Renormalized entanglement entropy and the number of degrees of freedom

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Goal

For any renormalizable quantum field theory, construct an observable which could:

- probe and characterize quantum entanglement at a given scale.

- track the number of degrees of freedom of the system at a given scale.

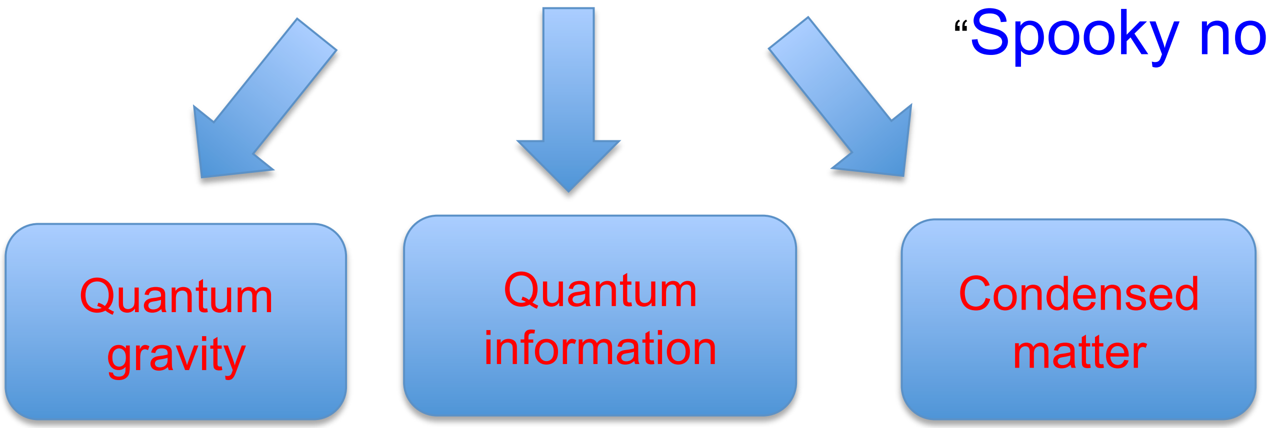
- provide new probes of renormalization group flow.

Quantum entanglement

Quantum entanglement

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle\right)$$

"Spooky non-locality"



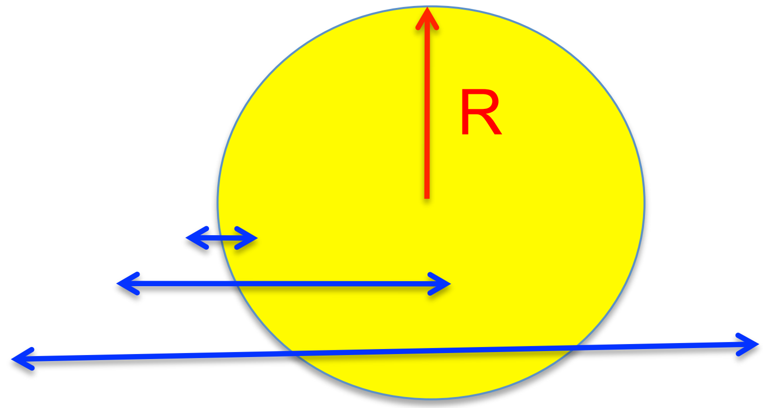
Bi-partite entanglement: entanglement entropy

$$S^{(\Sigma)} = -\mathrm{Tr}\rho_A \log \rho_A$$

(will focus on vacuum)

Entanglement entropy for a QFT

Expect it to depend on physics at length scales ranging from size R all the way to short-distance cutoff.



dominated by short-distance physics:

$$S^{(\Sigma)} \propto \frac{A_\Sigma}{\delta^{d-2}} + \cdots$$ δ : Short-distance cutoff

Bombelli et al, Srednicki

ill-defined in the continuum limit: Divergent for a renormalizable QFT

Long range correlations hard to extract.

Common practice:

subtract the UV divergent parts by hand, often ambiguous (e,g. typically not invariant under reparametrizations of the cutoff)

Even after the subtraction, could still depend on physics at scales much smaller than the size of the entangled region.

