

String Field Theory solution for any open string background

Carlo Maccaferri
Torino University



based on **1406.3021, JHEP 1410....w/ Ted Erler**

1402.3546, JHEP 1405 (2014) 004

1207.4785, JHEP 1307 (2013) 033 (w/ **Matej Kudrna** and **Martin Schnabl**)

1201.5122, JHEP 1206 (2012) 084 (w/ **Ted Erler**)

1201.5119, JHEP 1204 (2012) 107 (w/ **Ted Erler**)

The String Theory Universe
18/09/2014



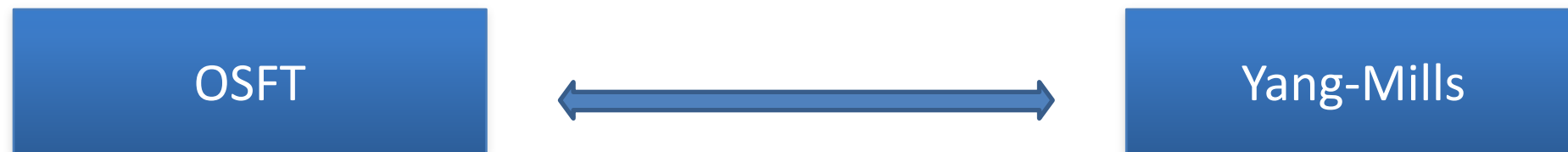
Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY

Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY



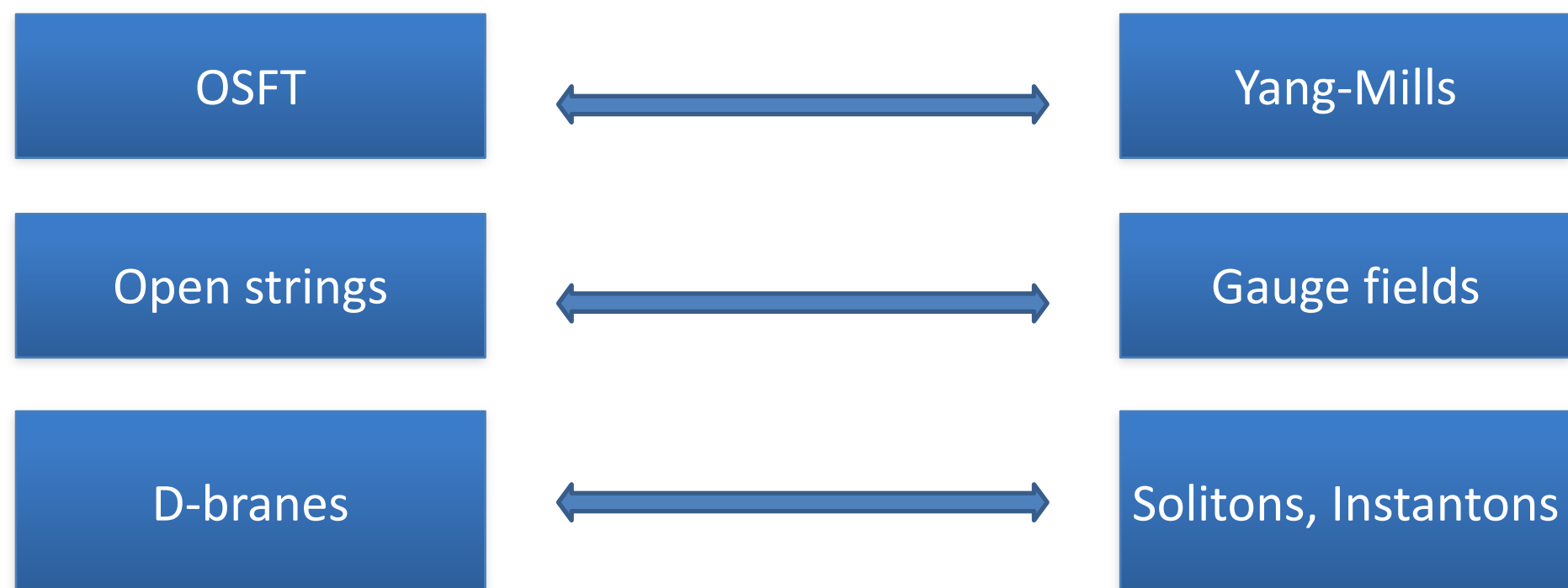
Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY



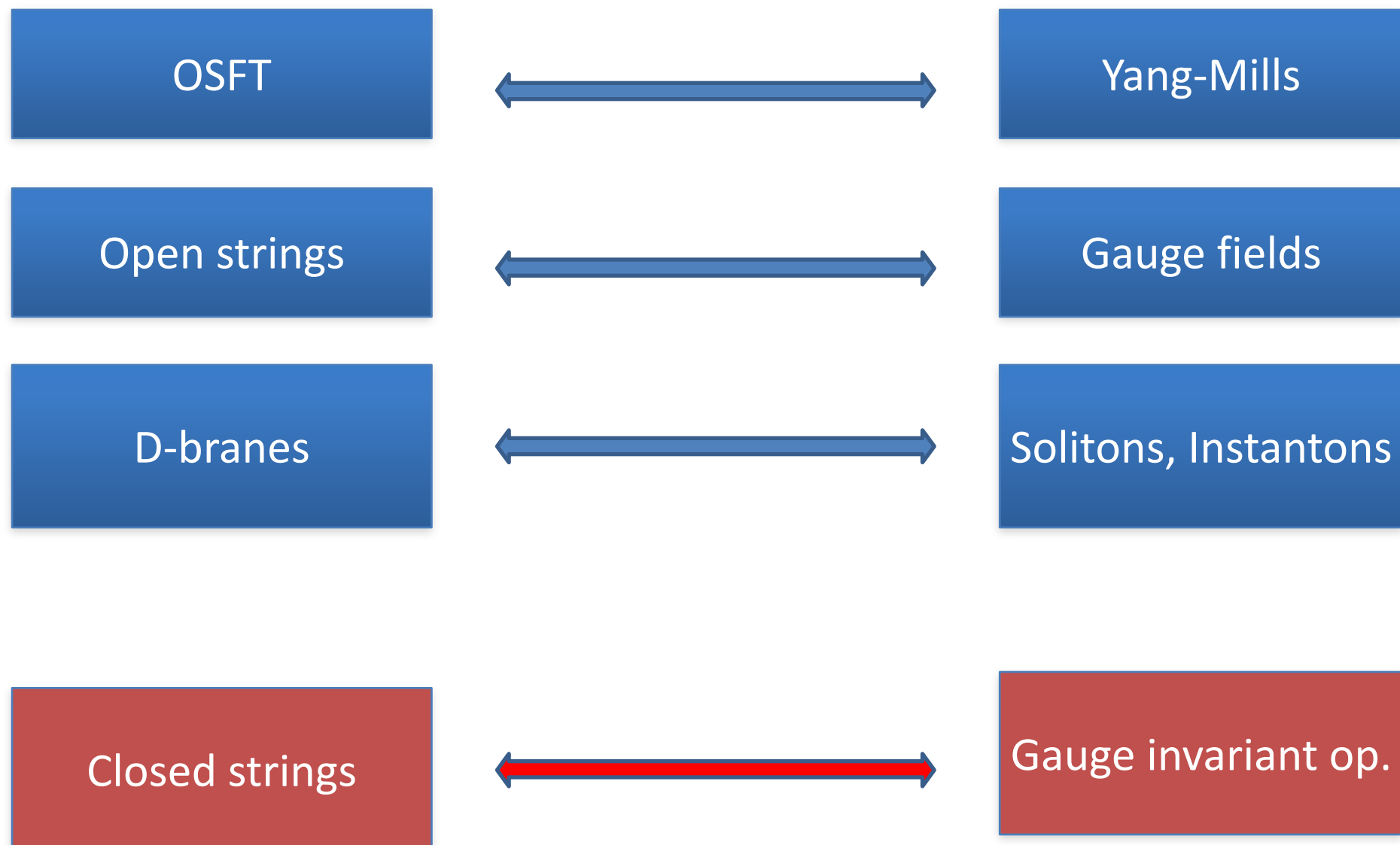
Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY



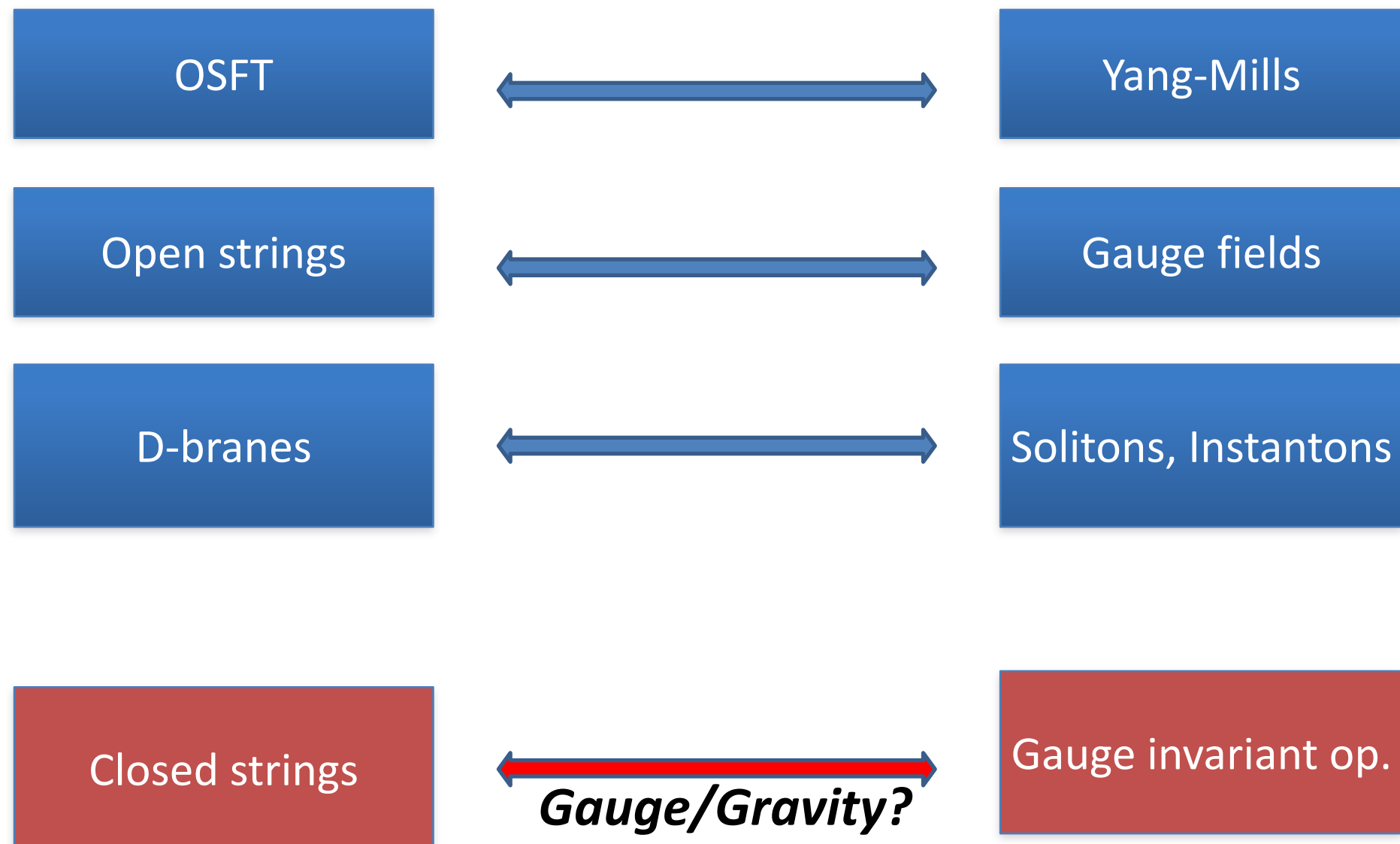
Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY



Open String Field Theory (OSFT) is a microscopic theory for D-branes, formulated as a *field theoretic* description of *open strings*

CARTOON-ANALOGY



OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)
- Fix a reference BCFT_0 (open string background, D-brane's system)

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)
- Fix a reference BCFT_0 (open string background, D-brane's system)
- The string field is a state in BCFT_0

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_i t_i \psi^i(0) |0\rangle_{SL(2,R)}$$

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)
- Fix a reference BCFT_0 (open string background, D-brane's system)
- The string field is a state in BCFT_0

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_i t_i \psi^i(0) |0\rangle_{SL(2,R)}$$

- There is a non-degenerate inner product (BPZ)

$$\langle\psi, \phi\rangle = \langle\psi(-1)\phi(1)\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0}^{Disk}$$

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)
- Fix a reference BCFT_0 (open string background, D-brane's system)
- The string field is a state in BCFT_0

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_i t_i \psi^i(0) |0\rangle_{SL(2,R)}$$

- There is a non-degenerate inner product (BPZ)

$$\langle\psi, \phi\rangle = \langle\psi(-1)\phi(1)\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0}^{Disk}$$

