

Duality and entanglement in lattice gauge theories

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Based on:

AB and M. Panero [JHEP 06 \(2023\) 030](#)

AB and M. Panero [JHEP 06 \(2024\) 041](#)

QuantFunc, Valencia, 2nd September 2024



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The study of entanglement in many-body systems has applications in different areas of physics:

- Quantum phases of matter and quantum phase transitions [Vidal et al.; quant-ph/0211074].
 - **Effective number** of degrees of freedom [Casini, Huerta; hep-th/0405111].
- High-energy physics.
 - **Confinement** [Klebanov et al.; 0709.2140].
- AdS/CFT and quantum gravity [Ryu, Takayanagi; hep-th/0603001].
- Quantum computing and quantum simulations [Abanin, Demler; 1204.2819] [Daley et al.; 1205.1521].

Dirac Medallists 2024

Horacio Casini, Marina Huerta, Shinsei Ryu, Tadashi Takayanagi

For “pioneering contributions to the understanding of *quantum entropy* in gravity and quantum field theory”.

In order to study entanglement measures one has to face different challenges.

- Typical numerical techniques **struggle to compute** such highly non-local quantities.

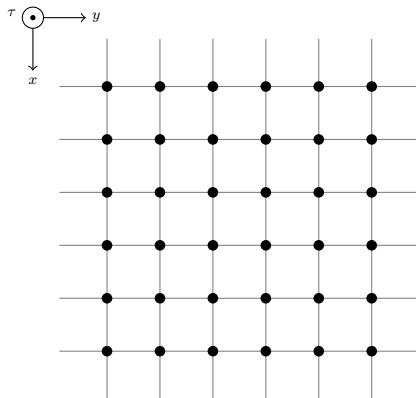


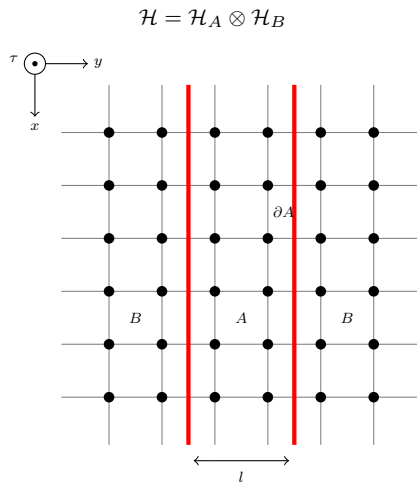
- New, efficient numerical techniques (**1st part of the talk**).

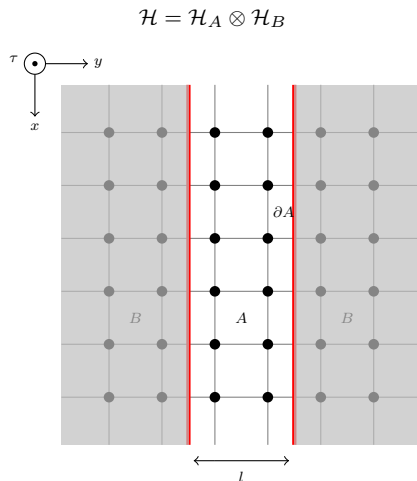
- For gauge theories, the **definition** itself of entanglement is **ambiguous** due to the Gauß law.



- Better understanding on how to treat entanglement in presence of local constraints (**2nd part of the talk**).

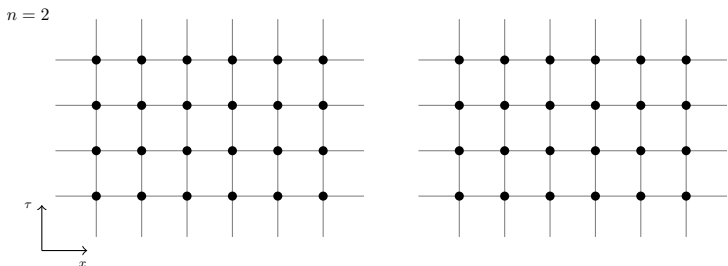






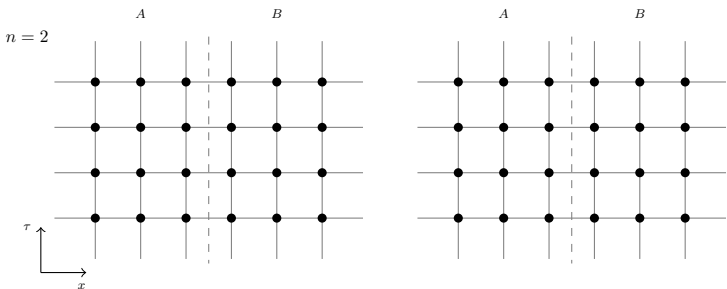
$$S = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \log \rho_A) \quad S_n = \frac{1}{1-n} \log \text{Tr} \rho_A^n \quad C_n = \frac{l^{D-1}}{|\partial A|} \frac{\partial S_n}{\partial l}$$

- A common way to calculate $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ is to exploit the replica trick [Calabrese, Cardy; hep-th/0405152] (lattice discretization: [Buividovich, Polikarpov; 0802.4247]).



