

Toward a microscopic realization for dS_3

Beatrix Mühlmann
IAS

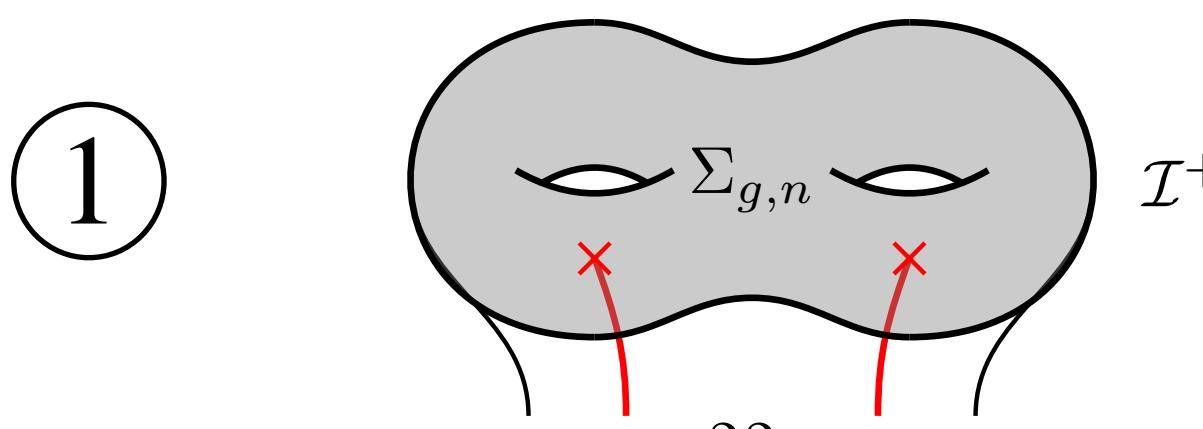
Simons Satellite Meeting on Celestial Holography 2025
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Based on work with **Scott Collier, Lorenz Eberhardt and Victor Rodriguez**

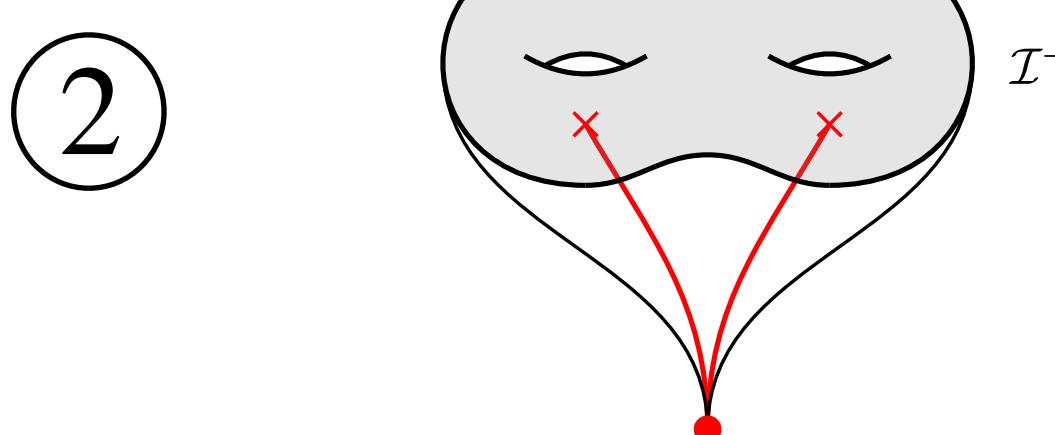
dS quantum gravity

- Dearth of controllable models of QG in expanding spacetimes
- No unifying picture of dS QG that approaches AdS/CFT in scope or rigor
- Low d de Sitter
 - [Anninos-Hofman; Maldacena-Turiaci-Yang; Cotler-Jensen-Maloney; Anninos-BM, Anninos-Bautista-BM; Verlinde et al; Susskind; Gorbenko-Silverstein-Torroba; Anninos-Harris;...]
 - Controlled set-up to look for microscopic model

