

AdS/CFT & Wilson loops I

Motivations → Make precision tests of AdS/CFT

How?

Because WL provide exact results which we can extrapolate to strong coupling

What is a Wilson loop? It is a closed Wilson line

What is a Wilson line? Solution to parallel transport along a curve \mathcal{C} .

Given a covariant derivative

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu - i A_\mu$$

with $A_\mu = A_\mu^a T^a \in \text{Lie}(G)$

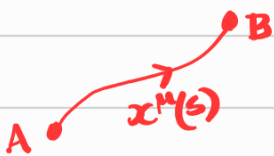
Gauge group

$$\begin{cases} D_\mu W = 0 \\ \oplus \\ \mathcal{C} \leftrightarrow x^\mu(s) \end{cases}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\quad} \frac{D W}{ds} = 0 \rightsquigarrow$$

$$x^\mu (\partial_\mu W - i A_\mu W) = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dW}{ds} = i A_\mu W}$$



The solution to this equation is a Wilson line

$$W[\mathcal{C}_{A \rightarrow B}] = \text{P} e^{i \int_A^B x^\mu A_\mu ds}$$

↖ path order

Consider an iterative solution

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x^\mu (\partial_\mu - i e A_\mu) W &= 0 \\ W &= 1 + e W^{(1)} + e^2 W^{(2)} + \dots \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} e W^{(1)} + e^2 W^{(2)} + \dots &= i x^\mu A_\mu (1 + e W^{(1)} + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

The solution is

$$e^1: \dot{W}^{(1)} = i \dot{\chi}^\mu A_\mu \quad \rightarrow \quad W^{(1)}(s) = i \int_0^s ds' \dot{\chi}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s')$$

$$e^2: \dot{W}^{(2)} = i \dot{\chi}^\mu A_\mu W^{(1)} \quad \rightarrow \quad W^{(2)}(s) = i^2 \int_0^s ds' \dot{\chi}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s') \int_0^{s'} ds'' \dot{\chi}^\nu(s'') A_\nu(s'')$$

⋮

Setting $e=1$ we arrive at

$$W[\tilde{\gamma}_{A \rightarrow B}] = 1 + i \int_0^s ds' \dot{\chi}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s') + i^2 \int_0^s ds' \int_0^{s'} ds'' \underbrace{(\dot{\chi}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s')) (\dot{\chi}^\nu(s'') A_\nu(s''))}_{s' > s''} + i^3 \int_0^s ds' \int_0^{s'} ds'' \int_0^{s''} ds''' \underbrace{A(s') A(s'') A(s''')}_{l^{\text{th}} \text{ ordered}} + \dots$$

$A(s) = \dot{\chi}^\mu(s) A_\mu(s)$

This expression is formally written as

$$P e^{i \int_0^s ds' A(s')} = 1 + i \int_0^s ds' A(s') + \frac{i^2}{2!} \int_0^s ds' \int_0^{s'} ds'' \underbrace{P[A(s') A(s'')]}_{2! \text{ terms}} + \frac{i^n}{n!} \int_0^s ds \dots \int_0^{s^{(n)}} \underbrace{P[A(s) \dots A(s^{(n)})]}_{n! \text{ terms}}$$

Completely analogous to the evolution operator (T-order) in QFT

Note: it is immediate to see that matrices are rearranged in reverse order under

fermion conjugation hence

$$\boxed{(W[\tilde{\gamma}_{A \rightarrow B}])^\dagger = W[\tilde{\gamma}_{B \rightarrow A}^{-1}] \quad \rightarrow \quad W[\tilde{\gamma}_{A \rightarrow B}] \cdot W[\tilde{\gamma}_{A \rightarrow B}]^\dagger = 1}$$

What happens under gauge transformations?

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A'_\mu = g \cdot A_\mu \cdot g^{-1} - i g \partial_\mu g^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{D'_\mu = g \cdot D_\mu \cdot g^{-1}}$$

$g = g(x) \in G$
gauge group

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{W'[\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}] = g(B) \cdot W[\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}] \cdot g^{-1}(A)}$$

kind of gauge covariant.

It was Schwinger ('59) who introduced Wilson lines as natural (non-local) operators in order to perform point splitting regul.

in a gauge invariant way:

$J_\mu(x) = \bar{\Psi}(x) \gamma_\mu \Psi(x)$ is invariant under $\Psi(x) \rightarrow \Psi'(x) = g(x) \Psi(x)$

$$\bar{\Psi}'(x) = \bar{\Psi}(x) \cdot \underbrace{g^\dagger(x)}_{= g^{-1}(x)}$$

However when making a point splitting

~~$J_\mu^{(e)}(x) = \bar{\Psi}(x + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \gamma_\mu \Psi(x - \frac{\epsilon}{2})$~~ is not gauge invariant

$$\rightarrow \boxed{\bar{\Psi}(x + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \underbrace{g^{-1}(x + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) g(x - \frac{\epsilon}{2})}_{\neq 1} \gamma_\mu \Psi(x - \frac{\epsilon}{2})}$$

gauge factors do not cancel

This is remedied introducing a Wilson line

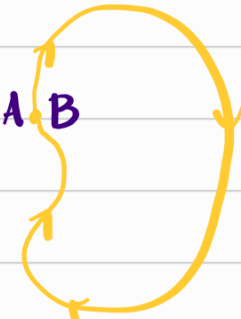
$$J_\mu^{(\epsilon)} \equiv \bar{\Psi}(x + \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \underbrace{e^{i \int_{x-\frac{\epsilon}{2}}^{x+\frac{\epsilon}{2}} A(s)} \gamma_\mu}_{\text{Compensates the gauge factors}} \Psi(x - \frac{\epsilon}{2})$$

& properly accounts for anomalies!



Why a loop?

Because if $A=B \rightarrow$ closed loop $A \cdot B$



$$W[\gamma] = g(A) \cdot W[\gamma] \cdot g^{-1}(A) \quad ; \text{ gauge invariant!}$$

Then taking a trace

$$W[\gamma] = \text{tr} P e^{i \oint_\gamma A}$$

is gauge invariant

The trace of the holonomy of the gauge connection is a physical observable.

Inside the path integral

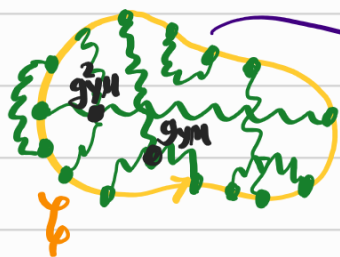
$$\langle W[\gamma] \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu e^{i S_{YM}} \underbrace{\text{tr} e^{i \oint_\gamma A}}_{\text{viewed as coupling } A_\mu \text{ to an external particle}}$$

supported on line, i.e. with $J^\mu(x) = q \int ds \delta^{(4)}(x-y(s)) \frac{dy^\mu}{ds}$ (point charge current)

$e^{i \int J^\mu A_\mu}$

viewed as coupling A_μ to an external particle

At quantum level, the WL V.E.V involves



we expect divergences when points coincide

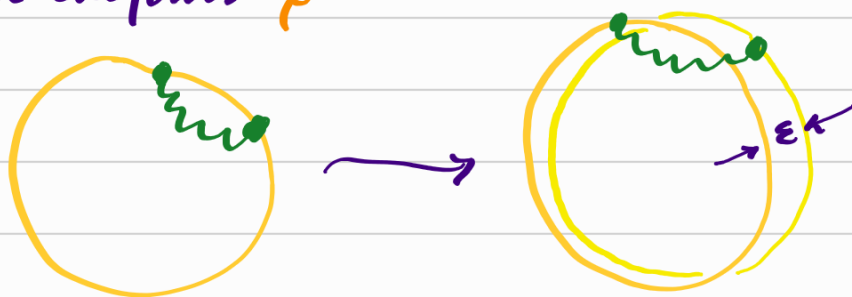
More precisely

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle W[\gamma] \rangle &= N \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu e^{-\frac{1}{g_{YM}^2} \int F_{\mu\nu}^2} \text{tr P} e^{i \oint_\gamma A_\mu \dot{x}^\mu ds} \\
 &\sim 1 + i \oint_\gamma \langle A_\mu \rangle \dot{x}^\mu ds \\
 &\quad + \frac{i^2}{2!} \oint_\gamma ds \oint_\gamma ds' \langle P \{ A_\mu(x(s)) A_\nu(x(s')) \} \rangle \\
 &\quad + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Wick Contract

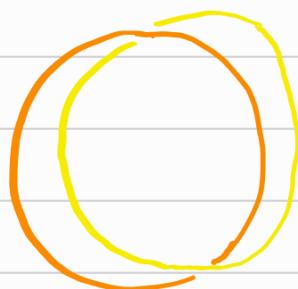
So a regularization is needed, e.g. computing the integrals

displacing the contours γ



But topological issues arise,

a.k.a. framing \leftrightarrow



linked contours

cf Witten's Jones polynomial is 3d Chern + Simons

Note: in QED $U(1)$ abelian gauge theory, reps are classified

by charge $q \in \mathbb{Z} \rightsquigarrow q = ne$ \leftarrow fundamental charge

