

*The question of the origin hides  
the origin of the question.*

François Jacqmin

# Primeval Atom 2.0

*Thomas Hertog*



Extract from

Nature  
London

Date 9 MAY 1931

The Beginning of the World from the Point of  
View of Quantum Theory. T

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Clearly the initial quantum could not conceal in itself the whole course of evolution; but, according to the principle of indeterminacy, that is not necessary. Our world is now understood to be a world where something really happens; the whole story of the world need not have been written down in the first quantum like a song on the disc of a phonograph. The whole matter of the world must have been present at the beginning, but the story it has to tell may be written step by step.

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40 rue de Namur,  
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Holy Ghost College, Leuven, EPS historical site

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**The End of the World: from the Standpoint of Mathematical Physics.\***

By Sir ARTHUR S. EDDINGTON, F.R.S.

**T**HE world—or space-time—is a four-dimensional continuum, and consequently offers a choice of a great many directions in which we might start off to look for an end; and it is by no

ahead of us is lengthening. It is like trying to run a race in which the finishing-tape is moving ahead faster than the runners. We can picture the stars and galaxies as embedded in the surface of a rubber

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International Press-Cutting Bureau  
51, Red Lion St., London, W.C.1

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I think that every one who believes in a supreme being supporting every being and every acting, believes also that God is essentially hidden and may be glad to see how present physics provides a veil hiding the creation.



ARCHIVES  
GEORGES  
LEMAÎTRE



A black and white photograph of a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark jacket, speaking. He is positioned in front of a bookshelf filled with books. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face against the darker background of the books.

Wie gaat nadenken  
over het probleem--



'But I don't believe in the Finger of God adjusting the ether.'

Around 1930 the Abbé Lemaitre visited Cambridge and gave a lecture at the Kapitza Club. There was much discussion about the indeterminacy of quantum mechanics. Lemaitre emphasized his opinion that he did not believe God influenced directly the course of atomic events.

A member of the audience made this drawing to commemorate the discussion. I do not remember who the artist was. It is quite a good likeness of Lemaitre.

P A M Dirac

1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1971

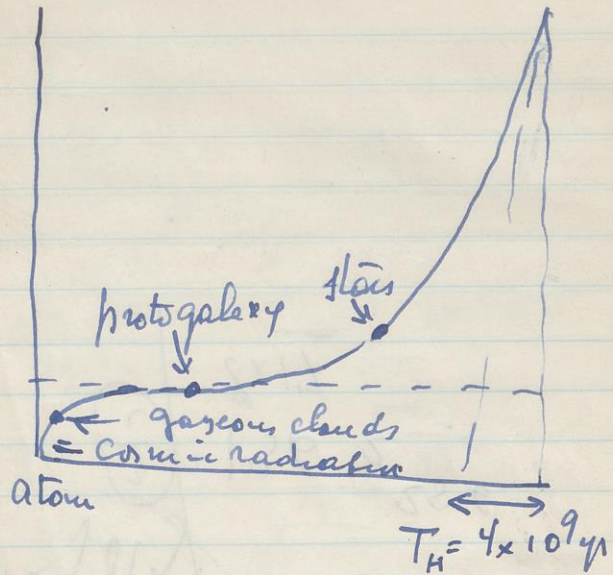
The new cosmology may turn out to be philosophically even more revolutionary than relativity or the quantum theory...

I find the separation between laws and initial conditions unsatisfactory philosophically, as it goes against all ideas of the unity of Nature..."

What, then, becomes of the initial conditions [in cosmology]?  
Plainly there cannot be any, or they must be trivial.

Quantum mechanics enables us to ascribe the complexity of the universe not to the complexity of initial conditions but to quantum jumps along the way...

- An expanding universe
- with a cosmological constant
- emerging from the disintegration of a 'primeval atom',
- representing a natural quantum origin, part of science yet inaccessible in its simplicity,
- that comes with relic radiation.



*“Standing on a cooled cinder, we see the slow fadings of the suns, and we try to reconstruct the vanished brilliance of the origin of the worlds.”*

# Primeval Atom 2.0



# Wave function of the Universe

J. B. Hartle

*Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637  
and Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106*

S. W. Hawking

*Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Silver Street, Cambridge, England  
and Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106*



*Cet instant unique, qui n'avait pas*

*Georges Lemaître (1894 - 1966)*

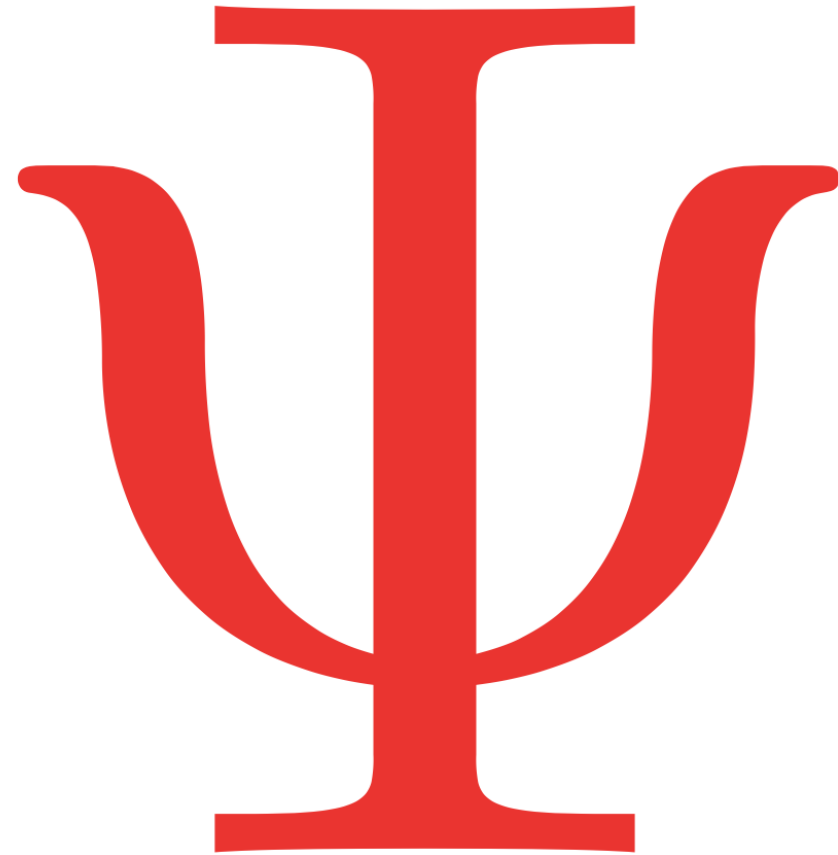
*Père de la Théorie du Big Bang*

*Gigi Warray, 2016*

# A Quantum Universe

If the universe is a quantum mechanical system it has a quantum state.  
What is it?

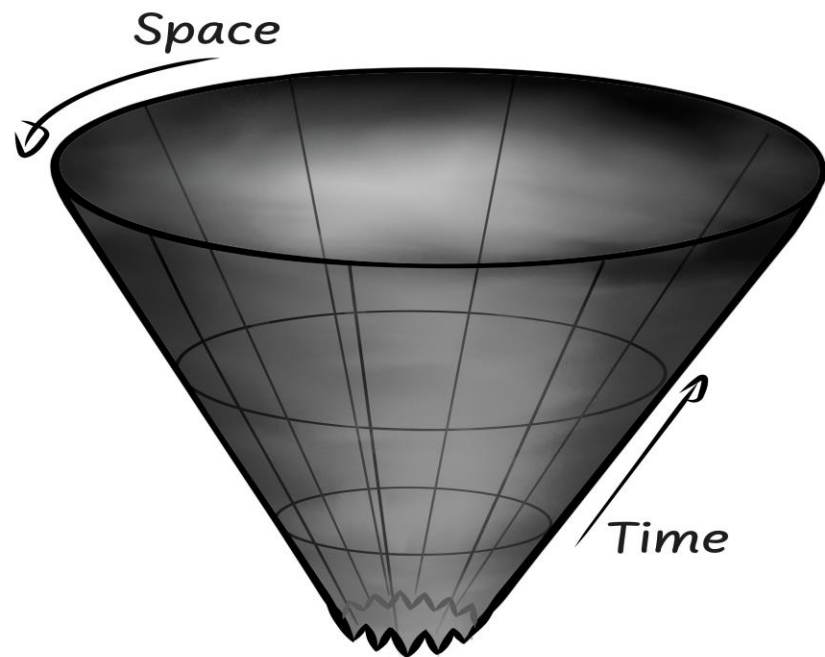
That is the problem of  
Quantum Cosmology.



