

# Integrability in $\text{AdS}_3/\text{CFT}_2$

Olof Ohlsson Sax

Nov 16, 2015

Based on work done together with A. Babichenko, R. Borsato,  
A. Dekel, T. Lloyd, A. Sfondrini, B. Stefański and A. Torrielli



# AdS<sub>3</sub>/CFT<sub>2</sub>

- AdS<sub>3</sub> backgrounds preserving 16 supersymmetries:

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$$

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$

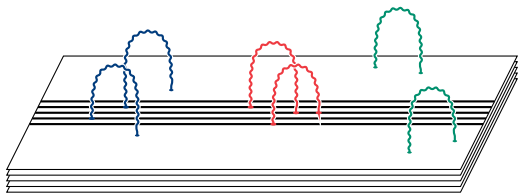
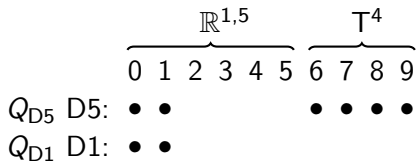
- String backgrounds supported by RR+NSNSN three-form flux
- Dual conformal field theories:

$D = 2$  CFT with  
small  $\mathcal{N} = (4, 4)$  symmetry

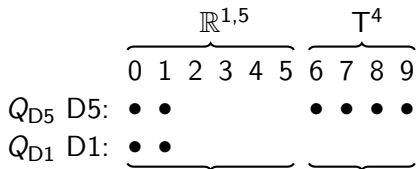
$D = 2$  CFT with  
large  $\mathcal{N} = (4, 4)$  symmetry

- Non-linear sigma models are **classically integrable**
- Goal: use **integrability** to solve **spectral problem** of AdS<sub>3</sub>/CFT<sub>2</sub>

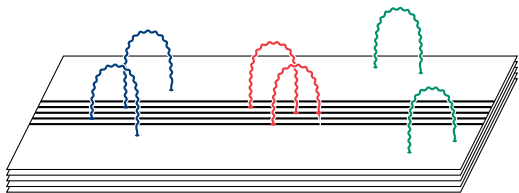
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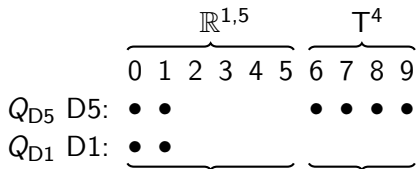
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Near horizon geometry:  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3$        $T^4$

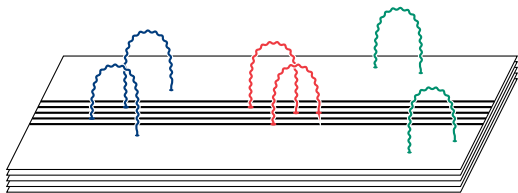


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Near horizon geometry:  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3$   $T^4$

Radius:  $L^2 = g_s Q_{D5}$



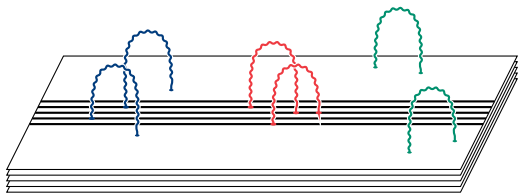
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|                        |                     | $\mathbb{R}^{1,5}$ |   |   |   |   | $T^4$ |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
|                        |                     | 0                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5     | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| $Q_{\text{NS5}}$ NS5 + | $Q_{\text{D5}}$ D5: | •                  | • |   |   |   |       | • | • | • | • |
| $Q_{\text{F1}}$ F1 +   | $Q_{\text{D1}}$ D1: | •                  | • |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |

Near horizon geometry:  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3$        $T^4$

Radius:  $L^2 = \sqrt{Q_{\text{NS5}}^2 + g_s^2 Q_{\text{D5}}^2} = \alpha' \sqrt{\lambda}$

World-sheet coupling ↗



# Integrability for the $\text{AdS}_3/\text{CFT}_2$ spectral problem

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$$g_s \rightarrow 0 \quad \sqrt{\lambda} \text{ fixed}$$



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- World-sheet theory: integrable 2D field theory
- $\text{CFT}_2$ : spin-chain picture of local operators [See also Bogdan's talk](#)

$$\mathbf{D}\mathcal{O} = \Delta\mathcal{O} \quad \mathcal{O} = \sum \text{tr}(\mathbf{ZZZZ}\mathbf{XZZ}\mathbf{XZZZ})$$

