

## Exact result on irrelevant deformations of QFTs

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# Holographic baby universes

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# Baby Universes (à la Giddings-Stringer)

- baby universe  $\rightarrow$  physics of spacetime wormholes
- creation & annihilation of baby universes  $\xrightarrow{\text{contribute}}$  Hilbert Spaces
- third-quantized model: topology changes in the bulk (spacetime)
- an axion coupled to gravity  $\rightarrow$  topology changes  $\rightarrow$  baby universes

Lorentzian vs Euclidean Baby Universes

$\Rightarrow$  diffeomorphism invariant

Hamiltonian description:

4d Lorentzian  $\Rightarrow$  3d Euclidean geometries in time direction.

Wheeler-de Witt:  $H|\underline{\Psi}\rangle = 0$



Hartle-Hawking state

$\rightarrow$  superposition of 3d geometries  $\Rightarrow$  ensemble!

# Algebraic approach to QFT/QG

## Bulk/Boundary operators in AdS/CFT

operator algebra

smearred over the entire spatial slice  
or a compact spatial subregion

Quantum Error  
Correction perspective

defined only on a code subspace of  
the physical  $\mathcal{H}$  of the CFT.

QFT

consider a general  $\mathcal{H}$

→ finite or infinite dimensional

# Von Neumann algebra

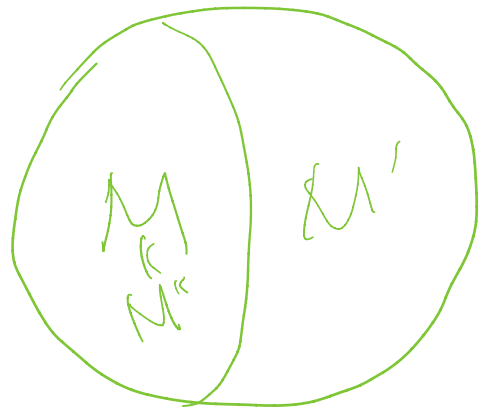
local operator algebras of QFTs

= (infinite-dim) Von Neumann algebra  $M \subset \underline{B(H)}$

the set of bounded operators



an algebra of bounded operators that



1) contains the identity

2) closed under Hermitian conjugation ( $*$ -algebra)

3)  $M = M''$

commutant  $M' = \{O \in B(H) \mid OP = PO \ \forall P \in M\}$

Von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{Q}$  state-dependence

local operator algebras of QFTs  
= (infinite-dim) von Neumann algebra

With a cyclic & separating *state* (or a ground state  $|\Omega\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$ )

Von Neumann algebra  $\rightarrow$  operator algebra on  $\mathcal{H}$

 State-dependent!

State - Pushing

vs

Operator - Pushing



bulk **states** are mapped to  
boundary **states**



**operators** acting on the bulk algebra  
are directly mapped to boundary operators

ex) Tensor Networks

Before:  $VN$  algebra of operators acting on  $\mathcal{H}$ .  
(with states)



Before:  $VN$  algebra of operators acting on  $\mathcal{H}$ .  
(with states)

a complex algebra with a norm & an involution

Now:  $C^*$ -algebra w/o a notion of  $\mathcal{H}$   
for operator algebra, use operator pushing map,  
and then construct  $\mathcal{H}$  via GNS representation.

