

# Holographic three-point functions of semiclassical states

Konstantin Zarembo  
(Nordita)

K.Z.,1008.1059

# AdS/CFT correspondence

Yang-Mills theory with  
N=4 supersymmetry



Maldacena'97

String theory on  
 $AdS_5 \times S^5$  background

$$\lambda = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N$$

't Hooft coupling

$$\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi}$$

string tension

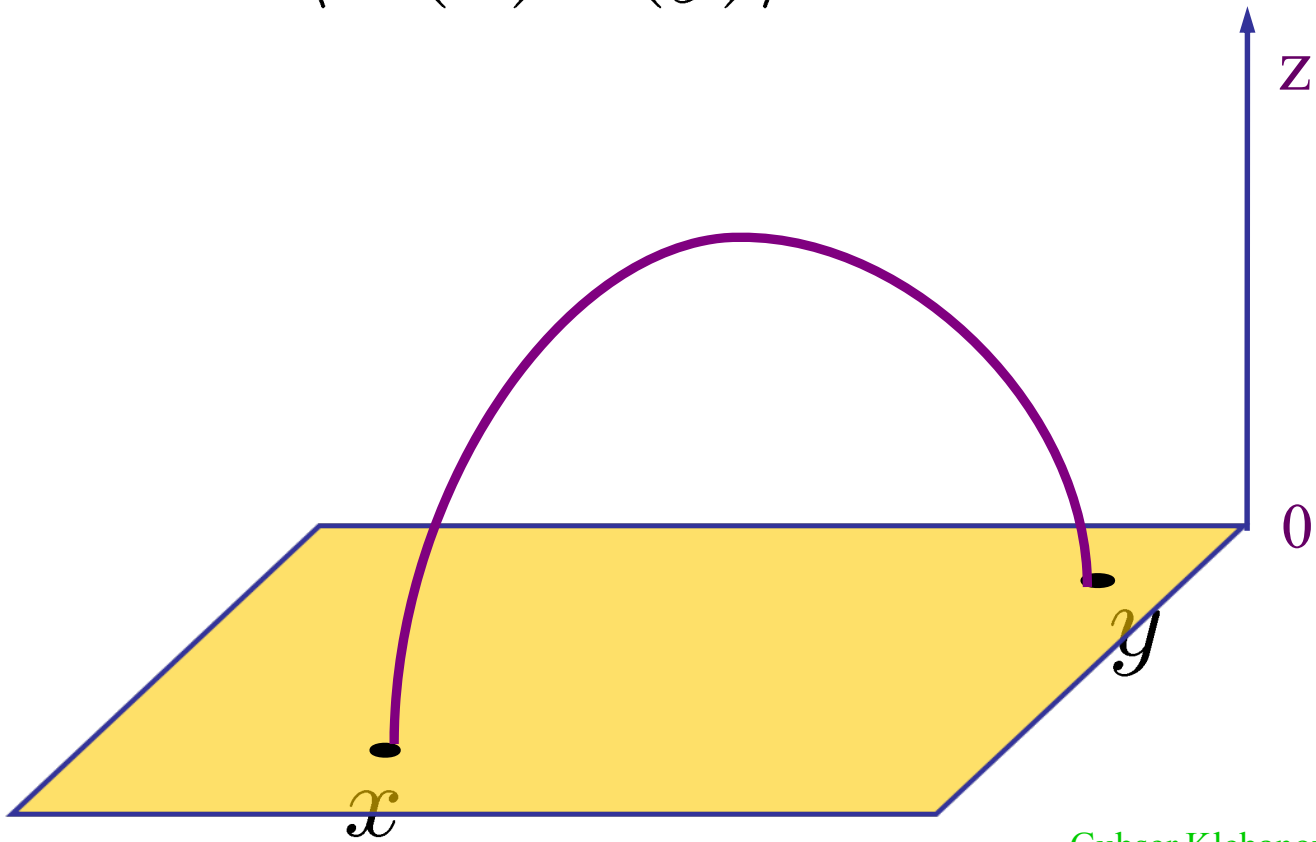
$$N \rightarrow \infty$$

planar / no quantum gravity

$$\lambda \gg 1$$

string theory - classical

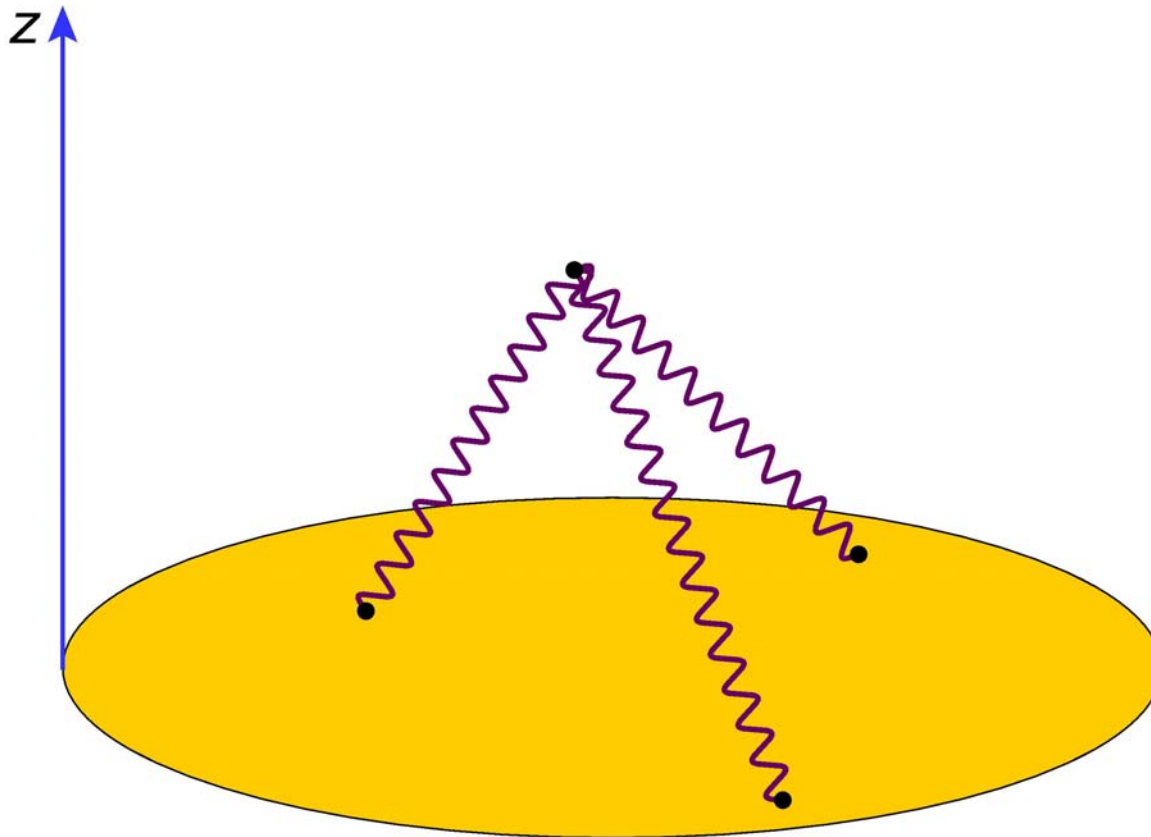
$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \mathcal{O}(y) \rangle$$



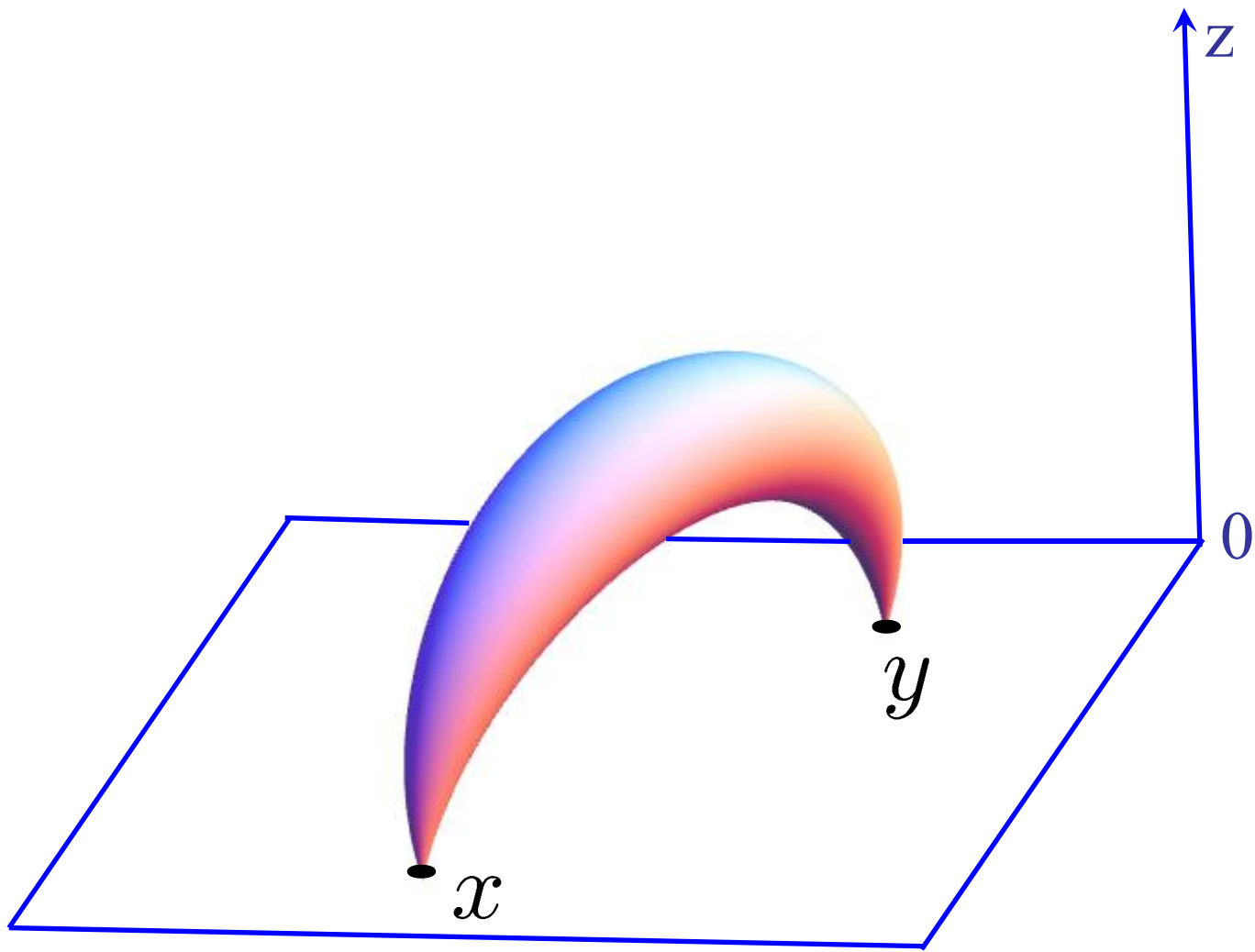
Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov '98

