

Global Symmetry and Localization Constraints on Superconformal Impurities

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**iTHEMS-YITP workshop on Bootstrap, Localization, and Holography
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Based on 2405.10914 w/ S. Pufu, R. Dempsey and B. Offertaler

2305.08297 w/ S. Pufu and V. Rodriguez

(See also 2405.10862 and 2308.16575 from Billò, Frau, Galvagno, Lerda)

Plan of the Talk

- **Motivation and Background on Impurities/Defects**
- **Review: Superconformal Impurities**
- **Global Symmetry Constraint on Superconformal Lines**
- **Superconformal Ward Identity on Current multiplet 2-point function**
- **Supersymmetric Mass Deformation and Integral Constraint**
- **Applications and Discussions**

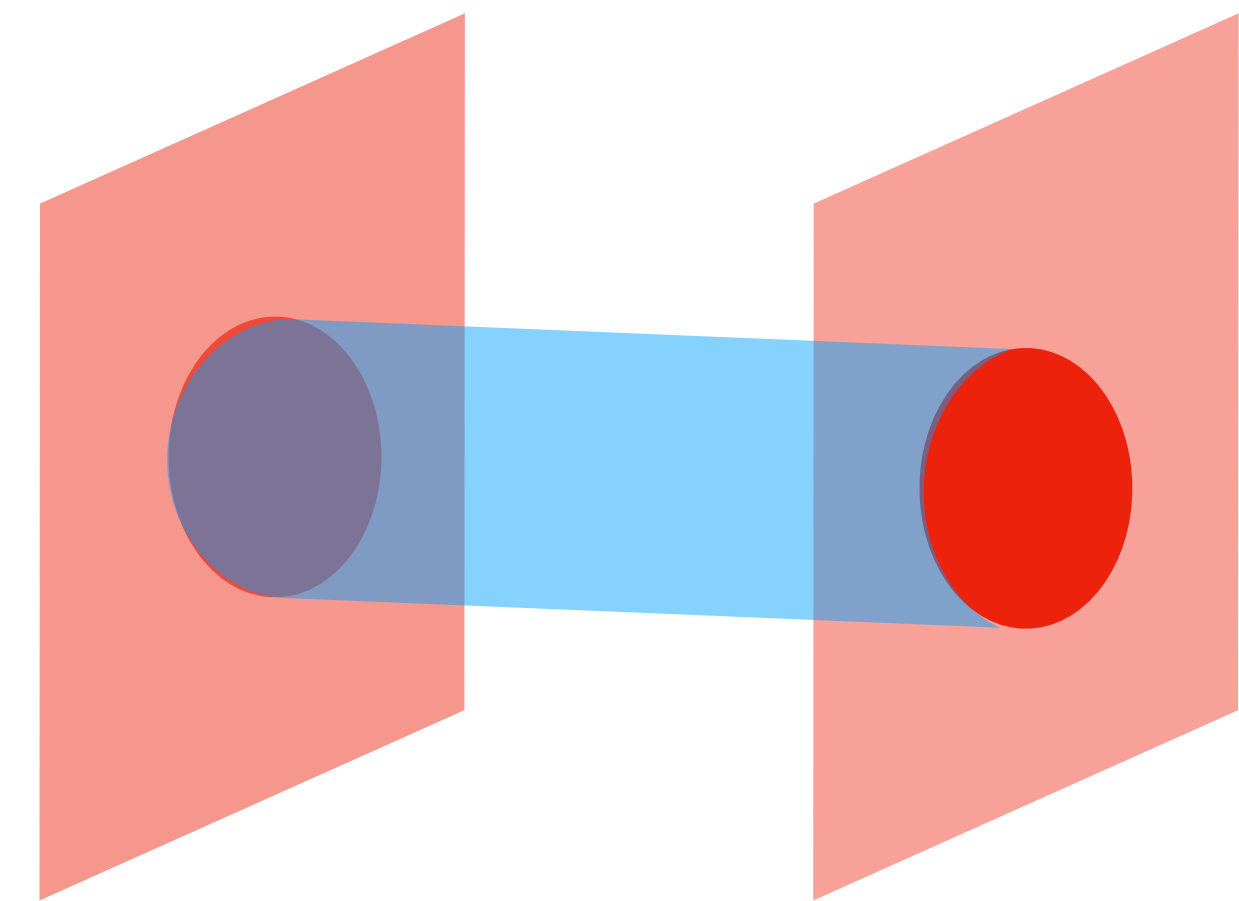
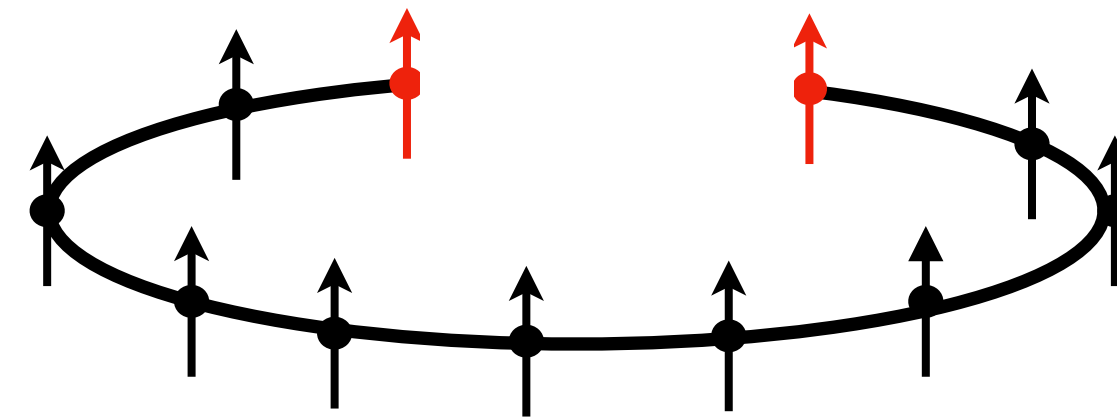
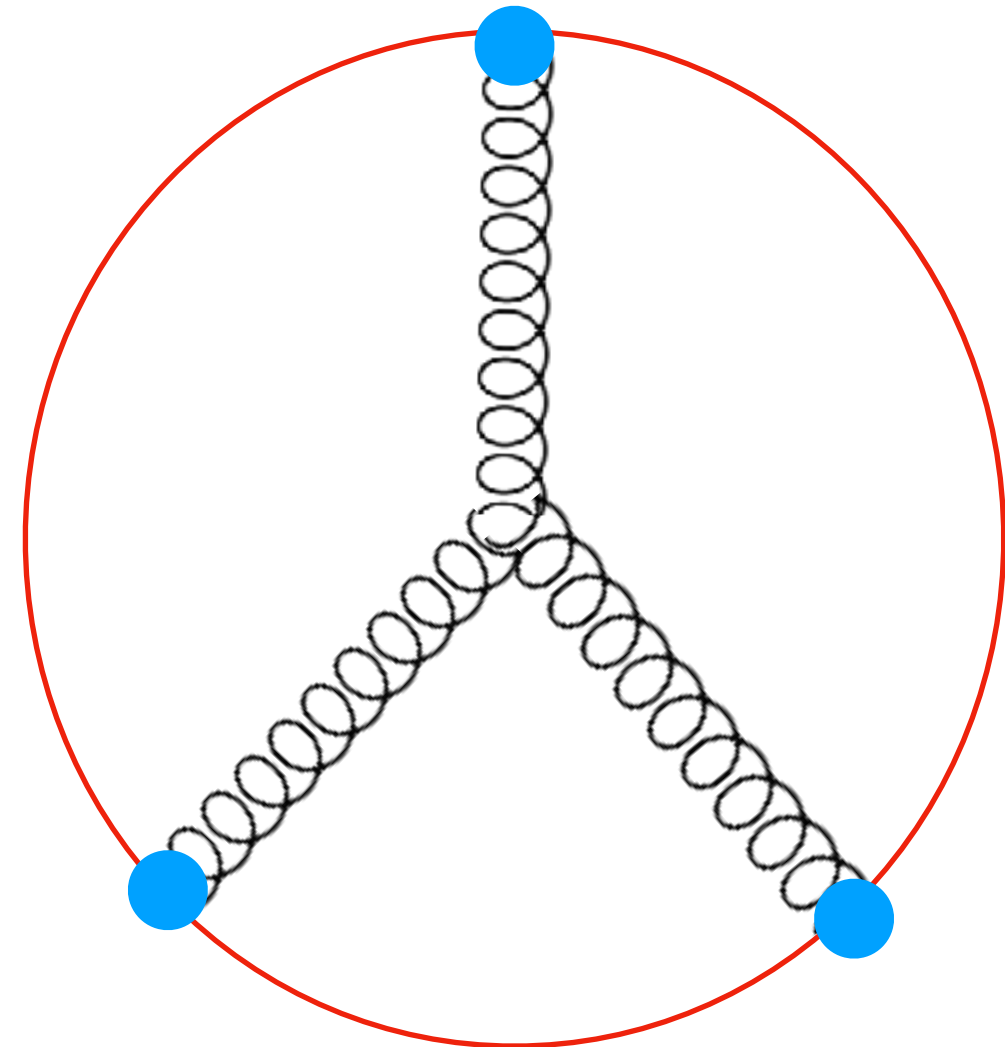
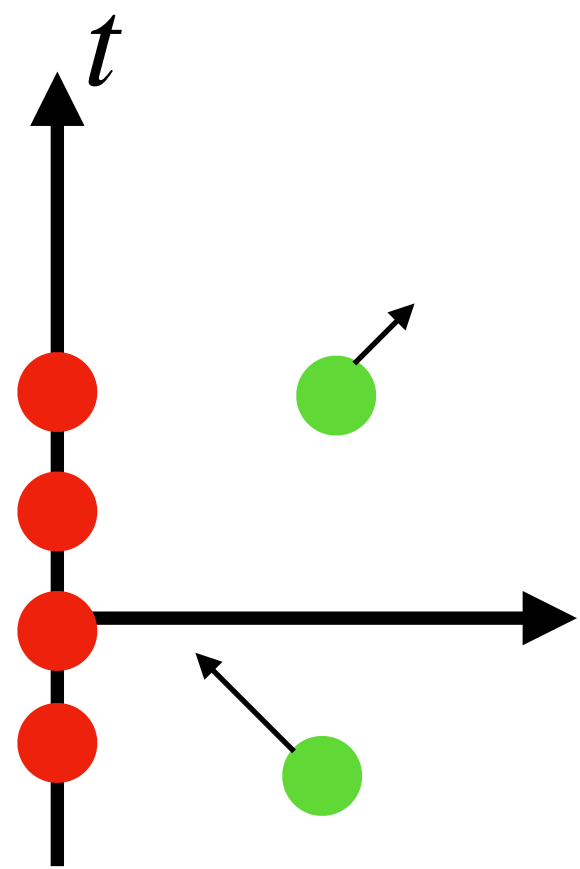
Impurities are Ubiquitous

