

Title: Higher spin symmetry in gravity and string

Speakers: Wei Li

Series: Colloquium

Date: October 09, 2019 - 2:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/19100051>

Abstract: Higher spin symmetries are gauge symmetries sourced by massless particles with spin greater than two. When coupled with diffeomorphism, they give rise to higher spin gravity. After a review on higher spin gravity, I will discuss its holography and its embedding in the string theory. Finally I will talk about some applications of higher spin symmetry, both in string theory and in QFT.

Higher spin symmetry

Spin	Particles	symmetry
1	photon	$u(1)$
3/2	gravitino	supersymmetry
2	graviton	diffeomorphism
> 2	higher spin particles	higher spin gauge symmetry

Massless higher spin particles $\implies$ higher spin gauge symmetry

1. Can couple to gravity $\implies$ higher spin gravity
 $\implies$ higher spin holography
(simple, weak-weak duality, no need for susy...)
2. Subsector of stringy symmetry
 $\implies$ help understand string theory
3. Symmetry of interesting QFT systems (from string theory)
topological string, AGT correspondence, BPS algebras, $\dots$

Simplest higher spin gravity

3D Einstein gravity + negative c.c. $\Leftrightarrow \mathfrak{sl}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2)$ Chern-Simon

From pure Einstein gravity to pure higher spin gravity:

$$\mathfrak{sl}(2) \longrightarrow \mathfrak{sl}(N)$$

Action: $S = S_{\text{CS}}[A] - S_{\text{CS}}[\tilde{A}]$

$$S_{\text{CS}}[A] = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}[AdA + \frac{2}{3}A^3] \quad \text{with} \quad A, \tilde{A} \in \mathfrak{sl}(N, \mathbb{R})$$

Translate to metric-like formalism

1. Dreibein $e = \frac{A-\tilde{A}}{2}$ and spin connection $\omega = \frac{A+\tilde{A}}{2}$
2. metric and spin-3 field

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \text{Tr}[e_\mu e_\nu] \quad \varphi_{\mu\nu\rho}^{(3)} = \text{Tr}[e_{\{\mu} e_\nu e_{\rho\}}] \quad \dots$$

$\mathfrak{sl}(N) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(N)$ Chern-Simons theory — Spectrum

Spectrum of $\mathfrak{sl}(N)$ Chern-Simons theory

1. Choose an $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$ subalgebra that corresponds to spin-2:

$$\text{spin-2 :} \quad \{L_1, \quad L_0, \quad L_{-1}\}$$

2. Decompose $\mathfrak{sl}(N)$ in terms of irreps of the gravitonal $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$

$$\text{spin-}s : \quad \{W_m^{(s)}\} \quad m = -s + 1, \dots, s - 1$$

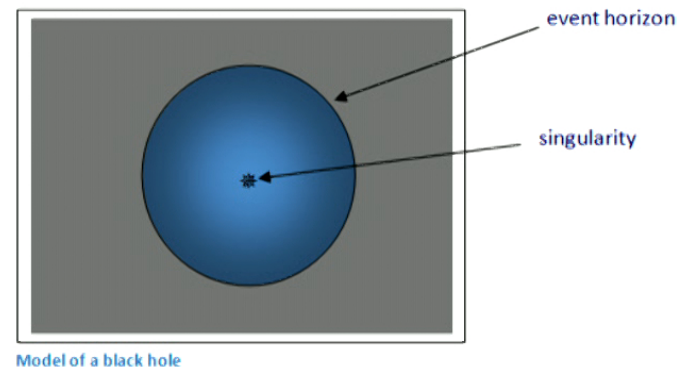
Principal embedding: 1 spin- s field for each $s = 2, \dots, N$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} W_3^{(4)} & W_2^{(4)} & W_1^{(4)} & W_0^{(4)} & W_{-1}^{(4)} & W_{-2}^{(4)} & W_{-3}^{(4)} \\ & W_2^{(3)} & W_1^{(3)} & W_0^{(3)} & W_{-1}^{(3)} & W_{-2}^{(3)} & \\ & & L_1 & L_0 & L_{-1} & & \end{array}$$

$\mathfrak{sl}(N) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(N)$ Chern-Simons theory — Classical solutions

1. No propagating degrees of freedom
2. Non-trivial classical solutions such as black holes

Black hole in Einstein gravity:
singularity behind horizon
(cosmic censorship)

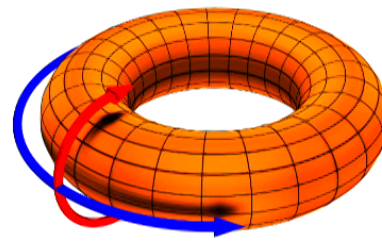


3. Problem of defining black holes in higher spin gravity:
Singularity and horizon are not gauge-invariant concepts.
(metric is coupled to higher-spin fields)
4. Question: how to define black hole in higher spin gravity"

Higher-spin black hole and conical surplus

Cosmic censorship = smoothness condition

gauge theory: $\boxed{\text{Hol}_c(A) \equiv \mathcal{P}e^{\oint_c A} \text{ is trivial around a shrinkable cycle.}}$



- Shrinkable cycle is time $\implies$ higher spin black holes

Gutperle Kraus '11

- Shrinkable cycle is space $\Rightarrow$ Conical surplus *Castro et.al. '11*
(higher spin version of thermal AdS_3)

Castro et.al. '11

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ -family of solutions

WL Lin Wang '13

higher-spin holography

Understand quantum higher spin gravity via its holographic dual

gravity with **higher spin gauge symmetry** in AdS_{d+1}



CFT_d with high spin currents

Examples of higher spin holography

- Vasiliev in $AdS_4 = O(N)$ model

Klebanov Polyakov '02

Sezgin Sundell '02

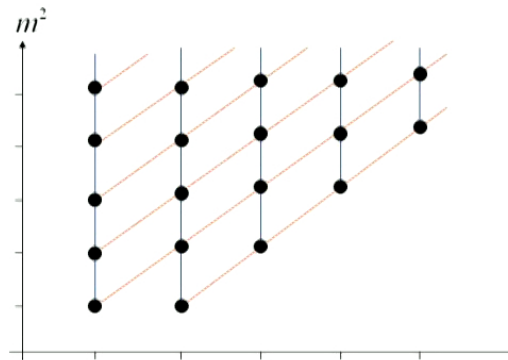
- Vasiliev in $\text{AdS}_3 = \mathcal{W}_{N,k}$ minimal model ($= \frac{\mathfrak{su}(N)_k \oplus \mathfrak{su}(N)_1}{\mathfrak{su}(N)_{k+1}}$)

