

QFT Thermodynamics from Entanglement Entropy

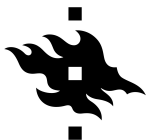
Aatu Rajala

N. Jokela and T. Rindlisbacher

University of Helsinki, Helsinki Institute of Physics

LATTICE 2026, 28 July, University of Maryland

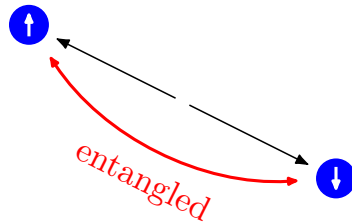
Based on [\[2603.07635, 2607.06286\]](#)



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

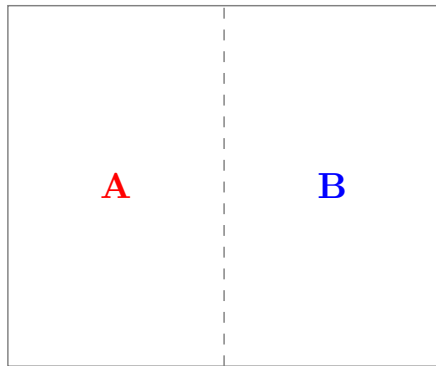
Entanglement

- Entanglement measures give a precise way to quantify quantum correlations
- For QFTs, applications in
 - Critical phenomena
 - RG flow
 - Confinement
 - Thermodynamics



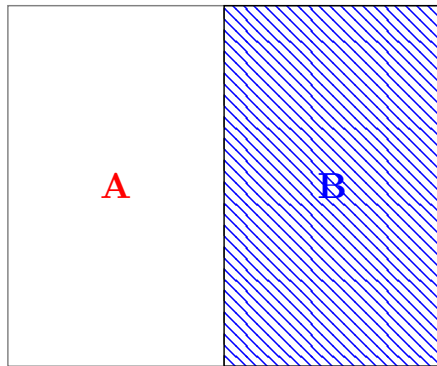
Entanglement Entropy

- An entanglement measure for a bipartite system



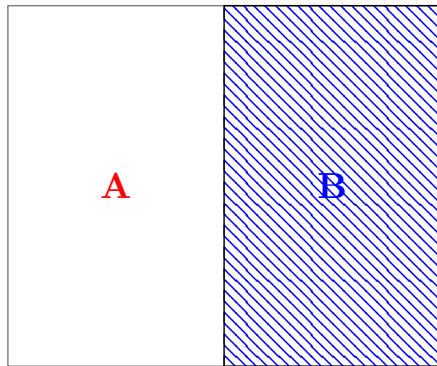
Entanglement Entropy

- An entanglement measure for a bipartite system
- Reduced density matrix
 - $\rho_A = \text{tr}_B(\rho_{AB})$
- Entanglement entropy:
 - $S_{EE}(A) = -\text{tr}(\rho_A \log(\rho_A))$



Entanglement Entropy

- An entanglement measure for a bipartite system
- Reduced density matrix
 - $\rho_A = \text{tr}_B(\rho_{AB})$
- Entanglement entropy:
 - $S_{EE}(A) = -\text{tr}(\rho_A \log(\rho_A))$
- At finite T contributions from thermal entropy



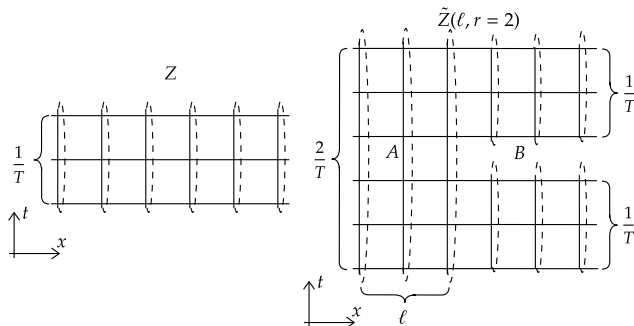
EE in QFTs and the replica trick

- The replica trick [Calabrese, Cardy; hep-th/0405152], $\text{tr}(\rho_A^r) = \frac{\tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{Z^r}$
- Entanglement entropy:

$$S_{\text{EE}}(\ell) = -\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\partial \log \text{tr}(\rho_A^r)}{\partial r} = -\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial r} - \log Z \right).$$

