

Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton:

2d YM, Symmetric Product Orbifold, and Generalized Veneziano

Shota Komatsu



Based on 2506.21663, 2511.16280, and 2512.xxxxx with
Pronobesh Maity (EPFL)

Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton

- We propose a novel string worldsheet theory
“Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton”

$$S_{\text{CLD}} = \int \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right]$$

- $\beta : (1,0)$ form, Lagrange multiplier.
- $\gamma : (0,0)$ form, a complex target-space coordinate.
- $\varphi = \log(\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma})$. A **composite** linear dilaton.
- Highly non-linear action, but computable.
- Integrating out $\beta \Rightarrow \bar{\partial} \gamma = 0$: localization to **holomorphic maps**.
- Central charge $c_{\text{CLD}} = 2 + 24q$.

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 - Integrating out $\beta \Rightarrow \bar{\partial} \gamma = 0$: localization to **holomorphic maps**.
 - Central charge $c_{\text{CLD}} = 2 + 24q$.
- Worldsheet descriptions of
 - Chiral 2d YM.
 - Symmetric product orbifold of arbitrary seed CFT with $c < 24$.
 - Generalized Veneziano amplitude.

Plan

1. Introduction and Motivation
2. Action, Stress tensor and OPE
3. Torus partition function
4. Amplitudes
5. Conclusion

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Motivation 1: gauge/string duality

- AdS/CFT and gauge/string duality have been and still are a rich source of inspiration and progress.

Strongly coupled phenomena in QFT \leftrightarrow Semiclassical gravity / string

Concrete computation in QFT \leftrightarrow Conceptual questions / conjectures in QG

- But for further progress & generalization, it is important to understand the inner working of known correspondences.

String dual of confining gauge theory?

Holography for cosmological spacetime / closed universe?

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- One strategy: Focus on cases in which **QFT is simple**.

- Symmetric product orbifold of $T^4 \leftrightarrow$ String on $AdS_3 \times S^3$ with $k = 1$

Eberhardt, Gaberdiel, Gopakumar

- Free $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM \leftrightarrow String in (ambi-)twistor space?

Gopakumar, Witten, Berkovits, Gaberdiel, Gopakumar

- Twisted holography

Costello, Gaiotto, Paquette,

- Still, \exists many other simple large N QFTs with no known duals.
 - Symmetric product orbifold of other seed CFTs?
 - 2d YM (the simplest confining gauge theory)

Motivation 2: generalized Veneziano

- Dual resonance amplitudes: precursor of string theory

$$A(s, t) = \frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)}{\Gamma(-s-t)}$$

Veneziano amplitude

$$A(s, t, u) = \frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)\Gamma(-u)}{\Gamma(1+s)\Gamma(1+t)\Gamma(1+u)}$$

Virasoro-Shapiro amplitude

- Remarkable properties

- **Linear** Regge trajectories, **infinite** resonances.
- Resonances in different channels in a **single mathematical expression**.
- **Unitary** below $d \leq 10$.
- Consistent weakly interacting amplitudes of **higher spin particles**.

- Revival of interest

- **Uniqueness:** **How unique** are they? Cheng, Remmen, Arkani-Hamed, Figueiredo, Sciotti, Tarquini...
- **Search for large N QCD amplitudes:** Are there **deformations** that describe **meson amplitudes of large N QCD**?

Albert, Knopp, Henriksson, Rastelli, Vichi, Jepsen, Haring, Zhiboedov, Berman, Elvang, Geiser, Lin, Eckner, Figueroa, Tourkine,...

