

Introduction to the VOA/SFT correspondence

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Lecture 1.

4d $N=2$ SFTs \rightsquigarrow VOAs

(abstract OPE algebra)

$\mathcal{H}[\mathbb{S}^3] \cong \hat{\mathcal{V}}^{\text{loc}}$ (completed) space of
 \cup local ops.

$$\mathcal{G} = \text{su}(2, 2|2)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_C \cong \text{sl}(4|2) \supset \text{sl}(2)_8 \times \text{sl}(2)_{\bar{8}} \times \text{gl}(1)_{w, \bar{w}} \times \text{gl}(1)_2 \times \text{sl}(2)_R$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^4 \cong \mathbb{C}_{8, \bar{8}} \times \mathbb{C}_{w, \bar{w}})$$

$$\mathcal{V}^{\text{loc}} \cong \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} \underset{\mathcal{G}_C}{\text{Irrep}} \left[h_i, \bar{h}_i, \overset{\text{j}_1, \bar{\text{j}}_2}{\overset{\text{l}_i, \bar{\text{l}}_i}{\text{r}_i, \bar{\text{r}}_i}}, R_i \right]$$

OPE:

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{ij}^k(x) O_k(0)$$

" \mathcal{G}_C - eq. OPE algebra"

$$\mathcal{G} \supset \mathcal{G}_{\text{odd}} \supset \text{Nilp}(\mathcal{G}_{\text{odd}}) = \left\{ d \in \mathcal{G}_{\text{odd}} : d^2 = \frac{1}{2} \{d, d\} = 0 \right\}$$

Let $d \in \text{Nilp}(\mathcal{G}_{\text{odd}})$ be homogeneous w.r.t. $h \in \mathcal{G}_{\text{even}}$

$(\mathcal{V}_{\text{loc}}, d)$ is dg-OPE algebra.

Let $\square = \text{Comm}(d, g)$,

$$e = \text{ad}_g(d) = [g, d] \quad (\text{d-exact sym})$$

$\sim H_d^*(V^{loc})$ will be a \square -equiv., \square -inv., OPE alg.

For $N=2$ SCFTs, $\mathfrak{g}_{\text{odd}} = \text{span} \{ Q_{\alpha}^I, \tilde{Q}_{I\dot{\alpha}}, S_I^{\alpha}, \tilde{S}^{I\dot{\alpha}} \}$

$$I=1,2, \alpha = \pm, \dot{\alpha} = \dot{\pm}$$

\exists two vectors $d = Q_{-\pm}^I + \tilde{S}_{I\pm}^{\alpha} \in \text{Nilp}(\mathfrak{g}_c)$ graded by a s.t.

$$d^{(v)} \in \mathfrak{sl}(2)_3 \quad \text{span} \{ \hat{L}_{\pm 1,0} = \hat{L}_{\pm 1,0} \pm R_{\pm 1,0} \}$$

$$e[d^{(v)}] \in \hat{\mathfrak{sl}(2)}_{\tilde{g}} = \text{diag} \{ \mathfrak{sl}(2)_{\tilde{g}}^{\pm} \times \mathfrak{sl}(2)_R \}$$

$$\rightarrow \text{diag} (\mathfrak{gl}(1)_{w, \tilde{w}} \times \mathfrak{gl}(1)_z)$$

$$z = 2 - l$$

$$[\partial_w \pm \partial_{\tilde{w}}, d^{(v)}] \neq 0$$

$H_d^*(V^{loc}) \cong H_{\tilde{d}}^*(V^{loc})$ inherit structure of $\mathfrak{sl}(2)_3$ -equiv. OPE alg.
 $\hat{\mathfrak{sl}(2)}_{\tilde{g}}$ -inv.