- Kondo effect: magnetic impurities in metal
- Worldlines of heavy charged particles
- Lattice systems (spin chain) with boundaries
- D-Branes in worldsheet string theory

Descriptions in QFT



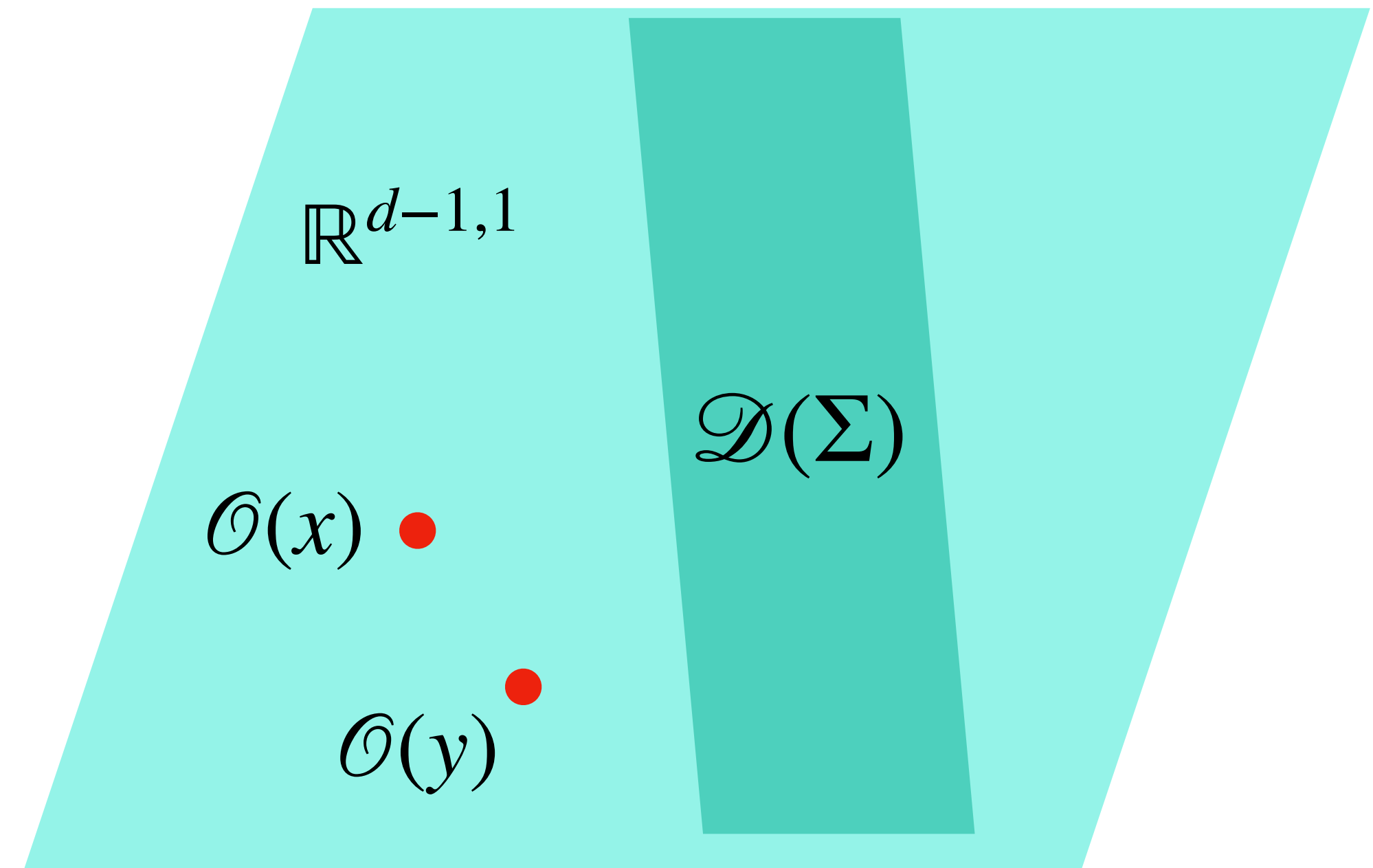
- Defect lines in SU(2) WZW [Affleck-Ludwig,...]
- Wilson/'t Hooft loops [Wilson, 't Hooft, Kapustin,...]
- Conformal boundaries [Cardy, Diehl,...]
- 2d Cardy states [Cardy,...]



Beyond Local Point Operators

- Basic observables in QFT: correlation functions of local operators $\mathcal{O}(x)$
- Defects: extended operators \mathcal{D} (e.g. Wilson loops, boundary conditions)

Vast enrichment of QFT observables!
(describing impurities)



Extended Quantum Field Theory

- Refined classification of QFT (distinguish otherwise identical theories)
- Elucidate bulk phase structures (e.g. confinement-deconfinement)
- New phase diagram on the defects (defect field theory or DFT, nontrivial even when bulk is free)
- Constructing lower dimensional QFTs (by gapping and decoupling)
- Full structure in correspondence w/ the holographic dual string/M theory (e.g. branes)
- Special case: topological defects \rightarrow Generalized symmetries
- Non-topological defect \rightarrow (higher) representations of generalized (higher) symmetries

