

Title: TBA

Speakers: Daniel Ranard

Series: Perimeter Institute Quantum Discussions

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Abstract: Abstract: TBD

Zoom Link:



Coarse-grained entropy, microstates, and the quantum marginal problem

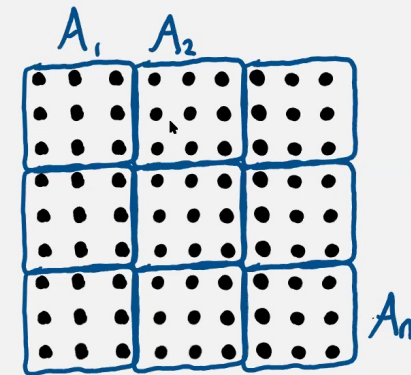
Daniel Ranard (MIT)

Perimeter Institute, February 2022



Outline

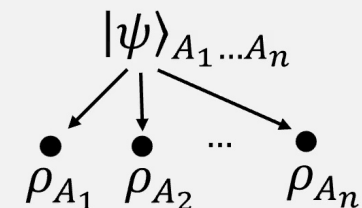
- Review:
 - Coarse-grained entropy
 - Quantum marginal problem
- Main results
 - $\log M < S_{CG}(\rho)$ (Osborne 2008)
 - $S_{CG}(\rho) \approx \log M$ (Today)
- Proof sketches
- Open questions



$$S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum S(\rho_{A_i})$$

$$S_{CG}(\rho) \approx \log M$$

M = # of solutions $|\psi\rangle$ to marginal problem





Entropy: classical vs. quantum

Classically, entropy satisfies the 2nd Law of Thermo.
What's the analog in quantum many-body systems?

Take closed quantum system with state $\rho(t)$
 $\rightarrow S(\rho(t)) = \text{constant}$

Global von Neumann entropy not a great candidate for the 2nd Law!



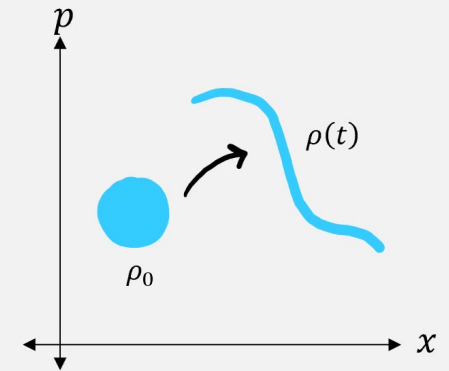
Entropy: classical vs. quantum

Analogy from classical physics:

Classical “state” $\rho(x, p)$ =
probability distribution over phase space

$$S(\rho(t)) = -\int dx dp \rho(x, p, t) \log \rho(x, p, t)$$

That entropy doesn't change either!



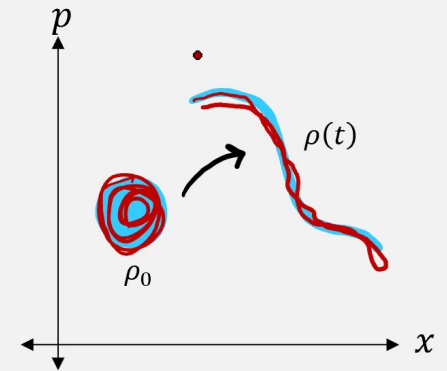
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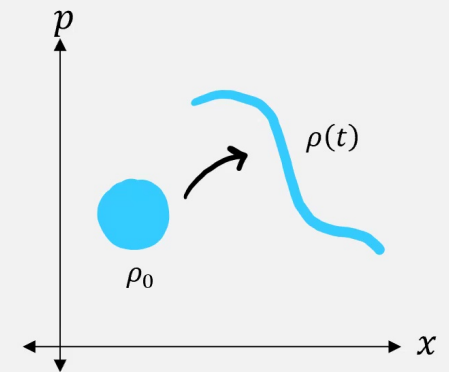
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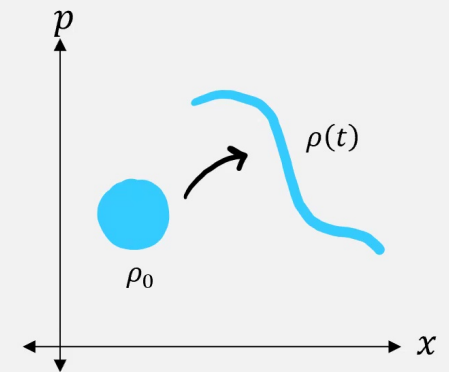
That entropy doesn't change either! Instead....

