PHYSICAL REVIEW D 91, 044008 (2015)

Correlation functions on conical defects

Michael Smolkin^{1,*} and Sergey N. Solodukhin^{2,†}

¹Center for Theoretical Physics and Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley,

California 94720, USA

²Laboratoire de Mathématiques et Physique Théorique CNRS-UMR 7350 Fédération Denis Poisson,

Université François-Rabelais Tours, Parc de Grandmont, 37200 Tours, France and Theory Group,

Physics Department CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

(Received 28 June 2014; published 4 February 2015)

We explore a technique recently proposed in [1] and suggest a correspondence between the N-point correlation functions on a conifold and the (N + 1)-point correlation functions on a regular manifold. This correspondence suggests a new systematic way to evaluate the correlation functions on a manifold with conical defect. We apply the correspondence to study the vacuum expectation value of a scalar operator and of the energy-momentum tensor in a conformal field theory living on a spacetime. We use the correspondence to carry out calculations for the generic scalar operator and conserved vector current. For a unitary field theory we also compute the expectation value of the energy-momentum tensor using the spectral representation of a two-point function of the energy-momentum tensor in Minkowski spacetime.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.91.044008

PACS numbers: 04.62.+v, 04.20.Cv

I. INTRODUCTION

In many physical applications we deal with a spacetime which is regular everywhere except on a codimension two surface around which the angular coordinate changes from 0 to $2\pi\alpha$ with α different from one. The latter periodicity results in a conical deficit; however in physics this singularity arises in many circumstances. The spacetime created by a cosmic string is probably the most familiar one [2]. In this case wrong periodicity is directly related to the energy density of a string. Moreover, conical singularity is a widely used mathematical tool to evaluate the entanglement entropy associated with a codimension two surface Σ . There, in a replica trick, one allows the angular coordinate in the transverse space to entangling surface Σ to have periodicity $2\pi\alpha$. For an integer $\alpha = n$ this corresponds to gluing together n copies of identical spacetimes. The entropy then is defined by differentiating the partition function on such a replicated spacetime with respect to the angle deficit and by imposing at the end n = 1.

Considering various operators and their correlation functions in all these examples one needs to impose a $2\pi\alpha$ periodicity without violating other important properties inherent to the system. For free fields Green's functions this is done by making use of the Sommerfeld formula [3]. It allows us to achieve a required periodicity such that the resulting Green's function satisfies the free field equations of motion. For more complicated operators the calculation of correlation functions is less simple and often it should be done case by case.

In this paper we suggest a more regular way of computing the correlation functions on conical defects by relating them to the higher order correlation functions defined on a nonsingular Riemannian manifold \mathcal{M} . If there is a rotational symmetry around Σ , then an infinitesimal angular deficit can be treated in a well-defined way following the approach of [4], where a description of Riemannian geometry in the presence of a conical singularity was studied. For general Σ and \mathcal{M} one needs to generalize this method by implementing a squashed cone technique proposed in [5]. As of today the latter technique is not entirely understood, e.g., its generalization to the case of gravitational actions which include derivatives of the Riemann tensor is not known (see [6] for recent progress in this direction). Our general proposal in this paper should hold within the domain of applicability of this generalized method; however we restrict our conclusions to the case of a flat entangling plane embedded in Minkowski space.

We assume that the theory resides in a vacuum state and define the following operator:

$$\mathcal{P} = -\lim_{\alpha \to 1} \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha},\tag{1.1}$$

which being applied to a function of α extracts a linear term in $(1 - \alpha)$. With this definition we suggest the following correspondence:

$$\mathcal{P}\langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1)...\mathcal{O}_N(x_N)\rangle_{\alpha} = \langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1)...\mathcal{O}_N(x_N)K_0\rangle_c, \quad (1.2)$$

where subscript "c" means connected correlator, \mathcal{O}_k are arbitrary operators, scalar or tensor, $\langle ... \rangle_{\alpha}$ is the correlation function computed in a spacetime with conical defect,

smolkinm@berkeley.edu

Sergey.Solodukhin@lmpt.univ-tours.fr

 $2\pi(1-\alpha)$, localized at Σ , $\langle \cdots \rangle$ means vacuum expectation value (vev) on \mathcal{M} , and K_0 is the modular Hamiltonian associated with the vacuum state and a region bounded by Σ . By definition, the correlator on the left-hand side of this correspondence is expanded in powers of $(1 - \alpha)$ and only the linear term contributes.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to test our correspondence in full generality since the modular Hamiltonian for generic Σ and \mathcal{M} is not known. This operator is not even local in general. However, for certain symmetric geometries, such as spherical and planar regions in Minkowski space, the modular Hamiltonian is expressible in terms of energymomentum tensor. As of today, these geometries are probably the only special cases when both sides of the correspondence can be evaluated independently to verify (1.2). Hence, we first provide a general derivation of the correspondence, and then focus on a very special setup: a plane in a *d*-dimensional Minkowski space. In this setup the entangling surface is symmetric under O(2) rotations around Σ . We also test (1.2) in the case of a finite interval in a two-dimensional CFT, where Σ consists of two disjoint points and therefore lacks rotational symmetry in the transverse space.

The key ingredient for planar Σ is the special role (suggested earlier by many authors [7]) played by operator K_0 which generates angular evolution in the transverse space to Σ . This operator is related to the Rindler (or modular) Hamiltonian H_R as $K_0 = 2\pi H_R$, and it has the following integral representation:

$$K_0 = -2\pi \int d^{d-2}y \int_0^\infty dx_1 x_1 T_{22}(x_1, x_2 = 0, y), \quad (1.3)$$

where (x_1, x_2) are Cartesian coordinates in the transverse space, Σ is located at the origin $x_1 = x_2 = 0$, and y^i with i = 1, ..., d - 2 are Cartesian coordinates on Σ . In this notation x_2 plays the role of Euclidean time and T_{22} is the respective component of the energy-momentum tensor. It is useful to note that the modular Hamiltonian H_R generates angular evolution in plane (x_1, x_2) .

According to our proposal (1.2) the calculation of correlation functions on conical defects now reduces to a calculation in Minkowski spacetime by inserting a special operator K_0 . Thus, N-point correlation function $\langle ... \rangle_{\alpha}$ corresponds to an (N+1)-point function in Minkowski spacetime. This is an improvement over the standard approach since the correlation functions in Minkowski spacetime can be evaluated by using various symmetries (Poincaré and conformal) and in general are better understood.

That a certain relation between the N-point correlation functions on conical defects and higher-point correlation functions in regular flat spacetime should exist was anticipated in [8] where it was suggested that the conformal *a*-charge normally appearing (in four dimensions) starting with the 3-point functions of energy-momentum tensor would be visible already in the two-point function considered on spacetime with a defect. Our correspondence (1.2)gives an exact realization of this idea.