Free massive fields

For a free massive scalar field for a spherical region in the regime mR >> 1 in d=3:

Herzberg and Wilczek, Heurta

$$S_{\text{scalar}}(mR) = \cancel{\# \frac{R}{\delta}} - \frac{\pi}{6}\, mR - \frac{\pi}{240}\, \frac{1}{mR} + \cdots$$

The finite part diverges linearly in R and does not have a well defined limit in the large R limit.

At long distances, the system contains nothing.

Ideally, we would have liked to have the EE to go to zero.

Entanglement entropy contains too much shor-distance "junk"

In the infinite R limit, it does not reduce to physics at the IR fixed point, and still depends on physics at much shorter length scales.

Would like to be able to directly probe entanglement relations at a given scale.

Would like to understand how entanglement relations change with scale: RG flow of entanglement.

Here we make a simple proposal.

“Renormalized entanglement entropy”

For any entangling (smooth) surface Σ with a scalable size R:

$$\underline{\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(d-2)!!}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-1\right)\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-3\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right)\underline{S^{(\Sigma)}(R)} & \text{d odd} \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)!!}R\frac{d}{dR}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-2\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right)\underline{S^{(\Sigma)}(R)} & \text{d even} \end{cases} .$$

d=2: $\mathcal{S}_2(R) = R\frac{dS}{dR}$

d=3: $\mathcal{S}_3^{(\Sigma)}(R) = R\frac{\partial S^{(\Sigma)}}{\partial R} - S^{(\Sigma)}$

d=4:

$$\mathcal{S}_4^{(\Sigma)}(R) = \frac{1}{2}R\partial_R(R\partial_R S^{(\Sigma)} - 2S^{(\Sigma)}) = \frac{1}{2}\left(R^2\frac{\partial^2 S^{(\Sigma)}}{\partial R^2} - R\frac{\partial S^{(\Sigma)}}{\partial R}\right)$$

Renormalized entanglement entropy

Will show:

- UV finite, well-defined in the continuum limit

  R-independent for a scale invariant system $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = s_d^{(\Sigma)}$

- For a general quantum field theory $$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to \begin{cases} s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})} & R \to 0 \\ s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{IR})} & R \to \infty \end{cases} .$$

➢ It is most sensitive to degrees of freedom at scale R.

Divergence structure of entanglement entropy

The divergent part of EE should only depend on local physics at the cutoff scale near the entangling surface,

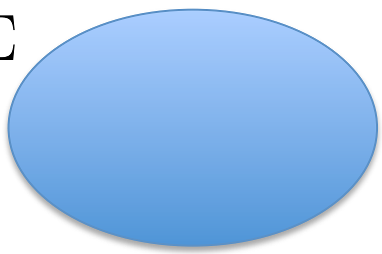
$$S_{\rm div}^{(\Sigma)} = \int_\Sigma d^{d-2}\sigma \sqrt{h} F(K_{ab}, h_{ab})$$

h: induced metric,
K: extrinsic curvature

F: sum of all possible geometric invariants

Grover, Turner, Vishwanath

Σ



$$S_{\rm div}^{(\Sigma)} = S_{\rm div}^{(\bar{\Sigma})}$$

Function F must be even in K.

$$S_{\rm div}^{(\Sigma)} = a_1 R^{d-2} + a_2 R^{d-4} + \cdots$$

(scalable surface)

a_1,a_2 : divergent coefficients, in general complicated functions of dimensional parameters of a system.

No negative powers of R.

UV finiteness

Given: $$S^{(\Sigma)}_{\rm div} = a_1 R^{d-2} + a_2 R^{d-4} + \cdots$$

$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(d-2)!!}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-1\right)\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-3\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right) S^{(\Sigma)}(R) & \text{d odd} \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)!!} R\frac{d}{dR}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-2\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right) S^{(\Sigma)}(R) & \text{d even} \end{cases} .$$

will then get rid of all UV divergent terms for any QFT.

The differential operator also gets rid of finite terms of the same R-dependence.

Such terms can be modified by redefining the cutoff, thus not well defined in the continuum limit (“contaminated”).

