

Title: Large N von Neumann algebras and the renormalization of Newton's constant

Speakers: Elliott Gesteau

Series: Quantum Fields and Strings

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Abstract: In holography, the quantum extremal surface formula relates the entropy of a boundary state to the sum of two terms: the area term and the entropy of bulk fields inside the entanglement wedge. As the bulk effective field theory suffers from UV divergences, the second term must be regularized. It has been conjectured since the work of Susskind and Uglum that the renormalization of Newton's constant in the area term exactly cancels the difference between different choices of regularization for bulk entropy. In this talk, I will explain how the recent developments on von Neumann algebras appearing in the large N limit of holography allow to prove this claim within the framework of holographic quantum error correction, and to reinterpret it as an instance of the ER=EPR paradigm. This talk is based on the paper arXiv:2302.01938.

Zoom link: <https://pitp.zoom.us/j/97435154387?pwd=OHYrRW9uSW5VeHRFUld1dmtVbmJiZz09>

## The Quantum Extremal Surface Formula

- The Quantum Extremal Surface (QES) Formula is one of the cornerstones of holography.

$$S(\rho) = \frac{A(\Sigma)}{4G_N} + S(\rho_{bulk}).$$

$\Sigma$  is the quantum extremal surface associated to the subregion. It is defined by extremizing the RHS.

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$\Sigma$  is the quantum extremal surface associated to the subregion. It is defined by **extremizing** the RHS.

- In the case of one side of a two-sided black hole, QES reduces to the calculation of **black hole entropy**.

$$S(\rho_L) = \frac{A(\Sigma)}{4G_N} + S(\rho_{L,bulk}).$$

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Navigation icons





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- If  $G_N$  is zero or perturbatively small in the effective field theory the **area term** also blows up.
- On the boundary if  $G_N$  is taken to be zero then the entropy term also blows up:  $G_N$  needs to be taken **small but nonzero**.



## The Susskind—Uglum conjecture

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- Susskind—Uglum conjecture: The renormalization of the area term (i.e. Newton's constant) exactly cancels that of the bulk entropy term!
- This talk: recent discussions on the large  $N$  limit of holography, as well as holographic quantum error correction, allow to formulate this conjecture precisely and prove it.

## Outline

- I - Large  $N$  von Neumann algebras

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- II - Code subspace renormalization

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- III - Proof of the Susskind—Uglum conjecture

Part I

# Large $N$ von Neumann algebras

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## The Leutheusser—Liu construction

- Another more abstract way of saying that entanglement of bulk fields in the EFT diverges at large  $N$  like that of a subregion in a QFT is that there is an **emergent type III<sub>1</sub>** von Neumann algebra, recently identified by Leutheusser and Liu.



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- This algebra is constructed in the following way: introduce a **formal vacuum vector**  $|\Omega\rangle$ , and define the **Hilbert space** as being spanned by operators of the form  $\text{Tr}(X_1) \dots \text{Tr}(X_k) |\Omega\rangle$ .

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$$\langle \Omega | A^\dagger B | \Omega \rangle = \langle A^\dagger B \rangle_\beta.$$

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- The von Neumann algebra is defined as the **bicommutant** of the single trace operators on one side of the thermofield double, and is dual to operators in the EFT.

## Properties of the large $N$ algebra

- **Below** the Hawking—Page temperature, the large  $N$  algebra has **type I**: this means that the large  $N$  Hilbert space **factorizes** between the right and the left. There is no Einstein—Rosen bridge, just two entangled copies of **thermal AdS**.

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- **Above** the Hawking—Page temperature, the gauge theory deconfines and the large  $N$  algebra has **type III<sub>1</sub>** (still type I at any finite  $N!$ ): entanglement pattern of quantum field theory. A geometric **Einstein—Rosen** bridge appears between the right and the left.

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- This can be shown **rigorously** (paper to appear with L. Santilli) from the fact that the **spectral density** of the large  $N$  generalized free fields becomes continuous above the Hawking—Page temperature.

