

# Higher-spin algebras and AdS/CFT computations in Vasiliev theory

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(based on the works with V.Didenko, M.Vasiliev, N.Boulanger,  
D.Ponomarev and Jianwei Mei)

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- 1** Introduction and HS symmetry appetizer

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- 2** HS algebras

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- 2** HS algebras
- 3** Correlators as HS invariants

- "Integrable" Vasiliev theory of infinite-dimensional multiplet of massless/gauge fields of all spins
- Klebanov-Polyakov, Sezgin-Sundell: one and the same Vasiliev theory is dual to the simplest CFT ever and to a phenomenologically interesting interacting model - free/critical vector model
- $\partial^\nu j_{\nu\mu_2,\dots,\mu_s} = 0$  HS 'currents'
- The duality does not rely on supersymmetry
- The spectrum of fields/operators is simpler...

- HS algebra is infinite-dimensional extension of AdS/conformal algebra  $\sim$  Virasoro
- By contrast to 2d-Virasoro HS algebra is rigid
- Rigidity results in CFT being free if the HS symmetry is exact in  $d > 2$  (Maldacena-Zhiboedov, 3d)
- If the symmetry is broken in a smart way (deformed) then the CFT is not free — critical vector model (Maldacena-Zhiboedov)

# HS symmetry appetizer (Giombi,...; Stanev; Zhiboedov...)

Decoupling of  $L_{-2} + \alpha L_{-1}^2$  imposed on  $\langle O_{\Delta} O_{\Delta_1} O_{\Delta_2} \rangle$   
relates  $\Delta$ ,  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$

With HS symmetry  $L_{-2} + \alpha L_{-1}^2$  gets replaced by  $\partial^\nu$

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$$\Delta_1 = \Delta_2$$



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$$\langle j_s O_{\Delta_1} O_{\Delta_2} \rangle \qquad \Delta_1 = \Delta_2$$

$$\langle j_s j_{s'} O_{\Delta} \rangle \qquad \Delta = d + 0 - 2 = 2 \frac{d-2}{2}$$

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$$\langle j_s j_{s'} O_{s'', \Delta} \rangle \quad \Delta = d + s'' - 2?$$

conserved current?

More nontrivial info is in Ward identities

(Maldacena-Zhiboedov)

One cannot mix massless HS theories with massive.  
 Either unbroken or completely broken HS symmetry.

$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + j_0 + j_2 + j_4 + \dots$$

$$j_0 = \phi^2(x)$$

$$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s} = \phi(x) (\overleftarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1} - \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1}) \dots (\overleftarrow{\partial}_{\mu_s} - \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_s}) \phi(x) + \dots$$

$$\partial^\nu j_{\nu \mu(s-1)} = 0$$

$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + \mathbb{J}$$

$$j_0 = \phi^2(x)$$

$$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s} = \phi(x) (\overleftarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1} - \overrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1})^s \phi(x) + \dots$$

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$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}$  give HS charges

$$j_\mu^s = j_\mu^{\nu(s-1)} K_{\nu(s-1)}(x)$$

$K$  is a Conformal Killing tensor

$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + \mathbb{J}$$

$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}$  give HS charges

$$j_\mu^s = j_\mu^{\nu(s-1)} K_{\nu(s-1)}(x)^{A(s-1), B(s-1)}$$

	$s - 1$	
	$s - 1$	

(Eastwood)

$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + \mathbb{J}$$

$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}$  give HS charges

$$\star j_\mu^s = \Omega^{A(s-1), B(s-1)}$$

	$s - 1$	
	$s - 1$	

$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + \mathbb{J}$$

$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}$  give HS charges

$$\Delta S = \int \phi^{\mu(s)} j_{\mu(s)}$$

$$\delta \phi^{\mu(s)} = \partial^\mu \xi^{\mu(s-1)} - \text{traces}$$

coupling to Fradkin-Tseytlin fields



$$S = \int d^3x \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi$$

$$\phi \otimes \phi = \mathbf{1} + \mathbb{J}$$

$j_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}$  give HS charges

$$\Delta S = \int \Omega^{A(s-1), B(s-1)} \wedge \bar{W}_{A(s-1), B(s-1)}$$

$$\delta \bar{W}_{A(s-1), B(s-1)} = D_\zeta^{A(s-1), B(s-1)}$$

conformal HS fields; Vasiliev

We can guess a dual theory to be the theory of  $W_{A(s-1), B(s-1)}$

$$W^{A,B} \sim \{e^a, \omega^{a,b}\}$$

$$[T_{AB}, T_{CD}]_{\star} = T_{AD}\eta_{BC} + 3\text{more}, \quad T_{AB} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Vasiliev-Eastwood algebra is a quotient of the universal enveloping algebra by a two-sided ideal

