

# BLACK HOLE INTERIORS AND THE NATURE OF TIME

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## Question 1:

What does the interior of a black hole look like?

## Question 2:

What is the nature of time measured by an observer?

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In Quantum Gravity



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In Quantum Gravity: Entire Universe is a Quantum System



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Seeing inside black holes is version of the information puzzle!



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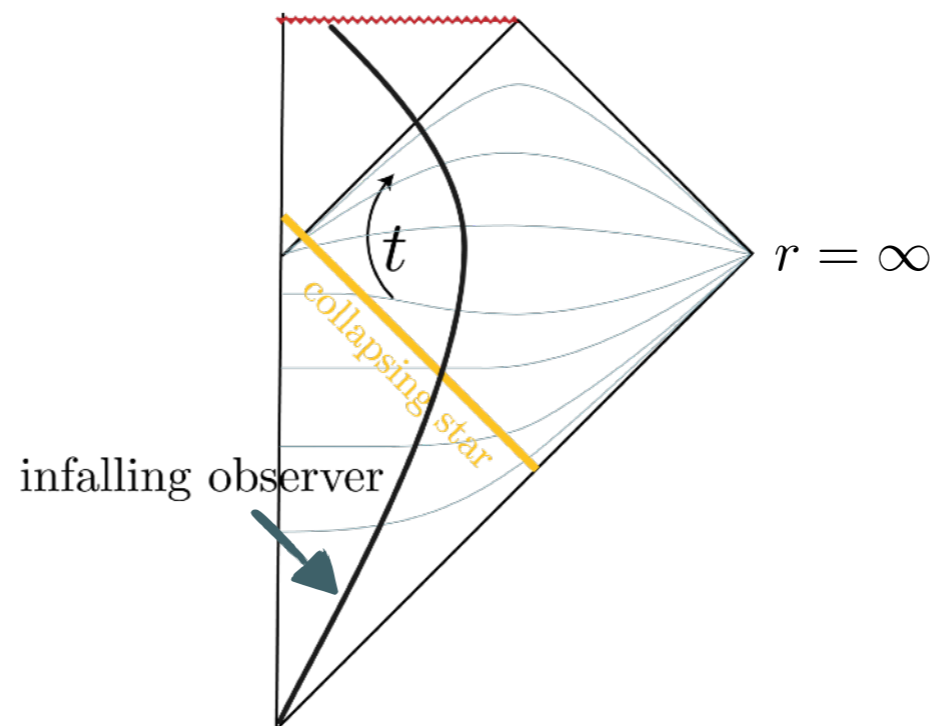


Any observer is a **subsystem** of the Universe

Time experienced by observers is “emergent”!

## My contribution:

- (a) How to select a subsystem as a frame of reference.
- (b) Understand how to evolve the Universe **relative** to it.
- (c) Follow an infalling observer into a black hole!



Address a version of the black hole information problem!

# Bring “relativity” back into (quantum) gravity

Quantum theory



Fixed reference frame

One preferred Hamiltonian

General Relativity



Observer “democracy”

All times on equal footing



# General Theory of Relativity

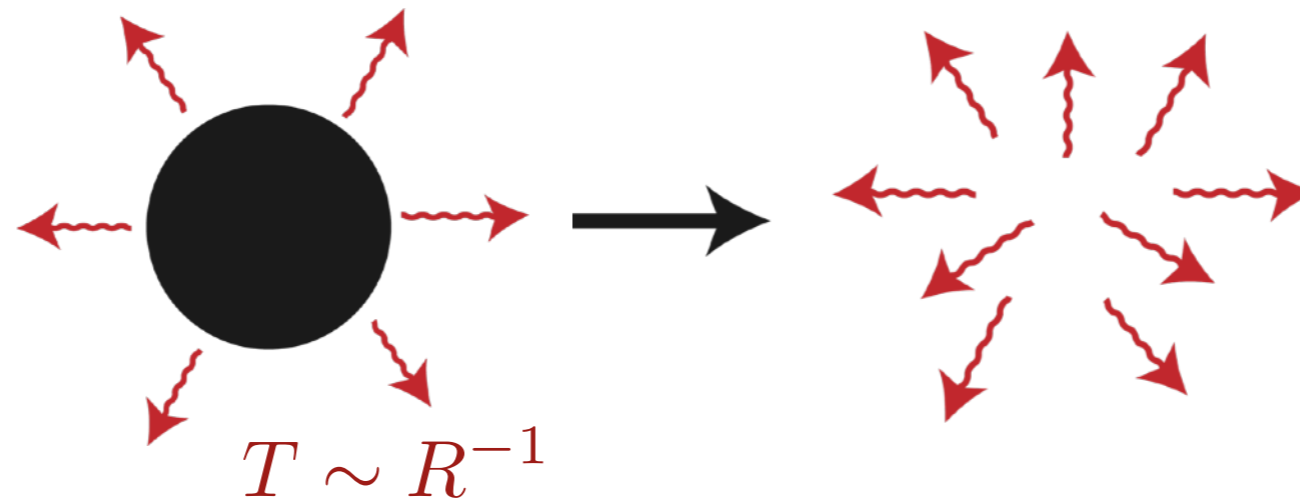


- Black hole horizon:**
- (1) Point of no return!
  - (2) Otherwise not a special place
- i.e. black holes have smooth interiors

# General Theory of Relativity + Quantum mechanics



Slowly leak out energy and information  
(Hawking radiation)

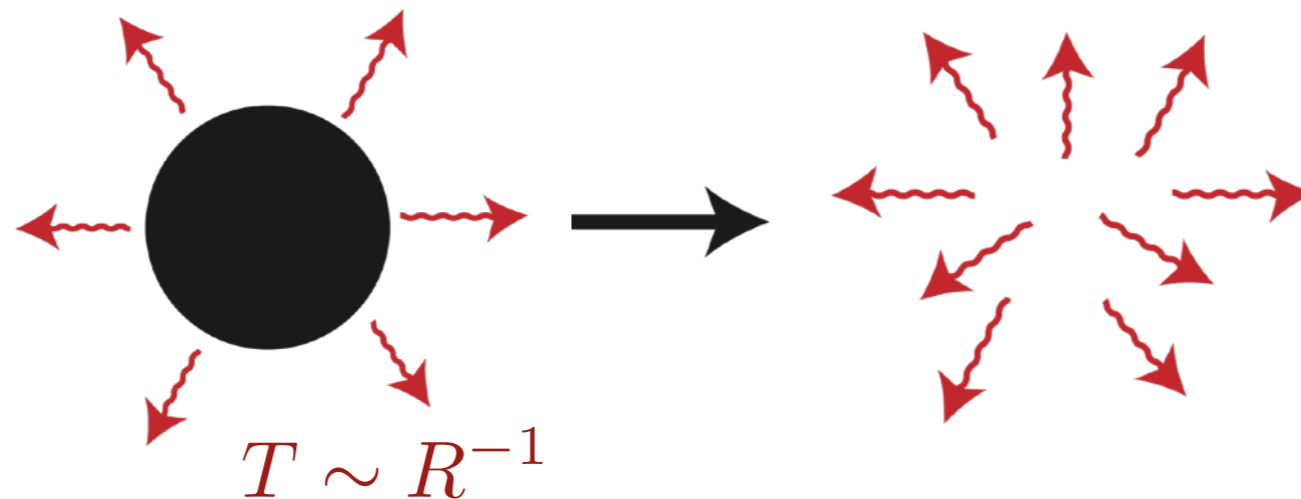


General Theory of Relativity

+ Quantum mechanics



Slowly leak out energy and information  
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Information Puzzle:

Reversibility of  
evaporation



existence of a  
smooth interior

To resolve information problem:

- 1) Find a quantum description of a Universe with black holes
- 2) Perform a measurement in the interior  
e.g. local energy density (diagnose smoothness)

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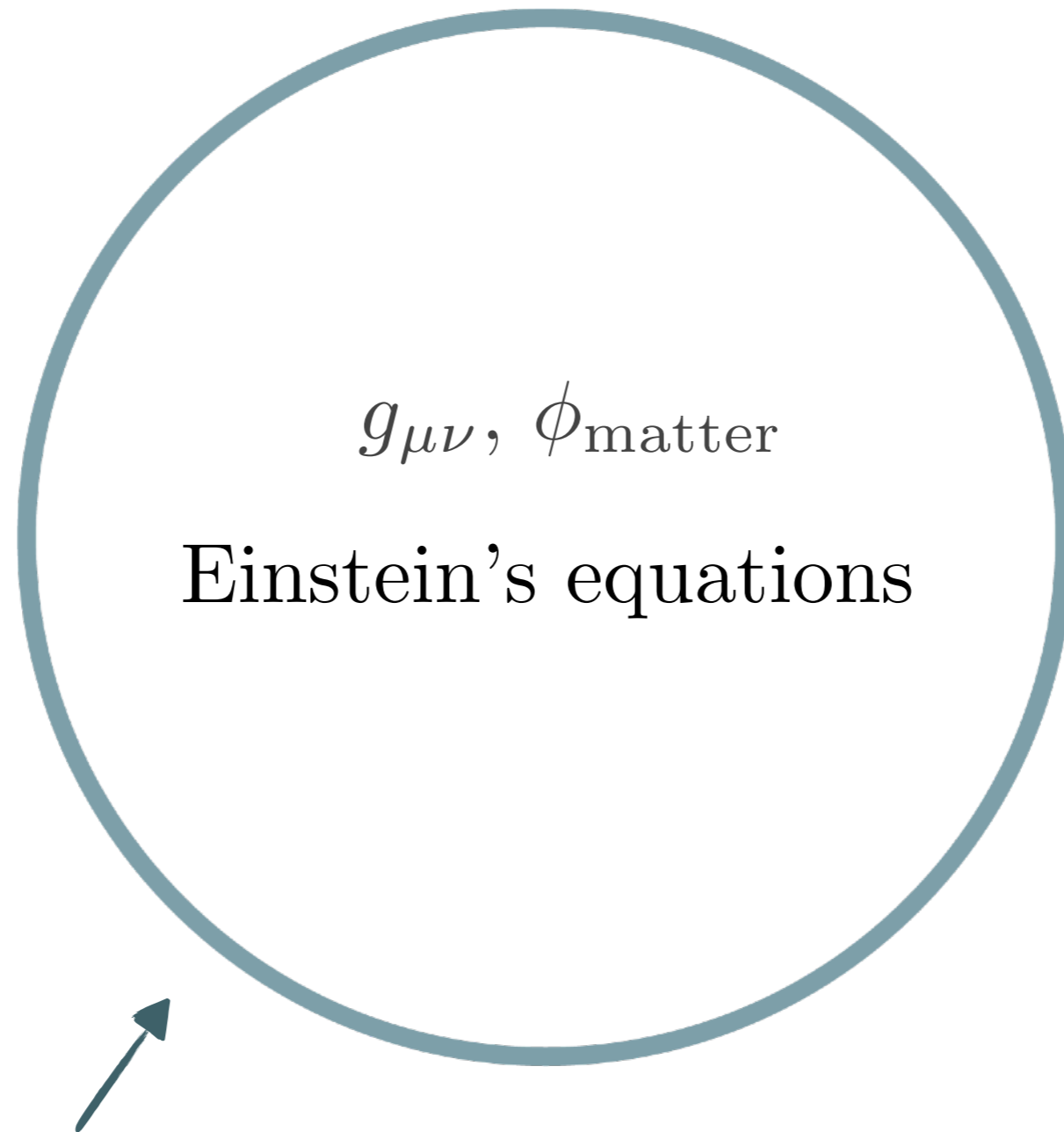
- 1) Find a quantum description of a Universe with black holes
- 2) Understand evolution in the reference frame of an infalling observer
- 3) Perform a measurement in the interior  
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Step 1:

A Quantum Universe



# A Universe in a Box



Reflective boundary conditions

# Asymptotically Anti-de Sitter space

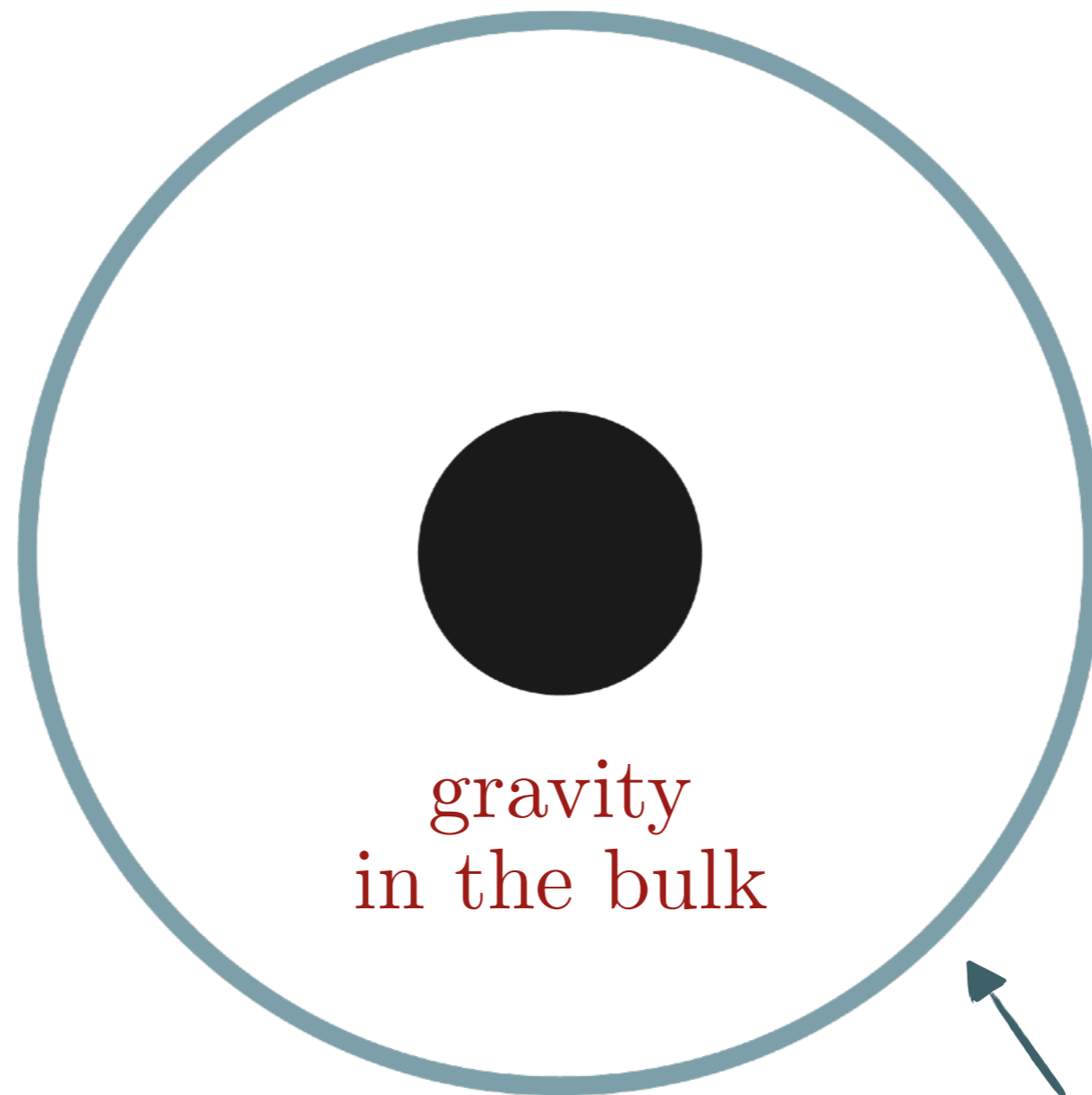


$g_{\mu\nu}, \phi_{\text{matter}}$

Einstein's equations

Cosmological Constant  $< 0$

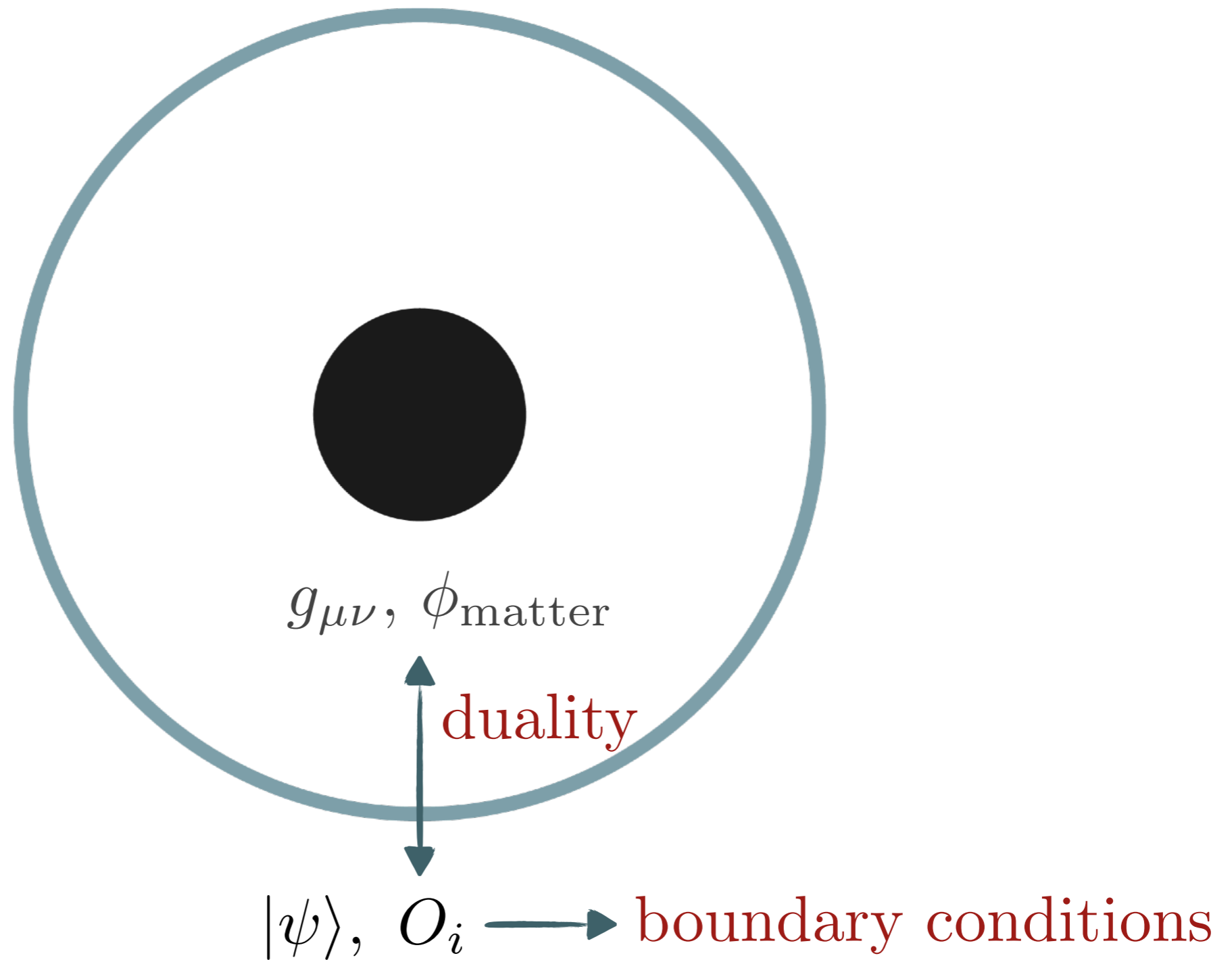
Black hole in  
Asymptotically Anti-de Sitter space



