

Three-point Functions in ABJM Theory and Integrable Boundary States

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Based on **JW** and Peihe Yang, [arxiv: 2408.03643]

*International Workshop on Exact Methods in Quantum Field Theory
and String Theory
Southeast University, Nanjing, China*

Oct. 31, 2024

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- The conformal dimensions of the operators (determining the two-point functions) and structure constants (OPE coefficients) are called **conformal data**.
- At weak coupling, they can be computed using perturbation theory.
- For theories with **holographic duals**, the strong coupling limit of conformal data can be calculated using weakly coupling gravity or string theory.

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- It is also needed when the coupling constants are around order one.

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- For $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills and ABJM theories, integrability is a very powerful non-perturbative tools (mainly in the planar limit).
- This also applies to some cousins (**orbifolds, β/γ -deformations, fishnet theories...**) of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM and ABJM theories.

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- In the string theory side, integrability means that the worldsheet theory of type IIB superstring on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ in the free limit is a two-dimensional integrable field theory. [Benna, Polchinski and Roiban, 03]

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- The case for ABJM theory is in the same spirit but much more complicated and hard. [Minahan, Zarembo, 08][Bak, Rey, 08][Gromov, Vieira, 08], ...

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- However the three-point functions of single-trace operators in ABJM theory from **integrability** were rarely studied. Before our work, only the correlators in the $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ sector were studied [Bissi, Kristjansen, Martirosyan, Orselli, 12].

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- In this talk, we will study a class of three-point functions in ABJM theory from the viewpoint of **integrable boundary states**.

Integrable boundary state (IBS)

- Integrable boundary states [Piroli, Pozsgay, Vernier, 17] of spin chain play an important role in both quantum quench dynamics and AdS/CFT correspondence. (Integrable boundary states in field theory were first studied in [Ghoshal, Zamolodchikov 93].)

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- The state after $t = 0$ is

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \exp(-i\hat{H}t)|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} \exp(-iE_{\alpha}t) \langle\psi_{\alpha}|\Psi\rangle |\psi_{\alpha}\rangle \quad (1)$$

where $|\psi_{\alpha}\rangle$ is the normalized eigen-state of H with eigen-value E_{α} (the case with degeneracy can be treated similarly).

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- **If** H is integrable, generically $|\psi_{\alpha}\rangle$ can be parameterized by Bethe roots, $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r$, and E_{α} is a function of these roots.

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- If this boundary state $\langle \Psi |$ is integrable, we may have compact formulas for such correlation functions.

IBS in AdS/CFT

theories	domain wall one-point functions	other disordered operator one-point functions
$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM	[de Leeuw, Kristjansen, Zarembo, 15], ...	't Hooft loops: [Kristjansen, Zarembo, 23] surface operators: unexplored
ABJM	[Kristjansen, Vu, Zarembo, 21]	vortex loops: unexplored

IBS in AdS/CFT

theories	1-pt functions on the Coulumb branch	$\langle W[C]\mathcal{O} \rangle$
$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM	[Ivanovskiy, et al., 24]	[Jiang, Komatsu, Vescovi, to appear]
ABJM	unexplored	[Jiang, JW , Yang, 23]

$W[C]$ is a certain BPS Wilson loop, and \mathcal{O} is a generic non-BPS single-trace operator.

IBS in AdS/CFT

theories	$\langle \mathcal{D}^\circ \mathcal{D}^\circ \mathcal{O} \rangle$	$\langle \mathcal{O}^\circ \mathcal{O}^\circ \mathcal{O} \rangle$
$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM	[Jiang, Komatsu, Vescovi, 19]	unexplored
ABJM	[Yang, Jiang, Komatsu, JW, 21]	[JW, Yang, this talk]

\mathcal{D}° 's and \mathcal{O}° 's are BPS determinant operators (dual to giant gravitons) and BPS single-trace operators, respectively.