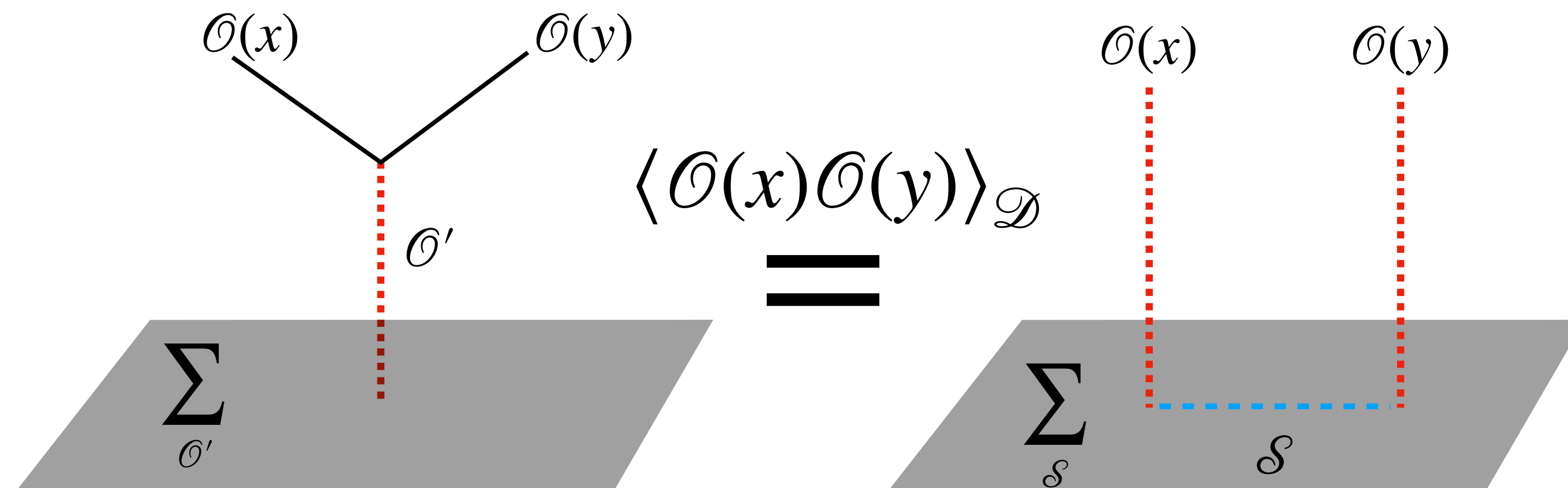
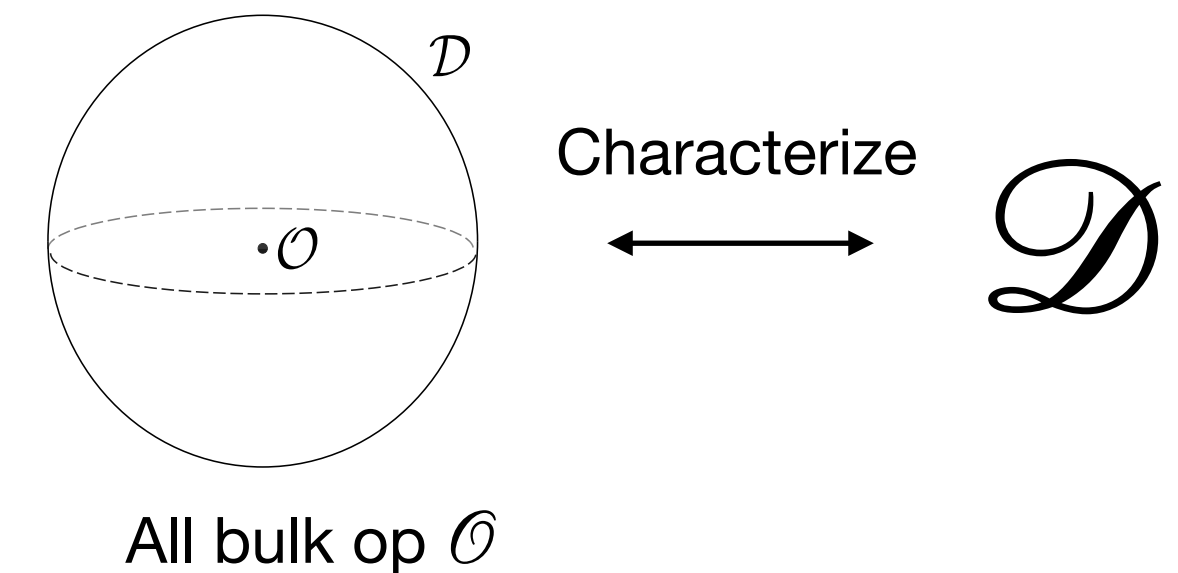
Many general results

Precise dynamical questions?

Conformal Defects (DCFT)

- **Critical phase** in the presence of boundaries/defects
- **Universality classes** of defect RG flows
- **No local p-dimensional** stress tensor or currents (generically)
- **New critical exponents and OPE data**
(e.g. defect local ops \mathcal{S} and bulk local op. 1pf $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\mathcal{D}}$)
- Constrained by **defect bootstrap** equations
(e.g. residual conf symmetry, crossing and unitarity)

Symmetry of p dimensional conformal defect
 $SO(p,2) \times SO(d-p) \subset SO(d,2)$



No positivity



[Cardy-Lewellen,
 Liendo-Rastelli-van Rees,
 Gaiotto-Mazac-Paulos,
 Liendo-Meneghelli,
 Billo-Goncalves-Lauria-Meineri,...]

Superconformal Defects

- Most examples of **nontrivial conformal defects** from SUSY setups (especially in $d > 4$ where the only known unitary interacting CFTs are SCFTs)
- Exact techniques for studying these defects: in particular **SUSY localization** (also integrability) [Nikolay's talk](#)
- Map to **branes** in string/M-theory under top down AdS/CFT constructions

Goal: unpackage DCFT data contained in the localization results for defects

Case Study: Superconformal Defects in the SYM

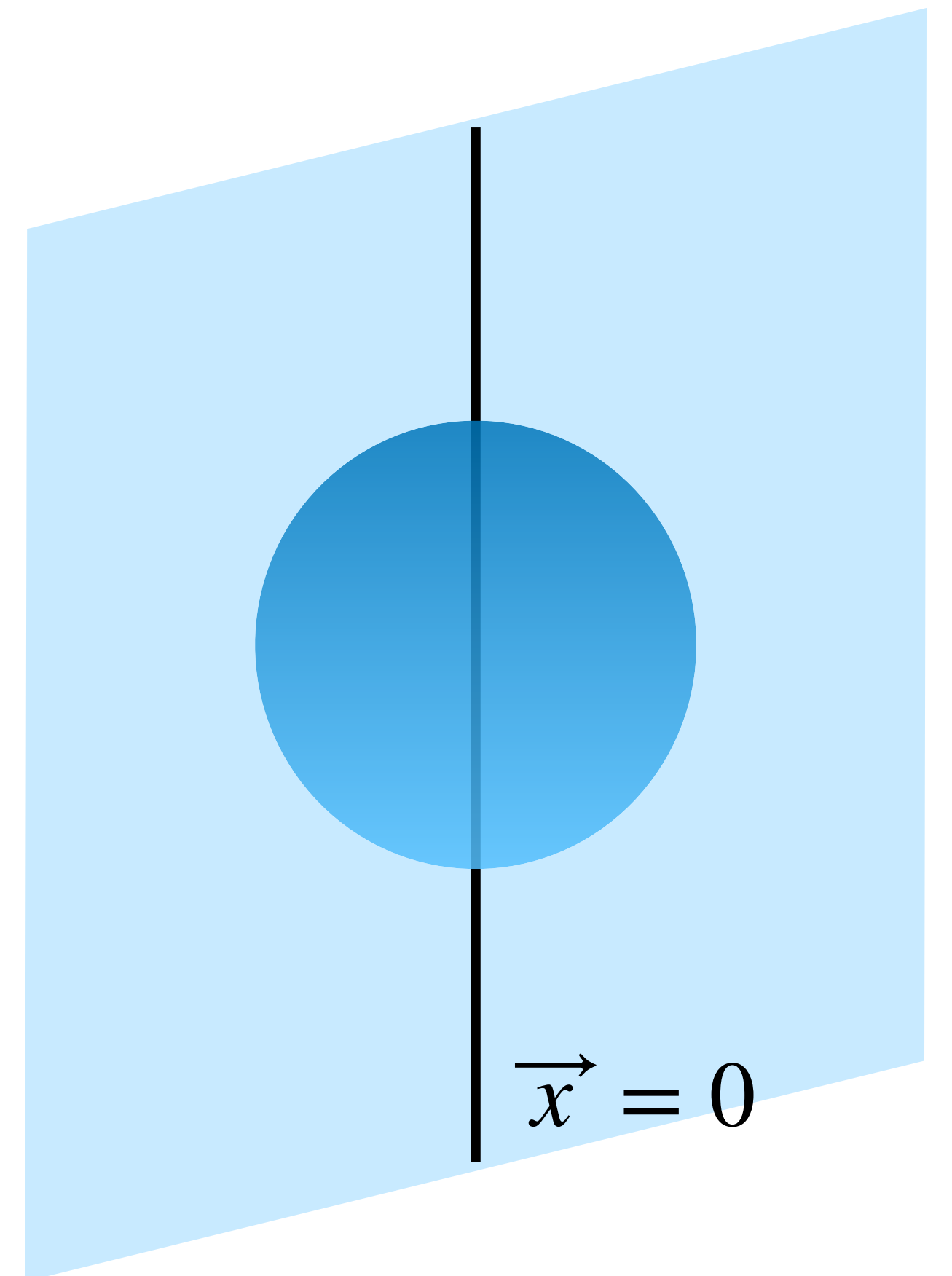
$$S_{\text{SYM}} = -\frac{1}{2g_4^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4x \operatorname{tr} \left(\frac{1}{2} (F_{\mu\nu})^2 + \frac{1}{2} [\Phi_I, \Phi_J]^2 + (D_\mu \Phi_I)^2 - \Psi \gamma^\mu D_\mu \Psi - \Psi \gamma^I [\Phi_I, \Psi] \right)$$

