

# The QECC Interpretation of AdS/CFT

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NYU

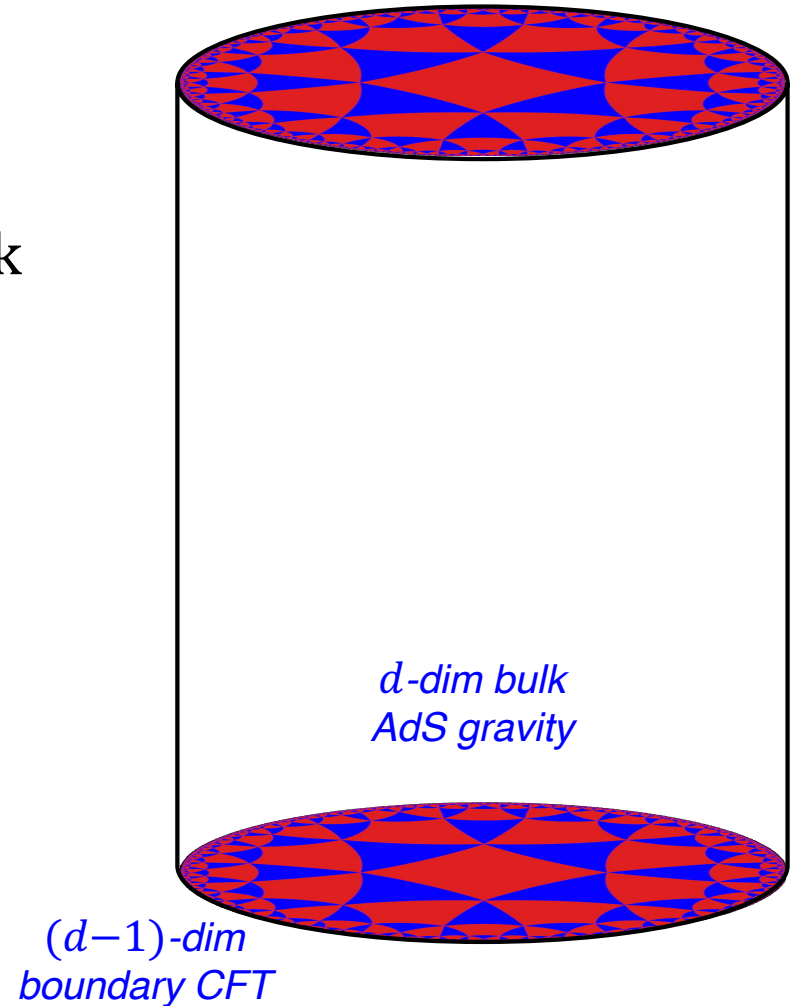
TANDON SCHOOL  
OF ENGINEERING

1. Mystery-Mongering
2. The Bulk-Locality Paradox
  - *AdS/CFT Dictionary*
  - *Bulk Reconstruction*
  - *Paradox?*
3. Resolution: The Boundary as a QECC
  - *Quantum Error Correction Codes*
  - *The QECC Interpretation*
4. Spacetime as a QECC?
  - *The Emergent Bulk*
  - *The HaPPY Code Realization*
  - *Common Core or Overarching Structure?*

# 1. Mystery-Mongering

## AdS/CFT Correspondence

- *Redundant aspect*: boundary degrees of freedom in  $(d-1)$ -dim are mapped to bulk degrees of freedom in  $d$ -dim.
- Suggests a quantum error-correcting code (QECC): A way to protect information *redundantly* against environmental degradation.
- Fodder for mystery-mongering...



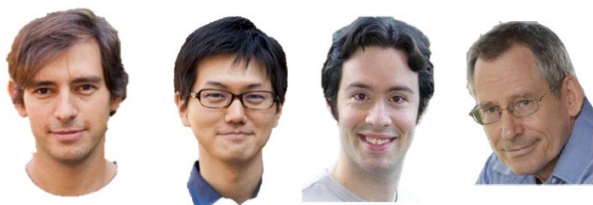
# 1. Mystery-Mongering

Is spacetime a quantum error-  
correcting code?



Fernando Pastawski, Beni Yoshida,  
Daniel Harlow, John Preskill  
= *HaPPY*

J. of High Energy Physics 06 (2015) 149



## How Space and Time Could Be a Quantum Error-Correcting Code

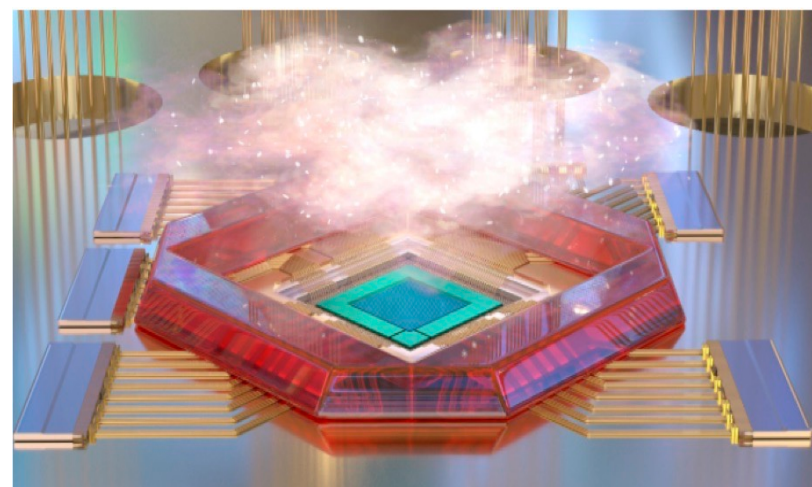
By NATALIE WOLCHOVER

January 3, 2019

*The same codes needed to thwart errors in quantum computers may also give  
the fabric of space-time its intrinsic robustness.*



John Preskill  
STOC in Montreal  
20 June 2017



# 1. Mystery-Mongering

## Towards De-Mystification

- "Bulk locality paradox": Under reasonable assumptions about locality, a standard way of representing a local bulk field on the boundary entails it is trivial.
- Analogous condition in a QECC: Local operators that detect and correct errors act like the identity on the codespace.
- QECC interpretation of AdS/CFT: A certain collection of bulk states is dual to a subspace of boundary states that forms the codespace for a QECC.



↖ *But what does this have to do with spacetime?*

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## 2. The Bulk Locality Paradox

Harlow (2018)

### The AdS/CFT Dictionary: 2 Versions

#### Differentiate version

Gubser *et al.* (1998)  
Witten (1998)

$$Z_{\text{bulk}}[\phi_0] = Z_{\text{CFT}}[\phi_0]$$

  
*Boundary value of  
bulk field  $\phi(r, x)$*

  
*Source that couples to local  
boundary operator  $\mathcal{O}(X)$*

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \left[ \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_0(x_1)} \cdots \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_0(x_n)} Z_{\text{bulk}}[\phi_0] \right]_{\phi_0=0}$$

  
*Boundary correlation function as functional  
derivative of bulk partition function*

# Extrapolate version

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^{\Delta} \phi(r, x) = \mathcal{O}(x)$$



*"Extrapolating" a local bulk field to the boundary...*



*...to get dual local boundary operator*

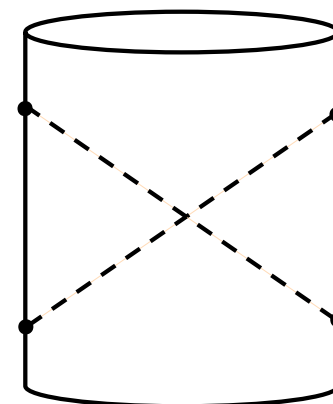
$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^{n\Delta} \langle \phi(r, x_1) \cdots \phi(r, x_n) \rangle_{\text{bulk}}$$



