Holographic Defect Dynamics from Analytic Bootstrap

Based on: 2310.19230 and 2406.13287 (with Junding Chen, Aleix Gimenez-Grau, Hynek Paul)



University of Science and Technology of China, June 27, 2024

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第五届全国弦论与场论研讨会





Motivations

- Defects are extended objects which lead to enrichment of theories. lacksquare
- A wide range of applications both experimental (impurities, domain walls, boundary effects...) and formal (Wilson loops, D-branes, symmetry generators...).
- Also interesting objects to study in the conformal bootstrap program
- The insertion of (planar) defects breaks part of conformal symmetry.
- Still shares a lot in common with CFTs without defects (OPE, conformal blocks). Described by an enlarged set of CFT data.

Defect CFT data: $\{\Delta_i, C_{ijk}, \hat{\Delta}_a, \hat{C}_{abc}, \hat{\mu}_{ia}\}$

$$\langle \hat{O}_a(x_1)\hat{O}_a(x_2)\rangle = \frac{1}{x_{12}^{2\hat{\Delta}_a}}$$

$$\langle \hat{O}_a(x_1)\hat{O}_b(x_2)\hat{O}_c(x_3)\rangle$$

 $=\frac{\hat{C}_{abc}}{x_{12}^{\hat{\Delta}_{abc}}x_{13}^{\hat{\Delta}_{acb}}x_{23}^{\hat{\Delta}_{bca}}}$

 $\langle O_i(x_1)\hat{O}_a(x_2)\rangle = \frac{\hat{\mu}_{ia}}{(|x_1^{\perp}|^2 + |x_{12}^{\parallel}|^2)^{\hat{\Delta}_a} |x_1^{\perp}|^{\Delta_i - \hat{\Delta}_a}}$





Motivations

- simplest kinematically nontrivial case is 2pt function of bulk operators.
- generalize easily to the defect case, giving us good control of the CFT data.
- By contrast, we know much less about correlators
 - knowing infinitely many CFT data).
 - Feynman diagrams, ϵ expansion, large N expansion apply.
 - known about holographic correlators in the presence of a defect.

- Simpler kinematics: an ideal testing ground for developing new bootstrap techniques. The

- On the other hand, many existing tools (Lorentzian inversion formula, dispersion relation)

- Given a theory it is also important to know how to compute the correlators (equivalent to

- So far most progress is in the weakly coupled regime where standard techniques such as

- In the strongly coupled regime where AdS/CFT is a useful description, almost nothing is

Motivations

- (higher-point, higher loops, stringy corrections...).
- New observables lacksquare



On-shell scattering amplitudes

half-BPS surface defects.

• This should be contrasted with the significant recent progress in the case without defects





Form factors with extended objects

• In this talk I will report bootstrap methods for computing holographic defect correlators, both at tree and loop levels. As a concrete example, I will focus on 6d (2,0) theory with

Surface defect in 6d (2,0) theory

The defect system can be realized using N dual geometry is

 $AdS_3 \subset AdS_3$

and we consider the large N limit.

- In the AdS₇ × S⁴ bulk: we have 11d SUGRA (dual to 6d (2,0) theory).
 d.o.f.: KK modes of 11d SUGRA → 1/2-BPS multiplets labelled by k = 2,3,....
 Scf primaries S_k (super gravitons): Δ = 2k, in rank-k symmetric traceless rep. of SO(5)_R.
- In AdS_3 : this is the world-volume of M2 brane (dual to the surface defect). There are localized d.o.f. which can couple to the bulk.

