Sydney Quantum Information Theory WorkshopCoogee Bay Hotel, SydneyFeb 8th 2019



MERA

Multi-scale entanglement renormalization ansatz Tensor network = sparse, efficient representation of many-body wavefunctions



G. Evenbly, Vidal, PRB 79 (14), 144108 (2009)



Glen Evenbly Georgia Tech





1) quantum circuit

2) renormalization group



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Tensor network as geometry



3) path integral

holography

4) light cone

cosmology

5) euclidean / lorentzian MERA



Ash Milsted Perimeter Institute







Tensor network as geometry



3) path integral

holography

4) light cone



5) euclidean / Iorentzian MERA

MERA as a quantum circuit:



MERA as a quantum circuit:



MERA as a quantum circuit:



MERA as a quantum circuit:



ground state $|\Psi\rangle = V |0\rangle^{\otimes N}$

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MERA as a quantum circuit:



ground state $|\Psi\rangle = V |0\rangle^{\otimes N}$

MERA as a quantum circuit:



ground state
$$|\Psi
angle = V |0
angle^{\otimes N}$$







Tensor network as geometry



3) path integral

holography

4) light cone

cosmology

5) euclidean / lorentzian MERA

MERA as a coarse-graining transformation:





Wilson's **RG**

 $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow |\Psi'\rangle \rightarrow |\Psi''\rangle \rightarrow \cdots$

(for wavefunctions, in real space)





1) quantum circuit

2) renormalization group







MERA as a variational ansatz:





correlations

$$\langle \phi(0)\phi(L)\rangle = \frac{1}{L^{2\Delta_{\phi}}}$$

Accurate representation of ground states of critical systems In continuum: conformal field theories CFTs

entanglement entropy

$$S(L) = \frac{c}{3}\log\left(L/\epsilon\right)$$

minimal distance within the network geometry? minimal # of cuts within the network

MERA as (toy model for) holography & cosmology



MERA as (toy model for) holography & cosmology





MERA as (toy model for) AdS/CFT correspondence & cosmology

10 years of debate!

MERA =
$$H_2$$
 or dS_2 ?





Ash Milsted Perimeter postdoc

A. Milsted, G. Vidal arXiv:1805.12524
A. Milsted, G. Vidal arXiv:1807.02501
A. Milsted, G. Vidal arXiv:1812.00529

tensor network = QFT path integral on curved spacetime





1) quantum circuit

2) renormalization group





Tensor network as geometry





...how do we assign a geometry to it?



given a tensor network...



- network symmetries
- path integral



(3) scale invariance $(z,r) \rightarrow \lambda(z,r)$

 $d_{\gamma} = d_{\gamma},$

 Δr_{nn} between nearest neighbor tensors at fixed z is proportional to z, $\Delta r_{nn}(z) \sim z$ Δz_{nn} between nearest neighbor tensors at fixed r is proportional to z, $\Delta z_{nn}(z) \sim z$ $g_{rr}(z)(\Delta r_{nn})^2 \sim g_{rr}(z)z^2 = \pm \mu^2$

$$\Rightarrow g_{rr}(z) = \pm \mu^2 / z^2$$

 $d_{\delta} = d_{\delta'}$

$$g_{zz}(z)(\Delta z_{nn})^2 \sim g_{rr}(z)z^2 = \pm v^2$$
$$\Rightarrow g_{zz}(z) = \pm v^2/z^2$$

metric:

$$ds^{2} = \frac{\pm R^{2}dz^{2} + dr^{2}}{z^{2}}$$

 $+R^2$ hyperbolic space H_2
 $-R^2$ de Sitter spacetime dS_2 $ds^2 = \frac{\pm d\eta^2 + dr^2}{(\eta/R)^2}$
time $\eta \equiv Rz$

candidate metrics (by network symmetry):

$$(ds_{H_2})^2 = \frac{+R^2 dz^2 + dr^2}{z^2} \qquad (ds_{L_2})^2 = \frac{dr^2}{z^2} \qquad (ds_{ds_2})^2 = \frac{-R^2 dz^2 + dr^2}{z^2}$$

The network symmetry cannot help us choose one. How about the content of the tensors?



Euclidean time evolution





Euclidean path integral



Lorentzian time evolution





Euclidean evolution versus Lorentzian evolution









1) quantum circuit

2) renormalization group

^{quantum} information



Tensor network as geometry





So... what linear map is implemented by a layer of MERA?

There is a problem...



N = 16

So... what linear map is implemented by a layer of MERA?



So... what linear map is implemented by a layer of MERA?







1) quantum circuit

2) renormalization group





Tensor network as geometry



3) path integral holography 4) light cone 5) euclidean / lorentzian MERA



CONCLUSION

In the quest of assigning a geometry to tensor networks...

...we have understood that MERA (and euclidean/lorenzian generalizations) represents a CFT path integral on some curved spacetime

(simplest examples of a much more general construction)

MERA = Holography?

Maybe... ("MERA" is as holographic as a "2d path integral on a light cone geometry")







THANKS!