\sim (quasi-conformal) vertex algebra

Vector space cohomology: can choose harmonic reps

$$\Delta d = \{d, d^+\} = \Delta_{d^{\pm}} + \Delta_{\tilde{S}_{I\pm}^{\alpha}} = \{d, d^+\} = \Delta d$$

but...

$$\Delta_{\alpha_1^{\pm}} = \hat{L}_0 - \mathcal{Z}, \quad \Delta_{\tilde{S}_1^{\pm}} = \hat{L}_0 + \mathcal{Z}$$

$$\hat{L}_0 = \mathcal{Z} = 0 \quad \text{Scher operators}$$

$$\begin{cases} h = R \\ \ell = 2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow h = \frac{E + (j_1 + j_2)}{2} = E - R = R + (j_1 + j_2) \in \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{N}$$

Vertex alg. is triply graded

- ▷ h conformal grading
- ▷ $\nu = \pm$ cohomological grading
- ▷ R "extra" grading

Vertex algebra structure

✓ $sl(2)_R$ h.w. states

Schematically: $\partial_z^{\frac{1}{2}} (v_{\text{prim}})^{(1, \dots, 1)}_{(+, \dots, +)(\dot{+}, \dots, \dot{+})}$

\uparrow
 $z = x^{+\dot{+}}$

$\overline{z} = x^{-\dot{-}}$

$$\mathcal{O}(z) = \prod e^{z L_{-1} + \bar{z} \bar{L}_{-1}} \theta(0) e^{-z L_{-1} - \bar{z} \bar{L}_{-1}} \prod_d^{(v)}$$

$$= \left[\left[\mathcal{O}^{\text{h.w.}}(z, \bar{z}) + \bar{z} [R^-, \mathcal{O}^{\text{h.w.}}(z, \bar{z})] + \dots + \frac{\bar{z}^{2R}}{(2R)!} [(R^-)^{2R}, \mathcal{O}^{\text{h.w.}}(z, \bar{z})] \right] \right]_d$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}_1(z) \mathcal{O}_2(z) \sim \sum_k \frac{c_{z_2}^k \theta_k(0)}{z^{h_1 + h_2 - h_k}} + \text{d}^{(v)} \text{ - exact.}$$

$$R\text{-filtration: } \mathcal{G}_p V_h^{\text{Schur}} = \bigoplus_{R \leq p} V_{h,R}^{\text{Schur}}$$

$$\mathbb{C}^{\delta_{0,h}} \cong \mathcal{G}_0 V_h^{\text{Schur}} \subset \mathcal{G}_1 V_h^{\text{Schur}} \subset \mathcal{G}_2 \dots$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{if } a \in \mathcal{G}_p V, \quad b \in \mathcal{G}_q V, \quad a(z)b \in \mathcal{G}_{p+q} V((z)) \\ a(z)b \mid_{\text{sing}} \in \mathcal{G}_{p+q-1} V[z^{-1}] \end{array} \right\} \text{good increasing filtration (H. Li)}$$

Consequence: $\mathfrak{gr}_g V = \bigoplus_p \frac{\mathcal{G}_p V}{\mathcal{G}_{p-1} V}$ has str. of vertex Poisson algebra.

(from 4d: alg. of local ops in holom-top twist)

$$d_{HT} = \alpha_-^L + \tilde{\alpha}_-^L$$

Free field theories

$$q(z_1) = [\alpha]$$

$$\tilde{q}(z_2) = [\tilde{\alpha}]$$

hypermultiplet : $(\alpha, \tilde{\alpha})$ ex. scalars $E=1, r=0, R=1/2$

vector multiplet

$$q(z_1) \tilde{q}(z_2) \sim \frac{1}{z_1 - z_2}$$

$$(\lambda_+^{\frac{1}{2}}, \lambda_+^{\frac{1}{2}})$$

$$\eta_+(z_1) = [\lambda]$$

symplectic bosons

$$E = \frac{3}{2}, \quad r = \pm 1, \quad R = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\eta_-(z_2) = [\tilde{\lambda}]$$

$$\eta^+(z_1) \eta^-(z_2) \sim \frac{1}{(z_1 - z_2)^2} \text{ symplectic fermions}$$

free fields $R=1/2$

conserved currents $R=1$

$$R=1, \quad j_1 = j_2 = r = 0$$

$$M^{A=1, \dim G} \xrightarrow{\alpha \tilde{\alpha}} J_{\mu}^{A=1, \dim G}$$

$$k_{2d} = -\frac{1}{2} k_{4d}$$

$$[M^A] = J^A, \quad J^A(z) J^B(w) \sim -\frac{\frac{1}{2} k_{4d}}{(z-w)^2} + i \frac{f^{AB} c J^c(w)}{z-w} + \text{reg.}$$