It should be noted that after appropriate analytic continuation, a conical spacetime in the case of planar Σ in Minkowski space transforms into the Rindler spacetime characterized by some temperature different from the Unruh temperature. Thus, the correspondence (1.2) should be also valid for the correlation functions in a thermal field theory in the Rindler spacetime.

II. DERIVATION OF THE CORRESPONDENCE

Let us consider a field theory living on a *d*-dimensional Euclidean manifold \mathcal{M} equipped with a Riemannian metric $g_{\mu\nu}$. We assume that the system resides in a slightly excited state given by

$$|\Psi\rangle = \exp(-g\mathcal{O}/2)|0\rangle \tag{2.1}$$

where $|0\rangle$ is the vacuum state of the theory, q is some small dimensionless parameter,¹ and the scalar operator O in general may take the following composite form:

$$\mathcal{O} = \prod_{k=1}^{N} \int d^d x_k \sqrt{g} \sigma_k(x_k) \mathcal{O}_k(x_k), \qquad (2.2)$$

where $\sigma_k(x_k)$ are arbitrary scalar sources with compact support that couple to operators $\mathcal{O}_k(x_k)$.

Let us evaluate the entropy in this state for an arbitrary entangling surface Σ that divides \mathcal{M} into two subregions A and B. The entropy is defined with respect to a reduced density matrix ρ which is obtained from $|\Psi\rangle$ by tracing over the degrees of freedom associated with A,

$$\rho = \frac{\mathrm{Tr}_{A}|\Psi\rangle\langle\Psi|}{\langle\Psi|\Psi\rangle},\tag{2.3}$$

so that the entropy is

$$S = -\mathrm{Tr}_{B}\rho\ln\rho. \tag{2.4}$$

The standard way to compute this entropy is to use the replica trick (for a review see [9])

$$S = -(\alpha \partial_{\alpha} - 1) \operatorname{Tr}_{B} \rho^{\alpha}|_{\alpha = 1}, \qquad (2.5)$$

where $Tr_B \rho^{\alpha}$ is given by a path integral for the theory living on an α -folded cover of \mathcal{M} with insertion of $e^{-g\mathcal{O}}$ on every sheet of the replicated geometry.² In this formulation the entropy to leading order in q is given by

¹Factor 1/2 is for later convenience. ²In fact, we have the insertion of $e^{-g\mathcal{O}/2}$ on upper $(x_2 > 0)$ and lower $(x_2 < 0)$ parts of each sheet. However, we implicitly assume that $\mathcal{O}_k(x_k)$ are symmetric under parity transformation, and therefore we can combine these insertions into e^{-gO} .

CORRELATION FUNCTIONS ON CONICAL DEFECTS

$$S = S_0 + g(\alpha \partial_\alpha - 1)|_{\alpha = 1} \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_\alpha, \tag{2.6}$$

where the expectation value $\langle ... \rangle_{\alpha}$ is defined in the replicated vacuum state $|0\rangle$ and S_0 is the entanglement entropy associated with this state. Note that realization of conifolds in the absence of rotational symmetry around the entangling surface requires engagement of squashed cone techniques initiated in [5], and we implicitly assume that this approach is applicable in general.

Alternatively, the corresponding change in the entanglement entropy can be obtained considering a perturbation in the density matrix, $\rho = \rho_0 + \delta\rho$, where $\rho_0 = \text{Tr}_A |0\rangle \langle 0|$. To linear order in $\delta\rho$ variation in the entropy is given by the "first law" of entanglement [10],

$$\delta S = \operatorname{Tr}_B(\delta \rho K_0), \qquad \rho_0 = e^{-K_0}; \qquad (2.7)$$

here we assumed that the full density matrix is properly normalized, $\text{Tr}_{B}\rho = \text{Tr}_{B}\rho_{0} = 1$, so that $\text{Tr}_{A}\delta\rho = 0$.

If the entangling surface exhibits rotational symmetry in the transverse space, then K_0 can be identified with the generator of angular evolution around Σ , i.e., in the case of a plane in flat space it is given by (1.3). However, there is no closed form expression for the modular Hamiltonian in general.

In the state (2.1) the variation of the density matrix for small g takes the following form:

$$\delta \rho = -g \operatorname{Tr}_{A}(|0\rangle \langle 0|\mathcal{O}) + g \langle 0|\mathcal{O}|0\rangle \operatorname{Tr}_{A}|0\rangle \langle 0|, \qquad (2.8)$$

where the last term originates from expansion of $\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle$ in (2.3) and ensures proper normalization of $\delta \rho$. As a result we get a particular realization of (2.7),

$$\delta S = -g \operatorname{Tr}_{B} \operatorname{Tr}_{A}(|0\rangle \langle 0|\mathcal{O}K_{0}) + g \langle 0|\mathcal{O}|0\rangle \operatorname{Tr}_{B} \operatorname{Tr}_{A}(|0\rangle \langle 0|K_{0})$$

= $-g \langle \mathcal{O}K_{0} \rangle_{c}.$ (2.9)

Recall that the connected vev on the right-hand side is defined on a general Riemannian manifold \mathcal{M} . By comparing (2.9) with (2.6) we arrive at the relation

$$\lim_{\alpha \to 1} (\alpha \partial_{\alpha} - 1) \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\alpha} = - \langle \mathcal{O} K_0 \rangle_c.$$
 (2.10)

In this relation the operator \mathcal{O} has the integral form (2.2). We note that the integration involves only one power of α despite the fact that the integral is N multiple. This is due to the fact that operator \mathcal{O} is inserted only once on each sheet of the replicated geometry. Taking this remark and the composite structure of operator (2.2) with arbitrary functions³ $\sigma_k(x_k)$, we obtain (1.2), announced in the introduction. In Minkowski spacetime the expectation value $\langle 0|K_0|0\rangle$ vanishes. Therefore we shall systematically ignore in this paper the difference between the connected and nonconnected correlation functions.

Notice that in the above derivation the scalar operator $\mathcal{O}_k(x_k)$ is arbitrary, e.g., it can be some tensorial operator of the theory contracted with an arbitrary polarization tensor. Furthermore, in the case of flat Σ in Minkowski space, operator K_0 is defined by (1.3) and therefore the correlation function on the right-hand side of (1.2) reduces to an (N + 1)-correlation function with insertion of $T_{\mu\nu}$. This type of correlator will be in the focus of explicit computations presented in this paper.

