

Title: The Markov property of the CFT vacuum and the entropic a-theorem

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Abstract:

A state is called a Markov state if it fulfils the important condition of saturating the Strong Subadditivity inequality. I will show how the vacuum state of any relativistic QFT is a Markov state when reduced to certain geometric regions of spacetime. A characterisation of these regions will be presented as well as two independent proofs of the Markov condition in QFT.

For the CFT vacuum, the Markov property is the key ingredient to prove the a-theorem (irreversibility of the RG flow in QFT in $d=4$ spacetime dimensions) using vacuum entanglement entropy. This extends the entropic proofs of the c and F theorems in dimensions $d=2$ and $d=3$ and gives a unified picture of all the known irreversibility theorems in QFT.

I will also comment on the relation of this Markov property with the unitarity bound and other information theory inequalities.

The Markov property of the vacuum and the entropic a-theorem

Eduardo Testé



Perimeter Institute, Sep 19th, 2017

Based on: 1703.10656, 1704.01870
with **Horacio Casini** and **Gonzalo Torroba**

Plan of the talk

- Statement of the Markov property in QFT
- Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
- Some intuitions about being Markovian
- Entropic proof of the a-theorem
- concluding remarks

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Statement of the Markov property

A state is a Markov state if it saturates the SSA

$$S(\rho_A) + S(\rho_B) \geq S(\rho_{A \cap B}) + S(\rho_{A \cup B}) \quad \rho \text{ a generic state}$$

$$S(\sigma_A) + S(\sigma_B) = S(\sigma_{A \cap B}) + S(\sigma_{A \cup B}) \quad \sigma \text{ a Markov state}$$

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Why the name?

Classically, a distribution $p(x, y, z)$ is Markovian if the marginals fulfil the Markov condition

$$p(x|y, z) = p(x|y)$$

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Classically, a distribution $p(x, y, z)$ is Markovian if the marginals fulfil the Markov condition

$$p(x|y, z) = p(x|y)$$

From this condition the full distribution can be reconstructed from its marginal in the form

$$p(x, y, z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} p(z|y, z)p(y, z) \stackrel{\text{Markov}}{=} p(z|y)p(y, z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{p(z, y)}{p(y)}p(y, z)$$

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$$\log p(x, y) + \log p(y, z) = \log p(x, y, z) + \log p(y) \quad \rightarrow \quad H_A + H_B = H_{A \vee B} + H_{A \wedge B} \quad (H_A = -\log \rho_A \otimes 1_A)$$

$$S(p(x, y)) + S(p(y, z)) = S(p(x, y, z)) + S(p(y)) \quad \rightarrow \quad S(\sigma_A) + S(\sigma_B) = S(\sigma_{A \vee B}) + S(\sigma_{A \wedge B})$$

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$$\rightarrow S(\sigma_A) + S(\sigma_B) = S(\sigma_{A \vee B}) + S(\sigma_{A \wedge B})$$

...we are interested in this because

$$S(\rho_A || \sigma_A) + S(\rho_B || \sigma_B) \leq S(\rho_{A \vee B} || \sigma_{A \vee B}) + S(\rho_{A \wedge B} || \sigma_{A \wedge B})$$

**This is the Strong (Super)Additivity of Relative Entropy
it holds when the second entry state is Markovian!, (not in general)**

like SSA, but now each term has the monotonicity property (better defined in QFT)

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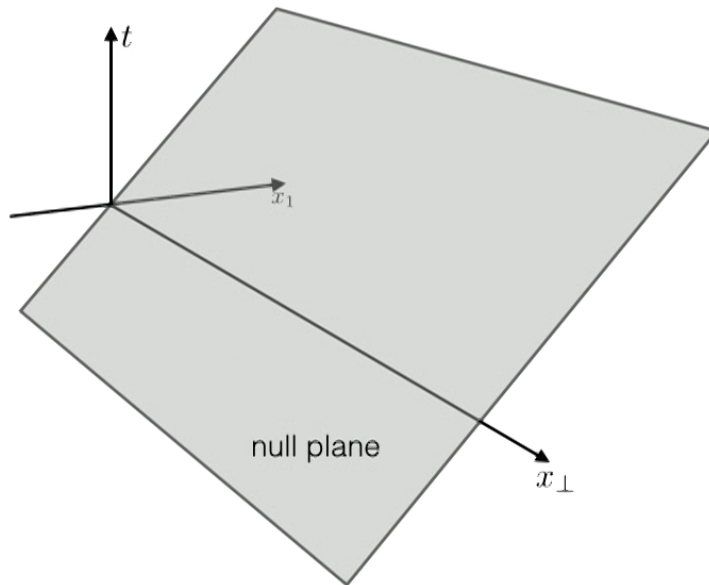
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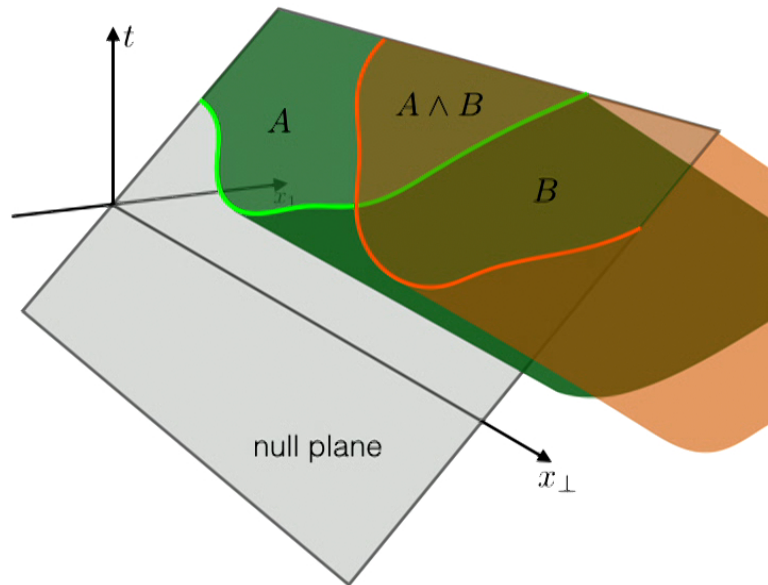


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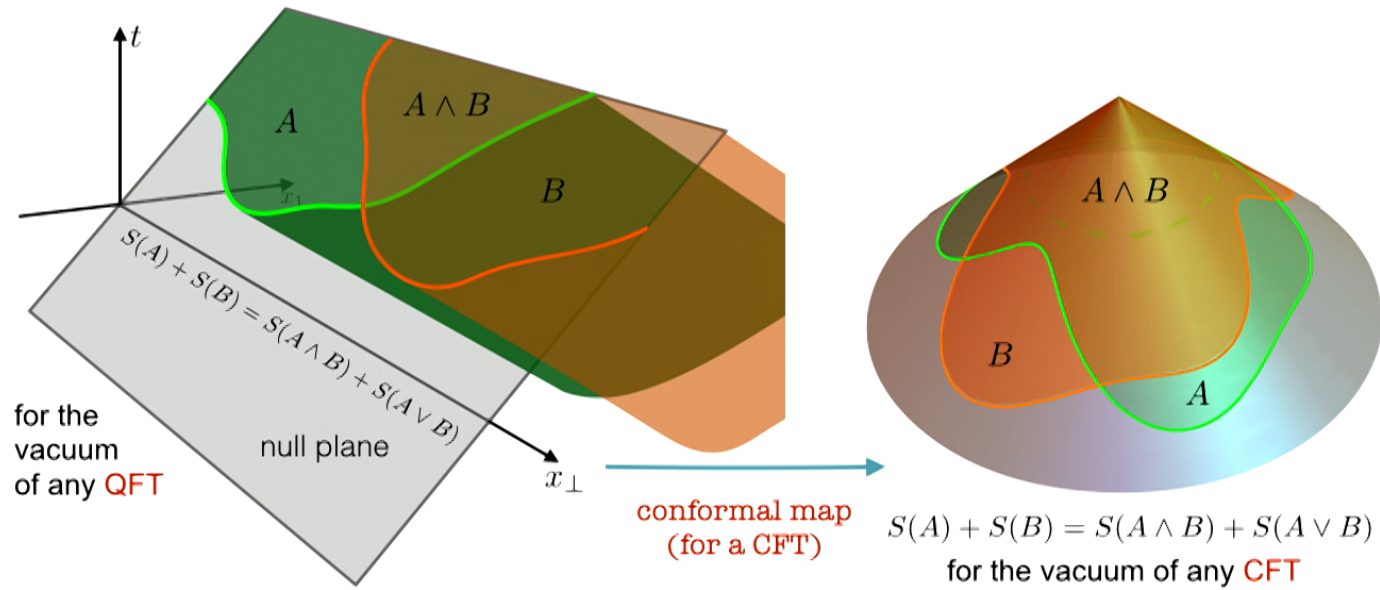


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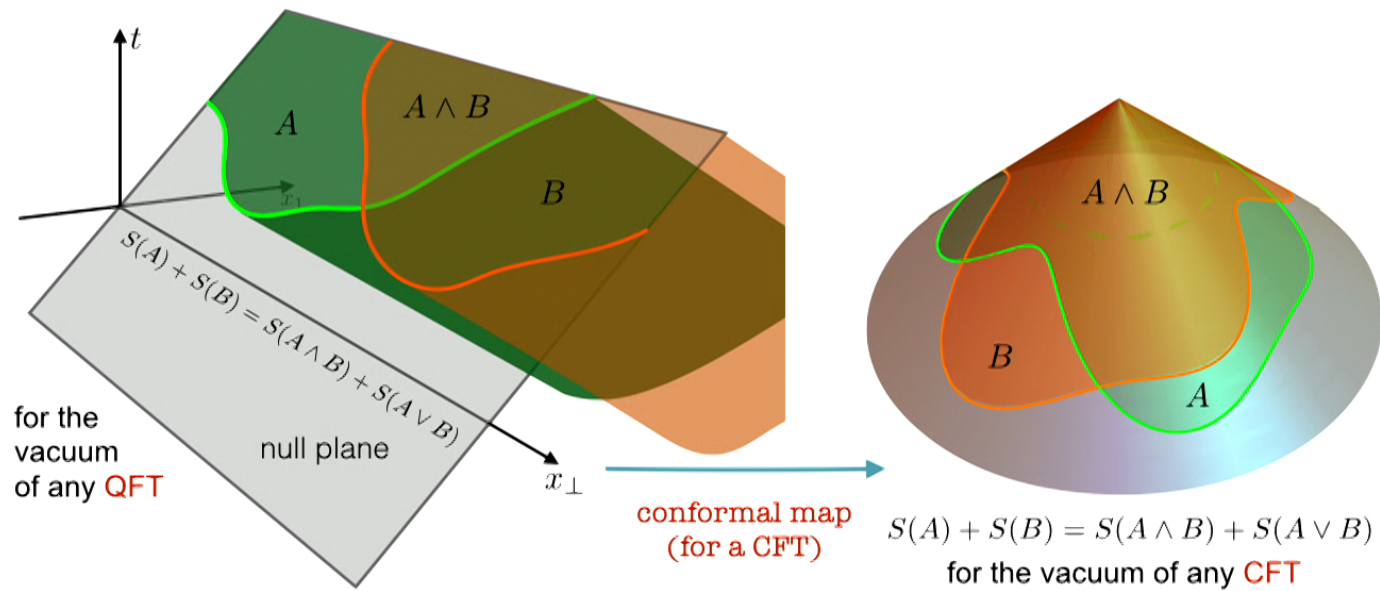
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The statement for the vacuum



Remarks

- no relation with null quantisation
- these regions always have spacetime volume (in order to have a subalgebra of operators)
- the requirement is: the future horizon of these spacetime regions lies on a null plane

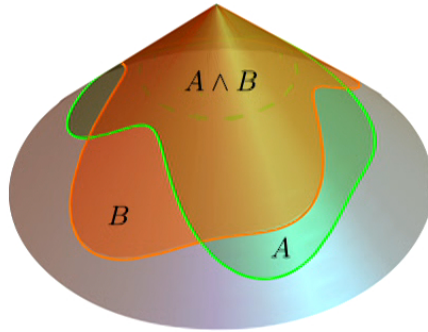
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Other observations...

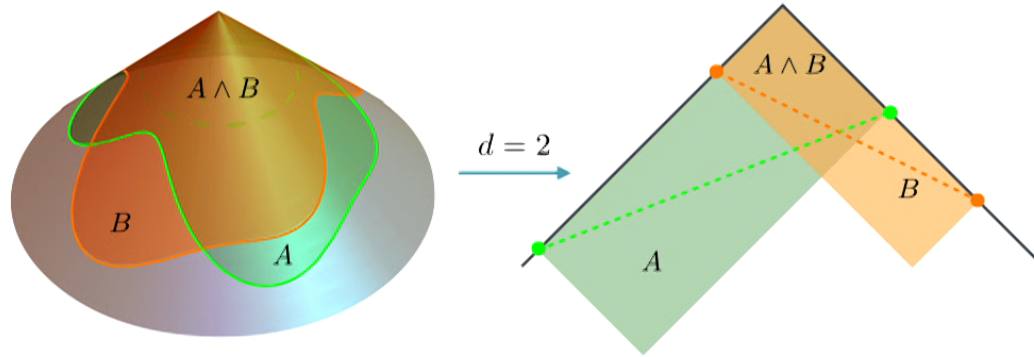


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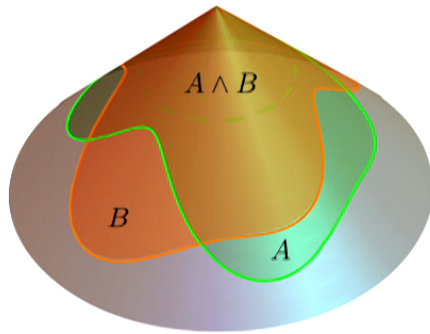


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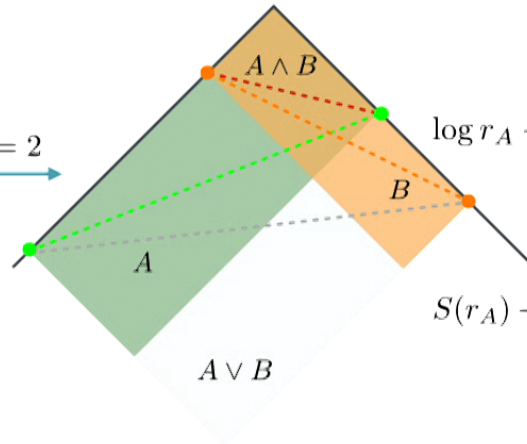
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Other observations...