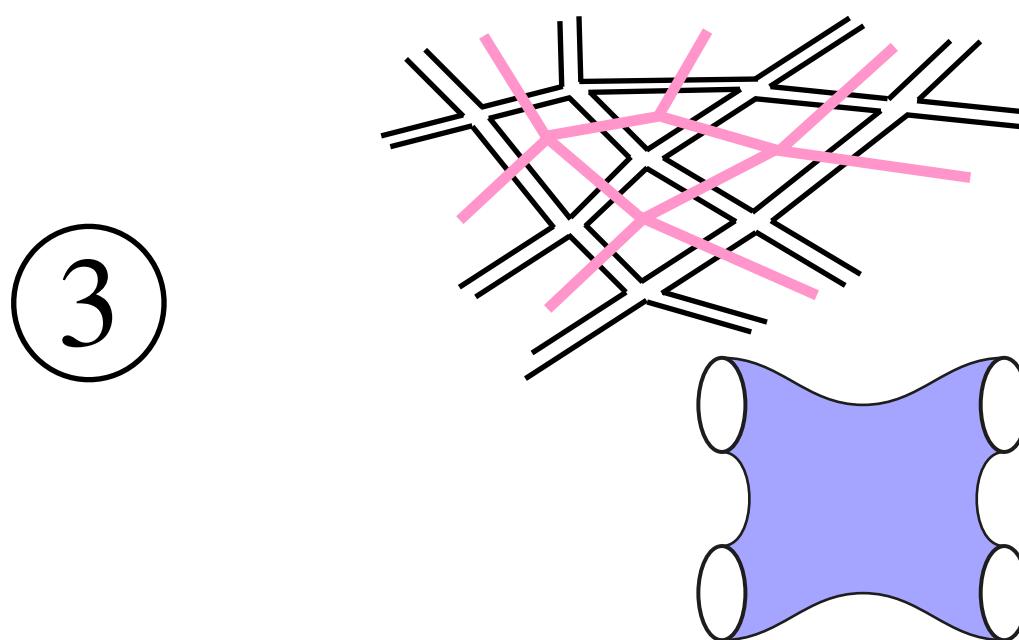
Outline



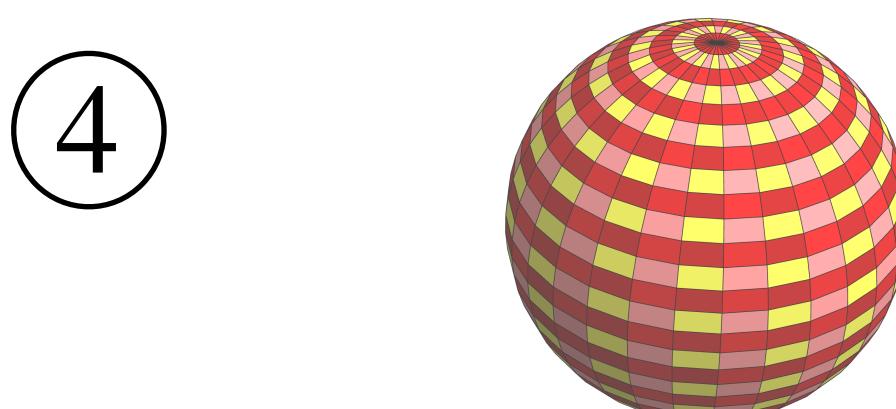
Canonical quantization of dS_3 gravity



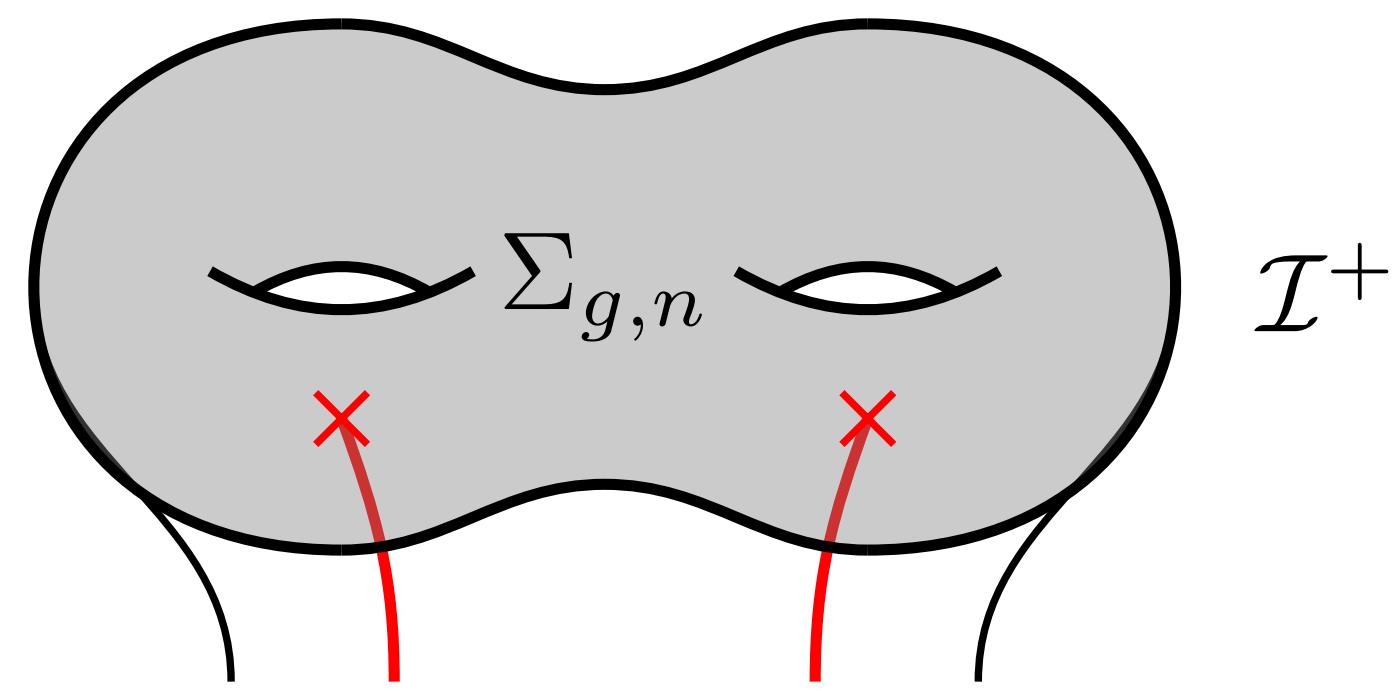
A wavefunction of a universe



& a matrix integral for cosmological correlators



Gibbons-Hawking dS entropy



Canonical quantization of dS_3 gravity

3d de Sitter

- 3d Einstein gravity with positive cosmological constant

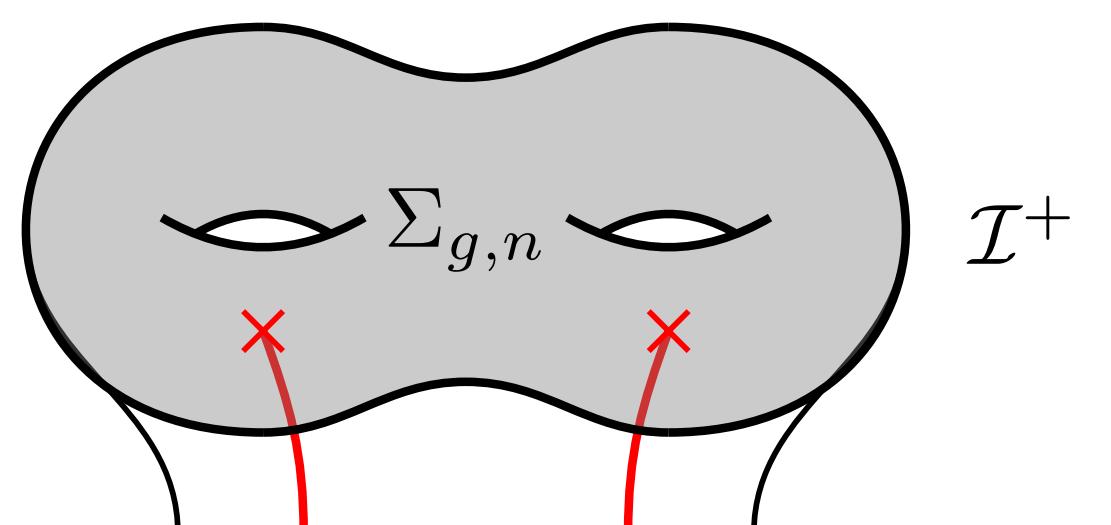
$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} (R - 2\Lambda), \quad \Lambda = \frac{1}{\ell_{\text{dS}}^2} > 0$$

- Loosely related to $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ CS theory [Witten;...]

Caveats: invertibility, global structure, large diffeos,...

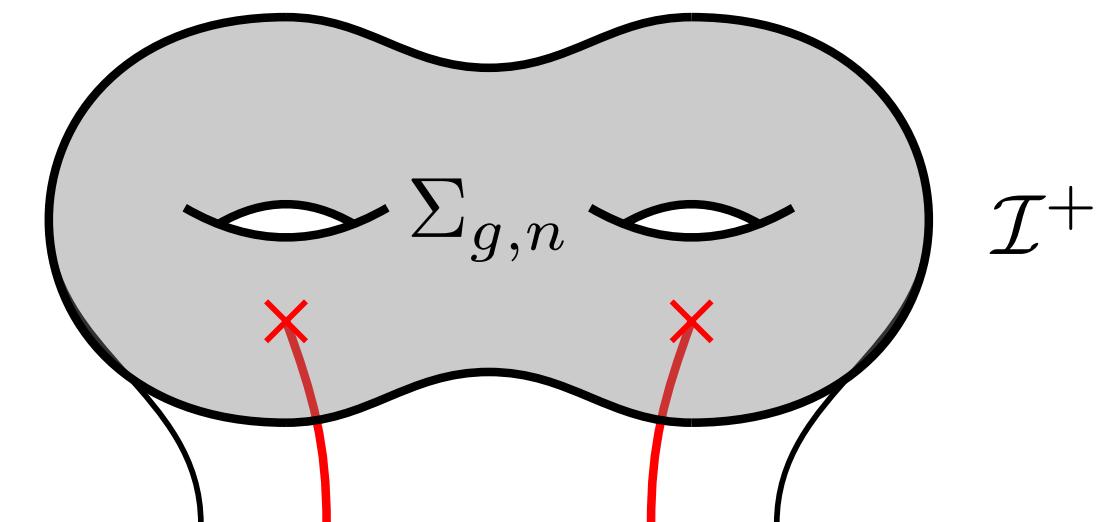
[see also Collier-Eberhardt-Zhang for AdS₃;...]

- Consider canonical quantization on an initial value surface $\Sigma_{g,n}$



Canonical quantization

- We mostly consider $\Sigma_{g,n}$ a compact hyperbolic surface ($2g - 2 + n > 0$)



- Phase space $\{g_{ij}, K_{ij}\}$ of $\Sigma_{g,n} \longrightarrow \Psi[g_{ij}]$

$$H\Psi = 0 \quad \text{WdW equation}$$

- Imposing constraints

$$H_i\Psi = 0 \quad \text{Momentum constraints}$$

- Large diffeos are also gauged in gravity

→ gauge $\text{MCG}(M) = \text{Diff}(M)/\text{Diff}_0(M)$

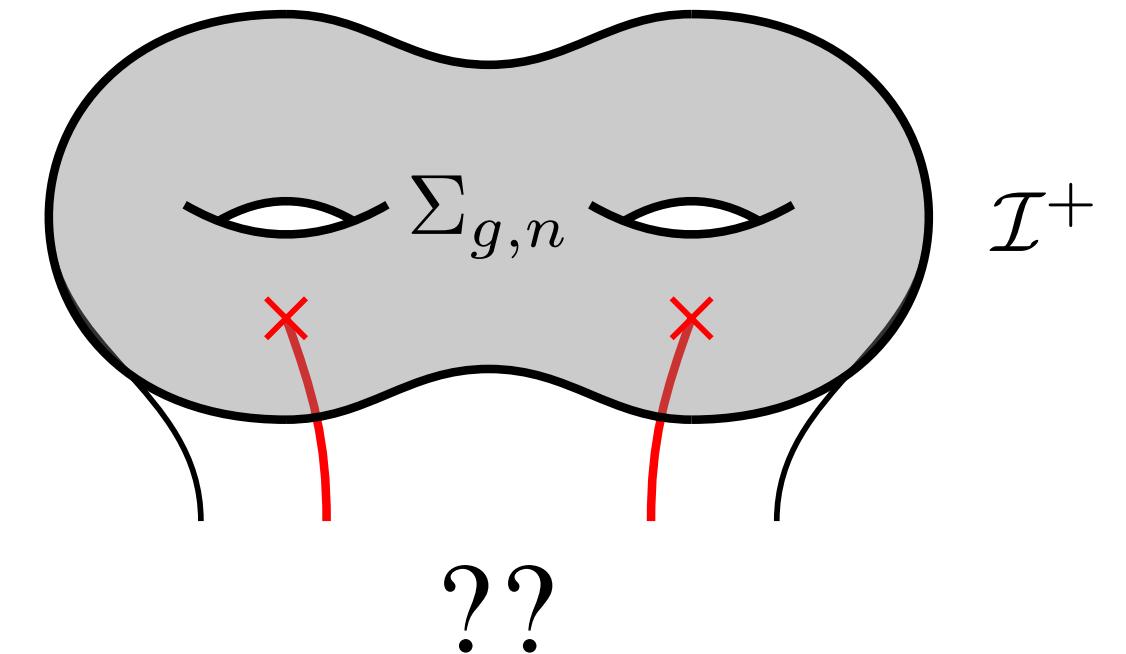
$$\Psi \left[\frac{g_{ij}}{\underbrace{\text{Diff} \times \text{Weyl}}} \right]$$

Moduli space $\mathcal{M}_{g,n}$ of $\Sigma_{g,n}$

- Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_{g,n} : \Psi$ is a function* on $\mathcal{M}_{g,n} = \mathcal{T}_{g,n}/\text{MCG}(\Sigma_{g,n})$

Hilbert space

- dS/CFT or proper derivation leads to Virasoro Ward identities [Verlinde;...]



