

# Holography for QFTs in de Sitter

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Conformal boundary of AdS spacetimes
- 3 QFT in dS from AdS
- 4 Toy model: free fermions in dS
- 5 Conclusions

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# Introduction

- The physics of **quantum fields in de Sitter** is important:
- Observations suggest that the cosmological constant in our Universe is positive.
- ➡ Our Universe is **asymptotically de Sitter**.
  
- We believe that the very Early Universe underwent a period of exponential expansion, the inflationary period, where the description was also **quasi-de Sitter**.
- ➡ In slow-roll inflation, many of the cosmological observables are well-approximated by QFT in a fixed dS background.

# QFT in de Sitter

- **Weakly coupled QFT** in a fixed de Sitter background has been studied through the years.
- It is well-known that **light fields**,  $m \ll H$  exhibit infrared divergences at loop order. [Starobinski (1984) ...]
- **The meaning and implications of these IR divergences are still debated** [Starobinski, Yokohama, Ford, Antoniadis, Iliopoulos, Tomaras, Tsamis, Woodard, Weinberg, Burgess, Marolf, Morisson, Zaldariaga, Senatore, Sundrum, Polyakov ....].
- In this work we aim to use holography to discuss **strongly coupled QFTs** in a fixed de Sitter background.

# References

- This is talk in based on work with **José Manuel Penín** and **Ben Withers**  
**Massive holographic QFTs in de Sitter**, SciPost Phys. 12, 182 (2022) and on-going work
- Earlier relevant work includes  
A. Buchel, Ringing in de Sitter spacetime, Nucl. Phys. B 928, 307 (2018)

# Holographic cosmology

- This work is conceptually distinct from **dS/CFT** and **holographic cosmology**. [Strominger (2001)], [Maldacena (2002) ... [McFadden, KS (2009)] ....
- In dS/CFT one seeks to describe a **dS<sub>d+1</sub>** Universe with dynamical gravity via **d-dimensional CFT** with no gravity.
- Here we want to describe a **d dimensional strongly couple QFT on fixed de Sitter background** using **AdS gravity in d + 1 dimensions**.

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# Conformal boundary

- There are many common misconceptions about the **conformal boundary** of AdS.
- Many assume that if you write the metric as

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} (g_{(0)ij}(x) + O(r)) dx^i dx^j$$

then the **boundary is at  $z = 0$**  and the boundary metric is  $g_{(0)ij}(x)$ .

- In general, **this is not correct**.
- If the  **$r$ =constant** slices are **non-compact** then part of the conformal boundary is located **at each value of  $r$** .

# Boundary conformal boundary

- What is **correct** is that if the metric takes the form

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r^2} (g_{(0)ij}(x) + O(r)) dx^i dx^j$$

**AND**

the  $r=\text{constant}$  slices are **compact**

**THEN**

the **boundary** is at  $r = 0$  and  $g_{(0)ij}(x)$  is a **representative of the boundary conformal structure**.

- The conformal boundary **does not depend** on which coordinates we are using.

# AdS and its conformal structure

The metric in global coordinates is given by

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \bar{r}} (-dT^2 + d\bar{r}^2 + \cos^2 \bar{r} d\Omega_{d-1}^2)$$

where  $0 < \bar{r} \leq \pi/2$ .

- The  $\bar{r}$ -constant slices are compact.

(What we usually call AdS is the universal cover of AdS. The time variable in AdS is compact  $-\pi < T < \pi$ .)

- The conformal boundary of  $AdS_{d+1}$  is at  $\bar{r} = 0$  and the boundary is the Einstein Universe  $R \times S^{d-1}$ .
- The bulk metric diverges there: there is a second order pole. So there is no well-defined boundary metric.
- There is however a well-defined conformal structure, i.e. a metric up to a Weyl transformation.

# The boundary conformal structure

- To obtain a boundary metric we use a *defining function*, i.e. a function  $\omega(x)$  which is positive in the interior but has a **single zero at the boundary**. We then define

$$g_{(0)} = \lim_{\bar{r} \rightarrow 0} \omega^2 g$$

This limit exists because the second order pole in  $g$  is canceled by the second order zero of  $\omega^2$ .

