

Protected operator algebras and holography

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2021-03-24

Based on [2101.04114] with
Pietro Ferrero, Xinan Zhou

Basic playground

Superconformal field theories

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graph TD; A[Superconformal field theories] --> B[Supergravity]; A --> C[Chiral algebra or TQFT];
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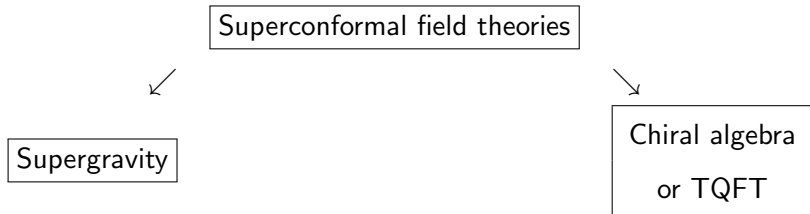
Supergravity

[Maldacena; hep-th/9711200]

Chiral algebra
or TQFT

[Beem, Lemos, Liendo, Peelaers, Rastelli, van Rees; 1312.5344]

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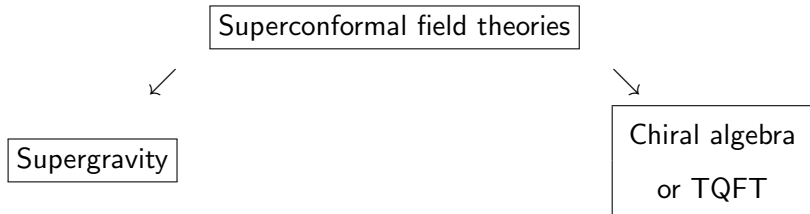


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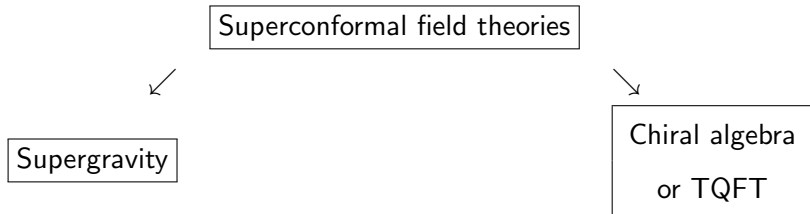


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- CFTs with extended supersymmetry have nilpotent “ $Q + S$ ” supercharge which singles out twisted configurations of correlators.
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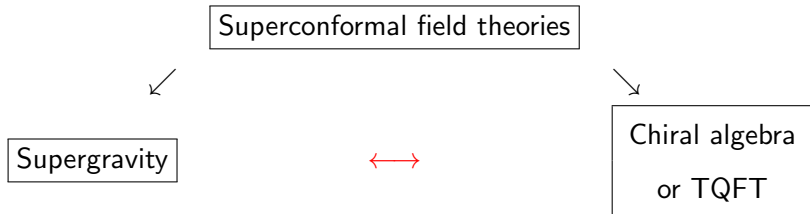


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 - Superconformal kinematics
 - Holographic correlators in Mellin space
 - How to bootstrap them
- ② Checks of chiral symmetry
 - \mathcal{W}_N 4pt functions at tree level
 - Matching to 6d results
 - What changes in 4d
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$\frac{2^{2\beta-2} \Gamma[\beta]}{(\pi N)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \prod_i \frac{\Gamma[\beta_i + \frac{1}{2}]}{\sqrt{\Gamma[2k_i - 1]}}$	$\frac{\sqrt{k_1 k_2 k_3}}{N}$	$\frac{\pi 2^{-\beta - \frac{1}{4}}}{N^{\frac{3}{4}} \Gamma[\frac{\beta+2}{2}]} \prod_i \frac{\sqrt{\Gamma[k_i + 2]}}{\Gamma[\frac{\beta_i + 1}{2}]}$

Four-point functions

Cross-ratios are built from $x_{ij} = x_i - x_j$ and $t_{ij} = t_i \cdot t_j$.

$$U = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = \chi\chi', \quad V = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = (1 - \chi)(1 - \chi')$$
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There are two common conventions.