Witten '98

# Witten diagrams

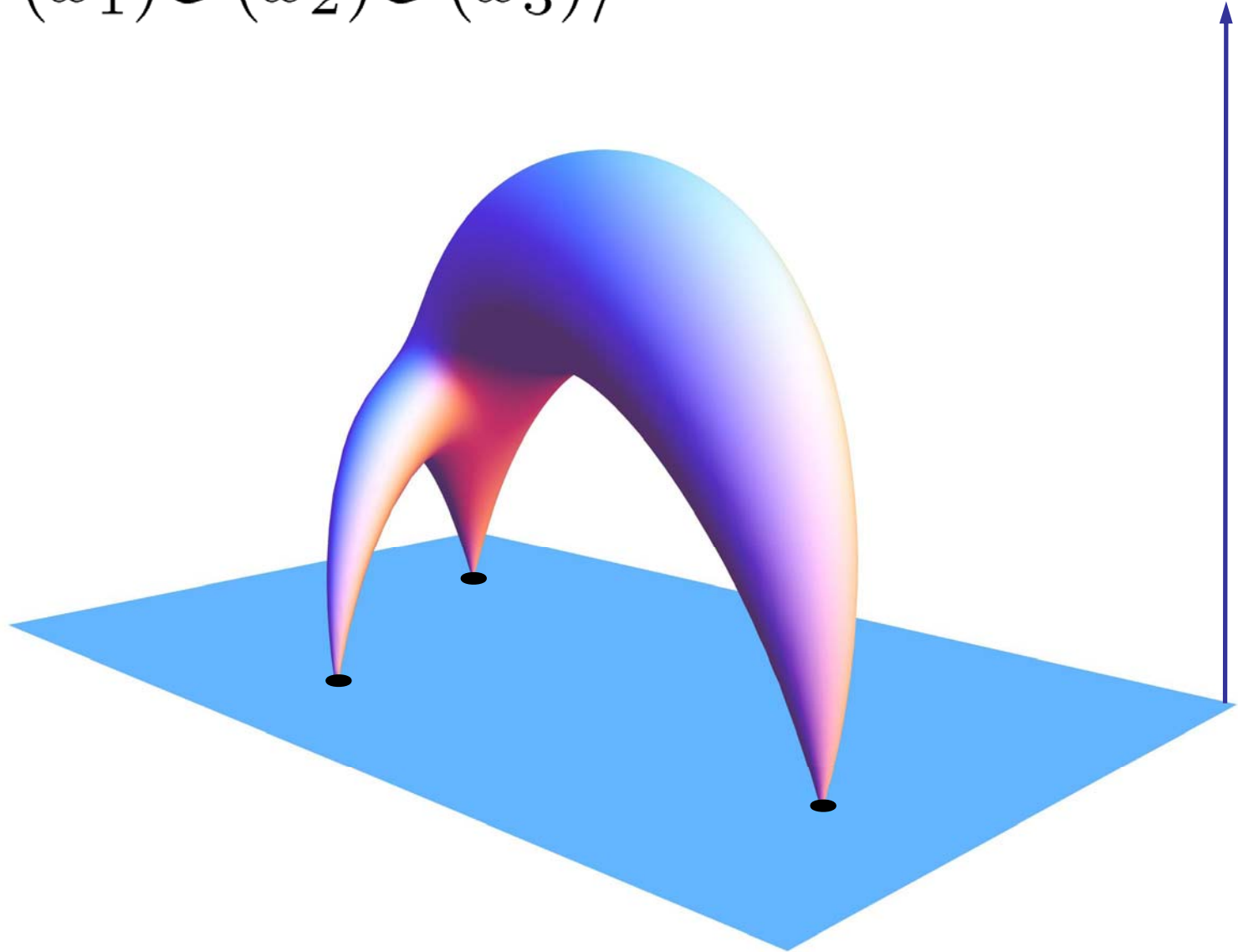


$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \mathcal{O}(x_2) \mathcal{O}(x_3) \rangle$$



$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \mathcal{O}(y) \rangle$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \mathcal{O}(x_2) \mathcal{O}(x_3) \rangle$$



**Idea:** consider “semiclassical” operators with large quantum numbers

Berenstein,Maldacena,Nastase'02  
Gubser,Klebanov,Polyakov'02

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{tr } \Phi_{I_1} \dots \Phi_{I_L}$$

$$L \sim \sqrt{\lambda} \gg 1$$

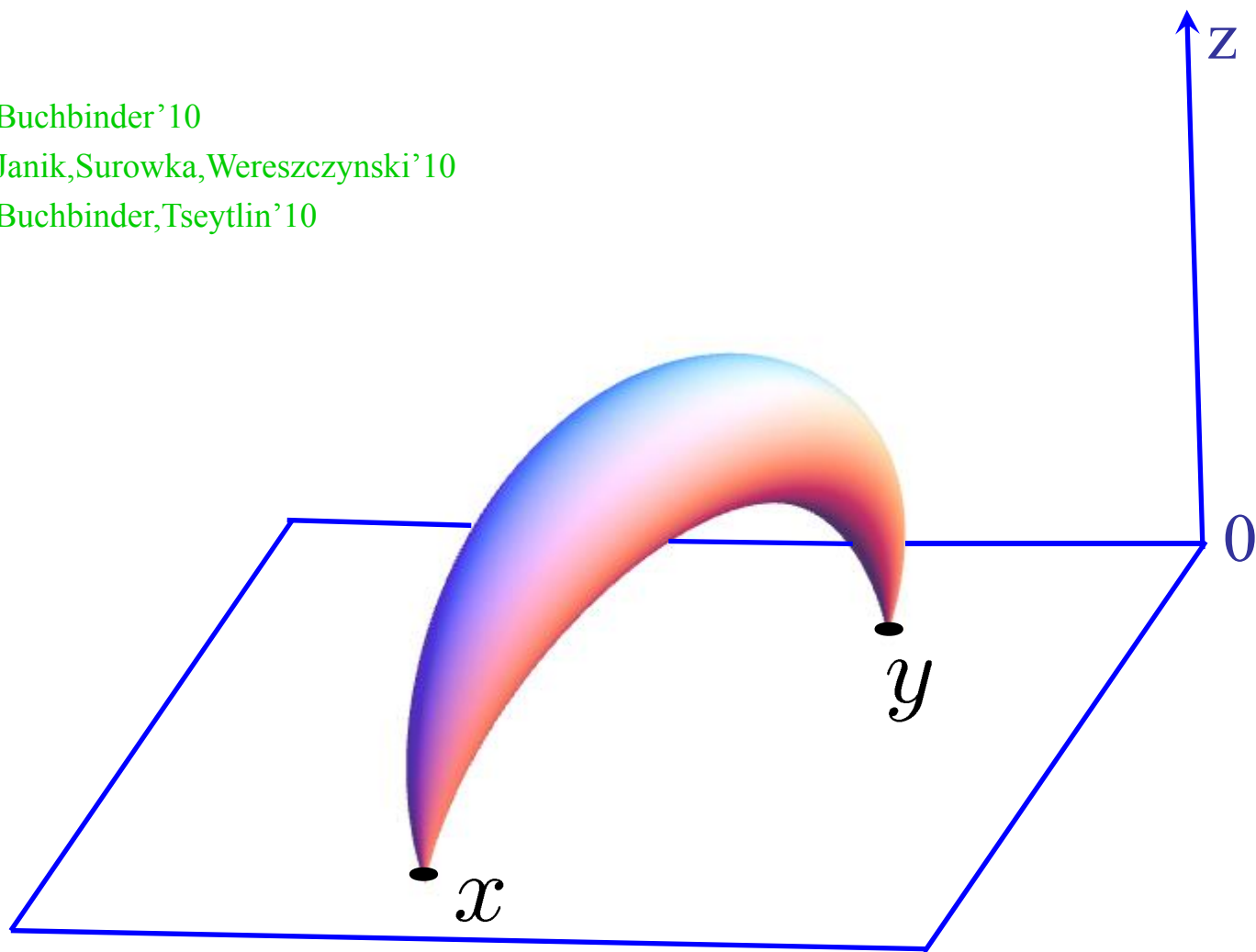
- described by classical strings



Buchbinder'10

Janik,Surowka,Wereszczynski'10

Buchbinder,Tseytlin'10



## Two-point functions

$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_I^\dagger(x) \mathcal{O}_J(y) \right\rangle = \frac{\delta_J^I}{|x - y|^{2\Delta_I}}$$

