

Entanglement & C-theorems

with Sinha; Casini, Huerta & Yale

Entanglement Entropy

- general tool; divide quantum system into two parts and use entropy as measure of correlations between subsystems
- in QFT, typically introduce a (smooth) boundary or entangling surface $\Sigma\,$ which divides the space into two separate regions
- integrate out degrees of freedom in "outside" region
- remaining dof are described by a density matrix ρ_A
 - \longrightarrow calculate von Neumann entropy: $S_{EE} = -Tr \left[\rho_A \log \rho_A \right]$



Zamolodchikov's c-theorem (1986):

• renormalization-group (RG) flows can seen as one-parameter motion $\frac{d}{dt} \equiv -\beta^{i}(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial a^{i}}$

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

- for unitary, Lorentz-inv. 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

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

Zamolodchikov's C-function adds a dimension to RG flows:



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Simple consequence for any RG flow in d=2: $c_{
m UV} > c_{
m IR}$

Entanglement & c-theorem?

• Preskill '99: "Quantum information and physics: some future directions"

QI may provide new insight into RG flows & c-theorem

 Casini & Huerta '04: reformulate c-theorem for d=2 RG flows in terms of entanglement entropy using unitarity, Lorentz inv. and strong subaddivity inequality:

$$S(X \cup Y \cup Z) - S(X \cup Y) - S(Y \cup Z) + S(Y) \le 0$$



• c-theorem for d=2 RG flows can be established using unitarity, Lorentz invariance and strong subaddivity inequality: $S(X \cup Y \cup Z) - S(X \cup Y) - S(Y \cup Z) + S(Y) \le 0$

• for d=2 CFT:
$$S_{\rm CFT} = \frac{c}{3} \log(\ell/\delta) + a_0$$
 (Holzhey, Larsen & Wilczek) (Calabrese & Cardy)

isolate central charge with: $3 \ell \partial_{\ell} S_{CFT}(\ell) = c$

• in general, define: $C(\ell) = 3 \ \ell \ \partial_{\ell} S(\ell)$

$$\longrightarrow C_{\rm CFT}(\ell) = c$$

 ℓ appears as proxy for energy scale

• interval A with endpoints e_1 and e_2 on some Cauchy surface



by causality, ρ_A describes physics in causal diamond

- by unitarity, S(e₁,e₂) independent of details of Cauchy surface
- by translation invariance (in vacuum), S(e₁,e₂) only depends on proper distance between e₁ and e₂

$$\ell_{12} = \left[(x_2 - x_1)^2 - (t_2 - t_1)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

 apply strong subaddivity inequality in following geometry: $S(X \cup Y \cup Z) - S(X \cup Y) - S(Y \cup Z) + S(Y) \le 0$ $t = \varepsilon \cdot \cdot \cdot$ $(\varepsilon, -\ell/2 - \varepsilon)$ $(\varepsilon, \ell/2 + \varepsilon)$ $t = 0 \qquad (0, -\ell/2)$ $(0, \ell/2)$ $S(Y) = S(\ell), \ S(X \cup Y \cup Z) = S(\ell + 2\varepsilon)$ $S(X \cup Y) = S(Y \cup Z) = S(\sqrt{\ell(\ell + 2\varepsilon)})$ SSA $\longrightarrow S(\ell + 2\varepsilon) + S(\ell) - 2S(\sqrt{\ell(\ell + 2\varepsilon)}) < 0$ $\varepsilon \to 0 : S'' + S'/\ell \le 0 \longrightarrow \partial_{\ell}(\ell S') \le 0 \longrightarrow \partial_{\ell}C(\ell) \le 0$

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 $\longrightarrow C_{CFT}(\ell) = c$

(Calabrese & Cardy) (Holzhey, Larsen & Wilczek)

• hence it follows that: $c_{\rm UV} > c_{\rm IR}$

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

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

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

- in 4 dimensions, have three central charges: $c, \, a, \, a'$
- do any of these obey a similar "c-theorem" under RG flows? $[??]_{UV} > [??]_{IR}$

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<u>*a*-theorem</u>: proposed by Cardy (1988)

- numerous nontrivial examples, eg, perturbative fixed points (Osborn '89), SUSY gauge theories (Anselmi et al '98; Intriligator & Wecht '03)
- holographic field theories with Einstein gravity dual (Freedman et al '99; Giradello et al '98)
- progress stalled; no proof found; . . .