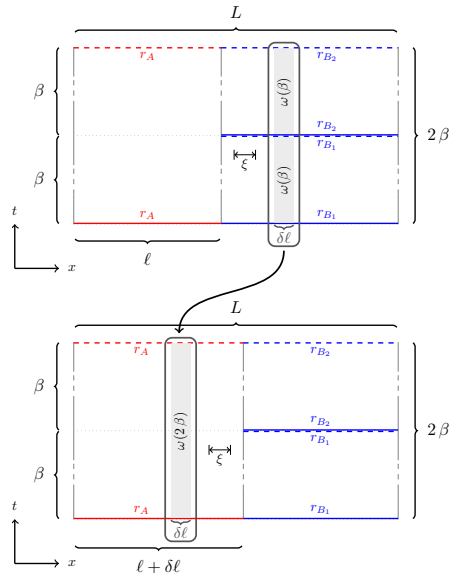
- Due to UV-divergence, measured derivative w.r.t ℓ instead

$$\frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}}{\partial \ell} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\partial^2 \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial \ell \partial r}$$



Entanglement thermodynamics

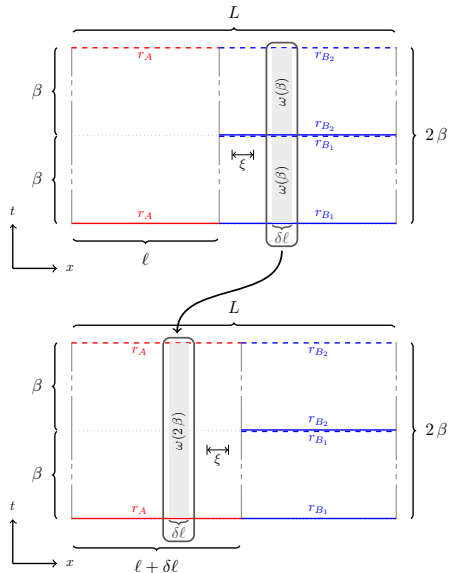
- Free energy density $\omega(\beta, \mu) = \frac{1}{V} \log Z(\beta, \mu, V)$
- Thermal entropy density: $s = \beta \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \beta} - \omega$



Entanglement thermodynamics

- Free energy density $\omega(\beta, \mu) = \frac{1}{V} \log Z(\beta, \mu, V)$
- Thermal entropy density: $s = \beta \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \beta} - \omega$
- EE derivative: $\partial_\ell S_{EE}(\ell) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\partial^2 \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial r \partial \ell}$
- ∂_ℓ can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell + \delta\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r) - \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r)}{\delta\ell}$$



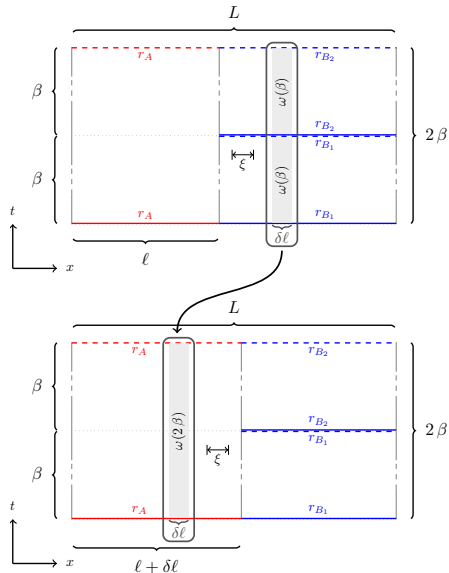
Entanglement thermodynamics

- Free energy density $\omega(\beta, \mu) = \frac{1}{V} \log Z(\beta, \mu, V)$
- Thermal entropy density: $s = \beta \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \beta} - \omega$
- EE derivative: $\partial_\ell S_{EE}(\ell) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\partial^2 \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial r \partial \ell}$
- ∂_ℓ can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell + \delta\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r) - \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r)}{\delta\ell}$$

- at $\xi \ll \ell \ll L$

$$\frac{1}{V_\perp} \frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial \ell} = \omega(r\beta, \mu) - r\omega(\beta, \mu)$$