- The bpz-inner product allows to write a target-space action

$$S[\psi] = -\frac{1}{2} \langle\psi, Q\psi\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0} - \frac{1}{3} \langle\psi, \psi * \psi\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0} = S_{eff}[t_i]$$

- Witten product: peculiar way of gluing surfaces through the midpoint in order to have associativity

OPEN STRING FIELD THEORY: SNAPSHOT

- Fix a bulk CFT (closed string background)
- Fix a reference BCFT_0 (open string background, D-brane's system)
- The string field is a state in BCFT_0

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_i t_i \psi^i(0) |0\rangle_{SL(2,R)}$$

- There is a non-degenerate inner product (BPZ)

$$\langle\psi, \phi\rangle = \langle\psi(-1)\phi(1)\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0}^{Disk}$$

- The bpz-inner product allows to write a target-space action

$$S[\psi] = -\frac{1}{2} \langle\psi, Q\psi\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0} - \frac{1}{3} \langle\psi, \psi * \psi\rangle_{\text{BCFT}_0} = S_{eff}[t_i]$$

- Witten product: peculiar way of gluing surfaces through the midpoint in order to have associativity
- Equation of motion

$$Q\Psi + \Psi * \Psi = 0$$

OSFT CONJECTURE (once known as Sen's Conjecture)



OSFT CONJECTURE (once known as Sen's Conjecture)

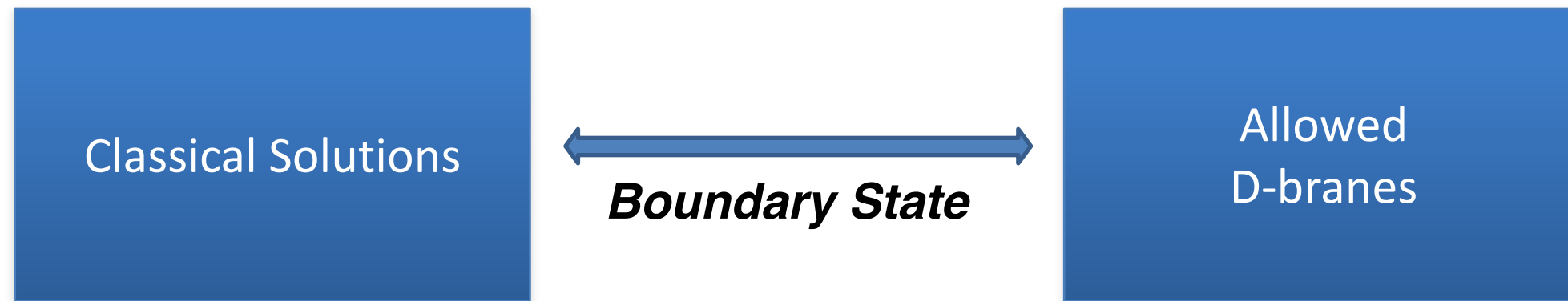


OSFT CONJECTURE (once known as Sen's Conjecture)



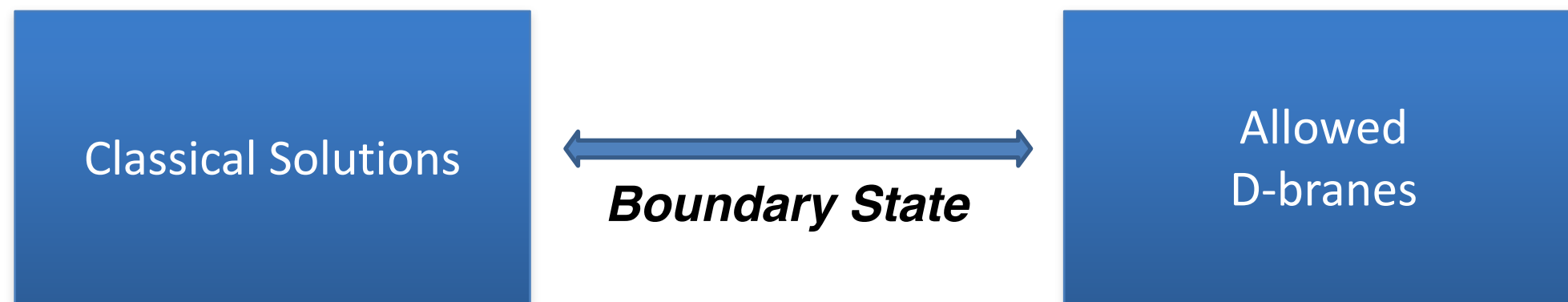
- Key tool for connecting the two sets is the OSFT construction of the **boundary state** (*Kiermaier, Okawa, Zwiebach* (2008),

OSFT CONJECTURE (once known as Sen's Conjecture)



- Key tool for connecting the two sets is the OSFT construction of the **boundary state** (*Kiermaier, Okawa, Zwiebach* (2008),
Kudrna, CM, Schnabl (2012))

OSFT CONJECTURE (once known as Sen's Conjecture)



- Key tool for connecting the two sets is the OSFT construction of the **boundary state** (*Kiermaier, Okawa, Zwiebach* (2008),
Kudrna, CM, Schnabl (2012))
- The (KMS) boundary state is constructed from **gauge invariant** quantities starting from a given solution

$$Q\Psi_* + \Psi_*^2 = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} |B_*\rangle &= \sum_{\alpha} n_*^{\alpha} |V_{\alpha}\rangle\rangle \\ n_*^{\alpha} &= \langle V^{\alpha} | B_* \rangle = \langle V^{\alpha}(0) \rangle_{\text{disk}}^{\text{BCFT}^*} = W_{V^{\alpha}}[\Psi_* - \Psi_{\text{tv}}] \end{aligned}$$

- *Intriguing possibility of relating BCFT consistency conditions (Cardy-Lewellen, Pradisi-Sagnotti-Stanev) with OSFT equation of motion*

TACHYON VACUUM

TACHYON VACUUM

- Most basic solution, found **numerically** in 1999 by **Sen** and **Zwiebach** and **analytically** by **Schnabl** in 2005.

