

# Quantum strings in $AdS_5 \times S^5$ and gauge-string duality

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- Review of recent work on gauge-string duality
- Quantum corrections to energies of “short” strings  
[ [R. Roiban, AT, arXiv:0906.4294](#) ]

## General aims:

- understand quantum gauge theories at any coupling  
[applications to both perturbative and non-perturbative issues]
- understand string theories in non-trivial backgrounds  
[e.g. RR ones for flux compactifications]

## AdS/CFT duality:

- relates the two questions suggesting solving them together rather than separately is best strategy
- relates simplest most symmetric theories  
use of symmetries on both sides to make progress

## Integrability:

Existence of powerful hidden symmetries  
allowing to solve problem “in principle”

## Strategy:

solve simplest most symmetric (“harmonic oscillator”) case  
then hope to treat other cases “in perturbation theory”

“Harmonic oscillator” (or “Ising”, or “WZW”):

planar  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM theory = free superstring in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$

most symmetric 4-d gauge th. = most symmetric 10-d string th.

$\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM:

- maximal supersymmetry; conformal invariance;
- integrability? its precise meaning? in which observables?

could be expected in anomalous dimensions

[1-loop gluonic sector – known emergence of XXX spin chain:

Lipatov; Faddeev-Korchemsky, ...]

- in fact,  $\infty$  of hidden symmetries should play broader role:

“inherited” via AdS/CFT from 2-d integrable QFT –

string  $\sigma$ -model: use 2-d int. QFT to solve 4-d CFT

## Superstring in $AdS_5 \times S^5$ :

- integrable in “canonical” sense: **sigma-model on symmetric space**  
classical equations admit infinite number of conserved charges  
closely related (via Pohlmeyer reduction) to  
(super) sine-Gordon and non-abelian Toda eqs  
e.g. special motions of strings are described by  
**the integrable** 1-d mechanical systems (Neumann, etc.)
- integrability **extends** to **quantum level**:  
evidence directly on string-theory side to 2 loops  
and also indirectly via AdS/CFT “bootstrap” reasoning

## **Quantum integrability**: should control

- spectrum of string energies on  $R \times S^1$   
[anom. dim's of 2-d primary operators = vertex operators on  $R^{1,1}$ ]
  - correlation functions of vertex operators (to which extent?)\*  
[closed-string scattering amplitudes]
- \*not clear even in flat space; string field theory is not “integrable”

## Integrability = hidden infinite dimensional symmetry

– if valid in quantum string theory –

i.e. at **any** value of string tension  $\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi}$  – **any**  $\lambda = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N_c$

should be “visible” also – via AdS/CFT – in

**perturbative SYM theory**

Integrability should then control:

- spectrum of dimensions of gauge-inv. single tr primary operators  
[or spectrum of gauge-theory energies on  $R \times S^3$ ]
- correlation functions of these operators (to which extent?)

## What about scattering amplitudes and Wilson loops?

Amplitudes – IR divergent; Cusped Wilson loops – UV divergent

Hidden (Yangian) symmetries broken at loop level in a “useful” way?

Are there “better” observables? (from integrability point of view)

Cross-sections? Effective actions?

Relation to correlation functions of gauge-inv. ops.?

Hints from string theory ?

Recent remarkable progress:

## Spectrum of states

I. Spectrum of “long” operators = “semiclassical” string states

determined by **Asymptotic Bethe Ansatz** (2002-2007)

- its final (BES) form found after intricate superposition of information from perturbative gauge theory (spin chain, BA,...) and perturbative string theory (classical and 1-loop phase,...), use of symmetries (S-matrix), and assumption of exact integrability
- consequences **checked** against all available gauge and string data

Key example:

cuspidal anomalous dimension  $\text{Tr}(\Phi D^S \Phi)$

$$f(\lambda \ll 1) = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\lambda}{48} + \frac{11\lambda^2}{2^8 \cdot 45} - \left( \frac{73}{630} + \frac{4\zeta^2(3)}{\pi^6} \right) \frac{\lambda^3}{27} + \dots \right]$$
$$f(\lambda \gg 1) = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\pi} \left[ 1 - \frac{3 \ln 2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} - \frac{K}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2} - \dots \right]$$

Extensions to subleading terms in large  $S$  expansion

## II. Spectrum of “short” operators = all quantum string states

### Thermodynamic Bethe Ansatz (2005-2009)

- reconstructed from ABA using solely methods/intuition of 2-d integrable QFT, i.e. string-theory side ( how to incorporate wrapping terms directly on gauge-theory side?)
- highly non-trivial construction – lack of 2-d Lorentz invariance in the standard “BMN-vacuum-adapted” l.c. gauge
- in few cases ABA “improved” by Luscher corrections is enough: 4- and 5-loop Konishi dimension, 4-loop minimal twist op. dimension
- crucial to **check predictions against perturbative gauge and string data**



Key example:

anomalous dimension of Konishi operator  $\text{Tr}(\bar{\Phi}_i \Phi_i)$

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma(\lambda \ll 1) &= \frac{12\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{4\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} + \frac{28\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^4} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - [208 - 48\zeta(3) + 120\zeta(5)] \frac{\lambda^3}{(4\pi)^6} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 8[158 + 72\zeta(3) - 54\zeta^2(3) - 90\zeta(3) + 315\zeta(7)] \frac{\lambda^4}{(4\pi)^8} + \dots \right] \\ \gamma(\lambda \gg 1) &= 2\sqrt[4]{\lambda} + b_0 + \frac{b_1}{\sqrt[4]{\lambda}} + \frac{b_2}{(\sqrt[4]{\lambda})^2} + \frac{b_3}{(\sqrt[4]{\lambda})^3} + \dots\end{aligned}$$

Suppose sum up weak-coupling expansion and re-expand at large  $\lambda$  – values of  $b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots$  ?

directly from string theory ?

from TBA/Y-system that should be describing string spectrum ?

talks by [Kazakov and Gromov](#)

## Many open questions:

Analytic form of strong-coupling expansion from TBA/Y-system?

Matching onto string spectrum in near-flat-space expansion?

No level crossing?

Strong-coupling expansion is Borel (non)summable?

Exponential corrections  $e^{-a\sqrt{\lambda}}$  like in cusp anomaly case?

...

## Deeper issues:

Solve string theory from first principles –

- fundamental variables? preserve 2-d Lorentz invariance?
- prove quantum integrability?

lattice version of “supercoset” sigma model?

Another remarkable recent progress:

## Amplitudes, Wilson loops and their symmetries

Weak coupling:

various connections to hidden symmetries and integrability

conformal symmetry, dual conformal symmetry,

their “unification” in the Yangian (at classical level)

Other suggestions about role of integrability in the amplitudes

[talk by [Lipatov](#)]

Strong coupling:

use of integrability of string theory to determine (via relation to WL's)

leading contributions to certain gluon scattering amplitudes

[Alday and Maldacena,...]

