

# The Stereoscopic Holographic Dictionary

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B. Czech, L. Lamprou, S. McCandlish, B. Mosk, JS arXiv: 1604.03110

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(Related Work: de Boer, Haehl, Heller, Myers)

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# Motivation

There is an uncomfortable asymmetry in our use of the holographic dictionary:

**Boundary:** *Gauge-invariance is sacrosanct.*

- We always use gauge-invariant observables to probe the bulk and vice-versa.

**Bulk:** *Diff-invariance is required... in the same way that flossing is required.*

- When we visit an expert twice a year, we acknowledge the importance of diff-invariance.
- We really only worry about it once a month or so.

Worrying about **diff-invariance** is largely seen as adding **unpleasant (and unnecessary) complications**

So, instead, **we just work with the 'local' effective operators.**

# What has locality done for us lately?

Using these non-invariant effective observables is **meant to be an easier** way to do bulk calculations:

**Gravity:**

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4 \rangle = \text{[Diagram 1]} + \text{[Diagram 2]} + \dots$$

The first diagram is a circle with two vertical blue lines. The second diagram is a circle with four blue lines connecting the boundary to a central blue dot, forming an 'X' shape.

$\equiv$  **hard integrals ...**

**CFT:**

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_3 \mathcal{O}_4 \rangle = \sum_k \underbrace{C_{12k} C_{k34}}_{\text{Dynamical Parameters}} \underbrace{g_k^{1234}(x_i)}_{\text{Conformal Kinematics}}$$

How do we compare?

**Dynamical Parameters**    **Conformal Kinematics:** All integrals hidden here!

**Standard picture is much easier?**

**Not really....**

**... then, are diff-invariant (non-local) variables really that bad?**

**Aim of this talk: NO.**

### Questions:

1. What is an **improved gauge/gravity dictionary** that is **gauge-invariant** on one side and **manifestly diff-invariant** on the other?
2. Can we find a **better connection to the natural CFT variables** that make the OPE so simple?

### Answer:

### Stereoscopic Dictionary:

**Surface Operators in AdS**  
(Non-local, diff-invariant)

↔

**Partial Waves of the OPE**  
(building blocks of the OPE)

# The Kinematic Dictionary

This will be a **powerful framework**. It brings together many familiar ideas in holography, including:

1. The **Entanglement First Law** and **Einstein's Equations** [Faulkner, Guica, Hartman, Lashkari, McDermont, Myers, Swingle, Van Raamsdonk]
2. **Geodesic Witten diagrams** and **conformal blocks** [Hijano, Kraus, Perlmutter, Snively]
3. The **HKLL** construction of interacting '**local**' **bulk fields** [Hamilton, Kabat, Lifschytz, Lowe; Kabat, Lifschytz]
4. **de Sitter dynamics** for the variations of **EE** [de Boer, Heller, Myers, Neiman] [Nozaki, Numasawa, Prudenziati, Takayanagi], [Bhattacharya, Takayanagi]

# Lesson from gauge theories

**You might be familiar with a similar story:**

We typically formulate a gauge theory in terms of a **gauge potential**  $A_\mu^a(x)$  and the corresponding **field strength**  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ , where the equation of motion is

$$(\nabla^\mu F_{\mu\nu})^a = 0$$

But the inclusion of the gauge field is just a **redundancy of the description**. It's unfortunate to have to use such an **inefficient representation** of the physics.