Gabardiel Gopakumar '10

tensionless limit and stringy symmetry

String theory has **infinite** number of **massive** higher spin particles

$$m \sim \frac{1}{\ell_s}$$



Tensionless limit: $\frac{\ell_s}{\ell_{\text{AdS}}} \rightarrow \infty$ (quantum: 1)

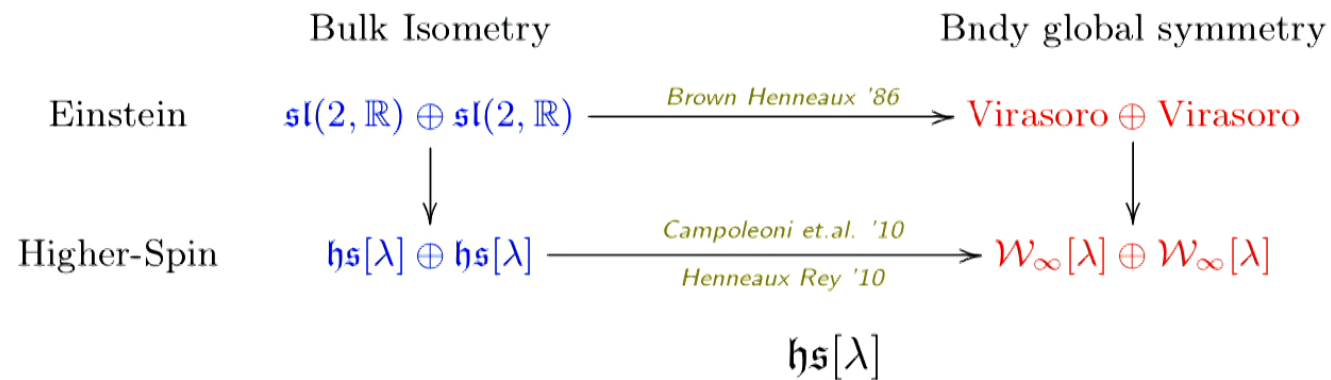
massive higher spin particle $\Rightarrow$ massless $\Rightarrow$ stringy symmetry

- subalgebra: **Vasiliev higher spin** symmetry (one per spin)
(from **Leading Regge** trajectory)

Vasiliev '91, Sundborg '01, Witten '01, Mikhailov '02, Klebanov-Polyakov '02

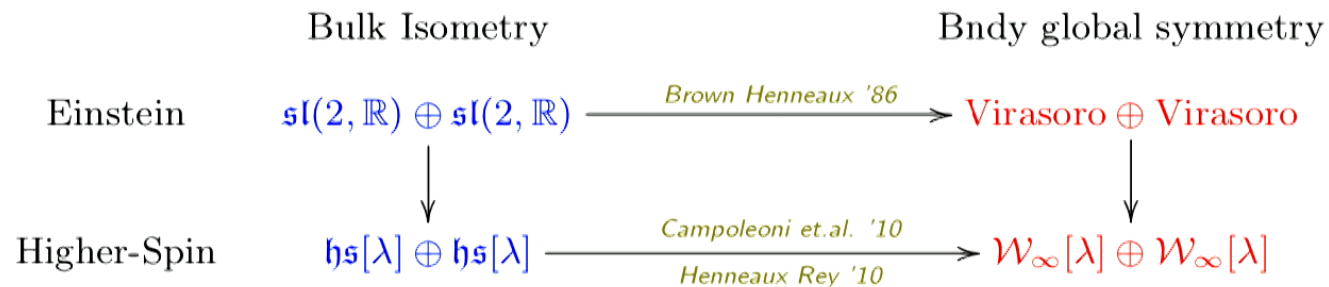
Tensionless string in AdS_3

- **Symmetry enhancement** from bulk AdS_3 to boundary CFT_2


$$\begin{array}{ccccccccccc}
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
\text{spin-5} & & X_{-4} & X_{-3} & X_{-2} & X_{-1} & X_0 & X_1 & X_2 & X_3 & X_4 \\
\text{spin-4} & & & U_{-3} & U_{-2} & U_{-1} & U_0 & U_1 & U_2 & U_3 & \\
\text{spin-3} & & & & W_{-2} & W_{-1} & W_0 & W_1 & W_2 & & \\
\text{spin-2} & & & & & L_{-1} & L_0 & L_1 & & &
\end{array}$$

Tensionless string in AdS_3

- **Symmetry enhancement** from bulk AdS_3 to boundary CFT_2



- In tensionless limit, the worldsheet theory of string in $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$ is a symmetric orbifold of T^4 .

Gaberdiel Gopakumar '18, Eberhardt Gaberdiel Gopakumar '19

- Stringy symmetry at $\text{AdS}_3 \sim$ chiral algebra of $\text{Sym}^N(T^4)$
 - What is the mathematical description?

Stringy symmetry $\gg$ higher-spin symmetry $\gg$ conformal symmetry

Size of stringy symmetry

Virasoro ($\sim$ partition)

Euler

$$\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-q^k} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)q^n = 1 + q + 2q^2 + 3q^3 + 5q^4 + 7q^5 + 11q^6 + \dots$$

$$p(n) \sim \frac{1}{n} \cdot \exp\left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \pi \sqrt{n}\right)$$

Hardy Ramanujan '18

higher spin symmetry ($\sim$ plane partition)

MacMahon

$$\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^k)^k} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M(n)q^n = 1 + q + 3q^2 + 6q^3 + 13q^4 + 24q^5 + 48q^6 + \cdots$$

$$M(n) \sim n^{-\frac{25}{36}} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{3\zeta(3)^{\frac{1}{3}}}{2^{\frac{2}{3}}} n^{\frac{2}{3}}\right)$$

Wright '31

stringy symmetry ($\sim$ double partition)

$$\prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^k)^{p(k)}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} D(n)q^n = 1 + q + 3q^2 + 6q^3 + 14q^4 + 27q^5 + 58q^6 + \cdots$$

$$D(n) \sim n \cdot \exp\left(\frac{\pi^2}{6} \textcolor{red}{n}\right)$$

Kaneiwa '79

plane partition

plane partition

MacMahon '12

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M(n)q^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^k)^k} = 1 + q + 3q^2 + 6q^3 + 13q^4 + 24q^5 + 48q^6 + \dots$$

$$M(n) \sim n^{-\frac{25}{36}} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{3\zeta(3)^{\frac{1}{3}}}{2^{\frac{2}{3}}} n^{\frac{2}{3}}\right)$$