Perturbation theory is performed in powers of e

In non-abelian gauge theories $\text{quark charge} \leftrightarrow \text{SU}(N) \text{ irrep}$

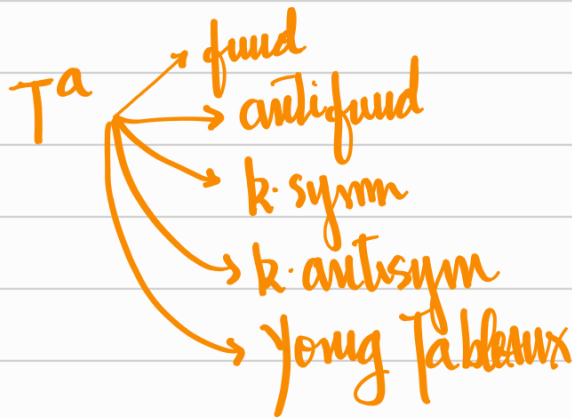
\mathcal{L}_{YM} is fixed and used for making perturbative expansion.

$$W[\vec{E}] = \text{tr} P e^{i \oint_{\vec{E}} A_{\mu} dx^{\mu}}$$

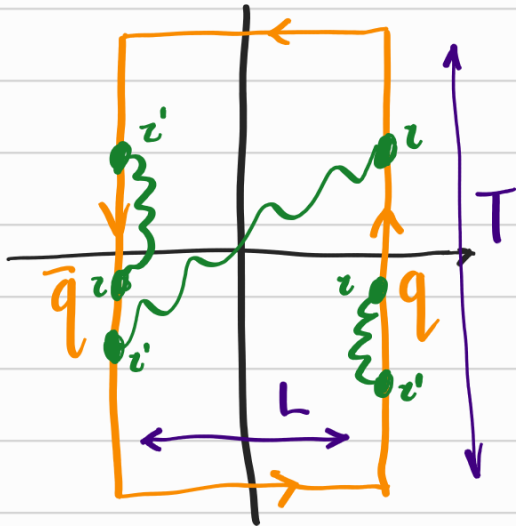
$$A_{\mu} = A_{\mu}^a T^a$$

what we modify is

choice of irrep \leftrightarrow particle charge



Wilson Loop & Confinement criterion



Consider computing this loop in QED (abelian/Gaussian)
Integration is immediate:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle W[\square_T] \rangle &= N \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu e^{-\int F_{\mu\nu}^2 d^4x} e^{ie \oint A_\mu \dot{x}^\mu ds} \\ &= N e^{-\int dx dx' \frac{j^\mu(x) j_\mu(x')}{|x-x'|^2}} \\ &= N e^{-\frac{e^2}{\hbar} \oint ds \oint ds' \frac{\dot{x}(s) \cdot \dot{x}(s')}{|x(s)-x(s')|^2}} \end{aligned}$$

From classical electromagnetism we know the result

will involve: • self energy \rightarrow divergent for coincident points

\rightarrow proportional to loop's length expansion

\rightarrow can be cancelled by counterterm $e^{-\frac{e^2}{\hbar} \Delta \oint ds}$

• Interaction energy \rightarrow $V_{q\bar{q}}(L) = -\frac{e^2}{L}$ \rightarrow Coulomb potential

We conclude that for QED, WL for rectangular \square subtracting obvious divergences

$$\langle W[\square] \rangle \sim e^{-V_{q\bar{q}}(L) \cdot T} = e^{e^2 T/L}$$

Note: $V_{q\bar{q}} = \frac{f(g_{\text{YM}}^2, N)}{L}$ for conformal theories with AdS duals.

dictated by scale invariance of Maxwell's theory

With this insight in mind, Kenneth introduced

$$\underbrace{e^{i \oint A_\mu dx^\mu}}_{\text{QED}} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{W[\square] = \text{tr} P e^{i \oint A_\mu dx^\mu}}$$

and proposed Wilson criterion, i.e.

$$\boxed{\text{Linear Confinement} \equiv \text{Wilson Loop Area Law}}$$

meaning that

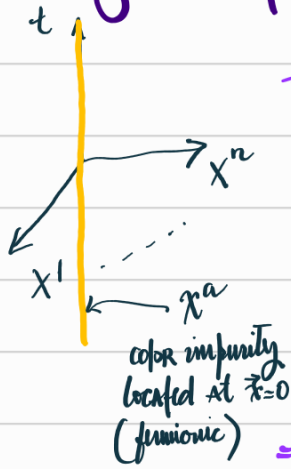
$$\langle W[\square] \rangle \sim e^{-\text{Area}} \sim e^{-\alpha L T}$$

$\alpha L T$ \leftarrow dimensionful "QCD scale" \leftarrow QCD string tension
 $\Rightarrow \boxed{V_{q\bar{q}} = \alpha L}$ Linear Confinement

Wilson loop as a defect

The Wilson loop operator can be understood as a (dynamical)

localized impurity inserted into the ambient theory



$$W[\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}] = 1 + i \int_0^s ds' \dot{x}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s') + i^2 \int_0^s ds' \int_0^{s'} ds'' (\dot{x}^\mu(s') A_\mu(s')) (\dot{x}^\nu(s'') A_\nu(s''))_{s' > s''} + i^3 \int_0^s ds' \int_0^{s'} ds'' \int_0^{s''} ds''' \underbrace{A(s') A(s'') A(s''')}_{\text{path ordered}} + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{i^n}{n!} \int_0^s ds' \dots \int_0^{s^{(n)}} ds^{(n)} \theta(s-s') \theta(s'-s'') \dots \theta(s^{(n-1)}-s^{(n)}) A(s') \dots A(s^{(n)})$$

The idea is to interpret $\theta(s-s')$ as the propagator of an auxiliary "fundamental" fermion field $\chi(s)$ living on the WL contour interacting with ambient gauge theory as

$$\langle W[\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}] \rangle = N \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu \mathcal{D}\chi^a \mathcal{D}\bar{\chi}_a \chi(B) \bar{\chi}(A) e^{-S_{\text{YM}} - \int_A^B ds \bar{\chi} (\partial_s - iA(s)) \chi}$$

Gaussian χ^a theory.

$$W[\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}] = \langle \chi(B) \bar{\chi}(A) \rangle_A$$

Then the Wilson line $\gamma_{A \rightarrow B}$ is the 2-pt function of the 1-dim defect theory defined on it. Assuming now the loop to be closed: $A=B$
 $A \equiv x^\mu(0) = x^\mu(2\pi) \equiv B$ & $\chi^a(0) = -\chi^a(2\pi)$ anti-periodic fermions

$$\langle W[\gamma] \rangle = N \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu \mathcal{D}\chi^a \mathcal{D}\bar{\chi}_a \chi^a(2\pi) \bar{\chi}_a(0) e^{-S_{\text{YM}} - S_{\text{defect}}}$$

Ladder diagrams resummation WL

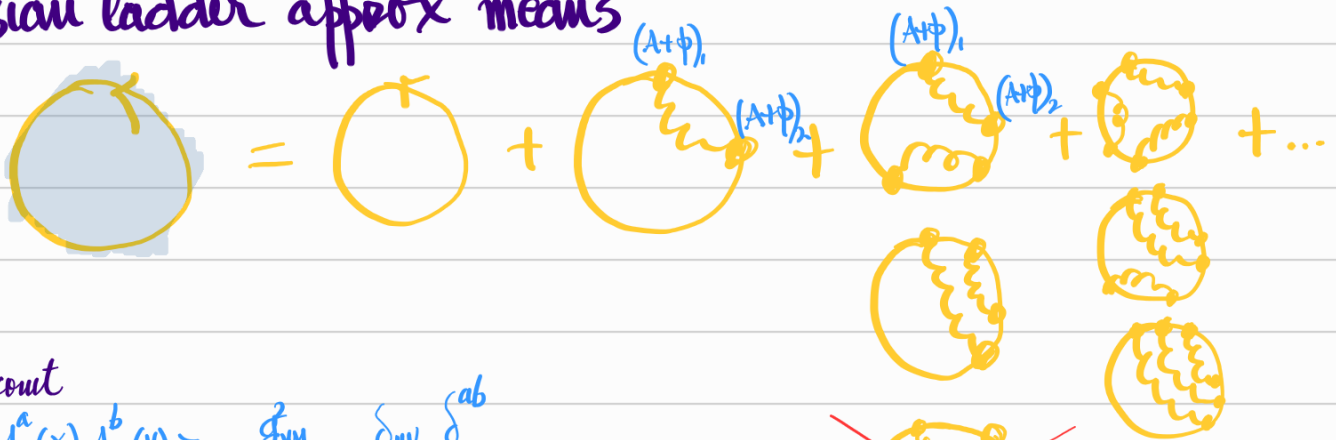
Planar diagrams ladder resummation display non trivial coupling dependence & moreover capture the full the result for the circular SUSY WL.

