

# Unreasonable Simplicity of $AdS_5 \times S^5$ correlators

Simon Caron-Huot  
McGill University

on: 1711.02031 with Fernando Alday  
1809.09173 with Anh-Khoi Trinh

Strings 2019 @ Brussels

**N=4 super-Yang-Mills:**

toy model for 4D field theory and AdS gravity

remains rich&intricate: laboratory for new tools

planar integrability; localization; perturbation theory,...

**this talk:** supergravity limit.

study correlators dual to KK modes on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ .

beyond planar limit

# Covariant propagator in $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$ superspace

---

Peng Dai <sup>\*1</sup>, Ru-Nan Huang <sup>†2,1</sup>, and Warren Siegel <sup>‡1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics,  
Stony Brook University,  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3840, USA*

<sup>2</sup> *Institute of Theoretical Physics,  
Lanzhou University,  
Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China*

ABSTRACT: We give an explicit superspace propagator for the chiral scalar field strength of 10D IIB supergravity on an  $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$  background. Because this space is conformally flat, the propagator is very simple, almost identical to that of flat space. We also give an explicit expansion over the Kaluza-Klein modes of  $\text{S}^5$ . The fact that the full propagator is so much simpler suggests that, as in 2D conformal field theory, AdS/CFT calculations would be simpler without a mode expansion.

KEYWORDS: AdS/CFT, coset superspace, covariant propagator.

We'll fulfill this dream for four-point correlators

# Recipe:

## 1. Take correlator of lowest KK-mode (four axidilatons)

$$\langle 0 | \phi \phi \bar{\phi} \bar{\phi} | 0 \rangle = \frac{G(u, v)}{x_{12}^4 x_{34}^4}$$

[D'Hoker, Freedman, Mathur,  
Matusis & Rastelli '99;

$$u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, v = \frac{x_{23}^2 x_{14}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}$$

## 2. Uplift all distances to 10D

$$x_{ij}^2 \mapsto (x_i - x_j)^2 + (y_i - y_j)^2$$

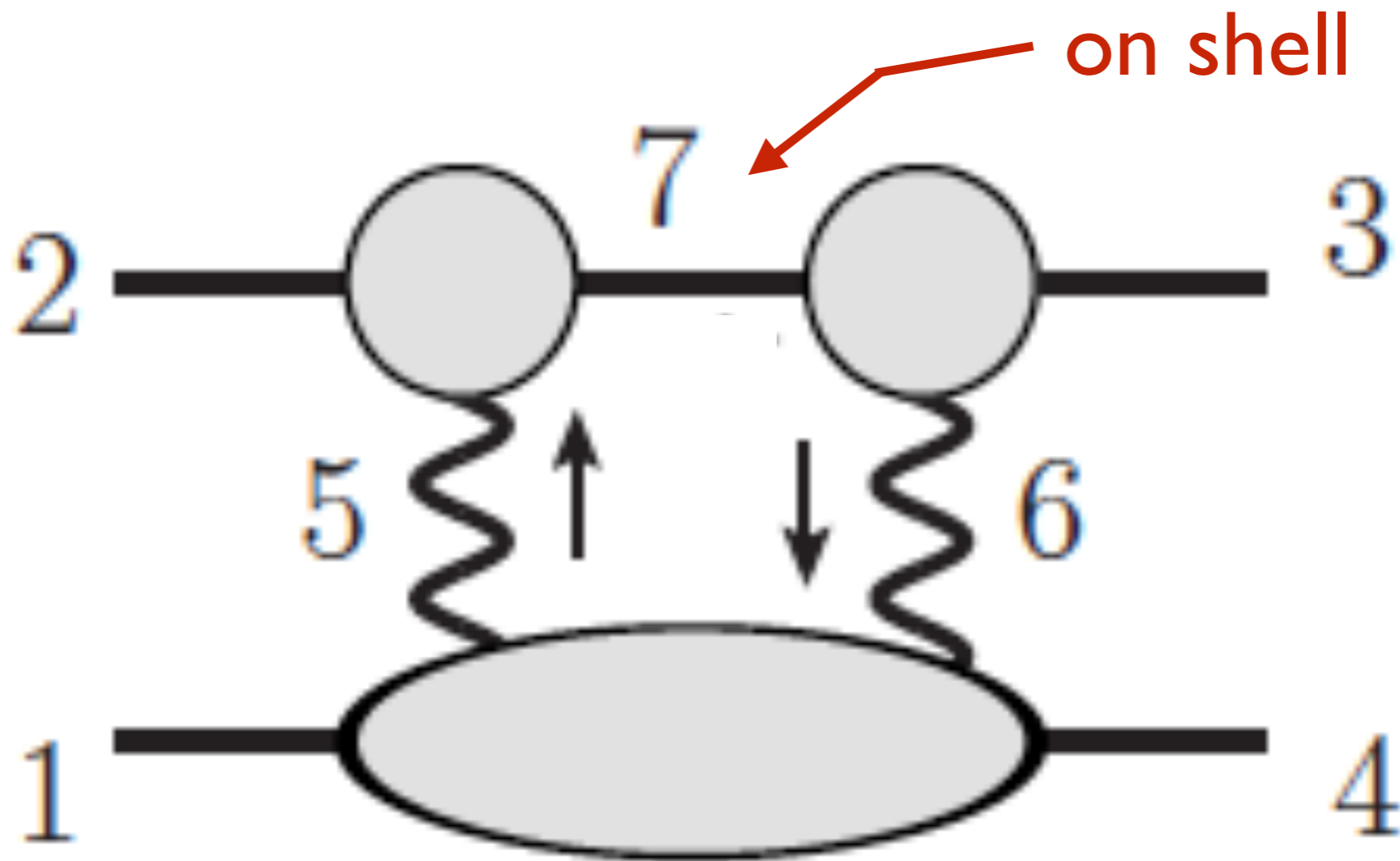
**Claim:** this gives all KK mode correlators!

