.]}$$

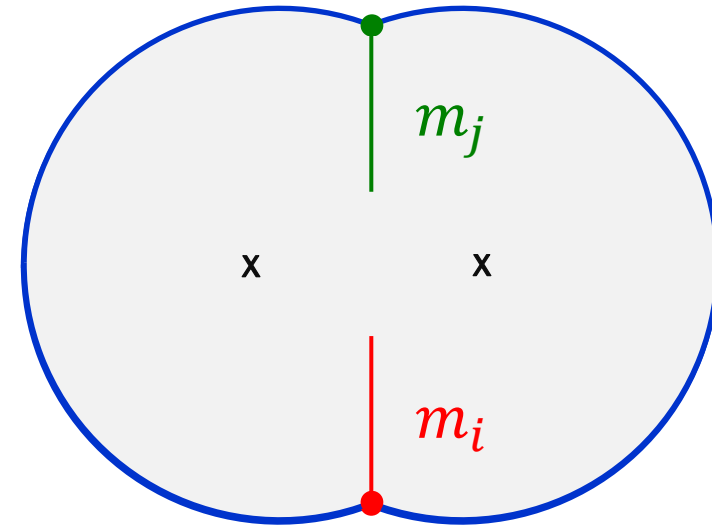
$\langle\Psi_i|$



$|\Psi_j\rangle$

$$= G_{ij} = \langle\Psi_i|\Psi_j\rangle =$$

$G$ : Gram matrix of state overlaps



# Too many states?

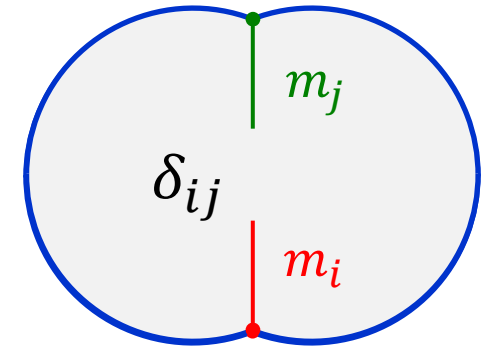
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$$|\Psi_i\rangle = \text{[Diagram: A semi-circle with a red vertical line from the center to the bottom arc, labeled } m_i \text{.]}$$

$$G_{ij} = \langle \Psi_i | \Psi_j \rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

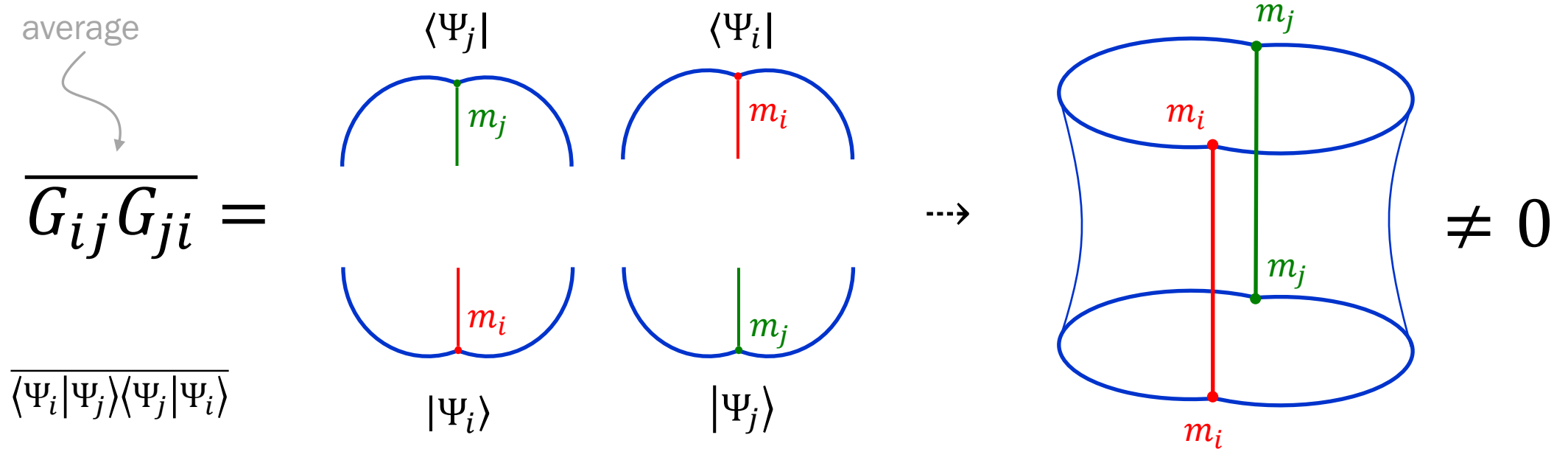
Infinite family of orthogonal states

$$\dim(\mathcal{H}_{BH}) = \infty !?$$



# Products with Wormholes

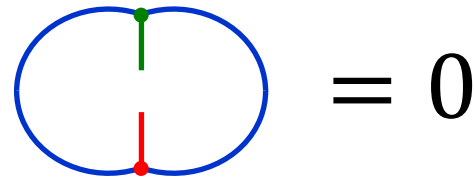
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# Wormholes $\Rightarrow$ Statistical states