*Boundary correlation function as "extrapolation" of bulk correlation function*

Analogous to LSZ formula:

Sources for boundary operators = interpolating bulk fields



## Differentiate version

$$Z_{\text{bulk}}[\phi_0] = Z_{\text{CFT}}[\phi_0]$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \left[ \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_0(x_1)} \cdots \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_0(x_n)} Z_{\text{bulk}}[\phi_0] \right]_{\phi_0=0}$$

## Extrapolate version

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^\Delta \phi(r, x) = \mathcal{O}(x)$$

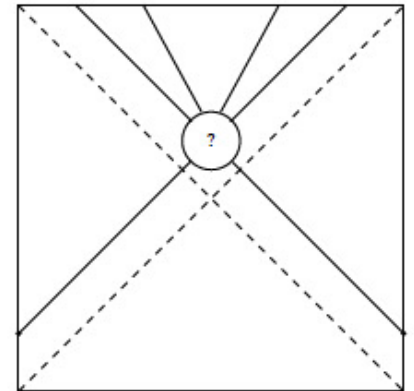
$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \cdots \mathcal{O}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^{n\Delta} \langle \phi(r, x_1) \cdots \phi(r, x_n) \rangle_{\text{bulk}}$$



*Equivalent!*

Harlow & Stanford (2011)

- What about local bulk fields far from the boundary?
- What about observables lurking behind bulk horizons?



*"We'd like to back off of the extrapolate dictionary"*

(Harlow 2018)

# Bulk Reconstruction

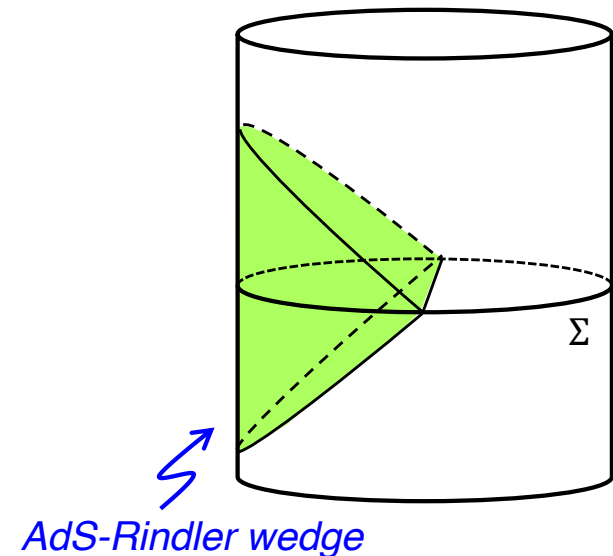
## General Idea

1. Quantize bulk field  $\phi(x)$ : express in terms of creation/annihilation operators  $a^\dagger, a$  on a Fock space.
2. Use extrapolate dictionary to express  $\mathcal{O}(X)$  in terms of  $a^\dagger, a$ .
3. Take Fourier transform of #2 to re-express  $\phi(x)$  in terms of  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ .

$$\phi(x) = \int_{\Omega} K(x; X) \mathcal{O}(X) dX$$

  
*Smearing function*

- Step 1 can be done in two ways:
  - *Global coordinates*:  $\Omega$  = set of boundary points spacelike separated from  $x$ .
  - *Rindler coordinates*:  $\Omega$  = intersection of boundary with bulk AdS-Rindler wedge.



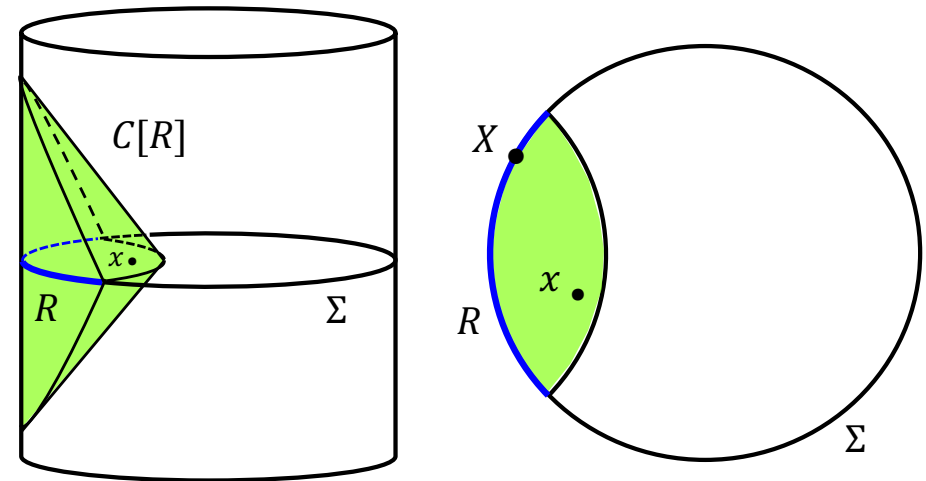
*Now generalize to get...*

## Causal wedge

$$C[R] \equiv J_{\text{bulk}}^+[D_{\text{bnd}}[R]] \cap J_{\text{bulk}}^-[D_{\text{bnd}}[R]]$$



*All bulk points that are causally accessible from the boundary region causally determined by a spatial boundary region  $R$ .*



## AdS-Rindler representation of bulk field

$$\phi(x)|_{x \in C[R]} = \int_{D_{\text{bnd}}[R]} K(x; X) \mathcal{O}(X) dX \equiv \mathcal{O}_{(\phi; R)}$$

*Bulk field at a point as a boundary operator on a region*

## Causal wedge reconstruction conjecture

For any boundary spatial region  $R$ , any bulk field in  $C[R]$  can be represented by a boundary operator on  $R$ .

*A powerful entry in the AdS/CFT dictionary?*  
*- non-local!*  
*- trivial?*

# Paradox?

**Claim.** The AdS-Rindler representation  $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)}$  is trivial.

Almheiri *et al.* (2015)  
Pastawski *et al.* (2015)  
Harlow (2018)

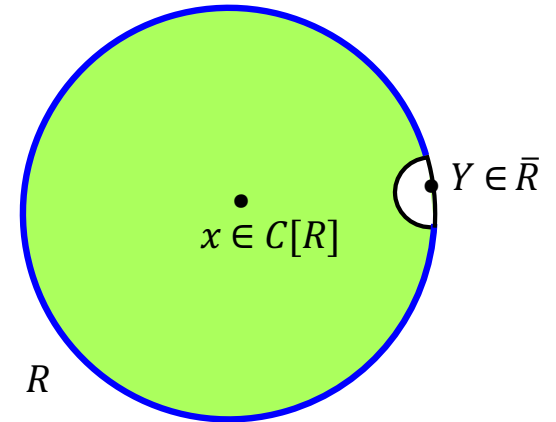
## Proof sketch.

- (i) For any  $\phi(x)$  and any local  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  on the same timeslice, there is an  $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)}$  such that  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  lies in  $\bar{R}$  and hence  $[\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)}, \mathcal{O}(Y)] = 0$  (*local commutativity*).

