

# The boundary entropy function for interface conformal field theories

Evangelos Afxonidis\*  
University of Oviedo

Based on: **2412.05381** by EA and Andreas Karch (University of Texas at Austin)

IX Xmas Theoretical Physics Workshop  
Athens, 18-20 December 2024

\*supported by the Severo Ochoa fellowship PA-23-BP22-170

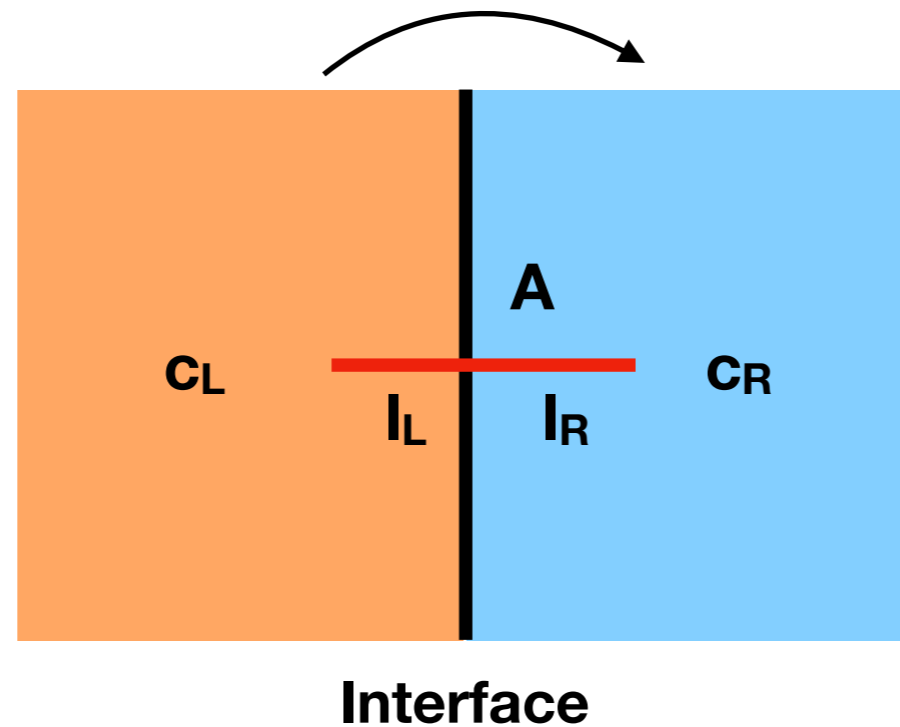
# Contents

- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem

# Contents

- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem

# ICFT<sub>2</sub>



Folding  $x \rightarrow -x$  reduces to BCFT result

$$S_A = \frac{c_L + c_R}{6} \log(l/\epsilon) + \log g$$

where  $g$  is the boundary entropy [Calabrese, Cardy]

For ICFTs,  $g$  gets promoted to an effective  $g_{eff}(l_L/l_R)$  function

# Contents

- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem

# Holographic setup

Holography suggests:

Low dimensional non-gravitational theory



(Quantum) Gravity theory

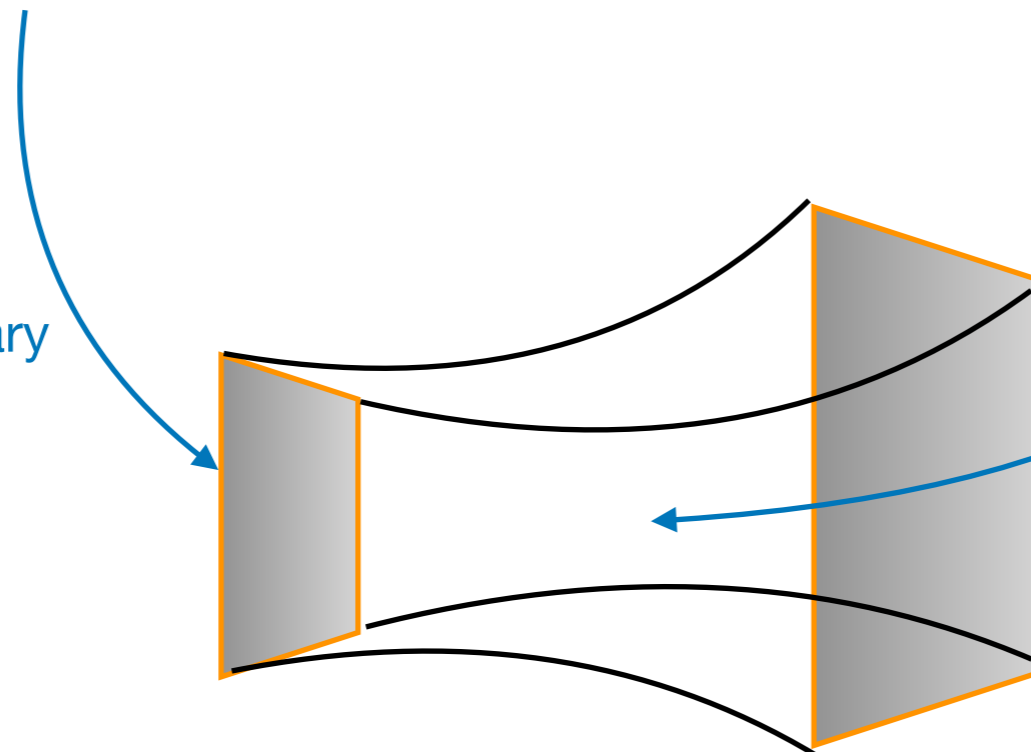
AdS/CFT correspondence: [Maldacena]

$N=4$  SYM<sub>4</sub>



Type IIB string theory on  
 $AdS_5 \times S^5$

Boundary



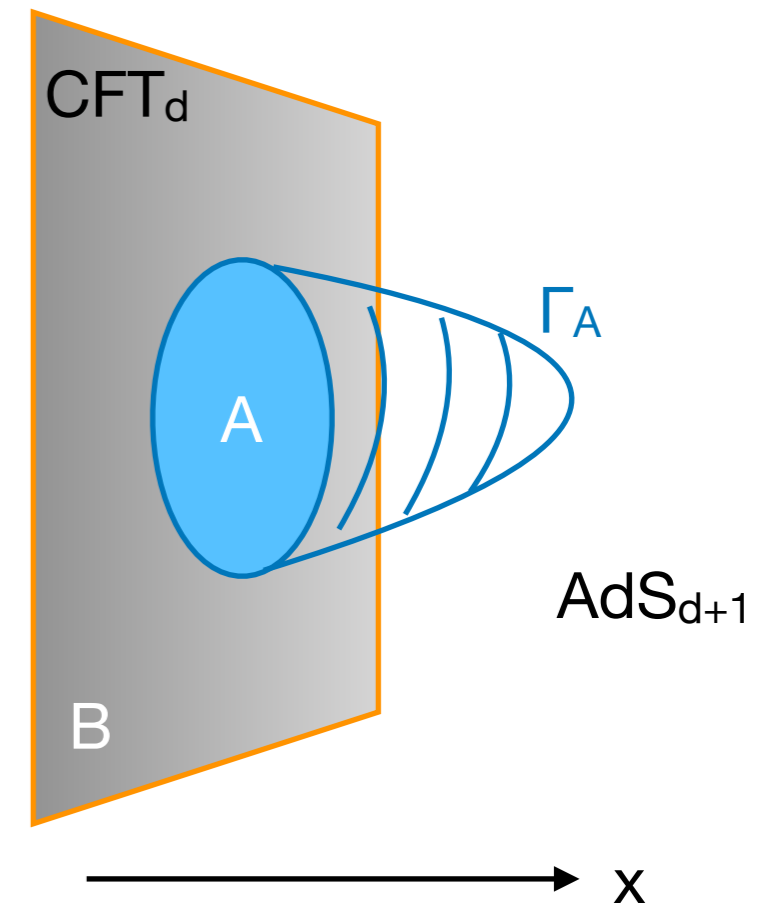
AdS bulk

# Holographic Entanglement Entropy

For static and asymptotically AdS spacetimes: [Ruy, Takayanagi]

$$S_A = \min_{\partial\Gamma_A = \partial A, \Gamma_A \approx A} \frac{\text{Area}(\Gamma_A)}{4G}$$

