

# The bulk Hilbert space from chords

Henry Lin

based on arXiv:2208.07032

+ upcoming w/ Douglas Stanford and Zhenbin Yang

Fifth Mandelstam Workshop

# Incomplete References

JT gravity review:

[Maldacena, Stanford, Yang 1606.01857]

[Sarosi 1711.08482]

[Mertens & Turiaci 2210.10846]

JT gravity in the gauge-invariant formalism:

[Harlow & Jafferis, 1804.01081],

[Harlow & Wu, 2108.04841],

[HL, Maldacena, Rozenberg, Shan, 2207.00408]

SYK, etc.

SYK [Maldacena & Stanford, 1604.07818]

traversable wormholes [Maldacena, Stanford, Yang 1704.05333] [HL, Maldacena, Zhao, 1904.12820]

double scaled SYK [Berkooz *et al.* 1811.02584] [HL 2208.07032]

# Double scaled SYK

SYK:  $N$  Majorana fermions with  $q$ -body Hamiltonian

$$H = i^{q/2} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_q \leq N} J_{i_1 \dots i_q} \psi_{i_1} \cdots \psi_{i_q}, \quad \langle J_{i_1 \dots i_q}^2 \rangle = \mathcal{J}^2 / \binom{N}{q},$$

Double scaling limit

$$q \rightarrow \infty, \quad N \rightarrow \infty, \quad \lambda = 2q^2/N = \text{fixed}.$$

2 dimensionless parameters:  $\lambda \sim G_N/(\phi_r \epsilon)$ , and  $\beta \mathcal{J} \sim \beta/\epsilon$ .

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- ▶ Standard large  $q$  limit:  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\beta \mathcal{J} = \text{fixed}$ .
- ▶ Triple scaling limit:  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\beta \mathcal{J} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\lambda \beta \mathcal{J} = \text{fixed}$ .

## Analogy with $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

$1/\lambda \sim N_{\text{YM}}^2$ . When  $1/\lambda$  is large, the saddle point approximation is valid.

$(\beta\mathcal{J})^{-1} \sim \lambda_{\text{YM}} = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N_{\text{YM}}$ . This controls effects that make the chaos exponent sub-maximal. In string theory, this is finite  $\alpha'$  corrections. At finite temperatures, don't get JT gravity but some more complicated action  $\sim$  higher derivative corrections to Einstein gravity.

Part of the motivation for this work is to understand chaos at finite chaos exponent.  $\beta\mathcal{J} \rightarrow 0$  the Lyapunov exponent  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{J}$ , whereas at  $\beta\mathcal{J} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\mathcal{L} = 2\pi/\beta$ .

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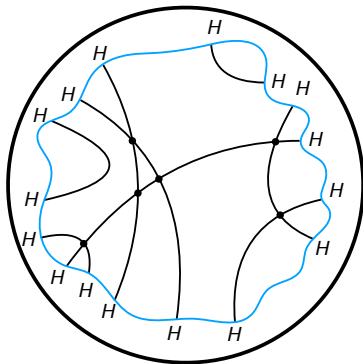
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4. Sum over Wick contractions and  $m$ .

## Chord diagrams

The last two steps are achieved by writing down all “chord diagrams” and associating a factor  $q = e^{-\lambda}$  to each vertex.

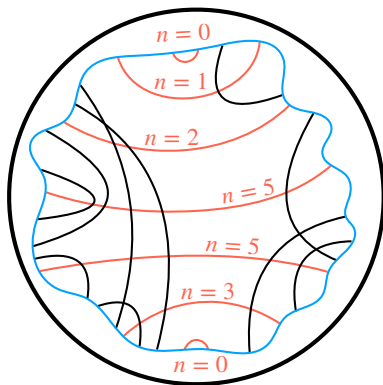
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A contribution to  $\text{tr } H^{16} \supset q^6$ .

How do we enumerate all such diagrams? The idea is that we slice open all the diagrams and write



$$Z(\beta) = \langle 0 | e^{-\beta T} | 0 \rangle$$

$T$  accounts for the insertion of  $H$  on the boundary using chords.