## The bulk to boundary map

- It is a bit tricky to think about holographic quantum error correction in that context.

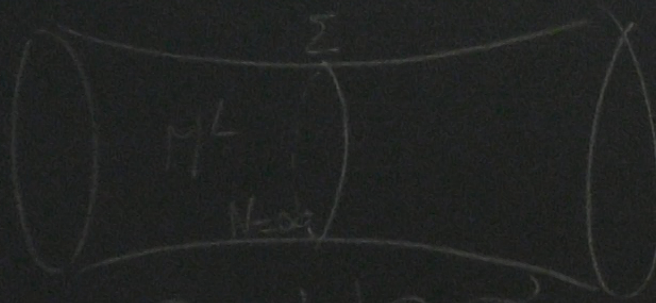
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- It is a bit tricky to think about holographic **quantum error correction** in that context.
- The code should map the  $N = \infty$  type III<sub>1</sub> von Neumann algebra  $M^L$ , or some perturbative correction of it, to the large but finite  $N$  type I von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_N^L)$  on the boundary.

$\infty > 1/5 > 1$   
 $B(1/5)$



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- Then one shouldn't trust the map when operators have energy that starts scaling parametrically with  $N$  and break the EFT: the code works pointwise at large  $N$  but not uniformly.

## Asymptotically isometric codes

- Faulkner and Li recently formalized this by introducing the notion of **asymptotically isometric code**, from the large  $N$  Hilbert space to the finite  $N$  boundary Hilbert space.

$$V_N^\dagger V_N - Id \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

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- These conditions are imposed for the weak and strong operator topologies respectively, but NOT for the norm topology. This is an abstract way of saying that only pointwise convergence is required, rather than uniform convergence.



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- How do we do this? Single out small (for example finite-dimensional) subalgebras of the large  $N$  algebra.

## Part II

# Code subspace renormalization

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## Type I and bounded entropy

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- **Schmidt decompositions** can be defined for states on these algebras, and **von Neumann entropy** is defined in the usual way.