However, we do have a **complete set of gauge-invariant observables**

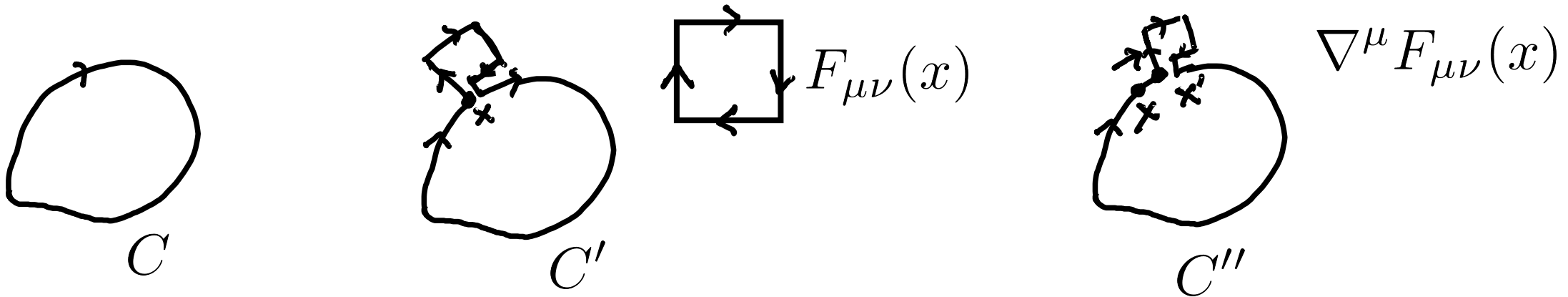
$$\Psi(C) = \text{Tr} \left[ \text{P exp} \left( \oint_C A_\mu dx^\mu \right) \right] \quad W(C) = \langle \Psi(C) \rangle$$

**Can we express the dynamics of the theory in terms of these variables alone?** (That is, can we write an equivalent EOM in the **space of loops**?)

# Loops

[Migdal, Makeenko;  
Polyakov; Halpern,  
Makeenko;...]

How do we insert the equation of motion into a Wilson loop?



**Loop Equation:**  $\square_L W = 0$  (Classically)

- Can also define a field space Laplacian  $\square_F$ , and view Wilson loop as a 'loop transform'  $W$  of the gauge field. *At large  $N$ :*

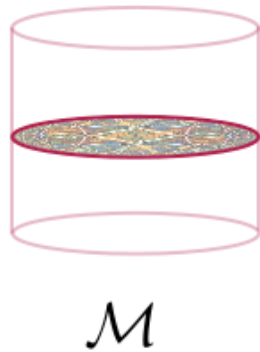
$$\square_L W[A] = -W[\square_F A] \quad \text{Intertwining Operators}$$

# Requirements for a new language

The loop equations are **analogous** to the organization of gravitational physics we have been looking for.

**We might re-express our search for the correct language:**

1. What is the right **loop space for gravity**?
2. What are the **loop operators** and their **loop equations for bulk physics**?
3. What do the loop equations and loop operators **look like in the gauge theory**?

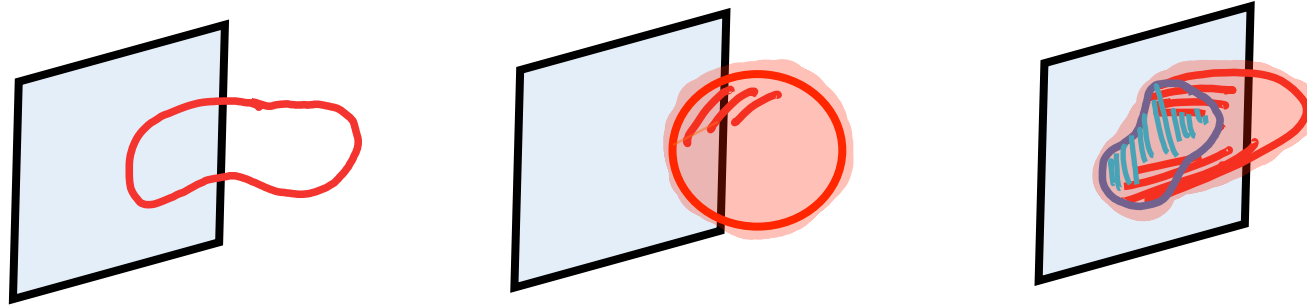


**Loop Space**



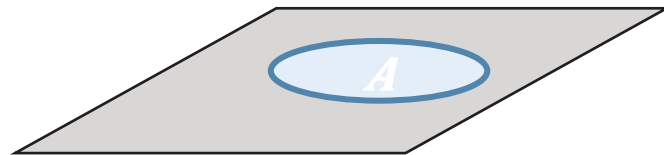
# Loop Space = ?