- However, any other  $\omega'(x) = \omega(x)e^{\sigma(x)}$  is as good, so what is well-defined here is the conformal class

$$g_{(0)} \sim e^{2\sigma(x)} g_{(0)}$$

- For AdS we may pick  $\omega = \sin \bar{r}$ , and this leads to the **representative**:

$$ds_0^2 = -dt^2 + d\Omega_{d-1}^2$$

This metric is **conformally flat** and **any other conformally flat metric is as good**.

## Different representatives of conformal structure

- Modulo issues that are associated with the holographic conformal anomaly, **any representative is as good**.
- One can **change representative** by doing a **bulk diffeomorphism**.
- A **conformally flat conformal structure** can be represented by
  - **Minkowski metric**: Poincaré coordinates
  - **AdS metric**: AdS slicing of AdS
  - **dS metric**: dS slicing of AdS
  - **FRW metric**: FRW slicing of AdS [Giatagianas, Tetradis]
- This does not change the boundary of AdS, which is always the **Einstein Universe**  $R \times S^{d-1}$ .
- Different representatives describe the same boundary in different ways.
- A CFT is invariant under **Weyl transformations** (module conformal anomalies), so in **AdS/CFT it does not matter which representative one is using**.

## $dS_3$ slicing of $AdS_4$

➤ The dS-slicing of AdS is given by

$$ds^2 = dz^2 + e^{-2z} \left( 1 - \frac{H^2}{4} e^{2z} \right)^2 ds_{dS_3}^2$$

where

$$ds_{dS_3}^2 = -dt^2 + e^{2Ht} d\vec{y}^2 = \frac{-d\eta^2 + d\vec{y}^2}{H^2 \eta^2}$$

where  $-\infty < \eta < 0$ .

## Map to Poincaré and global coordinates

- The coordinate transformation

$$z = \log \left( -\frac{r}{H\tau} \frac{2\tau^2 - 2\sqrt{\tau^4 - r^2\tau^2}}{r^2} \right), \quad \eta = \tau \frac{\tau^2 - r^2 - \sqrt{\tau^4 - r^2\tau^2}}{\tau^2 - \sqrt{\tau^4 - r^2\tau^2}}$$

maps the metric to Poincaré coordinates

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} (dr^2 - d\tau^2 + d\vec{y}^2)$$

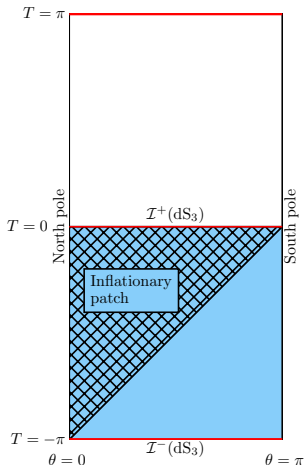
- and the further transformation

$$r = \frac{\sin \bar{r}}{\cos T + \cos \theta \cos \bar{r}}, \quad \tau = \frac{\sin T}{\cos T + \cos \theta \cos \bar{r}}, \quad R = \frac{\sin \theta \cos \bar{r}}{\cos T + \cos \theta \cos \bar{r}}$$

where  $d\vec{y}^2 = dR^2 + R^2 d\Phi^2$ , maps to global coordinates

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \bar{r}} (-dT^2 + d\bar{r}^2 + \cos^2 \bar{r} d\Omega_2^2)$$

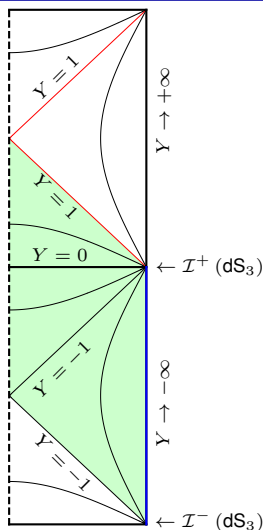
# Boundary and global issues



- Boundary  $R \times S^2$  is at  $\bar{r} = 0$ .  
Azimuthal angle is suppressed.
- $dS_3$  is conformal to a portion of  $R \times S^2$
- The spacelike conformal boundaries of dS are shown in red.
- As  $Y \equiv \frac{\sin T}{\sin \bar{r}} \rightarrow -\infty$  we get the blue square region.
- As  $Y \rightarrow \infty$  we get the white square region.



# Penrose diagram



- Each point is an  $S^2$  which shrinks to zero size at the origin of coordinates indicated by the dashed line.
- Lines are level sets of  $Y (= \sin T / \sin \bar{r})$
- Blue line corresponds to the blue square area of the boundary.
- The green shaded region shows the development of data prescribed in the blue  $dS_3$  region at the boundary.