• The defect system can be realized using N coincident M5 branes and a probe M2 brane. The

$$S_7 \times S^4$$

Surface defect in 6d (2,0) theory

Large central charge expansion





Superconformal kinematics

• We introduce R-symmetry polarizations to get rid of the indices of the super gravitons

$$S_k(x, u) = S_{I_1 \dots I_k} u^{I_1} \dots u^{I_k}, \quad u$$

The defect breaks half of the supersymmetry



 $\cdot u = 0$

- **K-symmetry**
- $SO(5) \rightarrow SO(4)$

fixed unit vector θ



internal space

$OSp(8*|4) \to [OSp(4*|2)]^2$

Supersymmetry:



Superconformal kinematics

The 2pt function can be written as a function of 3 cross ratios

$$\langle S_{k_1} S_{k_2} V \rangle = \frac{(u_1 \cdot \theta)^{k_1} (u_2 \cdot \theta)^{k_2}}{|x_1^i|^{2k_1} |x_2^i|^{2k_2}} \mathscr{F}(z, \bar{z}, z, \bar{z}, z)$$

Conformal:



Fermionic generators imposes superconformal Ward identities [Meneghelli, Trepanier '22]

$$\mathcal{F}(z, \overline{z}, \omega = \overline{z}) = \zeta(z)$$
 $\mathcal{F}(z, \overline{z}, \omega = z)$

This also follows from chiral algebra [Beem, Lemos, Liendo, Peelaers, Rastelli, van Rees '13]

 $\zeta = \zeta(\bar{z})$

Superconformal kinematics

• We can easily solve these constraints as

$$\mathcal{F}(z, \overline{z}, \omega) = \mathcal{F}_{\text{prot}}(z, \overline{z}, \omega) + R \mathcal{H}$$

Here

$$R = \frac{(z - \omega)(\bar{z} - \omega)(z - \omega^{-1})(\bar{z} - \omega^{-1})}{z\bar{z}}$$

$$\approx (z - \omega)(z - \omega^{-1}) \qquad (z - \omega^{-1})$$

$$\mathscr{F}_{\text{prot}} = \frac{(z - \bar{z})(z - \bar{z})}{(z - \bar{z})(z - \bar{z}^{-1})} \zeta(z) + (z \leftrightarrow$$

- $\mathcal{H}(z,\bar{z},\omega)$
- ¹) (determined by superconformal symmetry)

- \overline{Z}) (from the meromorphic chiral correlator)
- All dynamical and unprotected information is contained in the reduced correlator \mathcal{H} .

- Tree level: in principle can be computed by summing up all the Witten diagrams.
- However, this requires to work out the complicated vertices and does not take advantage of the unbroken symmetries.
- A better strategy is bootstrap, similar to the defect free case [Rastelli, XZ '16]. It turns out that tree-level 2pt functions are fixed by using only symmetries and consistency conditions [Chen, Gemenez-Grau, XZ]. I will present a position space version which can be done in 3 steps.
- The starting point is to write down an ansatz

$$\langle S_{k_1} S_{k_2} V \rangle_{\text{tree}} = \sum \mu_B$$

 Determined by selection rules: R-symmetry, vanishing of extremal couplings. Note fields exchanged in the defect channel has no KK modes. Moreover, we require no derivatives in the contact vertices.



- The next step is to evaluate the ansatz



- The contact Witten diagram can be evaluated in a closed form as a 2F1 function

$$\sum_{z \in I_1} \alpha_{2z} F_1\left(\Delta_1, \Delta_2; \frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 + 1}{2}; -\frac{\xi + \chi - 2}{4}\right)$$

$$\xi = \frac{(1-z)(1-\bar{z})}{\sqrt{z\bar{z}}} \quad \chi = \frac{z-\chi}{\sqrt{z\bar{z}}}$$

- It can be shown all bulk and defect exchange Witten diagrams can be written as a finite sum of contact Witten diagrams (a generalization of [D'Hoker, Freedman, Rastelli '99]).





• Finally, we impose the scf Ward identity

$$\partial_z \mathcal{F}(z,\bar{z},z) = 0$$

- Remarkably, this fixes all the unknown parameters up to an overall factor!
- But this overall factor cannot be arbitrary because the unknown parameters have the interpretations as OPE data. The same data can appear in multiple correlators

which can be fixed in terms of central charge.



