Title: Entanglement, free energy and C-theorem in DCFT

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Collection: Boundaries and Defects in Quantum Field Theory

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Abstract: The g-theorem is a prominent example of C-theorems in two-dimensional boundary CFT and the extensions are conjectured to hold in higher-dimensional BCFTs. On the other hand, much less is known for C-theorems in a CFT with conformal defects of higher codimensions. I will investigate the entanglement entropy across a sphere and sphere free energy as a candidate for a C-function in DCFT, and show they differ by a universal term proportional to the vev of the stress tensor. Based on this relation, I will propose to use the sphere free energy as a C-function in DCFT. This proposal unifies the previously known theorems and conjectures, and passes several checks, including a few examples in field theories and a holographic proof in simple gravity dual models of DCFTs.

Outline

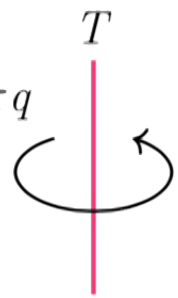
1. Defect conformal field theories
2. Entanglement entropy and sphere free energy in DCFT
3. Towards a C-theorem in DCFT

Defects in quantum field theory

Defects = Non-local objects in QFTs

- Defined by boundary conditions around them

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^2} F = 2\pi q$$



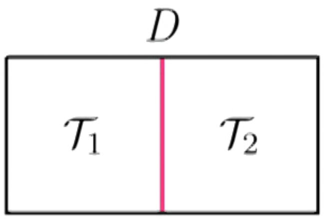
- Many examples:

  1-dim : Line operators (Wilson-'t Hooft loops)

  2-dim : Surface operators

  Codim-1 : Domain walls, interfaces and boundaries

  Codim-2 : Entangling surface for entanglement entropy

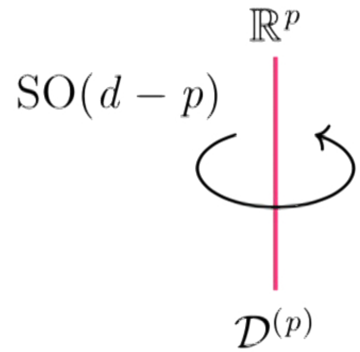


Conformal defects

- In Euclidean CFT$_d$, the conformal group is $\mathrm{SO}(d+1,1)$
- p-dimensional conformal defects $\mathcal{D}^{(p)}$ are either flat or spherical, preserving

  $\mathrm{SO}(p+1,1)$: conformal symmetry on defects

  $\mathrm{SO}(d-p)$: rotation in the transverse direction



- Defects allow for defect local operators $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_n(\hat{x})$
  $\hat{x}^a$: parallel coordinates on $\mathcal{D}^{(p)}$ $(a = 1, \cdots, p)$

One-point function

The residual conformal symmetry constrains one-point functions

- Scalar primary:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = \frac{a_{\mathcal{O}}}{|x_\perp|^\Delta} , \qquad x_\perp^i \text{ :transverse coordinates}$$

$$(i = p+1, \cdots, d)$$

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$$(i = p+1, \cdots, d)$$

- Stress tensor:

$$\langle\, T^{ab}(x)\,\rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = \frac{d-p-1}{d}\,\frac{a_T}{|x_\perp|^d}\,\delta^{ab}$$

$$\langle\, T^{ij}(x)\,\rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = -\frac{a_T}{|x_\perp|^d}\left(\frac{p+1}{d}\delta^{ij} - \frac{x_\perp^i x_\perp^j}{|x_\perp|^2}\right)$$

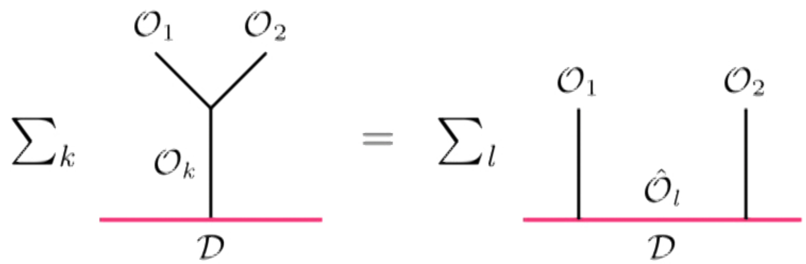
$$\langle\, T^{ai}(x)\,\rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = 0$$