- $\Psi_{g,n} \in \mathcal{H}_{g,n}$ transforms like CFT correlation function with

$$c \sim 13 + \frac{3i\ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N}$$

[Brown-Henneaux; Giombi-Maloney-Yin; Strominger;...]

$$\Delta_i = h_i + \tilde{h}_i = 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - m^2 \ell_{\text{dS}}^2} \in 1 + i\mathbb{R} \quad \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C}) \text{ principal series}$$

- We parametrize

$$m \gtrsim \ell_{\text{dS}}^{-1}$$

$$c = 13 + 6(b^2 + b^{-2}) , \quad b^2 \in i\mathbb{R}$$

Inner product

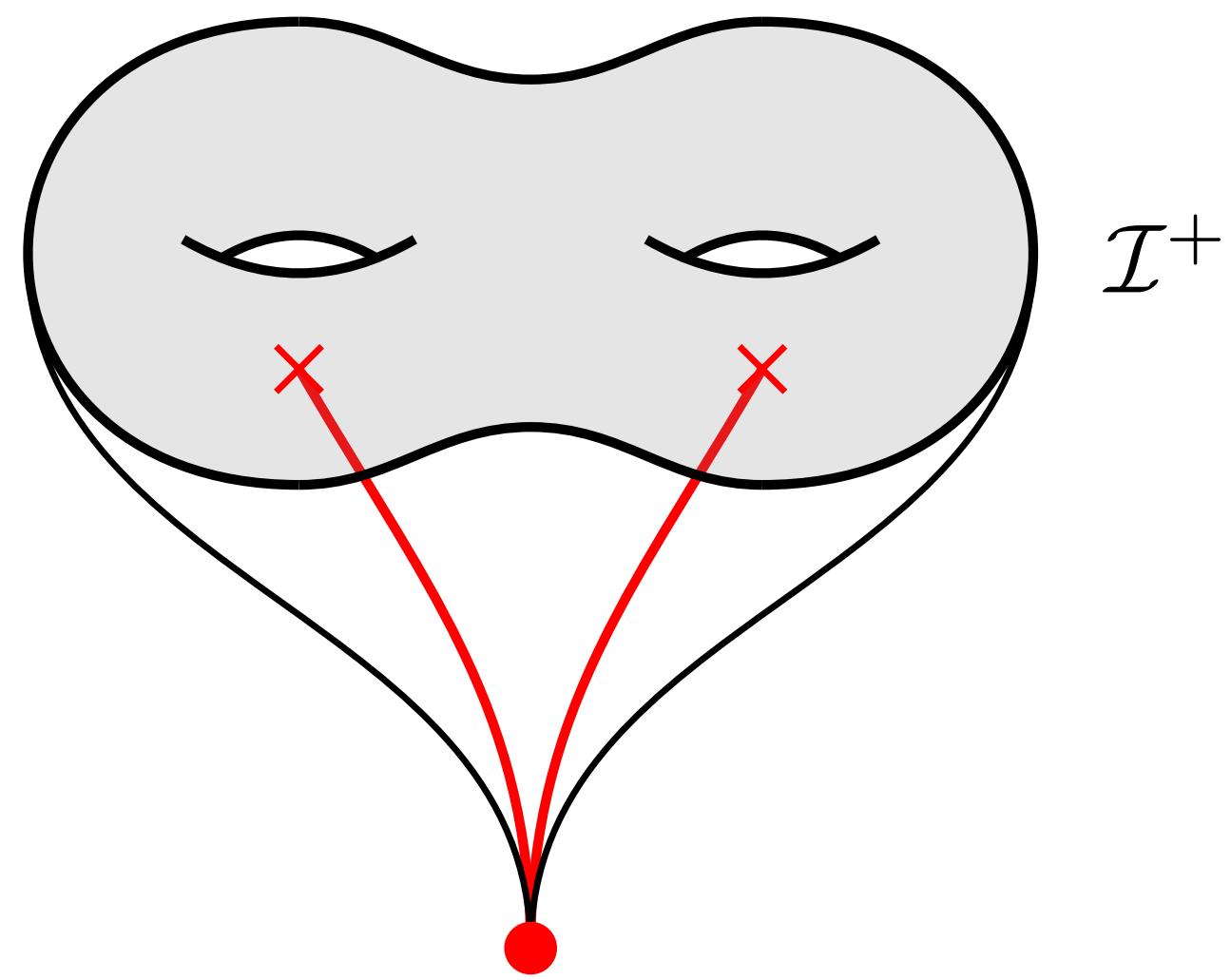
- Inner product: Integrate wave functions over moduli space

$$\langle \Psi_{g,n} | \Psi'_{g,n} \rangle = g_s^{2g-2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_{g,n}} \Psi_{g,n}^* \Psi'_{g,n} , \quad \Psi_{g,n}, \Psi'_{g,n} \in \mathcal{H}_{g,n}$$

↑
Normalization that is fixed using TQFT

- Like a string theory path integral

$$c + c^* = 26 \qquad \Delta_i + \Delta_i^* = 2 \qquad s_i - s_i^* = 0$$

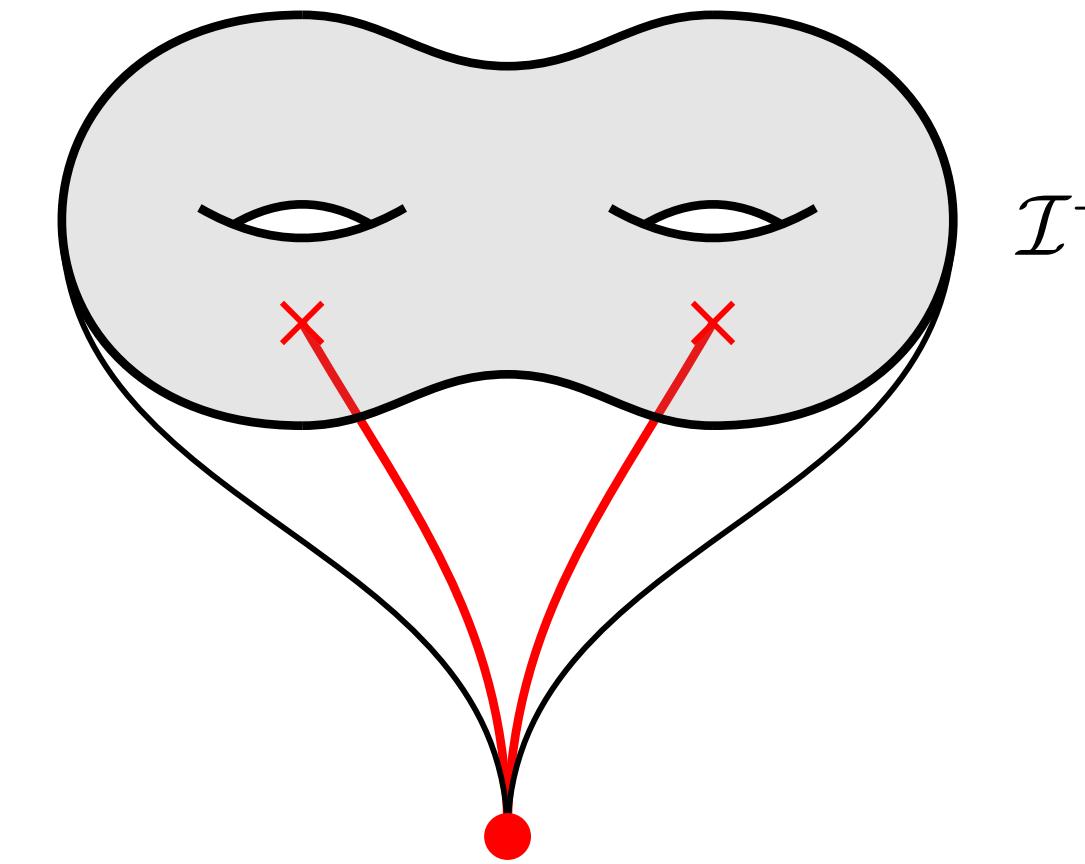
 \mathcal{I}^+

A wavefunction of a universe

Expanding universe

- We now want a wavefunction that describes the state of the universe at \mathcal{I}^+
- Consider the following expanding universe (\sim dS version of [Maldacena-Maoz] wormhole)

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + \sinh^2(t) d\Sigma_{g,n}^2$$



No non-singular on-shell topologies
with hyperbolic Cauchy slices

Milne-type “big-bang” singularity

- Differs from the HH proposal

Liouville correlator

- Take the wavefunction on \mathcal{I}^+ to be given by the Liouville correlator

$$\Psi_{g,n}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p}) = \left\langle V_{p_1} \dots V_{p_n} \right\rangle_g^{(b)} \in \mathcal{K}_{g,n}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p})$$

Liouville vertex operators

$$\Delta_i = 1 + \frac{c - 13}{12} - 2p_i^2$$

- This wavefunction has many desirable properties:

- It **factorizes** as expected under degenerations of \mathcal{I}^+
- It is **crossing symmetric**
- It is **normalizable**

Integrated cosmological correlators

- Gauge-invariant observables of the theory are **integrated cosmological correlators**

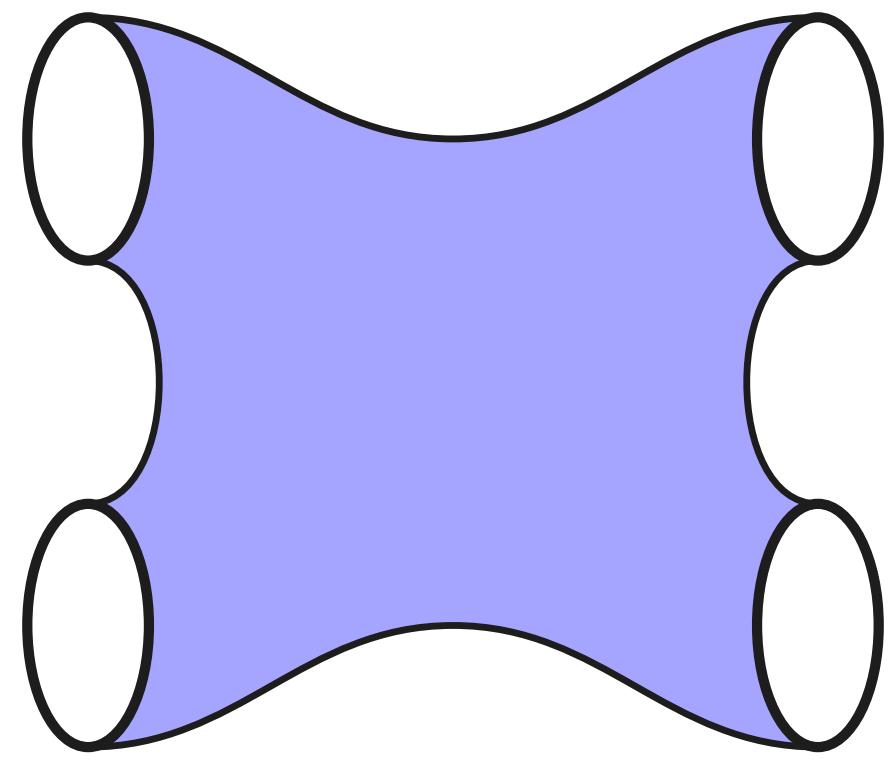
$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{O}_i(z_i) \right\rangle = \int_{\text{metrics on } \mathcal{J}^+} [\mathcal{D}g] |\Psi(g)|^2 \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{O}_i(z_i) \quad [\text{Maldacena;...}]$$