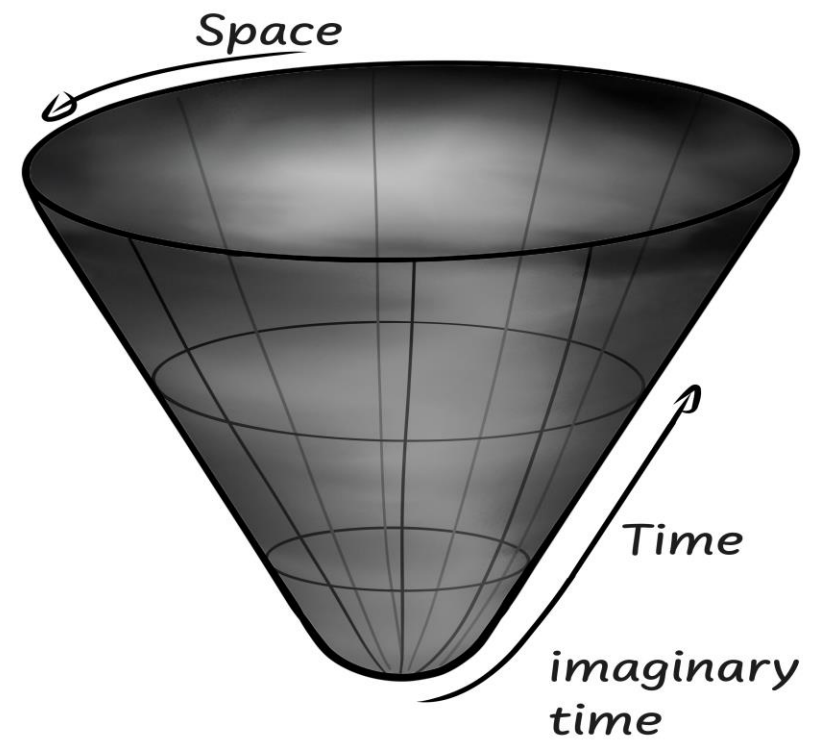


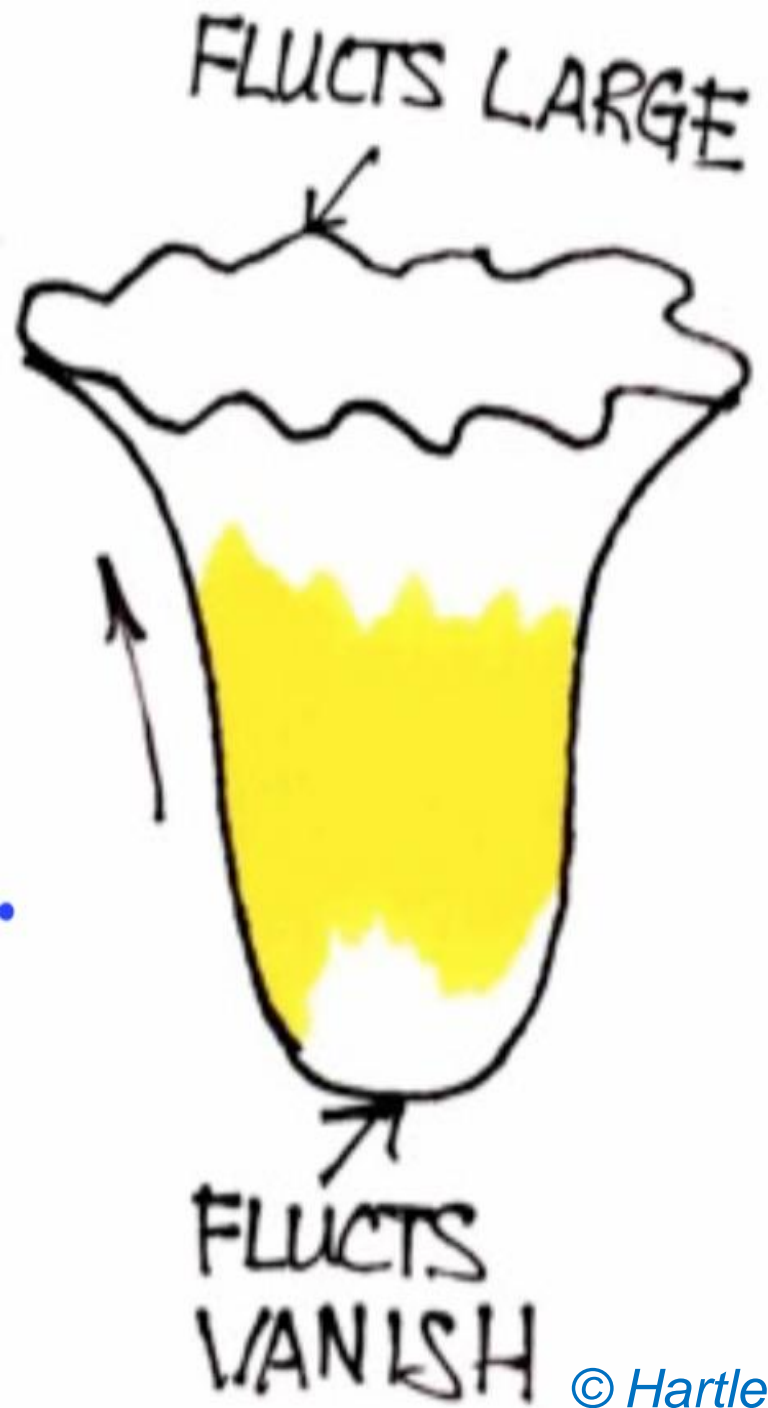
A theory of the  
quantum state  
of the universe  
is as much a part of a  
final theory  
as a theory of dynamics.