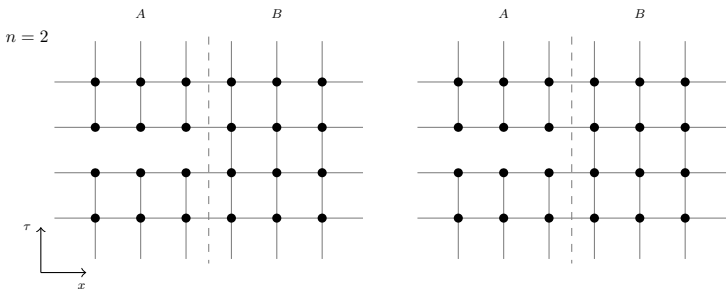
Replica trick

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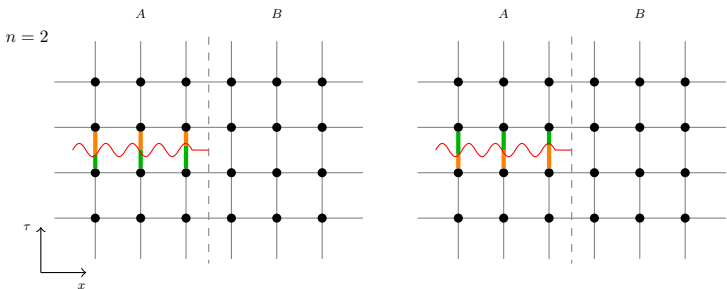
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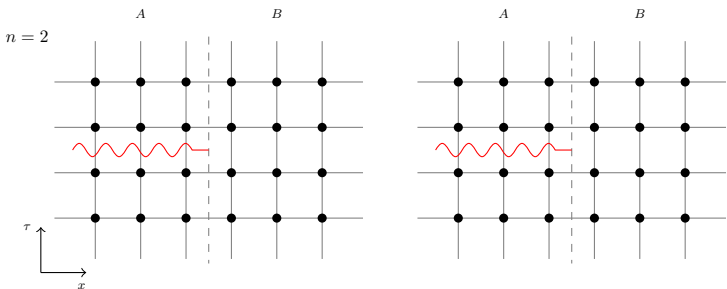
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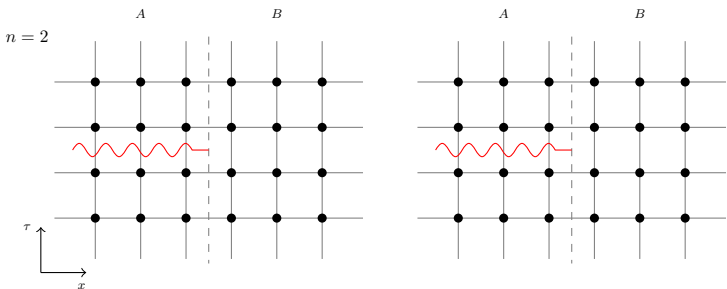
Replica trick

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Replica trick

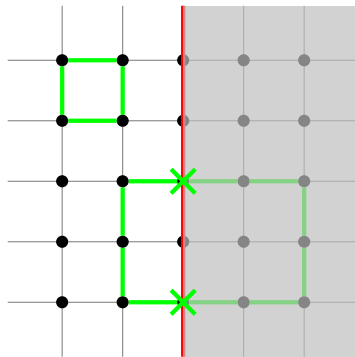
- A common way to calculate $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ is to exploit the replica trick [Calabrese, Cardy; hep-th/0405152] (lattice discretization: [Buividovich, Polikarpov; 0802.4247]).



$$S_n = \frac{1}{1-n} \log \frac{Z_n}{Z^n} \quad C_n = \frac{l^{D-1}}{|\partial A|} \frac{\partial S_n}{\partial l} \sim \frac{1}{a} \log \frac{Z_n(l+a)}{Z_n(l)}$$

- Monte Carlo simulations can compute $Z_n(l+a)/Z_n(l)$ in arbitrary dimension ...
- ... but **typical methods** are **not efficient** in doing so!

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.}} \neq \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.,}A} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.,}B}$$



1st part of the talk

$$C_n \rightarrow Z_n(l+a)/Z_n(l)$$

- Common Monte Carlo methods to compute ratios of partition functions can be **biased** or suffer from **bad signal-to-noise ratio**.



- **Non-equilibrium** Monte Carlo simulations for entanglement measures.

2nd part of the talk

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.}} \neq \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.,}A} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.,}B}$$

- The non-factorizability of the Hilbert space leads to an **ill-defined** replica geometry.



- **Duality transformations**, mapping Abelian gauge theories to spin models.