# Outline

- Calculation technique
- Result: 10D IIB sugra  $\cong$  CFT [for some tree correlators]
- Generalizations

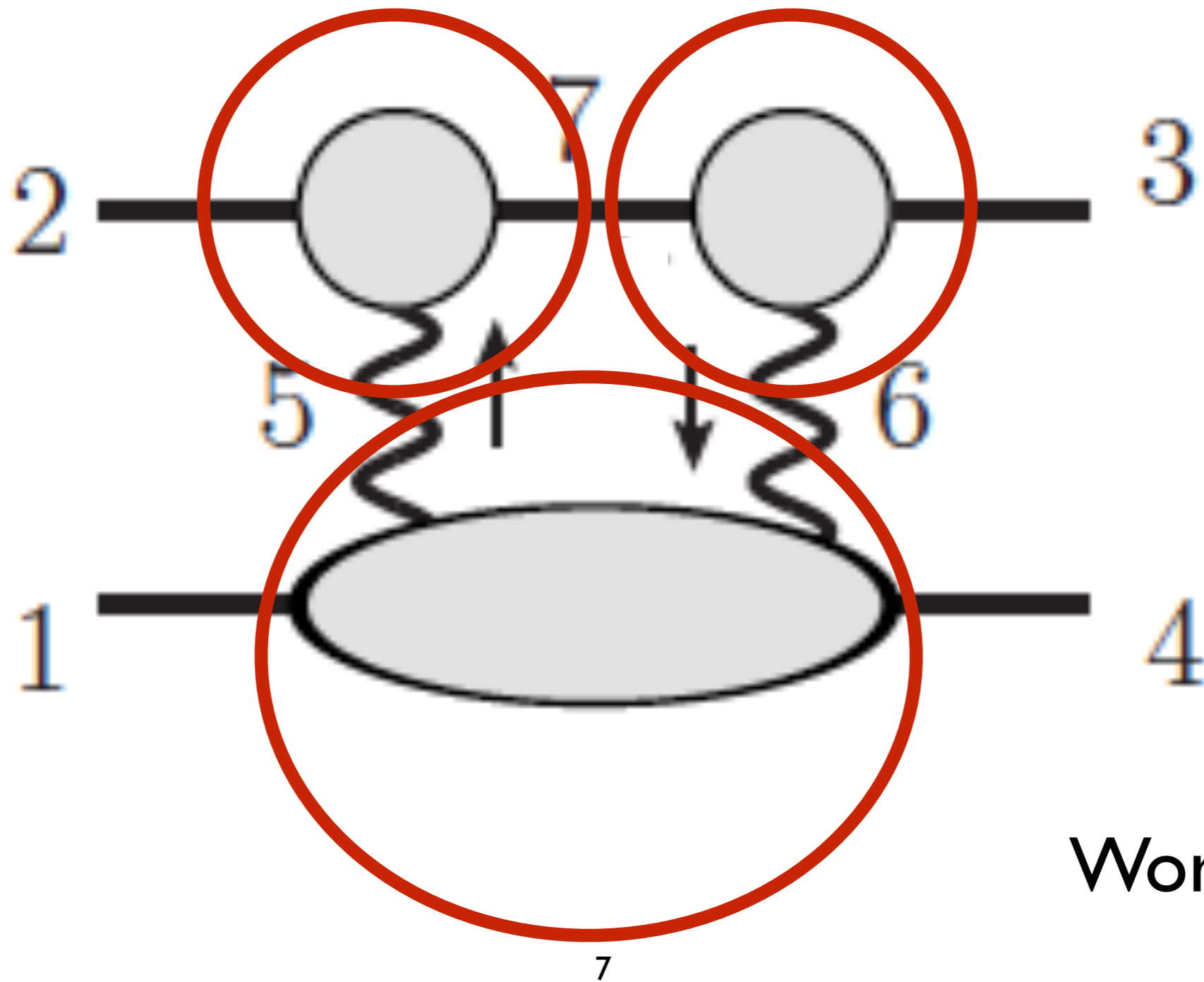
Supergravity Feynman rules are hard.

break correlators into physical **CFT** building blocks



Supergravity Feynman rules are hard.

break correlators into physical **CFT** building blocks



Work in **CFT**

CFT: N=4 SYM @ large  $N_c$  & strong coupling  $\lambda$

**Input:** -symmetries: conformal,  $SO(6)_R$  global, susy  
-all unprotected operators acquire large dimensions



# CFT: N=4 SYM @ large $N_c$ & strong coupling $\lambda$

**Input:** -symmetries: conformal,  $SO(6)_R$  global, susy  
-all unprotected operators acquire large dimensions

**⇒ Minimal spectrum:** 1/2-BPS single-traces (& their products)

$$\mathcal{O}^p \simeq \text{Tr}[\phi^{i_1} \dots \phi^{i_p}] \quad \Delta = p \geq 2,$$

$p=2$ : stress tensor

$p>2$ :  $S_5$  graviton spherical harmonics

**Goal:** compute  $\langle \mathcal{O}^p \mathcal{O}^q \mathcal{O}^r \mathcal{O}^s \rangle$  at tree-level ( $1/N_c^2$ )

