Integrability and the Conformal Field Theory of the Higgs branch

Bogdan Stefański, jr. City University London

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Based on 1411.3676, JHEP 1506 (2014) 103 with O. Ohlsson Sax, A. Sfondrini

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• String theory on
$$AdS_3 \times S^3 \times M_4$$
 where $M_4 = \begin{cases} T^4 \\ S^3 \times S^1 \end{cases}$

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expectation: integrability solves spectral problem (from string side)

[Abbott, Aniceto, Babichenko, Bianchi, Beccaria, David, Dekel, Engelund, Hernandez, Hoare, Levkovich-Maslyuk, Macorini, McKeown, Nieto, Pittelli, Prinsloo, Regelskis, Roiban, Sahoo, Stepanchuk, Sundin, Tseytlin, Wolf, Wulff, Zarembo]

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• This talk focuses on pure R-R, $M_4 = T^4$ case Global symmetry is $psu(1, 1|2)^2$

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L sites :
$$\begin{cases} S_b \\ 0^{\oplus 2} \oplus S_f \end{cases}$$

 $S_b/S_f \frac{1}{2}$ -BPS irrep of psu(1, 1|2) with bos/ferm h.w. state

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R sites same as L sites

Outline

UV gauge theory

- D1/D5 system, \mathcal{L}_{UV}
- Coulomb and Higgs branches in UV and IR

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2 CFT_H

- *L*_{IR}
- ADHM σ -model and small instantons
- origin of the Higgs branch, \mathcal{L}_{eff}
- **3** Δ from \mathcal{L}_{eff} and spin-chains
- **4** Outlook and Conclusions

UV gauge theory: D1-D5 system



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D1-D5 branes

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
$N_c \times D1$	•	•								
N_f $ imes$ D5	•	٠					٠	•	•	٠

• D1: (8,8) susy $U(N_c)$ vector mplet - dim. red. of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

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• D5: break susy to (4, 4)

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• D5-D5 strings decouple: suppressed by large V_{6789}

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where

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Phi}(\Phi) = \operatorname{tr} \left[F^2 + (\nabla \phi)^2 + i \bar{\psi} \nabla \psi + D^2 + \dots \right]$$
,

 $\mathcal{L}_{T}(T, \Phi) = \operatorname{tr} \left[\nabla t^{2} + i \bar{\chi} \nabla \chi + \dots \right]$,

 $\mathcal{L}_{H}(H,\Phi) = \nabla h^{2} + i\bar{\lambda}\nabla\lambda + h^{a}\phi^{i}\phi^{i}h^{a} + \bar{\lambda}\Gamma^{i}\phi^{i}\lambda + \dots,$

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- CFT_H dual to AdS₃

[Maldacena '97]

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 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{IR}}(\Phi, \mathsf{T}, \mathsf{H}) = \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{T}}(\Phi, \mathsf{T}) + \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{H}}(\Phi, \mathsf{H})$

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• \mathcal{L}_{IR} marginal if Φ has **geometric** dimensions

$$[A_{\mu}] = 1,$$
 $[\phi^{i}] = 1,$ $[\Psi] = 3/2,$ $[D] = 2$

while H and T have canonical scaling dimensions

$$[h^a] = [t^a] = 0,$$
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+ Φ enter quadratically as auxiliary fields in \mathcal{L}_{IR}

 $\bullet~\Phi$ auxiliary: eliminate using eoms

[Witten 97] [Berkooz, Verlinde '99] [Aharony, Berkooz '99]

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{IR}}(\Phi, \, \mathcal{T}, \, \mathcal{H}) \; \longrightarrow \; \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{ADHM}}(\mathcal{H}, \, \mathcal{T})$

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 \mathcal{M}_{N_c,N_f}

the moduli space of N_c instantons in $su(N_f)$ gauge theory

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- *L*_{ADHM} gives conventional picture of Higgs branch:
 D- and F-flatness conditions equivalent to ADHM construction
- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ADHM}}$ has **small instanton** singularity: Metric on \mathcal{M}_{N_c,N_f} singular when instanton size goes to zero

CFT_H: states near origin

• CFT_H states localised near origin of Higgs branch (near small instanton singularity) not captured by \mathcal{L}_{ADHM} σ -model

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- N_f factor comes from N_f copies of H
- \mathcal{L}_T unaffected since no T H couplings

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{CFT}_{\mathsf{H}} \colon \ \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{eff}} \\ \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \ \mathcal{D}T \ \mathcal{D}H \ e^{i\int \mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{IR}}} = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \ \mathcal{D}T \ e^{i\int N_{f}\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{eff}}(\Phi) + \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{T}}(\Phi, \mathcal{T})} \end{split}$$

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+ Φ becomes dynamical. 2pt fn fixed by conformal invariance

$$\phi^i(x)\phi^j(0)\sim rac{\delta^{ij}}{|x|^2}$$

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On rhs all interactions come from \mathcal{L}_H

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Rescaling

$$\Phi \longrightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{N_f}} \Phi$$

get $\frac{1}{N_f}$ as coupling constant.