$$W[\vec{\phi}] = \frac{1}{N} \text{tr} P \exp \left[\oint_{\vec{\phi}} (i A_{\mu} \dot{x}^{\mu} + \vec{\phi} \cdot \vec{n} |\dot{x}|) ds \right]$$

$$\vec{\phi}: x^{\mu}(s) = R (\cos s, \sin s, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{n} = (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \quad SE(0, 2\pi)$$

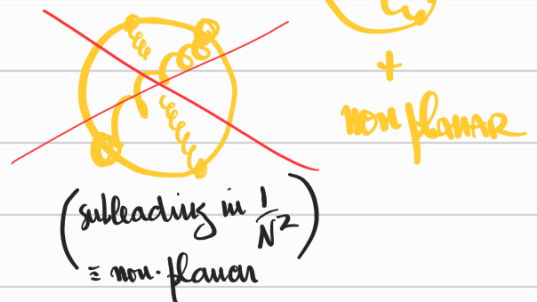
The gaussian ladder approx means



taking into account

$$\langle A_{\mu}^a(x) A_{\nu}^b(y) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{4\pi^2} \frac{\delta^{ab}}{|x-y|^2}$$

$$\langle \phi_i^a(x) \phi_j^b(y) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{ij}}{4\pi^2} \frac{\delta^{ab}}{|x-y|^2}$$



$$\langle (i A_{\mu} \dot{x}^{\mu} + \vec{\phi} \cdot \vec{n} |\dot{x}|)_i (i A_{\mu} \dot{x}^{\mu} + \vec{\phi} \cdot \vec{n} |\dot{x}|)_l^k \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \delta_l^i \delta_j^k \frac{\lambda}{8\pi^2} \frac{|\dot{x}_1| |\dot{x}_2| - \dot{x}_1 \cdot \dot{x}_2}{|\dot{x}_1 - \dot{x}_2|^2}$$



$i, j, k, l = SU(N)$ indices

constant for the circle = 1/2

Confractions give a constant. We need to count the number of diagrams



$$N_{n+1} = \sum_{k=0}^n N_k N_{n-k} \oplus N_0 = 1$$

$$\langle W[0] \rangle = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} I_1(\sqrt{\lambda})$$

Wilson loops in susy gauge theories

We will be interested in WL preserving some susy's

⇒ will involve additional couplings to scalars & fermions

$$W[\gamma] = \text{tr} P \exp(i \oint_{\gamma} (A + \phi))$$

Susy gauge theories

The two paradigmatic examples of AdS/CFT are

• $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM $SU(N_c)$
 $d=3+1$
(32 susies)

↔ IIB string theory
on $AdS_5 \times S^5$
 \oplus
 $E_8 \neq 0$

• $\mathcal{N}=6$ Chern-Simons Matter
 $U_k(N_c) \times U_{-k}(N_c)$
 $d=2+1$
(24 susies)

↔ IIA strings in
 $AdS_4 \times CP^3$

Assuming this to be true we need to be more precise, i.e.

we need to give a prescription about how the two theories relate.

physical system

duality

$$S = \int (\partial\phi)^2 + g V(\phi)$$

$$S = \int (\partial\psi)^2 + \tilde{g} \tilde{V}(\psi)$$

$g = \frac{1}{\tilde{g}}$
Strong/Weak

AdS dictionary:

aka 't Hooft coupling

1. Parameters: $N=4: (g_{YM}, N_c) \rightarrow (\lambda = g_{YM}^2 N_c, \frac{1}{N_c})$

IIB strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5 (\alpha', l_{AdS}^2, g_s) \rightsquigarrow T_{eff} = \frac{l_{AdS}^2}{\alpha'}$

$$\lambda = \left(\frac{l_{AdS}^2}{\alpha'} \right)^2$$

$$\frac{\lambda}{4\pi N_c} = g_s$$

Maldacena '97

$g_{YM}^2 = g_s$

The two theories are:

$$S_{SYM} = \int d^4x \text{Tr} \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \phi^i)^2 + \bar{\Psi}^a \not{D} \Psi_a \right.$$

with

$$- g_{YM}^2 [\phi^i, \phi^j]^2$$

→ susy index $a=1, \dots, 4$

$(F_{\mu\nu}, \Psi^a, \phi^i) \in \text{Lie}(SU(N_c))$

$$- g_{YM} \bar{\Psi}^a (\rho_i)_a^b [\phi^i, \Psi_b]$$

and

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + g_{YM}^2 [A_\mu, A_\nu]$$

→ $SO(6)$ gamma matrices
 $\{ \rho_i, \rho_j \} = 2 \delta_{ij}$
 $i, j = 1, \dots, 6$

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + g_{YM} [A_\mu, \cdot]$$

&

$$S_{IIB} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-h} h^{\alpha\beta} G_{\mu\nu}(X) \partial_\alpha X^\mu \partial_\beta X^\nu + \text{fermions}$$

Note: $[\alpha'] = L^2$

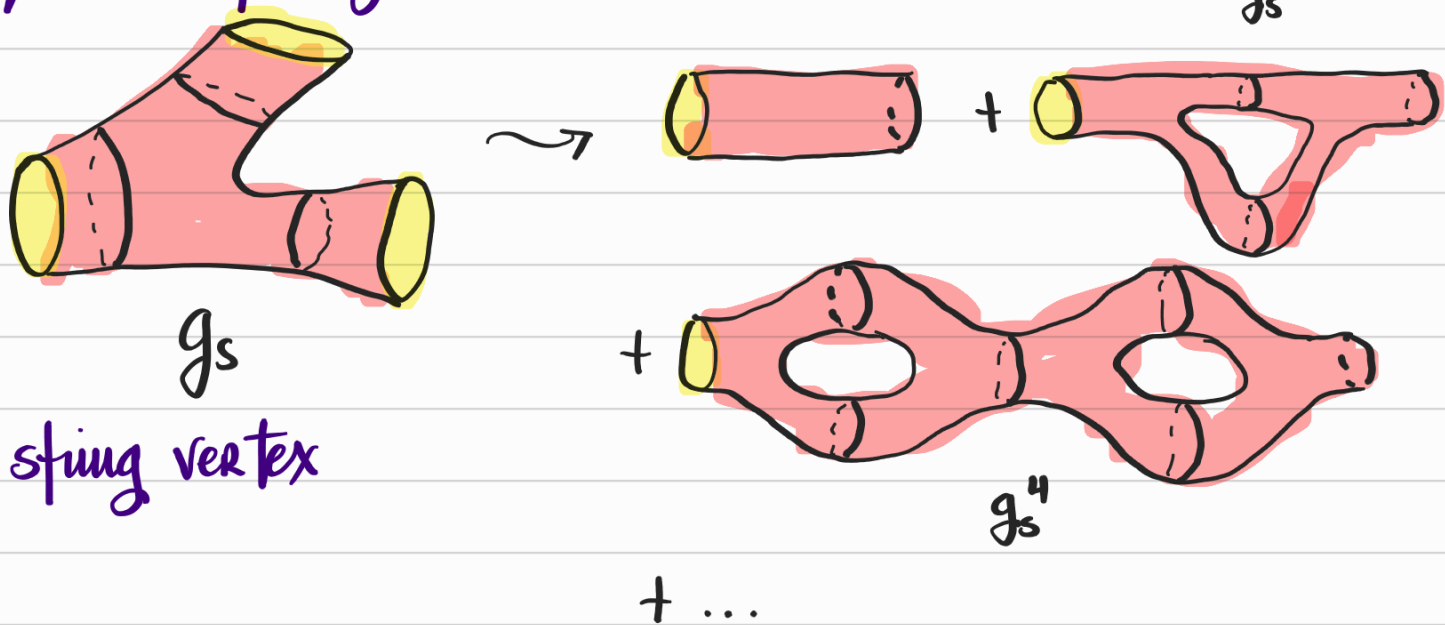
$$G_{\mu\nu} = l_{AdS}^2 (AdS_5 \times S^5)$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S_{polyak} = \left(\frac{l_{AdS}^2}{\alpha'} \right)^2 \int d^2\sigma \dots$$

strong coupling in gauge theory

$$\sim \frac{1}{\hbar} \Rightarrow \text{Semiclassical limit on string side} \left(\frac{l_{AdS}^2}{\alpha'} \gg 1 \right)$$

the additional coupling in string theory weights the different topologies



The AdS/CFT correspondence proposes

$$\text{Hilbert}_{\text{CFT}} = \text{Hilbert}_{\text{AdS}}$$

$$\int \mathcal{D}x_\mu \mathcal{D}\phi^i \mathcal{D}\psi^a e^{-S_{\text{SYM}}} = \int \mathcal{D}h_{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{D}X^\mu e^{-S_{\text{pl}}}$$

$$Z_{\text{CFT}}[\lambda, N_c] = Z_{\text{AdS}}\left[\frac{L_{\text{AdS}}^2}{\alpha'}, g_s\right]$$

What is a CFT & Why study them?

