

# A holographic construction of CFT excited states

Kostas Skenderis



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Southampton**

Microstructure of Black Holes  
Kyoto, Japan  
24 November 2015

# The microstructure of black holes

- A central question in black hole physics is what are the microstates that account for entropy of the black hole.
- With AdS/CFT, it became clear that we are counting are **states of the dual CFT**.
- BUT what are the **microstates in the geometric regime**?

# AdS/CFT and Fuzzballs

The AdS/CFT argument [KS, Taylor (2007)]:

- For every **state of the CFT**, there should exist a regular **Asymptotically AdS** solution that captures the **vevs of gauge invariant operator in that state**.
- Consider now one of the supersymmetric states that accounts for the entropy of, say, the Strominger-Vafa black hole. Associated with this state there must exist an **Asymptotically AdS** solution.
- Since this is a **pure state** the corresponding geometry must be **horizon-free**. Solutions with horizons have **entropy** and thus cannot be associated with pure states; **horizons** are associated with **thermal states**.

# AdS/CFT and Fuzzballs

- Thus there should exist  $\exp(S)$  regular horizon-free solutions, one for each state counted to account for the black hole entropy. This is precisely the **fuzzball proposal**.
  - This argument however does not imply that the solutions would be **well-described by supergravity**. Most of the states will be associated with **stringy solutions**.
- How many solutions do we expect within SUGRA?

# Holographic anatomy

- In previous works, one typically **started from a supergravity solution** and extracted the holographic data (sources and/or vevs)
- One may then use this data to check whether **educated guesses** for the dual state are consistent with the holographic data.
- This was applied successfully in a number of non-trivial examples (Coulomb branch solution [KS, Taylor (2006)], LLM solutions [KS, Taylor (2007)], fuzzball solutions [Kanitscheider, KS, Taylor (2007)].

# Holographic reconstruction

➤ In this talk, we will go back to basics and ask the converse:

Given a state can we explicitly work out the bulk solution?

# References

- KS, Ariana Christodoulou, [Holographic construction of CFT excited states](#), to appear

Earlier relevant work:

- S. de Haro, S. Solodukhin, KS, [Holographic reconstruction of space-time and renormalization in AdS/CFT](#)  
Commun.Math.Phys. 217 (2001) 595-622 . hep-th/0002230.
- KS, B. van Rees, [Real-time gauge/gravity duality](#), Phys.Rev.Lett. 101 (2008) 081601, 0805.0150; [Real-time gauge/gravity duality: prescription, renormalization and examples](#), JHEP 0905 (2009) 085, 0812.2909.

# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions



# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions

# QFT

- To define a theory we typically give the **Lagrangian**.
- Depending on context we may be interested in:
  - ➡ **vacuum correlators**

$$\langle 0 | O_1(x_1) \cdots O(x_n) | 0 \rangle$$

- ➡ correlators in a **non-trivial states**,

$$\langle \alpha | O_1(x_1) \cdots O(x_n) | \alpha \rangle$$

For example,  $|\alpha\rangle$  may be a state that **spontaneously breaks some of the symmetries**, a **thermal state**, a **non-equilibrium state**, etc.

- The correlators may be **time-ordered**, **Wightman functions**, **advanced**, **retarded** ...

# QFT

- Given a **theory**, a **state** and a **set of operators** there is a unique answer for their correlators.
- Any dual formulation should have the same properties.
- **How does it work in holography?**

# Holography

- Within the **gravity approximation**:
- The dual QFT is represented by:  
An **(asymptotically) AdS solution** of  $(d + 1)$ -dimensional **gravity coupled to matter**.
- **Operators** are dual to **bulk fields** and the **state** is encoded in **subleading terms** in bulk solutions.

# Euclidean vs Lorentzian signature

- If we are interested in **time-independent states** (vacuum state, thermal state) we may **Wick rotate** to Euclidean signature.
- In Lorentzian signature there are **different types of correlators** (time-ordered, Wightman, retarded, etc.).
- In Euclidean QFT there is a **unique type of correlators**.
- So to simplify matters let's initially focus on Euclidean signature.
- We will return to full fledged Lorentzian discussion afterwards.

# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature**
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions

## Bulk scalar field

- Bulk scalar fields  $\Phi$  of mass  $m^2 = \Delta(\Delta - d)$  are dual to operators  $O_\Delta$  of dimension  $\Delta$ .
- The solution of the bulk field equation has an asymptotic expansion of the form [de Haro, Solodukhin, KS (2000)]:

$$\Phi(x, r) = r^{d-\Delta} \phi_{(0)} + \dots + \log r^2 \psi_{(2\Delta-d)} + r^\Delta \phi_{(2\Delta-d)} + \dots$$

- $\phi_{(0)}$  is the source for the dual operator and all blue terms are locally determined by it.
- $\phi_{(2\Delta-d)}$  is related with the expectation value of  $O$ ,

$$\langle O_\Delta \rangle \sim \phi_{(2\Delta-d)}$$

## QFT vs gravity

- We argued earlier that the Lagrangian and the state uniquely specify the correlators.
- The counterpart of this statement on the gravity side is that  $(\phi_{(0)}, \phi_{(2\Delta-d)})$  **uniquely specify a bulk solution**.
- One way to see this is to use a **radial Hamiltonian formalism**, where the radial direction plays the role of time.
- The renormalised radial canonical momentum is

$$\pi_{\Delta} = \langle O_{\Delta} \rangle \sim \phi_{(2\Delta-d)}$$

- By a standard Hamiltonian argument, specifying **the conjugate pair**  $(\phi_{(0)}, \pi_{\Delta})$  **uniquely picks a solution**. [Papadimitriou, KS (2004)]



# Holographic reconstruction I

Given QFT data  $(\phi_{(0)}, \langle O_{\Delta} \rangle)$  there is a unique solution  $\Phi(x, r)$  of the bulk field equations.

## QFT vs gravity

- In QFT the vacuum structure is a **dynamical question**: in general, one **cannot tune** the value of  $\langle O_\Delta \rangle$ .
- The counterpart of this statement in gravity is that **regularity in the interior** selects  $\langle O_\Delta \rangle$ .
- A **generic pair**  $(\phi_{(0)}, \pi_\Delta)$  leads to a **singular solution**.

# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature**
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions

# New issues

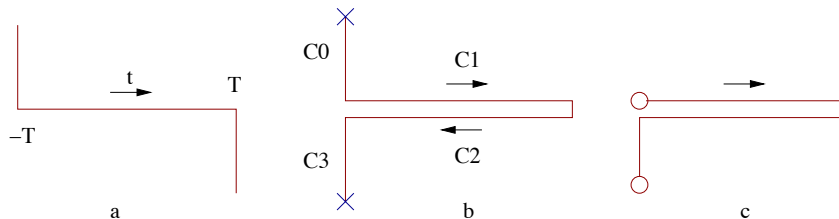
- On the gravity side:
  - In Lorentzian signature the bulk equations of motion **do not have a unique solution given boundary conditions**. One needs in addition **initial conditions**.
  - There are non-trivial **normalisable** modes that vanish at the boundary.
- On the QFT side:
  - Given a **Lagrangian** and **operators** there is **more than one type of correlator** one may wish to compute.
  - One may wish to compute **time-ordered, anti-time ordered, Wightman products**, etc. **on non-trivial states**.

# QFT

On the QFT side one can summarise the new data needed by

- providing a contour in the complex time plane
- specifying where operators are inserted in this contour.

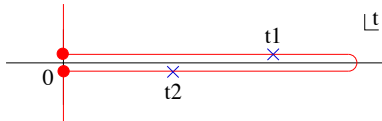
## Examples



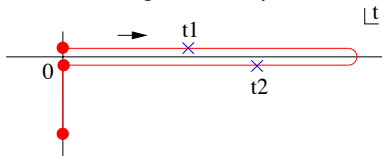
- a Vacuum-to-vacuum contour: computes correlators  $\langle 0|T(\dots)|0\rangle$
- b In-in contour: computes correlators  $\langle \alpha|\dots|\alpha\rangle$
- c Thermal contour: computes thermal correlators

## Examples

- Wightman in-in 2-point function,  $\langle 0|O(x)O(y)|0\rangle$



- Thermal Wightman 2-point function.