Spectrum:  $\Delta_I$

Known from integrability

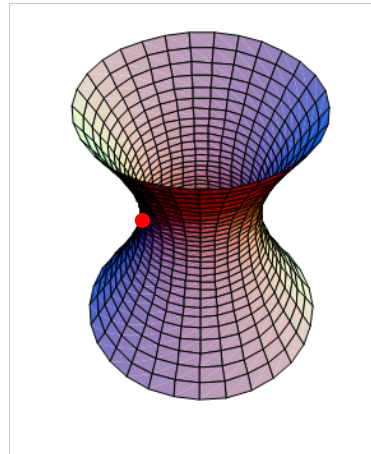
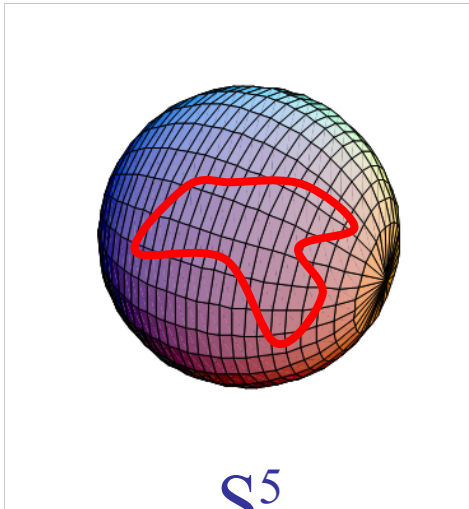
exactly at large-N

Bombardelli, Fioravanti, Tateo '09

Gromov, Kazakov, Vieira '09

Arutyunov, Frolov '09

# Semiclassical states



Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov '02

Frolov, Tseytlin '03

...

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{tr } Z^{L-M} W^M + \text{perm}$$

Periodic solutions in sigma-model  $\longleftrightarrow$  Long operators in SYM

Energy:  $\Delta \sim \sqrt{\lambda}$

Angular momenta:  $L, M \sim \sqrt{\lambda}$

...

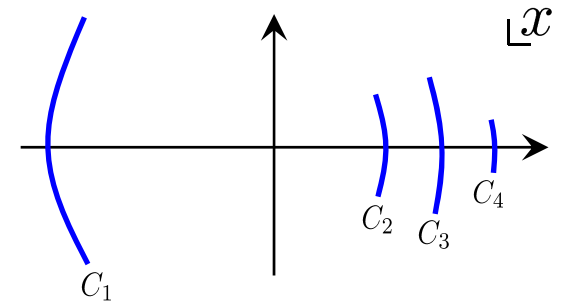
# Finite-gap solutions

$$2 \int \frac{dy \rho(y)}{x-y} = \frac{x}{x^2 - \frac{\lambda}{16\pi^2 L^2}} \frac{\Delta}{L} + 2\pi n_k, \quad x \in C_k$$

Kazakov, Marshakov, Minahan, Z. '04

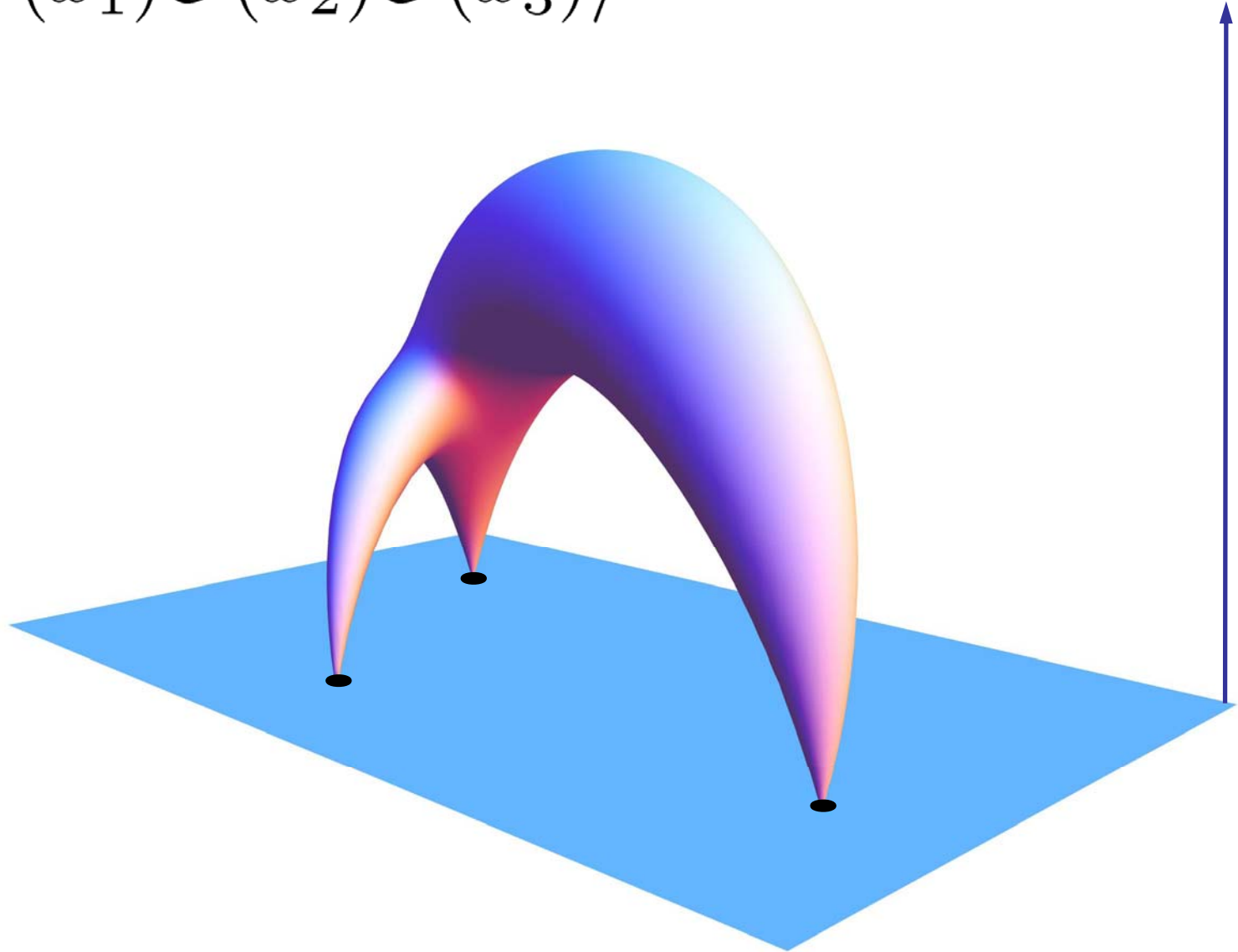
Normalization:  $\int dx \rho(x) = \frac{M}{L} + \frac{\Delta - L}{2L}$

Level matching:  $\int \frac{dx \rho(x)}{x} = 2\pi m$



Scaling dimension:  $\Delta = L + \frac{\lambda}{8\pi^2 L} \int \frac{dx \rho(x)}{x^2}$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\mathcal{O}(x_2)\mathcal{O}(x_3) \rangle$$



## Three-point functions

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \mathcal{O}_3(x_3) \rangle = \frac{C_{123}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3} |x_1 - x_3|^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_2} |x_2 - x_3|^{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_1}}$$

OPE coefficients:

$$\mathcal{O}_J(x) \mathcal{O}_K(0) = \sum_I C_{JK}^I |x|^{\Delta_I - \Delta_J - \Delta_K} \mathcal{O}_I(0) + \text{descendants}$$

Simplest  $1/N$  observables:

$$C_{JK}^I = O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

# Correlation functions in string theory

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_n(x_n) \rangle_{\text{SYM}} = \int d^{2n-6} \sigma_i \langle V_1(\sigma_1; x_1) \dots V_n(\sigma_n; x_n) \rangle_{\text{world-sheet}}$$

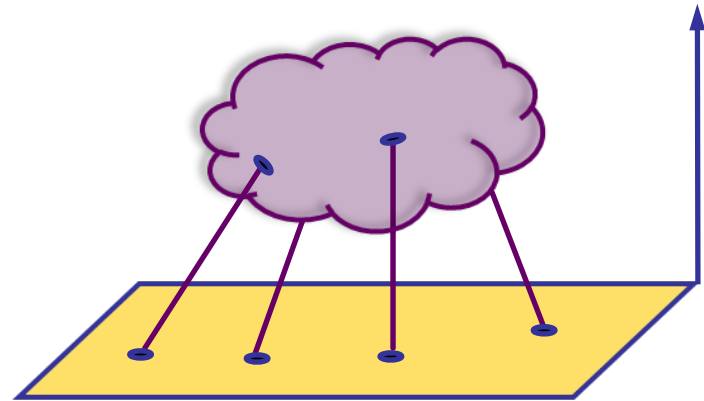
Vertex operators:

- (1,1) operators in the sigma-model

Semiclassically:

$$(\Delta_{AdS^5} + \Delta_{S^5} + M^2) V = 0$$

Callan, Gan'86

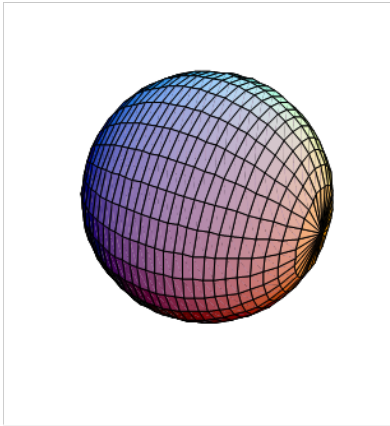


# Vertex operators in $AdS_5 \times S^5$

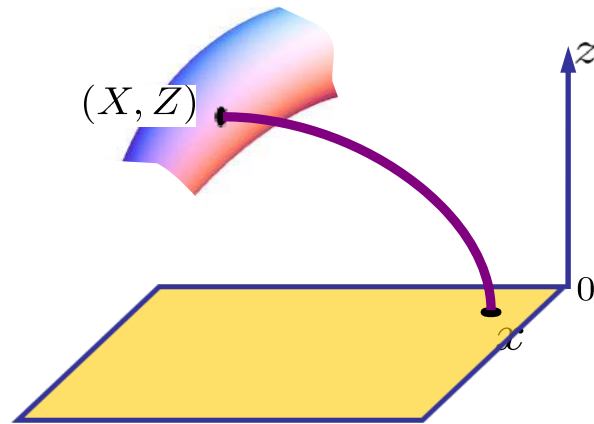
$$V(Z, X, \mathbf{N}; x) \sim Y_I(\mathbf{N}) \times \frac{Z^\Delta}{\left[ Z^2 + (X - x)^2 \right]^\Delta}$$

Polyakov'01  
Tseytlin'03

Spherical functions



$S^5$



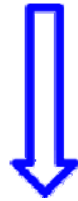
$AdS_5$



## Semiclassical limit

$$S = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma G_{MN} \partial_a X^M \partial^a X^N - \sum_i \ln V_i(\sigma_i)$$

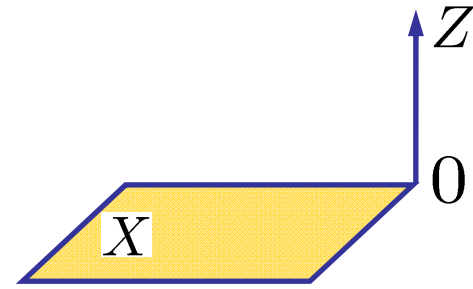
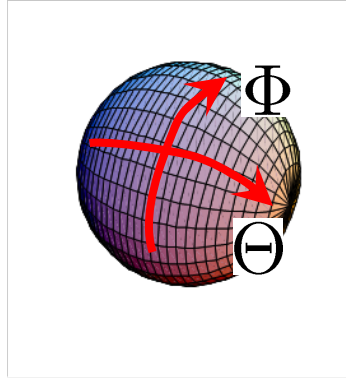
Semiclassical states:  $\ln V_i \sim J_i, \Delta_i \sim \sqrt{\lambda}$



Sources in classical equations of motion:

$$\partial_a \partial^a X^M + \Gamma_{NL}^M \partial_a X^N \partial^a X^L = -\frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{\lambda}} G^{MN} \sum_i \frac{\partial \ln V_i}{\partial X^N} \delta(\sigma - \sigma_i)$$

Example:



$$V \sim (\sin \Theta)^k e^{ik\Phi} \frac{Z^k}{\left[ Z^2 + (X - x)^2 \right]^k} \xrightarrow{X(\sigma) \rightarrow x} (\sin \Theta)^k e^{ik\Phi} Z^{-k}$$

10d massless  $\rightarrow$  creates a BPS state

$$-\partial^2 \ln Z - \frac{(\partial X)^2}{Z^2} = -\frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \delta(\sigma)$$

$$-\partial^2 \Theta + \sin \Theta \cos \Theta (\partial \Phi)^2 = \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \cot \Theta \delta(\sigma)$$

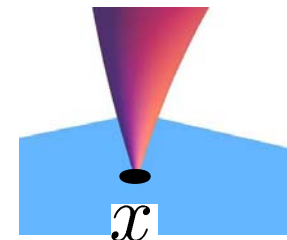
$$-\partial_{\mathbf{a}} (\sin^2 \Theta \partial^{\mathbf{a}} \Phi) = \frac{2\pi k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \delta(\sigma),$$



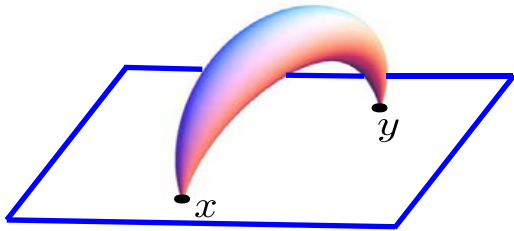
boundary  
conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \ln Z &\rightarrow -\frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \ln |\sigma| \\ \Theta &\rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \Phi &\rightarrow -i \frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \ln |\sigma| \end{aligned}$$

de Boer, Ooguri, Robins, Tannenhauser '98



# Holographic two-point functions



Buchbinder'10

Janik, Surowka, Wereszczynski'10

Buchbinder, Tseytlin'10

Two-point functions  $\leftrightarrow$  Spectrum  $\leftrightarrow$  Periodic solutions in global AdS

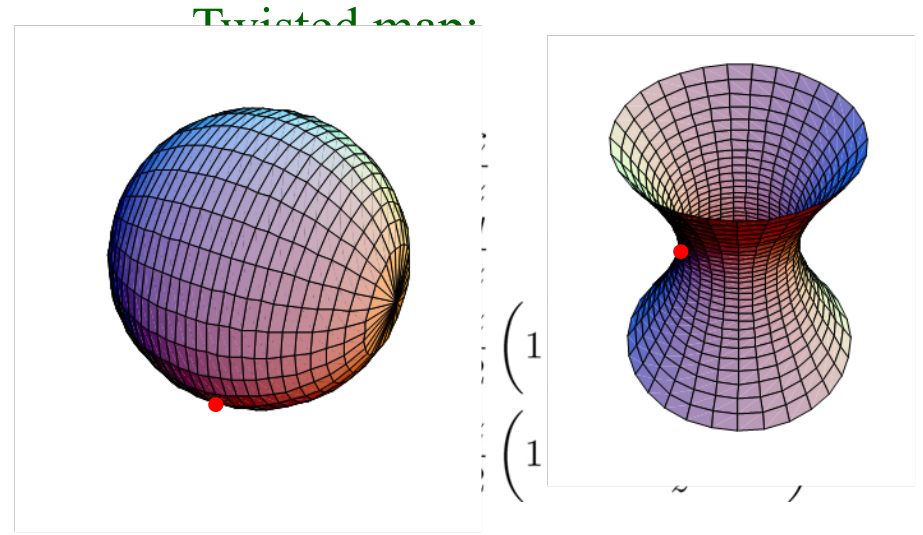
- start with time-periodic (finite-gap) solution in global AdS
- Wick-rotate
- transform to Poincaré patch
- solution in general complex
- does not necessarily shrink to a point on the boundary
- vertex operators  $\leftrightarrow$  finite-gap solutions (?)

Example: BMN string:  $t = \kappa\tau, \rho = 0, \varphi = \kappa\tau \iff \mathcal{O} = \text{tr } Z^L$

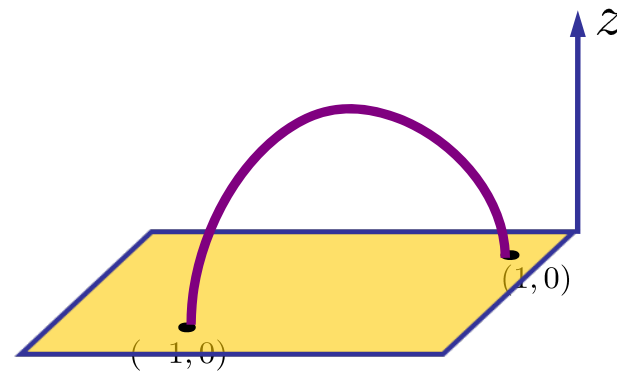
Standard global-Poincaré map ( $\text{AdS}_3$ ):

Cartesian coordinates on  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sinh \rho \cos \varphi = \frac{x}{z} \\ \sinh \rho \sin \varphi = \frac{y}{z} \\ \cosh \rho \sinh t = \frac{z}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{z^2} \right) \\ \cosh \rho \cosh t = \frac{z}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{x^2 + y^2 + 1}{z^2} \right) \end{array} \right.$$



