

String Theory of The Regge Intercept

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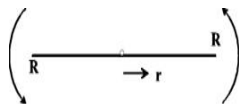
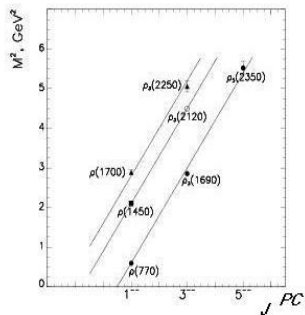
S.H. and Ian Swanson, [arXiv:1312.0999](#)

S.H., J. Maltz, S. Maeda, I. Swanson, [arXiv:1405.6197](#)

S.H., and Ian Swanson, *In Progress*

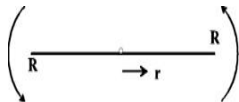
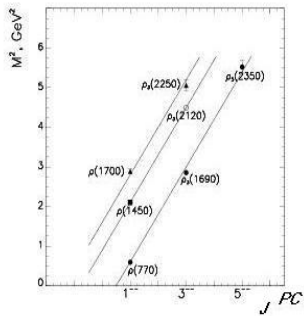
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Classical string model of the Regge spectrum



The string theory of QCD was originally formulated to explain remarkable, robust patterns in hadronic spectral data.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

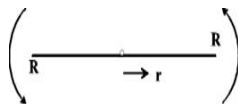
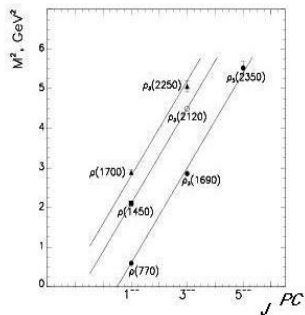


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Image credit http://phys.columbia.edu/kabat/why_strings/Regge.jpg

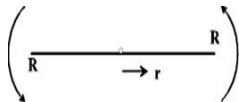
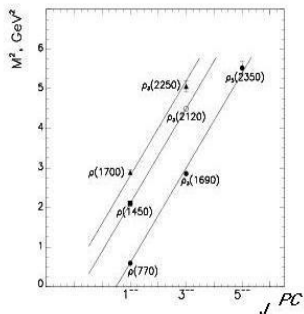
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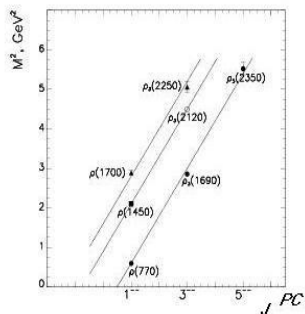
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All hadronic states appear to lie in a tower of resonances that can be plotted on a graph of mass-squared versus angular momentum, as straight lines with a common, universal slope.

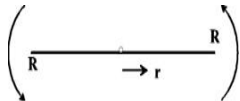
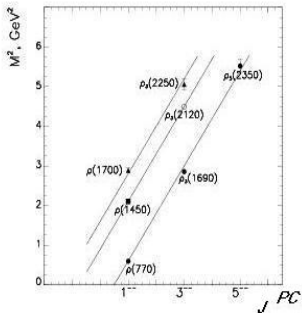
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$$m^2 = \frac{J}{\alpha'}$$

$$\alpha' = \frac{1}{2\pi T_{\text{string}}}$$

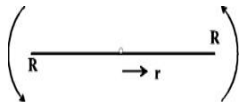
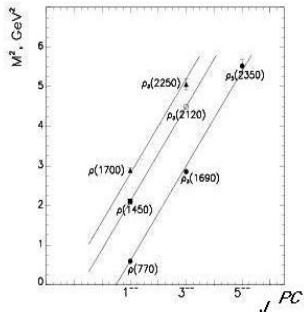
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We know **today** that the string theory of QCD is **JUST WRONG** at distances $\lesssim \sqrt{\alpha'}$.

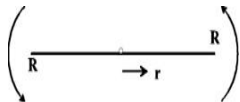
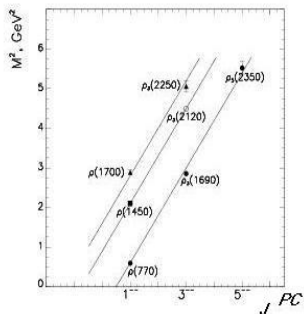
However we can still treat string theory as a perfectly good effective theory at scales $\gg \sqrt{\alpha'}$.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum



For a string with **large angular momentum**, its length is $\simeq \sqrt{J\alpha'}$ so we should be able to **use the effective theory** of the string worldsheet when $J \gg 1$.