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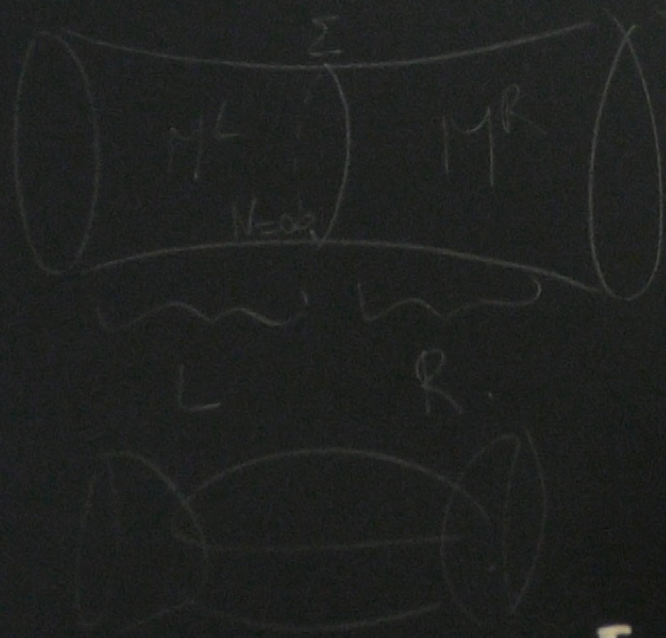
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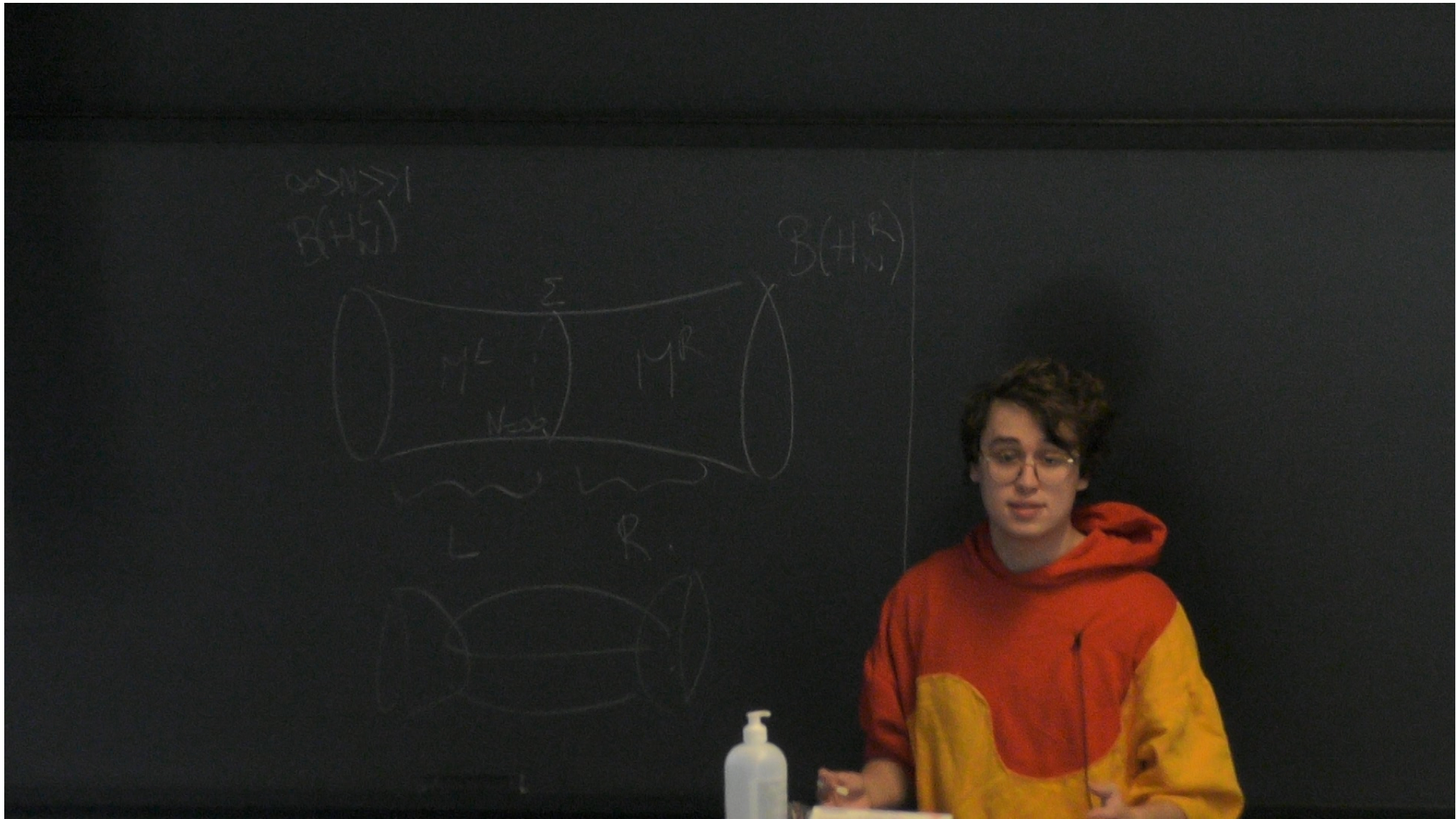


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- How do we now regulate the bulk algebra while still being able to formulate entanglement wedge reconstruction?
- Then we also want compatibility with **complementary recovery**.

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- We want to find a way to regulate the large  $N$  algebra that respects the fundamental structure of complementary recovery.



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- This is a nontrivial constraint: what should “?” be?

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- There exists a faithful normal **conditional expectation** from the large  $N$  algebra onto the subalgebra that leaves the state  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_\lambda$  **invariant**.