III. VACUUM EXPECTATION OF A SCALAR OPERATOR

A. General consideration

We start with the analysis of the simplest case of a onepoint function for a scalar operator \mathcal{O} with scaling dimension Δ in a generic nonconformal field theory. In order to use our general prescription (1.2) we need to know a two-point correlation function $\langle \mathcal{O}(x)T_{\mu\nu}(x')\rangle$ of this operator and the energy-momentum tensor. It should be possible to decompose this correlation function in powers of $1/(x - x')^2$ provided this decomposition respects the tensor structure of this correlation function and the conservation of the energy-momentum tensor. These two conditions single out uniquely the following decomposition:

$$\begin{split} \langle \mathcal{O}(x)T_{\mu\nu}(x')\rangle &= \sum_{k} a_{k} P_{\mu\nu}^{(k)}(x,x'), \\ P_{\mu\nu}^{(k)}(x,x') &= \frac{1}{(x-x')^{2(d-k)}} \\ &\times \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{(d-k)}{(d-2k+1)} \frac{2(x-x')_{\mu}(x-x')_{\nu}}{(x-x')^{2}}\right), \\ \partial^{\mu} P_{\mu\nu}^{(k)}(x,x') &= 0, \end{split}$$
(3.1)

where $k \ge (d - \Delta)/2$ is not necessarily an integer. We notice that the conservation law fixes completely the relative coefficient in $P_{\mu\nu}^{(k)}(x, x')$. Relation (3.1) is a small (x - x')expansion which contains both negative and positive powers of (x - x'). The information about concrete scalar operator is now contained in the coefficients $\{a_k\}$. For $k = \frac{d+1}{2}$ the relevant definition of tensor $P_{\mu\nu}$ is

$$P_{\mu\nu}^{\left(\frac{d+1}{2}\right)}(x,x') = \frac{(x-x')_{\mu}(x-x')_{\nu}}{(x-x')^{(d-1)}}.$$
 (3.2)

The correlation function (3.1) is O(d) invariant. Now, if our correspondence (1.2) is correct then after two integrations (over y and x_1) present in definition (1.3) we should end up with a O(2)-invariant expression. Let us see how

³We assume that the compact supports of $\sigma_k(x_k)$ are disjoint and do not include the singularities of replicated geometry, i.e., by assumption none of them overlap with Σ . To include these cases one needs to account for the standard contact terms as well as possible anomalies that reside on the entangling surface. The latter can be addressed by resorting to Ward identities.

MICHAEL SMOLKIN AND SERGEY N. SOLODUKHIN

this works for the scalar operator. We consider the (22) component of (3.1), multiply it by -2π , decompose the coordinates as $x = (y, x_1, x_2)$, then integrate over y'-variables, and after that take the integration over x_1' . The integration over y' is easily performed using the following relation:

$$\int d^{d-2}y' P_{22}^{(k)}(y, x_1, x_2; y', x_1', x_2' = 0)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \Omega_{d-3} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2})\Gamma(\frac{d}{2} - k + 1)}{\Gamma(d-k)(d-2k)(d-2k+1)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial^2 x_1'}$$

$$\times \left[\frac{1}{(x_2^2 + (x_1' - x_1)^2)^{\frac{d-2k}{2}}} \right], \qquad (3.3)$$

where

c

$$\Omega_{d-3} = \frac{2\pi^{\frac{d-2}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2})}$$

is the area of (d-3)-sphere. We stress that namely due to the precise balance between two terms in the expression for $P_{\mu\nu}^{(k)}$ we have this second derivative form for the integral (3.3) which otherwise would not have happened.

There are two special cases when we have to reevaluate this integral more carefully. The first case is when $k = \frac{d+1}{2}$. Then we have

$$\int d^{d-2}y' P_{22}^{(\frac{d+1}{2})}(y, x_1, x_2; y', x_1', x_2' = 0)$$

= $\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{4} \Omega_{d-3} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2} - 1)}{\Gamma(\frac{d+1}{2})} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial^2 x_1'} \sqrt{x_2^2 + (x_1' - x_1)^2}.$ (3.4)

The second special case is when $k = \frac{d}{2}$. In this case the integration in (3.3) gives

$$\int d^{d-2}y' P_{22}^{(\frac{d}{2})}(y, x_1, x_2; y', x_1', x_2' = 0)$$

= $-\frac{\Omega_{d-3}}{2(d-2)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial^2 x_1'} \ln(x_2^2 + (x_1' - x_1)^2).$ (3.5)

Now the integration remaining over x_1' is performed as follows:

$$\int_0^\infty dx_1' x_1' \frac{\partial^2}{\partial^2 x_1'} \left[\frac{1}{(x_2^2 + (x_1' - x_1)^2)^{\frac{d-2k}{2}}} \right] = \frac{1}{(x_1^2 + x_2^2)^{\frac{d-2k}{2}}}.$$
(3.6)

For values of k such that (2k - d) > 0 we use a regularization which consists in evaluating the integral only at the lower limit of integration $x_1' = 0$ and ignoring the terms coming from the infinity. Technically this is done by evaluating the integral in (3.6) first for d - 2k > 0 and then taking the continuous limit to values of k such that d - 2k < 0.

Collecting everything together and using our correspondence we arrive at our result,

$$\mathcal{P}\langle \mathcal{O}(y, x_1, x_2) \rangle_{\alpha} = -\pi \Omega_{d-3} \sum_k \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{d}{2} - k + 1)}{\Gamma(d-k)(d-2k)(d-2k+1)} \frac{a_k}{r^{d-2k}} \\ -\frac{\pi^{3/2}}{2} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{d+1}{2})} \Omega_{d-3} a_{\frac{d+1}{2}} r + \frac{2\pi}{(d-2)} \Omega_{d-3} a_{\frac{d}{2}} \ln r, \quad (3.7)$$

where $r = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$ and in the second line we explicitly included two special terms with k = d/2 and k = (d+1)/2respectively. We see that the resulting correlation function does not depend on coordinate y on the singular surface Σ . This is as expected since we have a translational symmetry along the surface. On the other hand, the correlation function is O(2) invariant in the direction orthogonal to the surface and thus it depends only on the distance r to the singularity. Formally, this can be seen as follows. The modular Hamiltonian is a generator of rotations in plane (x_1, x_2) and hence one has that $2\pi \partial_{\varphi} \mathcal{O} = [\mathcal{O}, K_0]$. Therefore, the expectation value $\partial_{\varphi} \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}K_0 | 0 \rangle = 0$ as we observe in a direct calculation in (3.7).

By our proposal (1.2), Eq. (3.7) represents a linear in $(1 - \alpha)$ term in the expansion of expectation value of O evaluated on a conifold. In order to test our proposal we now consider a particular example of a minimally coupled scalar field.