$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ is thus UV finite, and unambiguous (independent of reparametrizations of the cutoff).

CFT

For a scale invariant system, we must have:

$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = s_d^{(\Sigma)}$$

Converting it back to the EE itself, we then have

$$S^{(\Sigma)} = \begin{cases} \frac{R^{d-2}}{\delta_0^{d-2}} + \cdots + \frac{R}{\delta_0} + (-1)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} s_d^{(\Sigma)} & \text{odd d} \\ \frac{R^{d-2}}{\delta_0^{d-2}} + \cdots + \frac{R^2}{\delta_0^2} + (-1)^{\frac{d-2}{2}} s_d^{(\Sigma)} \log \frac{R}{\delta_0} + \text{const} & \text{even d} \end{cases}$$

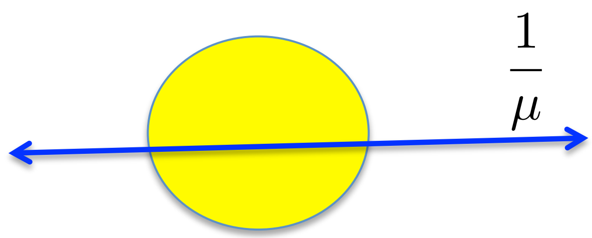
This agrees with what was previously found from holographic calculations. (Ryu, Takayanagi)

$s_d^{(\Sigma)}$ is the “universal” part of the entanglement entropy.

General QFTs

Contains mass parameters: $\mu_1, \mu_2, \cdots$

In the small R limit: $S^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to S^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})}, \quad R \to 0$



$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})}, \quad R \to 0$$

In the large R limit: $\left(R \gg \frac{1}{\mu_1}, \frac{1}{\mu_2}, \cdots\right)$

$S^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ depends on physics at all scales from δ_0 to R including $\mu_1, \mu_2, \cdots$

Introducing a floating cutoff δ : $\frac{1}{\mu_1}, \frac{1}{\mu_2}, \cdots \ll \delta \ll R$

$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{IR})}, \quad R \to \infty$$

General QFTs

Similarly, for any length L << R,

$$L \ll \delta \ll R$$

$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ should not be sensitive to contributions from d.o.f. at scale L.

(Their contributions should be suppressed by positive powers of L/R.)

$\Rightarrow$ $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ can be considered to directly probe and characterize entanglement at scale R.

The R-dependence can be interpreted as describing the "RG" flow of entanglement entropy with distance scale.

Summary

$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{(d-2)!!}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-1\right)\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-3\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right)S^{(\Sigma)}(R) & \text{d odd} \\ \frac{1}{(d-2)!!}R\frac{d}{dR}\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-2\right)\cdots\left(R\frac{d}{dR}-(d-2)\right)S^{(\Sigma)}(R) & \text{d even} \end{cases} .$$

- UV finite, well-defined in the continuum limit

- R-independent for a scale invariant system $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = s_d^{(\Sigma)}$

- For a general quantum field theory $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to \begin{cases} s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})} & R \to 0 \\ s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{IR})} & R \to \infty \end{cases} .$

- most sensitive to degrees of freedom at scale R.

can be considered as describing the RG flow of entanglement entropy

Note: definition not unique, simplest

Gapped systems

For a free massive scalar field for a spherical region in the regime mR >> 1 in d=3:

$$S_{\text{scalar}}(mR) = \#\cancel{\frac{R}{\delta}} - \cancel{\frac{\pi}{6}mR} - \frac{\pi}{240}\frac{1}{mR} + \cdots$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{scalar}}(mR) = +\frac{\pi}{120}\frac{1}{mR} + \cdots \quad \to 0$$

In odd d, for generic gapped systems, we expect: (e.g. d=3)

$$\mathcal{S}_3^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to \gamma, \qquad R \to \infty \qquad \gamma :$$ Topological entanglement entropy

(Kitaev, Preskill; Levin, Wen)

In even d: $$\mathcal{S}_{2n}^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to 0, \quad R \to \infty, \qquad n = 1, 2, \cdots$$

Renyi entropy

$$R_n(A) = \frac{1}{1-n} \log \mathrm{Tr} \rho_A^n$$

One can similarly define "renormalized Renyi entropies."