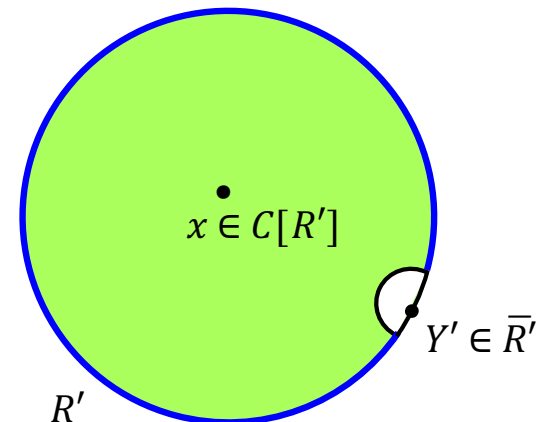
*Implication: A bulk field admits multiple AdS-Rindler reps, each commuting with some arbitrary boundary operator on the same timeslice.*

- (ii) Uniqueness: For a given  $\phi(x)$ ,  
 $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)} = \mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R')} = \dots \equiv \mathcal{O}_{(\phi)}$

- (iii) By the timeslice axiom,  $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi)}$  must be a multiple of the identity.



$$\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)} = \mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R')}$$



## Timeslice Axiom (Primitive Causality)

Let  $\Sigma$  be a Cauchy surface in a spacetime  $\mathcal{M}$ , and let  $U$  be any open neighborhood of  $\Sigma$ . Then the algebra of observables  $\mathfrak{R}(U)$  generated by local operators with support in  $U$  coincides with the algebra of observables  $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{M})$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  (i.e.,  $\mathfrak{R}(U)$  acts irreducibly on the corresponding state space).



*Intuition: Dynamical laws (hyperbolic differential equations) can be formulated that govern  $\mathfrak{R}(\mathcal{M})$ .*

**Schur's Lemma:** Any operator that commutes with all irreducible representations of an algebra is a multiple of the identity.

## Timeslice Axiom + Schur's Lemma

Let  $\Sigma$  be a Cauchy surface in a spacetime  $\mathcal{M}$ , and let  $U$  be any open neighborhood of  $\Sigma$ . Then any operator which commutes with all local operators with support in  $U$  must be a multiple of the identity.

# Paradox?

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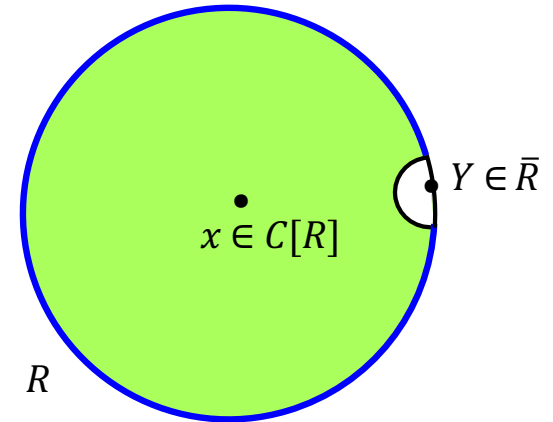
- (i) For any  $\phi(x)$  and any local  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  on the same timeslice, there is an  $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)}$  such that  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  lies in  $\bar{R}$  and hence  $[\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)}, \mathcal{O}(Y)] = 0$  (*local commutativity*).

*Implication: A bulk field admits multiple AdS-Rindler reps, each commuting with some arbitrary boundary operator on the same timeslice.*

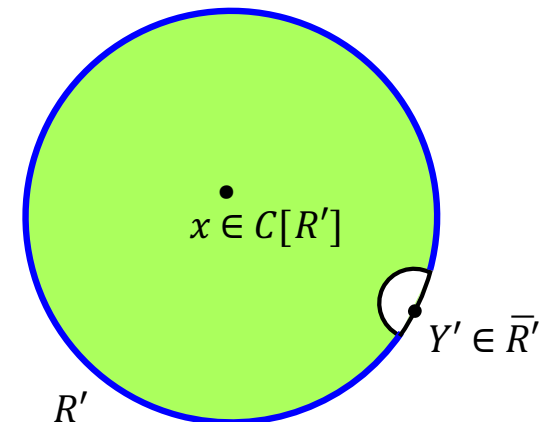
- (ii) Uniqueness: For a given  $\phi(x)$ ,  
 $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)} = \mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R')} = \dots \equiv \mathcal{O}_{(\phi)}$

*How might this Fail?*

- (iii) By the timeslice axiom,  $\mathcal{O}_{(\phi)}$  must be a multiple of the identity.



$$\mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R)} = \mathcal{O}_{(\phi;R')}$$



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### 3. Resolution: The Boundary as a QECC

Almheiri *et al.* (2015)  
Harlow (2018)

#### Erasure Protection Quantum Error-Correction Code

- (1)  $n$ -qudit *physical* Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \mathcal{H}_R^{(m)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}^{(n-m)}$ , where  $\mathcal{H}_R^{(m)}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}^{(n-m)}$  consist of  $m$ - and  $(n-m)$ -qudit states with support in  $R$  and  $\bar{R}$ .
- (2) Map that encodes  $k$  *logical* qudits in  $n$  *encoded logical* qudits of a *codespace*  $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}^{(n)}$  in such a way that the former can be recovered if access is limited to some set  $R$  of  $m < n$  of the latter.

**Claim.** An encoding map exists *if and only if*  $R$  can be decomposed into  $R_1 \cup R_2$  with  $k$  and  $(m-k)$  qudits, *resp.*, such that the basis states for  $\mathcal{H}_C$  can be expressed by

$$|\tilde{i}\rangle = (U_R \otimes I_{\bar{R}}) \left( |i\rangle_{R_1} \otimes |\chi\rangle_{R_2 \bar{R}} \right)$$

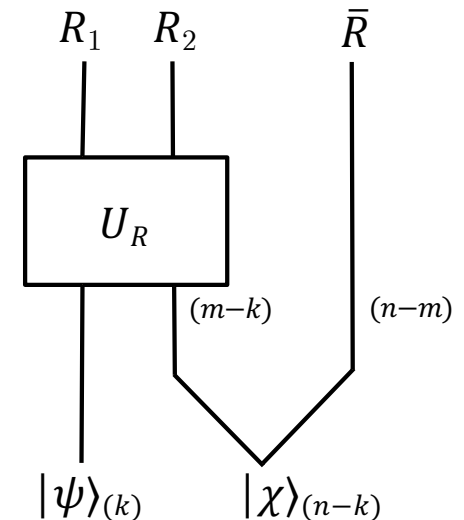
*unitary operator on  $R$*

*$k$ -qudit*

*state in  $R_1$*

*$(n-k)$ -qudit*

*state in  $R_2 \cup \bar{R}$*



Example: 3 qutrit code ( $k = 1, n = 3, m = 2$ )

$k = 1$  logical qutrit:  $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^2 C_i |i\rangle = C_0 |0\rangle + C_1 |1\rangle + C_2 |2\rangle$

Encoded in  $n = 3$  physical qutrits:

$$|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = \sum_{i=0}^2 C_i |\tilde{i}\rangle = C_0 |\tilde{0}\rangle + C_1 |\tilde{1}\rangle + C_2 |\tilde{2}\rangle$$

$$|\tilde{0}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|000\rangle + |111\rangle + |222\rangle)$$

$$|\tilde{1}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|012\rangle + |120\rangle + |201\rangle)$$

$$|\tilde{2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|021\rangle + |102\rangle + |210\rangle)$$

