

# Solving Holographic Defects

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# Section 1

## Introduction

# Conformal field theory

- A well-known result in CFT is that the form of 2 and 3-point functions of quasi-primary scalars is completely determined by conformal symmetry, while 1-point functions are zero:

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1) \rangle = 0 \quad (\text{except } \langle c \rangle = c)$$

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \rangle = \frac{C_{12}}{x_{12}^{2\Delta}}, \quad \Delta \equiv \Delta_1 = \Delta_2, \quad x_{12} \equiv |x_1 - x_2|$$

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \phi_3(x_3) \rangle = \frac{C_{123}}{x_{12}^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3} x_{23}^{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_1} x_{31}^{\Delta_3 + \Delta_1 - \Delta_2}},$$

- If we have more than 3 points we may construct conformally invariant cross ratios, as e.g. in the case of 4 points:

$$\frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{13}x_{24}} \quad \& \quad \frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{14}x_{23}}.$$

- The corresponding  $n$ -point function ( $n \geq 4$ ) has an arbitrary dependence on them, e.g. for  $n = 4$ :

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \phi_3(x_3) \phi_4(x_4) \rangle = f\left(\frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{13}x_{24}}, \frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{14}x_{23}}\right) \cdot \prod_{i < j}^4 x_{ij}^{\Delta/3 - \Delta_i - \Delta_j}, \quad \Delta \equiv \sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta_i.$$

## Operator product expansion (OPE)

- Generally, we don't need a Lagrangian to define a CFT. A CFT is defined by its local operators and their  $n$ -point correlation functions:

$$\{\mathcal{O}_k(x)\} \quad \langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \dots \mathcal{O}_n(x_n) \rangle.$$

- The latter can be determined by using the operator product expansion (OPE). E.g. for scalars:

$$\phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) = \sum_k \frac{C_{12k}}{C_{kk}} \cdot \mathcal{P}_k(x_{12}, \partial_2) \phi_k(x_2),$$

where the sum is over all the primary operators of the CFT.

- In general, the  $(n+2)$ -point function can be computed recursively:

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1) \phi_2(x_2) \prod_{i=3}^n \phi_i(x_i) \rangle = \sum_k \frac{C_{12k}}{C_{kk}} \cdot \mathcal{P}_k(x_{12}, \partial_2) \langle \phi_k(x_2) \prod_{i=3}^n \phi_i(x_i) \rangle.$$

- The CFT is fully specified by the CFT data:  $\{\Delta_k, \ell_k, f_k, C_{ij}, C_{ijk}\}$ .

# Defect conformal field theory (dCFT)

Now consider a  $\text{CFT}_d$  and introduce a boundary at  $z = 0$ , where  $x_\mu = (z, \mathbf{x})$  (Cardy, 1984).



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The subgroup of the  $d$ -dimensional (Euclidean) conformal group  $SO(d+1, 1)$  that leaves the plane  $z = 0$  invariant contains:

- $(d-1)$  dimensional translations:  $\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}$
- $(d-1)$  dimensional rotations  $SO(d-1)$
- $d$  dimensional rescalings  $x'_\mu = \alpha x_\mu$  & inversions  $x'_\mu = x_\mu/x^2$

That is the conformal group in  $d-1$  dimensions,  $SO(d, 1)$ .

The resulting setup that contains a  $CFT_d$  and a codimension 1 boundary/interface/domain wall/defect upon which a  $CFT_{d-1}$  lives, is known as a **defect Conformal Field Theory (dCFT)**.

## dCFT correlators: bulk

Due to the presence of the  $z = 0$  boundary we may form cross ratios from only 2 bulk points:

$$\xi = \frac{x_{12}^2}{4|z_1||z_2|} \quad \& \quad v^2 = \frac{\xi}{\xi + 1} = \frac{x_{12}^2}{x_{12}^2 + 4|z_1||z_2|}$$

This means that 1-point bulk functions are nonzero and the only ones fully determined by symmetry:

$$\langle \phi(z, \mathbf{x}) \rangle = \frac{C}{|z|^\Delta}$$

$n$ -point bulk functions ( $n \geq 2$ ) will contain an arbitrary dependence on the cross ratio  $\xi$ . E.g. the 2-point bulk function of two scalars will be:

$$\langle \phi_1(z_1, \mathbf{x}_1) \phi_2(z_2, \mathbf{x}_2) \rangle = \frac{f_{12}(\xi)}{|z_1|^{\Delta_1} |z_2|^{\Delta_2}},$$

McAvity-Osborn, 1995

i.e. it will not vanish if  $\Delta_1 \neq \Delta_2$ .

