## Linearity of Holographic Entanglement Entropy

1606.xxxxx [AA, X. dong, B. Swingle]

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This is NOT fine: This is a microscopic measure of entanglement







<u>Operator equals entropy</u>... You Ryu-Takayanagi people have to fix that!

#### What do we have to fix?

• Entanglement Entropy (EE):

 $S_R \left( |\psi\rangle \right) = -Tr_R \rho_R \ln \rho_R$  $\rho_R = tr_{\bar{R}} |\psi\rangle \langle \psi|$ 

#### What do we have to fix?

• Entanglement Entropy (EE):

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- But it CAN be written as the expectation value of a linear operator!
- However, this operator gives the correct result only within this specific state.

Let's demonstrate this with an example...

#### Example: Two Qubit Hilbert Space

- This is spanned by the product states:  $|00
  angle, \ |11
  angle, \ |10
  angle, \ |01
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- Since the entropy in ANY product state is zero, it is easy to convince yourself that it must be the <u>zero operator</u>.
- But then, what about entangled states:  $|\psi\rangle = \frac{|00
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- Does this mean that the area operator is a <u>'nonlinear'</u> <u>and 'state dependent'</u> operator? But what about the intuition from canonical quantum gravity?
- Is this perhaps a new insight into quantum gravity?!!

#### No...

#### l will

- provide a not-so-drastic resolution of this issue.
- show that in certain regimes the EE in holographic theories does behaves like a linear operator.
- demonstrate this by computing the EE of an interval in states dual to macroscopic superpositions of distinct geometries.

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The goal would be to compare the results on both sides of the duality. I will focus on  $AdS_3/CFT_2$ 

On the Bulk: Motivate how I expect the area operator to behave.

<u>On the Boundary:</u> Rely heavily on 1+1 holographic CFT techniques to compute the EE using the replica trick.

#### The RT Proposal

[Ryu, Takayanagi]

 Ryu-Takayanagi: EE of subregion R is given by the area of the minimal area surface anchored and homologous to R

$$S(R, |\psi\rangle) = \langle \psi | \hat{A}(X_{min}) | \psi \rangle$$





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 The question: How do the Entropy and Area behave under superpositions of geometries?

# The Area Operator of RT $\hat{A}(X_{min})$



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#### 4. Fairly Diagonal in a Semi-Classical Basis

• Fluctuations in semi-classical states vanish as  $G_N \sim \frac{1}{c} \rightarrow 0$ 

 $X_{min}$ 

 $E_R$ 

$$\hat{A}_{ij} = A_i \delta_{ij} + \frac{1}{c^{\#}} e^{S\left(\frac{E_i + E_j}{2}\right)} R_{ij}$$

#### The Area Operator of RT A Prediction

• The takeaway:

Since the off-diagonal terms are suppressed, <u>the expectation value</u> of the area operator in a superposition will simply be the average of the area in each branch of the wavefunction.

• Extending the RT formula, we make the prediction:

$$\lim_{c \to \infty} \frac{S_R\left(\sum_i \alpha_i |\psi_i\rangle\right) - \sum_i |\alpha_i|^2 S_R\left(|\psi_i\rangle\right)}{c} = 0$$

## EE of a Superposition

#### EE of a Superposition

- Now let's discuss what the EE looks like for a superposition of macroscopically distinct semi-classical states. We want to compare this to how the area operator behaves.
- We will consider two cases:
  - Superpositions of TFD's of different temperature.
  - Superpositions of single sided pure states.

### EE of a Superposition TFDs of Different Temperature

• Let's consider the state  $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i |\beta_i\rangle$ 

where 
$$|\beta_i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_E e^{\frac{-\beta_i E}{2}} |E\rangle_L |E\rangle_R$$

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 $Tr\rho_R^n \sim \sum_{i=1}^M |\alpha_i|^{2n} Tr\rho_i^n \Longrightarrow S_R = -\partial_n Tr\rho_R^n = \sum_{i=1}^M |\alpha_i|^2 S_i - \sum_{i=1}^M |\alpha_i|^2 \ln |\alpha_i|^2$ 

EE of a Superposition **TFDs of Different Temperature** • Let's consider the state  $|\Psi
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$$Tr\rho^{n} = \langle 0 | \left( \sum_{i} \alpha_{i}^{*} \mathcal{O}_{i}^{\dagger} \right)^{n} \sigma_{n}(z, \bar{z}) \sigma_{-n}(1, 1) \left( \sum_{i} \alpha_{i} \mathcal{O}_{i} \right)^{n} | 0 \rangle$$

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 Averaging breaks down once VI Block dominance fails. This occurs when  $M \sim e^c$ 

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- The entropy of mixing piece is truly a nonlinearity: One can never end up with logarithms of amplitudes when taking expectation values of linear operators.
- RT seems very resilient! I hoped to find something wrong with the Area piece without resorting to  $e^c$  states!

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$$S(\mathcal{I}, |\Psi\rangle) = \langle \Psi | \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{I}} | \Psi \rangle$$

and consider such a state defined on a product Hilbert space of two CFTs

$$|\beta\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_{E} e^{\frac{-\beta E}{2}} |E\rangle_L |E\rangle_R$$

• Now apply RT for a subregion  $\mathcal{I}_R$  of the right CFT  $S(\mathcal{I}_R, |\beta\rangle) = \langle \beta | \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{I}_R} | \beta \rangle = \sum_E \frac{e^{-\beta E}}{Z(\beta)} \langle E | \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{\mathcal{I}_R} | E \rangle$ 

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Pure State

This behavior has a nice bulk interpretation

 $S(\mathcal{I}_R, |\beta)$ 

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• This makes sense: the homology constraint is sensitive to whether the two CFTs are connected via a wormhole. This notion we know is not a linear observable.

#### Lessons..

- That EE in holographic theories behaves like a linear operator within subspaces of dimension  $\ll e^c$ .
- Maybe this is a general lesson that 'State-dependent' quantities can behave like linear operators within certain subspaces. Is there a Complexity Operator?
- The Homology prescription is not linear in the CFT.
- Some open questions:
  - Single Sided Entropy of Mixing?
  - FLM corrections?
  - Multiple intervals?

• To study this further, consider the following approximate form of the TFD:

$$\widetilde{TFD} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} \sum_{i=1}^{e^{2\pi\sqrt{cE_s/3}}} e^{\frac{-\beta E_s}{2}} |E_i\rangle_L |E_i\rangle_R$$
$$= e^{-\frac{\pi^2 c}{3\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^{e^{2\pi^2 c/3\beta}} \mathcal{O}_i^L \otimes \mathcal{O}_i^R |0\rangle_L |0\rangle_R$$

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Actually, let's restrict the number of terms,  $M \leq e^{2\pi^2 c/3\beta}$ 

$$|\text{Mixed}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i=1}^{M} \mathcal{O}_{i}^{L} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{i}^{R} |0\rangle_{L} |0\rangle_{R}$$

and compute the EE of an interval on the right CFT.

• The entropy of an interval

$$S_{\text{Mixed}} = \text{Min}\left(\frac{c}{3}\ln\left[\frac{\beta}{\pi\epsilon}\sinh\left(\frac{l\pi}{\beta}\right)\right] \; ; \; \ln M + \frac{c}{3}\ln\left[\frac{\beta}{\pi\epsilon}\sinh\left(\frac{(2\pi-l)\pi}{\beta}\right)\right] \; \right)$$
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• This is just an analogy. We're not sure exactly what the dual looks like.



• <u>Upshot</u>: A different Area operator needs to be used for different  $\ln M$ . Each operator is linear, but the prescription of choosing the 'right' operator is not.

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