ABJM theory

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- The matter fields include complex scalars Y^I and spinors ψ_I ($I = 1, \dots, 4$) in the bi-fundamental representation of the gauge group.
- ABJM gave strong evidence to support this theory to be the low energy effective theory of N M2-branes putting at the tip of $\mathbf{C}^4/\mathbf{Z}_k$.

Quiver diagram of ABJM theory

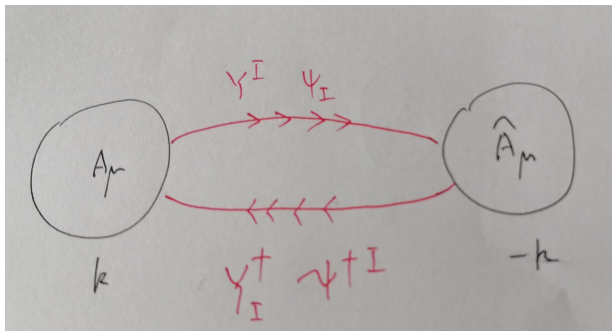


Figure: The quiver diagram of ABJM theory.

Single-trace operators

- The single-trace operator in the scalar sector of the ABJM theory is

$$\mathcal{O}_C = C_{I_1 \dots I_L}^{J_1 \dots J_L} \text{Tr}(Y^{I_1} Y_{J_1}^\dagger \dots Y^{I_L} Y_{J_L}^\dagger). \quad (2)$$

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- The cyclicity property of the trace can be used to choose C to be invariant under the following simultaneous cyclic shift of the upper and lower indices, $C_{I_1 \dots I_L}^{J_1 \dots J_L} = C_{I_2 \dots I_L I_1}^{J_2 \dots J_L J_1}$.

Chiral Primary Operators

- When the tensor C is invariant under the respective permutations among the upper and the lower indices, and traceless,

$$C_{I_1 \dots I_L}^{J_1 \dots J_L} = C_{(I_1 \dots I_L)}^{(J_1 \dots J_L)}, \quad C_{I_1 \dots I_L}^{J_1 \dots J_L} \delta_{J_1}^{I_1} = 0, \quad (3)$$

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- A natural choice of such symmetric traceless tensor C is in terms of polarization vectors n_I and \bar{n}^I ,

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with BPS condition $n \cdot \bar{n} = 0$.

- Notice that \bar{n} does not need to be the complex conjugation of n .

Two point functions

- With this choice, the BPS operator becomes

$$\mathcal{O}_L^\circ(x, n, \bar{n}) = \text{tr} \left(\left(n \cdot Y \bar{n} \cdot Y^\dagger \right)^L \right) . \quad (5)$$

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- The two-point function of \mathcal{O}_L° 's is constrained by symmetries to take the form,

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{L_1}^\circ(x_1) \mathcal{O}_{L_2}^\circ(x_2) \rangle = \delta_{L_1, L_2} \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_{L_1}^\circ} (d_{12} d_{21})^{L_1}, \quad (6)$$

with the definitions

$$d_{ij} = \frac{n_i \cdot \bar{n}_j}{|x_{ij}|}, \quad x_{ij} = x_i - x_j. \quad (7)$$

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- At tree-level in the planar limit, we have

$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_L^\circ} = L \lambda^{2L}. \quad (8)$$

Non-BPS Operators

- We consider a non-BPS operator

$$\mathcal{O}_C = C_{I_1 \dots I_L}^{J_1 \dots J_L} \text{Tr}(Y^{I_1} Y_{J_1}^\dagger \dots Y^{I_L} Y_{J_L}^\dagger). \quad (9)$$

which can be mapped to the following state

$$|\mathcal{O}_C\rangle = C_{I_1 I_2 \dots I_L}^{J_1 J_2 \dots J_L} |I_1, \bar{J}_1, \dots, I_L, \bar{J}_L\rangle, \quad (10)$$

of the $SU(4)$ alternating spin chain. The Hamiltonian on this spin chain is from the planar two-loop dilatation operator in the scalar sector. This Hamiltonian has been proven to be integrable [\[Minahan, Zarembo, 08\]](#)[\[Bak, Rey, 08\]](#). And the above state is taken as one of the eigen-states of this Hamiltonian.