## Conditional expectations

- A **conditional expectation** from a von Neumann algebra  $M^L$  onto a (unital) subalgebra  $M_\lambda^L$  is a map  $\mathcal{E}_\lambda : M^L \longrightarrow M_\lambda^L$  satisfying for  $n_1, n_2 \in M_\lambda^L$  and  $m \in M^L$ ,

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- If a state  $|\psi\rangle$  is in the space  $\mathcal{H}_\lambda$  of **invariant** states under a conditional expectation, then its Tomita–Takesaki **modular data** associated to both the large and small algebras coincide :

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- From there the characterizations in terms of compatibility with **modular flow** and **commutant** follow.

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- The conditional expectation and  $\chi_\lambda$  are the **same data**:

$$\mathcal{E}(X \otimes X^c) = \chi_\lambda(X^c)(X \otimes Id).$$



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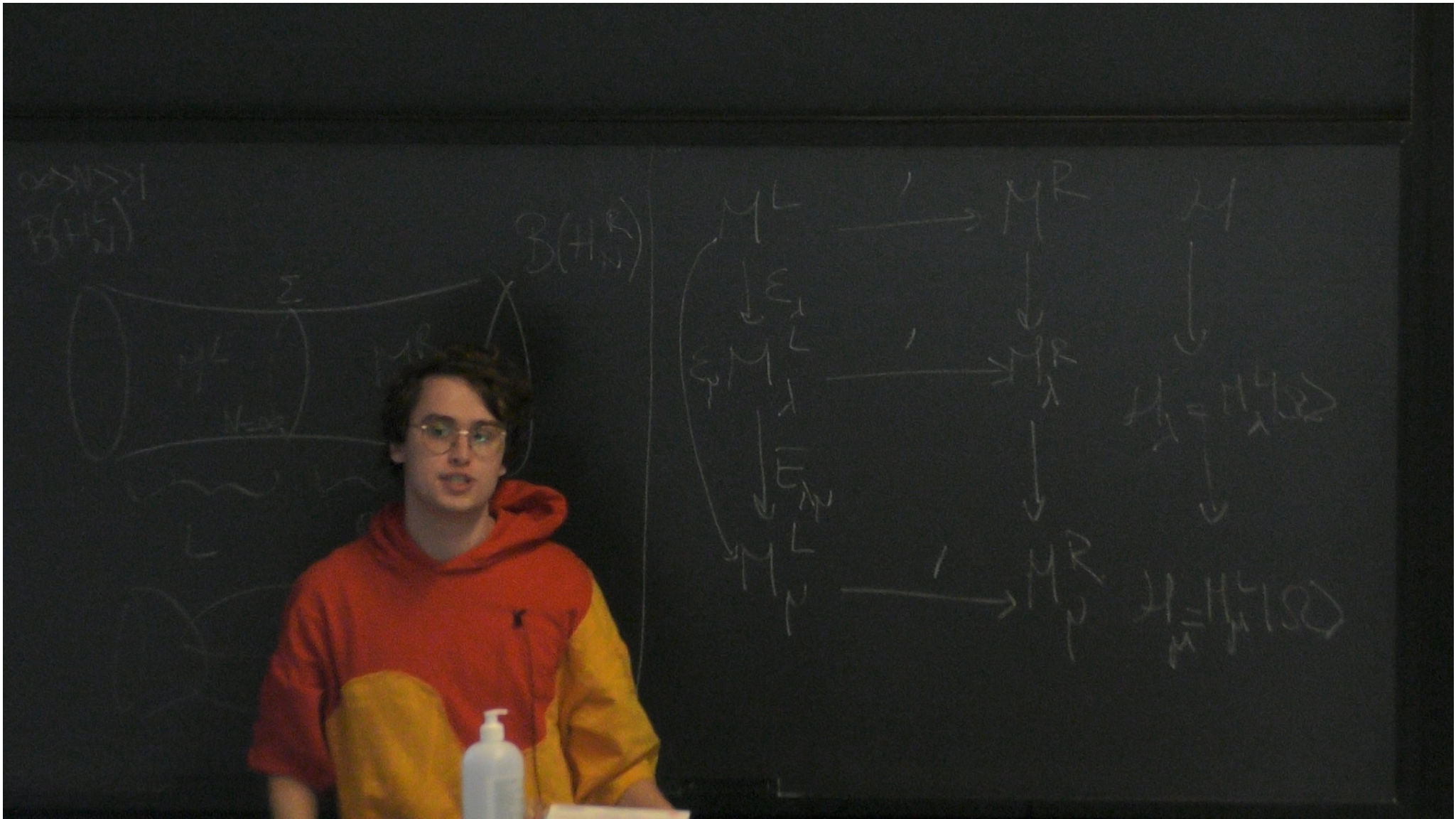
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- A family of faithful normal conditional expectations  $E_{\lambda\mu} : M_\lambda^L \longrightarrow M_\mu^L, \lambda \geq \mu$ .
- A reference cyclic separating state  $|\Omega\rangle$  invariant under all these expectations.