- Taking the Liouville correlator

$$\sum_{g=0}^{\infty} g_s^{2g-2} \int_{\text{metrics on } \mathcal{J}^+} \frac{[\mathcal{D}g]}{\text{Diff} \times \text{Weyl}} |\Psi_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n)|^2$$

$$= \sum_{g=0}^{\infty} e^{-S_0(2g-2+n)} A_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n)$$

- $\Delta_i = h_i + \tilde{h}_i = 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - m^2 \ell_{\text{dS}}^2} \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$
- $\rightarrow \Delta_i = 1 + \frac{c-13}{12} - 2p_i^2 \Rightarrow p_i^2 \in i\mathbb{R}$
- \rightarrow Massive particles backreact to modify the wavefunction itself
- \rightarrow String amplitudes
- $\rightarrow g_s^{-2} \sim e^{2S_0} C_{S^2}^{(b)}$



The complex Liouville string

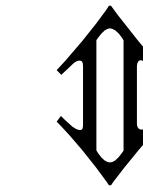
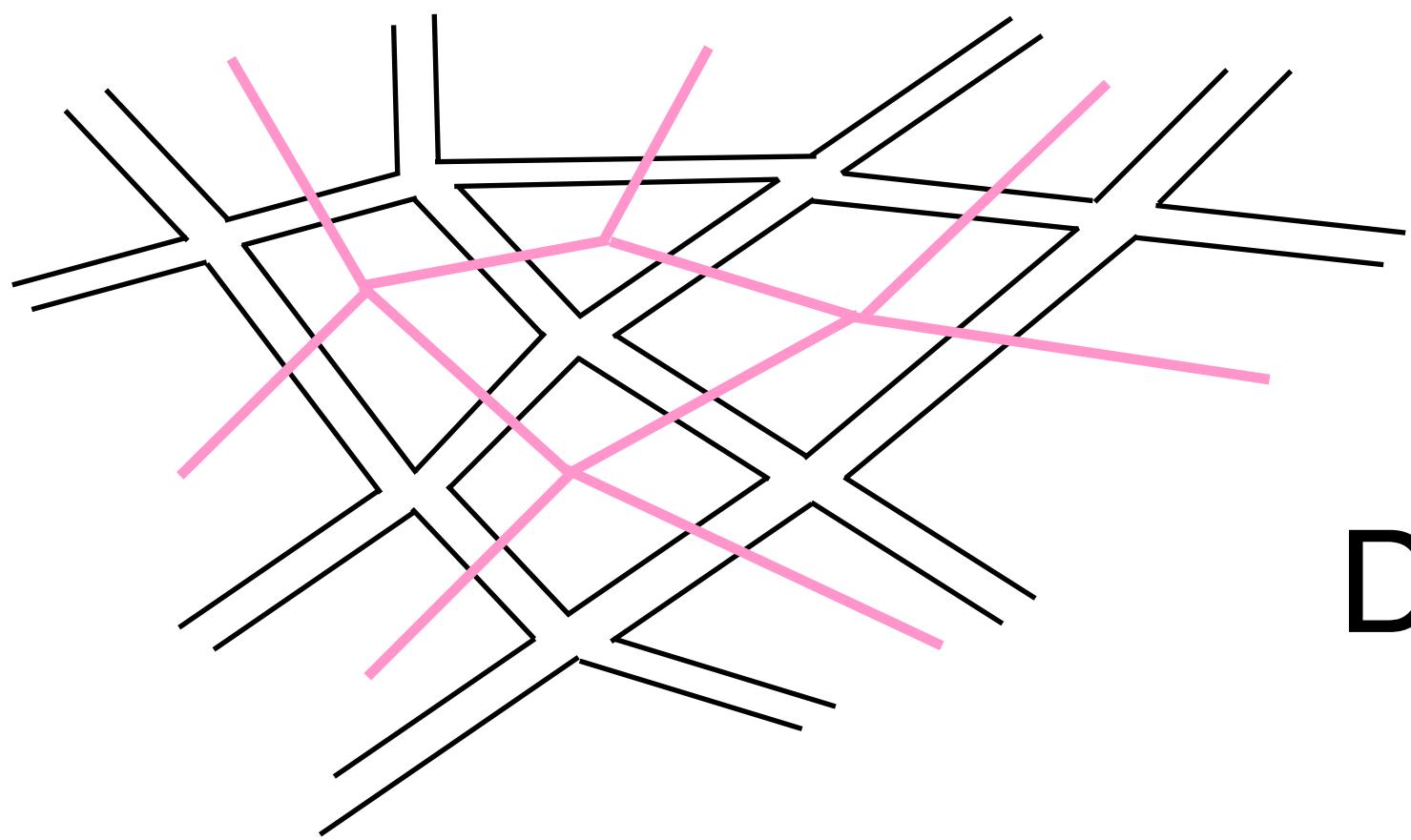
The complex Liouville string

- $A_{g,n}^{(b)}$ are the string amplitudes of the complex Liouville string (CLS)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Liouville CFT} & \oplus & (\text{Liouville CFT})^* & \oplus & \text{ghosts} \\ c^+ = c = 13 + i\lambda & & c^- = c^* = 13 - i\lambda & & c_{\text{gh}} = -26 \end{array}$$

- Mass shell condition: $h + h^- = 1 \rightarrow p^- = ip \quad \& \quad h = (h^-)^* \rightarrow p^2 \in i\mathbb{R}$
 $\Delta = 1 + i\mathbb{R}$
- String amplitudes: $A_{g,n}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p}) = \int_{\mathcal{M}_{g,n}} \underbrace{\left| \langle V_{p_1} \dots V_{p_n} \rangle_g^{(b)} \right|^2}_{\cong \Psi_{g,n}^{(b)}} \times \text{ghosts} \quad b^2 \in i\mathbb{R}$

Complex Liouville string



Double scaled matrix integral

2-matrix integral

- M_1 and M_2 Hermitian matrices $\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N^2}} dM_1 dM_2 e^{-N \text{tr}(V_1(M_1) + V_2(M_2) - M_1 M_2)}$
- Observables are the resolvents $R(x) = \text{tr} \frac{1}{x - M_1}$
$$\left\langle \prod_{j=1}^n R(x_j) \right\rangle_c = \sum_{g=0}^{\infty} e^{-S_0(2g-2+n)} R_{g,n}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$
- Resolvent is a multivalued function on the complex plane with branch cuts on eigenvalue distribution
- The spectral curve defines a Riemann surface on which the resolvent is single valued

