

# On the black hole interior and thermalization

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# Motivations

I will present a new natural class of non-equilibrium states, which exist in any chaotic quantum system. These may be interesting for

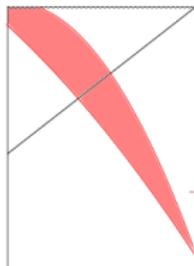
- ▶ Their relevance for black hole horizon and interior
- ▶ Their role in statistical mechanics

# Black holes and thermodynamics

Laws of BH dynamics  $\Leftrightarrow$  Laws of thermodynamics

Bekenstein-Hawking entropy

$$S = \frac{A}{4G}$$

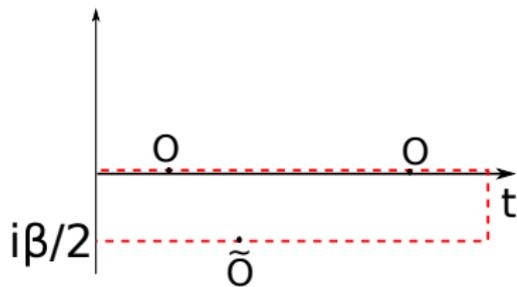
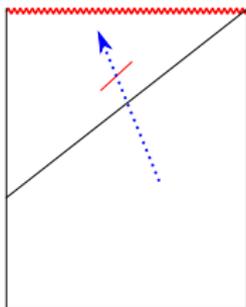


Dynamical properties, transport coefficients

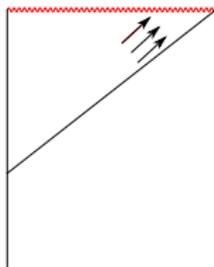
Universality of black hole exterior geometry

## Role of interior?

Universality of interior geometry  $\Rightarrow$  What does it mean in CFT?



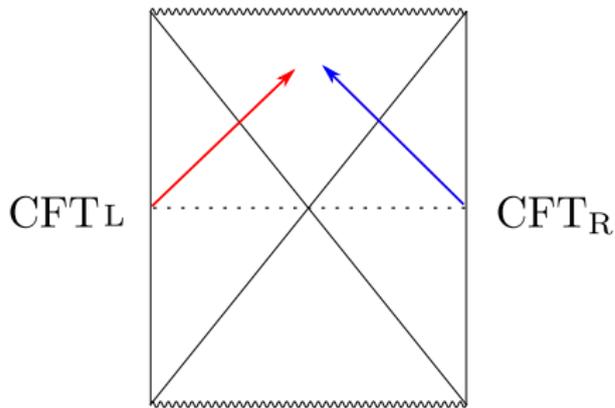
Stages of thermalization



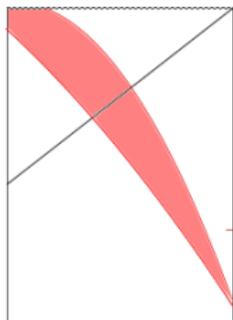
## Main Claim

- ▶ I will describe a new class of non-equilibrium states which exist in any chaotic statistical system. In holographic CFTs these states correspond to excitations behind the black hole horizon.
- ▶ The number of such states is in 1-1 correspondence with possible ways to excite the horizon in General Relativity
- ▶ The existence of these states is motivated by, but **logically independent** from state-dependent operators.
- ▶ Their existence is robust (no subtleties about “generalization of quantum mechanics”)
- ▶ Strong evidence the CFT contains the states in its Hilbert space which describe excitations of the interior and hence that the black hole interior is as predicted by GR

## Behind the horizon in AdS/CFT?



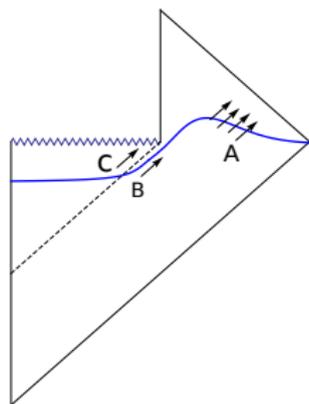
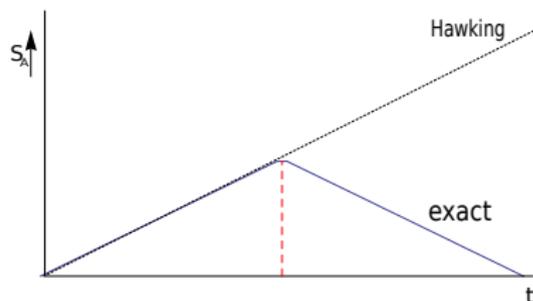
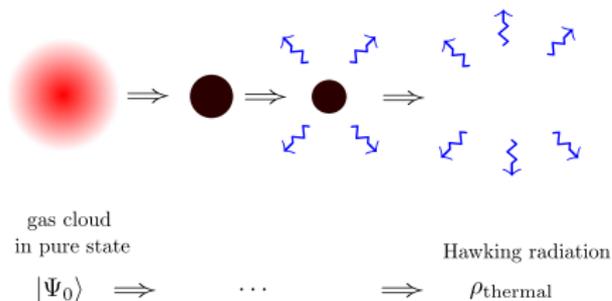
$$|TFD\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_E e^{-\frac{\beta E}{2}} |E\rangle \otimes |E\rangle$$



Interior for 1-sided black hole?