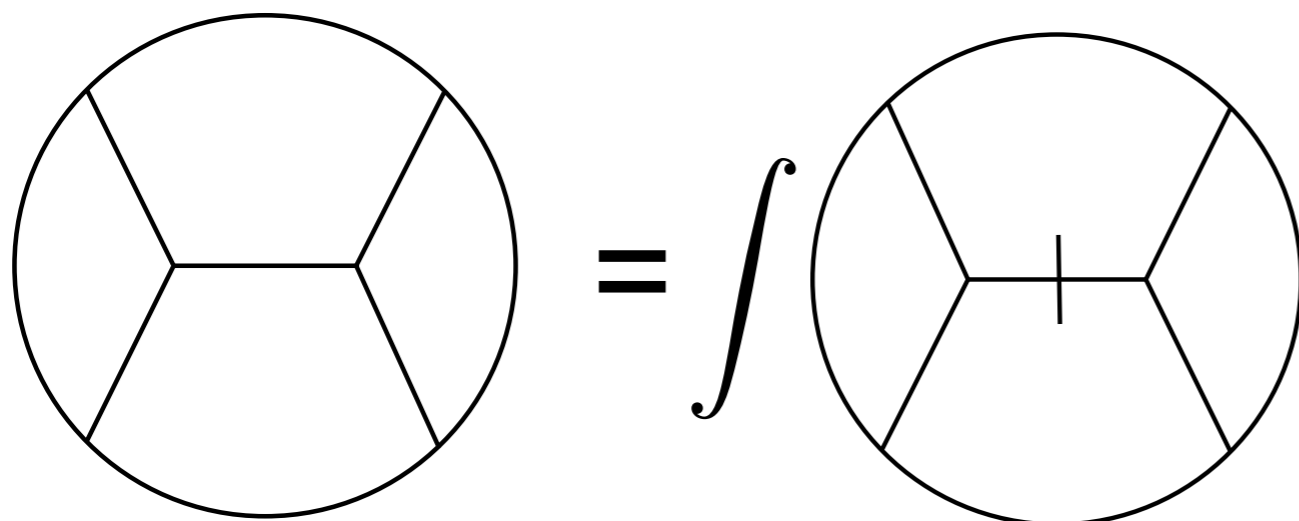
# Tool: Lorentzian inversion formula

$$c(J, \Delta) = \int_{\diamond} [\text{Inverse block}] \times [\text{dDisc } G]$$

↑ s-channel OPE data      ↑ group theory      ↑ absorptive part = cut diagram

[SCH 17; Simmons-Duffin, Stanford, Witten;  
Simmons-Duffin, Kravchuk]

gives OPE data from 'absorptive part'

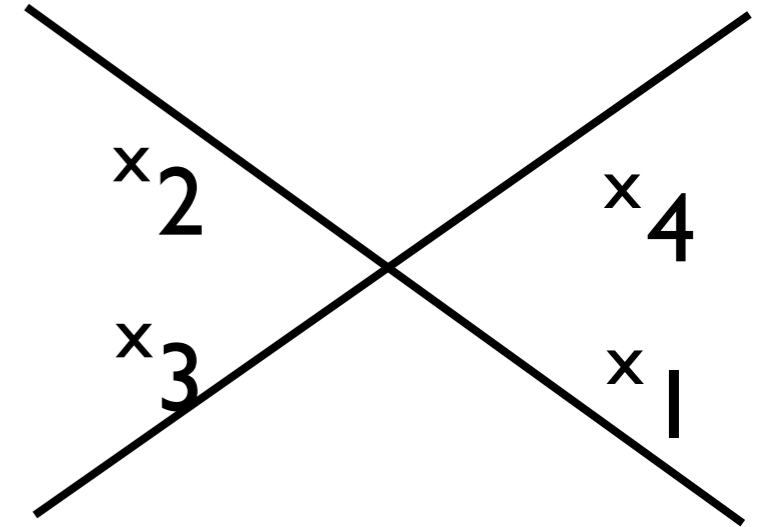


## What's 'absorptive part'?

$$\langle 0|T\phi_1 \cdots \phi_4|0\rangle \equiv G = G_E + i\mathcal{M}$$

$$\langle 0|\bar{T}\phi_1 \cdots \phi_4|0\rangle \equiv G^* = G_E - i\mathcal{M}^*$$

$$\langle 0|\phi_2\phi_3\phi_1\phi_4|0\rangle \equiv G_E$$



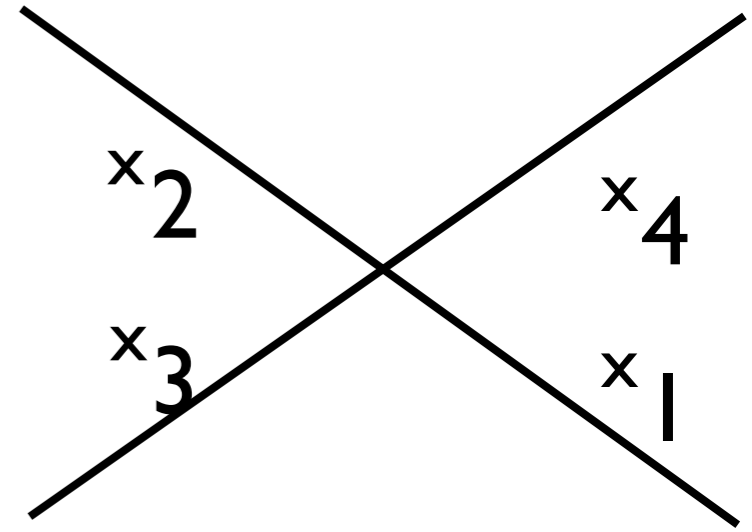
## double-commutator:

$$\text{dDisc } G \equiv \frac{1}{2} \langle 0|[\phi_2, \phi_3][\phi_1, \phi_4]|0\rangle = \text{"Im } \mathcal{M}\text{"}$$

## Positive & bounded

cf: [Maldacena, Shenker&Stanford '15 'bound on chaos']  
[Hartman, Kundu&Tajdini '16 'proof of ANEC']

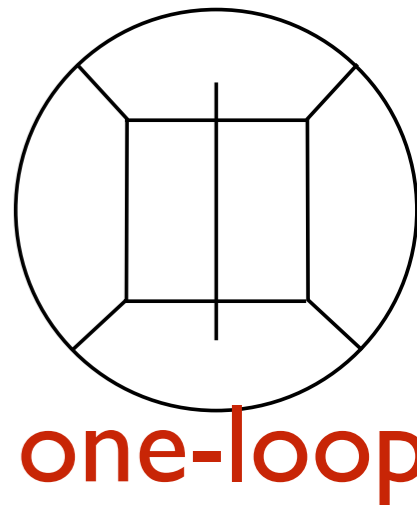
dDisc kills cross-channel double-traces:



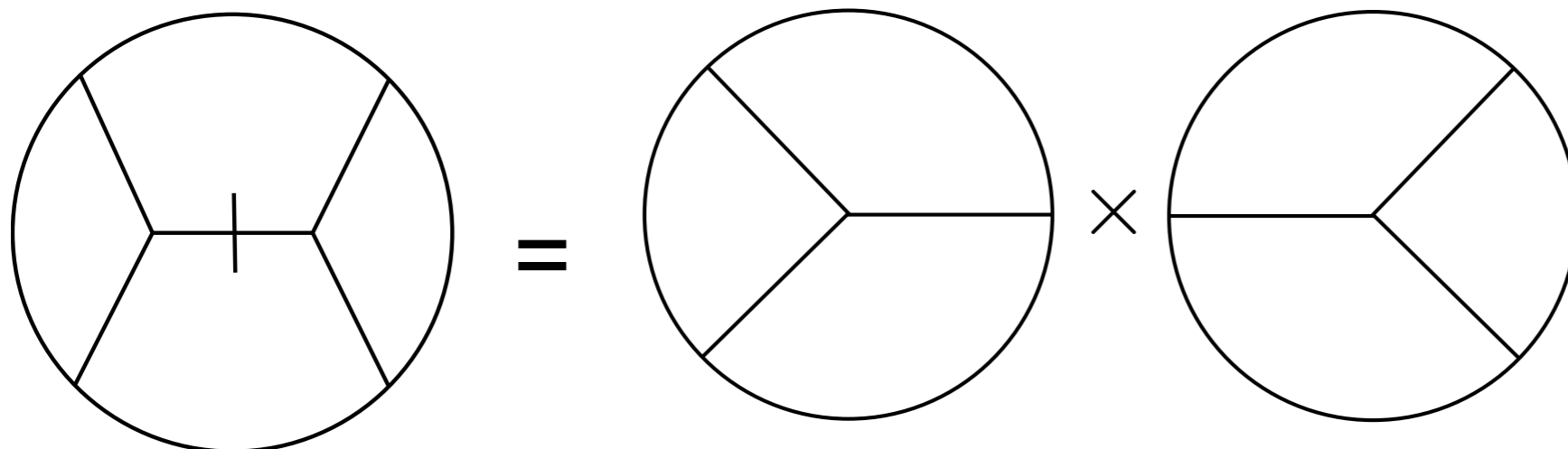
$$\phi_1 \phi_4 \sim \sum_{j, \Delta} c_{j, \Delta} ((x_1 - x_4)^2)^{\frac{\Delta - \Delta_1 - \Delta_4}{2}}$$

$$[\phi_1, \phi_4] \sim \sum_{j, \Delta} c_{j, \Delta} |(x_1 - x_4)^2|^{\frac{\Delta - \Delta_1 - \Delta_4}{2}} \sin\left(\pi \frac{\Delta - \Delta_1 - \Delta_4}{2}\right) \propto \gamma / N_c^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{dDisc}G \Big|_{\text{double-traces}} \sim \langle [\phi_1, \phi_4][\phi_2, \phi_3] \rangle \sim \gamma^2 / N_c^4$$

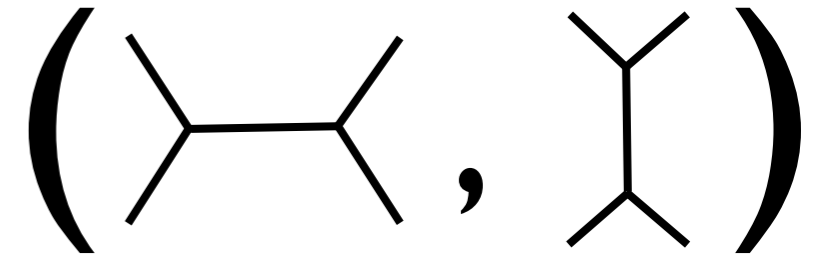


cut tree = single-trace conformal block (=known)



How to integrate?

Conceptually: 6j symbol for  $SO(D,2)$



-explicit expressions in  $D=2, D=4$

[Liu,Perlmutter, Rosenhaus  
& Simmons-Duffin '18]

-Large spin expansion: lightcone limit  $(z, \bar{z}) \rightarrow (0, 1)$

[Komargodski&Zhiboedov '12; Fitzpatrick,Kaplan,Poland&Simmons Duffin '12,  
Alday&Bissi&..., Kaviraj,Sen,Sinha&..., Alday,Bissi,Perlmutter&Aharony,...]

-Any  $D$ : leading-twist known [Cardona, (Guha, Kanumilli)& Sen '18,  
Albayrak, Meltzer& Poland '19; Li '19]

- **$N=4$ SYM**: special case (integer  $\Delta$ ): just  $\Gamma$ -functions

# SUSY Ward identities

[Nirschl & Osborn '04]

$$\mathcal{G}_{\{p_i\}}(z, \bar{z}, \alpha, \bar{\alpha}) = k\chi(z, \alpha)\chi(\bar{z}, \bar{\alpha}) + \frac{(z - \alpha)(z - \bar{\alpha})(\bar{z} - \alpha)(\bar{z} - \bar{\alpha})}{(\alpha - \bar{\alpha})(z - \bar{z})}$$

$$\times \left( -\frac{\chi(\bar{z}, \bar{\alpha})f(z, \alpha)}{\alpha z(\bar{z} - \bar{\alpha})} + \frac{\chi(\bar{z}, \alpha)f(z, \bar{\alpha})}{\bar{\alpha} z(\bar{z} - \alpha)} + \frac{\chi(z, \bar{\alpha})f(\bar{z}, \alpha)}{\alpha \bar{z}(z - \bar{\alpha})} - \frac{\chi(z, \alpha)f(\bar{z}, \bar{\alpha})}{\bar{\alpha} \bar{z}(z - \alpha)} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{(z - \alpha)(z - \bar{\alpha})(\bar{z} - \alpha)(\bar{z} - \bar{\alpha})}{(z\bar{z})^2(\alpha\bar{\alpha})^2} H_{\{p_i\}}(z, \bar{z}, \alpha, \bar{\alpha}),$$

Analogous to  
flat-space S-matrix

$$A_4^{\text{sugra}} = G_N \delta^{16}(Q) \times \frac{1}{stu}$$

apply 1D inversion to f, 4D inversion to H

[non-perturbative convergence for  $J > -3$ :  
convergent sum rule for stress tensor.]    ?    [Gillioz, Lu & Luty '18;  
Zhiboedov's talk]     $\Rightarrow$