Non-equilibrium Monte Carlo for entanglement measures

Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulations

- Monte Carlo simulations allow for calculations of expectation values of observables sampling from Boltzmann distributions

$$\langle O \rangle = \sum_i O_i \frac{e^{-S}}{Z}$$



Problems

- Critical slowing down
- Sign problem (no real-time dynamics)

Advantages

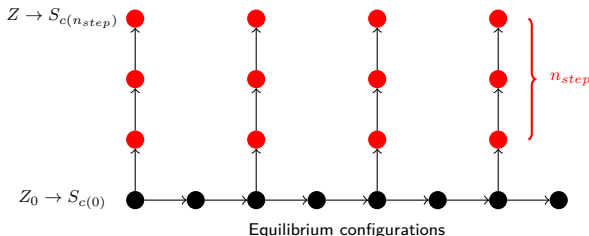
- Efficient calculations of ground state, local observables
 - **Scaling**
- However, equilibrium Monte Carlo techniques fail to efficiently compute non-local quantities

$$\frac{Z}{Z_0} = \langle e^{-\Delta S} \rangle \quad \longrightarrow \quad \textbf{Exponential scaling in the volume!}$$

Non-equilibrium Monte Carlo: the Jarzynski's equality

[Jarzynski; cond-mat/9610209]

$$q_0 \sim e^{-S_0} = e^{-S_{c(0)}} \rightarrow e^{-S_{c(1)}} \dots \rightarrow e^{-S_{c(n_{step})}} = e^{-S} \sim p$$



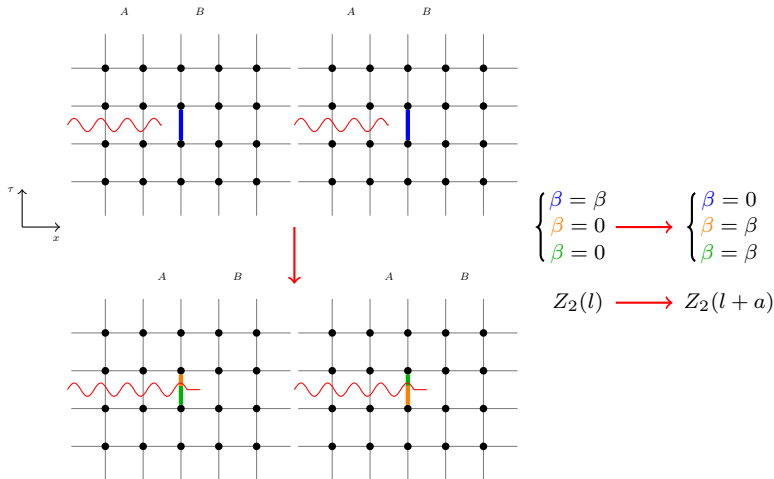
$$W = \sum_{n=0}^{n_{step}} \{S_{c(n+1)} - S_{c(n)}\} \longrightarrow$$

Jarzynski's equality: $\langle \exp(-W) \rangle = Z/Z_0$

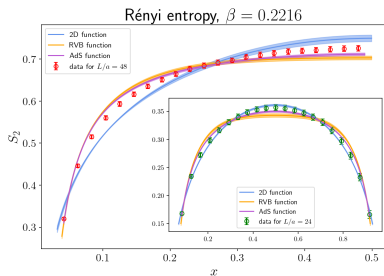
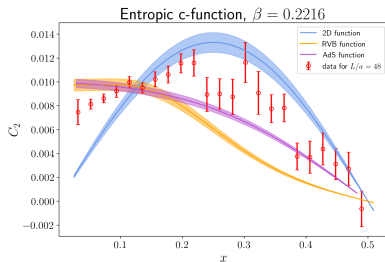
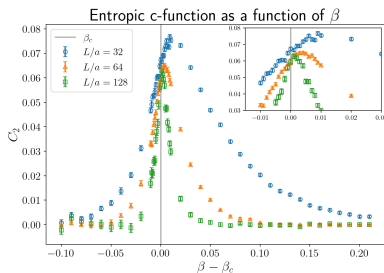
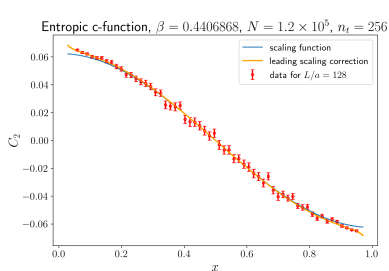
Polynomial scaling in the number of d.o.f.: [Caselle et al.; 1801.03110], [AB, Cellini, Nada; WIP].

Non-equilibrium Monte Carlo for entanglement entropy

- Protocol introduced in [Alba; 1609.02157] and generalized in [AB, Panero; 2304.03311].
- Applied to spin models (e.g. $S = -\beta \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sigma_i \sigma_j$), generalizable to gauge theories.