$d = 2$



a relativistic computation gives
(for proper radius)

$$r_A r_B = r_{A \wedge B} r_{A \vee B}$$

$$\log r_A + \log r_B = \log r_{A \wedge B} + \log r_{A \vee B}$$

$$S_{CFT}^{d=2}(r) = \frac{c}{3} \log(r/\epsilon)$$

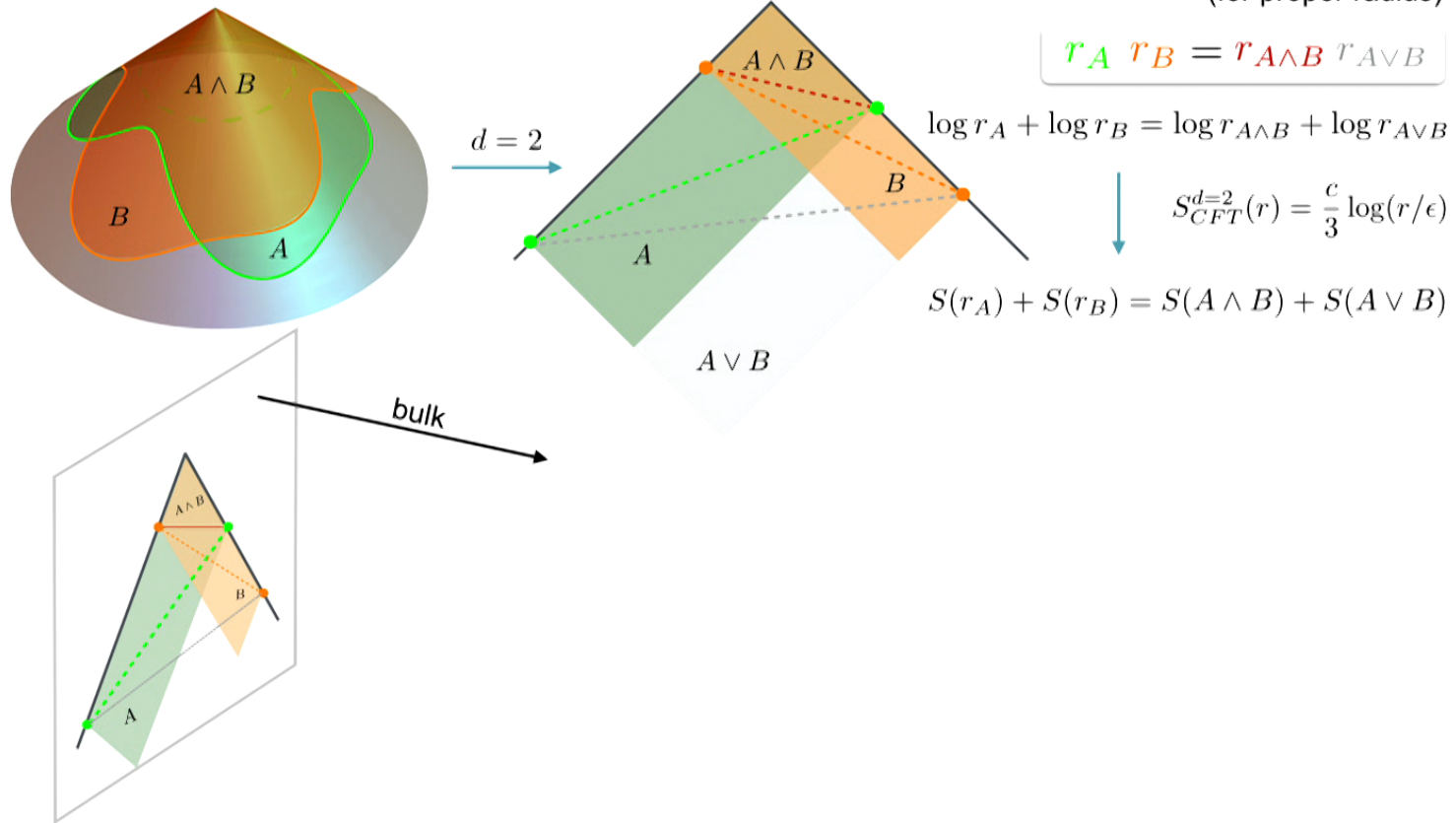
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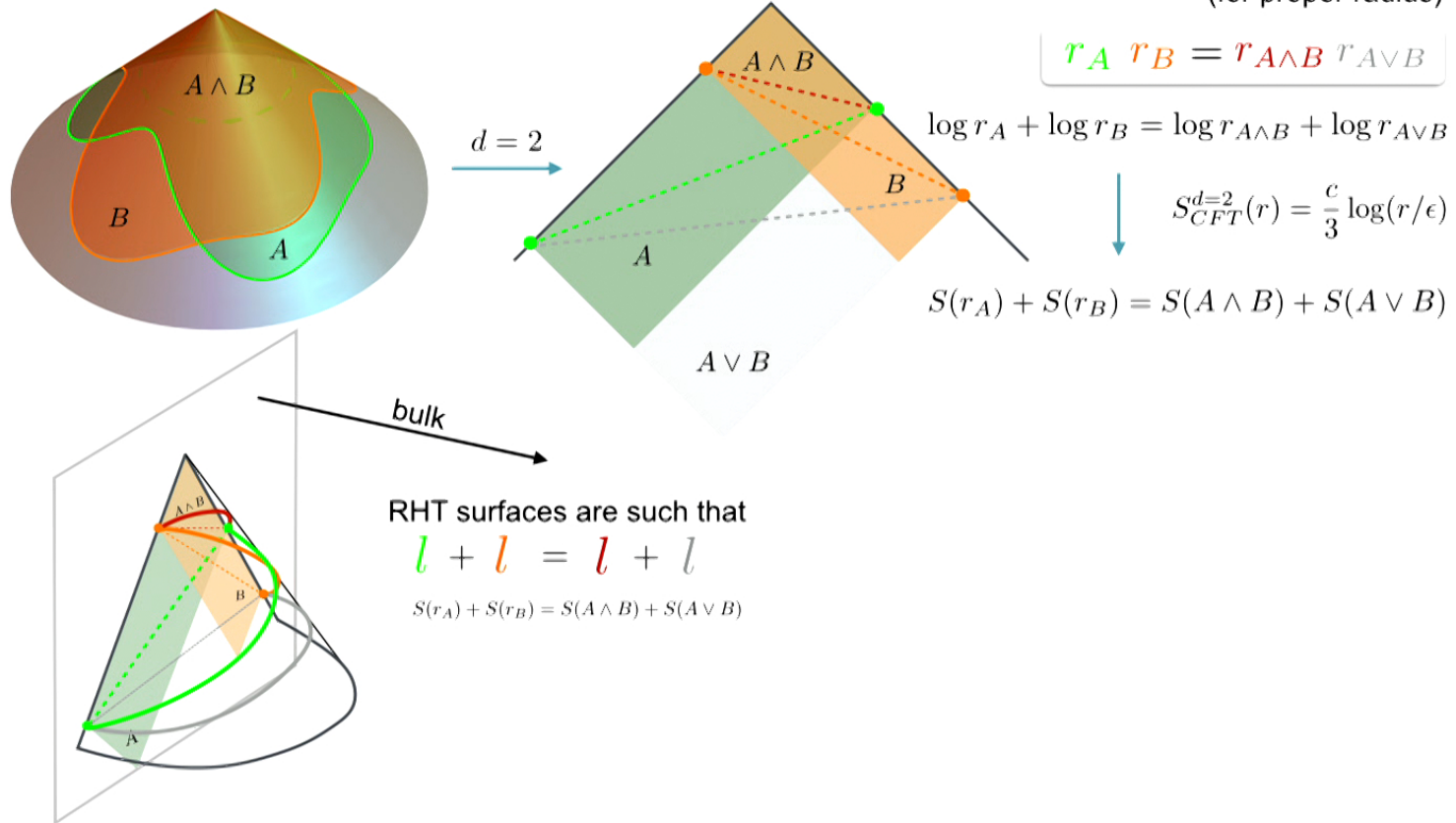
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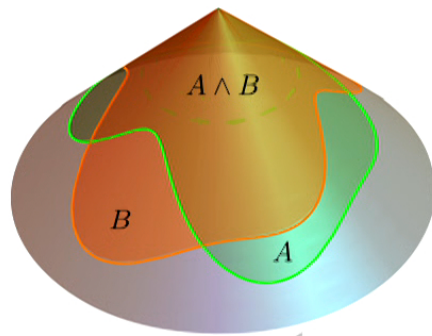
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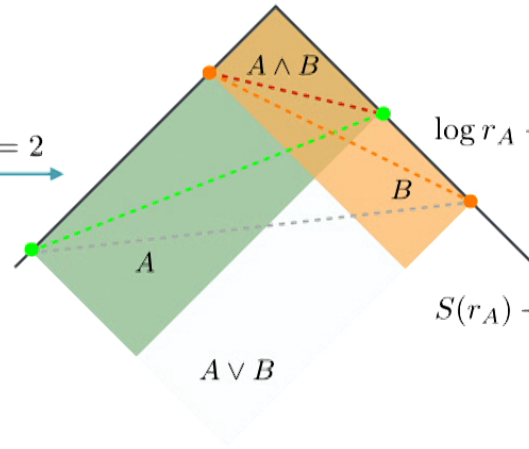
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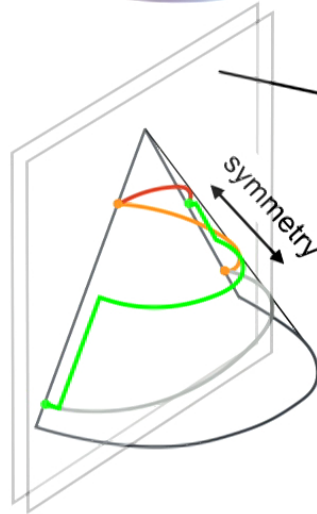
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RHT surfaces are such that

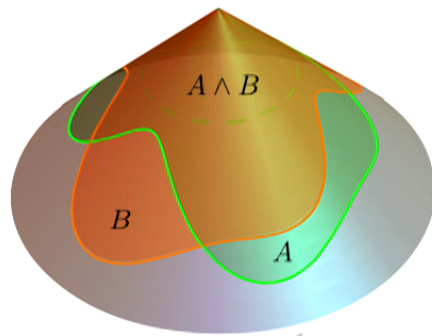
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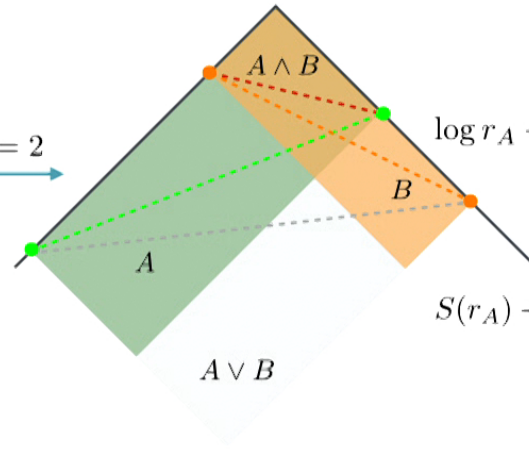
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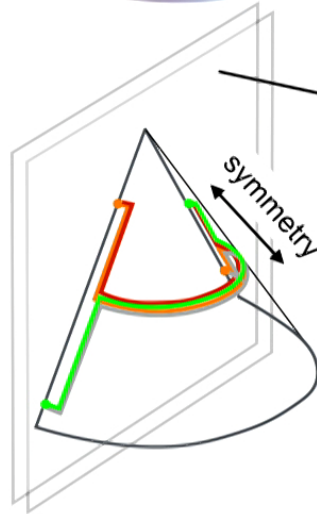
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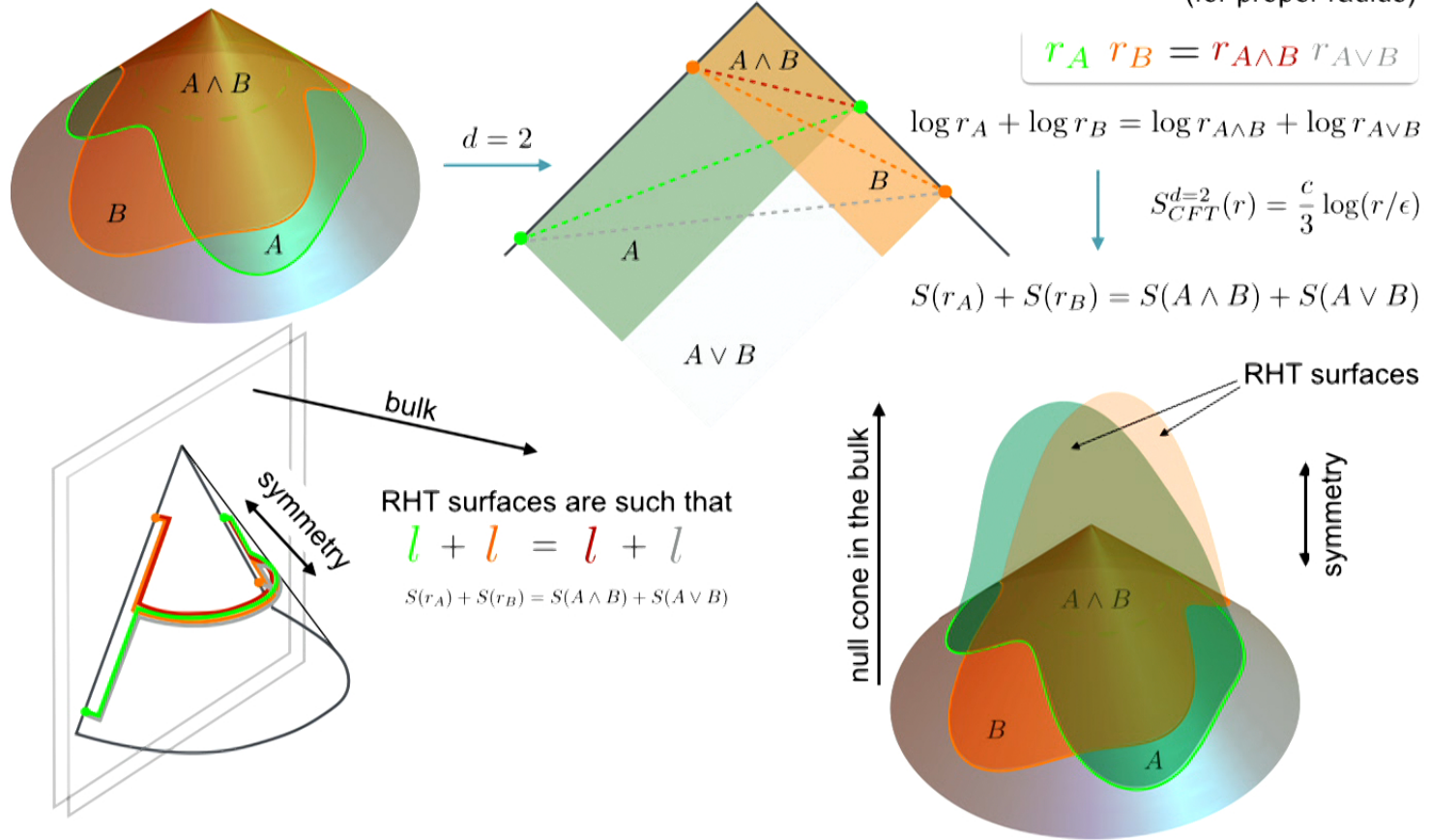
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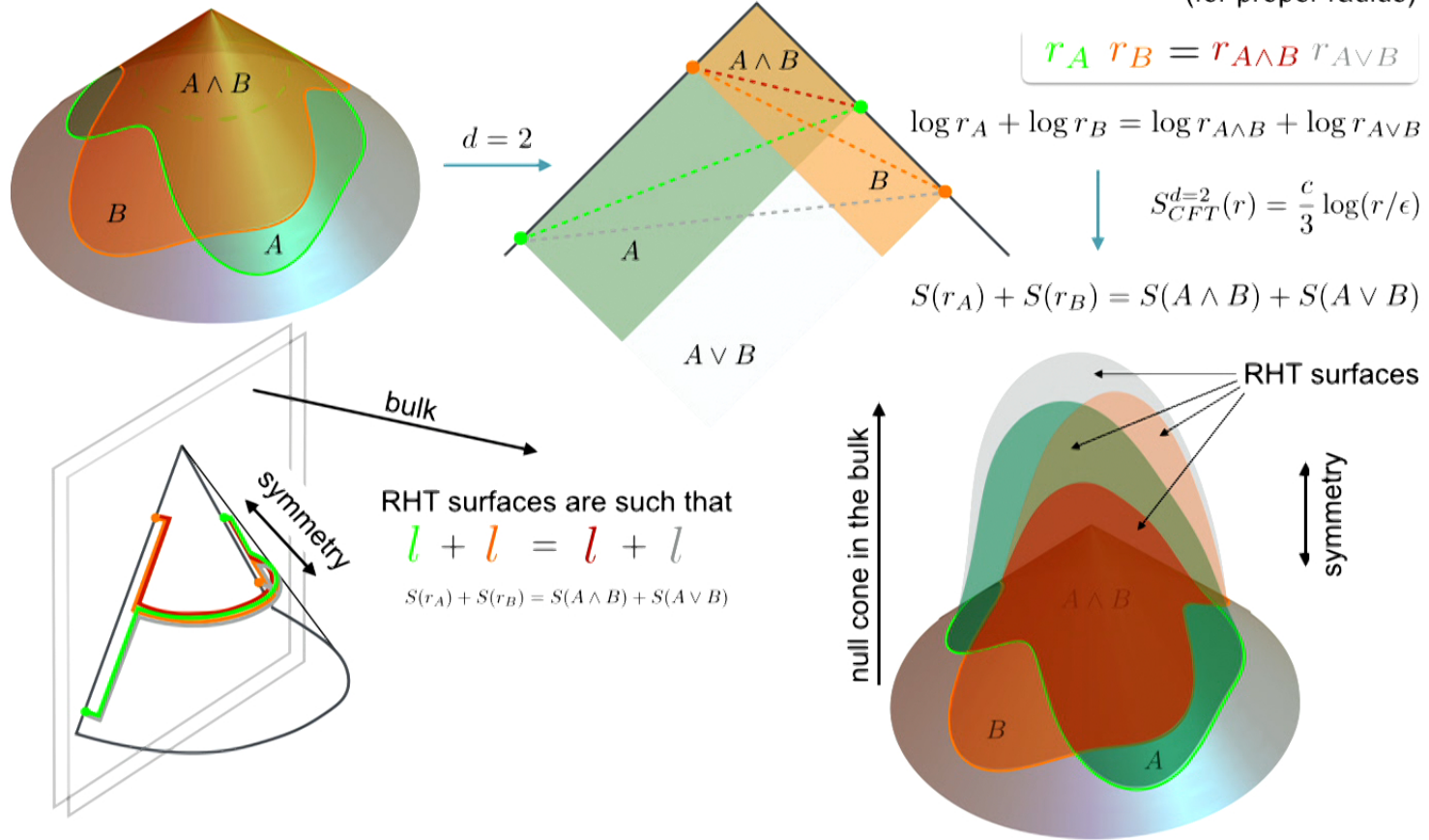
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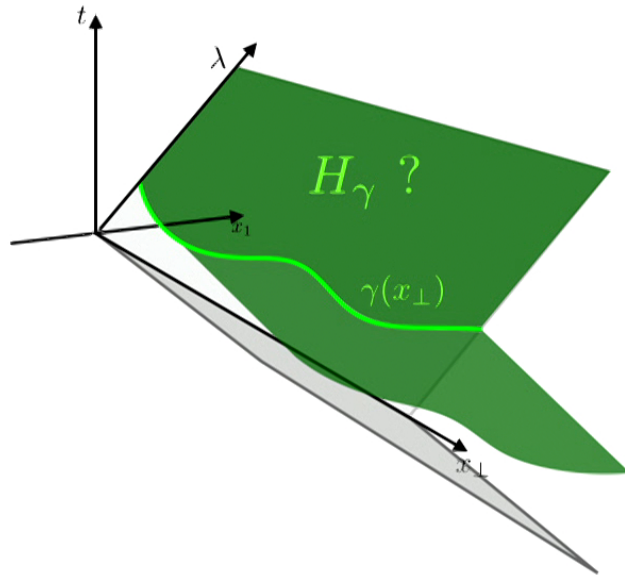