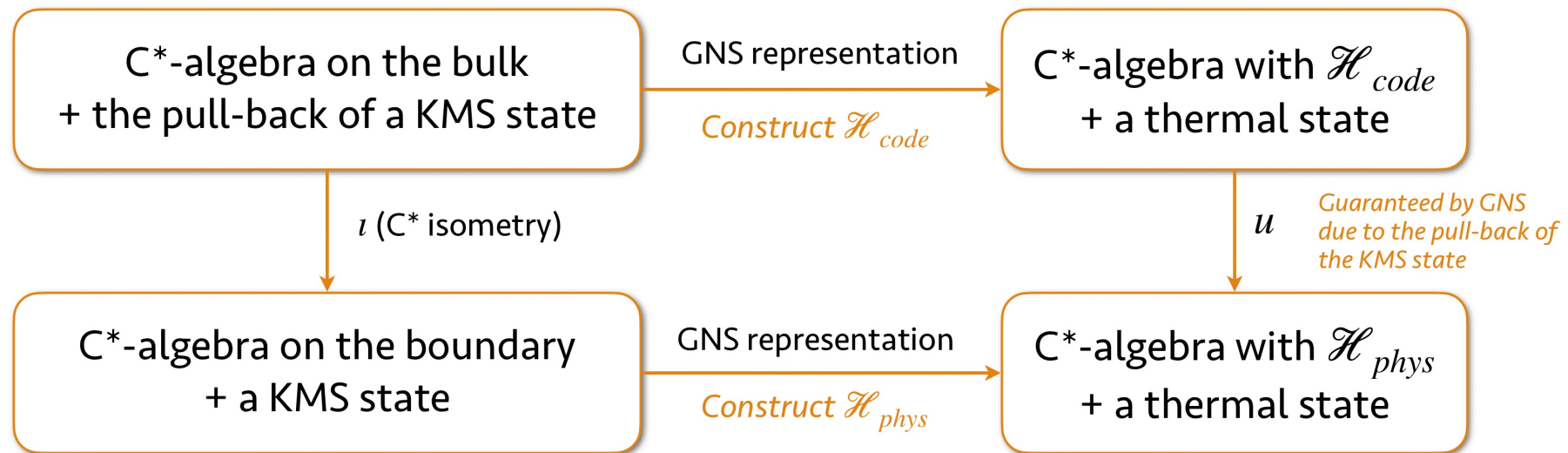
# Dictionary between operator algebras & quantum gravity

Operator algebras	Quantum gravity
bulk $C^*$ -algebra ( $\mathcal{A}_{code}$ )	local operators on the bulk <small>nodes</small>
boundary $C^*$ -algebra ( $\mathcal{A}_{phys}$ )	local operators on the boundary
$C^*$ isometry ( $\iota$ )	operator pushing map
a strongly-continuous 1-parameter group of isometries of $\mathcal{A}_{phys}$ ( $\sigma_t$ )	Hamiltonian evolution
a KMS state ( $\omega$ )	a thermal vacuum
commutant of the bulk vN algebra ( $\mathcal{M}'_{code}$ )	the other side of the wormhole
commutant of the boundary vN algebra ( $\mathcal{M}'_{phys}$ )	the other boundary

# Dictionary between operator algebras & quantum gravity - (EX)

Operator Algebras	Tensor Networks (cf. HaPPY code)
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# Construction with $C^*$ -algebra



# GNS construction

Prepare a state:  $A$ :  $C^*$ -algebra. Say  $A \in \mathcal{A}$

a state on  $A$  = a linear functional  $\omega$  on  $A$  s.t.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \omega(A^*A) \text{ is a nonnegative real number} \\ \omega(\text{Id}) = 1 \end{array} \right.$$

Want to build  $\mathcal{H}$ .

Most intuitive idea: Define the inner product with  $\omega$   
& get the Hilbert space from it.

Most intuitive inner product:

$$\langle B, A \rangle := \omega(B^*A) \quad \text{for } A, B \in \mathcal{A}$$

**problem!** There can exist observables for which  $\omega(A^*A) = 0$ .

→ quotient these out

$$I := \{A \in \mathcal{A}, \omega(A^*A) = 0\}$$

→ Then we get  $\mathcal{H}_\omega := \mathcal{A}/I$ ,

where  $\mathcal{A}$  acts by left multiplication.

→ GNS representation of  $\mathcal{A}$ .

key point:

The GNS representation  $\pi_\omega$  of a state  $\omega$  is that it **purifies**  $\omega$  into the vector state  $|\text{[Id]}\rangle$ .

$$\omega(A) = \langle \text{[Id]} | \pi_\omega(A) | \text{[Id]} \rangle \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{A}$$

Consider a particular set of states : **KMS state**

characterizes thermal equilibrium  
w.r.t. a time evolution

→ Recall for a finite-dimensional system :  $n$ -dim

- algebra ( $\mathcal{A}_n$ ) of  $n$ -dim matrices.

- a Hamiltonian ( $H$ ) generating the time evolution.

$$\sigma_t(A) := e^{iHt} A e^{-iHt}$$

- the Gibbs state  $\rho_\beta := \frac{e^{-\beta H}}{\text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H})}$  is the unique state representing thermal equilibrium at  $\beta$ .



Generalize to include for infinite-dim

→ traces are not always well-defined.

→ can no longer compute the Gibbs state.