# CLASSICAL

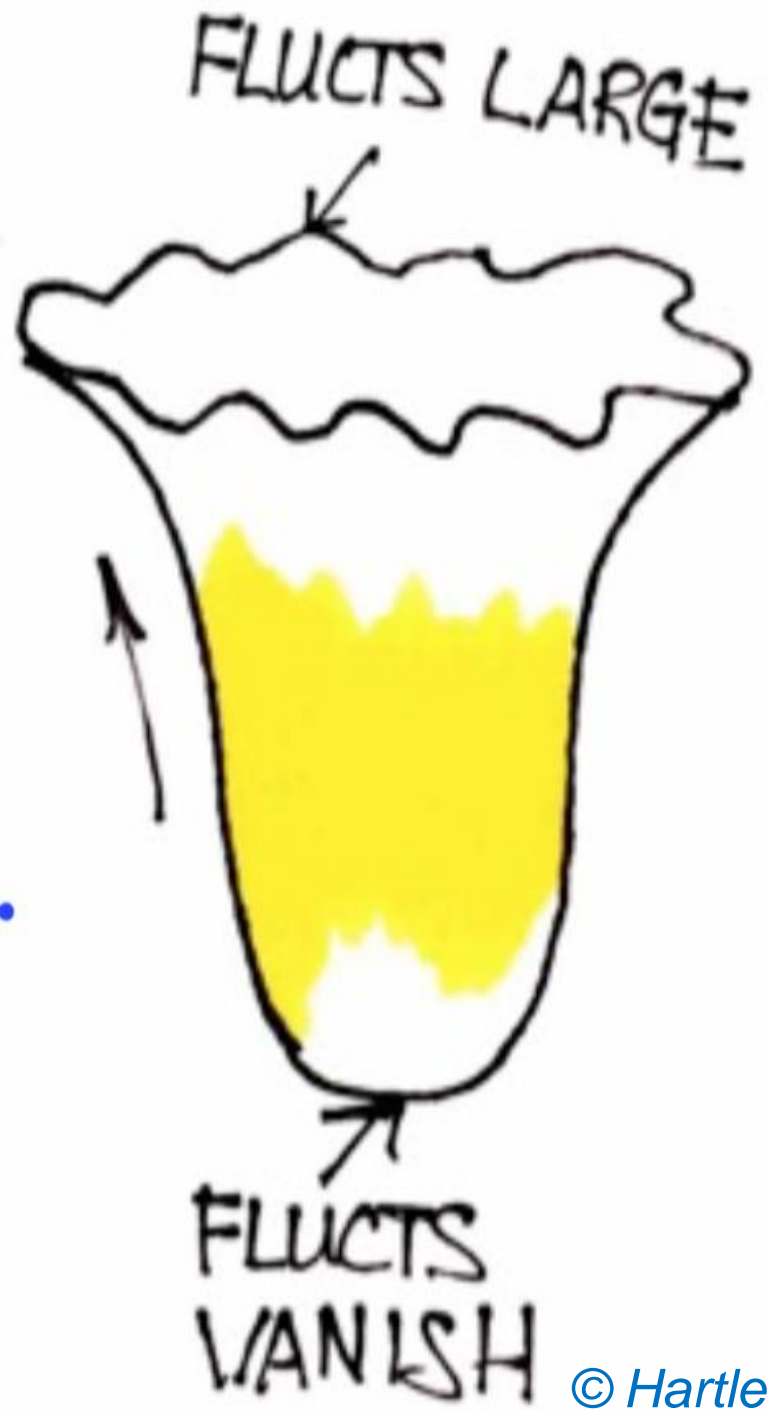


# QUANTUM





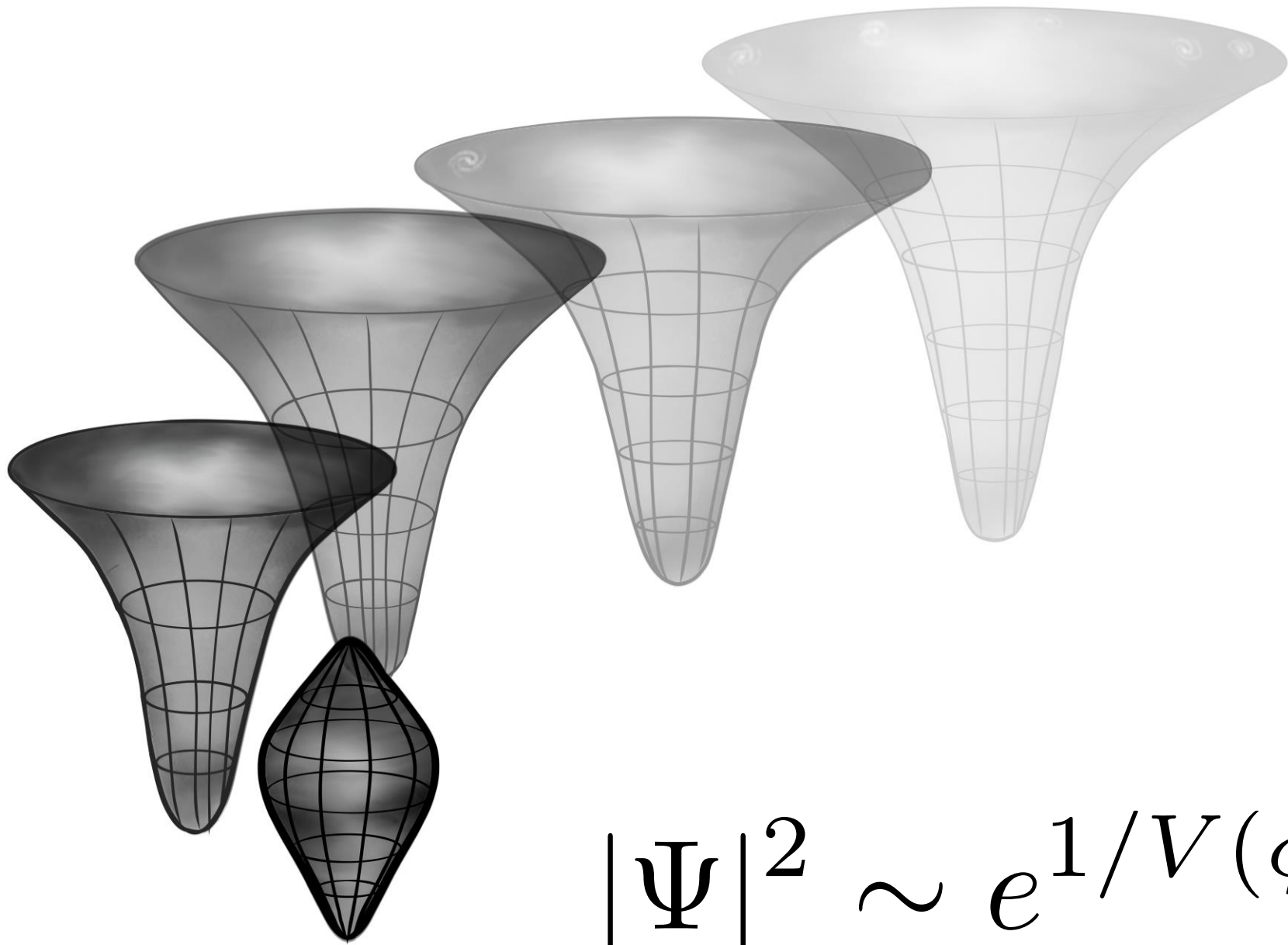
- An expanding universe
- with an early phase of inflation,
- emerging from a quantum origin,
- with fluctuations initially in their ground state
- leading to an arrow of time.



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*“By the path integral over compact metrics, one eliminates one of the two parts of physics, the boundary conditions.*

*There ought to be something very special about the boundary conditions of the universe and what can be more special than that there no boundary.”*



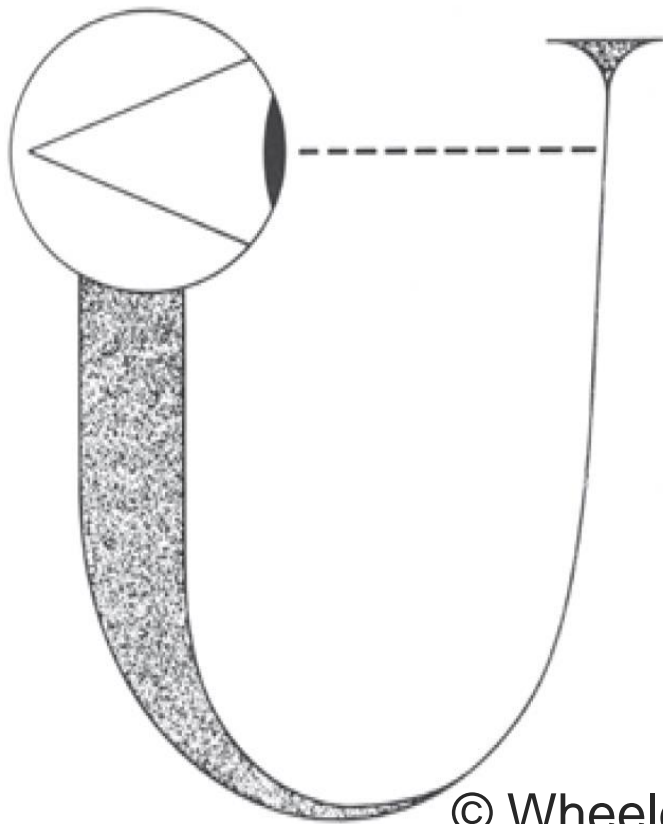
$$|\Psi|^2 \sim e^{1/V(\phi_i)}$$

What if we let go of the Archimedean  
standpoint “from outside”?

What if we let go of the Archimedean  
standpoint “from outside”?

What if we turn cosmology  
inside out?

What if we let go of the Archimedean standpoint ``from outside''?



What if we turn cosmology  
inside out?



## No-Boundary Measure of the Universe 2.0

James B. Hartle,<sup>1</sup> S. W. Hawking,<sup>2</sup> and Thomas Hertog<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 93106, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*DAMTP, CMS, Wilberforce Road, CB3 0WA Cambridge, United Kingdom*

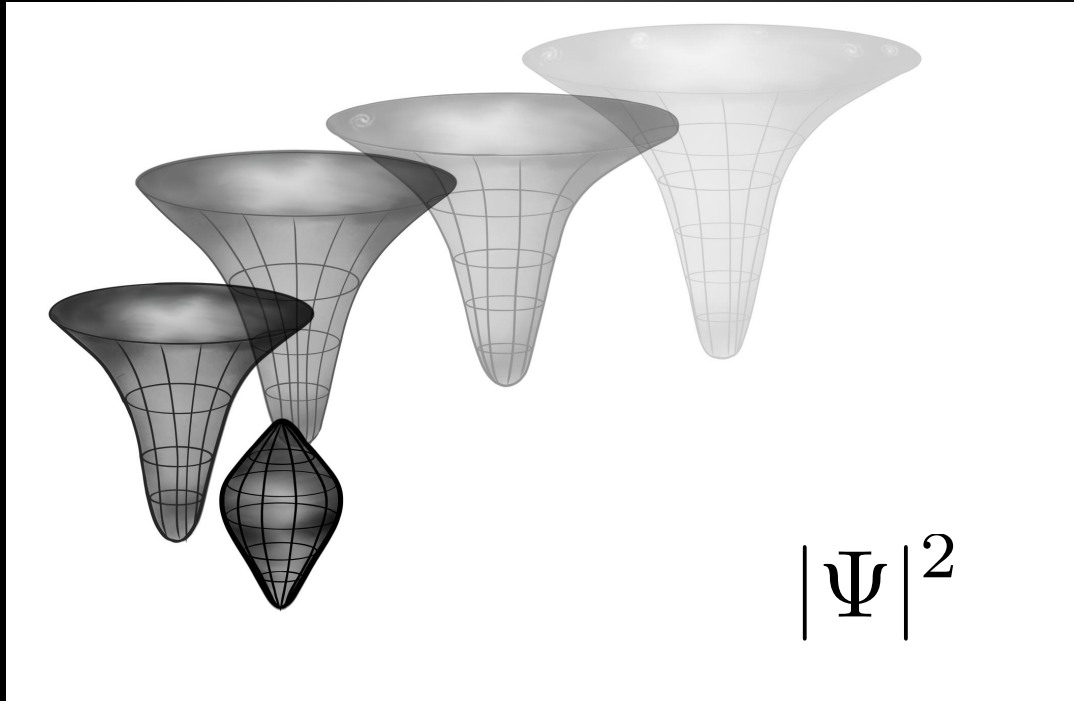
<sup>3</sup>*Laboratoire APC, Université Paris 7, 10 rue A.Domon et L.Duquet, 75205 Paris, France and International Solvay Institutes, Boulevard du Triomphe, ULB-C.P. 231, 1050 Brussels, Belgium*

(Received 8 February 2008; published 23 May 2008)