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Idea: find the explicit form of the modular Hamiltonian of these regions:



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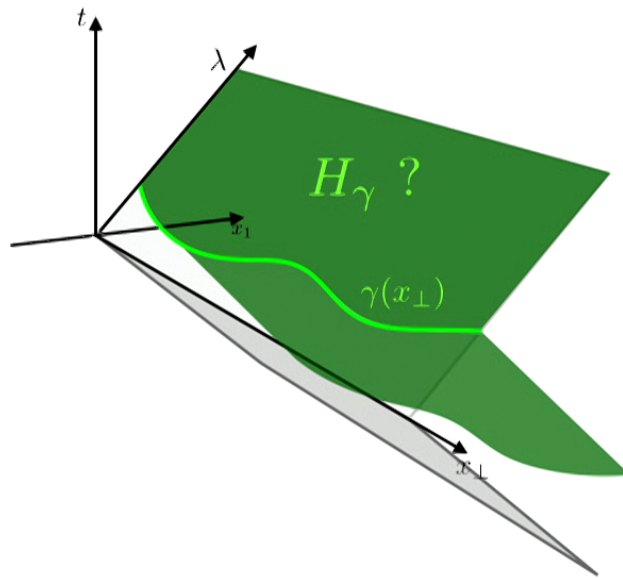
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Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)

Idea: find the explicit form of the modular Hamiltonian of these regions:

Obs:
this operator can be written as the integral of
a local operator only in the null Cauchy surface



$$H_\gamma = 2\pi \int d^{d-2}x_\perp \int d\lambda (\lambda - \gamma(x_\perp)) T_{\lambda\lambda}$$

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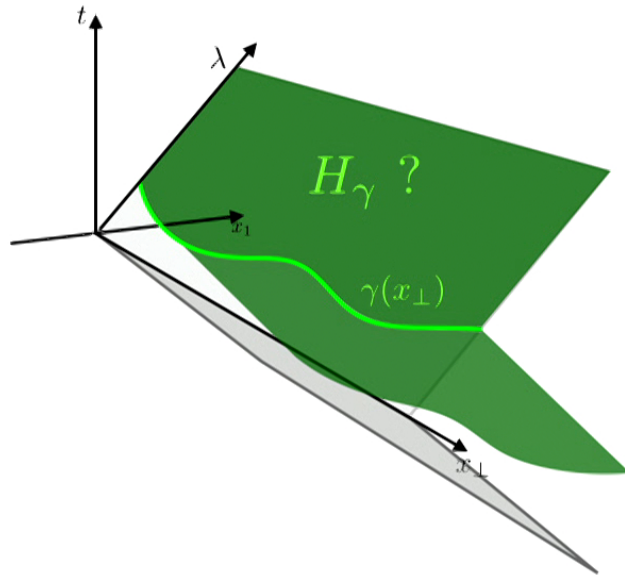
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(from this it follows directly the Markov equality)

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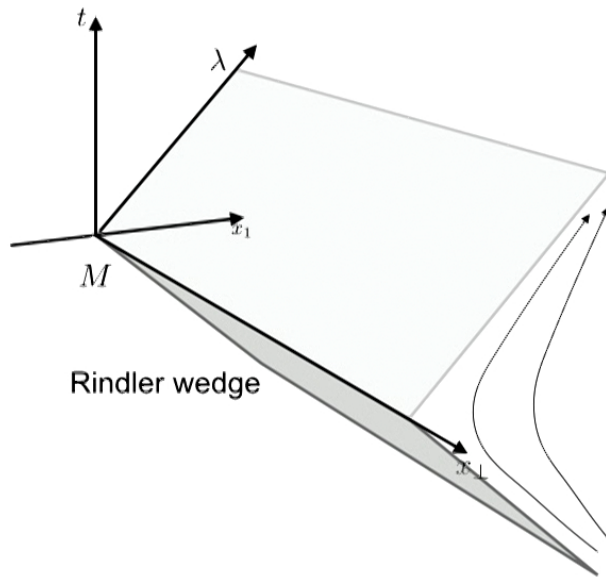
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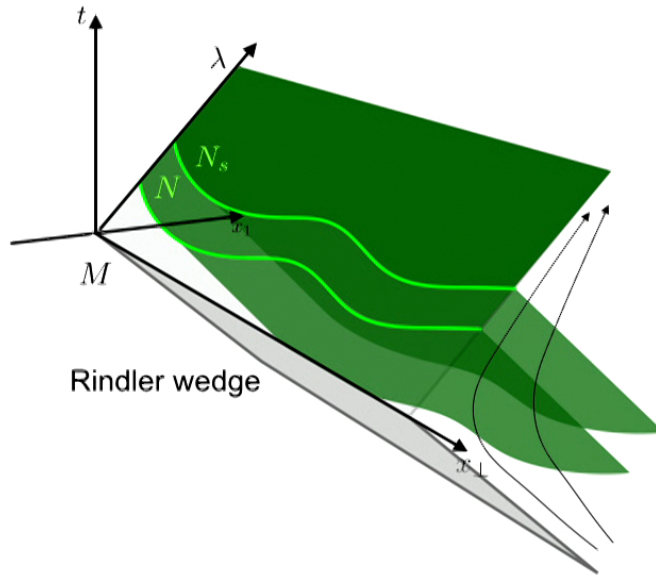
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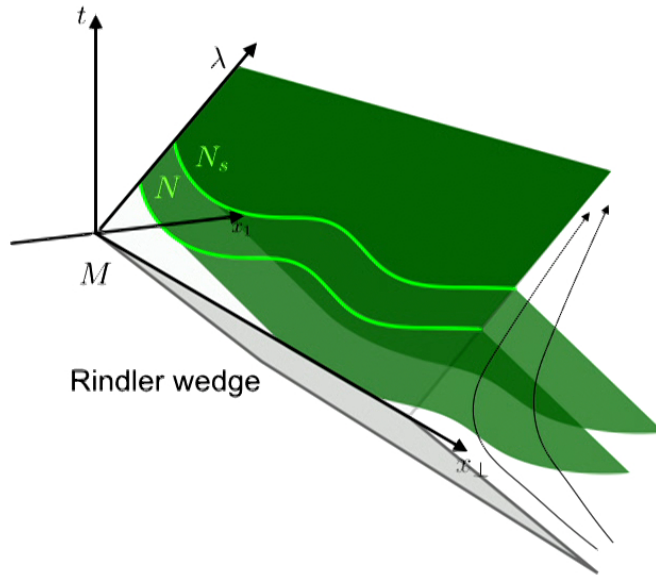
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half sided modular inclusion condition

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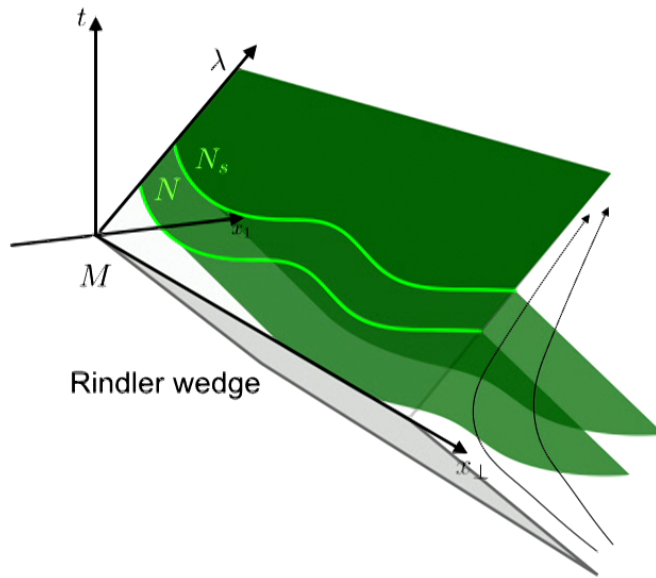
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If (M, N) are in a half sided modular inclusion situation then:
[Borchers 93, Wiesbrok 93]

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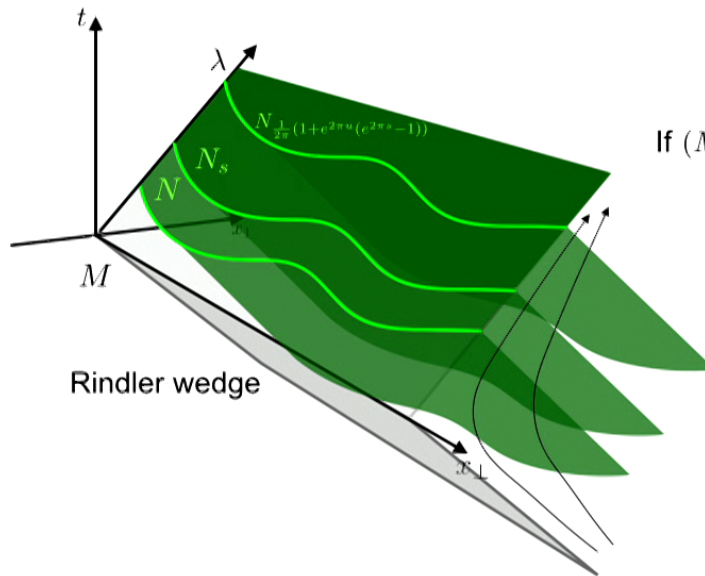
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Idea: find the explicit form of the modular Hamiltonian of these regions:

Obs:
this operator can be written as the integral of
a local operator only in the null Cauchy surface



$$H_\gamma = 2\pi \int d^{d-2}x_\perp \int d\lambda (\lambda - \gamma(x_\perp)) T_{\lambda\lambda}$$

If (M, N) are in a half sided modular inclusion situation then:
[Borchers 93, Wiesbrok 93]

