

The correspondence

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We can now formulate The AdS/CFT correspondence as

$$Z_{\text{CFT}}[J^i = \phi_i^{(0)}] = Z_{\text{AdS}}[\phi_i|_{\partial\text{AdS}} = \phi_i^{(0)}]$$

||

$$\left\langle e^{\int d^d x \phi_i^{(0)} \theta^i} \right\rangle_{\text{CFT}}$$

↪ partition function
in gravitational side

We know how to define The left-hand side: it's QFT in a fixed background.

The right-hand side is Trickier. The best we can do is define it using string Theory in AdS, which we can do (in some cases) in a perturbative way.

More generally, we can do perturbative quantum gravity calculations around saddle points of The bulk action.

Then

$$\left\langle e^{-\int \phi_i^{(0)} \theta^i} \right\rangle_{\text{CFT}} \approx e^{-I_{\text{AdS}}[\phi_i|_{\partial} = \phi_i^{(0)}]}$$

The correspondence can be viewed as defining Z_{AdS} in terms of Z_{CFT} . But often, one can do

calculations of Z_{AdS} in the saddle-pt approx
which correspond to very difficult calculations for the
CFT at very strong coupling.

We also saw (and will see again) that the CFT
must have large number of local degrees of freedom:
large N (for a gauge theory), large central charge.