Firewall paradox in AdS/CFT

# The information/firewall paradox



Violation of strong subadditivity of entanglement entropy

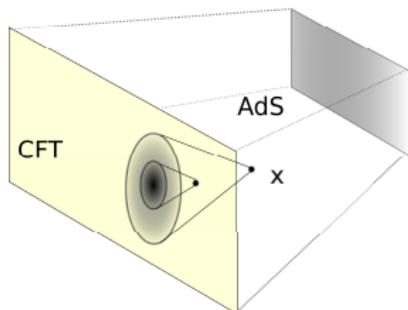
$$S_{AB} + S_{BC} \geq S_A + S_C$$

[Mathur], [Almheiri, Marolf, Polchinski, Sully]

## Firewall paradox in AdS/CFT

- ▶ Large black holes in AdS are holographically dual to QGP states of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  in deconfined phase
- ▶ These black holes are in equilibrium with their Hawking radiation and do not evaporate
- ▶ Nevertheless the firewall paradox has been formulated even for these stable black holes [Almheiri, Marolf, Polchinski, Stanford, Sully], [Marolf, Polchinski]
- ▶ It suggests that big AdS black holes have a singular horizon.
- ▶ Most precise formulation of the paradox.

## Local observables in AdS

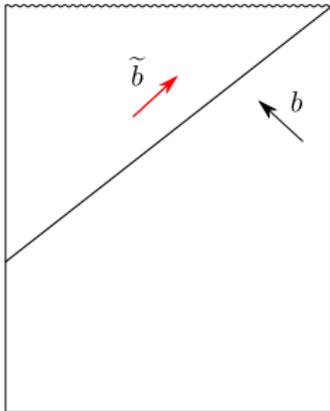


[Banks, Douglas, Horowitz, Martinec], [Bena], [Hamilton, Kabat, Lifschytz, Lowe]

$$\phi(x) = \int dY K(x, Y) \mathcal{O}(Y)$$

$\mathcal{O}$  = local single trace operator dual to  $\phi$

$K$  = known kernel



For smooth horizon effective field theory requires:

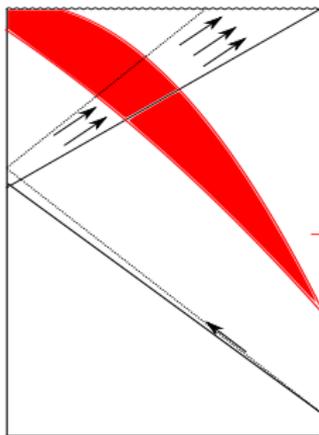
I)  $\tilde{b}$  **commute** with  $b$

II)  $\tilde{b}$  **entangled** with  $b$ :  $(\tilde{b} - e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} b^\dagger)|\Psi\rangle = 0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} b & \Leftrightarrow & \mathcal{O} \\ \tilde{b} & \Leftrightarrow & ? \end{array}$$

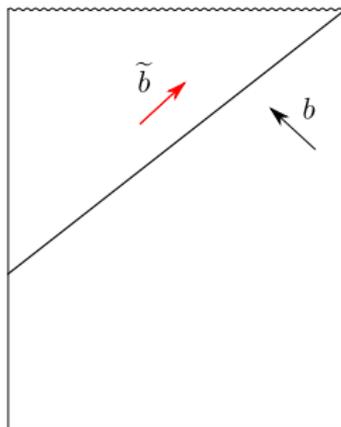
Which CFT operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  correspond to  $\tilde{b}$ ?

## Direct reconstruction?



- ▶ Transplanckian problem
- ▶ States formed by collapse form a small subset of **typical** BH microstates.

## Firewall paradox for large AdS black holes



$$[b, b^\dagger] = 1$$

$$[H, b^\dagger] = \omega b^\dagger$$

$$[\tilde{b}, \tilde{b}^\dagger] = 1$$

$$[H, \tilde{b}^\dagger] = -\omega \tilde{b}^\dagger$$

- ▶ [AMPSS, MP] paradox: if typical CFT states have smooth horizon, using  $[H, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega^\dagger] = -\omega \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega^\dagger$  we find

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\beta H} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega^\dagger \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega] < 0$$

which is inconsistent

$$[H, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}] = -\omega \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger} \quad [\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}] = 1$$

$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  = “creation operator”

$\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  should not annihilate (typical) states of the CFT.

On the other hand

$$[H, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}] = -\omega \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$$

implies that  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  lowers the energy so it maps CFT states of energy  $E$  to  $E - \omega$ .

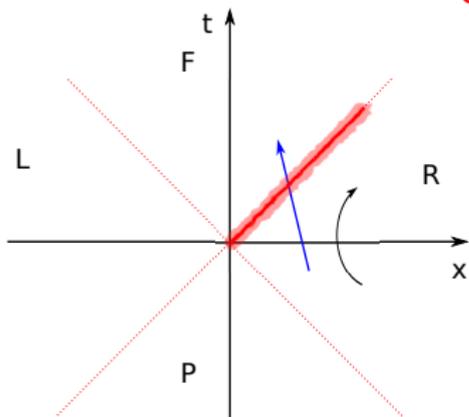
But in the CFT, we have  $S(E) > S(E - \omega)$ .