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$$"S(\psi, M_L)" = S(\psi_\mu, M_\mu^L) + S(\chi_{\lambda\mu}, M_{\lambda\mu}^L) + "S(\chi_\lambda, M_\lambda^{L,c})".$$

CONTENTS



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- It is the **middle term** that will be crucial in the proof of the Susskind–Uglum conjecture.

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- Both perspectives are related: one can see this regulation as an exact code mapping a subalgebra of the code directly into the  $N = \infty$  von Neumann algebra.



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- The holographic map is identified with the conditional expectation, complementary recovery and JLMS with the conservation of modular data.
- Here, the interpretation is different: conditional expectations integrate out high energy degrees of freedom in the EFT.
- Both perspectives are related: one can see this regulation as an exact code mapping a subalgebra of the code directly into the  $N = \infty$  von Neumann algebra.
- It makes sense that this exact structure remains in the large  $N$  limit, as obstructions to exactness of reconstruction come from nonperturbative corrections, which disappear in the large  $N$  algebra.



## Part III

# Proof of the Suskind—Uglum conjecture



## Back to asymptotically isometric codes

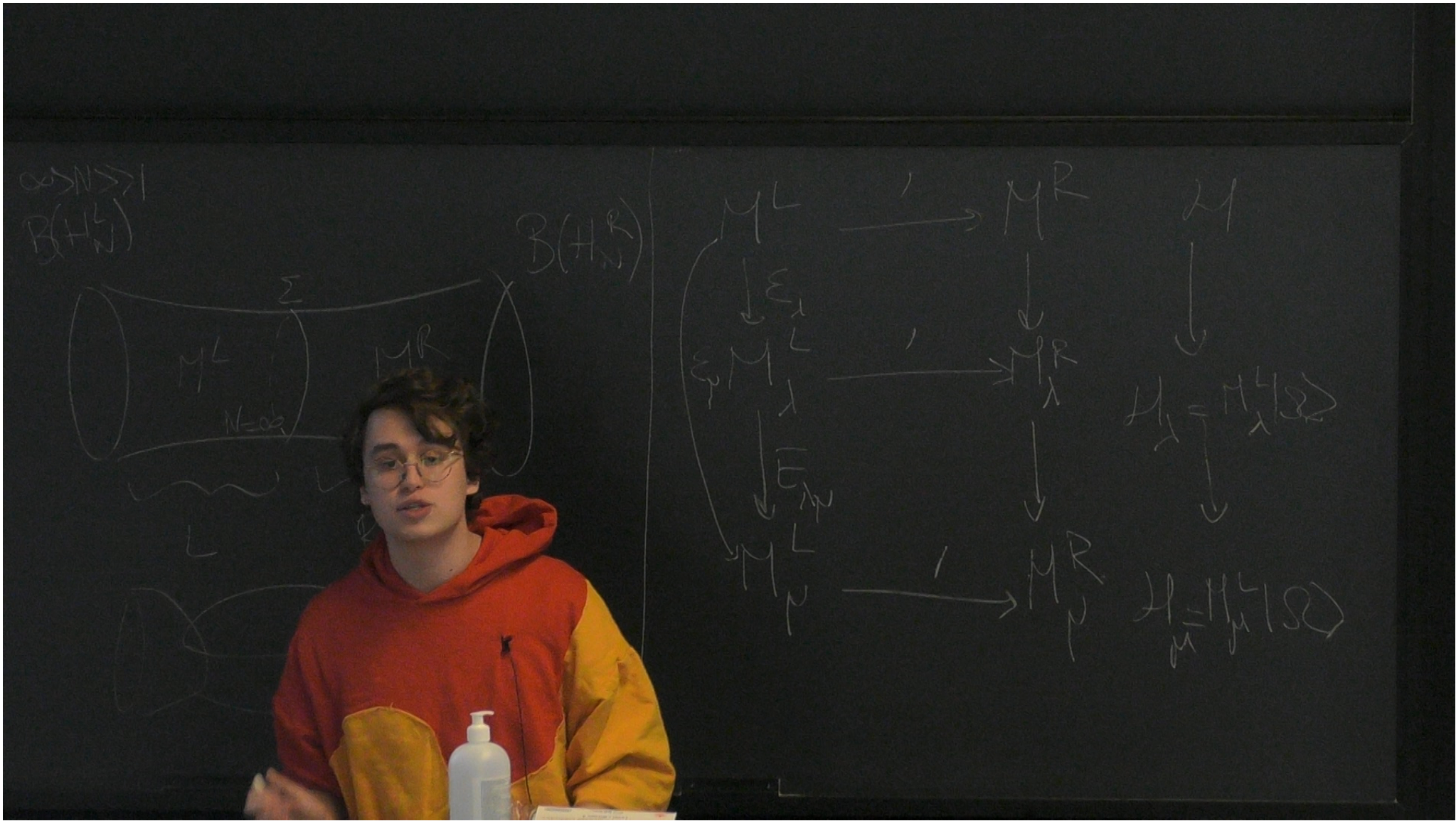
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- However closeness to isometry and reconstruction properties can only be formulated pointwise.
- Idea here: ask for stronger reconstruction properties, but only for renormalized subalgebras.

## A smaller code

- Consider a **renormalized Hilbert space**  $\mathcal{H}_\lambda$  of a CSRS, and a von Neumann factor  $M_\lambda^L$  acting on it. To simplify, we will assume everything is **finite dimensional** of dimension independent of  $N$ .



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- It is for this restriction of the map that we will ask for **uniform** reconstruction properties.