All the earlier discussions can be carried over.

Applications

Use dimensional analysis to deduce qualitative features of EE of various systems

CFT: $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) = s_d^{(\Sigma)}$

Wolf; Gioev, Klich
Swingle,
Swingle, Senthil

(non)-Fermi liquids:

$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \propto k_F^{d-2} R^{d-2} \propto A_{FS} A_\Sigma, \qquad R \to \infty$$

$$S^\Sigma(R) \sim k_F^{d-2} R^{d-2} \log(k_F R) \sim A_{FS} A_\Sigma \log(A_{FS} A_\Sigma)$$

For co-dimensional n Fermi surfaces:

$$S^\Sigma(R) \propto \begin{cases} (k_F R)^{d-n} \log(k_F R) & \text{n even} \\ (k_F R)^{d-n} & \text{n odd} \end{cases}$$

Application: EE and the number of d.o.f.

$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ characterizes entanglement at scale R.

describes the RG flow of entanglement entropy

Could $\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ give a measure of the number of d.o.f. at scale R?

Given
$$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R) \to \begin{cases} s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})} & R \to 0 \\ s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{IR})} & R \to \infty \end{cases}$$

If
$$R\frac{d\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)}{dR} < 0$$

$\Rightarrow$
$$s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{UV})} > s_d^{(\Sigma,\mathrm{IR})}$$
i.e. a c-theorem.

d=2

$$\mathcal{S}_2(R) = R\frac{dS}{dR}$$

For a CFT $\qquad \mathcal{S}_2 = \frac{c}{3}$ $\qquad$ Holzhey, Larsen, Wilczek

For Lorentz-invariant, unitary QFTs $\qquad$ Casini and Huerta

$\mathcal{S}_2(R)$ monotonic $\qquad$ alternative proof of Zamolodchikov's c-theorem

Proof uses Lorentz symmetry and strong sub-additivity condition

$$S(A) + S(B) \geq S(A \cap B) + S(A \cup B)$$

Higher dimensions

$\mathcal{S}_d^{(\Sigma)}(R)$ now depends on the shape of Σ.

Will all shapes work?

d=4: for a CFT

Solodukhin

$$s_4^{(\Sigma)} = 2a_4 \int_\Sigma d^2\sigma\sqrt{h}\,E_2 + c_4 \int_\Sigma d^2\sigma\sqrt{h}\,I_2$$

a_4, c_4 : coefficients of trace anomaly

I_2 vanishes for sphere, $\quad s_4^{(\text{sphere})} = 4a_4$

For a general shape, will be a combination of a and c.

Thus only for a sphere, do we always have

$$s_4^{(\Sigma,\text{UV})} > s_4^{(\Sigma,\text{IR})}$$

Higher dimensions (II)

For all even spacetime dimensions:

Myers, Sinha
Casini, Myers, Heurta

$$s_{2n}^{(\mathrm{sphere})} = 4a_{2n}$$

Casini, Myers, Heurta

For all odd dimension: $s_d^{(\mathrm{sphere})} = (\log Z)_{\mathrm{finite}}$

$(\log Z)_{\mathrm{finite}}$: finite part of the Euclidean partition for the CFT on S^d

There are supports that these quantities could satisfy

$$s_d^{(\mathrm{sphere,UV})} > s_d^{(\mathrm{sphere,IR})}$$

Cardy,
Myers, Sinha
Jefferis, Klebanov,
Pufu and Safdi

Thus now focus on a sphere

$\mathcal{S}_d(R)$ if monotonic

- lead to the conjectured c-theorem in all dimensions

- give a scale-dependent measure of the number of d.o.f. for a general QFT.

d=3

$$\mathcal{S}_3(R) = R\frac{dS}{dR} - S$$

Free massive scalar and various holographic examples:

Conjecture: $\mathcal{S}_3(R)$ monotonically decreasing with R
and non-negative

for all Lorentz invariant, unitary QFTs

Monotonicity $\Longleftrightarrow$ $S''(R) < 0$

Casini and Huerta have given a proof shortly after (1202.5650).