- Rich zoo of superconformal defects:

Lines: supersymmetric Wilson-'t Hooft loops,

$$\mathbb{W}_R = \operatorname{tr}_R \operatorname{P exp} i \oint ds \left(A_\mu(x(s)) \dot{x}^\mu(s) + \Phi_6(x(s)) |\dot{x}(s)| \right)$$

$$\mathbb{T}_{\vec{m}} \quad F_{ij}(x) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijk} \frac{x_k}{|x|^3} T_{\vec{m}} \quad \Phi_6(x) = -\frac{1}{2|x|} T_{\vec{m}}$$

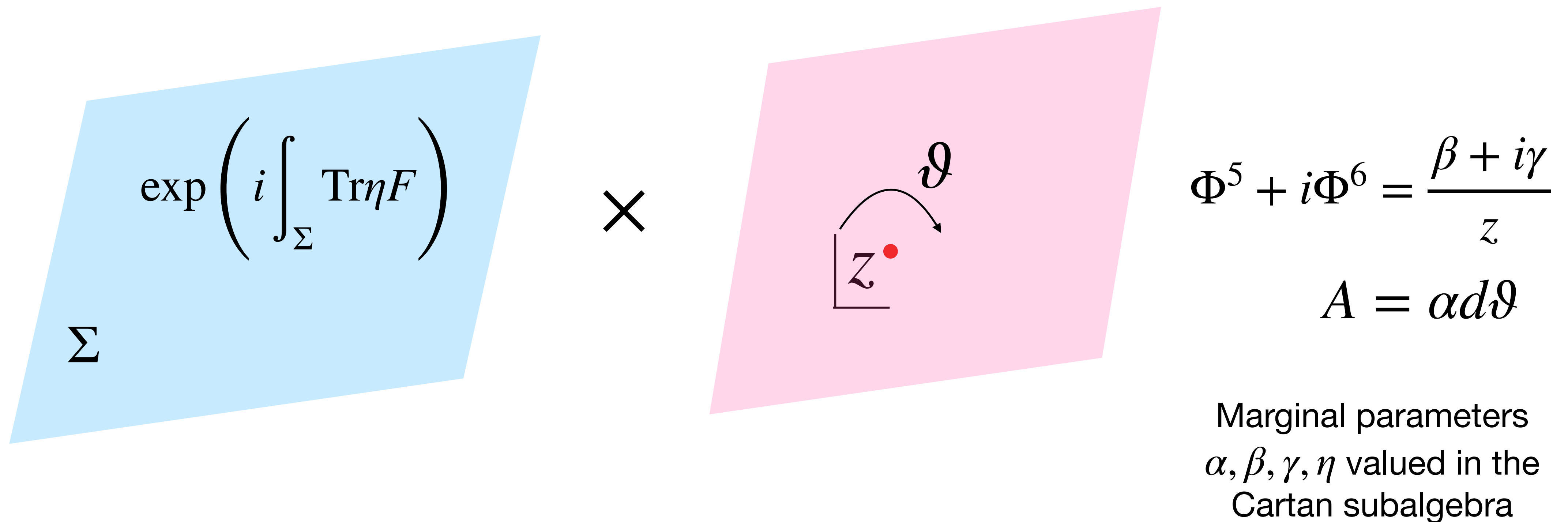


Case Study: Superconformal Defects in the SYM

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Surfaces: half-BPS Gukov-Witten surface operators,



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- Rich zoo of superconformal defects:

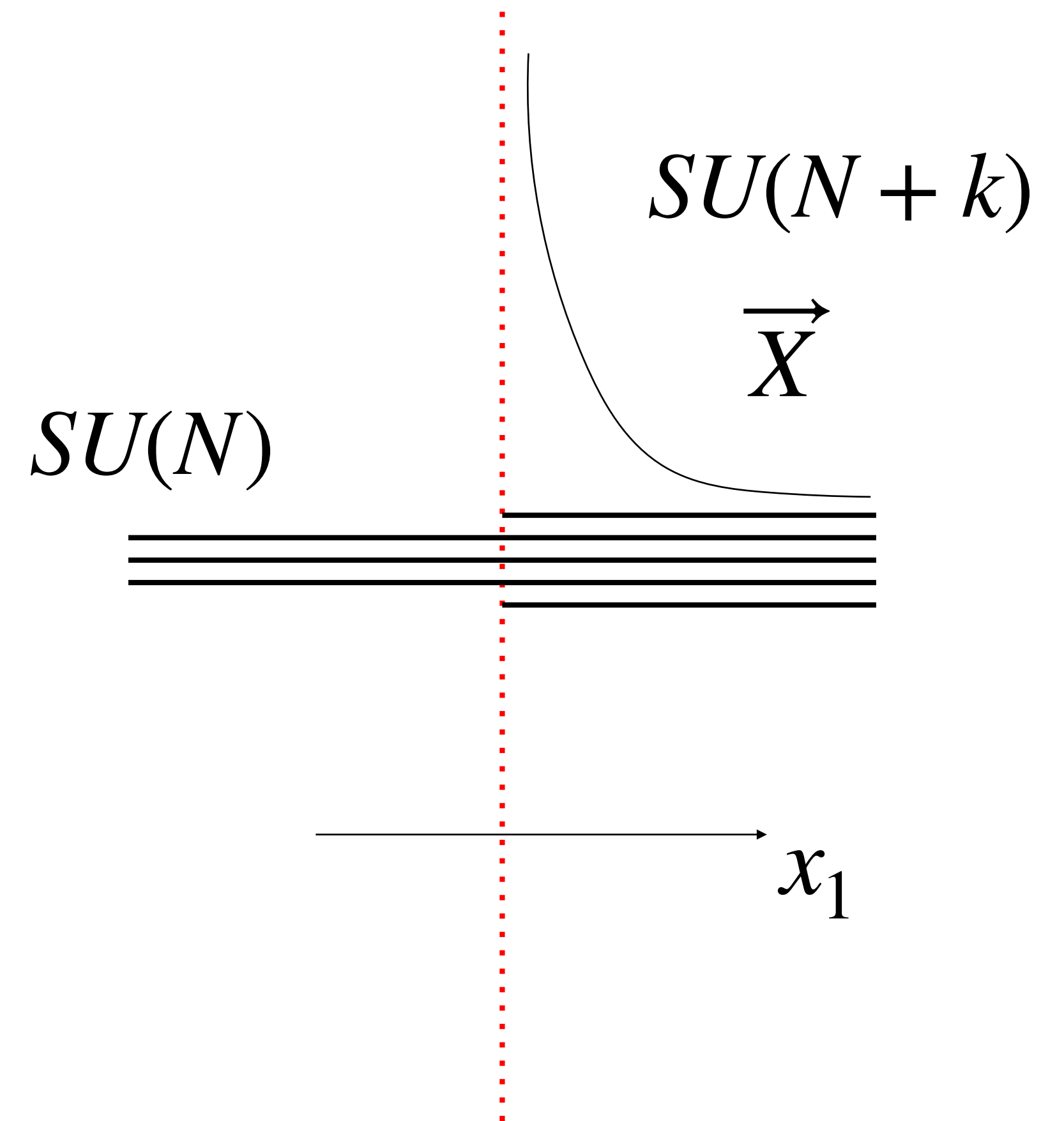
interfaces (boundaries): Gukov-Witten boundary/interface.

$$\vec{X} = (\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Phi_3), \quad \vec{Y} = (\Phi_4, \Phi_5, \Phi_6)$$

Nahm pole configuration

$$A_\mu^+ = \begin{pmatrix} A_\mu^- & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{Y}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{Y}^- & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix}, \quad \vec{X}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{X}^- & \cdot \\ \cdot & \frac{-\vec{t}}{x_1} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[t_i, t_j] = \epsilon_{ijk} t_k$$



Case Study: Superconformal Defects in the SYM

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- Rich zoo of superconformal defects:

lines: supersymmetric Wilson-'t Hooft loops,

surfaces: Gukov-Witten surface operators,

interfaces (boundaries): Gukov-Witten boundary/interface.

Defect Networks

- A variety of methods to study: e.g. supersymmetric localization, integrability, bootstrap
- Close connection to branes in string theory via AdS/CFT

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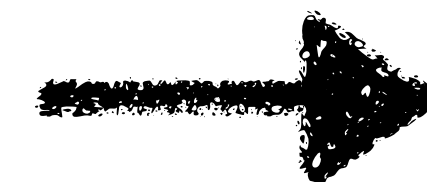
- Rich zoo of superconformal defects:

AdS/CFT

lines: supersymmetric Wilson-'t Hooft loops,

(p, q) strings: AdS_2

surfaces: Gukov-Witten surface operators,



D3 branes: $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^1$

interfaces (boundaries): Gukov-Witten boundary/interface.