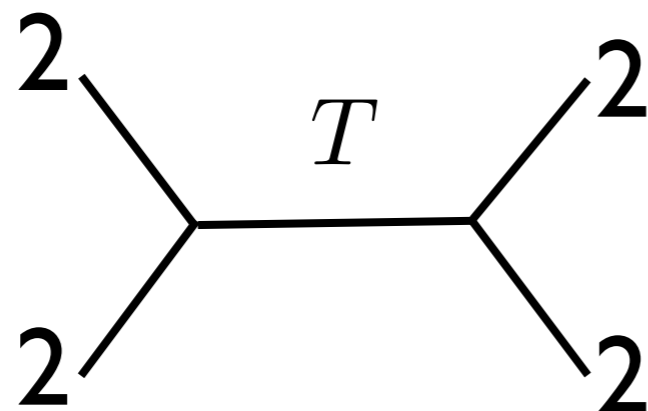
# Example: 2222

(four stress tensor multiplets)

The double-discontinuity is simple:

$$\text{dDisc} \left[ \frac{\bar{z} - z}{z\bar{z}} \mathcal{H}^{(1)}(z, \bar{z}) \right] = \left( \frac{z}{1-z} - \frac{2z^2}{(1-z)^2} - \frac{2z^3 \log z}{(1-z)^3} \right) \text{dDisc} \left[ \frac{\bar{z}}{1-\bar{z}} \right].$$

comes from pole of  
stress tensor exchange



$$\sim \frac{1}{1-\bar{z}} \propto \frac{1}{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}$$

From here, **two routes**:

1. Feed dDisc into inversion integral, get OPE data

$$c^{(1)}(h, \bar{h}) = \frac{\pi^2}{\sin(\pi h)^2} \frac{(h-2)(h-1)h(h+1)}{2}.$$

2. Find unique function:

- single-valued
- vanishes in Regge limit ( $z, z_b \rightarrow 0$ )
- has predicted poles at  $z_b = 1$  and infinity

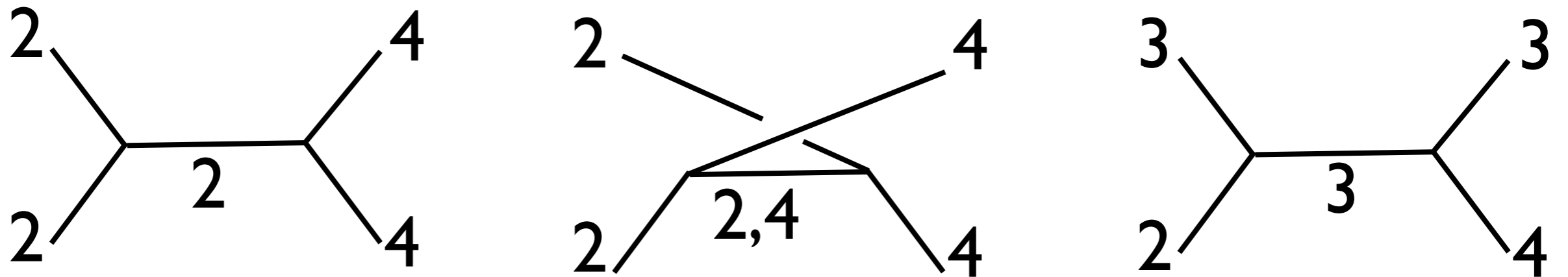
Answer:  $H^{(1)} = \frac{u^2}{v} - u^4 \bar{D}_{2,4,2,2}(z, \bar{z})$

$$\bar{D}_{2422} = uv \partial_u \partial_v (1 + u \partial_u + v \partial_v) \frac{2\text{Li}_2(z) - 2\text{Li}_2(\bar{z}) + \dots}{z - \bar{z}}$$

**Matches supergravity calculations!**



Straightforward to apply to other correlators



get **mixing matrices**. e.g.: at twist 6 and R-symmetry[0,2,0]:

$$\gamma_{6,0,2}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{24,24}^{(1)} & \gamma_{24,33}^{(1)} \\ \gamma_{33,24}^{(1)} & \gamma_{33,33}^{(1)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with:} \quad \gamma_{pq,rs}^{(1)} \equiv \frac{\langle a^{(0)} \gamma^{(1)} \rangle_{pqrs}}{\sqrt{\langle a^{(0)} \rangle_{pqqp} \langle a^{(0)} \rangle_{rssr}}}$$

Amazingly, the *eigenvalues* are nice:

$$\left( \gamma^{(1)} \right)_{6,0,2}^+ = \left\{ \frac{-\Delta_{0,2}^{(8)}(4, \bar{h})}{(\bar{h} - 4)_6}, \frac{-\Delta_{0,2}^{(8)}(4, \bar{h})}{(\bar{h} - 2)_6} \right\} \quad (\bar{h} = j + 5)$$

we looked at many cases, ie twist=8 [0,2,0]:

$$\begin{pmatrix} (2442) & (2433) & (2435) & (2444) \\ (3342) & (3333) & (3335) & (3344) \\ (3542) & (3533) & (3553) & (3544) \\ (4442) & (4433) & (4453) & (4444) \end{pmatrix}$$

All eigenvalues take the form:

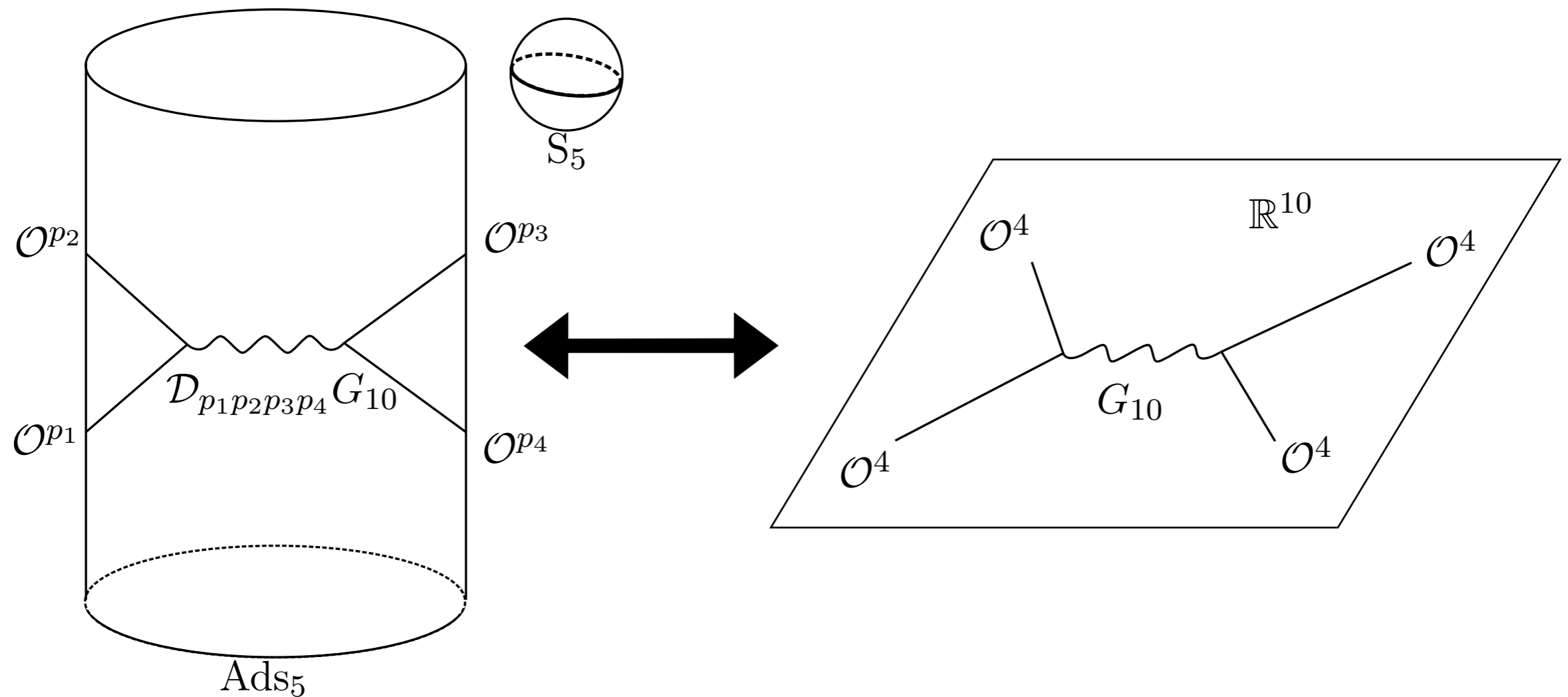
$$\gamma^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\Delta^{(8)}}{(j+1 + \text{integer})_6} !$$

confirm a recent conjecture



[Aprile, Drummond, Heslop&Paul '18]

# Part II: 10D IIB supergravity $\simeq$ CFT



*Crazy* that complicated matrix has rational eigenvalues!

Symmetry explanation:

1.  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  is conformally flat

$$ds^2_{AdS_5 \times S^5} = z^{-2} (dz^2 + dx_\mu dx^\mu + z^2 d\Omega_5^2)$$

2. IIB **supergravity** amplitude  $\sim$  conformal

$$A_4^{\text{sugra}, 10D} = \underbrace{8\pi G_N \delta^{16}(Q)}_{\text{dimensionless 'coupling'}} \times \frac{1}{stu} \leftarrow \text{conformal amplitude}$$

$$G_N^{(10D)} \sim 1/m_{\text{pl}}^8$$

# Evidence of $SO(10,2)$ symmetry [in 4-pt correlator]

## 1. Eigenvalue matches flat space phase shift

$$\delta_\ell^{(10)}(s) = -\frac{(L\sqrt{s}/2)^8}{c} \frac{1}{(j+1)_6}$$

used:  
 $8\pi G_N = \frac{\pi^5 L^8}{c}$

## 2. Offsets match $SO(4,2) \subset SO(10,2)$ reduction

$$\gamma = -\frac{\Delta^{(8)}}{c} \frac{1}{(j+1+m)_6}$$

## 3. 10D dilaton correlator generates all KK correlators

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi(w_1) \phi(w_2) \bar{\phi}(w_3) \bar{\phi}(w_4) \rangle_{10} &\equiv \frac{G_{10}(u_{10}, v_{10})}{((x_{12}^2 - y_{12}^2)(x_{34}^2 - y_{34}^2))^4} \\ &= \sum_{p,q,r,s} y_1^p y_2^q y_3^r y_4^s \langle O^p O^q O^r O^s \rangle \end{aligned}$$

3\* To get a given  $\langle O^p O^q O^r O^s \rangle$ : take terms with correct exponent of R-symmetry variables  $y$ 's

$$\tilde{H}_{p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4}(u, v, \sigma, \tau) = \oint \prod_{i=1}^4 \left[ \frac{da_i a_i^{1-p_i}}{2\pi i} \right] \frac{(u/\sigma)^{\frac{p_1+p_2}{2}-2}}{(1 - \frac{\sigma}{u} a_1 a_2)^4 (1 - a_3 a_4)^4} \\ \times G_{10} \left( u \frac{(1 - \frac{\sigma}{u} a_1 a_2)(1 - a_3 a_4)}{(1 - a_1 a_3)(1 - a_2 a_4)}, v \frac{(1 - \frac{\tau}{v} a_2 a_3)(1 - a_1 a_4)}{(1 - a_1 a_3)(1 - a_2 a_4)} \right)$$

predicts differential relations:

$$\tilde{H}_{pqrs} = \mathcal{D}_{pqrs} \tilde{H}_{2222}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{2222} = 1,$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{2332} = -\frac{\sqrt{u}}{\sqrt{\sigma}} \tau \partial_v,$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{2233} = 4 - u \partial_u,$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{3333} = 16 - 8u \partial_u + \frac{u + \sigma}{\sigma} (u \partial_u)^2 + 2 \frac{u}{\sigma} u \partial_u v \partial_v + \frac{u(v + \tau)}{\sigma v} (v \partial_v)^2.$$

satisfied by  
sugra results!

[D'Hoker, Freedman, Mathur, Matusis & Rastelli '99; Arutyunov, Dolan, Osborn & Sokatchev '02-; Berdichevsky & Naaijken '03; Dolan, Nirschl & Osborn '06; Uruchurtu '08-; Arutyunov, Klabbbers & Savin '18]

The correct guess is tricky in the details.