→ Instead, we have **KMS** condition

- $C^*$  algebra:  $\mathcal{A}$

- a state on  $\mathcal{A}$ :  $\omega$

- a 1-parameter group of automorphisms of  $\mathcal{A}$ :  $\sigma_t$

→ For  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\omega$  is a **KMS $_\beta$**  state if  $\exists F_{AB}$  analytic on the strip  $\{0 < \text{Im} z < \beta\}$

& continuous on its closure s.t.  $F_{AB}(t) = \omega(A\sigma_t(B))$  &  $F_{AB}(t+i\beta) = \omega(\sigma_t(A)B)$ .

key point:

The GNS representation allows to represent a KMS (thermal) state as a vector state on a Hilbert space.

Consider TFD construction.

- finite-dim  $\mathcal{H}$
- thermal density matrix  $\rho_\beta := \frac{e^{-\beta H}}{\text{Tr} e^{-\beta H}}$
- TFD doubles the size of the Hilbert space to construct a purification of the mixed  $\rho_\beta$ .

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$  (doubled Hilbert space)

- In  $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H}$ , the vector state is constructed as

$$\underline{\underline{|\text{TFD}\rangle_\beta}} := \sum_i e^{-\beta E_i/2} |e_i\rangle \otimes |e_i\rangle$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{eigenbasis of the Hamiltonian}}$

$\xrightarrow{\text{defines a purification of } \rho_\beta}$

Consider a finite-dim context with  $\mathcal{H}_n$  ( $n$ -dim Hilbert space)

WLOG, assume the thermal density matrix is nondegenerate.

- For a Gibbs state, the thermal density matrix is invertible.  
→ the ideal of the GNS representation is trivial.
  - The Hilbert space is directly constructed out of the algebra  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$ , which is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}_n \otimes \mathcal{H}_n$
  - The density matrix  $\rho_\beta$  is now represented as a vector state.
- ⇒ The GNS representation is exactly the same as the TFD construction in the nondegenerate finite-dimension case.

key point:

TFD construction transforms any mixed thermal state into a vector state

⇒ This is exactly what GNS representation of a KMS state does.

So far we established :

1. Hilbert spaces of bulk & boundary
2. a bulk-to-boundary (Hilbert space) isometry
3. a vector state for each Hilbert space  
(TFD state generalization).

we still need to formulate : von Neumann algebra

→ local operator algebra of QFT

- The GNS representation  $\pi_\omega$  purifies a state  $\omega$  into the vector state  $|\mathbb{1}\rangle$

$$\omega(A) = \langle \mathbb{1} | \pi_\omega(A) | \mathbb{1} \rangle$$

→ cyclic

- The action of  $A$  on the state spans a norm-dense subset of  $\mathcal{H}$ .
  - cyclic property extends to the bi-commutant of the  $C^*$ -algebra on the GNS Hilbert space.
  - ⇒ Generates a VN algebra!

- The GNS representation  $\pi_w$  purifies a state  $w$  into the vector state  $|\mathbb{I}\mathbb{d}\rangle$

$$w(A) = \langle \mathbb{I}\mathbb{d} | \pi_w(A) | \mathbb{I}\mathbb{d} \rangle$$

→ cyclic

- The action of  $A$  on the state spans a norm-dense subset of  $\mathcal{H}$ .  
→ cyclic property extends to the bi-commutant of the  $C^*$ -algebra on the GNS Hilbert space.

⇒ Generates a VN algebra with a cyclic & separating state!

- The vector representative  $|\mathbb{I}\mathbb{d}\rangle$  of a KMS state

⇒ a separating vector for the  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$

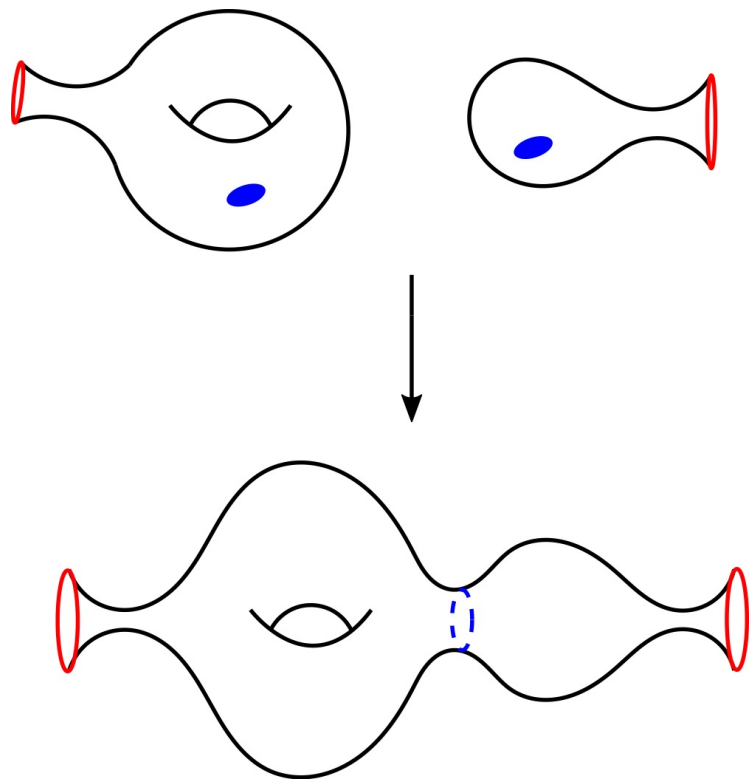
⇒ this property holds for the whole VN algebra closure  $A''$



