

Weyl anomalies in CFTs with boundaries and defects

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Based on:

[Chalabi, Herzog, O'Bannon, Robinson, JS; JHEP 2022]

[Bianchi, Chalabi, Prochazka, Robinson, JS; JHEP 2021]

[Chalabi, Herzog, Ray, Robinson, JS, Stergiou; JHEP 2023]

“Physics is like a train which does not stop at the station.
One first must run fast to catch that train”

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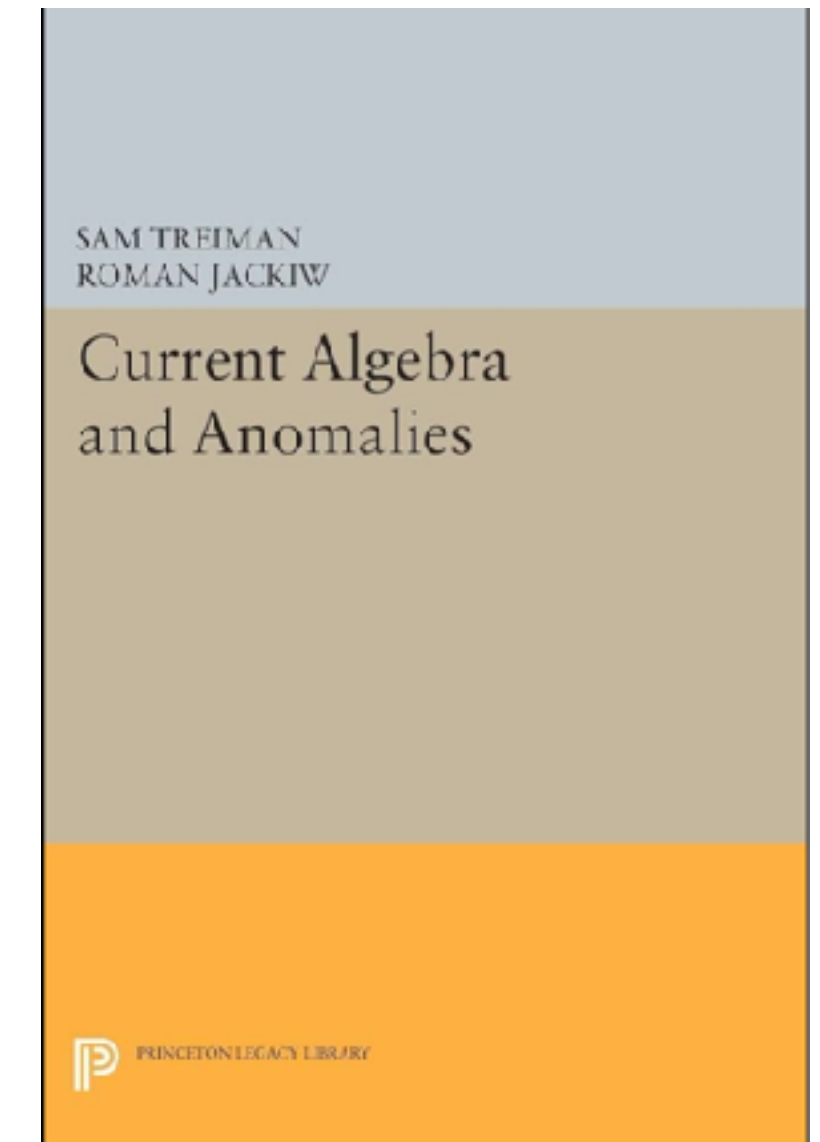
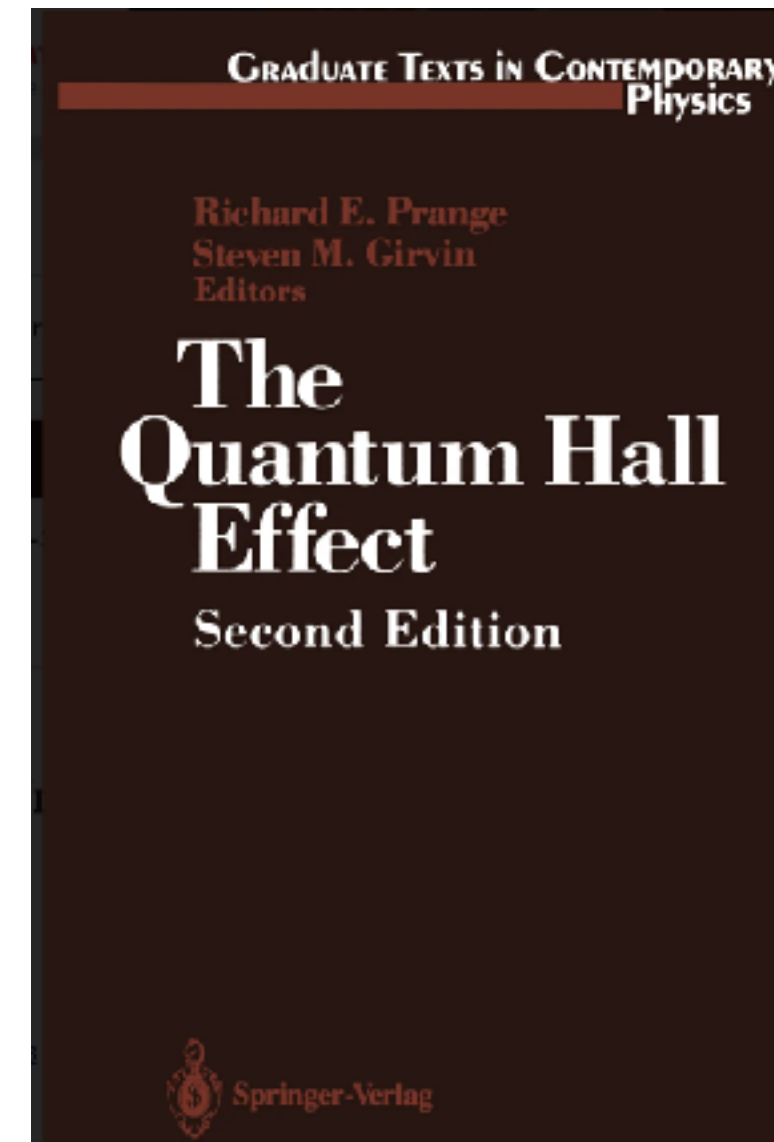
Applied Conformal Field Theory

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Lectures given at Les Houches summer session, June 28 – Aug. 5, 1988.

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Topological insulators and superconductors

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Topological insulators are new states of quantum matter which cannot be adiabatically connected to conventional insulators and semiconductors. They are characterized by a full insulating gap in the bulk and gapless edge or surface states which are protected by time-reversal symmetry. These topological materials have been theoretically predicted and experimentally observed in a variety of systems, including HgTe quantum wells, BiSb alloys, and Bi₂Te₃ and Bi₂Se₃ crystals. Theoretical models, materials properties, and experimental results on two-dimensional and three-dimensional topological insulators are reviewed, and both the topological band theory and the topological field theory are discussed. Topological superconductors have a full pairing gap in the bulk and gapless surface states consisting of Majorana fermions. The theory of topological superconductors is reviewed, in close analogy to the theory of topological insulators.

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Defects

Local operators are not enough

- To distinguish groups with same algebra but different global structure
- To characterise phase of matter
- Strings and Branes

Some Examples:

- Boundaries (space-time ends on them)
- Interfaces (for instance between different phases)
- Line defects: for example Wilson lines
- Topological Defects (non-invertible symmetries)

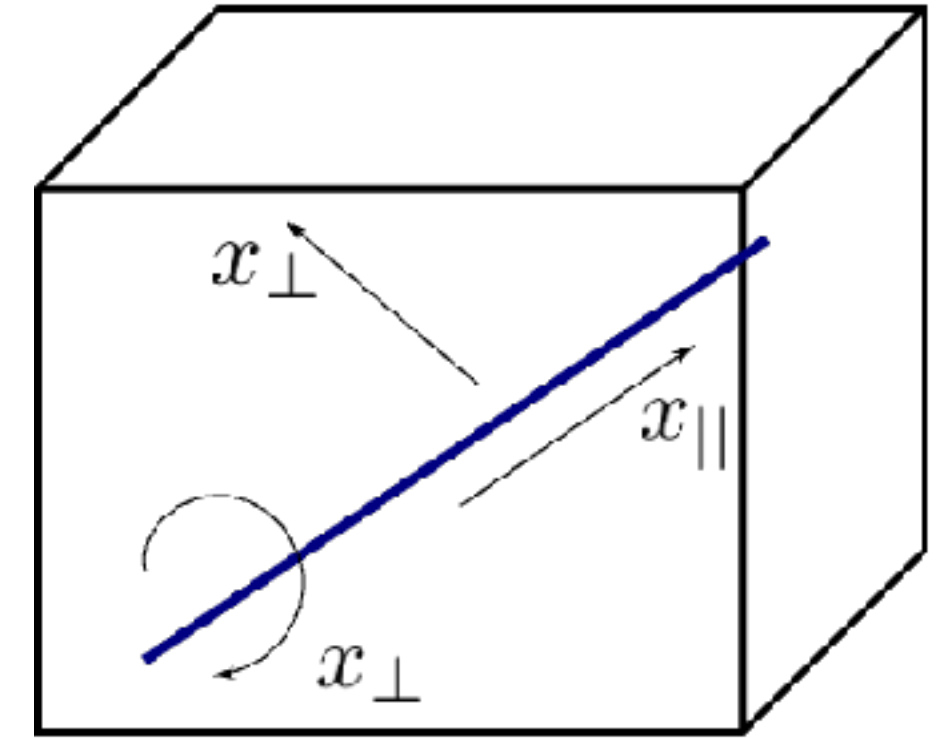
Defects

Extended objects that break part of the translational symmetry

- Localised on submanifolds of the spacetime
- p =dimension of defect space-time, $q=d-p$ is the codimension
- The stress energy tensor is no longer conserved:

$$\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = \hat{\mathcal{D}}^\nu \delta^q(\Sigma) \quad \hat{\mathcal{D}}^\nu = \text{displacement operator} \\ \text{protected dimension } p+1$$

- We mainly focus on conformal field theories
- Conformal group is broken: $SO(d+1, 1) \longrightarrow SO(d+1-p, 1) \times SO(q)$
- New non-trivial correlators: **one-point functions**
- Localised contribution to anomalies: i.e. **defect Weyl anomalies**



Correlators in defect CFTs

[Billò, Gonçalves, Lauria, Meineri, 2016]

[Herzog, Shrestha, 2020]

