

# Defect correlators in AdS<sub>2</sub>/CFT<sub>1</sub>

[2204.01659], [2106.00689], [2004.07849], [2201.04104]

Gabriel James Stockton Bliard - Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

## AdS<sub>2</sub>/CFT<sub>1</sub>

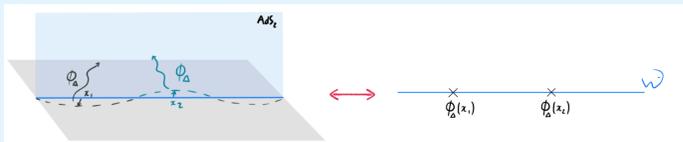
Analytic bootstrap and Witten diagrams for the ABJM Wilson line as defect CFT<sub>1</sub> [2004.07849]  
JHEP 08 (2020) 143 [Bianchi, Bliard, Forini, Griguolo, Seminara]

### Examples of CFT<sub>1</sub> systems

- **Subsector** of higher dimensional theories [’05 Drukker Kawamoto][17’ Giombi, Roiban, Tseytlin]
- **Boundary** of QFT in AdS<sub>2</sub>
- **Defect theories**

An example which includes both the case of a QFT in AdS<sub>2</sub> and a defect theory is the AdS<sub>2</sub>/CFT<sub>1</sub> setup of a minimal string surface with a Wilson line at its boundary. We focus on the following dual system [’08 Aharony, Bergman, Jafferis, Maldacena][’08 Drukker, Plefka, Young] :

### Duality setup



AdS<sub>2</sub> worldsheet excitations

Operator insertions on the Wilson line defect

Gauge-fixed type IIA minimal string in AdS<sub>4</sub> × CP<sup>3</sup>

Wilson line in 3D Chern Simons theory

$$S_B = T \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{G_{AdS_4 \times CP^3}} \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{W} = \text{STr} \left( \text{Pexp} \left( -i \oint dt \mathcal{L}(t) \right) \right)$$

Boundary fluctuations propagating in AdS<sub>2</sub>

Operators inserted on the Wilson line

CP<sup>3</sup> massless fluctuations  
Remaining AdS<sub>4</sub> directions

$w^a, \tilde{w}^a$   
 $X, \tilde{X}$

$\mathbb{O}^a, \tilde{\mathbb{O}}^a$   $\Delta = 1$  Bosonic operators  
 $\mathbb{D}, \tilde{\mathbb{D}}$   $\Delta = 2$  **Displacement Operator**

Large  $T$  limit computed perturbatively using Witten diagrams



Strong coupling limit computed perturbatively using analytic bootstrap

### Superspace structure

$\Phi$  has a 4-point correlator whose expansion in grassmann variables  $\theta$  gives all the 4 point correlators

$$\langle \mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F} \rangle^{(1)} = \langle \Phi\tilde{\Phi}\Phi\tilde{\Phi} \rangle|_{\theta=0} = \frac{1}{x_{12}x_{34}} f(z) \quad z = \frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{13}x_{24}}$$

$$\langle \mathbb{O}_{a_1} \tilde{\mathbb{O}}_{a_2} \mathbb{O}_{a_3} \tilde{\mathbb{O}}_{a_4} \rangle^{(1)} = \langle \mathbb{D}\tilde{\mathbb{D}}\mathbb{D}\tilde{\mathbb{D}} \rangle|_{\theta=0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(x_{12}x_{34})^2} \left( \delta_{a_1 a_2} \delta_{a_3 a_4} (f(t) - t f'(t) + t^2 f''(t)) + \delta_{a_1 a_3} \delta_{a_2 a_4} (t^2 f'(t) + t^3 f''(t)) \right) |_{t=z}$$

The chiral superfield

$\Phi =$

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{F} \\ & + \theta^a \mathbb{O}_a \\ & + \theta^a \theta^b \epsilon_{abc} \Lambda^c \\ & + \theta^a \theta^b \theta^c \epsilon_{abc} \mathbb{D} \end{aligned}$$

The **Witten diagram** computation and the **analytic bootstrap** agree at first order and give

$$f^{(1)}(t) = z (r_1(z) \log(z) + p_1(z(1-z)) + r_1(1-z) \log(1-z)) \quad (3)$$

$$f^{(2)}(t) = z (t_2(z) \log(z)^2 + s_2(z) \log(z) \log(1-z) + p_2(z(1-z)) + r_2(z) \log(z) + z \leftrightarrow 1-z) \quad (*)$$

**Goals:** Solve CFT<sub>1</sub> exactly.  
Find information about higher dimensional embedding theories.  
Learn about QFT in curved space.