But their proof does not appear to give non-negativeness.

d=4

$$\mathcal{S}_4(R) = \frac{1}{2}\left(R^2\frac{d^2S}{dR^2} - R\frac{dS}{dR}\right)$$

Various holographic examples: $\mathcal{S}_4(R)$ neither monotonic nor non-negative

Nevertheless $\mathcal{S}_4(R \to 0) > \mathcal{S}_4(R \to \infty)$ from a-theorem

- the function form should be modified
- Monotonicity of $\mathcal{S}_4$ or its improvement would imply an inequality for S with least three derivatives.

$$R^3\partial_R^3 S + R^2\partial_R^2 S < R\partial_R S$$

not clear it could arise from the strong subadditivity condition.

Application: new probes of renormalization group flow

Behavior near a UV fixed point

In all holographic theories:

For small R $\mathcal{S}_d(R) = s_d^{(\mathrm{UV})} - A(\alpha)(\mu R)^{2\alpha} + \cdots \; A(\alpha) > 0$

$\alpha = d - \Delta$ (source flow) $\qquad \alpha = \Delta$ (vev flow)

$$\mathcal{S}_d = s_d^{(\mathrm{UV})} - O(g^2)$$ g: least relevant coupling

See also Klebanov, Nishioka, Pufu, Safdi

Free massive field in 2+1 dimension:

$$\partial_{m^2 R} \mathcal{S}_3 \Big|_{m^2 R^2 = 0} \neq 0$$

Klebanov, Nishioka, Pufu, Safdi

Behavior near an IR fixed point

HL, Mezei, to appear

$$\tilde{\alpha} = \Delta - d$$

Δ Dimension of leading irrelevant operator

For $\tilde{\alpha} < \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{odd d} \\ 1 & \text{even d} \end{cases}$

For large R $\mathcal{S}_d(R) = s_d^{(\mathrm{IR})} + \dfrac{B(\tilde{\alpha})}{(\tilde{\mu}R)^{2\tilde{\alpha}}} + \cdots \quad B(\tilde{\alpha}) > 0$

$$\sim s_d^{(IR)} + O(g^2)$$

For $\tilde{\alpha}$ outside the above range:

$$\mathcal{S}_d(R) = s_d^{(\mathrm{IR})} + \begin{cases} \frac{\#}{R} + \cdots & \text{odd d} \\ \frac{\#}{R^2} + \cdots & \text{even d} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_d = s_d^{(\mathrm{IR})} + Cg^{\gamma} \quad \gamma = \begin{cases} \tilde{\alpha}^{-1} & \text{odd d} \\ 2\tilde{\alpha}^{-1} & \text{even d} \end{cases} < 2$$

C: "nonlocal"
Sign of C not definite in d=4

“Phase transitions”

We also observed that in holographic systems, the entanglement entropy has “phase transitions” in the Lorentz-invariant vacuum as a function of size:

can be first order or second order

Involving topology change or no topology change

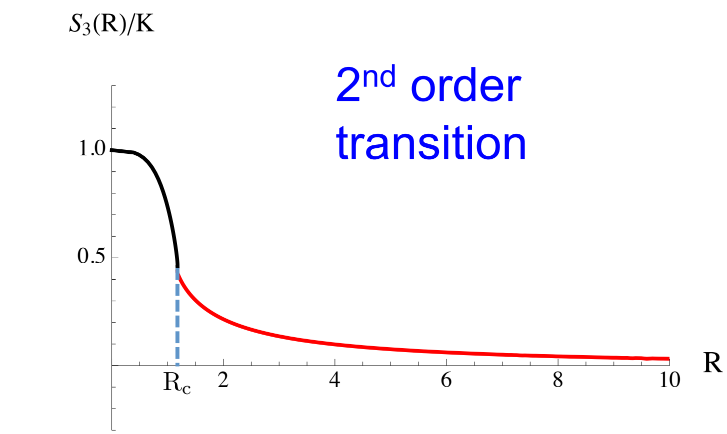
Nishioka and Takayanagi
Klebanov, Kutasov, Murugan
Pakman, Parnachev
Headrick
Albash and Johnson….

