RSOS paths, quasi-particles and fermionic characters

> Pierre Mathieu Université Laval

(collaboration with Patrick Jacob)

# Minimal model M(p', p)

Central charge

$$c = 1 - \frac{6(p - p')^2}{pp'}$$

(with p', p coprime and say p > p')

Conformal dimensions:

$$h_{r,s} = \frac{(pr - p's)^2 - (p - p')^2}{4pp'} = h_{p' - r, p - s}$$

$$1 \le r \le p'-1$$
 and  $1 \le s \le p-1$ 

Highest-weight modules are completely degenerate

#### Embedding pattern of singular vectors

 $(r, s) \sim (p' - r, p - s)$ 

#### Character of the irreducible modules

Character:

$$\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q) = \frac{1}{(q)_{\infty}} - \frac{q^{rs}}{(q)_{\infty}} - \frac{q^{(p'-r)(p-s)}}{(q)_{\infty}} + \frac{q^{rs+(p'+r)(p-s)}}{(q)_{\infty}} + \frac{q^{(p'-r)(p-s)+r(2p-s)}}{(q)_{\infty}} - \cdots$$

where (Verma character)

$$\frac{1}{(q)_{\infty}} \equiv \frac{1}{\prod_{n \ge 1} (1 - q^n)} = \sum_{n \ge 0} p(n) q^n$$

- This formula is thus an alternating sign expression ...
- obtained by representation theory...
- but not very physical !

#### Fermionic character formula

- Every character in minimal models has a representation in terms of a positive multiple-sum
- This is called a fermionic character
- It reflects the filling of the space of states with quasi-particles subject to restrictions and without singular vectors

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- Every character in minimal models has a representation in terms of a positive multiple-sum
- This is called a fermionic character
- It reflects the filling of the space of states with quasi-particles subject to restrictions and without singular vectors
- Example: Ising vacuum:

$$\chi_{1,1}^{(3,4)}(q) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{2m^2}}{(q)_{2m}}$$

where

$$(\boldsymbol{q})_m \equiv \prod_{i=1}^m (1-\boldsymbol{q}^i)$$

manifestly positive:

$$\frac{1}{(1-q^j)} = 1 + q^j + q^{2j} + \dots$$

## The M(2, 2k+1) model [Feigin-Nakanashi-Ooguri '91]

$$\chi_{1,s}^{(2,2k+1)}(q) = \sum_{m_1,\cdots,m_{k-1}=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{mBm+Cm}}{(q)_{m_1}\cdots(q)_{m_{k-1}}}$$

where

$$B_{ij} = \min(i, j)$$
  $C_j = \max(j - s + 1)$ 

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where

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Basis of states:

$$L_{-n_1}\cdots L_{-n_N}|h_{1,s}\rangle \qquad (n_i>0)$$

with

$$n_i \ge n_{i+k-1} + 2$$
 and  $n_{p-s+1} \ge 2$ 

(sort of generalized exclusion principle plus a boundary condition that selects the module)

Origin in CFT: These constraints come from the non-trivial vacuum singular vector

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#### Questions

- What is the CFT interpretation of the m<sub>i</sub>?
- If a fermionic form is related to an integrable perturbation: this is the φ<sub>1,3</sub> one: how does this enters in the structure?

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#### The *M*(3,*p*) models [Jacob, M '06; Feigin et al '06]

Extended algebra construction:

$$\phi_{2,1} \times \phi_{2,1} = \phi_{1,1} + \phi_{3,1} = \phi_{1,1}$$

e.g., with

$$\phi \equiv \phi_{2,1} \qquad \text{and} \qquad h \equiv h_{2,1} = \frac{p-2}{4}$$

$$\phi(z)\phi(w) = \frac{1}{(z-w)^{2h}} \left[ I + (z-w)^2 \frac{2h}{c} T(w) + \cdots \right] S$$

and  $S = (-1)^{\textit{p}\mathscr{F}}$  where  $\mathscr{F}$  counts the number of  $\varphi$  modes

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#### **Basis of states**

Generalized commutation relations + singular vector of  $\phi$ :

$$egin{aligned} & \varphi_{-s_1}\,\varphi_{-s_2}\cdots\varphi_{-s_{N-1}}\,\varphi_{-s_N}\,|\sigma_\ell
angle\,, \ & s_i \geq s_{i+1}-rac{p}{2}+3\,, \qquad s_i \geq s_{i+2}+1 \end{aligned}$$

with

and the boundary conditions:

$$s_{N-1} \ge -h + \frac{\ell}{2} + 1$$
,  $s_N \ge h - \frac{\ell}{2}$ 

where

$$s_{N-2i} \in \mathbb{Z} + h + rac{\ell}{2}$$
 and  $s_{N-2i-1} \in \mathbb{Z} - h + rac{\ell}{2}$ 