$$R=1, \quad j_{1c} j_2 = 1/2, \quad \nu = 1, \quad J_{+f}^{(R)1} \xrightarrow{\alpha \tilde{\alpha}} T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\Rightarrow T(z) T(w) \sim -\frac{b c_{4d}}{(z-w)^4} + \frac{2 T}{(z-w)^2} + \frac{T^1}{z-w} + \text{reg.}$$

$$c_{2d} = -1/2 c_{4d}$$

(A_1, A_{2n}) Argyres - Douglas theory \longleftrightarrow $(2, 2n+3)$ Virasoro VOA, 2d't'l

(A_1, D_{2n+1}) " " $\longleftrightarrow V_{-2 + \frac{2}{2n+1}} (sl_2)$, not 2d't'l

$SU(2) N_f = 4$ gauge theory $\hookrightarrow V_{-2} (so(8))$, not admissible

$SU(2) N=4$ SYM \hookrightarrow Small $N=4$ Super-Virasoro VOA, $c=-9$

Lecture 2. Geometric aspects of SCFT / VOA

$J \rightsquigarrow M_H[T]$ Higgs branch

(preserves $U(1)_2$ symmetry)

- hyperkähler cone
- holo. symp. variety
- symplectic singularity

$R_H = \mathbb{C}[M_H]$ is realized through
(some) Schur op's.

$$[M_H] = \bigoplus_{R=0}^{\infty} (V_{\text{Schur}})_{R,R}^{\otimes} \xrightarrow{\text{U(1)}_2} \text{scalar Schur op's.}$$

T	$M_H[T]$	R_H
free hyper	\mathbb{C}^2	$\mathbb{C}[q, \bar{q}]$
(A_1, D_{2n+1})	$\mathbb{C}/(\mathbb{Z}/2) \cong \text{Nilp}(sl_2)$	$\mathbb{C}[j^1, j^2, j^3] / \left(\sum_i j^a j^{\bar{a}} = 0 \right)$
$SU(2) \ N=4 \text{ SYM}$	"	"
$SU(2) \ N_f = 4$	$\overline{\mathbb{C}\text{Sym}(\text{so}(8))}$	$\text{Sym}(\text{so}(8)) / I_{\text{Joseph}}$

R_H encoded in $(V, g.)$

$$(\text{Recall } g_p V_h = \bigoplus_{R \leq p} (V_{\text{schw}})_{R,h} \quad , \quad g_{R,h} V = \bigoplus_{R,h} \frac{g_R V_h}{g_{R-1} V_h} = \bigoplus_{R,h} (g_R V)_{R,h})$$

$$R_H = \bigoplus_R (g_R V)_{R,R} \quad (\text{recall } R \leq h)$$

as Poisson algebra

$$\tilde{a} \in \frac{g_{h_1} V_{h_1}}{g_{h_1-1} V_{h_1}} \rightarrow a \in g_{h_1} V_{h_1} \text{ as rep.}$$

$$\tilde{b} \in \frac{g_{h_2} V_{h_2}}{g_{h_2-1} V_{h_2}} \rightarrow b \in g_{h_2} V_{h_2} \text{ as rep.}$$

$$a(\gamma) b(\omega) \sim \dots + \frac{c(\omega)}{\gamma - \omega} + \text{reg.}$$

$$c \in g_{h_1+h_2-1} V_{h_1+h_2-1} \rightarrow \tilde{c} \in \dots$$

$$\{\tilde{a}, \tilde{b}\} := \tilde{c}$$

Li's canonical filtration (descending)

$$F_p V = \text{span} \left\{ a_{-h_1 - n_1}^1, a_{-h_2 - n_2}^2, \dots, a_{-h_k - n_k}^k \mid \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \geq p \right\}$$

(counts derivatives up to upward error)