Coarse-grained (Boltzmann) entropy

For microstate α ,

$$S(\alpha) = \log \Omega$$

Ω = # microstates with same
coarse-grained properties as α
e.g. total energy

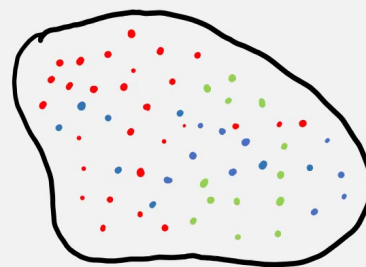




Coarse-grained entropy in QM?

Lessons from classical case:

- Useful notion of entropy involves coarse-graining
- Entropy associated to microstate counts how many *other* microstates have the same coarse-grained properties



Space of microstates

- Macrostate 1
- Macrostate 2
- Macrostate 3

$$S(\text{red}) = \log(\# \text{ red})$$

Define analogous “coarse-grained entropy” S_{CG} in quantum?

Lots of options. We’ll study a very simple one!



Quantum coarse-grained entropy S_{CG}

Partition the lattice into regions A_i . Define **coarse-grained entropy**:

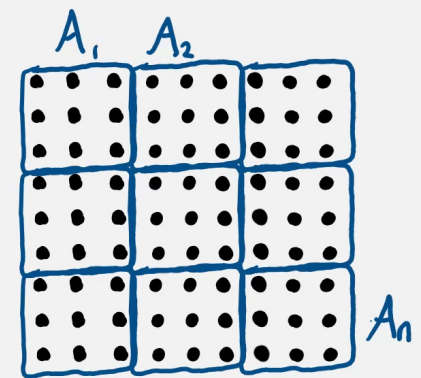
$$S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$$

Properties:

- Depends on partition, but often insensitive to exact choice.
- If ρ is pure product state, $S_{CG}(\rho) = 0$.
- If ρ is thermal state $\rho = e^{-\beta H}/Z$ for local Hamiltonian,

$$S_{CG}(\rho) \approx \sum_i S\left(\frac{e^{-\beta H_{A_i}}}{Z_i}\right) \approx S\left(\frac{e^{-\beta H}}{Z}\right) + \text{boundary terms} \approx \text{thermal entropy.}$$

- If ρ is a pure state that looks thermal on regions A_i , same as above.
- Under natural time-evolution, S_{CG} tends to increase.



But what does this entropy *count*?

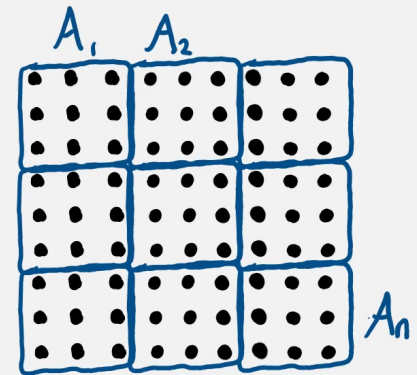


Coarse-grained entropy as microstate counting

Given ρ ,

ask about states $|\phi\rangle$ that match ρ on all regions A_i , i.e.

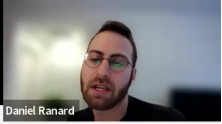
$$\text{Tr}_{\overline{A_i}} |\phi\rangle\langle\phi| \approx \rho_{A_i}$$



Such states $|\phi\rangle$ like “microstates,” with the same local properties as ρ .