([L]=4: like 10D free field)

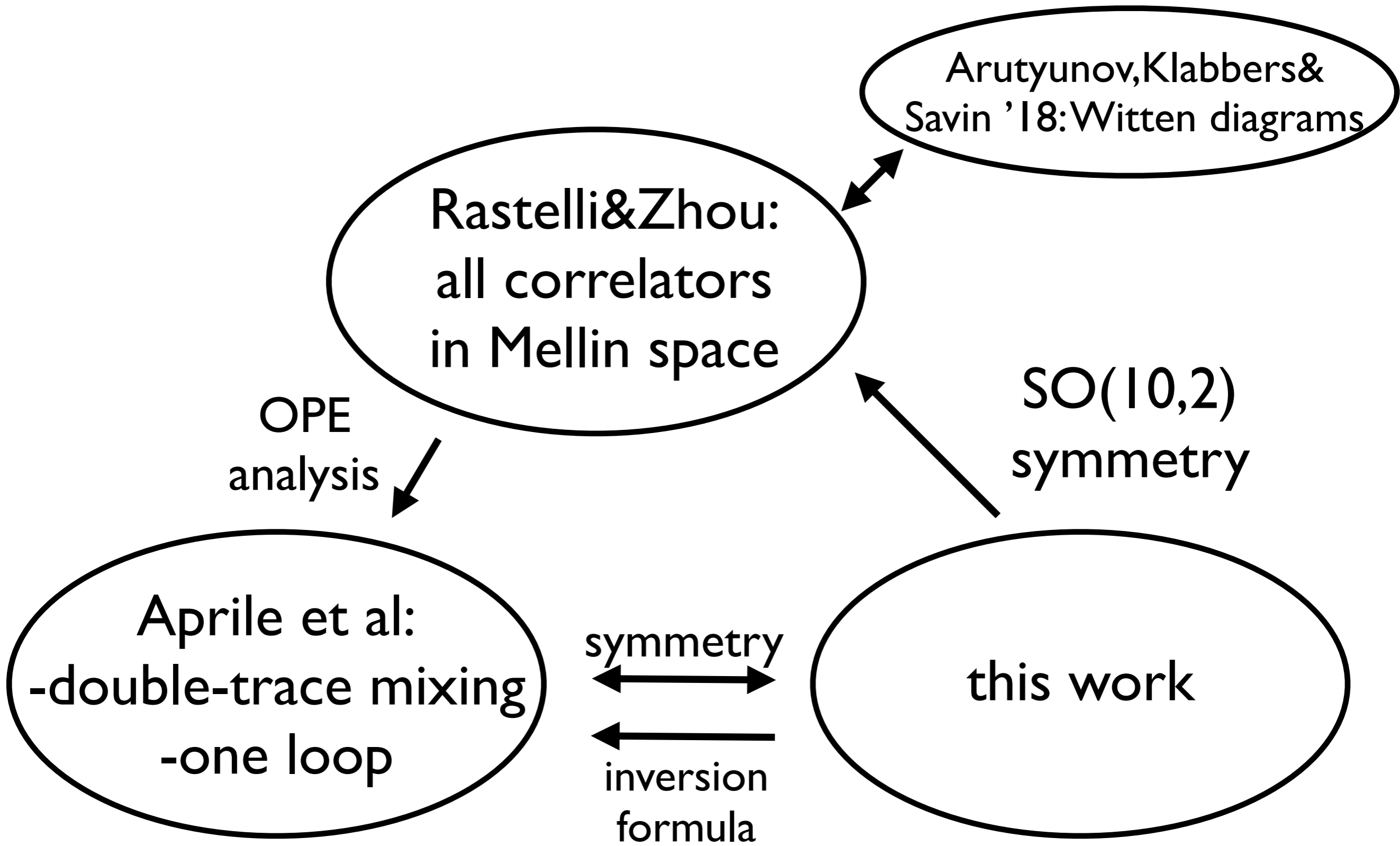
(4D) correlator of Lagrangians has 8-derivative Casimir

$$\langle \mathcal{L}\mathcal{L}\bar{\mathcal{L}}\bar{\mathcal{L}} \rangle^{(4)} = \Delta^{(8)} H$$

(10D) dilaton amplitude is  $s^4$  times conformal

$$A^{(10)} = 8\pi G_N s^4 \times \frac{1}{stu}$$

successful guess needs  $\Delta^{(8)} \leftrightarrow (s/4)^4$ , so  $H^{\text{tree}} \leftrightarrow 1/(stu)$



complete agreement between all methods!



# Further implications of 10D conformal symmetry:

[SCH&Trinh '18]

## 4. simple Mellin transform of correlators:

$$M_{pqrs}(s, t) \sim \sum \frac{1/(i!j!k!\ell!m!n!)}{(s-i)(t-j)(u-k)}$$

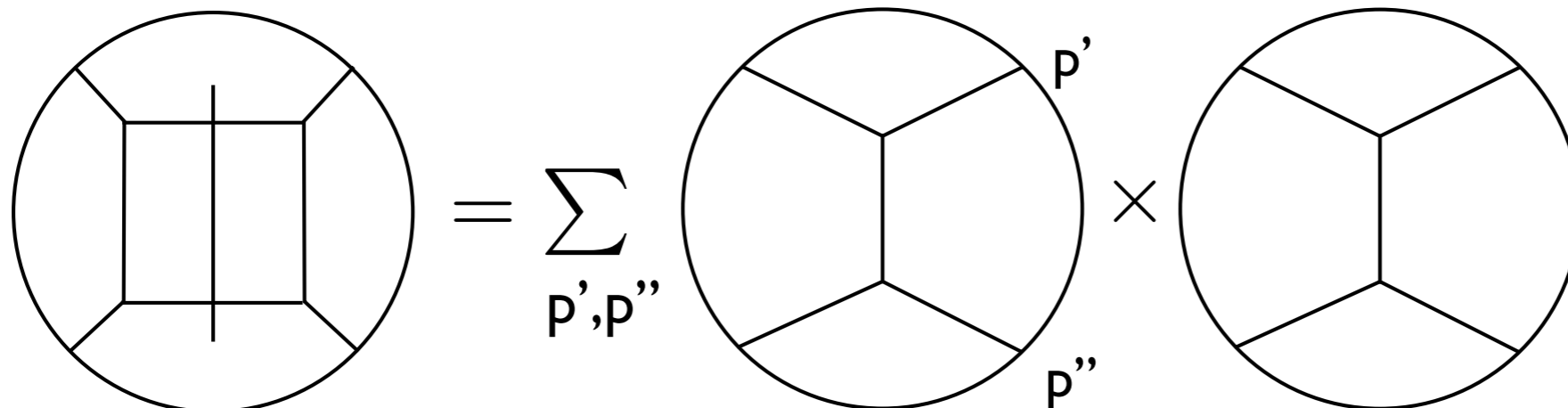
[Rastelli&Zhou '16]