Wright '31

MacMahon's conjecture on d-dim partition

$$\sum_{\Lambda_d} q^{|\Lambda_d|} = \sum_{n=0} P^{(d)}(n) q^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^k)^{\binom{k+d-3}{d-2}}}$$

$$\text{partition } (d=2): \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p(n)q^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1-q^k} \quad \checkmark$$

plane partition ($d = 3$): $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M(n)q^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1 - q^k)^k}$ ✓

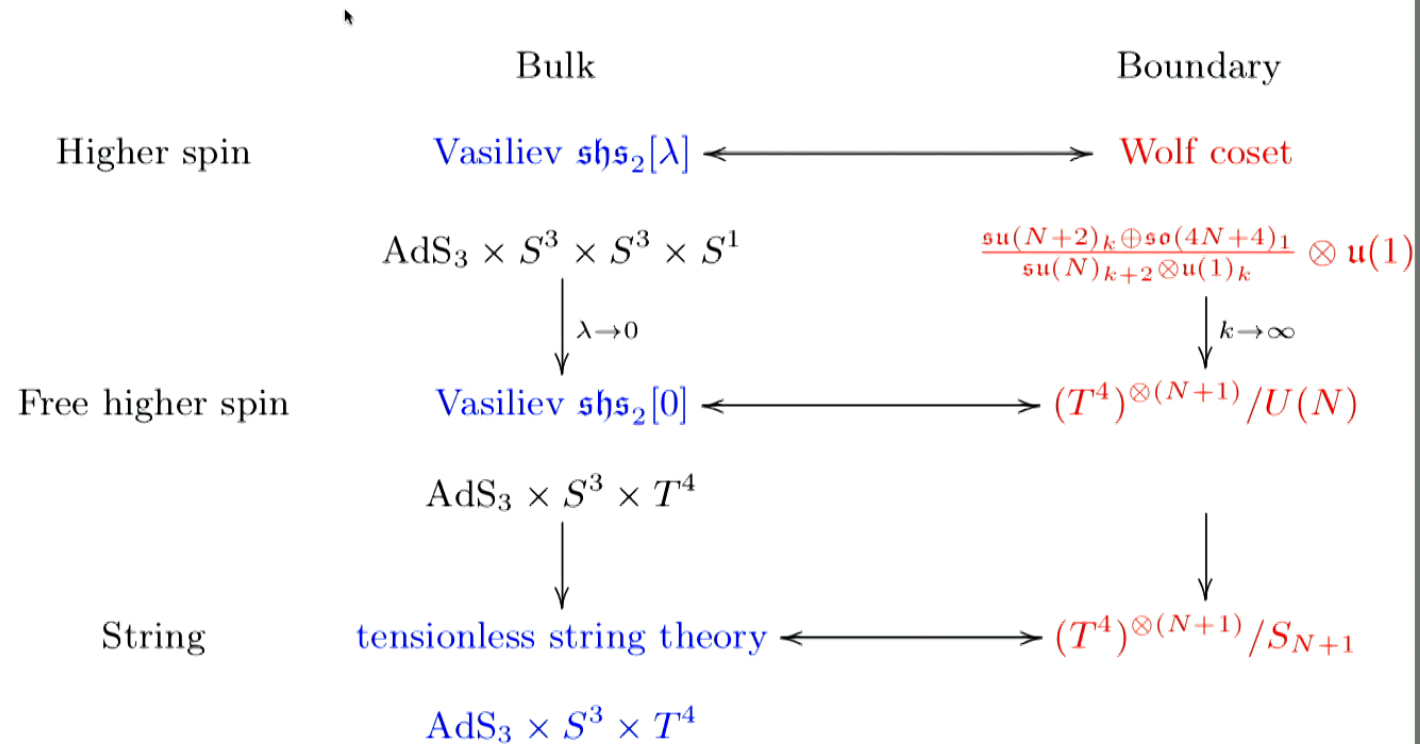
$$\begin{aligned} \text{solid partition } (d=4): \quad & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} S(n)q^n = \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^k)^{\frac{k(k+1)}{2}}} \\ & = 1 + q + 4q^2 + 10q^3 + 26q^4 + 59q^5 + 141q^6 + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

compute by hand

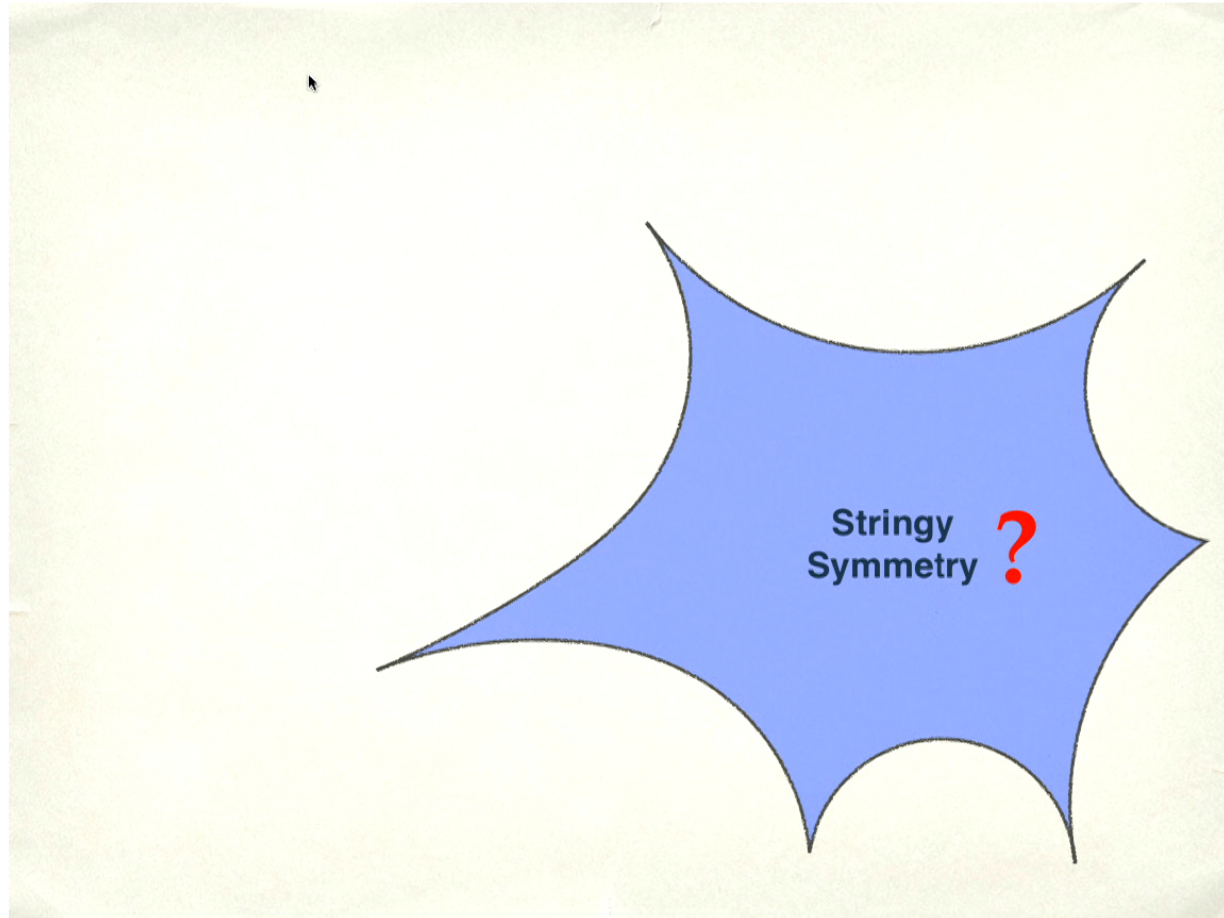
$$\sum_{n=0} S(n)q^n = 1 + q + 4q^2 + 10q^3 + 26q^4 + 59q^5 + 140q^6 + \cdots$$