# Chord Hilbert Space = bulk Hilbert Space

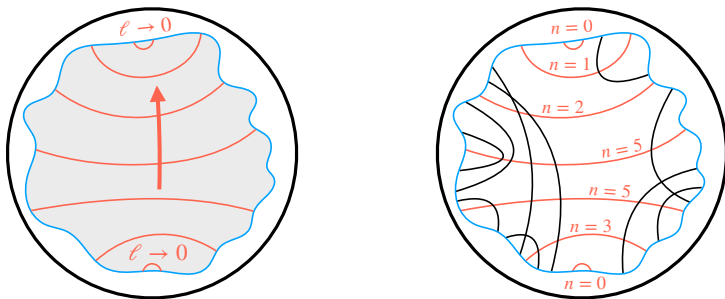


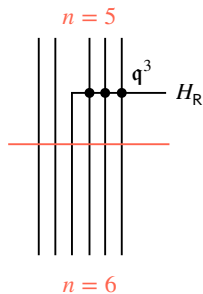
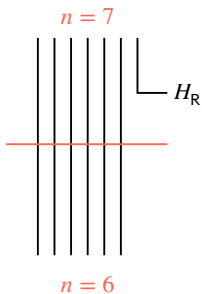
Figure: pure JT gravity vs chords.

The states  $|n\rangle$  are “bulk” states with  $n$  open chords. We immediately suspect that  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  is the discrete analog of  $\ell$ .

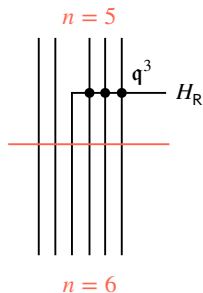
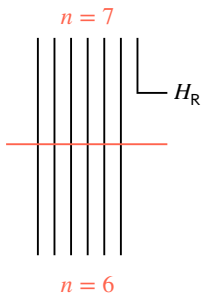
To relate  $n$  and  $\ell$  more explicitly, let's work out the action of  $T$  on a state with  $n$  open chords.

In principle, we have two operators  $T_L$  and  $T_R$ , which correspond to inserting  $H$  on the L or R. But without matter these operators are identical.

Two processes that happen when we act with  $H_R$ :

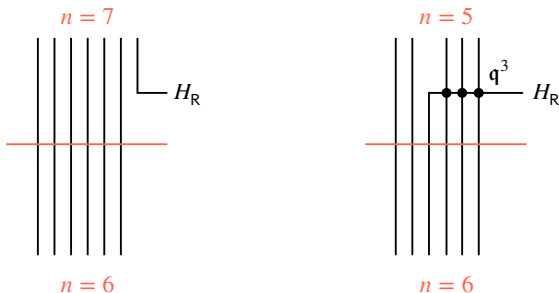


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On the left, a chord is created. By convention, it does not cross any chords. On the right, a chord is annihilated. It crosses 3 chords giving a factor of  $q^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \alpha^\dagger + \alpha W, \quad \alpha |n\rangle = |n-1\rangle, \quad n > 0 \\ W_n &= q^0 + q^1 + \cdots + q^{n-1} = \frac{1 - q^n}{1 - q} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

## Inner product

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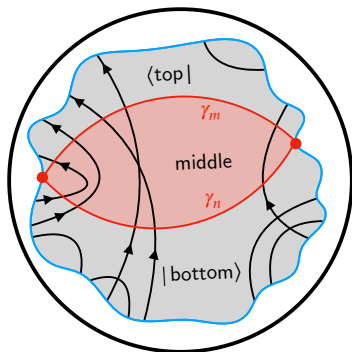
The inner product is defined by  $\langle 0|T^{a+b}|0\rangle = \langle T^a|0\rangle, T^b|0\rangle \rangle$ .

$$(T^a)^0_n (T^b)^n_0 = g_{mn} (T^a)^m_0 (T^b)^n_0.$$

where  $g_{mn} = \langle |m\rangle, |n\rangle \rangle$  and  $T|0\rangle = T^m_0|m\rangle$ .