- Thm 1: The modular Hamiltonian of N moves geometrically any region of the family N_s (to another region of the family):

$$U_N(-u)N_sU_N(u) = N_{\frac{1}{2\pi} \log(1+e^{2\pi u}(e^{2\pi s}-1))}$$

$$U_M(-s)NU_M(s) = N_s \subset N \quad ; \quad s > 0$$

half sided modular inclusion condition

Statement of the Markov property in QFT
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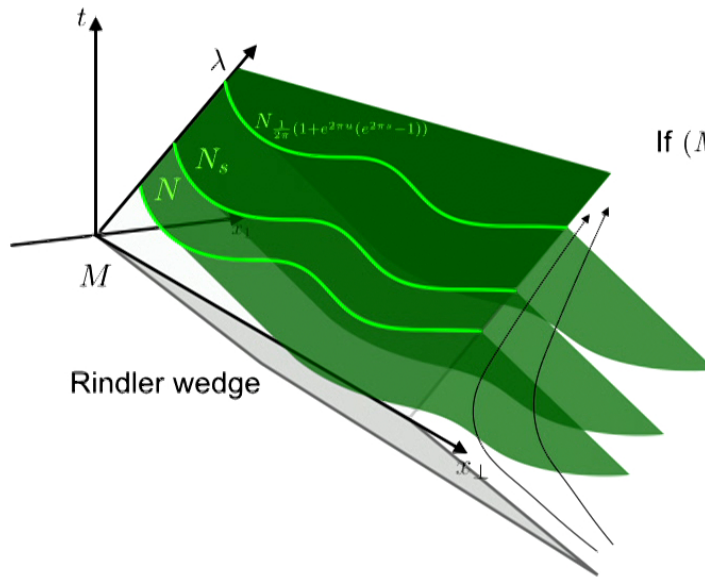
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concluding remarks

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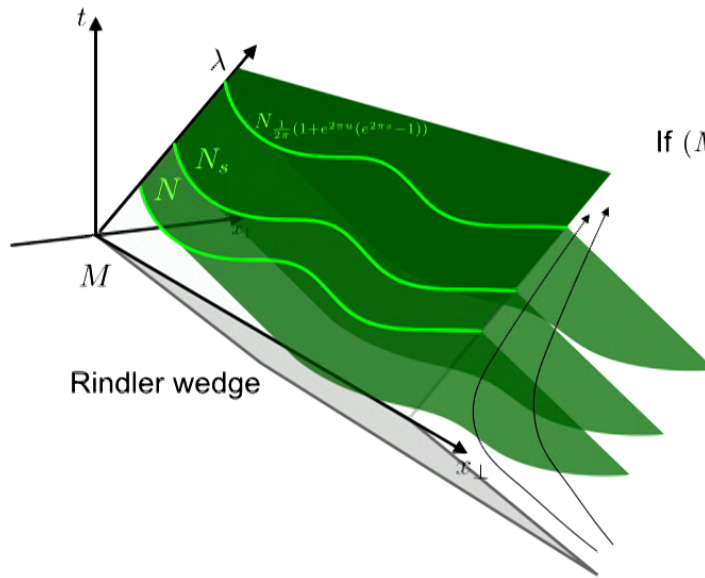
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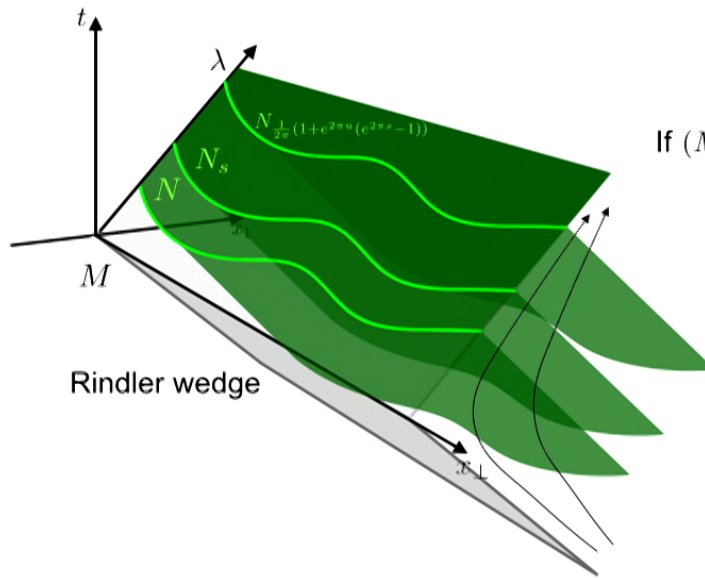
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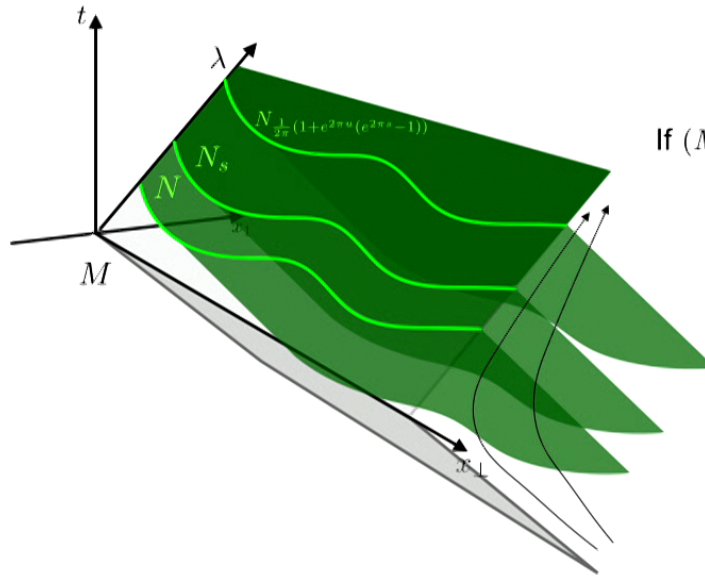
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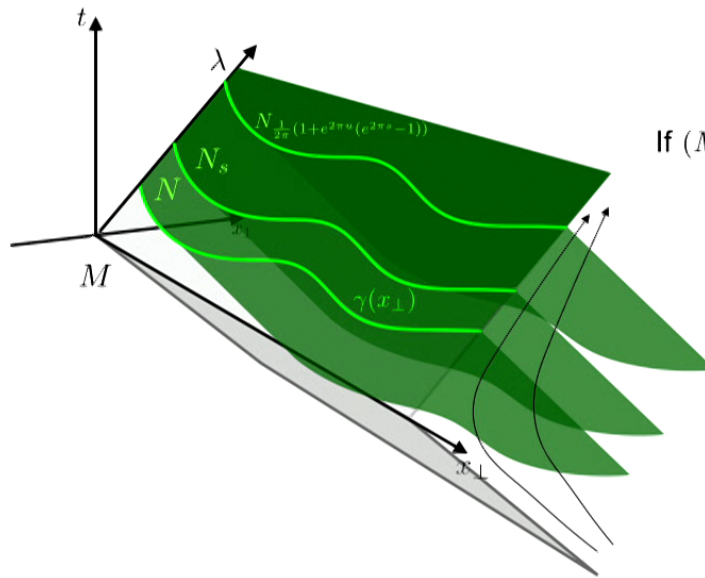
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Some intuitions about being Markovian

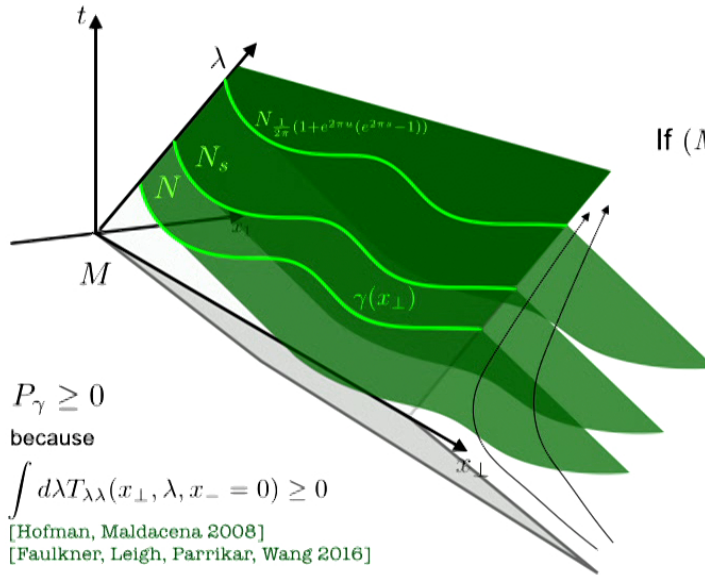
Entropic proof of the a-theorem
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$$P_\gamma \geq 0$$

because

$$\int d\lambda T_{\lambda\lambda}(x_\perp, \lambda, x_- = 0) \geq 0$$

[Hofman, Maldacena 2008]

[Faulkner, Leigh, Parrikar, Wang 2016]

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$$\parallel$$

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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

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The condition $S(\rho_{12}) + S(\rho_{23}) = S(\rho_{123}) + S(\rho_2)$ is strong enough to fix great part of the structure of the state

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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
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↓ [Hayden, Jozsa, Petz, Winter: 04]

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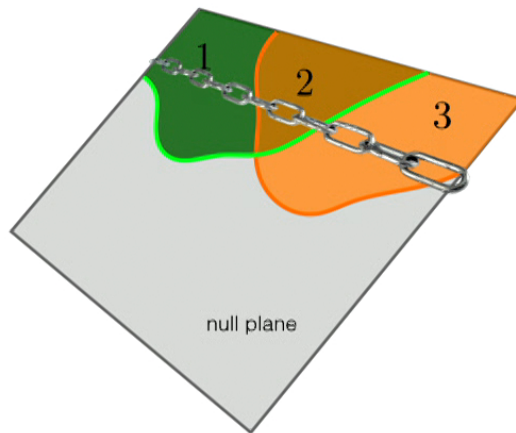
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The entanglement structure of a Markov state is like a chain:

If we cut a link (take trace on the intersection algebra) the state becomes separable



the vacuum is like this
(with respect to null cut
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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

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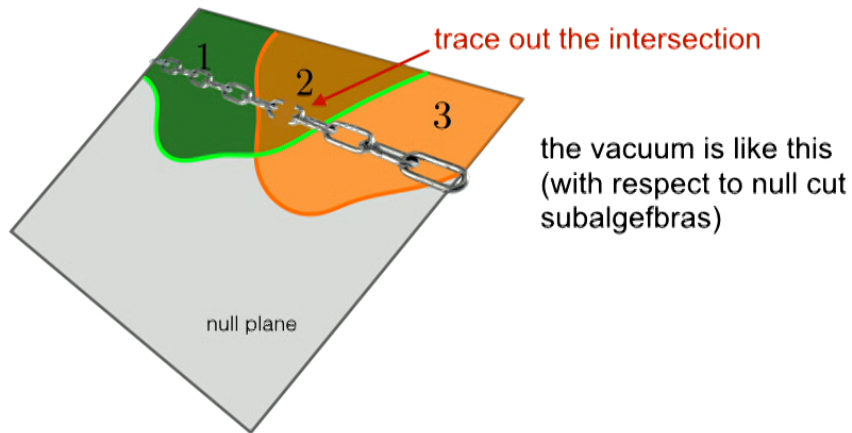
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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
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Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

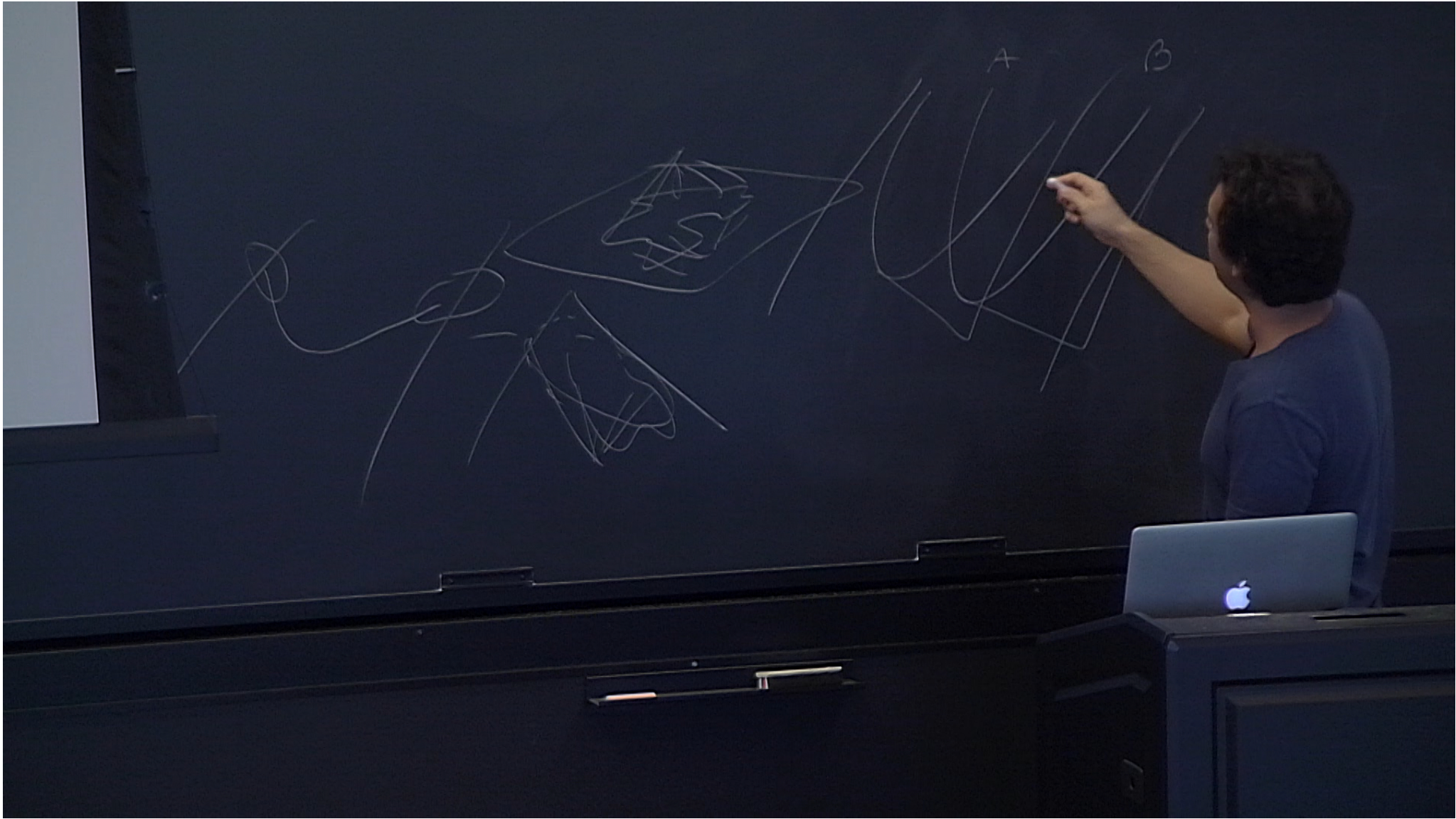
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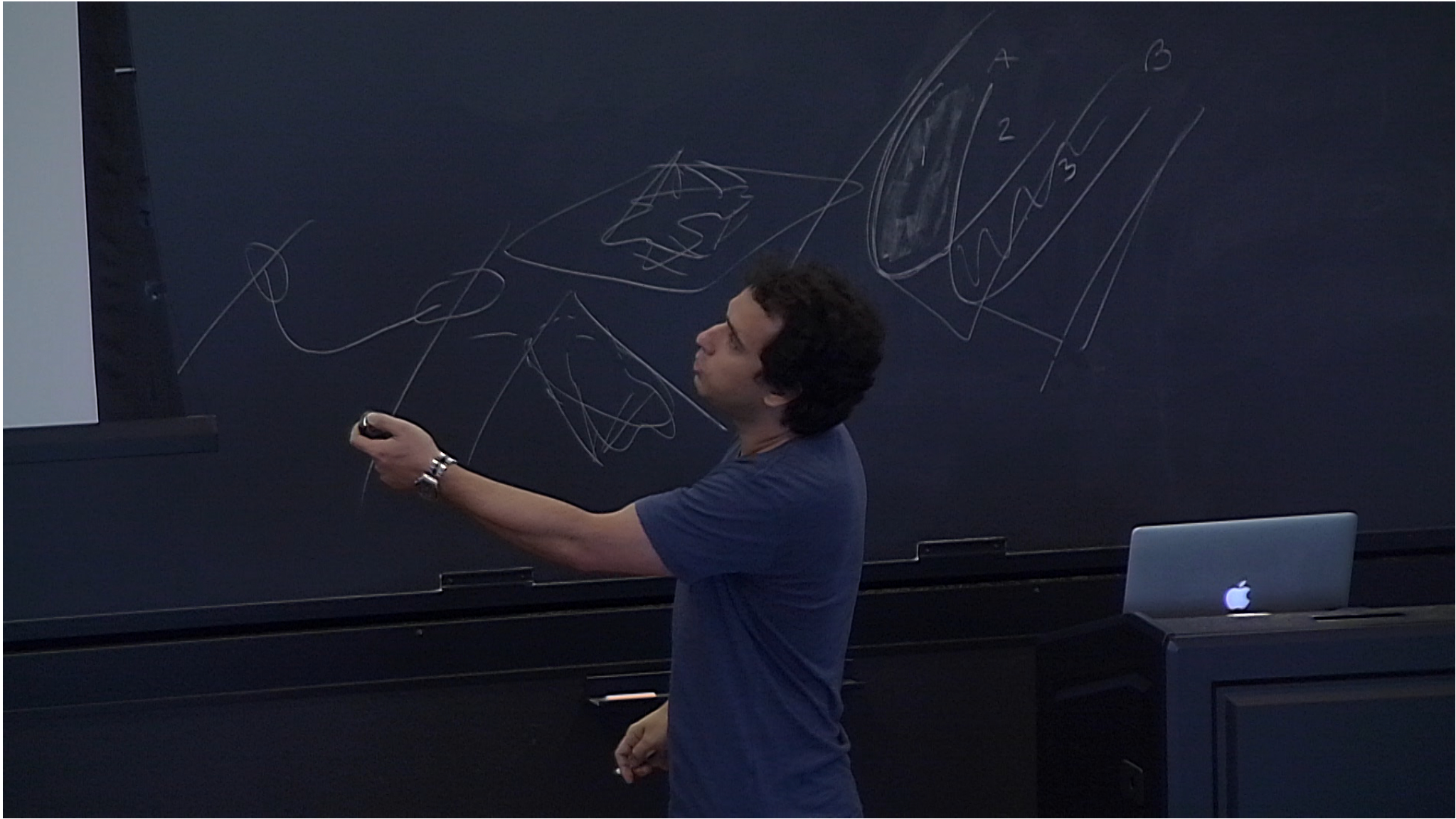
Entropic proof of the a-theorem