$$W(T) = \sum_s W^{A(k), B(k)} T_{AB(k)} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & s-1 & \\ \hline \square & & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- $hs(\nu)$  of 3d HS theory too,  $U(sl_2)/(C_2 - \nu)$
- Originally it came as associative algebras (exact=free=linear equation=associative)
- How rich is the  $U(T_{AB})$ ?

# HS algebras: universal enveloping algebra $U$ of $T_{AB}$

$$\underbrace{\bullet}_0 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right)}_1 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \bullet \right)}_2 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \dots \right)}_3$$

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■  $\bullet$  is the unit of  $U$

■  $\square$  represents  $T^{AB}$

■  $\bullet C_2 = -\frac{1}{2} T_{AB} \star T^{AB}$

■  $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} = T_{[AB} \star T_{CD]}$

■  $\square \square = T_A^C \star T_{AC} - \frac{2}{(d+1)} \eta_{AA} C_2$

$$W^{A,B} \sim \{e^a, \omega^{a,b}\}$$

# HS algebras: universal enveloping algebra $U$ of $T_{AB}$

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It is necessary to quotient red guys out, defining a two-sided ideal  $I$ , (Eastwood; Vasiliev; Boulanger, E.S.; lazeolla, Sundell)

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It is necessary to quotient red guys out, defining a two-sided ideal  $I$ , (Eastwood; Vasiliev; Boulanger, E.S.; lazeolla, Sundell)

$$I \cong U \star \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \star U \quad .$$

$$hs = U/I$$

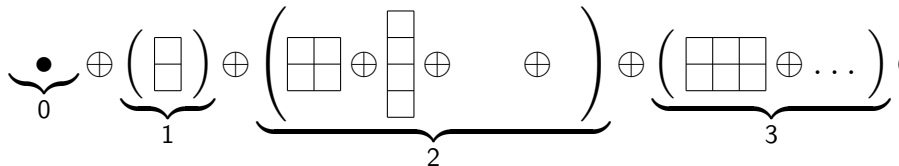
$$C_2 = C_2(\phi)$$

# HS algebras: universal enveloping algebra $U$ of $T_{AB}$

$$\underbrace{\bullet}_0 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right)}_1 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \bullet \right)}_2 \oplus \underbrace{\left( \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \oplus \dots \right)}_3$$

In general one has to get rid of  $\square\square$  (Vasiliev, E.S.) as the corresponding gauge field  $W^{AA}$  describes partially-massless spin-two field. This fixes all higher Casimirs as certain functions of  $C_2$ .

# HS algebras: universal enveloping algebra $U$ of $T_{AB}$



The most general HS algebra can be defined as  
(Boulanger, E.S.)

$$hs_d(\nu) = U / (U \star \{\square\square \oplus (C_2 - \nu)\} \star U)$$

$$hs(\nu) = \bigoplus \begin{array}{l} \square\square\square\square \\ \square\square\square\square \\ \square\square\square \\ \dots \\ \square\square \\ \square\square \end{array}$$



## Large stock of HS algebras $hs_d(\nu)$

$hs_3(\nu)$	exactly $hs(\nu)$ of 3d HS theory
$hs_d(-\frac{(d-1)(d-3)}{4})$	Vasiliev algebra for $AdS_{d+1}$
$hs_5(\nu)$	discussed by Günaydin
$hs_5(9)$	f.dim (Manvelyan, Mkrtchyan <sup>2</sup> , Theisen)
*	algebras for p.-m. fields
*	algebra of generalized free fields

There are finite-dim. truncations like in 3d

All algebras are consistent up to the cubic level

Mixed-symmetry fields in general

(Boulanger, E.S., 2011; Boulanger, E.S., Ponomarev, 2012)

Given an adjoint field of HS algebra

$$\delta\Psi_i = [\Psi_i, \xi]$$

we can construct invariants

$$Inv(\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_n) = \sum_{S_n} Tr(\Psi_1 \star \dots \star \Psi_n)$$