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \mathcal{O}_2(z_2) \mathcal{O}_3(z_3) \mathcal{O}_4(z_4) \rangle =$$
$$\left(\frac{z_{24}}{z_{14}} \right)^{h_{12}} \left(\frac{z_{14}}{z_{13}} \right)^{h_{34}} \frac{\mathcal{F}(\chi)}{z_{12}^{h_1+h_2} z_{34}^{h_3+h_4}}$$

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Define **extremality** using i -th smallest weight $k_{\bar{i}}$.

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{cases} \frac{k_{\bar{1}} + k_{\bar{2}} + k_{\bar{3}} - k_{\bar{4}}}{2}, & k_{\bar{1}} + k_{\bar{4}} \geq k_{\bar{2}} + k_{\bar{3}} \\ k_{\bar{1}}, & k_{\bar{1}} + k_{\bar{4}} < k_{\bar{2}} + k_{\bar{3}} \end{cases}$$

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Polynomial-friendly prefactor is

$$t_{\frac{1}{34}}^{\frac{1}{2}(k_{\bar{3}} + k_{\bar{4}} - k_{\bar{1}} - k_{\bar{2}})} t_{\frac{1}{24}}^{\frac{1}{2}(k_{\bar{2}} + k_{\bar{4}} - k_{\bar{1}} - k_{\bar{3}})} t_{\frac{1}{23}}^{\frac{1}{2}(k_{\bar{1}} + k_{\bar{2}} + k_{\bar{3}} - k_{\bar{4}}) - \mathcal{E}} t_{\frac{1}{14}}^{k_{\bar{1}} - \mathcal{E}} (t_{\bar{12}} t_{\bar{34}})^{\mathcal{E}}.$$

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Dynamical $G(U, V; \sigma, \tau)$ satisfies **superconformal Ward identity**.

$$\left[\chi' \partial_{\chi'} - \epsilon \alpha' \partial_{\alpha'} \right] G(\chi, \chi'; \alpha, \alpha') \Big|_{\alpha' = 1/\chi'} = 0$$

Holographic four-point functions

Necessary Witten diagram calculations in position space are possible but tedious [[D'Hoker, Freedman, Mathur, Matusis, Rastelli; hep-th/9903196](#)] .

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Much better to use Mellin space [Mack; 0907.2407] .

$$G(U, V) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds dt}{(4\pi i)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2} - \frac{\epsilon}{2}(k_1+k_2-\mathcal{E})} V^{\frac{t}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2}(k_1-k_4-\mathcal{E})} \mathcal{M}(s, t) \\ \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2}\right] \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_4 - t}{2}\right] \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_3 - u}{2}\right] \\ \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_3 + \Delta_4 - s}{2}\right] \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - t}{2}\right] \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_2 + \Delta_4 - u}{2}\right]$$

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Conformal blocks and Witten diagrams (for $\tau = \Delta - \ell$) both become

$$\mathcal{M}_{\tau, \ell}(s, t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{Q_{\ell, m}^{\tau}(t)}{m! \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \tau}{2} - m\right] \Gamma\left[\frac{\Delta_3 + \Delta_4 - \tau}{2} - m\right] (s - \tau - 2m)}.$$

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Produces $AdS_{d+1} \times S^{d-1}$ solution with **no** contact terms.