“tree-level”  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  superstring = planar  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM

Recent remarkable progress in quantitative understanding  
interpolation from weak to strong ‘t Hooft coupling  
based on/checked by perturbative gauge theory (4-loop in  $\lambda$ )  
and perturbative string theory (2-loop in  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$ ) “data”  
and (strong evidence of) exact integrability  
string energies = dimensions of local  $\text{Tr}(\dots)$  operators

$$E(\sqrt{\lambda}, C, m, \dots) = \Delta(\lambda, C, m, \dots)$$

$C$  - “charges” of  $SO(2, 4) \times SO(6)$ :  $S_1, S_2$ ;  $J_1, J_2, J_3$

$m$  - windings, folds, cusps, oscillation numbers, ...

Operators:  $\text{Tr}(\Phi_1^{J_1} \Phi_2^{J_2} \Phi_3^{J_3} D_+^{S_1} D_-^{S_2} \dots F_{mn} \dots \Psi \dots)$

**Solve supersymmetric 4-d CFT**

**= Solve string in curved R-R background (2-d CFT):**

compute  $E = \Delta$  for **any**  $\lambda$  (and any  $C, m$ )

Problem: perturbative expansions are **opposite**

$\lambda \gg 1$  in perturbative string theory

$\lambda \ll 1$  in perturbative gauge theory

weak-coupling expansion convergent – defines  $\Delta(\lambda)$

need to go beyond perturbation theory: integrability

Last 7 years – remarkable progress for subclass of states:

“semiclassical” string states with large quantum numbers

dual to “long” SYM operators (canonical dim.  $\Delta_0 \gg 1$ )

[BMN 02, GKP 02, FT 03,...]

$E = \Delta$  – same (in some cases !) dependence on  $C, m, \dots$

coefficients = “**interpolating**” functions of  $\lambda$

## Current status:

1. “Long” operators = strings with large quantum numbers:

Asymptotic Bethe Ansatz (ABA) [Beisert, Eden, Staudacher 06]

firmly established (including non-trivial phase factor)

2. “Short” operators = general quantum string states:

partial progress based on improving ABA by

“Luscher corrections” [Janik et al 08]

generalize ABA to TBA [Abjorn et al; Arutyunov, Frolov 07-09]

underlying Y-system, TBA eqs. for excited states

[Gromov, Kazakov, Vieira 09]

To justify from **first principles** need better understanding

of quantum  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  superstring theory

1. Solve string theory on a plane  $R^{1,1} \rightarrow$

**relativistic** 2d S-matrix  $\rightarrow$  asymptotic BA for the spectrum

2. Generalize to finite-energy closed strings – the theory on  $R \times S^1$

$\rightarrow$  TBA (cf. integrable sigma models)

## Superstring theory in $AdS_5 \times S^5$

bosonic coset  $\frac{SO(2,4)}{SO(1,4)} \times \frac{SO(6)}{SO(5)}$

generalized to supercoset  $\frac{PSU(2,2|4)}{SO(1,4) \times SO(5)}$  [Metsaev, AT 98]

$$S = T \int d^2\sigma \left[ G_{mn}(x) \partial x^m \partial x^n + \bar{\theta} (D + F_5) \theta \partial x + \bar{\theta} \theta \bar{\theta} \theta \partial x \partial x + \dots \right]$$

tension  $T = \frac{R^2}{2\pi\alpha'} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi}$

Conformal invariance:  $\beta_{mn} = R_{mn} - (F_5)_{mn}^2 = 0$

Classical (Luscher-Pohlmeyer 76) integrability of coset  $\sigma$ -model true for  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  superstring [Bena, Polchinski, Roiban 02]

Progress in understanding of implications of (semi)classical integrability [Kazakov, Marshakov, Minahan, Zarembo 04,...]

Reformulation in terms of currents with Virasoro conditions solved:

“Pohlmeyer reduction”

[Grigoriev, AT 07; Mikhailov, Schafer-Nameki 07, Roiban, AT 09]

**1-loop** quantum superstring corrections

[Frolov, AT; Park, Tirziu, AT, 02-04, ...]

used as an input data to fix 1-loop term

in strong-coupling expansion of the phase  $\theta(\lambda)$  in ABA

[Beisert, AT 05; Hernandez, Lopez 06]

**2-loop** quantum superstring corrections

[Roiban, Tirziu, AT; Roiban, AT 07]

– check of finiteness of the GS superstring

– implicit check of integrability of quantum string theory

– non-trivial confirmation of BES phase in ABA

[Benna, Benvenuti, Klebanov, Scardicchio 07;

Basso, Korchemsky, Kotansky 07]



$$AdS_5 \times S^5 = \frac{SO(2,4)}{SO(1,4)} \times \frac{SO(6)}{SO(5)}$$

Killing vectors and Killing spinors of  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  :

$PSU(2, 2|4)$  symmetry

replace  $G/H$ =SuperPoincare/Lorentz in flat GS case by

$$\frac{PSU(2, 2|4)}{SO(1, 4) \times SO(5)}$$

$PSU(2, 2|4)$  invariant action:

$\int \text{Tr}(g^{-1} dg)_{G/H}^2 + \text{WZ-term}$

$$J = g^{-1} dg = J^m \mathcal{P}_m + J_\alpha^I Q_I^\alpha + J^{mn} \mathcal{M}_{mn}$$

$$I = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \left[ \int d^2 \sigma (J^m J^m + a \bar{J}^I J^I) + b \int J^m \wedge \bar{J}^I \Gamma_m J^J s_{IJ} \right]$$

as in flat space  $a = 0$ ,  $b = \pm 1$  required by  $\kappa$ -symmetry

unique action with right symmetry and right flat-space limit

Formal argument for UV finiteness (2d conformal invariance):

1. global symmetry – only overall coefficient of  $J^2$  term (radius) can run
2. non-renormalization of WZ term (homogeneous 3-form)
3. preservation of  $\kappa$ -symmetry at the quantum level
  - relating coefficients of  $J^2$  and WZ terms

Equivalent form of the GS action:

$$AdS_5 \times S^5 = \frac{SU(2,2)}{Sp(2,2)} \times \frac{SU(4)}{Sp(4)}$$

generalized to

$$\frac{\widehat{F}}{G} = \frac{PSU(2,2|4)}{Sp(2,2) \times Sp(4)}$$

basic superalgebra  $\widehat{\mathfrak{f}} = psu(2, 2|4)$

bosonic part  $\mathfrak{f} = su(2, 2) \oplus su(4) \cong so(2, 4) \oplus so(6)$

admits  $Z_4$ -grading:

(Berkovits, Bershadsky, Hauer, Zhukov, Zwiebach 89)