$\Rightarrow$  if  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  is an ordinary linear operator, it must have a nontrivial kernel.

Inconsistent with statement that  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  does not annihilate states.

$\Rightarrow$  The CFT does not contain  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$  operators and cannot describe the BH interior (?) [AMPSS], [Marolf, Polchinski]

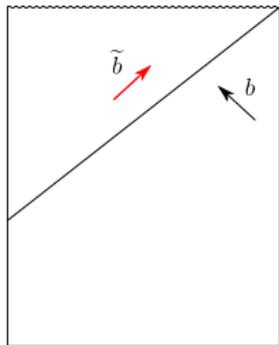
## Entanglement vs typicality



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \prod_{\omega} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi\omega n} e^{i\theta n} |n\rangle_L \otimes |n\rangle_R$$

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \neq 0$$

Rindler Horizon excited



BH  $\Rightarrow$  large number of microstates

If  $\mathcal{O}_{\omega}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}$  are **fixed** operators, how can **typical** CFT states have the **precise** entanglement needed for

$$(\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega} - e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} \mathcal{O}_{\omega}^{\dagger})|\Psi\rangle = 0$$

## A construction of the BH interior

[KP and S.Raju]

- ▶ If we take a QFT state  $|\Psi\rangle$  of high energy, we expect that at late times it will thermalize.

$$\langle\Psi|\mathcal{O}_1(x_1)\dots\mathcal{O}_n(x_n)|\Psi\rangle\approx Z^{-1}\mathrm{Tr}(e^{-\beta H}\mathcal{O}_1(x_1)\dots\mathcal{O}_n(x_n))$$

- ▶ This is true only for simple observables  $n\ll N$
- ▶ Thermalization of pure state  $\Rightarrow$  must have the notion of a **small algebra** of observables
- ▶ In a large  $N$  gauge theory, natural small “algebra”  $\mathcal{A}$  = products of few, single trace operators

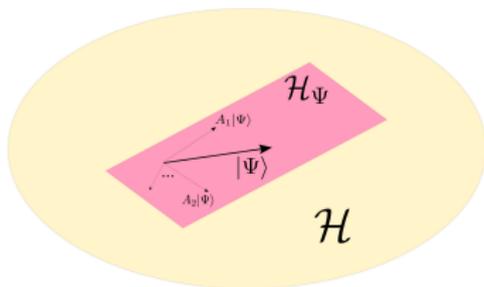
## A construction of the BH interior

- ▶ Even though we are in an **isolated** CFT in a pure state, the small algebra of single trace operators probes the pure state  $|\Psi\rangle$  as if it were an **entangled** state

$$\langle\Psi|..|\Psi\rangle \approx \text{Tr}[e^{-\beta H} \dots] \quad \leftrightarrow \quad |TFD\rangle = \sum_E \frac{e^{-\beta E/2}}{\sqrt{Z}} |E\rangle \otimes |E\rangle$$

- ▶ What is the physical meaning of the second copy?
- ▶ The  $O(N^2)$  d.o.f. of the CFT play the role of the “heat bath” for the small algebra of single trace operators
- ▶ Whatever operators the single trace operators  $\mathcal{O}$  are **entangled** with, will play the role of  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  behind the horizon.
- ▶ How do we identify these operators concretely?

## The “small Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_\Psi$ ”



We define

$$\mathcal{H}_\Psi = \mathcal{A}|\Psi\rangle = \{\text{span of } : \mathcal{O}(x_1)\dots\mathcal{O}(x_n)|\Psi\rangle\}$$

Simple EFT experiments in the bulk, around BH  $|\Psi\rangle$  take place within  $\mathcal{H}_\Psi$

$\mathcal{H}_\Psi$  is similar to “code subspace”

The interior operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  will be defined to act only on this subspace.

## Small algebra of observables

If  $|\Psi\rangle$  is a BH microstate, we have the nontrivial property

$$A|\Psi\rangle \neq 0 \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{A}, A \neq 0$$

Physically this means that the state seems to be entangled when probed by the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ .

## Tomita-Takesaki modular theory

Algebra, cannot annihilate state.

⇒ the representation of the algebra is reducible, and the algebra has a nontrivial commutant acting on the same space.