Statement of the Markov property in QFT
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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
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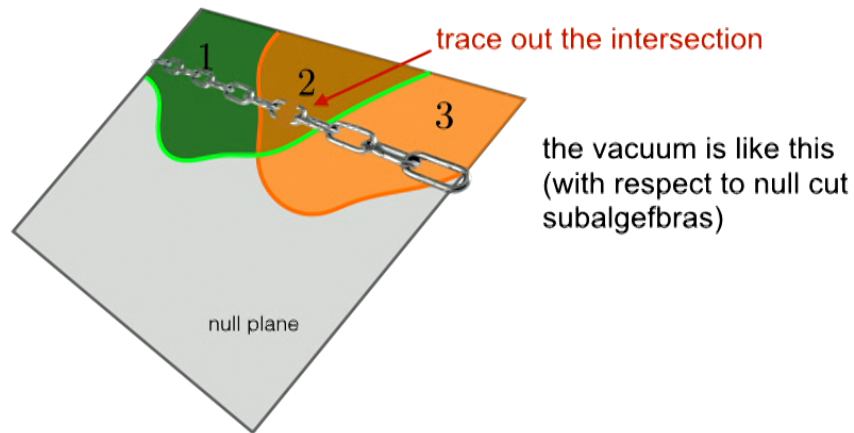
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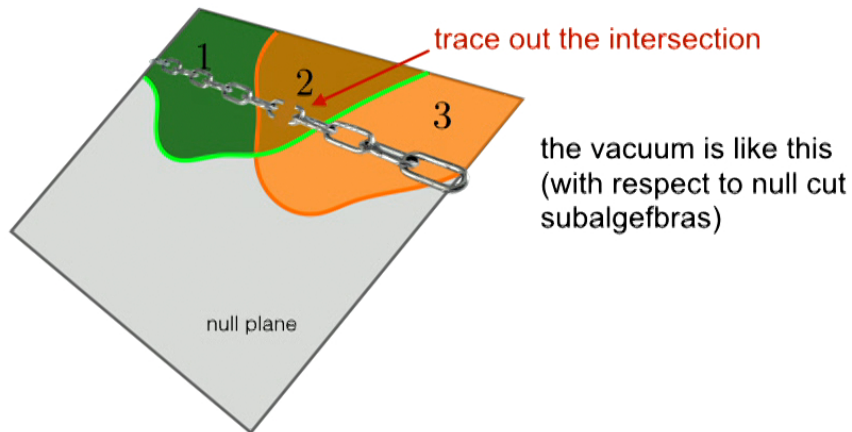
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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

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1. strong subadditivity (SSA) of von Neumann entropy (entanglement entropy EE)
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4. relation between EE and intrinsic quantities of the theory at fixed point

$$S_{CFIT}^d(r) = \mu_{d-2} r^{d-2} + \mu_{d-4} r^{d-4} + \dots + \begin{cases} (-)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} 4 A \log(R/\epsilon) & d \text{ even} . \\ (-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} F & d \text{ odd} . \end{cases}$$

monotonic under RG flows? [Myers, Sinha 2010]

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Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

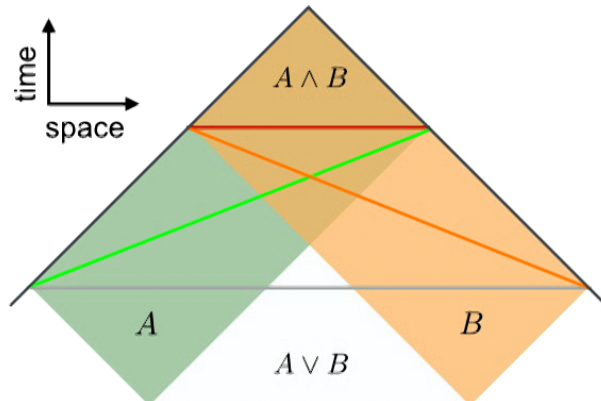
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Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

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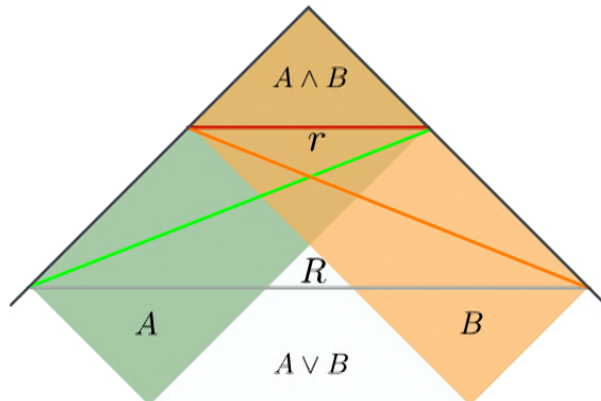
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Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

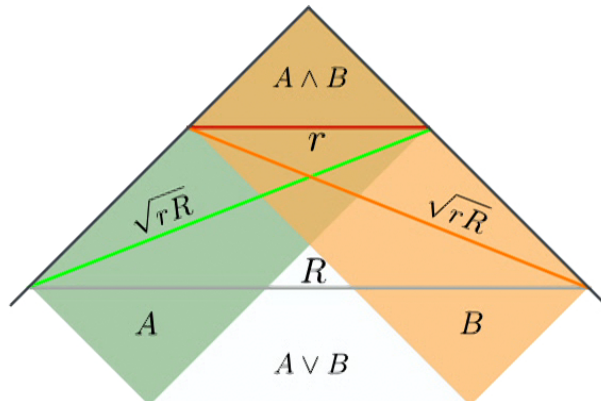
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concluding remarks

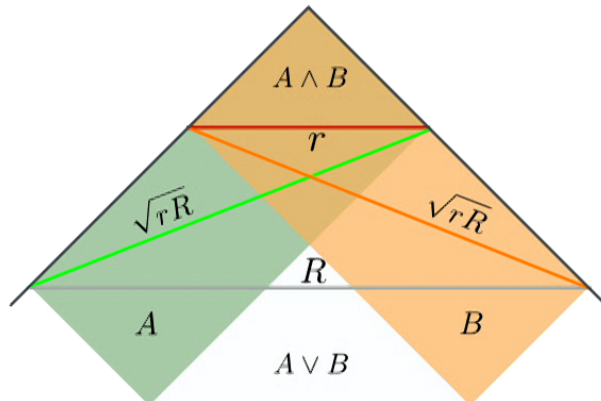
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take $R = r + \epsilon$ and $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

$$(rS'(r))' \equiv c'(r) \leq 0$$

$$\text{by } S_{CFT}^{d=2}(r) = \frac{c}{3} \log(r/\epsilon)$$

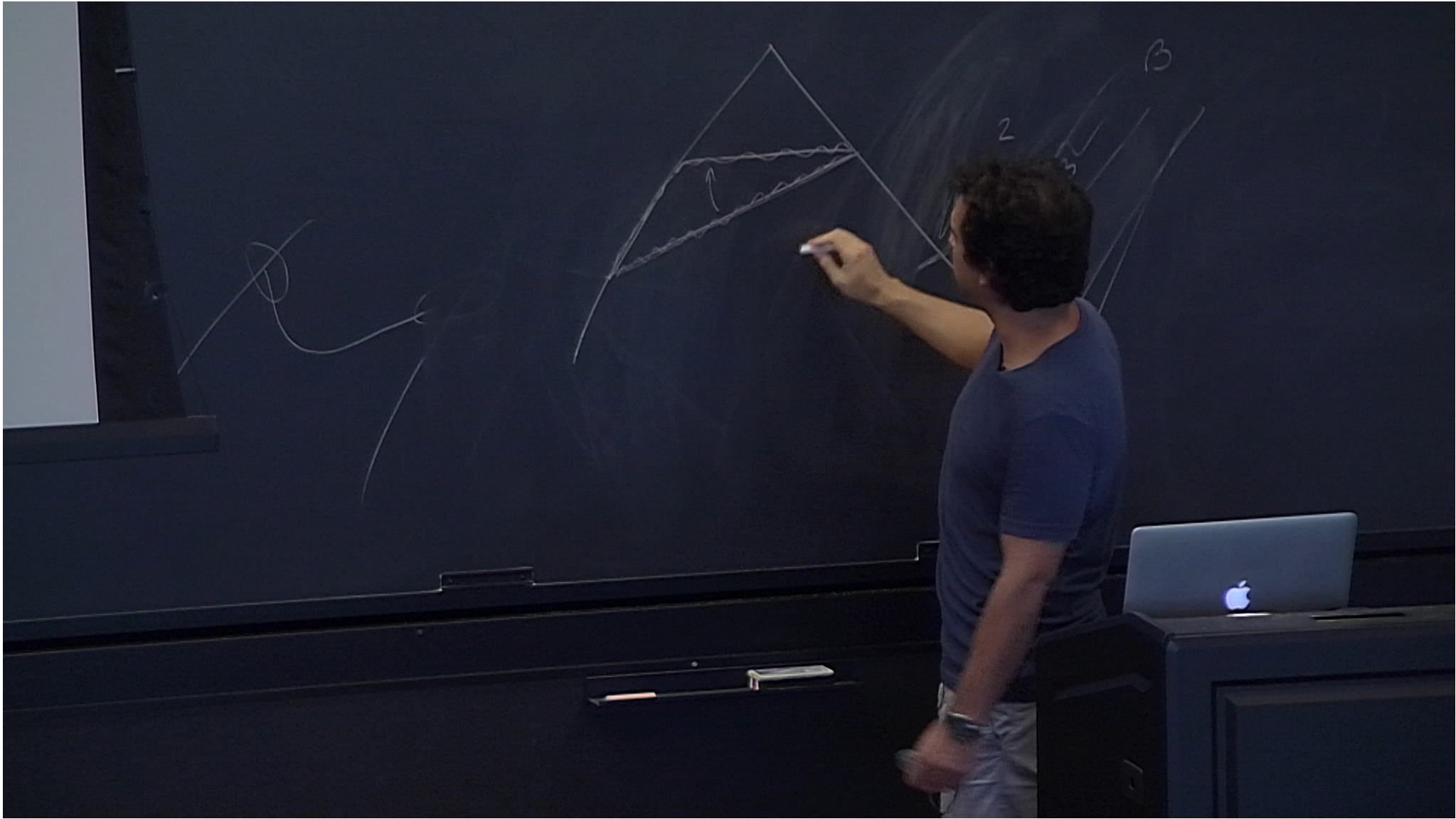
this $c(r)$ function equals the Virasoro central charges at the fixed points. Then