Encoding map

$$|\tilde{i}\rangle = (U_{12} \otimes I_3)(|i\rangle_1 \otimes |\chi\rangle_{23})$$

$$|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = (U_{12} \otimes I_3)(|\psi\rangle_1 \otimes |\chi\rangle_{23})$$

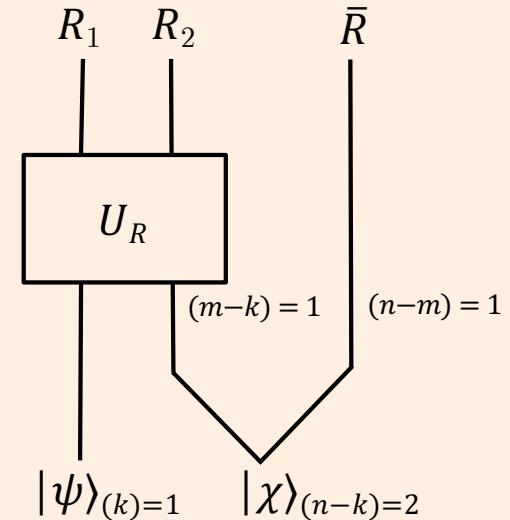
where:

$$|\chi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle + |22\rangle)$$

$$U: \begin{array}{lll} |00\rangle \rightarrow |00\rangle & |11\rangle \rightarrow |20\rangle & |22\rangle \rightarrow |10\rangle \\ |01\rangle \rightarrow |11\rangle & |12\rangle \rightarrow |01\rangle & |20\rangle \rightarrow |21\rangle \\ |02\rangle \rightarrow |22\rangle & |10\rangle \rightarrow |12\rangle & |21\rangle \rightarrow |02\rangle \end{array}$$

Recovery for access limited to  $m = 2$  qutrits:

| <u>Lost</u> | <u>Recovery</u>                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3           | $(U_{12}^\dagger \otimes I_3) \tilde{\psi}\rangle =  \psi\rangle_1 \otimes  \chi\rangle_{23}$ |
| 2           | $(U_{31}^\dagger \otimes I_2) \tilde{\psi}\rangle =  \psi\rangle_3 \otimes  \chi\rangle_{12}$ |
| 1           | $(U_{23}^\dagger \otimes I_1) \tilde{\psi}\rangle =  \psi\rangle_2 \otimes  \chi\rangle_{13}$ |



## Equivalent necessary and sufficient conditions for encoding map:

- (a) QECC Condition: Any  $(n-m)$ -qudit operator  $O_{\bar{R}}$  on  $\bar{R}$  acts like a multiple of the identity on  $\mathcal{H}_C$ :

$$\langle \tilde{i} | (O_{\bar{R}} \otimes I_R) | \tilde{j} \rangle = c \delta_{ij}$$

↖ Bulk locality paradox?

- (b) Erasure-Protection Condition: Any  $n$ -qudit operator  $\tilde{O}$  on  $\mathcal{H}_C$  can be expressed as an  $m$ -qudit operator  $O_R = U_R(O_{R_1} \otimes I_{R_2})U_R^\dagger$  with support on  $R$ , such that, for all  $|\tilde{\psi}\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_C$ :

$$(O_R \otimes I_{\bar{R}})|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = \tilde{O}|\tilde{\psi}\rangle, \quad (O_R^\dagger \otimes I_{\bar{R}})|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = \tilde{O}^\dagger|\tilde{\psi}\rangle$$

↖ Causal wedge reconstruction conjecture?

- (c) Within  $\mathcal{H}_C$ , any  $n$ -qudit operator  $\tilde{O}$  commutes with all  $(n-m)$ -qudit operators  $O_{\bar{R}}$  with support on  $\bar{R}$ :

$$\langle \tilde{i} | [\tilde{O}, (O_{\bar{R}} \otimes I_R)] | \tilde{j} \rangle = 0$$

↖ Bulk locality paradox?

Moreover...

Harlow (2017)

**Claim.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a finite-dim Hilbert space which factorizes into  $\mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$ , let  $\mathcal{H}_C$  be a subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$ , and let  $M$  be a von Neumann algebra on  $\mathcal{H}_C$ . Then the following are equivalent:

(i) Erasure-Protection Condition (b):

Any  $\tilde{O} \in M$  can be expressed as an  $O_R$  on  $\mathcal{H}_R$ :

$$(O_R \otimes I_{\bar{R}})|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = \tilde{O}|\tilde{\psi}\rangle, \quad (O_R^\dagger \otimes I_{\bar{R}})|\tilde{\psi}\rangle = \tilde{O}^\dagger|\tilde{\psi}\rangle, \quad \forall |\tilde{\psi}\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_C$$

(ii) Finite-dim RT Formula:

There is an operator  $\mathcal{L}_R \in M$  such that for any state  $\tilde{\rho}$  on  $M$ ,

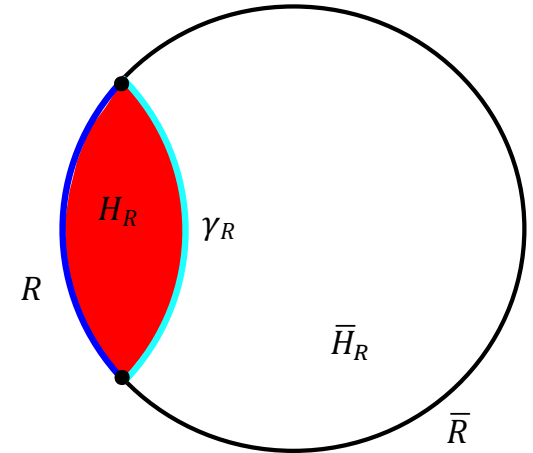
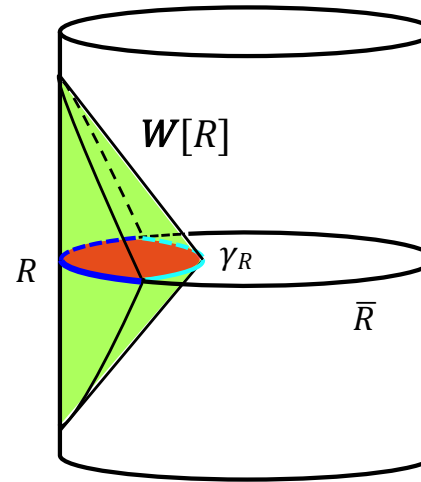
$$S(\tilde{\rho}_R) = \text{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}\mathcal{L}_R] + S(\tilde{\rho})$$

  
Entanglement entropy  
of reduced state  $\tilde{\rho}_R$

  
v.N. entropy of  $\tilde{\rho}$

To link with AdS/CFT...

For boundary spatial subregion  $R$ , let  $\gamma_R$  be the minimal area bulk surface with the same boundary as  $R$ , and let  $H_R$  be the bulk surface bounded by  $R$  and  $\gamma_R$ .