# Inner product



**Figure:** Interpretation of the chord diagram as  $\langle \text{top} | \text{bottom} \rangle$ . The middle region (pink) defines an inner product. All chords entering through  $\gamma_n$  must exit through  $\gamma_m$ .

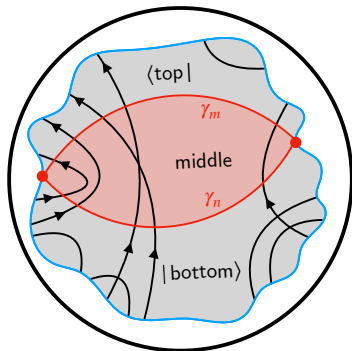
$$(T^a)_{0,n}(T^b)_{n,0} = g^{mn}(T^a)_{m,0}(T^b)_{n,0}.$$

Since all chords that cross  $\gamma_n$  must cross  $\gamma_m$ ,  $\langle m|n\rangle \propto \delta_{mn}$ .

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Delete-a-chord recursion relation:

$$\langle n|n\rangle = W_n \langle n-1|n-1\rangle. \quad (2)$$



Evaluating  $T$  in an orthonormal basis gives

$$\begin{aligned} H &= -g^{1/2} T g^{-1/2} = \alpha \sqrt{W} + \sqrt{W} \alpha^\dagger \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q}} \left[ e^{i\lambda k} \sqrt{1-e^{-\ell}} + \sqrt{1-e^{-\ell}} e^{-i\lambda k} \right] \end{aligned}$$

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Here we have identified  $\ell = \lambda n$ . Taking the *triple-scaling limit*:

$$\lambda \rightarrow 0, \quad \ell \rightarrow \infty, \quad e^{-\ell}/\lambda^2 = e^{-\tilde{\ell}} = \text{fixed},$$

we recover Liouville quantum mechanics

$$H - E_0 \propto k^2 + e^{-\tilde{\ell}} \tag{3}$$

## Chord Hilbert Space = bulk Hilbert Space

	JT gravity	Double Scaled SYK
$\mathcal{H}_{\text{grav}}$	length $ \ell\rangle$	chords $ n\rangle$
$H$	$k^2 + e^{-\ell}$	$e^{ik\ell}\sqrt{1 - e^{-\ell}} + cc$
$Z(\beta)$	$\langle \ell = 0   e^{-\beta H}   \ell = 0 \rangle$	$\langle 0   e^{-\beta T}   0 \rangle$
TFD	$e^{-\beta H/2}   \ell = 0 \rangle$	$e^{-\beta H/2}   0 \rangle$

## Operator Size & Chord Number

Expand any 2-sided state  $|\chi\rangle$  in the “size basis”:

$$|\chi\rangle = \sum_{s,l} c_{s,l} \psi_l^s |\Omega\rangle ,$$

The size of this state is measured by the 2-sided operator:

$$\text{size} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left( 1 + i \psi_{\alpha}^L \psi_{\alpha}^R \right) .$$

Let  $\bar{n}$  be the total chord number, weighted by dimension:

$$\boxed{\bar{n} = \text{size}/q} \tag{4}$$

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$$\bar{n} = \text{size}/q \quad (5)$$

Let's focus on a particular term in the computation of the average size:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \text{tr} ( \overbrace{HHHH}^{\text{chord}} \psi_{\alpha} \overbrace{HHHH}^{\text{chord}} \psi_{\alpha} ) \\ & \propto \sum_{l, \alpha} \text{tr} \left( \psi_{l_1}^q \psi_{l_1}^q \psi_{l_2}^q \psi_{l_3}^q \psi_{\alpha} \overbrace{\psi_{l_4}^q \psi_{l_2}^q \psi_{l_4}^q \psi_{l_3}^q}^{\text{chord}} \psi_{\alpha} \right) \\ & \propto \sum_{l, \alpha} \text{tr} \left( \psi_{l_2}^q \psi_{l_3}^q \psi_{\alpha} \overbrace{\psi_{l_2}^q \psi_{l_3}^q}^{\text{chord}} \psi_{\alpha} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$