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- Generically this state can be parametrized by the solution $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}$ to the Bethe ansatz equations and zero-momentum condition,

$$|\mathcal{O}\rangle = |\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v}\rangle. \quad (11)$$

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- When we translate an operator from the origin to the point $(0, 0, a)$, we perform the following transformation,

$$Y^1 \rightarrow Y^1 + \kappa a Y^4, \quad Y_4^\dagger \rightarrow Y_4^\dagger - \kappa a Y_1^\dagger. \quad (12)$$

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- From now on, we choose $\kappa = 1$. The κ -dependence can be recovered by dimensional analysis.

Three-point functions

- Based on the conformal symmetry and R-symmetry, the normalized correlation function of three generic single-trace operators in the twisted-translated frame should take the following form,

$$\frac{\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1(a_1) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2(a_2) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_3(a_3) \rangle}{\sqrt{\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_1} \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_2} \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_3}}} = \frac{\mathcal{C}_{123}}{a_{12}^{\gamma_{12|3}} a_{23}^{\gamma_{23|1}} a_{31}^{\gamma_{31|2}}}, \quad (13)$$

where

$$\gamma_{ij|k} := (\Delta_i + \Delta_j - \Delta_k) - (J_i + J_j - J_k), \quad (14)$$

and J is a $U(1)$ R-charge which assigns charges $(1/2, 0, 0, -1/2)$ to Y^1, \dots, Y^4 . [Kazama, Komatsu, Nishimura, 14][Yang, Jiang, Komatsu, JW, 21]

Three-point functions

- The main focus of this talk is on three-point functions of two 1/3-BPS single-trace operators $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{L_i}^\circ, i = 1, 2$ and one non-BPS operator $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_3$.
- For this special case we have

$$\frac{\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1^\circ(a_1) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2^\circ(a_2) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_3(a_3) \rangle}{\sqrt{\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_1^\circ} \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_2^\circ} \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}_3}}} = c_{123} \left(\frac{a_{12}}{a_{23} a_{31}} \right)^{\Delta_3 - J_3}. \quad (15)$$

Three point functions

- In the large N limit, the tree-level three-point function

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- Notice that $l_{12|3}, l_{23|1}, l_{31|2}$ always have the same oddity. This behavior contrasts with that in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory.

Wick contractions

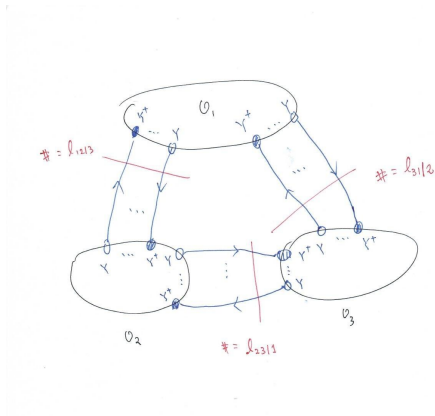


Figure: Tree-level planar Wick contractions.

Boundary states

- The three point function $\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1^\circ(a_1) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2^\circ(a_2) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_3(a_3) \rangle$ can be expressed using the overlap between a boundary state and a Bethe state. When $l_{ij|k}$'s are even and $2 \leq l_{31|2} \leq 2L_3 - 2$, we have

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}}_1^\circ(a_1) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_2^\circ(a_2) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_3(a_3) \rangle = \frac{(-1)^{\frac{l_{12|3}}{2}} L_1 L_2 \lambda^{\sum_{i=1}^3 L_i}}{N |a_1|^{l_{31|2}} |a_2|^{l_{23|1}}} \langle \mathcal{B}_{l_{31|2}}^{\text{even}} | \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{v} \rangle . \quad (17)$$

Boundary states

- To make the structure of $|\mathcal{B}_{l_{31|2}}^{\text{even}}\rangle$ clear, We first define