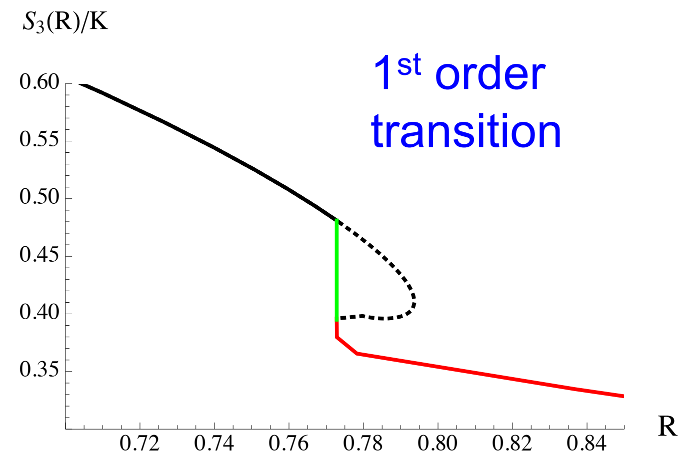
See also Klebanov, Nishioka, Pufu,Safdi

These phase transitions should tell us “something” about RG flow of a system.

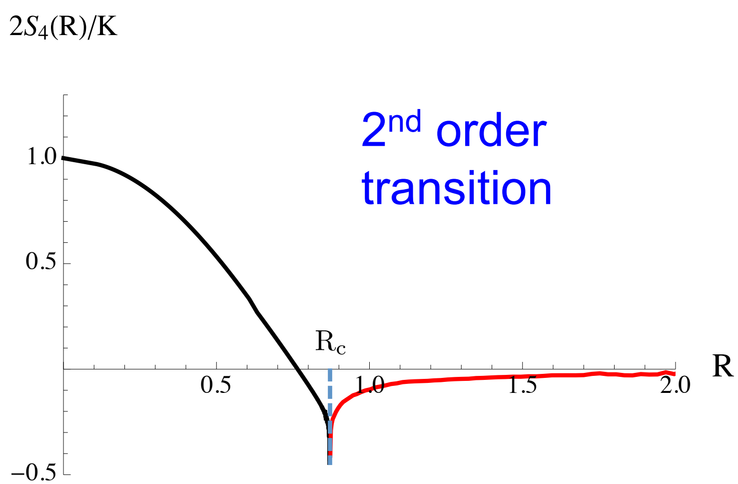
It appears to happens when a flow is “fast”