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# From CFT to QFT

- A CFT is Weyl invariant, so it is the same in all conformally related spacetimes.
- We would like to deform the CFT by a mass term:

$$S = S_{\text{CFT}} + \int d^d x \sqrt{-\det g} m O(x).$$

- Since  $m$  breaks conformal symmetry there is no longer a relation to vacuum QFT on Minkowski spacetime under a Weyl transformation.
- Instead a massive theory in dS is equivalent to QFT on Minkowski spacetime in the presence of a spacelike defect: The Weyl transformation to Minkowski spacetime yields

$$S = S_{\text{CFT}} + \int d^d x \frac{m}{-H\eta} O(x).$$

- ➡ The future conformal boundary of dS<sub>3</sub> is described by a singular spacelike source function in  $\mathbb{R}^{1,2}$ .

# Holographic implementation

- It is well-known how to deform a CFT holographically from the studies of **holographic RG flows** in the early days of AdS/CFT

[Boonstra, KS, Townsend (1998)] [Girardello et al (1998)] [Freedman et al (1999)] [KS, Townsend (1999)]....

- We need to **turn on the scalar  $\phi$**  that is **dual to  $O$**
- Look for dS-sliced asymptotically AdS domain-wall solutions

$$ds^2 = dz^2 - P(z)ds_{dS_3}^2, \quad \phi = \phi(z)$$

- As  $z \rightarrow \infty$ 
  - the metric should approach that of **AdS is dS-sliced coordinates**
  - the scalar should behave as a sources,  $\phi \rightarrow e^{(d-\Delta)z} m$

# The model

- Following [Buchel (2017)], we consider a free massive field in AdS:

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_4} \sqrt{-G} d^4x \left( R + 6 - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 + \phi^2 \right),$$

- The field  $\phi$  is dual to a dimension  $\Delta = 2$  operator.
- One can solve the field equations perturbatively in  $m$ .

$$P = -e^{-2z} \left( 1 - \frac{H^2}{4} e^{2z} \right)^2 - \frac{(-144 + 112He^z - 32H^2e^{2z} + 4H^3e^{3z} + H^4e^{4z})}{1152 \left( 1 + \frac{H}{2} e^z \right)^2} m^2 + O(m^4)$$

$$\bar{\phi} = \frac{e^z}{\left( 1 + \frac{H}{2} e^z \right)^2} m - \frac{e^{2z} (40 + 12He^z + 14H^2e^{2z} + H^3e^{3z})}{576H \left( 1 + \frac{H}{2} e^z \right)^6} m^3 + O(m^5).$$

This solution was first obtained (in different coordinates) in [Buchel (2017)].

# Global solution

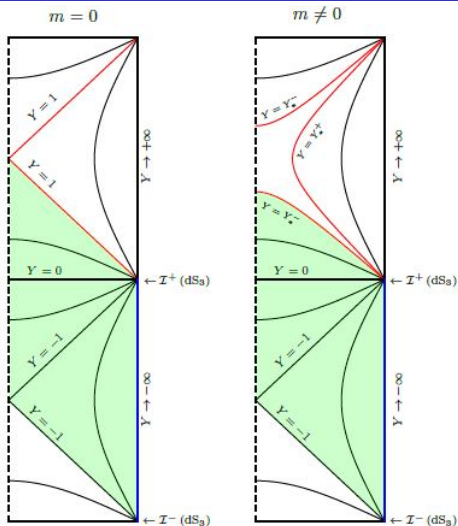
- One may transform to global coordinates

$$ds^2 = \Omega(Y)^2 \frac{1}{\sin^2 \bar{r}} (-dT^2 + d\bar{r}^2 + \cos^2 \bar{r} d\Omega_2^2),$$
$$\bar{\phi} = F(Y)$$