$$\mathcal{M}(s, t; \sigma, \tau) = \mathcal{M}^{(s)}(s, t; \sigma, \tau) + \mathcal{M}^{(t)}(s, t; \sigma, \tau) + \mathcal{M}^{(u)}(s, t; \sigma, \tau) \\ \mathcal{M}^{(s)}(s, t; \sigma, \tau) = \sum_p \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{0 \leq i+j \leq \epsilon} \sigma^i \tau^j \frac{\mathcal{R}_{p, m}^{ij}(t, u)}{s - \epsilon p - 2m}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{p,m}^{ij}(t, u) = \frac{C_{k_1 k_2 p} C_{k_3 k_4 p} K_p^{ij}(t, u) H_{p,m}^{ij}}{i! j! m! \Gamma \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2}(k_1 + k_2 - p) - m \right] \Gamma \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2}(k_3 + k_4 - p) - m \right]}$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_{p,m}^{ij} &= 2i(2i + \kappa_u)t^- t^+ - 2i(d - 6 + \kappa_t)u^+ t^- + (u, i \leftrightarrow t, j) \\ &+ \frac{1}{4}(2p - \kappa_t - \kappa_u)(2p + \kappa_t + \kappa_u + 2d - 12)(2\epsilon j - t^-)(2\epsilon i - u^-) \\ &+ 4\epsilon ij[t^+(d - 6 + \kappa_u) + u^+(d - 6 + \kappa_t)] - 8ijt^+ u^+ \end{aligned}$$

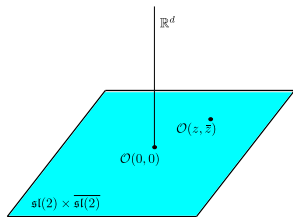
$$t^\pm = t \pm \frac{\epsilon}{2}\kappa_t - \frac{\epsilon}{2}\Sigma_k, \quad u^\pm = u \pm \frac{\epsilon}{2}\kappa_u - \frac{\epsilon}{2}\Sigma_k$$

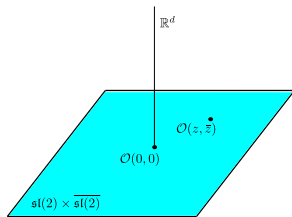
$$\kappa_s = |k_1 + k_2 - k_3 - k_4|, \quad \kappa_t = |k_1 + k_4 - k_2 - k_3|, \quad \kappa_u = |k_2 + k_4 - k_1 - k_3|$$

$$\begin{aligned} H_{p,m}^{ij} &= \frac{2^{-\frac{1}{3}(2\epsilon - d + 13)}}{[m + 1 + \epsilon(p - 1)]!} \frac{(-1)^{i+j + \frac{2p - \kappa_t - \kappa_u}{4}}}{[i + \frac{\kappa_u}{2}]! [j + \frac{\kappa_t}{2}]!} \frac{\Gamma \left[\frac{2p + 2d - 12 + \Sigma_k - \kappa_s - 4(\mathcal{E} - i - j)}{4} \right]}{\Gamma \left[\frac{2p + 4 - \Sigma_k + \kappa_s + 4(\mathcal{E} - i - j)}{4} \right]} \\ &\times \prod_x \frac{\Gamma[x]}{\Gamma[\epsilon x]} \prod_y \frac{\Gamma[\epsilon y]}{\Gamma[y]}, \quad x \in \left\{ \frac{p \pm k_{12}}{2}, \frac{p \pm k_{34}}{2} \right\}, \quad y \in \left\{ p, p + \frac{d - 6}{2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- ① Half-BPS 4pt functions
 - Superconformal kinematics
 - Holographic correlators in Mellin space
 - How to bootstrap them
- ② Checks of chiral symmetry
 - \mathcal{W}_N 4pt functions at tree level
 - Matching to 6d results
 - What changes in 4d
- ③ Exploring the topological sector
 - OPE coefficients from Mellin space
 - Finite crossing equations
 - Comparisons to matrix model results

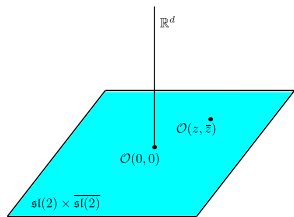
Chiral algebra / SCFT correspondence





Consider $\mathfrak{sl}(2) \times \mathfrak{sl}(2|2)$ preserving plane.

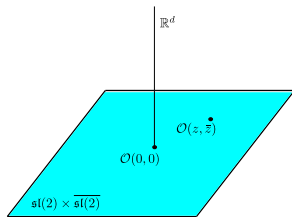
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Consider $\mathfrak{sl}(2) \times \mathfrak{sl}(2|2)$ preserving plane.