N.B. $\langle\, T^{\mu\nu}(x)\,\rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = 0$ in BCFT $(p = d-1)$ [McAvity-Osborn 95]

Applications of conformal defects

- Constrain bulk CFT data in defect CFT by crossing symmetry

  [Liendo-Rastelli-van Rees 12, Gaiotto-Mazac-Paulos 13, Gliozzi-Liendo-Meineri-Rago 15, Billó-Gonçalves-Lauria-Meineri 16, Lemos-Liendo-Meineri-Sarkar 17, $\cdots$]

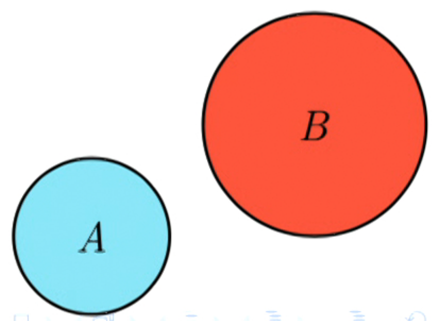


- Understand quantum entanglement in QFT:

  e.g. Mutual information as a correlator of two defects

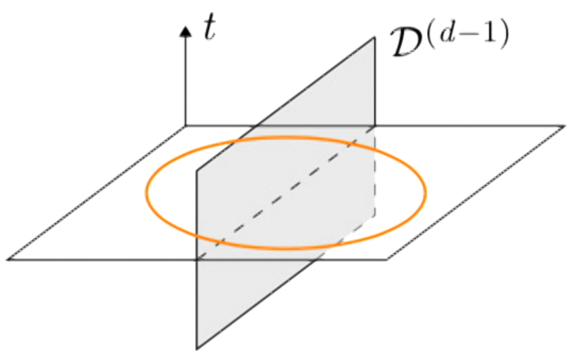
  [Cardy 13, Bianchi-Meineri-Myers-Smolkin 15, Chen-Chen-Hao-Long 17]

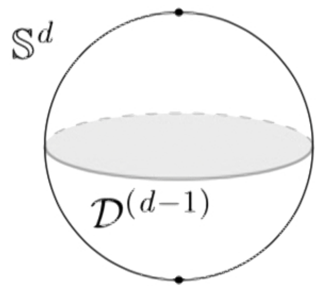
$$
\begin{aligned}
I(A,B) &\equiv S_A + S_B - S_{A\cup B} \\
&= \log \frac{\langle \mathcal{D}(\partial A)\, \mathcal{D}(\partial B)\rangle}{\langle \mathcal{D}(\partial A)\rangle \, \langle \mathcal{D}(\partial B)\rangle}
\end{aligned}
$$



Goal of this talk

- In DCFT we will study
  - Entanglement entropy across a sphere
  - Sphere free energy
- How do they depend on defect data?
- What is the measure of degrees of freedom associated to defects?

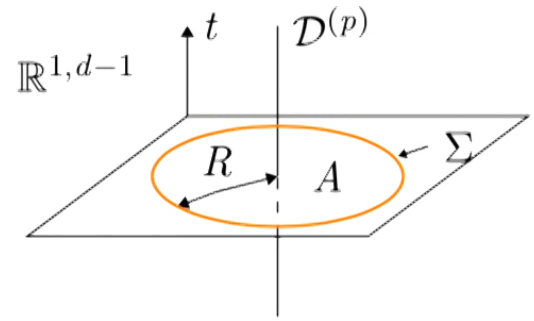




Outline

Entanglement entropy across a sphere

- A: a ball centered at the origin
- $\mathcal{D}^{(p)}$: a p-dim flat defect



- After a conformal transformation (CHM map [Casini-Huerta-Myers 11, Jensen-O'Bannon 13])

The n-th Rényi entropy

$$S_n^{(\mathrm{DCFT})} = \frac{1}{1-n} \log \frac{Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}_n^d]}{\left(Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d]\right)^n}$$