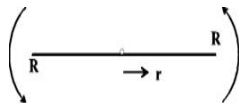
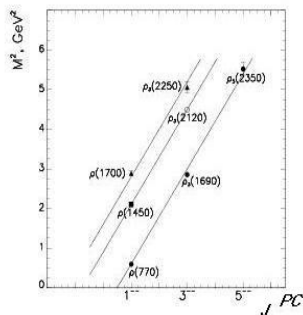
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This point of view predicts **corrections** to the Regge spectrum in the form

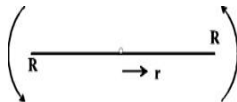
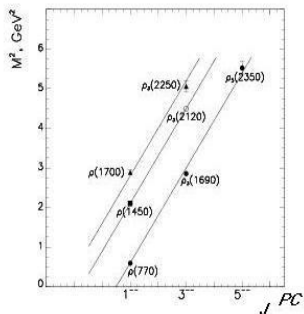
$$m^2 = \frac{J}{\alpha'} \cdot \left[1 + O\left(J^{-\kappa}\right) \right], \quad \kappa > 0.$$

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum



The leading large- J behavior represents a venerable story that motivated the development of string theory in the first place, during the 1970s. Since that time, **no general theory** of the **subleading** large- J corrections has ever been developed.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum



This talk will describe the **development** of such a theory.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

- ▶ You might ask: **Why** does this work at all, in **any** approximation?
- ▶ When the string is **large**, the **short-distance structure** should become **irrelevant**, in the **technical sense** of the **renormalization group**.
- ▶ The dynamics should be described by the **most relevant terms** one can write in a **local action** for a string, invariant under all the appropriate **symmetries**.
- ▶ The **most relevant term** invariant under the Poincaré symmetry of D-dimensional spacetime is the Nambu-Goto action:

$$S_{\text{NG}} = T_{\text{string}} \cdot \text{Area}_{\text{worldsheet}} ,$$

$$T_{\text{string}} \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} .$$

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

- ▶ The Nambu-Goto action describes the spectrum with arbitrarily good precision when the string is large, with typical size scale " R ".
- ▶ Less relevant terms in the action should contribute with powers (perhaps including logarithms) of $R/\sqrt{\alpha'}$.
- ▶ An operator scaling as Length^{-p} contributes to any observable at relative order $R^{-(p+2)}$ ("Relative" to the **leading** Nambu-goto contribution, that is).
- ▶ The coarse analysis of large- R corrections is **easy** – to learn the **power laws** that appear rather than their **coefficients**, just **classify possible invariant operators** up to some order in **inverse length**.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

- ▶ For this talk we are exclusively interested in the **first subleading correction** to any given amplitude.
- ▶ The first question should be "Is the Nambu-Goto action enough"?
- ▶ In **certain situations**, the answer is yes

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- ▶ The first question should be "Is the Nambu-Goto action enough"?
- ▶ In **certain situations**, the answer is yes – **assuming** the theory is quantized consistently.
- ▶ The leading corrections to the NG action – including the curvature-squared term – scale as $|X|^{-2}$
- ▶ Therefore these operators contribute to M_{meson}^2 at order J^{-1} at most.
- ▶ Therefore the asymptotic Regge intercept – the order J^0 term in the large- J expansion of M_{meson}^2 – is **calculable** and **universal**

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Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

- ▶ To **carry out** the analysis, we must pick a **gauge**.
- ▶ The two most commonly used gauges (for D not equal to the **critical dimension**) are **orthogonal gauge** and **static gauge**.
- ▶ The analysis in these two gauges has mostly been done **disjointly**, with little **comparison** between the two approaches. Recently, the two gauges, **properly renormalized at the quantum level**, have been found to be equivalent up to relative order $(\text{length})^{-6}$. (Aharony *et al.* ; Dubovsky, Flauger, Gorbenko)
- ▶ The evidence for the agreement of gauges is overwhelming.