- **S-matrix bootstrap**

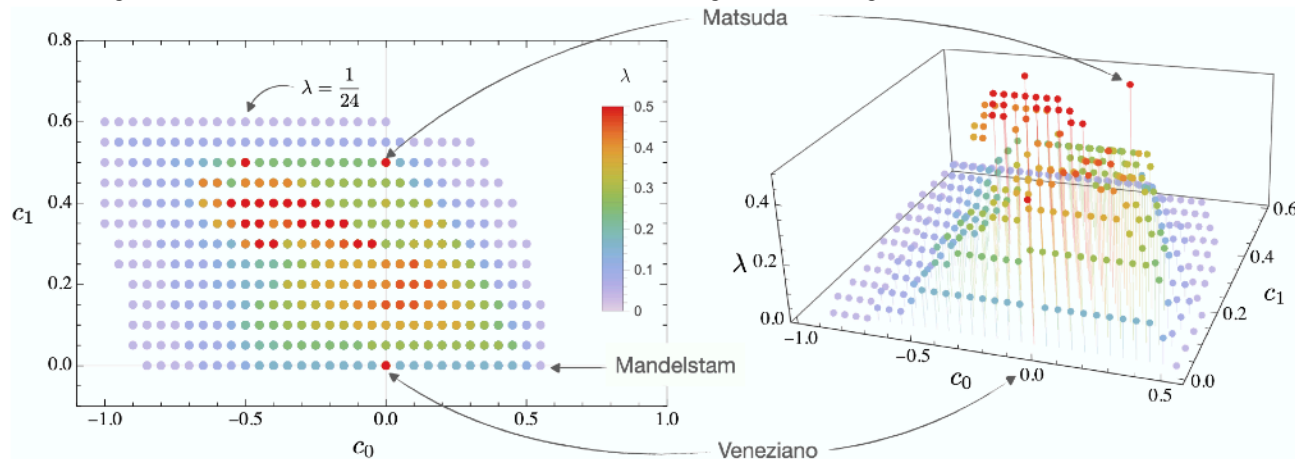
- \exists many generalizations of 4-pt amplitudes.

Motivation 2: generalized Veneziano

- A class of generalized Veneziano amplitudes Mandelstam

$$A(s, t) = \frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)}{\Gamma(-s-t)} {}_3F_2 \left(-s, -t, -\delta; -\frac{s+t}{2}, \frac{1-s-t}{2}; \lambda \right)$$

- Unitarity in $D = 4$ was recently analyzed in Haring, Zhiboedov



- No worldsheet description, no higher-point generalization known.

CLD as a common answer

- \exists many other simple large N QFTs with no known duals.
 - Symmetric product orbifold of other seed CFTs?
 - 2d YM (the simplest confining gauge theory)
- Worldsheet description of generalized Veneziano amplitudes?

CLD as a common answer

- \exists many other simple large N QFTs with no known duals.
 - Symmetric product orbifold of other seed CFTs?
 - 2d YM (the simplest confining gauge theory)
- Worksheet description of generalized Veneziano amplitudes?
- Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton is an answer to both questions.

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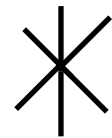
Action and stress tensor

$$S_{\text{CLD}} = \int \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right]$$

$$\varphi = \log(\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma})$$

- Linear in β . Highly non-linear in γ .

$$\underline{\beta} \quad \gamma$$



- $\gamma\gamma$ and $\beta\gamma$ OPE is unaffected by nonlinearity:

$$\gamma(z)\gamma(w) \sim \text{regular} \qquad \beta(z)\gamma(w) \sim -\frac{1}{z-w}$$

- $\beta\beta$ OPE is non-linear and non-standard:

$$\beta(z)\beta(w) \sim 2q\partial_z\partial_w \left[\frac{1}{(z-w)^2} \frac{1}{\partial_z\gamma(z)\partial_w\gamma(w)} \right] \quad \text{Derived from path integral (later)}$$

- Stress tensor can be derived from $\delta/\delta g_{ab}$:

$$T(z) = -\beta\partial\gamma + 2q\{\gamma, z\} \qquad \{f, z\} = \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial f} - \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial f} \right)^2$$

Stress tensor OPE

$$T(z) = -\beta \partial \gamma + 2q \{\gamma, z\}$$

$$\gamma(z)\gamma(w) \sim \text{regular} \quad \beta(z)\gamma(w) \sim -\frac{1}{z-w} \quad \beta(z)\beta(w) \sim 2q \partial_z \partial_w \left[\frac{1}{(z-w)^2} \frac{1}{\partial_z \gamma(z) \partial_w \gamma(w)} \right]$$