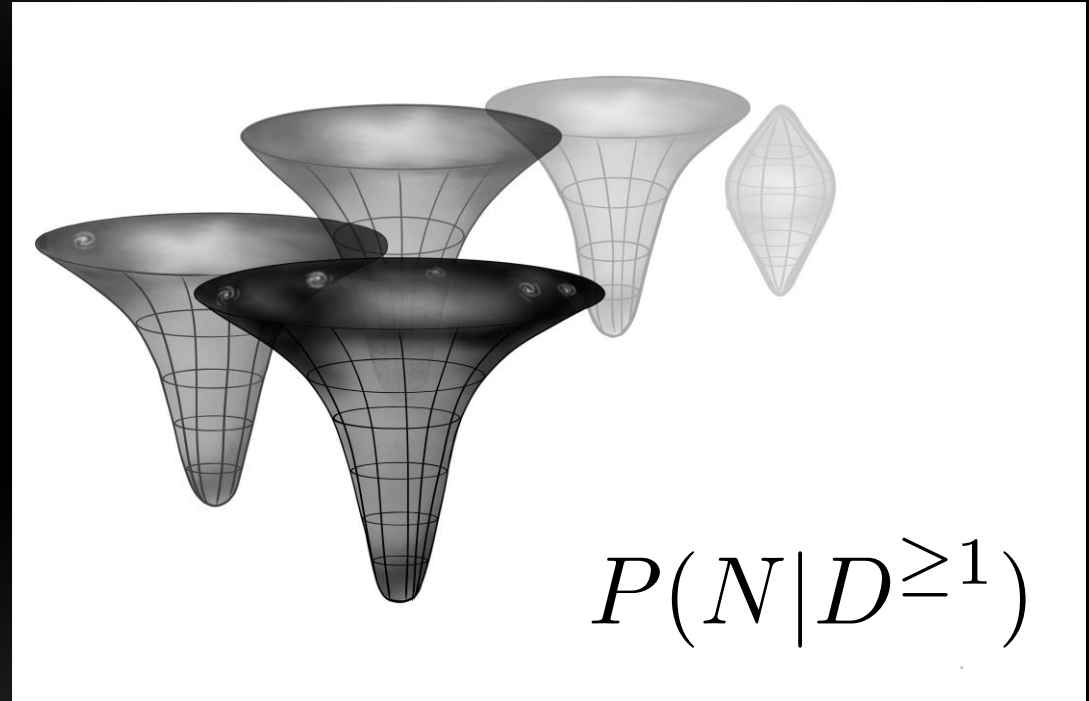
We consider the no-boundary proposal for homogeneous isotropic closed universes with a cosmological constant and a scalar field with a quadratic potential. In the semiclassical limit, it predicts classical behavior at late times if the scalar field is large enough. The classical histories may be singular in the past or bounce at a finite radius. This probability measure selects inflationary histories but is biased towards small numbers of  $e$ -foldings  $N$ . However, to obtain the probability of our observations in our past light cone these probabilities should be multiplied by  $\exp(3N)$ . This volume weighting is similar to that in eternal inflation. In a landscape potential, it would predict that the Universe underwent a large amount of inflation and could have always been semiclassical.

$$P(N | D \geq 1)$$

No-boundary measure

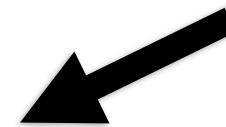


No-boundary measure 2.0



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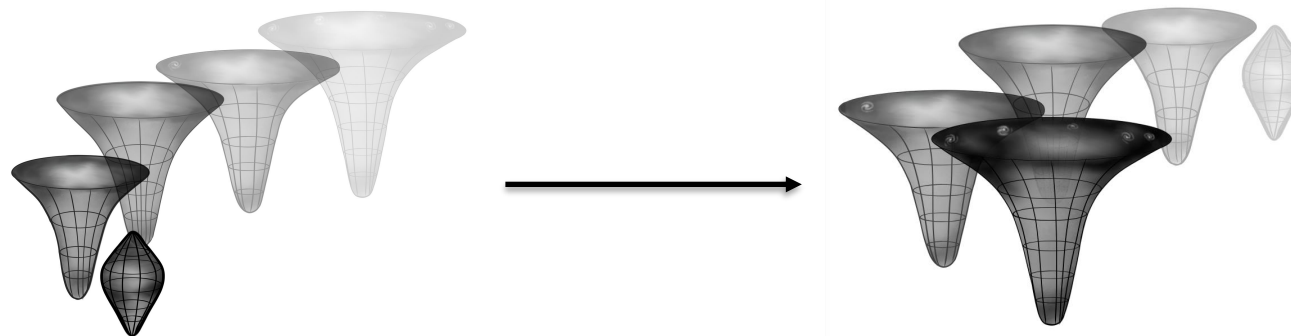
$|\Psi|^2$



$$P(N|D^{\geq 1}) \sim \left(1 - [1 - p_H(D)]^{N_H(N)}\right) \exp[3\pi/m^2 N]$$

This distribution exhibits a Page-like transition:

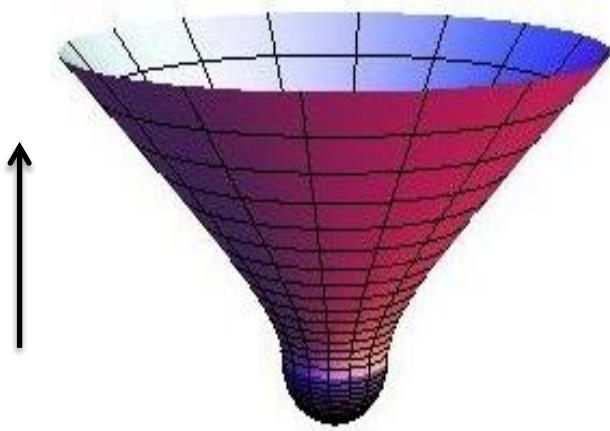
- No data or few data  $D \rightarrow$  low  $N$  saddle dominates
- Lots of data  $D \rightarrow$  large  $N$  saddle dominates



[Hartle, Hawking, Hertog, 2011]

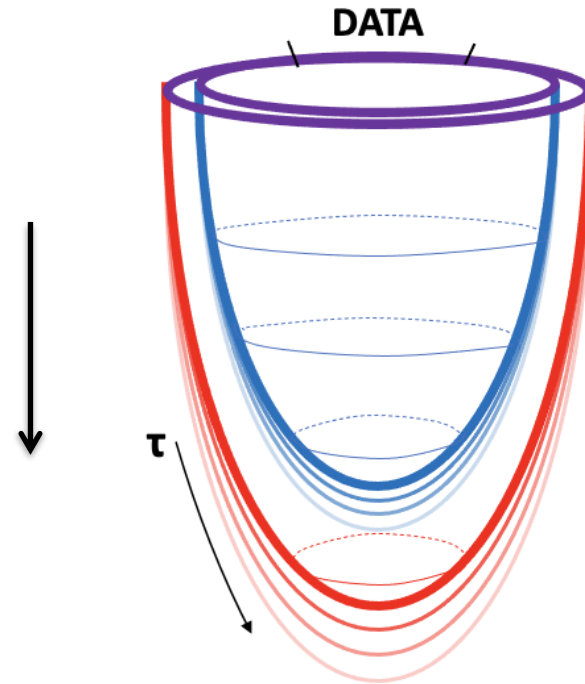
# no-boundary measure 2.0

1983

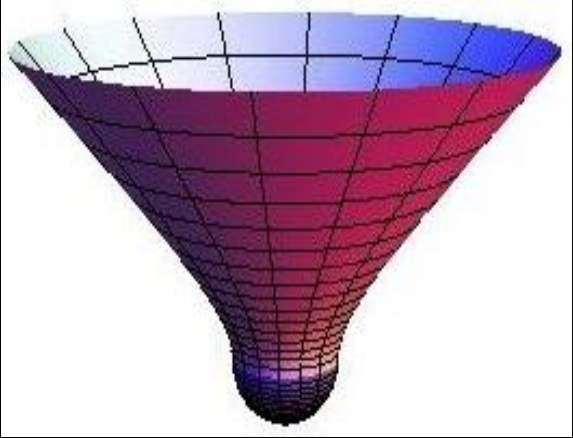


'creation from nothing'