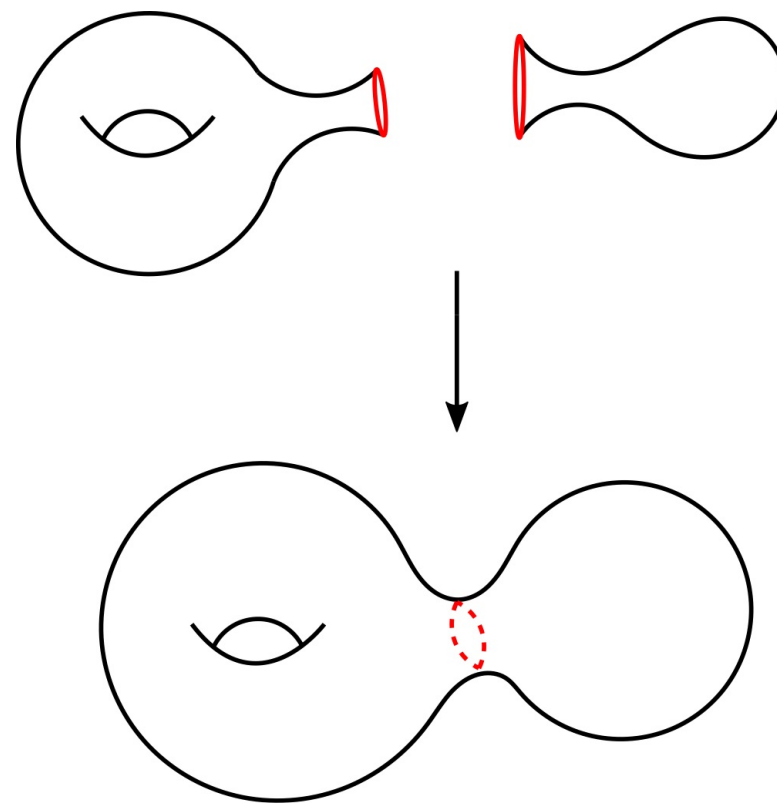


Apply the GNS construction to  
the baby universes.