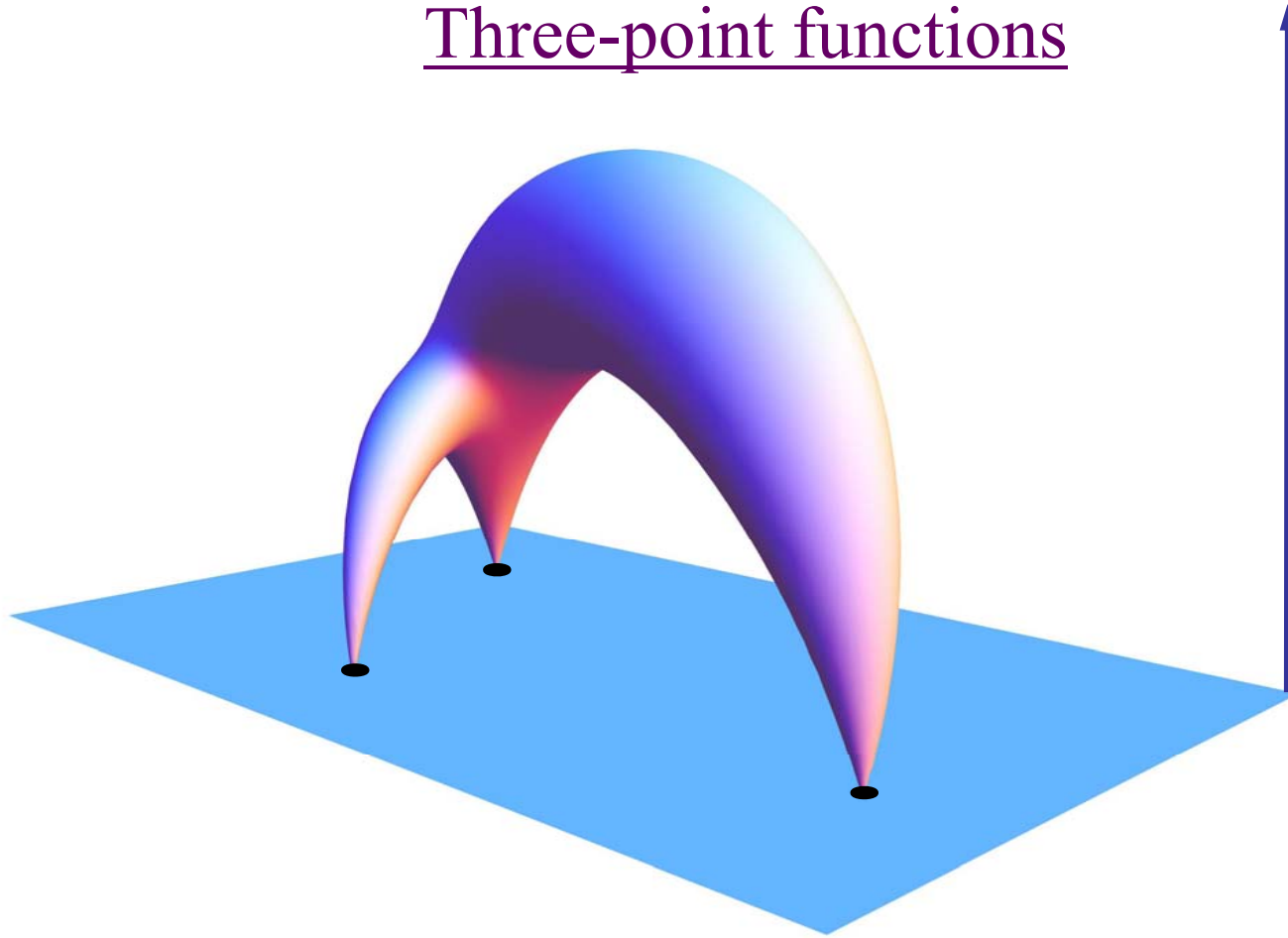
$$\begin{aligned} x &= \tanh \kappa\tau \\ z &= \frac{1}{\cosh \kappa\tau} \\ \varphi &= i\kappa\tau \end{aligned}$$



Tsuji'06

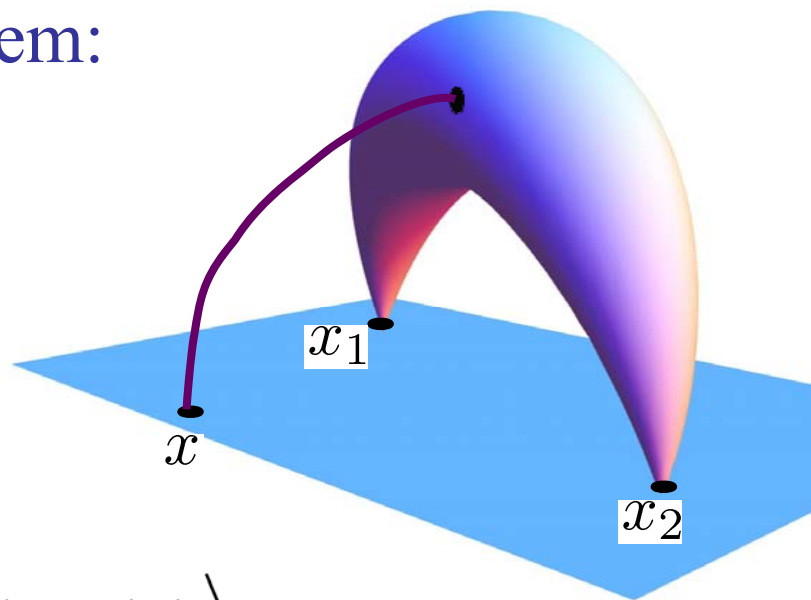
Janik, Surowka, Wereszczynski'10

# Three-point functions



- No solutions known

# Simpler problem:



Z.'10

Costa, Monteiro, Santos, Zoakos'10

Roiban, Tseytlin'10

Hernandez'10

Arnaudov, Rashkov'10

Georgiou'10

Park, Lee'10

Buchbinder, Tseytlin'10

Bak, Chen, Wu'11

Bissi, Kristjansen, Young, Zoubos'11

Arnaudov, Rashkov, Vetsov'11

Bai, Lee, Park'11

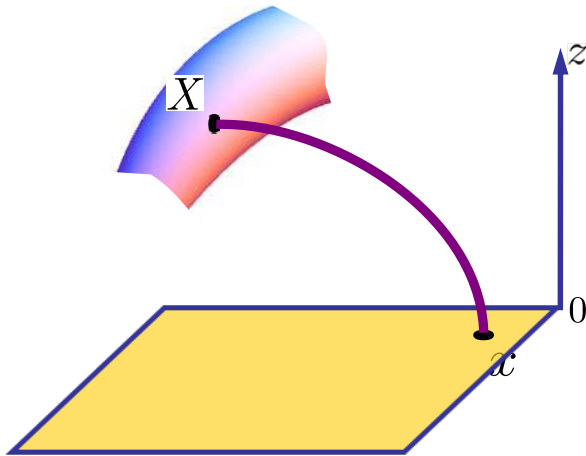
$$\langle \mathcal{O}_J^\dagger(x_1) \mathcal{O}_K(x_2) \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O}_J : \quad \Delta_J \sim \sqrt{\lambda} \\ \mathcal{O}_K : \quad \Delta_K \sim \sqrt{\lambda} \end{array} \right\} \text{create fat string}$$
$$\mathcal{O}_I : \quad \Delta_I \sim 1 \quad \text{creates slim string}$$

# General formalism

$\mathcal{W}$  big non-local operator that creates classical string

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle}{\mathcal{W}} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\pi}{\varepsilon^{\Delta_I}} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\Delta_I - 1}} \left\langle \phi_I(x, \varepsilon) \frac{1}{Z_{\text{str}}} \int \mathcal{D}X e^{-S_{\text{str}}[X]} \right\rangle_{\text{bulk}} .$$



$$S_{\text{str}} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \left[ \frac{(\partial X^\mu)^2 + (\partial Z)^2}{Z^2} + (\partial \mathbf{N})^2 + \gamma_{MN} \partial_a X^M \partial^a X^N \right]$$

metric perturbation  
due to operator insertion

$$\gamma_{MN} = V_{MN}^I \left( X, \frac{\partial}{\partial X} \right) \phi_I$$

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{W} \rangle} = - \frac{\sqrt{2(\Delta_I - 1)\lambda}}{8\pi^2} \int d^2\sigma \partial_a X^M \partial^a X^N V_{MN}^I \frac{Z^{\Delta_I}}{[Z^2 + (X - x)^2]^{\Delta_I}}$$


vertex operator

OPE coefficient:

$$C_I[\mathcal{W}] = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{2\Delta_I} \frac{\langle \mathcal{W} \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{W} \rangle} = - \frac{\sqrt{2(\Delta_I - 1)\lambda}}{8\pi^2} \int d^2\sigma \partial_a X^M \partial^a X^N V_{MN}^I Z^{\Delta_I}$$



## Chiral Primary Operators

$$\mathcal{O}_I^{\text{CPO}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{8\pi^2}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{k}{2}} K_I^{i_1 \dots i_k} \text{tr} \Phi_{i_1} \dots \Phi_{i_k}$$


symmetric traceless tensor of SO(6)

Dual to scalar supergravity mode on S<sup>5</sup>

Wavefunction on S<sup>5</sup>:

$$Y_I(\mathbf{n}) = K_I^{i_1 \dots i_k} n_{i_1} \dots n_{i_k}$$

(spherical function of SO(6))

## Kaluza-Klein reduction

$$h_{mn} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}_k} \frac{2}{k+1} Y_I [2\nabla_m \nabla_n - k(k-1)g_{mn}] \phi_I$$

$$h_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{2}{\mathcal{N}_k} k g_{\alpha\beta} Y_I \phi_I$$

Kim, Romans, van Nieuwenhuizen '85

Lee, Minwalla, Rangamani, Seiberg '98

$$\mathcal{N}_k^2 = \frac{N^2 k(k-1)}{2^{k-3} \pi^2 (k+1)^2}$$

Vertex operator:

$$C_I^{\text{CPO}}[\mathcal{W}] = \frac{2^{\frac{k}{2}-3} (k+1) \sqrt{k\lambda}}{\pi N} \int d^2\sigma Y_I(\mathbf{N}) Z^k \left[ \frac{(\partial X)^2 - (\partial Z)^2}{Z^2} - (\partial \mathbf{N})^2 \right]$$

# Correlator of three chiral primaries

Superconformal highest weight:

$$\mathcal{O}_L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \left( \frac{4\pi^2}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{L}{2}} \text{tr} Z^L, \quad Z = \Phi_1 + i\Phi_2$$

$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_{J+k}^\dagger(x) \mathcal{O}_J(y) \mathcal{O}_k(\infty) \right\rangle @ \begin{array}{l} J \sim \sqrt{\lambda} \\ k \sim 1 \end{array}$$