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- past few years have seen a resurgence of interest and rapid progress

(RM & Sinha '10)

• RG flows in generalized holographic models with higher curvatures

 \longrightarrow found new holographic c-theorem: $[a_d^*]_{UV} \ge [a_d^*]_{IR}$

$$a_d^* = \frac{\pi^{(d-2)/2} L^{d-1}}{8\Gamma(d/2) G_N f_\infty^{(d-1)/2}} \left(1 - \frac{2(d-1)}{d-3} \lambda f_\infty - \frac{3(d-1)}{d-5} \mu f_\infty^2 \right)$$

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

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• compare trace anomaly for CFT's in even dimensions (Deser & Schwimmer)

$$\langle T_{\mu}{}^{\mu} \rangle = \sum B_i (\text{Weyl invariant})_i - 2(-)^{d/4} (A) \text{Euler density}_d + \nabla_{\mu} K^{\mu}$$

precisely reproduces coefficient of A-type anomaly:

$$a_d^* = A$$

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

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What about odd d??

Entanglement C-theorem conjecture:

(RM & Sinha)

 identify central charge with universal contribution in entanglement entropy of ground state of CFT across sphere S^{d-2} of radius R:

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

for RG flows connecting two fixed points

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



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- unified framework to consider c-theorem for odd or even d
- \rightarrow connect to Cardy's conjecture: $a_d^* = A$ for any CFT in even d
- behaviour discovered for holographic model but conjectured that result applies generally (outside of holography)

- examine partition function for broad classes of 3-dimensional quantum field theories on three-sphere (SUSY gauge theories, perturbed CFT's & O(N) models)
- in all examples, $F = -\log Z(S^3) > 0$ and decreases along RG flows

 \rightarrow conjecture: $F_{UV} > F_{IR}$

- also naturally generalizes to higher odd *d*
- coincides with entanglement c-theorem (Casini, Huerta & RM)

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v

t = 0

F-theorem:

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- consider S_{EE} of d-dimensional CFT for sphere S^{d-2} of radius R
- conformal mapping:

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

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

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

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

• focusing on renormalized or universal contributions, eg,

$$F_0 = -\log Z|_{finite} = -S_{univ} = (-)^{\frac{d+1}{2}} 2\pi a_d^*.$$

(Casini & Huerta '12)

Entanglement proof of F-theorem:

 F-theorem for d=3 RG flows established using unitarity, Lorentz invariance and strong subadditivity

 $\sum S(X_i) \ge S(\cup_i X_i) + S(\cup_{\{ij\}} (X_i \cap X_j)) + S(\cup_{\{ijk\}} (X_i \cap X_j \cap X_k)) + \dots + S(\cap_i X_i)$

 geometry more complex than d=2: consider many circles intersecting on null cone





- no corner contribution from intersection in null plane
- define: C(R) = RS'(R) S(R)
- for d=3 CFT: $S(R) = \frac{2\pi R}{\delta} c_0 2\pi a_3 \longrightarrow C_{CFT}(R) = 2\pi a_3$
- with SSA and "continuum" limit $\longrightarrow \partial_R C(R) \leq 0$
- hence C(R) decreases monotonically and $[a_3]_{\rm UV} > [a_3]_{\rm IR}$

A beautiful story but why is universal term in S_{EE} universal?

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

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- ----> even d seems okay

$$\begin{array}{ll} \operatorname{recall} d=2\ \operatorname{CFT:} & S_{uni} \ = \ \frac{\mathsf{c}}{3} \log \left(\frac{C}{\pi \, \delta} \sin \frac{\pi \ell}{C} \right) & \begin{array}{l} (\operatorname{Calabrese \& Cardy}) \\ (\operatorname{Holzhey, \ Larsen \& Wilczek}) \end{array} \\ d=4\ \operatorname{CFT:} & (\operatorname{Solodukhin}) \end{array} \\ S_{uni} = \log(R/\delta) \ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\Sigma} d^2x \sqrt{h} \left[\mathbf{c} \left(C^{ijkl} \, \tilde{g}_{ik}^{\perp} \, \tilde{g}_{jl}^{\perp} - K_a^{i\,b} K_b^{i\,a} + \frac{1}{2} K_a^{i\,a} K_b^{i\,b} \right) - \mathbf{a} \, \mathcal{R} \right] \\ d=2m\ \operatorname{CFT} (\text{with symmetry}): & (\operatorname{RCM \& Sinha}) \\ S_{uni} = \log(R/\delta) \ 2\pi \int_{\Sigma} d^{d-2}x \sqrt{h} \ \frac{\partial \langle T_\lambda^\lambda \rangle}{\partial R^{\mu\nu} \rho\sigma} \hat{\varepsilon}^{\mu\nu} \, \hat{\varepsilon}_{\rho\sigma} \end{array}$$