Some results for the $(1+1)D$ and $(2+1)D$ Ising model



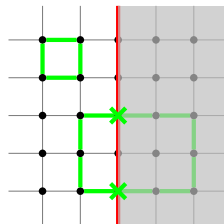
[AB, Panero; 2304.03311]

Gauge theories: duality and entanglement

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.}} \neq \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.},A} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys.},B}$$



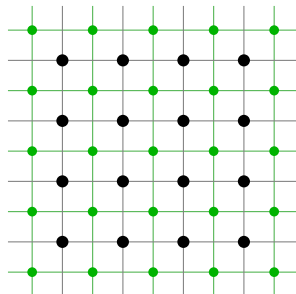
The replica space is ill defined!



The problem has been addressed in a variety of ways and theories:

- Local extension of the Hilbert space [Buividovich, Polikarpov; 0806.3376], [Donnelly; 1109.0036], [Ghosh et al.; 1501.02593], [Soni, Trivedi; 1510.07455].
- Algebraic approach [Casini et al.; 1312.1183].
- Momentum-basis factorization [Aoki et al.; 1502.04267].
- New lattice geometries [Chen et al., 1503.01766].
- **Lattice dualities** [Casini, Huerta; 1406.2991], [Radičević; 1605.09396], [Lin, Radičević; 1808.05939], [Moitra et al.; 1811.06986].

- Kramers-Wannier duality [Kramers, Wannier; 1941] relates two different lattice models: $Z \propto Z_{\text{dual}}$.
- In three spacetime dimensions it maps a **gauge theory** to a **spin model**.
- In particular: Ising $3D \leftrightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2$ gauge theory.

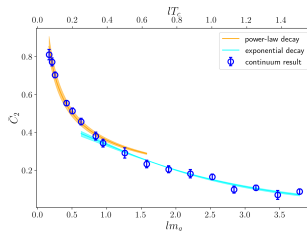
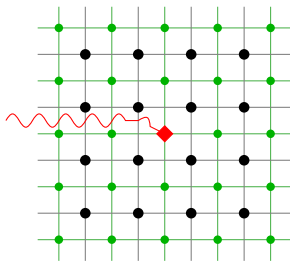


- It was shown that the universal information encoded in the entanglement entropy is **exactly mapped** [Casini, Huerta; 1406.2991], [Moitra, Soni, Trivedi; 1811.06986], in particular

$$C_n^{\text{gauge}}(\beta^*, l) = C_n^{\text{spin}}(\beta, l)$$

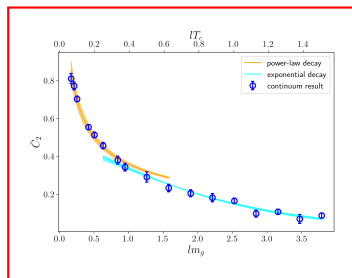
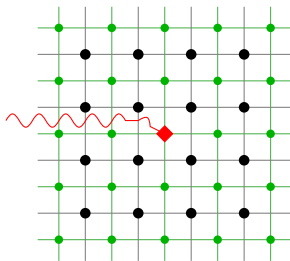
For gauge theories that admit a dual spin model,
it is possible to:

- Explicitly derive the **geometry** of the replica space for the gauge theory.
- Simulate the spin model to **compute** the entropic c-function of the gauge theory.



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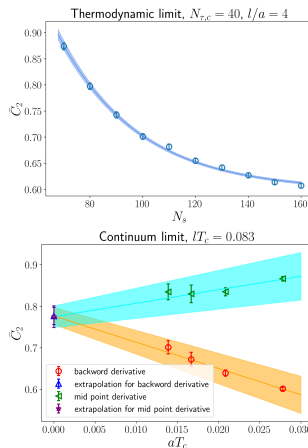


Setup

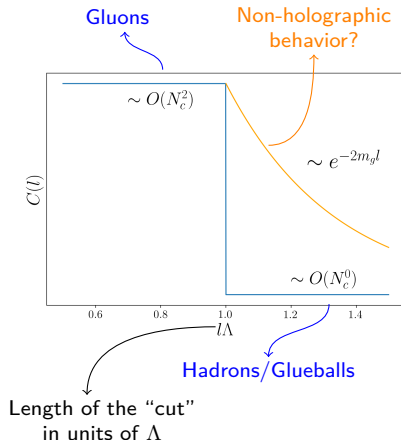
- In [AB, Panero; 2404.01987] we computed C_2 in the $(2+1)$ -dimensional $\mathbb{Z}_2$ gauge theory exploiting duality.
- Non-equilibrium MC introduced in [Alba; 1609.02157], [AB, Panero; 2304.03311].
- We studied the confined phase using the scale setting in [Caselle, Hasenbusch; hep-lat/9511015].
- Simulated volumes up to $210^2 \times 1000$ (zero-temperature/ground state results).