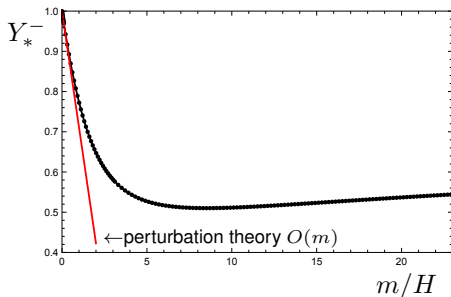
with

$$\Omega^2(Y) = 1 - \frac{1}{12(Y-1)^2} \frac{m^2}{H^2} - \frac{5}{432(Y-1)^3} \frac{m^4}{H^4} + O(m)^6,$$
$$F(Y) = \frac{1}{1-Y} \frac{m}{H} + \frac{3-5Y}{72(Y-1)^3} \frac{m^3}{H^3} + \frac{-175+619Y-645Y^2+129Y^3}{51840(Y-1)^5} \frac{m^5}{H^5} + O(m)^7,$$

# Penrose diagram



## Location of singularity at finite $m$



- The **null  $Y = 1$  singularity** splits into a **spacelike** and **timelike singularity** for finite  $m$ .
- Perturbatively in  $m$ :

$$Y_*^\pm = 1 \pm \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \frac{m}{H} + O(m)^2$$

- **At finite  $m$** , we obtained the solution using the shooting method (source  $m$  at  $Y = -\infty$ , regular at  $Y = -1$ )



# One-point functions

- Correlators can be extracted as usual using **holographic renormalization**.
- One-point functions take the form dictated by **dS-invariance** and **Ward identities**:

$$\langle O \rangle_0 = \frac{H^2}{2\kappa^2} \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{m}{H} \right),$$

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle_0 = -\frac{H^3}{2\kappa^2} \frac{m}{3H} \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{m}{H} \right) g_{\mu\nu}^{dS},$$

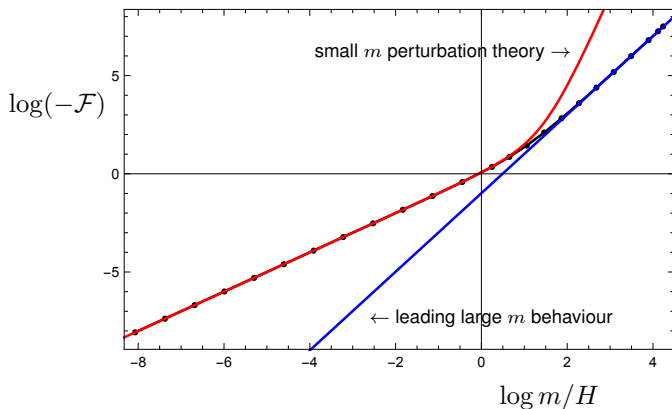
- For small  $m/H$ :

$$\mathcal{F} = -\frac{m}{H} - \frac{5}{72} \frac{m^3}{H^3} + \frac{43}{17280} \frac{m^5}{H^5} + O(m)^7$$

- As  $m/H \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{\text{asy}} \frac{m^2}{H^2} \quad \mathcal{F}_{\text{asy}} \simeq -0.37$$

# Non-perturbative evaluation of $\mathcal{F}$



## 2-point functions

- These are computed using the **methodology developed for holographic RG flows** [Bianchi, Freedman, KS (2001)] ....
- We need to solve linearised equations around the background:

$$G_{ab} = G_{ab}^{DW}(z) + H_{ab}(z, x), \quad \phi = \bar{\phi}(z) + H_{\phi}(z, x)$$

- Decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} H_{zz} &= X \\ H_{z\mu} &= P(z)(\partial_{\mu}V + V_{\mu}) \\ H_{\mu\nu} &= P(z)(-2\psi g_{\mu\nu}^{dS} + 2\nabla_{(\mu}^{dS}\partial_{\nu)}\chi + 2\nabla_{(\mu}^{dS}\omega_{\nu)} + \gamma_{\mu\nu}) \\ H_{\phi} &= S \end{aligned}$$

$\gamma_{\mu\nu}$  is TT and  $\omega_{\mu}, V_{\mu}$  are divergence-less w.r.t.  $g_{\mu\nu}^{dS}$

# Using dS isometries

- Gauge redundancy

$$H_{ab} \rightarrow H_{ab} + 2\nabla_{(a}\xi_{b)}, \quad H_\phi \rightarrow H_\phi + \xi^a \partial_a \bar{\phi}$$

- Take  $X = V = V_\mu = 0$  we go to the FG gauge. Leftover redundancy solved with gauge invariant variables.
- We further use the dS isometries to decompose as:

$$\partial_j \Phi = ik_j \Phi, \quad \square_{dS_3} \Phi = \lambda \Phi$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi = \Phi_{k,\lambda}(z) \eta J_\nu(k\eta) e^{ik_i y^i}, \quad \lambda = H^2(1 - \nu^2)$$

where we work with conformal time:

$$ds_{dS_3}^2 = \frac{-d\eta^2 + d\vec{y}^2}{H^2\eta^2}$$

- So the dynamical equation to be solved is the **radial equation involving  $\Phi_{k,\lambda}(z)$** .

