

*And Non-Holographic*  
Holographic C-theorems

with A. Sinha, H. Casini & M. Huerta  
(1006.1263, 1011.5819, 1102.0440)

## Overview:

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1. Introductory remarks on c-theorem
2. Holographic c-theorem I: Einstein gravity
3. Holographic c-theorem II: Higher curvature gravity
4.  $a_d^*$ , Entanglement Entropy and Beyond
5. Concluding remarks



## Zamolodchikov c-theorem (1986):

- renormalization-group (RG) flows can be seen as one-parameter motion

$$\frac{d}{dt} \equiv -\beta^i(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial g^i}$$

in the space of (renormalized) coupling constants  $\{g^i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  with beta-functions as “velocities”

- for unitary, renormalizable QFT's in **two dimensions**, there exists a positive-definite real function of the coupling constants  $c(g)$ :

1. monotonically decreasing along flows:  $\frac{d}{dt}c(g) \leq 0$

2. “stationary” at fixed points  $g^i = (g^*)^i$  :

$$\beta^i(g^*) = 0 \iff \frac{\partial}{\partial g^i}c(g) = 0$$

3. at fixed points, it equals central charge of corresponding CFT

$$c(g^*) = c$$

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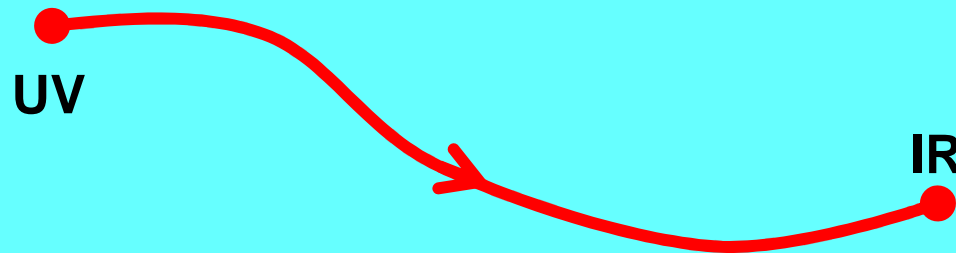
- for unitary, renormalizable QFT's in **two dimensions**, there exists a positive constant  $c(g)$ :

Consequence for any RG flow:

1. monotonic

2. “stationary”

3. at fixed



$$c_{UV} > c_{IR}$$

ending CFT

## C-theorems in higher dimensions??

$$d=2: \quad \langle T_\mu^\mu \rangle = -\frac{c}{12} R$$

$$d=4: \quad \langle T_\mu^\mu \rangle = \cancel{\frac{c}{16\pi^2} I_4} - \frac{a}{16\pi^2} E_4 - \frac{a'}{16\pi^2} \cancel{\nabla^2 R}$$

$$I_4 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} C^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \quad \text{and} \quad E_4 = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - 4R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + R^2$$

- in 4 dimensions, have three central charges:  $c$ ,  $a$ ,  $a'$
- do any of these obey a similar “c-theorem” under RG flows?

**✗**  $a'$ -theorem:  $a'$  is scheme dependent (not globally defined)

**✗**  $c$ -theorem: there are numerous counter-examples

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$a$ -theorem: proposed by Cardy (1988)

- numerous nontrivial examples, eg, perturbative fixed points (Jack & Osborn), SUSY gauge theories (Anselmi et al; Intriligator & Wecht)

## **SUSY example:**

- $SU(N_c)$  supersymmetric QCD with  $N_f$  flavors of massless quarks

$$\text{with } 3/2 \leq N_f/N_c \leq 3$$

- in UV, asymptotically free:

$$a_{UV} = \frac{1}{48} (9 N_c^2 - 9 + 2 N_f N_c)$$

$$c_{UV} = \frac{1}{24} (3 N_c^2 - 3 + 2 N_f N_c)$$

- in IR, flows to nontrivial conformal fixed point:

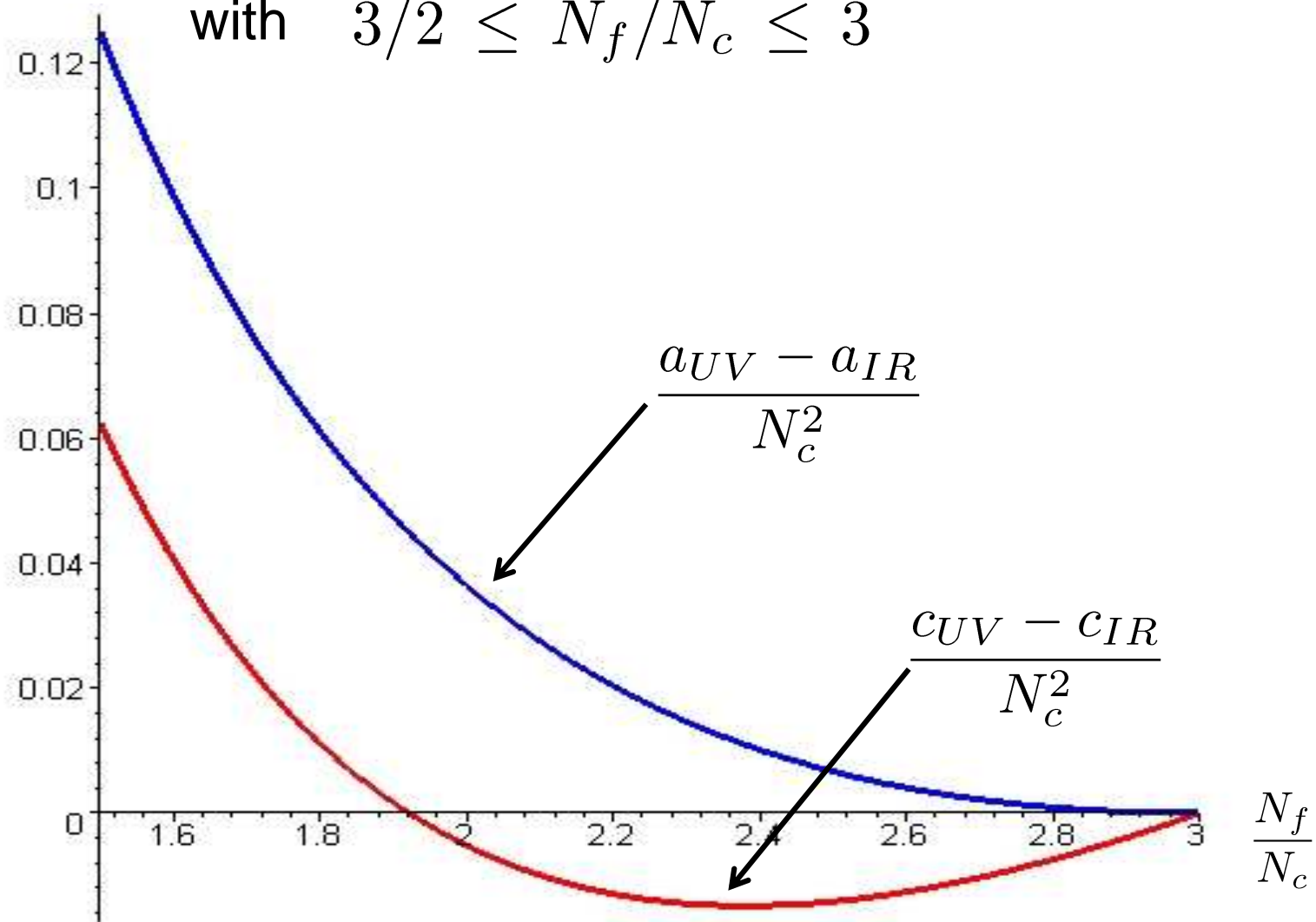
$$a_{IR} = \frac{3}{16} \left( 2 N_c^2 - 1 - 3 \frac{N_c^4}{N_f^2} \right)$$

$$c_{IR} = \frac{1}{16} \left( 7 N_c^2 - 2 - 9 \frac{N_c^4}{N_f^2} \right)$$

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(Jack & Osborn), SUSY gauge theories (Anselmi et al; Intriligator & Wecht)

✓ • holographic field theories with Einstein gravity dual

~~?~~ • counterexample proposed: Shapere & Tachikawa, 0809.3238

(Gaiotto, Seiberg & Tachikawa)

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- ✓ • holographic field theories with Einstein gravity dual
- holographic theories with higher curvature dual for any  $d$
- F-theorem for  $d=3$  (and general odd  $d$ )
- $d=4$  “proof” using dilaton effective action

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(Freedman, Gubser, Pilch & Warner, hep-th/9904017)  
(Girardello, Petrini, Porrati and Zaffaroni, hep-th/9810126)

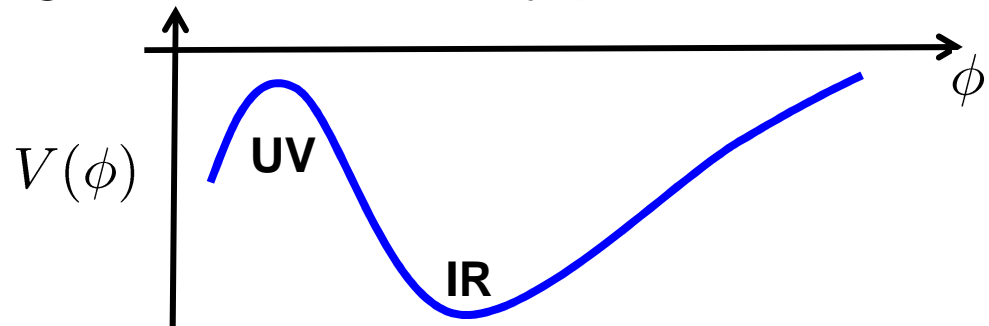
## Holographic RG flows:

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^3} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

- imagine potential has stationary points giving negative  $\Lambda$

$\longrightarrow V(\phi_{i,cr}) = -\frac{12}{L^2}\alpha_i^2$

- consider metric:  $ds^2 = e^{2A(r)}(-dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2) + dr^2$
- at stationary points,  $\text{AdS}_5$  vacuum:  $A(r) = r/\tilde{L}$  with  $\tilde{L} = L/\alpha_i$
- RG flows are solutions starting at one stationary point and ending at another






(Freedman, Gubser, Pilch & Warner, hep-th/9904017)  
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## Holographic RG flows:

- for general flow solutions, define:  $a(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^3}$

$$a'(r) = -\frac{3\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} A''(r) = -\frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \geq 0$$

Einstein equations 

null energy condition   
 $(T_{\mu\nu} \ell^\mu \ell^\nu \geq 0)$

- at stationary points,  $a(r) \rightarrow a^* = \pi^2 \tilde{L}^3 / \ell_P^3$  and hence

$$a_{UV}^* \geq a_{IR}^*$$

- using holographic trace anomaly:  $a^* = a$   
 (e.g., Henningson & Skenderis)

→ supports Cardy's conjecture

- for Einstein gravity, central charges equal ( $a = c$ ):  $c_{UV} \geq c_{IR}$



## Holographic RG flows:

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^{d-1}} \int d^{d+1}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

- same story is readily extended to (d+1) dimensions

- defining:  $a_d(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) (\ell_P A'(r))^{d-1}}$

$$a'(r) = -\frac{(d-1)\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) \ell_P^{d-1} A'(r)^d} A''(r) = -\frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) \ell_P^{d-1} A'(r)^d} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \geq 0$$

**Einstein equations**  **null energy condition** 

- at stationary points,  $a(r) \rightarrow a^* = \pi^{d/2} / \Gamma(d/2) (\tilde{L}/\ell_P)^{d-1}$  and so

$$a_{UV}^* \geq a_{IR}^*$$

- using holographic trace anomaly:  $a^* \propto$  central charges  
(for even d! what about odd d?) (e.g., Henningson & Skenderis)

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## Improved Holographic RG Flows:

- add higher curvature interactions to bulk gravity action  
→ provides holographic field theories with, eg,  $a \neq c$   
so that we can clearly distinguish evidence of a-theorem  
(Nojiri & Odintsov; Blau, Narain & Gava)
- construct “toy models” with fixed set of higher curvature terms  
(where we can maintain control of calculations)

## What about the swampland?

- constrain gravitational couplings with consistency tests  
(positive fluxes; causality; unitarity) and use best judgement
- seems an effective approach with, e.g., Gauss-Bonnet gravity  
(eg, Brigante, Liu, Myers, Shenker, Yaida, de Boer, Kulaxizi, Parnachev, Camanho, Edelstein, Buchel, Sinha, Paulos, Escobedo, Smolkin, Cremonini, Hofman, . . .)
- ultimately one needs to fully develop string theory for  
interesting holographic backgrounds

## Quasi-Topological gravity:

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^3} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{12}{L^2} + R + L^2 \frac{\lambda}{2} \chi_4 + L^4 \frac{7\mu}{4} \mathcal{Z}_5 \right]$$

with  $\chi_4 = R^{abcd} R_{abcd} - 4R_{ab} R^{ab} + R^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}_5 = & R_a^c{}_b{}^d R_d^e{}_c{}^f R_e^a{}_f{}^b + \frac{1}{56} (21 R_{abcd} R^{abcd} R - 72 R_{abcd} R^{abc}{}_e R^{de} \\ & + 120 R_{abcd} R^{ac} R^{bd} + 144 R_a^b R_b^c R_c^a - 132 R_a^b R_b^a R + 15 R^3) \end{aligned}$$

- three dimensionless couplings,  $L/\ell_P$ ,  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$ , allow us to explore dual CFT's with most general three-point function  $\langle T_{ab} T_{cd} T_{ef} \rangle$