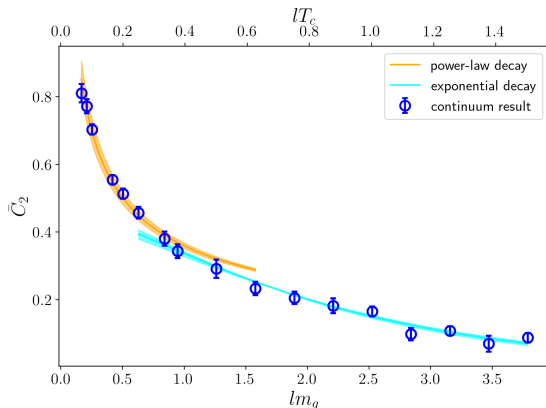
Extrapolations

- First thermodynamic and continuum extrapolation of a $(2+1)$ -dimensional entropic c-function in literature.



- The entropic c-function detects the **effective number** of (IR) d.o.f. of a theory.
- In confining, holographic theories the entropic c-function has a **sharp transition** [Klebanov et al.; 0709.2140]
→ entanglement as a probe of confinement.
- The scale of the transition is $\Lambda \sim \Lambda_{QCD} \sim T_c \sim m_g$.
- For non-holographic theories **numerical simulations** are required.





$$f(lm_g; B, c) = \frac{B}{(lm_g)^c} \quad B = 0.360(9) \quad c = 0.48(2) \quad [\text{Florio; 2312.05298}]$$

$$f(lm_g; A, \alpha) = A lm_g \int dt \exp\left(-2\sqrt{1+t^2}\alpha lm_g\right) \quad A = 0.33(3) \quad \alpha = 0.360(19) \\ [\text{Klebanov et. al.; 0709.2140}]$$

Non-equilibrium MC

- Competitive tool for **large scale simulations** of entanglement measures in arbitrary dimension.
- So far applied in the Lagrangian formalism → it is possible to take the **Hamiltonian limit** [Funcke et al.; 2212.09627] to study Hamiltonian systems.
- Promising extensions using **(Stochastic) Normalizing Flows** [AB, Cellini, Jansen, Kühn, Nada, Nakajima, Nicoli, Panero; WIP].

Entanglement in gauge theories

- **Unambiguous** results for entanglement entropy in Abelian gauge theories.
- Directly generalizable to other theories, e.g. $U(1)$ gauge theory.
- The **replica geometry** can be derived using the duality: extension to the **non-Abelian** case?
- **Long term goal:** $SU(N)$ gauge theories → better understanding of **confinement** via entanglement.

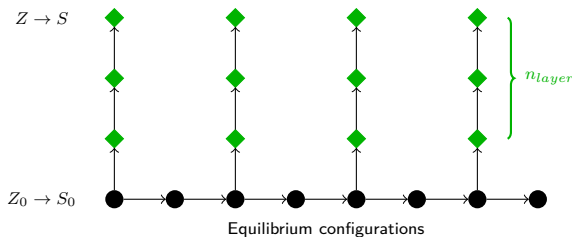
Backup slides

Normalizing flows

- NF are parametric, invertible and differentiable maps between probability distributions.
- Usually consist in a sequence of **coupling layers** with a tractable Jacobian of the transformation [Albergo et al.; 1904.12072], [Kanwar et al.; 2003.06413].

$$g_\theta : q_0 \rightarrow q_\theta \simeq p \quad g_\theta = g_N \circ \dots \circ g_2 \circ g_1 \quad q_\theta(\phi) = q_0(g^{-1}(\phi)) |\det J_g|^{-1}$$

- Trained minimizing the Kullback-Leibler divergence $D_{KL}(q_\theta || p) = \int d\phi q_\theta(\phi) \log\left(\frac{q_\theta(\phi)}{p(\phi)}\right)$

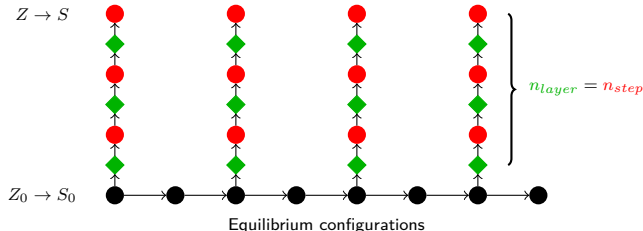


$$W = S - S_0 - \sum_{n=1}^{n_{layer}} \log |\det J_{g_n}| \longrightarrow \langle \exp(-W) \rangle = Z/Z_0 \quad [\text{Nicoli et al.; 2007.07115}]$$