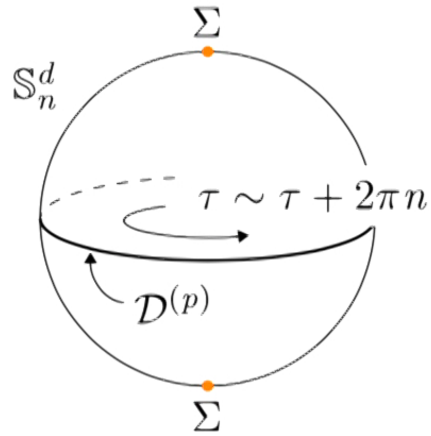
$\mathbb{S}_n^d$: n-fold cover of $\mathbb{S}^d$

Defect entropy

- The excess of EE is measured by

Defect entropy

$$S_{\text{defect}} \equiv \lim_{n\to 1}\left(S_n^{(\text{DCFT})} - S_n^{(\text{CFT})}\right)$$

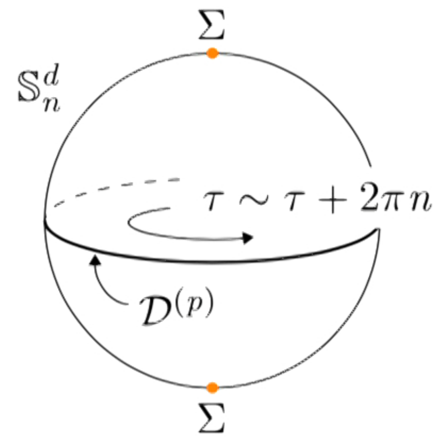


Defect entropy

- The excess of EE is measured by

Defect entropy

$$S_{\text{defect}} \equiv \lim_{n\to 1}\left(S_n^{(\text{DCFT})} - S_n^{(\text{CFT})}\right)$$
$$= \lim_{n\to 1}\frac{1}{1-n}\log\frac{\langle\,\mathcal{D}^{(p)}\,\rangle_n}{\langle\,\mathcal{D}^{(p)}\,\rangle^n}$$



$$\langle\,\mathcal{D}^{(p)}\,\rangle_n \equiv \frac{Z^{(\text{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}_n^d]}{Z^{(\text{CFT})}[\mathbb{S}_n^d]}$$
$$\langle\,\mathcal{D}^{(p)}\,\rangle \equiv \langle\,\mathcal{D}^{(p)}\,\rangle_1 \quad (\text{vev of } \mathcal{D}^{(p)})$$

$n \to 1$ limit

- Expansion around $n = 1$ ($\delta g_{\mu\nu} = O(n-1)$)

$$\log\ Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d_n] = \log\ Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d] - \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{S}^d} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \langle\, T^{\mu\nu} \,\rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}_{\mathbb{S}^d} + O\left((n-1)^2\right)$$

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- In CFT [Casini-Huerta-Myers 11]

$$\langle\, T^{\mu\nu} \,\rangle^{(\mathrm{CFT})}_{\mathbb{S}^d} = 0$$

$n \to 1$ limit

- Expansion around $n = 1$ ($\delta g_{\mu\nu} = O(n-1)$)