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{f}} = \mathfrak{f}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{f}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{f}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{f}_3, \quad [\mathfrak{f}_i, \mathfrak{f}_j] \subset \mathfrak{f}_{i+j \bmod 4}$$

$$\mathfrak{f}_0 = \mathfrak{g} = sp(2, 2) \oplus sp(4)$$

$$\mathfrak{f}_2 = AdS_5 \times S^5$$

current  $J = f^{-1} \partial_a f, f \in \widehat{F}$

$$J_a = f^{-1} \partial_a f = \mathcal{A}_a + Q_{1a} + P_a + Q_{2a}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \in \mathfrak{f}_0, \quad Q_1 \in \mathfrak{f}_1, \quad P \in \mathfrak{f}_2, \quad Q_2 \in \mathfrak{f}_3 .$$

$$I = \int \text{STr} \left( P \wedge *P + Q_1 \wedge Q_2 \right)$$

## How to solve quantum string theory in $AdS_5 \times S^5$ ?

GS string on supercoset  $\frac{PSU(2,2|4)}{SO(1,4) \times SO(5)}$

not of known solvable type (cf. free oscillators; WZW)

analogy with exact solution of  $O(n)$  model (Zamolodchikovs) or principal chiral model (Polyakov-Wiegmann ...) ?

but 2d CFT – no mass generation

By analogy with flat space –

light-cone gauge: analog of  $x^+ = p^+ \tau$ ,  $p^+ = \text{const}$ ,  $\Gamma^+ \theta = 0$

Two natural options:

(i) null geodesic parallel to the boundary in Poincare patch –  
action/Hamiltonian quartic in fermions (Metsaev, Thorn, AT, 01)

(ii) null geodesic wrapping  $S^5$ :

complicated action

Common problem:

lack of manifest 2d Lorentz symmetry

hard to apply known 2d integrable field theory methods –

S-matrix depends on two rapidities, not on their difference

constraints on it are a priori unclear...

An alternative approach: “Pohlmeyer reduction”

conformal gauge, solve Virasoro conditions

find “reduced” action in terms of currents

use it as a starting point for quantization

**Aim: PR version for  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  superstring**

- (i) introduce new fields locally related to supercoset currents
  - (ii) solve Virasoro condition explicitly
  - (iii) find local 2d Lorentz-invariant action for independent (8B+8F) d.o.f
- **fermionic generalization of non-abelian Toda theory**

**PR:** a nonlocal map that preserves integrable structure

1. gauge-equivalent Lax pairs; map between soliton solutions gives integrable massive local field theory

2. quantum equivalence to original GS model ?

may expect for full  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  string model = **CFT**

3. integrable theory: semiclassical solitonic spectrum

may essentially determine quantum spectrum

the two solitonic S-matrices should be closely related:

**Lorentz-invariant** S-matrix of PR-model should lead to effective **magnon S-matrix**

# Reduced action for $AdS_5 \times S^5$ superstring

(Grigoriev, AT 07; Mikhailov, Schafer-Nameki 07)

classical gauge-fixed 1-st order equations in terms of currents

follow from an action!

fermionic generalization of “gWZW+ potential” theory for

$$\frac{G}{H} = \frac{Sp(2,2)}{SU(2) \times SU(2)} \times \frac{Sp(4)}{SU(2) \times SU(2)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= L_{gWZW}(g, A_+, A_-) + \mu^2 \text{STr}(g^{-1} T g T) \\ &+ \text{STr}(\Psi_L T D_+ \Psi_L + \Psi_R T D_- \Psi_R) \\ &+ \mu \text{STr}(g^{-1} \Psi_L g \Psi_R) \end{aligned}$$

sum of PR theories for  $AdS_5$  and  $S^5$  “glued” by fermions

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \tilde{L}_{AdS_5}(g_a, A_{\pm,a}) + \tilde{L}_{S^5}(g_s, A_{\pm,s}) \\ &+ \psi_L D_+ \psi_L + \psi_R D_+ \psi_R + O(\mu) \end{aligned}$$

similar but not same as susy gWZW:

fermions are in “mixed” representation

standard 2d kin. terms

$$\begin{aligned} L_F &= \text{STr}(\Psi_L T \partial_+ \Psi_L + \Psi_R T \partial_- \Psi_R) + \dots \\ &= -2i \text{Tr}(\xi_L^t \partial_+ \xi_L + \eta_L^t \partial_+ \eta_L + \xi_R^t \partial_- \xi_R + \eta_R^t \partial_- \eta_R) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

classically integrable model:

fermionic generalization of non-abelian Toda model

Lax pair encoding equations of motion

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_- &= \partial_- + A_- + \ell^{-1} \sqrt{\mu} g^{-1} \Psi_L g + \ell^{-2} \mu g^{-1} T g, \\ \mathcal{L}_+ &= \partial_+ + g^{-1} \partial_+ g + g^{-1} A_+ g + \ell \sqrt{\mu} \Psi_R + \ell^2 \mu T \end{aligned}$$

Quantum properties:

- **UV finite** theory [Roiban, AT 09]
- semiclassical (1-loop) partition function

same as in GS theory [Hoare, Iwashita, AT 09]



## Comments:

- gWZW model coupled to the fermions interacting minimally and through the “Yukawa term”
- 2d Lorentz invariant with  $\Psi_R, \Psi_L$  as 2d Majorana spinors
- 8 real bosonic and 16 real fermionic independent variables
- 2d supersymmetry? yes, in  $AdS_2 \times S^2$  case:  $n = 2$  super sine-Gordon
- $\mu$ -dependent interactions are equal to GS Lagrangian; gWZW produces MC eq.: path integral derivation via change from fields to currents?
- quadratic in fermions (like susy version of gWZW); integrating out  $A_{\pm}$  gives quartic fermionic terms (reflecting curvature)
- linearisation of EOM in the gauge  $A_{\pm} = 0$  around  $g = 1$  describes 8+8 massive bosonic and fermionic d.o.f. with mass  $\mu$ : same as in BMN limit
- symmetry of resulting **relativistic** S-matrix:  $H = [SU(2)]^4$  – as bosonic part of magnon S-matrix symmetry  $[PSU(2|2)]^2$

# Open questions

- Quantum equivalence of reduced theory and GS theory?  
Path integral argument of equivalence?
- Indication of equivalence: semiclassical expansion  
near analog of  $(S, J)$  rigid string in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  leads to same characteristic frequencies  
– same 1-loop partition function  
(Roiban, AT 08; Hoare, Iwashita, Tseytlin 09)
- Tree-level S-matrix for elementary excitations?  
Manifest  $SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)$  symmetry?  
Relation to magnon S-matrix in BA?