If you can only observe ρ locally, then for all you know the system could really be in state $|\phi\rangle$.

We show: The quantity $S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$ counts microstates.



Quantum marginal problem

“Marginal” = “Reduced density matrix” = “RDM”.

Quantum marginal problem:

Given list of marginals ρ_{A_i} , does there exist a global state σ consistent with them?

Any σ with $\sigma_{A_i} = \rho_{A_i}$ is a “solution” to that marginal problem.

Example:

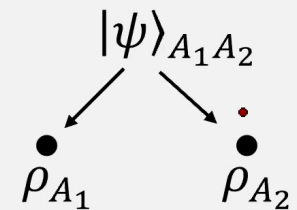
Given ρ_{A_1} and ρ_{A_2} on two qubits A_1 and A_2 , does there exist a pure state $|\psi\rangle$ with those marginals?

(**Answer:** Yes iff ρ_{A_1} and ρ_{A_2} have same spectrum.)

General marginal problem: **hard!** (QMA-complete.)

But we’re interested in approximate solutions for large systems: **easier.**

We want to **count how many solutions**: what’s the largest number of pure, orthogonal states we can find, such that each state has marginals approximately given by the ρ_{A_i} ?





Prior work

Coarse-grained entropy $S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$ and related quantities discussed by many.

- Quantum thermodynamics: Gell-Mann + Hartle
- Holography: Susskind, Kelly + Wall, Englehardt + Wall

Tobias Osborne noted the upper bound

$$\log M \leq S_{CG}(\rho)$$

where M is the max number of pure, orthogonal solutions to marginal problem. We'll be showing (approximate) equality!

Brandao + Dalzell show the existence of *one* approximate solution to the marginal problem, given arbitrary marginals on overlapping local regions. (With an MPS!)

We'll be interested in showing *many* solutions.



Main results and intuition



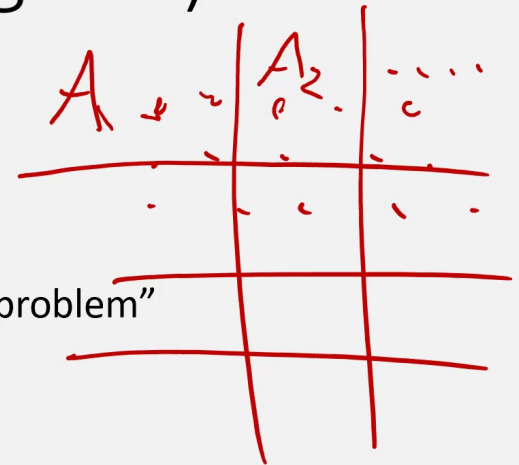
Main result (for case of disjoint regions)

Partition the system into disjoint regions A_i .
Define *coarse-grained entropy*:

$$S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum_{i=1}^n S(\rho_{A_i})$$

Let M = “number of orthogonal, pure, approximate solutions to marginal problem”

= size of the largest set of orthogonal states $\{|\phi_\alpha\rangle\}_{\alpha=1}^M$ such that
 $\|\text{Tr}_{A_i} |\phi_\alpha\rangle\langle\phi_\alpha| - \rho_{A_i}\|_1 \leq \epsilon$ for each A_i , $|\phi_\alpha\rangle$.



Then

$$S_{CG} \approx \log M$$

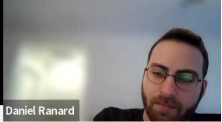
In particular:

$$S_{CG} - \sqrt{n \log \epsilon^{-1}} \log d \leq \log M \leq S_{CG} + \epsilon n \log d$$

$$d = \max_i \dim(A_i)$$

Note generally $S_{CG} \propto n$ is extensive.

$S_{CG} \approx \log M$ up to “sub-extensive corrections” if e.g. $\epsilon \sim \frac{1}{n^2}$.



