# Wilson-'t Hooft lines as transfer matrices

Junya Yagi

Yau Mathematical Sciences Center, Tsinghua University

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supersymmetric QFTs  $\longleftrightarrow$  quantum integrable systems discovered in the past 10 years or so:

- Bethe/gauge correspondence (2d & 4d) [Nekrasov-Shatashvili]
- Bazhanov–Sergeev model from 4d  $\mathcal{N}=1$  quiver gauge theories [Spiridonov, Yamazaki]
- Surface defects as transfer matrices [Maruyoshi-Yagi]
- 4d Chern–Simons (=  $\Omega$ -deformed 6d SYM [Costello-Y]) [Costello, Costello-Yamazaki-Witten]
- ...

Introduction

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Many of them are related by string dualities [Costello-Y].

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#### Quantization of Donagi-Witten integrable system

- $\mathcal{N}=2$  theory on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$  on Coulomb branch
- IR:  $\mathcal{N}=4$  sigma model on  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- Target M is the phase space of a classical complex integrable system [Donagi-Witten]
- $\Omega$ -deformation on  $\mathbb{R}^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^3$  quantizes  $\mathcal{M}$  [Nekrasov–Shatashvili, Nekrasov–Witten, Y]
- For class-S theories, M is a Hitchin system.

- $\mathcal{N} = 1$  theory constructed by "brane tiling" or of class  $\mathcal{S}_k$
- Place it on  $S^3 \times S^1$
- Insert surface defects on  $S^1 \times S^1$
- Surface defects act on SUSY index as difference operators, shifting flavor fugacities [Gadde-Gukov, Gaiotto-Rastelli-Razamat]
- Coincide with transfer matrices of elliptic QIS [Maruyoshi-Y, Y]
- Simplest case: elliptic Ruijsenaars—Schneider system [GRR, Bullimore–Fluder–Hollands–Richmond]

INTRODUCTION

#### We found a new correspondence:

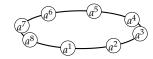
#### Wilson–'t Hooft lines = transfer matrices

- $\mathcal{N} = 2$  circular quiver theory (class- $\mathcal{S}$ )
- Place it on  $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^3$
- Wind a Wilson-'t Hooft line *T* around *S*<sup>1</sup>
- $\langle T \rangle$  is a function of Coulomb branch parameters
- Quantization of \langle T \rangle coincides with transfer matrix of trigonometric QIS

#### Related to other correspondences

#### Consider a periodic spin chain

Introduction



Spins  $a^1, \ldots, a^n \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ ,  $\mathfrak{h} = \text{Cartan of } \mathfrak{sl}_N$ :

$$a^{r} = \operatorname{diag}(a_{1}^{r}, \dots, a_{N}^{r}), \qquad \sum_{i=1}^{N} a_{i}^{r} = 0$$

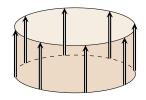
Local Hilbert space:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{h}^*} = \{\text{meromorphic functions on } \mathfrak{h}^*\}$$

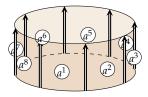
Total Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H} = \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{h}^*} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{h}^*}}_{n}$$

### Equivalent lattice model

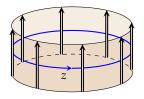


# Spins live between double lines:



 $a^r$  are called dynamical parameters.

#### Transfer matrix T(z) is horizontal loop operator:



Solid line = worldline of particle whose Hilbert space is  $\mathbb{C}^N$ 

The particle's state changes when it crosses other lines.

Solid line also has spectral parameter  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

T(z) consists of n copies of L-operator

$$L(z) = z \longrightarrow$$

### Dynamical parameters jump across solid lines:

$$L(z; a^1, a^2)_i^j = z \xrightarrow{a^1} \underbrace{a^2}_{a^1 - \epsilon h_i} \underbrace{j}_{a^2 - \epsilon h_j}$$

 $\epsilon \in \mathbb{C}$ : fixed parameter (Planck constant)

 $h_i$  are the weights of the vector rep  $\mathbb{C}^N$ :

$$h_1 = \operatorname{diag}(1 - \frac{1}{N}, -\frac{1}{N}, -\frac{1}{N}, \dots, -\frac{1}{N}),$$

$$h_2 = \operatorname{diag}(-\frac{1}{N}, 1 - \frac{1}{N}, -\frac{1}{N}, \dots, -\frac{1}{N}),$$

$$\vdots$$

$$h_N = \operatorname{diag}(-\frac{1}{N}, -\frac{1}{N}, -\frac{1}{N}, \dots, 1 - \frac{1}{N}).$$

$$L(z; a^1, a^2)_i^j = z \xrightarrow{a^1} \xrightarrow{a^2} \xrightarrow{j} \xrightarrow{a^2 - \epsilon h_j}$$