Generating function for $d \geq 4$ dimensional partition is still unknown.

Embed higher-spin theory in string theory



How to characterize stringy symmetry mathematically?

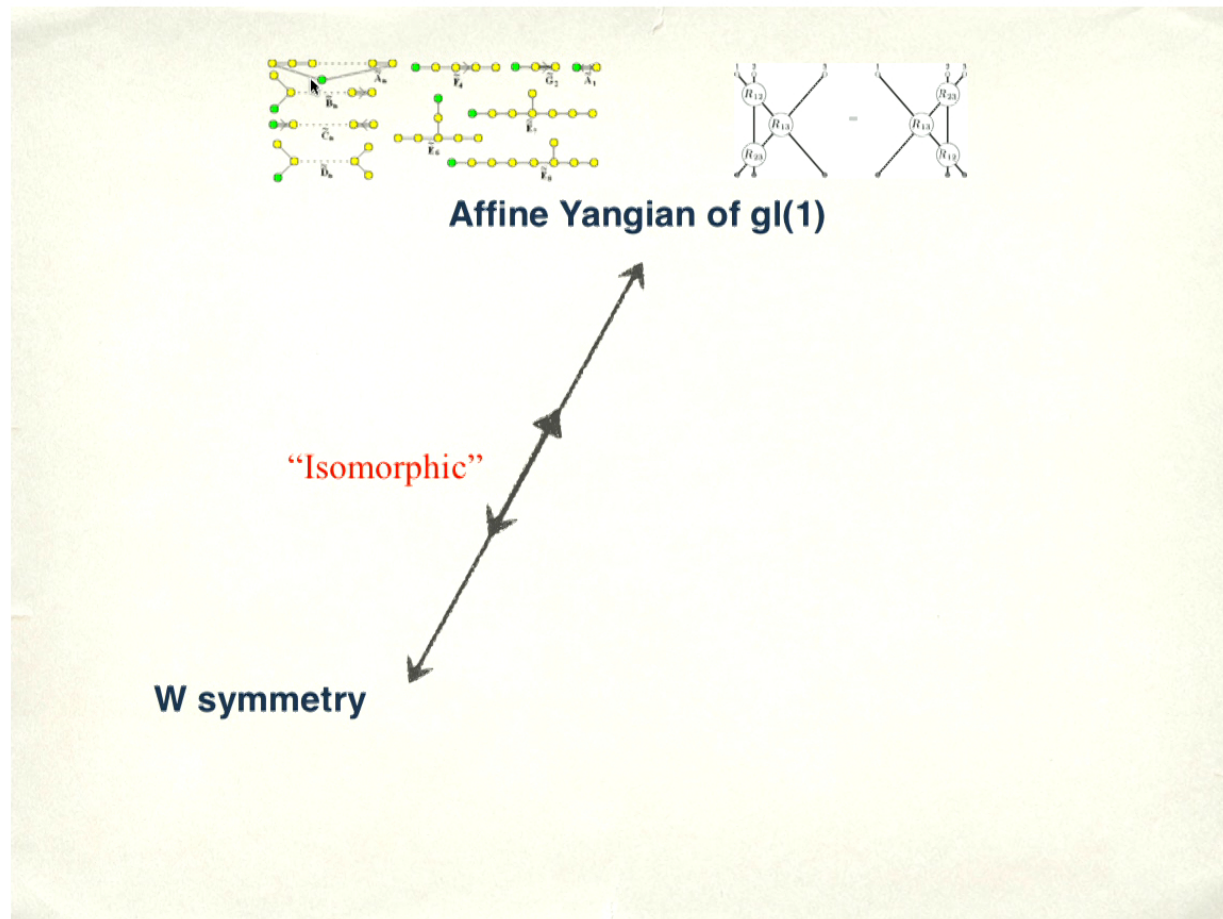


Wei Li

Higher spin symmetry in gravity and string

34

A concrete relation between HS and integrability



Modes of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$

$$W^{(s)}(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{W_n^{(s)}}{z^{n+s}} \quad s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	
spin-5	$\dots$	X_{-4}	X_{-3}	X_{-2}	X_{-1}	X_0	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	$\dots$
spin-4	$\dots$	U_{-4}	U_{-3}	U_{-2}	U_{-1}	U_0	U_1	U_2	U_3	U_4	$\dots$
spin-3	$\dots$	W_{-4}	W_{-3}	W_{-2}	W_{-1}	W_0	W_1	W_2	W_3	W_4	$\dots$
spin-2	$\dots$	L_{-4}	L_{-3}	L_{-2}	L_{-1}	L_0	L_1	L_2	L_3	L_4	$\dots$
spin-1	$\dots$	J_{-4}	J_{-3}	J_{-2}	J_{-1}	J_0	J_1	J_2	J_3	J_4	$\dots$