## Gauge states vs string states: principles of comparison

1. compare states with same global  $SO(2, 4) \times SO(6)$  charges

e.g.,  $(S, J)$  – “sl(2) sector” –  $\text{Tr}(D_+^S \Phi^J)$

2. assume no “level crossing” while changing  $\lambda$

min/max energy  $(S, J)$  states should be in correspondence

### Gauge theory:

$$\Delta \equiv E = S + J + \gamma(S, J, m, \lambda) ,$$

$$\gamma = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \lambda^k \gamma_k(S, J, m)$$

fix  $S, J, \dots$  and expand in  $\lambda$ ;

then may expand in large/small  $S, J, \dots$

### Semiclassical string theory:

$$E = S + J + \gamma(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{J}, m, \sqrt{\lambda}) ,$$

$$\gamma = \sum_{k=-1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^k} \tilde{\gamma}_k(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{J}, m)$$

fix semiclassical parameters  $\mathcal{S} = \frac{S}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$ ,  $\mathcal{J} = \frac{J}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$ ,  $m$

To match in general will need to resum – beyond ABA

## Dimensions of short operators

= energies of quantum string states:

progress in understanding spectrum of conformal dimensions of planar  $N = 4$  SYM or spectrum of strings in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  based on quantum integrability

Spectrum of states with large quantum numbers – solution of ABA equations

Recent proposal of how to extend this to “short” states with any quantum numbers – TBA / Y-system approach compare to direct quantum string results

**Aim:** compute leading  $\alpha' \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  correction to dimension of “lightest” massive string state dual to

**Konishi operator** in SYM theory

– check against (numerical) prediction of Y-system approach

## Konishi operator:

operators (long multiplet) related to singlet by susy

$$[J_2 - J_3, J_1 - J_2, J_2 + J_3]_{(s_L, s_R)}^{\Delta_0} = [0, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}^2$$

$$\Delta = \Delta_0 + \gamma(\lambda), \quad \Delta_0 = 2, \frac{5}{2}, 3, \dots, 10$$

– same anomalous dimension  $\gamma$

singlet eigen-state of anom. dim. matrix with **lowest** eigenvalue

examples:

$$\text{Tr}(\bar{\Phi}_i \Phi_i), \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \quad \Delta_0 = 2$$

$$\text{Tr}([\Phi_1, \Phi_2]^2) \text{ in } su(2) \text{ sector } \Delta_0 = 4$$

$$\text{Tr}(\Phi_1 D_+^2 \Phi_1) \text{ in } sl(2) \text{ sector } \Delta_0 = 4$$

Weak-coupling expansion of  $\gamma(\lambda)$ :  $\lambda = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N_c$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(\lambda) = 12 \left[ \frac{\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} - 4 \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^4} + 28 \frac{\lambda^3}{(4\pi)^6} \right. \\ \left. + [-208 + 48\zeta(3) - 120\zeta(5)] \frac{\lambda^4}{(4\pi)^8} + \dots \right] + 5 - \text{loop} \end{aligned}$$

[Fiamberti et al; Bajnok, Janik; Velizhanin 08; Banjok et al 09]

## Long Konishi multiplet

$$\Delta_{0 \text{ min}} = 2, \quad [m, n, k]_{(s, s')} = [0, 0, 0]_{(0, 0)}$$

$SO(6)$  and  $SO(4)$  labels

[Andreanopoli, Ferrara 98; Bianchi, Morales, Samtleben 03]

see table

Finite radius of convergence ( $N_c = \infty$ ) – if we could sum up and then re-expand at large  $\lambda$  – what to expect? (cf.  $f(\lambda)$ )

AdS/CFT duality: Konishi operator dual to

“lightest” among massive  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  string states

large  $\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{R^2}{\alpha'}$ :

– “small” string at center of  $AdS_5$  – in **nearly flat** space

Flat space case:

$$m^2 = \frac{4(n-1)}{\alpha'}, \quad n = \frac{1}{2}(N + \bar{N}) = 1, 2, \dots, \quad N = \bar{N}$$

$n = 1$ : massless IIB supergravity (BPS) level

l.c. vacuum  $|0 \rangle$ :  $(8 + 8)^2 = 256$  states

$n = 2$ : first massive level (many states, highly degenerate)

$$[(a_{-1}^i + S_{-1}^a)|0 \rangle]^2 = [(8 + 8) \times (8 + 8)]^2$$

in  $SO(9)$  reps:

$$([2, 0, 0, 0] + [0, 0, 1, 0] + [1, 0, 0, 1])^2 = (44 + 84 + 128)^2$$

$$\text{e.g. } 44 \times 44 = 1 + 36 + 44 + 450 + 495 + 910$$

$$84 \times 84 = 1 + 36 + 44 + 84 + 126 + 495 + 594 + 924 + 1980 + 2772$$

switching on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  background fields lifts degeneracy

states with “lightest mass” at first excited string level

should correspond to Konishi multiplet



string spectrum in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  :

long multiplets  $\mathcal{A}_{[k,p,q](j,j')}^\Delta$  of  $PSU(2, 2|4)$

highest weight states:  $[k, p, q]_{(s,s')}$  labels of  $SO(6) \times SO(4)$

Remarkably, flat-space string spectrum can be re-organized

in multiplets of  $SO(2, 4) \times SO(6) \subset PSU(2, 2|4)$

[Bianchi, Morales, Samtleben 03; Beisert et al 03]

$SO(4) \times SO(5) \subset SO(9)$  rep.

lifted to  $SO(4) \times SO(6)$  rep. of  $SO(2, 4) \times SO(6)$

Konishi long multiplet

$$\widehat{T}_1 = (1 + Q + Q \wedge Q + \dots)[0, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$$

determines the KK “floor” of 1-st excited string level

$$H_1 = \sum_{J=0}^{\infty} [0, J, 0]_{(0,0)} \times \widehat{T}_1$$

One expects for scalar massive state in  $AdS_5$

$$(-\nabla^2 + m^2)\Phi + \dots = 0$$

$$\Delta(\Delta - 4) = (mR)^2 + O(\alpha') = 4(n - 1)\frac{R^2}{\alpha'} + O(\alpha')$$

$$\Delta = 2 + \sqrt{(mR)^2 + 4 + O(\alpha')}$$

$$\Delta(\lambda \gg 1) = \sqrt{4(n - 1)\sqrt{\lambda}} + \dots$$

[Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov 98]

e.g., for first massive level:

$$n = 2 : \quad \Delta = 2\sqrt{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \dots$$

Subleading corrections?

## Comparison between gauge and string theory states non-trivial:

GT ( $\lambda \ll 1$ ): operators built out of free fields,  
canonical dimension  $\Delta_0$  determines states that can mix

ST ( $\lambda \gg 1$ ): near-flat-space string states built out of  
free oscillators, level  $n$  determines states that can mix

meaning of  $\Delta_0$  at strong coupling?

meaning of  $n$  at weak coupling?