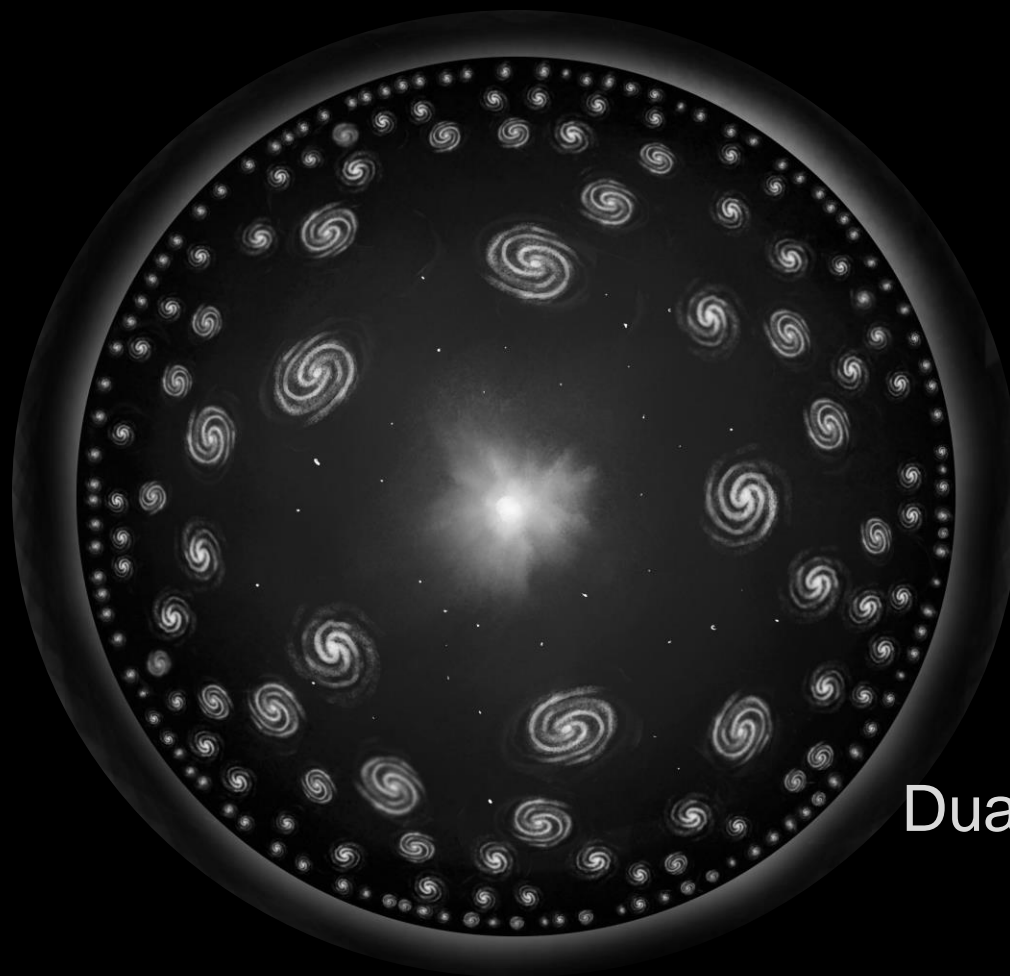
2011



top- down view



# HOLOGRAPHIC COSMOLOGY



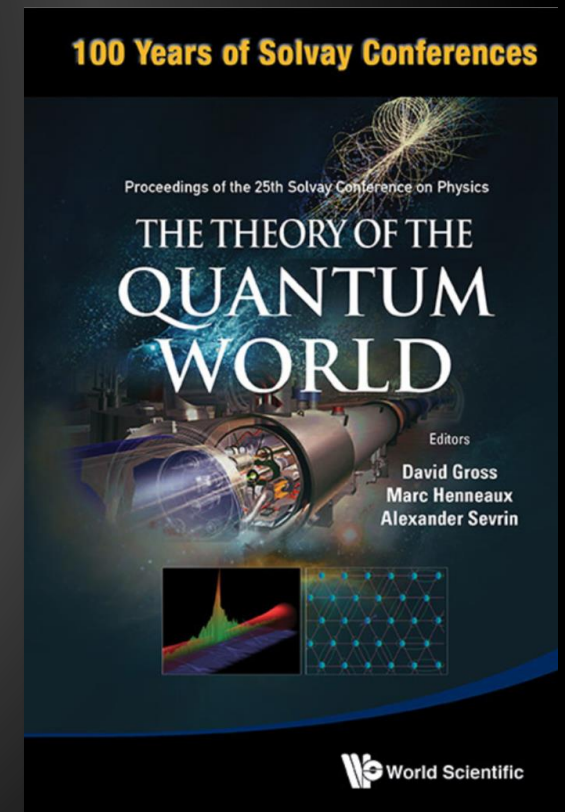
Dual QFT

*In holography [in AdS], what defines the theory are the boundary conditions.*

*So maybe in our world what defines the theory is the question we are asking.*

*Bad questions give zero.. all good questions have some answer..*

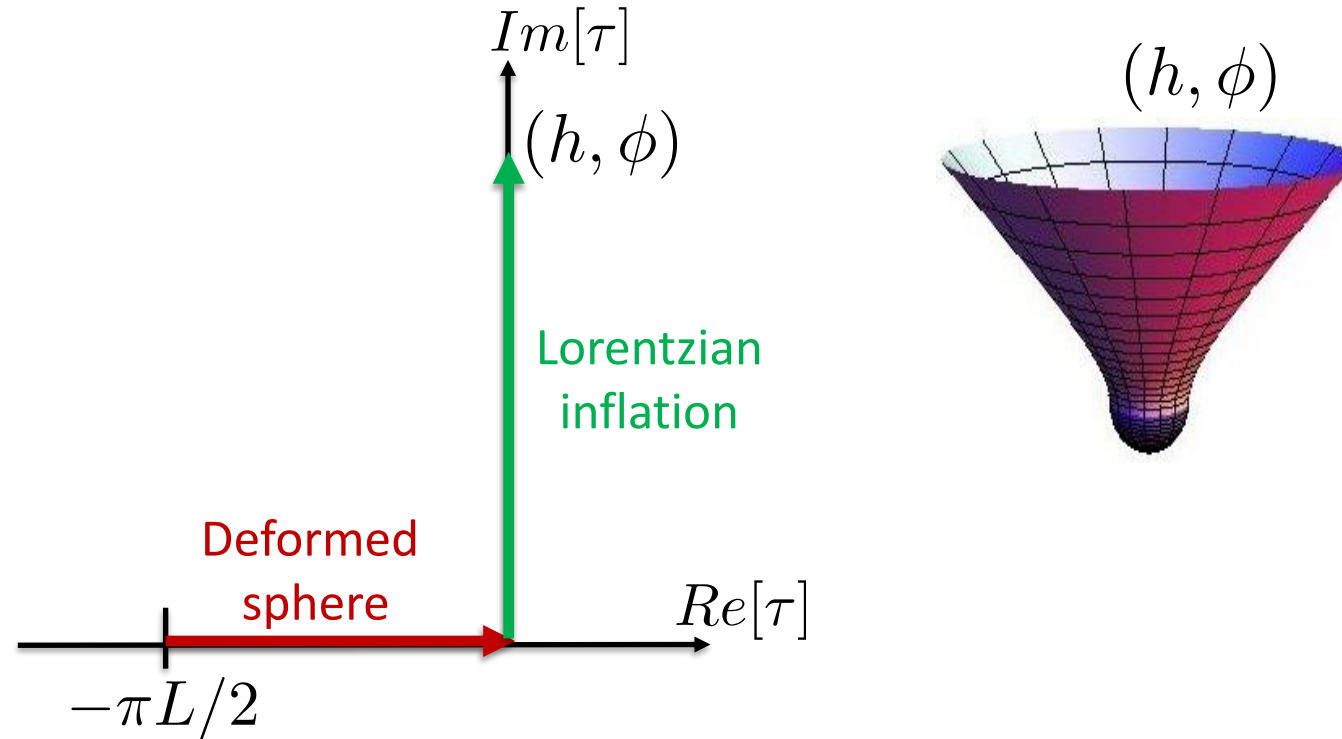
J. Maldacena, Proceedings 25<sup>th</sup> Conseil Solvay, 2011



# Holographic no-boundary measure

[Hartle, TH; Maldacena; Harlow, Stanford; Anninos et al.;...]

$$\Psi_{HH} = \mathcal{A}_{sp} e^{iS}$$

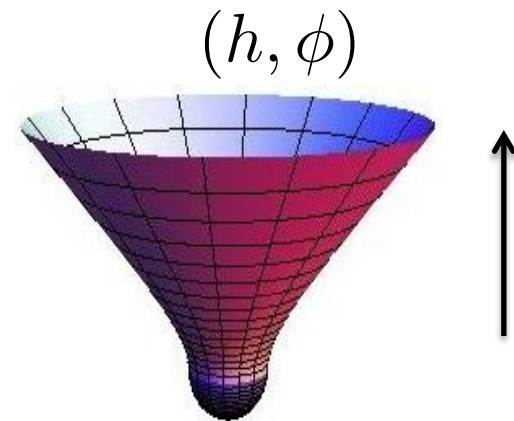
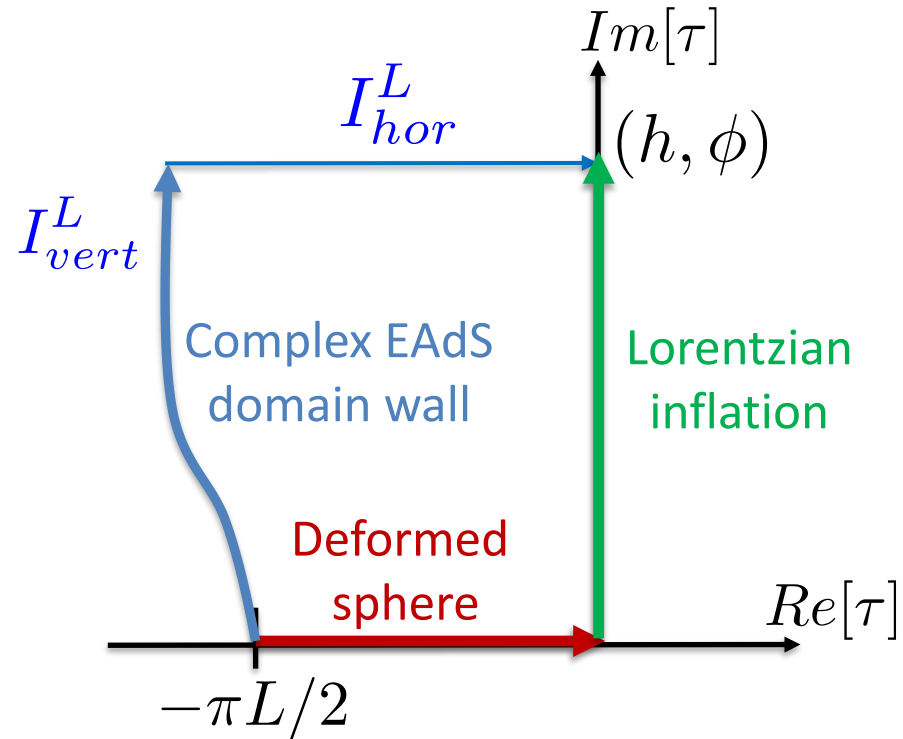


# Holographic no-boundary measure

[Hartle, TH; Maldacena; Harlow, Stanford; Anninos et al.;...]