Stochastic normalizing flows

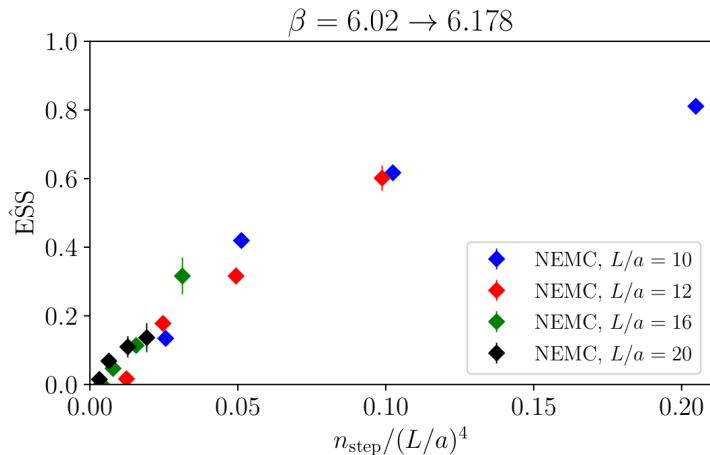
- SNF combine stochastic and deterministic updates [Wu et al.; 2002.06707] [Caselle et al.; 2201.08862].
- Trained by minimizing the dissipated work $W - \Delta F \geq D_{KL}(q_0||p)$.

$$q_0 \rightarrow \phi_0 \xrightarrow{g_1} g_1(\phi_0) \xrightarrow{e^{-S_c(1)}} \phi_1 \xrightarrow{g_2} g_2(\phi_1) \xrightarrow{e^{-S_c(2)}} \phi_2 \xrightarrow{g_3} \dots \xrightarrow{e^{-S_c(n_{step})}} \phi_{n_{step}}$$

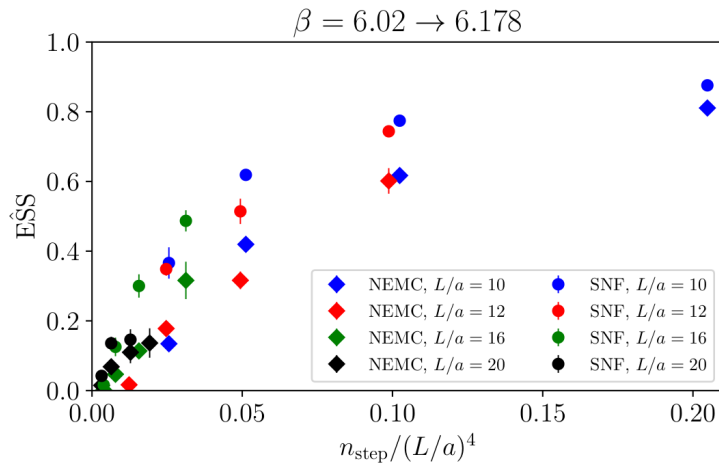


$$W = \sum_{n=0}^{n_{step}} \{S_{c(n+1)} - S_{c(n)}\} - \sum_{n=1}^{n_{layer}} \log |\det J_{g_n}| \longrightarrow \langle \exp(-W) \rangle = Z/Z_0$$

Inherited scaling with #d.o.f.: [AB, Cellini, Nada; WIP].



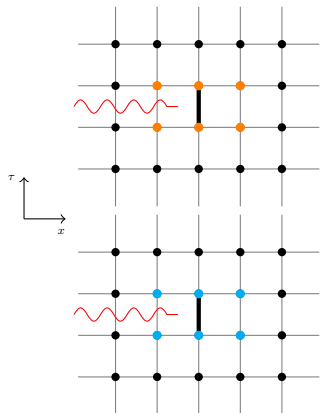
[AB, Cellini, Nada; WIP]



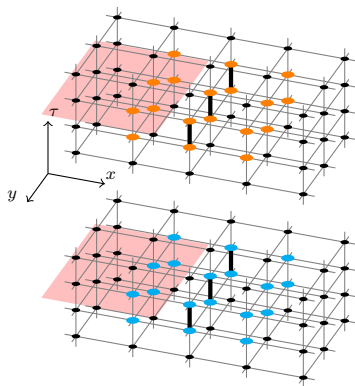
[AB, Cellini, Nada; WIP]

Defect coupling layers

Target theory: $S = \sum_{i,\mu} -2\kappa \phi_i \phi_{i+\hat{\mu}} + (1 - 2\lambda) \phi_i^2 + \lambda \phi_i^4$



- Environment
- Active
- Frozen



Neural network outputs

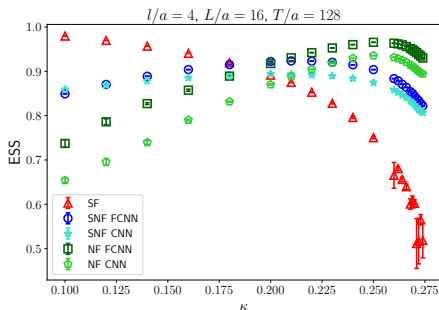
$$\phi'_{\text{active}} = \exp(-|s(\phi_{\text{frozen}})|) \phi_{\text{active}} + t(\phi_{\text{frozen}})$$

$\mathbb{Z}_2$ equivariant [Del Debbio et al.; 2105.12481].

Related works: flows for lattice defects [Abbott et al.; 2404.11674], autoregressive neural networks for entanglement entropy [Białas et al.; 2406.06193].