## Perturbative computations

Notes on  $n$ -point Witten diagrams in AdS<sub>2</sub> [2204.01659] (To appear in JPhysA) [Bliard]

**Correlation functions** are computed perturbatively with **Witten diagrams** [’99 D’Hoker, Freedman, Mathur, Matusis, Rastelli]

$$G_{BBB}(y, x; x_i) = \left( \frac{y}{y^2 + (x - x_i)^2} \right)^\Delta \quad G_{BB}(u) = u^{-1} {}_2F_1(\Delta, \Delta, 2\Delta, -\frac{2}{u}) \quad u = \text{Geodesic distance in AdS}_2$$

Bulk to boundary propagator

Bulk-to-bulk propagator

**Contact Witten diagrams** correspond to the first order connected  $n$ -point correlators in a QFT in AdS<sub>2</sub> with a single  $\phi^n$  interaction term and are computed with the integral

$$\langle \phi_\Delta(x_1) \dots \phi_\Delta(x_n) \rangle = I(x_i) = \int \frac{dx dy}{y^2} \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{y}{y^2 + (x - x_i)^2} \right)^\Delta$$



In the massless case ( $\Delta = 1$ ), this can be computed for all  $n$  using **contour integration** for the  $x$  variable and a partial fraction decomposition for the  $z$ -variable.

$$I_{\Delta=1, n}(x_i) = \frac{\pi}{2(2i)^{n-2}} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{(x_i - x_j)^{n-4}}{\prod_{k \neq j, i}(x_k - x_j)(x_i - x_k)} \ln \left( \frac{x_i - x_j}{2i} \right)$$

**Exchange Witten diagrams** are related to contact diagrams by the action of the conformal Casimir and can be computed by solving the differential equation: [’99 D’Hoker, Freedman, Rastelli]

$$\left( \mathcal{E}_{23}^{(2)} - \Delta_E(\Delta_E - 1) \right) \left( \text{Contact Diagram} \right) = \left( \text{Exchange Diagram} \right)$$

For example, the exchange diagram in the  $t$  channel gives  $I_{\Delta=1, \Delta_E=1}^{exch} = \frac{\pi}{4(t_{13}t_{24})^2} \frac{c_1 + c_2 \log(z^2) + 6\text{Li}_3(z) - \text{Li}_2(z) \log(z^2)}{(1-z)^2}$

**Goals:** Use the  $n$ -point contact diagrams as a basis to compute and bootstrap other tree level diagrams. Provide a tool to make AdS<sub>2</sub> computations straightforward. Motivate the HPL ansatz and letters as the input for the analytic bootstrap. AdS Superstring models can be studied non-perturbatively via discretised models [Bliard, Costa, Forini, Patella]

## The analytic bootstrap

Analytic bootstrap and Witten diagrams for the ABJM Wilson line as defect CFT<sub>1</sub> [2004.07849]  
JHEP 08 (2020) 143 [Bianchi, Bliard, Forini, Griguolo, Seminara]  
Bootstrap<sup>2</sup> of ABJM defect Wilson line -In progress- [Bliard]

Conformal symmetry in  $1d$  will fix all but  $n - 3$  independent variables, called **conformal cross ratios**, in an  $n$ -point correlator. This fixes the 1, 2 & 3 point functions

$$\langle \phi_\Delta(x) \rangle = \delta_{\Delta,0} \quad \langle \phi_\Delta(x_1) \phi_\Delta(x_2) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{\Delta_1, \Delta_2}}{(x_{12})^{2\Delta}} \quad \langle \phi_\Delta(x_1) \phi_\Delta(x_2) \phi_\Delta(x_3) \rangle = \frac{c_{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3}}{x_{12}^{\Delta_1} x_{13}^{\Delta_2} x_{23}^{\Delta_3}}$$

Where the scaling dimension  $\Delta$  specifies the operator and the spectrum  $\{\Delta_i\}$  and coefficients  $\{c_{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3}\}$  determine the theory thanks to the **operator product expansion** (OPE) which allows one to relate these to an  $n$ -point function. For example, the 4-point function can be written as

$$\langle \phi_\Delta(x_1) \phi_\Delta(x_2) \phi_\Delta(x_3) \phi_\Delta(x_4) \rangle = \frac{1}{(x_{12}x_{34})^{2\Delta}} \sum_h c_{\Delta, \Delta, h}^2 z^h {}_2F_1(h, h, 2h; z)$$

Conversely, higher point functions can provide information about the theory  $\{\Delta_i\}$  &  $\{c_{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3}\}$

In practice the conformal symmetry, the OPE and any additional symmetry (reflection positivity, protected dimensions) constrain correlators further; this is used for the conformal bootstrap [’21 Ferrero, Meneghelli].