Classical string model of the Regge spectrum

- ▶ In practice, orthogonal gauge is **much simpler** because it is **free** at leading order.
- ▶ Furthermore, we'll be interested in **non-static** situations, such as **rotating** strings, which makes **static gauge** complicated!
- ▶ I will **not** give a review of the old-fashioned approach to orthogonal gauge.
- ▶ I'll begin by **constructing** effective string theory in conformal gauge and placing it in a **simplified** framework by embedding it in the **Polyakov** formalism.

Covariant effective string theory simplified

- ▶ Let's begin by considering the usual Polyakov action for the bosonic string, but with an **arbitrary** number D of **embedding** coordinates.: The Polyakov string is defined by the path integral

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}\mathcal{M}_{[g]}^{\text{Polyakov}} \exp(-S_{\text{Polyakov}}) ,$$

$$\mathcal{D}\mathcal{M}_{[g]}^{\text{Polyakov}} \equiv \frac{\mathcal{D}_{[g]}X \mathcal{D}_{[g]}g}{\mathcal{D}_{[g]}\Omega}$$

$$S_{\text{Polyakov}} = \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{|g_{\bullet\bullet}|} \mathcal{L}_{\text{Polyakov}} ,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Polyakov}} = \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} g^{ab} \partial_a X^\mu \partial_b X_\mu ,$$

The action S_{Polyakov} is Weyl-invariant but the measure $\mathcal{D}\mathcal{M}_{[g]}^{\text{Polyakov}}$ is not.

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Under a **Weyl** transformation $g_{\bullet\bullet} \rightarrow \exp(+2\omega) g_{\bullet\bullet}$,

the individual **factors** of the **integrand** transform as:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{Polyakov}} &\rightarrow S_{\text{Polyakov}} \\ \mathcal{D}\mathcal{M}_{[g]}^{\text{Polyakov}} &\rightarrow \exp(F_{\text{anom}}[g, \omega]) \mathcal{D}\mathcal{M}_{[g]}^{\text{Polyakov}} \end{aligned}$$

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The form of the anomaly functional $F[g, \omega]$ is determined uniquely to be

$$F_{\text{anom}}[g, \omega] \equiv \frac{1}{24\pi} \int \sqrt{|g|} d^2\sigma \left\{ g^{\bullet\bullet} \partial_{\bullet}\omega \partial_{\bullet}\omega + \omega \mathcal{R}_{(2)}[g] \right\}$$

by the Wess-Zumino consistency condition.

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- ▶ ... modulo terms proportional to the free equations of motion, which can be removed by field redefinitions.
- ▶ Here, we have derived the same term from a starting point with more gauge invariance by embedding it in the Polyakov path integral and canceling the Weyl anomaly. I will refer to this as the simplified covariant formalism.

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ For **rotating strings** we know the **length R** should scale as $\sqrt{\alpha' J}$ when J is **large**.
- ▶ So calculating the relative-order R^{-2} corrections for **rotating strings** corresponds to calculating the relative-order J^{-1} corrections.
- ▶ The leading-order value of the mass-squared for an **open string** in **four dimensions** is

$$m_{\text{leading Regge}}^2 = \frac{J}{\alpha'}.$$

In fact, this relationship **defines** the (asymptotic) **Regge slope** α' .

- ▶ Computing a relative order J^{-1} term would correspond to computing the **asymptotic Regge intercept** on the "**leading trajectory**" – that is, the set of states of **lowest mass** for a given **angular momentum**.

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ Formally, the **relative order** J^{-1} correction to the dispersion relation on the **leading trajectory** is **particularly simple**, because the **lowest state** with given **Noether charges** is **automatically Virasoro-primary**, so the **physical state** conditions are **automatically satisfied**, except the **mass-shell** condition from L_0 .
- ▶ The correction to the **mass-squared** of the string state is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta M^2 \Big|_{\text{first-order}}^{\text{closed}} &= \frac{2}{\alpha'} \Delta E_{\text{ws}} \Big|_{\text{first-order}} , \\ \Delta M^2 \Big|_{\text{first-order}}^{\text{open}} &= \frac{1}{\alpha'} \Delta E_{\text{ws}} \Big|_{\text{first-order}} , \\ \Delta E_{\text{ws}} \Big|_{\text{first-order}} &= \langle (P, J) \Big|_{\text{free}} \hat{H}_{\text{first-order}} \Big| (P, J) \rangle_{\text{free}} ,\end{aligned}$$