# Outline

## Integrability in $\text{AdS}_3/\text{CFT}_2$

- 1 Integrability
- 2 Coset sigma models
- 3 String theory in uniform light-cone gauge
  - Off-shell symmetry algebra
  - Dispersion relation and S matrix
- 4 Bethe ansatz and the spin-chain picture
- 5 Strings on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$
- 6 Summary



# Integrability

- Classical mechanics:  $N$  d.o.f,  $N$  conserved charges

$$\{H_i, H_j\}_{\text{PB}} = 0, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{action-angle variables}$$

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- Classical field theory: an infinite number of d.o.f

- Local conserved quantities

$$\text{Sine-Gordon:} \quad H_{2k+1} = p^{2k+1} \quad H_{2k+2} = p^{2k} \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$$

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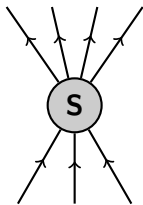
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- Quantum field theory: factorised scattering



## Factorised scattering

- $N$ -particle scattering:  $|p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N\rangle \rightarrow |p'_1, p'_2, \dots, p'_M\rangle$

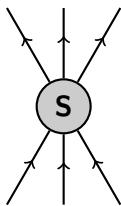


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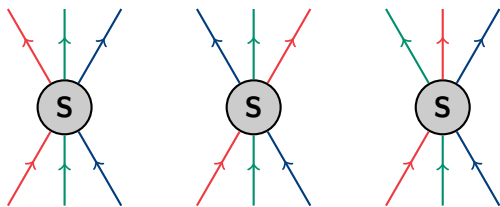


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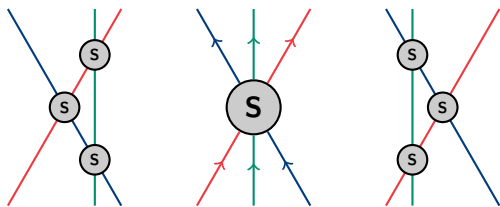


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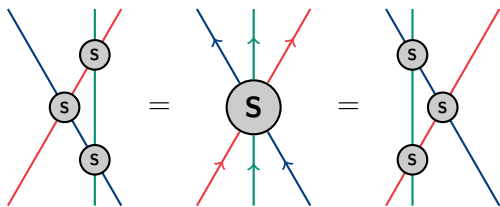


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Coset sigma models

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Super-cosets with  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  automorphism

Classical integrability

# Coset sigma models with $\mathbb{Z}_4$ grading

- Super-coset space  $G/H_0$
- $\mathbb{Z}_4$  grading of super-Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_3$$

- Compatibility with (anti-)commutation relations

$$[h_n, h_m] \subset h_{(n+m) \bmod 4}$$

- In our case:
  - $h_0$  and  $h_2$  are bosonic
  - $h_1$  and  $h_3$  are fermionic

## Coset sigma models with $\mathbb{Z}_4$ grading

- Graded currents ( $g(x) \in G$ )

$$J = g^{-1}dg = J_0 + J_1 + J_2 + J_3$$

- Sigma model action

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^2\sigma \text{Str}(J_2 \wedge *J_2 + J_1 \wedge J_3)$$

- Introduce the **Lax connection**

$$L(x) = J_0 + \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1}J_2 - \frac{2x}{x^2-1}*J_2 + \sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x-1}}J_1 + \sqrt{\frac{x-1}{x+1}}J_3$$

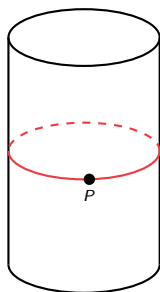
- Equations of motion  $\longleftrightarrow$  flatness of  $L$

$$dL + L \wedge L = 0, \quad \forall x$$

# The monodromy matrix and integrability

- Construct the monodromy matrix

$$\mathcal{M}_P(x) = \mathcal{P} \exp \int_P^P L(x)$$

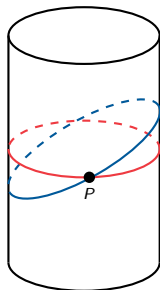


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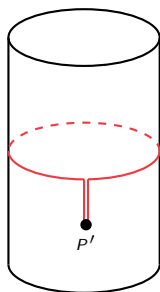
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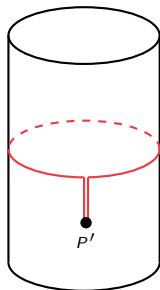
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- Expanding  $\text{tr} \mathcal{M}(x)$  gives an **infinite** set of conserved charges