AdS/CFT & WL II

CFT = Teoría cuántica de campos
invariante bajo el grupo conforme

Grupo conforme

Es el conjunto de transformaciones (continuas)

$x \rightarrow x' = x'(x)$ que preservan ángulos, i.e. dejan invariante la métrica a menos de un factor de escala

$$ds^2 = (dx^\mu)^2 \rightarrow ds'^2 = (dx'^\mu)^2 = \Omega^2(x) ds^2$$

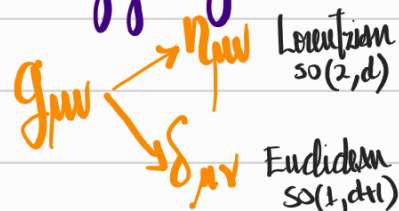
$\mu = 1, \dots, d$

The condition can be equivalently written as

generalization of $x'^\mu = \Lambda^\mu_\nu x^\nu + a^\mu$ } has $\Omega(x) = 1$
↳ Lorentz ($M_{\mu\nu}$) } translation (P_μ)
↳ Poincaré

$$g'_{\mu\nu}(x') = \frac{\partial x^\rho}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\nu} g_{\rho\sigma}(x) = \Omega^2(x) g_{\mu\nu}(x)$$

Plugging



To find the possible diffeos we write

$$x'^{\mu} = x^{\mu} + \epsilon \zeta^{\mu}(x)$$

$$\Omega(x) = 1 + \epsilon \sigma(x) \quad \zeta_{\mu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} \zeta^{\nu}$$

$$\Rightarrow (*) \quad \partial_{\mu} \zeta_{\nu} + \partial_{\nu} \zeta_{\mu} = 2\sigma(x) \eta_{\mu\nu}$$

The fancy name for this eqn is conformal Killing eqn

$$\mathcal{L}_{\zeta} g_{\mu\nu} = 2\sigma g_{\mu\nu}$$

To solve (*) we take the trace $\rightarrow \sigma = \frac{1}{d} \partial \cdot \zeta$

Manipulating the eqn $\rightarrow (\eta_{\mu\nu} \square + (d-2) \partial_{\mu} \partial_{\nu}) \partial \cdot \zeta = 0 \quad (1)$

and an additional trace $\rightarrow (d-1) \square (\partial \cdot \zeta) = 0 \quad (2)$

\Rightarrow if $d \neq 2$ $(1) + (2) \Rightarrow \partial_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} (\partial \cdot \zeta) = 0 \quad d \neq 2$

(*) $\rightarrow \partial \cdot \zeta = \text{linear in } x^{\mu} \Rightarrow \zeta^{\mu} = \text{at most quadratic in } x$

$$\zeta^{\mu}(x) = a^{\mu} + \omega^{\mu}_{\nu} x^{\nu} + \kappa x^{\mu} + b^{\mu} x^2 - 2x^{\mu} (b_{\nu} x^{\nu})$$

translation Rotation/Boost
 $\omega_{\mu\nu} = -\omega_{\nu\mu}, \quad \omega_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\rho} \omega^{\rho}_{\nu}$
 dilatation special conformal

Total # of generators/parameters is

$$\frac{1}{2}(d+2)(d+1)$$

$a^\mu, \omega^\mu_\nu \rightarrow$ Killing vectors ($\Omega=1$)
 $\kappa, b^\mu \rightarrow \Omega \neq 1$

} Conformal Killing Vector

Note: $d=2$ is special \rightarrow Conformal group becomes ∞ -dim

We can finite the finite form, a.k.a integral curves of the vector field (exp map) by solving

$$\frac{dx^\mu}{dt} = \xi^\mu(x)$$

\oplus

$$x^\mu(0) = x^\mu$$

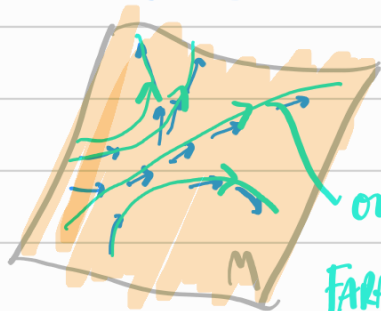
$$x^\mu(t) = x^\mu + ta^\mu$$

$$x^\mu(t) = \Lambda^\mu_\nu(t) x^\nu, \quad \Lambda^\mu_\nu(t) = (e^{t\omega})^\mu_\nu$$

$$x^\mu(t) = e^{\kappa t} x^\mu$$

$\lambda =$ scale factor $\rightarrow \Omega(x) = \lambda$

$$x^\mu(t) = \frac{x^\mu + tb^\mu x^2}{1 + 2tb \cdot x + t^2 b^2 x^2} \rightarrow \Omega(x) = \frac{1}{(1 + 2bx + b^2 x^2)}$$



orbits

FARADAY
new point on vector fields

Note I: SCT are not globally defined on $\mathbb{R}^d / \mathbb{R}^{d-1,1}$ since

$$x'^\mu = \frac{x^\mu + b^\mu x^2}{1 + 2b \cdot x + b^2 x^2}$$

MAPS $x^\mu = -\frac{b^\mu}{b^2} \rightarrow x' = \infty !!$

The appropriate definition involves working with the conformal compactification (adding points @ $\infty \rightarrow$ well defined on S^{d+1})

Note II: it is easy to show that

$$I: x^\mu \rightarrow x'^\mu = \frac{x^\mu}{x^2}$$

SCT = Inversion \circ Translation \circ Inversion

• Maps origin $\rightarrow \infty$!
• Properly defined in S^d (after $\mathbb{R} \times S^{d-1}$ (ESU))

So you may find the conformal group defined as

Conformal Group = Poincaré \oplus Scale transformations \oplus Inversion

We can write the differential ops:

$$P_\mu = -i \partial_\mu, \quad M_{\mu\nu} = i (x_\mu \partial_\nu - x_\nu \partial_\mu)$$

$$D = -i x^\mu \partial_\mu, \quad K_\mu = -i (x^2 \partial_\mu - 2x_\mu x^\nu \partial_\nu)$$

which satisfy the algebra

$$[D, P_\mu] = i P_\mu, \quad [D, K_\mu] = -i K_\mu$$

$$[K_\mu, P_\nu] = -2i (\eta_{\mu\nu} D - M_{\mu\nu})$$

$$[K_\rho, M_{\mu\nu}] = i (\eta_{\rho\mu} K_\nu - \eta_{\rho\nu} K_\mu) \quad \& \quad \text{idem } K \rightarrow P$$

$$[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\rho\sigma}] = i (\eta_{\nu\rho} M_{\mu\sigma} + \dots)$$

This is the $SO(2, d)$ algebra by making

$$S_{\mu\nu} = M_{\mu\nu}, \quad S_{-1d} = D, \quad S_{-1\mu} = \frac{1}{2} (K_\mu + P_\mu), \quad S_{d\mu} = \frac{1}{2} (P_\mu - K_\mu)$$

S_{ab} with $a, b = (-1, 0, 1, \dots, d-1, d)$ with $\eta_{ab} = \text{diag}(\underbrace{-1, \dots, -1}_{\text{Minkowski}}, \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{d-1})$

$$[S_{ab}, S_{cd}] = i (S_{ac} \eta_{bd} - S_{bc} \eta_{ad} + \dots)$$

SO(2,d) algebra (Lorentz)

we can picture the Killings inside S_{ab} as

$$S_{ab} = \begin{matrix} & -1 & 0 & \dots & d-1 & d \\ \begin{matrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ d-1 \\ d \end{matrix} & \left(\begin{array}{c|cc} 0 & \frac{1}{2}(P_\mu + K_\mu) & D \\ \hline \vdots & M_{\mu\nu} & \frac{1}{2}(K_\mu - P_\mu) \\ \hline \vdots & \dots & 0 \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

In the euclidean case $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu}$ we obtain SO(1,d+1)

and the Killings are oriented as:

$$J_{ij} = M_{ij}, \quad J_{0i} = \frac{1}{2}(P_i - K_i), \quad J_{-0} = D, \quad J_{-i} = \frac{1}{2}(P_i + K_i)$$