Ryu & Takayanagi (2006)

### Ryu-Takayanagi (RT) Formula

$$S(\rho_R) = \text{Area}(\gamma_R)/4G + S(\rho_{H_R})$$

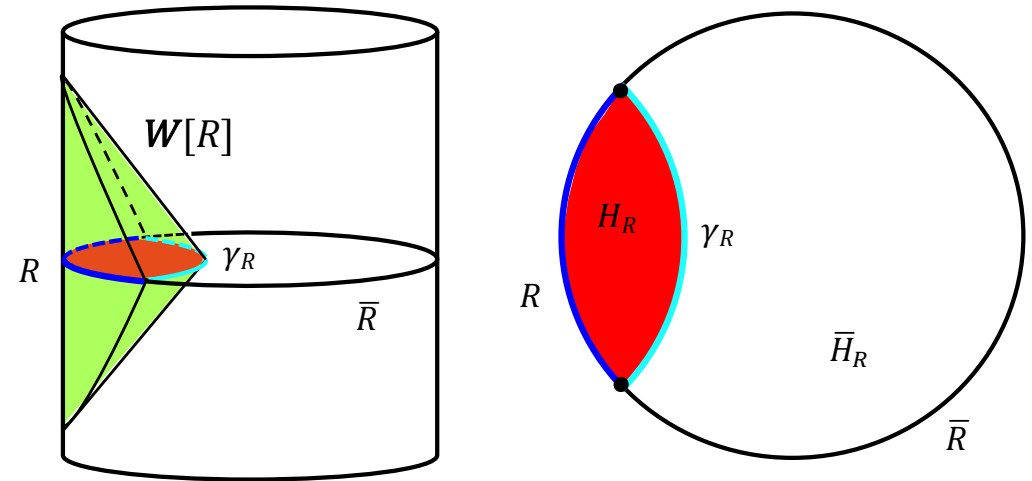


*Entanglement entropy  
of boundary subsystem  
localized in  $R$*



*Entanglement entropy  
of bulk subsystem  
localized in  $H_R$*

For boundary spatial subregion  $R$ , let  $\gamma_R$  be the minimal area bulk surface with the same boundary as  $R$ , and let  $H_R$  be the bulk surface bounded by  $R$  and  $\gamma_R$ .



Ryu & Takayanagi (2006)

### Ryu-Takayanagi (RT) Formula

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### Entanglement wedge

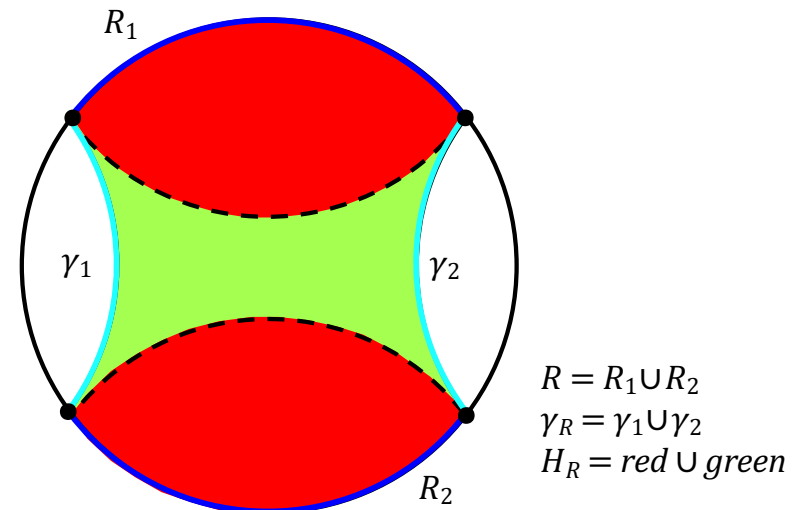
Headrick *et al.* (2014)

$$W[R] \equiv D_{\text{bulk}}[H_R]$$

Recall causal wedge of  $R$ :

$$C[R] \equiv J_{\text{bulk}}^+[D_{\text{bnd}}[R]] \cap J_{\text{bulk}}^-[D_{\text{bnd}}[R]]$$

*$W[R]$  and  $C[R]$  can differ when  $R$  is union of disjoint regions...*



*$W[R]$  contains red and green regions  
whereas  $C[R]$  just contains red regions.*

**Claim.** Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a finite-dim Hilbert space which factorizes into  $\mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$ , let  $\mathcal{H}_C$  be a subspace of  $\mathcal{H}$ , and let  $M$  be a von Neumann algebra on  $\mathcal{H}_C$ . Then the following are equivalent:

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(ii) Finite-dim RT Formula:

There is an operator  $\mathcal{L}_R \in M$  such that for any state  $\tilde{\rho}$  on  $M$ ,

$$S(\tilde{\rho}_R) = \text{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}\mathcal{L}_R] + S(\tilde{\rho})$$

### Connection with AdS/CFT

- $\mathcal{H}$  = CFT Hilbert space
- $\mathcal{H}_R, \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$  = CFT degrees of freedom on boundary spatial regions  $R, \bar{R}$
- $\mathcal{L}_R = \text{Area}(\gamma_R)/4G$
- $M$  = algebra of bulk operators in  $W[R]$
- $\mathcal{H}_C$  = subspace of CFT states that represent bulk states in  $W[R]$

# The QECC Interpretation of AdS/CFT

| QECC                                                                                                                                                               | AdS/CFT                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical qudit Hilbert space<br>$\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \mathcal{H}_R^{(m)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}^{(n-m)}$                                                    | CFT Hilbert space $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$ ,<br>for boundary subregion $R$ .       |
| Code subspace $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}^{(n)}$<br>( <i>encoded logical qudits</i> )                                                                       | Subspace $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}$ of CFT states that<br>represent bulk states in $W[R]$ .                  |
| <u>Erasure-Protection Condition</u> : Any $n$ -<br>qudit operator on $\mathcal{H}_C$ can be expressed<br>as an $m$ -qudit operator on $R$ .                        | <u>Entanglement Wedge Reconstruction</u> :<br>Any bulk field on $W[R]$ can be<br>expressed as a CFT operator on $R$ . |
| <u>QECC Condition</u> : Any $(n-m)$ -qudit<br>operator on $\bar{R}$ acts as a multiple of the<br>identity on $\mathcal{H}_C$ .                                     | Any local CFT operator on $\bar{R}$ acts as a<br>multiple of the identity on bulk<br>states in $W[R]$ .               |
| <u>Finite-dim RT Formula</u> : For any state $\tilde{\rho}$<br>on $\mathcal{H}_C$ , $S(\tilde{\rho}_R) = \text{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}\mathcal{L}_R] + S(\tilde{\rho})$ . | <u>RT Formula</u> :<br>$S(\rho_R) = \text{Area}(\gamma_R)/4G + S(\rho_{H_R})$                                         |

- Redundancy: Info associated with a CFT operator on  $R$  is protected against erasure of  $\bar{R}$  by encoding it redundantly (non-uniquely) in an AdS-Rindler rep of a bulk field in  $W[R]$ .
  - Interpretation: Codespace is space of low-energy CFT states; distinct encoded logical CFT operators act in same way on low-energy states, but differ on high-energy states.

Pastawski *et al.* (2015)

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## 4. Spacetime as a QECC?

### The Emergent Bulk

*Bulk theory is a way of protecting boundary degrees of freedom against erasure.*

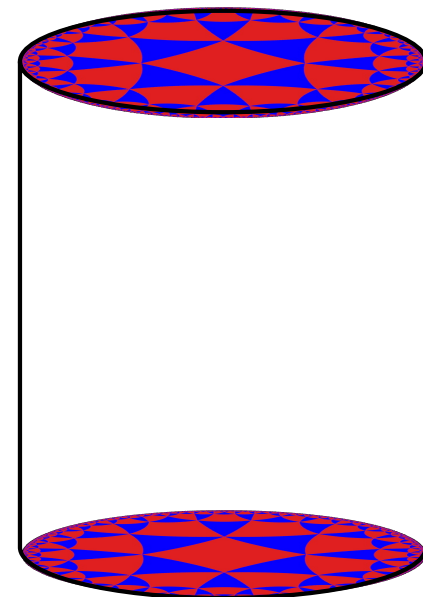
#### What does this have to do with spacetime?