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ This in turn is given by the **Casimir energy** $-\frac{D-2}{12}$, plus the **classical value** of the **interaction Hamiltonian** in the **classical rotating solution** with the appropriate **angular momenta**.
- ▶ The **classical value** of the **perturbing Hamiltonian** is equal to the **negative** of the classical value of the **perturbing Lagrangian**. This follows from elementary manipulations in **classical** mechanics and applies only to the **lowest state** of a system with fixed **Noether** charges.
- ▶ No **higher loops** or even **one-loop diagrams** involving **interaction vertices** contribute at **NLO** in J . Each additional **interaction vertex**, and each additional **quantum loop**, is suppressed by at least one additional power of J .

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ Let's see how this works, concretely, for open strings in conformal gauge.
- ▶ The solution for the lowest-lying state with angular momentum J in a **single plane** is of the form

$$X^0 = 2\alpha' P^0 \sigma^0 ,$$

$$Z = -i\sqrt{\alpha' J} \left(e^{i\sigma^+} + e^{i\sigma^-} \right) ,$$

with σ^1 running from 0 to π . The classical solution satisfies the Neumann boundary condition at $\sigma^1 = 0, \pi$.

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ For this case, our analysis **breaks down** in its own terms.
- ▶ The Lagrangian is **singular** near $\sigma^1 = 0, \pi$ in the **classical solution**.
- ▶ This is a **non-integrable** singularity.

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ For this case, our analysis **breaks down** in its own terms.
- ▶ The Lagrangian is **singular** near $\sigma^1 = 0, \pi$ in the **classical solution**.
- ▶ This is a **non-integrable** singularity. The integral **diverges**:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{rotating solution}}^{\text{PS}} = -\frac{\beta}{2\pi^2} \frac{\sin^2(2\sigma_1)}{(1 - \cos(2\sigma_1))^2} .$$

Effective string theory for rotating strings

- ▶ For the **open string**, this singularity is present because the boundary is moving at the **speed of light** and there is a **curvature singularity** in the Lorentzian induced metric.
- ▶ For the closed string, there is a **singularity** representing a **fold** in the string.
- ▶ In both cases, the integrated anomaly term **diverges**.
- ▶ We will first consider a **model calculation** that **avoids** this singularity.
- ▶ This breakdown of the theory is a **short-distance** singularity, to be removed by **renormalization**.
- ▶ But first, let us consider a **simpler** case, where there is **no** such singularity.

Closed strings with rotation in two planes

- ▶ Let us now perform a **calculation in a simple case** to illustrate the **general idea** of large- J universality at **subleading order**.
- ▶ The properties of **rotations** are different in **higher dimensions**. So we consider **closed strings** rotating in $D \geq 5$, which need not have folds: The **Polchinski-Strominger denominator** is nonvanishing **everywhere**.
- ▶ We consider closed strings in $D \geq 5$, with nonzero classical angular momenta $J_{1,2}$ in **two** planes simultaneously.
- ▶ In terms of the $SO(4) = SU(2)_+ \times SU(2)_-$ subgroup of the $SO(D-1)$ **little group**, the total angular momenta are $J_{\pm} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(J_1 \pm J_2)$ where we assume **WLOG** that $J_1 > J_2 > 0$.

Closed strings with rotation in two planes

- ▶ The classical solution is

$$X^0 = \alpha' P^0 \sigma^0 ,$$

$$Z_i = -i \sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \left(\alpha_{-1}^{Z_i} e^{i\sigma^+} + \tilde{\alpha}_{-1}^{Z_i} e^{i\sigma^-} \right) ,$$

$$\bar{Z}_i = i \sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \left(\alpha_1^{\bar{Z}_i} e^{-i\sigma^+} + \tilde{\alpha}_1^{\bar{Z}_i} e^{-i\sigma^-} \right) ,$$

- ▶ Here, the mode amplitudes are

$$\alpha_{-1}^{Z_1} = \alpha_1^{\bar{Z}_1} = \tilde{\alpha}_{-1}^{Z_1} = \tilde{\alpha}_1^{\bar{Z}_1} = \sqrt{J_1} ,$$

$$\alpha_{-1}^{Z_2} = \alpha_1^{\bar{Z}_2} = -\tilde{\alpha}_{-1}^{Z_2} = -\tilde{\alpha}_1^{\bar{Z}_2} = \sqrt{J_2} .$$