• Considering all $\langle k_1 k_2 \rangle$ together allows us to reduce overall factors to that of $k_1 = k_2 = 2$,

• The final answer takes the following form in position space

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_{k} \lambda_{k_1 k_2 k} a_k \mathcal{P}_k + b_{k_1 \mathcal{D}} b_{k_2 \mathcal{D}} \widehat{\mathcal{P}} + c_{k_1} c_{k_2} (1 - 2\sigma) C_{2k_1, 2k_2}$$

 \mathcal{P}_k



sum of defect exchange Witten diagrams

• Note this makes the form of the contact part particularly simple.

$$\lambda_{k_1 k_2 k_3} = \frac{2^{\Sigma - 2} \Gamma(\frac{\Sigma}{2})}{\pi^{3/2}} \prod_{i=1}^{3} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\Sigma - 2k_i + 1}{2})}{\sqrt{\Gamma(2k_i - 1)}}$$

(bulk 3pt function coefficients [Corrado, Florea, McNees '99, Basitanelli, Zucchini '99

- sum of bulk exchange Witten diagrams of multiplet k + contact to improve Regge

$$a_{k} = \frac{1}{k} b_{k\mathcal{D}} = \frac{(k-1)(2k-1)}{2^{k-\frac{1}{2}}\sqrt{\pi}c_{k}} = \frac{\Gamma(k)}{\sqrt{2^{k}\Gamma(2k-1)}}$$

new CFT data from the bootstrap

The $k_1 = k_2 = 2$ case matches [Meneghelli, Trepanier '22]



Intermezzo: Mellin space

• To better understand the analytic structure, we go to Mellin space. The standard Mellin form factors with extended objects.

$$\mathcal{F} = \int \frac{d\delta \, d\gamma}{(2\pi i)^2} B^{-\delta} D^{\gamma} \mathcal{M}(\delta, \gamma) \Gamma_{k_1 k_2}(\delta, \gamma)$$
$$\Gamma_{k_1 k_2}(\delta, \gamma) = \Gamma(\delta) \Gamma(\gamma - \delta) \prod_{i=1}^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{2k_i - \gamma}{2}\right)$$

- Witten diagrams are simple in Mellin space
 - Contact diagrams are just constants.
 - Exchange diagrams have poles.
- Translating diagram by diagram: the Mellin amplitude is a rational function.

formalism introduced by Mack and Penedones can be extended to include defects and boundaries [Rastelli, XZ '17, Goncalves, Itsios '18]. The Mellin amplitudes can be viewed as

Intermezzo: Mellin space

• An even simpler expression is given by the Mellin transform of the reduced correlator

$$\mathcal{H} = \int \frac{d\delta \, d\gamma}{(2\pi i)^2} B^{-\delta} D^{\gamma} \widetilde{\mathcal{M}} \left(\delta,\gamma\right) \widetilde{\Gamma}_{k_1 k_2}(\delta,\gamma)$$

$$\mathscr{M}(\delta,\gamma) = \widehat{\mathbf{R}} \circ \widetilde{\mathscr{M}}$$

$$R = B^2 D^{-2} + 2BD^{-2}\sigma + 2D^{-2}\sigma - 8\sigma$$

• The reduced Mellin amplitude is a finite sum of simultaneous poles

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(\delta,\gamma,\sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{2k_m-2} \sum_{j=2}^{k_m} \frac{\Re_{ij}(\sigma)}{(\delta+i)(\gamma-2j)} \qquad \Re_{ij}(\sigma) = \sum_{m=\lfloor\frac{i}{2}\rfloor}^{\min(i,j-1)} \frac{b_{k_1 \otimes b_{k_2 \otimes (-1)^{i}(\binom{m}{i-m})(2\sigma)^{m-1}}}{2j!m!(k_1-j)!(k_2-j)!(j-m-1)^{m-1}}$$

$$\widetilde{\Gamma}_{k_1k_2} = \Gamma(\delta)\Gamma(\gamma - \delta) \prod_{i=1}^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{2k_i + 2 - \gamma}{2}\right)$$

• The reduced Mellin amplitude is related to the Mellin amplitude by a difference operator

Each monomial $B^m D^n$ can be absorbed by a shift and becomes a $\sigma + 4\sigma^2$ difference operator $B^m D^n$

1)!

unitarity method in defect free CFTs [Aharony, Alday, Bissi, Perlmutter '16]



focus on the reduced correlator \mathcal{H} and the lowest $\langle 22 \rangle$.