1. relate states with same global charges;
2. assume “non-intersection principle” [Polyakov 01]:  
no level crossing for states with same quantum numbers  
as  $\lambda$  changes from strong to weak coupling

## Approaches to computation of corrections to string energies:

### (i) vertex operator approach:

use  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  string sigma model perturbation theory to find leading terms in anomalous dimension of corresponding vertex operator

[Polyakov 01; AT 03]

### (ii) space-time effective action approach:

use near-flat-space expansion and NSR vertex operators to reconstruct  $\alpha' \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  corrections to corresponding massive string state equation of motion

### (iii) “light-cone” quantization approach:

start with light-cone gauge  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  string action and compute corrections to energy of corresponding flat-space oscillator string state

[Metsaev, Thorn, AT 00 ]

(iv) **semiclassical approach:**

identify short string state as small-spin limit of  
semiclassical string state

– reproduce the structure of strong-coupling corrections  
to short operators

[ Tirziu, AT 08; Roiban, AT 09]

## Spectrum of quantum string states

### from target space anomalous dimension operator

Flat space:  $k^2 = m^2 = \frac{4(n-1)}{\alpha'}$

e.g. leading Regge trajectory  $(\partial x \bar{\partial} x)^{S/2} e^{ikx}$ ,  $n = S/2$

spectrum in (weakly) curved background:

solve marginality (1,1) conditions on vertex operators

e.g. scalar anomalous dimension operator  $\hat{\gamma}(G)$

on  $T(x) = \sum c_{n\dots m} x^n \dots x^m$  or on coefficients  $c_{n\dots m}$

differential operator in target space

found from  $\beta$ -function for the corresponding perturbation

$$I = \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \int d^2 z [G_{mn}(x) \partial x^m \bar{\partial} x^n + T(x)]$$

$$\beta_T = -2T - \frac{\alpha'}{2} \hat{\gamma} T + O(T^2)$$

$$\hat{\gamma} = \Omega^{mn} D_m D_n + \dots + \Omega^{m\dots k} D_m \dots D_k + \dots$$

$$\Omega^{mn} = G^{mn} + O(\alpha'^3), \quad \Omega^{\dots} \sim \alpha'^n R^p$$

Solve  $-\hat{\gamma} T + m^2 T = 0$ : diagonalize  $\hat{\gamma}$

similarly for massless (graviton, ...) and massive states

$$\text{e.g. } \beta_{mn}^G = \alpha' R_{mn} + O(\alpha'^3)$$

gives Lichnerowicz operator as anomalous dimension operator

$$(\widehat{\gamma}h)_{mn} = -D^2 h_{mn} + 2R_{mknl}h^{kl} - 2R_{k(m}h_{n)}^k + O(\alpha'^3)$$

Massive string states in curved background:

$$\int d^D x \sqrt{g} \left[ \Phi \dots (-D^2 + m^2 + X) \Phi \dots + \dots \right]$$
$$m^2 = \frac{4}{\alpha'}(n-1), \quad X = R_{\dots} + O(\alpha')$$

case of  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  background

$$R_{mn} - \frac{1}{96}(F_5 F_5)_{mn} = 0, \quad R = 0, \quad F_5^2 = 0$$

Find leading-order term in  $X$  ?

leading  $\alpha'$  correction to **scalar** string state mass =0 (!)

$$[-D^2 + m^2 + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}})]\Phi = 0$$
$$\Delta = 2 + \sqrt{4(n-1) + 4 + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}})}$$

$$\Delta_{(n=2)} = 2 + 2\sqrt{\sqrt{\lambda}} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right) \right]$$

prediction (?) for leading term in strong-coupling expansion  
of **singlet** Konishi state dimension

... but possible subtleties... 10d scalar vs singlet state...

What about **non-singlet** Konishi descendant states ?

– they should have the same dimension

$\text{Tr}[\Phi_1, \Phi_2]^2$  corresponds to  $SO(6)$  (2,2,0) state  $J_1 = J_2 = 2$

tensor wave function  $\Phi_{mn;kl}$

or vertex operator like (see below)

$$\sim N_+^{-\Delta} \partial n_x \bar{\partial} n_x \partial n_y \bar{\partial} n_y$$

$$S^5: \quad n_a n_a = 1, \quad n_x = n_1 + i n_2, \quad n_y = n_3 + i n_4$$

$$AdS_5: \quad N_+ = N_0 + i N_5, \quad N_+ N_- - N_k N_k = 1$$

$\text{Tr}(\Phi_1 D_+^2 \Phi_1)$  should correspond to state with spins  $S = J = 2$



## How to find $\hat{\gamma}$ : Effective action approach

derive equation of motion for a massive string field  
in curved background from quadratic effective action  $S$   
reconstructed from flat-space NSR S-matrix

Example: totally symmetric NS-NS 10-d tensor  
– state on leading Regge trajectory in flat space

symmetric tensor  $\Phi_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{2n}}$  ( $m^2 = \frac{4(n-1)}{\alpha'}$ )

in metric+RR background

$$L = R - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 5!} F_5^2 + O(\alpha'^3) \\ - \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \Phi D^\mu \Phi + m^2 \Phi^2) + \sum_{k \geq 1} (\alpha')^{k-1} \Phi X_k(R, F_5, D) \Phi + \dots$$

assumption:  $\alpha' n R \ll 1$ , *i.e.*  $n \ll \sqrt{\lambda}$ :

small massive string in the middle of  $AdS_5$ :

near-flat-space expansion should be applicable

**$AdS_5 \times S^5$  background:**  $R_{ab} = -\frac{4}{R^2} g_{ab}$ ,  $R_{mn} = \frac{4}{R^2} g_{mn}$

$\mu, \nu, \dots = 0, 1, \dots, 9$ ;  $a, b, \dots$  in  $AdS_5$  and  $m, n, \dots$  in  $S^5$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \Phi_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{2n}} (-D^2 + m^2) \Phi^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{2n}} \\ + \frac{n^2}{R^2} (\Phi_{a_1 a_2 \mu_3 \dots \mu_{2n}} \Phi^{a_1 a_2 \mu_3 \dots \mu_{2n}} - \Phi_{m_1 m_2 \mu_3 \dots \mu_{2n}} \Phi^{m_1 m_2 \mu_3 \dots \mu_{2n}}) + \dots$$

background is direct product – can consider particular tensor with  $S$  indices in  $AdS_5$  and  $K$  indices in  $S^5$ :

end up with anomalous dimension operator

$$[-D^2 + (m^2 + \frac{K^2 - S^2}{2R^2})] \Phi = 0, \quad D^2 = D_{AdS_5}^2 + D_{S^5}^2 \\ m^2 = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (n - 1) = \frac{2}{\alpha'} (S + K - 2), \quad 2n = S + K$$

symmetric transverse traceless tensor – highest-weight state –

Young table labels  $(\Delta, S, 0; J, K, 0)$ ,

extract  $AdS_5$  radius  $R$  and set  $\sqrt{\lambda} = \frac{R^2}{\alpha'}$

$$(-D_{AdS_5}^2 + M^2) \Phi = 0 \\ M^2 = 2\sqrt{\lambda}(S + K - 2) + \frac{1}{2}(K^2 - S^2) + J(J + 4) - K$$