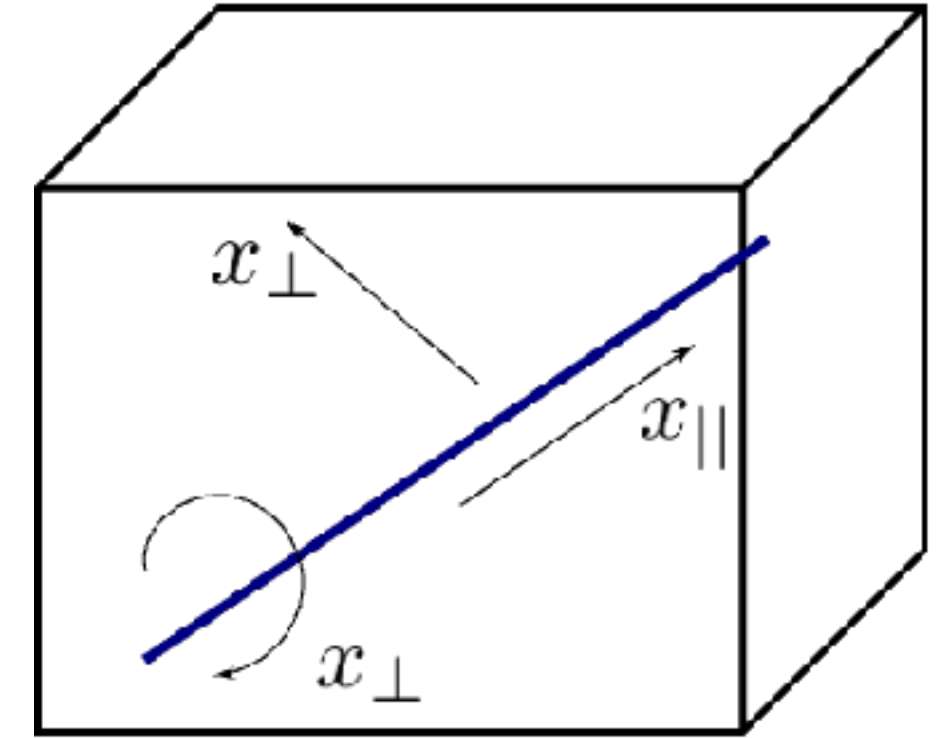
Bulk correlators:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \rangle = \frac{A_{\mathcal{O}}}{|x|^{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}}$$

$$\langle T^{ij} \rangle = h \frac{(d - q + 1) \delta^{ij} - d \frac{x_{\perp}^i x_{\perp}^j}{|x_{\perp}|^2}}{|x_{\perp}|^d}$$

$$\langle T^{ab} \rangle = -h \frac{(q - 1) \delta^{ab}}{|x_{\perp}|^d}$$

$i, j, k, \dots = \text{orthogonal}$
 $a, b, c, \dots = \text{parallel}$



$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(x) \mathcal{O}_2(y) \rangle = \frac{1}{|x_{\perp}|^{\Delta_1} |y_{\perp}|^{\Delta_2}} f(\xi_1, \xi_2), \quad \xi_1 = \frac{s^2}{4|x_{\perp}| |y_{\perp}|}, \quad \xi_2 = \frac{x_{\perp} \cdot y_{\perp}}{|x_{\perp}| |y_{\perp}|}, \quad s = x - y$$

Bulk-defect correlators:

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{\hat{\Delta}}(\mathbf{x}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(y) \rangle = \frac{C_{\hat{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{O}}}{|y_{\perp}|^{\Delta - \hat{\Delta}} (y_{\perp}^2 + (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})^2)^{\hat{\Delta}}}$$

Defect correlators:

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2(\mathbf{y}) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{\Delta_{\hat{\mathcal{O}}_1}, \Delta_{\hat{\mathcal{O}}_2}}}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^{2\Delta_{\hat{\mathcal{O}}_1}}}$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{D}}^i(\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathcal{D}}^j(\mathbf{0}) \rangle = \frac{C_{\hat{\mathcal{D}} \hat{\mathcal{D}}}}{|\mathbf{y}|^{2p+2}} \delta^{ij}$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_3(\mathbf{x}_3) \rangle = \frac{C_{123}}{|\mathbf{x}_{12}|^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3} |\mathbf{x}_{13}|^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_2} |\mathbf{x}_{23}|^{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_1}}$$

(Bulk) Weyl Anomaly

- QFT on curved space-time
- Suppose the action invariant under Weyl rescaling (classical) $g_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow e^{2\omega(x)} g_{\mu\nu}$

$$\delta_\omega S = - \int_{\mathcal{M}_d} d^d x \sqrt{g} \delta\omega T^\mu{}_\mu = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad T^\mu{}_\mu = 0$$

- Effective action is not invariant: Weyl anomaly (quantum effect) $\langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta W}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}}$

$$\delta_\omega W = - \int_{\mathcal{M}_d} d^d x \sqrt{g} \delta\omega \langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle \neq 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad W = \frac{a_{d-2}}{\epsilon^{d-2}} + \frac{a_{d-4}}{\epsilon^{d-4}} \cdots + \left[\int d^d x \sqrt{g} \langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle \right] \log \epsilon + \mathcal{O}(1)$$

- Local quantity of dimension d

$$T^\mu{}_\mu = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \left[(-)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} a_{\mathcal{M}} E_d + \sum_n c_n I_n \right]$$

anomaly coefficients
“central charges”

curvature invariants

- Bulk anomalies absent in odd dimensions

(Bulk) Weyl Anomaly

2 dimensions:

$$T^\mu{}_\mu = \frac{c}{24\pi} R \quad \mathcal{C} = \text{Virasoro central charge}$$

[Zamolodchikov, 1986]

$$c_{\text{UV}} \geq c_{\text{IR}}$$

$$\langle T(x)T(0) \rangle = \frac{c}{|x|^4}$$

4 dimensions:

$$T^\mu{}_\mu = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(-a E_4 + c W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} W^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \right)$$

$$a_{\text{UV}} \geq a_{\text{IR}}$$

[Cardy, 1988]

[Komargodski, Schwimmer, 2011]

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(x)T_{\rho\sigma}(0) \rangle \propto \frac{c}{|x|^4} I_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma}(x)$$

6 dimensions:

$$T^\mu{}_\mu = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^3} (a E_6 + c_1 I_1 + c_2 I_2 + c_3 I_3)$$

$$a_{\text{UV}} \geq a_{\text{IR}} \quad (\text{conjectured})$$

$$I_1 = W_{\mu\lambda\rho\nu} W^{\lambda\sigma\tau\rho} W_{\sigma}{}^{\mu\nu}{}_{\tau} \quad I_2 = W_{\mu\nu}{}^{\lambda\rho} W_{\lambda\rho}{}^{\sigma\tau} W_{\sigma\tau}{}^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu}(x)T_{\rho\sigma}(0) \rangle \propto \frac{c_3}{|x|^4} I_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma}(x)$$

$$I_3 = W_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} \left(D^2 \delta^\nu{}_\sigma - \frac{6}{5} R \delta^\nu{}_\sigma + 4 R^\nu{}_\sigma \right) W^{\sigma\nu\lambda\rho}$$

$$\langle TTT \rangle \propto c_1 + c_2$$

Defect Weyl Anomaly

- In the presence of a p-dimensional defect:

$$\delta W = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_d} d^d x \sqrt{g} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma_p} d^p y \sqrt{\bar{g}} \left(\delta g_{\mu\nu} \langle T^{\mu\nu} |_{\Sigma_p} \rangle + 2\delta X^i(y^a) \langle \mathcal{D}_i \rangle \right)$$

- Defect-localised contribution to Weyl anomaly

$$T^\mu{}_\mu = T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\mathcal{M}_d} + \delta^{(q)}(x_\perp) T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_p} \qquad D_\mu T^{\mu i} = \delta^{(q)}(x_\perp) \mathcal{D}^i$$

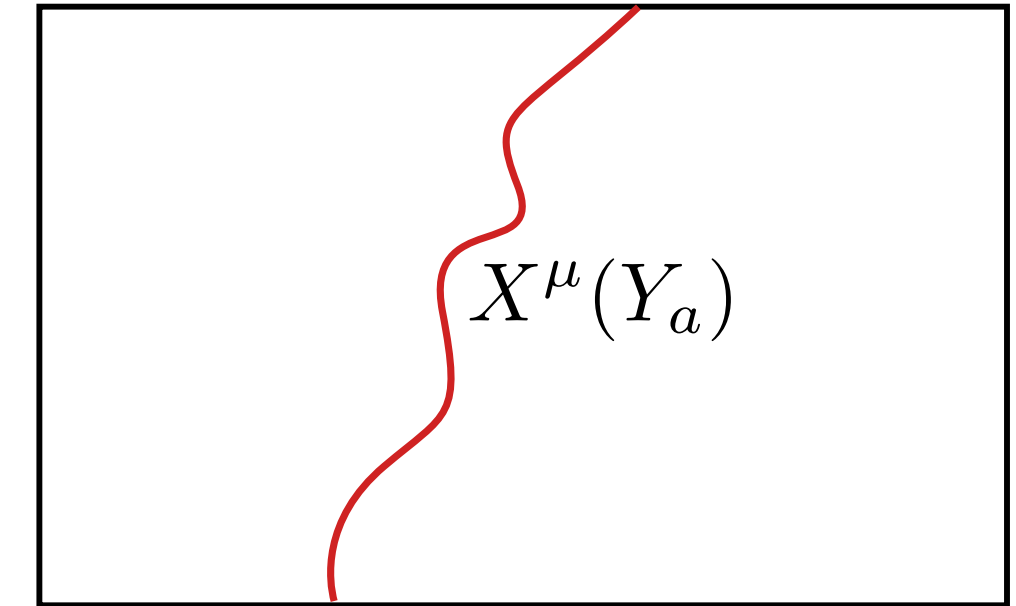
- For one-dimensional boundary is “trivial” $T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_1} = \frac{c}{12\pi} K$

Defect Weyl Anomaly

$$e_a^\mu = \partial_a X^\mu \quad X^\mu(Y_a) \quad \text{embedding function}$$

$$\bar{g}_{ab} = e_a^\mu e_b^\nu g_{\mu\nu} \quad (\text{induced metric})$$

$$\Pi_{ab}^i = \bar{D}_a e_b^\mu \quad (\text{second fundamental form})$$



- For two-dimensional defects [Henningson, Skenderis, 1999]
[Schwimmer, Theisen, 2008]

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_2} = \frac{1}{24\pi} (b \bar{R} + d_1 \dot{\Pi}^2 + d_2 W^{ab}{}_{ab})$$

$$b_{\text{UV}} \geq b_{\text{IR}}$$

[Jensen, O'Bannon, 2015]

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{D}}_i(\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathcal{D}}_j(\mathbf{0}) \rangle \propto d_1 \frac{\delta_{ij}}{|\mathbf{y}|^6} \quad \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \propto \frac{d_2}{|x_\perp|^d}$$

- For three-dimensional boundaries [Herzog, Huang, Jensen, 2015 - 2017]