• At the next order in 1/N, our strategy for computing these loop-level corrections is by "gluing" together tree-level correlators [Chen, Gemenez-Grau, Paul, XZ]. This generalizes the AdS

The meaning of gluing can be made precise in terms of the leading logarithmic singularities at small cross ratios $B, D \rightarrow 0$. We will then complete the singularities into the correlator. We

One-loop bootstrap The toy version: no mixing

• We first consider a toy version where we have only S_2 and there is no operator mixing. This amounts to consistently truncating the bulk SUGRA so that there is no internal S^4 .



Defect "double-trace" operators

$$\widehat{O}_{n,s} = \Box_{\perp}^n \partial_{\perp}^s S_2 |_{x^i = 0}$$

Dimension: 4 + 2n + s $\langle \widehat{O}_{n,s} S_2 \rangle \sim b_{n,s}^{(0)}$ Transverse spin: *S*



Bulk double-trace operators

$$O_{n,\ell} =: \square^n S_2 \partial^\ell S_2 :$$

Dimension: $8 + 2n + \ell$ Spin: P

 $\langle S_2 S_2 O_{n,\ell} \rangle \sim \lambda_{n,\ell}^{(0)}$

 $\langle O_{n,\ell} \rangle \sim a_{n,\ell}^{(0)}$



Logs come from anomalous dimensions

$$\hat{g}_{\hat{\tau},s}^d \sim D^{\hat{\tau}}(1+\ldots) \supset \hat{\gamma} \log D \ \hat{g}_{\hat{\tau},s}^d$$
$$g_{\tau,\ell}^b \sim B^{\frac{\tau}{2}}(1+\ldots) \supset \frac{\gamma}{2} \log B \ g_{\tau,\ell}^b$$

The anomalous dimension are of order







(defect channel)

log D coefficient

(bulk channel)

depend only on the tree-level data

Bulk channel:





• At one-loop the leading logarithmic singularities are $\log^2 D$ and $\log B$. Their coefficients

One-loop bootstrap The full theory: operator mixing

- In our theory there are degeneracies among operators Bulk channel: $: \square^n S_2 \partial^\ell S_2 : : \square^{n-2} S_3 \partial^\ell S_3 : \dots : \frac{S_n}{2} \partial^\ell S_{\frac{n}{2}+2} \partial^\ell S_{\frac{n}{2}+2} : \tau = 8 + 2n$ $\partial^s S_{n+2} \qquad \hat{\tau} = 4 + 2n$ $\square_{\perp}^{n} \partial_{\perp}^{s} S_{2} \qquad \square_{\perp}^{n-1} \partial_{\perp}^{s} S_{3}$ Defect channel:
- Therefore, all the coefficients in the conformal block decomposition are averages

 $\langle b_{ns}^{(0)} (\hat{\gamma}_{ns}^{(1)})^2 b_{ns}^{(0)} \rangle \neq \langle (b_{ns}^{(0)})^2 b_{ns}^{(0)} \rangle \neq \langle (b_{ns}^{(0)})^2 b_{ns}^{(0)} \rangle = \langle (b_{ns}^{($

• In principle, we need to first unmix and get the eigenvalues. This is possible but not necessary. To compute $\langle 22 \rangle$ at one loop, there is a shortcut.





$$(p_{n,s}^{(0)})^2 \hat{\gamma}_{n,s}^{(1)} \rangle^2 / \langle b_{n,s}^{(0)} \rangle^2$$