Closed strings with rotation in two planes

- ▶ Evaluated in this rotating solution, the contribution of the PS anomaly term, evaluated in the rotating ground state, takes the form

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{rotating solution}}^{\text{PS}} = -\frac{\beta J_-^2}{2\pi^2} \frac{\sin^2(2\sigma_1)}{(J_+ - J_- \cos(2\sigma_1))^2} .$$

- ▶ This Lagrangian density becomes singular at the endpoints $\sigma_1 = 0$ and π , in the limit $J_+ = J_-$. This limit is imposed automatically in $D = 4$, as the little group $SO(D - 1)$ has rank one, and J_2 must vanish.
- ▶ But for **generic biplanar** angular momenta, this density is **smooth**.

Closed strings with rotation in two planes

- ▶ The resulting **mass shift** is

$$M_{\text{closed}}^2 = \frac{1}{\alpha'} \left[2(J_1 + J_2) - \frac{D-2}{6} + \frac{26-D}{12} \left(\left(\frac{J_1}{J_2} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} - \left(\frac{J_2}{J_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \right)^2 \right] + O(J^{-1}).$$

- ▶ The contribution from the PS term is nonzero unless $J_1 = J_2$, or $D = 26$.
- ▶ When J_2 is taken to **zero**, this **diverges** as a **fold** develops.
- ▶ At **present**, we do **not understand** how to **renormalize** the singular Hamiltonian at the **fold**.

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ Since we don't understand **that**, let us return to our original focus on strings with **boundaries**.
- ▶ Our approach is to **regulate and renormalize** the boundary singularities in the **standard way**.
- ▶ This **works**, because all **UV-divergences** are **local terms**.

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ The classical solution is

$$X^0 = 2\alpha' P^0 \sigma^0$$

$$\bar{Z}_1 = i\sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \alpha_{-1}^{\bar{Z}_1} \left(e^{-i\sigma^+} + e^{-i\sigma^-} \right),$$

$$\bar{Z}_2 = i\sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \frac{\alpha_{-2}^{\bar{Z}_2}}{2} \left(e^{-2i\sigma^+} + e^{-2i\sigma^-} \right),$$

$$Z_1 = -i\sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \alpha_{-1}^{Z_1} \left(e^{i\sigma^+} + e^{i\sigma^-} \right),$$

$$Z_2 = -i\sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \frac{\alpha_{-2}^{Z_2}}{2} \left(e^{2i\sigma^+} + e^{2i\sigma^-} \right),$$

Renormalization of boundary singularities

► Here,

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1^{\bar{Z}_1} &= \sqrt{2J_1} & \alpha_{-1}^{Z_1} &= \sqrt{2J_1} \\ \alpha_2^{\bar{Z}_2} &= 2\sqrt{J_2} & \alpha_{-2}^{Z_2} &= 2\sqrt{J_2} .\end{aligned}$$

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ Remember that we can **modify** our choice for the composite Liouville field ϕ .
- ▶ We would like to do so so that our choice is **smooth** near the boundary.
- ▶ Such a choice is

$$\phi \equiv -\frac{1}{4} \ln(\mathcal{I}_{11}^2 - \epsilon^4 \alpha' \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{22}) ,$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{22} \equiv \mathcal{I}_{22} - \frac{\mathcal{I}_{12}\mathcal{I}_{21}}{\mathcal{I}_{11}} , \quad \mathcal{I}_{pq} \equiv \partial_+^p X \cdot \partial_-^q X$$

- ▶ Near the **boundary**, this behaves as $\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{22} \simeq -\mathcal{I}_{22}$, which is **nonzero and smooth**.

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ Now, modulo terms that **do not contribute**, the density of the PS term is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{PS, reg}} \equiv \frac{\beta}{2\pi} \frac{\mathcal{I}_{12}\mathcal{I}_{21}}{\mathcal{I}_{11}^2 + \epsilon^4 \alpha' \mathcal{I}_{22}} .$$

- ▶ Note that wherever and whenever $\mathcal{I}_{11} \neq 0$, we have $\mathcal{L}_{\text{PS, reg}} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\text{PS}}$. The **short-distance modification** is **irrelevant**, whenever the **leading-order action** is **nonzero**. The short-distance modification kicks in only at **boundaries and folds**.
- ▶ The integral is

$$\Delta M_{\text{open}}^2 = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \frac{26 - D}{24\alpha'} (J_1 + 8J_2)^{1/4} + (\text{finite}) .$$

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ The short-distance singularity can be cancelled by a **local term** at the boundary, of the form

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quark}} \equiv (\mathcal{I}_{22})^{+\frac{1}{4}} = (-\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{22})^{+\frac{1}{4}}$$

This operator corresponds to an infinitesimal change in a renormalized quark mass.