# Baby Universe Operations

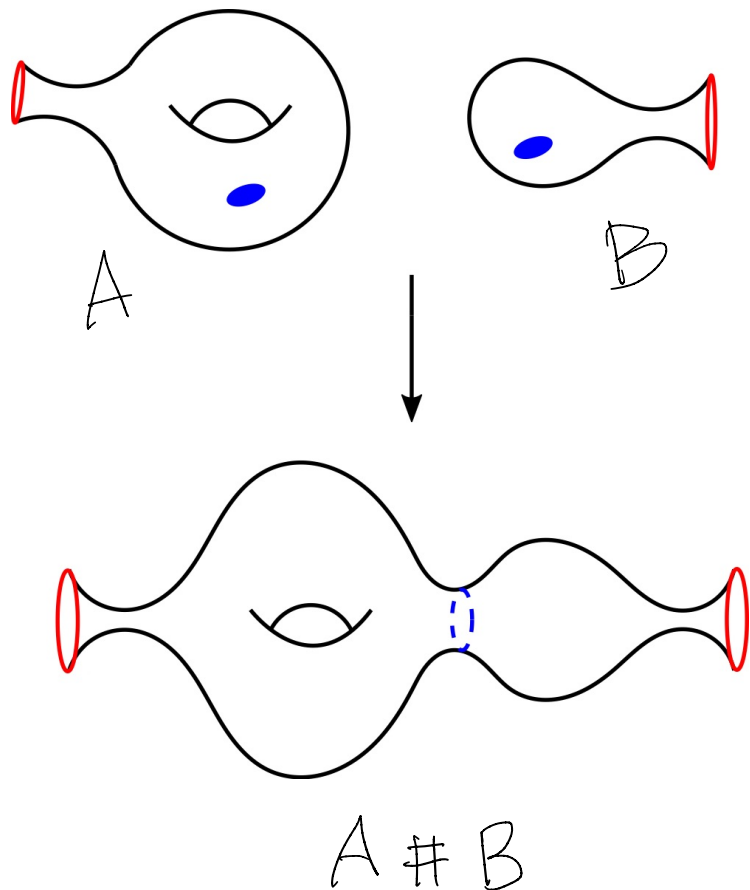


connected sum



gluing

# Baby Universe Operations



connected sum  $A \# B$

→ baby universe (U) creation

→ two scenarios

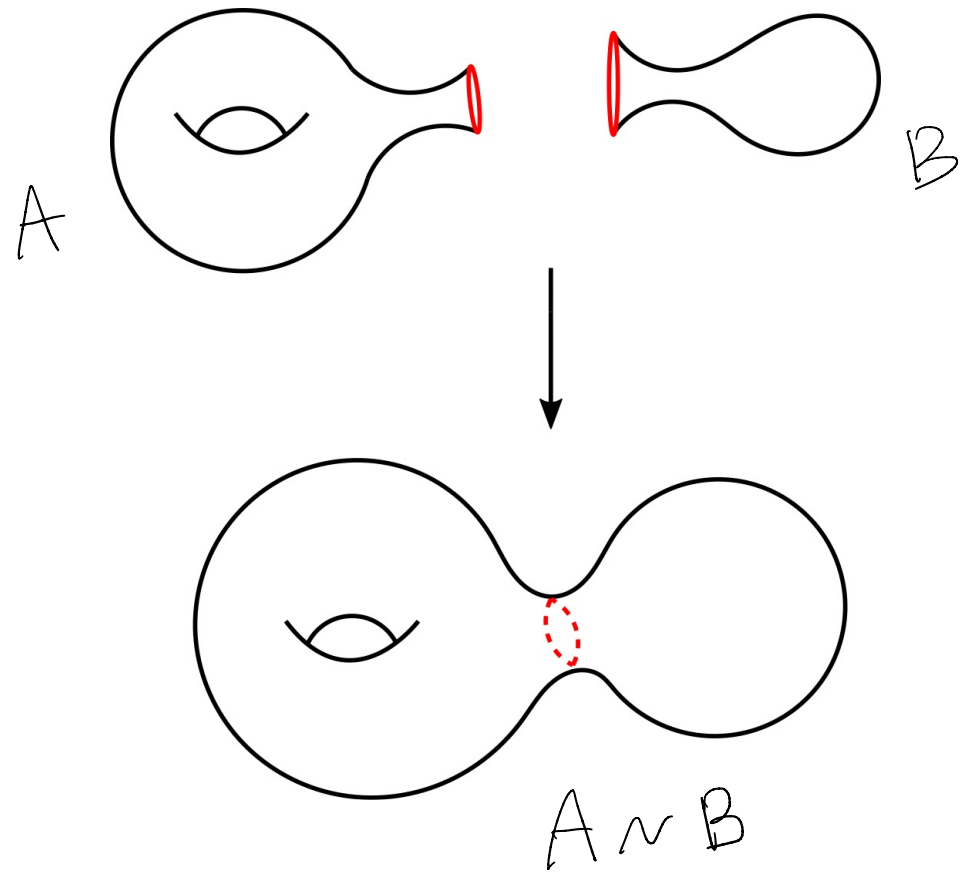
1) connected sum with a pre-existing piece (P) of a spacetime manifold

→  $U \# P$

2) lives on its own

→  $U \# \emptyset$

# Baby Universe Operations



gluing operation  $A \sim B$   
→ baby universe annihilation

# Baby Universe Operations & Diffeomorphism Invariance

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↳ act at the level of topology of the spacetime manifold

→ many ways to perform them? *Not quite!*

→ these operations inherit a nice structure due to diffeomorphism invariance

ex) the connected sum of two manifolds can be uniquely defined in a diffeomorphism invariant theory.

⇒ large number of possibilities on performing a connected sum is completely gauged out by diffeomorphism invariance.

→ these operations are mutually associative & commutative up to diffeomorphism.

⇒ the outcome of these operations performed in a row will NOT depend on the order or the place where they are performed.