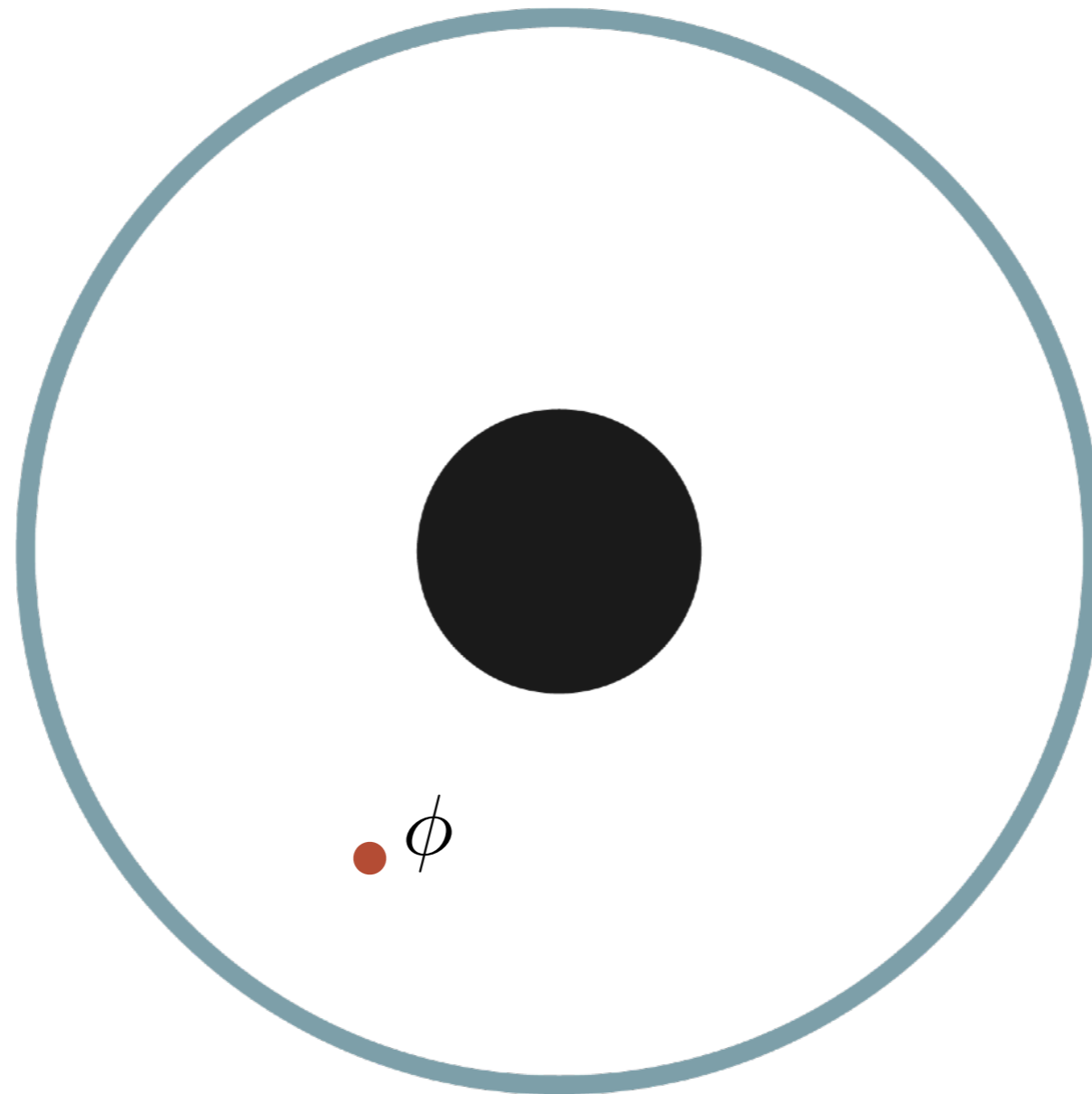
gravity  
in the bulk

Quantum Field Theory  
on the boundary

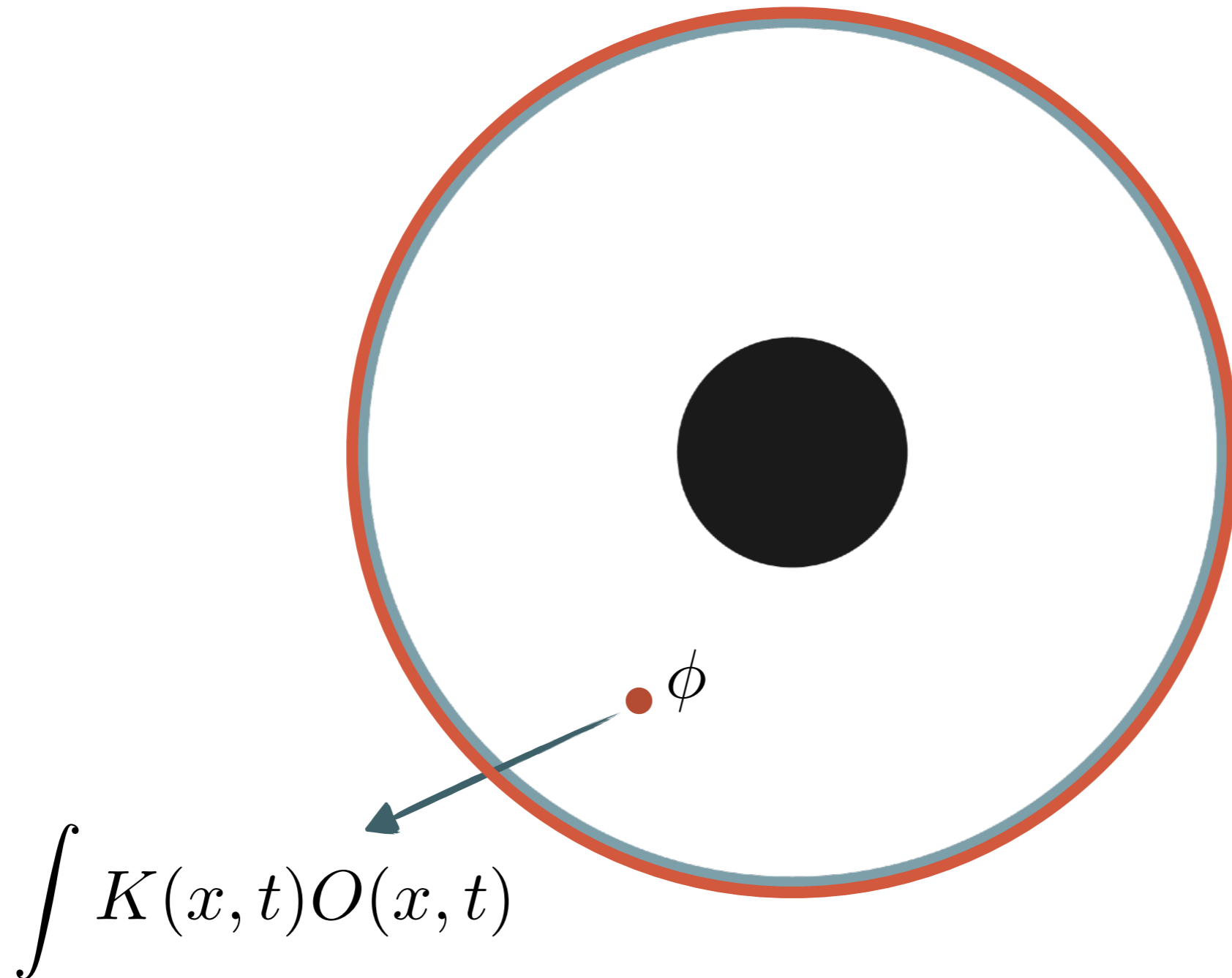
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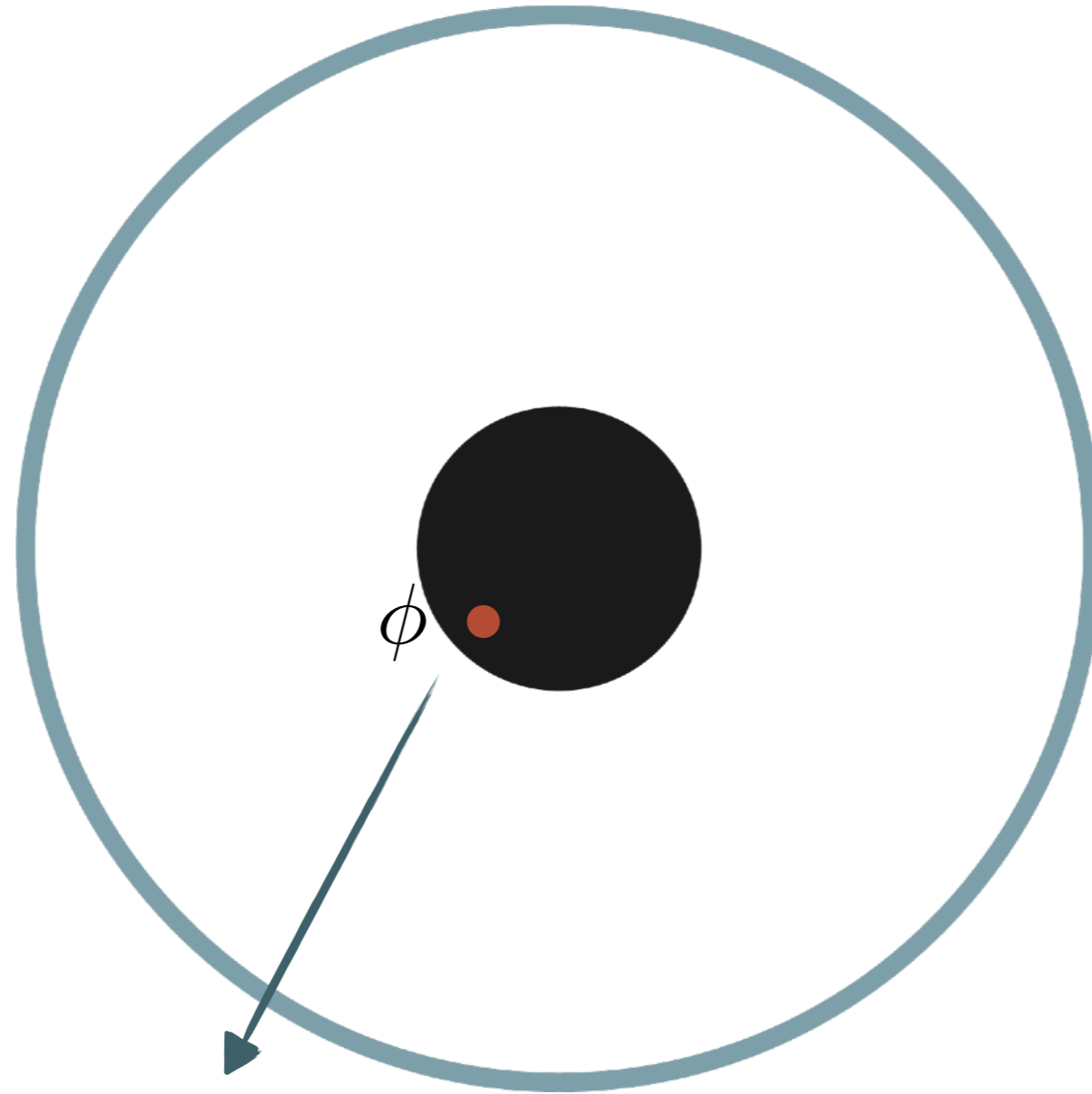


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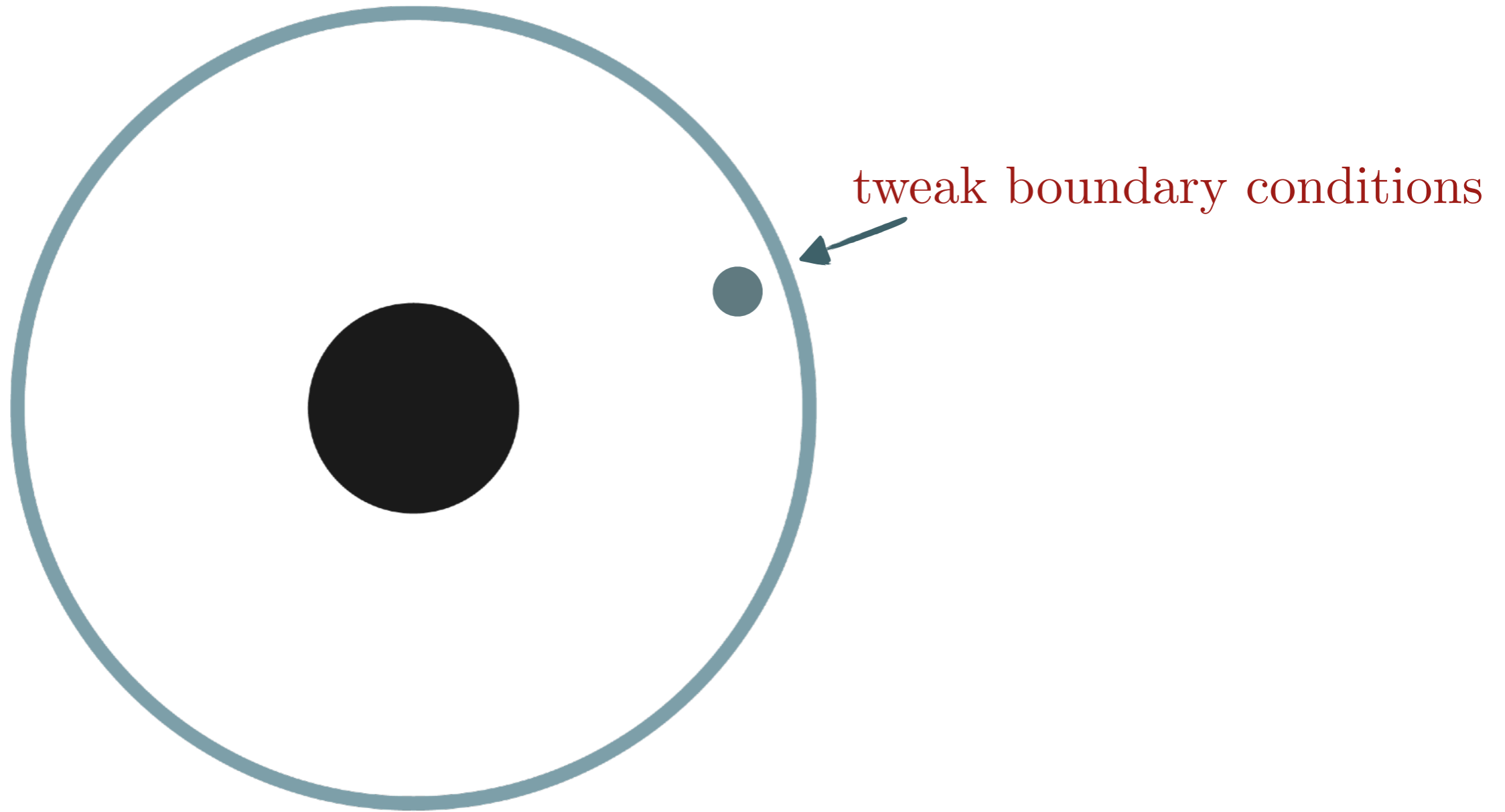


??