Weight based filtration (ascending)

given strong gen's $\{b_1, \dots\}$

$$\tilde{F}_p V = \text{span} \left\{ b_{-h_{b_1} - n_1}^1, \dots, b_{-h_{b_k} - n_k}^k \mid \sum_{i=1}^k n_{b_i} \leq p \right\}$$

$$F_p \cap V_h \cong \tilde{F}_{h-p} \cap V_h \quad , \text{ so } \text{gr}_F V \cong \text{gr}_{\tilde{F}} V \text{ as VPA}$$

canonical Poisson alg:

$$R_V := \frac{F_0(V)}{F_1(V)} = \frac{V}{C_2(V)} = \bigoplus_h \frac{\tilde{F}_h(V_h)}{\tilde{F}_{h-1}(V_h)}$$

$$X_V = \underset{\text{associated variety}}{\text{Spec}} (R_V)$$

$$\tilde{X}_V = \underset{\text{associated scheme}}{\text{Spec}} (R_V)$$

If $\dim(\tilde{X}_V) = \dim(X_V) = 0 \Rightarrow C_2$ -cofinite.

If X_V is symplectic \Rightarrow quasi-lisse

One remark: $\tilde{F}_p V \subset G_p V$. R-filtration is "coarser" than w.b. filtration

$$\text{define } V_+ = \bigoplus_h G_{h-1} V_h \quad \Rightarrow \quad R_H = V/V_+$$

Note: $C_2(V) \subset V_+$.

$$R_H = V/V_+ = \frac{V/C_2(V)}{V_+/C_2(V)} = \frac{R_V}{I}, \text{ where } I \text{ is the Poisson ideal of } R_V$$

$$R_V \rightarrow R_H$$

$$X_V \leftarrow P M_H$$

Conjecture: $I = \text{nil}(R_V)$, i.e. $X_V = M_H$.

\Rightarrow all VOAs from 4d are quasi-lisse

Thm [Arakawa, Kanazawa] For V quasi-lisse,

- V has finite # of ^{simple} ordinary modules
- characters of ord. modules satisfy a common monic, weight zero MLDE.

$$\text{Quasi-lisse} \Rightarrow N_T = T^k + P \in C_2(V)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma = \text{St}_{\mu} (\sigma(N_T) q^{(c-1)/24})$$

\Rightarrow recursion.

- Naive order of MLDE is k , can be higher
- can be lower if consider non-monic MLDEs.
- $X_M(q)$ need not span modular vector.

$$(A_1, D_{2n+1}) \text{ AD } \longleftrightarrow V_{-2 + \frac{2}{2n+1}} (sl_2) \longleftrightarrow \{ J^{A=1,2,3} \}$$

null states of form

$$J^B (J_A J^A)^n + \overset{C_2(v)}{\rho} = 0, \quad B = 1, 2, 3$$

$$R_V: \mathbb{C}[j^1, j^2, j^3] / \langle (j^A j_A)^{n+1} = 0 \rangle$$

$$(\text{Note: } (j^A j_A)^{n+1} = 0)$$

$$(R_V)_{\text{red}} \approx \mathbb{C}[j^1, j^2, j^3] / \langle j^A j_A = 0 \rangle = \mathbb{C}[C^2 / \mathbb{Z}_2]$$

$$R_H: T \sim (J^A J_A), \text{ let } t = \text{image of } T \text{ in } \text{gr}_g V.$$

$$\text{in } \text{gr}_g V \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} j^A j_A = 0 \\ t (j^A j_A)^n = 0 \\ t^{n+1} = 0 \end{array} \right\} \xrightarrow[t=0]{R_H} \mathbb{C}[j^A] / \langle j^A j_A = 0 \rangle$$