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McAvity-Osborn, 1995

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- 1-point functions are fundamental building blocks of dCFTs (along with the CFT data).

## Subsection 2

# Holography and dCFTs

# Holographic dCFTs

Holographic dCFTs can be realized in the context of the  $\text{AdS}_5/\text{CFT}_4$  correspondence:

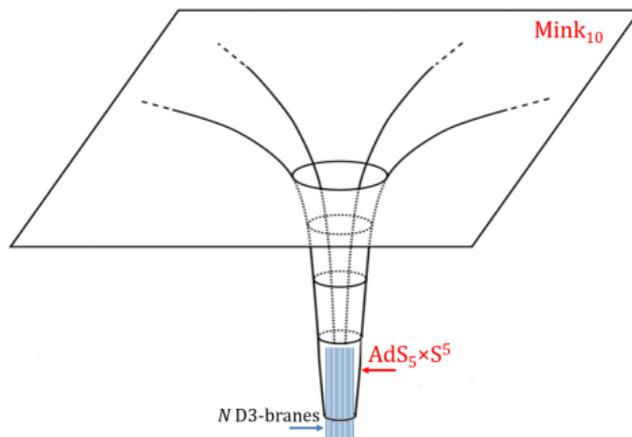
$$\left\{ \text{Type IIB String Theory in } \text{AdS}_5 \times S^5 \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \mathcal{N} = 4, \mathfrak{su}(N) \text{ Super Yang-Mills Theory in 4d} \right\}$$

Maldacena, 1998

as shown by Karch and Randall in 2001, in an attempt to provide an explicit realization of gravity localization on an  $\text{AdS}_4$  brane ([Karch-Randall, 2001a](#)).

# The D3-D5 system: bulk geometry

IIB string theory on  $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$  is encountered very close to a system of  $N$  coincident D3-branes:

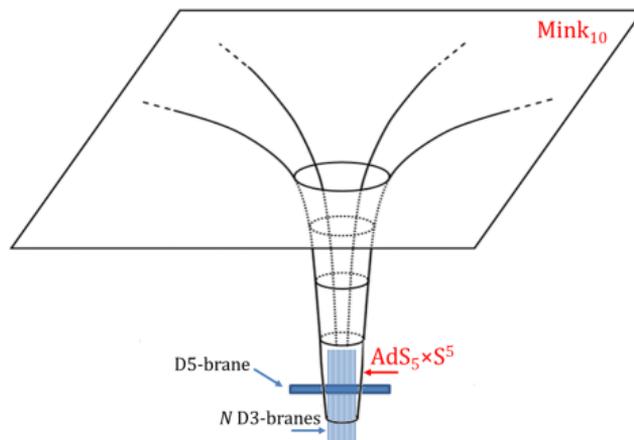


The D3-branes extend along  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \dots$

	$t$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$
D3	•	•	•	•						

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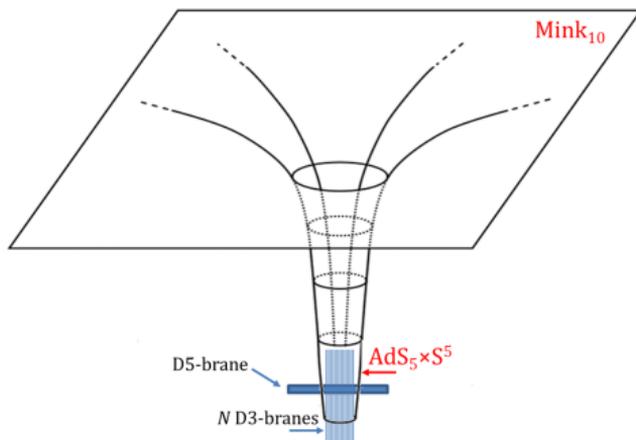


Now insert a single (probe) D5-brane at  $x_3 = x_7 = x_8 = x_9 = 0 \dots$

	$t$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$
D3	•	•	•	•						
D5	•	•	•		•	•	•			