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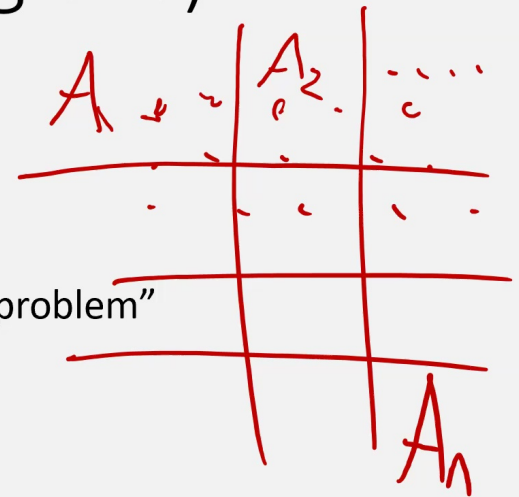
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$$d = \max_i \dim(A_i)$$



Intuition for $S_{CG} \approx \log M$

If each $\rho_{A_i} = |\psi_{A_i}\rangle\langle\psi_{A_i}|$ is pure,
the only solution is $|\psi\rangle = |\psi_{A_1}\rangle \dots |\psi_{A_n}\rangle$.
 $S_{CG} = 0$, $M = 1$.

If each ρ_{A_i} maximally mixed, Haar-random $|\psi\rangle$ gives approximate
solution. So “most” pure states work.
 $S_{CG} = n \log d$, $M \approx \dim H = d^n$.

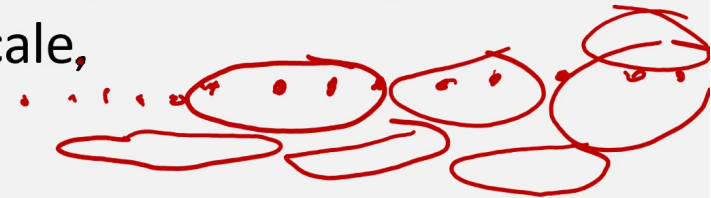
$$d = \dim A_i$$



Generalization to overlapping marginals

With caveats:

$S_{CG}(\rho)$ also counts the number of orthogonal pure states that match the marginals ρ_A on *all* regions of some length scale, i.e. including overlapping regions.



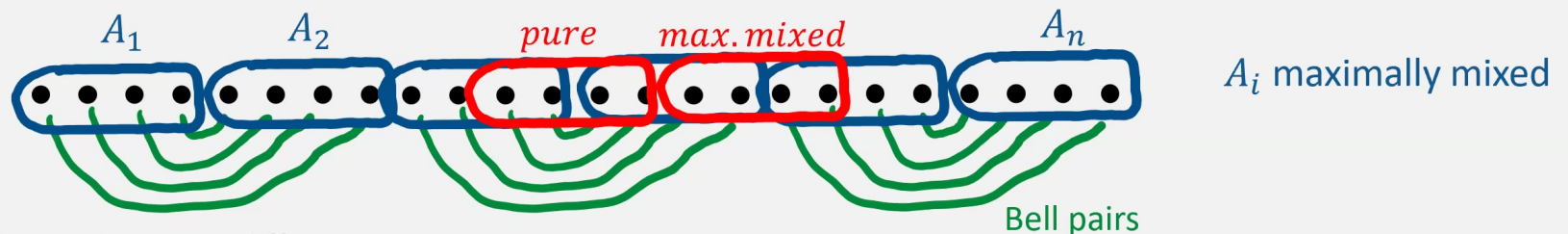


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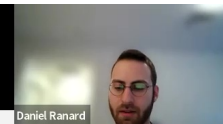
Example of issues:



S_{CG} for blue and red partitions very different.

We'll define a version of S_{CG} that's minimized over all partitions of fixed length scale.

Then we'll count pure states that match the marginals for all regions (independent of partition) below some **smaller** scale.