## Bulk-to-boundary map: a warmup

Gram-Schmidt the set of vectors:

$$|\Omega\rangle, H|\Omega\rangle, H^2|\Omega\rangle, \dots, \quad (7)$$

Since  $T \sim \alpha^\dagger + \alpha$ , this generates the chord basis:

$$|0\rangle, |1\rangle, |2\rangle, \dots, \quad (8)$$

Explicitly,

$$|\Omega\rangle, H|\Omega\rangle, H^2|\Omega\rangle - |\Omega\rangle, H^3|\Omega\rangle - (2 + q)H|\Omega\rangle \quad (9)$$

Similar to Krylov complexity.

## Correlators and matter chords

# Matter chords

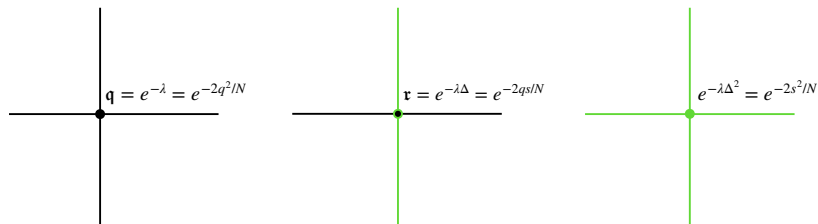
Following [\[Berkooz et al.\]](#), we will consider thermal correlators of “matter operators” with  $\Delta = s/q$  fixed:

$$M_s = i^{s/2} \sum_I K_I \psi_I^s \quad (10)$$

Multi-index notation:  $\Psi_I^s = \psi_{i_1} \psi_{i_2} \cdots \psi_{i_s}$ .

## Case with matter

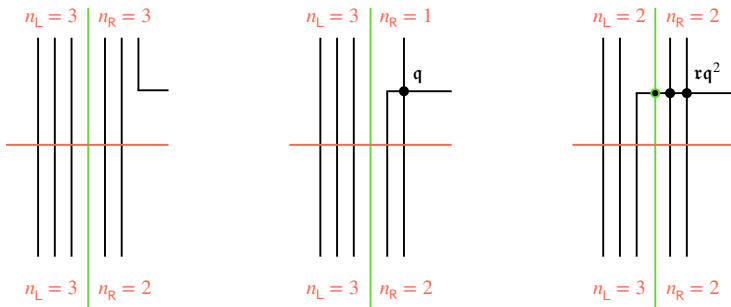
Feynman rules for matter operators  $M_S$ :



A microscopic origin of Newton's Law:  $GM_1M_2 \sim (2q^2/N)\Delta_1\Delta_2$

## Case with matter

The next simplest case is a wormhole with one **green** particle.  
Then states are labeled by  $|n_L, n_R\rangle$ .



Repeating the logic from before,

$$\begin{aligned} T_R &= \alpha_R^\dagger + \alpha_R W_R + \alpha_L \mathfrak{r} q^{n_R} W_L, \\ T_L &= \alpha_L^\dagger + \alpha_L W_L + \alpha_R \mathfrak{r} q^{n_L} W_R. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

## Case with matter

For states with multi-particles, states are labeled by

$$|n_0, n_1, \dots, n_m\rangle_{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_m} \quad (12)$$

General expressions for  $T_L, T_R$ :

$$\begin{aligned} T_L &= \alpha_L^\dagger + \sum_{i=0}^m \alpha_i \left[ \frac{1 - e^{-\ell_i}}{1 - q} \right] \prod_{j < i} r_j e^{-\ell_j}, \\ T_R &= \alpha_R^\dagger + \sum_{i=0}^m \alpha_i \left[ \frac{1 - e^{-\ell_i}}{1 - q} \right] \prod_{j > i} r_j e^{-\ell_j}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Note that there is only one creation  $\alpha^\dagger$  operator.