Entanglement thermodynamics

- Free energy density $\omega(\beta, \mu) = \frac{1}{V} \log Z(\beta, \mu, V)$
- Thermal entropy density: $s = \beta \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \beta} - \omega$
- EE derivative: $\partial_\ell S_{EE}(\ell) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\partial^2 \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial r \partial \ell}$
- ∂_ℓ can be expressed as

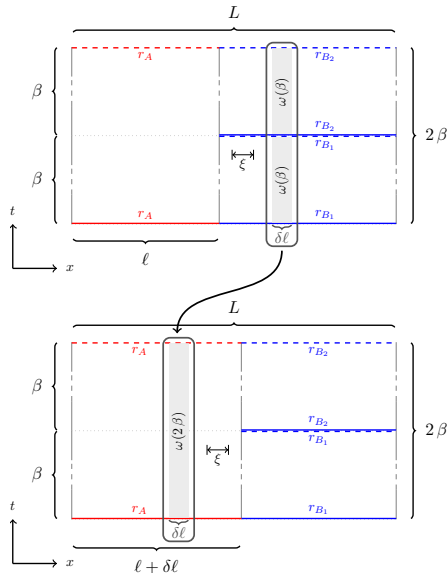
$$\frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell + \delta \ell, \beta, V, \mu, r) - \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r)}{\delta \ell}$$

- at $\xi \ll \ell \ll L$

$$\frac{1}{V_\perp} \frac{\partial \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, r)}{\partial \ell} = \omega(r\beta, \mu) - r\omega(\beta, \mu)$$

- So,

$$\frac{1}{V_\perp} \frac{\partial S_{EE}(\ell)}{\partial \ell} = \beta \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial \beta} - \omega = s$$



Entanglement entropy on the lattice

- $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \partial_r \partial_\ell$ in $\partial_\ell S_{EE}$ have to be discretized.

$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{EE}(\ell)}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx -\log \tilde{Z}(\ell+1, 2) + \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, 2)$$

- Corresponds to approximating S_{EE} as the 2nd Rényi entropy $H_2(\ell)$

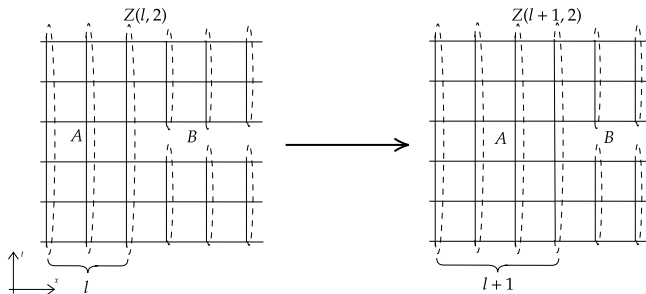
$$\begin{aligned} H_r(\ell, \beta, V, \mu) &= \frac{1}{1-r} \log \text{tr}(\rho_A^r) \\ &= \frac{1}{1-r} \left(\log \tilde{Z}(\ell, \beta, V, \mu, r) - r Z(\beta, V, \mu) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Entanglement entropy on the lattice

- $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \partial_r \partial_\ell$ in $\partial_\ell S_{EE}$ have to be discretized.

$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{EE}(\ell)}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx -\log \tilde{Z}(\ell+1, 2) + \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, 2)$$

- Corresponds to approximating S_{EE} as the 2nd Rényi entropy $H_2(\ell)$

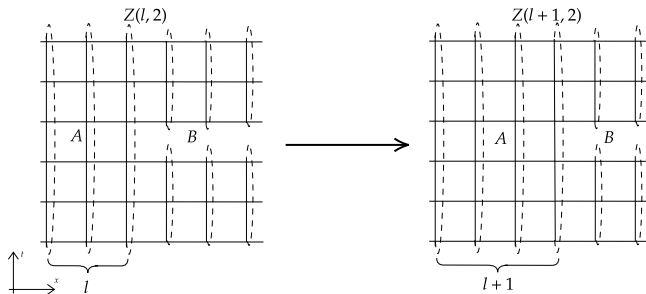


Entanglement entropy on the lattice

- $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \partial_r \partial_\ell$ in $\partial_\ell S_{EE}$ have to be discretized.