- Using OPEs, stress tensor OPEs can be computed
(simplification: stress tensor is linear in β)

$$T(z)T(w) \sim \frac{1+12q}{(z-w)^4} + \frac{2T(w)}{(z-w)^2} + \frac{\partial_w T(w)}{z-w}$$

Consistent with conformal symmetry. Central charge $c = 2 + 24q$

- To derive it, one sometimes needs to deal with

$$\beta(z) \log \partial \gamma(w) \sim -\frac{1}{(z-w)^2} \frac{1}{\partial \gamma(w)} \quad \Bigg| \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Can be derived from "replica trick"} \\ \beta(z)(\partial \gamma(w))^n = -\frac{n}{(z-w)^2} (\partial \gamma)^{n-1} \end{array}$$

- It is also easy to check that γ is $(0,0)$ and β is $(1,0)$ operators.

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Dual to Symmetric Product Orbifold

- We propose that string dual to symmetric product orbifold of seed CFT S_{seed} is given by

$$S = S_{\text{CLD}} + S_{\text{seed}}$$

$$S_{\text{CLD}} = \int \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right]$$

$$q = 1 - \frac{c_{\text{seed}}}{24}$$

- Evidence: torus partition function (**torus target space**)

$$\gamma \sim \gamma + 2\pi R \sim \gamma + 2\pi R \zeta$$

- Integrating out β gives localization to $\bar{\partial} \gamma = 0$ (holomorphic map).
- In addition, any maps with “branch point” $\partial \gamma(z^*) = 0$ is suppressed since $\partial \gamma(z^*) = 0 \rightarrow \varphi = \log(\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma}) = -\infty \rightarrow e^{-S_{\text{CLD}}} = 0$.
- Such maps exist only when the **worldsheet is also torus** (genus 1)

$$\frac{\gamma}{R} = \frac{(M - \bar{\tau} W)z + (\tau W - M)\bar{z}}{\tau - \bar{\tau}} \quad \Bigg| \quad \begin{aligned} M &= m^1 + \zeta m^2 \\ W &= w^1 + \zeta w^2 \end{aligned} \quad \tau = \frac{M}{W}$$

Details on partition function

$$\frac{\gamma}{R} = \frac{(M - \bar{\tau}W)z + (\tau W - M)\bar{z}}{\tau - \bar{\tau}} \quad \Bigg| \quad \begin{aligned} M &= m^1 + \zeta m^2 \\ W &= w^1 + \zeta w^2 \end{aligned} \quad \tau = \frac{M}{W}$$

- More concretely, the path integral gives

$$\sum_{\{m^a, w^a\}} \frac{\zeta_2}{|W|^2} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2} \delta^{(2)} \left(\tau - \frac{M}{W} \right) Z_{\text{seed}}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$$

- Localization of the worldsheet moduli & a sum over four integers.
- Extend the integration domain to the upper half plane using two of the four integers and evaluate the delta function:

$$\sum_{a,d=1}^{\infty} \frac{p^{ad}}{ad} \sum_{b=0}^{d-1} Z_{\text{seed}} \left(\frac{b + a\zeta}{d}, \frac{b + a\bar{\zeta}}{d} \right) \quad \Bigg| \quad \begin{aligned} p &= e^{B \text{Area} / \pi} \\ \delta S &= -B \int \frac{d^2z}{4\pi} (\partial\gamma \bar{\partial}\bar{\gamma} - \bar{\partial}\gamma \partial\bar{\gamma}) \end{aligned}$$

- Coincides with the grand canonical free energy of symmetric product orbifold (Hecke operator expression)

Lightening review of chiral 2d YM

- 2d YM: Simplest possible confining theory.
Linear potential, area law, meson spectrum.....
- Completely solvable even at finite N:

$$Z_{\mathcal{M}} = \sum_{\text{rep of } U(N)} (\dim R)^{2-2G} e^{-g_{\text{YM}}^2 AC_2(R)}$$

- At large N, the result factorizes into “chiral” and “anti-chiral” parts

$$Z_{\mathcal{M}} \xrightarrow{\text{large } N} Z_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{chiral}} Z_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{anti}}$$