## 5. Proof reduced to group theory: check poles of dDisc

$$\tilde{H}_{pqrs}^{(1)} \Big|_{v\text{-poles}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathcal{D}_{pqrs} \left[ -\frac{2u^4 \log u}{(1-u)^3 v} - \frac{u^3(1+u)}{(1-u)^2 v} \right]$$

checked  
to p,q,r,s~10

## 6. Double-trace mixing diagonalized by 10D blocks



# 6\* Explicit formula for leading-log at each loop order:

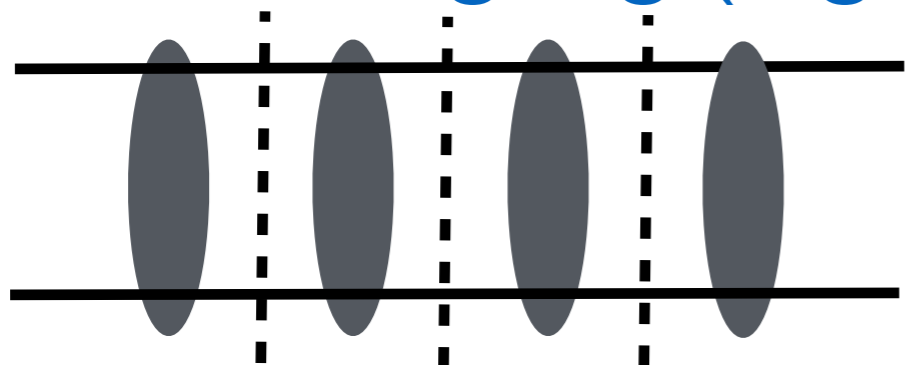
$$\mathcal{H}_{pqrs}^{(k)}(z, \bar{z}, \alpha, \bar{\alpha}) \Big|_{\log^k u} = \left[ \Delta^{(8)} \right]^{k-1} \cdot \mathcal{D}_{pqrs} \cdot \mathcal{D}_{(3)} \cdot h^{(k)}(z).$$

$$h^{(k)}(z) \equiv \frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{-1}{2} \right)^k \sum_{\ell=0, \text{ even}}^{\infty} \frac{960 \Gamma(j+1) \Gamma(j+4)}{\Gamma(2j+7)} \frac{1}{[(\ell+1)_6]^{k-1}} z^{j+1} {}_2F_1(j+1, j+4, 2j+8, z).$$

## Example:

$$h^{(2)}(z) = \frac{\text{Li}_2(z) - (1-z)^5 \text{Li}_2(z/(1-z))}{4z^5} - \frac{(1-z)(2z^2 - 7z + 7) \log(1-z)}{8z^4} + \frac{(z-2)(1-z)}{z^3} + \frac{235z-2}{576z}.$$

gives leading-log ( $\log^{L+1}$ ) terms for *all* correlators



matches 2222 from: [Alday & Bissi '17, Aprile, Drummond, Heslop & Paul '17]

# Generalizations I.

## Correlator of **tensor** multiplets in $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times K3$

$$A^{(6)} \sim G_N^{(6)} \delta^8(Q) \times \left[ \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{u} \right]$$

[Giuso, Russo & Wen '19,  
Rastelli, Roumpedakis & Zhou '19]

dimensionless  
'coupling'

conformal  
amplitude

Also, All  $S^3$  harmonics packaged together!

(what about stress-tensor?)

# Generalization 2: stringy corrections?

22pp in Mellin space:

[from flat space+SUSY localization]

$$\mathcal{M}_p(s, t) = \frac{4p}{\Gamma(p-1)} \frac{1}{c} \left[ \frac{1}{(s-2)(t-p)(u-p)} + \frac{(p+1)_3}{4} \zeta(3) \frac{1}{\lambda^{3/2}} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(p+1)_5}{32} \zeta(5) \left[ s^2 + t^2 + u^2 + \frac{2p(p-2)}{p+5} s + \left( -2p^2 + \frac{50 + 20p(p+2)}{(p+4)(p+5)} \right) \right] \frac{1}{\lambda^{5/2}} \right. \\ \left. + \dots \right] + O(c^{-2}).$$

[Alday, Bissi & Perlmutter;  
Binder, Chester, Pufu & Wang '19]

[cf Bissi's talk]

only  $j_{10}=0$  (or 2) eigenvalues change, not eigenvectors!!

$$\gamma = -\frac{\Delta^{(8)}}{c} \frac{1}{(j+1+m)_6} + \frac{\lambda^{-3/2}}{c} \delta_{j,0} \delta_{m,0} B_4(\tau) \\ + \frac{\lambda^{-5/2}}{c} (\delta_{j+m,2} B_5(\tau) + (\delta_{j+m,0} B'_5(\tau))) + \dots$$

[Drummond, Nandan, Paul & Rigatos]

(Suggestive of 4- and 6-order Casimir acting on 10D object?)

# Summary

- Studied double-trace mixing in strongly coupled  $N=4$  SYM using Lorentzian inversion formula
- $SO(10,2)$  symmetry: formula for all spherical harmonics!
- Leading logs to all orders in  $1/N_c$

## Further questions

- Simplify other  $AdS_5 \times S_5$  computations?
- Higher loops/higher points? [Goncalves, Pereira & Zhou '19]  
cf: [Loebbert, Mojaza & Plefka '18: hidden conformal symmetry]  
[cf Maldacena '11: Einstein vs conformal gravity]
- Less conformal-looking theories: 6D (2,0), ABJM?