Bootstrapping holographic defect correlators

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September 29 2021

"Quantum Field Theory at the Boundary"

MITP, JGU

arXiv:2108.13432 with Julien Barrat and Aleix Gimenez-Grau

Motivation

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Motivation

- CFT. Conformal field theories are of fundamental importance: they have applications in critical phenomena, string theory, mathematics, etc.
- Defects. With the advent of the bootstrap, huge progress has been made on the study of local operators. Less work has been done on extended objects.
- Supersymmetry. The addition of supersymmetry gives us strong analytic control: non-perturbative results, localization, integrability.

Half-BPS observables

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Half-BPS operators in
$$\mathcal{N}=4$$
 SYM $\mathcal{O}_1 igodeta$ $SO(4,2) o SO(2,1) imes SO(3) \ SO(6) o SO(5) \ \mathcal{PSU}(2,2|4) o OSP(4|4)$

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 SYM $\mathcal{O}_1 \bullet SO(4,2) \to SO(2,1) \times SO(3)$ $SO(6) \to SO(5)$ $\mathcal{O}_2 \bullet SO(2,2|4) \to OSP(4|4)$

Analogous to four-point functions of local operators

Wilson loop	Chiral primaries
$\mathcal{W} = P e^{\int d au (i A_ au + \phi^6)}$	$\mathcal{O}_{p} = \operatorname{Tr} \phi^{\{i_{1}} \dots \phi^{i_{p}}$
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Less work has been done on mixed correlators

$$\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_{p} \rangle$$
, $\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_{p_1} \mathcal{O}_{p_2} \rangle$, ...

Wilson line

$$\mathcal{W}=rac{1}{N}\,\mathcal{P}\exp\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}d au\left(i\dot{x}^{\mu}A_{\mu}+|\dot{x}| heta_{i}\phi^{i}
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The extra scalar ensures this object is half-BPS.

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$$\mathcal{O}_2(x) = u_i u_j \mathsf{Tr} \phi^i(x) \phi^j(x) \qquad (\mathcal{B}_{[0,2,0]})$$

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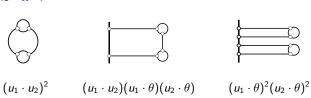
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We will focus on

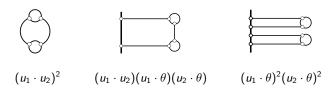
$$\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_2(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \rangle = \frac{(u_1 \cdot \theta)^2 (u_2 \cdot \theta)^2}{x_1^2 x_2^2} \mathcal{F}(z, \bar{z}, \omega)$$

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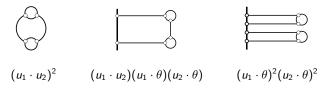
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Let's define

$$\frac{4\omega}{(1-\omega)^2} = -\frac{(u_1 \cdot \theta)(u_2 \cdot \theta)}{(u_1 \cdot u_2)}, \quad \sigma = \frac{(1-\omega)^2}{4\omega}$$

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Then,

$$\mathcal{F}(z,\bar{z},\omega) = \sigma^2 F_0(z,\bar{z}) + \sigma F_1(z,\bar{z}) + F_2(z,\bar{z})$$

Ward identities

Recall

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The channels are not independent [PL, Meneghelli (2016)]

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See [Barrat, PL, Plefka (2020)] for a weak-coupling analysis.

Intro to Defect CFT

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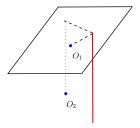


Figure: Local operatos in the presence of a defect.

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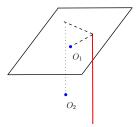


Figure: Local operatos in the presence of a defect.

We have $SO(4,2) \to SO(2,1) \times SO(3)$.

Defect CFT correlators

The $SO(4,2) \times SO(3)$ symmetry preserved by the defect implies that one-point functions are non-zero:

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Two-point functions depend on two conformal invariants

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Remark. Compare with the four-point function in the bulk CFT.

Two-point function configuration

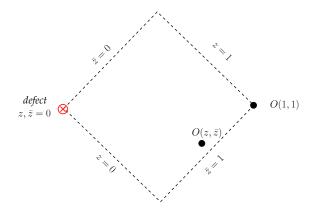


Figure: Configuration of the system in the plane orthogonal to the defect.