Regrouping the modes

$$W^{(s)}(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{W_n^{(s)}}{z^{n+s}} \quad s = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
spin-5	...	X_{-3}	X_{-2}	$X_{-1} \sim e_4$	$X_0 \sim \psi_5$	$X_1 \sim f_4$	X_2	X_3	X_4
spin-4	...	U_{-3}	U_{-2}	$U_{-1} \sim e_3$	$U_0 \sim \psi_4$	$U_1 \sim f_3$	U_2	U_3	U_4
spin-3	...	W_{-3}	W_{-2}	$W_{-1} \sim e_2$	$W_0 \sim \psi_3$	$W_1 \sim f_2$	W_2	W_3	W_4
spin-2	...	L_{-3}	L_{-2}	$L_{-1} \sim e_1$	$L_0 \sim \psi_2$	$L_1 \sim f_1$	L_2	L_3	L_4
spin-1	...	J_{-3}	J_{-2}	$J_{-1} \sim e_0$	$J_0 \sim \psi_1$	$J_1 \sim f_0$	J_2	J_3	J_4

affine Yangian generators

$$e(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{e_j}{z^{j+1}} \quad \psi(z) = 1 + \sigma_3 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_j}{z^{j+1}} \quad f(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{f_j}{z^{j+1}}$$

Affine Yangian of $\mathfrak{gl}_1$

Def: **Associative** algebra with generators e_j, f_j and $\psi_j, j = 0, 1, \dots$

- Generators

$$\psi(z) = 1 + (h_1 h_2 h_3) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_j}{z^{j+1}} \quad e(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{e_j}{z^{j+1}} \quad f(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{f_j}{z^{j+1}}$$

- Parameters (h_1, h_2, h_3) with $h_1 + h_2 + h_3 = 0$
- One S_3 invariant function $\varphi_3(z) = \frac{(z+h_1)(z+h_2)(z+h_3)}{(z-h_1)(z-h_2)(z-h_3)}$
- Defining relations

$$[e(z), f(w)] = -\frac{1}{h_1 h_2 h_3} \frac{\psi(z) - \psi(w)}{z - w}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \psi(z) e(w) \sim \varphi_3(z-w) e(w) \psi(z) & \psi(z) f(w) \sim \varphi_3(w-z) f(w) \psi(z) \\ e(z) e(w) \sim \varphi_3(z-w) e(w) e(z) & f(z) f(w) \sim \varphi_3(w-z) f(w) f(z) \end{array}$$

- Initial conditions

$$[\psi_{0,1}, e_j] = 0 \quad [\psi_2, e_j] = 2e_j \quad [\psi_{0,1}, f_j] = 0 \quad [\psi_2, f_j] = -2f_j$$

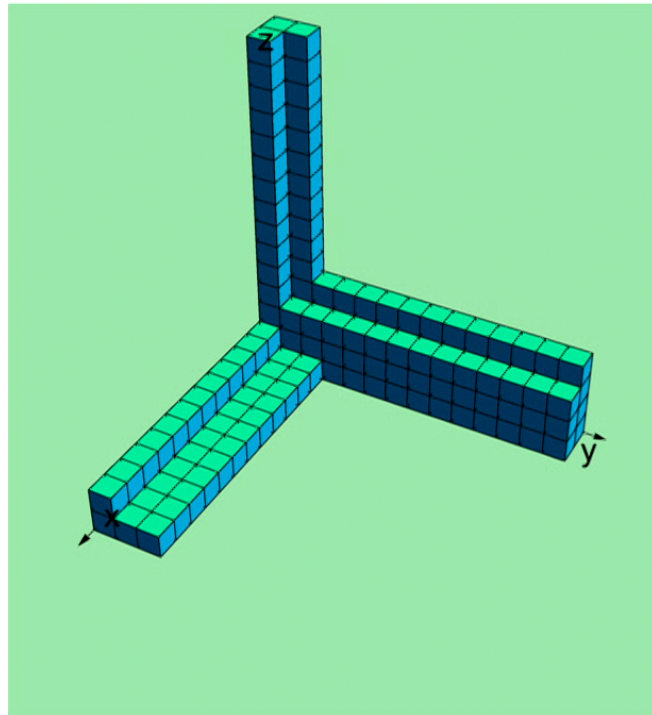
- Serre relation

$$\text{Sym}_{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} [e_{j_1}, [e_{j_2}, e_{j_3+1}]] = 0 \quad \text{Sym}_{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} [f_{j_1}, [f_{j_2}, f_{j_3+1}]] = 0$$

Schiffmann Vasserot '12 Maulik Okounkov '12 Tsybaliuk '14

Plane partition with non-trivial asymptotics

Ground state of $(\Lambda_x, \Lambda_y, \Lambda_z)$



Action of $\hat{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathfrak{gl}_1)$ on a plane partition

- $\psi(z)$ acts **diagonally**

Tsymbaliuk '14, Prochazka '15

$$\psi(z)|\Lambda\rangle = \psi_\Lambda(z)|\Lambda\rangle$$

$$\psi_\Lambda(z) \equiv \left(1 + \frac{\psi_0 \sigma_3}{z}\right) \prod_{\square \in (\Lambda)} \varphi_3(z - h(\square))$$

$$h(\square) = h_1 x(\square) + h_2 y(\square) + h_3 z(\square)$$

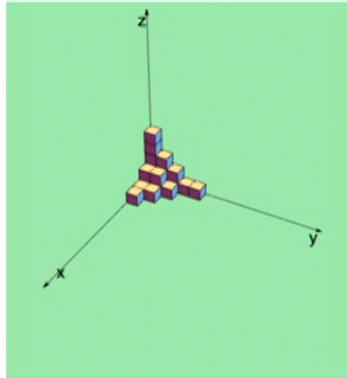
- $e(z)$ **adds** one box

$$e(z)|\Lambda\rangle = \sum_{\square \in \text{Add}(\Lambda)} \frac{\left[-\frac{1}{\sigma_3} \text{Res}_{w=h(\square)} \psi_\Lambda(w)\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}}{z - h(\square)} |\Lambda + \square\rangle$$

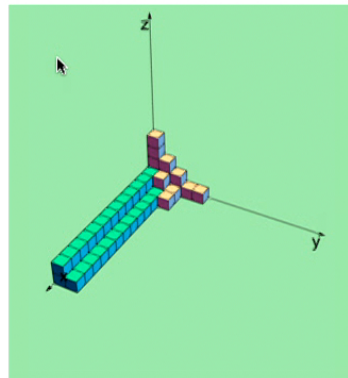
- $f(z)$ **removes** one box

$$f(z)|\Lambda\rangle = \sum_{\square \in \text{Rem}(\Lambda)} \frac{\left[-\frac{1}{\sigma_3} \text{Res}_{w=h(\square)} \psi_\Lambda(w)\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}}{z - h(\square)} |\Lambda - \square\rangle$$