## Coset sigma models and Green-Schwarz strings

Green-Schwarz string

Coset sigma model

IIB on  $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times S^3$

$\leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{D(2, 1; \alpha) \times D(2, 1; \alpha)}{SL(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)}$$

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→ IIB on  $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$  ↔

$$\frac{PSU(1, 1|2) \times PSU(1, 1|2)}{SL(2) \times SU(2)} \times U(1)^4$$

Fully fix kappa symmetry

Add free scalars

# Coset sigma models and Green-Schwarz strings

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{IIB on } \text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1 &\leftrightarrow \frac{D(2, 1; \alpha) \times D(2, 1; \alpha)}{SL(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)} \times U(1) \\ \text{IIB on } \text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4 &\leftrightarrow \frac{PSU(1, 1|2) \times PSU(1, 1|2)}{SL(2) \times SU(2)} \times U(1)^4 \end{aligned}$$

- Coset backgrounds supported by **pure RR flux**

[Babichenko, Stefański, Zarembo '09]

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- Coset backgrounds supported by **pure RR** flux

[Babichenko, Stefański, Zarembo '09]

- Include **NSNS** flux by adding WZ term

$$k \int \text{Str} \left( \frac{2}{3} J_2 \wedge J_2 \wedge J_2 + J_1 \wedge J_3 \wedge J_2 + J_3 \wedge J_1 \wedge J_2 \right)$$

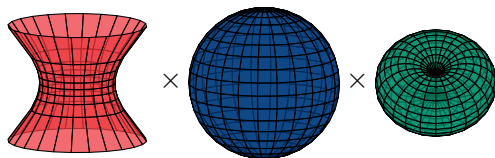
- WZ term breaks  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  symmetry but a Lax connection can still be constructed

[Cagnazzo, Zarembo '12]



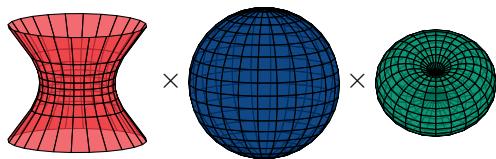
String theory in uniform light-cone gauge

## String theory on $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$



- Consider strings in  $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$  supported by pure RR flux
- Fix light-cone gauge
- $8 + 8$  physical world-sheet excitations
- World-sheet integrability:
  - Dispersion relation for fundamental excitations
  - Two-particle S matrix
- S matrix defined on a non-compact world-sheet

# String theory on $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$



- Isometries:

$$PSU(1,1|2) \times PSU(1,1|2) \times U(1)^4$$

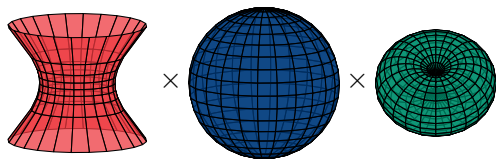
$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{SU(2)_\bullet \times SU(2)_\circ}$

- Bosonic subgroup

$$SO(2,2) \times SO(4) \times U(1)^4$$



# String theory on $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$



- Isometries in the **decompactification limit**:



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## Light-cone gauge

- Fix light-cone gauge:

Equator of  $S^3$    $\phi$    $t = \tau$

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Note **massless** modes 

## “Off-shell” symmetries

- **Physical** states satisfy level matching:

$$\mathbf{P} |p_1, \dots, p_n\rangle = (p_1 + \dots + p_n) |p_1, \dots, p_n\rangle = 0$$

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- Not all isometries are manifest in light-cone gauge
- Construct **off-shell** symmetry algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  of generators  $\mathbf{J}$  that
  - ① Commute with the gauge-fixed Hamiltonian  $[\mathbf{H}, \mathbf{J}] = 0$
  - ② Act on generic off-shell states

- World-sheet supercurrents constructed to quartic order

[Borsato, OOS, Sfondrini, Stefański, Torrielli '14]

[Lloyd, OOS, Sfondrini, Stefański '14]