Matrix elements  $L(z)_i^l$  are difference operators on  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{h}^*} \otimes \mathcal{M}_{\mathfrak{h}^*}$ :

$$L(z) = \sum_{i,j} L(z; a^1, a^2)_i^j \Delta_i^1 \Delta_j^2,$$
  
$$\Delta_i^r : a^r \mapsto a^r - \epsilon h_i.$$

Transfer matrix

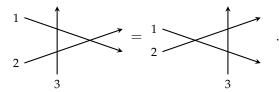
$$T(z) = \sum_{i,1,\dots,r-1} \prod_{r=1}^{n} L(z; a^r, a^{r+1})_{ir}^{ir+1} \prod_{s=1}^{n} \Delta_{is}^s, \qquad i^{n+1} = i^1$$

is a difference operator on  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{M}_{h^*}^{\otimes n}$ .

## Crossing solid lines give R-matrix

$$R(z-z';a)_{ij}^{kl} = z - \underbrace{a}_{i} \underbrace{1}_{j} \underbrace{k}_{z'}$$

R-matrix satisfies dynamical Yang-Baxter equation

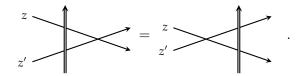


Just like the ordinary Yang–Baxter equation

$$R_{12}R_{13}R_{23} = R_{23}R_{13}R_{12}$$

but with shifts in the dynamical parameters.

#### L-operator and R-matrix satisfy RLL relation

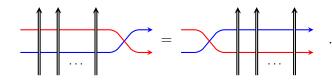


#### It follows that transfer matrices commute:

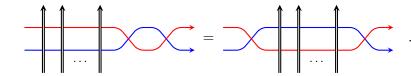
$$T(z)T(z') = T(z')T(z)$$

# Proof:

#### By RLL relation



Multiply both sides by  $R^{-1}$ :



Take the trace, making the horizontal direction periodic.

Since

$$[T(z),T(z')]=0\,,$$

coefficients of Laurent expansion

$$T(z) = \sum_{m = -\infty}^{\infty} T_m z^m$$

are commuting difference operators on  $\mathcal{H}$ :

$$[T_m,T_n]=0.$$

This is integrability.

#### Trigonometric L-operator [Hasegawa]

$$\mathcal{L}_{w,m}(z)_{i}^{j} = \sum_{i,j} (\Delta_{i}^{1} \Delta_{j}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\sin \pi (z - w + a_{j}^{2} - a_{i}^{1})}{\sin \pi (z - w)} \ell_{m}(a^{1}, a^{2})_{i}^{j} (\Delta_{i}^{1} \Delta_{j}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

satisfies RLL relation with a trigonometric dynamical R-matrix (a limit of the 8vSOS R-matrix).

$$\ell_m(a^1, a^2)_i^j = \left(\frac{\prod_{k(\neq i)} \sin \pi(a_k^1 - a_j^2 - m) \prod_{l(\neq j)} \sin \pi(a_i^1 - a_l^2 - m)}{\prod_{k(\neq i)} \sin \pi(a_{ki}^1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon) \sin \pi(a_{ik}^1 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon)}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

w,  $m \in \mathbb{C}$  are spectral parameters assigned to the double line:

$$\mathcal{L}_{w,m}(z) = z \xrightarrow{w, m}$$

#### Introduce fundamental L-operators

$$\mathcal{L}_{\pm,m} = \lim_{w \to \pm i\infty} \mathcal{L}_{w,m}$$
.

Then

Introduction

$$(\mathcal{L}_{\pm,m})_i^j = \sum_{i,j} (\Delta_i^1 \Delta_j^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\pm \pi i (a_j^2 - a_i^1)} \ell_m(a^1, a^2)_i^j (\Delta_i^1 \Delta_j^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}_{w,m}(z) = \frac{e^{\pi i(z-w)}\mathcal{L}_{+,m} - e^{-\pi i(z-w)}\mathcal{L}_{-,m}}{\sin \pi(z-w)}.$$

We may as well consider  $\mathcal{L}_{\pm,m}$  without loss of generality.

# Pick *n*-tuple of signs

Introduction

$$\sigma = (\sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^n) \in \{\pm\}^n$$

and *n*-tuple of complex numbers

$$m=(m^1,\ldots,m^n)\in\mathbb{C}^n$$
.