#### The spectrum is fixed by associativity

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#### The M(3, p) character formula

$$\chi_{1,s}^{(3,p)}(q) = \sum_{m_1,m_2,\cdots,m_k \ge 0} \frac{q^{mB'm+C'm}}{(q)_{m_1}\cdots(q)_{m_{k-1}}(q)_{2m_k}},$$

where k is defined via

$$p = 3k + 2 - \epsilon$$
 ( $\epsilon = 0, 1$ )

with  $1 \le i,j \le k-1$  $B'_{ij} = \min(i,j)$ ,  $B'_{jk} = B'_{kj} = \frac{j}{2}$ ,  $B'_{kk} = \frac{k+\epsilon}{4}$ ,

and C' reads

$$C'_{j} = \max(j-s+1,0), \qquad C'_{k} = \frac{k-\epsilon-s+1}{2},$$

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# On the CFT derivations of fermionic characters in M(p', p) models

- ► The M(2,p) and the M(3,p) models are the only ones for which there is a 'complete' CFT derivation of the fermionic characters
- ► Generalization of the *M*(3,*p*) case to *M*(*p*',*p*):
  - 1- Replace  $\phi_{2,1}$  by  $\phi_{p'-1,1}$  [M,Ridout '07]
  - 2- Treat  $\phi_{2,1}$  with its 2 channels [Feigen-Jimbo-Miwa-Mutkhin-Takayema '04,'06]
    - Monomial bases have been derived/conjectured for all models but the corresponding formula is not written
    - These bases can be reexpressed in terms of RSOS-type configuration sums

## **Origins of Fermionic forms**

- Bases in affine Lie algebras (parafermions) [Lepowski-Primc '85]
- ▶ Bases for the *M*(2,*p*) models [Feigin-Ooguri-Nakanishi '91]
- Dilogarithmic identities [Nahm et al '92; Kuniba-Nakanishi-Suzuki (generalized parafermions)]
- Many conjectured expressions for the minimal models [Kedem-Klassen-McCoy-Melzer '93]
- Counting of states in XXZ: truncation and q-deformation [Berkovich-McCoy-Schilling: '94-'95]
- Spinon bases for su(2)<sub>k</sub> [Bernard et al, Bouwknegt et al '94]
- Mathematical transformations of identities (Bayley and Burge transforms) [Foda-Quano, Berkovich-McCoy,...]

#### Origins of Fermionic forms: The RSOS side

RSOS models:

Andrews-Baxter-Forrester (1984) (unitary case)

Forrester-Baxter (1985) (non-unitary case)

Key observation [Date, Jimbo, Kuniba, Miwa, Okado]:

**1D** configuration sums (obtained by CTM) in regime III (a lattice realization of the  $\phi_{1,3}$  perturbation) are the M(p',p) irreducible characters

 Configurations sums leads to fermionic character in a systematic way [Melzer, Warnaar, Foda, Welsh]

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...but the derivation is not constructive and the underlying quasi-particle structure remains unclear (except in the unitary case)

# RSOS(p', p) paths (regime-III)

States in the finitized M(p',p) minimal models (with p > p') are described by RSOS(p',p) configurations

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#### Configurations

- Configuration = sequence of values of the height variables ℓ<sub>i</sub> ∈ {1,2,...,p−1} (0 ≤ i ≤ L)
- ► with the admissibility condition: |ℓ<sub>i</sub> ℓ<sub>i+1</sub>| = 1
- ► and the boundary conditions:
  ℓ<sub>0</sub>, ℓ<sub>L-1</sub> and ℓ<sub>L</sub> fixed

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#### Paths

- A path is the contour of a configuration.
- ▶ Path = sequence of NE or SE edges joining the adjacent vertices  $(i, l_i)$  and  $(i + 1, l_{i+1})$ of the configuration within the rectangle  $1 \le y \le p - 1$  and  $0 \le x \le L$

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- with  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$  fixed
- and fixed last edge: SE

A typical configuration for the M(p',7) model:  $\ell_0 = 1$ ,  $\ell_{19} = 4$ ,  $\ell_{20} = 3$ 



A typical configuration for the M(p',7) model:  $\ell_0 = 1$ ,  $\ell_{19} = 4$ ,  $\ell_{20} = 3$ 



and the corresponding path (with  $\ell_{20} = 3$ )



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A typical path for the M(p',7) model:  $\ell_0 = 1$  and  $\ell_{20} = 3$  and final SE



#### A typical path for the M(p',7) model: $\ell_0 = 1$ and $\ell_{20} = 3$ and final SE



But this corresponds to a state for which model ? (value of p'?)