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_3} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(a_{\mathcal{M}} E_4|_{\partial\mathcal{M}} + b_1 \dot{K}^3 + b_2 \dot{K}^{ab} W^c{}_{acb} \right)$$

$$E_4|_{\partial\mathcal{M}} = \delta_{def}^{abc} \left(2K^d{}_a R^{ef}{}_{bc} + \frac{8}{3} K^d{}_a K^e{}_b K^f{}_c \right)$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{D}} \hat{\mathcal{D}} \hat{\mathcal{D}} \rangle \propto b_1 \quad \langle \hat{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathcal{D}}(\mathbf{0}) \rangle \propto b_2 \frac{1}{|\mathbf{y}|^8}$$

4d Defect Weyl Anomaly [Chalabi, Herzog, O'Bannon, Robinson, JS; JHEP 2022]

- Full Weyl anomaly for p=4 dimensional defects and codimension q>1

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_4} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(-a_\Sigma \bar{E}_4 + d_1 \mathcal{J}_1 + d_2 \mathcal{J}_2 + d_3 W_{abcd} W^{abcd} + d_4 (W_{ab}{}^{ab})^2 \right. \\
+ d_5 W_{aibj} W^{aibj} + d_6 W^b{}_{iab} W_c{}^{iac} + d_7 W_{ijkl} W^{ijkl} + d_8 W_{aijk} W^{aijk} \\
+ d_9 W_{abjk} W^{abjk} + d_{10} W_{iabc} W^{iabc} + d_{11} W^c{}_{acb} W_d{}^{adb} + d_{12} W^a{}_{iaj} W_b{}^{ibj} \\
+ d_{13} W_{ab}{}^{ab} \mathring{\Pi}_{cd}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i{}^{cd} + d_{14} W^a{}_{bij} \mathring{\Pi}_{ac}^i \mathring{\Pi}^{jbc} + d_{15} W^a{}_{ibj} \mathring{\Pi}_{ac}^i \mathring{\Pi}^{jbc} \\
+ d_{16} W^{abcd} \mathring{\Pi}_{ac}^i \mathring{\Pi}_{ibd} + d_{17} W_a{}^{bac} \mathring{\Pi}_{bd}^i \mathring{\Pi}_{ic}{}^d + d_{18} W^c{}_{icj} \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i \mathring{\Pi}^{jab} \\
\left. + d_{19} \text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i \mathring{\Pi}^j \mathring{\Pi}_j + d_{20} \text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}^i \mathring{\Pi}^j \mathring{\Pi}_i \mathring{\Pi}_j + d_{21} (\text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i)^2 + d_{22} (\text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}^i \mathring{\Pi}^j) (\text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}_i \mathring{\Pi}_j) \right)$$

- 2 “non-trivial” invariants

$$\mathcal{J}_1 = \frac{1}{d-1} R \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i{}^{ab} - \frac{1}{d-2} N^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i{}^{ab} - \frac{2}{d-2} R^a{}_b \mathring{\Pi}_{ac}^i \mathring{\Pi}_i{}^{bc} - \frac{1}{2} W^c{}_{acb} \Pi_i \mathring{\Pi}^{iab} \\
+ \frac{4}{9} W^c{}_{ica} \bar{D}^b \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i + \mathring{\Pi}^{iab} D_i W^c{}_{acb} - \frac{1}{2} \Pi^i \text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}_i \mathring{\Pi}^j \mathring{\Pi}_j + \frac{1}{16} \Pi^i \Pi_i \text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}^j \mathring{\Pi}_j \\
+ \frac{2}{9} \bar{D}^b \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i \bar{D}^c \mathring{\Pi}_{ic}{}^a$$

Related to two-point function of displacement operator

$$\mathcal{J}_2 = \frac{d-4}{d-2} W_{ab}{}^{ab} N^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{d-4}{d-1} R W_{ab}{}^{ab} + \frac{4(d-5)}{3(d-2)} R_{ab} W_c{}^{acb} \\
- \frac{5(d-4)}{48} W_{ab}{}^{ab} \Pi^i \Pi_i + \frac{2(d-5)}{3} W^c{}_{ica} \bar{D}^b \mathring{\Pi}_{ab}^i + \frac{4(d+1)}{9} \mathring{\Pi}^{iab} D_i W^c{}_{acb} \\
- \frac{1}{3} W_{ic}{}^{ac} \bar{D}_a \Pi^i - \frac{2(d-5)}{3} \Pi^i \text{Tr } \mathring{\Pi}_i \mathring{\Pi}^j \mathring{\Pi}_j + \frac{(d-10)}{12} \Pi^i D_i W_{ab}{}^{ab} + \frac{1}{3} D^i D_i W_{ab}{}^{ab},$$

Related to one-point function of the stress tensor

Defect Weyl Anomalies and Correlators

- Insertions of the displacement operator generate perturbation of the defect's shape
- This produces a variation in the effective action (at the second order)

$$\delta_X W = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma_p} d^p y_1 d^p y_2 \langle \mathcal{D}_i(\mathbf{y}_1) \mathcal{D}_j(\mathbf{y}_2) \rangle \delta X^i(\mathbf{y}_1) \delta X^j(\mathbf{y}_2) + \mathcal{O}(\delta X^3)$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{D}}_i(\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathcal{D}}_j(0) \rangle = \delta_{ij} \frac{C_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}\hat{\mathcal{D}}}}{|\mathbf{y}|^{2p+2}}$$

- We Taylor expand and take only the term that diverges logarithmically
- From $\delta \Pi_{ab}^i = \partial_a \partial_b \delta X^i$ we find for p even (p odd no logs):

$$\delta_X W|_{\log \varepsilon} = (-1)^{p/2+1} \frac{2^{-(p+2)} \pi^{\frac{p}{2}}}{p! \Gamma(\frac{p}{2} + 2)} c_{\mathcal{D}\mathcal{D}} \int_{\Sigma_p} d^p y \partial^{a_1} \dots \partial^{a_{p/2-1}} \delta \Pi^{icd} \partial_{a_1} \dots \partial_{a_{p/2-1}} \delta \Pi_{cd}^i$$

- We find for p=2 and p=4:

$$p = 2$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{D}}_i(\mathbf{y}) \hat{\mathcal{D}}_j(\mathbf{0}) \rangle = \frac{4}{3\pi^2} \frac{d_1}{|\mathbf{y}|^6} \delta_{ij}$$

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_2} \supset \frac{d_1}{24\pi} \ddot{\Pi}^2$$

$$p = 4$$

$$\langle \mathcal{D}^i(\mathbf{y}) \mathcal{D}^j(\mathbf{0}) \rangle = -\frac{72}{\pi^4} \frac{d_1}{|\mathbf{y}|^{10}} \delta^{ij}$$

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_4} \supset \frac{2}{9} d_1 \bar{D}^b \ddot{\Pi}_{ab}^i \bar{D}^c \ddot{\Pi}_{ic}^a$$

Unitarity

$$d_1 \leq 0$$

Defect Anomalies and Correlators

- Insertions of the stress-tensor produce (bulk) metric perturbation
- This also implies variation in the anomaly contribution

$$\delta_g W = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^d x \langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle \delta g_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \delta_g \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^d x \langle T^{\mu\nu} \rangle \delta g_{\mu\nu} \Big|_{\log \varepsilon}$$

- At first order only one term contributes

$$\delta_g \int_{\Sigma_4} d^4 y \sqrt{\gamma} \langle T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_4} \rangle = \frac{d_2}{16\pi^2} \int_{\Sigma_4} d^4 y \frac{1}{3} \partial^k \partial_k \delta W^{ab}{}_{ab} \longrightarrow \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \propto \frac{h}{|x_\perp|^d}$$

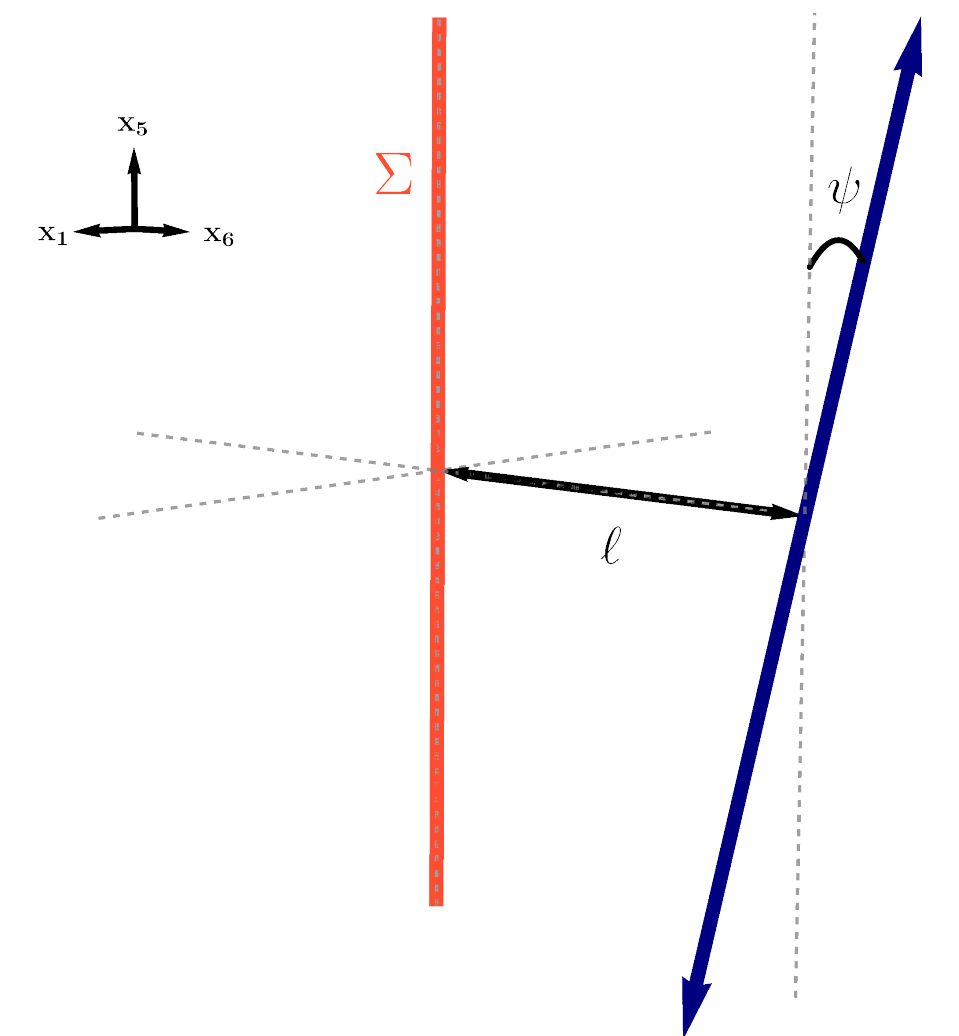
$$h = -\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q}{2} + 1\right)}{\pi^{\frac{q}{2}+2} (q+3)} d_2$$

- Averaged null-energy condition $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle v^\mu v^\nu \geq 0$ implies a constraint
[Jensen, O'Bannon, Robinson, Rodgers, 2018]

[Chalabi, O'Bannon, Herzog, Robinson, JS, JHEP 2022]