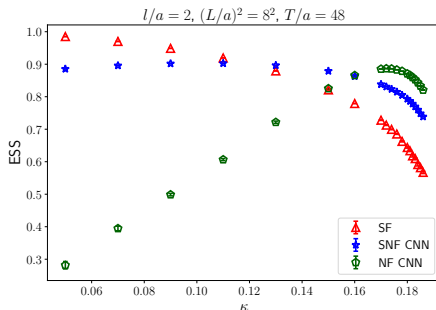
Transfer in the coupling

$(1+1)D$



- **NE-MCMC:** $n_{step} = 2$
- SNF:** $n_{step} = n_{layer} = 2$
- NF:** $n_{layer} = 4$

$(2+1)D$

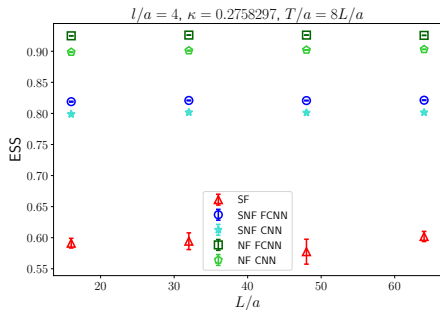


- **NE-MCMC:** $n_{step} = 5$
- SNF:** $n_{step} = n_{layer} = 5$
- NF:** $n_{layer} = 5$

[AB, Cellini, Jansen, Kühn, Nada, Nakajima, Nicoli, Panero; WIP]

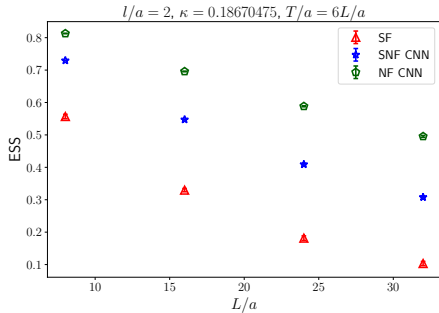
Transfer in the volume

$(1+1)D$



- **NE-MCMC**: $n_{step} = 2$
SNF: $n_{step} = n_{layer} = 2$
NF: $n_{layer} = 4$

$(2+1)D$

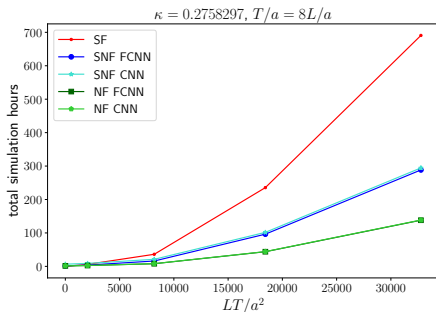


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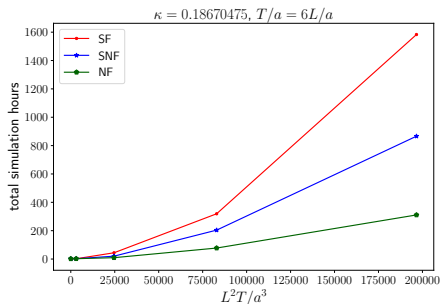
Total cost of the simulations

$(1+1)D$



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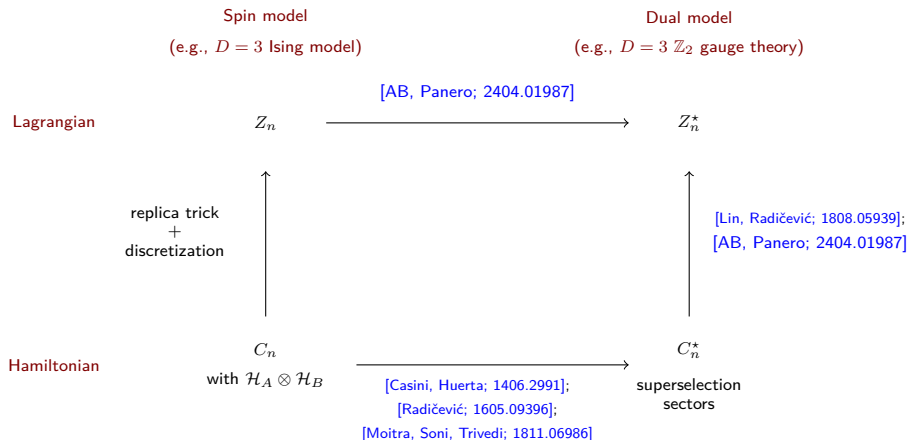
$(2+1)D$



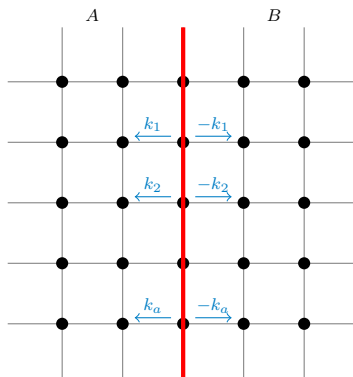
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[AB, Cellini, Jansen, Kühn, Nada, Nakajima, Nicoli, Panero; WIP]