For symmetric traceless rank  $S$  tensor in  $AdS_5$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta - 2 &= \sqrt{M^2 + S + 4} \\ &= \sqrt{2\sqrt{\lambda}(S + K - 2) + \frac{1}{2}(S + K - 2)(K - S) + J(J + 4) + 4 + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}})}\end{aligned}$$

[Burrington, Liu 05]

condition of marginality of (1,1) vertex operator

for  $(\Delta, S_1, S_2; J_1, J_2, J_3) = (\Delta, S, 0; K, J, 0)$  state

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= -\sqrt{\lambda}(S + K - 2) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}[\Delta(\Delta - 4) + \frac{1}{2}S(S - 2) - \frac{1}{2}K(K - 2) - J(J + 4)] + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}})\end{aligned}$$

**BPS level:**  $n = \frac{1}{2}(S + K) = 1$

**First massive level:**  $n = \frac{1}{2}(S + K) = 2$

minimal dimension shift

$S = 2, K = 2, J = 0$  case:  $[1, 0, 1]_{(1,1)}$

state with  $\Delta_0 = 4$  or  $\Delta_0 = 6$

**To summarize:** string states in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  labeled by

$SU(2, 2|4) \subset SO(2, 4) \times SO(6)$  quantum numbers  $(\Delta, S_1, S_2; J_1, J_2, J_3)$

condition of marginality of (1,1) operator for  $(\Delta, S, 0; K, J, 0)$

$$0 = -\sqrt{\lambda}(S + K - 2) + \frac{1}{2}[\Delta(\Delta - 4) + \frac{1}{2}S(S - 2) - \frac{1}{2}K(K - 2) - J(J + 4)] + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}})$$

symmetry: analytic continuation between  $AdS_5$  and  $S^5$

$$\Delta \leftrightarrow -J, K \leftrightarrow S$$

Implications for Konishi state dimension ?

state from first massive level on leading Regge trajectory

$$S = K = 2, J = 0:$$

$$\Delta = 2 + \sqrt{4\sqrt{\lambda} + 4} + O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}) = 2 + 2\sqrt[4]{\lambda}(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + O(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}))$$

constant term  $2 = \Delta_0 - 4$  for  $\Delta_0 = 6$  operator

## Vertex operator approach [Polyakov 01; AT 03]

calculate 2d anomalous dimensions from “first principles”–  
superstring theory in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  :

$$I = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \left[ \partial N_p \bar{\partial} N^p + \partial n_k \bar{\partial} n_k + \text{fermions} \right]$$

$$N_+ N_- - N_u N_u^* - N_v N_v^* = 1, \quad n_x n_x^* + n_y n_y^* + n_z n_z^* = 1$$

$$N_{\pm} = N_0 \pm iN_5, \quad N_u = N_1 + iN_2, \dots, \quad n_x = n_1 + in_2, \dots$$

construct marginal (1,1) operators in terms of  $N_p$  and  $n_k$

e.g. vertex operator for dilaton sugra mode (HW state)

$$V_J = (N_+)^{-\Delta} (n_x)^J \left[ -\partial N_p \bar{\partial} N^p + \partial n_k \bar{\partial} n_k + \text{fermions} \right]$$

$$N_+ \equiv N_0 + iN_5 = \frac{1}{z}(z^2 + x_m x_m) \sim e^{it}$$

$$n_x \equiv n_1 + in_2 \sim e^{i\varphi}$$

$$0 = 2 - 2 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} [\Delta(\Delta - 4) - J(J + 4)] + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right)$$

i.e.  $\Delta = 4 + J$  (BPS)

cf. vertex operator for bosonic string state

on leading Regge trajectory in flat space  $\alpha' E^2 = 2(S - 2)$

$$V_S = e^{-iEt} (\partial x \bar{\partial} x)^{S/2}, \quad x = x_1 + ix_2$$

candidate operators for states on leading Regge trajectory:

$$V_J = (N_+)^{-\Delta} (\partial n_x \bar{\partial} n_x)^{J/2}, \quad n_x \equiv n_1 + in_2$$

$$V_S(\xi) = (N_+)^{-\Delta} (\partial N_u \bar{\partial} N_u)^{S/2}, \quad N_u \equiv N_1 + iN_2$$

+ fermionic terms

+  $\alpha' \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  terms from diagonalization of anom. dim. op.

how they mix with ops with same charges and dimension?

in general  $(\partial n_x \bar{\partial} n_x)^{J/2}$  mixes with singlets

$$(n_x)^{2p+2q} (\partial n_x)^{J/2-2p} (\bar{\partial} n_x)^{J/2-2q} (\partial n_m \bar{\partial} n_m)^p (\bar{\partial} n_k \partial n_k)^q$$

ops. for states on leading Regge trajectory

$$O_{\ell,s} = f_{k_1 \dots k_\ell m_1 \dots m_{2s}} n_{k_1} \dots n_{k_\ell} \partial n_{m_1} \bar{\partial} n_{m_2} \dots \partial n_{m_{2s-1}} \bar{\partial} n_{m_{2s}}$$

their renormalization studied before [Wegner 90]

simplest case:  $f_{k_1 \dots k_\ell} n_{k_1} \dots n_{k_\ell}$  with traceless  $f_{k_1 \dots k_\ell}$   
 same anom. dim.  $\hat{\gamma}$  as its highest-weight rep  $V_J = (n_x)^J$

$$\hat{\gamma} = 2 - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} J(J+4) + \dots$$

scalar spherical harmonic that solves Laplace eq. on  $S^5$

similarly for  $AdS_5$  or  $SO(2,4)$  model:

replacing  $n_x^J$  and  $\partial n_m \bar{\partial} n_m$  with  $N_+^{-\Delta}$  and  $\partial N^p \bar{\partial} N_p$ , with

$$J = -\Delta \text{ and } \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \rightarrow -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

e.g. dimension of  $n_x^J \partial n_m \bar{\partial} n_m$ :

$$\hat{\gamma} = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} J(J+4) + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right)$$

dimension of  $N_+^{-\Delta} \partial N^p \bar{\partial} N_p$ :

$$\hat{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} \Delta(\Delta-4) + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right)$$

Example of scalar higher-level operator:

$$N_+^{-\Delta} [(\partial n_k \bar{\partial} n_k)^r + \dots], \quad r = 1, 2, \dots$$

[Kravtsov, Lerner, Yudson 89; Castilla, Chakravarty 96]

$$0 = -2(r-1) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} [\Delta(\Delta-4) + 2r(r-1)] \\ + \frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2} \left[ \frac{2}{3} r(r-1)(r-\frac{7}{2}) + 4r \right] + \dots$$