• Bulk channel

Organize the CFT data into matrices

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}^{(0)} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{22O_1} & \lambda_{22O_2} & \cdots & \lambda_{22O_{M-1}} \\ \lambda_{33O_1} & \lambda_{33O_2} & \cdots & \lambda_{33O_{M-1}} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \lambda_{MM,O_1} & \lambda_{MMO_2} & \cdots & \lambda_{MMO_{M-1}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{diff} \\ \text{cord} \end{bmatrix}$$

operator degeneracy
$$\mathbf{M} = \frac{n}{2}$$

Disconnected 2pt:
$$\mathbf{A}^{(0)} = (a_1^{(0)}, a_2^{(0)}, \dots, a_{M-1}^{(0)})^T$$
$$\mathbf{\Lambda}^{(0)} \mathbf{A}^{(0)} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle 22 \rangle^{(0)} & \langle 33 \rangle^{(0)} & \cdots & \langle MM \rangle^{(0)} \end{bmatrix}^T$$



1-loop $\log B$:

 $\Lambda^{(0)}\Gamma^{(1)}\Lambda^{(0)} = \Lambda^{(0)}\Gamma^{(1)}(\Lambda^{(0)})^T (\mathbf{N}^{(0)})^{-1}\Lambda^{(0)}\Lambda^{(0)}$

$= \Omega^{(1)}(\mathbf{N}^{(0)})^{-1}(\Lambda^{(0)}A^{(0)})$

the tree-level $\langle 22pp \rangle^{(1)}$ and the disconnected $\langle pp \rangle^{(0)}$.







All tree-level 4pt functions are known [Alday, XZ '20]. The data $\Omega^{(1)}$, N⁽⁰⁾ were extracted in [Alday, Chester, Raj '20]. We need only the 1st component of the vector. Therefore, we only need

$$\Lambda^{(0)}\Lambda^{(0)} = \begin{bmatrix} p & p \\ \langle 22\rangle^{(0)} & \langle 33\rangle^{(0)} & \cdots & \langle MM\rangle^{(0)} \end{bmatrix}^{T}$$

Defect channel

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}^{(0)} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{2\hat{O}_{1}} & b_{2\hat{O}_{2}} & \cdots & b_{2\hat{O}_{L-1}} \\ b_{3\hat{O}_{1}} & b_{3\hat{O}_{2}} & \cdots & b_{3\hat{O}_{L-1}} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ b_{L,\hat{O}_{1}} & b_{L,\hat{O}_{2}} & \cdots & b_{L,\hat{O}_{L-1}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{C} \\ \mathbf{C} \end{bmatrix}$$
operator degeneracy
Tree log D:
$$\hat{\mathbf{\Gamma}}^{(1)} = \operatorname{diag}(\hat{\gamma}_{1}^{(1)}, \hat{\gamma}_{2}^{(1)}, \dots, \hat{\gamma}_{M-1}^{(1)})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{B}}^{(0)} \hat{\mathbf{\Gamma}}^{(1)} (\hat{\mathbf{B}}^{(0)})^{T} = \hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} (22)^{(1)} & (23)^{(1)} & \cdots & (24) \\ (32)^{(1)} & \cdots & \cdots & (M2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ (M2)^{(1)} & \cdots & \cdots & (M2) \end{bmatrix}$$



• To summarize, expanded in small B and D, we can compute all the leading logarithmic singularities using the tree-level data via gluing

$$\mathcal{H}(B,D) = \log B \log^2 D F_{1,2}(B,D) + \log B \log D F_{1,1}(B,D) + \log B F_{1,0}$$

defect channel $+\log^2 D F_{0,2}(B,D) + \log D F_{0,1}(B,D) + F_{0,0}(B,D)$

$$\mathscr{H} = \int \frac{d\delta \, d\gamma}{(2\pi i)^2} B^{-\delta} D^{\gamma} \widetilde{\mathscr{M}}(\delta,\gamma) \widetilde{\Gamma}_{22}(\delta,\gamma) \qquad \qquad \widetilde{\Gamma}_{22} = \Gamma(\delta) \Gamma(\gamma-\delta) \Gamma^2 \left(\frac{6-\gamma}{2}\right)$$

- Singularities determines pole structures: \bullet

 - Γ_{22} also have poles: $\mathcal{M}(\delta, \gamma)$ has simple poles.

bulk channel

• We need to complete the leading logs into the full correlator. To do this, we use Mellin space

- $\log B \log^2 D$: the integrand has double poles at $\delta = -n$ and triple poles at $\gamma = 6 + 2m$

• We make the assumption that the reduced Mellin amplitude has only simultaneous poles

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(\delta,\gamma) = \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_{mn}}{(\delta+n)(\gamma-6-2m)}$$

where the numerators c_{mn} are numbers.