Spherical function:

$$Y_k = \left( \frac{n_1 + in_2}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^k = 2^{-\frac{k}{2}} (\sin \theta)^k e^{ik\varphi}$$

## Classical solution:

$$\begin{aligned}x &= R \tanh \kappa \tau & \kappa &= \frac{J}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \\z &= \frac{R}{\cosh \kappa \tau} & R &= |x - y| \\ \varphi &= i\kappa \tau, \quad \theta = \frac{\pi}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

## OPE coefficient:

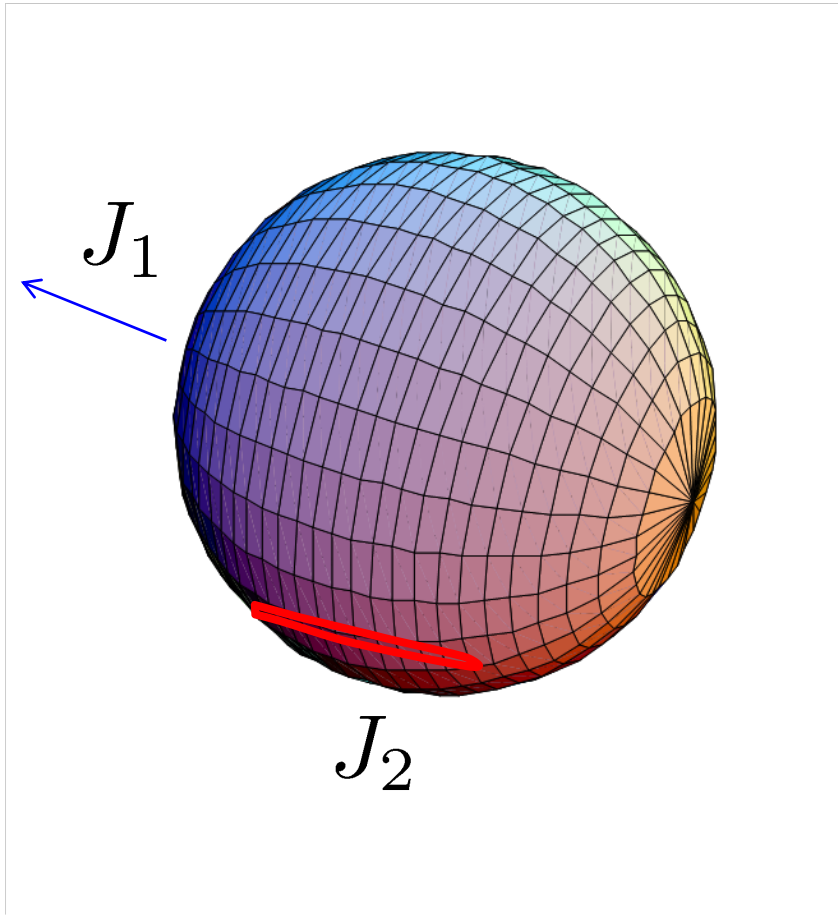
$$C_{J,k}^{J+k} = \frac{1}{N} 2^{-k-1} J(k+1) \sqrt{k} \kappa \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\tau \frac{e^{-k\kappa\tau}}{\cosh^{k+2} \kappa\tau} = \frac{1}{N} J \sqrt{k}$$

## Exact OPE coefficient of three CPO's:

$$C_{Jk}^{J+k} = \frac{1}{N} \sqrt{(J+k)Jk}$$

Agree at  $J \gg k$

# Spinning string on $S^5$



$$\Phi = i\omega_1\tau$$

$$\Psi = i\omega_2\tau$$

Frolov, Tseytlin '03

$$\Theta = \Theta(\sigma)$$

$$\dot{\Theta}^2 = \kappa^2 - \omega_1^2 \sin^2 \Theta - \omega_2^2 \cos^2 \Theta$$

Elliptic modulus:

$$s = \frac{\kappa^2 - \omega_1^2}{\omega_2^2 - \omega_1^2}$$

$$\sqrt{\omega_2^2 - \omega_1^2} = \frac{2K(s)}{\pi}$$

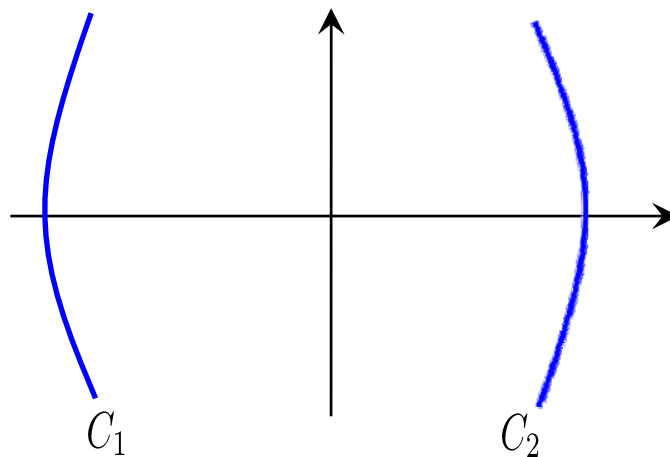
Conserved charges:  $J_1 = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}\omega_1 E(s)}{K(s)}$ ,  $J_2 = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}\omega_2 (K(s) - E(s))}{K(s)}$ ,  $\Delta = \sqrt{\lambda}\kappa$

Dual to

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{fold.}} = \text{tr} (Z^{J_1} W^{J_2} + \text{perm.})$$

The concrete operator can be identified by comparing the finite-gap curve to Bethe ansatz

Beisert, Minahan, Staudacher, Z. '03



## OPE coefficient:

$$C_{\text{fold.},k}^{\text{fold.}} = \frac{1}{N} \frac{\pi\sqrt{k}\Delta(1-a^2)\Gamma\left(\frac{(1+a)k}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{(1-a)k}{2}\right)}{8sK(s)(k-1)!} \left[ (k+1-s) {}_2F_1\left(-\frac{k-1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; s\right) - (k+1) {}_2F_1\left(-\frac{k+1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; s\right) \right]$$

$$a = \frac{\omega_1}{\kappa} = \frac{J_1 K(s)}{\Delta E(s)}$$

What happens when  $k$  becomes large?

$$C_{\text{fold.},k}^{\text{fold.}} \simeq \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{1}{s} - 1 \right) \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{k}} e^{k\left(\frac{1+a}{2} \ln \frac{1+a}{2} + \frac{1-a}{2} \ln \frac{1-a}{2}\right)}$$

## Saddle-point approximation

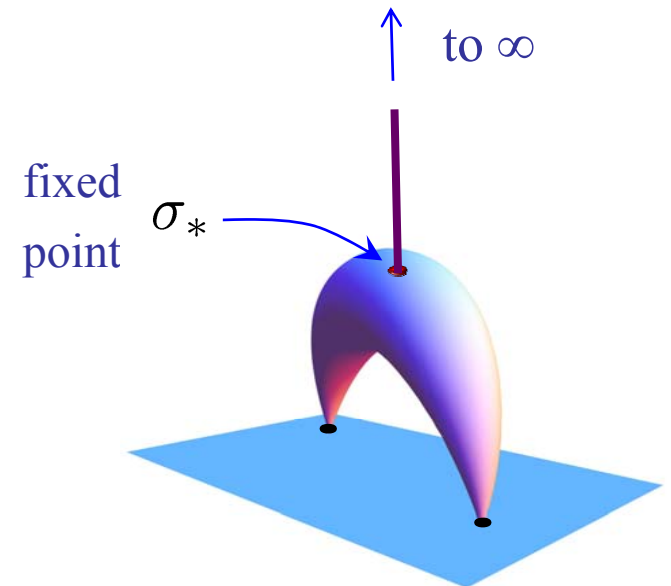
$$C_{\#k}^{\#} = \frac{(k+1)\sqrt{k\lambda}}{8\pi N} \int d^2\sigma (\sin \Theta)^k e^{ik\Phi} Z^k \left[ \frac{(\partial X)^2 - (\partial Z)^2}{Z^2} - (\partial \Theta)^2 - \sin^2 \Theta (\partial \Phi)^2 \right]$$

$k \rightarrow \infty$

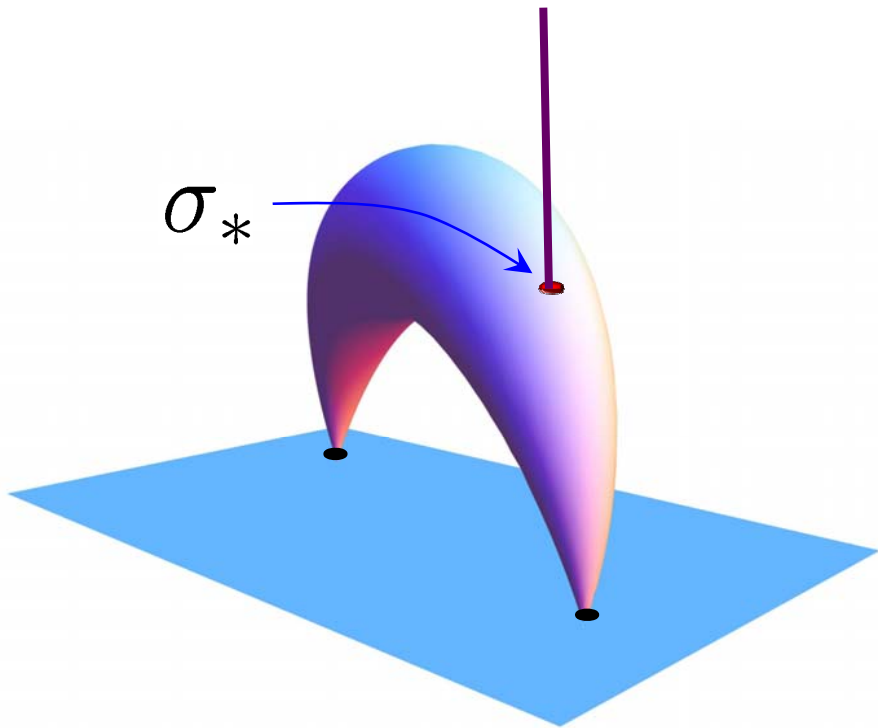
$$C_{\#k}^{\#} \simeq [\dots] \det^{-1/2} e^{-kS_{\text{eff}}(\sigma_*)}$$