- Null geodesics: $t = \ell u$, $x_1 = \ell u \cos \psi$, $x_5 = \ell u \sin \psi$, $x_6 = \ell$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle v^\mu v^\nu = -d_2 \frac{q \Gamma\left(\frac{d+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{q}{2}\right)}{(q+3) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) \pi^{\frac{q+3}{2}} \ell^{d-2}} |\sin \psi| \geq 0 \longrightarrow d_2 \leq 0$$



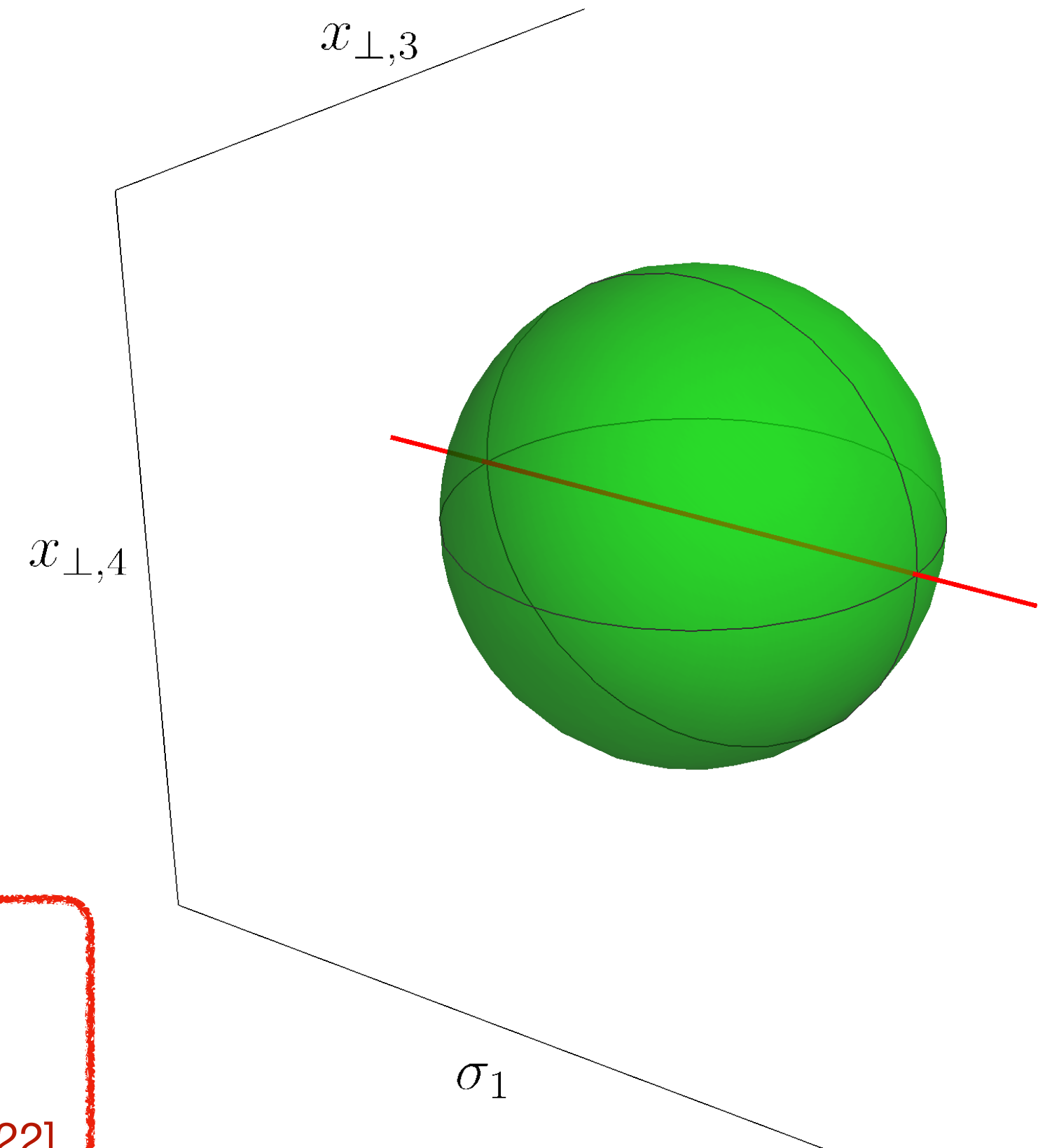
Defect Anomalies and Entanglement Entropy

- Contribution to EE of a spherical region with a centred defect
- In CFT for spherical regions we can use the CHM map
- Two contributions: [Kobayashi, Nishioka, Sato, Watanabe, 2018]
[Jensen, O'Bannon, Robinson, Rodgers, 2018]
 - 1) Free-energy
 - 2) Killing Energy

$$S_{A,\Sigma_2} = \frac{1}{3} \left(b + \frac{d-3}{d-1} d_2 \right) \log \left(\frac{L}{\varepsilon} \right)$$

[Chalabi, O'Bannon, Herzog, Robinson, JS; JHEP 2022]

$$S_{A,\Sigma_4} = -4 \left[a_\Sigma + \frac{1}{4} \frac{(d-5)(d-4)}{d-1} d_2 \right] \log \left(\frac{L}{\varepsilon} \right)$$



5-dimensional probe branes in AdS

$$I = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int dr d^d x \sqrt{g} \left(\mathcal{R} + \frac{d(d-1)}{L_{\text{AdS}}^2} \right) + T_{\text{br}} \int dr d^p y \sqrt{\bar{g}}$$

- Holographic result from the generalised Willmore Energy (probe brane) [Graham, Reichert, 2017]

- For $q>1$

a_Σ	d_1	d_2	d_3	d_4	d_5	d_6	d_7	d_8	d_9	d_{10}	d_{11}
$\frac{1}{4}$	-1	$-\frac{1}{q}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{2}{3q}$	$-\frac{(3q+14)}{9q}$	0	0	$-\frac{2}{3q}$	$-\frac{(q+2)}{6q}$	$-\frac{(3q+2)}{3q}$
d_{12}	d_{13}	d_{14}	d_{15}	d_{16}	d_{17}	d_{18}	d_{19}	d_{20}	d_{21}	d_{22}	$-$
$-\frac{2}{3q}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2-q}{3q}$	$\frac{2(q+4)}{3q}$	$\frac{2(2q+1)}{3q}$	$\frac{(7q+6)}{3q}$	$-\frac{(q+6)}{3q}$	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$-$

Monodromy defects

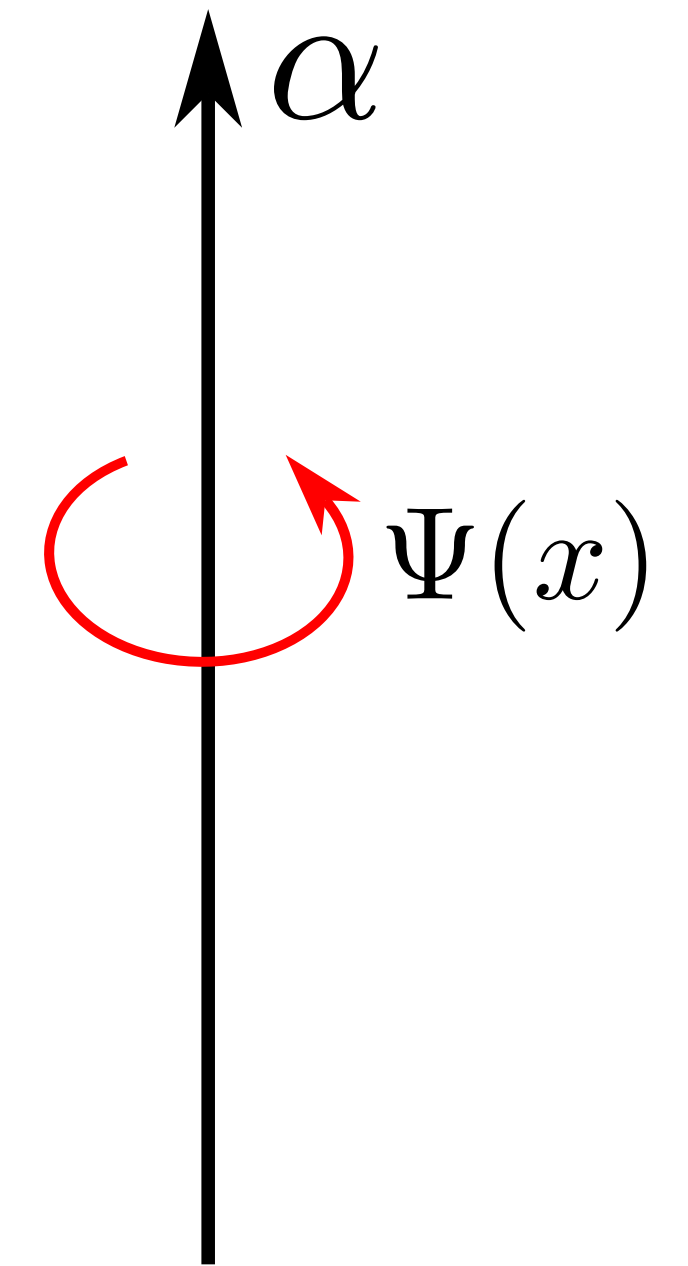
[Bianchi, Chalabi, Prochazka, Robinson, JS; JHEP 2021]

see also [Giombi et al, 2021]

- Co-dimension 2 operator which implements a flavour symmetry rotation
- Simplest case: U(1) rotation $\Psi(x) \rightarrow e^{-2\pi i \alpha} \Psi(x)$
- In a Lagrangian theory it can be achieved by “gauging” the global symmetry by coupling to an external potential

$$S \longrightarrow S + \int d^d x J^\mu A_\mu \quad A = \alpha d\theta$$

- This is a pure gauge everywhere but at the origin $F_{xy} = 2\pi \alpha \delta^{(2)}(x, y)$



Anomaly coefficients for the free scalar:

d=4:

$$d_1 = d_2 = \frac{3}{2} [(1 - \alpha)^2 \alpha^2 + 4\xi \alpha^3]$$

$$b = \frac{(1 - \alpha)^2 \alpha^2 + 4\xi \alpha^3}{2}$$

$\alpha \in (0, 1)$ monodromy parameter

d=6:

$$d_1 = 2d_2 = -\frac{\alpha(1 - \alpha^2)(2 - \alpha)}{36} \left[\alpha(1 - \alpha) + \frac{6\alpha^2 \xi}{2 - \alpha} \right]$$

$$a_\Sigma = \frac{\alpha^2}{720} (1 - \alpha)^2 (3 + \alpha - \alpha^2) + \frac{\alpha^3}{360} (5 - 3\alpha^2) \xi$$