Fermionic generators give nilpotent \mathbb{Q} .

R-sym generators give exact $\bar{L}_{0,\pm 1} - R_{0,\pm 1}$.



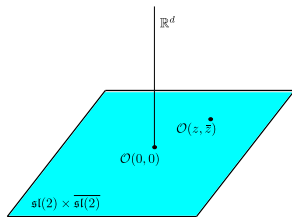
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Twisted translation predicted by superconformal Ward identity.

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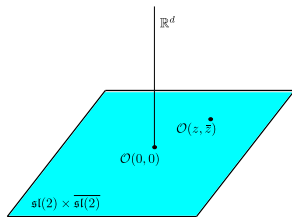
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This works for 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2, 3, 4$ [Beem, Lemos, Liendo, Peelaers, Rastelli, van Rees; 1312.5344] and 6d $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ [Beem, Rastelli, van Rees; 1404.1079].



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$T \implies$ *strong generator*

$$\Lambda = (TT) - \frac{3}{10} \partial^2 T \implies \textit{generator}$$

$\partial T, \partial^2 T, \partial(TT), \dots \implies$ *everything else*

Consider \mathcal{W}_3 algebra [\[Zamolodchikov; 1985\]](#) .

$$[W_m, W_n] \supset \delta_{m+n,0} L_{m+n}, \sum_p (L_{m+n-p} L_p)$$

Consider \mathcal{W}_3 algebra [\[Zamolodchikov; 1985\]](#) .

$$W(z)W(0) \sim \frac{c/3}{z^6} + \frac{c_1 T(0)}{z^4} + \frac{c_2 \partial T(0)}{z^3} \\ + \frac{1}{z^2} [c_3 \Lambda(0) + c_4 \partial^2 T(0)] + \frac{1}{z} [c_5 \partial \Lambda(0) + c_6 \partial^3 T]$$

Consider \mathcal{W}_3 algebra [Zamolodchikov; 1985]. Associativity fixes $\gamma = \frac{16}{22+5c}$.

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$\chi' = 1$ selects **lowest** double-trace u pole and no τ .

4d compared to 6d

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$$\mathcal{F}_{3333}(\chi; \alpha)|_{1/c^2} = \frac{2025\chi^2\alpha(1-\alpha)}{c^2(1-\chi)}$$

- ① Half-BPS 4pt functions
 - Superconformal kinematics
 - Holographic correlators in Mellin space
 - How to bootstrap them
- ② Checks of chiral symmetry
 - \mathcal{W}_N 4pt functions at tree level
 - Matching to 6d results
 - What changes in 4d
- ③ Exploring the topological sector
 - OPE coefficients from Mellin space
 - Finite crossing equations
 - Comparisons to matrix model results

New aspects of topological correlators

Techniques based on meromorphy do not work anymore.

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_k(x_1, t_1) \mathcal{O}_k(x_2, t_2) \rangle = \frac{t_{12}^k}{|x_{12}|^k} \mapsto \frac{y_{12}^k}{\text{sgn}(x_{12})^k}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} [0, 0, 2, 0] \otimes [0, 0, k, 0] &= [0, 0, k+2, 0] \oplus [0, 1, k, 0] \oplus [0, 2, k-2, 0] \\ &\oplus [0, 0, k, 0] \oplus [0, 1, k-2, 0] \oplus [0, 0, k-2, 0] \end{aligned}$$

Project onto $Y_{i,j}(\sigma, \tau)$ with $i+j \leq 2$ [\[Nirschl, Osborn; hep-th/0407060\]](#).