Saddle-point equations:

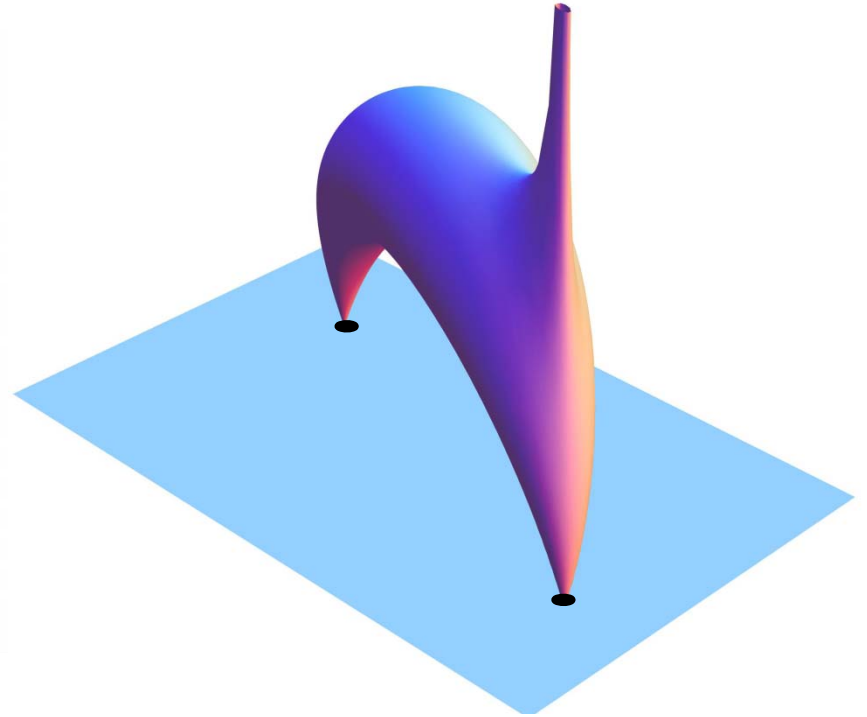
$$\cot \theta \partial_a \theta + i \partial_a \varphi + \frac{\partial_a Z}{Z} = 0$$







$k$  – finite,  $k \rightarrow \infty$



$\frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  – finite

Overlapping regime of validity:

$$\sqrt{\lambda} \gg k \gg 1$$

## Exact solution with a spike:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= i\kappa\tau \\ Z &= e^{\kappa\tau} \left[ \sqrt{\kappa^2 + 1} \tanh \left( \sqrt{\kappa^2 + 1} \tau + \xi \right) - \kappa \right] \\ X^{1,2} &= \begin{Bmatrix} \cos \sigma \\ \sin \sigma \end{Bmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{\kappa^2 + 1} e^{\kappa\tau}}{\cosh \left( \sqrt{\kappa^2 + 1} \tau + \xi \right)} \end{aligned} \quad \xi = \ln \left( \sqrt{\kappa^2 + 1} + \kappa \right)$$

Z.'02



Describes

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{2\Delta_I} \frac{\langle W(C) \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle}{\langle W(C) \rangle}$$

for circular Wilson loop

Solution for  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{2\Delta_I} \langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \mathcal{O}_I(x) \rangle$  ?

## Boundary conditions at the spike

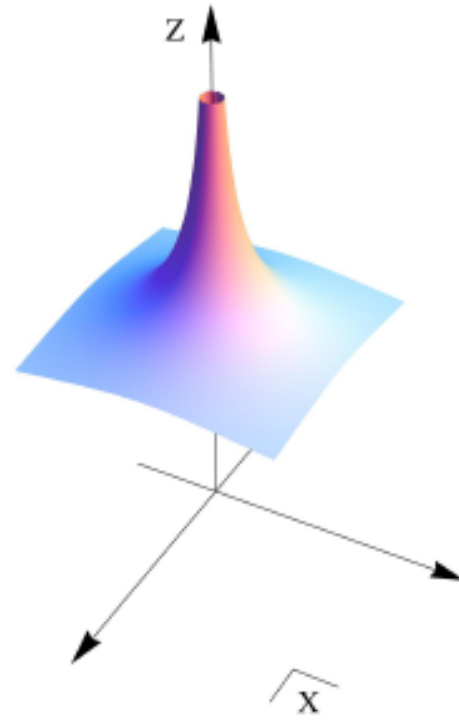
$$\ln Z \rightarrow -\chi \ln |w|$$

$$\Theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}$$

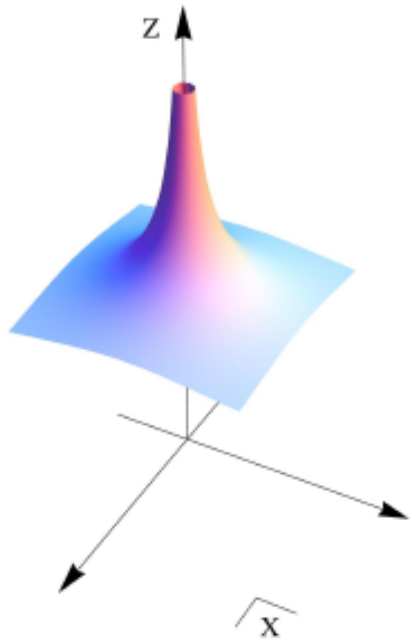
$$\Phi \rightarrow -i\chi \ln |w|$$

$$w = e^{-\tau + i\sigma}$$

$$\chi = \frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$$



## Fine structure of the spike



Regular solution  
without the spike

$$Z = |w|^{-\chi} \left( z_0 + \partial z_0 w + \bar{\partial} z_0 \bar{w} \right) + \dots$$

$$X^\mu = x_0^\mu + |w|^{\sqrt{1+\chi^2}-1-\chi} \left( \partial x_0^\mu w + \bar{\partial} x_0^\mu \bar{w} \right) + \dots$$

## Solution on $S^5$ :

$$e^{i\Phi} = \frac{|w|^\chi e^{i\varphi_0} \sin \theta_0}{\sqrt{1 - |w|^{2\chi} \cos^2 \theta_0}} \left[ 1 + i \frac{1 - |w|^\chi \cos^2 \theta_0}{1 - |w|^{2\chi} \cos^2 \theta_0} (\partial\varphi_0 w + \bar{\partial}\varphi_0 \bar{w}) + \frac{(1 - |w|^\chi) \cot \theta_0}{1 - |w|^{2\chi} \cos^2 \theta_0} (\partial\theta_0 w + \bar{\partial}\theta_0 \bar{w}) \right] + \dots$$

$$\cos \Theta = |w|^\chi \cos \theta_0 - |w|^{\sqrt{1+\chi^2}-1} \left[ \frac{1 - |w|^\chi \cos^2 \theta_0}{\sin \theta_0} (\partial\theta_0 w + \bar{\partial}\theta_0 \bar{w}) + i(1 - |w|^\chi) \cos \theta_0 (\partial\varphi_0 w + \bar{\partial}\varphi_0 \bar{w}) \right] + \dots$$

## Virasoro constraints:

$$0 = T_{ww} \equiv \frac{(\partial Z)^2 + (\partial X)^2}{Z^2} + (\partial\Theta)^2 + \sin^2 \Theta (\partial\Phi)^2$$

$\chi \rightarrow 0$  limit:

$$\frac{\partial z_0}{z_0} + \cot \theta_0 \partial\theta_0 + i\partial\varphi_0 = 0$$

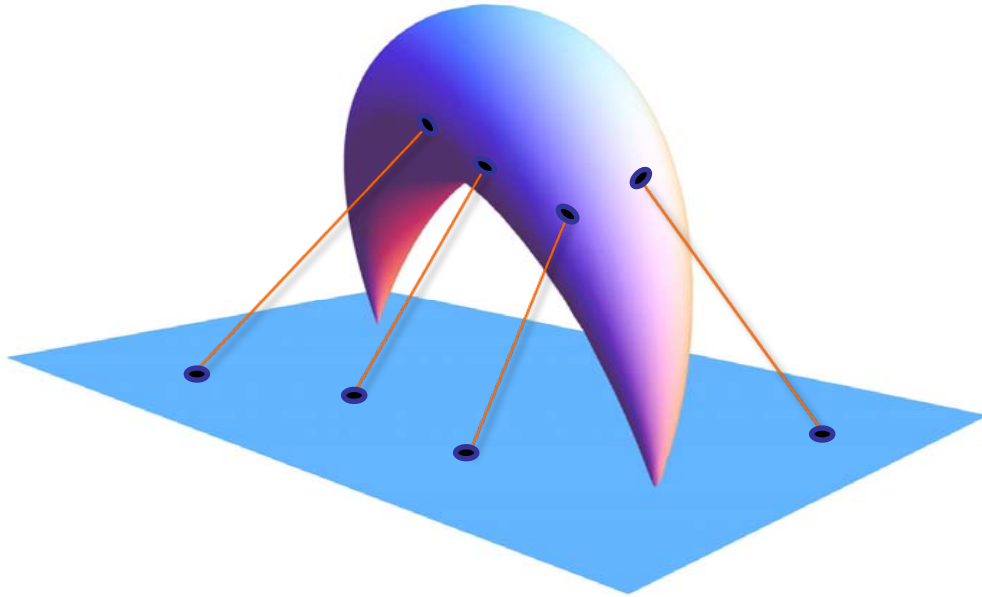
$$\frac{\bar{\partial} z_0}{z_0} + \cot \theta_0 \bar{\partial}\theta_0 + i\bar{\partial}\varphi_0 = 0$$

Determine the position  $\sigma_*$  on the worldsheet, where the spike can be attached.