## Step 2:

Jumping inside the black hole  
and the problem of time

Introduce a probe observer



# The “Observer”

- 1) Localized probe
- 2) Sufficiently large number of microstates
- 3) In local thermal equilibrium

# Our proposal

Entire AdS Universe with probe  $\longrightarrow$  dual quantum state  $|\psi\rangle$

State of the Universe *relative* to the probe  $\longrightarrow$   $\rho$

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Entire AdS Universe with probe  $\longrightarrow$  dual quantum state  $|\psi\rangle$

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*Proper time flow*  $\longrightarrow$   $\rho^{i\tau}$  (a) near the probe

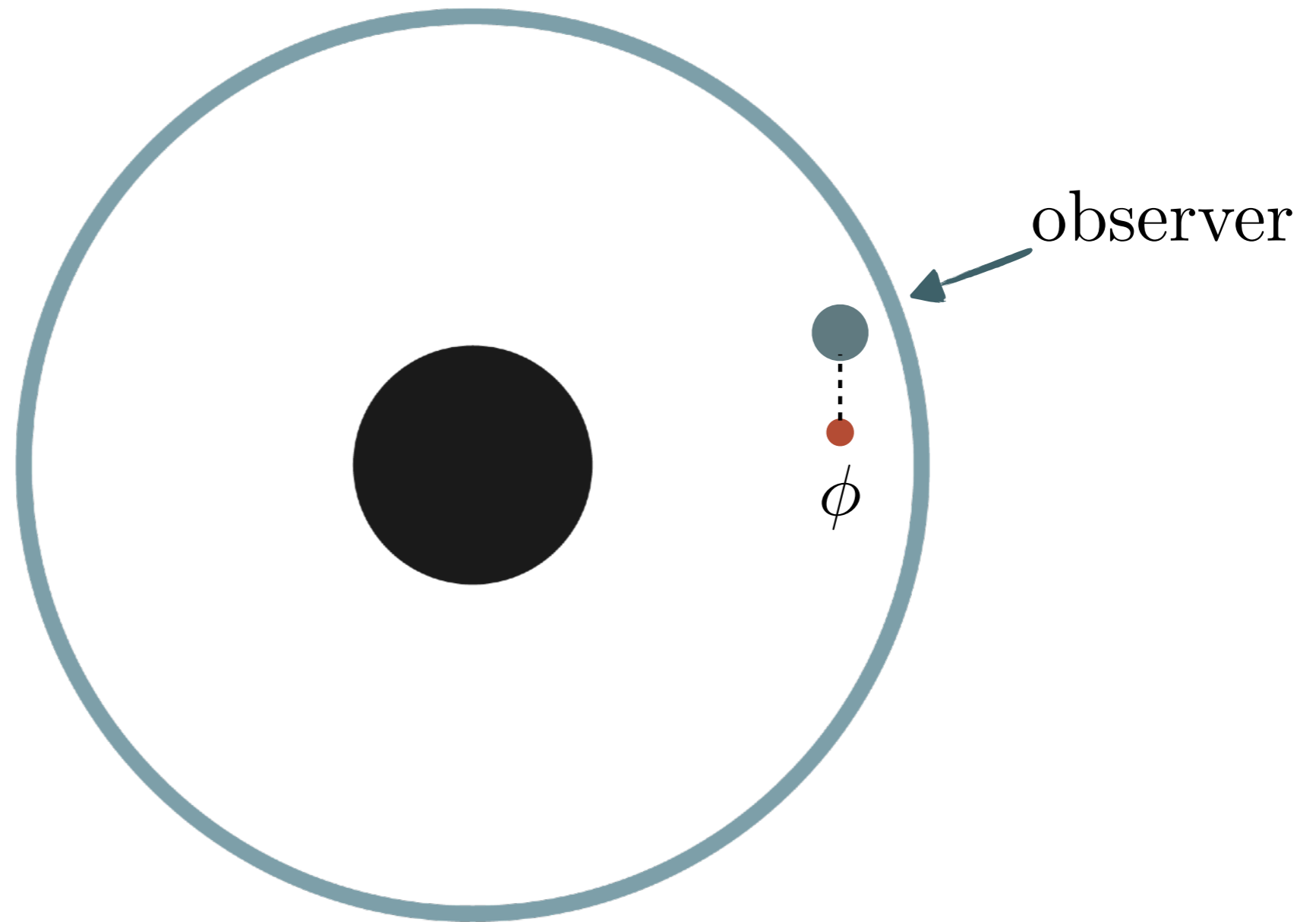
D.L. Jafferis, L.L. 2020

(b) in special states

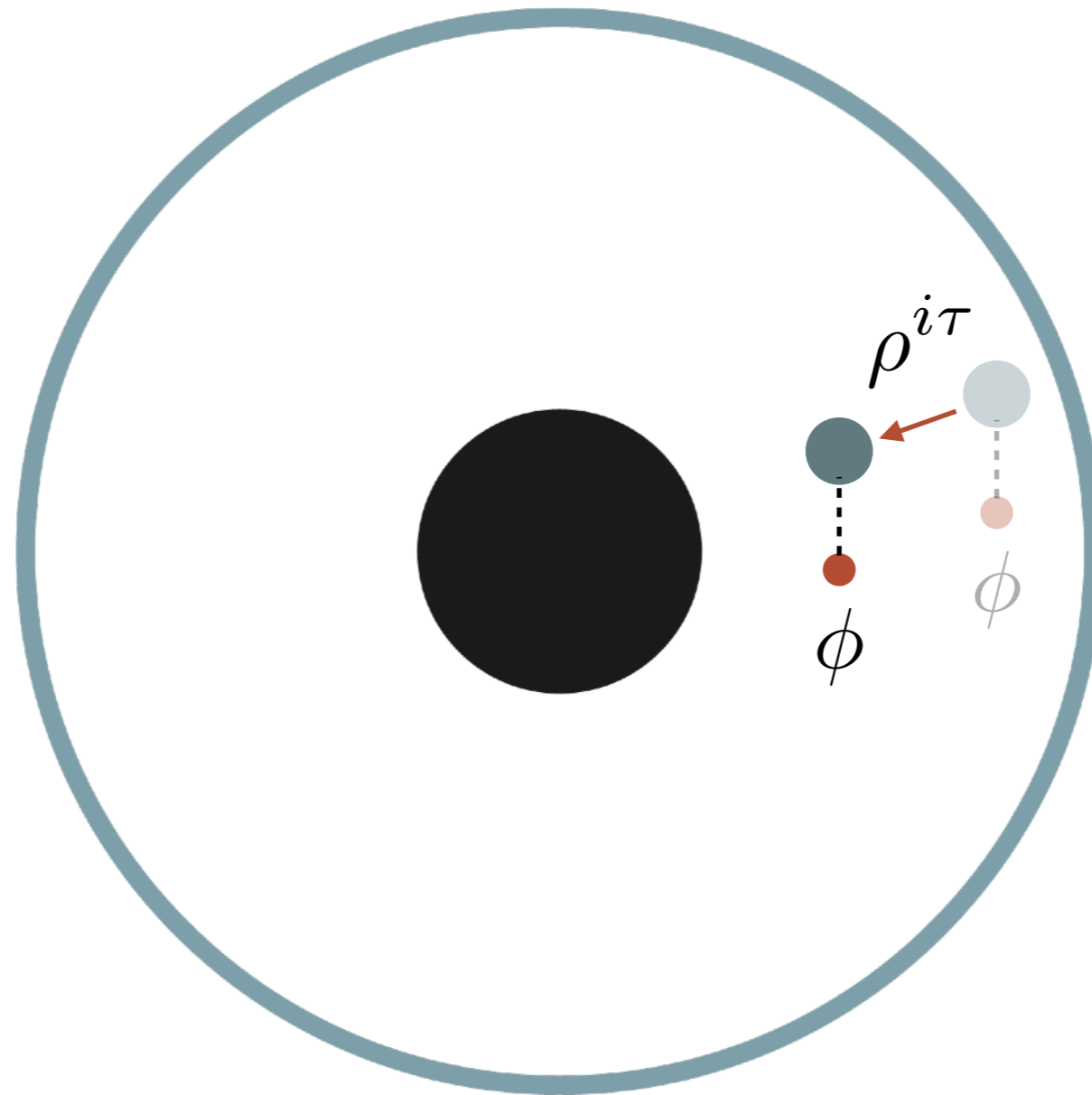
J. de Boer, D.L. Jafferis, L.L. 2021  
*to appear*