Plane partition as representations of W



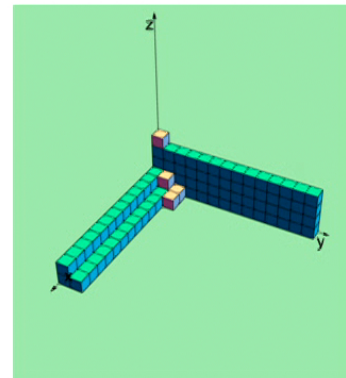
Trivial b.c.



$$(\Lambda_x; 0) = (\Lambda; 0)$$

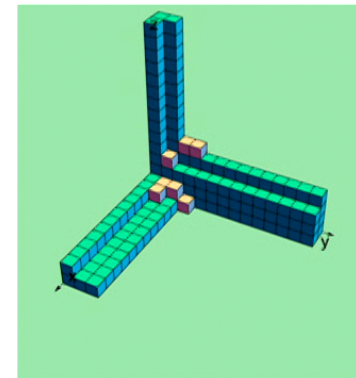
vacuum

perturbative
in Vasiliev



$$(\Lambda_x; \Lambda_y) = (\Lambda_+; \Lambda_-)$$

non-perturbative
in Vasiliev



$$(\Lambda_x; \Lambda_y; \Lambda_z)$$

new representation

character of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ = generating function of plane partition

Feigin Jimbo Miwa Mukhin '10-11

$\mathcal{S}_3$ symmetry in $\mathcal{Y}[\mathfrak{gl}_1]$

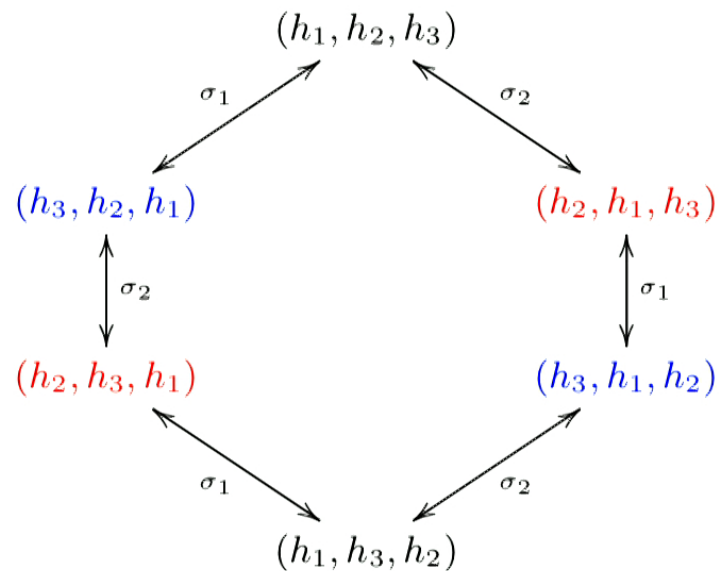
- $\mathcal{S}_3$ symmetry in $\mathcal{W}_\infty$ CFT is highly non-trivial (UV-IR)

- hard to check/prove

Gaberdiel Gopakumar '12, Linshaw '17

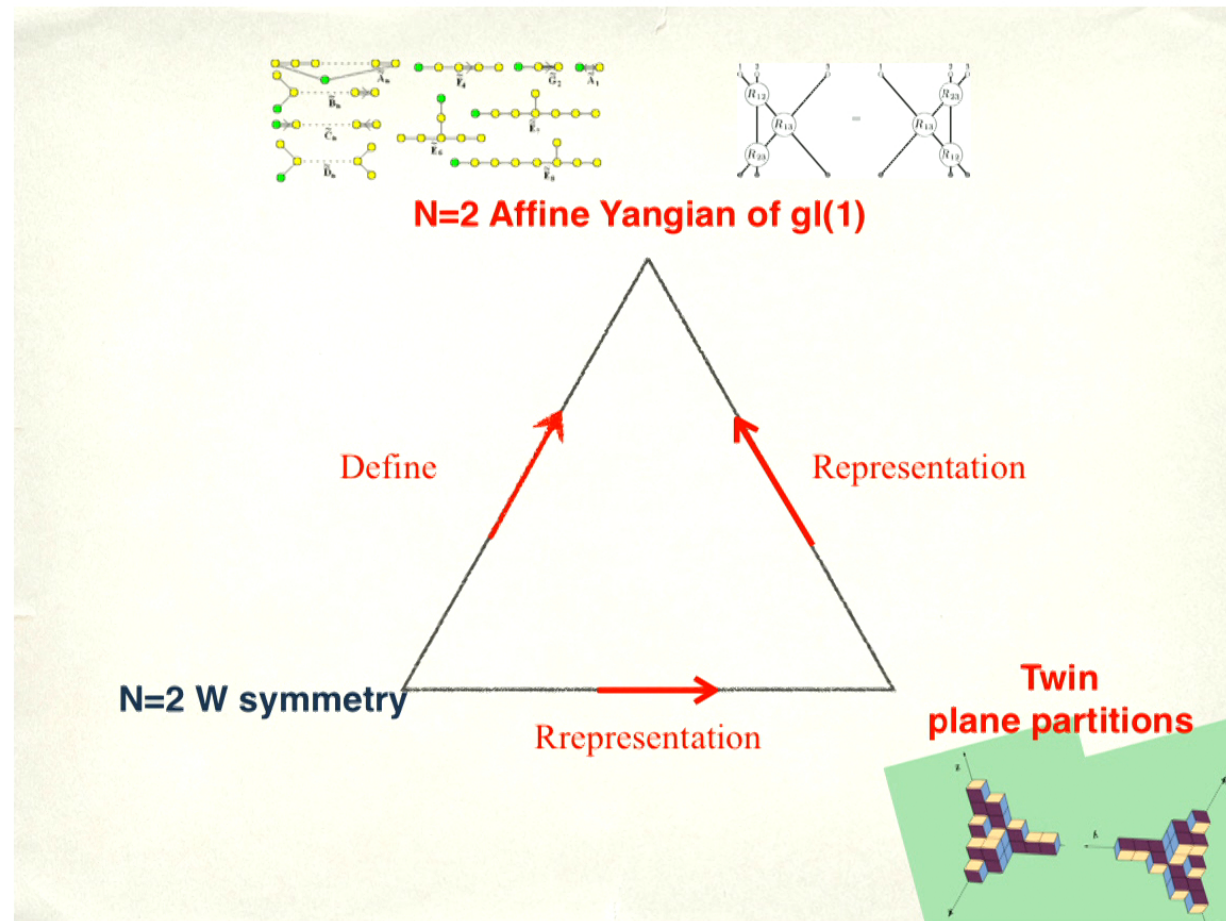
- Manifest in $\mathcal{Y}[\widehat{\mathfrak{gl}}_1]$