# Real-time gauge/gravity duality [van Rees, KS (2008)]

The holographic prescription is to use "piece-wise" holography:

- **Real segments** are associated with **Lorentzian solutions**,
- **Imaginary segments** are associated with **Euclidean solutions**,
- Solutions are **matched** at the **corners**.





## Comments

- In the extended space-time associated to a given contour, **boundary conditions** and **regularity in the interior** **uniquely fix the bulk solution**.
- The '**Euclidean caps**' can also be thought of as Hartle-Hawking wave functions.

## Holographic reconstruction II: Lorentzian case

Given QFT data  $(\phi_{(0)}, \langle O_{\Delta} \rangle)$  and a **contour in the complex time plane** there is a unique solution  $\Phi(x, r)$  of the bulk field equations.

# Outline

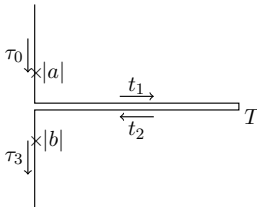
- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states**
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions

## Excited states

- Excited states are obtained by acting with operators on the CFT vacuum,

$$|\Delta\rangle = O_\Delta|0\rangle$$

- Using the in-in formalism one may compute correlation functions in this state:



- This means that we are considering the path integral

$$Z[\phi_{(0)}] = \int [\mathcal{D}\varphi] \exp \left( -i \int_C dt d^{d-1}x \sqrt{-g_{(0)}} (\mathcal{L}_{QFT} + \phi_{(0)} O_\Delta) \right)$$

# 1-point functions

- In preparation for the holographic discussion let us discuss the 1-point function,

$$\langle O_{\Delta}(x) \rangle = \int [\mathcal{D}\varphi] O_{\Delta}(x) \exp \left( -i \int_{\mathcal{C}} dt d^{d-1}x \sqrt{-g_{(0)}} (\mathcal{L}_{QFT} + \phi_{(0)} O_{\Delta}) \right)$$

- To leading order in the sources,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O_{\Delta}(x) \rangle &= \langle 0 | O_{\Delta}(x) O_{\Delta}(0) | 0 \rangle \phi_{(0)}^{-} + \phi_{(0)}^{+} \langle 0 | O_{\Delta}^{\dagger}(\infty) O_{\Delta}(x) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \langle 0 | O_{\Delta}(x) | \Delta \rangle \phi_{(0)}^{-} + \phi_{(0)}^{+} \langle \Delta | O_{\Delta}(x) | 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The 2-point functions here are Wightman functions, not time-ordered.

## Remarks

- Setting  $\phi_{(0)}^+ = 0, \phi_{(0)}^- = 1$  and taking  $x \rightarrow \infty$  computes the **norm of the state**.
- The orthogonality of the 2-point functions implies that

$$\langle O_{\Delta_i}(x) \rangle = 0, \quad \Delta_i \neq \Delta$$

to **linear order in sources**.

- However, to **higher order in the sources**,

$$\langle O_{\Delta_i}(x) \rangle \neq 0, \quad \Delta_i \neq \Delta$$

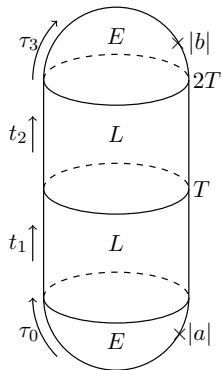
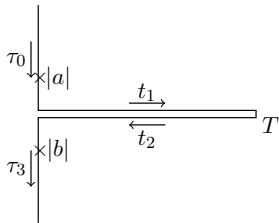
# Holographic construction

- In holography each gauge invariant operator  $O_{\Delta_i}$  is mapped to a corresponding **bulk field**  $\Phi_i$ .
- If we are interested in the holographic construction of the **CFT state**  $|\Delta\rangle$  **to leading order in the sources**, it suffices to consider only the corresponding **field**  $\Phi$  **to linear order**.
- **To higher order** one needs to consider **other bulk fields as well**.