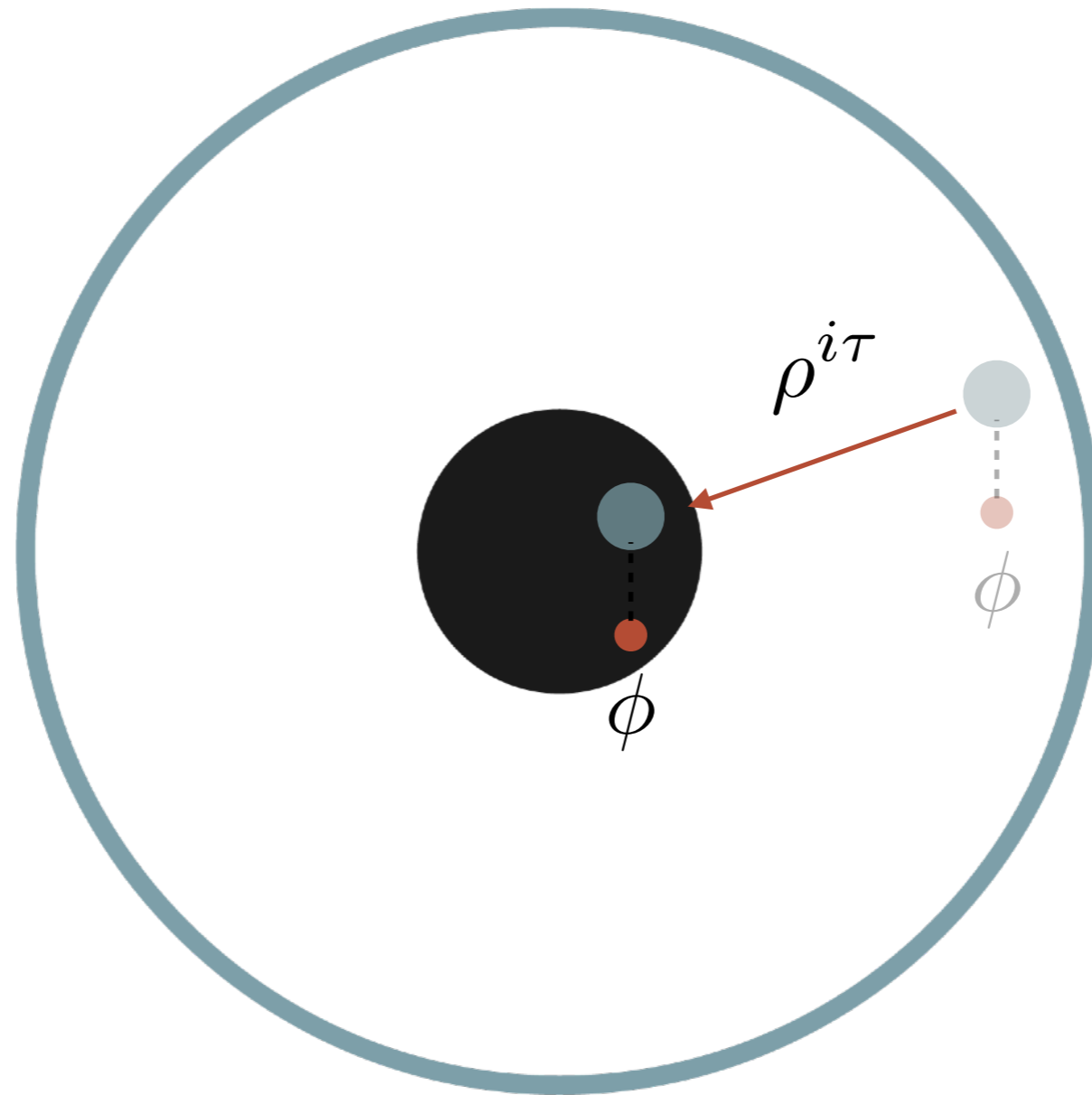
Modular time = Proper time



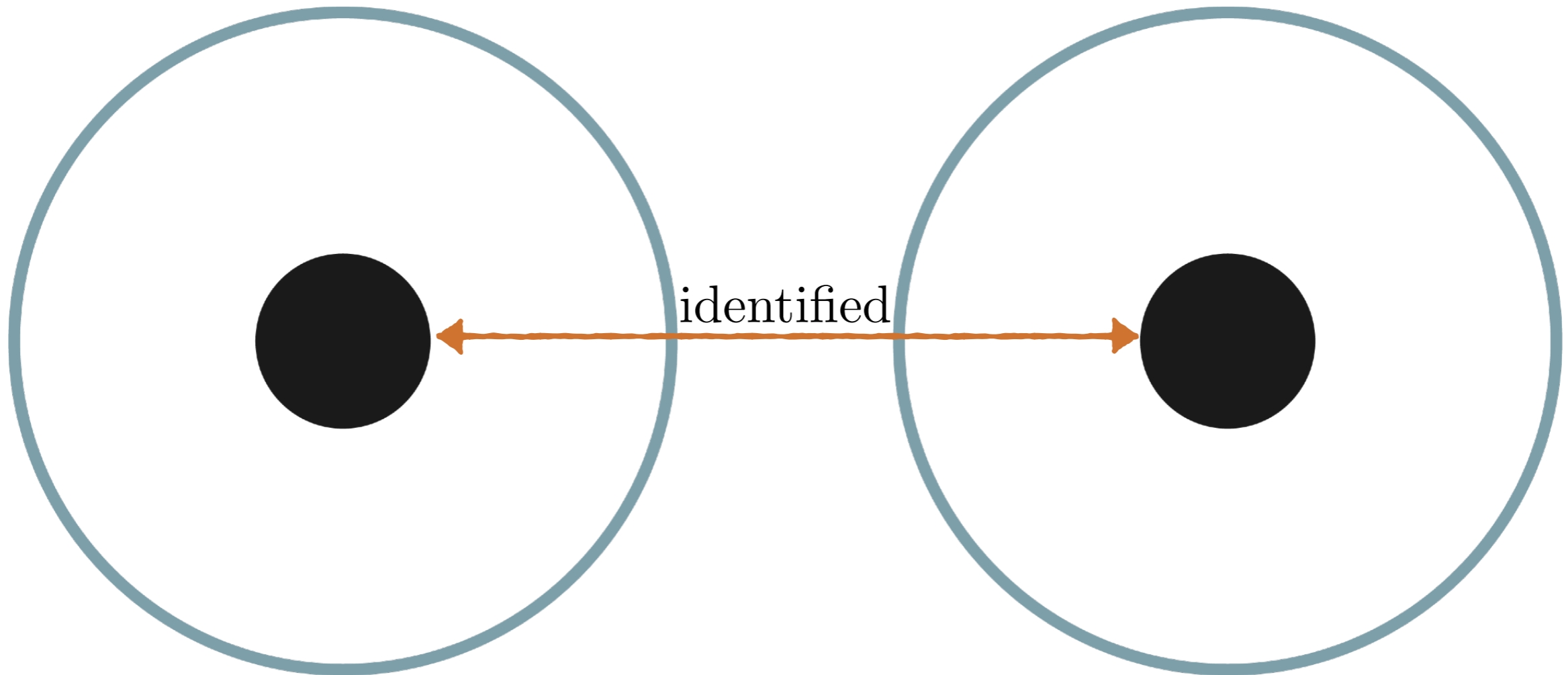
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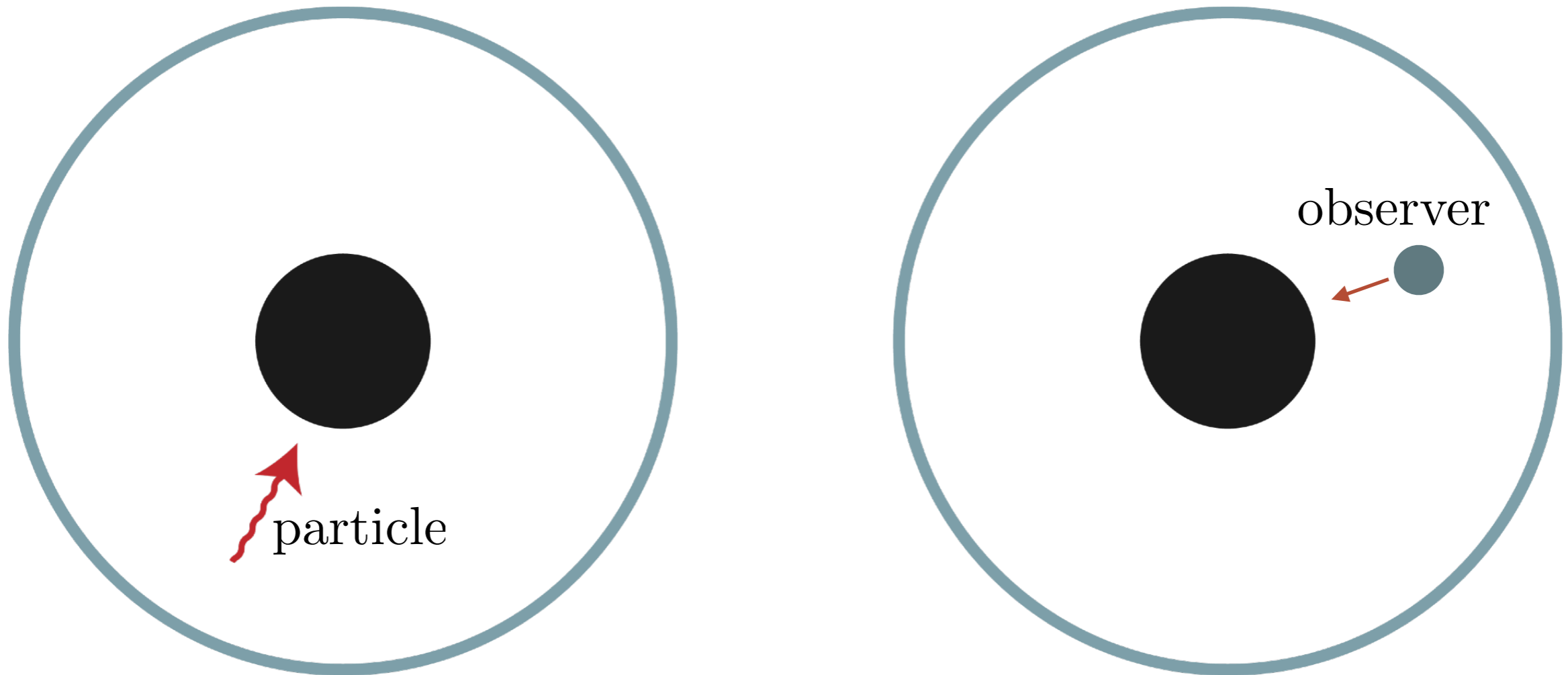


We can see behind “wormhole” horizons!



Einstein-Rosen bridge

We can see behind “wormhole” horizons!



We can detect left signals with observer entering from the right!

# SYK/AdS<sub>2</sub>

Jackiw-Teitelboim

dilaton gravity in AdS<sub>2</sub>

$$I_{JT} = \int dx^2 \sqrt{g} \Phi (R + 2) + I_{\partial B}$$

Pair of SYK models

$$H = H_l + H_r$$

$$H_{l,r} = i^{q/2} \sum_{j_1 \dots j_q} J_{j_1 \dots j_q}^{l,r} \psi_{l,r}^{j_1} \dots \psi_{l,r}^{j_q}$$

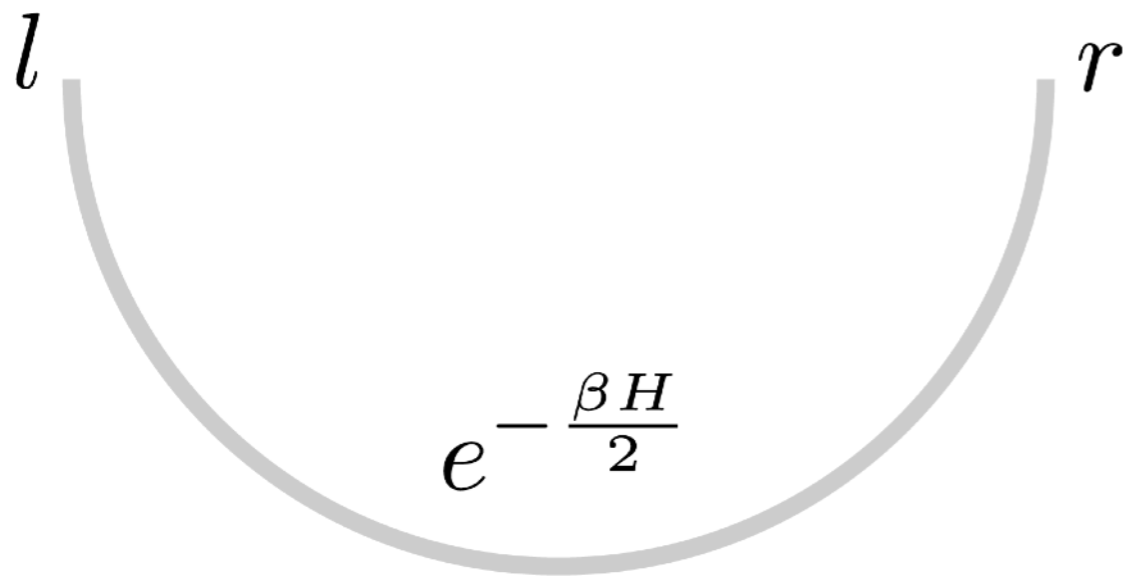
$$\{\psi_a^j, \psi_b^k\} = \delta_{ab} \delta^{jk}$$