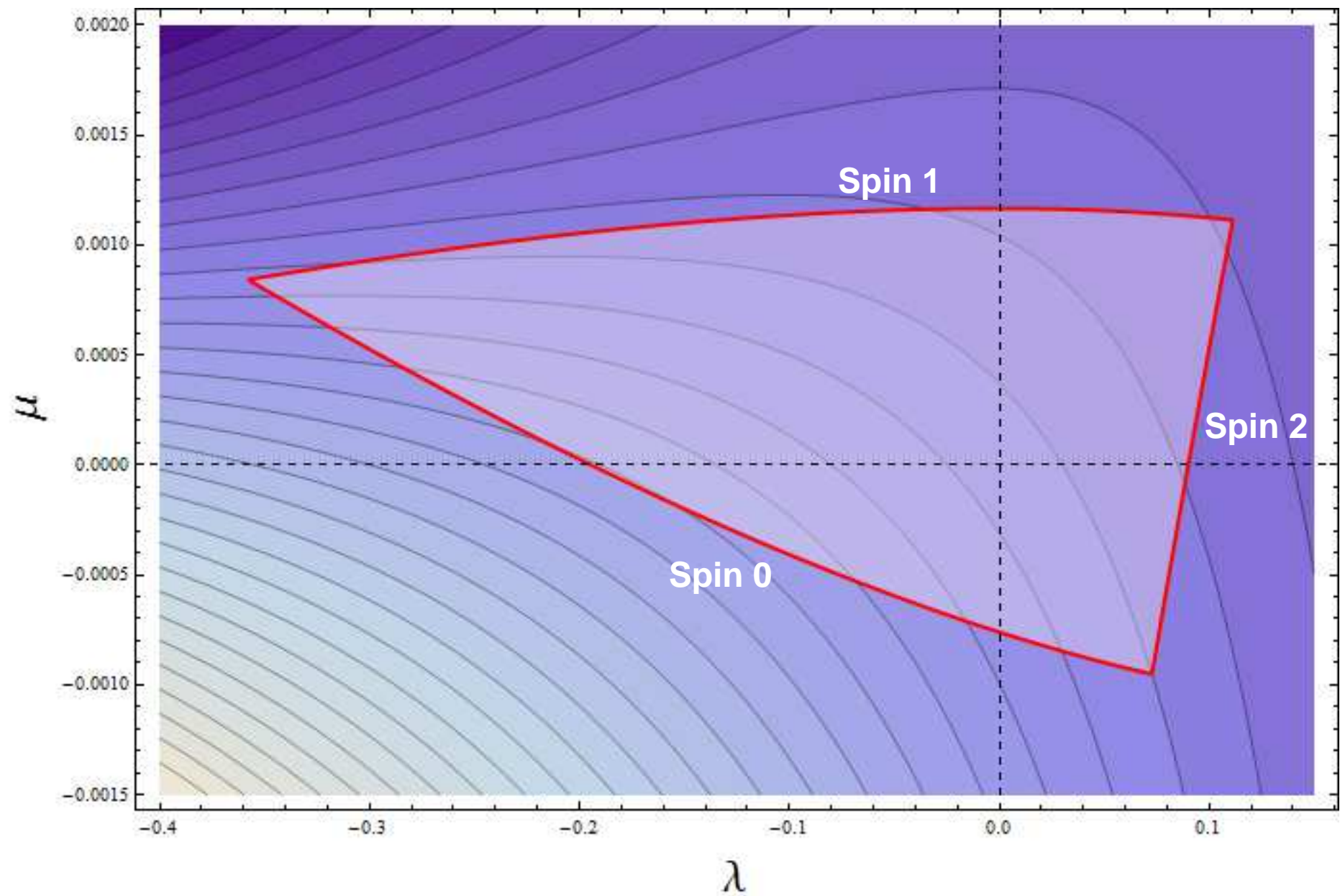
### “maintain control of calculations”

- analytic black hole solutions
- linearized eom in  $\text{AdS}_5$  are second order (in fact, Einstein eq's!)
- can be extended to higher dimensions ( $D \geq 7$ )
- gravitational couplings constrained (Myers, Paulos & Sinha, 1004.2055)



# Quasi-Topological gravity:

(Myers, Paulos & Sinha, 1004.2055)



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• let's calculate!

• curvature in  $\text{AdS}_5$  vacuum:  $\frac{1}{\tilde{L}^2} = \frac{f_\infty}{L^2}$ ,

where  $\alpha^2 - f_\infty + \lambda f_\infty^2 + \mu f_\infty^3 = 0$

• holographic trace anomaly:

(Myers, Paulos & Sinha, 1004.2055)

$$a = \pi^2 \frac{\tilde{L}^3}{\ell_P^3} (1 - 6\lambda f_\infty + 9\mu f_\infty^2) , \quad c = \pi^2 \frac{\tilde{L}^3}{\ell_P^3} (1 - 2\lambda f_\infty - 3\mu f_\infty^2)$$

## RG flows in Quasi-Topological gravity:

- consider metric:  $ds^2 = e^{2A(r)}(-dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2) + dr^2$