B. Free massive scalar field

In this subsection we shall evaluate the expectation value of ϕ^2 on a conical defect using our correspondence and then compare this with the known results. Let us first consider a minimally coupled scalar field of mass *m*. The corresponding energy-momentum tensor is the canonical one,

$$T^{c}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}\phi\partial_{\nu}\phi - \delta_{\mu\nu}\left(\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^{2} + \frac{m^{2}}{2}\phi^{2}\right). \quad (3.8)$$

We are interested in evaluating the following connected correlator:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi^2(x) T^c_{\mu\nu}(x') \rangle &= 2 \langle \phi(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x') \rangle \langle \phi(x) \partial_\nu \phi(x') \rangle \\ &- \delta_{\mu\nu} (\langle \phi(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x') \rangle \langle \phi(x) \partial^\mu \phi(x') \rangle \\ &+ m^2 \langle \phi(x) \phi(x') \rangle^2). \end{aligned}$$
(3.9)

The Euclidean two-point function in free field has the standard form

$$\langle \phi(x)\phi(x')\rangle = \int \frac{d^d p}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{e^{ip\cdot(x-x')}}{p^2 + m^2} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi\sigma}\right)^{\frac{d-2}{2}} K_{\frac{d-2}{2}}(m\sigma),$$
(3.10)

where $\sigma = \sqrt{(x - x')^2}$. Substituting this into (3.9) yields

$$\langle \phi^2(x) T^c_{\mu\nu}(x') \rangle = -\frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{m^d}{\sigma^{d-2}} \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} \left(K^2_{\frac{d}{2}}(m\sigma) + K^2_{\frac{d-2}{2}}(m\sigma) \right) -2 \frac{(x-x')_{\mu}(x-x')_{\nu}}{\sigma^2} K^2_{\frac{d}{2}}(m\sigma) \right).$$
(3.11)

In order to make contact with our general representation (3.1) we expand this expression in m or, equivalently, in powers of σ using the expansion formula for the Bessel function

$$K_{\frac{d}{2}}^{2}(x) = x^{-d} \Gamma(d/2) (2^{d-2} \Gamma(d/2) - 2^{d-3} \Gamma(d/2 - 1) x^{2} + \dots).$$
(3.12)

We then find

$$\langle \phi^{2}(x)T_{\mu\nu}^{c}(x') \rangle$$

$$= -\frac{\Gamma(d/2)^{2}}{4\pi^{d}} \times \left(P_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}(x,x') - m^{2}\frac{(d-3)}{(d-2)^{2}}P_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}(x,x') + \dots \right)$$

$$(3.13)$$

in terms of $P_{\mu\nu}^{(n)}$ introduced in (3.1). Now we can use our general result (3.7) and, after some simplifications, arrive at the following expression:

$$\mathcal{P}\langle\phi^2(x)\rangle_{\alpha} = \frac{\Gamma(d/2)^2}{2^d \pi^{\frac{d-1}{2}} (d-2)\Gamma(\frac{d+1}{2})} \frac{1}{r^{d-2}} \\ \times \left(1 - \frac{2(d-1)}{(d-2)(d-4)} (mr)^2 + \dots\right), (3.14)$$

where $r = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$ is the distance to the conical singularity.

In d = 4 the second term in (3.13) is the one which corresponds to k = d/2. It should be treated separately using (3.4) and it produces the logarithmic term outlined in (3.7). With this term taken into account the result in four dimensions is as follows:

$$\mathcal{P}\langle\phi^2(x)\rangle_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2 r^2} (1 + 3(mr)^2 \log(mr) + \dots). \quad (3.15)$$

This result can now be compared with those available in the literature, see for instance [11], for the direct calculation in conical spacetime and we find exact agreement. This is an

important check for our general proposal. We however stress that our results in this section are much more general. They are valid for any scalar operator in arbitrary dimensions.

It is straightforward to generalize our discussion to include a nonminimally coupled scalar field. In this case (3.8) undergoes the following improvement:

$$\tilde{T}_{\mu\nu} = T^c_{\mu\nu} + \xi (\delta_{\mu\nu}\partial^2 - \partial_\mu\partial_\nu)\phi^2.$$
(3.16)

For a conformally coupled scalar,

$$\xi_c = \frac{d-2}{4(d-1)}.$$
 (3.17)

The new term in the energy-momentum tensor induces the following correction to (3.9):

$$\begin{split} \langle \phi^2(x) \tilde{T}_{\mu\nu}(x') \rangle &= \langle \phi^2(x) T^c_{\mu\nu}(x') \rangle \\ &+ \xi (\delta_{\mu\nu} \partial^2 - \partial_\mu \partial_\nu) \langle \phi(x) \phi(x') \rangle^2, \quad (3.18) \end{split}$$

where derivatives act on x'.

Now using (3.10) and expansion (3.12) one can carry out all necessary integrals as we did it in Sec. III A. The final result reads

$$\mathcal{P}\langle\phi^{2}(x)\rangle_{\alpha} = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d-2}{2})^{2}}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d-1}{2}}\Gamma(\frac{d-1}{2})} \frac{1}{r^{d-2}} \left(\xi_{c} - \xi + \frac{2(d-3)}{(d-4)^{2}} \times \left(\xi - \frac{d-4}{4(d-3)}\right)(mr)^{2} + \dots\right).$$
(3.19)

In the conformal case $\xi = \xi_c$, m = 0 this expression vanishes. It should be mentioned that this result is expected. Indeed, by conformal invariance the correlation function $\langle \mathcal{O}(x)T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CFT}}(x') \rangle$ vanishes identically and so does the correlation function of \mathcal{O} with operator K_0 . This happens because the correlation function of \mathcal{O} with the improvement in (3.16) cancels the correlation function with the canonical energy-momentum tensor.

IV. VACUUM EXPECTATION OF A CONSERVED VECTOR CURRENT

We can generalize our consideration of the previous section for the case when the operator which appears in the perturbation (2.1) is a conserved vector current $J_{\mu}(x)$, $\partial^{\mu}J_{\mu}(x) = 0$. The correlation function of this vector current and the energy-momentum tensor in Minkowski spacetime

$$\langle J_{\mu}(x)T_{\alpha\beta}(x')\rangle = P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}(x,x') \tag{4.1}$$

in general is a combination of terms

MICHAEL SMOLKIN AND SERGEY N. SOLODUKHIN

$$P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}(x,x') = \frac{1}{(x-x')^{2k}} \left(A\delta_{\alpha\beta}(x-x')_{\mu} + B(\delta_{\alpha\mu}(x-x')_{\beta} + \delta_{\beta\mu}(x-x')_{\alpha}) + C \frac{(x-x')_{\mu}(x-x')_{\alpha}(x-x')_{\beta}}{(x-x')^{2}} \right)$$
(4.2)

provided the conservation laws

$$\partial^{\mu}P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}(x,x') = \partial^{\alpha}P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}(x,x') = 0$$
(4.3)

are satisfied. These conditions happen to be very restrictive. They fix not only the possible values of constants A, B, C but also the power k. In fact, we have found only two possible solutions to these conditions,

$$P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}^{(I)}(x,x') = \frac{(x-x')_{\mu}(x-x')_{\alpha}(x-x')_{\beta}}{(x'-x)^{d+2}},$$

$$P_{\mu,\alpha\beta}^{(II)}(x,x') = \frac{1}{(x'-x)^{d+2}} \left(\frac{(x'-x)_{\mu}(x'-x)_{\alpha}(x'-x)_{\beta}}{(x'-x)^{2}} - \frac{1}{(d+2)} (\delta_{\alpha\beta}(x'-x)_{\mu} + \delta_{\alpha\mu}(x'-x)_{\beta} + \delta_{\beta\mu}(x'-x)_{\alpha}) \right).$$
(4.4)

An interesting property of the solution of type II is that it is traceless with respect to any pair of indices, $\delta^{\alpha\beta}P^{(\text{II})}_{\mu,\alpha\beta} = \delta^{\alpha\mu}P^{(\text{II})}_{\mu,\alpha\beta} = 0.$

Respectively, we have two types of conserved currents which we shall call $J_{\mu}^{(I)}(x)$ and $J_{\mu}^{(II)}(x)$. In order to compute the expectation value of these currents on a conical defect we shall use our correspondence along the same lines as we have done for a scalar operator in the previous section. The results of the calculation can be summarized as follows.