TACHYON VACUUM

- Most basic solution, found **numerically** in 1999 by **Sen** and **Zwiebach** and **analytically** by **Schnabl** in 2005.
- It represents the ABSENCE OF D-BRANES. Degenerate BCFT with NO BOUNDARY DEGREES OF FREEDOM.
- Today, we understand this complicated state “simply” as (**Schnabl, Okawa, Erler**)

$$\Psi_{\text{tv}} = F(K) c \frac{KB}{1 - F^2(K)} c F(K)$$

$$Bc + cB = 1$$

$$[B, K] = 0$$

$$B^2 = c^2 = 0$$

$$QB = K$$

$$Qc = cKc$$

TACHYON VACUUM

- Most basic solution, found **numerically** in 1999 by **Sen** and **Zwiebach** and **analytically** by **Schnabl** in 2005.
- It represents the ABSENCE OF D-BRANES. Degenerate BCFT with NO BOUNDARY DEGREES OF FREEDOM.
- Today, we understand this complicated state “simply” as (**Schnabl, Okawa, Erler**)

$$\Psi_{\text{tv}} = F(K) c \frac{KB}{1 - F^2(K)} c F(K)$$

$$Bc + cB = 1$$

$$[B, K] = 0$$

$$B^2 = c^2 = 0$$

$$QB = K$$

$$Qc = cKc$$

$$Q\Psi_{\text{tv}} + \Psi_{\text{tv}}^2 = 0$$

- Tachyon vacuum means no D-branes: the shifted BRST operator,

$$Q_{\text{tv}}\psi \equiv Q\psi + [\Psi_{\text{tv}}, \psi]$$

should have ***EMPTY COHOMOLOGY: contracting homotopy operator***

$$Q_{\text{tv}}A = 1$$

$$Q_{\text{tv}}(A\psi) = \psi - AQ_{\text{tv}}\psi$$

- Tachyon vacuum means no D-branes: the shifted BRST operator,

$$Q_{\text{tv}}\psi \equiv Q\psi + [\Psi_{\text{tv}}, \psi]$$

should have ***EMPTY COHOMOLOGY: contracting homotopy operator***

$$Q_{\text{tv}}A = 1$$

$$Q_{\text{tv}}(A\psi) = \psi - AQ_{\text{tv}}\psi$$

- For the TV in the KBc algebra it is readily found

$$A = B \frac{1 - F^2(K)}{K}$$

- Tachyon vacuum means no D-branes: the shifted BRST operator,

$$Q_{\text{tv}}\psi \equiv Q\psi + [\Psi_{\text{tv}}, \psi]$$

should have ***EMPTY COHOMOLOGY: contracting homotopy operator***

$$Q_{\text{tv}}A = 1$$

$$Q_{\text{tv}}(A\psi) = \psi - AQ_{\text{tv}}\psi$$

- For the TV in the KBc algebra it is readily found

$$A = B \frac{1 - F^2(K)}{K}$$

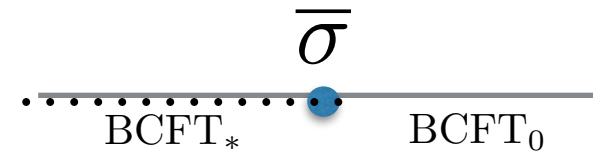
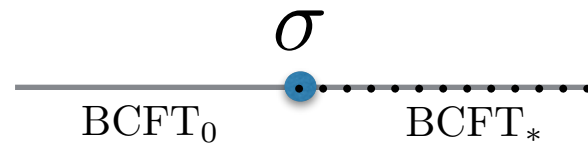
- Subtle: ***1/K does not exist***, but ***A*** is well defined (this defines the TV)

$$F(K) = 1 + F'(0)K + O(K^2)$$

Changing the boundary conditions

Changing the boundary conditions

- A change in boundary conditions is encoded in a bcc operator



Changing the boundary conditions

- A change in boundary conditions is encoded in a bcc operator



- OSFT: describe the dof of a target **BCFT*** using the dof of a reference **BCFT₀**

$$\phi_*(0)|0\rangle_* \rightarrow \sigma(1)\phi_*(0)\bar{\sigma}(-1)|0\rangle_0 = \sum_i t_i \phi_0^i(0)|0\rangle_0$$

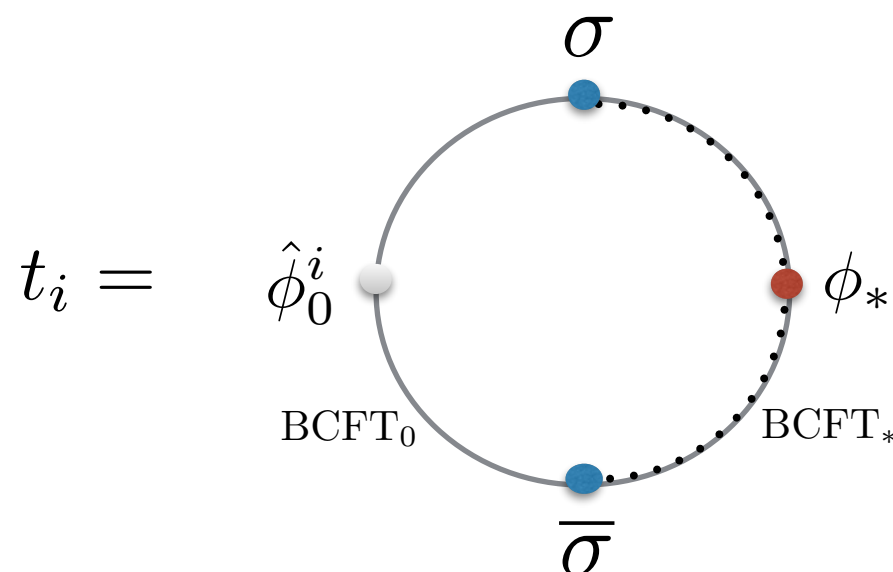
Changing the boundary conditions

- A change in boundary conditions is encoded in a bcc operator



- OSFT: describe the dof of a target **BCFT*** using the dof of a reference **BCFT₀**

$$\phi_*(0)|0\rangle_* \rightarrow \sigma(1)\phi_*(0)\bar{\sigma}(-1)|0\rangle_0 = \sum_i t_i \phi_0^i(0)|0\rangle_0$$