→ AdS<sub>5</sub> vacua:  $A(r) = r/\tilde{L}$

- need to define “flow functions” which extend

$$a = \pi^2 \frac{\tilde{L}^3}{\ell_P^3} (1 - 6\lambda f_\infty + 9\mu f_\infty^2) ,$$

$$c = \pi^2 \frac{\tilde{L}^3}{\ell_P^3} (1 - 2\lambda f_\infty - 3\mu f_\infty^2)$$

for general flows away from fixed points

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- natural to define “flow functions”:

$$a(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^3} (1 - 6\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 + 9\mu L^4 A'(r)^4)$$

$$c(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^3} (1 - 2\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - 3\mu L^4 A'(r)^4)$$

where at stationary points:  $a(r) = a$ ,  $c(r) = c$

- “simplest” r-dependent functions satisfying this condition

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- in general flows:

$$a'(r) = -\frac{3\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} A''(r) (1 - 2\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - 3\mu L^4 A'(r)^4)$$
$$= -\frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \geq 0$$



assume null energy condition

gravitational equations of motion



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$$c'(r) = -\frac{3\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} A''(r) \left(1 - \frac{2}{3}\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - \mu L^4 A'(r)^4\right)$$
$$= -\frac{\pi^2}{\ell_P^3 A'(r)^4} \frac{1 - \frac{2}{3}\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - \mu L^4 A'(r)^4}{1 - 2\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - 3\mu L^4 A'(r)^4} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \quad ??$$

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- can try to be more creative in defining  $c(r)$  but we were **unable** to find an expression where flow is guaranteed to be monotonic
- our toy model seems to provide support for Cardy's “a-theorem”  
in four dimensions

**Higher Dimensions:**  $D = d + 1$  ( $\mu = 0$  for  $d = 5$ )

- straightforward to reverse engineer “a-theorem” flows
- eq’s of motion:

$$T^t_t - T^r_r = (d - 1) A''(r) (1 - 2\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - 3\mu L^4 A'(r)^4)$$

- expression with natural flow:

$$a_d(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) (\ell_P A'(r))^{d-1}} \left( 1 - \frac{2(d-1)}{d-3} \lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - \frac{3(d-1)}{d-5} \mu L^4 A'(r)^4 \right)$$

$$\longrightarrow a'_d(r) = - \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) \ell_P^{d-1} A'(r)^d} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \geq 0$$

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- flow between stationary points (where  $a_d^* \equiv a_d(r)|_{AdS}$ )

$$(a_d^*)_{UV} \geq (a_d^*)_{IR}$$

What is  $a_d^*$  ??

$$a_d^* = \frac{\pi^{d/2} \tilde{L}^{d-1}}{\Gamma(d/2) \ell_P^{d-1}} \left( 1 - \frac{2(d-1)}{d-3} \lambda f_\infty - \frac{3(d-1)}{d-5} \mu f_\infty^2 \right)$$

where AdS curvature:  $\frac{1}{\tilde{L}^2} = \frac{f_\infty}{L^2}$ ,  $\alpha^2 - f_\infty + \lambda f_\infty^2 + \mu f_\infty^3 = 0$

- $a_d^*$  is **NOT**  $C_T$ , coefficient of leading singularity in

$$\langle T_{ab}(x) T_{cd}(0) \rangle = \frac{C_T}{x^{2d}} \mathcal{I}_{ab,cd}(x)$$

- $a_d^*$  is **NOT**  $C_S$ , coefficient in entropy density:  $s = C_S T^{d-1}$

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- trace anomaly for CFT's with even  $d$ : (Deser & Schwimmer)

$$\langle T_\mu{}^\mu \rangle = \sum B_i (\text{Weyl invariant})_i - 2(-)^{d/2} A (\text{Euler density})_d$$

- verify that we have precisely reproduced central charge

$$a_d^* = A$$

(Henningson & Skenderis; Nojiri & Odintsov; Blau, Narain & Gava;  
Imbimbo, Schwimmer, Theisen & Yankielowicz)

—————> agrees with Cardy's proposal

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What is  $a_d^*$  for odd d?? (One moment!)

## How robust is Holographic C-theorem?:

- quasi-topological gravity obeys c-theorem in very nontrivial way
- generalize to start with arbitrary curvature-cubed action

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^{d-1}} \int d^{d+1}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{d(d-1)}{L^2} \alpha^2 + R + L^2 \tilde{\mathcal{X}} + L^4 \tilde{\mathcal{Z}} \right]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{X}} &= b_1 R_{abcd} R^{abcd} + b_2 R_{ab} R^{ab} + b_3 R^2, \\ \tilde{\mathcal{Z}} &= c_1 R_a^c{}_b{}^d R_c^e{}_d{}^f R_e^a{}_f{}^b + c_2 R_{ab}{}^{cd} R_{cd}{}^{ef} R_{ef}{}^{ab} + c_3 R_{abcd} R^{abc}{}_e R^{de} \\ &\quad + c_4 R_{abcd} R^{abcd} R + c_5 R_{abcd} R^{ac} R^{bd} + c_6 R_a^b R_b^c R_c^a \\ &\quad + c_7 R_a^b R_b^a R + c_8 R^3. \end{aligned}$$

• AdS vacua:  $\frac{1}{\tilde{L}^2} = \frac{f_\infty}{L^2}$ , where  $\alpha^2 - f_\infty + \lambda f_\infty^2 + \mu f_\infty^3 = 0$

$$\lambda = \frac{d-3}{d-1} (2b_1 + db_2 + d(d+1)b_3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= -\frac{d-5}{d-1} ((d-1)c_1 + 4c_2 + 2dc_3 + 2d(d+1)c_4 \\ &\quad + d^2 c_5 + d^2 c_6 + d^2(d+1)c_7 + d^2(d+1)^2 c_8) \end{aligned}$$