Under $\mathcal{S}_3$ transformation on (N, k)



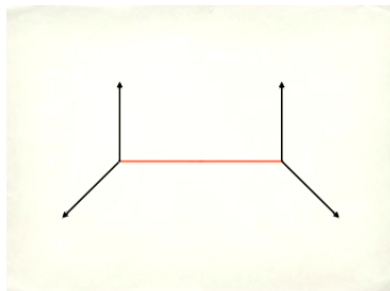
$\mathcal{N} = 2$ triangle

Gaberdiel WL Peng Zhang '17, Gaberdiel WL Peng '18



Building blocks and gluing

1. Algebra: $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty} \Rightarrow$ affine Yangian of $\mathfrak{gl}_1$
2. Representation: plane partitions



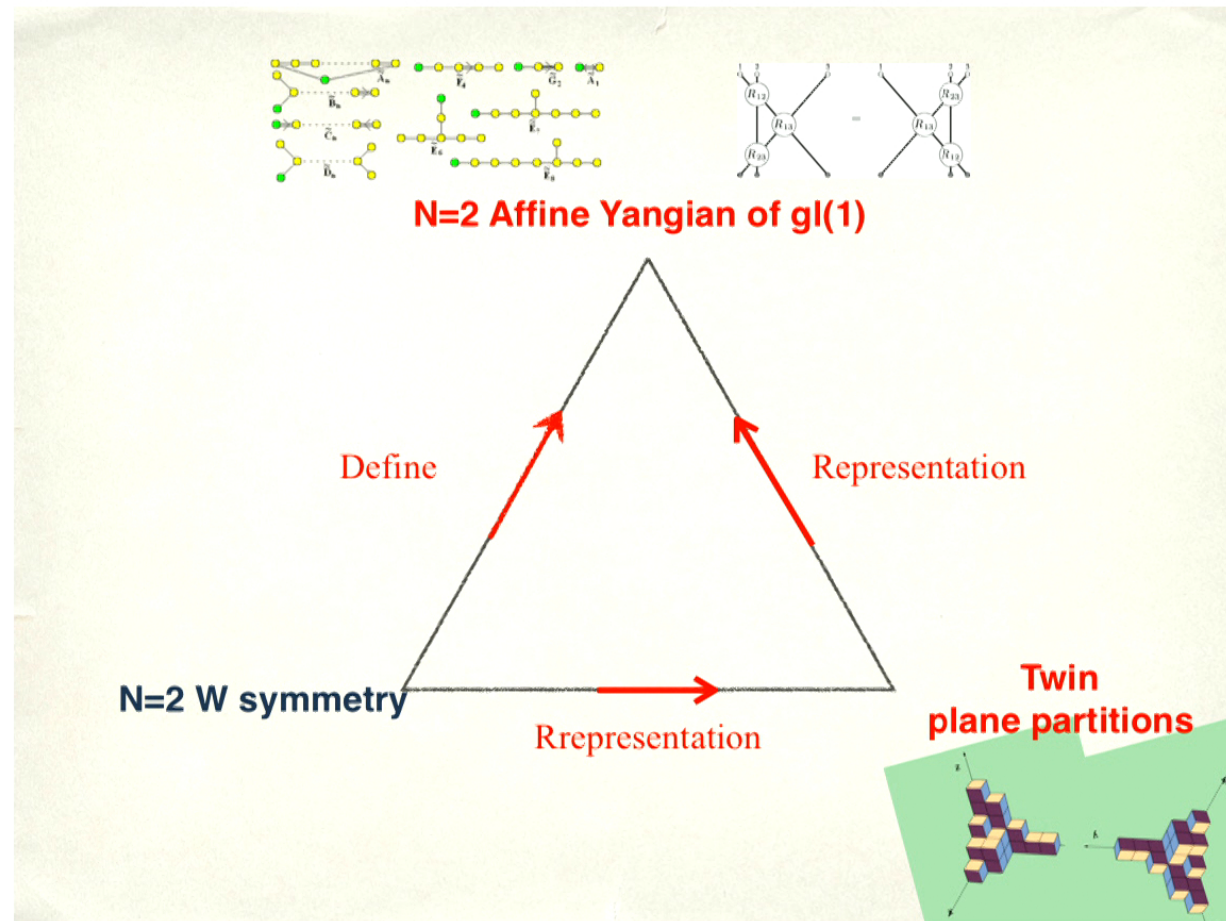
1. Algebra: internal leg $\Rightarrow$ additional operators
conformal dimension
2. Irrep: bi-module $\Rightarrow$ non-trivial b.c. for vertices
relative representation

Two parameter family of glued Yangian!

(Algebraic relations are fixed by demanding that the algebra acts on twin-plane-partition faithfully.)

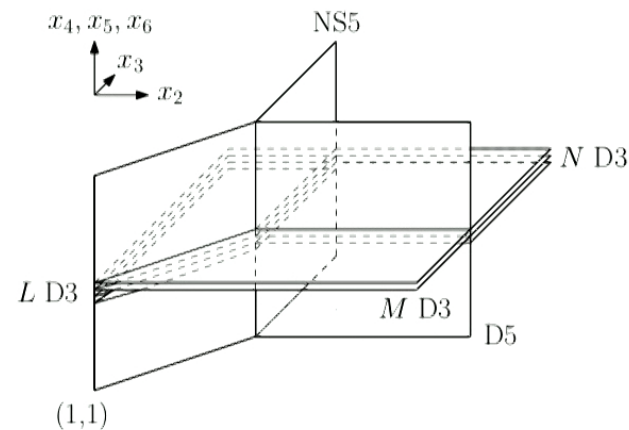
$\mathcal{N} = 2$ triangle

Gaberdiel WL Peng Zhang '17, Gaberdiel WL Peng '18



Y-junction of 4D SYM

picture: Gaiotto Rapcak '17



$$\times \quad C \quad \times \quad R^3$$

$$x_0, x_1 \quad x_7, x_8, x_9$$

1. a Y-junction between $U(L)$, $U(M)$, $U(N)$ SYM.
2. Kapustin-Witten twist $\implies$ localize to Junction *Kapustin Witten '06*
3. Along the edges (2+1 dim): Chern Simons with supergroup $U(N_i|N_j)$
Mikhailov Witten '14
4. At the junction (1+1 dim): BPS operators form a vertex operator algebra