- For **on-shell** states  $\mathcal{A} \subset psu(1, 1|2)^2 \times so(4)$



## Light-cone gauge symmetry algebra

Light-cone gauge breaks isometries to  $psu(1|1)_{c.e.}^4 \times so(4)$




8 supercharges

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Light-cone gauge breaks isometries to  $psu(1|1)_{c.e.}^4 \times so(4)$

The **on-shell** algebra  $\mathbf{P} = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \{Q_{L a}, \bar{Q}_L^b\} &= \frac{1}{2} \delta_a^b (\mathbf{H} + \mathbf{M}) & \{Q_{L a}, Q_R^b\} &= 0 \\ \{Q_R^a, \bar{Q}_{R b}\} &= \frac{1}{2} \delta_b^a (\mathbf{H} - \mathbf{M}) & \{\bar{Q}_L^a, \bar{Q}_{R b}\} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

  $su(2)_{\bullet} \subset so(4)$  indices

# Light-cone gauge symmetry algebra

Light-cone gauge breaks isometries to  $psu(1|1)_{c.e.}^4 \times so(4)$

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[David, Sahoo '10]

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Two additional central charges 

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Central charge

$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{i}{2} h(\lambda) (e^{i\mathbf{P}} - 1)$$

 Coupling constant

$$h(\lambda) = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} + \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{\lambda})$$

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$$\mathbf{C} |p_1 p_2\rangle = \begin{cases} (\# \mathbf{C} \otimes \mathbf{1} + \# \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{C}) |p_1 p_2\rangle \\ \frac{i h}{2} (e^{i(p_1 + p_2)} - 1) |p_1 p_2\rangle \end{cases}$$

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# Representations

Particles transform in **short** representations

$$\mathbf{H}^2 = \mathbf{M}^2 + 4\mathbf{C}\bar{\mathbf{C}}$$

Central charge  $\mathbf{C} = \frac{i\hbar}{2} (e^{i\mathbf{P}} - 1)$  gives the **dispersion relation**

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# Representations

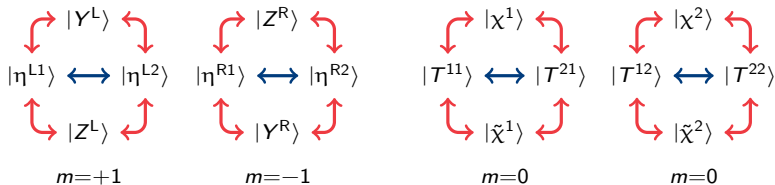
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# Representations

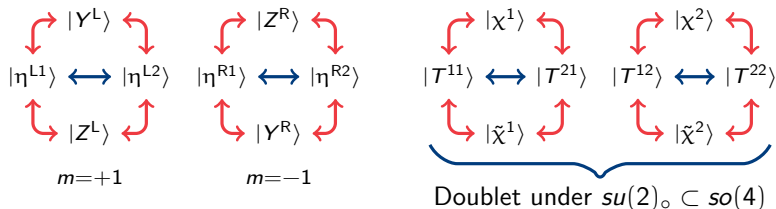
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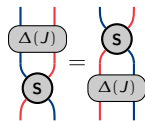
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# Properties of the S matrix

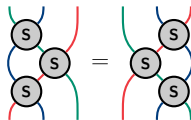
- Symmetry invariance



- Unitarity



- Yang-Baxter equation



# The two-particle S matrix

- Find S matrix by imposing **off-shell** symmetry

$$[\Delta(\mathbf{Q}), \mathbf{S}] = 0$$

Non-trivial coproduct 

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- **Unique** matrix for each pair of representations
- Four undetermined coefficients – “dressing phases”

$$\sigma^2$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2$$

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Scattering of excitations with  $m = +1$  and  $m = +1$

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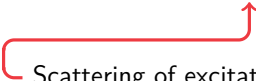
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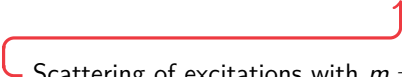
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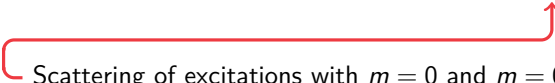
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$$\sigma_{\bullet o}^2$$

$$\sigma_{oo}^2$$

 Scattering of excitations with  $m = 0$  and  $m = 0$

# The two-particle S matrix

- Find S matrix by imposing **off-shell** symmetry

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- Four undetermined coefficients – “dressing phases”

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- Phases satisfy **crossing equations**
- S matrix exact to all orders in  $\hbar(\lambda)$