$\xi = 0$ IR fixed point

$\xi = 1$ UV fixed point

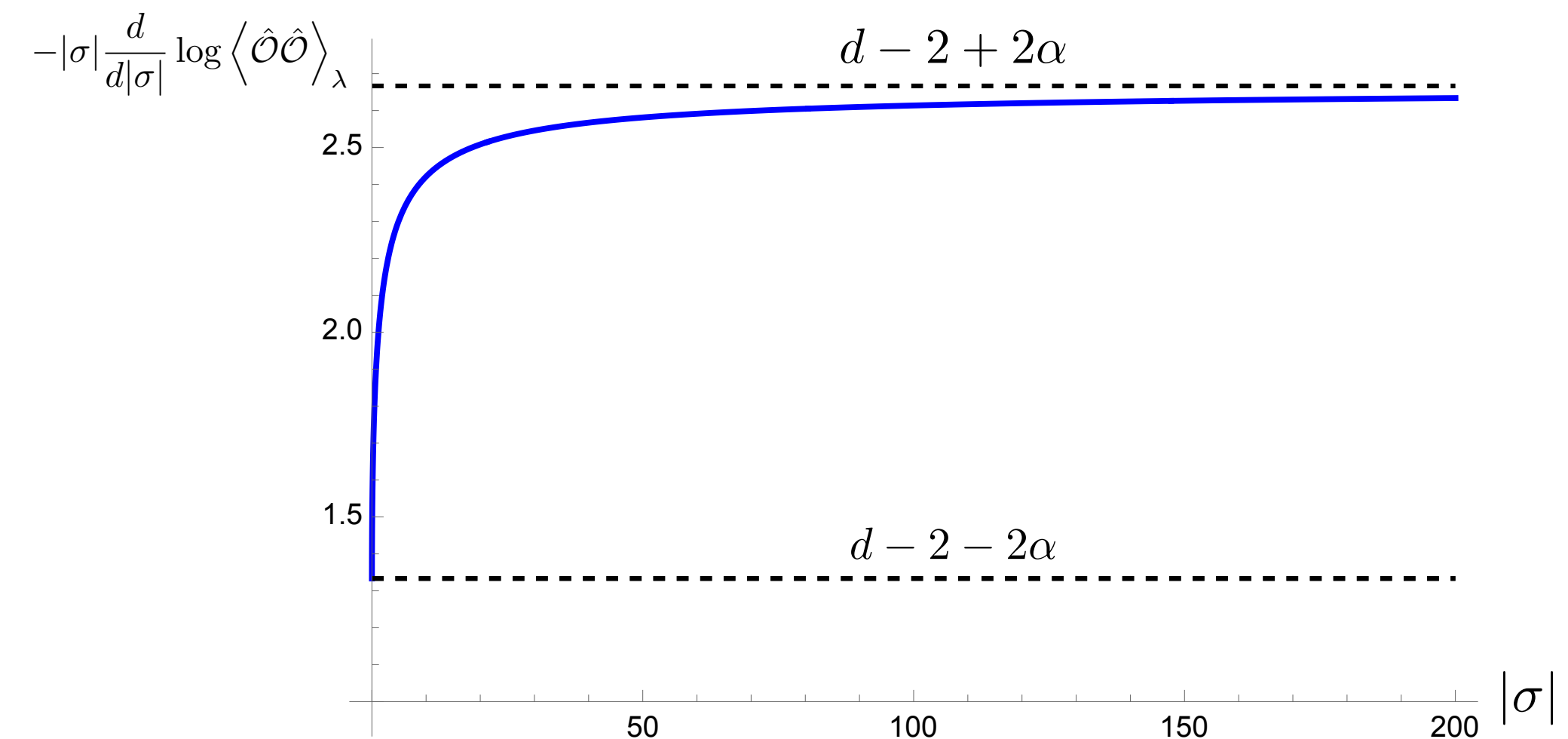
Monodromy defects

$$\begin{array}{ll} \xi = 1 & \text{UV fixed point} \\ \xi = 0 & \text{IR fixed point} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \left[\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(\sigma) \right] = \frac{d-2}{2} - \alpha \\ \left[\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha}(\sigma) \right] = \frac{d-2}{2} + \alpha \end{array}$$

- The two choices are connected by an RG flow:

$$S_{def} = \lambda \int d^{d-2} \sigma \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(\sigma) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}^{\dagger}(\sigma) \quad \lambda = \Lambda^{2\alpha} \bar{\lambda} \quad \text{relevant deformation}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(\sigma) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(0) \right\rangle_{\lambda} &\longrightarrow \frac{1}{|\sigma|^{d-2-2\alpha}} \quad \sigma \rightarrow 0 \\ \left\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(\sigma) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_{-\alpha}(0) \right\rangle_{\lambda} &\longrightarrow \frac{\Lambda^{-4\alpha}}{|\sigma|^{d-2+2\alpha}} \quad |\sigma| \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$



- The Euler anomaly decreases

$$a_{\Sigma} = \frac{\alpha^2}{720} (1 - \alpha)^2 (3 + \alpha - \alpha^2) + \frac{\alpha^3}{360} (5 - 3\alpha^2) \xi$$

$$\begin{array}{l} a_{\Sigma}^{(\text{UV})} \geq a_{\Sigma}^{(\text{IR})} \\ \xi = 1 \quad \quad \xi = 0 \end{array}$$

defect a-theorem
[Wang, 2021]

- Analogous discussion for fermions

“Research in Physics is hard, so
you need to feel you are doing something epic”

Thank you for your attention!

and Happy Birthday Andrea!

Higher-Derivative Theories with Boundaries

[Chalabi, Herzog, Ray, Robinson, JS, Stergiou; JHEP 2023]

- Theories with an higher number of derivatives such as:

$$S = \int d^d x \, \phi \square^k \phi \qquad \Delta_\phi = \frac{d-2k}{2}$$

- Dimension of the fields is lower $\longrightarrow$ Many relevant boundary deformations
- Violation of the unitarity bound $\Delta \geq \frac{d-2}{2}$ for scalars

Boundary Primaries:

$$\begin{aligned} D |O_I\rangle &= i\Delta |O_I\rangle, \\ M_{ab} |O_I\rangle &= (M_{ab})_I{}^J |O_J\rangle, \\ \boxed{K_a |O_I\rangle} &= 0 \end{aligned} \qquad a, b = \text{parallel directions}$$

- We need to compute the “single-trace” boundary primaries

$$\left| \Phi^{(k,q)} \right\rangle = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor} \alpha_j^{(k,q)} P_{\parallel}^{2j} P_n^{q-2j} |\phi\rangle \longrightarrow K_a \left| \Phi^{(k,q)} \right\rangle = 0 \qquad a = \text{parallel directions}$$

Higher-Derivative Theories with Boundaries

- The first few boundary primaries are

$$\Phi^{(k,0)} = \phi, \quad \Phi^{(k,1)} = \partial_n \phi, \quad \Phi^{(k,2)} = \left(\partial_n^2 - \frac{1}{2k-3} \square_{\parallel} \right) \phi, \quad \Phi^{(k,3)} = \left(\partial_n^3 - \frac{3}{2k-5} \partial_n \square_{\parallel} \right) \phi$$

- For $k = 1$ only 2 primaries:

$$\delta S_{\phi, \square}^{(k=1)} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^{d-1} x_{\parallel} (\Phi^{(1,0)} \delta \Phi^{(1,1)} - \Phi^{(1,1)} \delta \Phi^{(1,0)})$$

Neumann (N) $\Phi^{(k,1)} = \partial_n \phi = 0$

Dirichlet (D) $\Phi^{(k,0)} = \phi = 0$

- For $k = 2$ we find 4 primaries:

$$\delta S_{\phi, \square}^{(k=2)} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^{d-1} x_{\parallel} (\Phi^{(2,0)} \delta \Phi^{(2,3)} - \Phi^{(2,1)} \delta \Phi^{(2,2)} + \Phi^{(2,2)} \delta \Phi^{(2,1)} - \Phi^{(2,3)} \delta \Phi^{(2,0)})$$