- ▶ This may seem like a **peculiar** operator, but in fact all **boundary operators** for open strings with Neumann boundaries are **nonsingular operators** \mathcal{I}_{pq} dressed with powers of \mathcal{I}_{22} .

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ After renormalization, we find

$$M_{\text{open}}^2 = \frac{1}{\alpha'} \left[J_1 + 2J_2 - \frac{D-2}{24} + \frac{26-D}{24} \left(-4 + \frac{3J_1 + 4J_2}{J_1^{\frac{1}{2}} \sqrt{J_1 + 8J_2}} \right) \right] + O(J^{-1}).$$

- ▶ For angular momenta lying in a single plane (i.e., when $J_2 = 0$), the mass-squared equals $M_{\text{open}}^2 = (J_1 - 1)/\alpha'$, independent of D . Of course, when $D = 26$, we obtain $M_{\text{open}}^2 = (J_1 + 2J_2 - 1)/\alpha'$.
- ▶ This is the case in which the bosonic string theory is well-defined microscopically, and the singular PS anomaly term is absent.

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ It is worth emphasizing that we have fine-tuned the coefficient of the quark mass operator $\mathcal{O}_{(\text{quark})}$ so that there is no term of order $J^{1/4}$ in the mass-squared formula.
- ▶ Generically we should expect a $J^{1/4}$ term in the open-string mass-squared, unless the mass of the quark at the endpoint is light compared to the scale of the string tension.

Renormalization of boundary singularities

- ▶ In **real QCD** there will be **additional degrees of freedom** at the endpoints, carrying **spin** and **flavor** degrees of freedom.
- ▶ These degrees of freedom carry **symmetries** that **constrain** the allowed operators. In particular, **chiral symmetry** forbids **quark masses**, which are associated with the $J^{+\frac{1}{4}}$ term in the **boundary action**. We therefore speculate that in the **correct effective boundary CFT** of the **real QCD string**, the $J^{+\frac{1}{4}}$ term in the action may be **completely fixed** when **exact chiral symmetry** holds.

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ Several **questions** now arise.
- ▶ One might ask, **why** is the answer **universal** at all?
- ▶ And **why** do the boundary operators appear containing these strange quarter-integer powers \mathcal{I}_{22} ?

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ This is one of the more surprising features of the effective string theory with Neumann boundary conditions.
- ▶ Let us consider any short-distance modification of the theory such that the bulk of the worldsheet is an ordinary effective string theory with an organization of operators such as we have described, with operators dressed with powers of \mathcal{I}_{11} – generically negative integer ones.
- ▶ For such a theory, the boundary operators always appear dressed with powers of \mathcal{I}_{22} – generically negative integer ones.
- ▶ This is so for artificial short-distance cutoffs preserving the symmetries – such as the one we have considered – but also for real short-distance effective theories.

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ The result is that **all boundary operators** are of the form $(\prod_{pq} \mathcal{I}_{pq})/\mathcal{I}_{22}^k$.
- ▶ We can quickly see that there are no marginal boundary operators of vanishing **X-scaling**.
- ▶ First, use the EOM to reduce all derivatives of X to the form $\partial_0^p X$ or $\partial_0^p \partial_1 X$.
- ▶ Then use Neumann boundary conditions to eliminate the latter.

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ Now, all bilinear invariants of \underline{X} at the **boundary** are of the form $B_{(pq)} \equiv \partial_0^p X \cdot \partial_0^q X$.
- ▶ All **all boundary operators** are of the form $(\prod_{pq} B_{(pq)}) / B_{(22)}^k$.
- ▶ Now consider only marginal boundary operators.
- ▶ If the "undressed" operator (the numerator) has dimension $\Delta \equiv \sum_{pq} p + q$, then the **dressing** is $B_{(22)}^{-(\Delta-1)/4}$.