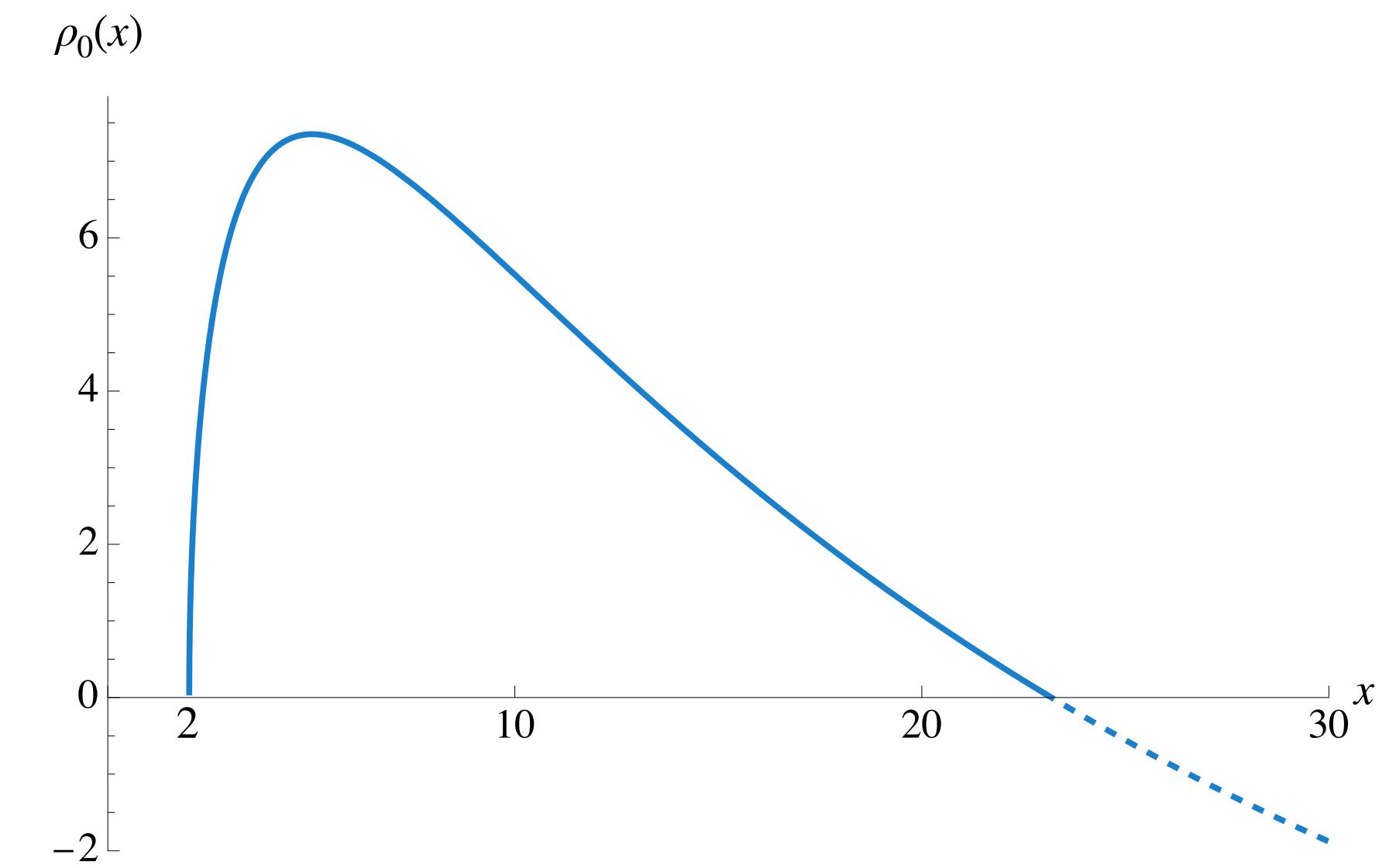
Spectral curve of CLS

- The spectral curve of the matrix integral dual to the CLS is

$$x(z) = -2 \cos(\pi b^{-1} \sqrt{z}) , \quad y(z) = 2 \cos(\pi b \sqrt{z})$$

- Discontinuity of spectral curve = eigenvalue distributions

$$\rho_0(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sinh(-i\pi b^2) \sin \left(-ib^2 \operatorname{arccosh} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) \right)$$

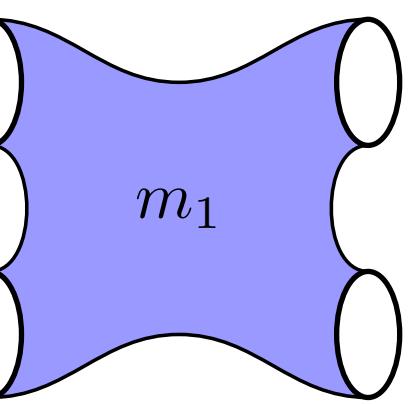
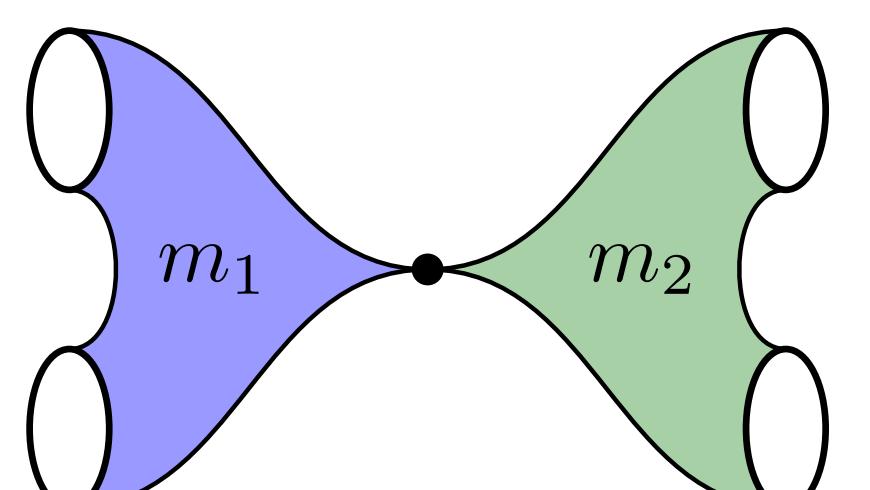


Topological recursion

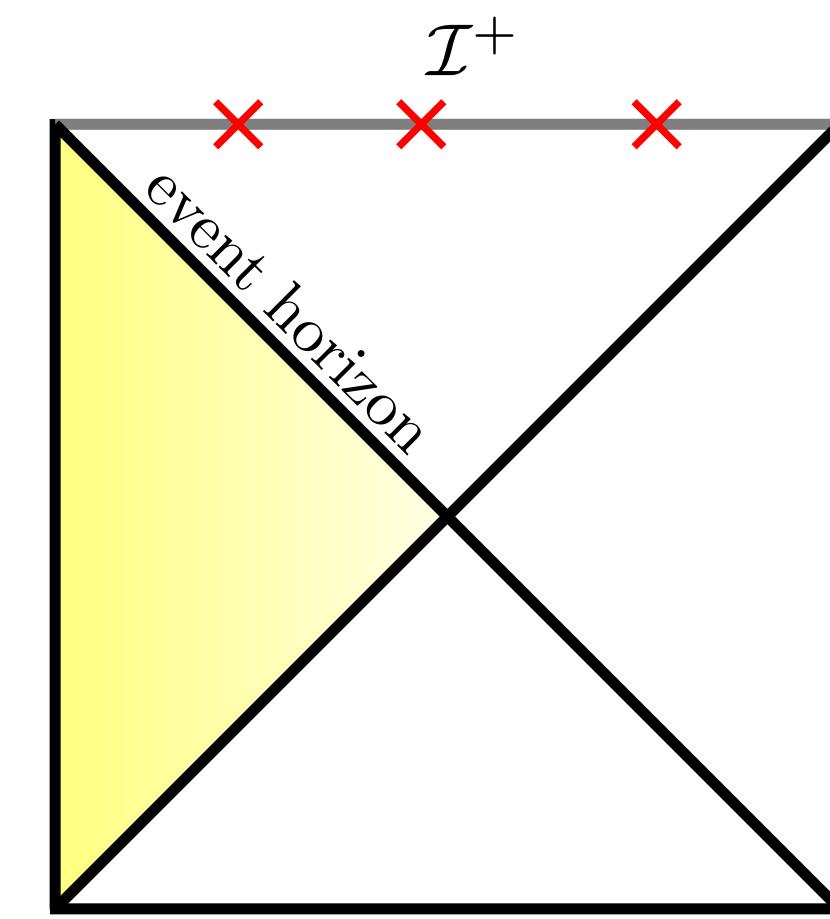
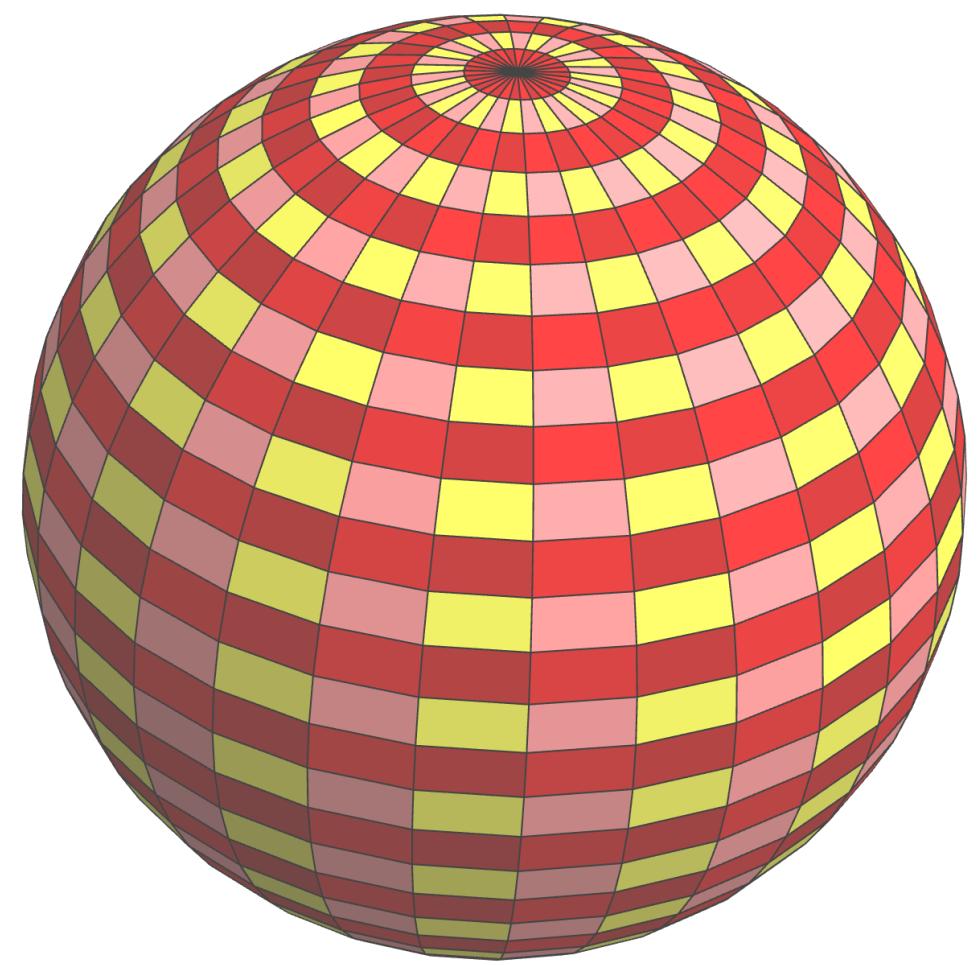
- Use topological recursion for $\omega_{g,n}$ [Eynard-Orantin;...]