- A QECC isn't the sort of thing associated with a spacetime.
- A QECC can be *realized* by physical systems, which can possess spatiotemporal properties.

**Suggestion:** To the extent that the bulk emerges from the boundary, and the boundary has the structure of a QECC, perhaps (bulk) spacetime emerges from a QECC.

- But: Bulk/boundary duality is *symmetrical* (i.e., exact), and emergence is *asymmetrical*.

*What might underwrite the asymmetry needed for emergence?*



Teh (2013)  
Dieks *et al.* (2015)  
de Haro *et al.* (2016)  
de Haro (2017)

## **Proposal**

- (a) Realize erasure-protection QECC as a discrete lattice system of qudits (HaPPY code).
- (b) Take continuum limit to get AdS/CFT.
- (c) Interpret (b) as emergence of spacetime.

## Perfect tensor representation of erasure-protection QECC:

A  $2\ell$ -indexed linear map from one qudit to  $2\ell-1$  qudits that protects against the erasure of any  $\ell-1$  of the latter.

- Ex. 1. Three qutrit code ( $\ell = 2$ ): Encodes 1 qutrit in 3 qutrits against the erasure of any 1 of the latter.

$$T_{i_1 i_2 i_3, j} = \sqrt{3} \langle i_1 i_2 i_3 | \tilde{j} \rangle$$



*"Perfect tensor" = even-indexed tensor  
such that any bipartition of indices  
defines a unitary transformation*



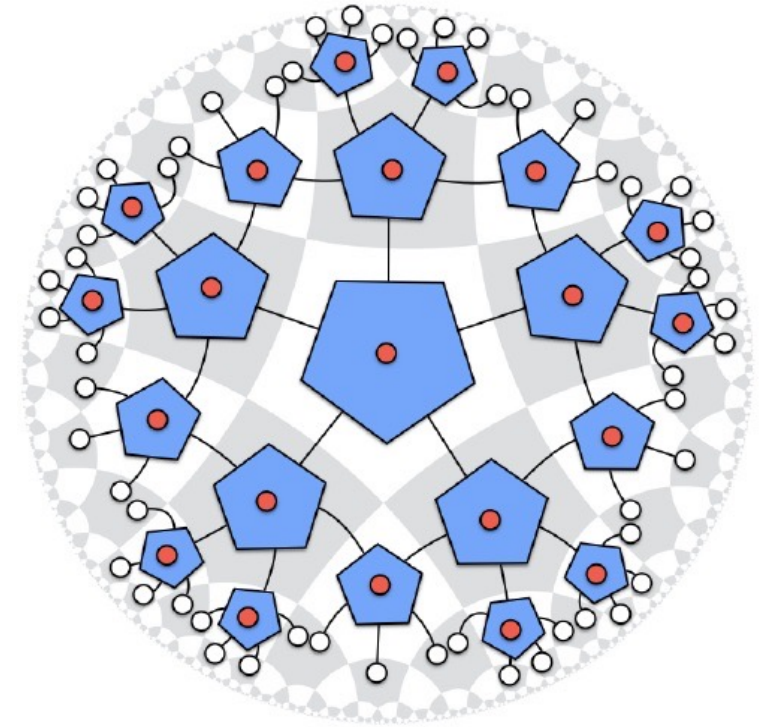
$$|\tilde{j}\rangle = (U_{12} \otimes I_3)(|j\rangle_1 \otimes |\chi\rangle_{23})$$

- Ex. 2. Five qubit code ( $\ell = 3$ ): Encodes 1 qubit in 5 qubits against the erasure of any 2 of the latter.

$$T_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5, j} = 2 \langle i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4 i_5 | \tilde{j} \rangle$$

## HaPPY code

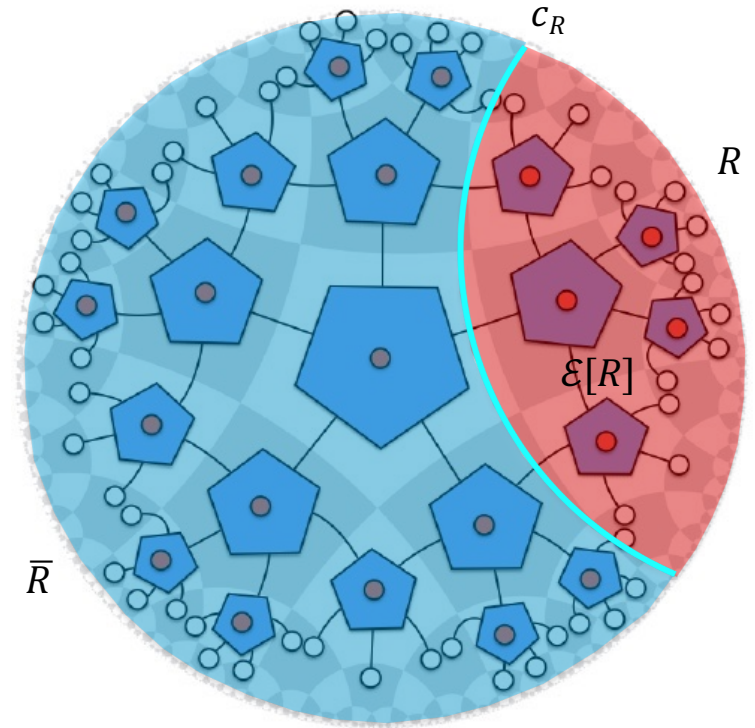
- (5,4) tiling of hyperbolic plane, one 6-index perfect tensor per lattice face.
- 1 free index per face (logical qudit); remaining 5 indices contracted with adjacent tensors.
- Boundary consists of some number of uncontracted indices.



**Claim 1.** HaPPY code forms a tensor network equivalent to a perfect tensor  $T_{i_1 \dots i_n, j_1 \dots j_k} = \langle i_1 \dots i_n | \widetilde{j_1 \dots j_k} \rangle$  that encodes  $k$  bulk logical qudits in  $n$  boundary physical qudits against the erasure of some number of the latter.

## HaPPY code

- (5,4) tiling of hyperbolic plane, one 6-index perfect tensor per lattice face.
- 1 free index per face (logical qudit); remaining 5 indices contracted with adjacent tensors.
- Boundary consists of some number of uncontracted indices.



**Claim 2.** Lattice versions of  $W[R]$  and RT formula can be constructed: Let  $R$  = subset of uncontracted boundary indices, and let  $c_R$  be the "minimum length" cut with same boundaries as  $R$  that divides network into two perfect tensors  $P, Q$ , with  $P$  defined by the tensors in the region containing  $R$ , and  $Q$  by those in the region containing  $\bar{R}$ .