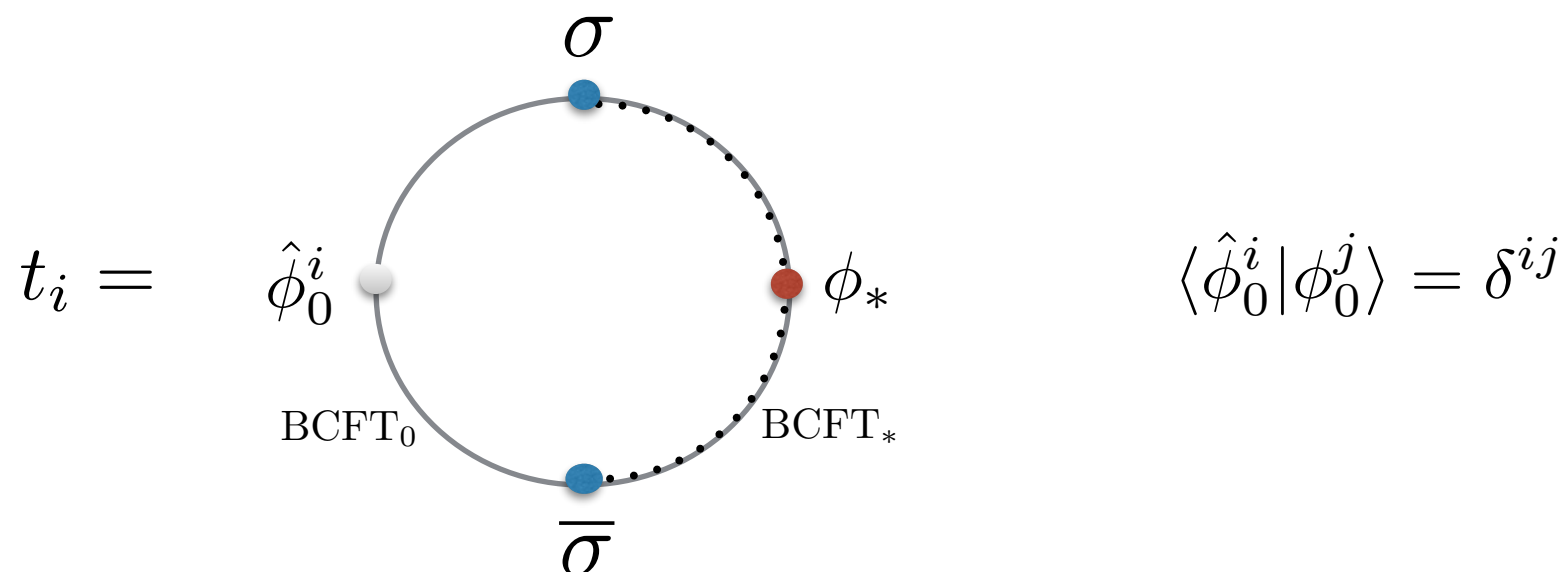
Changing the boundary conditions

- A change in boundary conditions is encoded in a bcc operator



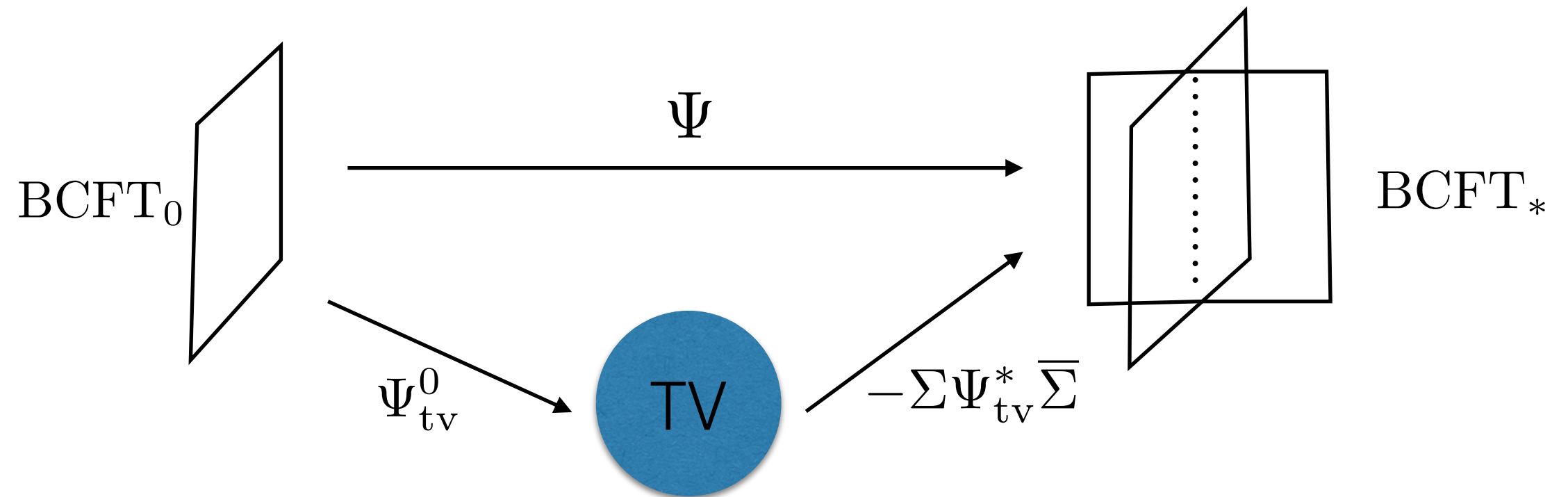
- OSFT: describe the dof of a target **BCFT*** using the dof of a reference **BCFT₀**

$$\phi_*(0)|0\rangle_* \rightarrow \sigma(1)\phi_*(0)\bar{\sigma}(-1)|0\rangle_0 = \sum_i t_i \phi_0^i(0)|0\rangle_0$$