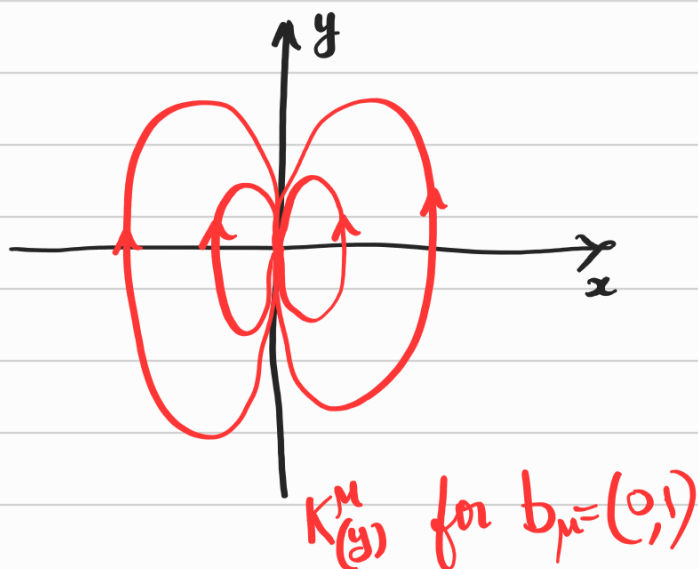
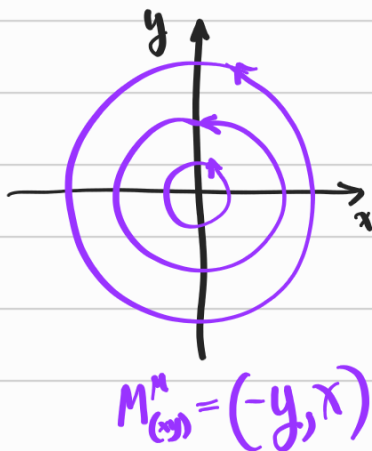
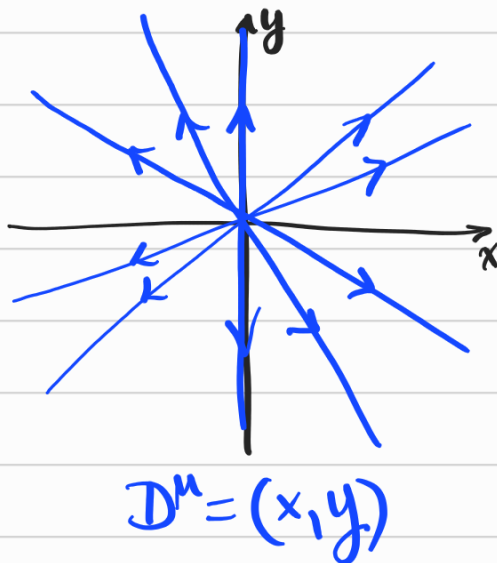
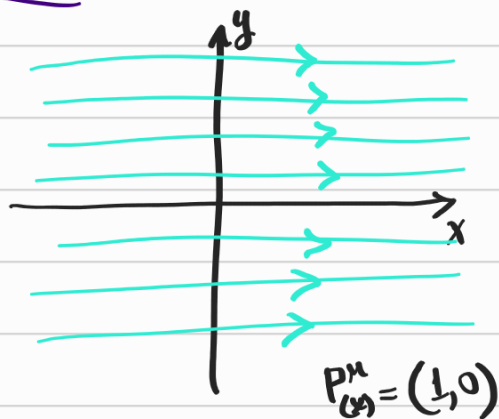
$i, j = 1, \dots, d$ " J_{ab}

$a, b = (-, 0, \underbrace{1, \dots, d}_{\text{Euclidean}})$ $\eta_{ab} = (-, \underbrace{+, \dots, +}_{d+1})$

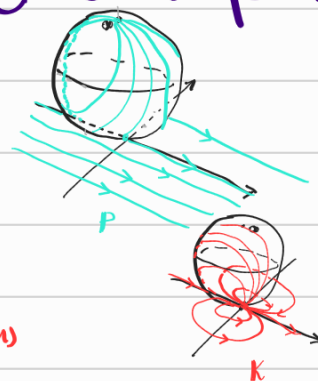
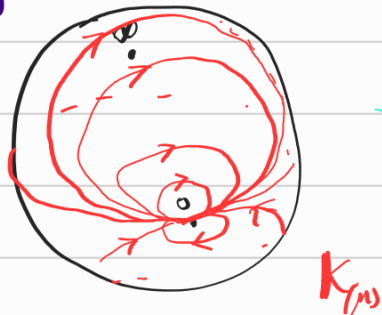
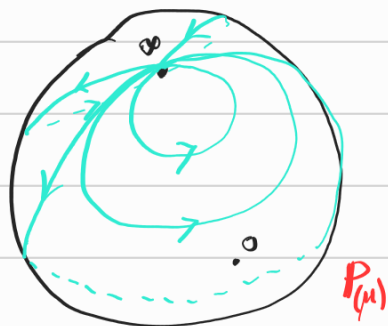
$$J_{ab} = \begin{matrix} & -1 & 0 & i \\ \begin{matrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ i \end{matrix} & \left(\begin{array}{c|cc} 0 & D & \frac{1}{2}(P_i + K_i) \\ \hline -D & 0 & \frac{1}{2}(P_i - K_i) \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots & M_{ij} \end{array} \right) \end{matrix}$$

CKV orbits / integral curves

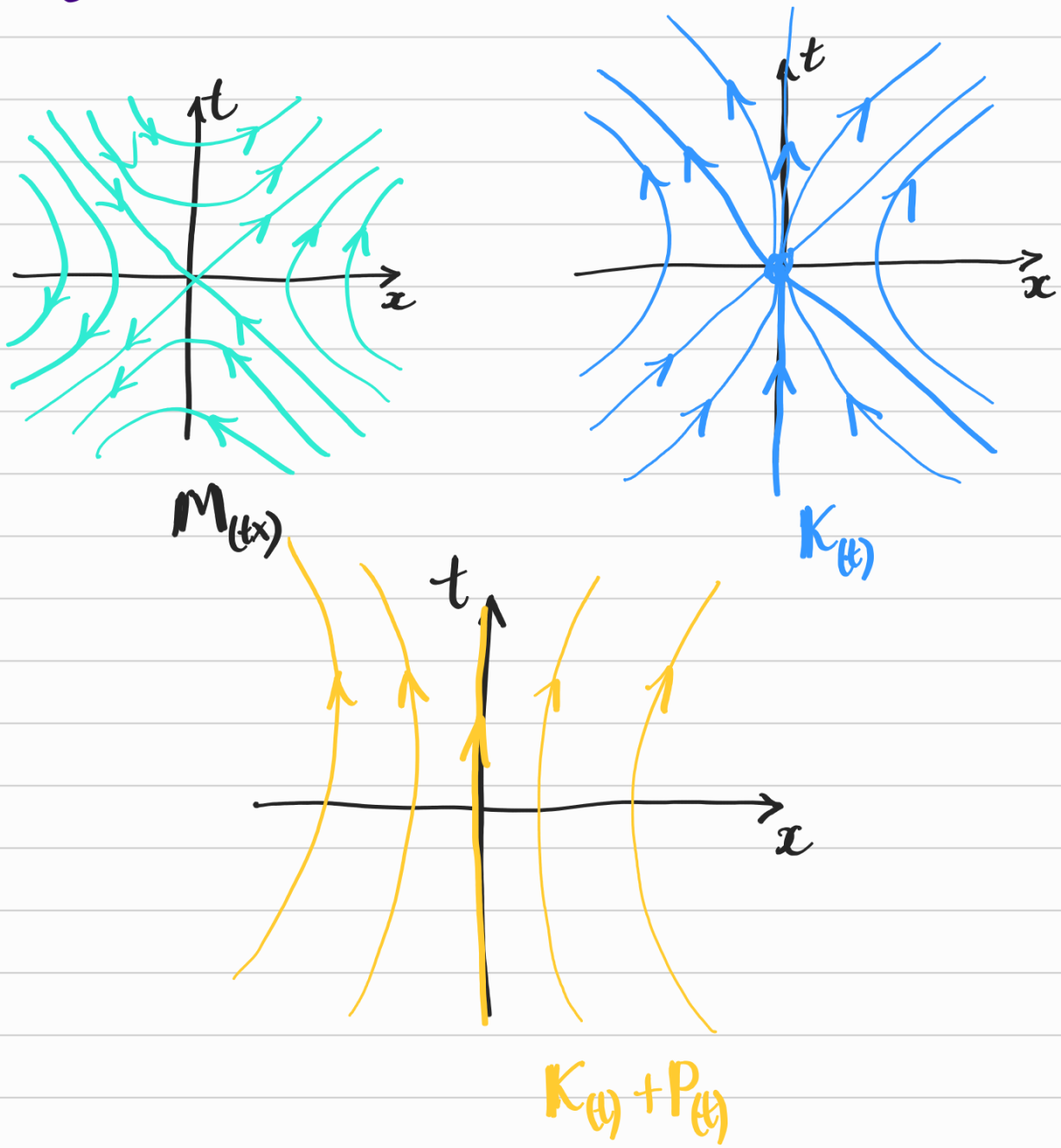
Euclidesm:



- SCT / K^{μ} MAP straight lines to circles Δ viceversa
(hyperbolas in locality)
- If we think about the action of P_{μ} & K_{μ} on the sphere they act in an identical way wnt origin & " ∞ " interchanged



Lorentzian: P_μ, D idem



Representations of the conformal group on fields

What are the good building blocks? a.k.a "Primary fields"

From the defn of the conformal group we have

$$\frac{\partial x^\rho}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\nu} \eta_{\rho\sigma}(x) = \Omega^2(x) \eta_{\mu\nu}(x) \Rightarrow \left[\frac{\partial x'^\mu}{\partial x^\rho} = \Omega(x) R^\mu_\nu(x) \right] \text{ where}$$