# Tensors

- Decomposition:

$$\gamma_{0i} = -h_i J_\nu(k\eta) e^{iky} \gamma(z)$$

$$\gamma_{ij} = \frac{1}{k^2 \eta^2} (\eta \partial_\eta - 2) (\eta J_{k\nu}(k\eta)) \partial_{(i} e^{iky} h_{j)} \gamma(z)$$

where  $h_i$  is a constant polarization vector satisfying:  $h_i k^i = 0$ .

- Equation:  $\gamma'' + \frac{3}{2} \frac{P'}{P} \gamma' - \frac{\lambda}{P} \gamma = 0$ , is solved **order by order in  $m$** .
- 2-point function:

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(\nu_1, k_1) T_{\rho\sigma}(\nu_2, k_2) \rangle = \Pi_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \mathcal{A}(\nu_1, k_1)$$

where  $\Pi_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$  is TT projector and

$$\mathcal{A}(\nu, k) = \frac{H^3}{2\kappa^2} \left[ \nu(\nu^2 - 1) + \frac{3\nu^2 + 8\nu - 19}{24(\nu - 2)} \frac{m^2}{H^2} + \left( \frac{35}{864} - \frac{23}{1536(\nu - 2)} + \frac{3}{256(\nu - 2)^2} \right) \frac{m^4}{H^4} + \mathcal{O}(m)^6 \right]$$

- $\mathcal{A}(\nu_1, k_1)$  contains a polynomial in  $\nu$  and poles in  $(\nu - 2)$ .

# Resummation

- Resummation yields single poles corresponding to **normalisable modes**:

$$\nu_n^t = n + O(m^2), \quad n = 2, 3, 4 \dots$$

where we computed the corrections through  $m^6$ . For example,

$$\nu_2^t = 2 + \frac{1}{32} \frac{m^2}{H^2} - \frac{103}{36684} \frac{m^4}{H^4} + \frac{50929}{212336640} \frac{m^6}{H^6} + O(m^8),$$

- The resummation reads:

$$\mathcal{A}(\nu, k) = \frac{3H^3}{2\kappa^2} \left( \frac{\nu}{3} (\nu^2 - 1) + \frac{\nu}{24} \frac{m^2}{H^2} + \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} \frac{r_j^t}{\nu - \nu_j^t} \right) - \frac{7}{12} m \langle O \rangle_0$$

with residues

$$\begin{aligned} r_2^t &= -\frac{m^2}{8H^2} \left( 1 - \frac{23}{576} \frac{m^2}{H^2} - \frac{14477}{6635520} \frac{m^4}{H^4} + \frac{66506857}{1337720832000} \frac{m^6}{H^6} + O(m^8) \right), \\ r_3^t &= \dots \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

# Scalars

- Gauge invariant variables:

$$\zeta = -\psi + \frac{P'}{2P} \frac{S}{\phi'}, \quad \hat{\phi} = -\left(\frac{S}{\phi'}\right)', \quad \hat{\nu} = \chi' + \frac{S}{P\phi'}$$

- The Hamiltonian and momentum constraint equations give:

$$\hat{\phi} = \frac{2H^2 P}{P'} \hat{\nu} - \frac{2P}{P'} \zeta', \quad \hat{\nu} = -\frac{2(3H^2 + \lambda)P'}{Q_\lambda} \zeta + \frac{Q_{-3H^2}}{H^2 Q_\lambda} \zeta'$$

- Dynamical equation

$$\hat{\phi}'' + \left( -\frac{4\bar{\phi}}{\phi'} + \frac{2H^2}{P'} - \frac{2P}{P'} - \frac{\bar{\phi}^2 P}{3P'} - \frac{P\bar{\phi}'^2}{6P'} \right) \hat{\phi}' +$$

$$\left( -10 - \bar{\phi}^2 - \frac{8\bar{\phi}^2}{\phi'^2} + \frac{40H^2\bar{\phi}}{\phi'P'} - \frac{40\bar{\phi}P}{\phi'P'} - \frac{20\bar{\phi}^3 P}{3\phi'P'} - \frac{10\bar{\phi}P\bar{\phi}'}{3P'} - \frac{\lambda}{P} \right) \hat{\phi} = 0$$

which is solved **perturbatively** in  $m$ .