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$$\lambda_{2kB^{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,0,k+2,0]}}^2 = \frac{2}{(k+1)(k+2)}, \quad \lambda_{2kB^{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,1,k,0]}}^2 = \frac{2}{k+2}, \quad \lambda_{2kB^{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,2,k-2,0]}}^2 = \frac{k-1}{k+1}$$

OPE coefficients at tree level

$$[0, a, b, 0] \implies Y_{2a+b-k, a}(\sigma, \tau)$$

$$\ell = 0 \implies V = 1$$

$$\Delta = \frac{k}{2} \implies s = \frac{k}{2} \text{ pole of } \mathcal{M}$$

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$$\int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dt}{2\pi i} \frac{\Gamma[a_1 - \frac{t}{2}] \Gamma[a_2 - \frac{t}{2}] \Gamma[b_1 + \frac{t}{2}] \Gamma[b_2 + \frac{t}{2}]}{t \pm 2m - \delta} = \frac{\prod_{i,j=1}^2 \Gamma[a_i + b_j]}{\Gamma[a_1 + a_2 + b_1 + b_2]}$$

$$\times \begin{cases} [a_1 + m + \frac{\delta}{2}]^{-1} {}_3F_2 \left(\begin{matrix} 1, a_1 + b_1, a_1 + b_2 \\ a_1 + a_2 + b_1 + b_2, 1 + a_1 + m + \frac{\delta}{2} \end{matrix} \right) \\ - [b_1 + m + \frac{\delta}{2}]^{-1} {}_3F_2 \left(\begin{matrix} 1, a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_1 \\ a_1 + a_2 + b_1 + b_2, 1 + b_1 + m + \frac{\delta}{2} \end{matrix} \right) \end{cases}$$

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Sum over m is a 1d crossing kernel [Gopakumar, Sinha; 1809.10975].

OPE coefficients at tree level

$$I = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_m (a_2)_m}{m! (b_1)_m (c+m-1)} {}_3F_2 \left(\begin{matrix} 1, a_3, a_4 \\ b_2, c+m \end{matrix} \right) \propto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{a_1 + a_3 - c}{n} \\ W(a_2 + b_2 - 1, n + 1, a_3, b_2 - a_4, a_2, a_1 + a_2 - b_1 + b_2 - n - 1)$$

Mellin amplitudes are such that $a_1 + a_3 - c \in \mathbb{N}$.

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$$W \left(\begin{matrix} a, b, c, \\ d, e, f \end{matrix} \right) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds}{2\pi i} \frac{\Gamma[-s]\Gamma[b+s]\Gamma[c+s]\Gamma[d+s]\Gamma[1+a-e-f+s]}{\Gamma[1+a-b-c-d-s]^{-1}\Gamma[1+a-e+s]\Gamma[1+a-f+s]} \\ \propto {}_7F_6 \left(\begin{matrix} a, 1 + \frac{1}{2}a, b, c, d, e, f \\ \frac{1}{2}a, 1+a-b, 1+a-c, 1+a-d, 1+a-e, 1+a-f \end{matrix} \right)$$

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The hypergeometric function happens to have a closed form.

$$\lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,2,k-2,0]} = \frac{16(k-1)}{k^2(k+1)\pi^2 c_T} \left[4(k^3 + k^2 + 2k + 4) - k^2(k+2) \left(\pi^2 + 2\psi^{(1)} \left(\frac{k}{2} \right) \right) \right]$$

$$\lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,1,k,0]} = \frac{64}{k^2(k+2)\pi^2 c_T} \left[2(k-1)(k^2-4) - k^2\pi^2 + k^2(k^2+2k-2)\psi^{(1)} \left(\frac{k}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$\lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,0,k+2,0]} = \frac{32}{k(k+1)(k+2)\pi^2 c_T} \left[4(k-1)(k+2) + k^2\pi^2 + 2k^2\psi^{(1)} \left(\frac{k}{2} \right) \right]$$

A finite sum rule

Topological theory still has an OPE [\[Chester, Lee, Pufu, Yacoby; 1412.0334\]](#) .