D5/NS5 branes: $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^2$

- A variety of methods to study: e.g. supersymmetric localization, integrability, bootstrap
- Close connection to branes in string theory via AdS/CFT

Supersymmetric DCFT observables?

Quasi-Topological DCFT Sector from Supersymmetric Localization

$$S_{\text{SYM}} = -\frac{1}{2g_4^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4x \text{tr} \left(\frac{1}{2}(F_{\mu\nu})^2 + \frac{1}{2}[\Phi_I, \Phi_J]^2 + (D_\mu \Phi_I)^2 - \Psi \gamma^\mu D_\mu \Psi - \Psi \gamma^I [\Phi_I, \Psi] \right)$$

SUSic Defects in 4d SYM on \mathbb{R}^4

$$\langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{O}_1(x_1) \mathcal{O}_2(x_2) \dots \mathcal{D}_2 \dots \rangle_{\text{SYM}}$$

$$g_{\text{YM}}^2 = -\frac{8\pi}{g_4^2 R^2}$$

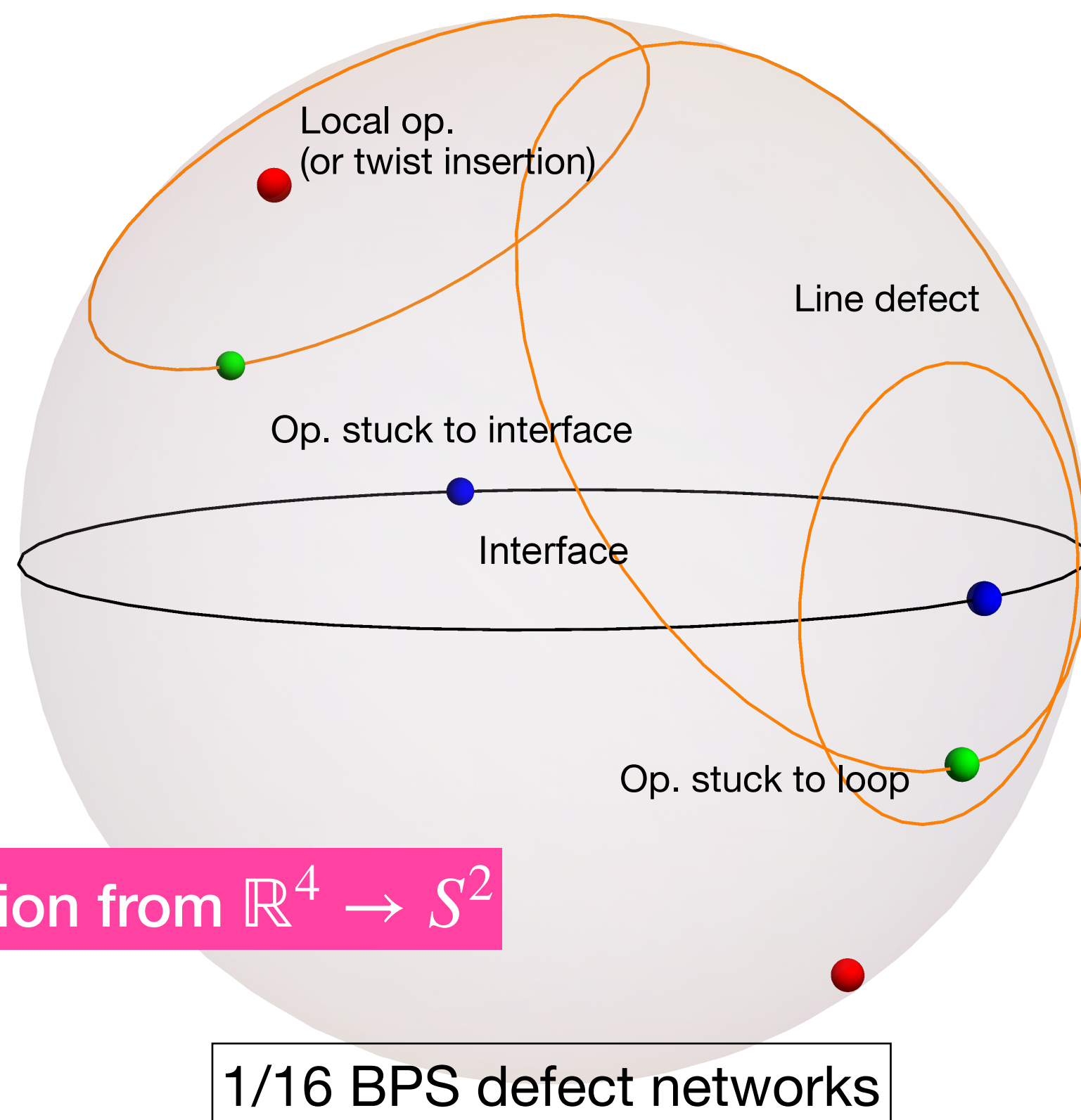
$$\mathcal{A} \equiv A + i\epsilon_{ijk} \phi_i x^k dx^j$$

(coupled to 3 of the 6 scalars)

$$S_{\text{YM}}(\mathcal{A}) \equiv -\frac{1}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int_{S^2} d^2z \sqrt{g} \text{tr}(\star \mathcal{F})^2$$

Defects in 2d YM on S^2

$$\langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{O}_1(z_1) \mathcal{O}_2(z_2) \dots \mathcal{D}_2 \dots \rangle_{2\text{dYM}}$$



- Dynamics of BPS observables captured by an emergent lower dimensional theory
- Reduce complicated 4d observables to solvable 2d observables
- Matrix model techniques for 2d YM + defects
- Path integral \rightarrow Finite integral
- Rich DCFT data (but no 4d instanton contributions)

[Pestun 09, YW 20] also previous works [Drukker-Giombi-Ricci-Trancanelli, Giombi-Pestun, Giombi-Komatsu...]

More Localization Results for N=2 DCFT: Integrated Correlators

- So far: **localized** insertions of local and defect operators in the \mathcal{Q} cohomology (for localizing supercharge \mathcal{Q})
- More generally: **integrated** insertions preserving supercharge \mathcal{Q}

$$S \rightarrow S + \int d^d x \sqrt{g} (\lambda \mathcal{O}(x) + \dots)$$

- Equivalently from \mathcal{Q} preserving deformations of the CFT action
- For $\mathcal{Q}_{\text{Pestun}}$ that localizes 4d N=2 theories on S^4 to a matrix model: [Pestun 07]

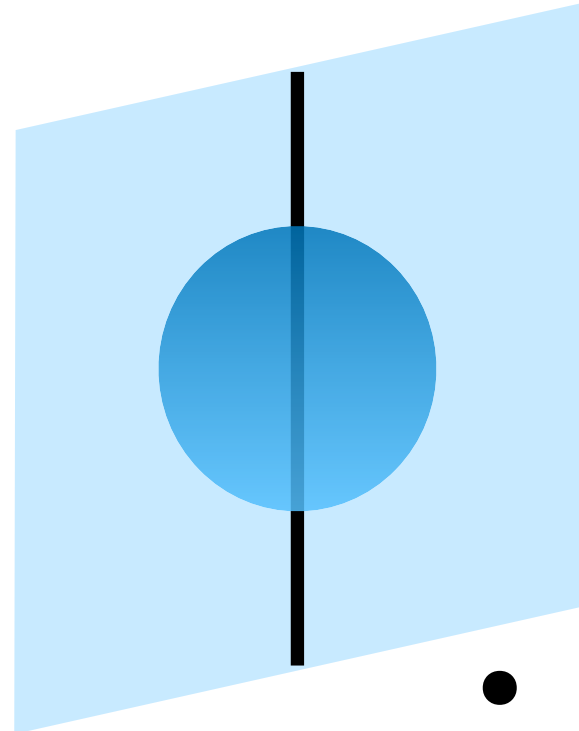
Supersymmetric mass m \longrightarrow Flavor current multiplet

Supersymmetric squashing b \longrightarrow Stress tensor multiplet

- Integrated Correlators from derivatives of supersymmetric partition function

Integral Constraints on Superconformal Lines in N=2 SCFTs

- Consider N=2 SCFTs with continuous global symmetry G_F
- Superconformal line \mathbb{L} preserve $\mathfrak{osp}(4^* | 2) \subset \mathfrak{su}(2,2 | 2)$ half-BPS



$$\mathfrak{so}(1,2) \times \mathfrak{so}(3) \times \mathfrak{su}(2)_R$$

- \mathbb{L} must preserve the global symmetry G_F by unitarity and locality! [Agmon-YW 21]
- Preserved SUSY + Global symmetry \rightarrow **compatible** SUSY mass deformation **with defect \mathbb{L} insertion** [Pestun 07]

$$\langle \mathbb{L} \rangle(m) \equiv \frac{Z_{\mathbb{L}}(m)}{Z(m)}$$

$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0}$$

Integrated Defect Correlator

[Pufu-Roderiguez-YW 23]