## More Improved Holographic RG Flows:

- is it reasonable to expect any theory to obey a c-theorem? **NO**
- how do we constrain theory to be physically reasonable?
- recall one of the nice properties of quasi-top. gravity was that linearized graviton equations in AdS were 2<sup>nd</sup> order
- greatly facilitates calculations but deeper physical significance
- analogy with higher derivative scalar field eq. (in flat space)

$$\left(\nabla^2 + \frac{a}{M^2}(\nabla^2)^2\right)\phi = 0 \longrightarrow \frac{1}{q^2(1 - a q^2/M^2)} = \frac{1}{q^2} - \frac{1}{q^2 - M^2/a}$$

↑  
**ghost**

- graviton ghosts will be generic with 4<sup>th</sup> order equations  
→ couple to additional non-unitary tensor operator in dual CFT

## More Improved Holographic RG Flows:

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^{d-1}} \int d^{d+1}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{d(d-1)}{L^2} \alpha^2 + R + L^2 \tilde{\mathcal{X}} + L^4 \tilde{\mathcal{Z}} \right]$$

where  $\tilde{\mathcal{X}} = b_1 R_{abcd} R^{abcd} + b_2 R_{ab} R^{ab} + b_3 R^2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{Z}} = & c_1 R_a^c{}^d R_c^e{}^f R_e^a{}^b + c_2 R_{ab}{}^{cd} R_{cd}{}^{ef} R_{ef}{}^{ab} + c_3 R_{abcd} R^{abc}{}_e R^{de}{}_e \\ & + c_4 R_{abcd} R^{abcd} R + c_5 R_{abcd} R^{ac} R^{bd} + c_6 R_a^b R_b^c R_c^a \\ & + c_7 R_a^b R_b^a R + c_8 R^3. \end{aligned}$$

- demand linearized graviton equations are 2<sup>nd</sup> order in RG flow

*i.e.*, around background geometry:  $ds^2 = e^{2A(r)}(-dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2) + dr^2$

## More Improved Holographic RG Flows:

$$I = \frac{1}{2\ell_P^{d-1}} \int d^{d+1}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{d(d-1)}{L^2} \alpha^2 + R + L^2 \tilde{\mathcal{X}} + L^4 \tilde{\mathcal{Z}} \right]$$

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- demand linearized graviton equations are 2<sup>nd</sup> order in RG flow

$$b_2 = -4b_1, \quad b_3 = b_1$$

**R<sup>2</sup> interaction is  $\chi_4$**

$$c_8 = \frac{1}{d(d+1)} \left( -\frac{d+5}{2(d+1)} c_1 + \frac{2(d+9)}{d+1} c_2 + \frac{d+8}{3} c_3 \right.$$

**5 constraints  $\rightarrow$  3 free parameters**

$$c_7 = \frac{1}{d(d+1)} \left( 3c_1 - 24c_2 - 4(d+1)c_3 - 4d(d+1)c_4 - (2d-1)c_5 - 3dc_6 \right)$$

■ ■ ■ ■

## More Improved Holographic RG Flows:

- as before, try to reverse engineer “c-theorem” flows
- with above constraints, flow eq’s of motion yield:

$$T^t_t - T^r_r = (d-1) A''(r) (1 - 2\lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - 3\mu L^4 A'(r)^4)$$

- expression with natural flow:

$$a_d(r) \equiv \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) (\ell_P A'(r))^{d-1}} \left( 1 - \frac{2(d-1)}{d-3} \lambda L^2 A'(r)^2 - \frac{3(d-1)}{d-5} \mu L^4 A'(r)^4 \right)$$
$$\longrightarrow a'_d(r) = - \frac{\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2) \ell_P^{d-1} A'(r)^d} (T^t_t - T^r_r) \geq 0$$

- flow between stationary points (where  $a_d^* \equiv a_d(r)|_{AdS}$ )

$$(a_d^*)_{UV} \geq (a_d^*)_{IR}$$

- also extends to Lovelock and  $R^n$  theories (Liu, Sabra & Zhao)
- for even d, find same match:  $a_d^* = A \longrightarrow$  Cardy’s proposal

**What about odd d?**

## Overview:

1. Introductory remarks on c-theorem
  2. Holographic c-theorem I: Einstein gravity
  3. Holographic c-theorem II: Higher curvature gravity
- 
4.  $a_d^*$ , Entanglement Entropy and Beyond
- 
5. Concluding remarks

## General result for any CFT

(Casini, Huerta & RCM)