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ Then in order to have **positive or zero** X -scaling, the undressed operator must have $\Delta \leq 5$.
- ▶ The operators B_{11} and B_{12} vanish as independent operators because they are proportional to free-field stress tensors and first derivatives thereof.
- ▶ The only marginal operator with $\Delta = 5$ is $B_{(23)}/B_{(22)}$ which is a **total derivative** along the boundary.
- ▶ So after modding out by **Virasoro descendants**, the **only marginal operator** with **nonnegative X -scaling** is the **quark mass** term, corresponding to $\Delta = 4$.

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- ▶ The remaining question is:
- ▶ **Why** should operators be organized in this form – with only B_{22} appearing to **negative** or **fractional** powers?
- ▶ This is indeed **counterintuitive** – but it appears to be **true**, for **every** good **short-distance regulator** we have **examined** that preserves all the **symmetries** of the system.

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- ▶ The authors start out in $D + 1$ dimensions where the $D + 1^{\text{st}}$ direction ϕ is anisotropic with the others, due to the effect of a dilaton gradient, a tachyon profile, and a massive stringy condensate.
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- ▶ We will analyze the system in the limit $D \rightarrow -\infty$.
- ▶ Finite- D corrections do **not** appear to change the **qualitative structure** of the **organization of operators**.

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- ▶ To understand how the **Liouville direction** gets **integrated out**, first put the D Lorentz-invariant directions into an **arbitrary** nonsingular configuration $X^\mu(\sigma)$.
- ▶ Then **solve** for the Liouville field ϕ **classically**.
- ▶ For a **nonsingular configuration** of the the **closed string**, we find

$$\phi = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(\mathcal{I}_{11}) ,$$

where we have **ignored** quantum corrections.

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- ▶ Let's look at this calculation in a bit more detail.

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- ▶ Let's look at this calculation in a bit more detail. It will be illuminating.
- ▶ The semiclassical Lagrangian for ϕ is

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi \simeq \frac{|D|}{12\pi^2} (\vec{\partial}\phi)^2 + \mu^2 \exp(-2\phi) + \mu'^{-2} \exp(+2\phi) \mathcal{I}_{11}^2$$

- ▶ Restrict for the moment to the case where \mathcal{I}_{11} is time-independent, with a dependence only on the spatial worldsheet coordinate σ^1 .
- ▶ Then ○ ○ ○

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- ▶ Ignoring quantum corrections is **strictly justified** at $D = -\infty$.
- ▶ But of course we want to consider **finite** (and positive) D .
- ▶ For **many purposes** the $1/D$ expansion is **not very useful** at **finite positive** D , but for **some** purposes it is **useful**.
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- ▶ In particular, it is **not sufficient** or **necessary** for deriving the **power laws** to which \mathcal{I}_{11} occurs in the **effective action** – these are fixed by **conformal** invariance.
- ▶ Nor is the large- D expansion **useful** for deriving the **coefficients** with which **effective operators** appear in the **effective string theory**.

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- ▶ The **propagators** for ϕ are of the form \mathcal{I}_{11} plus **lower order** terms that can be treated as a **perturbation** when the string is **large**.
- ▶ Thus it is \mathcal{I}_{11} and **only** \mathcal{I}_{11} that ever appears in the **denominator** of an **effective operator**.

Structure of boundary operators

- ▶ When the string has a **Neumann boundary** the only difference is that the **classical solution** has $\phi = -\frac{1}{4}\ln(\mathcal{I}_{22}) + (\text{const}) + \text{lower order in } X$ near the boundary.
- ▶ The solution is still $M_\phi^2 \propto \mathcal{I}_{11} + \text{lower order in } X$ in the **bulk** of the worldsheet.
- ▶ As a result, **bulk** operators are dressed with powers of \mathcal{I}_{11} and **boundary** operators are dressed with powers of \mathcal{I}_{22} .
- ▶ Thus the **organization of operators** is as we have said.
- ▶ This is **also** true for every **other** regulator we have examined.
- ▶ The **set of allowed operators** in a given effective theory – as opposed to the coefficients of those operators – should be **universal**. So this operator dressing rule should hold in **every** UV completion.

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- ▶ The **(asymptotic)** Regge intercept is is universal and calculable, **modulo** the quark mass term.
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- ▶ Thank you.