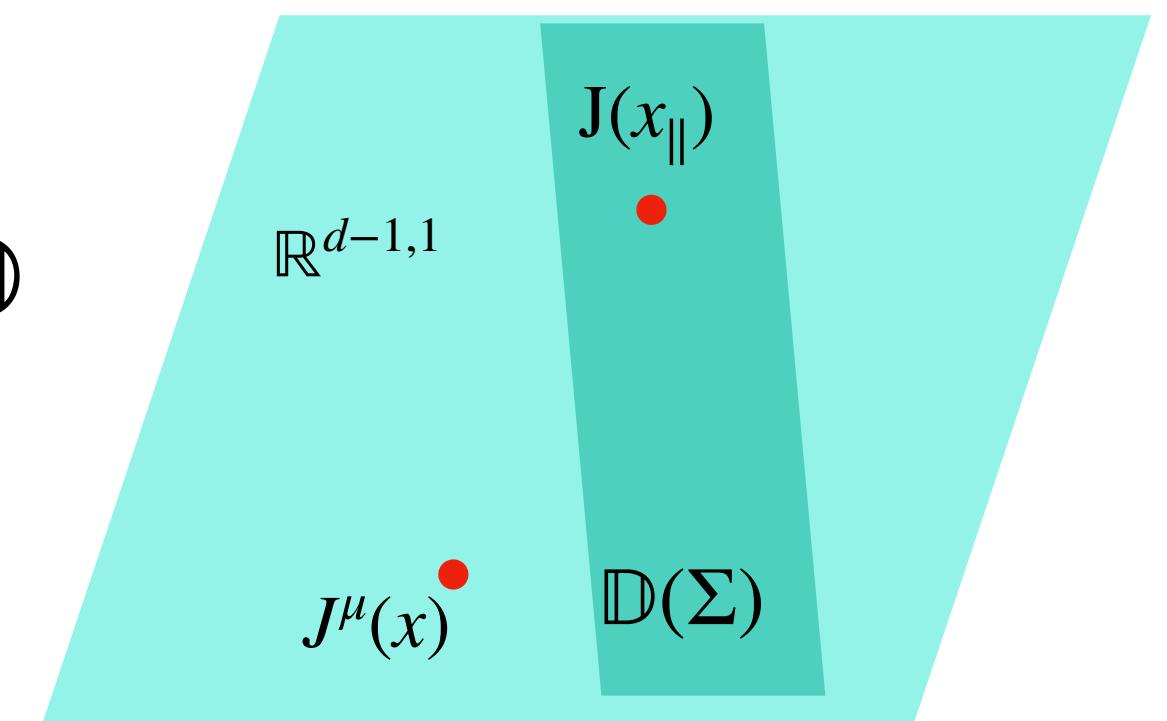
No Global Symmetry Breaking on 4d Superconformal Line [Agmon-YW 21]

$$x = (x_{\parallel}, x_{\perp})$$

Distinguished local operators $J(x_{\parallel})$ on defect \mathbb{D} associated to **broken** bulk symmetry currents J^{μ}

Local modification of the Ward identities by **operator valued contact terms** on the defect compatible with the residual $SO(p,2)$ conformal symmetry

$$\partial_{\mu} J^{\mu}(x) = \delta_{\Sigma}(x_{\perp}) J(x_{\parallel}) \xrightarrow[\text{radially-ordered}]{\text{integrated}} [U, \mathbb{D}] = \int_{\Sigma} dx_{\parallel}^p J(x_{\parallel}) \mathbb{D}$$



Quantum numbers **protected by bulk Ward identities**

Most basic example is the **displacement operator** (broken transverse translation)

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{\mu} T^{\mu i}(x) &= -\delta_{\Sigma}(x_{\perp}) D^i(x_{\parallel}) & [P_i, \mathcal{D}] &= \int_{\Sigma} d^p x_{\parallel} D_i(x_{\parallel}) \mathcal{D} \\ \partial_{\mu} T^{\mu a}(x) &= T_{\mu}^{\mu} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Complete into **superconformal multiplet** when defect preserves superconformal algebra

When not possible by unitarity:
symmetry breaking is forbidden!

N=2 Flavor Symmetry

- Half-BPS conserved current multiplet of $\mathfrak{su}(2,2|2)$

$$J_{ij}^I \xrightarrow{Q_{i\alpha}, Q_\alpha^i} \xi^{iI}, \xi_{i\alpha}^I \xrightarrow{Q_{i\alpha}, Q_\alpha^i} K^I, \bar{K}^I, j_\mu^I$$

$\mathfrak{su}(2)_R$ triplet and $\Delta = 2$
Moment map operators

Conserved Currents

Flavor adjoint

- Supersymmetric mass deformation in a Cartan direction of G_F (preserve $\mathcal{Q}_{\text{Pestun}}$ on S^4)

$$S \rightarrow S + m \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left((K(x) + \bar{K}(x) + \frac{i}{r} (J_{11}(x) + J_{22}(x))) \right)$$

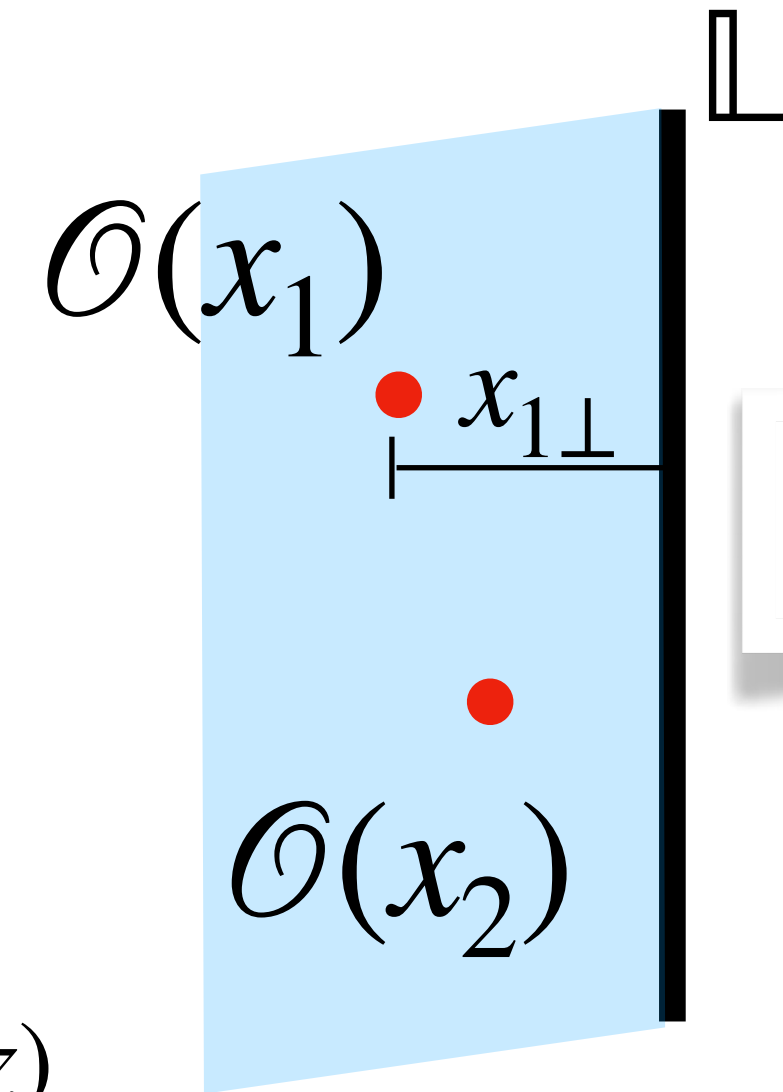
Two-point function with Line Defect

- Similar kinematics as for the 4pf w/o defect

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \mathcal{O}(x_2) \mathbb{L} \rangle}{\langle \mathbb{L} \rangle} = \frac{1}{x_{1\perp}^\Delta x_{2\perp}^\Delta} F_{\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathbb{L}}(z, \bar{z})$$

Conformal transformation

$$\longrightarrow \begin{aligned} x_1 &= (0, 0, \text{Re}z, \text{Im}z) \\ x_2 &= (0, 0, 1, 0) \end{aligned}$$