- NN

$$\Phi^{(2,2)} = (\partial_n^2 - \square_{\parallel}) \phi = 0$$

$$\Phi^{(2,3)} = (\partial_n^3 + 3\partial_n \square_{\parallel}) \phi = 0$$

- ND

$$\Phi^{(2,1)} = \partial_n \phi = 0$$

$$\Phi^{(2,3)} = \partial_n^3 \phi = 0$$

- DN

$$\Phi^{(2,0)} = \phi = 0$$

$$\Phi^{(2,2)} = \partial_n^2 \phi = 0$$

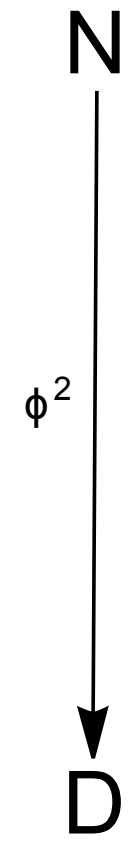
- DD

$$\Phi^{(2,0)} = \phi = 0$$

$$\Phi^{(2,1)} = \partial_n \phi = 0$$

Boundary RG flows

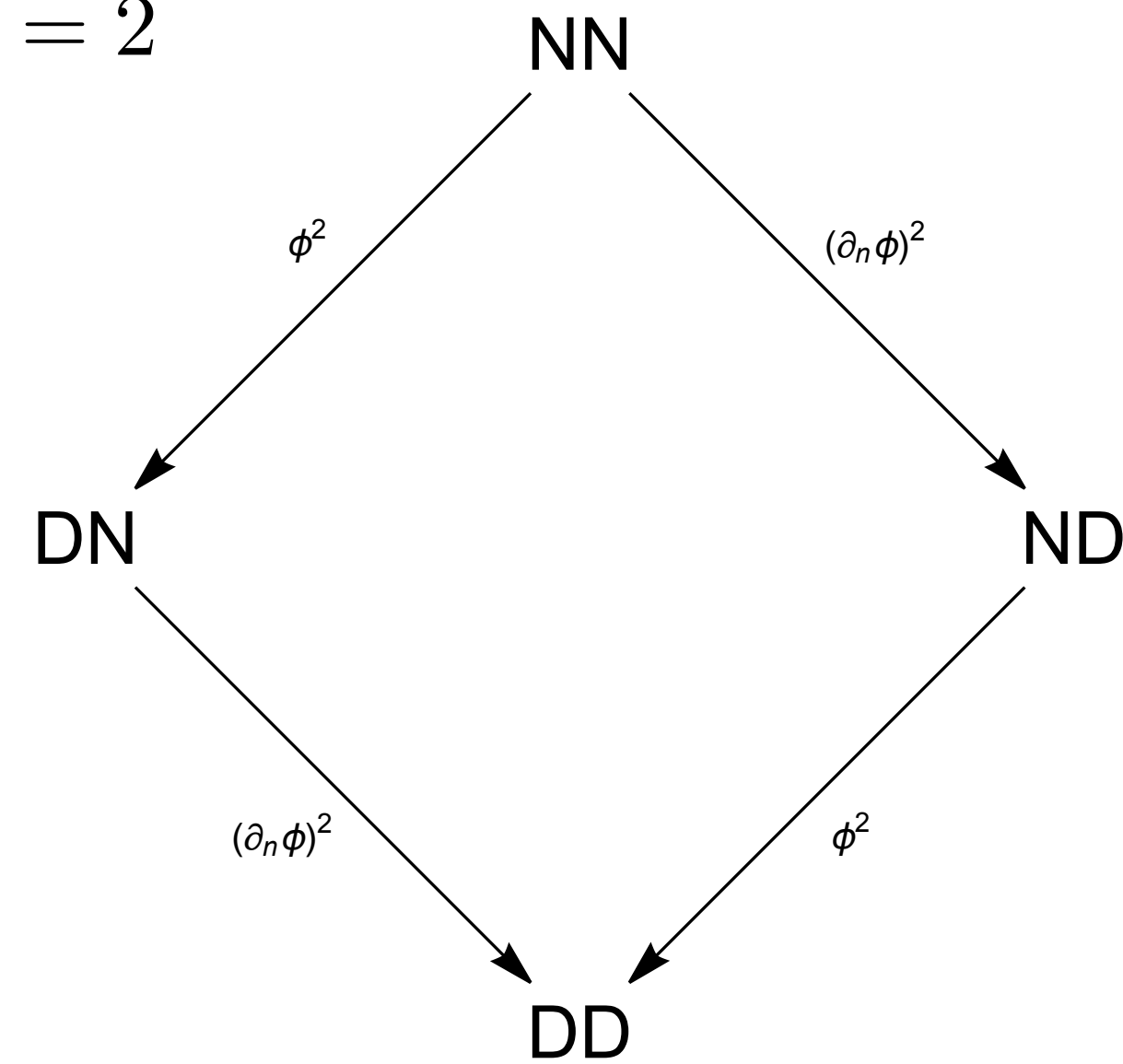
$k = 1$



- In d=5

$$\Delta a_\Sigma(N \rightarrow D) = \frac{17}{5760}$$

$k = 2$



- In d=5

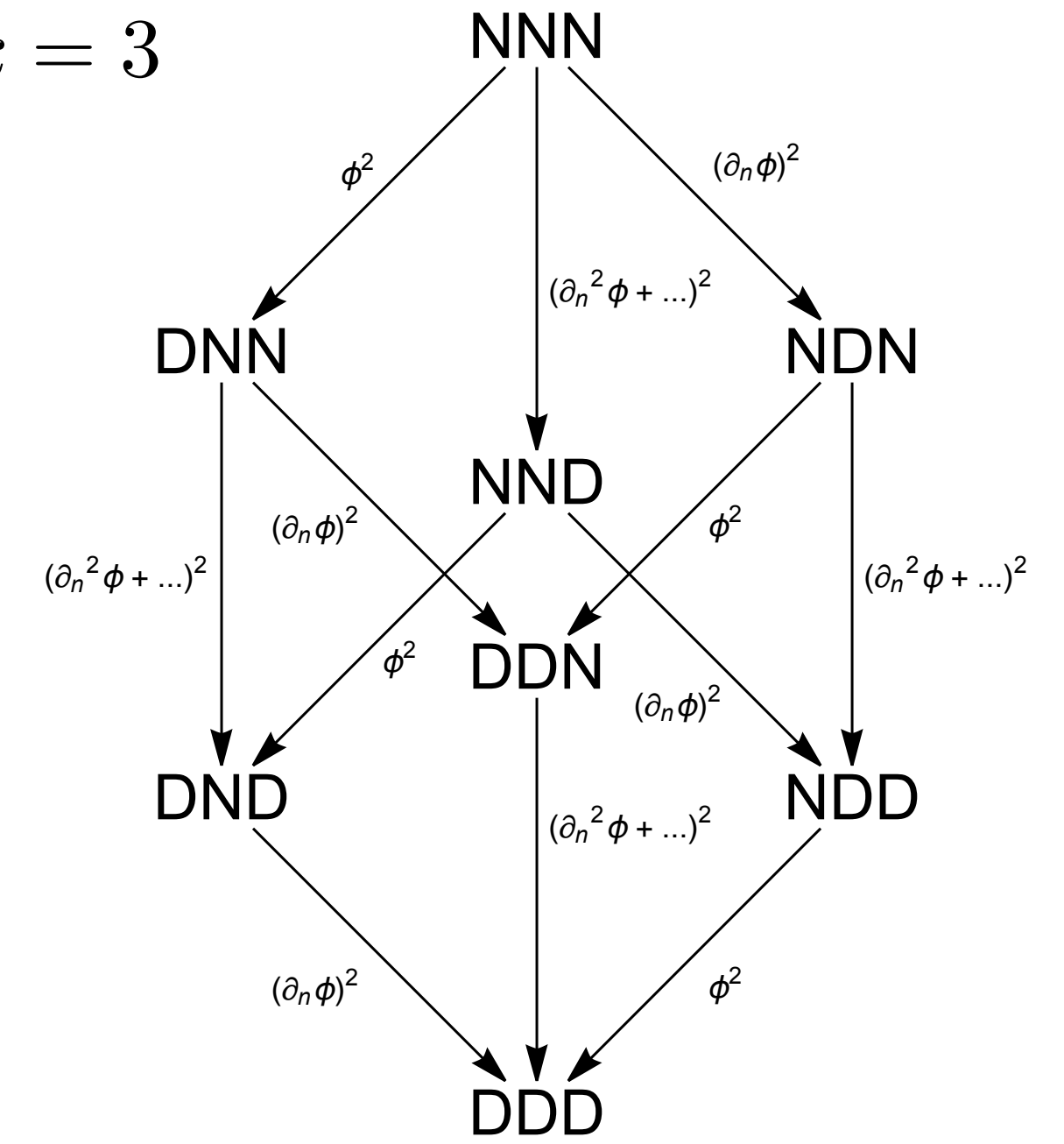
$$\Delta a_\Sigma(NN \rightarrow DN) = \frac{21}{640}$$

$$\Delta a_\Sigma(NN \rightarrow ND) = -\frac{17}{5760}$$

$$\Delta a_\Sigma(DN \rightarrow DD) = -\frac{17}{5760}$$

$$\Delta a_\Sigma(ND \rightarrow DD) = \frac{21}{640}$$

$k = 3$



- In d=5

$$\Delta a_\Sigma(\phi^2) = \frac{1375}{1152}$$

$$\Delta a_\Sigma((\partial_n \phi)^2) = \frac{21}{640}$$

$$\Delta a_\Sigma((\partial_n^2 \phi + \dots)^2) = -\frac{17}{5760}$$

Conclusion and Outlook

Summary

- We discussed the defect Weyl anomalies up to 4-dimensional defects
- Some of the anomaly coefficients are related to simple correlators in flat space-time
- Examples and computation of anomaly coefficients in free and holographic theories
- Characterisation of boundary condition for free-higher derivative theories

Outlook

- To relate additional anomaly coefficient to more complicated correlators
- Bounds on other anomaly coefficients
- Bulk theories coupled to lower dimensional one like minimal models for $p=2$
- Interacting higher-derivative theories with boundaries and defects?

Algorithm for finding the Weyl Anomalies

The algorithm (p=2, q=1 example):

- Find a basis of terms for the anomaly $\delta_\omega W$

$$\mathcal{B}_1 \delta\omega = \bar{R} \delta\omega, \quad \mathcal{B}_2 \delta\omega = R \delta\omega, \quad \mathcal{B}_3 \delta\omega = K^2 \delta\omega$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_1 \delta\omega = \mathring{K}_{ab} \mathring{K}^{ab} \delta\omega$$

$$\mathcal{D}_1 \delta\omega = K D_\perp \delta\omega, \quad \mathcal{D}_2 \delta\omega = D_\perp^2 \delta\omega$$



$$\delta_\omega W = \int \sqrt{g} \left[b_1 \mathcal{B}_1 + b_2 \mathcal{B}_2 + b_3 \mathcal{B}_3 + \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{b}_1 \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_1 + d_1 \mathcal{D}_1 + d_2 \mathcal{D}_2 \right] \delta\omega$$

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- Impose Wess-Zumino consistency $[\delta_{\omega_1}, \delta_{\omega_2}] W = 0$

$$(\sqrt{g})^{-1} \delta_1 (\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_1 \delta\omega_2) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) = 0$$

$$(\sqrt{g})^{-1} \delta_1 (\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_2 \delta\omega_2) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \propto [\delta\omega_1 D_\perp^2 \delta\omega_2 - (1 \leftrightarrow 2)]$$

$$(\sqrt{g})^{-1} \delta_1 (\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_3 \delta\omega_2) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \propto K [\delta\omega_1 D_\perp \delta\omega_2 - (1 \leftrightarrow 2)]$$

$$(\sqrt{g})^{-1} \delta_1 (\sqrt{g} \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_1 \delta\omega_2) - (1 \leftrightarrow 2) = 0$$

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$$\delta_\omega W = \int \sqrt{g} \left[b_1 \mathcal{B}_1 + \cancel{b_2 \mathcal{B}_2} + \cancel{b_3 \mathcal{B}_3} + \tilde{b}_1 \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_1 + d_1 \mathcal{D}_1 + d_2 \mathcal{D}_2 \right] \delta\omega$$

- Add all the possible counter-terms

$$W_{CT} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \int \sqrt{\gamma} c_i \mathcal{B}_i \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} \delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_1) &= 0 \\ \delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_2) &\propto D_\perp^2 \delta\omega \\ \delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_3) &\propto K D_\perp \delta\omega \end{aligned}$$

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- Add all the possible counter-terms

$$W_{CT} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \int \sqrt{\gamma} c_i \mathcal{B}_i$$

$$\delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_1) = 0$$

$$\delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_2) \propto D_\perp^2 \delta\omega \quad \bullet$$

$$\delta_\omega(\sqrt{g} \mathcal{B}_3) \propto K D_\perp \delta\omega \quad \bullet$$

$$\mathcal{A} = \int \sqrt{\gamma} \left[-b \bar{\mathcal{R}} + \mathring{K}_{ab} \mathring{K}^{ab} \right]$$

Boundary Weyl Anomaly (q=1)

- We can specify our general result to q=1. We recover [Astaneh, Solodukhin, 2021]

$$T^\mu{}_\mu|_{\Sigma_4} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(-a_\Sigma \bar{E}_4 + b_1 \mathcal{I} + b_2 (\text{Tr } \dot{K}^2)^2 + b_3 \text{Tr } \dot{K}^4 + b_4 W_{abcd} W^{abcd} + b_5 W_{anbn} W^a{}_n{}^b{}_n \right. \\ \left. + b_6 W_{abcd} \dot{K}^{ac} \dot{K}^{bd} + b_7 W_{anbn} \dot{K}^a{}_c \dot{K}^{cb} + b_8 W_{nabc} W_n{}^{abc} \right)$$