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$$\log \mathcal{A}_{sp} = I_{asEAdS}^{\text{reg}}$$





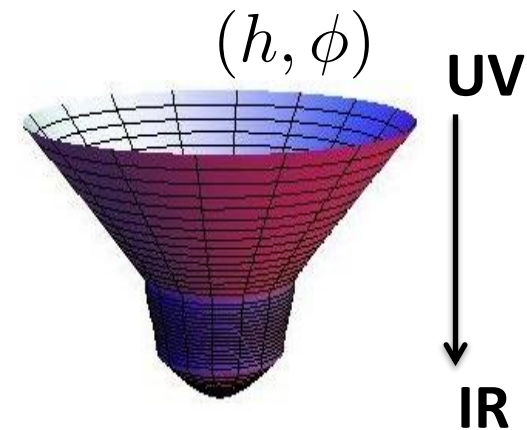
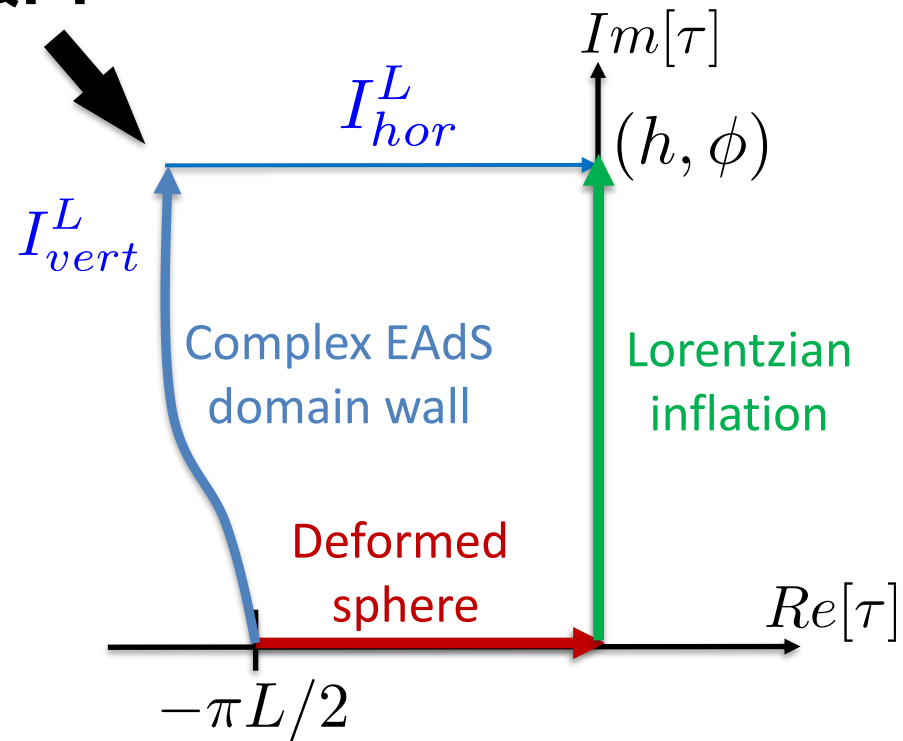
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[also: Maldacena; Harlow, Stanford]

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$$\log \mathcal{A}_{sp} = I_{asEAdS}^{\text{reg}}$$

Dual QFT

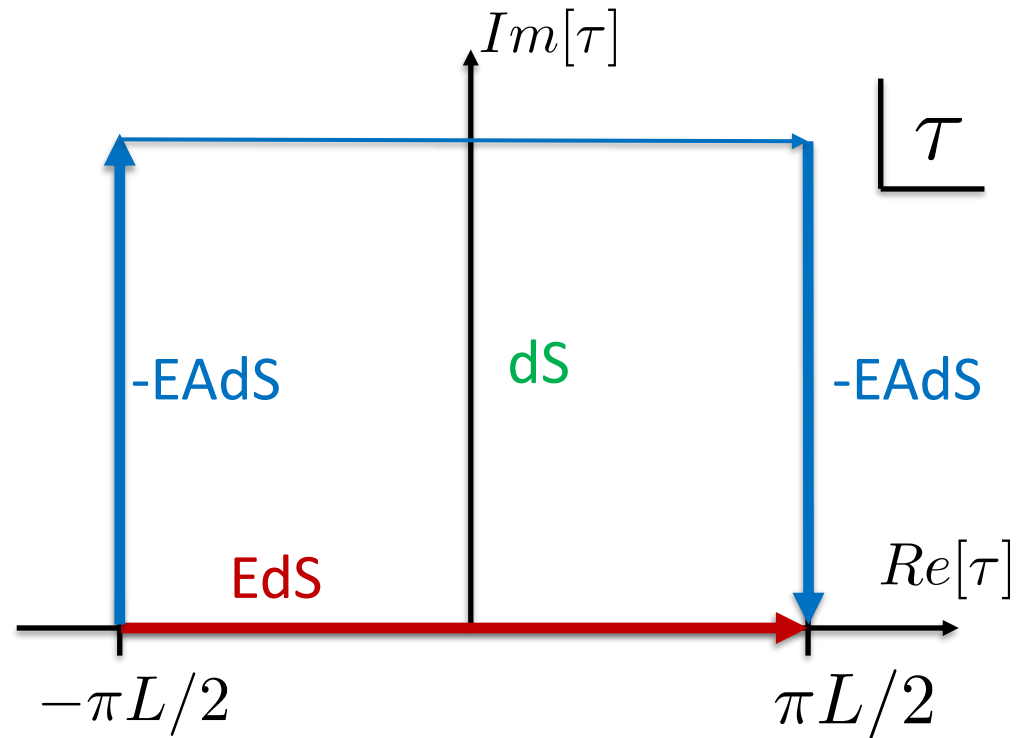
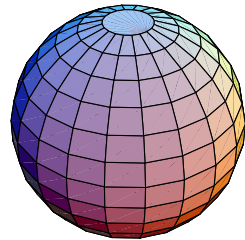


# de Sitter entropy

[Bobeu, TH, Hong, Karlsson, Reys]

$$\Psi^* \Psi \sim e^{-I_{EdS}}$$

$$I_{EdS} = -2 I_{EAdS}^{\text{reg}}$$



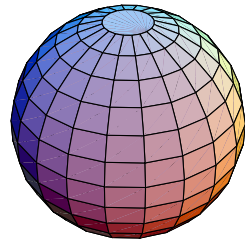
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[Bobev, TH, Hong, Karlsson, Reys]

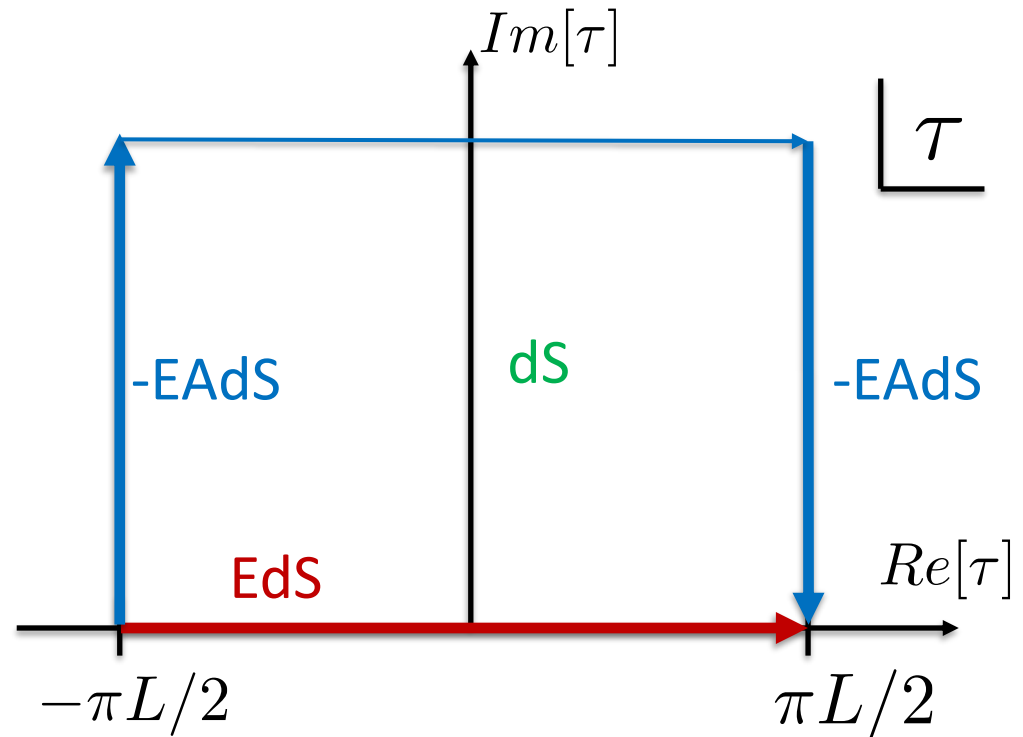
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$$I_{EdS} = -2 I_{EAdS}^{\text{reg}}$$