Define antilinear map

$$SA|\Psi\rangle = A^\dagger|\Psi\rangle$$

and

$$\Delta = S^\dagger S \quad J = S\Delta^{-1/2}$$

Then the operators

$$\boxed{\tilde{O} = JOJ}$$

i) commute with  $\mathcal{O}$

ii) are correctly entangled with  $\mathcal{O}$

**These are the operators that we need for the Black Hole interior.**

## The modular Hamiltonian

The operator  $\Delta = S^\dagger S$  is a positive, hermitian operator and can be written as

$$\Delta = e^{-K}$$

where

$K =$  modular Hamiltonian

Using large  $N$  and the KMS condition for thermal correlators in equilibrium states

$$K = \beta(H_{CFT} - E_0)$$

## The mirror operators

$$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega |\Psi\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} \mathcal{O}_\omega^\dagger |\Psi\rangle$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O} |\Psi\rangle = \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega |\Psi\rangle$$

$$[H, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega] \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O} |\Psi\rangle = \omega \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O} |\Psi\rangle$$

These equations define the operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  on a subspace  $\mathcal{H}_\Psi \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{CFT}}$ , which is relevant for EFT around BH microstate  $|\Psi\rangle$

$$\mathcal{H}_\Psi = \text{span} \mathcal{A} |\Psi\rangle$$

Equations admit solution because the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot annihilate the state  $|\Psi\rangle$

## Reconstructing the interior

$$\phi(t, r, \Omega) = \int_0^\infty d\omega \left[ \mathcal{O}_\omega f_\omega(t, \Omega, r) + \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega g_\omega(t, \Omega, r) + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

**Smooth spacetime at the horizon, no firewall**

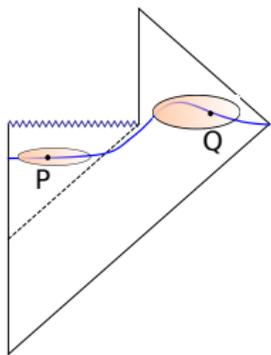
## Non-locality

$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  were constructed based on the fact that we restricted our attention to a “small algebra” of  $\mathcal{O}$ 's. The construction breaks down if the “small algebra” is enlarged to include all operators

$[\mathcal{O}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}] = 0$  only in simple correlators, not as operator equation, but only on “small Hilbert space”  $\mathcal{H}_\Psi$

Operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}} =$  complicated combinations of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

Realization of **BH complementarity**



$$[\phi(P), \phi(Q)] \sim e^{-S}$$
$$[\phi(P), \Phi^{\text{complex}}(Q)] = O(1)$$

The hilbert space of Quantum Gravity **does not** factorize as  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{inside}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{outside}}$

- 1) Solves problem of Monogamy of Entanglement (and avoids Mathur's theorem on small corrections)
- 2) Is consistent with locality in EFT

## State-dependence

- ▶ Interior operators defined by

$$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega|\Psi\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} \mathcal{O}_\omega^\dagger|\Psi\rangle$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O}|\Psi\rangle = \mathcal{O} \dots \mathcal{O} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega|\Psi\rangle$$

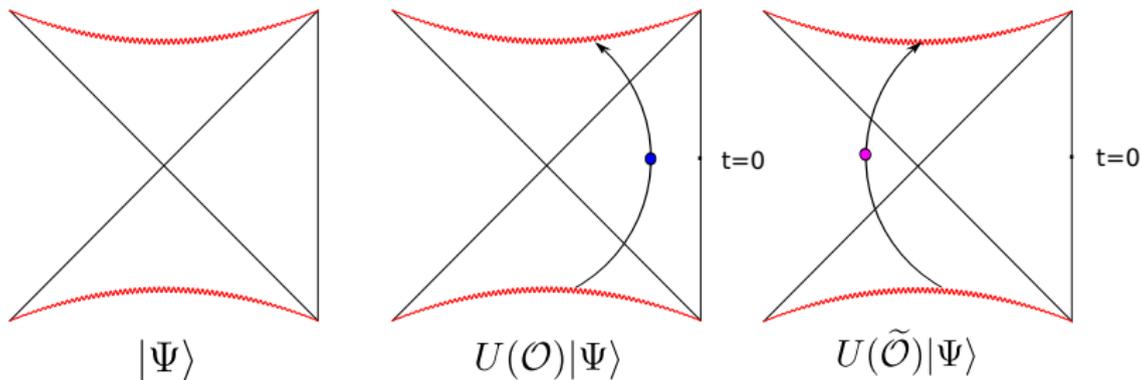
$$[H, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega]|\Psi\rangle = \omega \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_\omega|\Psi\rangle$$

- ▶ Solution depends on reference state  $|\Psi\rangle$
- ▶ Operators **cannot** be upgraded to “globally defined” operators
- ▶ **State-dependence solves Entanglement vs Typicality problem naturally**
- ▶ Unusual in Quantum Mechanics, needs further study

## A new class of non-equilibrium states

- ▶ The previous construction of the BH interior naturally identifies a new class of non-equilibrium states present in any chaotic statistical system. In holographic CFTs these states correspond to excitations behind the black hole horizon.
- ▶ The number of such states is in 1-1 correspondence with possible ways to excite the horizon in General Relativity
- ▶ The existence of these states is motivated by, but logically independent from state-dependent operators.
- ▶ Their existence is robust (no subtleties about “generalization of quantum mechanics”)
- ▶ The CFT contains in its Hilbert space states which describe excitations of the interior  $\Rightarrow$  evidence that the black hole interior is as predicted by GR

## A new class of non-equilibrium states



- ▶  $|\Psi\rangle =$  equilibrium state
- ▶  $U(\mathcal{O})|\Psi\rangle =$  standard non-equilibrium state (near equilibrium)
- ▶  $U(\tilde{\mathcal{O}})|\Psi\rangle =$  **new type** of non-equilibrium state

We will argue that these states exist independent of the  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$  construction.