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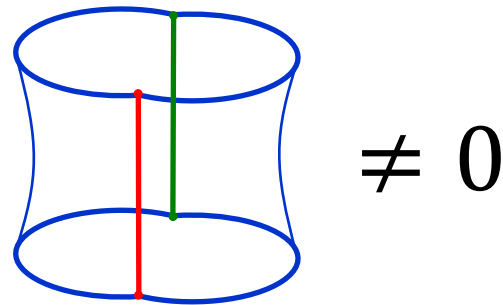
$$\overline{G_{ij}} = 0 \text{ for } i \neq j$$



$$\text{Not } \langle \Psi_i | \Psi_j \rangle = 0$$

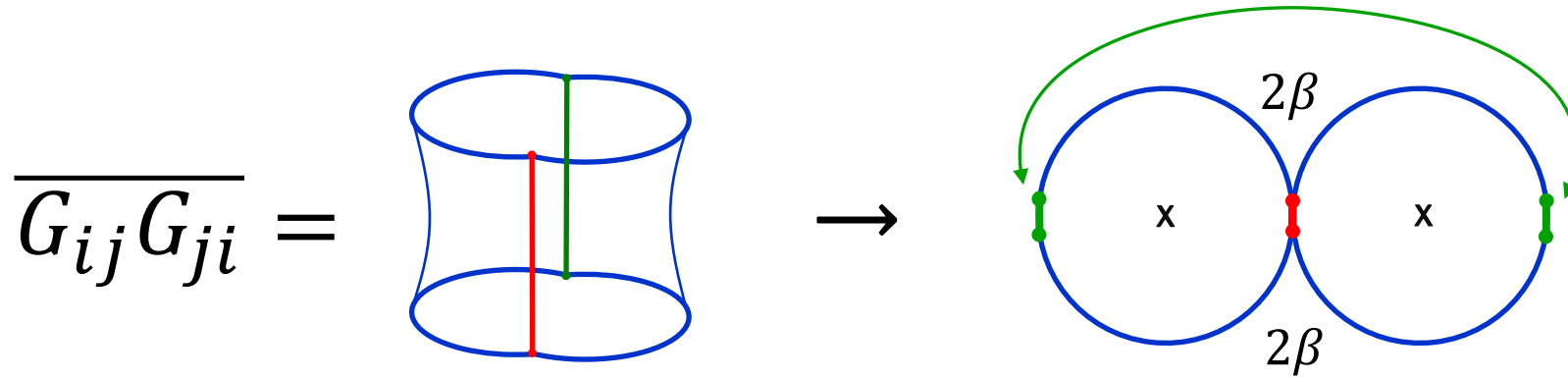
$$\text{but } \overline{\langle \Psi_i | \Psi_j \rangle} = 0$$

$$\overline{G_{ij} G_{ji}} \neq 0 \text{ for } i \neq j$$



# Heavy-Shell Wormholes

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$$= \frac{Z(2\beta, \mu_I)^2}{Z(\beta, \mu_i)^4}$$

Unaffected by shell  $m_i$   
Given by partition function  
of BH



# Moments of $G$ from wormholes

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$$\overline{G_{i_1 i_2} G_{i_2 i_3} \cdots G_{i_n i_1}} = \frac{Z(n\beta, \mu_I)^2}{Z(\beta, \mu_i)^{2n}}$$

Heavy-shell universality

Depends only on BH partition function

# Counting

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THE DIMENSION OF THE BLACK HOLE HILBERT SPACE

# Dimension of set of states

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$$F_\Omega = \{ |\Psi_i\rangle \in \mathcal{H}, i = 1, \dots, \Omega \}$$

$$d_\Omega = \dim F_\Omega = \min\{\Omega, \dim \mathcal{H}\}$$

$$= \text{rank } G_{ij}$$

$$G_{ij} = \langle \Psi_i | \Psi_j \rangle$$

Gram-Schmidt fails for BH microstates:  $\overline{G_{ij}} = \delta_{ij}$

# Statistical counting

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From statistical moments  $\overline{G^n}$

Statistics forced by GPI wormholes

Borrow from random matrix techniques: resolvent

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{\Omega}{\lambda} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\text{Tr } \overline{G^n}}{\lambda^{n+1}} \rightarrow \overline{d_\Omega}$$