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- …and to which module (r,s)?
- ...and what is its conformal dimension?

# Weighting the path

The dependence of the path upon the parameter p' is via the weight function:

$$\tilde{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{L-1} \tilde{w}_i$$





The expressions of  $\tilde{w}_i/i$  for the extrema

	p' = 2		p'=3		p'=6	
h	max	min	max	min	max	min
6	-3		-2	_	0	—
5	-2	4	-2	3	0	0
4	-2	3	-1	2	0	0
3	-1	2	-1	2	0	0
2	0	2	0	1	0	0
1	_	1	_	1	—	0

#### The simplicity of unitary models

The weight function is not positive

Exception: the unitary models: 
$$p' = p - 1$$
  
 $\left[ h \frac{(p - p')}{p} \right] = \left[ \frac{h}{p} \right] = 0$  since  $h < p$ 



#### Weight vs conformal dimension

- Classes of paths are specified by lo and lL
- Ground-state path = unique path with minimal weight with  $\ell_0, \ell_L$  given
- This path represents a highest-weight state
- Let its weight be W<sub>gs</sub>
- The relative weight ∆w̃ = w̃ − w̃<sub>gs</sub> is the (relative) conformal dimension

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#### Generating functions for paths

The GF is the q-enumeration of the paths

$$X^{(p',p)}_{\ell_0,\ell_L}(q) = \sum_{ ext{pot} b \in \mathcal{W}} q^{\Delta ilde{ extsf{w}}}$$

paths with  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$  fixed

#### Generating functions for paths

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When  $L \rightarrow \infty$ : this is a character of M(p', p):

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When  $L \rightarrow \infty$ : this is a character of M(p', p):

But for which module?

Need to relate (r, s) to  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$ 

#### A new weight function for the paths (FLPW)

- Make the defining rectangle looks p'-dependent
- Color the p'-1 strips between the heights *h* and *h*+1 for which:

$$\left\lfloor \frac{hp'}{p} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{(h+1)p'}{p} \right\rfloor - 1.$$

Solutions:

$$h = h_r \equiv \left\lfloor \frac{rp}{p'} \right\rfloor$$
 for  $1 \le r \le p' - 1$ .

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Our path for any M(p',7) model



#### Our path for any M(p',7) model



The same path for the M(2,7) model.



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The same path for the M(3,7) model.



The same path for the M(3,7) model.



The same path for the M(4,7) model.



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The same path for the M(5,7) model.


The same path for the M(5,7) model.



The same path for the M(6,7) model.



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Observations:

- The band structure is symmetric with respect to up-down reflection
- For unitary models, p = p' + 1, all the bands are colored
- For the M(2,p) models, there is a single colored band

• Colored bands are isolated when  $p \ge 2p' - 1$ 

New weight function for the paths: w (FLPW)



This is a positive definite weighting

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Our M(2,7) path with the "scoring vertices"

$$\circ \leftrightarrow U_i \quad \bullet \leftrightarrow V_i$$



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The ground-state path for the case  $\ell_0 = 1$  and  $\ell_L = 3$ 



A single scoring vertex:

$$u_i = \frac{1}{2}(i - \ell_i - \ell_0) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad u_2 = \frac{1}{2}(2 - 3 - 1) = 0$$

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The weight is absolute: w = 0

## Module identification vs boundaries

- Tails in colored bands have weight w = 0
- Such tails are the proper ends for infinite paths
- Characterization of r,s:

$$\ell_0 = s$$
 and  $\ell_L = \left\lfloor \frac{rp}{p'} \right\rfloor$ 

The modules are thus characterized by the boundary conditions

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## The path



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describes the state of lowest dimension in the vacuum module  $|h_{1,1}\rangle = |0\rangle$  of M(2,7)

i.e.: it represents a finitized version of the vacuum state

All modules are covered by taking  $1 \le s \le p - 1 = 6$ (since  $1 \le r \le p' - 1 = 1$ ) The first few sates in the M(2,7) vacuum module:



These correspond to the first few terms in the character

$$\chi^{2,7}_{1,1}(q) = 1 + q^2 + q^3 + 2q^4 + 2q^5 + 3q^6 + \cdots$$

## Characters = GF for infinite paths

GF for paths is

$$X^{(p',p)}_{\ell_0,\ell_L}(q) = \sum_{paths} q^w$$

- Set  $\ell_0 = s$  and  $\ell_L = \lfloor \frac{rp}{p'} \rfloor$
- GF = finitized version of the Virasoro characters  $\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q)$
- The full Virasoro character is

$$\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q) = \lim_{L \to \infty} X_{s, \lfloor \frac{rp}{p'} \rfloor}^{(p',p)}(q)$$

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## Where are the quasi-particles in a RSOS(2, p) path?

e.g., in the RSOS(2,7) path?



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Idea: look at the "peaks in their whole"











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 $\tilde{w} = x_5$ 





Observations:

- full peaks whose top is not above the colored band have w = 0
- full peaks whose top is above the colored band have

w = x-position of the maximum







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 $\tilde{w} = 3x_5$ 

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Observations:

- valleys not below the colored band have zero weight
- valleys below the colored band have weight

w = x-position of the minimum

Above path: two peaks above and a valley below the colored band:

$$\tilde{w} = (x_5 - 3) + x_5 + (x_5 + 3) = 3x_5$$

## Transformation of the RSOS(2, p) paths

These observations suggest to transform the RSOS(2,7) path



# Transformation of the RSOS(2, p) paths

These observations suggest to transform the RSOS(2,7) path



by flattening the colored band



### redefine the vertical axis



#### redefine the vertical axis



and fold the lower part onto the upper one



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#### redefine the vertical axis



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the weight is the *x* position of the peaks:

$$w = 2 + 9 + 14 + 17$$

Is this 1-1?



Is this 1-1?



is also related to



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Is this 1-1?



is also related to



But this has a final NE edge: enforcing a final SE: 1-1 relation,

These are integer lattice paths

defined in the strip:

$$0 \le x \le \infty$$
,  $0 \le y \le k-1$ 

(with p = 2k + 1)

- composed of NE, SE and Horizontal edges (H iff y = 0)
- weight = x position of the peaks

# Bressoud path = sequence of fermi-type charged particles

An example of Bressoud path for k = 5 and initial point (0,0) as a sequence charged peaks (= particles)



$$m_1 = 3, m_2 = 2, m_3 = 1, m_4 = 2$$

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The charge content of the path is:

## Bressoud paths $\approx$ 1D fermi-gas

Rules for constructing the generating function of all Bressoud paths with fixed boundaries (ex:  $y_0 = 0$ )

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 For a fixed charge content (fixed {m<sub>j</sub>}): determine the configuration of minimal weight (mwc)

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## Bressoud paths $\approx$ 1D fermi-gas

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Example:  $m_1 = 3, m_2 = 2, m_3 = 1$ :



• Evaluate its weight: above  $w_{mwc} = 1 + 3 + 5 + 8 + 12 + 17$ In general

$$w_{\text{mwc}} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{k-1} \min(i,j) m_i m_j$$

Move the particles (peaks) in all possible ways and q-count them Example: consider m<sub>1</sub> = 3





► Move the particles (peaks) in all possible ways and *q*-count them Example: consider m<sub>1</sub> = 3



Rule 1: Identical particles are impenetrable (hard-core repulsion): Example: move the rightmost by 9, the next by 6 and the third by 4

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Rule 1: Identical particles are impenetrable (hard-core repulsion): Example: move the rightmost by 9, the next by 6 and the third by 4



Generating factor for these moves
= the number of partitions with at most three parts:

$$\frac{1}{(1-q)(1-q^2)(1-q^3)} \equiv \frac{1}{(q)_3} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{(q)_{m_1}}$$

Rule 2: Particles of different charges can penetrate Consider the successive displacements of the peak 1 in :