- At finite N, each partition function receives corrections. In addition there will be interactions between chiral and anti-chiral parts.

$$Z_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{chiral}} = Z_0^{\text{chiral}} + \frac{Z_1^{\text{chiral}}}{N^2} + \dots$$

$$Z_{\mathcal{M}} = Z_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{chiral}} Z_{\mathcal{M}}^{\text{anti}} + \frac{Z_{\text{int}}}{N^2} + \dots$$

2d YM as string theory

- **Gross Taylor:** $1/N$ expansion can be interpreted as string genus expansion.
- Chiral and anti-chiral parts correspond to worldsheets wrapping the target space with different orientations.
- But the explicit worldsheet action was not written down.

2d YM as string theory

- **Gross Taylor:** $1/N$ expansion can be interpreted as string genus expansion.
- Chiral and anti-chiral parts correspond to worldsheets wrapping the target space with different orientations.
- But the explicit worldsheet action was not written down.
- **Horava:** Proposed a “rigid topological string”. Much more complicated than standard string theory.
- **Cordes, Moore, Rangoolam:** “zero area limit” of 2d YM can be interpreted as topological string.
- **Vafa:** topological string dual to 2d YM on a torus.
- **Aganagic, Ooguri, Saulina, Vafa:** Partition functions on Riemann surfaces coincide with q -deformed topological string partition function.

Our string dual

$$S = S_{\text{CLD}}|_{q=1} + \int \frac{d^2 z}{4} (\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma} - \bar{\partial} \gamma \partial \bar{\gamma})$$

- Symmetric product orbifold of “nothing”
- Torus **world sheet** to torus **target space** path integral can be evaluated in a similar manner:

$$\sum_{K=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-K\lambda A/2}}{2K} \sum_{\substack{ad=K \\ a,d \in \mathbb{Z}_+}} (a + d)$$

- Coincides with the large N free energy of chiral 2d YM by Gross and Taylor.

A technical but important remark

- At this order (genus 1), the symmetric product orbifold and 2d YM are similar.
- But at subleading order of g_s , there is an important **difference**.
- The answer for the symmetric product orbifold is “genus-1 exact”. No higher-genus correction. But the chiral 2d YM partition function is known to receive **1/N corrections**.
- At first sight, this is a **problem for our proposal on chiral 2d YM**.

Any maps with “branch point” $\partial\gamma(z^*) = 0$ is suppressed since

$$\partial\gamma(z^*) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \varphi = \log(\partial\gamma\bar{\partial}\bar{\gamma}) = -\infty \quad \rightarrow \quad e^{-S_{\text{CLD}}} = 0.$$

- Maps at higher order always contain “branch points” $\partial\gamma = 0$

?

Renormalization of g_s

$$\partial\gamma(z^*) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \varphi = \log(\partial\gamma\bar{\partial}\bar{\gamma}) = -\infty \quad \rightarrow \quad e^{-S_{\text{CLD}}} = 0.$$

- There is a famous resolution to this known in light cone string field theory.

Mandelstam, Baba, Ishibashi, Murakami,...

- The key point is that # of “branch points” ($\partial\gamma = 0$) is equal to Euler characteristics ($n+2g-2$).
- Thus one can absorb the divergence of φ into a renormalization of g_s :

$$g_s \times \text{“0”} = g_s^{\text{ren}}$$

- In 2d YM (and generalized Veneziano), we always perform this renormalization while, for symmetric product orbifold, we do not.

Comment 1: Non-relativistic string

Gomis, Ooguri,,..., Bergshoeff, Gomis, Yan,....

$$\int d^2z (\beta \bar{\partial} X + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{X}) + (\text{Polyakov action for transverse modes})$$

- Worksheet theory is **relativistic**, target space spectrum is **non-relativistic**.
- It can be obtained by a **double-scaling limit** of usual string theory in which one sends B-field large (critical) and $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$.
(Open string sector becomes **noncommutative gauge theory**)
- Roughly speaking, the non-relativistic limit kills half of the spectrum.
- Here taking the limit makes the theory **chiral** and kill “**anti-strings**” which do not exist in the symmetric product orbifolds.