$j, k = 1, \dots, N$  flavors

$a, b = \text{left, right}$

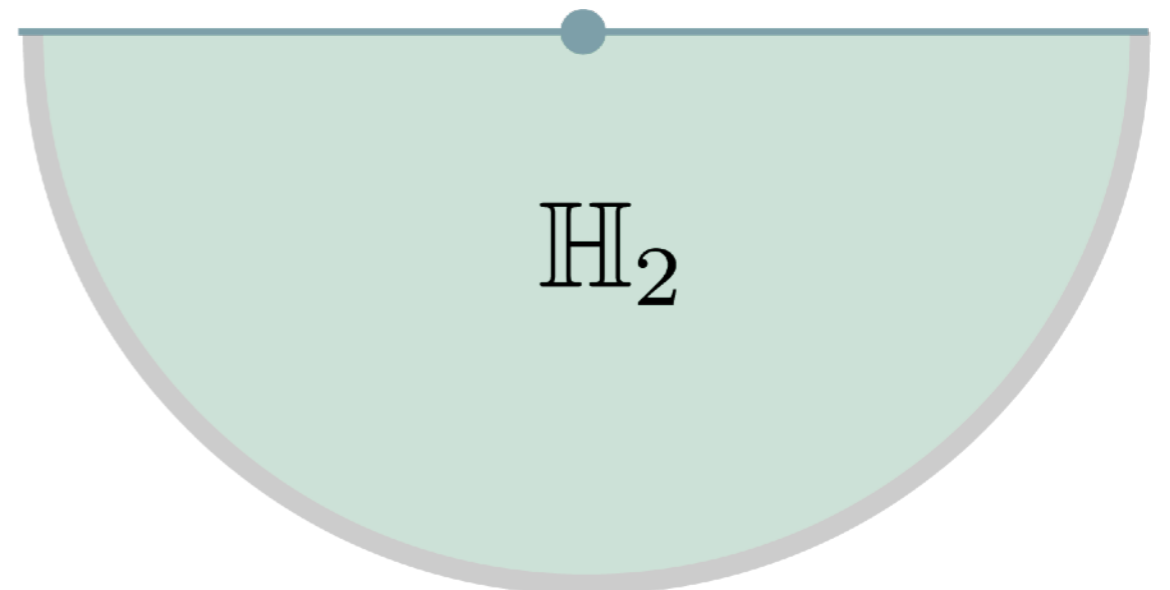
# SYK/AdS<sub>2</sub>

Thermofield double



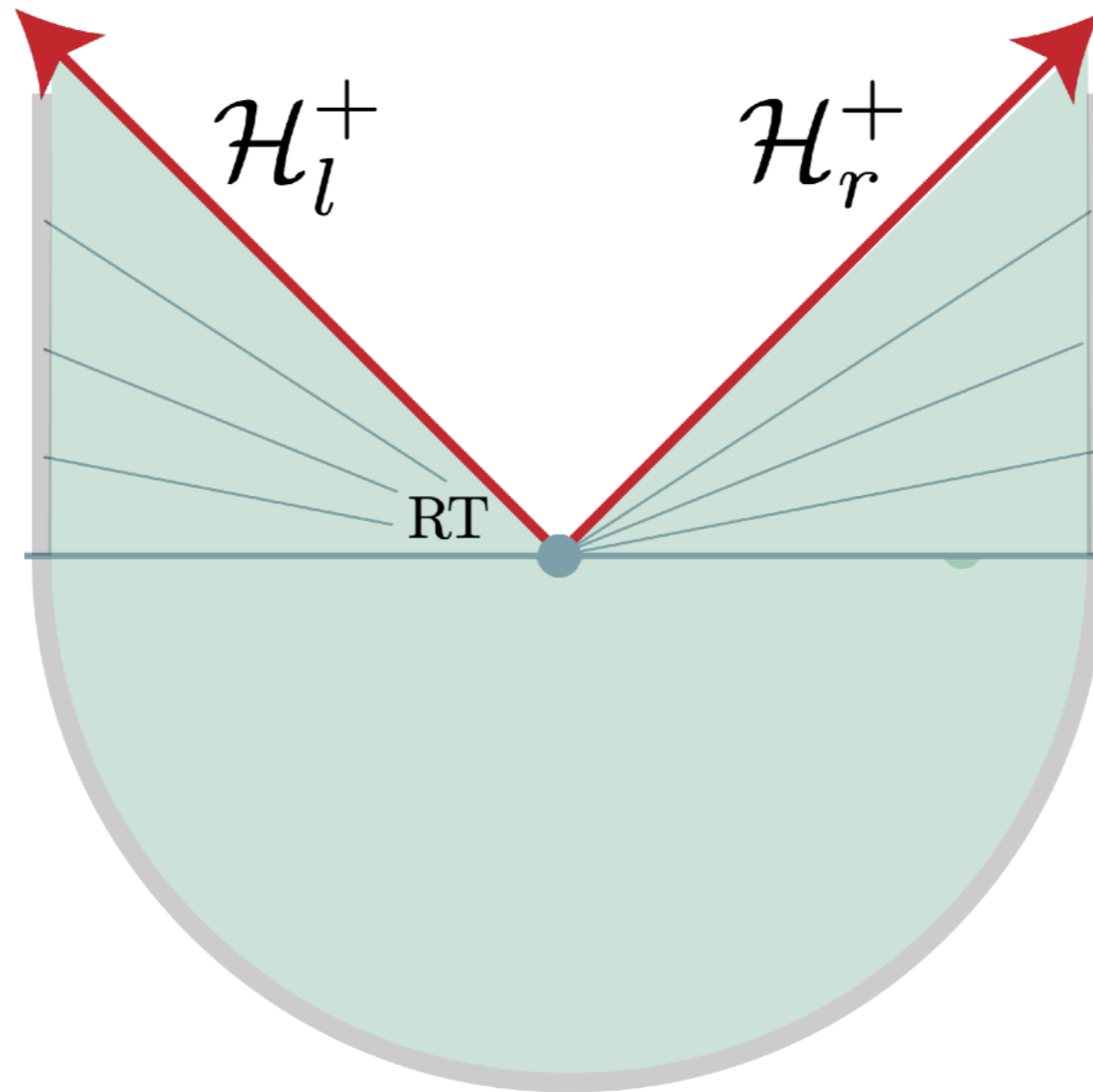
$$\begin{aligned} |\beta\rangle_{lr} &\equiv \mathcal{Z}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_a e^{-\frac{\beta E_a}{2}} |E_a\rangle_r |E_a\rangle_l \\ &= e^{-\frac{\beta}{2} H_r} |\text{max}\rangle_{lr} \end{aligned}$$