For the vector current of type I we find the expectation values

$$\mathcal{P}\langle J_{i}^{(\mathrm{I})}(y, x_{1}, x_{2})\rangle_{\alpha} = 0, \quad i \in \Sigma,$$

$$\mathcal{P}\langle J_{1}^{(\mathrm{I})}(y, x_{1}, x_{2})\rangle_{\alpha} = -\frac{2\pi\Omega_{d-3}}{d(d-2)}x_{2}\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \arctan\frac{x_{1}}{x_{2}}\right),$$

$$\mathcal{P}\langle J_{2}^{(\mathrm{I})}(y, x_{1}, x_{2})\rangle_{\alpha} = -\frac{2\pi\Omega_{d-3}}{d(d-2)}x_{2}$$

$$\times \left(1 + \frac{x_{1}}{x_{2}}\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \arctan\frac{x_{1}}{x_{2}}\right)\right). \quad (4.5)$$

For the vector current of type II we find the expectation values

$$\mathcal{P}\langle J_{i}^{(\mathrm{II})}(y, x_{1}, x_{2})\rangle_{\alpha} = 0, \quad i \in \Sigma,$$

$$\mathcal{P}\langle J_{a}^{(\mathrm{II})}(y, x_{1}, x_{2})\rangle_{\alpha} = -\frac{2\pi\Omega_{d-3}}{d(d-2)(d+2)}\frac{x_{a}}{r^{2}},$$

$$a = 1, 2,$$

(4.6)

where $r = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$. We see that in both cases the only nonvanishing components of $\langle J_{\mu} \rangle$ are those lying in the plane perpendicular to the surface Σ so that the vector current in this plane is divergence free,

$$\partial^a \langle J_a^{(\mathrm{I},\mathrm{II})} \rangle_\alpha = 0. \tag{4.7}$$

The result (4.5) for the current I is somewhat puzzling. It is not obviously rotational invariant and, moreover, it is a multiple valued function of the angular coordinate in the plane (x_1, x_2) . It would be nice to have a better understanding of this behavior and compare these results with the direct calculations for vector currents in a spacetime of cosmic string. We, however, at the moment are not aware of any such calculations.

V. VACUUM EXPECTATION OF $T_{\mu\nu}$ IN CFT₄

In order to further check our proposed correspondence (1.2) we shall consider a conformal field theory in four dimensions and compute the expectation value of the stress energy tensor in this theory and compare it with the known results in the literature obtained directly on a conical spacetime.

Conformal symmetry as is well known [12] fixes completely the structure of the two-point function for the energy-momentum tensor,

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(x)T_{\alpha\beta}(x')\rangle = \frac{C_T \mathcal{I}_{\mu\nu,\alpha\beta}}{((x-x')^2)^4}$$
(5.1)

with

<

(***

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mu\nu,\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{I}_{\mu\alpha} \mathbf{I}_{\nu\beta} + \mathbf{I}_{\mu\beta} \mathbf{I}_{\nu\alpha}) - \frac{1}{4} \delta_{\mu\nu} \delta_{\alpha\beta},$$
$$\mathbf{I}_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu} - 2 \frac{(x - x')_{\mu} (x - x')_{\nu}}{(x - x')^2}.$$
(5.2)

 C_T is a charge related to the *B*-type conformal anomaly. As is seen from the structure of the operator K_0 (1.3) we shall need only component $\alpha = \beta = 2$ of (5.1) in order to compute correlator $\langle T_{\mu\nu}(x)K_0\rangle$. The integration over *y*-variables and over x_1 is rather straightforward and we find that

$$\langle T_{ij}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle = \frac{\pi^2}{120} C_T \frac{\delta_{ij}}{r^4}, \quad i, j = 3, 4 \langle T_{ab}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle = \frac{\pi^2}{120} C_T \frac{4x_a x_b - 3\delta_{ab} r^2}{r^6}, a, b = 1, 2$$
 (5.3)

CORRELATION FUNCTIONS ON CONICAL DEFECTS

where $r^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2$. These correlation functions do not depend on the coordinate y as a consequence of the translation invariance along the planar surface Σ . For a free field multiplet containing n_s conformal scalars, n_f Dirac fermions, and n_v gauge vector fields we have

$$C_T = \frac{1}{3\pi^4} (n_s + 6n_f + 12n_v).$$
 (5.4)

The result (5.3) should be compared to the well-known result [13] for the expectation value of the energy-momentum tensor computed directly on a conical spacetime. Written in polar coordinates it takes the form

$$\langle T^{\mu}_{\nu} \rangle_{\alpha} = \frac{f(\alpha)}{1440\pi^2 r^4} \operatorname{diag}(1, -3, 1, 1),$$
 (5.5)

where

$$f(\alpha) = \frac{1}{16\alpha^4} (1 - \alpha^2) \left[2\left(1 + \frac{\alpha^2}{3}\right)a + (1 - \alpha^2)(2b - c) \right],$$
(5.6)

with

$$a = 12(n_s + 6n_f + 12n_v),$$

$$b = -4\left(n_s + \frac{11}{2}n_f + 62n_v\right),$$

$$c = -240n_v.$$
(5.7)

Applying now operator $\mathcal{P}(1.1)$ to correlation function (5.5) we find a complete agreement with our result (5.3). This is a rather nontrivial check on our proposed correspondence.