Comment 2: Tensionless AdS3/CFT2

Eberhardt, Gaberdiel, Gopakumar

- Free field representation of $SL(2,R)$ WZW:

$$\int d^2z \left(\beta \bar{\partial} X + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{X} + 4 \underline{\partial \Phi \bar{\partial} \Phi} - e^{-2\Phi} \beta \bar{\beta} - R \Phi \right)$$

- Similar to our action, but Φ is not composite.
- They argued that, for tensionless string ($k=1$), the path integral localizes to
$$\Phi = -\log \epsilon + \log \partial X \bar{\partial} \bar{X}$$
- After the replacement, the action has the same structure as ours.
- **The relation is not rigorous:** their theory is supersymmetric, our theory is purely boson.

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Proposal

- Worksheet action

$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_{\chi} + S_{bc}$$

Standard Polyakov action
in d dimensions

$$S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi\alpha'} \partial X^{\mu} \bar{\partial} X_{\mu}$$

Proposal

- Worksheet action

$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_{\chi} + \underline{S_{bc}}$$

bc-ghost

Proposal

- Worksheet action

$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_{\chi} + S_{bc}$$

Arbitrary “internal” CFT
with central charge c_{χ}

Proposal

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$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_{\chi} + S_{bc}$$

Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton

Proposal

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$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_\chi + S_{bc}$$

Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton

- “Open” Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton (CLD) SK, Maity 2506.21663

$$S_{\beta\gamma} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right] + \frac{q}{\pi} \int_{\partial \Sigma} ds \hat{k} \varphi$$

open string boundary term

$$\varphi = \log(\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma})$$

Proposal

- Worksheet action

$$S = S_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}} + S_{\beta\gamma} + S_{\chi} + S_{bc}$$

Most important part
“Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton”

- “Open” Chiral Composite Linear Dilaton (CLD) SK, Maity 2506.21663

$$S_{\beta\gamma} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right] + \frac{q}{\pi} \int_{\partial \Sigma} ds \hat{k} \varphi$$

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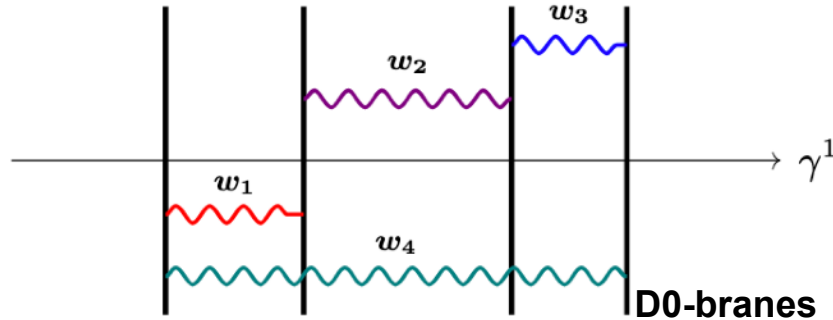
- \hat{R} and \hat{k} are worldsheet Ricci curvature and geodesic curvature.

- Central charge $c_{\beta\gamma} = 2 + 24q$. Conformal anomaly cancels when $q = 1 - \frac{d + c_{\chi}}{24}$

Set up

$$S_{\beta\gamma} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right] + \frac{q}{\pi} \int_{\partial \Sigma} ds \hat{k} \varphi \quad \varphi = \log(\partial \gamma \bar{\partial} \bar{\gamma})$$