Kapustin Witten '06

Mikhaylov Witten '14

VOA on the 2D junction is a truncation of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$

Gaiotto Rapcak '17

Truncation and gluing

Gluing of these finite truncations of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ should give chiral algebra of Y-junction webs
Rapcak Prochazka '17

Finite truncation of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ is easier to study as truncation of affine Yangian of $\mathfrak{gl}_1$
Fukuda Matsuo Nakamura Zhu '15, Prochazka '15

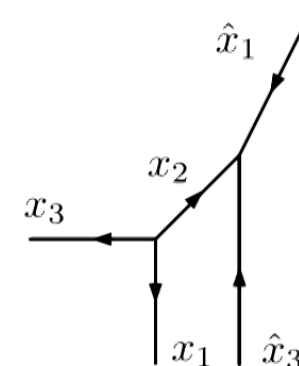
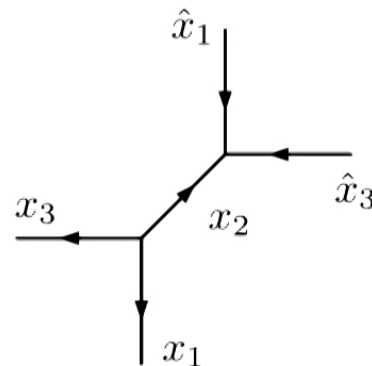
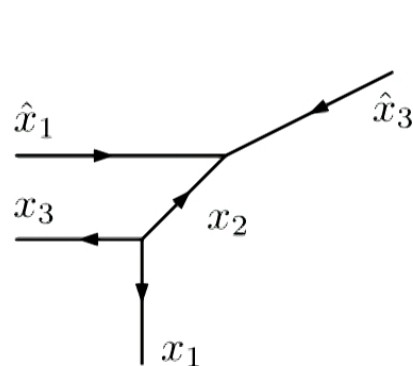
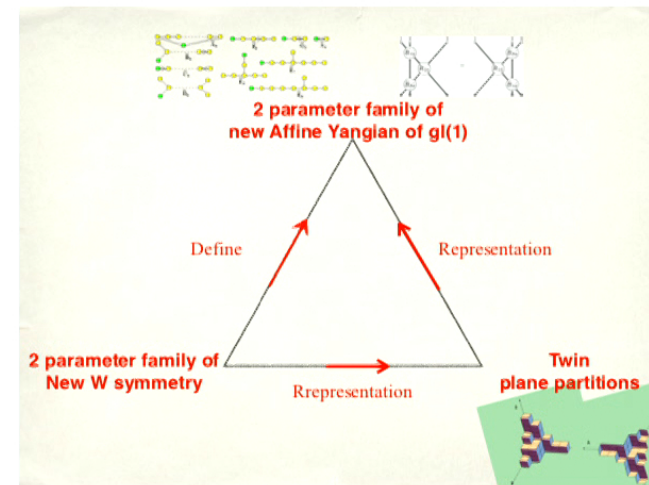
WL Longhi '19

1. Can use affine Yangian of $\mathfrak{gl}_1$ basis instead of $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ basis
2. Can first glue and then truncate

New W and Yangian algebras via gluing

WL Longhi '19

The 4 constraints from twin plane partition
match one-to-one
 to the 4 constraints from (p, q) web.



Wei Li

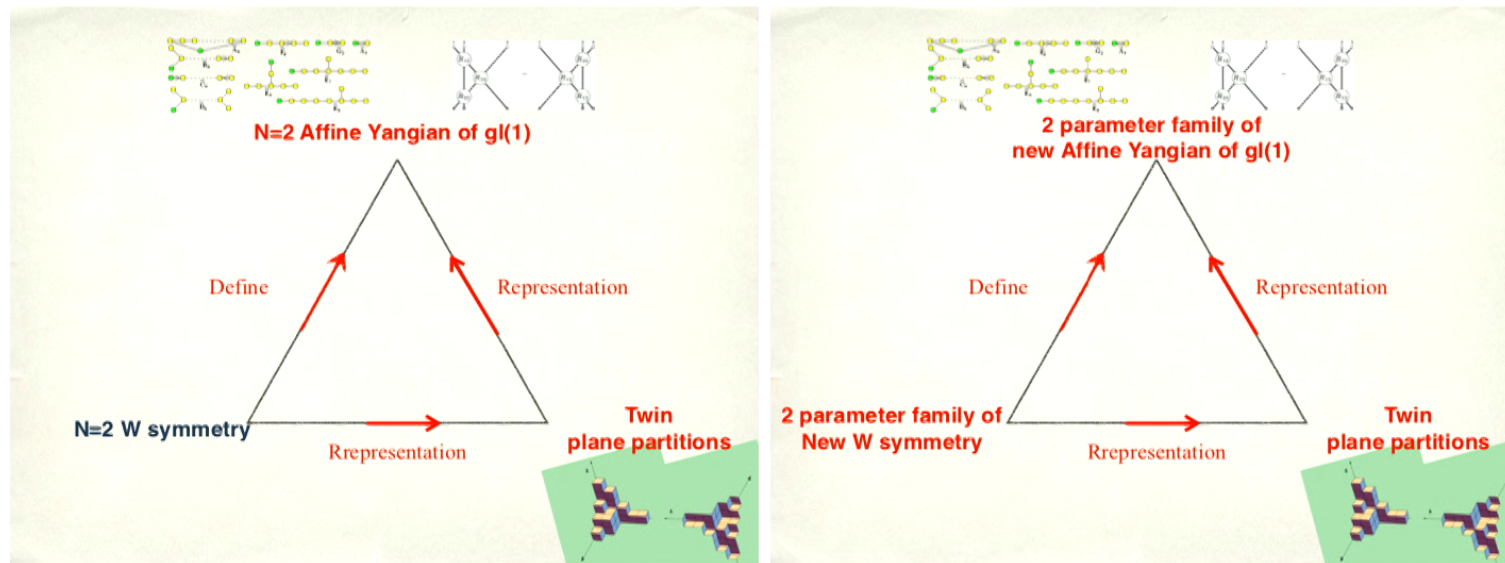
1

Higher spin symmetry in gravity and string

1

66

New W and Yangian algebras via gluing plane partitions



Plane partition is also very useful in the gluing process

- visualize Fock space
- Define algebra by faithful representation