## Massless S matrix

- In a relativistic theory scattering of massless modes is problematic

$$v = \frac{\partial E}{\partial p} = \pm 1$$

- Here there is no Lorentz invariance and the “massless” modes have a non-linear dispersion relation

$$v = \frac{\partial E}{\partial p} = \pm h \cos \frac{p}{2}$$

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- Massless modes form doublet under  $su(2)_o$ 
  - extra  $su(2)$  S matrix

$$\mathbf{S}_{su(2)} = 1 + i(w_p - w_q)\Pi$$

Unknown function of momentum 

## Mixed flux background

- $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$  supported by RR+NSNS three-form flux

$$F = \tilde{q}(\text{Vol}_{\text{AdS}_3} + \text{Vol}_{S^3}) \quad H = q(\text{Vol}_{\text{AdS}_3} + \text{Vol}_{S^3})$$

- Coefficients related by  $\tilde{q}^2 + q^2 = 1$
- Quantised WZW level

$$Q_{\text{NS5}} = 2\pi k = q\sqrt{\lambda} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

- Dispersion relation

$$E_p = \sqrt{(m + kp)^2 + 4\tilde{q}^2 h^2 \sin^2 \frac{p}{2}}$$

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Momentum-dependent "mass" 

$$k \sim Q_{\text{NS5}}$$

Rescaled coupling 

$$\tilde{q}h \sim g_s Q_{\text{D5}} + \dots$$

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- S matrix takes the same functional form of  $p$  and  $E_p$  for any  $q$

[Hoare, Tseytlin '13]

[Lloyd, OOS, Stefański, Sfondrini '14]



## Bethe ansatz and the spin-chain picture



# Bethe ansatz equations

- Impose periodic boundary conditions

$$e^{ip_k L} = \prod_{j \neq k} S(p_k, p_j)$$

- Non-diagonal S matrix  $\rightarrow$  nested Bethe equations
- 3 types of momentum-carrying roots
- 3 types of auxiliary roots
- Simplifies in the weak coupling limit  $h(\lambda) \rightarrow 0$

# Massive sector

At weak coupling

- Two decoupled  $PSU(1, 1|2)$  spin-chains
- The two spin-chains couple through level matching

$$e^{iP_{\text{total}}} = 1$$



# Massive sector

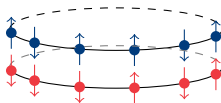
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Higher orders

- Sites in the  $(\frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2})_L \otimes (\frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2})_R$  representation



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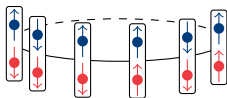
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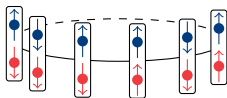
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- **Dynamic** supersymmetries



## Spin-chain representation $(\frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2})$

- Two bosons  $\phi^\pm$  Dimension  $\frac{1}{2}$
- Doublet under  $su(2) \subset psu(1, 1|2)$

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- Two fermions  $\psi^\pm$  Dimension 1  
Doublet under  $su(2)$  automorphism

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- Two bosons  $\partial^n \phi^\pm$  Dimension  $\frac{1}{2} + n$
  - Two fermions  $\partial^n \psi^\pm$  Dimension  $1 + n$
  - Derivatives generate  $sl(2)$  descendants
- Diagrammatic annotations:
- A red arrow points from the text "Doublet under  $su(2) \subset psu(1, 1|2)$ " to the boson field  $\partial^n \phi^\pm$ .
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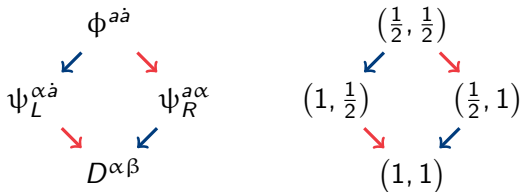
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  - Doublet under  $su(2)_\bullet$  automorphism
- Derivatives generate  $sl(2)$  descendants
- 1/2-BPS representation

In the full  $psu(1, 1|2) \times psu(1, 1|2)$  (massive) spin-chain:

- Sites make up 8+8 primary fields



## Massless modes in the spin-chain

When we include the massless modes additional **chiral** representations appear as sites in the spin-chain