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{n}_1 @ \{1, 2, \dots, m\}, n_1 @ \{1, 2, \dots, m\} | = \\ (\bar{n}_1)^{I_1} (n_1)_{J_1} \cdots (\bar{n}_1)^{I_m} (n_1)_{J_m} (\bar{n}_2)^{I_{m+1}} (n_2)_{J_{m+1}} \\ \cdots (\bar{n}_2)^{I_L} (n_2)_{J_L} \langle I_1, J_1, \dots, I_L, J_L |. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

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- And

$$\begin{aligned} & U_{\text{even}} |I_1, J_1, I_2, J_2 \cdots, I_{L-1}, J_{L-1}, I_L, J_L\rangle \\ & = |I_1, J_2, I_2, J_3, \cdots, I_{L-1}, J_L, I_L, J_1\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & U_{\text{odd}} |I_1, J_1, I_2, J_2 \cdots, I_{L-1}, J_{L-1}, I_L, J_L\rangle \\ & = |I_2, J_1, I_3, J_2, \cdots, I_L, J_{L-1}, I_1, J_L\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where U_{even} has already been introduced in [Jiang, JW, Yang, 23].

Boundary states

- Then the boundary state $|\mathcal{B}_{l_{31|2}}^{\text{even}}\rangle$ in the considered case is,

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_{l_{23|1}}^{\text{even}} | = \langle \mathcal{B}_{l_{23|1}}^{\text{even}, a} | + \langle \mathcal{B}_{l_{23|1}}^{\text{even}, b} | \quad (21)$$

with

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_l^{\text{even}, a} | = \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \langle \bar{n}_1 @ \{1, 2, \dots, l/2\}, n_1 @ \{1, 2, \dots, l/2\} | (U_{\text{even}} U_{\text{odd}})^j, \quad (22)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_l^{\text{even}, b} | = \langle \mathcal{B}_l^{\text{even}, a} | U_{\text{even}}. \quad (23)$$

Boundary states

- When $l_{31|2} = 0$, the boundary state is

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_0^{\text{even}} | = L(\bar{n}_2)^{I_1} (n_2)_{J_1} \cdots (\bar{n}_2)^{I_L} (n_2)_{J_L} \langle I_1, J_1, \cdots, I_L, J_L |. \quad (24)$$

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- We temporarily ignore this mixing.

Boundary states

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- For example, when $l_{31|2} = 1$, we have

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd}} | = \langle \mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},a} | - \langle \mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},b} |, \quad (26)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},a} | = \sum_{l=1}^L \langle \bar{n}_1 @ l |, \quad (27)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},b} | = \sum_{l=1}^L \langle n_1 @ l |, \quad (28)$$

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- We have numerical results to support that the boundary states the other cases are not integrable.

Special extremal correlators

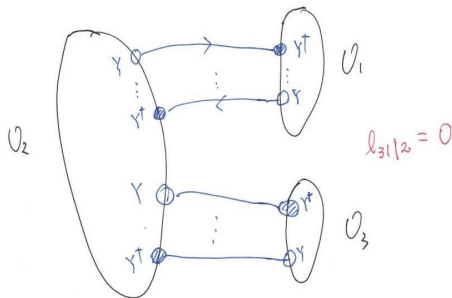


Figure: Special extremal correlators.

Special next-to-extremal correlators

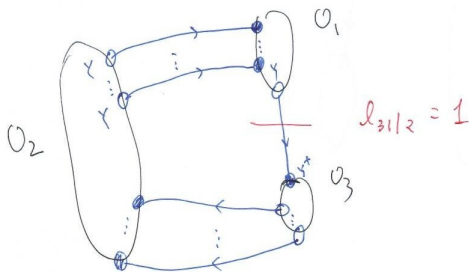


Figure: Special next-to-extremal correlators.