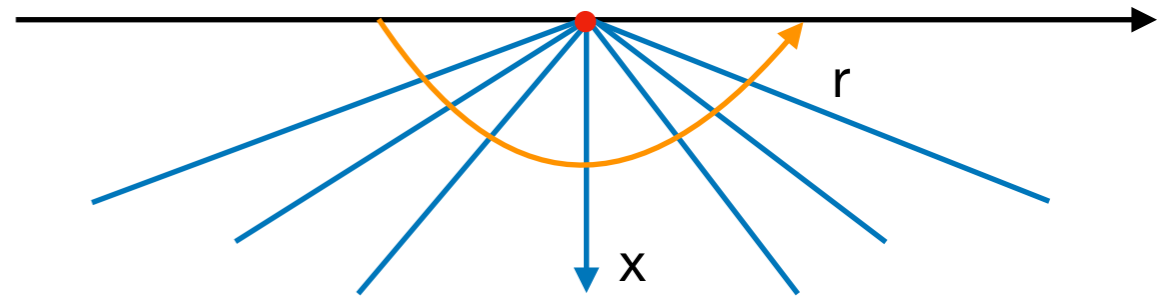
$\Gamma_A$  is the minimal area surface



# Holographic setup

Conformal defect spacetime in 2+1:

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(r)} \frac{dx^2 - dt^2}{x^2} + dr^2$$



pure AdS<sub>3</sub>

$$e^{A(r)} = \cosh(r)$$

Minimal RT-surface

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{\frac{e^{2A}}{x^2} (x')^2 + 1}$$

Scale symmetry on AdS<sub>2</sub> slices yields

$$\frac{x'}{x} = \pm \frac{c_s e^{-A}}{\sqrt{e^{2A} - c_s^2}}$$



- $c_s=0 \rightarrow$  BCFT,  $l_L=l_R=l/2$
- $0 < c_s < e^{A^*} \rightarrow$  non-trivial ICFT,  $l_R > l_L$
- $c_s=e^{A^*} \rightarrow l_L=0$

Relation of  $c_s$  and  $l_L/l_R$  is highly non-trivial!