$r = 1$ : ground level

fermionic contributions should make  $r = 1$  exact zero of  $\hat{\gamma}$

$r = 2$ : first excited level

candidate for singlet Konishi state  $\Delta_0 = 2$

$$\Delta(\Delta-4) = 4\sqrt{\lambda} - 4 + O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}\right), \\ \Delta - \Delta_0 = 2\sqrt[4]{\lambda} \left[ 1 + 0 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right) \right]$$

but fermionic contribution may change this



Operators with two spins  $J_1 = J$ ,  $J_2 = K$  in  $S^5$ :

$$V_{K,J} = N_+^{-\Delta} \sum_{u,v=0}^{K/2} c_{uv} M_{uv}$$

$$M_{uv} \equiv n_y^{J-u-v} n_x^{u+v} (\partial n_y)^u (\partial n_x)^{K/2-u} (\bar{\partial} n_y)^v (\bar{\partial} n_x)^{K/2-v}$$

highest and lowest eigen-values of 1-loop anom. dim. matrix

$$\hat{\gamma}_{\min} = 2 - K + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} [\Delta(\Delta - 4) - \frac{1}{2}K(K + 10) - J(J + 4) - 2JK] + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right)$$

$$\hat{\gamma}_{\max} = 2 - K + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} [\Delta(\Delta - 4) - \frac{1}{2}K(K + 6) - J(J + 4)] + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right)$$

fermions may alter terms linear in  $K$

How to take fermionic contribution into account?

## Semiclassical expansion: spinning strings

$$E = E\left(\frac{J}{\sqrt{\lambda}}, \sqrt{\lambda}\right) = \sqrt{\lambda}\mathcal{E}_0(\mathcal{J}) + \mathcal{E}_1(\mathcal{J}) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}\mathcal{E}_2(\mathcal{J}) + \dots$$

in “short” string limit  $\mathcal{J} \ll 1$

$$\mathcal{E}_n = \sqrt{\mathcal{J}} (a_{0n} + a_{1n}\mathcal{J} + a_{2n}\mathcal{J}^2 + \dots)$$

expansion valid for  $\sqrt{\lambda} \gg 1$  and  $\mathcal{J} = \frac{J}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  fixed:  $J \sim \sqrt{\lambda} \gg 1$

but if knew all terms in this expansion – could express  $\mathcal{J}$   
in terms of  $J$ , fix  $J$  to finite value and re-expand in  $\sqrt{\lambda}$

$$E = \sqrt{\sqrt{\lambda}J} \left[ a_{00} + \frac{a_{10}J + a_{01}}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{a_{20}J^2 + a_{11}J + a_{02}}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2} + \dots \right]$$

to trust the coeff of  $\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^n}$  need coeff of up to  $n$ -loop terms

e.g. classical  $a_{10}$  and 1-loop  $a_{01}$  sufficient to fix  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$  term

[cf. “fast string” expansion  $\mathcal{J} \gg 1$  for fixed  $J$

positive powers of  $\sqrt{\lambda}$  – need to resum]

**Logic:** interested in short string probing flat-space limit–

(i) start with classical string solutions in flat space

representing states at 1-st excited string level

(ii) embed into  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  and compute 1-loop correction to energy

Two basic examples:

(1) circular string with 2 spins in two orthogonal planes

(2) folded spinning string

**Rigid circular string rotating in two planes of  $R^4$**

$$t = \kappa\tau, \quad \mathbf{x}_x \equiv x_1 + ix_2 = a e^{i(\tau+\sigma)}, \quad \mathbf{x}_y \equiv x_3 + ix_4 = a e^{i(\tau-\sigma)},$$
$$E_{\text{flat}} = \frac{\kappa}{\alpha'} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{\alpha'} J}, \quad J_1 = J_2 = J = \frac{a^2}{\alpha'}.$$

Identifying oscillator modes that are excited

associate it with the quantum string state created by

$$e^{-iEt} \left[ (\partial n_x \bar{\partial} \mathbf{x}_x)^{\frac{J_1}{2}} (\partial n_y \bar{\partial} \mathbf{x}_y)^{\frac{J_2}{2}} + \dots \right], \quad \alpha' E^2 = 2(J_1 + J_2 - 2).$$

$J_1 = J_2$  case - quantum-state analog – shift  $J \rightarrow J - 1$

$$E_{\text{flat}} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{\alpha'} (J - 1)}.$$

$J_1 = J_2 = 2$  corresponds to state on 1-st string level  $n = 2$

## Folded string rotating in a plane

$$t = \kappa\tau, \quad \mathbf{x}_1 \equiv x_1 + ix_2 = a \sin \sigma e^{i\tau},$$
$$E_{\text{flat}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha'}} S, \quad S = \frac{a^2}{2\alpha'},$$

semiclassical counterpart of quantum string state  
on the leading Regge trajectory

$$e^{-iEt} \left[ (\partial_{\mathbf{x}_x} \bar{\partial}_{\mathbf{x}_x})^{\frac{S}{2}} + \dots \right], \quad \alpha' E^2 = 2(S - 2).$$

3 obvious choices how to embed these solutions into  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ :

- (i) the two 2-planes may belong to  $S^5$ :  $J_1 = J_2$  “small string”
- (ii) the two 2-planes may belong to  $AdS_5$ :  $S_1 = S_2$  “small string”
- (iii) one plane in  $AdS_5$  and the other in  $S^5$ :  $S = J$  “small string”

similar 3 choices for folded string:

study each case in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  and interpolate to small values of  $S, J$

match to states in Konishi table

verify universality of strong-coupling expansion of 4-d anom. dim

of dual gauge theory operators in same supermultiplet

Final result:

$$E = 2\sqrt[4]{\lambda} + b_0 + \frac{b_1}{\sqrt[4]{\lambda}} + \frac{b_2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{b_3}{(\sqrt[4]{\lambda})^3} \dots$$

$$b_0 = \Delta_0 - 4, \quad b_1 = 1$$

$\Delta_0 = 4$  for 3 circular string cases

$\Delta_0 = 6$  for 3 folded string cases

$b_2$  is sensitive to 2-loop string corrections not computed

[conjecture  $b_2 = 0$  that it is zero due to supersymmetry:

cf. vertex op. approach]

**Definite predictions:**

$b_0$  is integer;  $b_1$  is rational;  $b_3$  is transcendental

(contains  $\zeta(3)$ )