$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{EE}(\ell)}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx -\log \tilde{Z}(\ell+1, 2) + \log \tilde{Z}(\ell, 2)$$

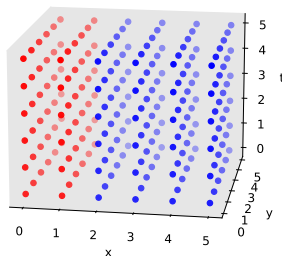
- Corresponds to approximating S_{EE} as the 2nd Rényi entropy $H_2(\ell)$
- The change from ℓ to $\ell+1$ is highly non-local $\rightarrow$ bad overlap



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

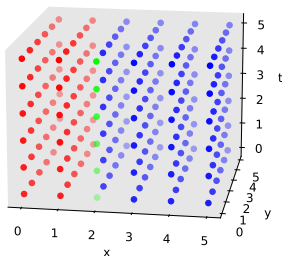
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

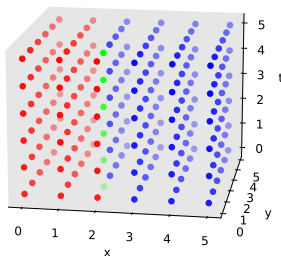
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

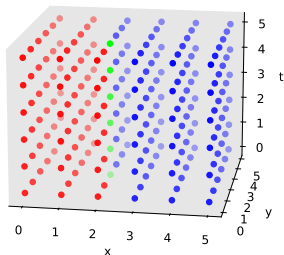
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

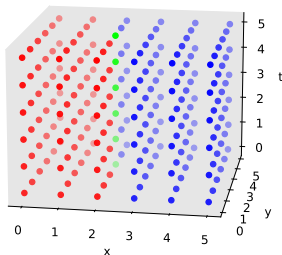
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

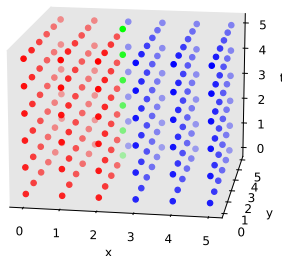
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

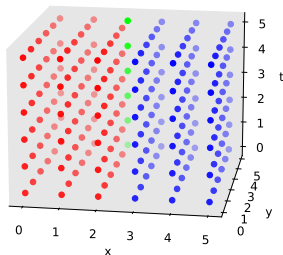
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

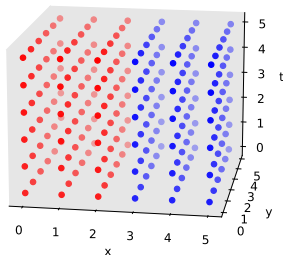
$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



Boundary deformation method

- Deform the entangling surface and interpolate between ℓ and $\ell + 1$ [Jokela et al.; 2304.08949]
- histograms h_i for each boundary configuration

$$\left. \frac{\partial S_{\text{EE}}(\ell')}{\partial \ell'} \right|_{\ell'=\ell+1/2} \approx \log(h_N) - \log(h_0)$$



$O(N)$ models

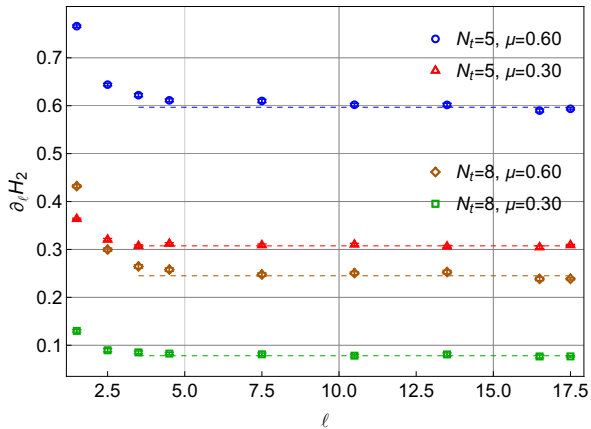
- A QFT with a N -component scalar field
- Interesting properties like asymptotic freedom and spontaneous symmetry breaking
- Relatively low computational cost
- Can be simulated directly at $\mu \neq 0$ with the **worm algorithm** [Rindlisbacher et al.;1602.09017,1512.05684]

Simulation parameters

- $O(4)$
- $\kappa = 1.2$ and $j_3 = 0.2$, symmetry broken phase and finite correlation length
- $d = 3$, lattices of size $2N_t \times N_x \times N_s$, $N_x = 36$, $N_s = 12$
- multiple μ and N_t values