# Baby Universe Algebra

- The algebra of observables of bulk quantum gravity

$$A_{QG} := \underbrace{A_{res}} \otimes \underbrace{A_{baby}}$$

↳ Abelian baby universe algebra

( $\because$  the properties of the baby universe operations)

reservoir algebra  $(A_{res} := \bigotimes_b \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} A_b^n \otimes \bigotimes_b \bigotimes_{n=1}^{\infty} \overline{A_b^n})$

different boundary structures

→ conjugate of  $A_b^n$

A reference state to the Hilbert space with a vacuum

- Want to apply the GNS construction
  - require a reference state (KMS state)
- perform GNS representation w.r.t. an abstract state on the algebra of observables
  - = expectation value functional
  - gravitational path integral
  - "summing over geometries"
- Apply GNS construction:  $\exists$  a vacuum  $\langle \Omega | A | \Omega \rangle = \omega(A)$ ,  
the Hilbert space:  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{baby}} = \mathcal{A}_{\text{baby}} / I$  with  $I := \{A \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{baby}}, \omega(A^* A) = 0\}$

Recall:  $A_{\text{baby}}$  is a commutative  $C^*$ -algebra.  
 $\omega$  is a state on  $A$ .

Under this setting,

The GNS representation of  $A_{\text{baby}}$  (arising from  $\omega$ ) has dimension one

|| (former)

The GNS representation of  $A_{\text{baby}}$  (arising from  $\omega$ ) is irreducible

↑  
what does it mean for a state on a  $C^*$ -algebra to have  
an irreducible representation?



the space of states on a  $C^*$ -algebra

= the space of expectation value functionals on this algebra

→ a convex space  $\Rightarrow$  has extremal points

i.e. points that cannot be expressed  
as a convex combination of two other ones

= pure state

(cannot be expressed as a statistical  
mixture of other states)

More concretely  $\Rightarrow$

Recall:  $A_{\text{baby}}$  is a commutative  $C^*$ -algebra.  
 $\omega$  is a state on  $A$ .

Under this setting,

The GNS representation of  $A_{\text{baby}}$  (arising from  $\omega$ ) has dimension one

|| (stronger)

The GNS representation of  $A_{\text{baby}}$  (arising from  $\omega$ ) is irreducible

||

$\omega$  is a pure state

all equivalent!

More precisely:

the space of states on a  $C^*$ -algebra is a bit more than a convex space

Further has a property:

every  $\omega$  on  $A$  can be written as  $\omega = \int_{\varphi \text{ pure}} \varphi d\mu(\varphi)$ .

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In terms of GNS representation:  $\mathcal{H}_\omega = \int^\oplus \mathcal{H}_\varphi d\mu(\varphi)$

irreducible GNS representations  
(for here, dim-1 Hilbert spaces)

$\Rightarrow$  corresponds to a member of  
the ensemble of theories averaged over

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irreducible GNS representations  
(for here, dim-1 Hilbert spaces)

$\Rightarrow$  corresponds to a member of  
the ensemble of theories averaged over

this ensemble contains one element

$\Updownarrow$   
 $\omega$  is pure

The GNS representation of  $A_{\text{baby}}$  has dimension one if and only if it is NOT an ensemble!  $\Updownarrow$

Finding the minimal restriction to dimension-one

Assume the restriction of this state ( $\omega$ ) to  $\mathcal{A}_{\text{baby}}$  is pure.

$$\Rightarrow \omega = \omega_{\text{res}} \otimes \omega_{\text{baby}}$$

What does this mean for the gravitational path integral?

$$\Rightarrow \text{It factorizes: } Z_{\text{QG}} = \int_{\text{CFT}} D[\phi] e^{-S[\phi]} \int_{\text{baby}} D[b] e^{-S[b]}$$

$\Rightarrow$  The formation of the baby universes cannot be influenced by the boundary observables.

Put together: Say  $A_{QG} = A_{res} \otimes A_{baby}$  (with  $A_{baby}$  abelian).

The GNS representation of  $A_{baby}$  (induced by  $\omega$ ) is dimension one (= the Hilbert space of the baby universe is of dimension one) if and only if the restriction of  $\omega$  to  $A_{baby}$  is pure.

Put together: Say  $A_{QG} = A_{res} \otimes A_{baby}$  (with  $A_{baby}$  abelian).