Hartle-Hawking



$$\beta/2$$

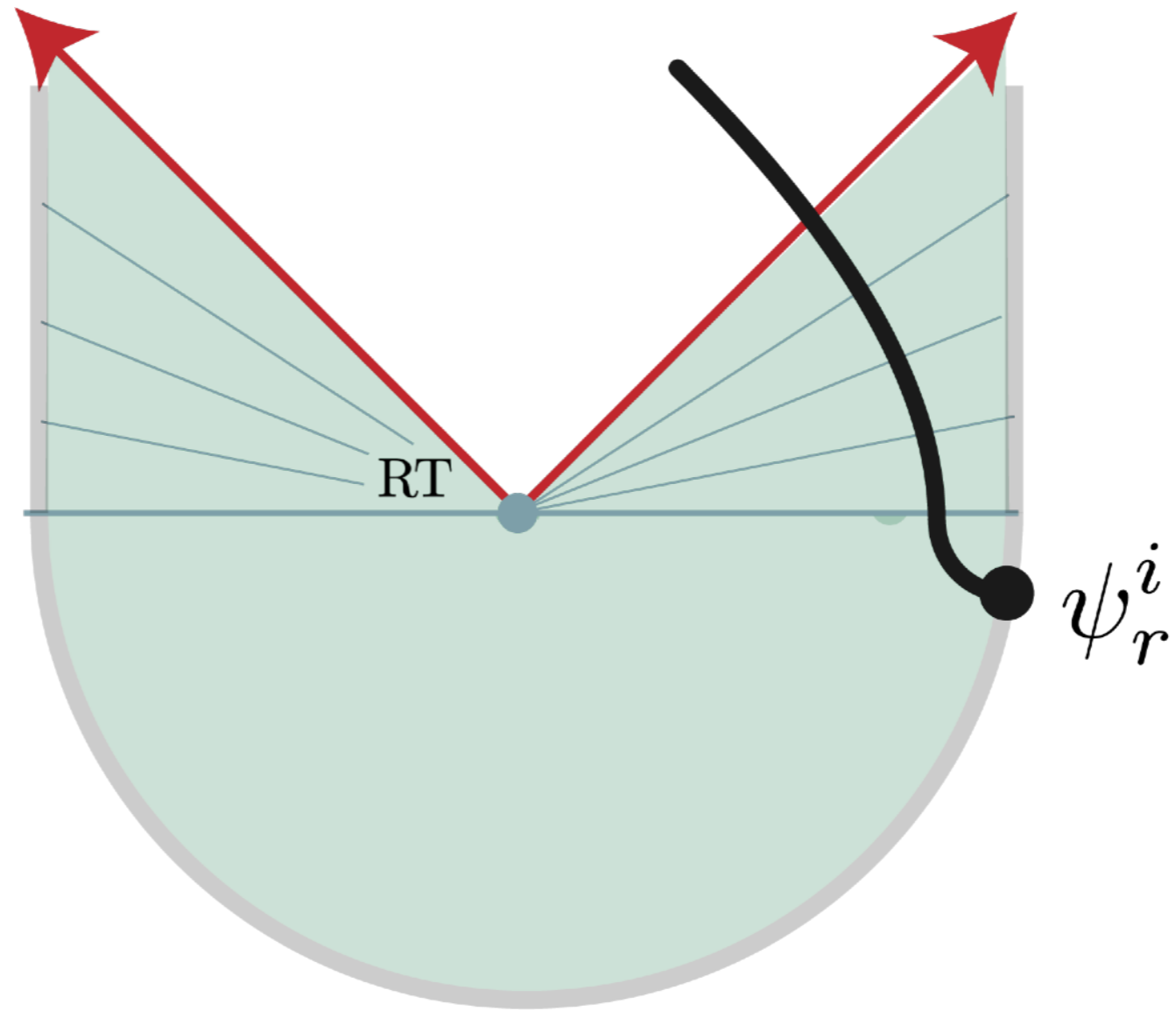
# 2-sided AdS<sub>2</sub> wormhole



$$|\beta\rangle_{lr} = e^{-\frac{\beta}{2} H_r} |\text{max}\rangle_{lr}$$

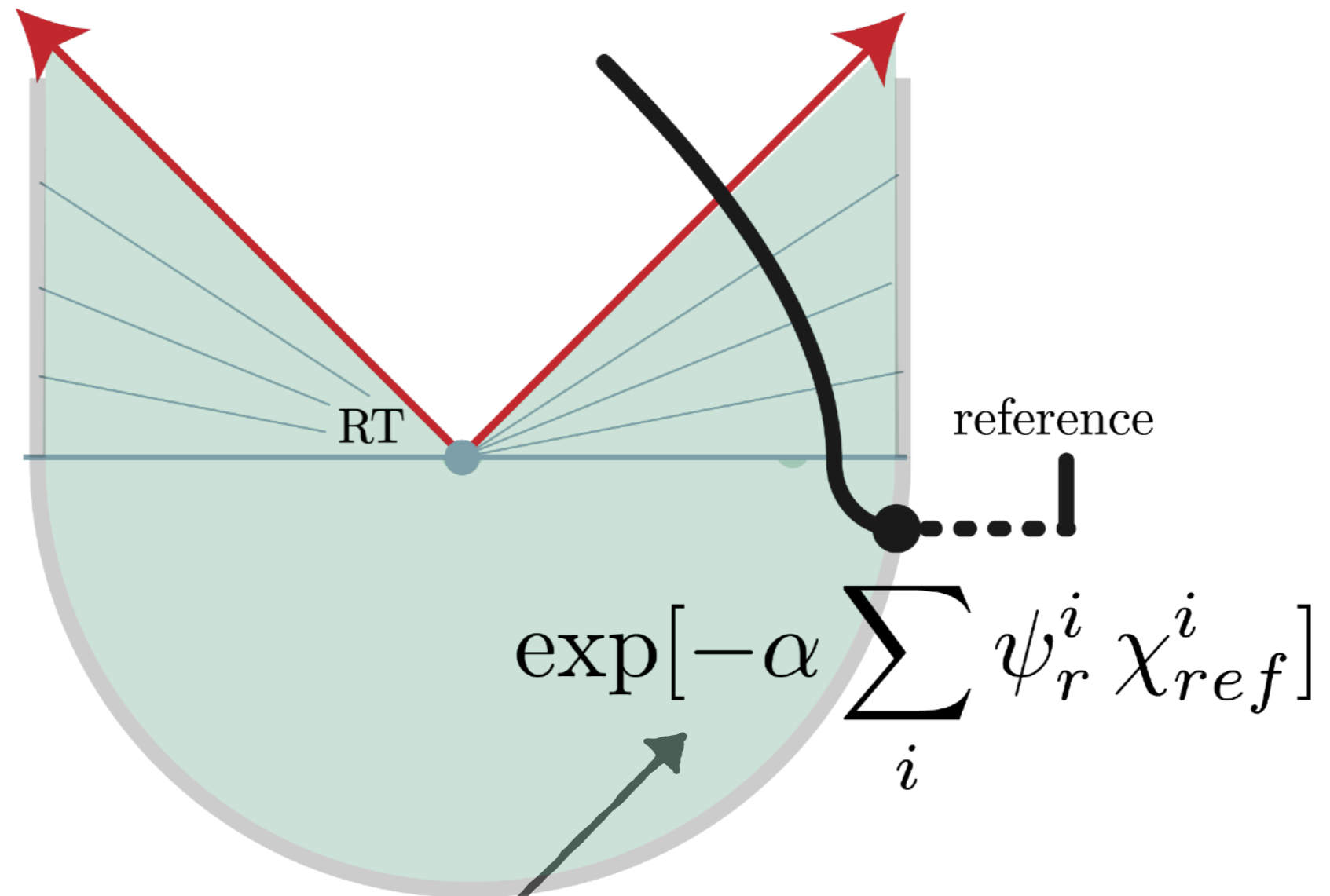


# Inserting a particle



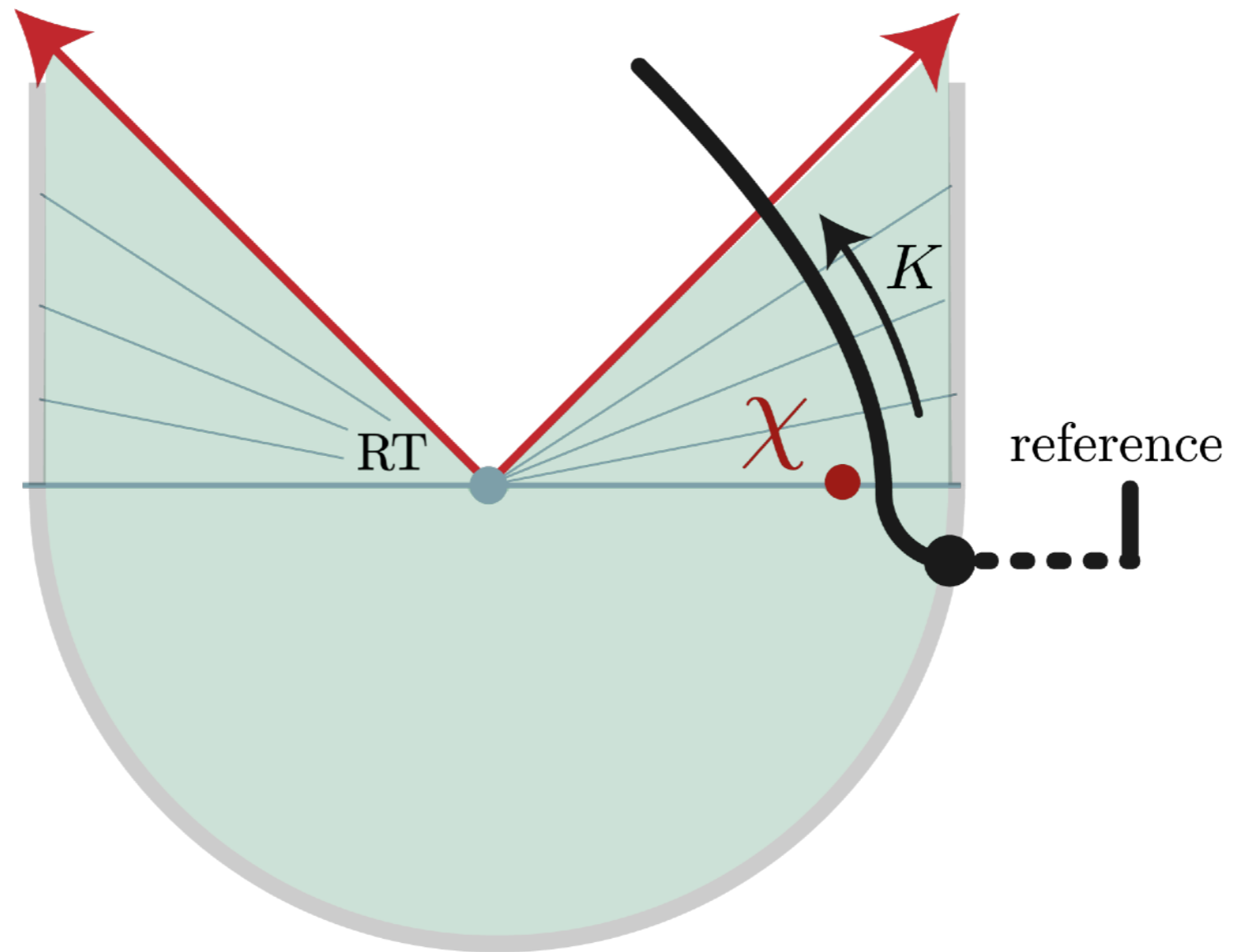
$$e^{-\frac{\beta_l}{2} H_r} \psi_r^i e^{-\frac{\beta_r}{2} H_r} |\text{max}\rangle_{rl}$$

# Inserting an observer

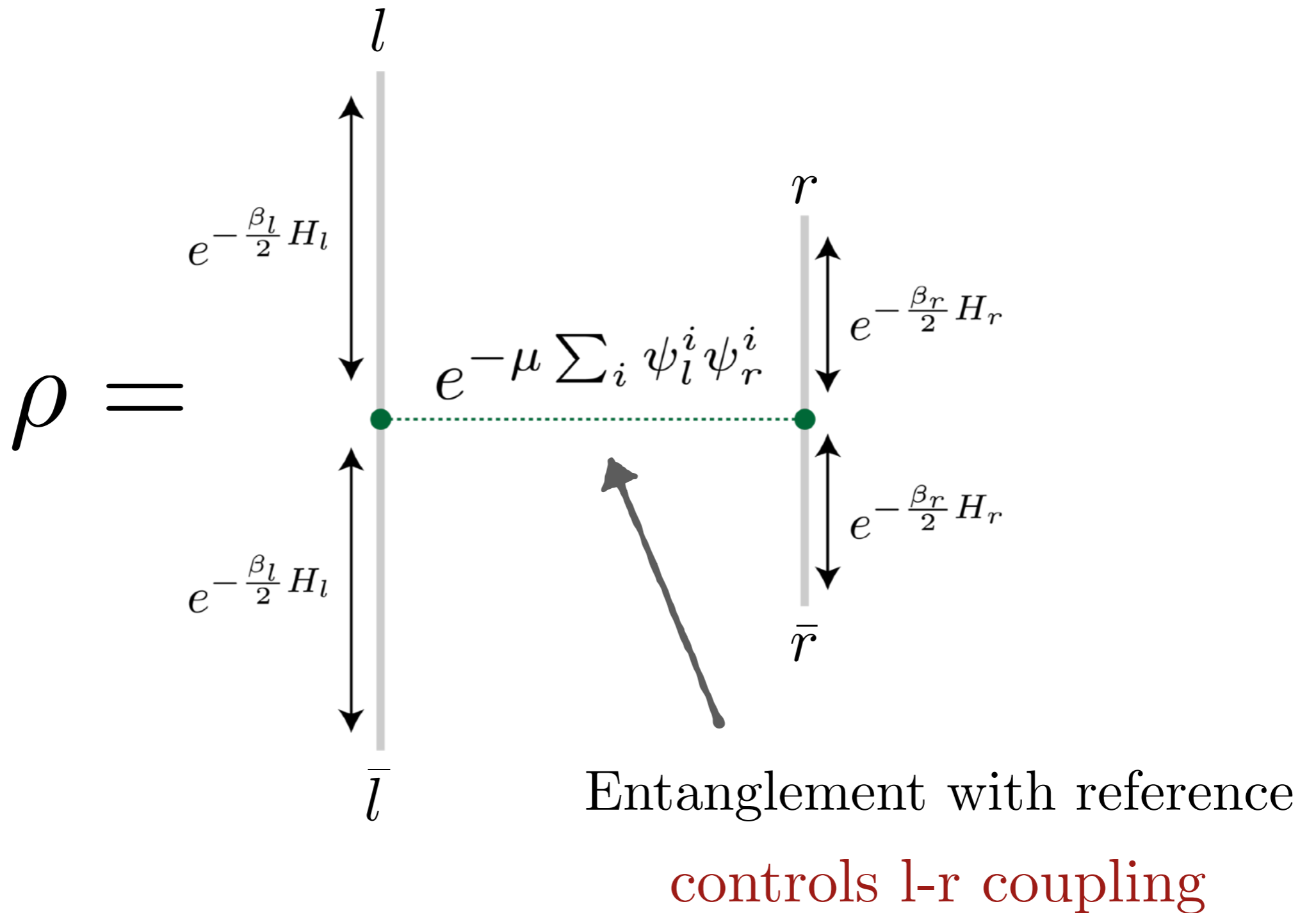


$$e^{-\frac{\beta_l}{2} H_r} U e^{-\frac{\beta_r}{2} H_r} |\text{max}\rangle_{rl} |0\rangle_{ref}$$

Q: How to transport bulk  $\chi$  along observer's geodesic?