Lecture 3

Free field realizations $D_{k/S}^{ch}(\mathbb{C}^x)$

$$V_{-\frac{4}{3}}(sl_2) \xrightarrow{\text{Adamsic}} T = \bigoplus_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (V_{\partial\varphi} \otimes V_{\partial\delta}) e^{n(s+p)}$$

$$\text{w } \langle \varphi, \varphi \rangle = -\langle \delta, \delta \rangle = \frac{2}{k}$$

$$J^+ = e^{\delta + \varphi}$$

$$J^3 = \frac{k}{2} \partial\varphi$$

$$J^- = - \left(\left(\frac{k}{2} \partial\delta \right)^2 - \frac{k(k+1)}{2} \partial^2 \delta \right) e^{-\delta - \varphi}$$

works
for $k \in \{-\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{1}{2}, -2\}$.
 J^+, J^3, J^- generate $V_k(sl_2)$
 $X_{V_k(sl_2)} \cong \mathbb{C}^2 / \mathbb{Z}_2 \cong \text{Nuc}(sl_2)$

(on): can realize R-filtration in FFR as a (not conformal) weight based filth.

$$R[\partial\varphi] = 1$$

$$R[e^{\delta+\varphi}] = 1$$

$$R[(\partial\varphi + \partial\delta)] = 0. \Rightarrow J^+J^- + J^3J^3 \in \mathcal{G}_1 \vee \text{filtered piece}$$

$$\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2 \cong \mathbb{C}[J^\pm, J^3]/\langle J^+J^- + J^3J^3 = 0 \rangle \quad \{J^3, J^\pm\} = \pm J^\pm$$

$$\{J^+, J^-\} = 2J^3$$

↪ 2nd kind open ($J^+ \neq 0$)

$$\mathcal{U} \cong \mathbb{C}[J^+, (J^+)^{-1}, J^3], \quad \{J^3, J^+\} = J^+$$

$$\cong \mathbb{C}[x, x^{-1}, p] \quad \{p, x\} = 1$$

$$\stackrel{11}{\cong} \mathbb{C}^3/J^+$$

$$\cong T^* \mathbb{C}^*$$

$$T^*((\mathbb{C}^*)^m \times \mathbb{C}^n) \xrightarrow{\text{symp.}} M_H \xleftarrow{\text{residual deg. of freedom}} \underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \text{free vectors} \\ \text{intrinsic SCFT as } M_H = p \end{array}}_{T_{IR}}$$

$$\mathbb{C}[\dots] \longleftrightarrow R_H$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ x_v & & \end{array}$$

$$(T_{IR})^* D^{\text{ch}}((\mathbb{C}^*)^m \times \mathbb{C}^n) \hookleftarrow W[J]$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \Pi^{\otimes m} \otimes (\mathcal{S}_b)^{\otimes n} \\ \downarrow \\ \text{Symplectic bosons} \end{array}$$

$$(A_1, D_{2n+1}) \xrightarrow{T_{IR}} (A_1, A_{2n-2})$$

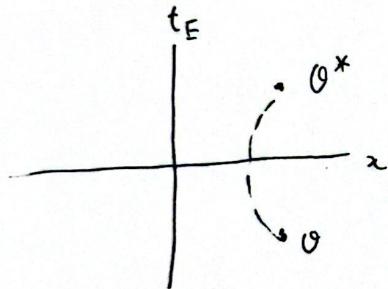
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{W} & \downarrow & \mathbb{W} \\ sl(2)_{-2+\frac{z}{2n+2}} & \xrightarrow{DS \text{ reduction}} & (2, 2n+1) \text{ Virasoro} \end{array}$$

$$sl(2)_{-2+\frac{z}{2n+1}} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{T} \otimes \text{Vir}_{(2, 2n+1)}$$

Unitarity in 4d

$$\star: \mathcal{V}^{\text{loc}} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{\text{loc}} \quad (\text{anti-linear inv.})$$

$$\mathcal{O}(\underline{x}, t_E) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^*(\underline{x}, -t_E)$$



$$\langle \mathcal{O}^*(\underline{x}, t_E) \mathcal{O}(\underline{x}, t_E) \rangle > 0$$

$$\text{for Schur ops } \mathcal{O}_{E, R, \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{j}_1, \mathbf{j}_2} \xrightarrow{\star} \mathcal{O}_{E, -R, -\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{j}_2, \mathbf{j}_1}^*$$

$$E = R + \mathbf{j}_1 + \mathbf{j}_2 \quad E \neq (-R) + (\mathbf{j}_2) + (\mathbf{j}_1)$$