## Areas in approximate codes

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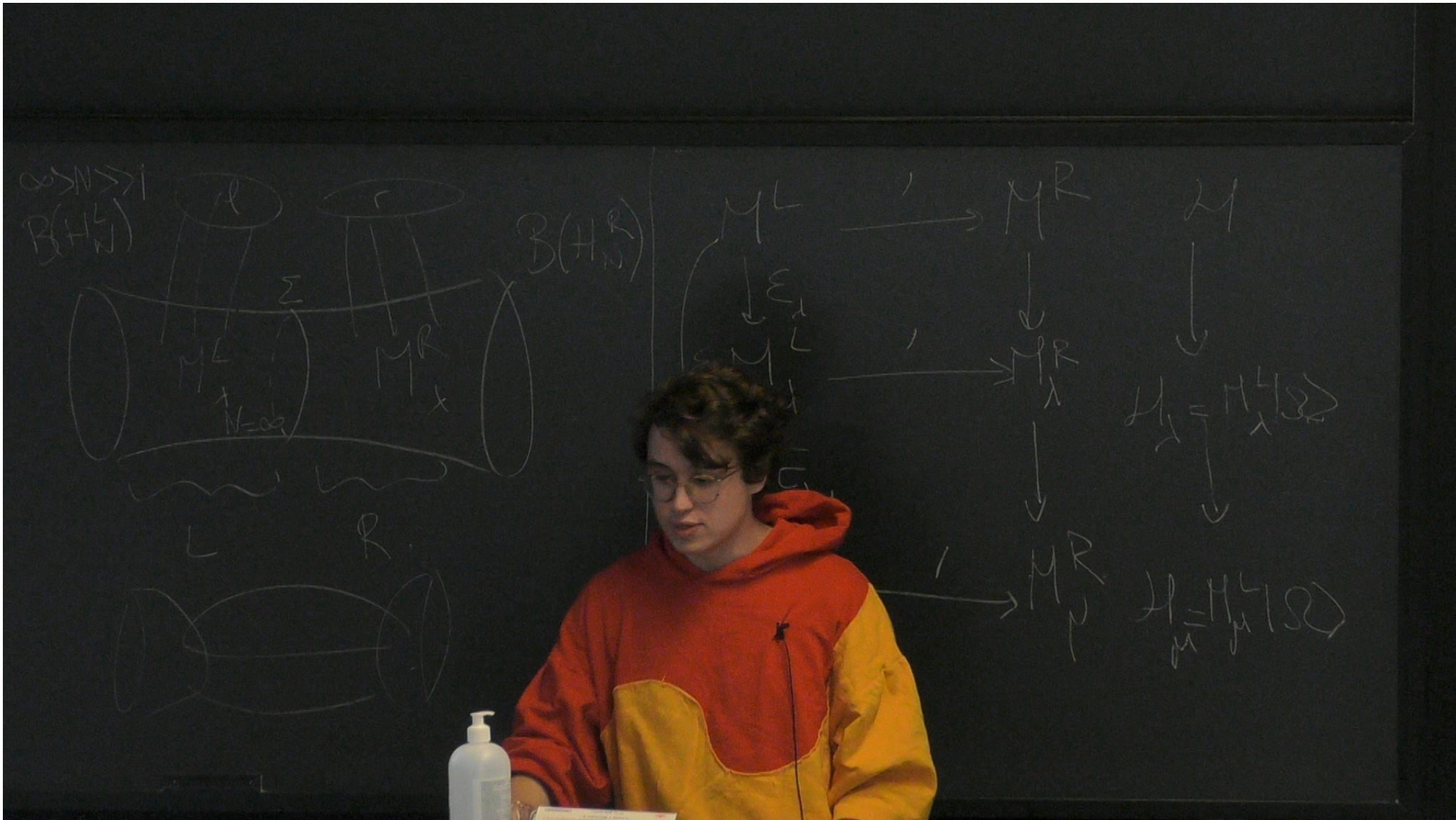
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- There is only one value of area per code subspace, but the area changes depending on the **choice of code subspace!**



## An approximate Ryu—Takayanagi formula

Following Akers and Penington, one can derive the following result:

- **Suppose** that for all unitary operators  $U_\lambda^L, U_\lambda^R$  in  $M_\lambda^L$  and  $M_\lambda^R$ , there exist unitary operators  $\tilde{U}_\lambda^L$  and  $\tilde{U}_\lambda^R$  (chosen in a measurable way) in  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_N^L)$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_N^R)$  such that

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- **Then**, for all  $|\Psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_\lambda$ ,