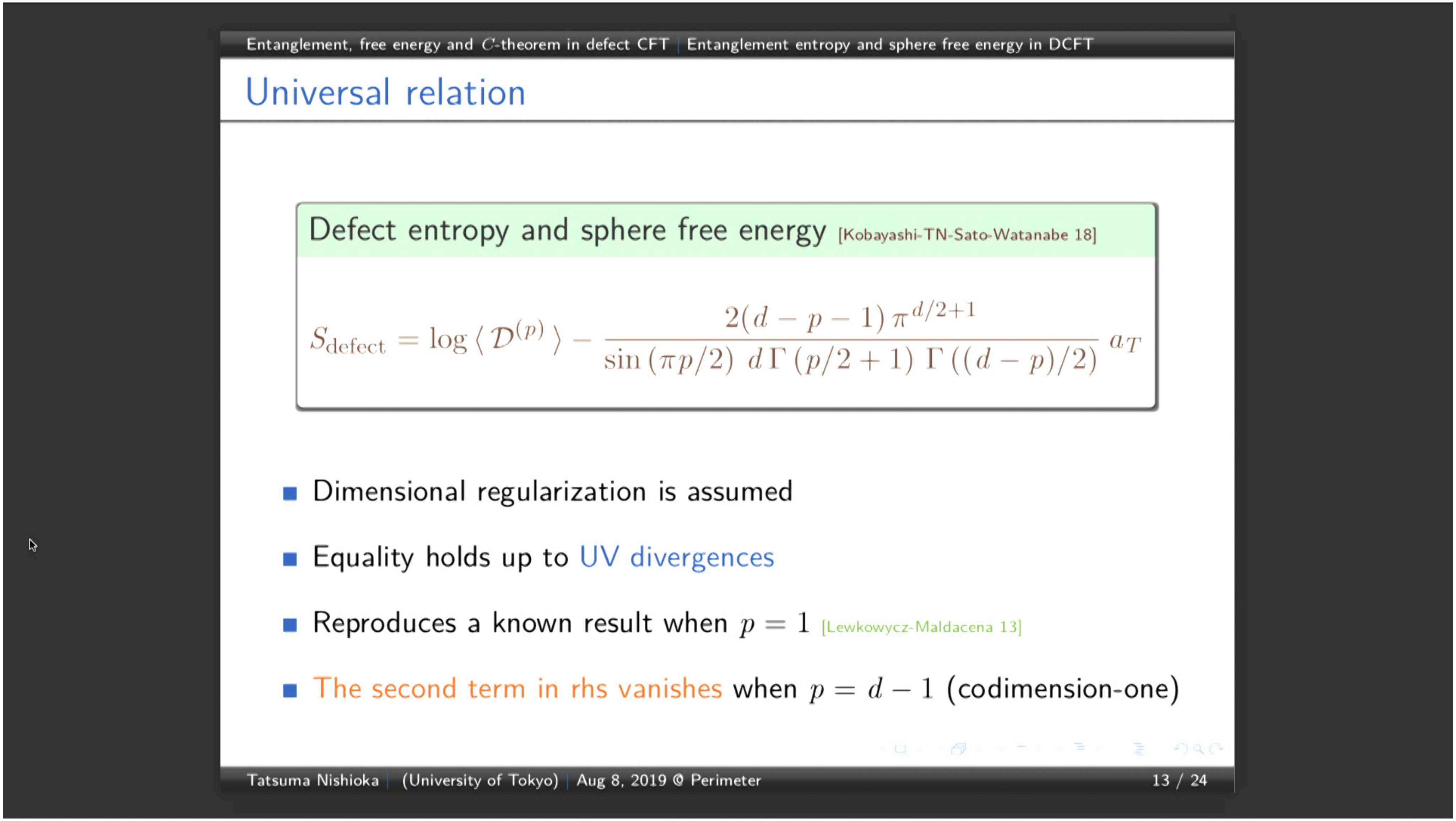
$$\log Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d_n] = \log Z^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d] - \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{S}^d} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}_{\mathbb{S}^d} + O\left((n-1)^2\right)$$

- In CFT [Casini-Huerta-Myers 11]

$$\langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle^{(\mathrm{CFT})}_{\mathbb{S}^d} = 0 \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad S^{(\mathrm{CFT})} = \log Z^{(\mathrm{CFT})}$$

- In DCFT

$$\langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle^{(\mathrm{DCFT})}_{\mathbb{S}^d} \neq 0 \quad (\propto a_T)$$


Entanglement, free energy and C-theorem in defect CFT | Entanglement entropy and sphere free energy in DCFT
Universal relation
Defect entropy and sphere free energy [Kobayashi-TN-Sato-Watanabe 18]
$S_{\rm defect} = \log \langle \mathcal{D}^{(p)} \rangle - \frac{2(d-p-1)\,\pi^{d/2+1}}{\sin(\pi p/2)\; d\,\Gamma(p/2+1)\,\Gamma((d-p)/2)}\, a_T$
Dimensional regularization is assumed
Equality holds up to UV divergences
Reproduces a known result when $p = 1$ [Lewkowycz-Maldacena 13]
The second term in rhs vanishes when $p = d - 1$ (codimension-one)
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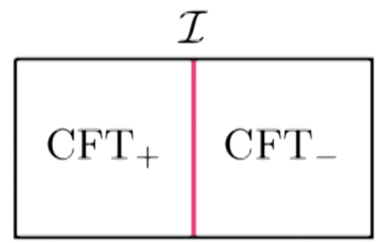
Interface entropy