$R^\mu_\alpha(x) R^\nu_\beta(x) \eta_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$
 $|\frac{\partial x'}{\partial x}| = (\Omega(x))^d$

local conformal transformation
local Lorentz rotation

Primary field: it is a field which under $x \rightarrow x' = \Lambda(x)$ transforms as a covariant primary

$$x \rightarrow x' \Rightarrow \phi'(x') = \frac{1}{(\Omega(x))^{\Delta_\phi}} \phi(x) \quad \text{scalar primary}$$

$$\boxed{\phi'_I(x') = \frac{1}{(\Omega(x))^{\Delta_\phi}} \rho_I^J(\Lambda(x)) \phi_J(x)}$$

general primary tensor

↑
Lorentz indices

↑
inv of Lorentz
↑
inv of Lorentz

$\Delta_\phi =$ scale dimension of ϕ

Comments: ϕ_I are our usual fields in QFT (which transform with $\Omega=1$)

$$x' = \Lambda x \rightarrow \phi'(x') = \phi(x)$$

with $\Lambda^\mu_\nu = (e^\omega)^\mu_\nu$

$$A^\mu(x') = (e^\omega)^\mu_\nu A^\nu(x)$$

$$\Psi'(x') = e^{\omega_{\mu\nu} \Gamma^{\mu\nu}} \Psi(x)$$

since $\frac{\partial x'}{\partial x} = \Lambda = R$

If we compute $\delta\phi$ infinitesimally $x'^\mu = x^\mu + \epsilon \delta x^\mu(x)$ with $\delta\phi(x) = \phi'(x) - \phi(x)$

$$\delta\phi_I = -\delta x^\mu \partial_\mu \phi_I - \sigma_3 \Delta_\phi \phi_I + \frac{1}{2} \omega^{\mu\nu} (M_{\mu\nu})^J_I \phi_J$$

Classical scale dimensions

- Important concept to classify the possible behavior of field theory at quantum level.
- leads to classification of interactions as $\begin{cases} \text{relevant} \\ \text{marginal} \\ \text{irrelevant} \end{cases}$

$$S = \int d^d x \left[(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} [S] &= L^0 & [d^d x] &= L^d \\ & & [\partial_\mu] &= \frac{1}{L} \end{aligned} \right\} L^0 = L^d \frac{1}{L^2} [\phi]^2$$

$$[\phi] = L^{-\frac{(d-2)}{2}}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta_\phi = \frac{d-1}{2}}$$

d	Δ_ϕ
2	0
3	1/2
4	1
5	3/2

classical scale dimension of a scalar field

In a similar way,

$$S = \int d^d x \bar{\psi} \not{\partial} \psi \rightsquigarrow [\psi] = L^{-(d-1)/2}$$

$$\boxed{\Delta_\psi = \frac{d-1}{2}} \text{ fermion}$$

$$S = \int d^d x (\partial_\mu A_\nu)^2 \rightsquigarrow$$

$$\boxed{\Delta_{A_\mu} = \frac{d-1}{2}} \text{ vector "scalar"}$$

$$[V(\phi)] = L^{-d}$$

$$\bullet V = \lambda \phi^4 \sim [\lambda][\phi]^4 = L^{-d} \sim [\lambda] = L^{-(d-4(\frac{d}{2}-1))} \\ = L^{d-4} = L^{-(4-d)}$$

λ is dimensionless in $d=4$

$$\bullet V = g_6 \phi^6 \sim [g_6] = L^{-(d-6(\frac{d}{2}-1))} = L^{2d-6} = L^{-(6-2d)}$$

g_6 is dimensionless in $d=3$

Gauge coupling:

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + i g_{YM} A_\mu$$

$$[D_\mu] = [\partial_\mu] = L^{-1}$$

$$[g_{YM}][A] = L^{-1} \sim [g_{YM}] = L^{-(1-(\frac{d}{2}-1))} \\ = L^{-(2-\frac{d}{2})}$$

g_{YM} is dimensionless in $d=4$

Relevant & irrelevant couplings

$$[g] = E^\alpha$$

$\alpha > 0 \Rightarrow$ Relevant in IR

$\alpha < 0 \Rightarrow$ Irrelevant in IR

$$\Delta g \begin{cases} > d & \leftarrow \text{irrelevant} \\ < d & \leftarrow \text{relevant} \end{cases}$$

$\alpha = 0 \Rightarrow$ MARGINAL
classically dimensionless

$$V(\phi) = m^2 \phi^2$$

relevant coupling constant \rightarrow important in IR

$$E(p) = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$$

$\xrightarrow[p \rightarrow 0]{\text{IR}}$ $E \sim m$ vs. p $\xrightarrow{m \rightarrow 0}$ "RG flow"
 $\xrightarrow[p \rightarrow \infty]{\text{UV}}$ $E \sim p$

Fermi coupling: $V(\psi) = G_F \psi^4 \rightarrow [G_F] = L^{-(d-4 \frac{(d-1)}{2})}$



$$[G_F] = L^{-(2-d)}$$

$[G_F] = E^{-2}$ in $d=4 \rightarrow \boxed{G_F \sim \frac{1}{M_Z^2}}$ electroweak scale

An amplitude will involve at the perturbative level

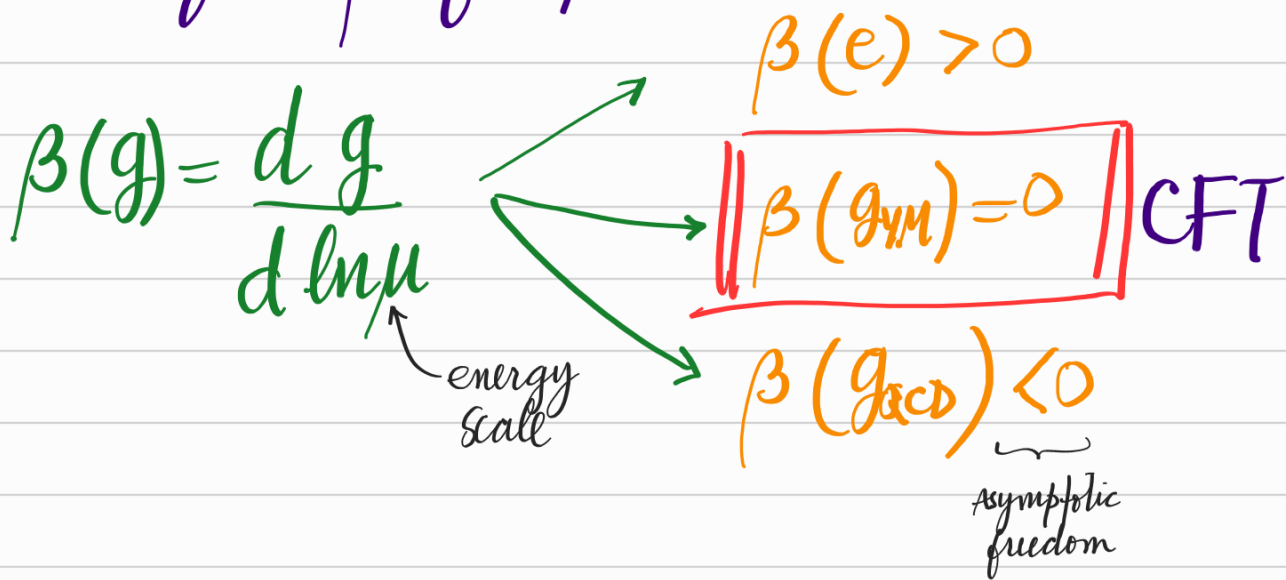
$$A = G_F \otimes + G_F^2 \otimes + \dots$$

dimensionless $\Rightarrow \frac{p^2}{M_Z^2} \otimes + \frac{p^4}{M_Z^4} \otimes + \dots \xrightarrow[p \rightarrow 0]{} 0$ IR irrelevant

Marginal couplings receive quantum corrections which can make them



These statements are usually phrased in terms of the behavior of the β -function.