# Scalar 2-point function

- 2-point function:

$$\langle O_{\nu_1}(k_1) O_{\nu_2}(k_2) \rangle = a(\nu_1, k_1) \delta_{\nu_1, \nu_2} \delta^{(2)}(k_1 + k_2)$$

- After resummation only **single poles** at the location of **normalizable modes**:

$$\langle O_{\nu}(k) O_{\nu}(-k) \rangle = H \left( \nu + \frac{r_1^s}{\nu - \nu_1^s} + \sum_{\pm} \frac{r_{2,\pm}^s}{\nu - \nu_{2,\pm}^s} + \sum_{j=3}^{\infty} \frac{r_j^s}{\nu - \nu_j^s} \right)$$

where the normalisable modes are [\[Buchel \(2017\)\]](#)

$$\nu_n^s = n + O(m^2), \quad n = 1, 2, 3, 4 \dots$$

again computed through order  $m^6$ . E.g.

$$\nu_1^s = 1 + \frac{1}{12} \frac{m^2}{H^2} - \frac{1}{54} \frac{m^4}{H^4} + \frac{1591}{622080} \frac{m^6}{H^6} + O(m)^8,$$

and residues:

$$r_1^s = \frac{m^2}{6H^2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4} \frac{m^2}{H^2} + \frac{109}{4536} \frac{m^4}{H^4} + \frac{109672267}{100590033600} \frac{m^6}{H^6} + O(m)^8 \right), r_2^s = \dots$$



# A simple representation of conformal correlators

- When  $m^2 = 0$  the 2-point should reduce to a CFT correlator:

$$\langle O_{\nu_1}(\vec{k}_1) O_{\nu_2}(\vec{k}_2) \rangle \sim \nu_1 \delta_{\nu_1, \nu_2} \delta^{(2)}(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2)$$

where  $\nu_1$  is the index of the Bessel function.

- This is a **surprising simple** representation of the CFT correlator
- **No explicit momentum dependence**, apart from the momentum conserving delta function.
- If we define

$$a_{\vec{k}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\nu|}} O_{\nu}(\vec{k}), \quad a_{\vec{k}}^{\dagger} = a_{-\vec{k}}$$

Then **all conformal scalar 2-point functions** are that of **free harmonic oscillators**:

$$\langle a_{\vec{k}} a_{\vec{k}}^{\dagger} \rangle = 1$$

## Comparing with position and momentum space

- In position space, the 2-point function for dimension  $\Delta = 2$  operator is

$$\langle O(t', x') O(t, x) \rangle = \frac{1}{(-(t - t')^2 + (x - x')^2)^2}$$

- In momentum space and in  $d = 3$ :

$$\langle O(\omega_1, k_1) O(\omega_2, k_2) \rangle \sim \sqrt{|k_1^2 - \omega_1^2|} \delta(\omega_1 + \omega_2) \delta^{(2)}(k_1 + k_2)$$

- The fact that the expression in the Bessel basis agrees with the above follows from a decomposition of  $e^{i\omega t}$  in terms of Bessel functions [Hansen (1843)]:

$$e^{-i\omega t} = \sum_{\nu=-\infty}^{\infty} a^\nu J_\nu(kt), \quad \omega = \frac{a^2 - 1}{2a} ik$$

- Similar results hold for any  $\Delta$  and  $d$  with  $2\Delta - d$  odd.

## 2-point functions in AdS/CFT

- Let  $G_2(t - t', \vec{x} - \vec{x}') = \langle O(t, \vec{x}) O(t', \vec{x}') \rangle$  the 2-point function of a dimension 2 operator in  $d = 3$  and

$$\tilde{G}_2(\omega, \vec{k}) = \int d^2x dt e^{i\omega t - i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} G_2(t, x)$$

it's Fourier transform.