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- $N_c \rightarrow \infty$: perturbation series becomes 't Hooft expansion in

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In this limit single-trace ops dominate

 $\mathsf{tr}(\varphi^{i_1}\varphi^{i_2}\dots\varphi^{i_L})\,,\quad \mathsf{tr}(\nabla_+\psi F\varphi^{i_1}\dots\varphi^{i_{L-2}})\,,\quad \mathsf{tr}(\chi\nabla_-t\varphi^{i_1}\dots\varphi^{i_{L-2}})$

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- Such operators correspond to spin-chains with sites
 - Φ fields: $(S_b)_L \otimes (S_b)_R$
 - T fields: $0^{\oplus 4} \oplus \left(0^{\oplus 2} \otimes (S_f)_L\right) \oplus \left(0^{\oplus 2} \otimes (S_f)_R\right)$

- + Gauge invariant states built from adjoint fields Φ and ${\cal T}$
- $N_c \rightarrow \infty$: perturbation series becomes 't Hooft expansion in

$$\lambda \equiv \frac{N_c}{N_f} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \frac{1}{N_c^2}$$

In this limit single-trace ops dominate

 $\mathsf{tr}(\varphi^{i_1}\varphi^{i_2}\dots\varphi^{i_L})\,,\quad \mathsf{tr}(\nabla_+\psi F\varphi^{i_1}\dots\varphi^{i_{L-2}})\,,\quad \mathsf{tr}(\chi\nabla_-t\varphi^{i_1}\dots\varphi^{i_{L-2}})$

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Local spin-chain appears very naturally

• We restrict to $\mathcal{O}(\lambda)$ in *so*(4) subsector $tr(\varphi^{i_1} \cdots \varphi^{i_L})$

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- Planar gauge theory

$$\delta \mathbf{D} = \sum_{n=1}^{L} \mathcal{H}_{n,n+1}$$

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• For $so(N) \delta \mathbf{D}$ is integrable if $c_2 = \frac{2}{N-2}$

Power-counting divergent leading order diagrams



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Power-counting divergent leading order diagrams



• Second and fourth diagrams give trivial *so*(4) structure.

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Power-counting divergent leading order diagrams



• Expanding interactions in diagrams with non-trivial so(4) structure



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• Diagrams involving a gluon exchange vanish due to symmetry

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Power-counting divergent leading order diagrams



• Expanding interactions in diagrams with non-trivial so(4) structure



- Diagrams involving a gluon exchange vanish due to symmetry
- Only " ϕ^4 " diagram is divergent and has non-trivial so(4) structure

+ Expanding the " ϕ^4 " diagram



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• Expanding the " ϕ^4 " diagram



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• First diagram has trivial *so*(4) structure.

• Expanding the " ϕ^4 " diagram



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- First diagram has trivial *so*(4) structure.
- Second diagram is UV finite

• Expanding the " ϕ^4 " diagram



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- First diagram has trivial *so*(4) structure.
- Second diagram is UV finite
- Only third diagram UV divergent and so(4) non-trivial

• Compute diagram, find $c_2 = 1$ and hence so(4) dilatation operator

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$$\delta \mathbf{D} \propto rac{N_c}{N_f} \sum_{n=1}^{L} \left(\mathbf{1}_{n,n+1} - \mathbf{P}_{n,n+1} + \mathbf{K}_{n,n+1}
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Integrable *so*(4) spin-chain Hamiltonian

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• Perturbative calculation in larger sector?

One-loop dilatation operator in so(4) sector

Hamiltonian of integrable so(4) spin-chain

- Perturbative calculation in larger sector?
- Dilatation operator from symmetries?

Conclusions and Outlook

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• AdS_3/CFT_2 likely to be an example of holographic integrability. Evidence of integrability found on both sides of duality.

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• Integrability in AdS₃/CFT₂ has a rich structure that needs to be investigated more fully: large space of parameters, massless modes, TBA, Quantum Spectral Curve

Thank you!

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