Duality and entanglement



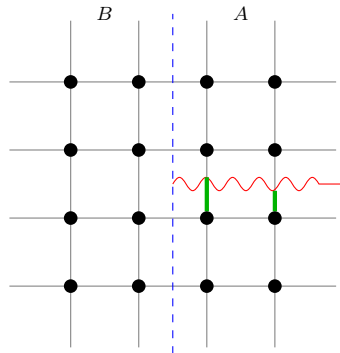
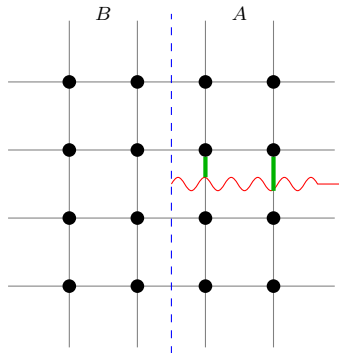
- Consider Abelian gauge theories on the lattice.
- In a basis that diagonalizes the electric field operators we have a well defined notion of electric flux on every link.
- Given a bipartition of the lattice we can define the net electric flux through the boundary $k = \sum_a k_a$.
- $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_k \mathcal{H}_A^{(k)} \otimes \mathcal{H}_B^{(-k)}$

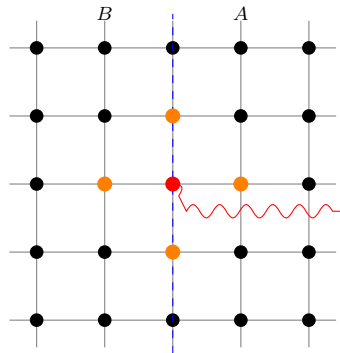
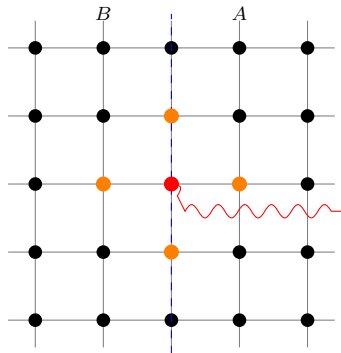


- It was shown in [Buividovich, Polikarpov; 0806.3376], [Casini, Huerta, Rosabal; 1312.1183] that the entanglement entropy of an Abelian gauge theory admits the following decomposition

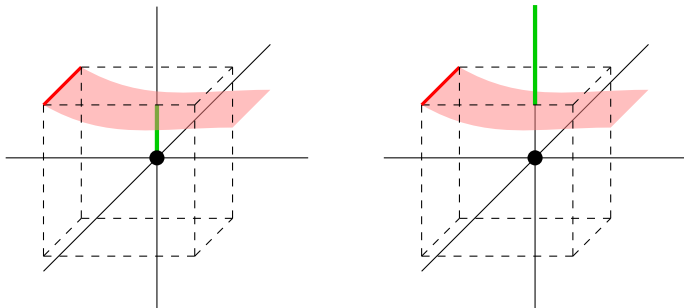
$$S_A = - \sum_k p^{(k)} \log p^{(k)} - \sum_k p^{(k)} S(\rho_A^{(k)}).$$

- The first term depends on the classical probability distribution of the flux through the boundary.
- There are arguments suggesting that in the continuum limit the universal part of S_A takes contributions only from the second, distillable term [Casini, Huerta; 1406.2991], [Moitra, Soni, Trivedi; 1811.06986].
- Still, the non-factorization of $\mathcal{H}$ makes the definition of a replica geometry less clear.



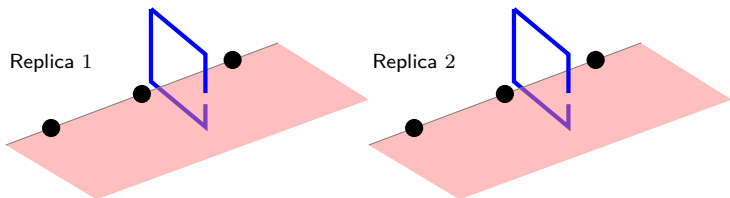


Abelian gauge theories in $3D$



- In a system of n replicas gauge fields on the boundary belong to $4n$ plaquettes.
- Notice that this geometry constraints gauge transformations along the entangling surface to be the same on all replicas.

- Geometrically, an other possibility is to locate the entangling surface along the links of the spin model.
- In this geometry spins along the entangling surface have an enlarged number of nearest neighbors.



- This “central-plaquette” geometry was introduced in [[Chen et al., 1503.01766](#)].

- In general the topology of the lattice manifold has an effect on the duality transformation.
- For example, in the $2D$ Ising model on a torus

$$Z(\beta) \propto Z_{pp}^*(\beta^*) + Z_{pa}^*(\beta^*) + Z_{ap}^*(\beta^*) + Z_{aa}^*(\beta^*).$$