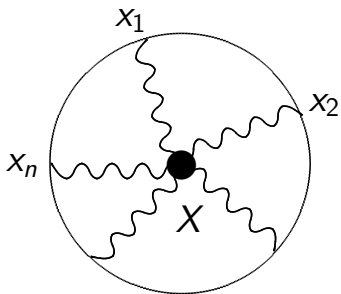
These are invariant under full HS  $\supset$  conformal symmetry. (Sundell et al)

Invariants can give correlation functions if  $\Psi$  is related to boundary-to-bulk propagator  $B$ ,  
 $\Psi = B \star \delta$  (Sundell, Colombo)

$$\langle j \dots j \rangle = \sum_{S_n} \text{Tr}(\Psi_1 \star \dots \star \Psi_n)$$

$B$  is the twisted-adjoint field in the bulk  
 $B$  generating function of conserved currents on the boundary

# Twistorial contact Witten diagram



$$L = \sum_N \int_{AdS} Tr(\Psi^N)$$

$X$  is erased by trace.  
Should work in 3d too!!

CFT	AdS
$\langle j \dots j \rangle$	$\text{Tr}(\Psi \star \dots \star \Psi)$
$[Q, j] = \sum \partial \dots \partial j$	$\delta \Psi = [\Psi, \xi]$
$Q \langle j \dots j \rangle = 0$	$\delta \text{Tr}(\Psi \star \dots \star \Psi) \equiv 0$

- $dB + \Omega \star B - B \star \tilde{\Omega} = 0$
- $B$  intertwines HS master-field in the bulk and generating function of conserved currents on the boundary
- $B$  is a projector,  $B \star B = B$   
(V.Didenko, E.S.; P.Kraus, E.Permutter)
- $B$  is an extremal projector,  $e \star B = B \star f = 0$ ,  
(R.Gover, A.Waldron; V.Didenko, E.S.)

The Vasiliev HS algebra is a Moyal  $\star$ -product algebra of functions of  $sp(4)$  vectors  $Y_A$ ,  $A = 1..4$

$$(f \star g)(Y) = f(Y) \exp \left\{ i \overleftarrow{\partial}_A \epsilon^{AB} \overrightarrow{\partial}_B \right\} g(Y)$$

in particular

$$[Y_A, Y_B]_\star = 2i\epsilon_{AB}$$

and  $sp(4)$  generators in HS algebra read

$$T_{AB} = -\frac{i}{4} \{Y_A, Y_B\}_\star$$

## Gaussians in $\star$ -algebra

$$\Phi(f^{AB}, \xi^A, q) = K \exp i \left( \frac{1}{2} Y_A f^{AB} Y_B + \xi^A Y_A + \theta \right)$$



## Gaussians in $\star$ -algebra

$$\Phi(f^{AB}, \xi^A, q) = K \exp i \left( \frac{1}{2} Y_A f^{AB} Y_B + \xi^A Y_A + \theta \right)$$

- $K = \frac{z}{z^2 + (x-x)^2}$
- $f^{AB}$  — wave-vector pointing to the boundary
- $\xi^A$  — parallel-transported polarization
- $\theta$  — the phase in Vasiliev equations

Gaussians in  $\star$ -algebra

$$\Phi(f^{AB}, \xi^A, q) = K \exp i \left( \frac{1}{2} Y_A f^{AB} Y_B + \xi^A Y_A + \theta \right)$$

Under the large  $so(3, 2)$  transformations

$$g^{-1} \star Y_A \star g = \Lambda_A^B Y_B$$

$$f = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & F \\ F^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \Lambda_M^N = \begin{pmatrix} A & -B \\ -C & D \end{pmatrix}$$

we have Möbius-like transformations

$$K' = \frac{K}{\det |A + FC|},$$

$$F' = (A + FC)^{-1}(FD + B),$$

$$\xi' = (A + FC)^{-1}\xi.$$

Gaussians in  $\star$ -algebra

$$\Phi(f^{AB}, \xi^A, q) = K \exp i \left( \frac{1}{2} Y_A f^{AB} Y_B + \xi^A Y_A + \theta \right)$$

In the string field-theory one is interested in computing  $\Phi_1 \star \dots \star \Phi_n$  (Bars et al)