We need to understand: **what is the right loop space for gravitational physics in AdS/CFT?**

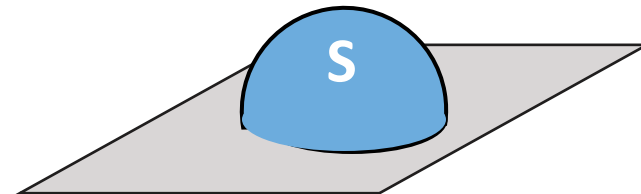


Thankfully an example of the type of construction we're searching for has already been found: **Ryu-Takayanagi Proposal**.

The **Ryu-Takayanagi (RT/HRT) proposal** connects:



The **entanglement entropy** of a region  $A$  on the boundary.



The **area of a minimal surface  $S$**  in the gravitational dual

# Integral Geometry

## What is the lesson from Ryu-Takayanagi?

*The CFT sees the bulk geometry naturally through codimension-2 minimal surfaces.*

- Boundary conditions are codimension-2 surfaces on the CFT cylinder

One could define the relevant **loop space** to be **all possible spacelike surfaces**.

- Probably **enormously redundant**: infinite-dimensional space

Let's define our loop space to be the space of **minimal surfaces with spherical boundary conditions** (in any frame)

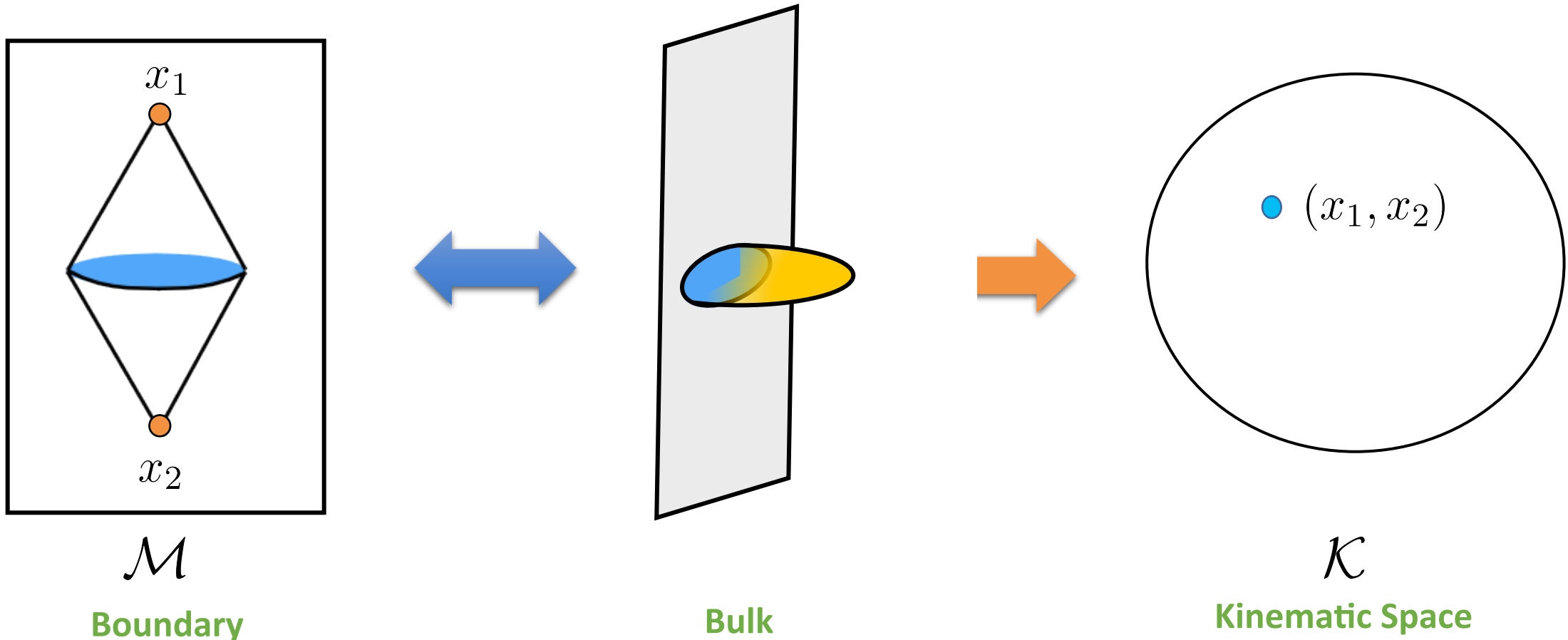
We will give it a new name: **Kinematic Space**