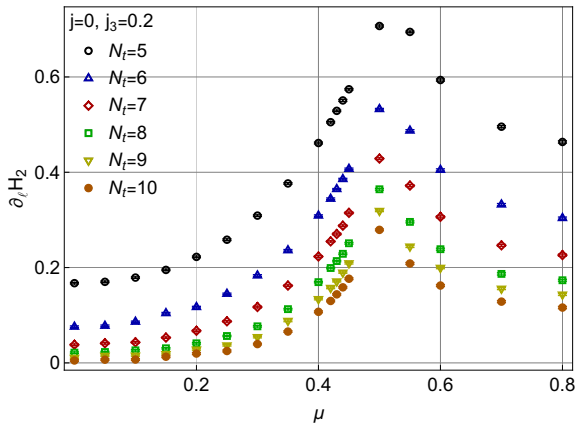
Results

- $\partial_\ell H_2$ plateaus quickly as a function of ℓ :



Results

- $\partial_\ell H_2$ as a function of μ at $\ell = 17.5$
- Finite density phase transition clearly visible with $\mu_c \approx 0.5$



- Maxwell relation

$$\left. \frac{\partial s}{\partial \mu} \right|_T = \left. \frac{\partial n}{\partial T} \right|_\mu$$

- Maxwell relation, replace $s \rightarrow 1/V_{\perp} \partial_{\ell} S_{\text{EE}}$

$$\frac{1}{V_{\perp}} \frac{\partial^2 S_{\text{EE}}}{\partial \mu \partial \ell} \stackrel{\xi \ll \ell}{=} \left. \frac{\partial n}{\partial T} \right|_{\mu}$$

- Approximate with H_2

$$\frac{1}{V_{\perp}} \frac{\partial^2 H_2}{\partial \mu \partial \ell} \stackrel{\xi \ll \ell}{=} -2 N_t (n(2 N_t, \mu) - n(N_t, \mu))$$

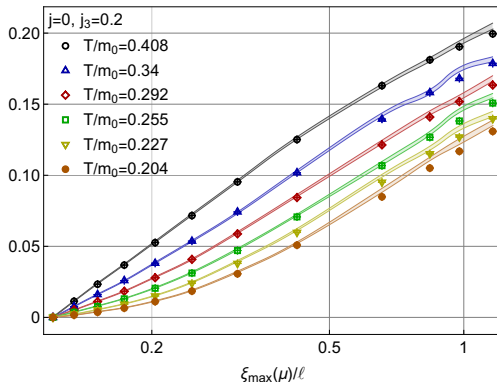
- Both sides can be computed on the lattice

Results

- Approximate with H_2

$$\frac{1}{V_{\perp}} \frac{\partial^2 H_2}{\partial \mu \partial \ell} \Big|_{\xi \ll \ell} \approx -2 N_t (n(2 N_t, \mu) - n(N_t, \mu))$$

- Both sides can be computed on the lattice
- Relation seems to hold up to $\xi_{\max}(\mu)/\ell \approx 0.5 \rightarrow \mu \leq 0.4$



Summary & Outlook

Summary

- At $\xi \ll \ell$ $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ matches with entropy density
- $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ can be computed on the lattice
- Results for $O(4)$ in $d = 3$, connection seems to hold

Summary & Outlook

Summary

- At $\xi \ll \ell$ $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ matches with entropy density
- $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ can be computed on the lattice
- Results for $O(4)$ in $d = 3$, connection seems to hold

Outlook

- Perform simulation at other N and d
- Other entanglement quantities (entanglement asymmetry, symmetry resolved entanglement, ...)
- Compute s through $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ for other QFTs
 - Comparison of results possible

Summary & Outlook

Summary

- At $\xi \ll \ell$ $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ matches with entropy density
- $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ can be computed on the lattice
- Results for $O(4)$ in $d = 3$, connection seems to hold

Outlook

- Perform simulation at other N and d
- Other entanglement quantities (entanglement asymmetry, symmetry resolved entanglement, ...)
- Compute s through $\partial_\ell S_{\text{EE}}$ for other QFTs
 - Comparison of results possible

Thank You!!!