# Holographic construction

The time contour and the corresponding bulk space-time are:



## Procedure

- We need to find **regular solutions** of the (linear) bulk equations with the prescribed boundary conditions in each part of the extended spacetime.
- Impose the **matching conditions**.
- I will present the results for a scalar field in  **$AdS_3$  in global coordinates**.
- We have also carried the same computation in **Poincaré coordinates**.

## Obtaining the solution: Euclidean solutions

- In the past cap we consider a solution with a delta function source:

$$\Phi_E^- = r^{d-\Delta} \phi_{(0)}^-(\tau_0, \phi) + \dots, \quad \phi_{(0)}^-(\tau_0, \phi) = \delta(\tau_0 - a)\delta(\phi)$$

- This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_E^-(\tau_0, r, \phi) = & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \left( \frac{i}{4\pi^2} \left[ \theta(-\tau_0 - |a|) \phi_{(0)}^-(\omega_{nk}^-, k) e^{-\omega_{nk}^- \tau_0 + ik\phi} + \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \theta(\tau_0 + |a|) \phi_{(0)}^-(\omega_{nk}^+, k) e^{-\omega_{nk}^+ \tau_0 + ik\phi} \right] + d_{nk}^- e^{-\omega_{nk}^- \tau_0 + ik\phi} \right) g(\omega_{nk}, |k|, r) \end{aligned}$$

where  $g(\omega_{nk}, |k|, r) \sim r^\Delta$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$  and  $\omega_{nk}^\pm$  are the frequencies of the normalizable modes.

- There is a similar expression at the future EAdS cap.

# Lorentzian solution I

- The Lorentzian solution in the first Lorentzian part is a sum of normalisable modes

$$\Phi_L^1(t_1, r, \phi) = \sum_{n,k} (a_{nk} e^{-i\omega_{nk}^+ t_1 + ik\phi} + a_{nk}^\dagger e^{i\omega_{nk}^+ t_1 - ik\phi}) ig(\omega_{nk}, |k|, r).$$

- There is a similar expression for the second Lorentzian part.

## Matching conditions

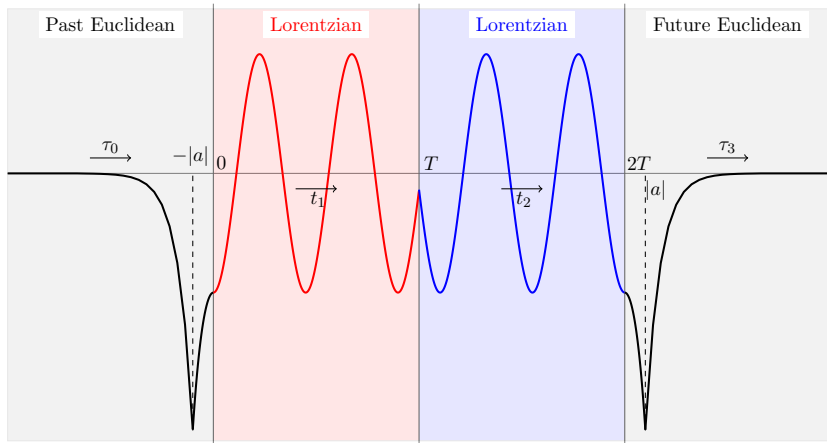
- The matching conditions are continuity of fields and momenta along the contour:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Phi_E^-|_{\tau_0=0} &= \Phi_L^1|_{t_1=0}, & \partial_{\tau_0} \Phi_E^-|_{\tau_0=0} &= -i\partial_{t_1} \Phi_L^1|_{t_1=0} \\
 \Phi_L^1|_{t_1=T} &= \Phi_L^2|_{t_2=T}, & \partial_{t_1} \Phi_L^1|_{t_1=T} &= -\partial_{t_2} \Phi_L^2|_{t_2=T} \\
 \Phi_L^2|_{t_2=2T} &= \Phi_E^+|_{\tau_3=0}, & \partial_{t_2} \Phi_L^2|_{t_2=2T} &= -i\partial_{\tau_3} \Phi_E^+|_{\tau_3=0}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- The matching conditions **fix all constants in terms of the sources**. In particular, they imply

$$a_{nk} \sim \phi_{(0)}^-(\omega_{nk}^+, k), \quad a_{nk}^\dagger \sim \phi_{(0)}^+(\omega_{nk}^-, k)$$