$$\omega_{0,1}(z) = -y(z)dx(z), \quad \omega_{0,2}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2}, \quad \omega_{g,n}(z_1, \dots, z_n) \equiv R_{g,n}(x(z_1), \dots, x(z_n)) dx(z_1) \cdots dx(z_n)$$

- **Relation** between $\omega_{g,n}$ and $A_{g,n}^{(b)}$
- This leads to “Feynman-rules” for $A_{g,n}^{(b)}$ aka cosmological correlators for arbitrary g, n

$$A_{0,4}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{2b^2 V_{0,4}^{(b)}(ip_1, ip_2, ip_3, ip_4) \prod_{j=1}^4 \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_j)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)^2} \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram of a genus-0 surface with 4 boundary components labeled } m_1 \\ \text{with two handles} \end{array} - \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m_1+m_2} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1) \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_2) \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_3) \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_4)}{\pi^2 \sin(\pi m_1 b^2) \sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} \times \left(\frac{1}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} - \frac{\delta_{m_1 \neq m_2}}{(m_1 - m_2)^2} \right) + 2 \text{ perms}$$



$$V_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = - \sum_{i=1}^4 p_i^2 + \frac{b^2 + b^{-2}}{4}$$



Gibbons-Hawking dS entropy

Sphere partition function

- Gibbons-Hawking conjecture that the cosmological horizon encodes an entropy captured by the sphere partition function (= Euclidean dS)

$$S_{\text{GH}} = \log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{grav}}(S^3)$$

- To one-loop order can obtain this from the Euclidean Einstein Hilbert action
[Anninos-Denef-Law-Zun;...]

$$S_{\text{GH}} = \log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{grav}}^{S^3} \sim \frac{\pi \ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N} - 3 \log \frac{\pi \ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N} + 5 \log(2\pi) \pm \frac{5\pi i}{2} + \mathcal{O}(G_N^0)$$

\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow

$$\frac{A_h}{4G_N} \qquad \qquad 3 = \frac{1}{2}\dim(SO(4)) \qquad \qquad \text{Gibbons-Hawking-Perry phase}$$

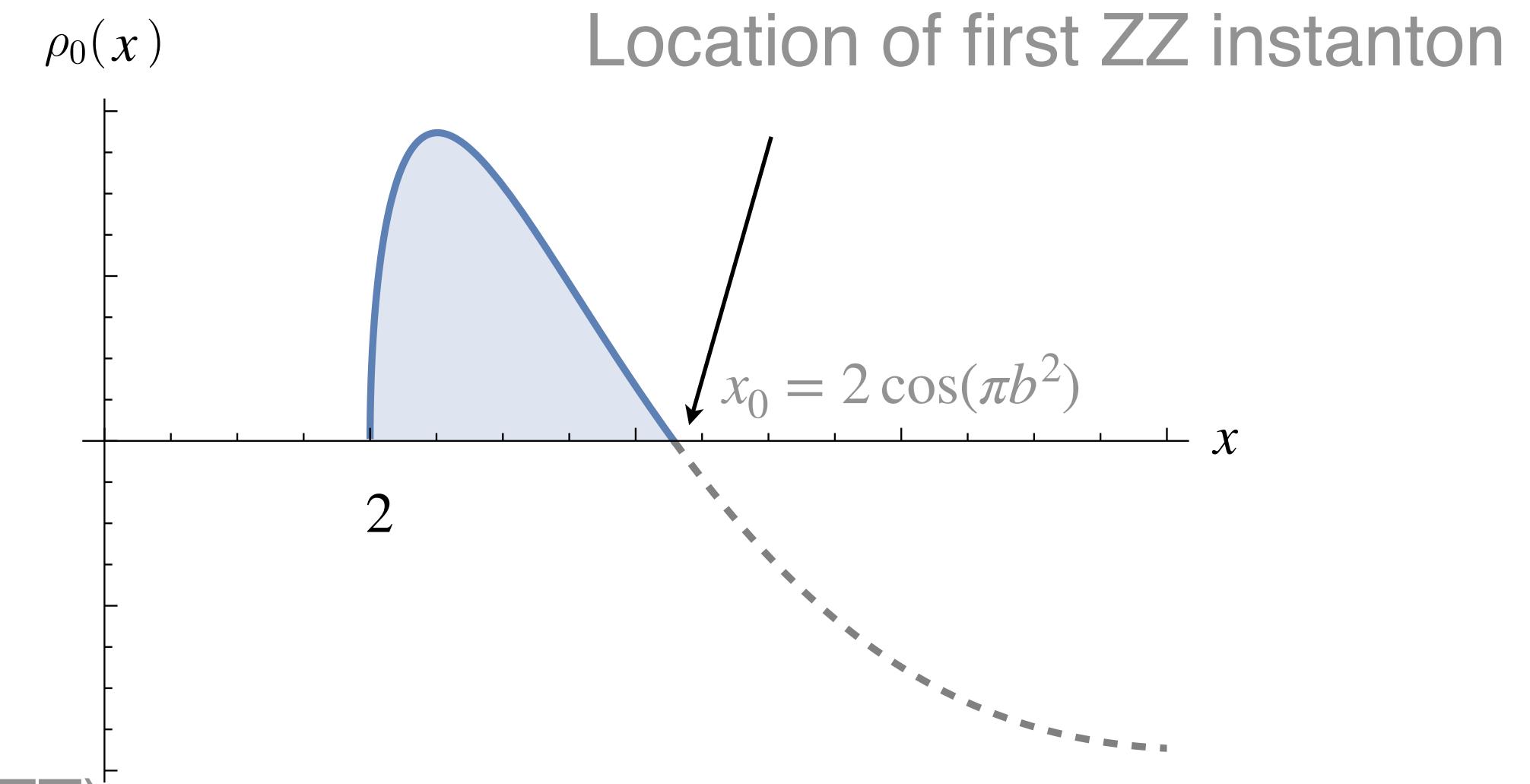
for Gaussian unsuppressed
Euclidean path integral

$$S_{\text{GH}} = S_{\text{MM}}$$

- Count instead the effective number N_{eff} until first zero x_0

$$N_{\text{eff}} \equiv \int_2^{x_0} dx e^{S_0} \rho_0(x) \sim \frac{b \sin(\pi b^2) \sin(\pi b^{-2})}{1 - b^4}$$

Fix $e^{S_0} \sim b^{-1}$
(consistency of the 3d TQFT)



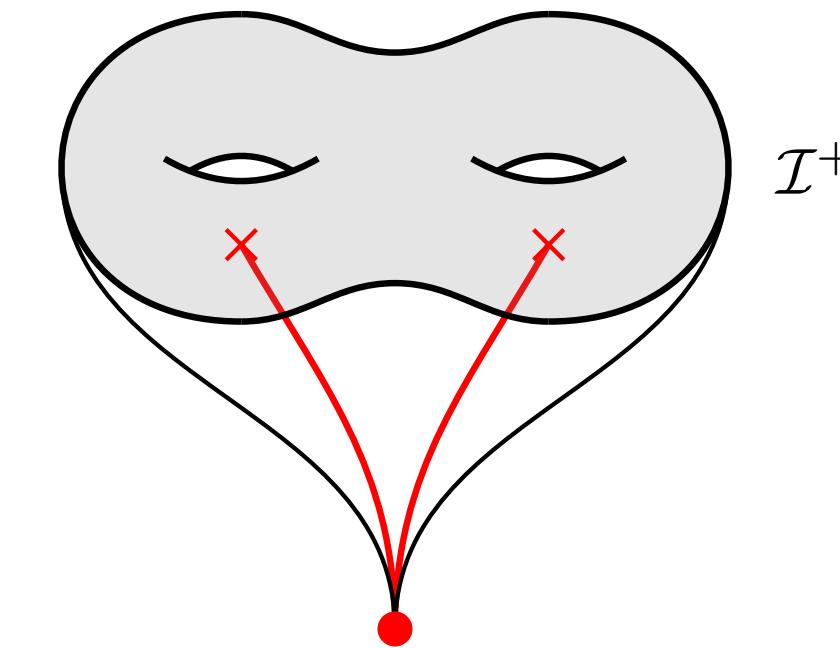
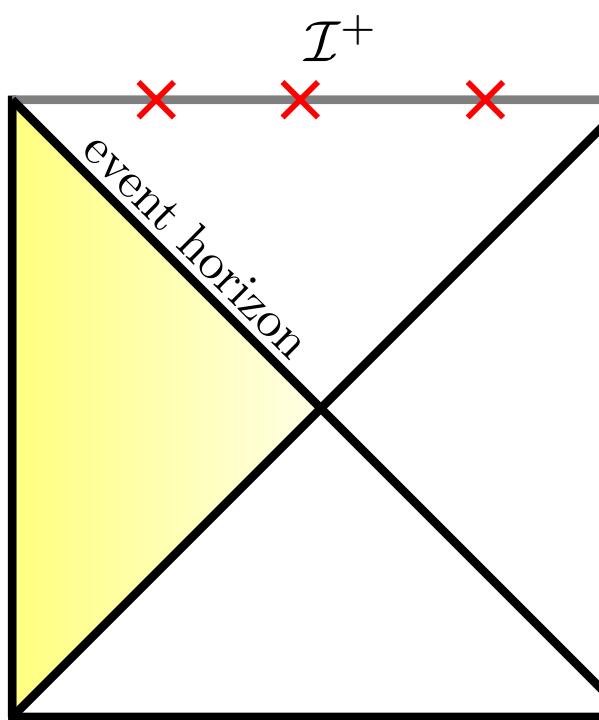
- Leads to an entropy that reproduces the sphere partition function