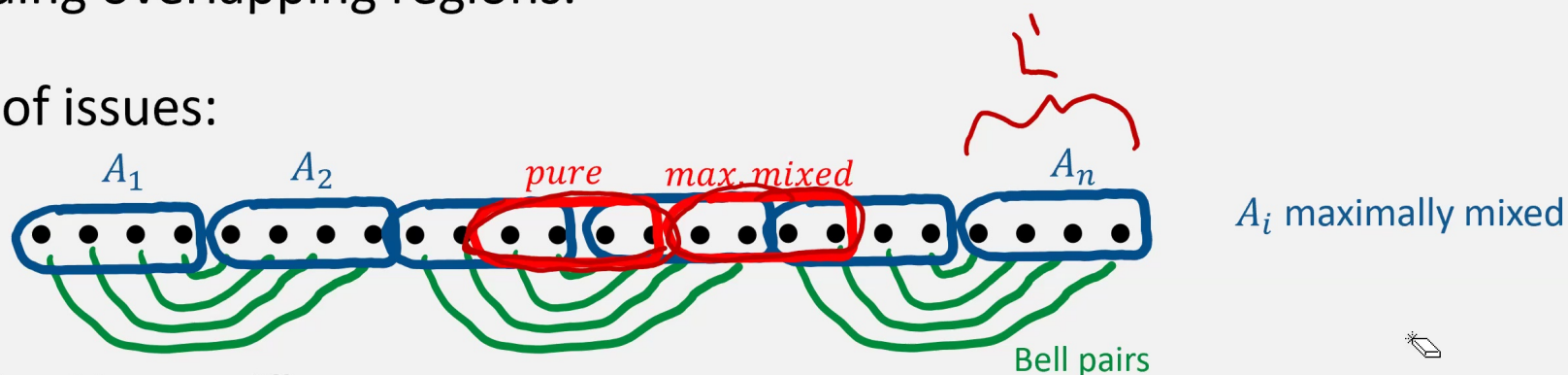


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Upper bounding number of marginal solutions

Statement: [specialized to case $\epsilon = 0$]

Partition the system into disjoint regions A_i . Assume there exist orthogonal states $\{|\phi_\alpha\rangle\}_{\alpha=1}^M$ such that

$$\text{Tr}_{\overline{A_i}} |\phi_\alpha\rangle\langle\phi_\alpha| = \rho_{A_i}$$

for each $|\phi_\alpha\rangle$ and A_i . Then $\log M \leq S_{CG}(\rho) \equiv \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$.



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Proof (Osborne):

Take the average: $\sigma = \frac{1}{M} \sum_\alpha |\phi_\alpha\rangle\langle\phi_\alpha|$. Note $\sigma_{A_i} = \rho_{A_i}$.

Then

$$\log M = S(\sigma) \leq \sum_i S(\sigma_{A_i}) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i}).$$

subadditivity

Easy! 🎉



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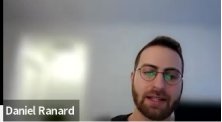
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Then

$$\log M = S(\sigma) \leq \sum_i S(\sigma_{A_i}) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i}) \stackrel{\text{subadditivity}}{=} S_{CG}(\rho) \text{ Easy! } \text{🎉}$$



Lower bounding number of marginal solutions

Statement:

Partition the system into disjoint regions A_i . Let $S_{CG}(\rho) \equiv \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$.

Then there exist M orthogonal pure states $\{|\phi_\alpha\rangle\}_{\alpha=1}^M$ such that

$$\text{Tr}_{A_i} |\phi_\alpha\rangle\langle\phi_\alpha| \approx \rho_{A_i}$$

for some M with

$$\log M > S_{CG}(\rho) - o(\sqrt{n \log \epsilon^{-1}} \log d). \quad d = \max_i \dim(A_i)$$

Extra desideratum:

Would be nice for the $|\phi_\alpha\rangle$ to be low complexity, as possible “microstates.”