# The D3-D5 system: bulk geometry

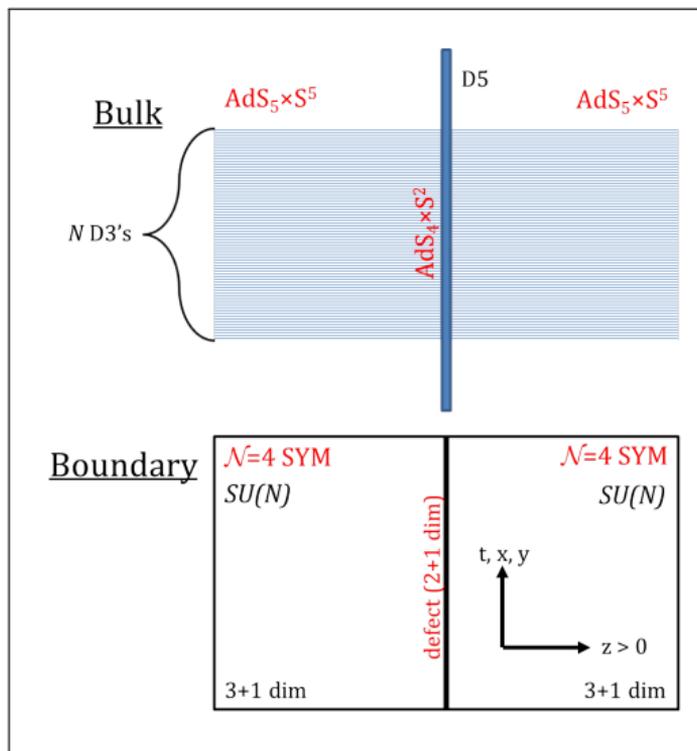
IIB string theory on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  is encountered very close to a system of  $N$  coincident D3-branes:



Now insert a single (probe) D5-brane at  $x_3 = x_7 = x_8 = x_9 = 0$ ... its geometry will be  $AdS_4 \times S^2$ ...

	$t$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	$x_6$	$x_7$	$x_8$	$x_9$
D3	•	•	•	•						
D5	•	•	•		•	•	•			

# The D3-D5 system: description



- In the bulk, the D3-D5 system describes IIB string theory on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  bisected by a D5 brane with worldvolume geometry  $AdS_4 \times S^2$ .

- The dual field theory is still  $SU(N)$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in  $3 + 1$  dimensions, that interacts with a CFT living on the  $2 + 1$  dimensional defect:

$$S = S_{\mathcal{N}=4} + S_{2+1}.$$

DeWolfe-Freedman-Ooguri, 2001

- Due to the presence of the defect, the total bosonic symmetry of the system is reduced from  $SO(4, 2) \times SO(6)$  to  $SO(3, 2) \times SO(3) \times SO(3)$ .

- The corresponding superalgebra  $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$  becomes  $\mathfrak{osp}(4|4)$ .