ABJM spin chain

- The planar two-loop dilatation operators in the scalar sector of ABJM theory can be described by the $SU(4)$ alternating spin chain with the integrable Hamiltonian,

$$H = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \sum_{l=1}^{2L} (2 - 2\mathbb{P}_{l,l+2} + \mathbb{P}_{l,l+2}\mathbb{K}_{l,l+1} + \mathbb{K}_{l,l+1}\mathbb{P}_{l,l+2}). \quad (30)$$

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- Gauge invariance requires that single-trace operators correspond to an alternating spin chain where odd and even sites are in the fundamental and anti-fundamental representations of the $SU(4)$ R-symmetry group, respectively.

R-matrices

- The $SU(4)$ alternating chain has four R matrices,

$$\begin{aligned}R_{0j}(\lambda) &= \lambda \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{P}_{0j} , \\ R_{0\bar{j}}(\lambda) &= -(\lambda + 2) \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{K}_{0\bar{j}} . \\ R_{\bar{0}j}(\lambda) &= -(\lambda + 2) \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{K}_{\bar{0}j} \\ R_{\bar{0}\bar{j}}(\lambda) &= \lambda \mathbb{I} + \mathbb{P}_{\bar{0}\bar{j}} .\end{aligned}\tag{31}$$

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- Here, 0 and $\bar{0}$ denote the auxiliary space in the fundamental and anti-fundamental representations of the $SU(4)$, respectively.

Monodromy matrices and transfer matrices

- We define two monodromy matrices as

$$T_0(\lambda) = R_{01}(\lambda)R_{0\bar{1}}(\lambda) \cdots R_{0L}(\lambda)R_{0\bar{L}}(\lambda) \quad (32)$$

$$\bar{T}_{\bar{0}}(\lambda) = R_{\bar{0}1}(\lambda)R_{\bar{0}\bar{1}}(\lambda) \cdots R_{\bar{0}L}(\lambda)R_{\bar{0}\bar{L}}(\lambda). \quad (33)$$

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- We have

$$[\tau(u), \tau(v)] = [\bar{\tau}(u), \bar{\tau}(v)] = [\tau(u), \bar{\tau}(v)] = 0, \quad (35)$$

and the previous Hamiltonian can be obtained from the series expansion of $\log(\tau(u)\bar{\tau}(u))$ at $u = 0$.

Decomposition of $\tau(\lambda)$

- Let us decompose $\tau(\lambda)$ as

$$\tau(\lambda) = \sum_{m=0}^L \sum_{n=0}^L \lambda^{L-m} (-\lambda - 2)^{L-n} \mathcal{O}_{m,n}. \quad (36)$$

Here for each term of $\mathcal{O}_{m,n}$, there are m \mathbb{P} 's and n \mathbb{K} 's inside the trace.

- We have

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(-\lambda - 2) &= \sum_{m=0}^L \sum_{n=0}^L (-\lambda - 2)^{L-m} \lambda^{L-n} \mathcal{O}_{m,n} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^L \sum_{n=0}^L \lambda^{L-m} (-\lambda - 2)^{L-n} \mathcal{O}_{n,m}. \end{aligned}$$

Integrable boundary states

- If $|\mathcal{B}\rangle$ satisfies the conditions,

$$\mathcal{O}_{m,n}|\mathcal{B}\rangle = \mathcal{O}_{n,m}|\mathcal{B}\rangle, \quad (37)$$

for any $0 \leq m, n \leq L$, then it satisfies The twisted integrable condition

$$\tau(\lambda)|\mathcal{B}\rangle = \tau(-\lambda - 2)|\mathcal{B}\rangle, \quad (38)$$

[Yang, 2022]

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[Yang, 2022]

- We ([Yang, JW, 2024]) proved that both $|\mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},b}\rangle$ and $|\mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd},a}\rangle$ satisfy the conditions (37). So they are integrable, as well as $|\mathcal{B}_1^{\text{odd}}\rangle$. This is one of our main results.

Integrable boundary states

- In the proof, we do not use the BPS conditions,
 $n_1 \cdot \bar{n}_1 = n_2 \cdot \bar{n}_2 = 0$, letting along the twisted-translated frame.