$(f, \xi, \theta)$  is related to  $SpH(2M) = Sp(2M) \ltimes H(2M)$  via the generalized Cayley transform

$$\begin{aligned} (U_1, x_1, c_1) \circ (U_2, x_2, c_2) = \\ (U_1 U_2, x_1 + U_1 x_2, c_1 + c_2 + x_1 U_1 x_2) \end{aligned}$$

(V.Didenko, M.Vasiliev; E.S., V.Didenko)

## Gaussians in $\star$ -algebra

$$\Phi(f^{AB}, \xi^A, q) = K \exp i \left( \frac{1}{2} Y_A f^{AB} Y_B + \xi^A Y_A + \theta \right)$$

$D$ -brane condition  $f^2 = I$  holds for propagators.

Cayley breaks down!!!

Product on square roots of  $I$

$$f_1 \circ f_2 = (f_1 + f_2)^{-1} (2I + f_2 - f_1)$$

Still a  $\sqrt{I}$                        $(f_1 \circ f_2)^2 = I$

Associativity     $f_1 \circ (f_2 \circ f_3) = (f_1 \circ f_2) \circ f_3$

Forgetful                       $f_1 \circ f_2 \circ f_3 = f_1 \circ f_3$

$$\langle O(x_1, \eta_1) \dots O(x_n, \eta_n) \rangle = \frac{1}{x_{12} \dots x_{n1}} f(r_{ab}^{cd} | P, Q, S)$$

$n$ -point correlator of tensor operators depends on conformally invariant ratios  $r_{ab}^{cd}$  and conformally invariant tensor structures:  $P$ ,  $Q$  and  $S$

- $Q_{bc}^a$  depends on three points
- $P_{ab}$  depends on two points
- $S_{bc}^a$  depends on three points and is odd

## Main formula: long-trace of projectors

$$\text{Tr}(\Phi_1 \star \dots \star \Phi_n) = \prod_i \frac{1}{|f_i + f_{i+1}|^{1/4}} \exp i \sum_j (Q_j + P_j)$$

$$Q_i = \frac{1}{8} \xi_i (f_{i+1} \circ f_i + f_i \circ f_{i-1}) \xi_i$$

$$P_i = \frac{1}{4} \xi_i (I + f_{i+1} \circ f_i) \xi_{i+1}$$

$$|f_i - f_{i+1}|^{1/2} = |x_i - x_{i+1}| K_i K_{i+1}$$

Already decomposed into  $Q, P$  conformal invariants

# 3-point functions

Yin and Giombi, Sundell and Colombo

$$\langle j_s j_s j_s \rangle_b = \frac{4}{x_{12} x_{23} x_{31}} \cos(Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3) \cos(P_3) \cos(P_1) \cos(P_2)$$

$$\langle j_s j_s j_s \rangle_f = \frac{4}{x_{12} x_{23} x_{31}} \sin(Q_1 + Q_2 + Q_3) \sin(P_3) \sin(P_1) \sin(P_2)$$

$$\langle \tilde{j}_0 j_s j_s \rangle_f = \frac{\cos(Q^2 + Q^3)}{x_{12}^2 x_{31}^2} S_1 \sin P_1$$

$$\langle \tilde{j}_0 \tilde{j}_0 \tilde{j}_0 \rangle_f = 0$$

$$\langle j_s \dots j_s \rangle = \cos^n \theta \langle j_s \dots j_s \rangle_b + \sin^n \theta \langle j_s \dots j_s \rangle_f$$

$$\langle j_s \dots j_s \rangle_b = \sum_{S_n} \frac{4}{X_{12} \dots X_{n1}} \cos \left( \sum_i Q_i \right) \prod_j \cos(P_j)$$

$$\langle j_s \dots j_s \rangle_f = \sum_{S_n} \frac{4}{X_{12} \dots X_{n1}} \sin_n \left( \sum_i Q_i \right) \prod_j \sin(P_j)$$

V.Didenko, E.S., Jianwei Mei

HS algebra assigns a non-standard normalization to two-point functions



- 1 There is a plenty of HS algebras
- 2 Propagators are extremal projectors in HS algebra
- 3 Propagators form an algebra, infinity of  $SpH(2M)$
- 4 Unbroken Vasiliev theory should reduce to simple contact diagrams
- 5 The bulk proof of AdS/CFT for HS?
- 6 Exact HS symmetry works nice
- 7 Broken HS symmetry?