Let  $\mathcal{T}_{\sigma,m}$  be the transfer matrix constructed from n L-operators

$$\mathcal{L}_{\sigma^1,m^1}$$
, ...,  $\mathcal{L}_{\sigma^n,m^n}$ .

$$\mathcal{T}_{\sigma,m} = \sum_{i^1,\ldots,i^n} \left( \prod_{s=1}^n \Delta_{i_s}^s \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{r=1}^n e^{\pi i \sigma^r (a_{i_r+1}^{r+1} - a_{i_r}^r)} \ell_{m^r} (a^r, a^{r+1})_{i_r}^{i_r+1} \left( \prod_{s=1}^n \Delta_{i_s}^s \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

This is the main character from the integrable system.

 $\mathcal{N}=2$  gauge theories have half-BPS Wilson-'t Hooft lines.

Wolrdlines of very massive dyonic particles

Charge of WH line

Introduction

$$(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{e}) \in (\Lambda_{coweight} \times \Lambda_{weight}) / Weyl$$
.

Wilson line has  $\mathbf{m} = 0$  and is labeled by representation of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

't Hooft line has  $\mathbf{e} = 0$  and is labeled by representation of  $^L \mathfrak{g}$ .

Wilson-'t Hooft

= ('t Hooft) + (Wilson for subgroup of G leaving  $\mathbf{m}$  invariant)

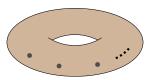
 $\mathcal{N} = 2$  gauge theory described by *n*-node circular quiver



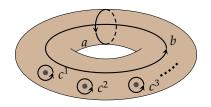
Each node is SU(N) (more precisely, PSU(N)).

Edges are bifundamental hypers with masses  $m^1, \ldots, m^n$ .

Compactification of 6d  $\mathcal{N}=(2,0)$  SCFT on *n*-punctured torus



WH lines = surface defects wrapping 1-cycles of the torus



Consider Wilson–'t Hooft line  $T_{\square,\sigma}$  corresponding to

$$\gamma_{\sigma} = b + \sum_{r} \frac{1 - \sigma^{r}}{2} c^{r}.$$

If  $\sigma^r = +1$  (-1), the cycle passes above (below) rth puncture.

$$\mathbf{m} = \square \oplus \cdots \oplus \square$$
 under  $\mathfrak{su}_N \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{su}_N$ 

**e** specified by  $\sigma \in \{\pm\}^n$ 

### Put the theory on twisted product

$$S^1 \times_{\epsilon} \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$$
.

Wrap  $T_{\square,\sigma}$  around  $S^1 \times \{0\} \times \{t\}$ .

Ito-Okuda-Taki tell us how to compute the vev by localization:

$$\langle T_{\square,\sigma} \rangle = \sum_{i^1,\dots,i^n} \prod_{r=1}^n e^{2\pi i b_{ir}^r} e^{\pi i \sigma^r (a_{ir+1}^{r+1} - a_{ir}^r)} \ell_{m^r} (a^r, a^{r+1})_{ir}^{i^{r+1}}$$

in complexified Fenchel–Nielsen coordinates on Seiberg–Witten moduli space:

$$a = \frac{\theta_{\rm e}}{2\pi} + i\beta \operatorname{Re} \phi + \cdots, \quad b = \frac{\theta_{\rm m}}{2\pi} - \frac{4\pi i\beta}{g^2} \operatorname{Im} \phi + i\frac{\vartheta}{2\pi}\beta \operatorname{Re} \phi + \cdots.$$

Alternatively, we can compute it from Toda theory by AGT.

Correspondence

Introduction

$$\langle T_{\square,\sigma} \rangle = \sum_{i^1 \dots i^n} \prod_{r=1}^n e^{2\pi i b_{ir}^r} e^{\pi i \sigma^r (a_{ir+1}^{r+1} - a_{ir}^r)} \ell_{m^r} (a^r, a^{r+1})_{i^r}^{i^{r+1}},$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{\sigma,m} = \sum_{i^1,\ldots,i^n} \left( \prod_{s=1}^n \Delta_{i_s}^s \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{r=1}^n e^{\pi i \sigma^r (a_{i_r+1}^{r+1} - a_{i_r}^r)} \ell_{m^r} (a^r, a^{r+1})_{i_r}^{i_r+1} \left( \prod_{s=1}^n \Delta_{i_s}^s \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

If we quantize  $a^r$ ,  $b^r$  so that

$$[\hat{a}_i^r,\hat{b}_j^s] = -\mathrm{i}rac{\epsilon}{2\pi}\delta^{rs}igg(\delta_{ij}-rac{1}{N}igg)\,,$$

then

$$\mathcal{T}_{\sigma,m}$$
 = Weyl quantization of  $\langle T_{\square,\sigma} \rangle$  .