- take CFT in d-dim. flat space and choose  $S^{d-2}$  with radius R

→ entanglement entropy:  $S_{EE} = -Tr [\rho_A \log \rho_A]$

→ by conformal mapping relate to thermal entropy on  $\mathcal{H} = R \times H^{d-1}$  with  $\mathcal{R} \sim 1/R^2$  and  $T=1/2\pi R$

$$S_{EE} = S_{thermal}$$

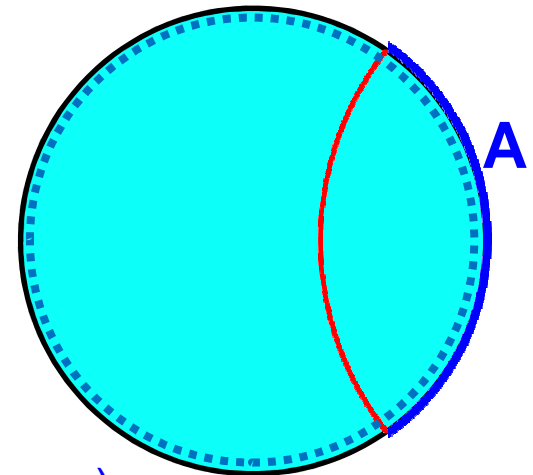
## AdS/CFT correspondence:

- thermal bath in CFT = black hole in AdS

$$S_{EE} = S_{thermal} = S_{horizon}$$

- only need to find appropriate black hole
- topological BH with hyperbolic horizon which intersects A on AdS boundary

(Aminneborg et al; Emparan; Mann; . . . )



$$S_{EE} = S_{thermal} = S_{horizon}$$

- desired “black hole” is a hyperbolic foliation of empty AdS space

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2 d\rho^2}{(\rho^2 - L^2)} - \frac{\rho^2 - L^2}{R^2} d\tau^2 + \rho^2 d\Sigma_2^{d-1} \quad \longrightarrow \quad T = \frac{1}{2\pi R}$$

- apply Wald’s formula (for any gravity theory) for horizon entropy:

$$S = \frac{2\pi}{\pi^{d/2}} \Gamma(d/2) \frac{a_d^*}{R^{d-1}} V(H^{d-1})$$

$$ds^2 = R^2 \left[ \frac{du^2}{1+u^2} + u^2 d\Omega_2^{d-2} \right]$$

universal contributions:

$$S = \cdots + (-)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} 4 a_d^* \log(2R/\delta) + \cdots \quad \text{for even } d$$

$$\cdots + (-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} 2\pi a_d^* + \cdots \quad \text{for odd } d$$

- discussion extends to case with background:  $R^{1,d-1} \rightarrow R \times S^{d-1}$

## Conjecture:

- entanglement entropy of ground state of CFT across sphere  $S^{d-2}$  of radius  $R$  has universal contribution:

$$S_{univ} = \begin{cases} (-)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} 4 a_d^* \log(2R/\delta) & \text{for even } d \\ (-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} 2\pi a_d^* & \text{for odd } d \end{cases}$$

(any gravitational action)

- in RG flows between fixed points (any CFT in even  $d$  with  $a_d^* = A$ )

$$(a_d^*)_{UV} \geq (a_d^*)_{IR}$$

(“unitary” models)

- behaviour discovered for holographic model but conjecture that result applies generally (outside of holography)
- gives framework to consider c-theorem for **odd** or even  $d$



## and Beyond:

- **Susskind & Witten:** density of degrees of freedom in N=4 SYM connected to area of holographic screen at large R in AdS<sub>5</sub>

$$\frac{V_3}{\delta^3} \times N_c^2 \sim \frac{A(R)}{\ell_P^3} \quad \text{cut-off scale defined by regulator radius: } \frac{1}{\delta} = \frac{R}{L^2}$$

- given higher curvature bulk action, natural extension is to evaluate Wald entropy on holographic screen at large R

$$S = -2\pi \oint d^{d-1}x \sqrt{h} \hat{\varepsilon}^{ab} \hat{\varepsilon}_{cd} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{bulk}}{\partial R^{ab}_{cd}}$$

- straightforward evaluate “entropy” for count of density of dof

$$S = \frac{2}{\pi} a_d^* \frac{V_{d-1}}{\delta^{d-1}}$$

for any covariant action:  $\mathcal{L}_{bulk} = \mathcal{L}_{bulk} (g^{ab}, R^{ab}_{cd}, \nabla_e R^{ab}_{cd}, \dots)$

## F-theorem:

(Jafferis, Klebanov, Pufu & Safdi)