# Moments

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From grand-canonical to microcanonical BH window

$$\overline{G_{i_1 i_2} G_{i_2 i_3} \cdots G_{i_n i_1}} \Big|_{\text{grcan}} = \frac{Z(n\beta, \mu_I)^2}{Z(\beta, \mu_i)^{2n}}$$

inverse Laplace transform

$$\overline{G_{i_1 i_2} G_{i_2 i_3} \cdots G_{i_n i_1}} \Big|_{\text{micro}} = e^{-(n-1)\frac{A}{4G}}$$

# How many black hole states? $\exp A/4G$

---

We had  $d_\Omega = \dim F_\Omega = \min\{\Omega, \dim \mathcal{H}\}$

Resolvent for  $\overline{G^n}$  gives  $\overline{d_\Omega} = \min\{\Omega, e^{A/4G}\}$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\dim \mathcal{H} = e^{A/4G}}$$

# How many black hole states? $\exp S_{BH}$

---

More generally

$$\dim \mathcal{H} = e^{S_{BH}}$$

where  $S_{BH}$  is the value from Gibbons-Hawking GPI Partition Function  
(through black magic)

# Universality of $\dim \mathcal{H} = \exp S_{BH}$

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Heavy shells can be constructed for

- Rotating and charged black holes
- Near-extremal, susy or not
- Quantum-corrected:  $\log A$  and  $\log T$
- Higher-curvature theories

Heavy-shell microstates  $\Rightarrow \dim \mathcal{H} = e^{S_{BH}}$



# Outlook

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GPI BLACK MAGIC RELOADED – WITH WORMHOLE STATISTICS



# Gravitational Path Integral can do a lot

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- Construct microstate families and count their dimension
- Heavy-shell microstates  $\Rightarrow \dim \mathcal{H} = e^{S_{BH}}$
- Works for all cases where Gibbons-Hawking gives an entropy

# Universality: double-edged sword

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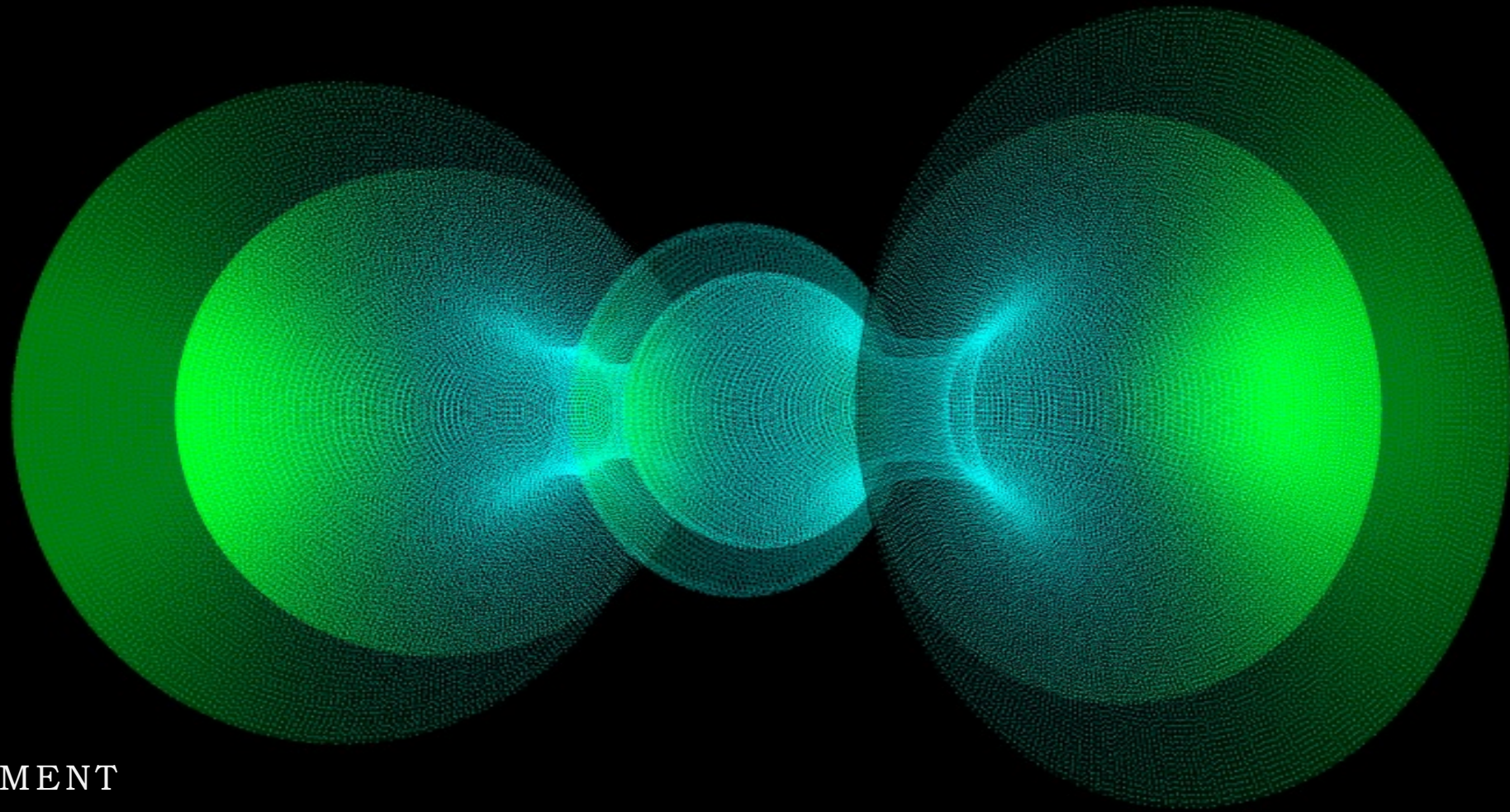
- Extremely general, simple construction and result 
- Hides all microscopic distinctions 
- Works even when it should not (eg in the swampland)