- known $F_{1,2}(B,D)$ in the small B, D expansion, we can extract the c_{mn} .
- Fo

r example, in the defect channel we can compute
$$c_{mn}$$
 for fixed m

$$c_{0n} = \frac{9(n^4 + 10n^3 + 35n^2 + 50n + 48)}{4(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)(n+5)} \qquad c_{1n} = \frac{9(5n^6 + 81n^5 + 517n^4 + 1655n^3 + 2814n^2 - 464n + 153n^2 + 1656n^2 + 1664n^2 + 166$$

017777 | 12270077 | 75771077 5215727 4(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)(n+5)(n+6)(n+7)(n+8)(n+9)

• Solving ansatz: we take residues and focus on the $\log B \log^2 D$ term. By matching with the



full B dependence. We find the term without $\log B$ is also correctly reproduced

$$\mathcal{H}(B,D) = \log B \log^2 D F_{1,2}(B,D) - \log^2 D F_{0,2}(B,D) - \log^2 D F_{0,2$$

- This implies that there are no single poles in
- Similarly, in the bulk channel we find

• Also we can check there are no single poles in δ .

• Checking ansatz: inserting the coefficient, we can take the $\log^2 D$ coefficient but keeping the

 $+ \log B \log D F_{1,1}(B,D) + \log B F_{1,0}$ $+\log D F_{0,1}(B,D) + F_{0,0}(B,D)$



- contact Witten diagrams and are expected as UV counter terms.
- Carry out this calculation to high orders and we can find the general form for c_{mn}

$$c_{mn} = p_m H_0 + q_{m,n} H_1 + r_{m,n} H_2 + s_m H_4$$

first one-loop defect
2pt function

$$p_m = 3(m+1)^2(m+2)^2$$

$$q_{m,n} = 7m^2n^2 + 28m^3n - 21m^2n + 64m^4 + 134m^3 + 158m^2 - 14mn^2 + 6mn + 250m + 19n^2 + 95n + 162$$

$$r_{m,n} = -7m^2n^2 - 28m^3n + 35m^2n - 102m^4 - 82m^3 - 158m^2 + 14mn^2 - 34mn - 230m - 19n^2 - 57n - 100$$

$$s_m = 35(m-1)^2m^2$$

$$\sqrt{\pi}4^m\Gamma(m+n+3) = \left[-m-2 + \frac{-2m-n-5}{2m-n-4} + \frac{-2m-n-4}{2m-n-4}\right]$$

$$H_{a} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}4^{m}\Gamma(m+n+3)}{\Gamma(\frac{-2m-3}{2})\Gamma(2m+n+6)} \ _{3}F_{2} \left[\begin{array}{c} -m-2 \ , \ \frac{-2m-n-5}{2} \ , \ \frac{-2m-n-4}{2} \\ \frac{-2m-3}{2} \ , \ -m-n-2 \end{array} \right| 1 \right] m \to m-2$$

• The one-loop Mellin amplitude is fixed up to regular terms. Such regular terms correspond to

Outlook

- Many things are defects (Wilson loops, giant gravitons, real projective space...)
 - The bootstrap techniques give powerful tools to study these systems.
- Flat space limit
 - A precise prescription for taking the flat-space limit of AdS amplitudes is not yet available for defect systems.
 - Useful for studying stringy corrections. Also connects to integrated correlators from localization;
- Complementary position space techniques at loop levels
 - In the defect free case, position space methods are useful for going to higher loops
 - What is the space of functions?
- Higher-point correlators.

Thank you!