# Contents

- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem

# Non-universality of $g_{\text{eff}}$

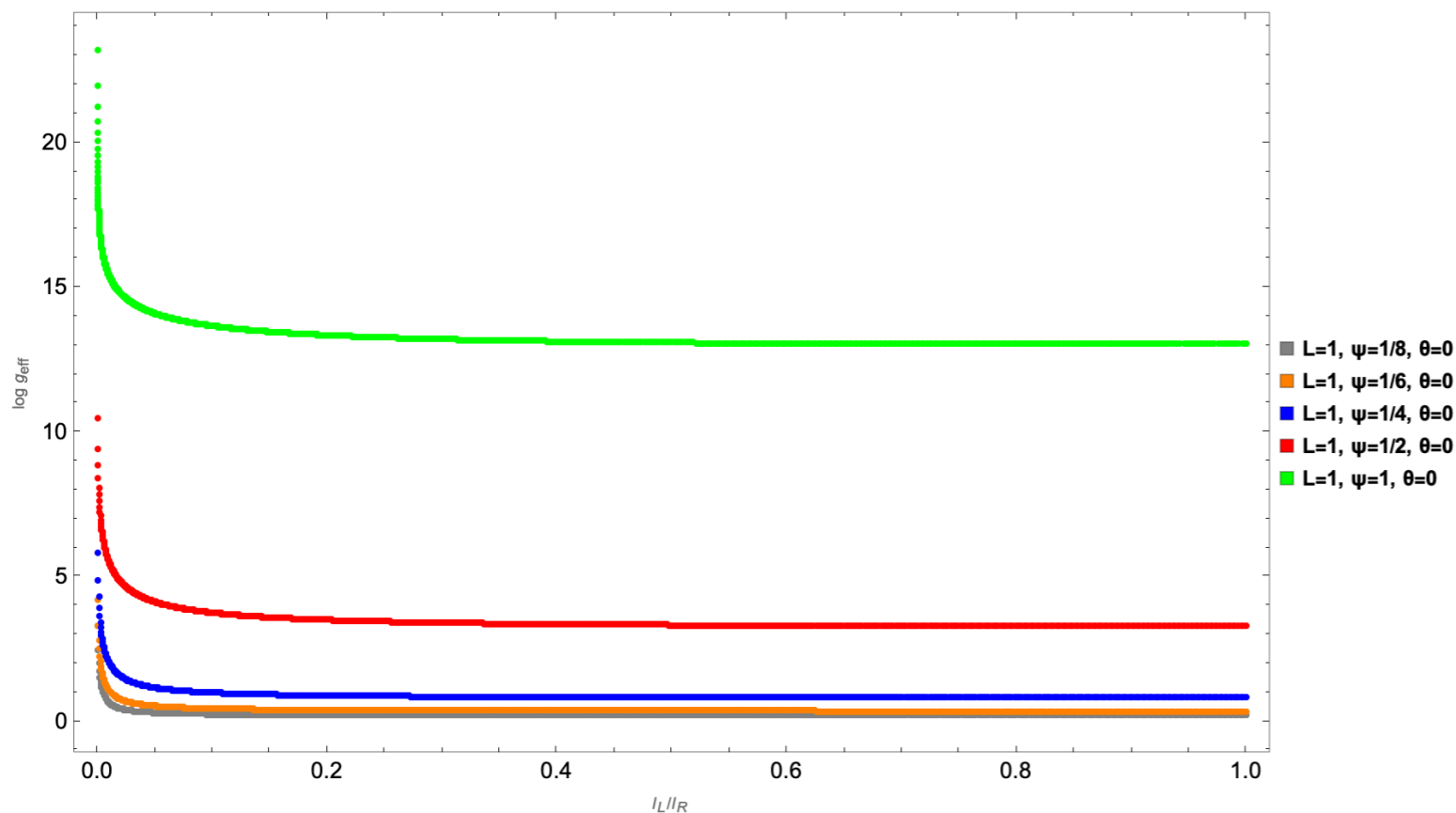
Super-Janus metric

$$ds^2 = R^2 \left( \frac{\cosh^2(r + \psi)}{\cosh^2 \psi \cosh^2 \theta} ds_{AdS_2}^2 + dr^2 \right)$$

$c_s$  takes values in

$$0 \leq c_s \leq e^{A_*} = \frac{1}{\cosh \psi \cosh \theta}$$

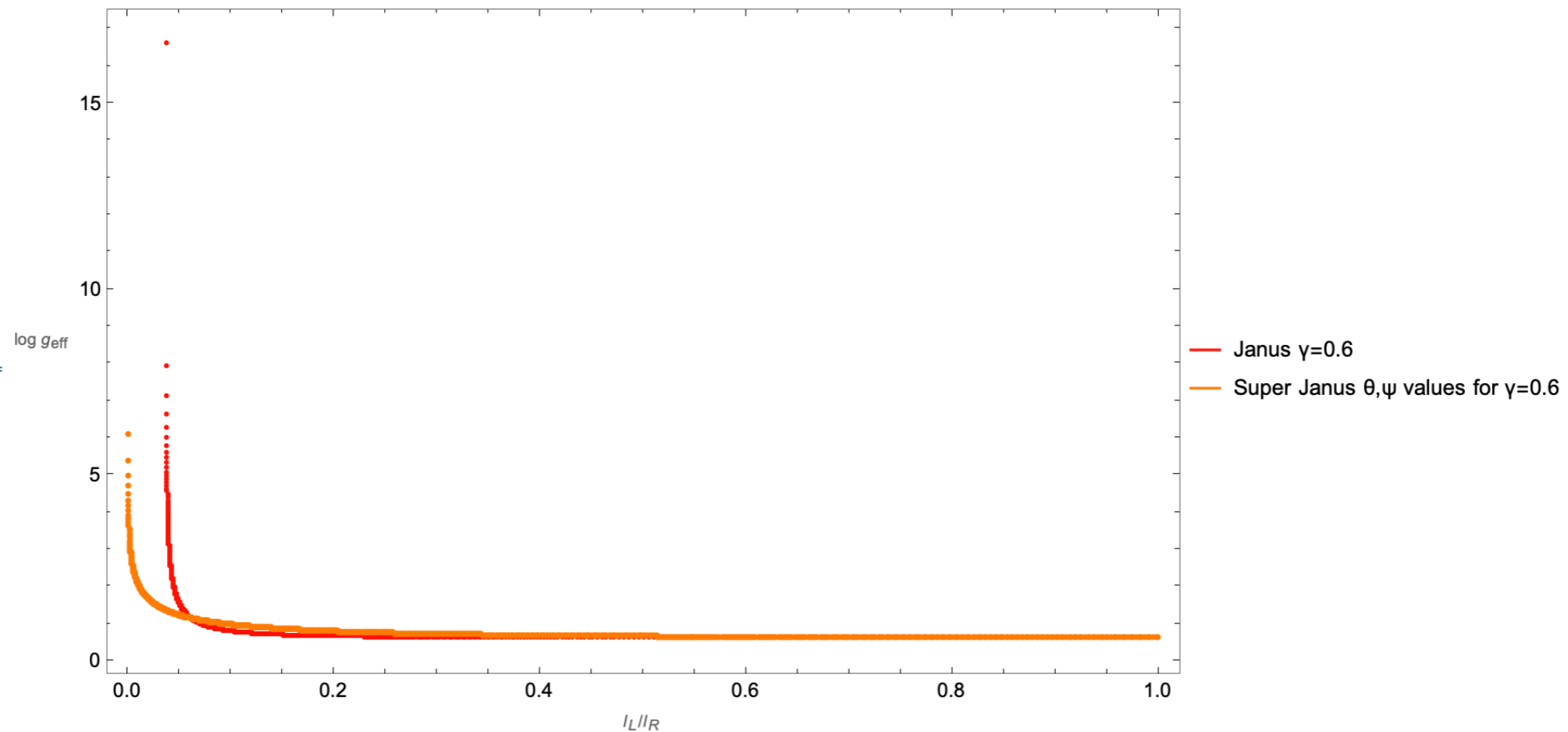
Solve for  $x(r)$ , regularize intergation limits, the boundary entropy function is