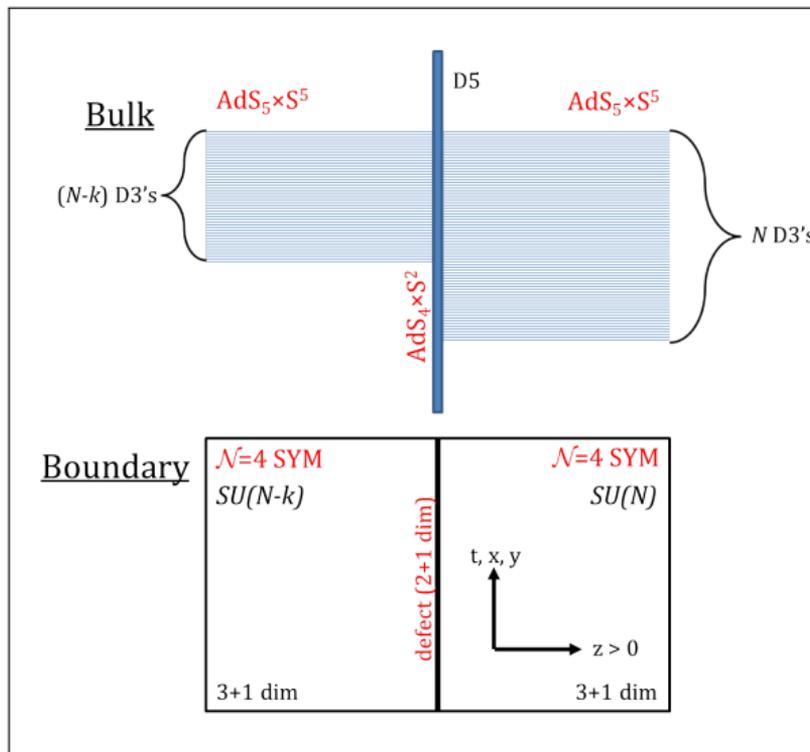
## Section 2

# One-point Functions in the D3-D5 System

## Subsection 1

### The $(D3-D5)_k$ system

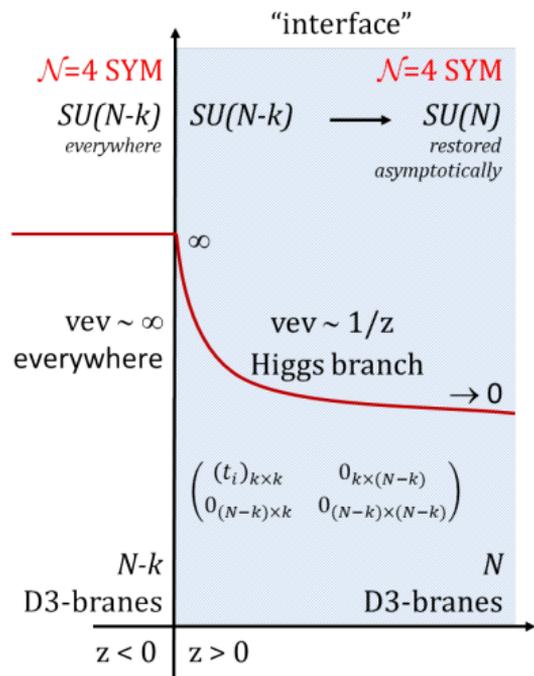
# The $(D3-D5)_k$ system



- Add  $k$  units of background  $U(1)$  flux on the  $S^2$  component of the  $AdS_4 \times S^2$  D5-brane.
- Then  $k$  of the  $N$  D3-branes ( $N \gg k$ ) will end on the D5-brane.
- On the dual SCFT side, the gauge group  $SU(N) \times SU(N)$  breaks to  $SU(N-k) \times SU(N)$ .
- Equivalently, the fields of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM develop nonzero vevs...

(Karch-Randall, 2001b)

# The dCFT interface of D3-D5



- An interface is a wall between two (different/same) QFTs
- It can be described by means of classical solutions that are known as "fuzzy-funnel" solutions (Constable-Myers-Tafjord, 1999 & 2001)
- Here, we need an interface to separate the  $SU(N)$  and  $SU(N-k)$  regions of the  $(D3-D5)_k$  dCFT...
- For no vectors/fermions, we want to solve the equations of motion for the scalar fields of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM:

$$A_\mu = \psi_a = 0, \quad \frac{d^2 \Phi_i}{dz^2} = [\Phi_j, [\Phi_j, \Phi_i]], \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 6.$$

- A manifestly  $SO(3) \simeq SU(2)$  symmetric solution is given by ( $z > 0$ ):

$$\Phi_{2i-1}(z) = \frac{1}{z} \begin{bmatrix} (t_i)_{k \times k} & 0_{k \times (N-k)} \\ 0_{(N-k) \times k} & 0_{(N-k) \times (N-k)} \end{bmatrix} \quad \& \quad \Phi_{2i} = 0,$$

Nagasaki-Yamaguchi, 2012

where the matrices  $t_i$  furnish a  $k$ -dimensional representation of  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ :

$$[t_i, t_j] = i \epsilon_{ijk} t_k.$$

# 1-point functions

Following Nagasaki & Yamaguchi (2012), the 1-point functions of local gauge-invariant scalar operators