- Four free scalars

$$T^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} \quad (0, 0)$$

- Two  $(\frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2}) \otimes 1$  multiplets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \chi_L^{a\dot{\alpha}} & (\frac{1}{2}, 0) \\ & \swarrow & \swarrow \\ \partial_L T^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} & & (1, 0) \end{array}$$

- Two  $1 \otimes (\frac{1}{2}; \frac{1}{2})$  multiplets

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \chi_R^{\dot{a}\alpha} & (0, \frac{1}{2}) \\ & \searrow & \searrow \\ & \partial_R T^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} & (0, 1) \end{array}$$

# Massless modes in the spin-chain

With massive + massless modes

- Sites in different representations – “reducible spin-chain”

[OOS, Stefański, Torrielli '12]

At weak coupling

- Two decoupled  $psu(1, 1|2)$  spin-chains of **different length**
- Extra equations describing scattering between massless modes
- Level matching condition

$$\exp(ip_L + ip_R + ip_{\text{massless}}) = 1$$

## BPS states

From  $psu(1, 1|2)^2$  representation theory

- Primaries of three types of 1/2-BPS sites

$\phi$  massive scalar

$\chi_L^\pm$  massless chiral fermion

$\chi_R^\pm$  massless anti-chiral fermion

- Expect 1/2-BPS states of the form

$$(\phi)^{J_M} (\chi_L)^{J_L} (\chi_R)^{J_R} \quad \left( \frac{1}{2}(J_M + J_L), \frac{1}{2}(J_M + J_R) \right)$$

- Only **completely symmetric** states protected when interactions are included

## BPS states

From  $psu(1, 1|2)^2$  representation theory + interactions

- $J$  massive bosons

$$\left(\frac{J}{2}, \frac{J}{2}\right)$$

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From  $psu(1, 1|2)^2$  representation theory + interactions

- $J$  massive bosons
- Two + two massless fermions, each appearing maximally once

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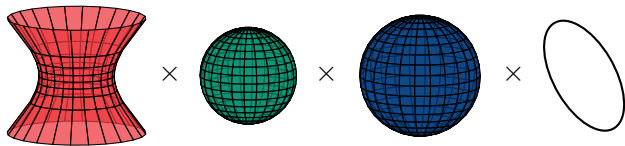
- Matches supergravity spectrum

[de Boer '98]



 String theory on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$

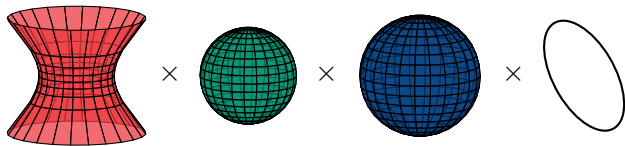
$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



- Supersymmetry relates the radii:

$$\frac{1}{L^2} = \frac{1}{R_+^2} + \frac{1}{R_-^2} \quad \frac{1}{R_+^2} = \frac{\alpha}{L^2} \quad \frac{1}{R_-^2} = \frac{1-\alpha}{L^2}$$

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$

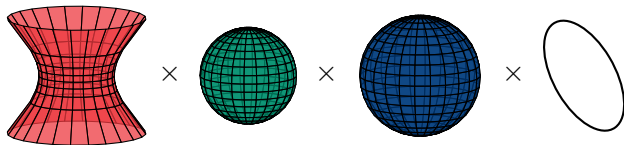


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One parameter  
family of backgrounds  
 $0 < \alpha < 1$

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



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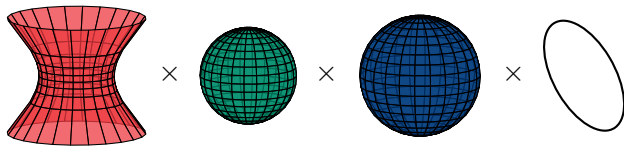
$$\frac{1}{L^2} = \frac{1}{R_+^2} + \frac{1}{R_-^2} \quad \frac{1}{R_+^2} = \frac{\alpha}{L^2} \quad \frac{1}{R_-^2} = \frac{1-\alpha}{L^2}$$

- Isometries:

$$D(2, 1; \alpha) \times D(2, 1; \alpha) \times U(1) \supset SO(2, 2) \times SO(4) \times SO(4) \times U(1)$$

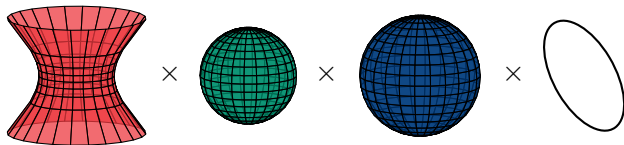
- In the  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$  and  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  limits one of the sphere blows up  
→ obtain the  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$  background