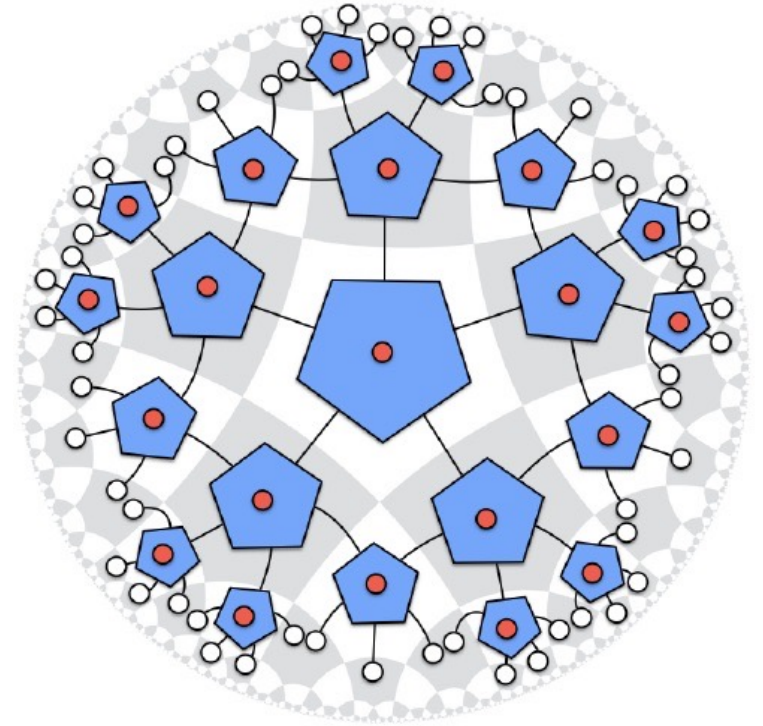
- Lattice entanglement wedge  $\mathcal{E}[R]$  = set of tensors that define  $P$ .
- Lattice RT formula: Entanglement entropy of  $R$  is given by the "length"  $|c_R|$  of  $c_R$  (number of indices that it cuts).

# The QECC and HaPPY code Interpretations of AdS/CFT

| QECC                                                                                                                                                                 | HaPPY code                                                                                                                | AdS/CFT                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Physical qudit Hilbert space<br>$\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \mathcal{H}_R^{(m)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}^{(n-m)}$                                                      | $\mathcal{H}_{\text{HC}} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$ , for<br>boundary subregion $R$ .                 | $\mathcal{H}_{\text{CFT}} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\bar{R}}$ , for<br>boundary subregion $R$ .             |
| Code subspace $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}^{(n)}$<br>( <i>encoded logical qudits</i> )                                                                         | Subspace $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{HC}}$ of<br>states that represent<br>bulk states in $\mathcal{E}[R]$ . | Subspace $\mathcal{H}_C \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{CFT}}$ of<br>states that represent<br>bulk states in $W[R]$ .       |
| <u>Erasure-Protection Condition:</u><br>Any $n$ -qudit operator on $\mathcal{H}_C$<br>can be expressed as an $m$ -<br>qudit operator on $R$ .                        | Any operator on $\mathcal{E}[R]$<br>can be pushed out to an<br>operator on $R$ .                                          | <u><math>W[R]</math> Reconstruction:</u><br>Any bulk field on $W[R]$<br>can be expressed as a<br>CFT operator on $R$ . |
| <u>QECC Condition:</u> Any<br>( $n-m$ )-qudit operator on $\bar{R}$<br>acts as a multiple of the<br>identity on $\mathcal{H}_C$ .                                    | Any operator on $\bar{R}$ acts as<br>a multiple of the identity<br>on bulk states in $\mathcal{E}[R]$ .                   | Any CFT operator on $\bar{R}$<br>acts as a multiple of the<br>identity on bulk states in<br>$W[R]$ .                   |
| <u>Finite-dim RT Formula:</u><br>For any state $\tilde{\rho}$ on $\mathcal{H}_C$ ,<br>$S(\tilde{\rho}_R) = \text{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}\mathcal{L}_R] + S(\tilde{\rho})$ . | <u>Lattice RT Formula:</u><br>$S(\rho_R) =  c_R $                                                                         | <u>RT Formula:</u><br>$S(\rho_R) = \text{Area}(\gamma_R)/4G + S(\rho_{H_R})$                                           |

## HaPPY code

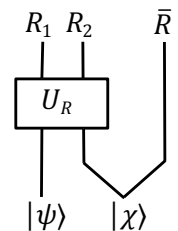
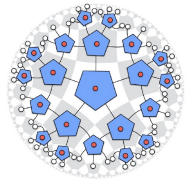
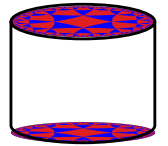
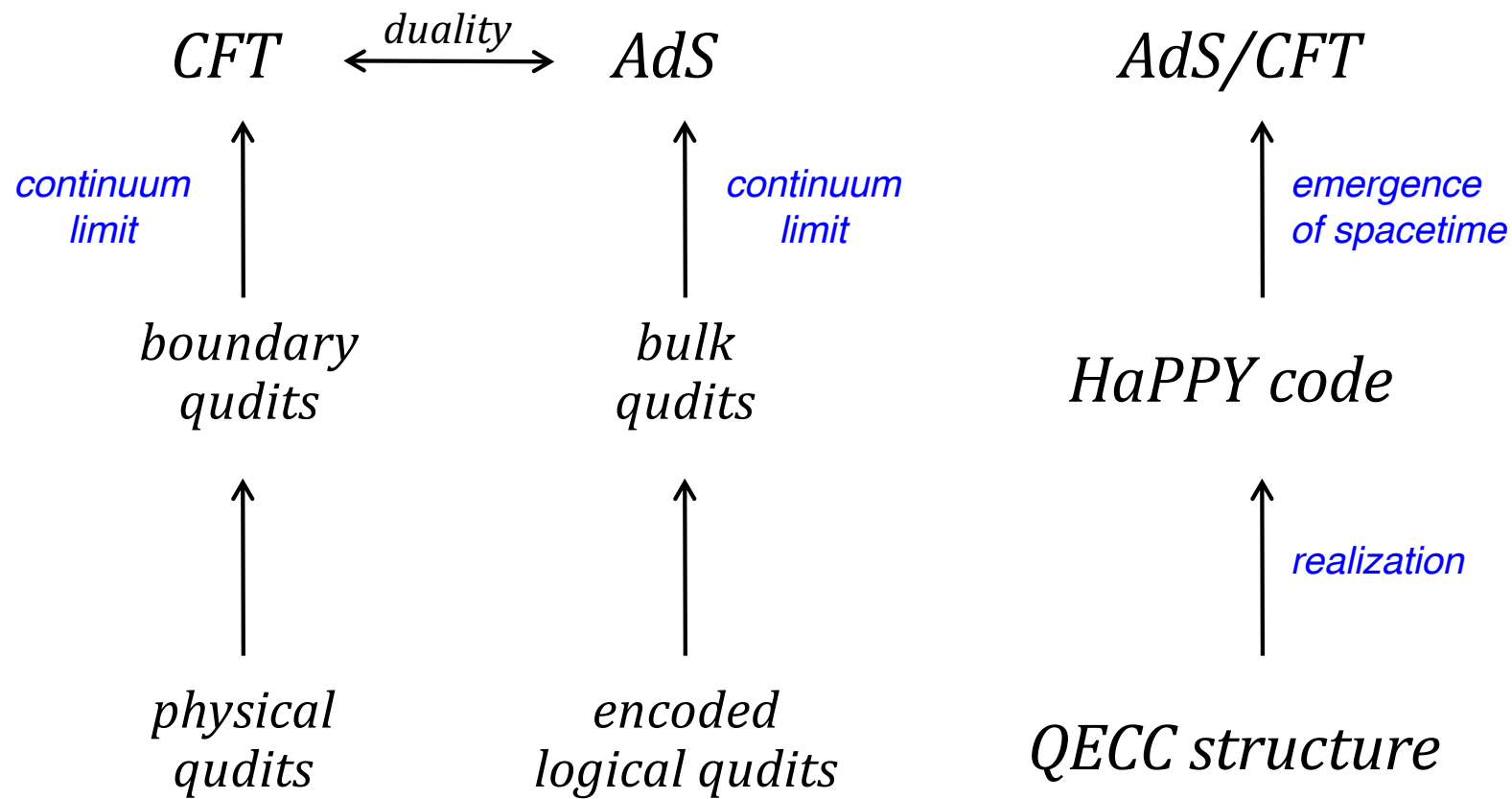
- (5,4) tiling of hyperbolic plane, one 6-index perfect tensor per lattice face.
- 1 free index per face (logical qudit); remaining 5 indices contracted with adjacent tensors.
- Boundary consists of some number of uncontracted indices.