# The chord algebra

We obtained the general expressions for  $T_L, T_R$  acting on arbitrary states in the double-scaled Hilbert space.

We would like to use these to understand the bulk dual. 0th order question: what are the symmetries of the bulk (if any)?

In  $\text{NAdS}_2$ , the gauge-invariant bulk isometries of  $\text{AdS}_2$  are subtle. They do not commute with the  $H_L, H_R$ , but form an algebra which includes the Hamiltonian and the length.

# The chord algebra

The total chord number  $\bar{n}$  and  $T_{L/R}$  form an algebra, independent of the matter content:

$$[T_L, T_R] = 0$$

$$[T_{L/R}, \bar{n}] = T_{L/R} - 2\alpha_{L/R}^\dagger$$

$$[\alpha_L^\dagger, \alpha_R^\dagger] = 0$$

$$[\bar{n}, \alpha_{L/R}^\dagger] = \alpha_{L/R}^\dagger$$

$$[T_{L/R}, \alpha_{L/R}^\dagger]_q = 1 + (1 - q) \left( \alpha_{L/R}^\dagger \right)^2$$

$$[T_{L/R}, \alpha_{R/L}^\dagger] = q^{\bar{n}}$$

Here  $[A, B]_q = AB - qBA$ . This algebra has implications for the bulk dual of double scaled SYK. [\[HL, Stanford, Yang, upcoming\]](#).



Can find a subalgebra that commutes with  $\bar{n}$ , generated by 4 elements:

$$\begin{aligned}F_{LL} &= \alpha_L^\dagger (T_L - \alpha_L^\dagger) \\F_{RR} &= \alpha_R^\dagger (T_R - \alpha_R^\dagger) \\F_{LR} &= \alpha_L^\dagger (T_R - \alpha_R^\dagger) \\F_{RL} &= \alpha_R^\dagger (T_L - \alpha_L^\dagger)\end{aligned}\tag{14}$$

To see that these commute with  $\bar{n}$ , recall that  $T_i - \alpha_i^\dagger$  only annihilates. One can work out the commutation relations of  $F$  using the chord algebra.

These 4 elements form a subalgebra of  $U_{q^{1/2}}(\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}))$ :

$$[K^2, \mathcal{E}]_q = [\mathcal{F}, K^2]_q = 0, \quad \mathcal{E}\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}\mathcal{E} = \frac{K^2 - K^{-2}}{q^{1/2} - q^{-1/2}}$$

For each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we get unitary finite-dim reps of this algebra!

# Gravitational algebra

In the triple scaling limit, the chord algebra becomes the JT gravitational algebra:

$$\begin{aligned}[H_L, H_R] &= 0 \\ i[H_{L/R}, \tilde{\ell}] &= 2k_{L/R} \\ [\tilde{\ell}, k_{L/R}] &= i \\ [k_L, k_R] &= 0 \\ -i[k_{L/R}, H_{L/R}] &= H_{L/R} - k_{L/R}^2 \\ -i[k_{L/R}, H_{R/L}] &= e^{-\tilde{\ell}}\end{aligned}$$

In [\[Harlow & Wu '21\]](#) this algebra was derived classically using Poisson brackets; here we obtained them quantum mechanically.

## JT with matter

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Taking the triple scaling limit of our expressions for  $T_L, T_R \Rightarrow$  gives concrete reps of the JT algebra. The simplest case is for  $m = 1$  matter particles in the wormhole:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\ell}_L &= \ell_L + \log \lambda, & \tilde{\ell}_R &= \ell_R + \log \lambda \\ H_L &\approx -\tilde{\partial}_L^2 + \Delta e^{-\tilde{\ell}_L} + e^{-\tilde{\ell}_L} (\partial_R - \partial_L) + e^{-\tilde{\ell}_L - \tilde{\ell}_R} \\ H_R &\approx -\tilde{\partial}_R^2 + \Delta e^{-\tilde{\ell}_R} - e^{-\tilde{\ell}_R} (\partial_R - \partial_L) + e^{-\tilde{\ell}_L - \tilde{\ell}_R}.\end{aligned}\tag{15}$$