The GNS representation of  $A_{baby}$  (induced by  $\omega$ ) is dimension one  
(= the Hilbert space of the baby universe is of dimension one) ↖ baby universe hypothesis  
if and only if the restriction of  $\omega$  to  $A_{baby}$  is pure.

Or physically speaking,

- Assume
1.  $A_{QG} = A_{res} \otimes A_{baby}$  for  $A_{baby}$  abelian
  2.  $\omega$  is a pure state on  $A_{QG}$
  3.  $\omega = \omega_{res} \otimes \omega_{baby}$

Then, the GNS representation of  $A_{baby}$  is one-dimensional.



If such is all satisfied to be true,

what should such a state look like?

Recall again :  $A_{\text{baby}}$  is an Abelian  $C^*$ -algebra.

$\omega$  on  $A_{\text{baby}}$  is pure  $\iff \omega(AB) = \omega(A)\omega(B)$  (multiplicative)

$\rightarrow$  this state is called a character of  $A_{\text{baby}}$ .

$\rightarrow$  this is equivalent to : the correlation functions of the effects of adding two boundaries factorize.

"miraculous cancellations"

let's see this being granted by character theory  $\curvearrowright$

Any Abelian  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$

$\cong$  the algebra of complex valued continuous functions  $C_0(X)$

on a locally compact space  $X$

vanishing @ infinity

$\overline{X}$   
 $\uparrow$

$X$  is compact  $\iff A$  contains a unit

$\Rightarrow X = \text{Gelfand space of } A$

The space of pure states (=  $X$ -parameters) on  $A$

= evaluation functionals on  $X \cong X$ .

The space of characters on  $A$  realize the "miraculous cancellations"

in the gravitational path integral  $\iff$  the Gelfand space of  $A$ !

EX: a topological theory (example in Murof-Maxfield)

one boundary structure ( $b=1$ )

boundary-inserting operator:  $Z^\dagger = Z$

conjugate boundary: indistinguishable

identify  $Z$  with a real variable function

$f(x) = X \rightarrow$  invariant under c.c.

a state  $\omega = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi d\mu(\varphi) \rightarrow \omega = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta_n P(Z = n)$

GNS  $\Rightarrow$  pre-Hilbert space  $\Rightarrow$  Hilbert space

$\leftarrow$  collapsing!

Gelfand space =  $\mathbb{R}$

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Gelfand space =  $\mathbb{R}$  Let's add EOW branes!

EX: a topological theory (example in Murof-Maxfield)

one boundary structure ( $b=1$ )

boundary-inserting operator:  $Z^\dagger = Z$  hermitian

conjugate boundary: indistinguishable

identify  $Z$  with a real variable function  $f(x)=x \rightarrow$  invariant under c.c.

a state  $\omega = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi d\mu(\varphi) \rightarrow \omega = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta_n P(Z=n)$  poisson

GNS  $\Rightarrow$  pre-Hilbert space  $\Rightarrow$  Hilbert space  $\leftarrow$  collapsing!

Gelfand space = the product of  $\mathbb{R}$  & a space of matrices  
(with EOW branes)

Ex: QCD theory with  $\theta$ -vacuum

boundary-inserting operator :  $Z^\dagger = Z^{-1}$  unitary

$\Rightarrow$  inherit a group structure!

Call it  $G =$  a group of  $C^*$ -algebra

Ex: QCD theory with  $\theta$ -vacuum

boundary-inserting operator :  $Z^\dagger = Z^{-1}$

$\Rightarrow$  inherit a group structure!

call it  $G =$  a group of  $C^*$ -algebra

$\Rightarrow$  corresponding group algebra :  $C[G] := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i g_i, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}, g_i \in G \right\}$

consider  $k$  boundary structures ( $b=k$ )

$\Rightarrow G = \mathbb{Z}^k$  ( $k$  generators)

$\Rightarrow C[\mathbb{Z}^k] \simeq$  the algebra of polynomials with  $k$  variables & positive/negative powers

endow this with an involution & a norm  $\|x^*x\| = \|x\|^2 \Rightarrow$  defined  $A_{\text{boundary}} = \underline{C^*(G)}$

$\uparrow$   
taking the group inverse of each group element and the c.c. of each scalar

$\uparrow$   
a group  $C^*$ -algebra

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Gelfand dual of  $C^*(G) = \hat{G}$  (Pontryagin dual)



Ex: QCD theory with  $\theta$ -vacuum

boundary-inserting operator :  $Z^\dagger = Z^{-1}$

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consider  $k$  boundary structures ( $b=k$ )

$\Rightarrow G = \mathbb{Z}^k$  ( $k$  <sup>free Abelian</sup> generators)

$\Rightarrow$  Gelfand dual of  $\mathbb{Z}^k \simeq$  a  $k$ -torus   
  $\swarrow k=1$  : a unit circle!