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Equality of both expansions gives crossing symmetry

$$\sum_{\Delta,\ell} C_{\phi\phi O} a_O = \sum_{\widehat{\Delta},s} b_{\phi\widehat{O}}^2 \qquad \qquad \widehat{O}$$

Superconformal blocks

The two-point function has two decompositions

$$\mathcal{F}(z, \bar{z}, \omega) \sim \sum_{\chi} a_{\chi} C_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\chi} \mathcal{G}_{\chi}(z, \bar{z}, \omega)$$

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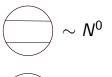
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Here Gs are superblocks:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\chi}(z,\bar{z},\omega) \sim \sum h_{K}(\omega) f_{\Delta,\ell}(z,\bar{z}) \qquad (h_{K}:SO(6)_{R})$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{G}}_{\chi}(z,\bar{z},\omega) \sim \sum \hat{h}_{\hat{K}}(\omega) \hat{f}_{\hat{\Lambda},\epsilon}(z,\bar{z}) \qquad (\hat{h}_{\hat{K}}:SO(5)_{R})$$













The natural parameters are λ/N^2 and $1/\sqrt{\lambda}$:

$$\langle\!\langle \mathcal{OO} \rangle\!\rangle = \langle\!\langle \mathcal{OO} \rangle\!\rangle^{(0)} + \frac{\lambda}{N^2} \left(\langle\!\langle \mathcal{OO} \rangle\!\rangle^{(1)} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \langle\!\langle \mathcal{OO} \rangle\!\rangle^{(2)} \right) \dots$$



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Today we are going to do bootstrap!

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[Lemos, PL, Meineri, Sarkar (2018)]

The bulk expansion is

$$\mathcal{F}(z,ar{z},\omega) \sim 1 + a_{\mathcal{O}_2} \; \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}_2\mathcal{O}_2\mathcal{O}_2} \, \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{O}_2}(z,ar{z},\omega) + \sum_{\chi} a_\chi \; \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}_2\mathcal{O}_2\chi} \, \mathcal{G}_\chi(z,ar{z},\omega)$$

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No anomalous dimensions at this order:

$$\Delta_{\chi} = 4 + 2n + \ell + \frac{1}{N^2} \left(a + \frac{b}{\lambda^{3/2}} \right) + \dots$$

[Goncalves (2015)]

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The CFT data can be reconstructed from a single block!

First order correction

At leading order

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$$b_{2+s,s}\gamma_{\widehat{\Delta}} = \frac{1+2s}{16s}, \qquad \delta b_{2+s,s} = \frac{(2+s)(1+6s+2s^2)}{32(1+s)^2(5+2s)}$$

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We can now do the sum

$$\mathcal{F}(z,\bar{z},\omega) = \sum_{\hat{\Delta},s} \delta b_{\mathcal{O}\hat{\Delta}}^2 \, \hat{\mathcal{G}}_{\hat{\Delta}}(z,\bar{z},\omega) + \sum_{\hat{\Delta},s} b_{\mathcal{O}\hat{\chi}}^2 \gamma_{\hat{\Delta}} \, \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\Delta}} \hat{\mathcal{G}}_{\hat{\Delta}}(z,\bar{z},\omega)$$

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- Add blocks with spin s = 0, 1
- Impose $\left(\partial_z + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\omega\right) \mathcal{F}(z,\bar{z},\omega)\big|_{z=\omega} = 0$

$$\begin{split} F_0(z,\bar{z}) &= -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{N^2} \frac{2z\bar{z}}{(1-z)(1-\bar{z})} \left[\frac{1+z\bar{z}}{(1-z\bar{z})^2} + \frac{2z\bar{z}\log z\bar{z}}{(1-z\bar{z})^3} \right] \\ F_1(z,\bar{z}) &= 2\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{N^2} \frac{z\bar{z}}{(1-z)(1-\bar{z})(1-z\bar{z})} + \text{(spin 0)} \\ F_2(z,\bar{z}) &= 0 + \text{(spin 0 and 1)} \end{split}$$

This result is not supersymmetric!

Improved strategy:

- Add blocks with spin s = 0, 1
- Impose $\left(\partial_z + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\omega\right) \mathcal{F}(z,\bar{z},\omega)\big|_{z=\omega} = 0$
- Consistency with the bulk expansion

$$F_0(z,\bar{z}) = -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{N^2} \frac{2z\bar{z}}{(1-z)(1-\bar{z})} \left[\frac{1+z\bar{z}}{(1-z\bar{z})^2} + \frac{2z\bar{z}\log z\bar{z}}{(1-z\bar{z})^3} \right]$$

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Consistency checks

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ullet It has sensible expansions around $z\sim 0$ and $z\sim 1$

• We bootstrapped $\langle\!\langle \mathcal{O}_J \mathcal{O}_J \rangle\!\rangle$ at strong coupling, where $\mathcal{O}_J \sim \text{Tr}\phi^J$. See our paper for J=2,3,4.

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- Defects in ABJM? in 6d (2,0)?

Thank you!

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for operators on the defect.

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We have a bootstrap problem

- Obtain the Ward identities for ⟨⟨ O_JO_J ⟩⟩
- Calculate superconformal blocks
- Apply Disc to the holographic spectrum