## Equilibrium states

We define them by demanding that “reasonable observables” are time independent

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Psi | A(t) | \Psi \rangle = 0$$

**Typical states are equilibrium states**

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i c_i |E_i\rangle \quad c_i \Rightarrow \text{random coefficients with some measure}$$

Atypical states may be time-dependent, hence non-equilibrium.

Under time evolution even these states will equilibrate, hence an atypical state will start looking like a typical state.

## Typicality in large Hilbert spaces

[Lloyd], [Balasubramanian, Czech, Hubeny, Larjo, Rangamani, Simon]

**More precisely:** any pure state  $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i c_i |E_i\rangle$  obeys

$$\sum_i |c_i|^2 = 1$$

and defines a point on  $\mathbb{S}^{2N-1}$ . Define uniform measure on this sphere (Haar measure). Then

$$\overline{\langle \Psi | A | \Psi \rangle} = \text{Tr}[\rho A]$$

and

$$\overline{(\langle \Psi | A | \Psi \rangle - \text{Tr}[\rho A])^2} = \frac{1}{e^S + 1} [\text{Tr}[\rho A^2] - \text{Tr}[\rho A]^2]$$

true for **any** operator  $A$  and independent of the Hamiltonian  $H$

Relevance for fuzzball proposal.

## Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis (ETH)

Consider an observable  $A$  in the small algebra. Then its matrix elements on energy eigenstates are

$$\langle E_i | A | E_j \rangle = f(E_i) \delta_{ij} + e^{-S/2} g(E_i, E_j) R_{ij}$$

where  $f, g$  are smooth functions of the energy, of magnitude which is  $O(S^0)$  and  $R_{ij}$  are “erratic phases”.

## Implications of ETH

Consider typical state  $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i c_i |E_i\rangle$ . Each coefficient has  $|c_i| \sim e^{-S/2}$  but phase randomly distributed. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\Psi|A|\Psi\rangle &= \sum_{ij} c_i^* c_j \langle E_i|A|E_j\rangle \\ &= \sum_i |c_i|^2 f(E_i) + \sum_{i\neq j} c_i^* c_j e^{-S/2} g(E_i, E_j) R_{ij}\end{aligned}$$

If  $c_i$  highly peaked in energy, the first term is  $\text{Tr}[\rho_m A]$ . The second term is of order

$$e^{-3S/2} \sum (e^{2S} \text{random phases}) \sim e^{-3S/2} \sqrt{e^{2S}} \sim e^{-S/2}$$

## Implications of ETH

We recover that for typical states

$$\langle \Psi | A | \Psi \rangle = \text{Tr}[\rho_m A] + O(e^{-S/2})$$

Now we will show that

typical states  $\Rightarrow$  equilibrium states

Need to consider typical state and prove that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Psi | A(t) | \Psi \rangle = 0$$

Equivalently: we define the Fourier modes

$$A_\omega = \int dt e^{i\omega t} A(t)$$

and need to show

$$\langle \Psi | A_\omega | \Psi \rangle = 0 \quad \forall \omega \neq 0$$

## Implications of ETH

The operator  $A_\omega$  changes the energy by  $\omega$ . Hence the diagonal term is absent

$$\langle E_i | A_\omega | E_j \rangle = e^{-S/2} g(E_i, E_j) R_{ij}$$

We only get the off-diagonal terms, so

$$\langle \Psi | A_\omega | \Psi \rangle \sim O(e^{-S/2})$$

Hence typical states are time-independent and in equilibrium.

## Importance of phases in QM and thermalization

Time evolution in QM

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \sum_i c_i e^{-iE_i t} |E_i\rangle$$

Consider atypical state of black hole with particle outside horizon

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i c_i |E_i\rangle$$

It is a superposition of static BH microstates. The phases of the coefficients  $c_i$  have to be finely tuned to give constructive interference to the observable which measures the particle outside horizon.

Under time evolution phases decohere and particle is lost behind the horizon.

## Thermalization, Poincare Recurrences

Suppose we start with an atypical state, for which at  $t = 0$  we have

$$\langle \Psi | A(t=0) | \Psi \rangle \neq \text{Tr}[\rho A]$$

This is due to fine-tuned phases in the off-diagonal terms.

However, under time evolution

$$\langle \Psi | A(t) | \Psi \rangle = \sum_i |c_i|^2 f(E_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} c_i^* c_j e^{-S/2} g(E_i, E_j) R_{ij} e^{-i(E_i - E_j)t}$$

the phases decohere and the state equilibrates.

However over very long time scales (of order  $e^S$  or  $e^{e^S}$ ) the phases of the 2nd term may align to give a large contribution again  
[\[Barbon, Rabinovici\]](#)

The state is in equilibrium/typical for most of its lifetime, but can undergo spontaneous fluctuations.