Comment II: Scale dimensions receive corrections at quantum level, a.k.a "anomalous dimensions"

$$\Delta_\phi = \Delta_\phi^{(cl)} + \gamma$$

↑ anomalous dimension

AdS/CFT & Wilson loops III

Coupling constant in GR $\rightarrow G_N$

$$S_{EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^d x \sqrt{g} R[g]$$

$$[S] = L^0 \rightarrow$$

$$[R] = L^{-d}$$

$$[G_N]$$

$$\partial^2 g \rightarrow [R] = L^{-2}$$

$$[G_N] = L^{-(2-d)}$$

$$[G_N] = L^{d-2}$$

$$G_N \sim (l_p)^{d-2}$$

G_N defines a length scale
a.k.a. Planck length

• G_N is dimensionless in $d=2$

• G_N is irrelevant for $d > 2$

$$[G_N] = E^{-\alpha} \quad \alpha > 0!$$

Cosmological constant:

$$S_{EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^d x \sqrt{g} (R - \Lambda)$$

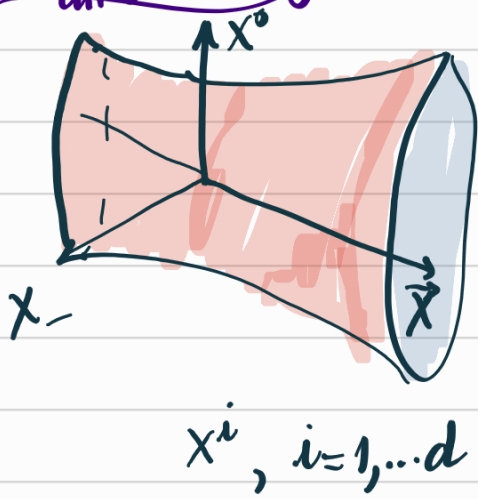
Cosmological
Constant defines
a characteristic
length

$$[R] = [\Lambda] = L^{-2}$$

In the presence of Λ we can build a dimensionless quantity

$$\left(\frac{l_p}{l_\Lambda} \right)^\# \sim \frac{1}{\hbar}$$

AdS geometry: can be visualized as a hypersurface in $\mathbb{R}^{2,d}$



$$(x^0)^2 + (x^-)^2 - (\vec{x})^2 = l_{\text{AdS}}^2$$

inside $ds^2 = (dx^0)^2 + (dx^-)^2 - (d\vec{x})^2$

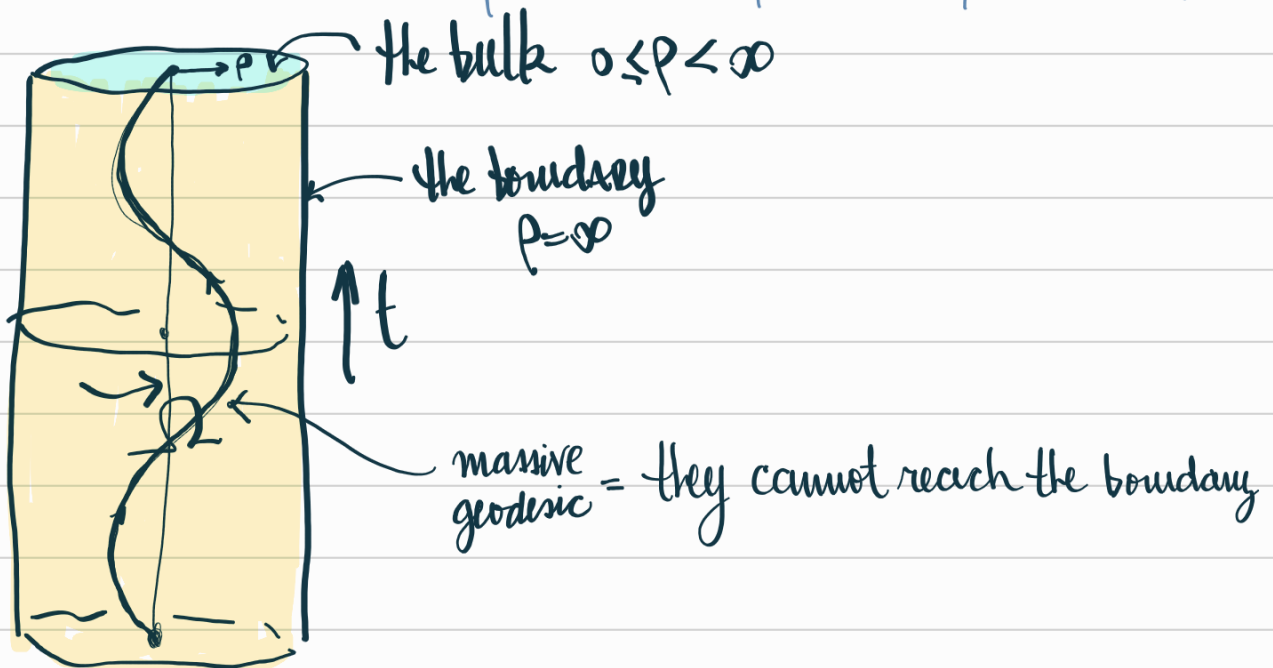
Naturally Manifest $SO(2,d)$
 linearly realized $x^A \rightarrow x'^A = \Lambda^A_B x^B$
 $SO(2,d)$

Particular solutions of the constraint lead to AdS in \neq Coord Syst

eg: $x^0 = l_{\text{AdS}} \text{ch} \rho \text{cosh} \tau$, $x^i = l_{\text{AdS}} \text{sh} \rho \text{ n}^i$ with $\vec{n}^2 = 1$
 $x^- = l_{\text{AdS}} \text{ch} \rho \text{sinh} \tau$, $\hookrightarrow S^{d-1}$ sphere

this soln leads to AdS in global coords

$$ds^2 = l_{\text{AdS}}^2 (-\text{ch}^2 \rho dt^2 + d\rho^2 + \text{sh}^2 \rho d\Omega_{d-1})$$



AdS in a box:

$$ds^2 = - \left(1 + \left(\frac{r}{l_{\text{AdS}}} \right)^2 \right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{r}{l_{\text{AdS}}} \right)^2 \right)} + r^2 d\Omega_{d-1}$$

Recall that in the weak gravity limit we wrote in GR course

$$ds^2 = - (1 + 2\phi) dt^2 + \dots$$

gravity potential eg. $2\phi = -\frac{2GM}{r}$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\phi = \frac{1}{2} \frac{r^2}{l_{\text{AdS}}^2}}$$

harmonic oscillator
 Confines particles to the interior
 (Schwarzschild)



The statement is in fact precisely more than an analogy the spectrum in the bulk is equispaced.

Particles in AdS. KG eqn: look for normal modes in AdS

$$\boxed{(\square - m^2) \phi = 0}$$

$$\square = \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{-g} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu)$$

naiver Ansatz

$$\phi(t, r, \Omega) = e^{-i\omega t} Y_{\ell m}(\Omega) f(r)$$

$$-\nabla_{S^{d-1}}^2 Y_{\ell m} = \ell(\ell + d - 2) Y_{\ell m}$$

The eqn for $f(\rho)$ turns out to be

$$\frac{1}{\text{ch}\rho(\text{sh}\rho)^{d-1}} \frac{d}{d\rho} \left((\text{sh}\rho)^{d-1} \text{ch}\rho \frac{df}{d\rho} \right) + \left(\frac{\omega^2}{\text{ch}^2\rho} + \frac{q^2}{\text{sh}^2\rho} - (m_{\text{AdS}})^2 \right) f(\rho) = 0$$

$$q = l(l+d-2)$$

This 2nd order eqn will give two slus

$$f(\rho) = C_1 f_1(\rho) + C_2 f_2(\rho), \quad f_1, f_2 \text{ are hypergeometrics}$$

Asking for regularity at $\rho=0$ eliminates C_2 piece

Imposing normalizability at $\rho=\infty$ quantizes ω !

for the regular sln we obtain

$$f(\rho) = \frac{(\text{th}\rho)^l}{(\text{ch}\rho)^{\Delta_+}} {}_2F_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}(\Delta_+ + l - \omega), \frac{1}{2}(\Delta_+ + l + \omega), \frac{d}{2} + l, \text{th}^2\rho \right)$$

where $\Delta(\Delta-d) = (m_{\text{AdS}})^2 \rightarrow \Delta_{\pm} = \frac{d}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + (m_{\text{AdS}})^2}$

the asymptotic behavior at ∞ gives

notice $(m_{\text{AdS}})^2 > 0 \Rightarrow \Delta_+ > 0$
 $\Delta_- < 0$

$$f(\rho) \sim \times e^{-\Delta_+ \rho} + \times e^{-\Delta_- \rho} \rightarrow \text{not allowed}$$

this coef takes the form $\frac{\Gamma(\dots)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(\Delta_+ + l - \omega)\right)}$

if we impose $-n$

$$\omega_n = \Delta_+ + l + 2n$$

Quantized energy in Global AdS as harmonic osc.

the dangerous decay vanishes

It is now straightforward to quantize a KG field in AdS

$$\phi(t, \rho, \Omega) = \sum_{nlm} g_{nlm} e^{i n t} Y_{lm}(\Omega) f_{nlm}(\rho) + h.c.$$

$$\hat{\phi} = \sum_{nlm} \left(a_{nlm} e^{-i n t} \dots + a_{nlm}^\dagger e^{i n t} \dots \right)$$

and we construct the Fock space as

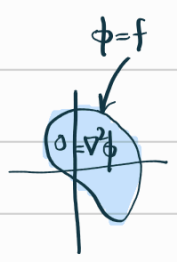
$$a_{nlm} |0\rangle = 0 \quad \forall n, l, m$$

1-particle states are defined as

$$|n, l, m\rangle \equiv a_{nlm}^\dagger |0\rangle$$

Boundary conditions in AdS

Consider an electro problem (now in Euclidean signat)



$$-\nabla^2 \phi = 0$$

$$\phi|_{\text{AdS}} = f(\vec{x})$$

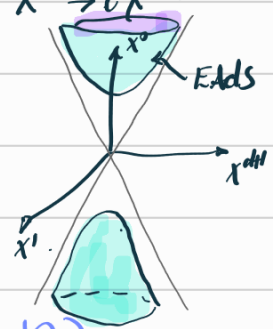
body coords

Alternatively we can solve this problem in Poincaré coords

$$ds^2 = l_{\text{AdS}}^2 \frac{(dz^2 + d\vec{x}^2)}{z^2}$$

Boundary locates at $z=0$.