**Continuum limit:**  $(\#vertices) \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $(\#vertices)/area = \text{const.}$

- Expect to recover AdS/CFT correspondence!

*Suggests: Both CFT and AdS gravity emerge in continuum limit of Happy Code discrete lattice system.*



*Suggests: Both CFT and AdS gravity emerge in continuum limit of Happy Code discrete lattice system.*

# Realist Interpretive Options

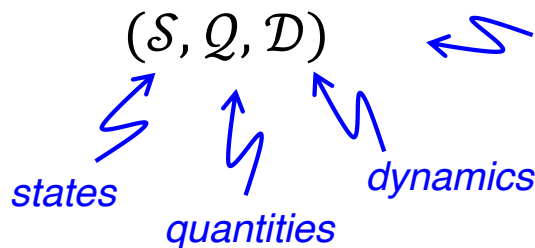
- *Discrimination*: Only one of two dual theories describes an actual world candidate.



*Perhaps for QECC Interpretation, but not for emergentist HaPPY code interpretation...*

- *Common Core*: Dual theories share a common mathematical core.

Vistarini (2017),  
de Haro (2020), de Haro &  
Butterfield (2018; 2021)



*Informed by differentiate dictionary?*

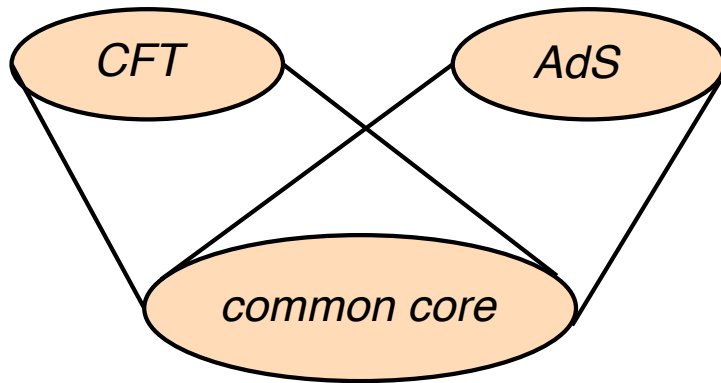


- *Should we "back off"?*
- *Should we allow purely kinematical "core"?*

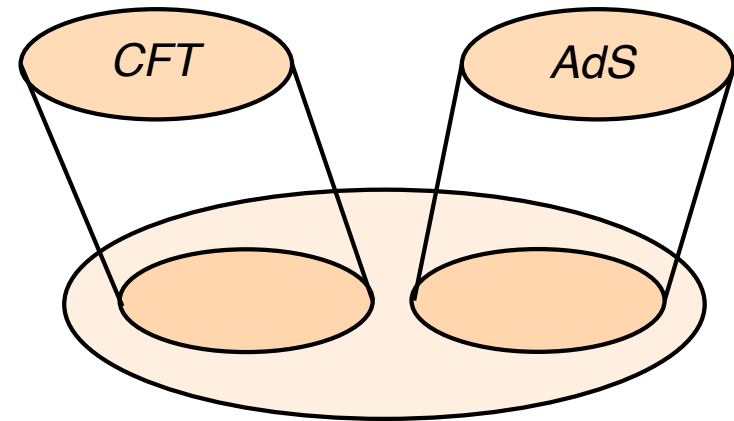
- *Overarching Theory*: Dual theories can be embedded in an overarching theory.



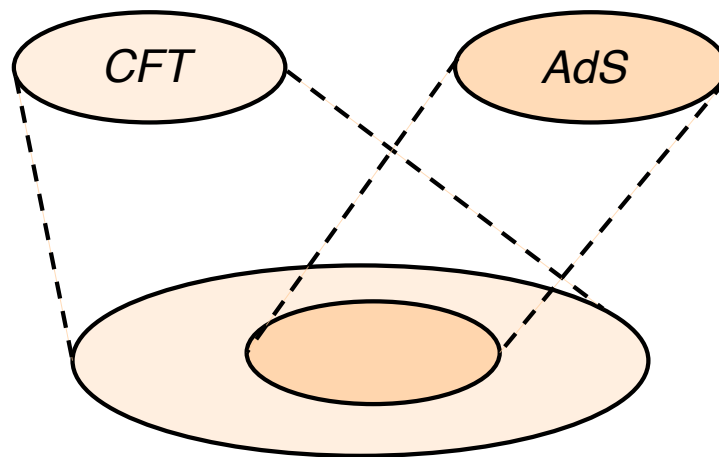
- *Is a QECC a "theory"?*
- *Is the emergence relation an embedding relation?*



*Common core*



*Overarching "structure"*

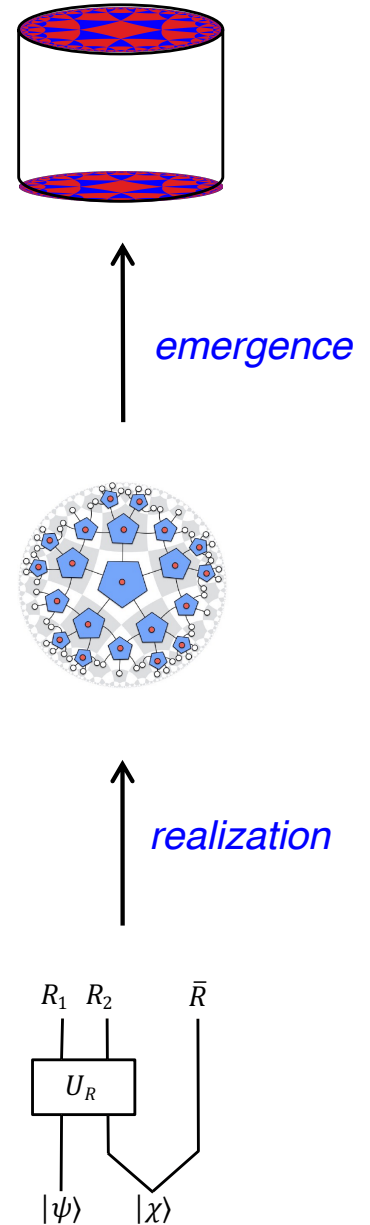


*HaPPY Code Interpretation*

↪ *Overarching structure is QECC, but CFT and AdS gravity are not embedded in it; rather, they emerge as different aspects of a realization of it.*

# Conclusion

- Is Spacetime a QECC?  
- *No!*
- Does spacetime emerge in a continuum limit from a discrete physical system on a lattice whose kinematically possible states realize a QECC?  
- *Possibly!*



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