- Consider open strings stretched between “D0-branes” in γ -plane



- Boundary conditions

$$\delta \gamma^1 \propto \delta(\gamma + \bar{\gamma}) = 0$$

Dirichlet

$$\partial_n \gamma^2 \propto \partial_n (\gamma - \bar{\gamma}) = 0$$

Neumann

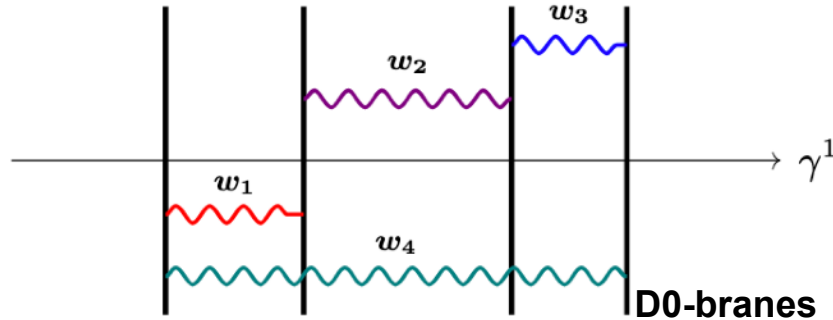
$$\beta + \bar{\beta} = 0$$

From EOM

Set up

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Neumann

$$\beta + \bar{\beta} = 0$$

From EOM

- Vertex operators

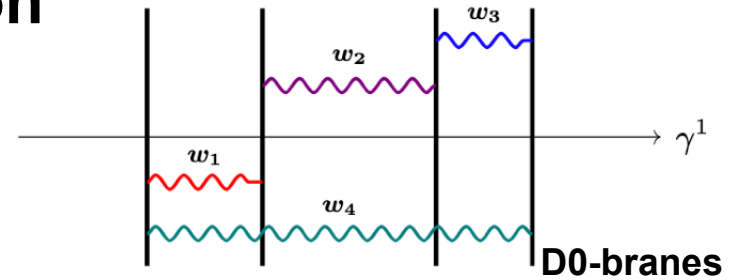
$$e^{ikX} e^{iwR} \int \beta - \bar{\beta}$$

$$(h, \bar{h}) = (\alpha' k^2 + q, \alpha' k^2 + q)$$

$$\text{On-shell condition: } \alpha' k^2 = 1 - q$$

- For general q , strings are not massless.

Computation



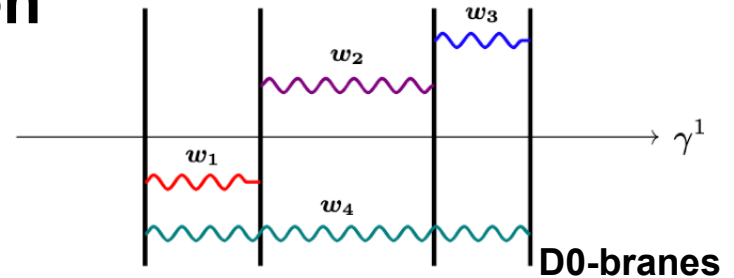
- Integrate out β 's in the presence of vertex operators

$$S_{\beta\gamma} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right] + \frac{q}{\pi} \int_{\partial \Sigma} ds \hat{k} \varphi \quad e^{ikX} e^{iwR} \int \beta - \bar{\beta}$$

- Worldsheet localizes to “Mandelstam map”

$$\gamma(z) = \rho(z) = -i \sum_k w_k R \log(z - z_k)$$

Computation



- Integrate out β 's in the presence of vertex operators

$$S_{\beta\gamma} = \int_{\Sigma} \frac{d^2z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right] + \frac{q}{\pi} \int_{\partial \Sigma} ds \hat{k} \varphi \quad e^{ikX} e^{iwR} \int \beta - \bar{\beta}$$

- Worldsheet localizes to “Mandelstam map”

$$\gamma(z) = \rho(z) = -i \sum_k w_k R \log(z - z_k)$$

- Evaluate the CLD action on Mandelstam map

Mandelstam, Baba, Ishibashi, Murakami

$$e^{-S_{\text{CLD}}[\rho]} = \frac{|w_1 w_2 w_3 w_4|^{q/2} |w_1 + w_3|^q}{|z_{12} z_{14} z_{23} z_{24}|^q} \cdot |z_c - a_+|^{q/2} |z_c - a_-|^{q/2}$$

- $z_c = \frac{z_{12} z_{34}}{z_{13} z_{24}}$ is a cross ratio.