# M-theory setup

12345 directions: twisted product  $\mathbb{R}^2_{12} \times_{\epsilon} S^1_3 \times_{-\epsilon} \mathbb{R}^2_{45}$ 

M5: 6d 
$$\mathcal{N} = (2,0)$$
 SCFT on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}_{12}^2 \times_{\epsilon} S_3^1 \times S_6^1 \times S_{10}^1$ 

M5': n punctures on  $S_6^1 \times S_{10}^1$ 

M2: surface defect

Reduction on  $S_6^1 \times S_{10}^1$  gives the 4d setup with  $\sigma = (+, \dots, +)$ .

# Compactify $\mathbb{R}_9 \to S_9^1$ :

# Reduce on $S_3^1$ :

Apply T-duality  $S_9^1 \rightarrow \check{S}_9^1$ :

D5: 6d 
$$\mathcal{N} = (1,1)$$
 SYM on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}^2_{12} \times S^1_6 \times \check{S}^1_9 \times S^1_{10}$ 

D3: codim-3 operator on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}^2_{12}$ 

F1: Wilson line on  $S_6^1$ 

 $\Omega$ -deformation on  $\mathbb{R}^2_{12}$  from nontrivial background, due to the initial twisted product in 12345 directions [Hellerman-Orland-Reffert].

 $\leadsto$  Costello's 4d Chern–Simons on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times S_6^1 \times \check{S}_9^1 \times S_{10}^1$  [Costello-Y]

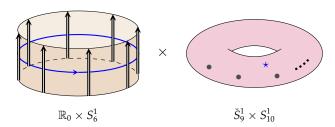
Codim-3 operators on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}^2_{12}$ 

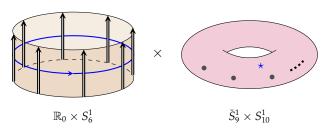
 $\leadsto$  line operators on  $\mathbb{R}_0$ 

Wilson line on  $S_6^1$ 

Introduction

 $\rightsquigarrow$  Wilson line on  $S_6^1$ 

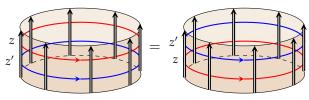


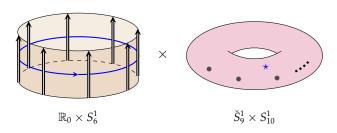


Topological on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times S^1_6$ , holomorphic on  $\check{S}^1_9 \times S^1_{10}$ 

 $2d\ TQFT + line\ defects \implies lattice\ model$ 

 $TQFT + extra dimensions \implies integrability [Costello]$ 





Wilson line gives transfer matrix of elliptic QIS with

$$\tau = iR_{10}/\check{R}_9 .$$

Now, decompactify  $S_9^1 \to \mathbb{R}_9$ . Take  $R_9 \to \infty$ , or  $\check{R}_9 \to 0$ .

This is the trigonometric limit  $\tau \to i\infty$ .

Dependence on the position on the torus (spectral parameter) is gone in this limit.

For Nekrasov–Shatashvili, apply S-duality:

Then T-duality on  $S_6^1$ :

D4–NS5: 4d  $\mathcal{N}=2$  theory for (N+1)-node linear quiver

$$n - n - \cdots - n$$

placed on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}^2_{12} \times \check{S}^1_6$ .

 $\begin{array}{ll} \Omega\text{-deformation quantizes DW system (trigonometric Gaudin)} \\ \Longrightarrow \text{ noncompact XXX spin chain} \end{array}$ 

D0 is a local operator, acting as a transfer matrix.

Actuality, 9 & 10 directions are compact, so it's a 6d lift. We get the elliptic version of the integrable system.

## Go back to M-theory

# Reduce on $S_{10}^1$ :

Apply T-duality on  $S_9^1$ :

D5–NS5: 5d circular quiver theory on  $\mathbb{R}_0 \times \mathbb{R}^2_{12} \times_{\epsilon} S^1_3 \times \check{S}^1_9$ 

D3: surface defect on  $S_3^1 \times \check{S}_9^1$ 

We can add more NS5s, preserving 4d  $\mathcal{N}=1$  SUSY on  $\mathbb{R}^2_{12} \times_\epsilon S^1_3 \times \check{S}^1_9$ . This leads to the brane tiling story [Maruyoshi–Y].

### Summary

- We considered a class of Wilson–'t Hooft lines in 4d  $\mathcal{N}=2$  circular quiver theories.
- We found that they can be identified with transfer matrices of trigonometric QIS.
- By embedding into string theory, this correspondence can be related to other known correspondences via dualities.

#### Further directions

- Surface defects in 5d circular quiver theory correspond to transfer matrices of elliptic QIS.
- Variations of the present setup
- Circular quiver theories deconstruct 6d  $\mathcal{N}=(2,0)$  SCFT. Integrability is behind surface operators in 6d theory.