- Familiar object of study for some mathematicians: it is a primary object in the field of **integral geometry**.

# Kinematic Space

What does **kinematic space** look like?

- Consider an **ordered pair of timelike separated points** on the boundary:



# Kinematic Space

Can we assign a **metric** to kinematic space?

- For the **AdS vacuum**, the metric on K is **uniquely fixed by isometries** of the geometry:

$$ds^2 = \frac{I_{\mu\nu}(l^\mu)}{l^2} \underbrace{(d\chi^\mu d\chi^\nu - dl^\mu dl^\nu)}_{\text{Signature: (d,d)}}$$

$\chi$ : Center of mass  
 $l$ : Separation

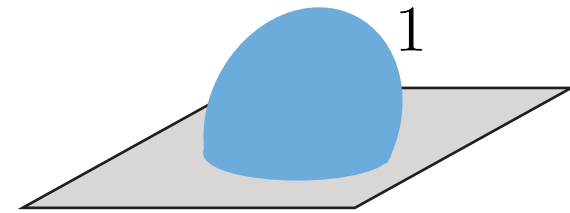
- In some cases, we understand how to specify a metric on kinematic space even when it's not fixed by symmetry
- **Geometries are equivalent**  $\Leftrightarrow$  **map from real space to kinematic space is invertible.**
  - This is an active area of mathematical research (*Boundary Rigidity / Lens Rigidity*)

# Kinematic Fields

We want to **generalize the Ryu-Takayanagi** example to describe **all of the bulk physics**. We also need the right '**Wilson Loops**' in addition to the right space.

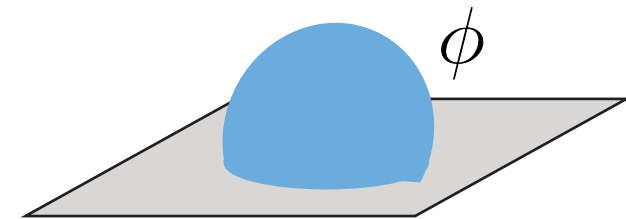
- We can think of their areas as integrating the unit operator over the minimal surface:

$$A = \int d^n x \sqrt{h}(1)$$



- A natural generalization then is:

$$\tilde{\phi} = \int d^n x \sqrt{h}(\phi)$$

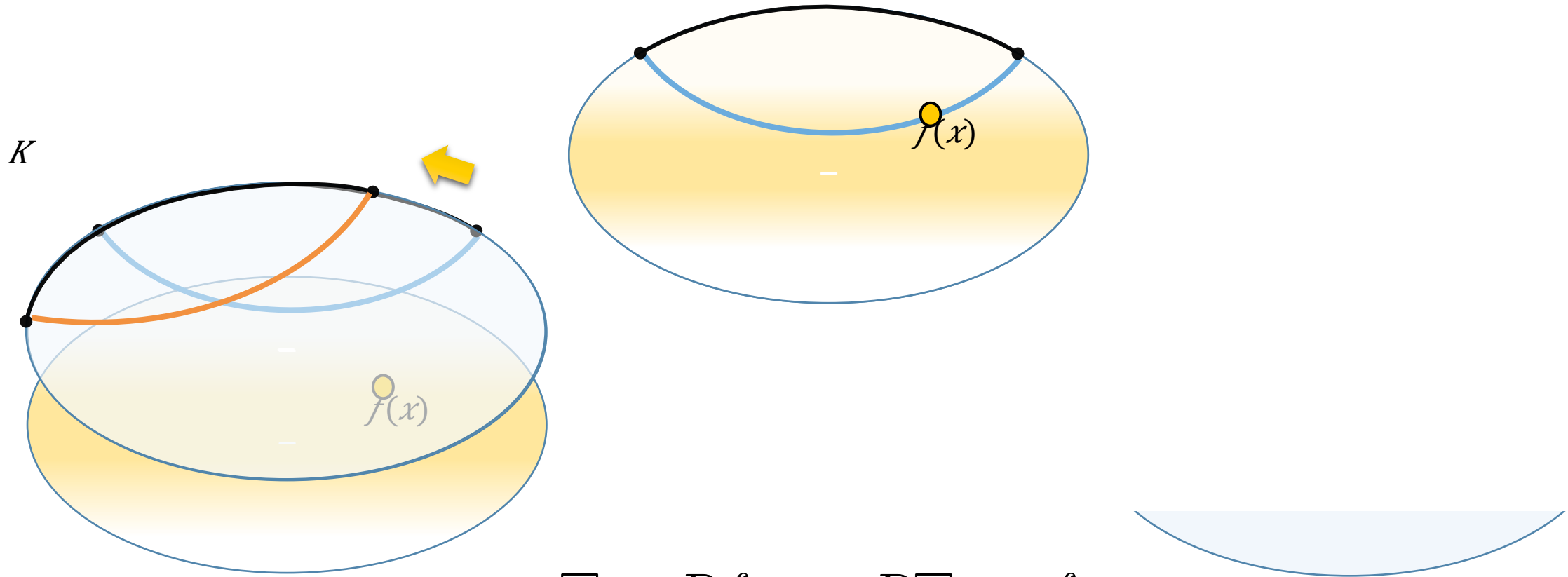


**Radon Transform:**  $R[\phi] := \phi$

- This bulk surface/geodesic operator is a **non-local** and **diff-invariant** bulk

# Radon Transform

The Radon transform has nice properties under isometries of the geometry:



$$\square_{KS} Rf = -R \square_{AdS} f$$

“Intertwining Operators”

# Loop Equations in kinematic space

Intertwinement allows us to **rewrite the dynamics of the gravitational theory in terms of dynamics on kinematic space**:

## Free Scalar Field:

$$(\square_{AdS} - m^2) \phi(x) = 0 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \square_{KS} Rf = -R \square_{AdS} f$$

$$(\square_{KS} + m^2) \tilde{\phi}(\gamma) = 0$$

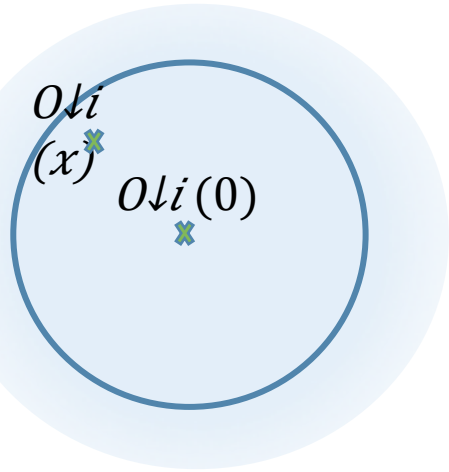
**Loop EOM for free scalar**  
**= Kinematic Free scalar EOM**

# The Operator Product Expansion

We've found a **natural set of gravitational variables** that are non-local, and that contain the information normally specified using local 'differential' description.