The same as the saddle-point equation for the vertex operator!

# Factorization

Roiban, Tseytlin '10

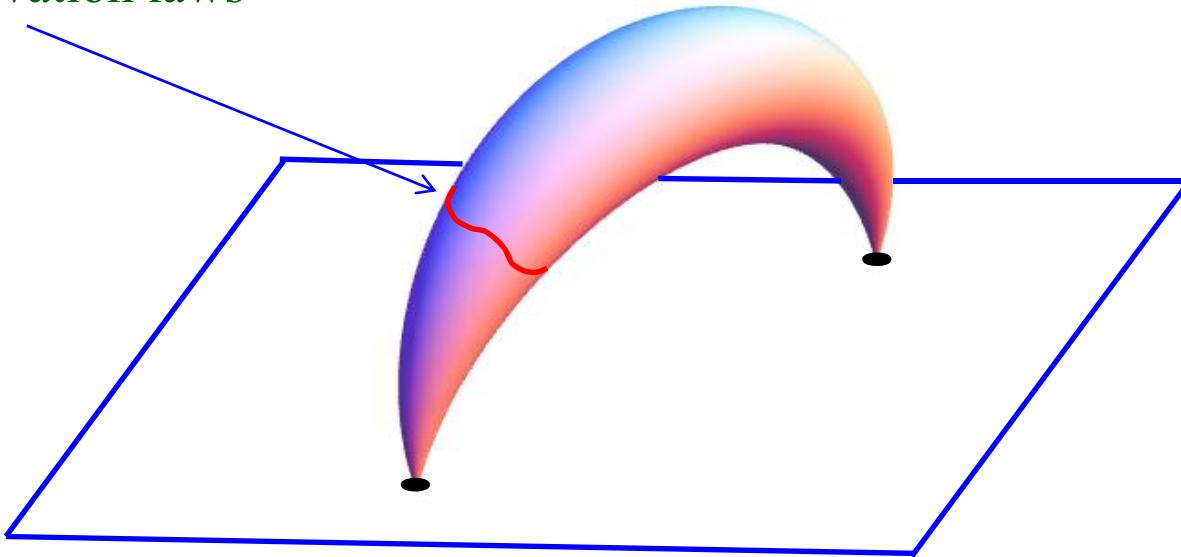


Integration over  $\sigma_i$  independent:

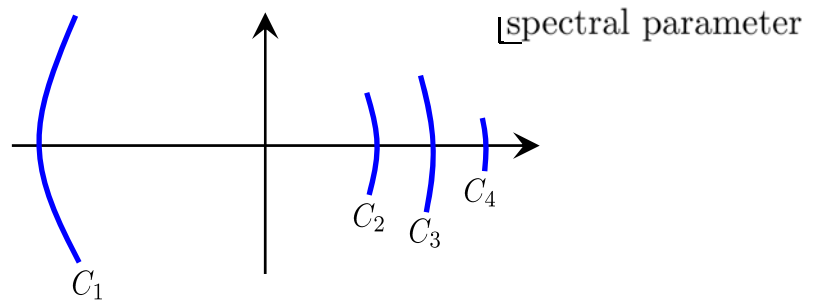
$$\langle HHL_1 \dots L_n \rangle \sim \langle HHL_1 \rangle \dots \langle HHL_n \rangle$$

# Integrability

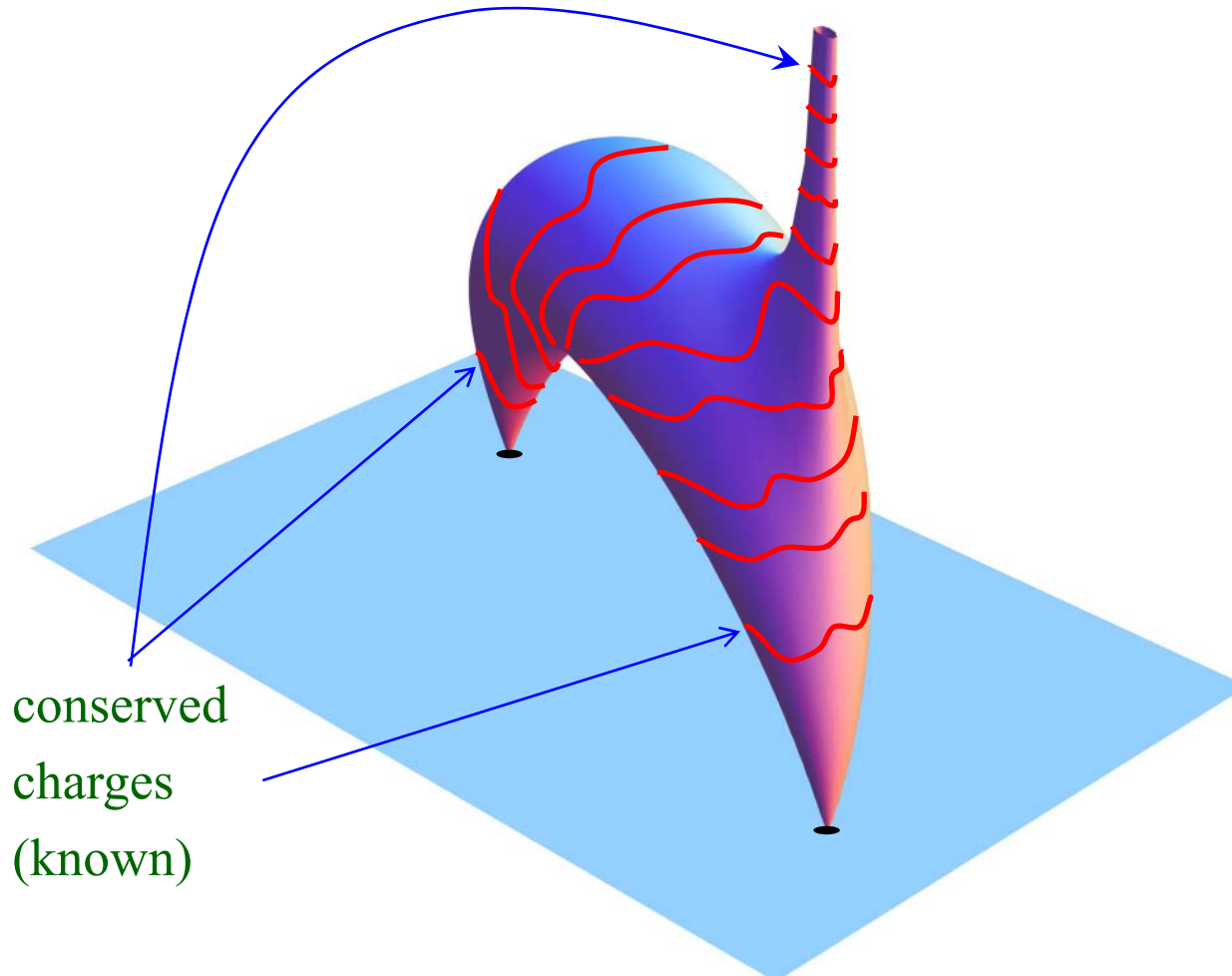
$\infty$  number  
of conservation laws



Bookkeeping of  
conserved charges:



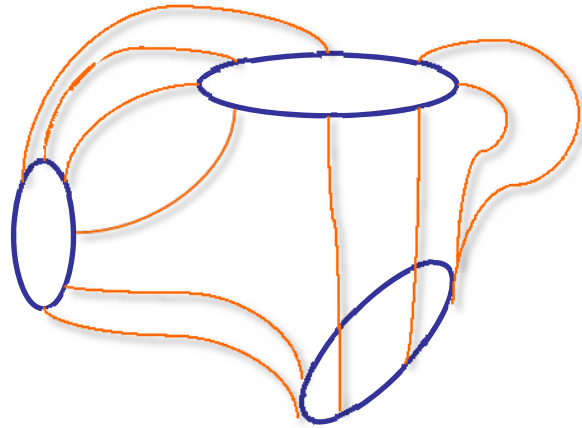
# Integrability in 3-point functions?



Algebraic curves for external states + branching?



# Weak coupling



...  
Drukker, Plefka '09  
Escobedo, Gromov, Sever, Vieira '10

- Overlap of three spin chain states
- Certain resemblance to string field theory vertex

Okuyama, Tseng '04

- Can be efficiently computed using ABA
- Still not enough to take the large-charge limit to compare to strong coupling

Escobedo, Gromov, Sever, Vieira '10

## Questions

- Possible to compute the  $\langle LH...H \rangle$  correlation functions (H – heavy semiclassical states, L – light supergravity state)

Z.'10

Costa, Monteiro, Santos, Zoakos'10

Roiban, Tseytlin'10

Hernandez'10

Buchbinder, Tseytlin'10

- How to calculate  $\langle HHH \rangle$ ?

Can give a clue to exact solution...

- How to use integrability?

➤ Vertex operators  $\overset{?}{\leftrightarrow}$  Classical Solutions  $\leftrightarrow$  Bethe ansatz

➤ Boundary conditions for generic vertex operators