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(\varphi_1, y_1) \mathcal{O}_2(\varphi_2, y_2) \mathcal{O}_3(\varphi_3, y_3) \mathcal{O}_4(\varphi_4, y_4) \rangle = \sum_{\mathcal{O}} \lambda_{12\mathcal{O}} \lambda_{34\mathcal{O}} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1} \right)^{j_{43}}$$
$$g_{-j}^{j_{12}, j_{43}} \left(\frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \right) \left(\frac{y_{14}}{y_{24}} \right)^{j_{12}} \left(\frac{y_{13}}{y_{14}} \right)^{j_{34}} \frac{(-1)^j y_{12}^{j_1 + j_2} y_{34}^{j_3 + j_4}}{(\text{sgn} \varphi_{21})^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta} (\text{sgn} \varphi_{43})^{\Delta_3 + \Delta_4 - \Delta}}$$

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Apply crossing with $j + j_{34} = 2$ once, 1 twice and 0 thrice.

$$\lambda_{2kB \frac{k-2}{2}}^{[0,0,k-2,0]} + \lambda_{2kB \frac{k}{2}}^{[0,1,k-2,0]} + \lambda_{2kB \frac{k}{2}}^{[0,0,k,0]}$$
$$\lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,2,k-2,0]} + \lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,1,k,0]} - \frac{k(k+3)}{2} \lambda_{2kB \frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,0,k+2,0]} = 0$$

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$$\lambda_{2kB_{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,2,k-2,0]}}^2 + \lambda_{2kB_{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,1,k,0]}}^2 - \frac{k(k+3)}{2} \lambda_{2kB_{\frac{k+2}{2}}^{[0,0,k+2,0]}}^2 = 0$$

Can also constrain $\lambda_{22B_2^{[0040]}} \lambda_{kkB_2^{[0040]}}$, $\lambda_{22B_1^{[0020]}} \lambda_{kkB_1^{[0020]}}$, $\lambda_{22B_2^{[0200]}} \lambda_{kkB_2^{[0200]}}$.

At higher extremality we have $\left[\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \right]$ crossing equations.

Comparing to a matrix model

TQFT for fundamental and adjoint hyper [\[Dedushenko, Pufu, Yacoby; 1610.00740\]](#) .

$$S_Q = - \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\varphi \tilde{Q}_\alpha [\dot{Q} + \sigma Q]^\alpha, \quad S_X = - \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\varphi \tilde{X}^{\alpha\beta} [\dot{X} + [\sigma, X]]^\beta_\alpha$$

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Combine with dualities for ABJM at level 1 [\[Bashkirov, Kapustin; 1103.3548\]](#) .

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Correlators for multi-trace $\mathcal{X} = (X, \tilde{X})$ operators.

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1 \dots \mathcal{O}_n \rangle = \frac{1}{N! Z_N} \int d^N \sigma \prod_{\alpha < \beta} 4 \sinh^2(\pi \sigma_{\alpha\beta}) Z_\sigma \langle \mathcal{O}_1 \dots \mathcal{O}_n \rangle_\sigma$$

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Leading ($O(1/c_T)$) single-trace couplings match [\[Mezei, Pufu, Wang; 1703.08749\]](#) .

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Leading ($O(1)$) double-trace OPE coefficients do too.

$$\lambda_{\mathcal{E}k[\mathcal{O}_\mathcal{E}\mathcal{O}_k]^{[0,j,k+\mathcal{E}-2j,0]}}^2 = \frac{k!\mathcal{E}!}{j!} \frac{k + \mathcal{E} - 2j + 1}{(k + \mathcal{E} - j + 1)!}$$

Conclusions

- Mellin amplitudes for $AdS_7 \times S^4$, $AdS_5 \times S^5$ and $AdS_4 \times S^7$ enable important checks.
- Many previously disparate results are special cases of the crossing kernel.
- The chiral algebra structure makes predictions about loops from AdS unitarity method [[Aharony, Alday, Bissi, Perlmutter; 1612.03891](#)].
- Closed form OPE coefficients in ABJM theory present a challenge for matrix model techniques [[Mariño, Putrov; 1110.4066](#)].
- Protected operators in 3d $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$ and 4d $\mathcal{N} \geq 2$ SCFTs allow us to study similar conjectures [[Binder, Chester, Pufu; 1906.07195](#)].
- Should also explore backgrounds with defects or finite temperature.