## Standard non-equilibrium states of conventional kind

Take equilibrium state  $|\Psi_0\rangle$  and excite it as

$$|\Psi'\rangle = U(O)|\Psi_0\rangle$$

and example might be  $U(O) = e^{i\theta(O_\omega + O_\omega^\dagger)}$   
(quench vs autonomous state)

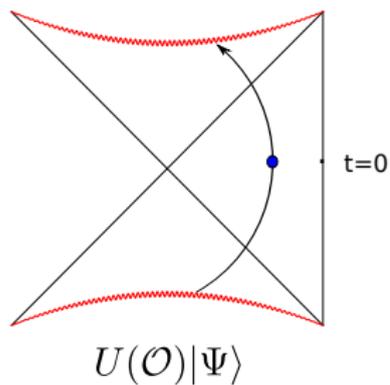
Let us check that this is indeed a non-equilibrium state

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\Psi'|O_\omega|\Psi'\rangle &= \langle\Psi_0|U(O)^\dagger O_\omega U(O)|\Psi_0\rangle \\ &= \langle\Psi_0|O_\omega|\Psi_0\rangle + i\theta\langle\Psi_0|[O_\omega, O_\omega^\dagger]|\Psi_0\rangle + \mathcal{O}(\theta^2)\end{aligned}$$

The first term is zero, but the second is  $O(1)$ .

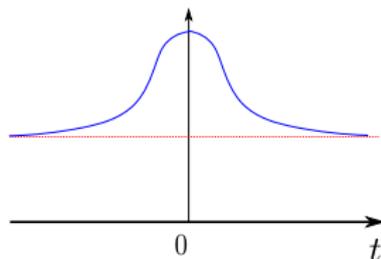
So we find that these are indeed time dependent states

## Bulk interpretation of standard non-eq states



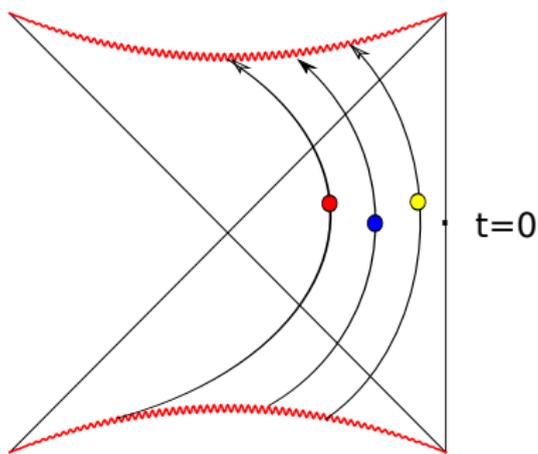
Excited state  $U(\mathcal{O})|\Psi_0\rangle$

$$\langle\Psi_0|U^\dagger O(t)U|\Psi_0\rangle = t\text{-dependent}$$



## Space of non-equilibrium states

They are in 1-1 correspondence to possible excitations in region outside the horizon



$$U_1(\mathcal{O})U_2(\mathcal{O})U_3(\mathcal{O})|\Psi_0\rangle$$

## The new non-equilibrium states

Consider the states

$$|\Psi'\rangle = U(\tilde{O})|\Psi_0\rangle$$

where  $|\Psi_0\rangle$  is an equilibrium state and

$$U(\tilde{O}) = e^{i\theta(\tilde{O}_\omega + \tilde{O}_\omega^\dagger)}$$

The main points about these states:

- 1) They seem to be equilibrium states wrt the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$
- 2) In reality **they are time-dependent, non-equilibrium states**. This can be seen by correlators including  $H$  in the list of observables.
- 3) **The existence of these states is robust and does not rely on state dependence.**
- 4) Bulk interpretation: particles behind the horizon. The number of such state is in 1-1 correspondence with possible excitations behind the horizon.
- 5) We will explain the microscopic nature of these peculiar states.

## New non-equilibrium states

Consider the new state

$$|\Psi'\rangle = U(\tilde{O})|\Psi_0\rangle$$

For operators  $O$  in the small algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\Psi'|OO\dots O|\Psi'\rangle &= \langle\Psi_0|U(\tilde{O})^\dagger OO\dots OU(\tilde{O})|\Psi_0\rangle \\ &= \langle\Psi_0|OO\dots O|\Psi_0\rangle\end{aligned}$$

so the state seems to be in equilibrium.

In particular

$$\frac{d}{dt}\langle\Psi'|A(t)|\Psi'\rangle = 0$$

## New non-equilibrium states

On the other hand, if we include  $H$  then

$$\langle \Psi' | H O O \dots O | \Psi' \rangle \neq \langle \Psi_0 | H O O \dots O | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

so the state seems not to be in equilibrium. Here we used  $[H, \tilde{O}] \neq 0$ .

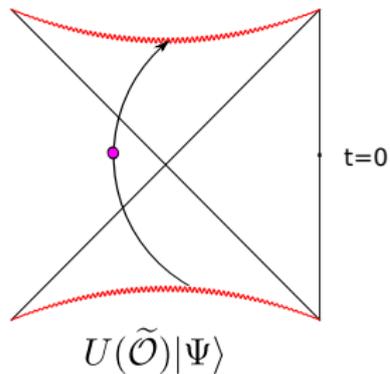
In particular **it is possible** to find observables  $A$  in the small algebra, such that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \Psi' | H A(t) | \Psi' \rangle \neq 0$$

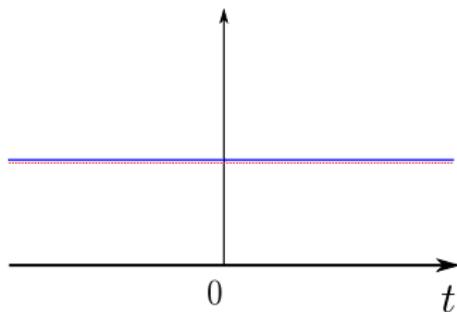
and the RHS is  $O(1)$ . So these states are genuinely time-dependent.