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{j}_1 - \mathbf{j}_2 \quad (-\mathbf{r}) = (\mathbf{j}_2) - (\mathbf{j}_1)$$

$$\text{Def. } \rho: \mathcal{V}^{\text{loc}} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}^{\text{loc}}$$

$$\mathcal{O}(o) \rightarrow e^{-\pi i R_2} \mathcal{O}^*(o) e^{\pi i R_2}$$

Then $\rho: V^{\text{Schn}} \rightarrow V^{\text{Schn}}$

$$\rho^2 = (-1)^{2R} = R\text{-parity} \quad (\text{know this})$$

$$\rho \circ d = d^{\vee} \circ \rho$$

ρ defines a vertex algebra automorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(a(z)b) &= \rho\left(\sum_n z^n a_{-h_a-n} b\right) \\ &= \sum_n \overline{z}^n \underbrace{\rho(a_{-h_a-n} b)}_{= \rho(a)_{-h_a-n} \rho(b)} \end{aligned}$$

ρ defined on strong gen's

Positivity?

$$\text{def } (\ , \) : V_{q,p} \xrightarrow{\cong} V_{q,p} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$(a, b) = \langle a(z) \rho(b)(-z) \rangle$$

$$\text{this obeys } \widehat{(a, b)} = (-1)^{2R_a} (b, a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{def. } \sigma : V &\rightarrow V \\ a &\mapsto (-1)^{2R_a} a \quad (\text{requires } \mathcal{G}_+) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{def } (\langle \ , \ \rangle) : V_{q,p} \times V_{q,p} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$(\langle a, b \rangle) = (a, \sigma(b))$$

$$\text{Compute } (\langle a, a \rangle) = \langle a(z), (\rho \circ \sigma, a)(z) \rangle > 0.$$

$$\text{let } \langle \theta(\zeta) \rho(0)(\zeta) \rangle \sim \frac{k_0}{\zeta^{h_0}}$$

$$\text{then } k_0 \propto \langle \zeta \rangle^{2h_0 - 2R_0} = \langle \zeta \rangle^{2(j_1 + j_2)} \stackrel{\text{bosons}}{=} (-1)^{h-R}$$

Recap: (V^*, g_0, ρ)

$$\rho^2 = (-1)^{2R} \quad (\text{thru } h=2 \text{ mod } 2)$$

g_0 good inc. filter. on $V_{R,\text{dis}}$ & $V_{R,\text{even}}$

g_0 is non-deg. wrt. (\cdot, \cdot) $\Rightarrow R$ -grading

$(1, 1)$ pos. def.

Suppose $V \simeq V_{120}$

$$T(\zeta) : h=2$$

$$R=1$$

$$\rho(T) = T$$

$$\langle T(\zeta) T(0) \rangle = \frac{c_{22}/2}{\zeta^4} < 0$$

$$T_{(4)}^2 = (TT) - \frac{3}{16} T'' : \quad h=4 \\ R \leq 2 \\ (R=2)$$

$$\left(T_{(4)}^2, T_{(4)}^2 \right) \simeq \frac{c(22+5c)}{1088} \geq 0 \Rightarrow c \leq -\frac{22}{5}$$

Assume $\mathcal{G}_p V = \text{span} \left\{ L_{-2-n}, L_{-2-n+k} \quad n, k \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$

$$T_6^{(2)} = T''T + \frac{5}{168} T''''$$

$$T_6^{(3)} = T^3 + \dots$$

$$\langle T_{(6)}^3 T_{(6)}^3 \rangle = \frac{c(c - \frac{1}{2})(c + \frac{22}{5})(c + \frac{68}{7})}{(c + \frac{24}{25})} \leq 0$$

$$c = -\frac{22}{5} \quad \text{or} \quad c \leq -\frac{68}{7} = c_{(2,7)}$$

given $\mathcal{G}_0 \Rightarrow$ A of states @ fixed level w/ diff. R-charges

\Rightarrow predict sign of Kac determinant

\Rightarrow for $c \neq c_{(2,2n+3)}$, $\text{Vir}(\mathcal{G}_0)$ disallowed.