

String theory ??

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Contents

1 Last time

Last time we had that $T_{zz} = \sum_n z^{-n-2} L_n$, with $z = e^w$, then $T_{ww} = \sum_n (L_n - \mu_0 \delta_{n,0} e^{-nw})$. z is the cylinder quantization and w is the standard Minkowski plane. From this we calculated that $\mu_0 = c/24$. We also have OPE

$$T(z')T(z) = \frac{c/2}{(z' - z)^4} + \frac{2T(z)}{(z' - z)^2} + \frac{\partial_z T}{z' - z} + \dots$$

, where ... is something regular, thus doesn't contribute to line integrals. Note that the vacuum is sl_2 invariant.

2 Extending to the Riemann Sphere

2.1 Extends to the origin

Extending to origin $z = 0$: $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})|0\rangle$ is finite. In particular, for $T(z) = \sum_n z^{-n-2} L_n$, $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} T(z)|0\rangle$ is finite is equivalent to $L_n|0\rangle = 0$ for $n \geq -1$. Note that this automatically implied that the vacuum is sl_2 invariant. This was automatic for free scalar, with $a^\dagger n = a_{-n}$, $n \geq 0$, and $a_n|0\rangle = 0$, $n \geq 0$, and our normal ordering convention

$$L_n = 1/2 \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} : a_{n-m} a_m :$$

. From this, we see that $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} T(z) = L_{-2}|0\rangle = 1/2a_{-1}^2|0\rangle$, more generally, $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})|0\rangle := |\mathcal{O}\rangle$, this is the operator-state correspondence.

Now we can say anything about operators to thing we can say about the states:

If \mathcal{O} is primary, we have $[L_n, \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})] = (n+1)z^n h \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z}) + z^{n+1} \partial_z \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})$, now we take the limit as $z \mapsto 0$: for $n \geq 1$, $\lim_{z \mapsto 0} [L_n, \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})]|0\rangle = L_n|\mathcal{O}\rangle = 0$ the last part is by the calculation above about the commutator. $\lim_{z \mapsto 0} [L_0, \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})]|0\rangle = L_0|\mathcal{O}\rangle = h|\mathcal{O}\rangle$, and $\lim_{z \mapsto 0} [L_{-1}, \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})]|0\rangle = |\partial_z \mathcal{O}\rangle$. States that satisfies this are called the primary states.

Similiarly, we have descendent states, where L_{-1} doesn't vanish as in the primary states, one example of this would be $\partial_z \mathcal{O}$, which by Jacobi identity doesn't vanish. They all look like this, this is why they are called descendent states.

2.2 extending $z = \infty$

Let $y = -1/z$, in changing of coordinates, we see that $T_{yy} = \frac{dz^2}{dy^2} T_{zz}(z) + c/12\{z, y\} = z^4 T_{zz}(z)$. $\{z, y\}$ is the Scharwzian derivative .

That tells me how the stress-energy tensor transform:

So given a correlation function $\langle T(z) \mathcal{O}_1(z_1, \bar{z}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n, \bar{z}_n) \rangle \sim z^{-4}$ as $z \mapsto \infty$, the z^{-4} is there to ensure that it cancels the z^4 from the stress energy tensor.

Thus we define $\langle \mathcal{O} | := \langle 0 | \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} z^{2L_0} \bar{z}^{2\bar{L}_0} \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})$, $\langle 0 | L_n = 0$ for $n \leq -1$.

Note that for a primary operator $\mathcal{O}(y, \bar{y}) = \frac{dz}{dy} h (d\bar{z})(d\bar{y}) \mathcal{O}(z, \bar{z})$.

Sow we learn that

1. states are organized into representations of Virasoro. We have the primary states $|\mathcal{O}\rangle$ with $L_0|\mathcal{O}\rangle = h|\mathcal{O}\rangle$, $L_n|\mathcal{O}\rangle = 0$, $n \geq 1$. And it has descendents $\dots L_{-3}^{n_3} L_{-2}^{n_2} L_{-1}^{n_1} |\mathcal{O}\rangle$, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k n_k = N$, N is called the level, and L_0 has this a eigenstate with eigenvalue $= h + N$.
2. Unitarity: fro any state (primary or descendent), we have $\langle \psi | \psi \rangle \geq 0$, if it is $=0$, then it is called a null state, corresponding operator vanishes

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by the equation of motion. Since $L_0^\dagger = L_0 \Rightarrow h$ is real. $|L-1|^2 = \langle \mathcal{O} | L_1 L_{-1} | \mathcal{O} \rangle = 2h \langle \mathcal{O} | \mathcal{O} \rangle$, thus $h \geq 0$, $h = 0$ iff $L_{-1} \mathcal{O} = \partial_z \mathcal{O} = 0$, which is equivalent to $\mathcal{O} = \bar{\mathbb{I}}$. One example of this is $\bar{T}_{\bar{z}\bar{z}}$, which has $[L_{-1}, \bar{T}_{\bar{z}\bar{z}}(\bar{z})] = 0$. So we see an example of null state: if \mathcal{O} is a primary operator with $h = 0$, then its descendent $\partial_z \mathcal{O}$ has the corresponding state a null state.

What about null state at level two: there are more conditions (it will involve both c and h): Let's start with a primary state, study the matrix of inner products of descendants at level two:

I don't know how to write matrices

$A = (\langle \mathcal{O} | L_2 L_{-2} | \mathcal{O} \rangle \langle \mathcal{O} | L_2 L_{-1}^2 | \mathcal{O} \rangle \dots$ The calculation goes that

I also don't know how to quickly to bra-ket symbols, as well as operators of a Hamiltonian

$$[L_2, L_{-2}] = 4L_0 + c/2, \text{ and } [L_1^2, L_{-1}^2] = 4L_0(2L_0 + 1).$$

We will get more and more conditions at each level. The goal is write out a condition for the zero being the determinant of the n -th descendent of a primary.

Why do we care about the determinant being positive? Because if this inner product is positive definite, then the determinant better be positive.

Todo list