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eg, shifting $\delta \rightarrow \delta' = \delta + \alpha \, m \delta^2$, constant term polluted by UV data

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(eg, Hertzberg & Wilczek; Banerjee)

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• in regulators, tension between Lorentz inv. and unitarity

 \longrightarrow latter emerge in $\delta \rightarrow 0$ limit, but regulator exposed in S_{EE}

"Renormalized" Entanglement Entropy:

(Liu & Mezei)

 divergences determined by local geometry of entangling surface with covariant regulator, eg,

$$S_{CFT} = c_0 \frac{R^{d-2}}{\delta^{d-2}} + c_2 \frac{R^{d-4}}{\delta^{d-4}} + \dots + (-)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} 2\pi a_d + O(\delta/R)$$

• can isolate finite term with appropriate manipulations, eg,

d=3:
$$S_3(R) = RS'(R) - S(R)$$

d=4:
$$S_4(R) = R^2 S''(R) - RS'(R)$$

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 - (unfortunately, holographic experiments indicate $S_d(R)$ are **not** good C-functions for d>3 not monotonic)
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- approach demands special class of regulators: "covariant"
 is result artifact of choosing "nice" regulator??
- if a_d is physical, we should be able to use any regularization which defines the continuum QFT

$$d = 3$$
: $S(R) = \frac{2\pi R}{\delta} c_0 - 2\pi a_3$



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considering finer resolution, can **not** repair problem!!





Criteria to properly establish c-theorem:

1. C-function must be dimensionless, well-defined quantity, which is independent of the regularization scheme

computable with any regulator

- C-function must be intrinsic to fixed point of interest
 independent of details of RG flows
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- S_{EE} seems to fail to satisfy criteria 1 & 2
- alternate choice? alternate measure of entanglement?

Mutual Information:

- another measure of entanglement between two systems
- for non-intersecting regions A and B:

 $I(A,B) = S(A) + S(B) - S(A \cup B)$

- can be defined without reference to S_{EE}
 (Araki; Narnhofer)
- bounds correlators between A and B (Wolf, Verstraete, Hastings & Cirac)

$$I(A,B) \ge \frac{|\langle \mathcal{O}_A \, \mathcal{O}_B \rangle_c|^2}{2 \|\mathcal{O}_A\|^2 \, \|\mathcal{O}_B\|^2}$$

finite! UV divergences in S(A) and S(B) canceled by S(A U B)

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 (Araki; Narnhofer)
- bounds correlators between A and B (Wolf, Verstraete, Hastings & Cirac)

$$I(A,B) \ge \frac{|\langle \mathcal{O}_A \, \mathcal{O}_B \rangle_c|^2}{2 \|\mathcal{O}_A\|^2 \, \|\mathcal{O}_B\|^2}$$

- finite! UV divergences in S(A) and S(B) canceled by S(A U B)
- if c-function defined with mutual information

criterion 1 will automatically be satisfied

criterion 2 & 3 will be satisfied with further care

$$I(A,B) = S(A) + S(B) - S(A \cup B)$$

consider following geometry:

$$R_A = R - \left(\frac{1}{2} - \alpha\right)\varepsilon$$
$$R_B = R + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha\right)\varepsilon$$

or
$$R = \frac{R_A + R_B}{2} - \alpha \varepsilon$$



- using $S(A) = S(\overline{A})$ for pure state: $I(A,B) = S(A) + S(\overline{B}) - S(\overline{A \cup B})$ two disks ~ R ______ narrow annulus
- consider regime: $R\gg arepsilon\gg\delta$ (Rand arepsilon are macro scales)

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- (Rand ε are macro scales)
- mutual information takes form:

$$I(A,B) = 2\pi R \left(\frac{\tilde{c}_0}{\varepsilon} + \tilde{c}_1\right) - 4\pi \,\tilde{a}_3 + O(\varepsilon/R)$$

- mutual information "regulates" entanglement entropy of disk
- work with renormalized QFT in continuum limit ($R \gg \varepsilon \gg \delta$)

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• criterion 2? is \tilde{a}_3 intrinsic to fixed point??