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(z, \mathbf{x}) \rangle = \frac{C}{z^\Delta}, \quad z > 0,$$

can be calculated within the D3-D5 dCFT from the corresponding fuzzy-funnel solution, for example:

$$\mathcal{O}(z, \mathbf{x}) = \Psi^{i_1 \dots i_L} \text{Tr}[\Phi_{2i_1-1} \dots \Phi_{2i_L-1}] \xrightarrow[\text{interface}]{SU(2)} \frac{1}{z^L} \cdot \Psi^{i_1 \dots i_L} \text{Tr}[t_{i_1} \dots t_{i_L}]$$

where  $\Psi^{i_1 \dots i_L}$  is an  $\mathfrak{so}(6)$ -symmetric tensor and the constant  $C$  is given by (MPS=*matrix product state*)

$$C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left( \frac{8\pi^2}{\lambda} \right)^{L/2} \cdot \frac{\langle \text{MPS} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle^{1/2}}, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \langle \text{MPS} | \Psi \rangle \equiv \Psi^{i_1 \dots i_L} \text{Tr}[t_{i_1} \dots t_{i_L}] \quad (\text{"overlap"}) \\ \langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle \equiv \Psi^{i_1 \dots i_L} \Psi_{i_1 \dots i_L} \end{array} \right\},$$

which ensures that the 2-point function will be normalized to unity ( $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow (2\pi)^L \cdot \mathcal{O} / (\lambda^{L/2} \sqrt{L})$ )

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \mathcal{O}(x_2) \rangle = \frac{1}{|x_1 - x_2|^{2\Delta}}$$

within  $SU(N)$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM (i.e. without the defect).

# Bethe eigenstates

We will only consider the 1-point functions of Bethe eigenstates  $|\Psi\rangle$  of the integrable  $\mathfrak{so}(6)$  spin chain:

$$\mathbb{D} = L \cdot \mathbb{I} + \frac{\lambda}{8\pi^2} \cdot \mathbb{H} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \lambda^n \cdot \mathbb{D}_n, \quad \mathbb{H} = \sum_{j=1}^L \left( \mathbb{I}_{j,j+1} - \mathbb{P}_{j,j+1} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{K}_{j,j+1} \right), \quad \lambda = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N,$$

Minahan-Zarembo, 2002

which describes the mixing of single-trace operators  $\mathcal{O}(x)$  up to one loop in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM. We've set:

$$\mathbb{I} \cdot |\dots \Phi_a \Phi_b \dots\rangle = |\dots \Phi_a \Phi_b \dots\rangle$$

$$\mathbb{P} \cdot |\dots \Phi_a \Phi_b \dots\rangle = |\dots \Phi_b \Phi_a \dots\rangle$$

$$\mathbb{K} \cdot |\dots \Phi_a \Phi_b \dots\rangle = \delta_{ab} \sum_{c=1}^6 |\dots \Phi_c \Phi_c \dots\rangle.$$

The above result is unaffected by the presence of a defect in the SCFT (DeWolfe-Mann, 2004).

## Subsection 2

### Determinant formulas

M. de Leeuw, C. Kristjansen, G. Linardopoulos, *Scalar One-point functions and matrix product states of AdS/dCFT*, Phys.Lett. **B781** (2018) 238 [arXiv:1802.01598]

# 1-point functions in $\mathfrak{su}(2)$

In the  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  sector our goal is to calculate the one-point function coefficient:

$$C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left( \frac{8\pi^2}{\lambda} \right)^{L/2} \cdot \frac{\langle \text{MPS} | \mathbf{p} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{p} | \mathbf{p} \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}}, \quad k \ll N \rightarrow \infty.$$

where the  $k \times k$  matrices  $t_{1,3}$  form a  $k$ -dimensional representation of  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ :

$$\langle \text{MPS} | \mathbf{p} \rangle = \mathfrak{N} \cdot \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_M} \sum_{1 \leq x_k \leq L} \exp \left[ i \sum_k p_{\sigma(k)} x_k + \frac{i}{2} \sum_{j < k} \theta_{\sigma(j)\sigma(k)} \right] \cdot \text{Tr} \left[ t_3^{x_1-1} t_1 t_3^{x_2-x_1-1} \dots \right].$$

Overlap properties:

- The overlap  $\langle \text{MPS} | \mathbf{p} \rangle$  vanishes if  $M \equiv N_1$  or  $L$  is odd:  $\text{Tr} \left[ t_3^{x_1-1} t_1 t_3^{x_2-x_1-1} \dots \right] \Big|_{M \text{ or } L \text{ odd}} = 0$
- The overlap  $\langle \text{MPS} | \mathbf{p} \rangle$  vanishes if  $\sum p_i \neq 0$ : due to trace cyclicity
- The overlap  $\langle \text{MPS} | \mathbf{p} \rangle$  vanishes if momenta are not fully balanced  $(p_i, -p_i)$ : due to  $Q_3 \cdot |\text{MPS}\rangle = 0$

de Leeuw-Kristjansen-Zarembo, 2015

## The $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ determinant formula

Vacuum overlap:

$$\langle \text{MPS} | 0 \rangle = \text{Tr} [t_3^L] = \zeta \left( -L, \frac{1-k}{2} \right) - \zeta \left( -L, \frac{1+k}{2} \right), \quad \zeta(s, a) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+a)^s},$$

where  $\zeta(s, a)$  is the Hurwitz zeta function. For  $M$  balanced excitations the overlap becomes:

$$C_k(\{u_j\}) \equiv \frac{\langle \text{MPS} | \{u_j\} \rangle_k}{\sqrt{\langle \{u_j\} | \{u_j\} \rangle}} = C_2(\{u_j\}) \cdot \sum_{j=(1-k)/2}^{(k-1)/2} j^L \left[ \prod_{l=1}^{M/2} \frac{u_l^2 (u_l^2 + k^2/4)}{[u_l^2 + (j-1/2)^2] [u_l^2 + (j+1/2)^2]} \right]$$

where

$$C_2(\{u_j\}) \equiv \frac{\langle \text{MPS} | \{u_j\} \rangle_{k=2}}{\sqrt{\langle \{u_j\} | \{u_j\} \rangle}} = \left[ \prod_{j=1}^{M/2} \frac{u_j^2 + 1/4}{u_j^2} \frac{\det G^+}{\det G^-} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

and the  $M/2 \times M/2$  matrices  $G_{jk}^{\pm}$  and  $K_{jk}^{\pm}$  are defined as:

$$G_{jk}^{\pm} = \left( \frac{L}{u_j^2 + 1/4} - \sum_n K_{jn}^+ \right) \delta_{jk} + K_{jk}^{\pm} \quad \& \quad K_{jk}^{\pm} = \frac{2}{1 + (u_j - u_k)^2} \pm \frac{2}{1 + (u_j + u_k)^2}.$$

## The $\mathfrak{su}(3)$ determinant formula

Moving to the  $\mathfrak{su}(3)$  sector, let us define the following Baxter functions  $Q$  and  $R$  :

$$Q_1(x) = \prod_{i=1}^M (x - u_i), \quad Q_2(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{N_+} (x - v_i), \quad R_2(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{2\lfloor N_+/2 \rfloor} (x - v_i).$$

All the one-point functions in the  $\mathfrak{su}(3)$  sector are then given by

$$C_k(\{u_j; v_j\}) = T_{k-1}(0) \cdot \sqrt{\frac{Q_1(0) Q_1(i/2)}{R_2(0) R_2(i/2)} \cdot \frac{\det G^+}{\det G^-}}$$

de Leeuw-Kristjansen-GL, 2018

where  $u_i \equiv u_{1,i}$ ,  $v_j \equiv u_{2,j}$  and

$$T_n(x) = \sum_{a=-n/2}^{n/2} (x + ia)^L \frac{Q_1(x + i(n+1)/2) Q_2(x + ia)}{Q_1(x + i(a+1/2)) Q_1(x + i(a-1/2))}.$$

The validity of the  $\mathfrak{su}(3)$  formula has been checked numerically for a plethora of  $\mathfrak{su}(3)$  states.

# The $\mathfrak{so}(6)$ determinant formula

The one-point function in the  $\mathfrak{so}(6)$  sector is given by

$$C_k(\{u_j; v_j; w_j\}) = \mathbb{T}_{k-1}(0) \cdot \sqrt{\frac{Q_1(0) Q_1(i/2) Q_1(ik/2) Q_1(ik/2)}{R_2(0) R_2(i/2) R_3(0) R_3(i/2)} \cdot \frac{\det G^+}{\det G^-}}$$