**We haven't succeeded unless these appear naturally in the dual gauge theory:**

- Consider a quasi-primary operator  $\mathcal{O}_i(x)$  of dimensions  $\Delta_i$ . We can expand the product of two such operators using a local basis of operators:



$$\mathcal{O}_i(x) \mathcal{O}_i(0) = \underbrace{\sum_k C_{iik}}_{\text{Dynamical Parameters}} \underbrace{|x|^{\Delta_k - 2\Delta_i} (1 + b_1 x^\mu \partial_\mu + b_2 x^\mu x^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu + \dots)}_{\text{Conformal Kinematics}} \mathcal{O}_k(0)$$

**Dynamical Parameters**

**Conformal Kinematics**

- Let us introduce a more compact notation for this expansion

$$\mathcal{O}_i(x) \mathcal{O}_i(y) = |x - y|^{-2\Delta_i} \sum_k C_{iik} \mathcal{B}_k(x, y)$$

- We will call  $\mathcal{B}_k(x, y)$  the '**OPE Block**'



# OPE Blocks as Kinematic Fields

- The OPE block carries coordinates of two points  $(x, y)$ , so we might naturally identify it with a **'loop operator'** living in our kinematic space.

Consider a scalar block  $(\Delta \downarrow k, l=0)$ . Let's characterize this field:

## 1) What type of field is an OPE block on KS?

- Consider a conformal transformation  $x \rightarrow x'$ . Then  $\mathcal{B}_k(x, y) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_k(x', y')$   
**So the OPE block is a scalar operator.**

## 2) What is its equation of motion?

- Eigen-operator of the conformal Casimir:  $[L^2, \mathcal{B}_k(x, y)] = C_{\mathcal{O}_k} \mathcal{B}_k(x, y)$

$$C_{\mathcal{O}_k} = -\Delta(\Delta - d)$$

- We represent this as

$$\mathcal{L}_{(B)}^2 = 2\Box_{\text{KS}}$$

# OPE Blocks as Kinematic Fields

We thus find an equation of motion for the OPE block

$$\left[ \square_{\text{KS}} + m_{\Delta_k}^2 \right] \mathcal{B}_k(x, y) = 0$$

$$m_{\Delta_k}^2 = -C_{\Delta_k}$$

It is the same wave equation obeyed by a bulk geodesic operator dual to the operator  $\mathcal{O} \downarrow k$ :

	Gravity	CFT
<b>EOM</b>	$\left[ \square_{KS} + m_{\Delta_k}^2 \right] \tilde{\phi}_k(\gamma) = 0$	$\left[ \square_{\text{KS}} + m_{\Delta_k}^2 \right] \mathcal{B}_k(x, y) = 0$
<b>BCs</b>	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\phi}_k(x, 0) = x^{\Delta_k} \mathcal{O}_k(0)$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{B}_k(x, 0) = x^{\Delta_k} \mathcal{O}_k(0)$
<b>Constraint</b>	<b>'John's Equations'</b>	<b>'Spin'</b>

\*Generic theory on KS has infinite tower of spins...

# The Kinematic Dictionary

We have now established a **new organization of the holographic dictionary**

$$\mathcal{B}_k(x, y) = \tilde{\phi}(\gamma)$$

between **OPE Blocks** and **geodesic operators** (and extensions to surface operators).

# Requirements for a new language

**We might re-express our search for the correct language:**

1. What is the right **loop space for gravity?**

**A: Kinematic space of minimal surfaces**

2. What are the **loop operators** and their **loop equations for bulk physics?**

**A: Surface operators. Their loop equations take the form of simple equations of motion in kinematic space.**

3. What do the loop equations and loop operators **look like in the gauge theory?**

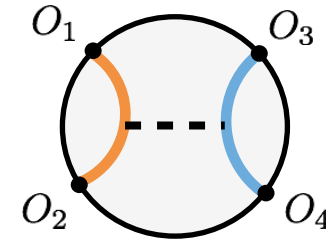
**A: The gauge theory sees the loops equations through the decomposition of the operator product expansion.**

# Some Applications

(see paper for details)

## 1. Geodesic Witten Diagrams

$$g_k(z, \bar{z}) = \langle 0 | \mathcal{B}_k(x_1, x_2) \mathcal{B}_k(x_3, x_4) | 0 \rangle$$