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• ambiguity: $\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{a}_{\mathfrak{A}}' = \alpha + \delta \alpha$, $\tilde{a}_3 \rightarrow \tilde{a}'_3 = \tilde{a}_3 + \tilde{c}_0 \,\delta \alpha$



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- consider probing at IR critical point where *m*, lowest mass scale in RG flow:: $R \gg 1/m \gg \varepsilon$

2/m

- correlations near boundary nonconformal
- high energy contribution to I(A,B): local and extensive

$$I(A,B)_{HE} = 2\pi R \left(\sigma_0 + \frac{\sigma_1}{R} + \frac{\sigma_2}{R^2} + \cdots\right)$$

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- for general strip (with small curvatures):

$$I(A,B)_{HE} = \int ds \, \left(\sigma_0 - \sigma_1 \,\mathbf{n} \cdot \partial_s \mathbf{t} - \sigma_2 \,\mathbf{t} \cdot \partial_s^2 \mathbf{t} + \cdots\right)$$

2/m

• σ_1 must vanish if reflection symmetry $\longrightarrow \alpha = 0$

$$I(A,B) = S(A) + S(B) - S(A \cup B)$$

• consider following geometry:

$$R_A = R - \varepsilon/2$$
$$R_B = R + \varepsilon/2$$
$$R = \frac{R_A + R_B}{2}$$

• in regime: $R \gg \varepsilon \gg \delta$

or

• mutual information takes form:

$$I(A,B) = 2\pi R \left(\frac{\tilde{c}_0}{\varepsilon} + \tilde{c}_1\right) - 4\pi \,\tilde{a}_3 + O(\varepsilon/R)$$

• fixing $\alpha = 0$ ensures \tilde{a}_3 is intrinsic to fixed point

criteria 1 and 2 are satisfied!!



• consider following geometry:

$$R = \frac{R_A + R_B}{2}$$

• in regime: $R \gg \varepsilon \gg \delta$



 calculate for a free scalar on a square lattice:

 $4\pi \tilde{a}_3 \simeq 0.110$

$$(4\pi a_3)^{scalar} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\log 2 - \frac{3\zeta(3)}{2\pi^2} \right)$$

\$\sim 0.127\$

($R: \varepsilon: \delta = 33: 6: 1$, result good to 15%)



Criteria to properly establish c-theorem:

1. C-function must be dimensionless, well-defined quantity, which is independent of the regularization scheme

computable with any regulator

- C-function must be intrinsic to fixed point of interest
 Independent of details of RG flows
- 3. C-function must decrease monotonically along any RG flows connecting a UV fixed point to an IR fixed point
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- monotonic flow follows as in entropic proof of F-theorem

(Casini & Huerta '12)

Entanglement proof of F-theorem:

 F-theorem for d=3 RG flows established using unitarity, Lorentz invariance and strong subadditivity

 $\sum S(X_i) \ge S(\cup_i X_i) + S(\cup_{\{ij\}} (X_i \cap X_j)) + S(\cup_{\{ijk\}} (X_i \cap X_j \cap X_k)) + \dots + S(\cap_i X_i)$

 geometry more complex than d=2: consider many circles intersecting on null cone





- no corner contribution from intersection in null plane
- define: C(R) = RS'(R) S(R)
- for d=3 CFT: $S(R) = \frac{2\pi R}{\delta}c_0 2\pi a_3 \longrightarrow C_{\rm CFT}(R) = 2\pi a_3$
- with SSA and "continuum" limit $\longrightarrow \partial_R C(R) \leq 0$
- hence C(R) decreases monotonically and $[a_3]_{\rm UV} > [a_3]_{\rm IR}$