 Every move of 1 unit increases the weight by 1 independently of the presence of higher charged particles

i.e. 
$$\frac{1}{(q)_{m_1}}$$
 is generic

The same holds for the other particles:

factor 
$$\frac{1}{(q)_{m_j}}$$
 for each type  $1 \le j \le k-1$ 

Generating functions for all paths with fixed charge content

$$G(\{m_j\}) = \frac{q^{w_{\mathsf{mwc}}}}{(q)_{m_1} \dots (q)_{m_{k-1}}}$$

with

$$w_{\mathsf{mwc}} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{k-1} \min(i,j) \, m_i \, m_j$$

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Full generating function:

$$G = \sum_{m_1, \cdots, m_{k-1}} G(\{m_j\})$$

i.e.

$$\mathbf{G} = \chi_{1,1}^{(2,2k+1)} = \sum_{m_1,\cdots,m_{k-1}=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{N_1^2 + \cdots + N_{k-1}^2 + N_1 + \cdots + N_{k-1}}}{(q)_{m_1} \cdots (q)_{m_{k-1}}}$$

with  $N_i$  defined as

$$N_j = m_j + \cdots + m_{k-1}$$

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with  $N_i$  defined as

$$N_j = m_j + \cdots + m_{k-1}$$

- This is the fermionic character of the M(2,2k+1) vacuum module (FNO)
- derived directly from the RSOS(2,2k+1) paths (using the Fermi-gas method of Warnaar)

## From RSOS(p', p) to generalized Bressoud paths

- Restriction to  $p \ge 2p' 1$ : isolated colored bands
- Flatten all colored bands and fold the part below the first band
- Result: generalized Bressoud paths defined in

$$0 \le x \le L$$
  $0 \le y \le p - p' - \left\lfloor \frac{p}{p'} \right\rfloor$ 

...with H edges allowed at height

$$y(r) = \left\lfloor \frac{r\rho}{\rho'} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{\rho}{\rho'} \right\rfloor - r + 1$$

(with a condition relating the parity of successive H edges and the change of direction of the path)

► ...and weight = (half) x position of the (half) peaks

Our M(3,7) path



Our M(3,7) path



is transformed into



with H edges allowed at y = 0, 1 but not y = 2

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$$w = 2 + 5 + 9 + 19 + \frac{1}{2}(7 + 11 + 13 + 15)$$

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These contributing vertices are not the "scoring vertices"



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Similary, our M(4,7) path



is transformed into:



where H edges are allowed at y = 0, 1, 2 and  $w = 14 + \frac{1}{2}(4 + 8 + 10 + 16 + 18) - (w_{gs} = 1)$ 

## Fermi-gas analysis of the B(3, p) paths

M(3, 11) (case p = 3k + 2): 3 particles



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Direct Fermi-gas analysis:

$$\chi_{1,1}^{(3,p)}(q) = \sum_{m_1,m_2,\cdots m_k \ge 0} \frac{q^{mBm+Cm-\epsilon m_k^2}}{(q)_{m_1}\cdots (q^{1+\epsilon};q^{1+\epsilon})_{m_{k-1}}(q)_{2m_k}},$$

where *k* and  $\epsilon = 0, 1$  are defined by

$$p = 3k + 2 - \epsilon$$

and

$$(a)_n \equiv (a;q)_n = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (1-aq^i)$$

with

$$B_{ij} = \min(i,j), \qquad C_j = j.$$

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New expression when  $\varepsilon = 1$ 

## Fermi-gas analysis of the B(k+2,2k+3) paths

*M*(6,11): 4 (= *k*) particles



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Character resulting from the direct Fermi-gas analysis

$$\chi_{1,1}^{(k+2,2k+3)}(q) = \sum_{m_1,\cdots,m_k} \frac{q^{mBm+Cm}}{(q)_{p_0}} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \begin{bmatrix} m_i + p_i \\ m_j \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$B_{i,j} = B_{j,i}$$
  $B_{i,j} = (2i-1)j$  if  $i \le j$  and  $C_j = j$ 

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}_q = \begin{cases} \frac{(q)_a}{(q)_{a-b}(q)_b} & \text{if } 0 \le b \le a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and

$$p_j = 2m_{j+2} + 4m_{j+2} + \dots + 2(k-j+1)m_k$$

so that

 $p_0 =$  number of half peaks

The transformation of RSOS(p', p) to B(p', p) paths is a key step for a direct fermi-gas analysis; it makes the quasi-particle interpretation transparent

The transformation of RSOS(p',p) to B(p',p) paths is a key step for a direct fermi-gas analysis; it makes the quasi-particle interpretation transparent

Can this be lifted to a CFT interpretation?