- $a_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{i}{2} \sqrt{\frac{w_2}{w_1} \left(2 + \frac{w_2}{w_1} \right)}$ are related to “interaction points” (their discriminant): $\partial \rho = 0$

Computation 2

- Combining it with Koba-Nielsen factor from S_X gives

$$\int_0^1 dx x^{-\alpha' s + q - 2} (1 - x)^{-\alpha' t + q - 2} [(x - a_+)(x - a_-)]^{q/2}$$

- Basically of the same form as the Mandelstam amplitude:

$$A(s, t) = \frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)}{\Gamma(-s-t)} {}_3F_2 \left(-s, -t, -\delta; -\frac{s+t}{2}, \frac{1-s-t}{2}; \lambda \right)$$

$$A(s, t) = \int_0^1 dz z^{-s-b-1} (1-z)^{-t-b-1} (1-4\lambda z(1-z))^\delta$$

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- Basically of the same form as the Mandelstam amplitude:

$$A(s, t) = \int_0^1 dz z^{-s-b-1} (1 - z)^{-t-b-1} (1 - 4\lambda z(1 - z))^\delta$$

- a_\pm can be tuned by changing the ratio w_2/w_1 . ($a_\pm = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{i}{2} \sqrt{\frac{w_2}{w_1} \left(2 + \frac{w_2}{w_1}\right)}$)

(We already fixed $w_{3,4}$ so that the amplitude becomes s-t symmetric $a_+ = 1 - a_-$)

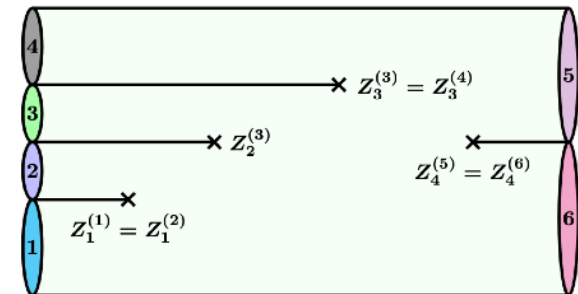
- q can also be modified by changing the central charge of internal CFT S_χ .
- An unsatisfactory feature: b is constrained and external states are not massless.
→ Can be remedied by including free boson in the internal CFT and dressing vertex operators by free boson vertex operators.

Closed string generalization

- Performing a similar computation in closed string leads

$$\mathcal{A}_4^{\text{closed}} = \int_{\mathbb{C}} d^2 z |z|^{-\frac{\alpha'}{2}s-2b-2} |1-z|^{-\frac{\alpha'}{2}t-2b-2} \underbrace{|1-4\lambda z(1-z)|^q}_{\text{2 zeros}}$$

- Generalization of KLT trick gives a sum of products of Appel \mathbb{F}_1
- It is only **s-t symmetric** (not s-t-u symmetric)
 - Technical reason: One cannot make it s-t-u symmetric using just **2 zeros**.
 - Conceptual reason: Conservation of $w's$ $\sum w_i = 0$. Some $w's$ are positive and others are negative. Mandelstam map is a **light cone diagram**.



- Similarly, open-string higher-point amplitudes are only partially crossing symmetric.

Summary

$$S_{\text{CLD}} = \int \frac{d^2 z}{2\pi} \left[\beta \bar{\partial} \gamma + \bar{\beta} \partial \bar{\gamma} + q \left(\partial \varphi \bar{\partial} \varphi + \frac{\hat{R}}{2} \varphi \right) \right]$$

- Proposed a **novel worldsheet theory** that is potentially dual to chiral 2d YM, symmetric product orbifold and generalized Veneziano amplitude.
 - Non-linear action, OPE contains inverse fields. Nevertheless the path integral can be performed explicitly.
-
- Understand the connection to topological string for chiral 2d YM on a torus by **Vafa**
 - Speculation: topological string contains fermionic modes on the world sheet.
Integrating them out would lead to CLD?
 - If so, we will have a better formulation also for dual of symmetric product orbifold and world sheet description of generalized Veneziano.
 - More evidence for the duality with symmetric product orbifold.
 - Other generalized Veneziano amplitudes?
 - Crossing symmetric generalized Virasoro-Shapiro?
 - “Derivation” of duality for symmetric product orbifold. **Lunin, Mathur**