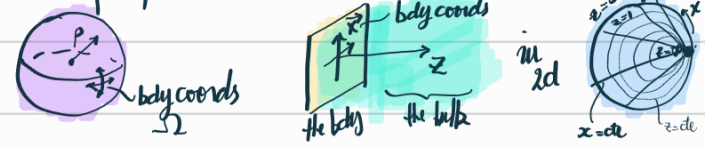
In Euclidean space we make $x^- \rightarrow i x^{d+1}$
 the quadratic form is
 $(x^0)^2 - (x^m)^2 = l_{\text{AdS}}^2$
 $m=1, \dots, d+1$



Solving the constraint as before

$$ds^2 = l_{\text{AdS}}^2 (d\rho^2 + \sinh^2 \rho d\Omega)$$

We can picture EAdS as a solid ball



The boundary problem at ∞ in AdS is well posed in AdS (Fefferman+Graham)

Again we solve (in Euclidean space) for Modes in EAdS, the solution near the boundary can be found with ansatz $\phi(z, \vec{x}) = e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}} F(z)$

$$(-\nabla^2 + m^2) \phi(z, \vec{x}) = 0$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$z^2 F'' + (1-d)z F' + (-m^2 - \vec{p}^2 z^2) F = 0$$

Near the boundary $z=0$ we look for $F(z) = z^\Delta$ then Δ must satisfy

$$\Delta(\Delta-d) = m^2 \quad (l_{\text{AdS}}=1)$$

$$\hookrightarrow \Delta_{\pm} = \frac{d}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 + (m l_{\text{AdS}})^2}$$

\hookrightarrow the ones that appeared before

This gives us an interpretation for Δ_{\pm} : they are the decay behavior of the field at the AdS boundary. Generically $F(z) = \overset{\text{source}}{C_-} z^{\Delta_-} (1 + a_1 z + \dots) + \overset{\text{reg/normal}}{C_+} z^{\Delta_+} (1 + \dots)$

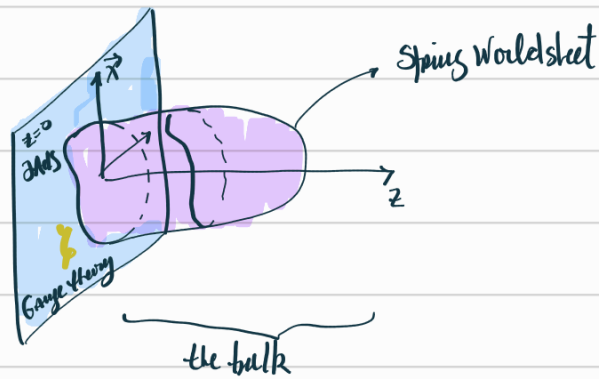
When we talk about setting bdy conditions @ AdS we think about setting the "non-normalizable" piece of ϕ , i.e. $C_- = C_-(\phi)$. Regularity of

the solution in the deep interior $z=\infty$ will fix $C_+ = C_+(C_-)$.

"the reg"

"the source"

Wilson loops in AdS/CFT



$$\langle W[\gamma] \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}X^\mu \mathcal{D}h e^{-S_{\text{pol}}[X]}$$

$$\approx e^{-\text{Area}(X_{cl}) + \text{conections}}$$

$\partial X^\mu = \dot{\gamma}$

The relevant parameter controlling this computation is

$$T_{\text{eff}} = \frac{l_{\text{AdS}}^2}{\alpha'} = \sqrt{\lambda}$$

Conections to this result behave as $\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)^n$ and follow from fluctuations around the classical worldsheet X_{cl}^μ . Concretely we have

$$X^\mu(\sigma) = X_{cl}^\mu(\sigma) + y^\mu$$

$$S_{\text{pol}}[X] = \sqrt{\lambda} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{h} h^{\alpha\beta} G_{\mu\nu}(X) \partial_\alpha X^\mu \partial_\beta X^\nu + \dots$$

fluctuations

$$\approx S_{\text{pol}}[X_{cl}^\mu] + \cancel{\frac{\delta S_{\text{pol}}}{\delta X^\mu}} y^\mu + \frac{1}{2} y^\mu \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta X^\mu \delta X^\nu} y^\nu + \dots$$

since I am evaluating on the classical X_{cl}

Hence

$$\int dX^\mu e^{-S_{pl}} \approx \int dy^\mu e^{-S_{pl}(X_0)} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \int y \cdot \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta y^2} \cdot y}$$

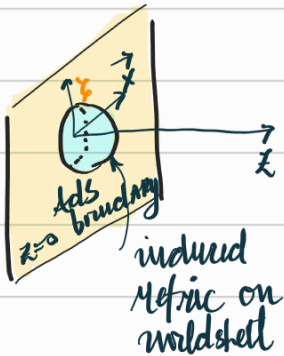
$$\approx e^{-S_{pl}(X_0)} \frac{1}{\det^{1/2} \mathcal{O}}$$

$$\approx e^{-\underbrace{\sqrt{\lambda} \text{Area}(X_0)}_{\text{leading } \sqrt{\lambda}}} - \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\log \det \mathcal{O}}_{\text{subleading } (\sqrt{\lambda})^0} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)$$

⚠️ Caveat: zero Modes
bring $\log \sqrt{\lambda}$
Contributions (see Gleaner
Jürgens Oct)

This computation can be contrasted with the localization result (Pestun) coming from field theory.

Paradigm: circular WL \rightarrow stat with Nambu-Goto action



$$S_{NG} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g}$$

induced worldsheet metric

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_\alpha X^\mu \partial_\beta X^\nu G_{\mu\nu}(X) = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{X}^2 & \dot{X} \cdot \dot{X} \\ \dot{X} \cdot \dot{X} & \dot{X}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

\downarrow AdS₅ × S⁵

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{z} \left(dt_E^2 + dz^2 + dx^2 + x^2 d\phi^2 + dy^2 + d\Omega_5^2 \right)$$

In this 10d background we consider the ansatz

$$X^M(\sigma, \tau) = (t_E = c\tau, z(\sigma), r(\sigma), \phi = \sigma, y = c\tau, \Omega = c\tau)$$

$\dot{X}^M = \delta^M_\tau$
 $\dot{X}^M = z \delta^M_z + r \delta^M_r$

Inserting in NG action we find

$$S_{NG} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{\dot{X}^2 \dot{X}^2 - (\dot{X} \cdot \dot{X})^2} \stackrel{r=1/2}{=} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \int d\sigma d\tau \frac{r(\sigma)}{z^2(\sigma)} \sqrt{\dot{z}^2 + \dot{r}^2}$$

It remains to fix σ -difer, the su results:

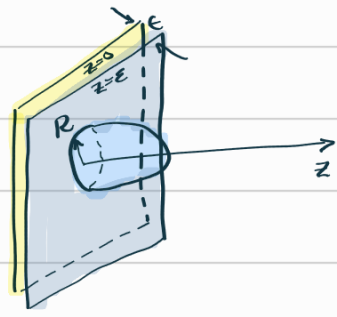
$$r(\sigma) = \sigma \quad z(\sigma) = \sqrt{R^2 - \sigma^2}, \quad z \in (0, 2\pi) \quad \sigma \in (0, R)$$

tip
boundary

R is an integration constant fixing the radius of the circle at the boundary. What about conformal invariance?

On shell action: plugging in (*) we find ∞ due to the ∞ expansion of AdS \rightarrow we regularize by placing \mathcal{P} at $z = \epsilon$, then

$$S_{NG} = \sqrt{\lambda} \int_0^{\sqrt{R^2 - \epsilon^2}} \frac{dr \cdot r \sqrt{1 + \dot{z}^2}}{z^2(\sigma)} = \sqrt{\lambda} \frac{R}{\epsilon} - \sqrt{\lambda} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$



AdS₂ "0" Volume

Regularized AdS₂ Vol

$$\text{Vol(AdS}_2) = -2\pi$$

proportional to loop length

can be eliminated by $e^{-\lambda g_{ds}}$ \mathcal{P} counterterm

$$\Rightarrow \langle W[\mathcal{P}] \rangle \sim e^{-S_{cl}[\mathcal{P}]} \sim e^{\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

We can envisage computing "semiclassical" corrections as described in the previous page. As an outcome one finds agreement with the localization result expanded at strong coupling.

Fun!