- Also in this case, the term $\mathcal{I}$ is related to the displacement two-point function

$$\mathcal{I} = -\frac{2}{3} R_{ab} \dot{K}^a{}_c \dot{K}^{cb} + \frac{1}{4} R \text{Tr } \dot{K}^2 - \frac{1}{3} R_{nn} \text{Tr } \dot{K}^2 + \frac{1}{2} W_{anbn} K \dot{K}^{ab} + \frac{1}{16} K^2 \text{Tr } \dot{K}^2 \\ + \dot{K}^{ab} D_n W_{anbn} - \frac{1}{2} K \text{Tr } \dot{K}^3 + \frac{2}{9} \bar{D}^a \dot{K}_{ab} \bar{D}_c \dot{K}^{bc} \quad \longrightarrow \quad b_1 \leq 0$$

- Boundary anomaly coefficients for 5d probe branes

a_Σ	b_1	b_2	b_3	b_4	b_5	b_6	b_7	b_8
$\frac{1}{4}$	-1	$\frac{3}{4}$	$-\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	-1	2	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$

AdS/BCFT

[Takayanagi, 2011]

[Fujita, Takayanagi, Tonni, 2011]

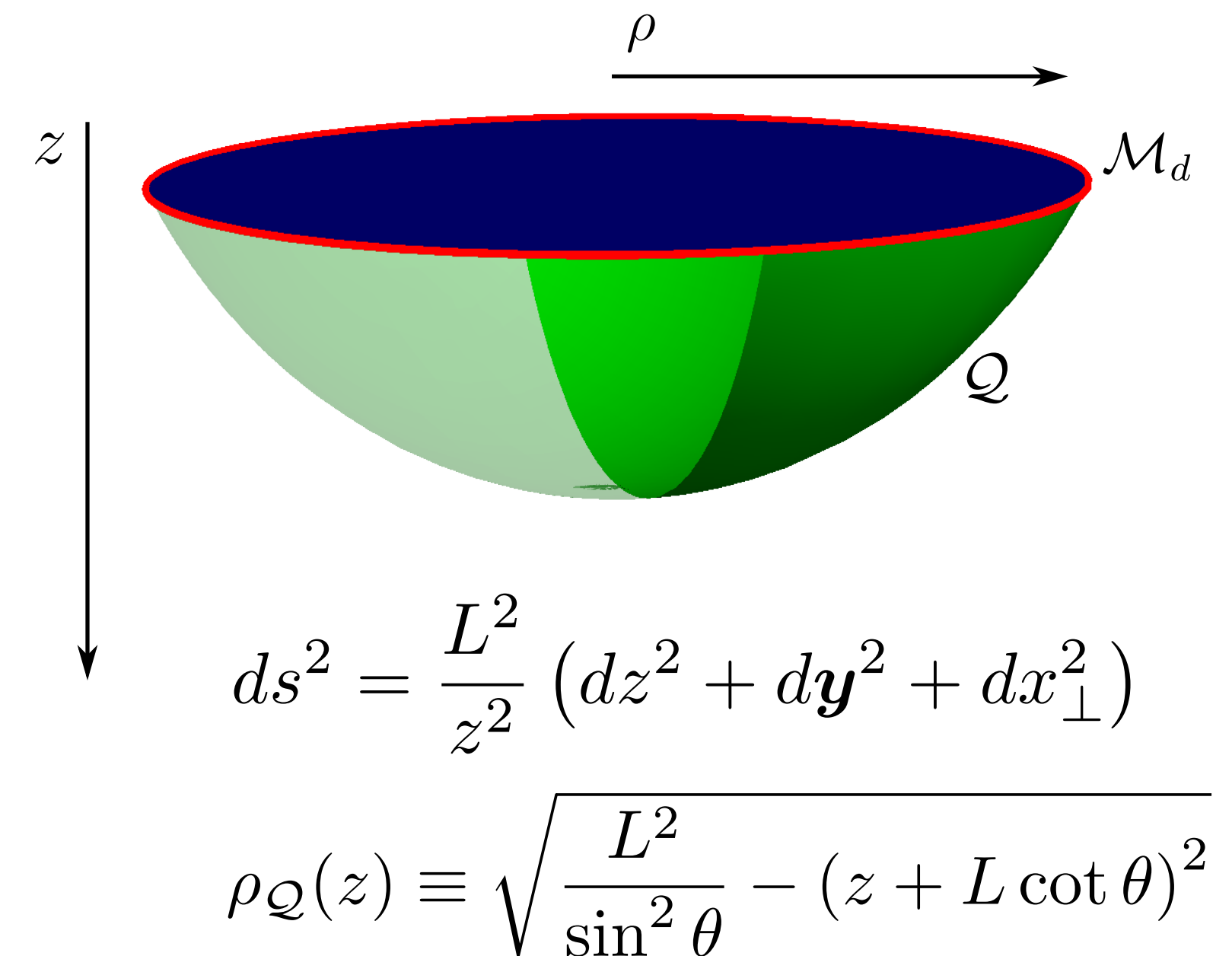
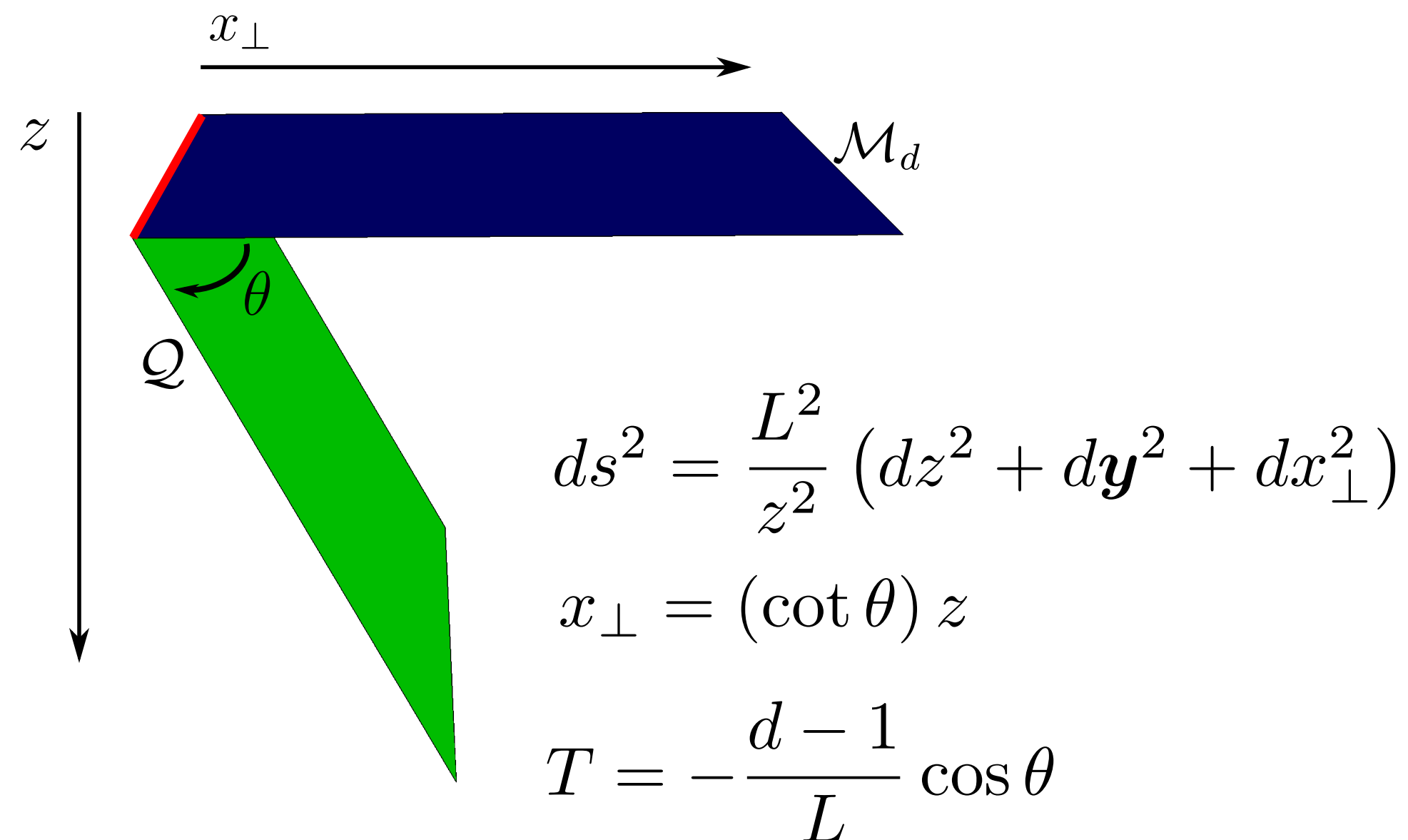
- Holographic description: boundary in the space-time

$$S_{\text{grav}} = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int_{\mathcal{N}} \sqrt{\mathfrak{g}} (\mathcal{R} - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{8\pi G_N} \int_{\mathcal{Q}} \sqrt{\bar{\mathfrak{g}}} (\mathcal{K} - T) - \frac{1}{8\pi G_N} \int_{\mathcal{M}_d} \sqrt{\bar{\mathfrak{g}}} \mathcal{K}$$

Einstein equations + (Neumann) boundary condition

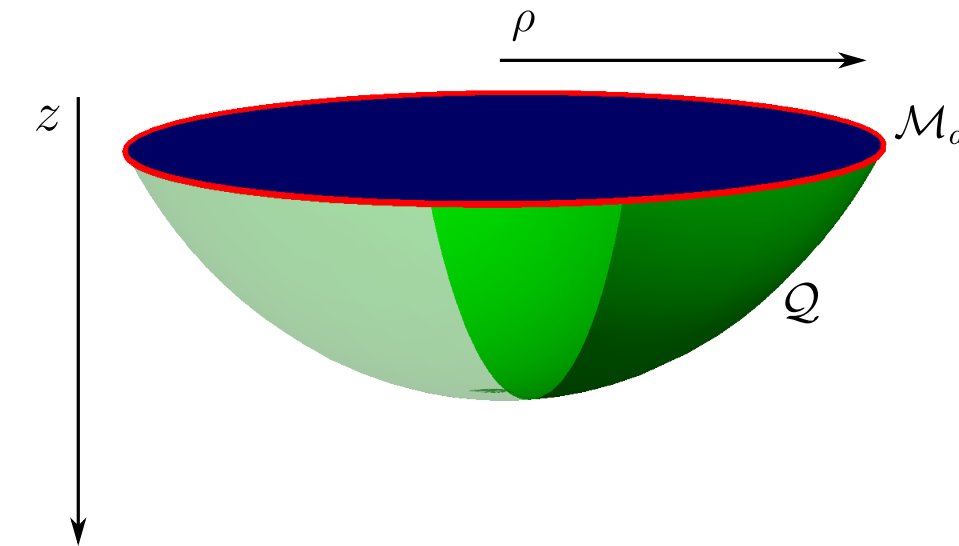
$$R_{MN} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{R} \mathfrak{g}_{MN} + \Lambda \mathfrak{g}_{MN} = 0 \quad \mathcal{K}_{MN} = (\mathcal{K} - T) \bar{\mathfrak{g}}_{MN}$$