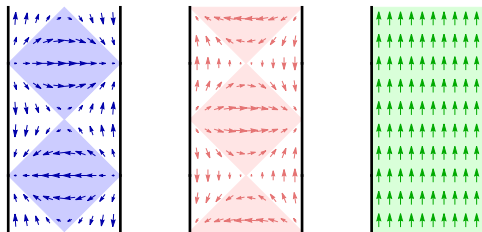
This is some generalization of Liouville that involves two coordinates. For  $m$ -particle states, there is a generalization involving  $m + 1$  coordinates.

## Symmetries near the horizon

An interesting sub-algebra of the JT gravitational algebra is generated by elements which commute with  $\tilde{\ell}$ . This forms an  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$  algebra [HL, Maldacena, Zhao] that is the near horizon symmetries of the wormhole.

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# Symmetries

Plugging in our expressions for  $H_L, H_R$  for 1 matter particle gives:

$$L_0 = -i\partial_x, \quad L_{\pm} = (\Delta \pm \partial_x) e^{\mp x} \quad (16)$$

$x$  is essentially the distance from the horizon  $x = \lambda(n_L - n_R)/2$ .



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$x$  is essentially the distance from the horizon  $x = \lambda(n_L - n_R)/2$ .  
This  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$  algebra is a contraction of the  $U_{q^{1/2}}(\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}))$  subalgebra we discussed before.

## Finite temperature $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ symmetries

We can back off the low temperature limit and consider  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  holding temperature fixed. (Equivalently,  $\bar{n} \rightarrow \infty$ , holding  $e^{-\lambda \bar{n}}$  fixed.)

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Stay tuned...

## Bulk-to-boundary map

In the case without matter, we performed Gram-Schmidt to obtain  $|0\rangle \rightarrow |1\rangle \rightarrow |2\rangle \rightarrow \dots$ . The next simplest case is to consider 1 particle states.

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cccc} |0,0\rangle \rightarrow & |0,1\rangle \rightarrow & |0,2\rangle \rightarrow & \dots \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \\ |1,0\rangle \rightarrow & |1,1\rangle \rightarrow & |1,2\rangle \rightarrow & \dots \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \\ |2,0\rangle \rightarrow & |2,1\rangle \rightarrow & |2,2\rangle \rightarrow & \dots \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{array} \right]$$

## Bulk-to-boundary map

To make the first column of this matrix, we can consider the states with no particle  $|n\rangle$  and then act with  $(M_s)_R |n\rangle = |n, 0\rangle$ .

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To carry out this orthogonalization procedure, need to know  $\text{tr } M_s H^a M_s H^b$ . Known explicitly [Berkooz *et al.*].

Subtlety:  $\langle n, m | n', m' \rangle \neq 0$  unless  $n + m \neq n' + m'$ .

## Bulk-to-boundary map

Have an algorithm to construct multi-particle states by organizing the states into a higher dimensional array. Need the  $n$ -pt functions of the theory, known in terms of  $\Gamma_q$  [Berkooz *et al.*].

Works for all values of  $q$  and temperatures; even when quantum corrections are large! More complete bulk reconstruction than HKLL.

Roughly analogous to summing  $\alpha'$  corrections and  $1/N$  corrections, but *not*  $e^{-N}$  corrections.



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In [Leutheusser & Liu], the near horizon symmetries were constructed using an algebraic approach. Here I also constructed the near horizon symmetries. Any relation?

# Future directions

1. Tensor networks
2. Can one derive a QES formula using chords [Lewkowycz & Maldacena]?
3. Wormholes [Jafferis *et al.*]
4.  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  supersymmetry [HL, Maldacena, Rozenberg, Shan; Berkooz *et al.*]
5. Bulk implications of the  $q$ -deformation [HL, Stanford, Yang, in prep]