Integrable boundary states

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 $n_1 \cdot \bar{n}_1 = n_2 \cdot \bar{n}_2 = 0$, letting along the twisted-translated frame.
- So this proof show that $|\mathcal{B}_l^{\text{odd}, a}\rangle$ and $|\mathcal{B}_l^{\text{odd}, b}\rangle$ are integrable for $l = 1$ or $l = 2L_3 - 1$ without any constraints on n_i 's and \bar{n}_i 's.

The overlaps

- The twisted-translated frame leads to the selection rule,

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- The following result from symmetry

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further leads to the constraints,

$$N_{\mathbf{u}} \leq \min(l_{31|2}, l_{23|1}). \quad (41)$$

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- Using this constraint and coordinate Bethe ansatz (CBA), all overlaps from the three point functions in the integrable cases are computed.

An example

- Consider the case with $l_{31|2} = N_{\mathbf{u}} = N_{\mathbf{w}} = N_{\mathbf{v}} = 1$, the Bethe ansatz equations are

$$1 = \left(\frac{u + \frac{i}{2}}{u - \frac{i}{2}} \right)^{L_3} \frac{u - w + \frac{i}{2}}{u - w - \frac{i}{2}}, \quad (42)$$

$$1 = \frac{w - u + \frac{i}{2}}{w - u - \frac{i}{2}} \quad (43)$$

$$1 = \left(\frac{v + \frac{i}{2}}{v - \frac{i}{2}} \right)^{L_3} \frac{v - w + \frac{i}{2}}{v - w - \frac{i}{2}}, \quad (44)$$

and the zero-momentum condition is

$$1 = \frac{u + \frac{i}{2}}{u - \frac{i}{2}} \frac{v + \frac{i}{2}}{v - \frac{i}{2}}. \quad (45)$$

An example

- The solutions are [Bak, Rey, 08]

$$u = -v = \frac{1}{2} \cot \frac{k\pi}{L_3 + 1}, w = 0, \quad (46)$$

with $k = 1, \dots, L_3$.

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- By constructing eigenstates via CBA and Gaudin formula for the norms [Yang, Jiang, Komatsu, JW, 21], we can get

$$\mathcal{C}_{123} = \frac{(-1)^{L_2+1} \text{sgn}(a_1 a_2 a_{12}) \sqrt{2L_1 L_2 L_3} \exp \frac{2\pi k i}{L_3+1}}{N \sqrt{L_3 + 1}}. \quad (47)$$

Conclusion

- We found that the boundary state from the two BPS operators is integrable only when the correlator is special extremal ($l_{31|2} = 0, 2L_3$) or special next-to-extremal ($l_{31|2} = 1, 2L_3 - 1$).

Conclusion

- We found that the boundary state from the two BPS operators is integrable only when the correlator is special extremal ($l_{31|2} = 0, 2L_3$) or special next-to-extremal ($l_{31|2} = 1, 2L_3 - 1$).
- For these integrable case, we computed the three-point functions using the constraints from symmetries and CBA.

Outlook

- It should be interesting to revisit the three-point function $\langle \mathcal{O}^\circ \mathcal{O}^\circ \mathcal{O} \rangle$ in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM [Escobedo, Gromov, Sever, Vieira, 10] to determine when the boundary state from the two BPS operators is integrable.

Outlook

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- It is also desirable to compute more general three-point functions in ABJM theory to aid the development of hexagon program [Basso, komatsu, Vieira, 15] for this theory.

Outlook

- Till now, all integrables boundary states (from giant gravitons, domain wall Wilson loops, single-trace operators) satisfy the twisted integrable condition,

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- It is interesting to study the possible states of ABJM spin chain satisfying the untwisted integrable condition

$$\tau(\lambda)|\mathcal{B}\rangle = \bar{\tau}(-2 - \lambda)|\mathcal{B}\rangle, \quad (49)$$

and their role in ABJM theory and its gravity duals.

Thanks for Your Attention !