- Conformal solutions



- (Half-)sphere free energy

$$S_{\text{grav}} = \frac{\pi L^4}{6G_N} \left[-\frac{1 + 2 \sin^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \cot \theta \log \left(\frac{L}{\epsilon} \right) + \dots \right]$$



$$a_{\Sigma} = -\frac{\pi L^4}{24G_N} \frac{1 + 2 \sin^2 \theta}{\sin^2 \theta} \cot \theta$$

Boundary RG flow

$$\theta_{\text{UV}} \geq \theta_{\text{IR}} \longrightarrow a_{\Sigma}^{(\text{UV})} \geq a_{\Sigma}^{(\text{IR})}$$

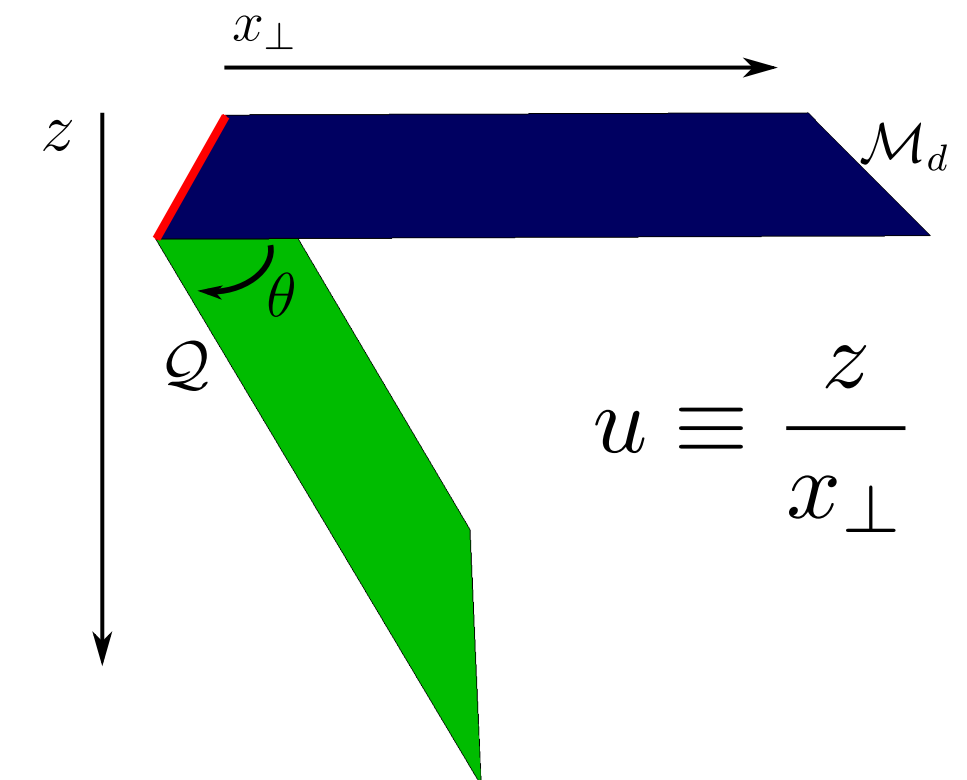
- Metric perturbation about AdS (back-reaction)

$$ds^2 = \frac{L_{\text{AdS}}^2}{z^2} \left[dz^2 + \left(1 + \epsilon^2 x_{\perp}^2 \mathcal{G}^{(2)}(u) + \epsilon^3 x_{\perp}^3 \mathcal{G}^{(3)}(u) \right) dx_{\perp}^2 + \right. \\ \left. + \left(\delta_{ab} + \epsilon x_{\perp} \mathcal{F}_{ab}^{(1)}(u) + \epsilon^2 x_{\perp}^2 \mathcal{F}_{ab}^{(2)}(u) + \epsilon^3 x_{\perp}^3 \mathcal{F}_{ab}^{(3)}(u) \right) dy^a dy^b \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4)$$

- Embedding for $\mathcal{Q}$

$$u_{\mathcal{Q}}(x) = \tan \theta + \epsilon B^{(1)} x_{\perp} + \epsilon^2 B^{(2)} x_{\perp}^2 + \epsilon^3 B^{(3)} x_{\perp}^3 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4)$$

- We can solve the system of equation order by order in ϵ



- Solution up to third order in metric perturbation
- Values of the anomaly coefficients EXACT in θ

$$b_1 = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{\theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta} \frac{\pi L^4}{G_N} \quad b_1 \leq 0$$

$$2b_4 + b_5 = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{\tan \theta - \theta} \frac{\pi L^4}{G_N}$$

$$b_6 + b_7 = \frac{1}{24} \frac{13 \sin \theta - 3 \sin(3\theta) - 4\theta \cos \theta}{(\theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta)(\sin \theta - \theta \cos \theta)} \frac{\pi L^4}{G_N}$$

$$\frac{b_3}{2} - 2b_4 + b_6 = \frac{1}{48} \frac{13 - 3 \cos(2\theta) - 10\theta \cot \theta}{(1 - \theta \cot \theta)(\theta - \sin \theta \cos \theta)} \frac{\pi L_{\text{AdS}}^4}{G_N}$$

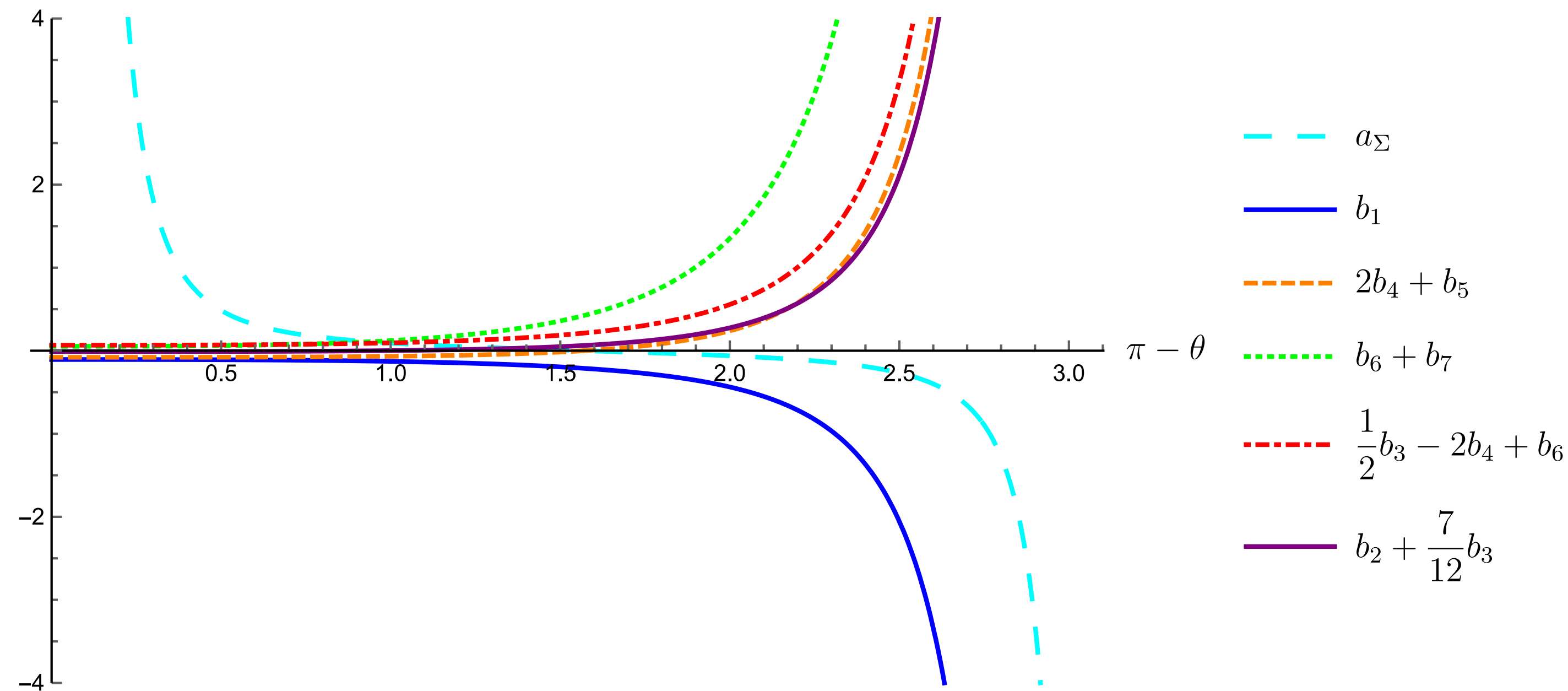
$$b_2 + \frac{7}{12} b_3 = \frac{1}{93312} \frac{1}{(\sin(2\theta) - 2\theta)^4 (\theta \cos \theta - \sin \theta)} \times$$

$$\times \left[12 (7963 + 16996\theta^2 - 6144\theta^4) \cos \theta - 24(5023 + 36\theta^2) \cos(3\theta) \right.$$

$$+ 8(3719 + 4644\theta^2) \cos(5\theta) - 4699 \cos(7\theta) - 57 \cos(9\theta)$$

$$+ 24\theta(-13933 + 1488\theta^2) \sin \theta + 144\theta(600\theta^2 - 421) \sin(3\theta)$$

$$\left. + 21968\theta \sin(5\theta) - 11131\theta \sin(7\theta) + 429\theta \sin(9\theta) \right] \frac{\pi L_{\text{AdS}}^4}{G_N}$$



Scale vs Conformal Invariance

- Example of scale (and Lorentz invariant) but not conformal boundary conditions

$$\frac{dP^a}{dt} = \int_{t,z=0} d^{d-2}x \left[T^{za} + \partial_t \tau^{at} \right]$$

$$\frac{dD}{dt} = \int_{t,z=0} d^{d-2}x \left[x_a T^{az} + \partial_t (x_a \tau^{at}) \right]$$

$$\frac{dK^a}{dt} = \int_{t,z=0} d^{d-2}x \left[(2x^a x_b - x^2 \delta_b^a) T^{bz} + \partial_t (2x^t x_b - x^2 \delta_b^t) \tau^{bt} \right]$$

- If we take the free and not supported bc in plate theory we have to set to zero the following

$$\tilde{\Phi}^{(2,2)} \equiv (\partial_n^2 + \sigma \square_{||}) \phi, \quad \tilde{\Phi}^{(2,3)} \equiv (\partial_n^3 + (2 - \sigma) \partial_n \square_{||}) \phi$$

- This gives $T^{az} = -\partial_b \tau^{ab} \neq 0$

- Boundary scale invariance requires $\tau_a^a = \partial^a j_a$



$$\begin{array}{l} \sigma = -1 \\ j_a = 0 \end{array} \quad \text{conformal}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \sigma \neq -1 \\ j_a \neq 0 \end{array} \quad \text{non conformal}$$

- It is achieved by deforming the boundary action with

$$S_{\text{marg}} = \sigma \int d^{d-1}x \phi \partial_{||}^2 \partial_{\perp} \phi$$