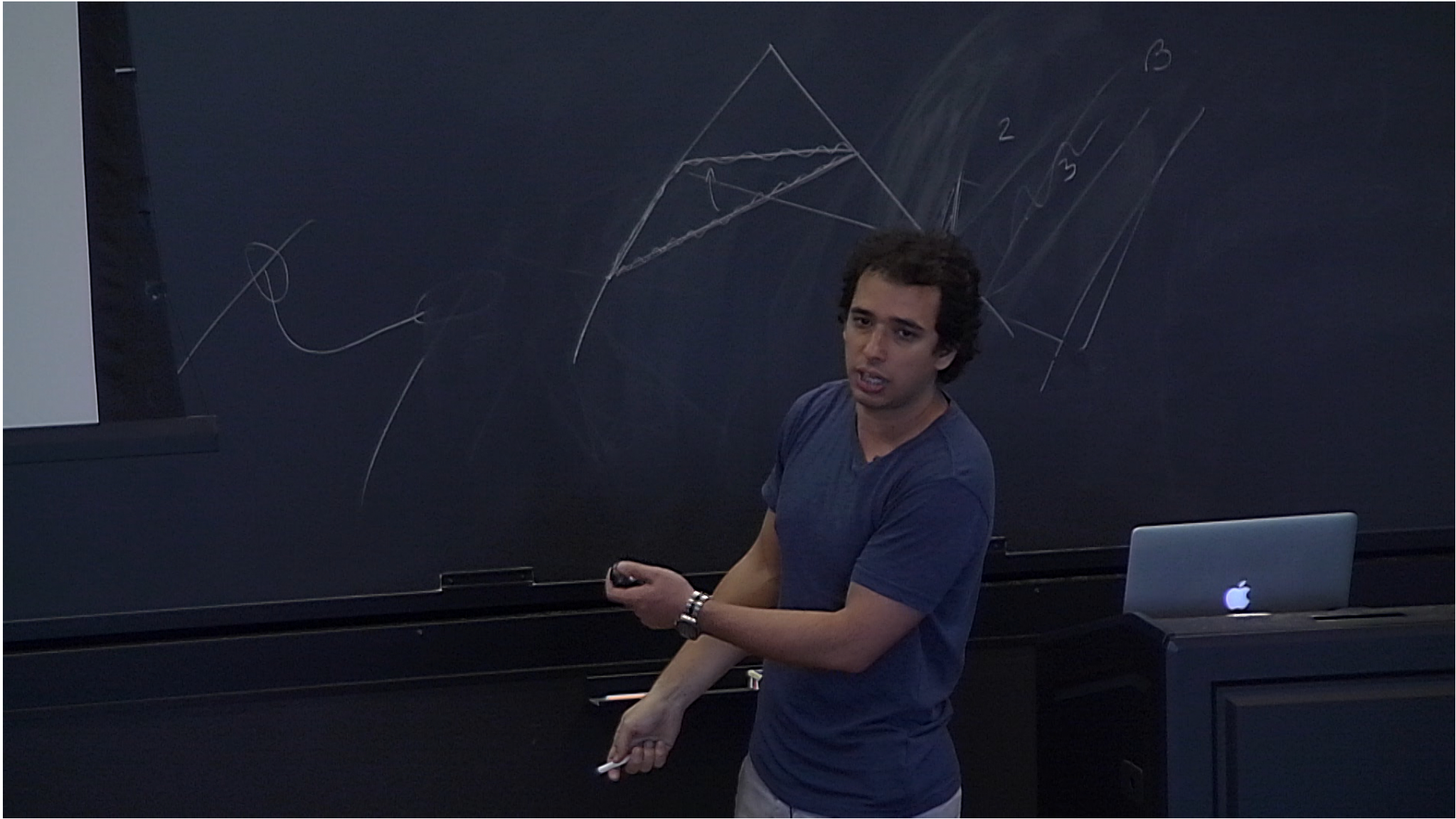
$$c_{UV} \geq c_{IR}$$

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Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
Some intuitions about being Markovian

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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
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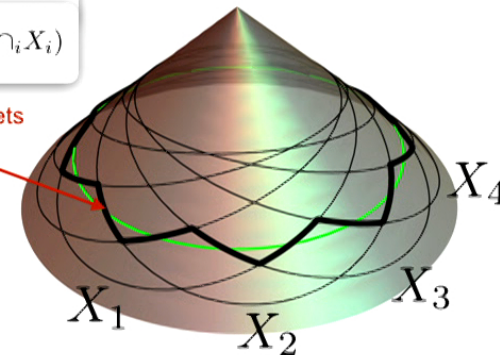
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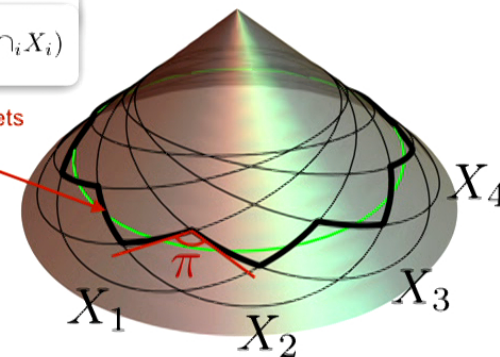
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 concluding remarks

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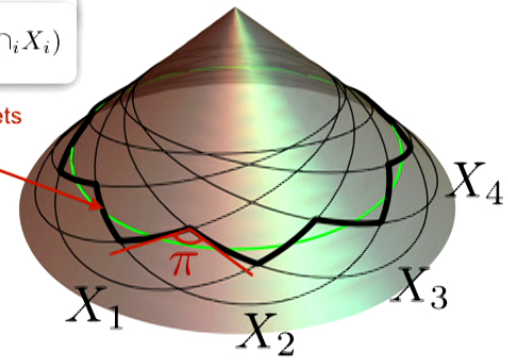
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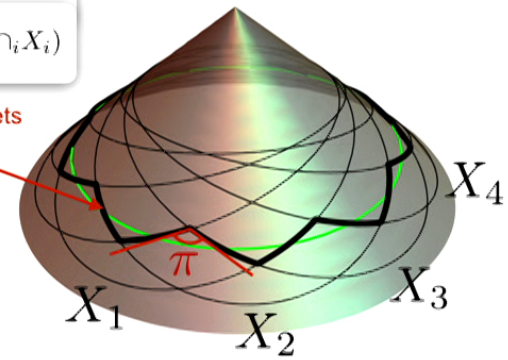
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 concluding remarks

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$$\beta(l) = \frac{2^{d-3} \Gamma[(d-1)/2] (rR)^{\frac{d-2}{2}} ((l-r)(R-l))^{\frac{d-4}{2}}}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma[(d-2)/2] l^{d-2} (R-r)^{d-3}}$$

Statement of the Markov property in QFT
 Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
 Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

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wrong

Statement of the Markov property in QFT
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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

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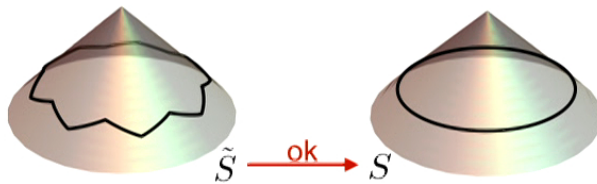
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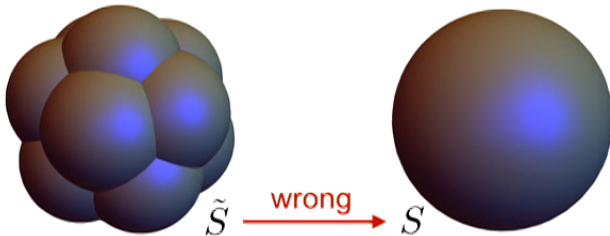
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in $d = 3$ only corners



in $d = 4$ new features appear:

- dihedral and trihedral angles
- different local intrinsic curvatures

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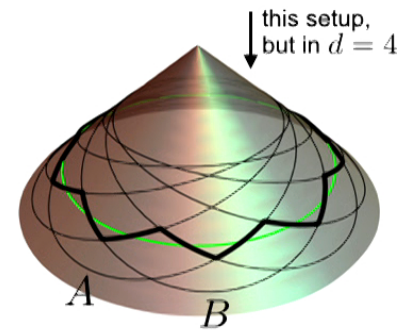
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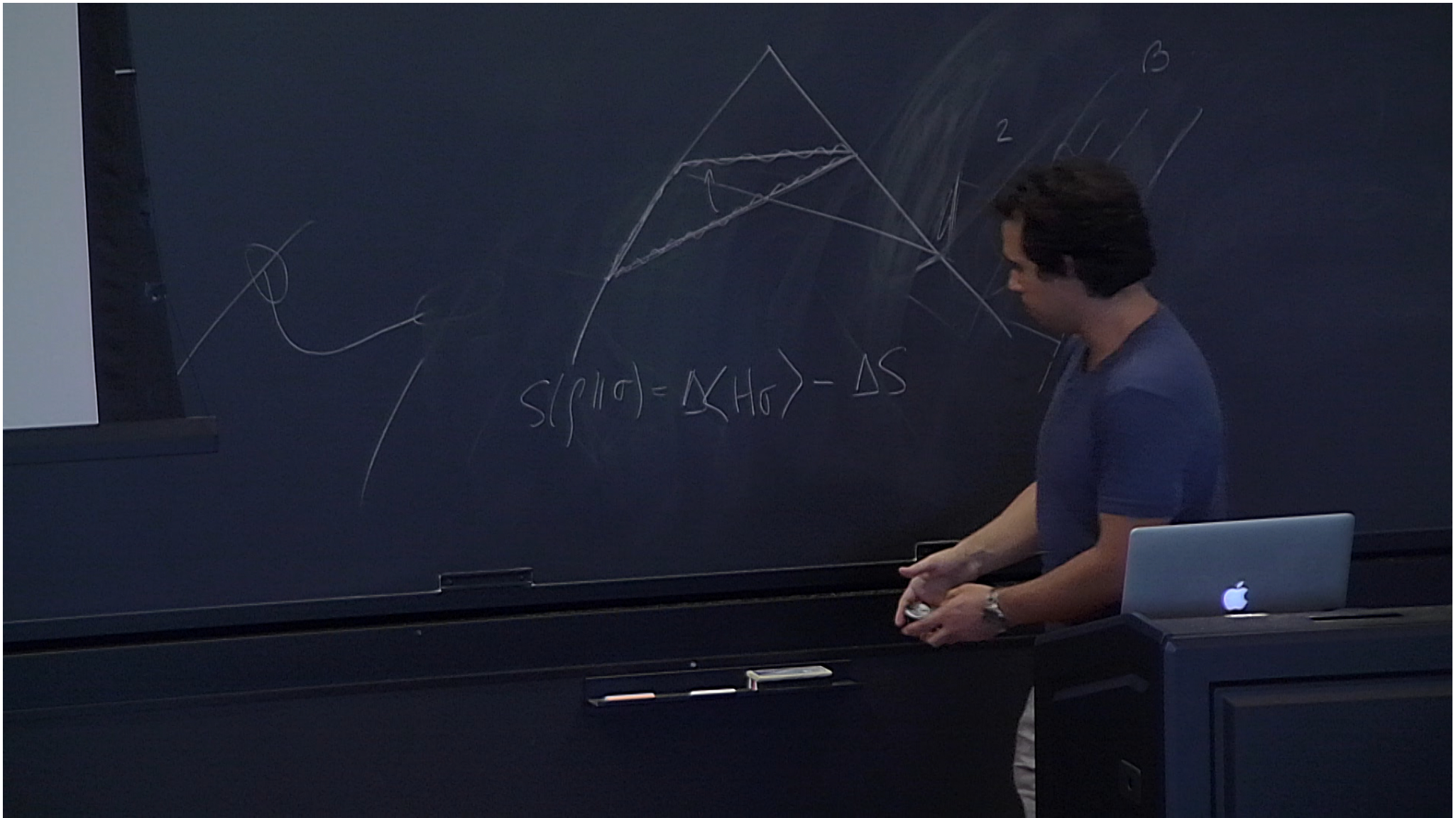
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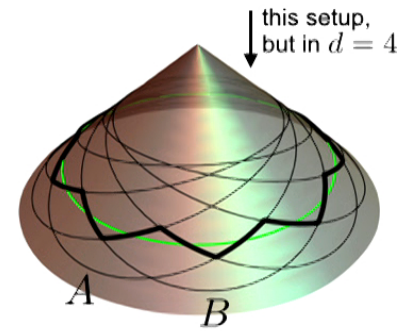
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 Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
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Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

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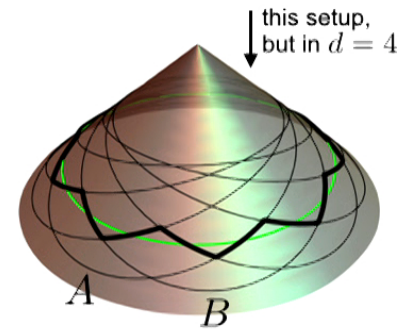
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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
 Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
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 concluding remarks

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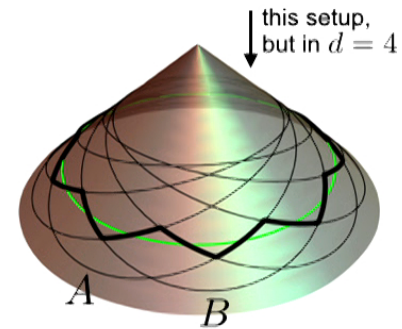
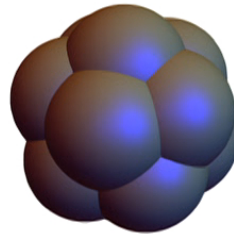
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 Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
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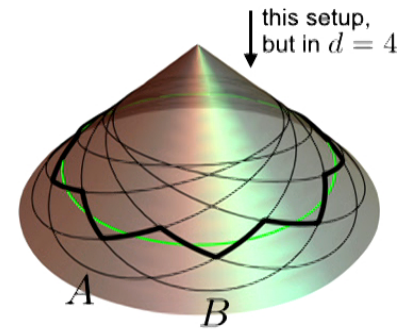
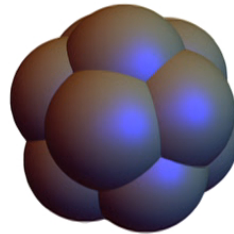
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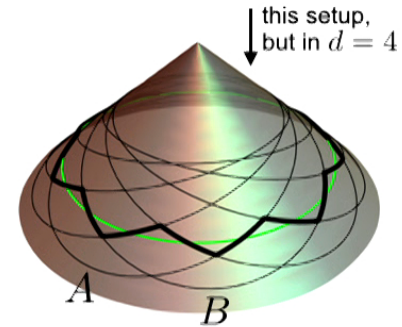
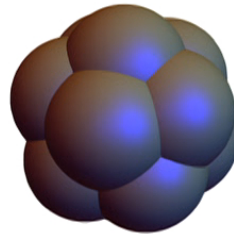
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Statement of the Markov property in QFT
 Sketch of a general proof (modular Hamiltonians)
 Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
 concluding remarks

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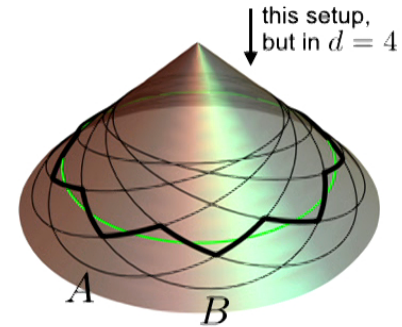
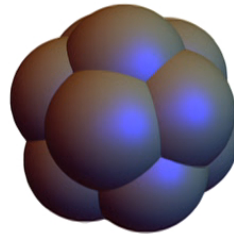
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This inequality unifies all the known c theorems under a statement about vacuum entanglement entropy !

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Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
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Another application

Relation between SSA and unitarity...