# The solution across the matching surface



Amplitude of a single mode as a function of (Euclidean and then Lorentzian) time for fixed  $r, \phi$ .

# Holographic 1-point function

- The 1-point function is extracted from the asymptotic,

$$\Phi(x, r) = \cdots + r^\Delta \phi_{(2\Delta-d)} + \cdots, \quad \langle O_\Delta \rangle \sim \phi_{(2\Delta-d)}$$

- In our case the solution is normalizable, so

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O_\Delta \rangle &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-\Delta} \Phi_L^1(r, t, \phi) \\ &\sim \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \sum_{n, k} \left( \phi_{(0)}^-(\omega_{nk}^+, k) e^{-i\omega_{nk}^+ t + ik\phi} + \phi_{(0)}^+(\omega_{nk}^-, k) e^{i\omega_{nk}^+ t - ik\phi} \right) ig(\omega_{nk}, |k|, r) \end{aligned}$$

- The limit and the sums can be evaluated exactly [van Rees, KS (2008)] leading to

$$\langle O_\Delta(x) \rangle = \langle 0 | O_\Delta(x) O_\Delta(0) | 0 \rangle \phi_{(0)}^- + \phi_{(0)}^+ \langle 0 | O_\Delta^\dagger(\infty) O_\Delta(x) | 0 \rangle$$

in exact agreement with our earlier QFT computation!

# Summary

Bulk excitations (normalizable modes) are dual to excited CFT states.



## The 'extrapolation dictionary'

- An *a priori* different dictionary was suggested in the early days of AdS/CFT [Banks, Douglas, Horowitz, Martinec (1998)].
- **Boundary correlation functions** can be obtained as a limit of **bulk correlation functions**:

$$\langle O_{\Delta}(x_1) \cdots O_{\Delta}(x_n) \rangle_{QFT} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} r^{-n\Delta} \langle \Phi(x_1, r) \cdots \Phi(x_n, r) \rangle_{Bulk}$$

- This prescription is equivalent to the standard one for scalars in a fixed background [Harlow, Stanford (2011)]. It also agrees with the real-time prescription for non-equilibrium scalar 2-point functions [Keranen, Kleinert (2014)].

## Bulk reconstruction

- The extrapolate dictionary suggests the following map between boundary and bulk operators:

$$\Phi(x, r) = \int d^d x' K(x'|r, x) O_{\Delta}(x')$$

$K$  is called the smearing function.

- Bulk correlation functions are then related to boundary correlation functions by

$$\langle \Phi(x_1, r_1) \cdots \Phi(x_n, r_n) \rangle_{Bulk} = \int d^d x'_1 \cdots d^d x'_n K(x'_1|r_1, x_1) \cdots K(x'_n|r_n, x_n) \langle O_{\Delta}(x'_1) \cdots O_{\Delta}(x'_n) \rangle_{QFT}$$

[Banks, Douglas, Horowitz, Martinec (1998)], ... [Hamilton, Kabat, Lifschytz, Lowe (2006)] ...

## Smearing function

- In our discussion we reconstructed the bulk solution from  $\langle O_\Delta(x') \rangle$
- One can also follow similar steps to those in [Hamilton, Kabat, Lifschytz, Lowe (2006)] to show that

$$\Phi_L(x, r) = \int d^d x' K(x'|r, x) \langle O_\Delta(x') \rangle$$

In our derivation the smearing function is **automatically convergent** due to  **$i\epsilon$ 's that originate from the Euclidean caps**. (In *Hamilton et al* these insertions were added by hand.)