## Bulk interpretation of new non-eq states

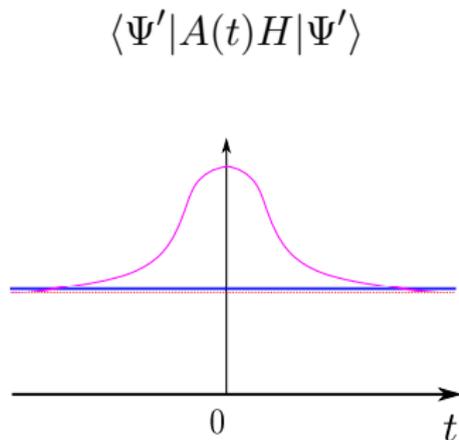
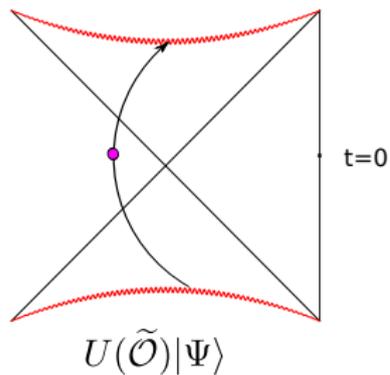
Excited state  $|\Psi'\rangle = U(\tilde{\mathcal{O}})|\Psi_0\rangle$



$$\langle\Psi'|A(t)|\Psi'\rangle$$



## Bulk interpretation of new non-eq states



## New non-equilibrium states

The new states that we defined seem to depend on the the state-dependent operators  $\tilde{O}$ .

$$|\Psi'\rangle = U(\tilde{O})|\Psi_0\rangle$$

However, we notice that they can be rewritten as

$$|\Psi'\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O)^\dagger e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} |\Psi_0\rangle$$

All previous claims can be rederived without any reference to state-dependent operators

- i) Such states appear to be equilibrium when probed by the  $O$ 's
- ii) It can be seen that they are non-equilibrium by including  $H$  in correlators

The Hilbert space of the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM contains states which can be naturally identified with black holes with excitations behind the horizon.

Notice that operator

$$e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}$$

is not a unitary. However the state

$$|\Psi'\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} |\Psi_0\rangle$$

has unit norm. Indeed

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Psi' | \Psi' \rangle &= \langle \Psi_0 | e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O)^\dagger e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} |\Psi_0\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr}[e^{-\beta H} e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O)^\dagger e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}] + O(1/S) \\ &= 1 + O(1/S) \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively we can produce the same state via state-dependent **unitary** operator

$$U(\tilde{O}) |\Psi_0\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} |\Psi_0\rangle$$

Similarly, consider

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \Psi' | A | \Psi' \rangle &= e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} \langle \Psi_0 | e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O)^\dagger e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} A e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} | \Psi_0 \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [ e^{-\beta H} e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O)^\dagger e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} A e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} ] + O(1/S) \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr} [ e^{-\beta H} A ] + O(1/S) \\ &\quad \langle \Psi_0 | A | \Psi_0 \rangle + O(1/S)\end{aligned}$$

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On the other hand, to see that the state is non-equilibrium we can consider  $\hat{H} = H - E_0$  and then

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \Psi' | A \hat{H} | \Psi' \rangle &= \langle \Psi_0 | V^\dagger A \hat{H} V | \Psi_0 \rangle \approx \langle \Psi_0 | V^\dagger A[\hat{H}, V] | \Psi_0 \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{Z} \text{Tr}[e^{-\beta H} V^\dagger A[\hat{H}, V]] + O(1/S)\end{aligned}$$

In general the first term is different from the expectation value of  $A \hat{H}$  by an  $O(1)$  amount.

We select  $U = \exp \left[ i\theta(A_\omega + A_\omega^\dagger) \right]$ , and we measure the operator  $A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H}$ . In an honest equilibrium state we have

$$\langle \Psi_0 | A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} | \Psi_0 \rangle = O(e^{-S/2})$$

On the other hand, in the new states we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Psi' | A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} | \Psi' \rangle &= \langle \Psi_0 | A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} | \Psi_0 \rangle \\ + i\theta \langle \Psi_0 | \left[ A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} (e^{\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega + e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega^\dagger) - (e^{\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega^\dagger + e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega) A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} \right] | \Psi_0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The linear term is:

$$i\theta \langle \Psi_0 | \left[ e^{\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} A_\omega - e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega A_\omega^\dagger \hat{H} \right] | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

we use the commutator  $[H, A_\omega] = -\omega A_\omega$  to get

$$i\theta \langle \Psi_0 | \left[ e^{\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega^\dagger A_\omega - e^{-\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} A_\omega A_\omega^\dagger \right] \hat{H} | \Psi_0 \rangle - i\omega\theta e^{\frac{\beta\omega}{2}} \langle \Psi_0 | A_\omega^\dagger A_\omega | \Psi_0 \rangle \quad (1)$$

The second term is  $O(1)$ . The first term, using KMS, is almost zero.