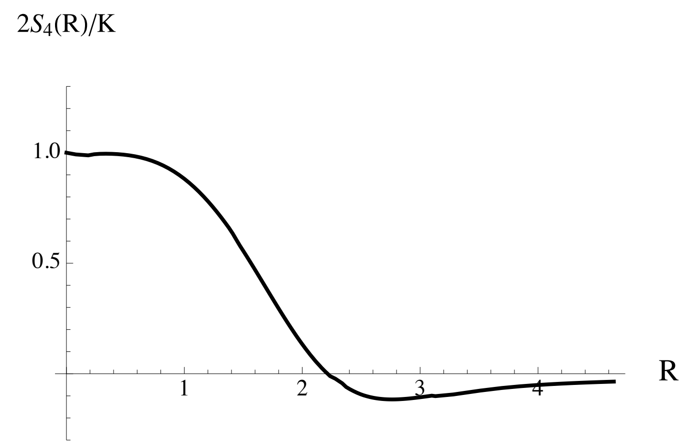
Some examples





d=3



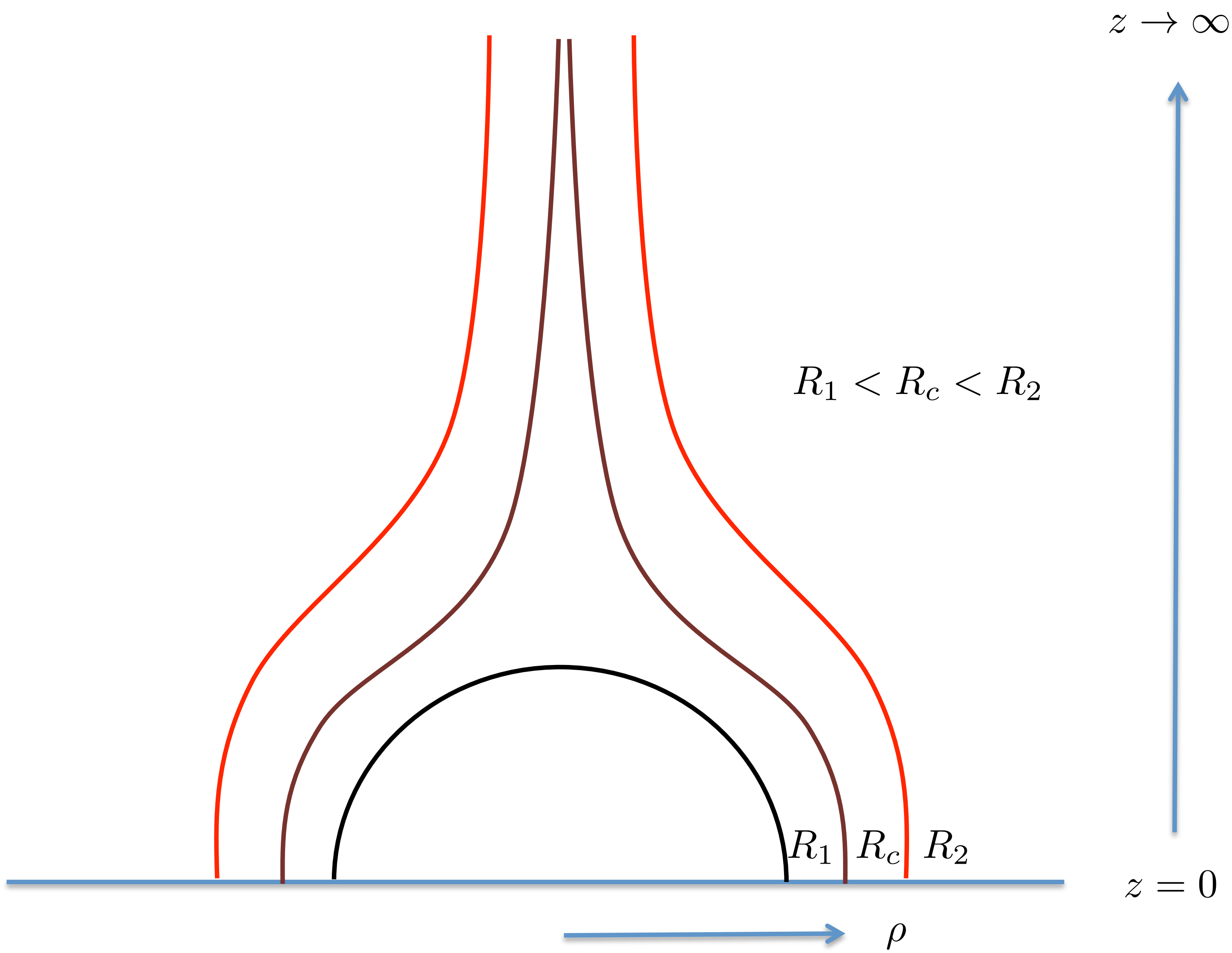


d=4

GPPZ flow (Girardello, Petrini, Porrati, Zaffaroni)

Coulomb branch flow (Freedman, Gubser, Pilch, Warner)

2^{nd} order phase transitions involving topology change



Summary

For any renormalizable quantum field theory (not necessarily Lorentz-invariant), "renormalized entanglement entropy:"

- probe and characterize quantum entanglement at a given scale.
- for d=2,3, C-function, candidate for a measure of the number of degrees of freedom of the system at a given scale (with Lorentz symmetry)
- Non-relativistic ?
- an intrinsically finite definition (mutual information) ?

Thank You !