Lower bounding number of marginal solutions

Statement: $\log M > S_{CG}(\rho) - o(\sqrt{n \log \epsilon^{-1}} \log d)$

Proof sketch:

Specialize to case A_1, \dots, A_n are each single qubits, with same $\rho_{A_i} = p_1|0\rangle\langle 0| + p_2|1\rangle\langle 1|$.

Want to construct $M \approx e^{S_{CG}}$ states $|\phi\rangle$ with marginals $\approx \rho_{A_i}$.
 $S_{CG} = nS(\rho_A) = nS(\{p_1, p_2\})$.

Let $T = \{\text{product states } |011011 \dots\rangle \text{ with } \approx p_1 \text{ zeros and } \approx p_2 \text{ ones}\}$

Number of such states is $|T| \approx 2^{nS(\{p_1, p_2\})}$.

Randomly choose k states from T , denoted $\{|\psi_i\rangle\}_{i=1}^k$. Take $k \propto \log n$.

The state $\frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|$ has marginals close to ρ_{A_i} , with “sampling error” like $1/\sqrt{k}$.

Note $|\phi_1\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \sum_{i=1}^k |\psi_i\rangle$ has same marginals as the $\frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k |\psi_i\rangle\langle\psi_i|$, because the terms are unlikely to interfere.

→ We already found one approximate solution $|\phi_1\rangle$.

Now repeat: Pick k more random states from states from T (avoiding the ones we already picked). Repeat to obtain another solution $|\phi_2\rangle$.

Can repeat process for $M \approx \exp(S_{CG}(\rho) - o(n))$ iterations without significantly depleting T .



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*P(error) on S_A ,
error*

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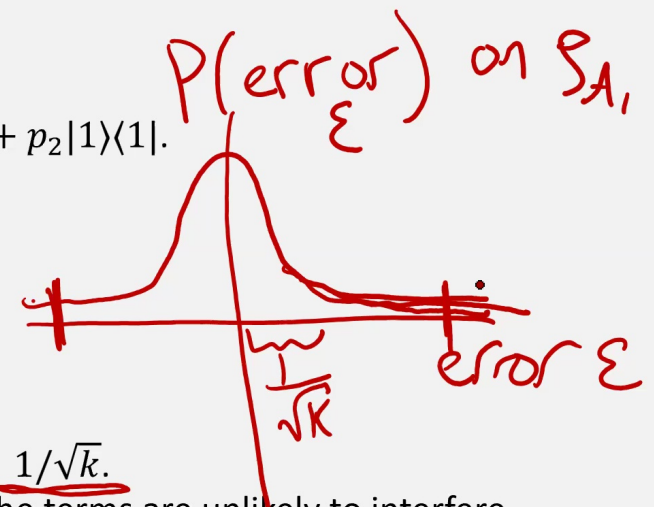
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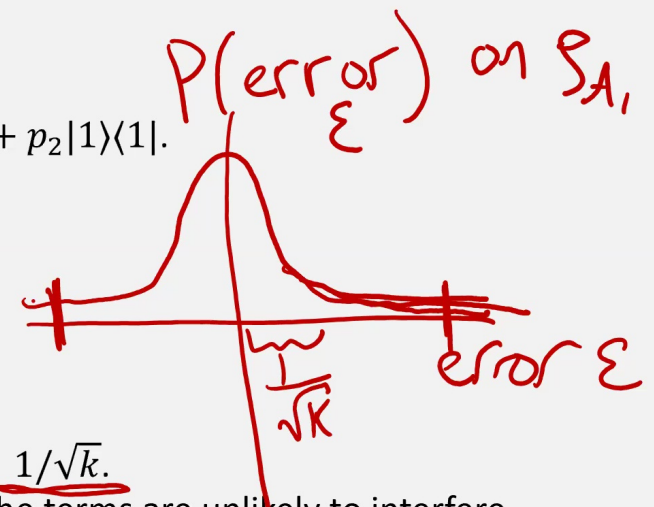
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Lower bounding number of marginal solutions