Bulk OPE: $z \rightarrow 1$
Defect OPE: $z \rightarrow 0$

- Integrated defect correlator for half-BPS line defect

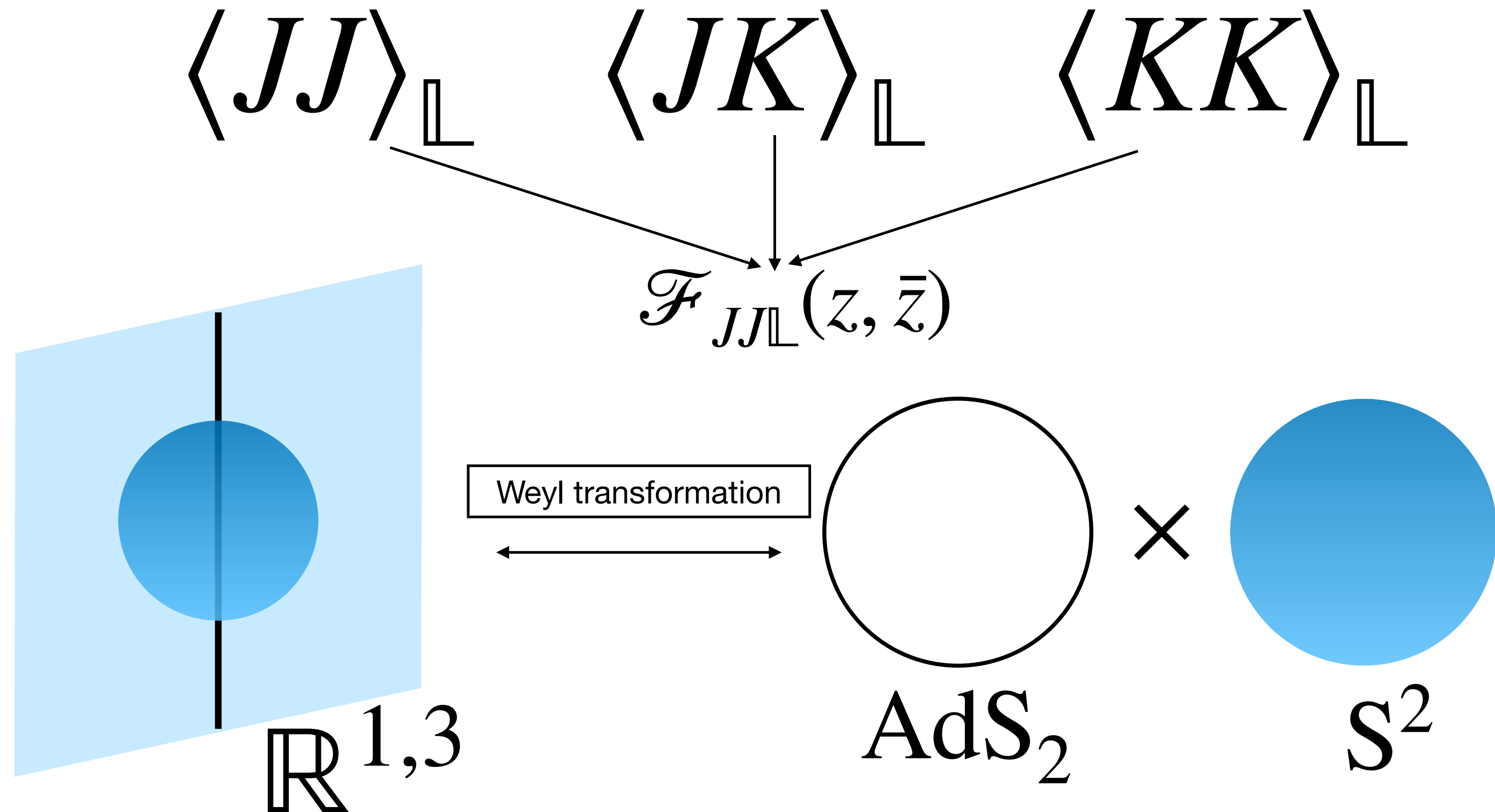
$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle \Big|_{m=0} = \int dz d\bar{z} \rho(z, \bar{z}) F_{JJ\mathbb{L}}(z, \bar{z})$$

See also [Billò-Fraaij-Galvagno-Lerda]

Goal: identify the measure $\rho(z, \bar{z})$

Superconformal Ward Identities and Integral Constraint

Made Easy by Hyperbolic Space



$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0} = -4\pi^2 \int_{\mathbb{H}^2 \times \text{S}^2} d^4x \sqrt{g} \langle J_{11}(x) J_{22}(y) \rangle_{\mathbb{L},c}$$

Superconformal Ward Identities and Integral Constraint

Made Easy by Hyperbolic Space

$\langle JJ \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} \quad \langle JK \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} \quad \langle KK \rangle_{\mathbb{L}}$

$\mathcal{F}_{JJ\mathbb{L}}(z, \bar{z})$

$\mathbb{R}^{1,3} \quad \xleftrightarrow{\text{Weyl transformation}} \quad \text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$

$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0} = -16\pi^4 \int_1^\infty d\xi \int_{-1}^1 d\eta F_{JJ\mathbb{L}}(\xi, \eta)$

Superconformal Ward Identities

Made Easy by Hyperbolic Space

Where is the Magic?

- Residual (super)conformal symmetry as (super)isometry
- Defect at asymptotic boundary
- Ward identity as differential identity with Laplace type operators

$\mathfrak{osp}(4^* | 2)$
transformations δ, δ'

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \langle K\delta\delta'J \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} & \\
 \swarrow \text{Supersymmetric } \mathbb{L} & & \searrow \text{SUSY Ward identities} \\
 \langle KK \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} & = & \langle \delta\delta'KJ \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} \propto \square (\dots) \langle JJ \rangle_{\mathbb{L}}
 \end{array}$$

Nontrivial but simple Killing spinors

SUSY algebra on $\text{AdS}_2 \times S^2$

A bit more details...

**Superconformal
symmetry on
curved space**

$$\delta \equiv \bar{\epsilon}^i Q_i + \bar{\epsilon}_i Q^i + \bar{\eta}^i S_i + \bar{\eta}_i S^i \quad D_\mu \epsilon^i = \gamma_\mu \eta^i \quad D_\mu \epsilon_i = \gamma_\mu \eta_i$$

On $\text{AdS}_2 \times S^2$

$$ds^2 = \frac{-dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2}{|\vec{x}|^2}$$

$\mathfrak{su}(2,2|2)$

$\mathfrak{osp}(4^*|2)$

$$\epsilon^i = \frac{\alpha^i + x^a \gamma_a \beta^i}{\sqrt{|\vec{x}|}}, \quad \epsilon_i = \frac{\alpha_i + x^a \gamma_a \beta_i}{\sqrt{|\vec{x}|}}$$

$$\alpha^i = \varepsilon^{ij} \gamma^0 \alpha_j, \quad \beta^i = \varepsilon^{ij} \gamma^0 \beta_j$$

Strategy

Choose δ, δ' such that $\langle K\delta\delta'J \rangle_{\perp} \propto \langle KK \rangle_{\perp}$ (quadratic equations for $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \alpha^i, \beta^i$)

Superconformal Ward Identities w/ Line Defect

$$\text{AdS}_2 \times S^2 \text{ Laplacian } \square f = (\xi^2 - 1)\partial_\xi^2 f + 2\xi\partial_\xi f + (1 - \eta^2)\partial_\eta^2 f - 2\eta\partial_\eta f$$

$$F_{KK\perp}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \square \left[(\xi - \eta)F_{JJ\perp}(\xi, \eta) \right]$$

$$F_{K\bar{K}\perp}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \square \left[(\xi + \eta)F_{JJ\perp}(\xi, \eta) \right]$$

$$F_{\bar{K}\bar{K}\perp}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \square \left[(\xi - \eta)F_{JJ\perp}(\xi, \eta) \right]$$

By-product: defect 2-pt
superconformal blocks

- Same form as SUSY Ward identity for two-point function without defect!