VI. VACUUM EXPECTATION OF $T_{\mu\nu}$ IN A GENERIC *d*-DIMENSIONAL FIELD THEORY

The result of the previous section can be generalized to any unitary (not necessarily free) field theory by making use of the spectral representation of the two-point correlation function of energy-momentum tensor. This representation was suggested in [14] and it takes the form

$$\langle T_{\alpha\beta}(x)T_{\rho\sigma}(x')\rangle$$

$$= \frac{A_d}{(d-1)^2} \int_0^\infty d\mu c^{(0)}(\mu) \Pi^{(0)}_{\alpha\beta,\rho\sigma}(\partial) G_d(x-x',\mu)$$

$$+ \frac{A_d}{(d-1)^2} \int_0^\infty d\mu c^{(2)}(\mu) \Pi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta,\rho\sigma}(\partial) G_d(x-x',\mu),$$
(6.1)

where $A_d = \frac{\Omega_{d-1}}{(d+1)2^{d-1}}$, $\Omega_{d-1} = \frac{2\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2)}$ and we defined operators

$$\Pi_{\alpha\beta,\rho\sigma}^{(0)}(\partial) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(d)} S_{\alpha\beta} S_{\rho\sigma},$$

$$\Pi_{\alpha\beta,\rho\sigma}^{(2)}(\partial) = \frac{d-1}{2\Gamma(d-1)} \left(S_{\alpha\rho} S_{\beta\sigma} + S_{\alpha\sigma} S_{\beta\rho} - \frac{2}{d-1} S_{\alpha\beta} S_{\rho\sigma} \right),$$
(6.2)

whereas $S_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_{\alpha}\partial_{\beta} - \delta_{\alpha\beta}\partial^2$ and

1

 $(\mathbf{0})$

$$G_d(x - x', \mu) = \int \frac{d^d p}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{e^{ip \cdot (x - x')}}{p^2 + \mu^2}$$
(6.3)

is Green's function of a massive scalar field in *d* dimensions. The representation (6.1) is general and it is valid for any unitary theory. The information about the concrete quantum field theory is encoded in the spectral function $c^{(0)}(\mu)$ and $c^{(2)}(\mu)$.

This spectral representation of the correlation function is helpful and we can now compute the correlation function of the product of the energy-momentum tensor and operator K_0 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_{\alpha\beta}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle \\ &= -\frac{2\pi A_d}{(d-1)^2} \int_0^\infty d\mu (c_0(\mu) \Pi^{(0)}_{\alpha\beta, 22}(\partial) + c_{(2)}(\mu) \Pi^{(2)}_{\alpha\beta, 22}(\partial)) \\ &\times \int d^{d-2} y' \int_0^\infty dx_1' x_1' G_d(x_1 - x_1', x_2, y - y', \mu). \end{aligned}$$

$$(6.4)$$

First we notice that the integration over y' in (6.4) produces a two-dimensional Green's function,

$$\int d^{d-2}y' G_d(x_1 - x_1', x_2, y - y', \mu)$$

= $G_2(x_1 - x_1', x_2, \mu) = \frac{1}{2\pi} K_0 \Big(\mu \sqrt{(x_1 - x_1')^2 + x_2^2} \Big).$
(6.5)

In fact, it is not surprising that we get a two-dimensional Green's function. This is a well-known method, called the descent method, to get a lower dimensional Green's function from a higher dimensional one by integrating over a subset of variables.

The function (6.5) does not depend on coordinates y. Therefore the derivatives with respect to y in (6.4) give the vanishing results when they act on (6.5). This indicates that the operators $S_{\alpha\beta}$ reduce to purely two-dimensional operators acting in the transverse subspace,

$$S_{\alpha\beta} \to \begin{cases} \partial_a \partial_b - \delta_{ab} \Delta^{(2)} & \text{for } \alpha, \beta = a, b = 1, 2, \\ -\delta_{ij} \Delta^{(2)} & \text{for } \alpha, \beta = i, j, \end{cases}$$
(6.6)

where $\Delta^{(2)} = \partial_1^2 + \partial_2^2$ is the two-dimensional Laplacian in the transverse space to surface Σ . Due to this the operators (6.2) are simplified,

$$\Pi_{ij,22}^{(0)} = \frac{\delta_{ij}}{\Gamma(d)} \Delta^{(2)} \partial_1^2, \qquad \Pi_{ij,22}^{(2)} = -\frac{\delta_{ij}}{\Gamma(d-1)} \Delta^{(2)} \partial_1^2, \Pi_{ab,22}^{(0)} = -\frac{1}{\Gamma(d)} S_{ab} \partial_1^2, \qquad \Pi_{ab,22}^{(2)} = -\frac{d-2}{\Gamma(d-1)} S_{ab} \partial_1^2.$$
(6.7)

On the other hand, since G_2 is a solution to equation $\Delta^{(2)}G_2 = \mu^2 G_2$ one can replace $\Delta^{(2)}$ by μ^2 . What is left is the integration over x'_1 in (6.4). This can be easily done by integrating twice by parts and we arrive at a simple expression,

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} dx_{1}' x_{1}' \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial x_{1}^{2}} G_{2}(x_{1} - x_{1}', x_{2}, \mu)$$

= $G_{2}(x_{1}, x_{2}, \mu) = \frac{1}{2\pi} K_{0} \Big(\mu \sqrt{x_{1}^{2} + x_{2}^{2}} \Big).$ (6.8)

We pause here to appreciate this little magic. Indeed, we have started with expression (6.4) in which O(2) symmetry in (x_1, x_2) subspace was not evident at all but then after performing all integrations we arrive at an expression which is clearly O(2) invariant. From the conical space point of view this is of course expected due to the rotational symmetry around the tip of the cone.

The final result for the correlation function (6.4) can be now represented in a form of the integral over the spectral parameter μ ,

$$\langle T_{ij}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle = -\frac{A_d \delta_{ij}}{(d-1)^2 \Gamma(d)} \int_0^\infty d\mu (c^{(0)}(\mu) - (d-1)c^{(2)}(\mu)) \mu^2 K_0(\mu r), \langle T_{ab}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle = -\frac{A_d}{(d-1)^2 \Gamma(d)} \int_0^\infty d\mu (c^{(0)}(\mu) + (d-1)(d-2)c^{(2)}(\mu)) \times \left(\mu^2 K_0(\mu r) \left(\delta_{ab} - \frac{x_a x_b}{r^2} \right) + \frac{\mu K_1(\mu r)}{r} \left(\delta_{ab} - \frac{2x_a x_b}{r^2} \right) \right).$$
(6.9)

This represents the general result valid for arbitrary (free or interacting) field theory. By our proposed correspondence (1.2) this expression is our prediction for the leading order contribution to the expectation value of energy-momentum tensor on a planar conical defect in such a generic *d*-dimensional theory.

We now consider some particular case.

Conformal field theory limit.