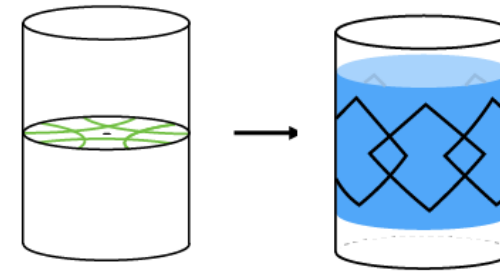


[Hijano, Kraus,  
Perlmutter, Snively]

## 2. Local Operators

- The radon transform is invertible:  $\phi(\gamma) \rightarrow \phi(x)$
- Recover the spacelike smearing function of HKL

$$\phi(x, z) = \int d^d x' K(x, z | x') \mathcal{O}(x')$$



[Hamilton, Kabat,  
Lifschytz, Lowe]

## 3. Interactions

- Usefulness of construction isn't just kinematic—allows for **simpler solution to bulk dynamics**.
- For example, much of difficulty of finding interacting bulk fields comes from locality, not interactions!

$$\phi(x, z) = \int d^d x' K(x, z | x') \mathcal{O}(x') + \frac{1}{N} \sum_n a_n^{CFT} \int d^d x' K_n(x, z | x') \mathcal{O}_n(x')$$

$$\tilde{\phi}(\gamma) = \mathcal{B}_\Delta(\gamma) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_n a_n^{CFT} \mathcal{B}_n(\gamma)$$

[Kabat,  
Lifschytz]

## 4) Linearized Einstein Equations

- We have the linearized EOM:  $\delta R_{\mu\nu}(x) = T_{\mu\nu}(x) - \frac{1}{d-1} T g_{\mu\nu}$

- Can define Radon Transforms:
$$R_{\parallel} [s_{\mu\nu}] = \int_B \sqrt{h} h^{ab} \delta g_{ab}$$
$$R_{\perp} [s_{\mu\nu}] = \int_B \sqrt{h} (g^{ab} - h^{ab}) \delta g_{ab}$$

and prove an analogous intertwining relation:  $R_{\parallel} [2\delta R_{\mu\nu}] = \square_K R_{\parallel} [\delta g_{\mu\nu}]$

- We find the Kinematic version of the EOM:

$$(\square_K S + 2d) R_{\parallel} [\delta g] = -2R_{\perp} [T]$$

Cf. [de Boer, Heller, Myers, Neiman]  
[Nozaki, Numasawa, Prudenziati,  
Takayanagi], [Bhattacharya, Takayanagi]

## What about the CFT?

$$H_{\text{mod}} = 2\pi \int_{|x| < R} \frac{R^2 - r^2}{2R} T_{00} \propto \mathcal{B}_{T_{00}} \quad \text{\textit{H}mod is just an OPE Block!}$$

- Casimir Eqn:  $(\square_{KS} + 2d) H_{\text{mod}} = 0$
- Using the 1/N expansion

$$H_{\text{mod}} = A + H_{\text{mod}}^{\text{Bulk}} \quad H_{\text{mod}}^{\text{Bulk}} = \int_{\Sigma} d\Sigma T_{\mu\nu} \xi^{\mu} n^{\nu}$$

- Then for a perturbation around the vacuum:

$$(\square_{KS} + 2d) H_{\text{mod}} = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (\square_{KS} + 2d) R_{\parallel} [\delta g] = R_{\perp} [T]$$

- Read in the opposite direction, this is a **derivation of the bulk expression for *Hmod***

# Summary

We found a set of **non-local, gauge-invariant building blocks** both in the bulk and on the boundary to build a ‘**better**’ holographic dictionary.

- *On the boundary:* **OPE blocks**
- *In the bulk:* **Geodesic/Surface Operators**

Finding the right **kinematic variables** isn't *just* kinematics:

- Our improved dictionary **simplifies** many **dynamical bulk calculations**.

## Where next?

- Must extend formalism **away from small perturbations** about vacuum.