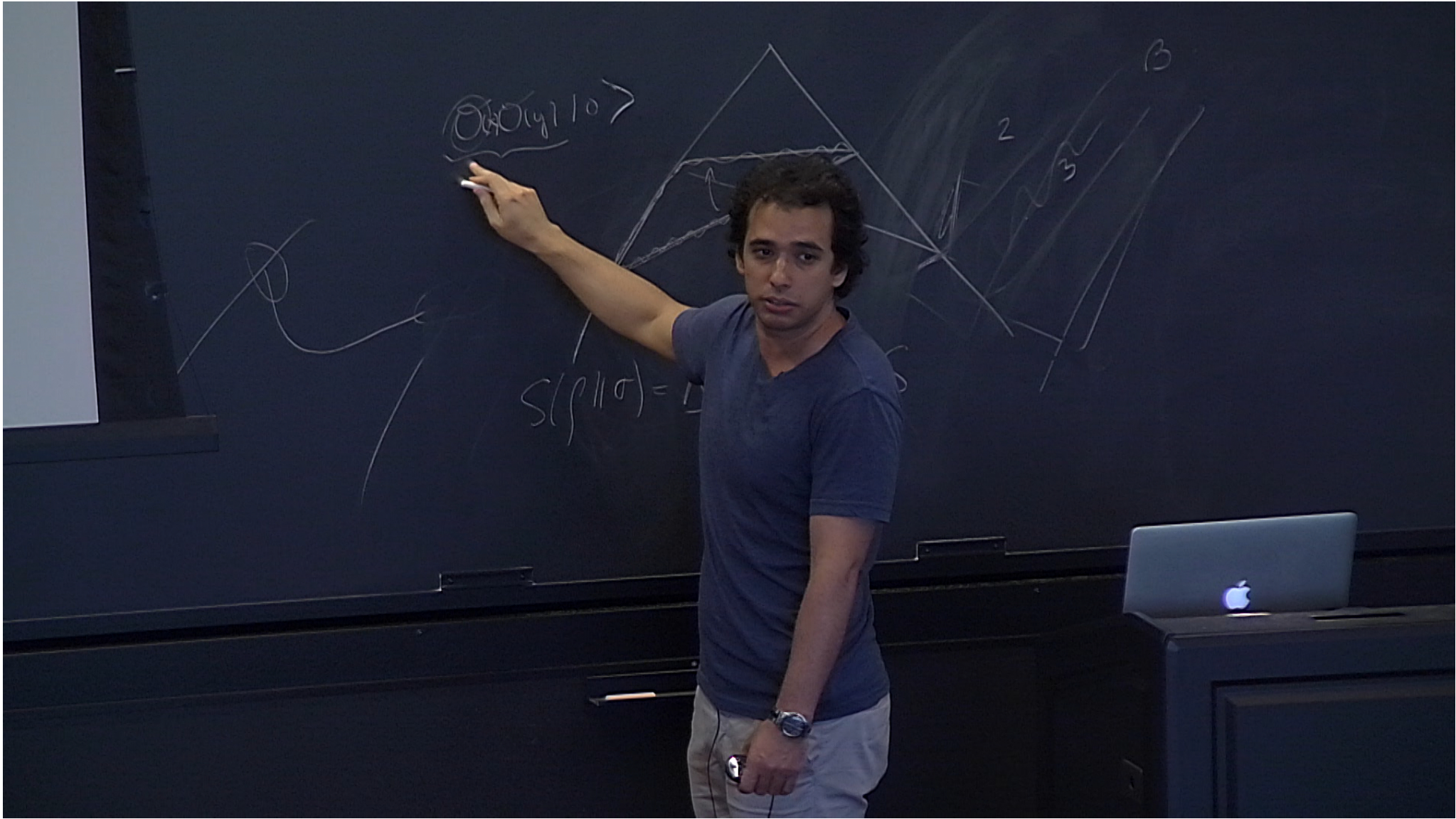
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Vacuum SSA is an inequality for one state over many regions

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Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

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unitarity

⇓ (reflexion positivity)

$$\Delta_s \geq \frac{d-2}{2}$$

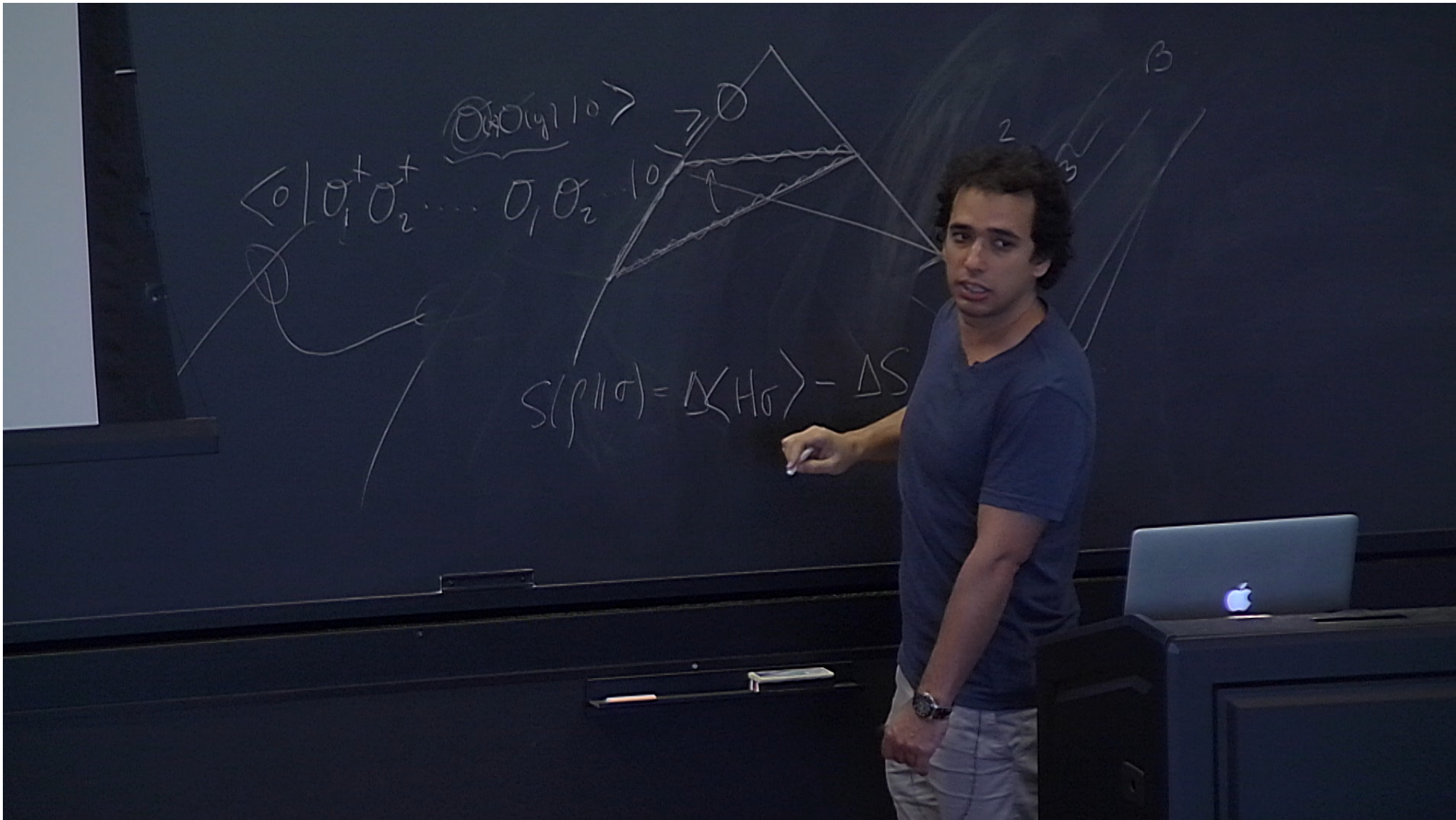
$$\Delta_f \geq \frac{d-1}{2}$$

$$\Delta_j \geq d + j - 2$$

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Some intuitions about being Markovian

Entropic proof of the a-theorem
concluding remarks

Eduardo Testé
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Another application

Relation between SSA and unitarity...

Unitarity is an inequality over all the vectors of the Hilbert space

Vacuum SSA is an inequality for one state over many regions

unitarity

\Downarrow (reflexion positivity)

$$\Delta_s \geq \frac{d-2}{2}$$

$$\Delta_f \geq \frac{d-1}{2}$$

$$\stackrel{?}{\Leftarrow} \text{SSA}$$

$$\Delta_j \geq d + j - 2$$

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?

\Leftarrow SSA Answer: yes, but with the help of the Markov property

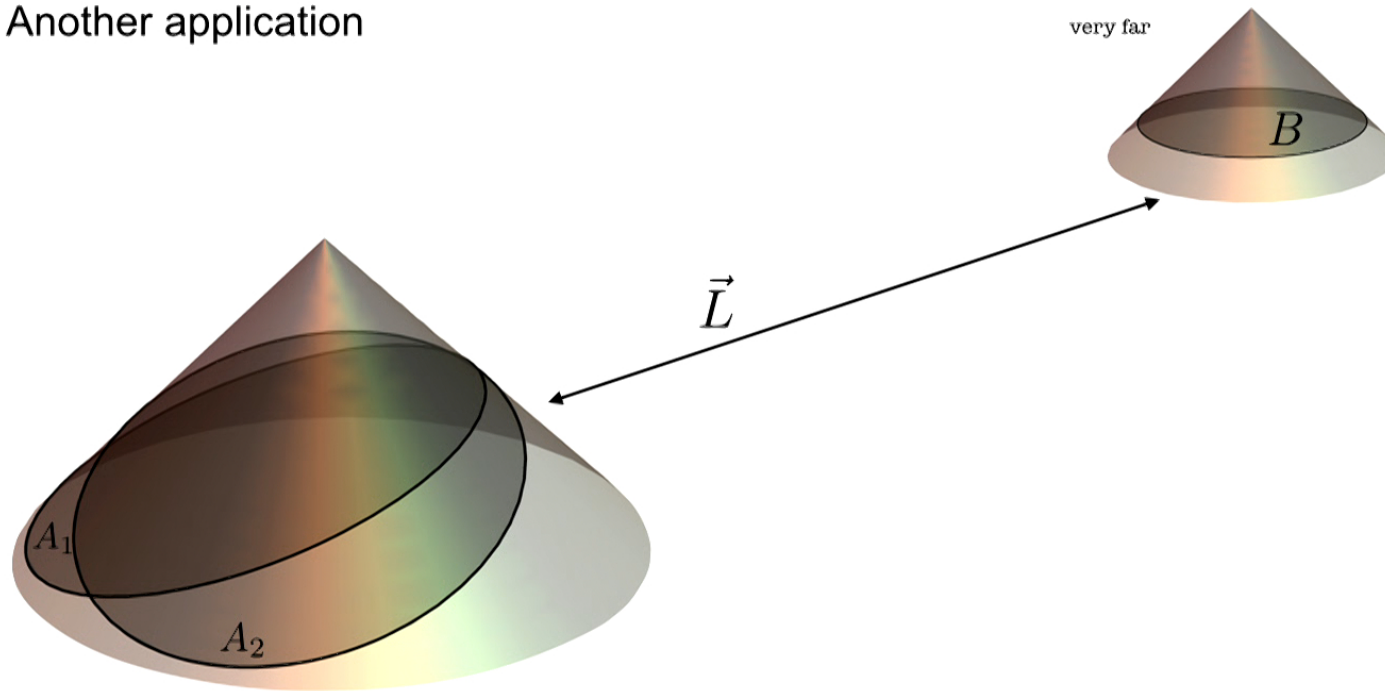
(we need to know where the saturation of SSA is)
(or the same, we need SSuperA of Relative entropy)

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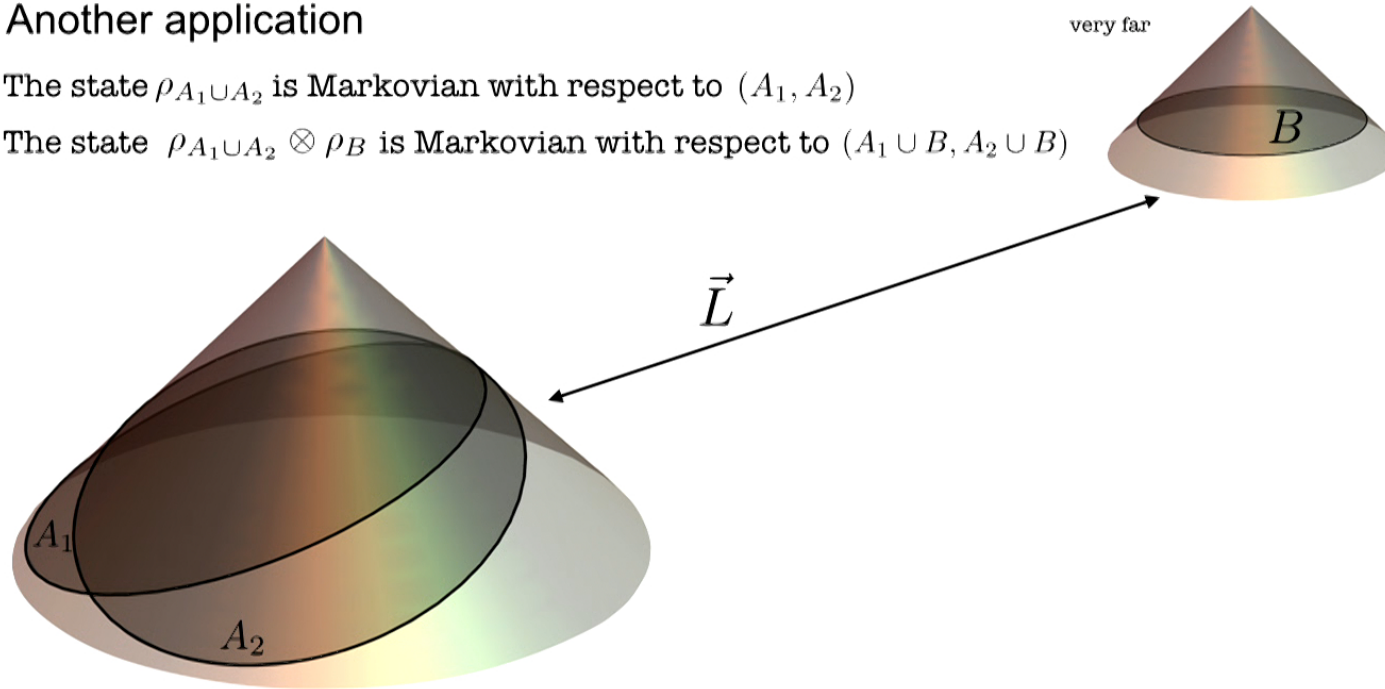
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Another application

The state $\rho_{A_1 \cup A_2}$ is Markovian with respect to (A_1, A_2)

The state $\rho_{A_1 \cup A_2} \otimes \rho_B$ is Markovian with respect to $(A_1 \cup B, A_2 \cup B)$