Conformal field theory is a particular example for the theory considered above. As argued in [14], in this case we have

$$c^{(0)}(\mu) \overset{\text{CFT}}{\propto} \mu^{d-2} \delta(\mu), \qquad c^{(2)}(\mu) \overset{\text{CFT}}{=} \frac{d-1}{d} C_T \mu^{d-3}, \quad (6.10)$$

where C_T is the charge which appears in the two-point correlation function of energy-momentum tensor in *d*-dimensional CFT, similarly to the four-dimensional case (5.1). Performing the integration over μ we obtain

$$\mathcal{P}\langle T_{ij}(x_1, x_2, y) \rangle_{\alpha} = \langle T_{ij}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle$$

$$\stackrel{\text{CFT}}{=} \frac{C_T \pi^{d/2} \Gamma(\frac{d}{2})}{\Gamma(d+2)} \frac{\delta_{ij}}{r^d}, \quad i, j = 3, ..., d$$

$$\mathcal{P}\langle T_{ab}(x_1, x_2, y) \rangle_{\alpha} = \langle T_{ab}(x_1, x_2, y) K_0 \rangle$$

$$\stackrel{\text{CFT}}{=} \frac{C_T \pi^{d/2} \Gamma(\frac{d}{2})}{\Gamma(d+2)} \left(d \frac{x_a x_b}{r^2} - (d-1) \delta_{ab} \right),$$

$$a, b = 1, 2. \qquad (6.11)$$

In four dimensions we again reproduce (5.3). We are not aware of any previous results in higher dimensions. Therefore, (6.11) is our prediction for the expectation value of a CFT energy-momentum tensor on a conical defect.

VII. FINITE INTERVAL IN A TWO-DIMENSIONAL CFT

In this section we want to test our correspondence for more general geometries. Let us consider a twodimensional conformal field theory living in \mathbb{R}^2 . By assumption, the theory resides in a vacuum state and we choose some interval of finite length ℓ to represent subsystem *B*. This setup is probably the simplest example where Σ is not rotationally symmetric in the transverse space and both sides of the correspondence can still be explicitly evaluated.

We parametrize an α -folded cover of \mathbb{R}^2 by w and denote the end points of the interval by u and v. Now the conformal transformation $z = ((w - u)/(w - v))^{1/\alpha}$ maps the α -sheeted Riemann surface to the ordinary complex plane \mathbb{C} [15], and the holomorphic components of the energy-momentum tensor are related by [16]

$$T(w) = (dz/dw)^2 T(z) + \frac{c}{12} \left(z'''z' - \frac{3}{2} z''^2 \right) / z'^2, \quad (7.1)$$

where $T(w) = -2\pi T_{ww}(w)$ has support on one of the α sheets and the second term on the right-hand side is the Schwartzian derivative. In particular, the vacuum expectation value reads [15]

CORRELATION FUNCTIONS ON CONICAL DEFECTS

$$\langle T(w) \rangle_{\alpha} = \frac{c(1-(1/\alpha)^2)}{24} \frac{\ell^2}{(w-u)^2(w-v)^2},$$
 (7.2)

where $\langle T(z) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} = 0$ has been used. Given the above general formula one can readily evaluate

$$\mathcal{P}\langle T(w)\rangle_{\alpha} = -\frac{c}{12}\frac{\ell^2}{(w-u)^2(w-v)^2}.$$
 (7.3)

On the other hand, the modular Hamiltonian associated with a finite interval in two-dimensional conformal field theory is given by [17]

$$K_0 = \frac{2\pi}{\ell} \int_0^\ell dx_1 x_1 (x_1 - \ell) T_{22}(x_1), \qquad (7.4)$$

where for simplicity we chose $u = \ell$ and v = 0. Using now

$$\langle T(w)T(0)\rangle_{\mathbb{C}} = \frac{c}{2w^4}, \qquad \langle \bar{T}(w)T(0)\rangle = 0, \qquad (7.5)$$

and substituting

$$T_{22} = \frac{1}{2\pi} (T + \bar{T}) + 2T_{w\bar{w}}, \qquad (7.6)$$

yields⁴

$$\langle T(w)K_0 \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} = -\frac{c}{12\pi} \frac{\ell^2}{(w-u)^2(w-v)^2}.$$
 (7.7)

As expected by the correspondence (1.2), this expression is in accord with (7.3).

VIII. CONCLUSION: FURTHER DIRECTIONS

In this paper we have suggested a certain correspondence between the correlation functions in a spacetime with conical defect and the correlation functions defined on a regular manifold. This correspondence is rather general. It is supposed to hold for any singular codimension two surface. However, since it involves the insertion of a modular Hamiltonian which is not known in general, the efficiency of our proposal reduces to those cases when the modular Hamiltonian can be constructed either explicitly or perturbatively. This still includes a wide class of physical setups and models. To conclude we list some interesting directions for further research.

(1) Higher point functions. In this paper we mostly considered the expectation values, or the one-point functions, of certain operators on a spacetime with conical defect. Their calculation reduces to analysis of the two-point functions in a regular Minkowski

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 91, 044008 (2015)

spacetime. However, this restriction is not essential; it is dictated by our motivation to illustrate the correspondence using relatively simple examples which allow comparison with existing results in the literature. In fact, extension of our method to higher point functions is rather straightforward. It would be interesting to compute, for instance, the two-point function of scalar operators on a conical defect in a conformal field theory using the exact expressions for the correlation functions in Minkowski spacetime found in [12]. It is one of the problems which we plan to study in the future.

One of the interesting related problems is to uncover a precise way, conjectured in [8], in which the conformal *a*-anomaly appears in the two-point function of the energy-momentum tensor evaluated on a conifold. This is considered in the accompanying paper [18].

(2) Twist operators. In [15] it was shown that computation of the field theory partition function on an α -folded cover of \mathbb{R}^2 is the same as the correlation function arising from insertion of twist operators, Φ_{α} , into each of the α decoupled sheets. In particular, it was shown that in the two-dimensional spacetime, Φ_{α} is a local primary operator with a certain scaling dimension. It allows us to reduce a given computation on the replicated geometry to a correlator on a regular manifold with insertion of the twist operators. However, the higher dimensional counterpart of a two-dimensional twist operator is not local. In d > 2 it is supported on a codimension two entangling surface which is not pointlike anymore. As of today, understanding of the higher dimensional twist operators is very much limited. Our proposal (1.2)suggests a possible tool for studies of Φ_{α} in general dimension. In particular, it suggests the following operatorial identity:

$$\mathcal{P}\Phi_{\alpha} = K_0. \tag{8.1}$$

This identity emphasizes that the problems of finding a twist operator and modular Hamiltonian are equivalent to a certain extent. This allows us to conjecture a particular relation

$$\Phi_{\alpha} = e^{(1-\alpha)K_0} \tag{8.2}$$

which expresses the twist operator in terms of the modular Hamiltonian.

Yet, a word of caution about Eqs. (8.1)–(8.2) should be said. While by definition the twist operators on the left-hand side of these expressions are supported on a codimension two entangling surface, operators on the right-hand side are associated with a codimension one submanifold. Hence, these conjectures should be taken with a big grain of salt, and we find it interesting to check our proposal in the cases

⁴Recall that tracelessness of the energy-momentum tensor is equivalent to $T_{w\bar{w}} = 0$.

when both the twist operator and the modular Hamiltonian are explicitly known. More arguments in favor of this conjecture have been given in [19].