Conjecture:  $S_{dS} = -2 \log Z_{S^3}^{\text{CFT}}$



$$Z_{S^4} \longleftrightarrow Z_{S^3}^{\text{QFT}} Z_{S^3}^{\text{QFT}}$$



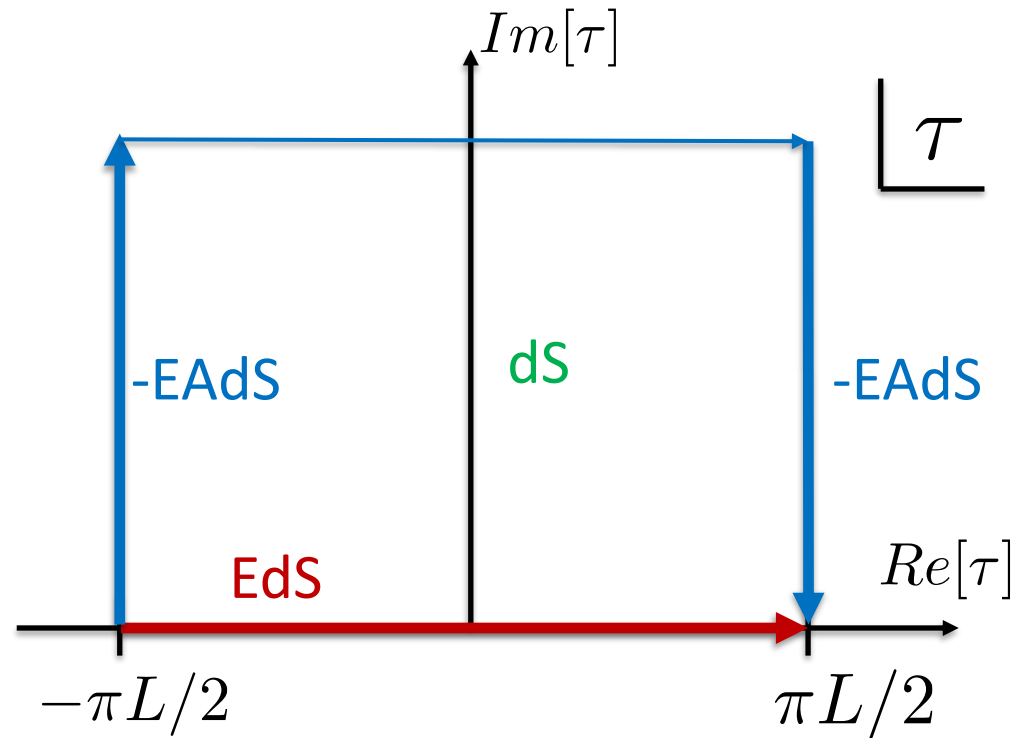
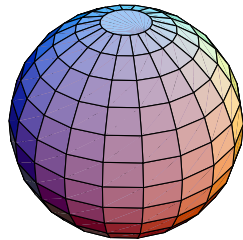
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# de Sitter entropy: microscopics

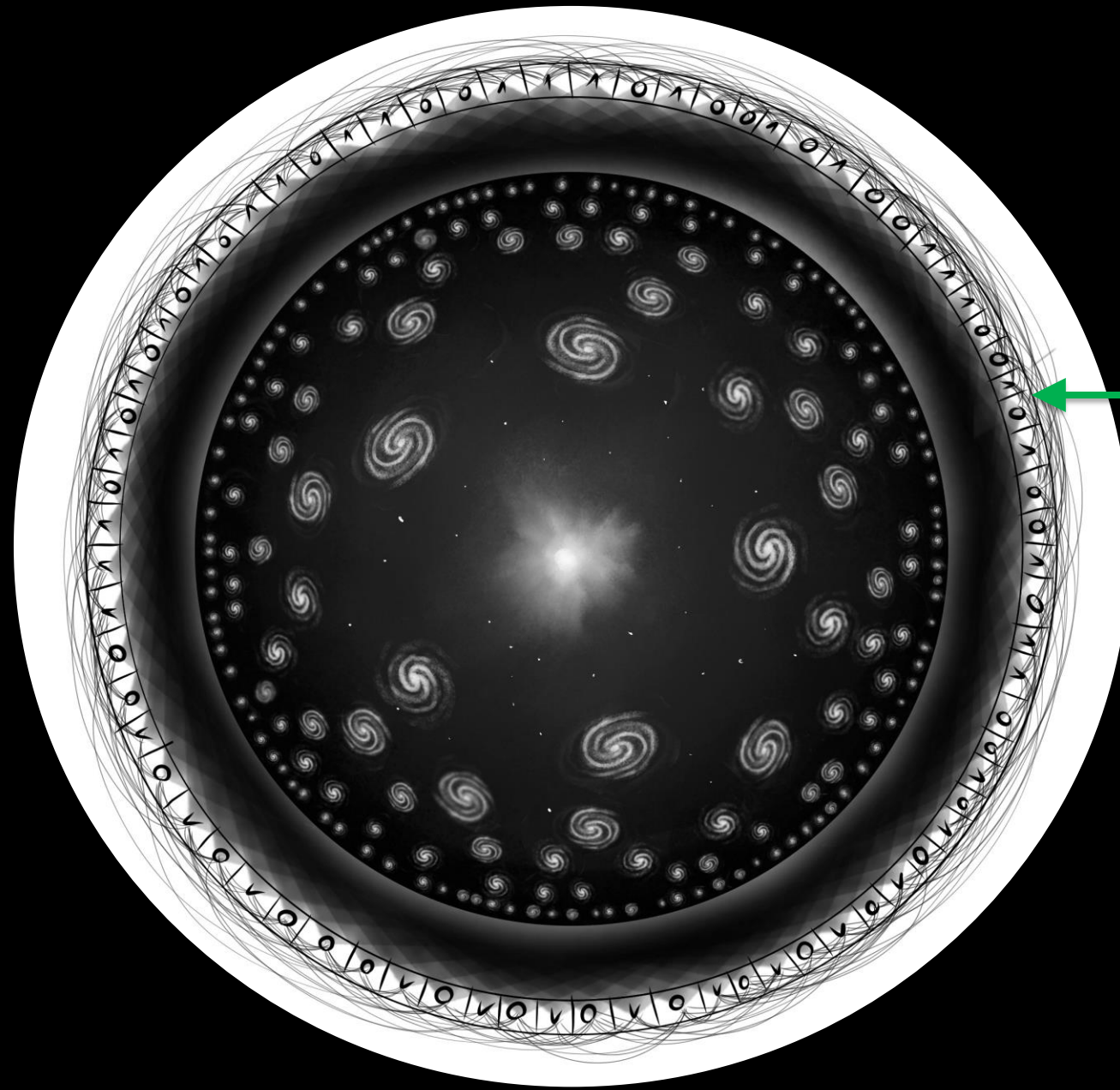
$$EAdS_4 \times S^7 / \mathbb{Z}_k$$

$$S_{dS} = -I_{EdS} = 2I_{EAdS}^{\text{reg}} = -2 \log Z_{S^3}^{\text{ABJM}}$$

[Marino, Putrov; Fuji, Hirano, Moriyama; many others...]

$$S_{dS} = \frac{2\pi\sqrt{2k}}{3} N^{3/2} - \frac{\pi(k^2 + 8)}{12\sqrt{2k}} N^{1/2} + \frac{1}{2} \log N + \mathcal{O}(N^0)$$

- Leading term: matches Gibbons-Hawking entropy
- Subleading term: higher-derivative terms in sugra  
[Bobev, Charles, Hristov, Reys '21]
- Log correction: matches one-loop determinant  
[Bhattacharyya, Grassi, Marino, Sen]



$Z_{QFT}^{bdy}$



RUNNING OUT  
OF d.o.f.