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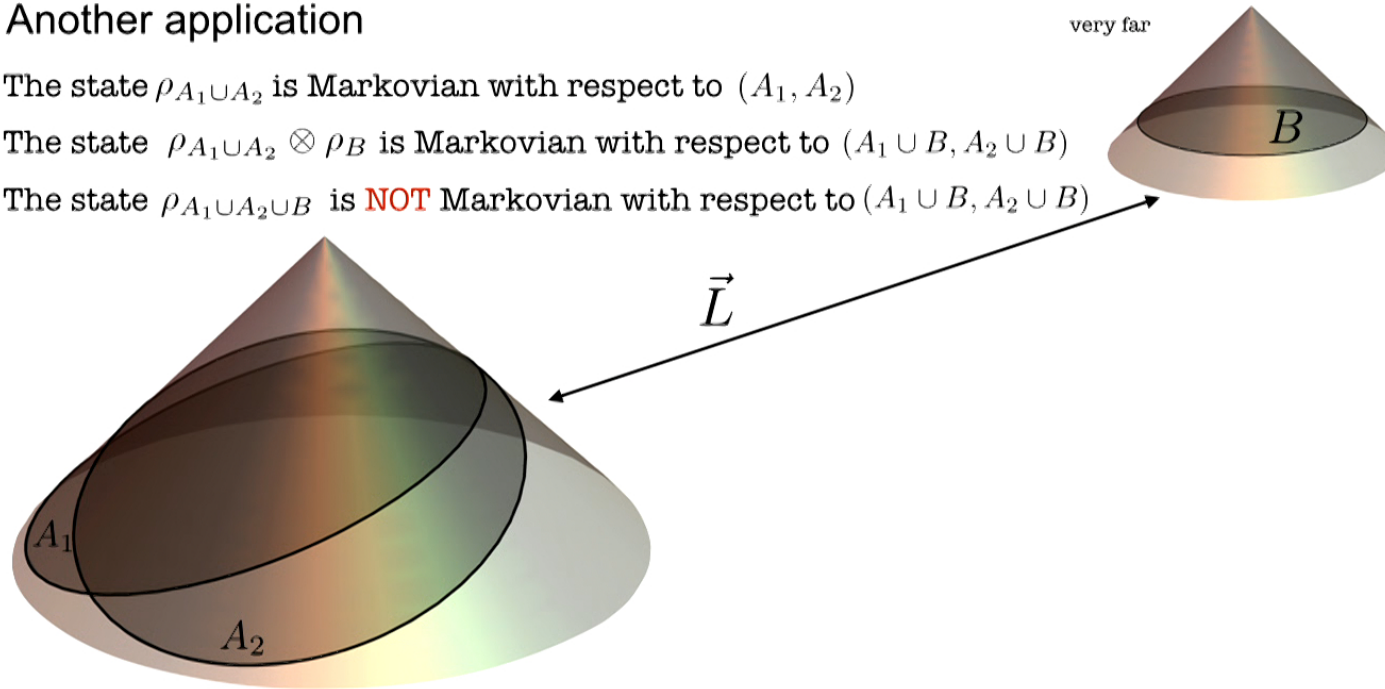
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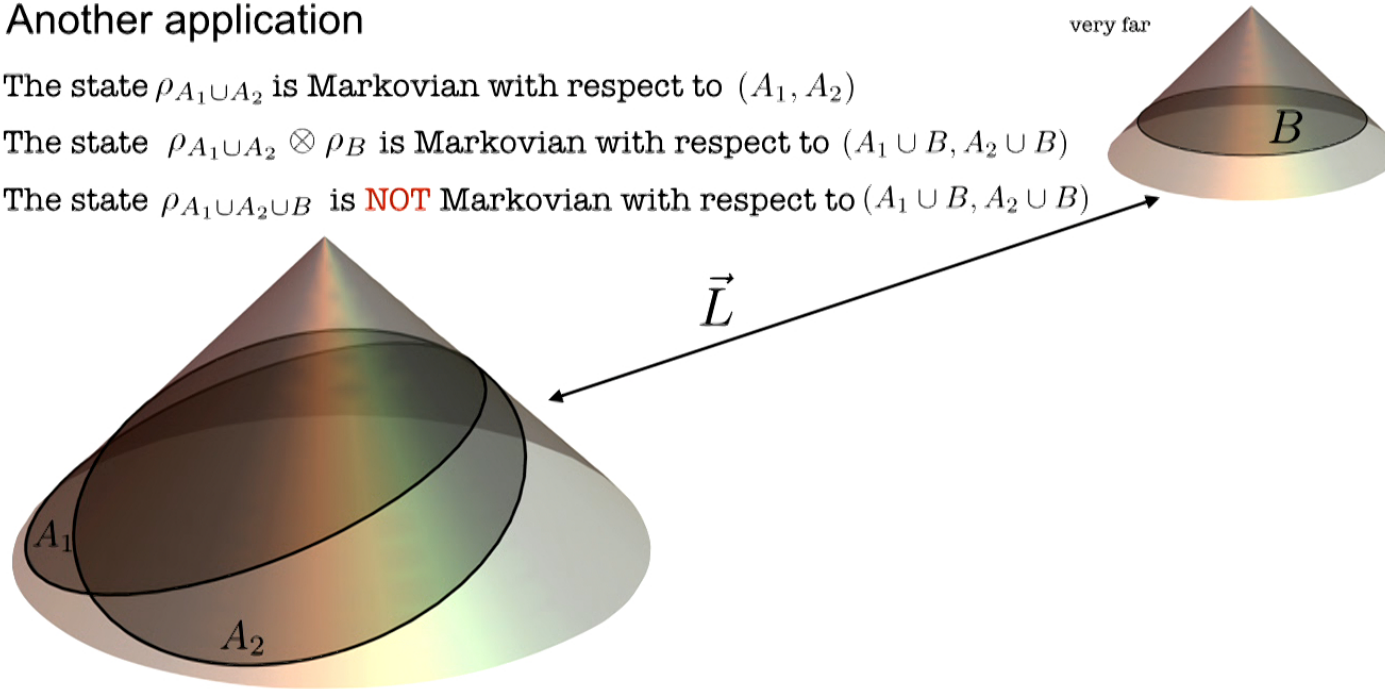
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$$S(\rho_{A_1 \cup B} || \rho_{A_1} \otimes \rho_B) + S(\rho_{A_2 \cup B} || \rho_{A_2} \otimes \rho_B) \leq S(\rho_{(A_1 \cap A_2) \cup B} || \rho_{A_1 \cap A_2} \otimes \rho_B) + S(\rho_{(A_1 \cup A_2) \cup B} || \rho_{A_1 \cup A_2} \otimes \rho_B)$$

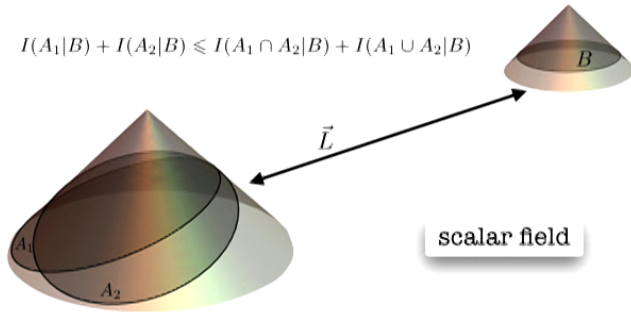
$$I(A_1 | B) + I(A_2 | B) \leq I(A_1 \cap A_2 | B) + I(A_1 \cup A_2 | B)$$

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$$I(A_1|B) + I(A_2|B) \leq I(A_1 \cap A_2|B) + I(A_1 \cup A_2|B)$$



construct a symmetric version

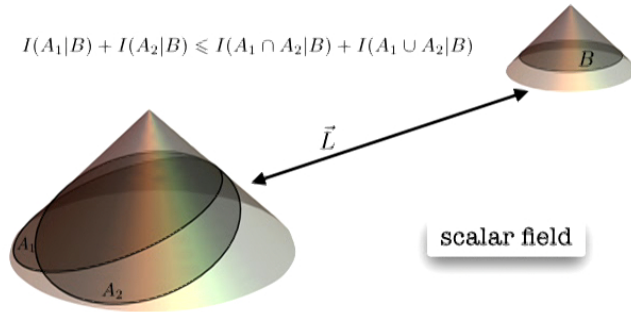
$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i I(A_i|B) \leq \int_r^R dt \beta(t) I(\tilde{A}_t|B)$$

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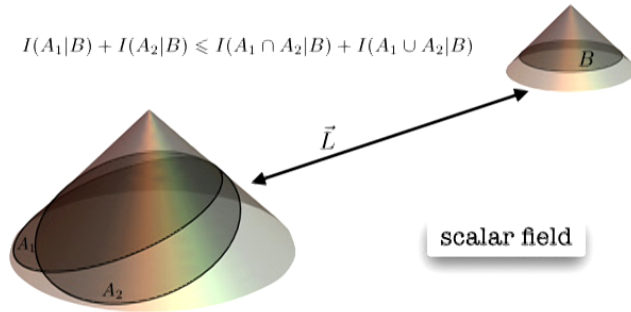
from [Cardy, 13] $I(A_i|B) \sim \frac{F(r_{A_i})F(r_B)}{L^{4\Delta}}$

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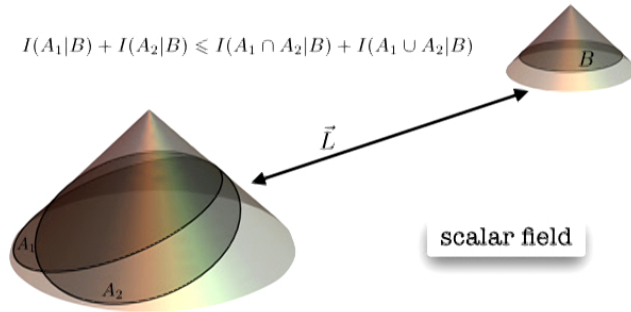
$$F(\sqrt{rR}) \leq \int_r^R dl \beta(l) F(A_l)$$

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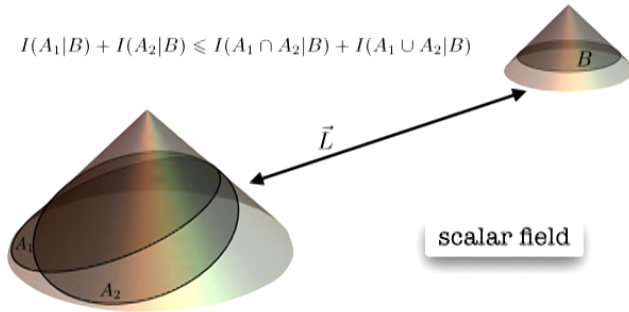
$$rF''(r) - (d-3)F'(r) \geq 0$$

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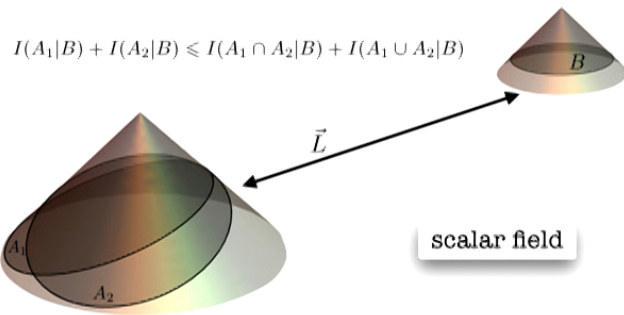
$$2\Delta(2\Delta - 1) - (d-3)2\Delta \geq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta \geq \frac{d-2}{2}$$

scalar
unitarity bound

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scalar field

construct a symmetric version

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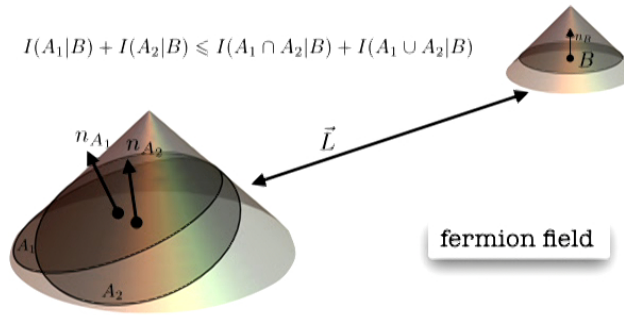
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fermion field

construct a symmetric version

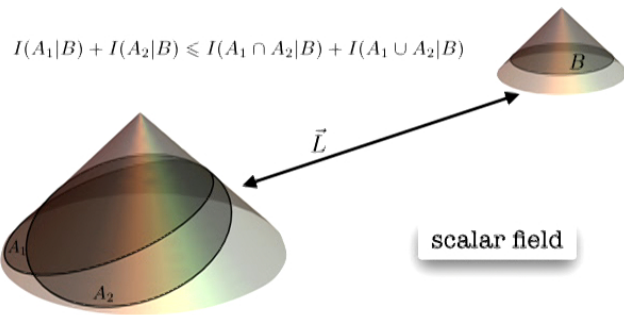
$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i I(A_i|B) \leq \int_r^R dl \beta(l) I(\tilde{A}_l|B)$$

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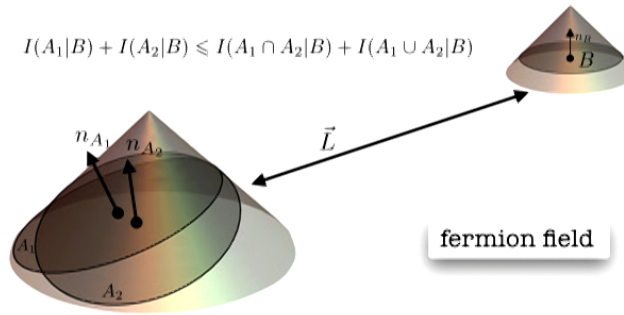
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scalar
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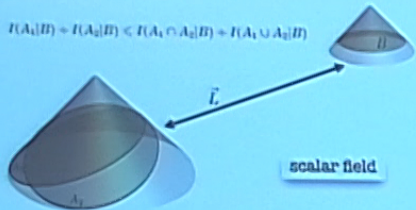
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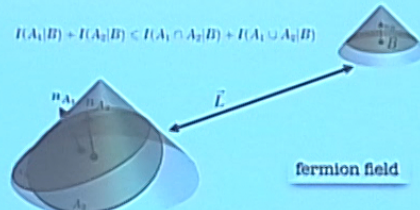
from [Cardy, 13] $I(A_i|B) \sim \frac{F(r_A)F(r_B)}{L^{2\Delta}}$

$F(\sqrt{rR}) \leq \int_r^R dl \beta(l) F(A_i)$ and take the $R \rightarrow r$ limit

$rF''(r) - (d-3)F'(r) \geq 0 \quad F(r) \sim r^{2\Delta}$

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scalar
unitarity bound



construct a symmetric version

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$(d-1)F(r) + (d-3)rF'(r) - r^2F''(r) \leq 0$

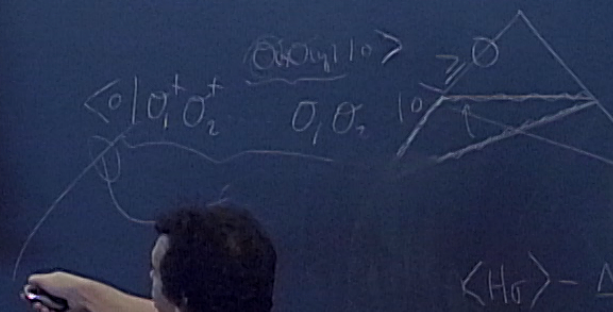
$F(r) \sim r^{2\Delta} \Rightarrow (d-1-2\Delta)(2\Delta+1) \leq 0$

$\Rightarrow \Delta \geq \frac{d-1}{2}$ fermion
unitarity bound

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concluding remarks

- $r\Delta S''(r) - (d-3)\Delta S'(r) \leq 0$ unifies all the known c theorems $d = 2, 3, 4$
- We have obtained an explicit form for the modular Hamiltonian of general null cut regions
- The vacuum is a Markov state relative to some space time regions subalgebras: it has a simpler entanglement structure than the expected (almost a product state).
- This Markov property play a role in other applications of information theory in QFT: for example it is needed to get the unitarity bound from SSA.
- Holographically, the Markov property is very easy to check.
- With a Markov state we have at our disposal the strong super additivity of relative entropy (stronger than SSA)
- ...
- hope the Markov property serve to discover new aspects of QFT and CFTs!

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Thank you

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