# Geometry and randomness

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- Wormholes are how gravity knows about finite dim  $\mathcal{H}_{BH}$
- But they introduce intrinsic randomness
- Semiclassical BH geometry seems to need chaotic microscopics

Is this all one needs/can do for  
(non-susy) BH microscopics?



ANA CLIMENT  
JAVIER MAGAN  
MARTIN SASIETA  
ALEJANDRO VILAR LOPEZ

Thank you

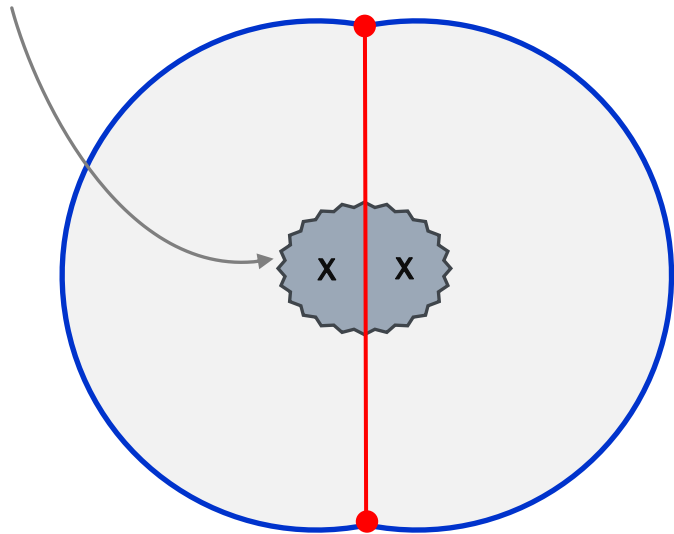
# Backup material

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# Near-extremal Microstates

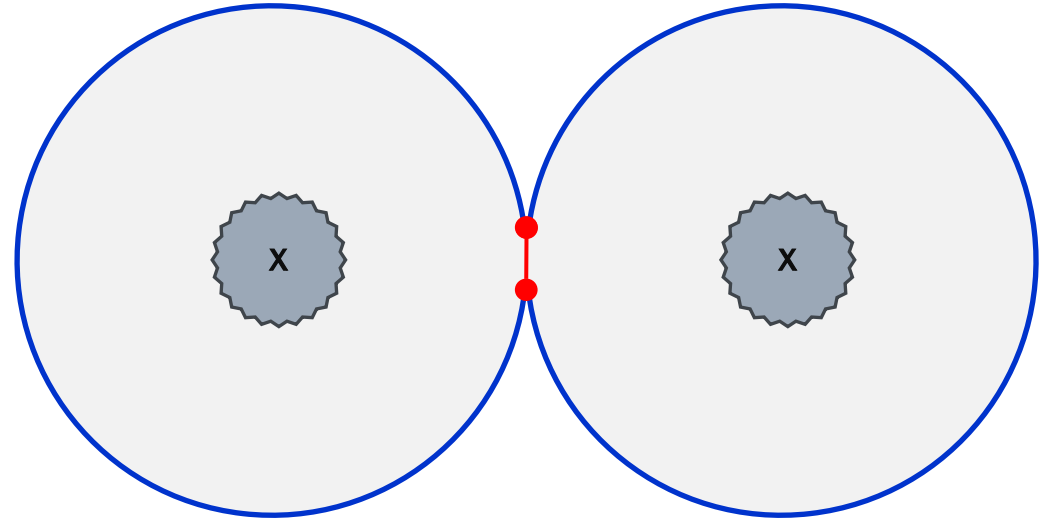
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near-extremal  $\text{AdS}_2$  throat (JT Schwarzian)



In-throat microstates (one JT Schwarzian)

Sensitive to throat



Out-throat microstates (two Schwarzians)

Universal