$\Rightarrow C[\mathbb{Z}^k] \simeq$  the algebra of polynomials with  $k$  variables & positive/negative powers

endow this with an involution & a norm  $\|x^*x\| = \|x\|^2 \Rightarrow$  defined  $A_{\text{torus}} = C^*(G)$

Gelfand dual of  $C^*(G) = \hat{G}$  (Pontryagin dual)

# Ex: QCD theory with $\theta$ -vacuum

Consider when  $G = \mathbb{Z}^k$

an observable  $O \in A_{\text{QG}} = A_{\text{res}} \otimes A_{\text{baby}}$  :

$$O = \sum_p a_p \overset{A_{\text{res}}}{\downarrow} \boxed{A_p} \otimes \overset{A_{\text{baby}}}{\downarrow} \boxed{B_p}$$



baby universe action

$$g = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \underbrace{g_i}_{\uparrow}$$

$k$  independent generators of  $G$

$$O_g = \sum_p a_p A_p \otimes g B_p$$

a pure state  $\omega =$  character of  $G = \mathbb{Z}^k$

$$\Rightarrow \omega(O_g) = \sum_p \omega(A_p) \omega(g) \omega(B_p) = e^{i \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \alpha_i} \sum_p \omega(A_p) \omega(B_p), \quad \omega(g_i) = e^{i \alpha_i}$$

$\Rightarrow$  the action of the baby universe transformation adds a phase to the action for the gravitational path integral on an observable.

parametrized by  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$   
which span  
 $\hat{G} = U(1)^k$

# Ex: QCD theory with $\theta$ -vacua

{ the group of baby universe transformations  $G \Rightarrow$  a (global) symmetry group.  
associated  $\alpha$ -parameters  $\Rightarrow$  topological charges

$\rightarrow$  connect to  $\theta$ -vacua in non-Abelian gauge theory.

$\pi_3(G) = \mathbb{Z}$  for  $G$  any compact connected simple Lie group (cf. QCD)

$\Rightarrow$  phases

$e^{in\theta}$

vacuum angle

(labels superselection sectors)

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\alpha$ -parameters

(gives irreducible GNS representations)

winding number

$\Leftrightarrow$

# of boundaries

# Outlook & applications for GNS construction - based formalism

- Lorentzian theories
- Tensor networks
- Approximate theorem to EW reconstruction = JLMS
- "Quantum extremal surface" in infinite-dim  $\mathcal{H}$
- Construction of bulk utilizing boundaries.

# Construct bulk of the Narain Boundary (utilizing Mabrey-Witten)

Collection of boundary Riemann surfaces  $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_n$

of genera  $g_1, \dots, g_n$

each term  $\Downarrow$

Lagrangian sublattice of  $L$  of  $\bigoplus_i H(\Sigma_i)$

$\rightarrow$  construct a compression body of  $n+1$  boundaries

$\downarrow$   
not them  $\not\rightarrow \Sigma_i$   $n+1$ th one  $\Rightarrow \Sigma$  of genus  $\sum_i g_i$ .

Kleinian uniformization

given by the quotient of the Riemann sphere by the

free product of  $n$  Fuchsian groups,

each corresponding to a uniformizing group for one of the  $\Sigma_i$ .

## Construct bulk of the Narain Boundary

Note:  $\exists$  Lagrangian sublattice  $L'$  of  $\Sigma$  s.t.  $L'-L$  is contractible in  $C$ .

Consider a handlebody  $S_r$  w/ boundary s.t.  $L'$  is contractible in  $S$ .

Gluing  $S_r$  &  $C$  trivially along  $\Sigma$  gives an explicit topology  $M_L$  w/ boundaries  $\Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_n$  for which  $L$  is contractible.

$\Rightarrow$  Bulk wormholes via Heegaard splitting process.

Now we can perhaps embed geometric data on this  $M_L$  via Chern-Simons

line bundle! [Gesteau, MK, Marcolli, work in progress]

Can we consider then a Narain moduli w/  $\overline{TT}$  or  $\overline{JT}$  for the CFT & construct bulk?  
 $\hookrightarrow$  [Chakraborty, Hashimoto]

Thank you for listening!