- Curves blow at near the maximally asymmetric interval
- Attain the boundary entropy number  $g$  when ratio=1

# Non-universality of $g_{eff}$

Is  $g_{eff}$  universal or not?



$g_{eff}$  is **non-universal**, depends on the details of the underlying theory!

# Contents

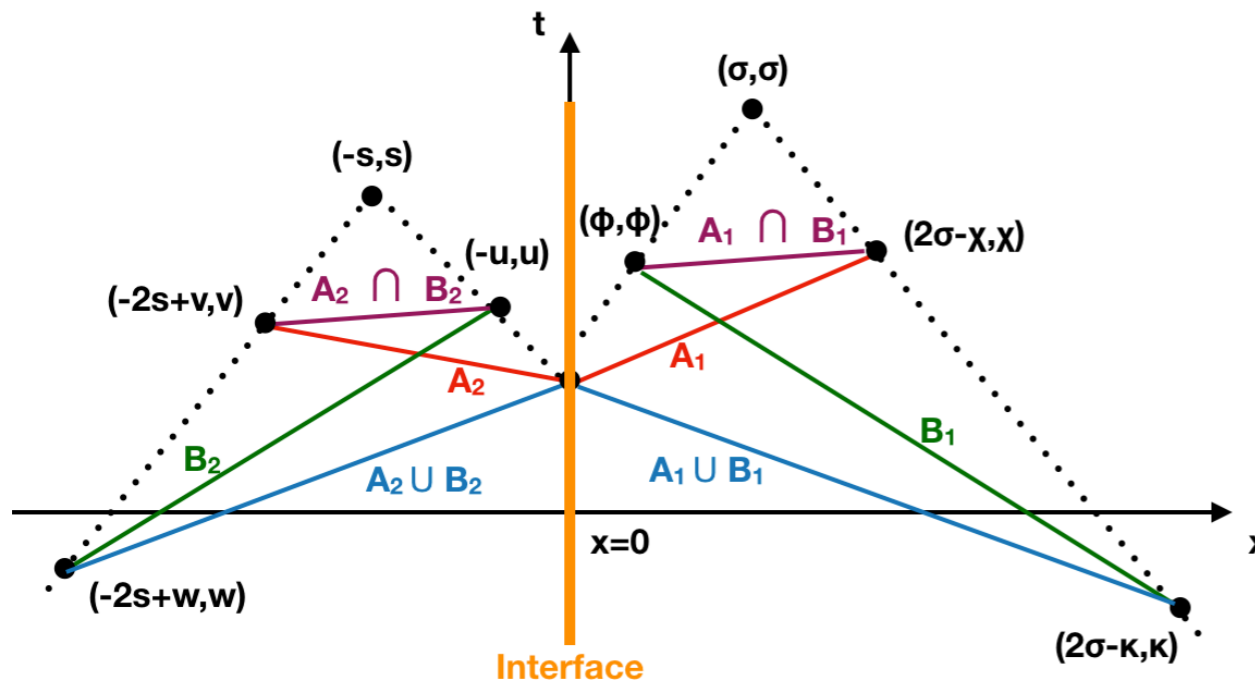
- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem

# Constraints on $g_{\text{eff}}$

Strong subadditivity (SSA) inequality

$$S_A + S_B - S_{A \cap B} - S_{A \cup B} \geq 0$$

Proving entropic  $g_{\text{eff}}$ -theorem from SSA. Consider lightlike limits  $u \rightarrow s$  and  $\phi \rightarrow \sigma$ :



$$S_A = S_{\text{int}}(2\sigma - \chi) + S_{\text{int}}(2s - v),$$

$$S_{A \cup B} = S_{\text{int}}(2\sigma - \kappa) + S_{\text{int}}(2s - w),$$

$$S_B = \frac{c}{3} \log \left[ \frac{16}{\epsilon^4} (\sigma - \phi)(\sigma - \kappa)(s - u)(s - w) \right],$$

$$S_{A \cap B} = \frac{c}{3} \log \left[ \frac{16}{\epsilon^4} (\sigma - \phi)(\sigma - \chi)(s - u)(s - v) \right],$$

$$S_{\text{int}} = \frac{c}{3} \log l/\epsilon + \log g_{\text{eff}}$$

# Constraints on $g_{\text{eff}}$

We take the limit  $v \rightarrow w$  and  $\chi \rightarrow \kappa$  and the SSA takes the form

$$-\eta \frac{dS_{\text{int}}}{d\psi} \Big|_{\psi=2\sigma-\kappa} - \delta \frac{dS_{\text{int}}}{d\xi} \Big|_{\xi=2\sigma-\omega} + \frac{c}{3} \left( \frac{\eta}{\sigma - \kappa} + \frac{\delta}{s - w} \right) \geq 0.$$

where  $\eta$  and  $\delta$  are infinitesimal, positive constants.

Finally, we assume  $w, \kappa < 0$  and  $s$  and  $\sigma$  very small. The SSA gives the tightest bound

$$\eta \frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}}{d\psi} + \delta \frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}}{d\xi} \leq 0.$$

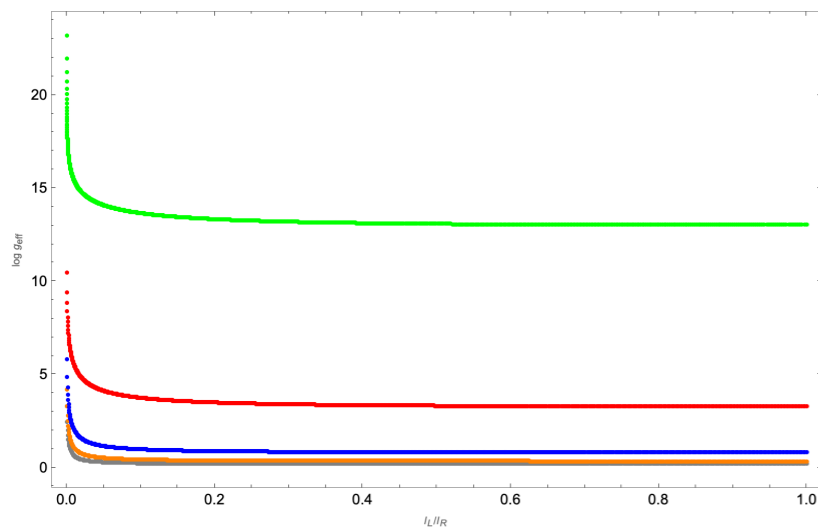


$$\frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}(\rho)}{d\rho} \leq 0$$