where  $u_i \equiv u_{1,i}$ ,  $v_j \equiv u_{2,j}$ ,  $w_k \equiv u_{3,k}$  and

$$\mathbb{T}_n(x) = \sum_{a=-n/2}^{n/2} (x+ia)^L \frac{Q_2(x+ia) Q_3(x+ia)}{Q_1(x+i(a+1/2)) Q_1(x+i(a-1/2))}.$$

de Leeuw-Kristjansen-GL, 2018

This formula has also been verified numerically. The  $M/2 \times M/2$  matrices  $G_{jk}^\pm$  and  $K_{jk}^\pm$  are defined as:

$$G_{ab,jk}^\pm = \delta_{ab} \delta_{jk} \left[ \frac{Lq_a^2}{u_{a,j}^2 + q_a^2/4} - \sum_{c=1}^3 \sum_{l=1}^{\lceil N/2 \rceil} K_{ac,jl}^+ \right] + K_{ab,jk}^\pm, \quad K_{ab,jk}^\pm = \mathbb{K}_{ab,jk}^- \pm \mathbb{K}_{ab,jk}^+$$

$$\mathbb{K}_{ab,jk}^\pm \equiv \frac{M_{ab}}{(u_{a,j} \pm u_{b,k})^2 + \frac{1}{4} M_{ab}^2}.$$

# The $\mathfrak{so}(6)$ determinant formula

The one-point function in the  $\mathfrak{so}(6)$  sector is given by

$$C_k(\{u_j; v_j; w_j\}) = \mathbb{T}_{k-1}(0) \cdot \sqrt{\frac{Q_1(0) Q_1(i/2) Q_1(ik/2) Q_1(ik/2)}{R_2(0) R_2(i/2) R_3(0) R_3(i/2)} \cdot \frac{\det G^+}{\det G^-}}$$

where  $u_i \equiv u_{1,i}$ ,  $v_j \equiv u_{2,j}$ ,  $w_k \equiv u_{3,k}$  and

$$\mathbb{T}_n(x) = \sum_{a=-n/2}^{n/2} (x+ia)^L \frac{Q_2(x+ia) Q_3(x+ia)}{Q_1(x+i(a+1/2)) Q_1(x+i(a-1/2))}.$$

de Leeuw-Kristjansen-GL, 2018

More properties of one-point functions in  $\mathfrak{so}(6)$ :

- One-point functions vanish if  $M$  or  $L + N_+ + N_-$  is odd.
- Because  $Q_3 \cdot |\text{MPS}\rangle = 0$ , all 1-point functions vanish unless all the Bethe roots are fully balanced:

$$\{u_1, \dots, u_{M/2}, -u_1, \dots, -u_{M/2}, 0\} \\
\{v_1, \dots, v_{N_+/2}, -v_1, \dots, -v_{N_+/2}, 0\}, \quad \{w_1, \dots, w_{N_-/2}, -w_1, \dots, -w_{N_-/2}, 0\}.$$

## Section 3

# Outlook & Applications

# Outlook

Surface critical phenomena are described by means of dCFTs and BCFTs... the surface critical exponents are related to the conformal dimensions of boundary operators...

## Applications

- Boundary conformal bootstrap ([Liendo-Rastelli-van Rees, 2012](#)): The insertion of a boundary in the bulk of a CFT can be used to constrain both the dCFT and the original CFT...
- D3-D7 system proposed as a holographic model of graphene ([Rey, 2009](#)) and topological insulators ([Kristjansen-Semenoff, 2016](#))....
- Relation to the quench action approach ([Piroli-Vernier-Calabrese-Pozsgay, Bertini-Tartaglia-Calabrese, 2018](#))...
- Strong-coupling methods... String integrability in the presence of boundaries ([Dekel-Oz, 2011](#))...

# Outlook

Surface critical phenomena are described by means of dCFTs and BCFTs... the surface critical exponents are related to the conformal dimensions of boundary operators...

## Applications

- Boundary conformal bootstrap ([Liendo-Rastelli-van Rees, 2012](#)): The insertion of a boundary in the bulk of a CFT can be used to constrain both the dCFT and the original CFT...
- D3-D7 system proposed as a holographic model of graphene ([Rey, 2009](#)) and topological insulators ([Kristjansen-Semenoff, 2016](#))....
- Relation to the quench action approach ([Piroli-Vernier-Calabrese-Pozsgay, Bertini-Tartaglia-Calabrese, 2018](#))...
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