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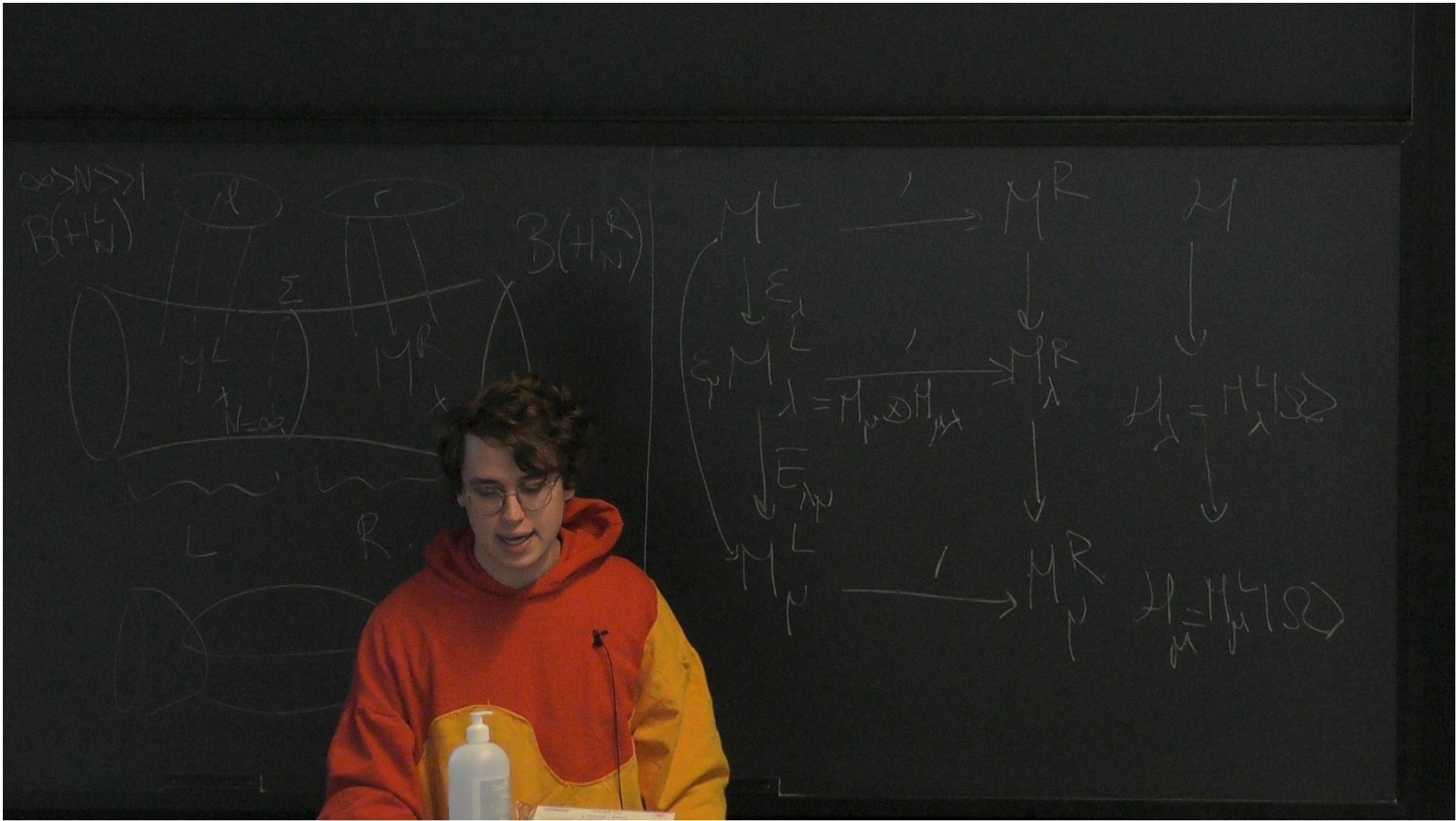
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- We get exactly **Susskind–Uglum!**

$$|A(\mathcal{H}_\mu^L) - (S(|\Psi\rangle, M_{\lambda\mu}) + A(\mathcal{H}_\lambda^L))| \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

with  $M_\lambda = M_\mu \otimes M_{\lambda\mu}$ .



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- This is exactly ER=EPR: no physical distinction between entanglement and geometry in gravity.

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- Unitary reconstruction becomes too strong, only ask for **product unitaries** defined in terms of a further decomposition of the code subalgebra.

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## Future directions

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- What about code subspaces that are **not invariant** under a conditional expectation? Can they be approximated by the former in some way?
- Understand the case of **large codes better**.
- QES as an instance of ER=EPR: link to the **swampland emergence proposal**?

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