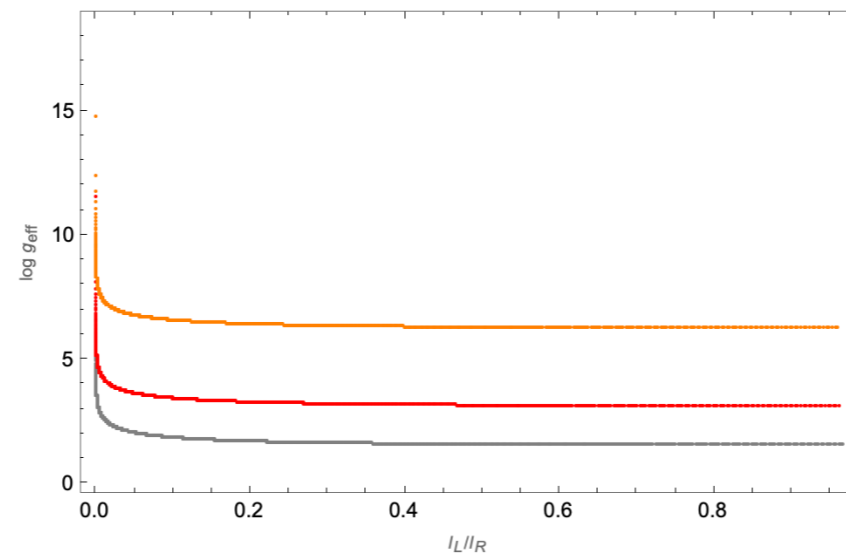
# Constraints on $g_{\text{eff}}$

The monotonicity condition for  $g_{\text{eff}}$ :  $\frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}(\rho)}{d\rho} \leq 0$

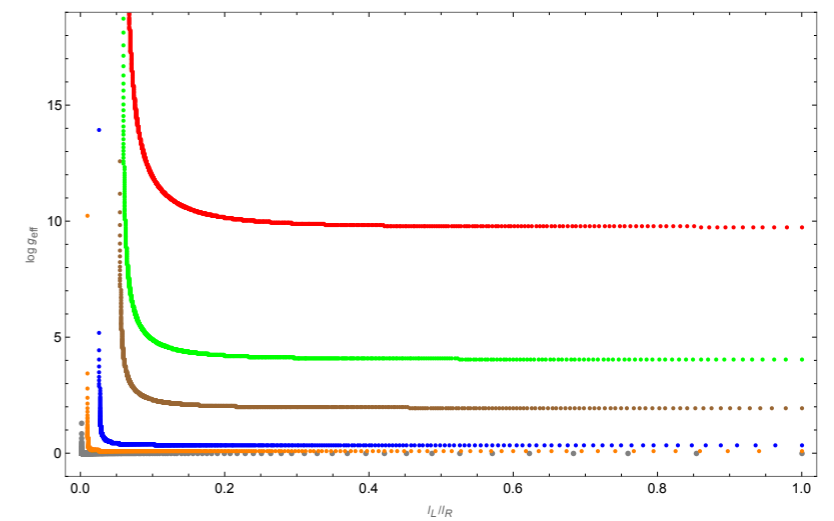
can be confirmed employing holography and in various examples:



Super-Janus



RS braneworlds



Janus

# Contents

- Review of interface conformal field theory (ICFT)
- Holographic setup
  - Non-universality of  $g_{eff}$
- Constraints on  $g_{eff}$ 
  - Holographic proof of  $g_{eff}$ -theorem



# Holographic proof of $g_{\text{eff}}$ -theorem

Compact form of  $g_{\text{eff}}$

$$\log g_{\text{eff}}(c_s) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{1}{4G_N} \int_{-r_c^-}^{r_c^+} \frac{e^A}{\sqrt{e^{2A} - c_s^2}} dr - \log \left( \frac{2l_L}{\epsilon} \right) - \log \left( \frac{2l_R}{\epsilon} \right) \right]$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}}{dc_s} = \frac{1}{4G_N} \int_{-r_c^-}^{r_c^+} \frac{c_s e^A}{(e^{2A} - c_s^2)^{3/2}} dr \geq 0$$

Scale symmetry

$$\frac{x'}{x} = \pm \frac{c_s e^{-A}}{\sqrt{e^{2A} - c_s^2}} \longrightarrow \frac{l_L}{l_R} = \exp \left( - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{c_s e^{-A}}{\sqrt{e^{2A} - c_s^2}} dr \right)$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{d(l_L/l_R)}{dc_s} = - \frac{e^A e^{-\frac{c_s e^{-A}}{\sqrt{e^{2A} - c_s^2}}}}{(e^{2A} - c_s^2)^{3/2}} < 0 \longrightarrow \frac{d \log g_{\text{eff}}}{d(l_L/l_R)} \leq 0$$

# Things I find interesting

- Provide a c-theorem for the effective central charge
- Understand the replica trick for asymmetric intervals around the interface
- Higher dimensions?

Thank you very much !