- examine partition function for broad classes of 3-dimensional quantum field theories (SUSY and non-SUSY) on three-sphere
- in all examples,  $F = -\log Z > 0$  and decreases along RG flows
- **coincides with our conjectured c-theorem!** (Casini, Huerta & RCM)
- consider  $S_{EE}$  of d-dimensional CFT for sphere  $S^{d-2}$  of radius R
- conformal mapping: causal domain  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow$  (static patch of)  $dS_d$

curvature  $\sim 1/R$  and thermal state:  $\rho = \exp[-2\pi R H_\tau]/Z$

$$\longrightarrow S_{EE} = S_{thermal} = \beta \langle H_\tau \rangle + \log Z$$

## F-theorem:

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curvature  $\sim 1/R$  and thermal state:  $\rho = \exp[-2\pi R H_\tau]/Z$

$$\longrightarrow S_{EE} = S_{thermal} = \beta \langle H_\tau \rangle + \log Z$$

- stress-energy fixed by trace anomaly – vanishes for odd d!
- upon passing to Euclidean time with period  $2\pi R$ :

$$S_{EE} = \log Z|_{S^d} \quad \text{for any odd } d$$

## F-theorem:

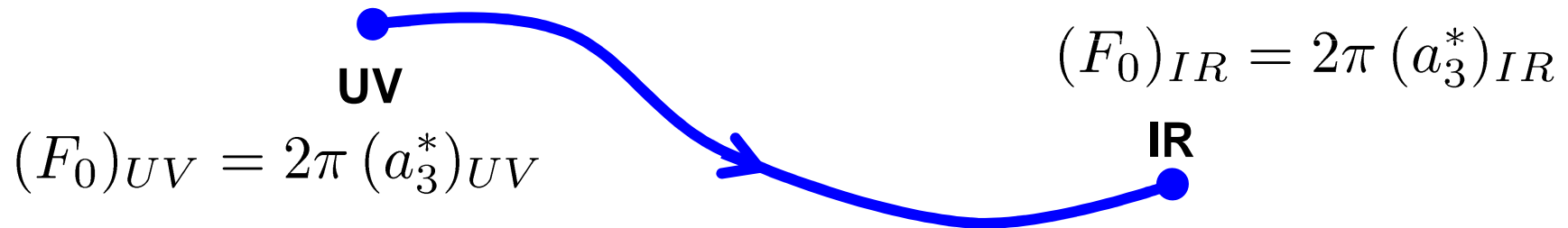
- must focus on renormalized or universal contributions, eg,

$$F_0 = -\log Z|_{finite} = -S_{univ} = 2\pi a_3^*.$$

- generalizes to general odd d:

$$(-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \log Z|_{finite} = (-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} S_{univ} = 2\pi a_d^*.$$

- equivalence shown only for fixed points but good enough:



- evidence for F-theorem (SUSY, perturbed CFT's & O(N) models) supports present conjecture and our holographic analysis provides additional support for F-theorem

## RG Flows and Dilaton Effective Action

- think of RG flow as “spontaneously broken conformal symmetry”
- couple theory to “dilaton” (conformal compensator) and organize effective action in terms of  $\hat{g}_{\mu\nu} = e^{-2\tau} g_{\mu\nu}$

diff X Weyl invariant:  $g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow e^{2\sigma} g_{\mu\nu} \quad \tau \rightarrow \tau + \sigma$

- introduce UV kinetic term:  $\frac{f^2}{6} \int d^4x \sqrt{\hat{g}} \hat{R} = \textcircled{f^2} \int d^4x e^{-2\tau} (\partial\tau)^2$
- follow effective action to IR fixed point, eg,

$$S_{anomaly} = -\delta a \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \tau E_4 + 4(R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} R) \partial_\mu \tau \partial_\nu \tau - 4(\partial\tau)^2 \square \tau + 2(\partial\tau)^4 \right)$$

  $\delta a = a_{UV} - a_{IR}$ : ensures UV & IR anomalies match

- with  $g \rightarrow \eta$ , this term is only contribution to 4pt scattering:

$$S_{anomaly} = 2 \delta a \int d^4x (\partial\tau)^4$$

- causality or analyticity arguments demand:  $\delta a > 0$  (Adams et al)

(Komargodski & Schwimmer ; see also: Schwimmer & Theisen)

## RG Flows and Dilaton Effective Action

- causality or analyticity arguments demand:

$$\delta a = a_{UV} - a_{IR} > 0$$

- proof of a-theorem??:

→ assumes RG flow from UV fixed pt to IR fixed pt

(Fortin, Grinstein & Stergiou)

- recent work suggests there exist d=4 QFT's which are scale invariant but **not** conformally invariant
- further suggests RG flows exhibit limit cycle behaviour

→ full structure of d=4 RG flows still to explore

## Conclusions:

- AdS/CFT correspondence (gauge/gravity duality) has proven an excellent tool to study strongly coupled gauge theories
- **toy theories** with higher-R interactions extend class of CFT's  
→ maintain calculational control with LL or quasi-top. gravity
- consistency (e.g., causality & unitarity) constrains couplings
- provide interesting insights into RG flows
- naturally support Cardy's version of "A-theorem" with  $d$  even
- suggests extension of c-theorem to  $d$  odd
- $a_d^*$  seems to play a privileged role in holography
- further implications for holographic dualities??
- can entanglement entropy lead to proof of a-theorem?

**Lots to explore!**

(Casini & Huerta)