### The conformal bootstrap

$$\langle \mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F} \rangle = \frac{1}{x_{12}x_{34}} f(z) \quad \langle \mathbb{P}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F} \rangle = \frac{1}{x_{12}x_{34}} h(z)$$

**Crossing** symmetry imposes  $f(z) = f(1-z)$

**Braiding** symmetry relates  $h(z)|_{\log(z)} = f(\frac{-z}{1-z})|_{\log(z)}$



**Transcendentality ansatz** in terms of HPLs e.g.  $f^{(2)}(z) = r_2(z) \text{Li}_3(z) + \dots$

Lower order **CFT data** fixes the terms multiplying  $\log(z)^{(|L|>1)}$  (up to mixing)

Anomalous dimension **growth** for large dimension as  $\gamma_n^{(L)} \simeq n^{2L}$

Impose **boundary conditions**

$$f(z) =_{z \rightarrow 0} O(z) \quad h(z) =_{z \rightarrow 1} O(1-z) \quad h(z)|_{\log(1-z)} =_{z \rightarrow 1} O((1-z)^3)$$

Use of **non-perturbative data** for low dimension operators (Localisation, integral constraints) [’21, Cavaglià, Gromov, Julius, Preti]

**Goals:** Bootstrap 4-point function at higher order to find strong coupling spectrum. Bootstrap correlators in Mellin formalism. Compute 6-point functions and look for signs of integrability at strong coupling. Bootstrap is an inherently non-perturbative approach, ansatz is the perturbative element

## Mellin space

Mellin amplitudes for 1d CFT [2106.00689] JHEP 10 (2021) 095 [Bianchi, Bliard, Forini, Peveri]

In higher dimensions, Mellin space highlights some nice properties of the correlator [’11 Penedones]

- Nice **complex analytic** structure
- Links to **scattering amplitudes**
- Redundant variables for **1d**

Defining the Mellin and Anti-Mellin transform as

$$M[g](s) = \int_0^\infty dt t^{-1-s} f(t) \quad \hat{M}^{-1}[M](t) = \int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{ds}{2\pi i} t^s M(s) \quad t = \frac{x_{12}x_{34}}{x_{14}x_{23}}$$

We can find the general expression for 4-point contact diagrams of **all integer** scaling dimension  $\Delta$

$$M_{\Delta}^0(s) = \text{csc}(\pi s) \cot(\pi s) P_{\Delta}(s) - \text{csc}(\pi s) \sum_{s_i=1}^{2\Delta-1} \frac{P_{\Delta}(s_i)}{s - s_i} \quad P_{\Delta}(s) = {}_3F_2(s, 2\Delta - s, \frac{1}{2}, 1 - \Delta; 1, \frac{1}{2} + \Delta; 1)$$

### Scalar theories

Considering a CFT<sub>1</sub> defined as the boundary theory of the QFT in AdS<sub>2</sub>, with action

$$S = g \int \frac{dy dx}{y^2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \frac{1}{2} \Delta(\Delta - 1) \phi^2 + D_t \phi^4 \right) \quad D_t \phi^4 = (\partial^2 \phi^2)^2 + O(\partial^{4L-2})$$

The 4-point function can be computed in Mellin space, along with the spectrum and OPE coefficients

$$M_{\Delta}^k(s) = \sum_{k=0}^{2L} \binom{2L}{k} M_{\Delta+k}^0(s+k) \quad \gamma_{L,n}^{(1)}(\Delta_\phi) = \frac{\Gamma(L + \Delta_\phi)^4}{\Gamma(2L + 2\Delta_\phi)} \sum_{p,l} (-1)^l c_{k,l} F(\Delta_\phi, L, n, p, k, l)$$

In agreement with results found independently in [’22, Knop, Mazac]

### Defect theory

We Mellin transform our perturbative result for the lowest weight correlator

$$f^{(1)}(z) \rightarrow M[f^{(1)}(z)](s) \quad M[f^{(1)}(z)](s) = 6\Gamma(s-2)\Gamma(-1-s)$$

The differential operators relating the correlators in position space become linear transformation in Mellin space. For example to obtain the Mellin amplitude of  $\langle \mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{O}^a \tilde{\mathbb{O}}_a \rangle$

$$\langle \mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}\mathbb{O}^a \tilde{\mathbb{O}}_a \rangle = \frac{1}{t_{12}t_{34}} g(t) \quad g(t) = \sum_{k,n} a_{k,n} t^k \partial_t^{(n)} f(t)$$

$$M[g](s) = \sum_{k,n} a_{k,n} (-1)^k (k-1-s)_n M[f](s+k-n)$$

If  $f(t)$  has a simple expression, **all correlators** of elements of the supermultiplet will !

**Goals:** Reveal simple structure of 1d defect correlators through the Mellin transform. Find a better suited Ansatz formulation for the Bootstrap. Find a direct computable path to flat space amplitudes. Use the Mellin formalism to find signs of integrability in AdS<sub>2</sub> systems.