- **Sanity Check 1:** trivial defect

$$F_{K\bar{K}\perp} \propto \frac{1}{(\xi - \eta)^3}, F_{KK\perp} = F_{\bar{K}\bar{K}\perp} = 0, F_{JJ\perp} \propto \frac{1}{(\xi - \eta)^2}$$

- **Sanity Check 2:** Stress tensor block
 1. Stress tensor multiplet operators $M, T_{\mu\nu}$ exchanged in bulk OPE channel
 2. Decompose into bosonic blocks for $M, T_{\mu\nu}$

$$\text{eg } F_{JJ\perp} |_{\text{ST}} = a_{JJ}f_{2,0}(\xi, \eta) + b_{JJ}f_{4,2}(\xi, \eta)$$

3. There exist solutions to a, b

Integral Constraint

$$S \rightarrow S + m \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left((K(x) + \bar{K}(x)) + \frac{i}{r} (J_{11}(x) + J_{22}(x)) \right)$$

- Wick rotate Ward identities to Euclidean space
- Apply to integrated insertions of current multiplet operators
- Natural/trivial integration measure on $\mathbb{H}^2 \times S^2$ (Weyl equivalent to S^4)

Combine and integrate
over one location

$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0} = -4\pi^2 \int_{\mathbb{H}^2 \times S^2} d^4x \sqrt{g} \langle J_{11}(x) J_{22}(y) \rangle_{\mathbb{L},c}$$

$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0} = -16\pi^4 \int_1^\infty d\xi \int_{-1}^1 d\eta F_{JJ\mathbb{L}}(\xi, \eta)$$

Taking Care of Contact Terms

- Important subtlety in integrated correlators (w/ or w/o defect)

$$K(x)\bar{K}(y) \sim \alpha_{K\bar{K}M}M(x)\delta^4(x-y) \quad \langle K(x)\bar{K}(y) \rangle_{\perp} \sim \alpha_{K\bar{K}M}\langle M(x) \rangle_{\perp}\delta^4(x-y)$$

Stress tensor multiplet primary

- Scheme dependence of regularization and renormalization
- Equivalently, in terms of generating functional $\log Z[\text{sources}]$, by redefinitions of the sources and additions of local counter-terms (e.g. seagull term from source redefinition)
- Here scheme choice (contact term) fixed by SUSY. i.e. SUSY Ward identities hold at coincide point

$$F_{K\bar{K}\perp}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{2} \square \left[(\xi + \eta)F_{JJ\perp}(\xi, \eta) \right] \longrightarrow \square \frac{1}{\xi - \eta} = -8\pi^2\delta(x, y)$$

Bulk OPE limit $\xi, \eta \rightarrow 1$ dominated by exchanging $M(x)$

$$\alpha_{K\bar{K}M} \sim C_{JIM}$$

Application to Wilson line in N=4 SYM

$$\mathbb{W} = \text{tr}_{\text{fund}} \text{P exp } i \oint ds \left(A_{\mu}(x(s)) \dot{x}^{\mu}(s) + \Phi_6(x(s)) |\dot{x}(s)| \right)$$

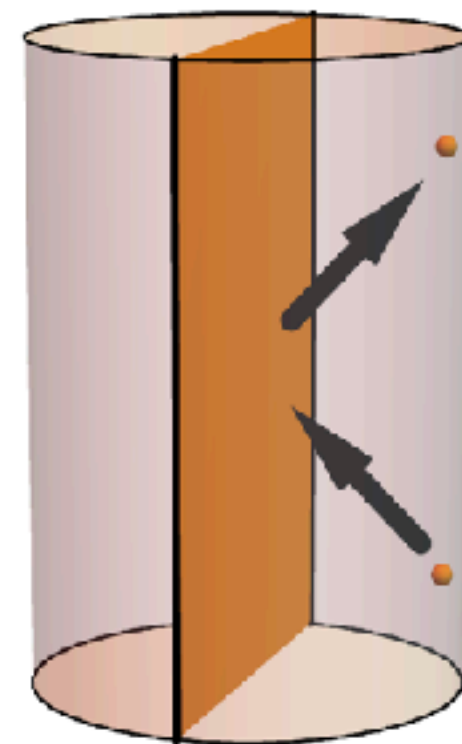
- N=4 SYM as N=2 SCFT with $G_F = SU(2)$
- N=2 current multiplet completed by N=4 SUSY to the stress tensor multiplet
- Exact results for \mathbb{W} in $SU(N)$ SYM at large N and finite coupling $\tau = \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} + \frac{i\theta}{2\pi}$
- Non-perturbative integral constraint on stress-tensor two-point function with WL

Application to Wilson line in N=4 SYM

Simple demonstration

Witten diagram at
Leading large N 't Hooft limit

[Barrat-Gimenez-Grau-Liendo 21,
Gimenez-Grau 23]

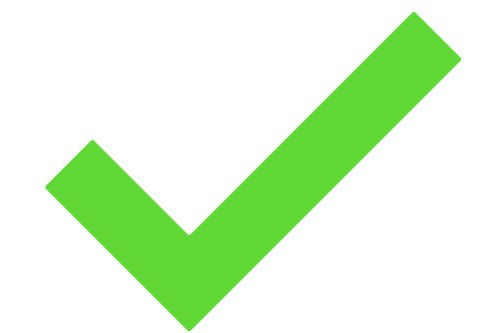


Integrated correlator at
Leading large N 't Hooft limit

[Pufu-Roderiguez-YW 23]

$$F_{JJ\mathbb{W}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{32\pi^4} \frac{\log(\xi + \sqrt{\xi^2 - 1}) - \xi\sqrt{\xi^2 - 1}}{(\xi - \eta)(\xi^2 - 1)^{3/2}} + O(1, \lambda^{3/2}/N^2)$$

$$-16\pi^4 \int_1^\infty d\xi \int_{-1}^1 d\eta$$



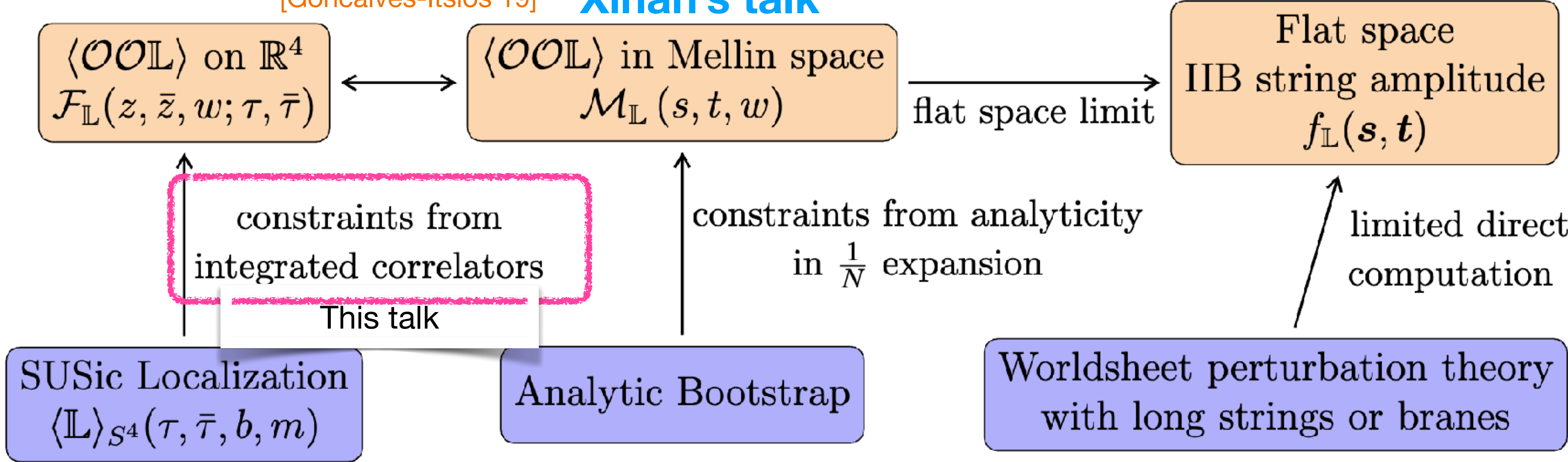
Also assessible from the
quasi-topological sector

$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle |_{m=0} = \sqrt{\lambda} + O(1, \lambda^{3/2}/N^2)$$

Victor's talk

Roadmap for Solving N=4 Wilson Loops/Long Strings in AdS

[Goncalves-Itsios 19] **Xinan's talk**



Nikolay's talk

Explore complementary approaches: integrability (planar and nonplanar) and numerical bootstrap (finite N and less SUSY)

Shai and Ross's talks

Marco's talk

Future Directions

- Integral constraints for $N=2$ superconformal lines from **squashing**
- Integral constraints on correlators with **other superconformal defects** Take Advantage of Hyperbolic Space!
Tomoki's talk
- General program to learn about worldvolume effective actions of **branes in string/M theory** coupled to bulk supergraviton (complementary to e.g. local interactions on the brane **Maria, Pietro, Tobias's talks**)
- **Modularity properties** of the integrated correlators and relations between them in $N=4$ SYM **Daniele, Victor's talks**
- **New localization procedure** and more integrated correlators **Joe's talk**
- **Multiple impurities** (e.g. pair of BPS anti-BPS defects, open-string tachyon condensation in string theory) as well as junctions between or bent impurities (dual to junctions between strings/branes in string theory) **Nikolay's talk**
- General conformal impurities **without SUSY**: New Ideas?

Thank you!