- The 2-point function in AdS/CFT is encoded in

$$\Phi(\vec{x}, t) = r\phi_{(0)}(t, \vec{x}) + \dots + r^2 \int d^{d-1}x' dt' \phi_{(0)}(t', \vec{x}') G_2(t - t', \vec{x} - \vec{x}')$$

- Taking the source to be a plane wave,  $\phi_{(0)}(t, \vec{x}) = e^{-i\omega t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}}$ , yields

$$\Phi(\vec{x}, t) = e^{-i\omega t + i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \left( r + \dots + r^2 \tilde{G}_2(\omega, \vec{k}) \right)$$

- In the Bessel basis

$$\Phi_\nu(\vec{k}) = e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} \left( r J_\nu(kt) + \dots + r^2 \left( -\frac{\nu}{t} J_\nu(kt) \right) \right)$$

- We need to consider a **linear superposition** such that the source becomes a **plane wave**

$$\Phi(t, x) = \sum_{\nu=-\infty}^{\infty} c_\nu(\omega, \vec{k}) \Phi_\nu(\vec{k}) = e^{-i\omega t} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} r + \dots$$

- It turns out the appropriate coefficients are

$$c_\nu = a^\nu, \quad \omega = \frac{a^2 - 1}{2a} ik$$

- Then the vev part gives:

$$\sum_{\nu=-\infty}^{\infty} c_\nu \left( -\frac{\nu}{t} J_\nu(kt) \right) = e^{-i\omega t} \sqrt{|k^2 - \omega^2|}$$

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# Model for dual QFT

- We deformed the CFT with an operator  $O$  of dimension 2.
- In  $d = 3$  a free massless fermion  $\psi$  is a CFT and has an operator of dimension 2, namely a mass term  $O = \bar{\psi}\psi$
- Thus a **free massive fermion in dS** has some of the features of the dual QFT.

# Conformal perturbation theory

- We can use **conformal perturbation theory** in Minkowski with a singular source for  $O$  and then Weyl transform to de Sitter.
- In the free-fermion CFT:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle O(x_1) \rangle_0 &= 0 \\ \langle O(x_1)O(x_2) \rangle_0 &= \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \frac{1}{|x_{12}|^4} \\ \langle O(x_1)O(x_2)O(x_3) \rangle_0 &= 0 \\ \langle O(x_1)O(x_2)O(x_3)O(x_4) \rangle_0 &= \text{non - zero}\end{aligned}$$

where the subscript 0 indicates that the computation was done in the massless theory.

# 1-point function

➤ Computing in Minkowski

$$\langle O(x_1) \rangle = 0 - \int d^3 x_2 m(x_2) \langle O(x_1) O(x_2) \rangle_0 + \mathcal{O}(m^2) = \frac{m}{4H\tau_1^2} + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$$

and transforming to de Sitter

$$\langle O \rangle_{dS_3} = -H^2 \frac{1}{4} \frac{m}{H} + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$$

which matches the holographic result, up to a constant.

➤ Note that in  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory in  $dS_4$  [Bunch, Davies (1978)]:

$$\langle \phi^2 \rangle_{dS_4} \sim \frac{H^4}{m^2}$$



## 2-point function

➤ Two-point functions up to  $\mathcal{O}(m^2)$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle O(x_1)O(x_2) \rangle &= \langle O(x_1)O(x_2) \rangle_0 - \int d^d x_3 m(x_3) \langle O(x_1)O(x_2)O(x_3) \rangle_0 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int d^d x_3 d^d x_4 m(x_3)m(x_4) \langle O(x_1)O(x_2)O(x_3)O(x_4) \rangle_0\end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\langle O(x_1)O(x_2) \rangle = \langle O(x_1)O(x_2) \rangle_0 + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$$

which is also in agreement with the holographic result: **no order  $m$  contribution**.

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Conformal boundary of AdS spacetimes
- 3 QFT in dS from AdS
- 4 Toy model: free fermions in dS
- 5 Conclusions**

# Conclusions

- We studied **strong coupled QFTs in  $dS_3$**  via holography.
- We found **no signs of IR instabilities**. Perhaps this is unsurprising given that the **QFT was a deformation of a CFT**.
- 2-point functions are expressed in a **spectral representation as a sum over simple poles**.
- The poles correspond to **normalizable modes**.

# Outlook

- Extend the work to  $dS_4$  and FRW, and general potential.
- Make connection with cosmological observables.
- Explore the novel Bessel basis for CFT correlators.