- Interface CFT, $\mathcal{D}^{(d-1)} = \mathcal{I}$

Interface entropy

$$S_{\mathcal{I}} = S^{(\mathrm{ICFT})} - \frac{S^{(\mathrm{CFT}_+)} + S^{(\mathrm{CFT}_-)}}{2}$$



- Universal relation:

$$S_{\mathcal{I}} = \log \langle \mathcal{I} \rangle \ , \qquad \langle \mathcal{I} \rangle \equiv \frac{Z^{(\mathrm{ICFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d]}{(Z^{(\mathrm{CFT}_+)}[\mathbb{S}^d]\, Z^{(\mathrm{CFT}_-)}[\mathbb{S}^d])^{1/2}}$$

Half-BPS Janus interfaces

- In $2d$ $\mathcal{N}=(2,2)$ and $4d$ $\mathcal{N}=2$ SCFTs

$$Z^{(\mathrm{SCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d](\tau,\bar{\tau}) = \left(\frac{r}{\epsilon}\right)^{-4A} \exp\left[K(\tau,\bar{\tau})/12\right]$$

  - r: radius, ϵ: UV cutoff, A: type-A central charge
  - $K(\tau,\bar{\tau})$: Kähler potential on a conformal manifold

    [Jockers-Kumar-Lapan-Morrison-Romo 12, Gomis-Lee 12, Gerchkovitz-Gomis-Komargodski 14]

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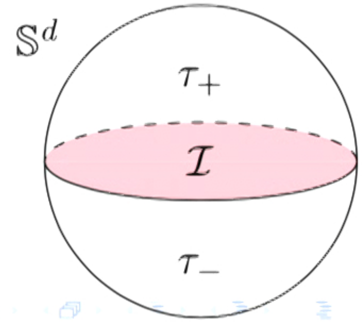
- Half-BPS Janus interfaces [Drukker-Gaiotto-Gomis 10, Goto-Okuda 18]

$$Z^{(\mathrm{ICFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d] = Z^{(\mathrm{SCFT})}[\mathbb{S}^d](\tau_+,\bar{\tau}_-)$$

$\exists$ Kähler ambiguity [Gomis-Ishtiaque 14]

$$K(\tau_+,\bar{\tau}_-) \to K(\tau_+,\bar{\tau}_-) + \mathcal{F}(\tau_+) + \bar{\mathcal{F}}(\bar{\tau}_-)$$



Interface entropy as Calabi's diastasis

Using supersymmetric Rényi entropy [TN-Yaakov 13] to preserve SUSY

Interface entropy as Calabi's diastasis [Goto-Nagano-TN-Okuda, WIP]

$$S_{\mathcal{I}} = \log |\langle \mathcal{I} \rangle|$$

Interface entropy as Calabi's diastasis

Using supersymmetric Rényi entropy [TN-Yaakov 13] to preserve SUSY

Interface entropy as Calabi's diastasis [Goto-Nagano-TN-Okuda, WIP]

$$S_{\mathcal{I}} = -\frac{1}{24}\left[K(\tau_+, \bar{\tau}_+) + K(\tau_-, \bar{\tau}_-) - K(\tau_+, \bar{\tau}_-) - K(\tau_-, \bar{\tau}_+)\right]$$

- Bulk part ($\propto A$) cancels out
- No Kähler ambiguity
- Agree with the known result in $2d$ [Bachas-BrunnerDouglas-Rastelli 13, Bachas-Plencner 16]
- Reproduces a conjectured form in $4d$ [Goto-Okuda 18]

Outline

1 Defect conformal field theories

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3 Towards a C-theorem in DCFT

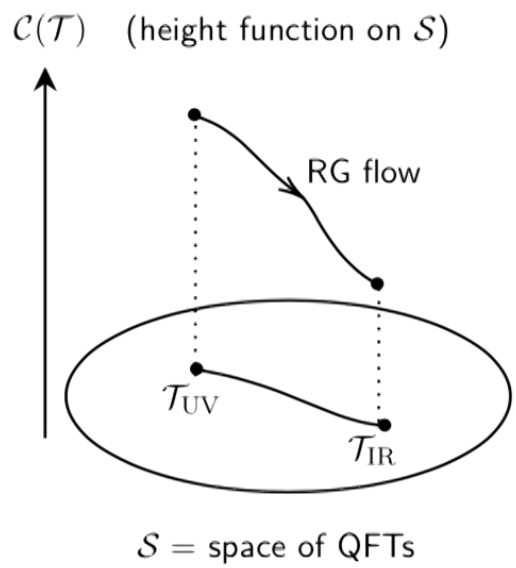
C-theorem

C-theorem (weak)