Statement for “overlapping” case:

Choose two length scales, $L' \gg L$. Define $S_{CG}^{(L')}(\rho) = \min_{\text{partitions}} \sum_{i=1}^n S(\rho_{A_i})$ with minimum over partitions into **disjoint** regions A_i of size $|A_i| = L'$

Then $\exists M_L$ orthogonal pure states that match ρ (to error L/L') on all regions of size $\leq L$ (including overlapping regions), with

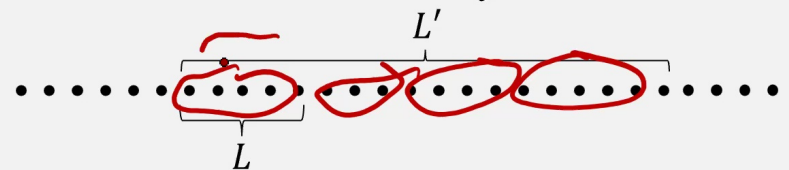
$$\log M_L > S_{CG}^{(L')} - o\left(n \frac{L'}{L}\right)$$

Proof sketch:

Fix a partition into regions A_i of size L' . Already showed how to find $\approx \exp(S_{CG}^{(L')})$ pure states with marginals ρ_i . Call this set of pure states W_1 . Then shift regions A_i by one site and repeat: call this set of states W_2 . Repeat to $W_{L'}$.

Choose one state from each W_i and take uniform superposition. New state has correct marginals on every region of size $\leq L$, to error L'/L . (How do we ensure the states from different W_i don't interfere? Trick adapted from Brandao + Dalzell.)

Then repeat, choosing a different state from each W_i .



Summary

We took a common proxy for thermodynamic entropy in quantum many-body systems, the coarse-grained entropy:

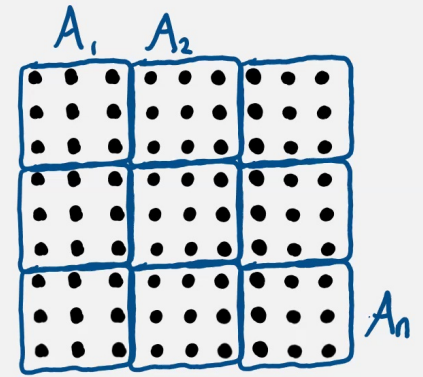
$$S_{CG}(\rho) = \sum_i S(\rho_{A_i})$$

What “microstates” does this quantity count?

We showed

$$S_{CG}(\rho) \approx \log M$$

counts the number M of orthogonal pure states with the same marginals as ρ .



Concrete open questions

- Can we count **exact** solutions to the marginal problem?
For non-overlapping marginals, I suspect there are $\exp(S_{CG}(\rho))$ *exact* solutions. Sketchy proof, with numerical support.
- Can we construct **$O(1)$ -complexity** solutions to the marginal problem?
Brandao + Dalzell already showed how to construct a *single* approximate solution of $O(1)$ -complexity. Can you construct $\exp(S_{CG}(\rho))$ such solutions?
- Can we extend our bounds to the alternative “max-entropy” definition of S_{CG} (e.g. as used in holography)?



Open open questions

- Connection to quantum PCP conjecture?
- What are dynamics of $S_{CG}(\rho(t))$? Microstate interpretation suggests it should increase?
Point of tension: recent work (Cotler, Jones, DR) suggests S_{CG} fluctuates in time much *less* in quantum case than classical.
- What's structure of space of consistent marginals? To specify all k -body RDMs on an n -body system only takes $\approx k n \log n$ bits, rather than naïve k^n . What's the right “data structure” to encode the set of k -body RDMs?

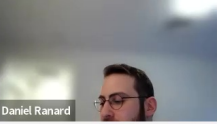
Open open questions

- Connection to quantum PCP conjecture?
- What are dynamics of $S_{CG}(\rho(t))$? Microstate interpretation suggests it should increase?
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