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



- Unique supersymmetric geodesic on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3$
- Preserves 4 supersymmetries

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



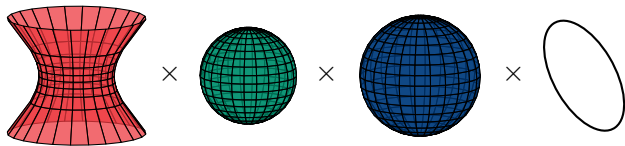
- Unique supersymmetric geodesic on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3$
- Preserves 4 supersymmetries
- Light-cone gauge “off-shell” symmetry algebra

$$psu(1|1)_{\text{c.e.}}^2 \quad \text{with four central elements}$$

- Fundamental excitations

$$m_B = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\} \quad m_F = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\}$$

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$




- Unique supersymmetric geodesic on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3$
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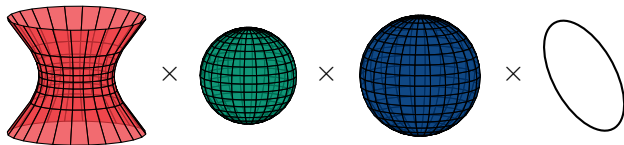
$$psu(1|1)_{\text{c.e.}}^2 \quad \text{with four central elements}$$

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$$m_B = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\} \quad m_F = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\}$$

Composite? 

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



- Unique supersymmetric geodesic on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3$
- Preserves 4 supersymmetries
- Light-cone gauge “off-shell” symmetry algebra

$$psu(1|1)_{\text{c.e.}}^2 \quad \text{with four central elements}$$

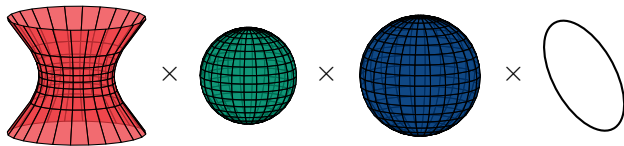
- Fundamental excitations

$$m_B = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\} \quad m_F = 2 \times \{0, \alpha, 1 - \alpha, 1\}$$

- Form 1 + 1 dimensional representations of  $psu(1|1)_{\text{c.e.}}^2$ .



$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$$



Off-shell symmetry algebra gives

- Dispersion relation

$$E_p = \sqrt{(m + \not{k}p)^2 + 4\tilde{q}^2 h^2 \sin^2 \frac{p}{2}}$$

- Matrix form of S matrix
- 9 dressing phases



# Summary

# Summary

## Integrability in $\text{AdS}_3/\text{CFT}_2$

Discussed string theory on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$

- Supported by RR+NSNS flux
- Classical theory is integrable
- Quantum theory: light-cone gauge
- Constructed “off-shell” symmetry algebra
  - Exact dispersion relation
  - All-loop S matrix – satisfies Yang-Baxter equation
- Spin-chain picture from Bethe equations

Results generalise to  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times S^3 \times S^1$

# Outlook

## Open string theory questions

- Dressing phases – solve crossing equations [Work in progress]
- Match with perturbation theory [Sundin, Wulff '12–'15]  
[Engelund, McKeown, Roiban '13] [Bianchi, Hoare '14]
- S matrix matches with perturbative results
- Two-loop mismatch for massless dispersion relation

$$E_p^{\text{Exact}} = p - \frac{p^3}{24h^2} + \dots \quad E_p^{\text{Pert}} = p - \frac{p^3}{4\pi^2 h^2} + \dots$$

- Massless  $su(2)_0$  S matrix
- Winding modes on  $T^4$

# Outlook

## Bigger questions

- Full spectrum from integrability – TBA
- Spin-chain from  $\text{CFT}_2$ ? See Bogdan's talk
- Virasoro? Full  $\mathcal{N} = (4, 4)$  superconformal symmetry?
- Relation with symmetric product orbifold?  
[Pakman, Rastelli, Razamat '10]
- Black holes in  $\text{AdS}_3$  and integrability [David, Sadhukhan '11]
- Relation with higher spin theories in  $\text{AdS}_3$ ?  
[Gaberdiel, Gopakumar '14]



Thank you!



Thank you!