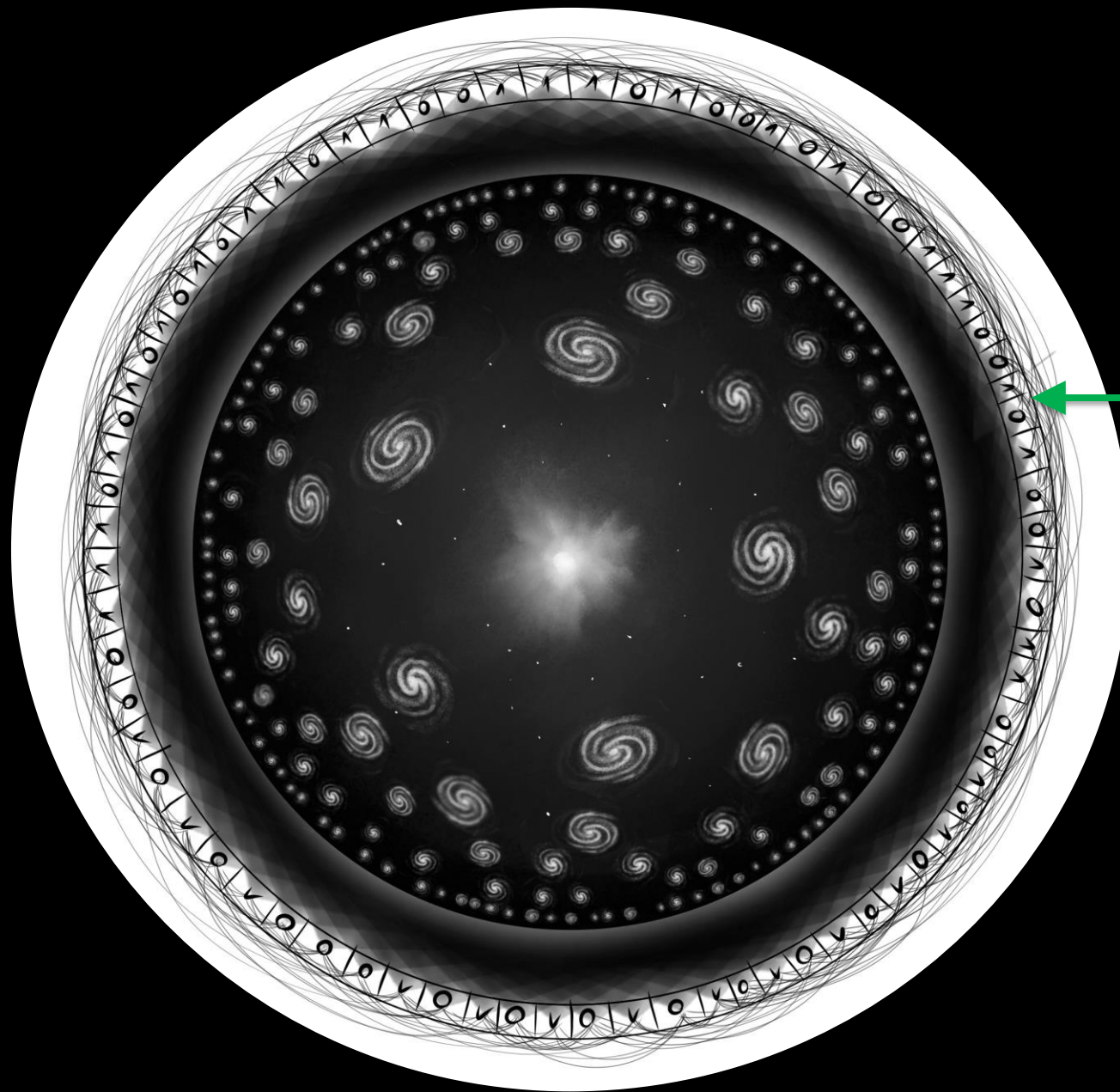
PAST HISTORY



GRAVITY in  
INTERIOR



DUAL QFT on  
OUTER BDY



$Z_{QFT}^{bdy}$



INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE PHYSIQUE SOLVAY

ONZIÈME CONSEIL DE PHYSIQUE

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“the splitting of the Atom can have occurred in many different ways”—**Everett's branching**

“there would be little interest to know their relative probabilities”— **no typicality**

“Deductive cosmology cannot begin before the splitting has proceeded far enough” -- **decohere**

“Any information on the state of matter at this point must be inferred from the condition that the actual universe has been able to evolve from it”— **top- down view**

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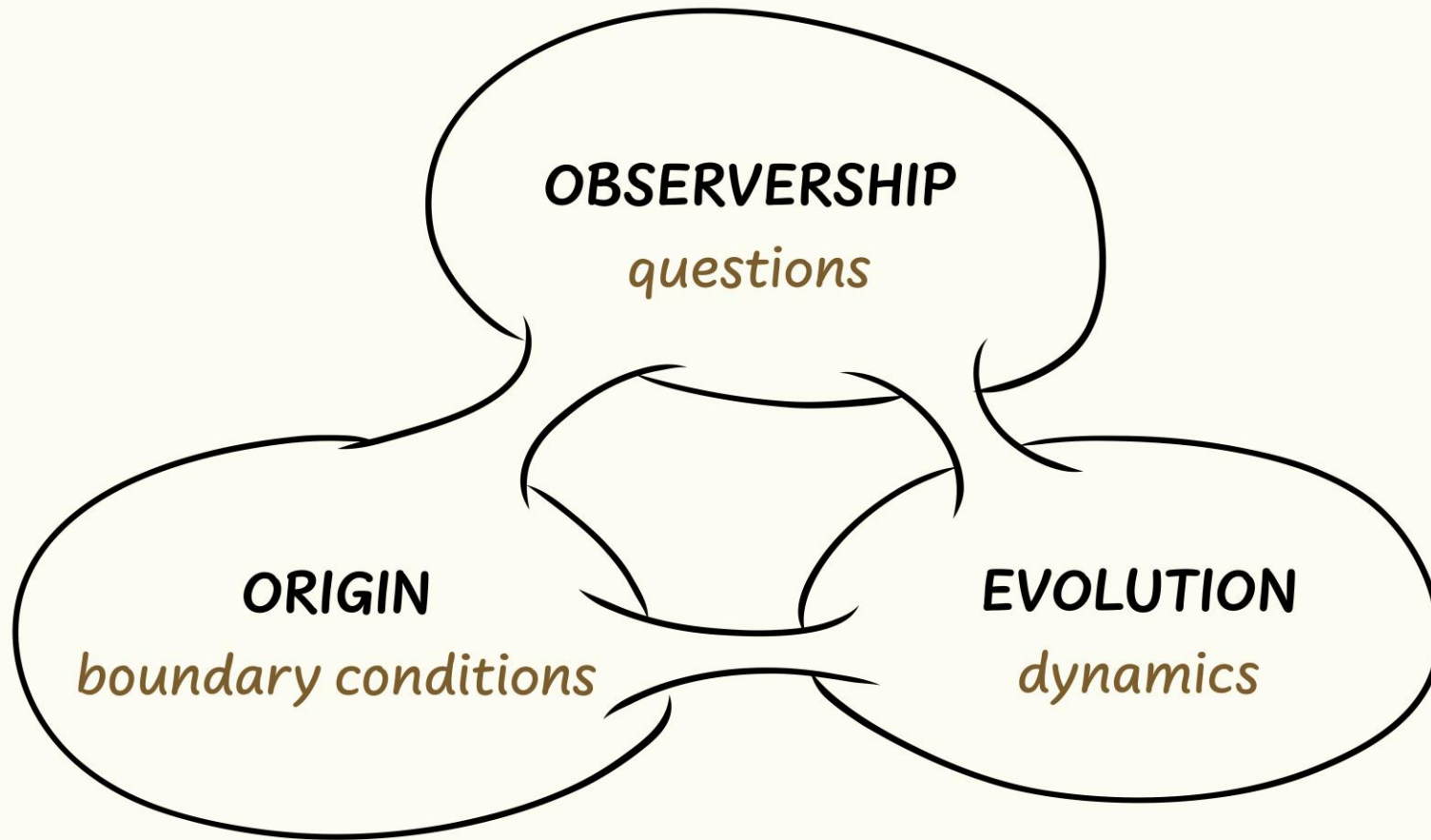
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—  
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“If this suggestion is correct, the beginning of the world happened a little before the beginning of space and time.”

“These considerations, besides providing a natural beginning, supply what can be called an inaccessible beginning... it stands just before Physics.

It is an inaccessible ground of Physics”, an epistemic limit.



THOMAS HERTOG

ON THE

ORIGIN

OF

TIME

STEPHEN HAWKING'S  
FINAL THEORY

# de Sitter entropy: microscopics

- Consider 11d Euclidean SUGRA on  $-S^4 \times S^7 / \mathbb{Z}_k$
- One-loop determinants generate log corrections to the free energy
- Odd dimensions: only zero modes contribute
- Massless 11d fields: metric, gravitino and three-form
- Ghosts are important!
- Metric and gravitino have no zero mode because  $S^4$  is compact.
- Logarithmic correction due to a p-form:

$$\Delta F = \sum_j (-1)^j (\beta_{p-j} - j - 1) n_{\Delta_{p-j}}^0 \log L/l_P, \quad \beta_k = \frac{D - 2k}{2}$$

- $\rightarrow \Delta S_{dS} = 3 \log L/l_P \quad S_{dS} \stackrel{v}{=} -2 \log Z_{S^3}^{\text{ABJM}}$