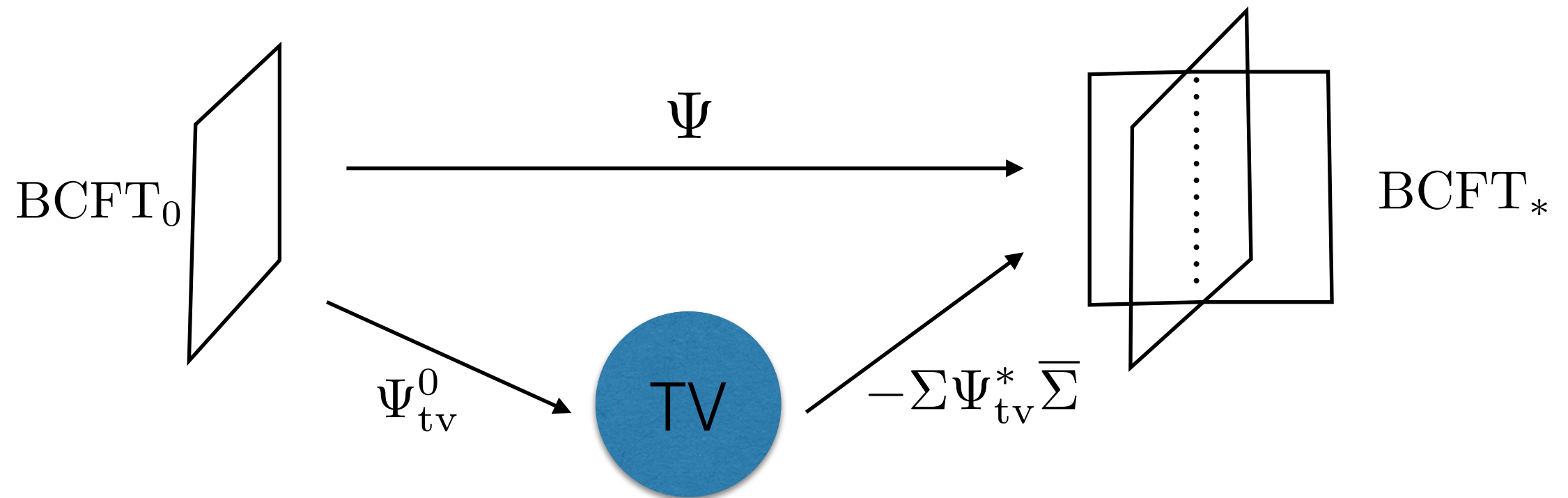
OSFT solution for any background

- Connect two generic backgrounds by passing through the tachyon vacuum



OSFT solution for any background

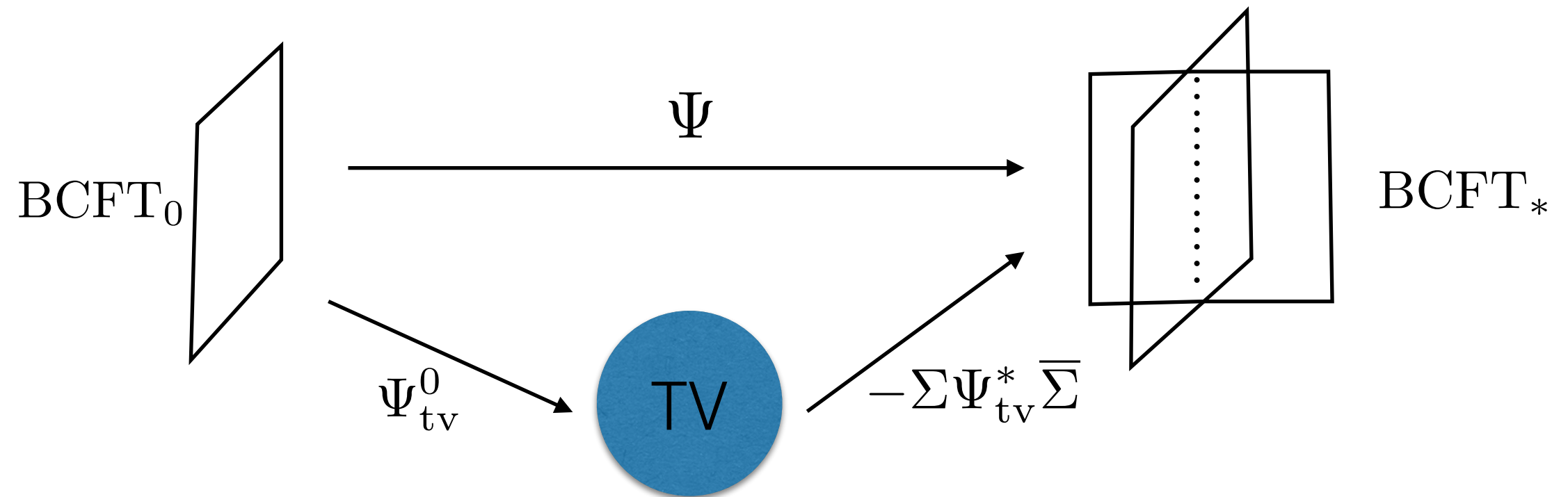
- Connect two generic backgrounds by passing through the tachyon vacuum



$$\Psi = \Psi_{\text{tv}}^0 - \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}}^* \bar{\Sigma}$$

OSFT solution for any background

- Connect two generic backgrounds by passing through the tachyon vacuum



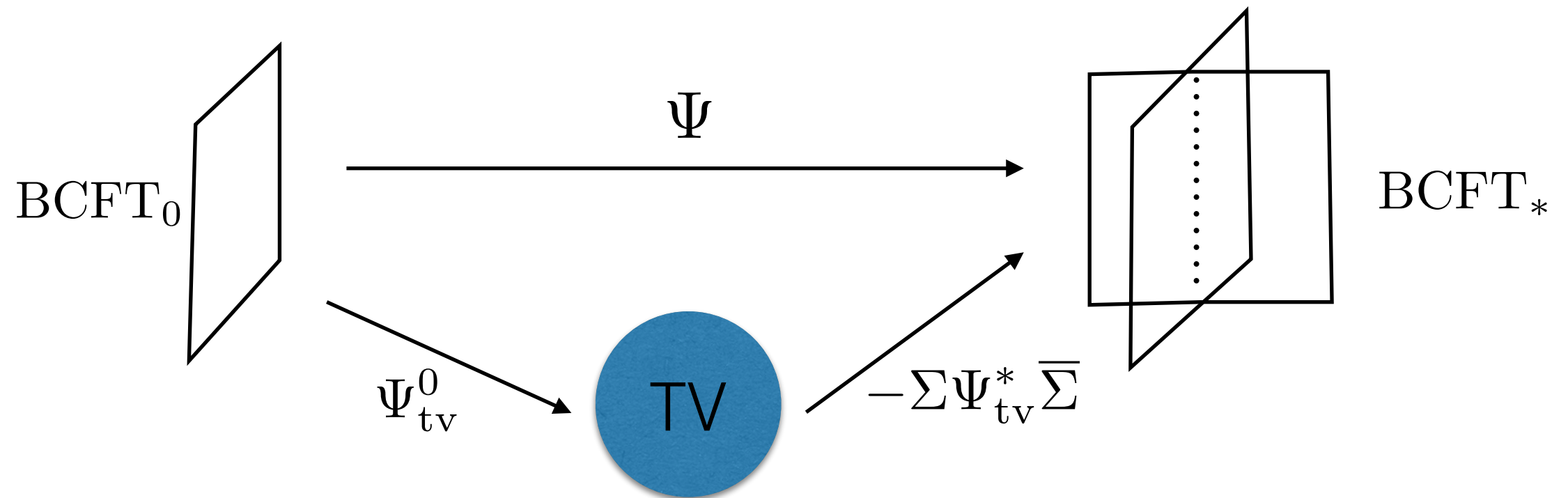
$$\Psi = \Psi_{\text{tv}}^0 - \sum \Psi_{\text{tv}}^* \bar{\Sigma}$$

$$\Sigma \in \mathcal{H}_{0*}$$

$$\bar{\Sigma} \in \mathcal{H}_{*0}$$

OSFT solution for any background

- Connect two generic backgrounds by passing through the tachyon vacuum



$$\Psi = \Psi_{\text{tv}}^0 - \sum \Psi_{\text{tv}}^* \bar{\Sigma}$$

$$\Sigma \in \mathcal{H}_{0*}$$

$$\bar{\Sigma} \in \mathcal{H}_{*0}$$

$$\bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = 1$$

$$Q\Psi + \Psi^2 = 0$$

$$Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0$$

- **The Sigma's can be constructed due to the trivial cohomology at the TV, using the WS bcc's**

$$Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\Psi_{\text{tv}} = \frac{1}{1+K} c(1+K) Bc} \quad \begin{aligned} \Sigma &= Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \sigma \right) \\ \bar{\Sigma} &= Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \bar{\sigma} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \bar{\sigma} \sigma \right) = 1 \quad \mathbf{IF} \quad \bar{\sigma} \sigma = 1$$