# Tracing out the reference

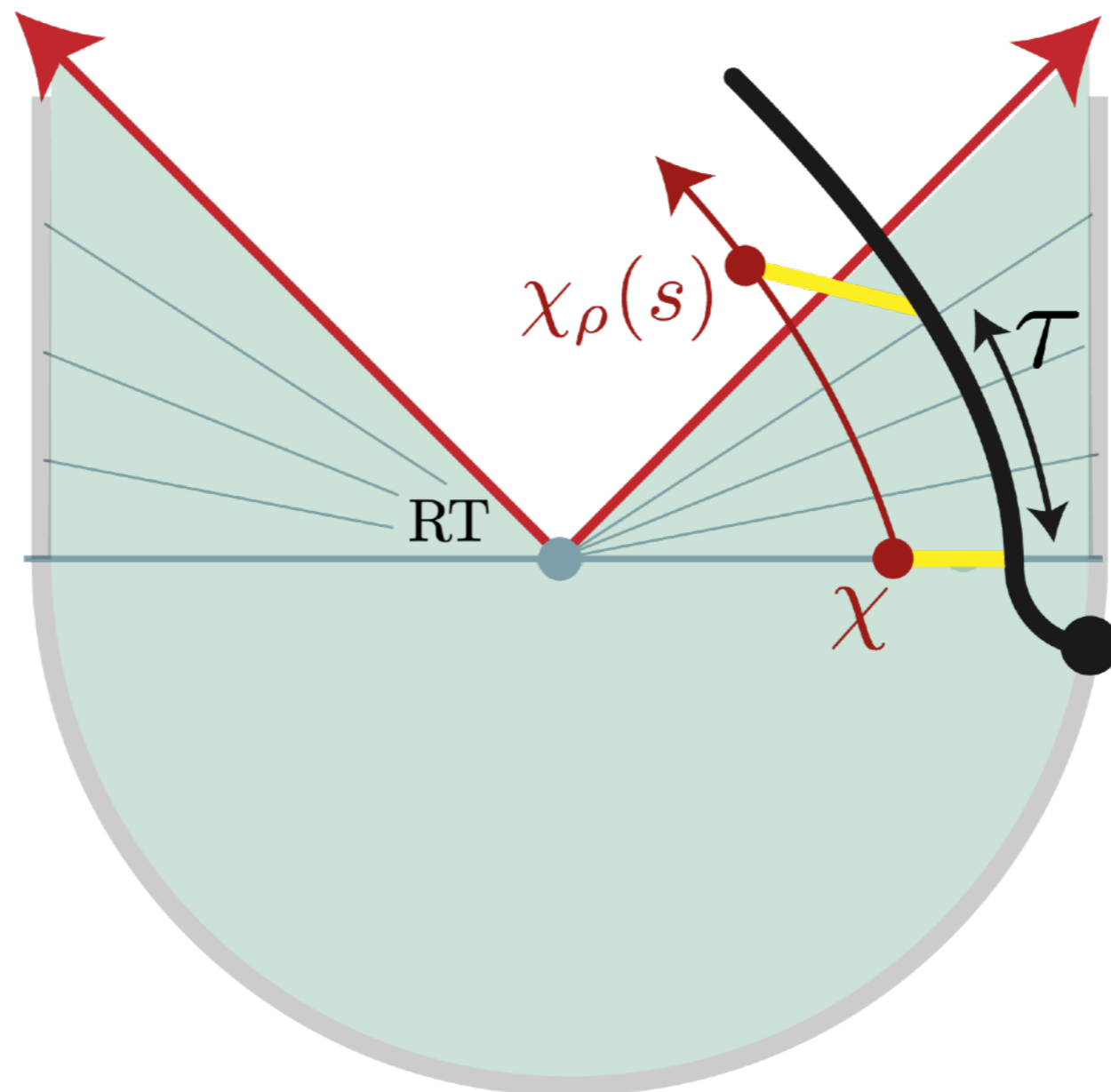


## Modular flow

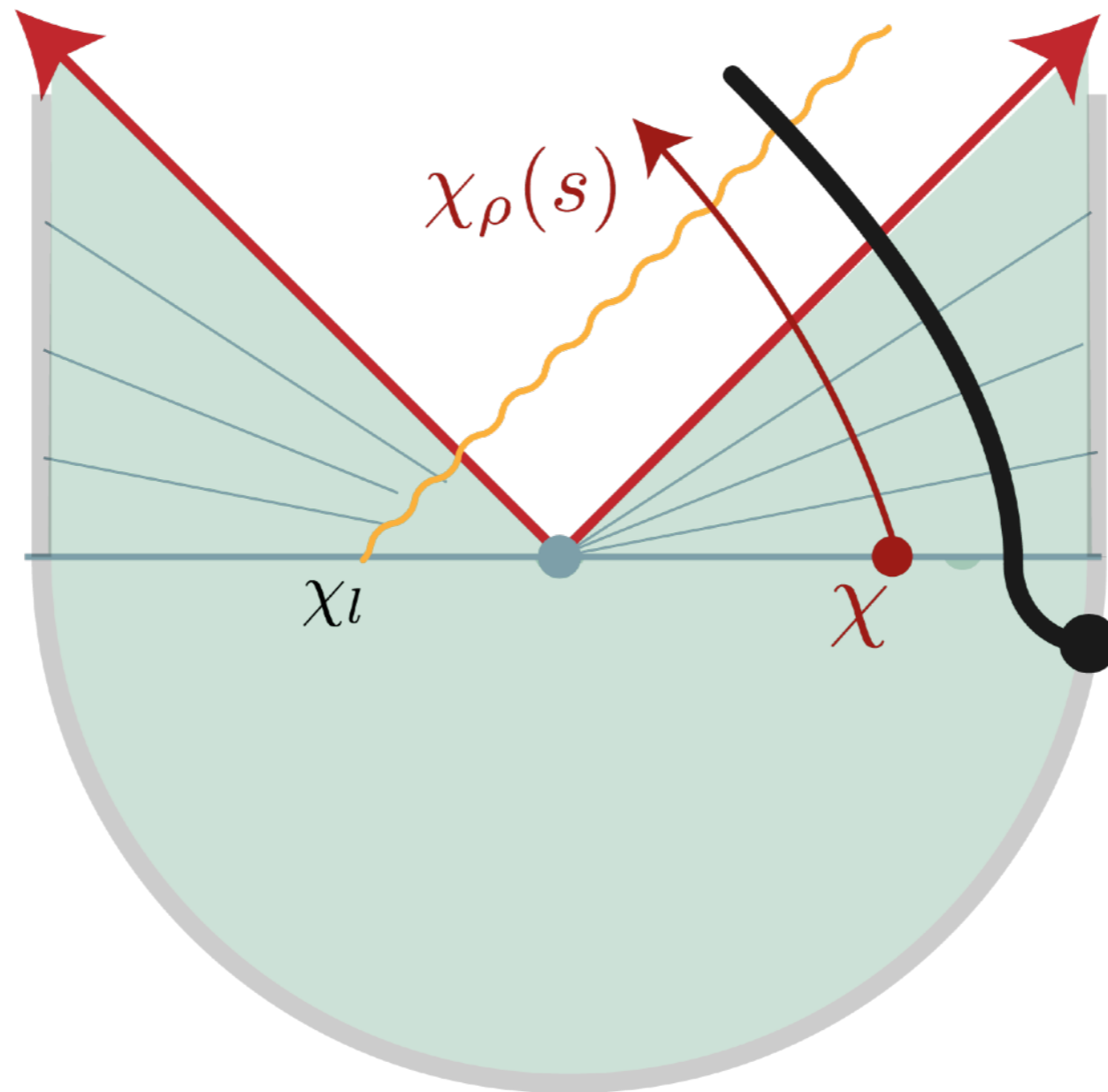
$$\chi_\rho(s) \equiv \rho^{-is} \chi \rho^{is}$$

## Proper time evolution

$$s = \frac{\mathcal{T}}{\beta_{\text{probe}}}$$

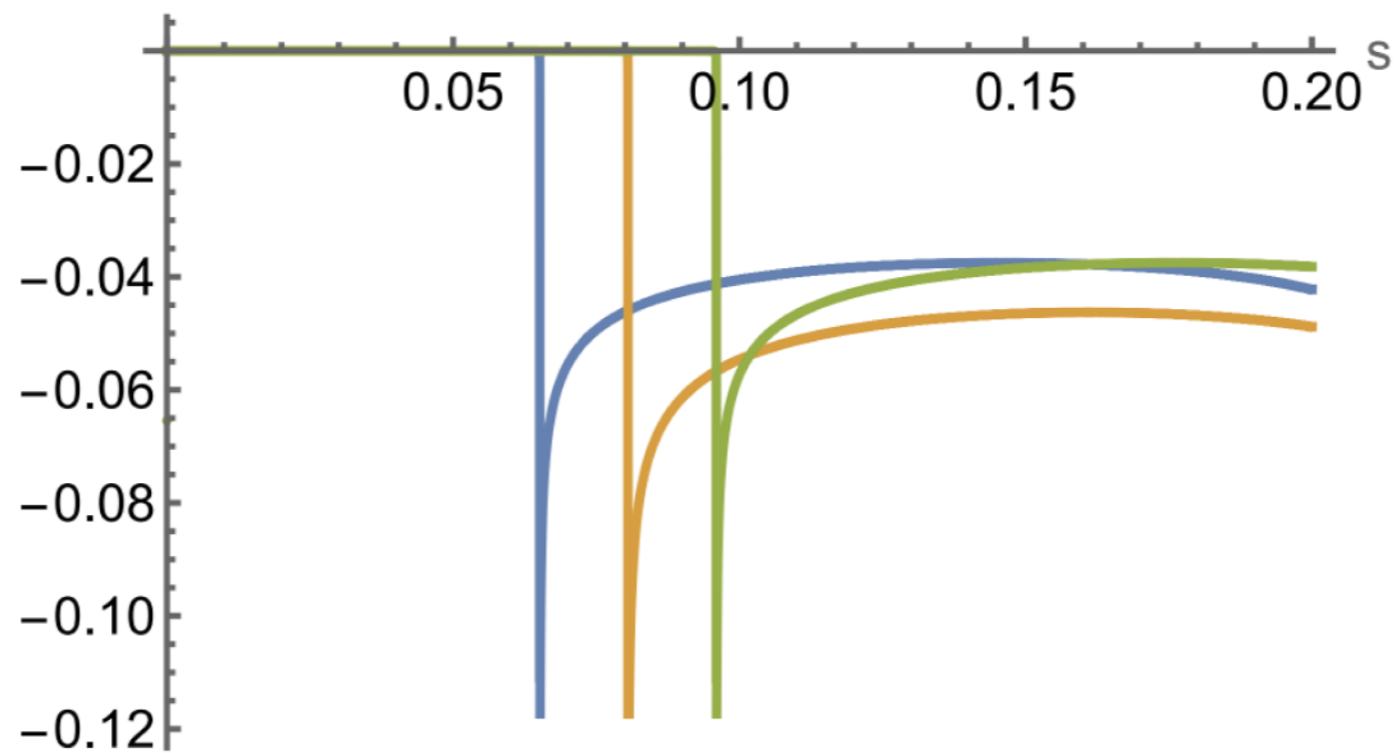


$$W_{lr}(s) = \text{Tr}[\rho\{\chi_\rho(s), \chi_l\}]$$



# Result of the SYK computation!

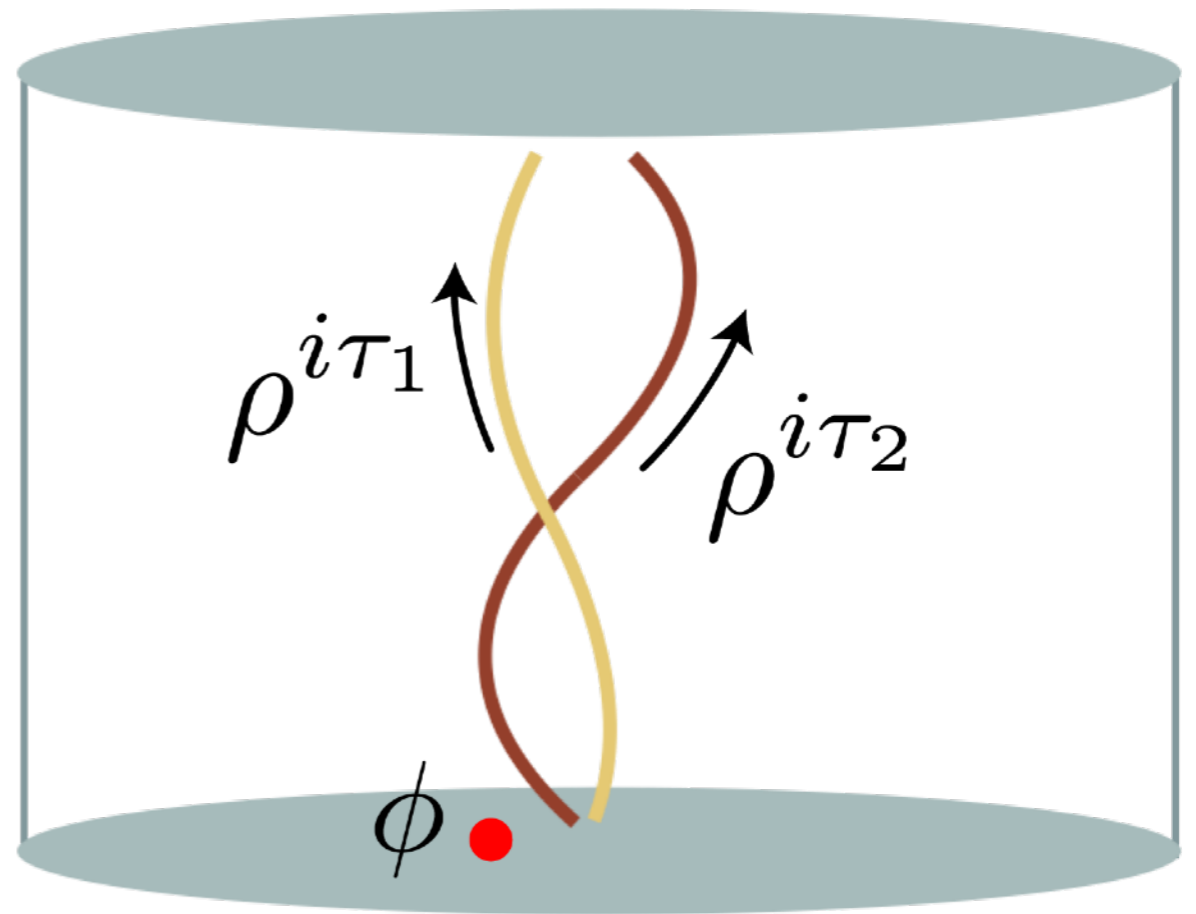
$$W_{lr}(s) = \text{Tr}[\rho\{\chi_\rho(s), \chi_l\}]$$



We derive time dilation from quantum mechanics!

Observer “twins” that  
start and end near each other

$\tau_1 - \tau_2 = \text{GR time dilation}$





# Our proposal

Quantum correlations between observer and environment  
in Quantum Gravity



origin of observer's proper time

(distinct from dynamical Hamiltonian of boundary system!)



Use it to see inside black holes!

Looking ahead

Does a typical black hole have interior?



Last vestige of information problem in AdS!

A new upcoming era of “experimental”  
Quantum Gravity?



AdS universes are dual to quantum systems  
Can be simulated on future quantum computers  
Perform experiments using internal observers!