Example: circular rotating string in  $S^5$  with  $J_1 = J_2 = J$ :  
 cf. Konishi descendant with  $J_1 = J_2 = 2$ :  $\text{Tr}([\Phi_1, \Phi_2]^2)$   
 try represent it by “short” classical string with same charges  
 flat space  $R_t \times R^4$ : circular string solution

$$x_1 + ix_2 = a e^{i(\tau+\sigma)}, \quad x_3 + ix_4 = a e^{i(\tau-\sigma)}$$

$$E = \sqrt{\frac{4}{\alpha'} J}, \quad J = \frac{a^2}{\alpha'}$$

this solution can be directly embedded into  
 $R_t \times S^5$  in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  [Frolov, AT 03]:

string on *small* sphere inside  $S^5$ :  $X_1^2 + \dots + X_6^2 = 1$

$$X_1 + iX_2 = a e^{i(\tau+\sigma)}, \quad X_3 + iX_4 = a e^{i(\tau-\sigma)},$$

$$X_5 + iX_6 = \sqrt{1 - 2a^2}, \quad t = \kappa\tau$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}_1 = \mathcal{J}_2 = a^2, \quad \mathcal{E}^2 = \kappa^2 = 4\mathcal{J}$$

Remarkably, exact  $E_0$  is just as in flat space

$$E_0 = \sqrt{\lambda} \mathcal{E} = \sqrt{4\sqrt{\lambda} J}, \quad J = \sqrt{\lambda} \mathcal{J}$$

## 1-loop quantum string correction to the energy:

sum of bosonic and fermionic fluctuation frequencies ( $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ )

Bosons (2 massless + massive):

$$AdS_5 : \quad 4 \times \quad \omega_n^2 = n^2 + 4\mathcal{J}$$

$$S^5 : \quad 2 \times \quad \omega_{n\pm}^2 = n^2 + 4(1 - \mathcal{J}) \pm 2\sqrt{4(1 - \mathcal{J})n^2 + 4\mathcal{J}^2}$$

Fermions:

$$4 \times \quad \omega_{n\pm}^{2f} = n^2 + 1 + \mathcal{J} \pm \sqrt{4(1 - \mathcal{J})n^2 + 4\mathcal{J}}$$

$$E_1 = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ 4\omega_n + 2(\omega_{n+} + \omega_{n-}) - 4(\omega_{n+}^f + \omega_{n-}^f) \right]$$

expand in small  $\mathcal{J}$  and do sums (UV divergences cancel)

$$E_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathcal{J}}} \left[ \mathcal{J} - [3 + \zeta(3)]\mathcal{J}^2 - \frac{1}{4} [5 + 6\zeta(3) + 30\zeta(5)]\mathcal{J}^3 + \dots \right]$$

$$E = E_0 + E_1 = 2\sqrt{\sqrt{\lambda}J} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} - \frac{3}{4} [1 + 2\zeta(3)] \frac{J}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2} + \dots \right]$$

To interpolate to quantum short string in flat space shift  $J \rightarrow J - 1$

then for finite  $J = J_1 = J_2 = 2$

that would suggest for Konishi state  $[2, 0, 2]_{(0,0)}$

$$E = 2\sqrt[4]{\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda}} + O\left(\frac{1}{(\sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right) \right]$$

dual state in Konishi table has  $\Delta_0 = 4$

thus:  $b_1 = 1$

$b_2 = 0$  (at least 1-loop contribution to it)

$b_3 = 0$  (contains  $\zeta(3)$  – at least 1-loop contribution to it)

**consistent results** are found for 2+3 other solutions

representing 5 other states at the 1st massive string level

dual to 5 operators in Konishi table



# Conclusion

Beginning of understanding  
of quantum string spectrum in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$   
= spectrum of “short” SYM operators

need to understand the origin of partial disagreement

$b_1 = 1$  vs  $b_1 = 2$

with numerical solution of TBA by Gromov, Kazakov, Vieira

need better understanding of quantum string theory in  $AdS_5 \times S^5$   
in particular, near flat space expansion

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| $\Delta_0$     |   |
| 2              | $[0, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$   |
| $\frac{5}{2}$  | $[0, 0, 1]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})} + [1, 0, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}$   |
| 3              | $[0, 0, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 0, 2]_{(0,0)} + [0, 1, 0]_{(0,1)+(1,0)} + [1, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [2, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$   |
| $\frac{7}{2}$  | $[0, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)+(\frac{1}{2}, 1)+(\frac{3}{2}, 0)} + [0, 1, 1]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})+(1, \frac{1}{2})} + [1, 0, 0]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})+(0, \frac{3}{2})+(1, \frac{1}{2})} + [1, 0, 2]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}$<br>$+ [1, 1, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)+(\frac{1}{2}, 1)} + [2, 0, 1]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}$  |
| 4              | $[0, 0, 0]_{(0,0)+(0,2)+(1,1)+(2,0)} + [0, 0, 2]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 1, 0]_{2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [2, 0, 2]_{(0,0)}$<br>$+ [0, 1, 2]_{(1,0)} + [0, 2, 0]_{2(0,0)+(1,1)} + [1, 0, 1]_{(0,0)+2(0,1)+2(1,0)+(1,1)} + [1, 1, 1]_{2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [2, 0, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$  |
| 6              | $[0, 0, 0]_{3(0,0)+3(1,1)+(2,2)} + [0, 0, 2]_{3(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2})} + [0, 1, 0]_{4(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})+2(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+}$<br>$+ [0, 1, 2]_{(0,0)+2(0,1)+2(1,0)+(1,1)} + [0, 2, 0]_{3(0,0)+(0,1)+(0,2)+(1,0)+3(1,1)+(2,0)} + [0, 2, 2]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})}$<br>$+ [0, 3, 0]_{2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 4, 0]_{(0,0)} + [1, 0, 1]_{(0,0)+3(0,1)+3(1,0)+4(1,1)+(1,2)+(2,1)} + [1, 0, 3]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 1, 1]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})+(1, \frac{1}{2})}$<br>$+ [1, 1, 1]_{4(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+2(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})+2(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [1, 2, 1]_{(0,0)+(0,1)+(1,0)} + [2, 0, 0]_{3(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})+(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2})}$<br>$+ [2, 0, 2]_{(0,0)+(1,1)} + [2, 1, 0]_{(0,0)+2(0,1)+2(1,0)+(1,1)} + [2, 2, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [3, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [4, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$ |
| $\frac{17}{2}$ | $[0, 0, 1]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})+(0, \frac{3}{2})+(1, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 1, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)+(\frac{1}{2}, 1)} + [1, 0, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)+(\frac{1}{2}, 1)+(\frac{3}{2}, 0)} + [1, 0, 2]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}$<br>$+ [1, 1, 0]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})+(1, \frac{1}{2})} + [2, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)}$  |
| 9              | $[0, 0, 0]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [0, 0, 2]_{(0,0)} + [0, 1, 0]_{(0,1)+(1,0)} + [1, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} + [2, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$   |
| $\frac{19}{2}$ | $[0, 0, 1]_{(\frac{1}{2}, 0)} + [1, 0, 0]_{(0, \frac{1}{2})}$   |
| 10             | $[0, 0, 0]_{(0,0)}$   |