- **The Sigma's can be constructed due to the trivial cohomology at the TV, using the WS bcc's**

$$Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0 \quad \xrightarrow{\Psi_{\text{tv}} = \frac{1}{1+K} c(1+K) B c} \quad \begin{aligned} \Sigma &= Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \sigma \right) \\ \bar{\Sigma} &= Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \bar{\sigma} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = Q_{\text{tv}} \left(\frac{B}{1+K} \bar{\sigma} \sigma \right) = 1 \quad \textbf{IF} \quad \bar{\sigma} \sigma = 1$$

- **It remains to search for world-sheet local fields obeying**

$$\bar{\sigma} \sigma = 1$$

- Suppose we have $c=25$ bcc operators of weight \mathbf{h} switching from \mathbf{BCFT}_0 to \mathbf{BCFT}^* with leading OPE

$$\overline{\sigma}_c(s)\sigma_c(0) \sim s^{-2h} 1_{\mathbf{BCFT}_{\ast}^c=25} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Suppose we have $c=25$ bcc operators of weight \mathbf{h} switching from **BCFT**₀ to **BCFT**^{*} with leading OPE

$$\bar{\sigma}_c(s)\sigma_c(0) \sim s^{-2h} 1_{\text{BCFT}_{\ast}^c=25} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Tensor them with timelike momentum operators (*constant Wilson line*)

$$\sigma(s) \equiv \sigma_c e^{i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s) \qquad \bar{\sigma}(s) \equiv \bar{\sigma}_c e^{-i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s)$$

- Suppose we have $c=25$ bcc operators of weight \mathbf{h} switching from \mathbf{BCFT}_0 to \mathbf{BCFT}^* with leading OPE

$$\bar{\sigma}_c(s)\sigma_c(0) \sim s^{-2h} 1_{\mathbf{BCFT}_{*}^c=25} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Tensor them with timelike momentum operators (*constant Wilson line*)

$$\sigma(s) \equiv \sigma_c e^{i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s) \qquad \bar{\sigma}(s) \equiv \bar{\sigma}_c e^{-i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s)$$

- Now they are $c=26$ weight zero bcc's with leading OPE

$$\bar{\sigma}(s)\sigma(0) \sim 1_{\mathbf{BCFT}_{*}^c=26} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Suppose we have $c=25$ bcc operators of weight \mathbf{h} switching from \mathbf{BCFT}_0 to \mathbf{BCFT}^* with leading OPE

$$\bar{\sigma}_c(s)\sigma_c(0) \sim s^{-2h} 1_{\mathbf{BCFT}_*^{c=25}} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Tensor them with timelike momentum operators (*constant Wilson line*)

$$\sigma(s) \equiv \sigma_c e^{i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s) \qquad \bar{\sigma}(s) \equiv \bar{\sigma}_c e^{-i\sqrt{h}X^0}(s)$$

- Now they are $c=26$ weight zero bcc's with leading OPE

$$\bar{\sigma}(s)\sigma(0) \sim 1_{\mathbf{BCFT}_*^{c=26}} + (\text{less sing.})$$

- Factorization of the bcc's, and time non-compactness implies (*a time-like Wilson line is pure gauge*)

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_*^{c=26} = \mathbf{BCFT}_0^{X^0} \otimes \mathbf{BCFT}_*^{c=25}$$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

- Consider the peculiar **BCFT₀** states

$$\phi = \Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}, \quad \phi_* \in \text{Fock}_{\text{BCFT}_*}$$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

- Consider the peculiar **BCFT₀** states

$$\phi = \Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}, \quad \phi_* \in \text{Fock}_{\text{BCFT}_*}$$

- Observe that

$$Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = (Q_{\Psi_0} \Sigma) \phi_* \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma \phi_* (Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma})$$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

- Consider the peculiar **BCFT₀** states

$$\phi = \Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}, \quad \phi_* \in \text{Fock}_{\text{BCFT}_*}$$

- Observe that

$$Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = (Q_{\Psi 0} \Sigma) \phi_* \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma \phi_* (Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma})$$

$$Q_{\Psi 0} \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi_{\text{tv}} \Sigma - \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0$$

$$Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma} = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi_{\text{tv}} + \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = 0$$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

- Consider the peculiar **BCFT₀** states

$$\phi = \Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}, \quad \phi_* \in \text{Fock}_{\text{BCFT}_*}$$

- Observe that

$$Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = (Q_{\Psi_0} \Sigma) \phi_* \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma \phi_* (Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma})$$

$$Q_{\Psi_0} \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi_{\text{tv}} \Sigma - \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0$$

$$Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma} = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi_{\text{tv}} + \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = 0$$

- Therefore $Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma}$

Background independence

- Action for fluctuations

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi Q_\Psi \phi] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi^3]$$

- Consider the peculiar **BCFT₀** states

$$\phi = \Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}, \quad \phi_* \in \text{Fock}_{\text{BCFT}_*}$$

- Observe that

$$Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = (Q_{\Psi 0} \Sigma) \phi_* \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma} + \Sigma \phi_* (Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma})$$

$$Q_{\Psi 0} \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi \Sigma = Q \Sigma + \Psi_{\text{tv}} \Sigma - \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma = Q_{\text{tv}} \Sigma = 0$$

$$Q_{0\Psi} \bar{\Sigma} = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi = Q \bar{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma} \Psi_{\text{tv}} + \bar{\Sigma} \Sigma \Psi_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = Q_{\text{tv}} \bar{\Sigma} = 0$$

- Therefore $Q_\Psi (\Sigma \phi_* \bar{\Sigma}) = \Sigma (Q \phi_*) \bar{\Sigma}$

- We remarkably get the theory DIRECTLY formulated in **BCFT***!

$$S[\Psi + \phi] = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} (g_0 - g_*) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\phi_* Q \phi_*] - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr}[\phi_*^3]$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

- We therefore define rows and columns

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \qquad \overline{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\sigma}_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \overline{\sigma}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

- We therefore define rows and columns

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\sigma}_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \bar{\sigma}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