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{MM}} &= \log N_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim \frac{\pi \ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N} - 3 \log \frac{\pi \ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N} + 5 \log(2\pi) + \frac{\pi i}{2} + \mathcal{O}(G_N^0) \\ &= S_{\text{GH}} = \log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{grav}}^{S^3} \end{aligned}$$

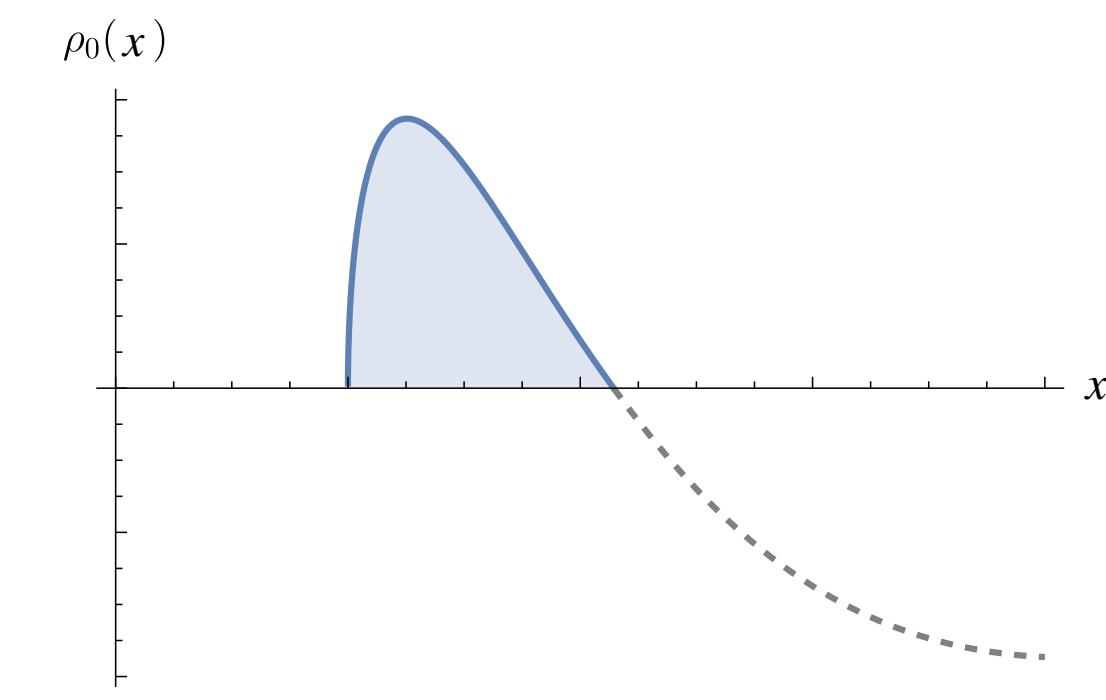
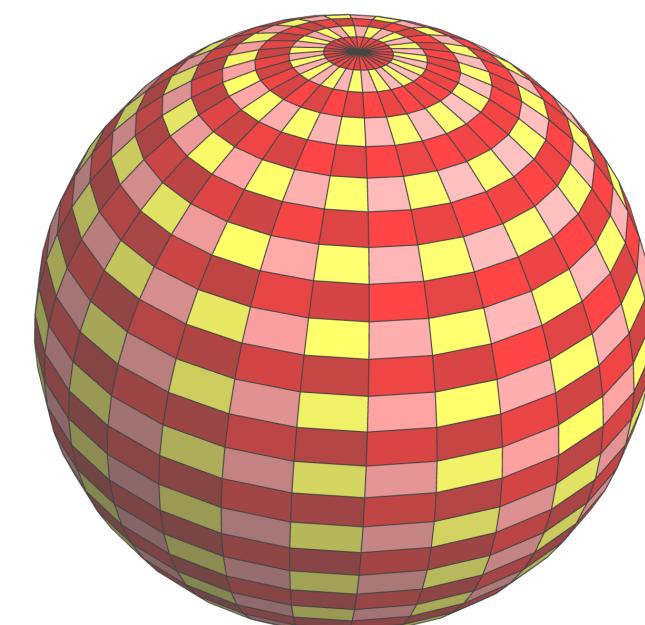
Remember:
 $c = 13 + 6(b^{-2} + b^2)$
 $\approx 13 + \frac{3i\ell_{\text{dS}}}{2G_N}$

Summary

- Relation between integrated cosmological correlators and a double scaled matrix integral
- The wavefunction is the correlator of the CLS, which leads to an expanding spacetime



- $\log N_{\text{eff}}^2$ reproduces the Gibbons-Hawking dS entropy



Open questions

- Since we anyway integrate over the metric at \mathcal{J}^+ , it seems reasonable to sum over topologies of \mathcal{J}^+
 - This sum is asymptotic and requires non-perturbative corrections (eigenvalue instantons/ZZ-instantons). What is their dS_3 interpretation?
- What is a complete basis of normalizable states?
- What about other spacetime topologies? Lens spaces?
- Matrix model as the edge mode theory? TEE?
- What happens if we insert an observer?
- What is the relation to DSSYK?
- Would supersymmetry help?

Thank you!

Stable graphs

- Matrix model gives an all g, n expression for $A_{g,n}^{(b)}$

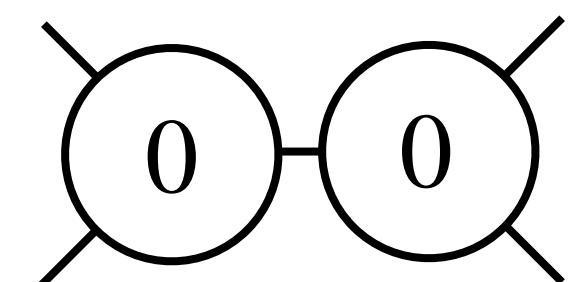
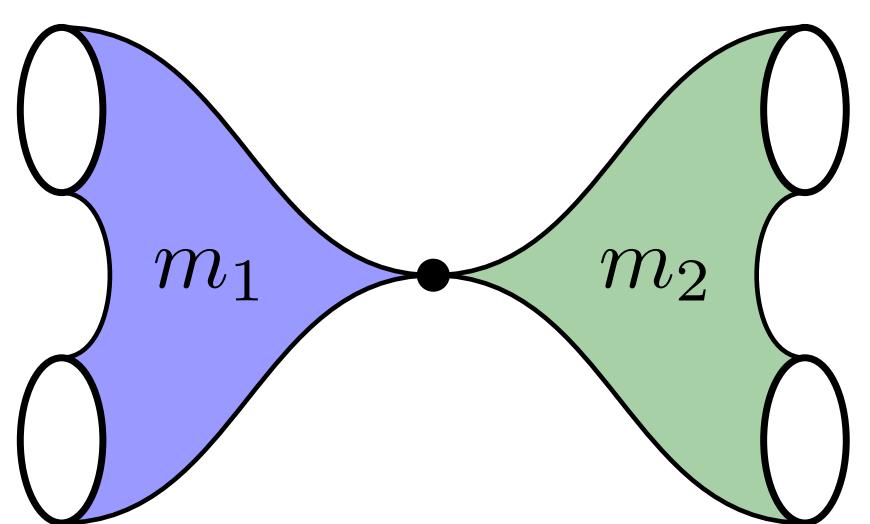
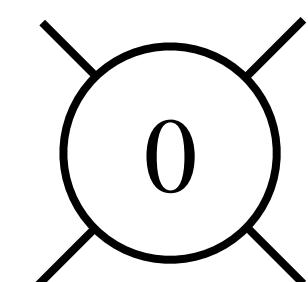
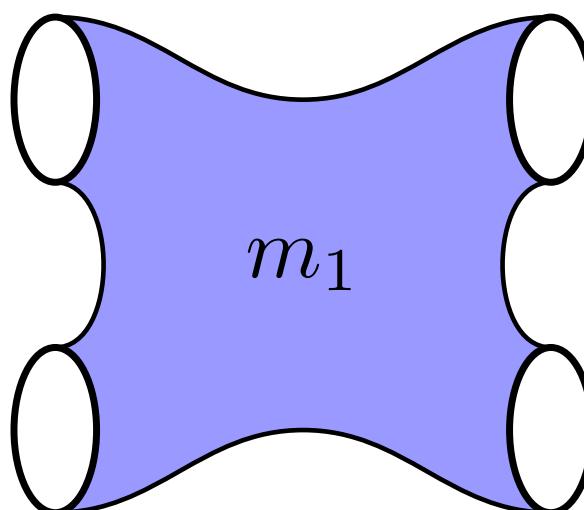
$$A_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum_{\Gamma \in \mathcal{G}_{g,n}^{\infty}} \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(\Gamma)|} \int' \prod_{e \in \mathcal{E}_{\Gamma}} (-2p_e dp_e) \prod_{v \in \mathcal{V}_{\Gamma}} \left(\frac{b(-1)^{m_v}}{\sqrt{2} \sin(\pi m_v b^2)} \right)^{2g_v - 2 + n_v} \times \prod_{j \in I_v} \sqrt{2} \sin(2\pi m_v b p_j) V_{g_v, n_v}^{(b)}(ip_v)$$

- Stable graphs $\mathcal{G}_{g,n}^{\infty}$ expansion: **Feynman rules for the Matrix integral**

↑

- $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ are the branch points of the spectral curve
- expansion in colored Riemann surfaces
- analytically continued quantum volumes $V_{g,n}^{(b)}(ip)$

degenerations of a Riemann surface



“Feynman rules”

$$\mathsf{A}_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = \left(\frac{b(-1)^{m_1}}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \right)^2 \mathsf{V}_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) + \frac{b(-1)^{m_1}}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \mathsf{V}_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, q) \int' (-2q dq) \sin(2\pi m_1 bp_1) \sin(2\pi m_2 bp_4) + \frac{b(-1)^{m_2}}{\sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} \mathsf{V}_{0,3}^{(b)}(q, p_3, p_4)$$