## Remarks

- In our derivation the relation was between **classical fields in the bulk** and **expectation values of boundary operators in a specific state**.
- **This appears different than a map between bulk and boundary operators.**
- If we consider a quantized bulk field

$$\hat{\Phi}_L(t_1, r, \phi) = \sum_{n,k} (\hat{a}_{nk} e^{-i\omega_{nk}^+ t_1 + ik\phi} + \hat{a}_{nk}^\dagger e^{i\omega_{nk}^+ t_1 - ik\phi}) ig(\omega_{nk}, |k|, r)$$

where now  $a_{nk}, a_{nk}^\dagger$  are creation and annihilation operators, then our results would imply that  $\phi_{(0)}^\pm$  **are quantum operators**.

- **However, from the QFT perspective  $\phi_{(0)}^\pm$  are classical sources that couple to quantum operators.**

## Beyond linear fields

This boundary-to-bulk map cannot hold in this form in complete generality.

- If the QFT contains operators with dimensions,  $O_{\Delta_1}, O_{\Delta_2}, O_{\Delta_3}$ , with  $\Delta_3 = \Delta_1 + \Delta_2$ . Then [KS, Taylor (2006)],

$$\langle O_{\Delta_3} \rangle = \pi_{\Delta_3} + c_{12} \pi_{\Delta_1} \pi_{\Delta_2}$$

where  $c_{12}$  is a constant. This suggests

$$\Phi_3(x, r) = \int d^d x' K(x'|r, x) \langle O_{\Delta_3}(x') \rangle + \int d^d x' K_1(x'|r, x) \langle O_{\Delta_1}(x') \rangle \langle O_{\Delta_2}(x') \rangle$$

- Locality also suggest non-linear terms should be added to the map [Kabat, Lifschytz, Lowe (2011)] ...[Kabat, Lifschytz (2015)].

# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs**
- 6 Conclusions

# How many fuzzballs do we expect within SUGRA?

- We argued earlier that regular supergravity solutions are uniquely specified by the 1-point functions of the dual operators,

$$\langle \alpha | O_i | \alpha \rangle$$

- Within supergravity we only have access to fields dual to chiral primary operators.

## D1-D5 system

- Ramond ground states are given by

$$|\alpha\rangle = O_{\alpha}^R|O\rangle$$

where  $O_{\alpha}^R$  is a 1/4 BPS operator obtained from chiral primary by spectra flow.

- Therefore, our earlier analysis shows that there is a linearized solution for every such state.
  - Barring linearization instability, there should exist a regular supergravity solution for every such state.
- ⇒ **All of the entropy of D1-D5 system may be accounted for within supergravity.**



## D1-D5-P system

- In this case we need to add left moving excitations

$$|\alpha\rangle = O_\alpha|O\rangle$$

The operator  $O_\alpha$  breaks another 1/2 of SUSY relative to R ground states.

- Our earlier analysis shows now that there is **no a linearized solution for any such state.**

Since CFT 2-point functions are diagonal and here we would need the 2-point function of a 1/4 BPS and 1/8 BPS operator.

# D1-D5-P system

- At next order we would need the 3-point function of a R ground state operator with two 1/8 BPS operators to be non-zero.
- For this to be case the OPE of two  $O_\alpha$  operators to contain a R ground state.
- ⇒ These operators should be in correspondence with R ground states.
- ⇒ This suggests that the number of supergravity fuzzball solutions for the D1-D5-P system has the same growth as the 2 charge solutions.

# Outline

- 1 Generalities
- 2 Euclidean signature
- 3 Lorentzian signature
- 4 Holographic construction of excited CFT states
- 5 Fuzzballs
- 6 Conclusions**

# Conclusions

- I discussed how **QFT data reconstruct classical fields in the bulk**, both in Euclidean and Lorentzian signature.
- The map works in **full generality**.
- I explicitly worked out the dual of the CFT excited state at the **linearized level**.
- It is straightforward (but tedious) to work out the dual at the **non-linear order**. The dual solution would involve many bulk fields.
- I discuss implications for the fuzzball program.