$\exists$ a function $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T})$ on a theory space s.t.

$$\mathcal{T}_{\mathrm{UV}} \xrightarrow[\text{RG flow}]{} \mathcal{T}_{\mathrm{IR}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathrm{UV}}) \geq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T}_{\mathrm{IR}})$$



- $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{T})$ called a $\mathcal{C}$-function ($\approx$ resource measure)
- Regarded as a measure of degrees of freedom in QFT
- Constrains the dynamics under RG if holds

Examples and conjectures

- $2d$: Zamolodchikov's c-theorem [Zamolodchikov 86]
- even d: A-theorem ($\langle T^{\mu}_{\mu} \rangle_{\mathbb{S}^d} \propto A$) [Cardy 88, Komargodski-Schwimmer 11]

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- odd d: F-theorem [Myers-Sinha 10, Jafferis-Klebanov-Pufu-Safdi 11, Klebanov-Pufu-Safdi 11]

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- Proof with entanglement entropy in $d \leq 4$ [Casini-Huerta 04, 12, Casini-Testé-Torroba 17]

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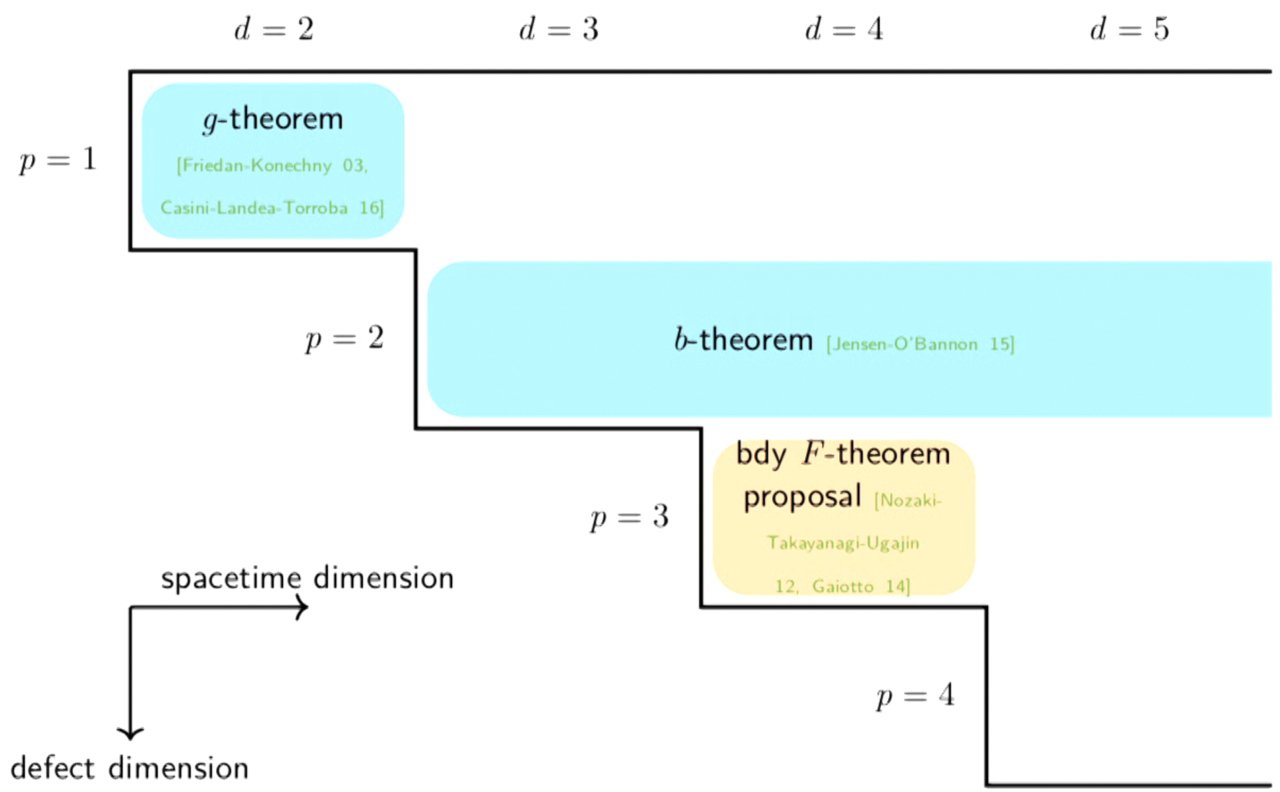
Generalized F-theorem conjecture [Giombi-Klebanov 14]