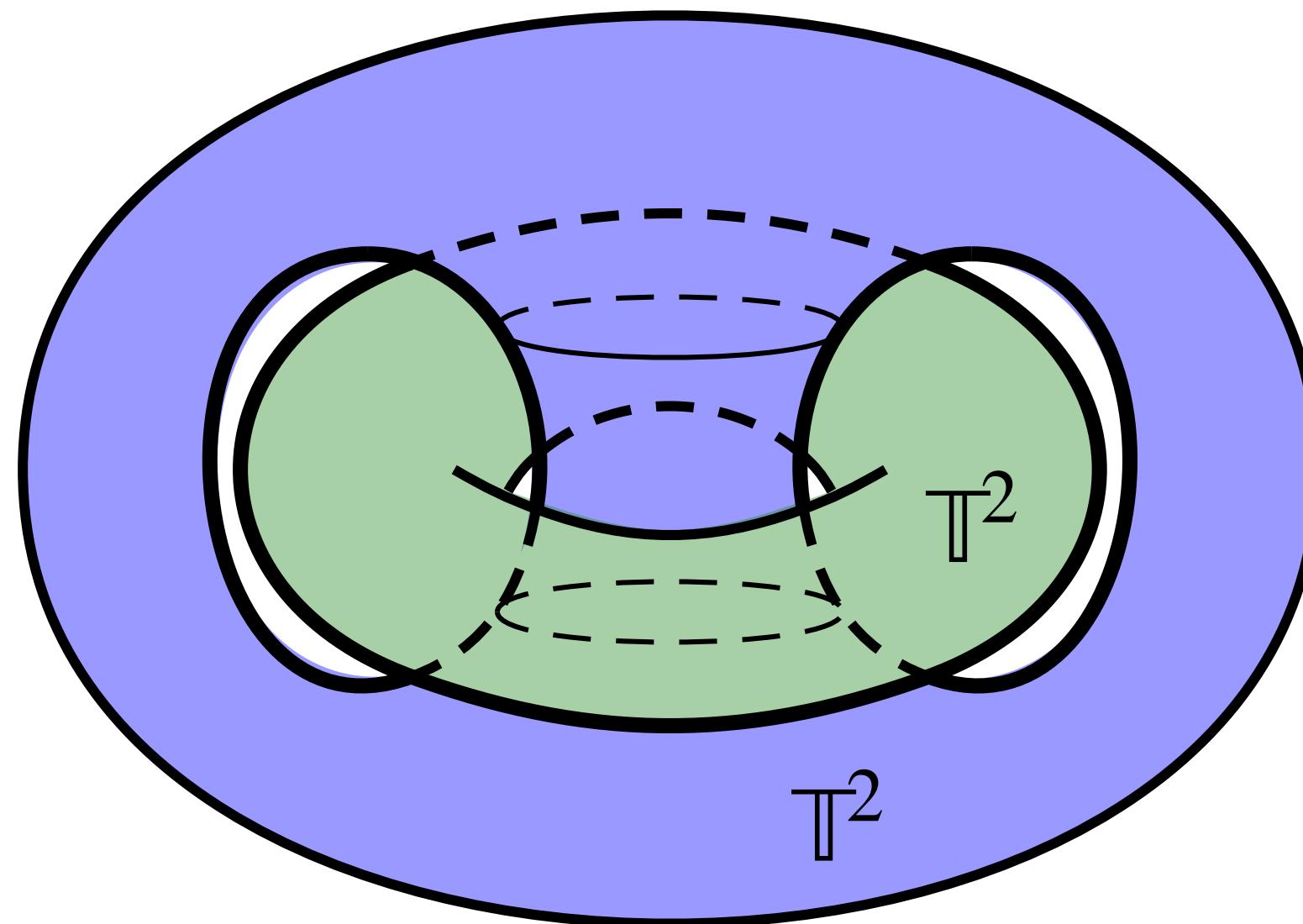
$\sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty}$ +

 $\sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty}$ +
 $+ 2 \text{ permutations}$

- $\mathsf{V}_{0,3}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p}) = 1$ $\mathsf{V}_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = - \sum_{i=1}^4 p_i^2 + \frac{b^2 + b^{-2}}{4}$ [Collier-Eberhardt-BM-Rodriguez]

Heegard splitting

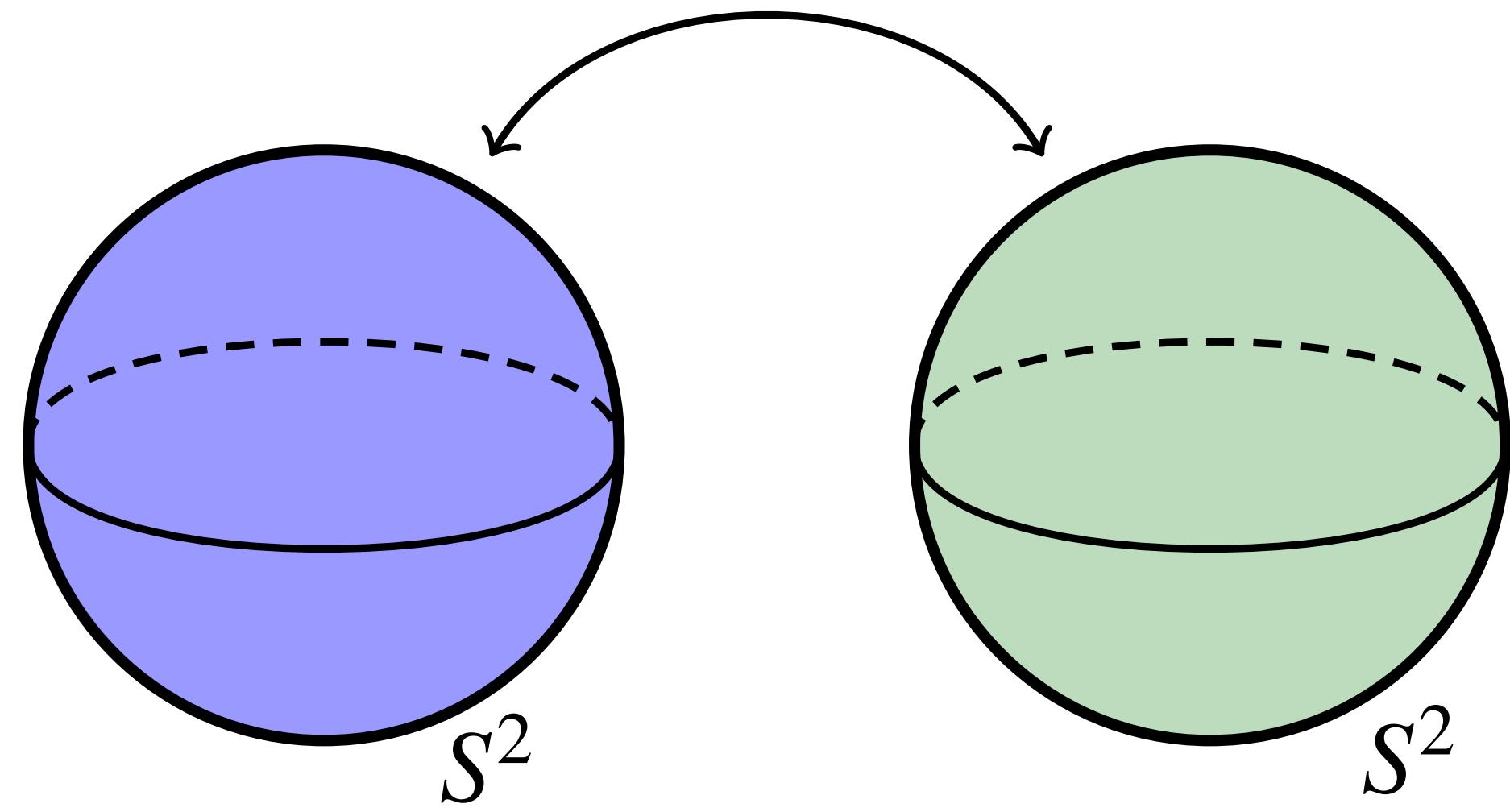
- Using TQFT surgery techniques we fix g_s



$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{TQFT}}^{S^3} = \langle \mathbb{I}_{1,0}^{(b)} | \mathbb{S} | \mathbb{I}_{1,0}^{(b)} \rangle = \mathbb{S}_{\mathbb{I},\mathbb{I}}$$

Virasoro vacuum character

modular S-transformation



$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{TQFT}}^{S^3} = \langle \mathbb{I}_{0,0}^{(b)} | \mathbb{I}_{0,0}^{(b)} \rangle = g_s^{-2}$$

Hartle Hawking

- We now want a wavefunction that describes the state of the universe at \mathcal{J}^+
- Hartle-Hawking? Take three manifolds with boundary \mathcal{J}^+ , simplest such choice are handlebodies $S\Sigma_g$

$$|\text{HH}\rangle = \sum_{\text{handlebodies } S\Sigma_g} \underbrace{|\mathcal{F}_{\text{II}}^{(b)}(S\Sigma_g)|^2}_{\text{Virasoro vacuum conformal block}} + \dots$$

- For $g \geq 1$ does not solve Einstein equations but involves continuation to $(-, -, -)$ signature (sum over topologies in $-\text{AdS}_3$)
- Each term in the sum is non-normalizable [Castro-Maloney for $\mathbb{T}^2 \dots$]
- The sum over topologies is completely uncontrolled (no small parameter suppressing topology fluctuation)