## Microscopic description

When we excite the state as

$$|\Psi'\rangle = U(O)|\Psi_0\rangle$$

we have

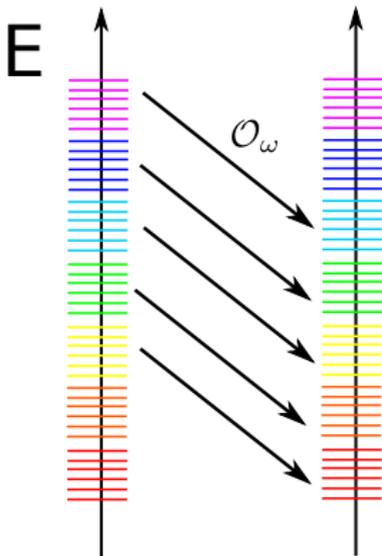
$$\langle\Psi'|\mathcal{O}_\omega|\Psi'\rangle \sim O(1)$$

How can it be consistent with ETH?

Write  $|\Psi'\rangle = U(O)|\Psi_0\rangle = \sum_i c_i |E_i\rangle$

$$\langle\Psi'|\mathcal{O}_\omega|\Psi'\rangle = \sum_{ij} c_i^* c_j f(E_i, E_j) R_{ij} e^{-S/2}$$

The reason that this is not  $O(e^{-S/2})$  is that the coefficients  $c_i, R_{ij}$  are now correlated. Notice that under time evolution we have  $c_i \rightarrow c_i e^{-iE_i t}$  and after a while the phases randomize again and state  $|\Psi'\rangle$  equilibrates (particle falls into horizon).



Define projection operators  $P_E$  on states between  $E$  and  $E + \delta E$ . We can decompose an excited state as

$$|\Psi'\rangle \equiv U(\mathcal{O})|\Psi\rangle = \sum_E P_E |\Psi'\rangle = \sum_E |\Psi'_E\rangle$$

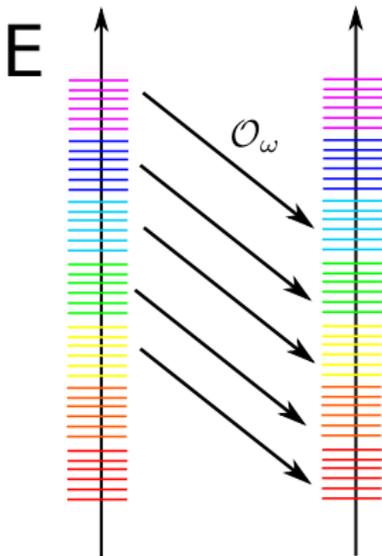
then we have

$$\langle \Psi' | \mathcal{O}_\omega | \Psi' \rangle = \sum_E \langle \Psi'_{E-\omega} | \mathcal{O}_\omega | \Psi'_E \rangle = \sum_E g(E)$$

with each  $g(E) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

The microscopic phases in the component of the state  $|\Psi'\rangle_E$  are correlated with those of  $|\Psi'\rangle_{E-\omega}$

Each “energy bin” is out of equilibrium



Consider the new excited states

$$|\Psi''\rangle = e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(O) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}} |\Psi_0\rangle = e^{-\beta \frac{H-E_0}{2}} U(O) |\Psi\rangle$$

The microscopic phases are the same as in  $U(O) |\Psi\rangle$ , but the prefactor  $e^{-\beta \frac{H-E_0}{2}}$  enhances lower energy vs higher energy states.

Inserting again the projection operators  $P_E$  on energy bins we find

$$\langle \Psi'' | \mathcal{O}_\omega | \Psi'' \rangle = \sum_E e^{-\beta \frac{E-E_0}{2}} g(E) = 0$$

where the  $g(E) \sim O(1)$  and nonzero!

Each energy bins is out of equilibrium, however the time dependence from different bins cancels out (due to  $e^{-\beta \frac{E-E_0}{2}}$ ) and the state seems to be equilibrium wrt the algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Cancellations spoiled when inserting  $H \Rightarrow$  can detect excitation

## Summary

We argued that there is a canonical class of non-equilibrium states, of the form

$$e^{-\beta(H-E_0)/2}U(O)|\Psi_0\rangle$$

which are parametrized in a similar way as perturbations outside horizon (i.e. by unitaries  $U(O)$ ) — yet the perturbations are undetectable by single trace operators.

This indicates the existence of a seemingly **causally disconnected region of spacetime in the bulk**, whose natural interpretation is the region behind the horizon.

The tilde operators cause transitions between these states.

**But the existence of these states is rather robust (no need to use state-dependent operators)**

They exist in any chaotic statistical system. What is their meaning for the strongly coupled QGP?

Additional evidence that large AdS black holes have a smooth

Thank you