$$\tilde{F} \equiv \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \log Z[\mathbb{S}^d], \qquad \tilde{F}_{\rm UV} \geq \tilde{F}_{\rm IR}$$

- Reduces to the F- and A-theorems

$$\tilde{F} = \begin{cases} F & d : \text{odd} \\ \frac{\pi}{2} A \quad (\text{conformal anomaly}) & d : \text{even} \end{cases}$$

Status of C-theorems (+ conjectures) in DCFT



$\mathcal{C}$-function in DCFT?

- Candidate of $\mathcal{C}$-functions
  - entanglement entropy: holographic model $(p = d - 1)$
    [Estes-Jensen-O'Bannon-Tsatis-Wrase 14]
  - sphere free energy: bdy F-thm, b-thm $(p = 2)$,
    Wilson loop RG flow $(d = 4, p = 1)$ [Beccaria-Giombi-Tseytlin 17]
- These two agree when $p = d - 1$ due to the universal relation

Are both $\mathcal{C}$-functions for any d and p?

$\mathcal{C}$-theorem in DCFT: conjecture

- Defect RG flow triggered by a relevant defect operator:

$$I = I_{\text{DCFT}} + \hat{\lambda} \int \mathrm{d}^p \hat{x} \sqrt{\hat{g}}\, \hat{\mathcal{O}}(\hat{x})$$

Conjecture [Kobayashi-TN-Sato-Watanabe 18]

The universal part of the sphere free energy

$$\tilde{D} \equiv \sin\left(\frac{\pi p}{2}\right) \log |\langle \mathcal{D}^{(p)} \rangle|$$

does not increase along any defect RG flow

$$\tilde{D}_{\text{UV}} \geq \tilde{D}_{\text{IR}}$$

- Same form as the generalized F-thm: $\tilde{F} = \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \log Z[\mathbb{S}^d]$

Checks

- Sphere free energy decreases under defect RG flows in
  - Conformal perturbation theory
  - Wilson loops $(p = 1)$ in $3d$ and $4d$
  - Holographic models (a proof assuming null energy condition)
- Counterexamples for the monotonicity of entanglement entropy
  - Wilson loop RG flows [Kobayashi-TN-Sato-Watanabe 18], surface operators $(p = 2)$ [Jensen-O'Bannon-Robinson-Rodgers 18]
  - Holographic Wilson loops [Kumar-Silvani 16, 17] and surface operators [Rodgers 18]

$$S_{\text{defect}} = \log \langle \mathcal{D}^{(p)} \rangle - \frac{2(d-p-1)\,\pi^{d/2+1}}{\sin(\pi p/2)\;d\,\Gamma(p/2+1)\,\Gamma((d-p)/2)}\,a_T$$

Summary and future work

- Summary:
  - Find the universal relation between EE and sphere free energy
  - Derive the interface entropy as Calabi's diastasis
  - Propose a $\mathcal{C}$-theorem in DCFT
- Future work:
  - Proof in SUSY theories? (cf. F- and a-maximizations [Jafferis 10, Closset-Dumitrescu-Festuccia-Komargodskia-Seiberg 12, Intriligator-Wecht 03])
  - Proof using entropic inequalities as in g-thm [Casini-Landea-Torroba 16]?
  - Constrains on the dynamics of defect RG flows?
  - Dependence of defect entropy on bulk marginal deformation? (cf. [Herzog-Shamir 18, Bianchi 18] for sphere free energy)