- key ingredients:
- a) unitary & Lorentz invariant regularization of EE defined on regions with smooth boundaries except for "null cusps"
- b) regulated EE satisfies strong subaddivity for sets whose union and intersection only generates more "null cusps"
- c) wiggly circles have EE which approaches that of circle with same perimeter as the number of null cusps goes to ∞



- mutual information approach satisfy these key ingredients?
- consider region A with smooth boundary Γ
- expand boundary: $\Gamma_{\pm} = \Gamma \pm \frac{1}{2} \epsilon(s) \hat{n}(s)$

 $I(A^+, A^-) = \tilde{c}_0 \quad \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{ds}{\varepsilon(s)} + \underbrace{I_0(A)}_{\varepsilon(s)} + O(\varepsilon)$

 regulated EE: property of A; independent of framing

eg, for circle $I_0(A) = 2\pi R \, \tilde{c}_1(m_i) - 4\pi \, \tilde{a}_3$



- does mutual information satisfy these key ingredients?
- consider region A with smooth boundary Γ with null cusps
- expand boundary: $\Gamma_{\pm} = \Gamma \pm \frac{1}{2} \epsilon(s) \hat{n}(s)$

 $I(A^+, A^-) = \tilde{c}_0 \quad \oint_{\Gamma} \frac{ds}{\varepsilon(s)} + I_0(A) + \sum f(q_i) + O(\varepsilon)$

 additional contributions for null cusps characterized by single local invariant:

 $q = arepsilon_{\mu
u\delta} m^{\mu} t_1^{
u} t_2^{\delta}$



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- additional contributions for null cusps characterized by single local invariant: $q = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\delta} m^{\mu} t_{1}^{\nu} t_{2}^{\delta}$
- $I_0(A)$ still satisfies SSA: $I_0(A) + I_0(B) \ge I_0(A \cup B) + I_0(A \cap B)$



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have properly established F-theorem in d=3

Beyond d=3:

• is there entropic proof of c-theorem in higher dimensions?

→ need a new idea?

higher dim. intersections lead to subleading divergences which trivialize SSA inequality


Beyond d=3:

(Komargodski & Schwimmer; see also: Luty, Polchinski & Rattazzi)

& Theisen)

d=4 a-theorem and Dilaton Effective Action

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

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

follow effective dilaton action to IR fixed point, eg,

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

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

- with $g \rightarrow \eta$, only contribution to 4pt amplitude with null dilatons: $S_{anomaly} = 2\,\delta a\,\int d^4x\,(\partial\tau)^4$
- dispersion relation plus optical theorem demand: $\delta a > 0$
- no entanglement in sight?

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- d=4 a-theorem proved with more "standard" QFT techniques (Komargodski & Schwimmer)
- hybrid approach proposed (Solodukhin): still needs development

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- d=4 a-theorem proved with more "standard" QFT techniques (Komargodski & Schwimmer)
- hybrid approach proposed (Solodukhin): still needs development
- can c-theorems be proved for higher dimensions? eg, d=5 or 6
 - → again, entropic approach needs a new idea
 - dilaton-effective-action approach requires refinement for d=6 (Elvang, Freedman, Hung, Kiermaier, RM & Theisen; Elvang & Olson)

Conclusions and Questions:

- entanglement lends new insights into c-theorems
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- entanglement lends new insights into c-theorems
- using mutual information, properly established d=3 F-theorem
- how much of Zamolodchikov's structure for d=2 RG flows extends higher dimensions?
- d=3 entropic C-function not always stationary at fixed points (Klebanov, Nishioka, Pufu & Safdi)
- same already observed for d=2; special case or generic? need a better C-function?

Zamolodchikov c-theorem (1986):

• renormalization-group (RG) flows can seen as one-parameter motion $\frac{d}{dt} \equiv -\beta^{i}(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial a^{i}}$

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

- for unitary, Lorentz-inv. 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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- same already observed for d=2; special case or generic? need a better C-function?
- does scale invariance imply conformal invariance beyond d=2?

"more or less" in d=4 (Luty, Polchinski & Rattazzi; Dymarsky, Komargodski, Schwimmer & Theisen)

SSA ---- NEC (Bhattacharya etal; Lashkari et al; Lin etal)

 what can entanglement/quantum information really say about RG flows, holography or nonperturbative QFT?