(3) More general surfaces and quantum field theory (QFTs). The computations presented in this work are mainly focused on a planar entangling surface in Minkowski space. Hence, we find it instructive to generalize our findings by including into consideration curved geometries. Of course, the absence of a known modular Hamiltonian is one of the main obstacles that must be confronted in an attempt to pursue such an endeavor. Perhaps the best point of departure would be to start these studies from spherical regions in Minkowski space, for which the modular Hamiltonian is known [17], and then proceed perturbatively to study more complicated geometries [1]. It would also be interesting to test our correspondence in the case of nonconformal interacting field theories such as ϕ^4 [20].

We plan to explore these and other possible directions in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

M. S. is supported in part by NSF Grant No. PHY-1214644, and by Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics. S. S. thanks the Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics (Kyoto), especially Tadashi Takayanagi, for hospitality during the final stages of this project. We thank C. Bachas, P. Caputa, R. Emparan, V. Frolov, B. Pioline, V. Rosenhaus, K. Skenderis and T. Takayanagi for valuable remarks.

- V. Rosenhaus and M. Smolkin, Entanglement entropy: a perturbative calculation, J. High Energy Phys. (2014) 12 179.
- [2] S. Deser, R. Jackiw, and G. 't Hooft, Three-dimensional Einstein gravity: dynamics of flat space, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) 152, 220 (1984); S. Deser and R. Jackiw, Three-dimensional cosmological gravity: dynamics of constant curvature, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) 153, 405 (1984).
- [3] A. Sommerfeld, Proc. London Math. Soc. 28, 417 (1897);
 J. S. Dowker, Quantum field theory on a cone, J. Phys. A 10, 115 (1977); D. V. Fursaev, Spectral geometry and one loop divergences on manifolds with conical singularities, Phys. Lett. B 334, 53 (1994).
- [4] D. V. Fursaev and S. N. Solodukhin, On one loop renormalization of black hole entropy, Phys. Lett. B 365, 51 (1996); On the description of the Riemannian geometry in the presence of conical defects, Phys. Rev. D 52, 2133 (1995).
- [5] A. Lewkowycz and J. Maldacena, Generalized gravitational entropy, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2013) 090; D. V. Fursaev, A. Patrushev, and S. N. Solodukhin, Distributional geometry of squashed cones, Phys. Rev. D 88, 044054 (2013).
- [6] A. F. Astaneh, A. Patrushev, and S. N. Solodukhin, Entropy vs gravitational action: do total derivatives matter? arXiv:1411.0926.
- [7] J. Bisognano and E. H. Wichmann, On the duality condition for a Hermitian scalar field, J. Math. Phys. (N.Y.) 16, 985 (1975); On the duality condition for quantum fields, J. Math. Phys. (N.Y.) 17, 303 (1976); D. N. Kabat and M. J. Strassler, A comment on entropy and area, Phys. Lett. B 329, 46 (1994); L. Susskind and J. Lindesay, An Introduction to Black Holes, Information and the String Theory Revolution: The Holographic Universe (World Scientific, Singapore, 2005), p. 183; J. H. Cooperman and M. A. Luty, Renormalization of entanglement entropy and the gravitational effective action, J. High Energy Phys. 12 (2014) 045.

- [8] S. N. Solodukhin, The a-theorem and entanglement entropy, arXiv:1304.4411.
- [9] S. Ryu and T. Takayanagi, Aspects of holographic entanglement entropy, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2006) 045;
 H. Casini and M. Huerta, Entanglement entropy in free quantum field theory, J. Phys. A 42, 504007 (2009); S. N. Solodukhin, Entanglement entropy of black holes, Living Rev. Relativity 14, 8 (2011).
- [10] J. Bhattacharya, M. Nozaki, T. Takayanagi, and T. Ugajin, Thermodynamical Property of Entanglement Entropy for Excited States, Phys. Rev. Lett. **110**, 091602 (2013); D. D. Blanco, H. Casini, L.-Y. Hung, and R. C. Myers, Relative entropy and holography, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2013) 060; G. Wong, I. Klich, L. A. Pando Zayas, and D. Vaman, Entanglement temperature and entanglement entropy of excited states, J. High Energy Phys. 12 (2013) 020.
- [11] D. Iellici, Massive scalar field near a cosmic string, Classical Quantum Gravity 14, 3287 (1997); V. P. Frolov and I. D. Novikov, *Black Hole Physics: Basic Concepts and New Developments* (Kluwer Academic, Dordrecht, 1998).
- [12] H. Osborn and A. C. Petkou, Implications of conformal invariance in field theories for general dimensions, Ann. Phys. (N.Y.) 231, 311 (1994); J. Erdmenger and H. Osborn, Conserved currents and the energy-momentum tensor in conformally invariant theories for general dimensions, Nucl. Phys. B483, 431 (1997).
- [13] V. P. Frolov and E. M. Serebryanyi, Vacuum polarization in the gravitational field of a cosmic string, Phys. Rev. D 35, 3779 (1987); M. R. Brown, A. C. Ottewill, and D. N. Page, Conformally invariant quantum field theory in static Einstein spacetimes, Phys. Rev. D 33, 2840 (1986); J. S. Dowker, Casimir effect around a cone, Phys. Rev. D 36, 3095 (1987); T. M. Helliwell and D. A. Konkowski, Vacuum fluctuations outside cosmic strings, Phys. Rev. D 34, 1918 (1986); B. Linet, Quantum field theory in the spacetime of a

cosmic string, Phys. Rev. D **35**, 536 (1987); P. C. W. Davies and V. Sahni, Quantum gravitational effects near cosmic strings, Classical Quantum Gravity **5**, 1 (1988).

- [14] A. Cappelli, D. Friedan, and J. I. Latorre, C theorem and spectral representation, Nucl. Phys. B352, 616 (1991).
- [15] P. Calabrese and J. L. Cardy, Entanglement entropy and quantum field theory, J. Stat. Mech. (2004) P06002.
- [16] A. A. Belavin, A. M. Polyakov, and A. B. Zamolodchikov, Infinite conformal symmetry in two-dimensional quantum field theory, Nucl. Phys. B241, 333 (1984).
- [17] H. Casini and M. Huerta, Entanglement entropy for the n-sphere, Phys. Lett. B 694, 167 (2010); H. Casini,

M. Huerta, and R.C. Myers, Towards a derivation of holographic entanglement entropy, J. High Energy Phys. 05 (2011) 036.

- [18] S. N. Solodukhin, Conformal a-charge, correlation functions, and conical defects, arXiv:1406.5368.
- [19] L. Y. Hung, R. C. Myers, and M. Smolkin, Twist operators in higher dimensions J. High Energy Phys. 10 (2014) 178.
- [20] M. A. Metlitski, C. A. Fuertes, and S. Sachdev, Entanglement entropy in the O(N) model, Phys. Rev. B 80, 115122 (2009); M. P. Hertzberg, Entanglement entropy in scalar field theory, J. Phys. A 46, 015402 (2013).