- To solve the equation of motion I need the **non trivial** orthogonality relation

$$\bar{\sigma}_i \sigma_j = \delta_{ij}$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

- We therefore define rows and columns

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\sigma}_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \bar{\sigma}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

- To solve the equation of motion I need the **non trivial** orthogonality relation

$$\bar{\sigma}_i \sigma_j = \delta_{ij}$$

- All the bcc's are tensored with time-like plane waves $\sigma_i = e^{i\sqrt{h_i}X^0} \sigma_i^{(c=25)}$ and the c=25 bcc's will generically close on generic bcc operators intertwining the various BCFT's in the game

$$\bar{\sigma}_i^{(c=25)}(s) \sigma_j^{(c=25)}(0) \sim s^{-h_i - h_j + h_{ij}} \sigma_{ij}^{(c=25)}$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

- We therefore define rows and columns

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\sigma}_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \bar{\sigma}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

- To solve the equation of motion I need the **non trivial** orthogonality relation

$$\bar{\sigma}_i \sigma_j = \delta_{ij}$$

- All the bcc's are tensored with time-like plane waves $\sigma_i = e^{i\sqrt{h_i}X^0} \sigma_i^{(c=25)}$ and the c=25 bcc's will generically close on generic bcc operators intertwining the various BCFT's in the game

$$\bar{\sigma}_i^{(c=25)}(s) \sigma_j^{(c=25)}(0) \sim s^{-h_i - h_j + h_{ij}} \sigma_{ij}^{(c=25)}$$

- The orthogonality relation is

$$|\sqrt{h_i} - \sqrt{h_j}| < \sqrt{h_{ij}}, \quad (i \neq j)$$

Changing the Rank: *Multibranes*

- We want to construct a solution describing the non-fundamental BCFT

$$\mathbf{BCFT}_* = \oplus_{i=1}^N \mathbf{BCFT}_i$$

- We therefore define rows and columns

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\sigma}_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \bar{\sigma}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

- To solve the equation of motion I need the **non trivial** orthogonality relation

$$\bar{\sigma}_i \sigma_j = \delta_{ij}$$

- All the bcc's are tensored with time-like plane waves $\sigma_i = e^{i\sqrt{h_i}X^0} \sigma_i^{(c=25)}$ and the c=25 bcc's will generically close on generic bcc operators intertwining the various BCFT's in the game

$$\bar{\sigma}_i^{(c=25)}(s) \sigma_j^{(c=25)}(0) \sim s^{-h_i - h_j + h_{ij}} \sigma_{ij}^{(c=25)}$$

- The orthogonality relation is

$$|\sqrt{h_i} - \sqrt{h_j}| < \sqrt{h_{ij}}, \quad (i \neq j) \quad \text{really constraining?}$$

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- Given two **$c=25$** BCFT's which “descend” from the same bulk CFT, we have related them through an exact solution of OSFT.

SUMMARY

- Given two **$c=25$** BCFT's which “descend” from the same bulk CFT, we have related them through an exact solution of OSFT.
- The solution is explicitly constructed using a pair of *bcc* operators, with the help of a pure-gauge time-like Wilson line.

SUMMARY

- Given two **$c=25$** BCFT's which “descend” from the same bulk CFT, we have related them through an exact solution of OSFT.
- The solution is explicitly constructed using a pair of *bcc* operators, with the help of a pure-gauge time-like Wilson line.
- ***Going up in energy doesn't appear problematic, we don't have to follow the world-sheet boundary RG flow (as in a sigma model approach, like BSFT)***

SUMMARY

- Given two **$c=25$** BCFT's which “descend” from the same bulk CFT, we have related them through an exact solution of OSFT.
- The solution is explicitly constructed using a pair of *bcc* operators, with the help of a pure-gauge time-like Wilson line.
- ***Going up in energy doesn't appear problematic, we don't have to follow the world-sheet boundary RG flow (as in a sigma model approach, like BSFT)***
- ***Fundamental and composite boundary conditions (multi-branes) “fit in” in essentially the same way, Chan-Paton's factors are dynamically generated.***

SUMMARY

- Given two **$c=25$** BCFT's which “descend” from the same bulk CFT, we have related them through an exact solution of OSFT.
- The solution is explicitly constructed using a pair of *bcc* operators, with the help of a pure-gauge time-like Wilson line.
- ***Going up in energy doesn't appear problematic, we don't have to follow the world-sheet boundary RG flow (as in a sigma model approach, like BSFT)***
- ***Fundamental and composite boundary conditions (multi-branes) “fit in” in essentially the same way, Chan-Paton's factors are dynamically generated.***
- ***OSFT is finally liberated by the initial choice of background.***

FUTURE

FUTURE

- The solution is concretely defined by the OPE between the bcc operators.

$$\sigma(s)\bar{\sigma}(0) = \sum_i C_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}i} s^{h_i-2h_\sigma} \phi_i(0)$$

- ***It would be clearly important to understand what are the consequences of the OSFT equation of motion on the BCFT structure constants (a BCFT “equation of motion”?)***

FUTURE

- The solution is concretely defined by the OPE between the bcc operators.

$$\sigma(s)\bar{\sigma}(0) = \sum_i C_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}i} s^{h_i-2h_\sigma} \phi_i(0)$$

- ***It would be clearly important to understand what are the consequences of the OSFT equation of motion on the BCFT structure constants (a BCFT “equation of motion”?)***
- ***Get rid of the auxiliary time-like Wilson line! Line-defects instead of point-like bcc operators?***

FUTURE

- The solution is concretely defined by the OPE between the bcc operators.

$$\sigma(s)\bar{\sigma}(0) = \sum_i C_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}i} s^{h_i-2h_\sigma} \phi_i(0)$$

- ***It would be clearly important to understand what are the consequences of the OSFT equation of motion on the BCFT structure constants (a BCFT “equation of motion”?)***
- ***Get rid of the auxiliary time-like Wilson line! Line-defects instead of point-like bcc operators?***
- ***Extension to Berkovits WZW superstring field theory. RR charge should emerge as a topological OSFT charge.***

FUTURE

- The solution is concretely defined by the OPE between the bcc operators.

$$\sigma(s)\bar{\sigma}(0) = \sum_i C_{\sigma\bar{\sigma}i} s^{h_i-2h_\sigma} \phi_i(0)$$

- ***It would be clearly important to understand what are the consequences of the OSFT equation of motion on the BCFT structure constants (a BCFT “equation of motion”?)***
- ***Get rid of the auxiliary time-like Wilson line! Line-defects instead of point-like bcc operators?***
- ***Extension to Berkovits WZW superstring field theory. RR charge should emerge as a topological OSFT charge.***

Thank You!