

Introduction to Gauge/Gravity Duality

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(Don't forget to pick up examples sheet outside before you leave for lunch!)

Introduction: What is gauge/gravity duality?

Some quantum field theories are equivalent to (quantum) gravity theories.

In a particular limit, the quantum theory becomes classical and the QFT becomes strongly coupled.

- gauge/gravity duality originates from string theory
- further remarks about the limit mentioned above:

The limit taking quantum gravity to classical gravity is a saddle point approximation. On QFT side, where we have an SU(N) gauge theory, this same approximation corresponds to taking the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$: In this limit, only planar Feynman diagrams contribute.

- Gauge/gravity duality generates the AdS/CFT correspondence
- AdS \cong anti-de Sitter spacetime
- CFT \cong conformal field theory

Conjecture (Maldacena 1997):

(2)

There is an equivalence between

- ① 4d QFT with conformal symmetry (e.g. supersymmetric $SU(N)$ Yang-Mills theory)

- ② superstring theory on a particular 10-dimensional curved background involving Anti-de Sitter spacetime

The conjecture states that these two theories are equivalent including observables, states, correlation functions and the dynamics.

Purpose of lectures:

- 1) Explain the ingredients of AdS/CFT

- a) conformal FT in $d=4$

- b) geometry of AdS spacetime

- 2) Explain the AdS/CFT correspondence and its origin

from superstring theory

- 3) Introduce some generalizations of AdS/CFT (in particular finite temperature QFT, with potential application to real-world physics)

Conformal field theories in $d=4$

- 1) Conformal coordinate transformations leave angles invariant (locally), i.e.

$$dx_\mu dx^\nu = \Omega^{-2}(x) dx'_\mu dx'^\nu$$

(here we consider d -dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^d)

Infinitesimally ($x'_\mu = x_\mu + \delta_\mu$): $\delta(x) = 1 - \delta(x)$ (3)

$$\delta(x) = \frac{1}{d} \partial \cdot v$$

\Rightarrow conformal killing equation

$$\partial_\mu \partial_\nu + \partial_\nu \partial_\mu = 2 \delta(x) \eta_{\mu\nu}, \quad \eta_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu}$$

Not $\partial_\mu \partial_\nu + \partial_\nu \partial_\mu$ is the flat space restriction of a diffeomorphism of a metric

$$\delta g^{\mu\nu} = (-\nabla^\lambda v^\nu - \nabla^\nu v^\lambda)$$

Solutions of conformal killing equations

$$v_\mu = a_\mu + \omega_{\mu\nu} x^\nu + \gamma x_\mu + b_\mu x^2 - 2(b \cdot x)x_\mu$$

translation rotation scaling transf. special conformal transf.

$$\{SO(d+1)\} \text{ Minkowski } SO(d,2)$$

$$(v_\mu = -\omega_{\mu\nu}, \quad \delta(x) = \gamma - 2(b \cdot x))$$

In $d=2$ the conformal killing equation reduces to the Cauchy-Riemann eq.

$$\partial_1 v_1 = \partial_2 v_2, \quad \partial_1 v_2 = -\partial_2 v_1$$

\Rightarrow infinitely many solutions

\Rightarrow infinitely many conserved quantities

In $d > 2$ conformal group remains \rightarrow finite. (remains finite)

Here we study in $d=4$ (sometimes $d=3$) for physical applications

CFT: Fields transform covariantly under conformal transformations.

In a CFT, a conformally covariant operator \mathcal{O} (so-called primary op.) transform as

$$\partial_\mu \mathcal{O} = -(\mathcal{L}_v \mathcal{O})(x), \quad \mathcal{L}_v = v \cdot \partial + \Delta \delta(x) - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{[\mu} v_{\nu]} S_{\lambda\delta}$$

scaling dimension operator of
group $O(d)$

$[-]$ = antisymmetrization

For scalars we have

(4)

$$\partial_\nu \Phi(x) = -(\nu \cdot \partial + \Delta \partial(x)) \Phi(x)$$

Conformal correlation functions

In QFT

$$\langle \partial(x) \partial(y) \rangle = \langle T \partial(x) \partial(y) \rangle$$

In CFT, the symmetry is so strong that it determines the functions of 2- and 3-point correlations ~~set up~~ to a small number of parameters.

Examples

$$\langle \Phi(x) \Phi(y) \rangle = \frac{G}{(x-y)^{2\Delta}} \quad \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \\ \text{determined by field} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \leftarrow \\ \text{content of theory} \end{matrix}$$

scaling dim. Δ $(x-y)^2 = (x-y)_r (x-y)^r$

$$\langle \Phi_1(x) \Phi_2(y) \Phi_3(z) \rangle = \frac{k}{x-y)^{\Delta_1+\Delta_2-\Delta_3} (y-z)^{\Delta_2+\Delta_3-\Delta_1} (z-x)^{\Delta_1+\Delta_3-\Delta_2}}$$

Anti-de Sitter space

The $(p+2)$ -dimensional AdS space (AdS_{p+2}) is represented by the hyperboloid

$$x_0^2 + x_{p+2}^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{p+1} x_i^2 = L^2 \quad (*)$$

L AdS radius

which is embedded in $(p+3)$ -dimensional space.

The metric is

$$ds^2 = -dx_0^2 - dx_{p+2}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{p+1} dx_i^2$$

By construction, the space has isometry $SO(2, p+1)$. The space is homogeneous and isotropic.

(*) is solved by

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$$x_0 = L \cosh g \cos \tau$$

$$x_{p+2} = L \cosh g \sin \tau$$

$$x_i = L \sinh g \cdot \underline{s}_i$$

($i = 1, \dots, p+1$,

$$\sum_i s_i^2 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow ds^2 = L^2 (-\cosh^2 g d\tau^2 + dg^2 + \sinh^2 g d\underline{s}^2)$$

with

$0 \leq g$ and $0 \leq \tau \leq 2\pi$. This covers the entire hyperboloid once $\Rightarrow (\tau, g, \underline{s})$ are called global coordinates.

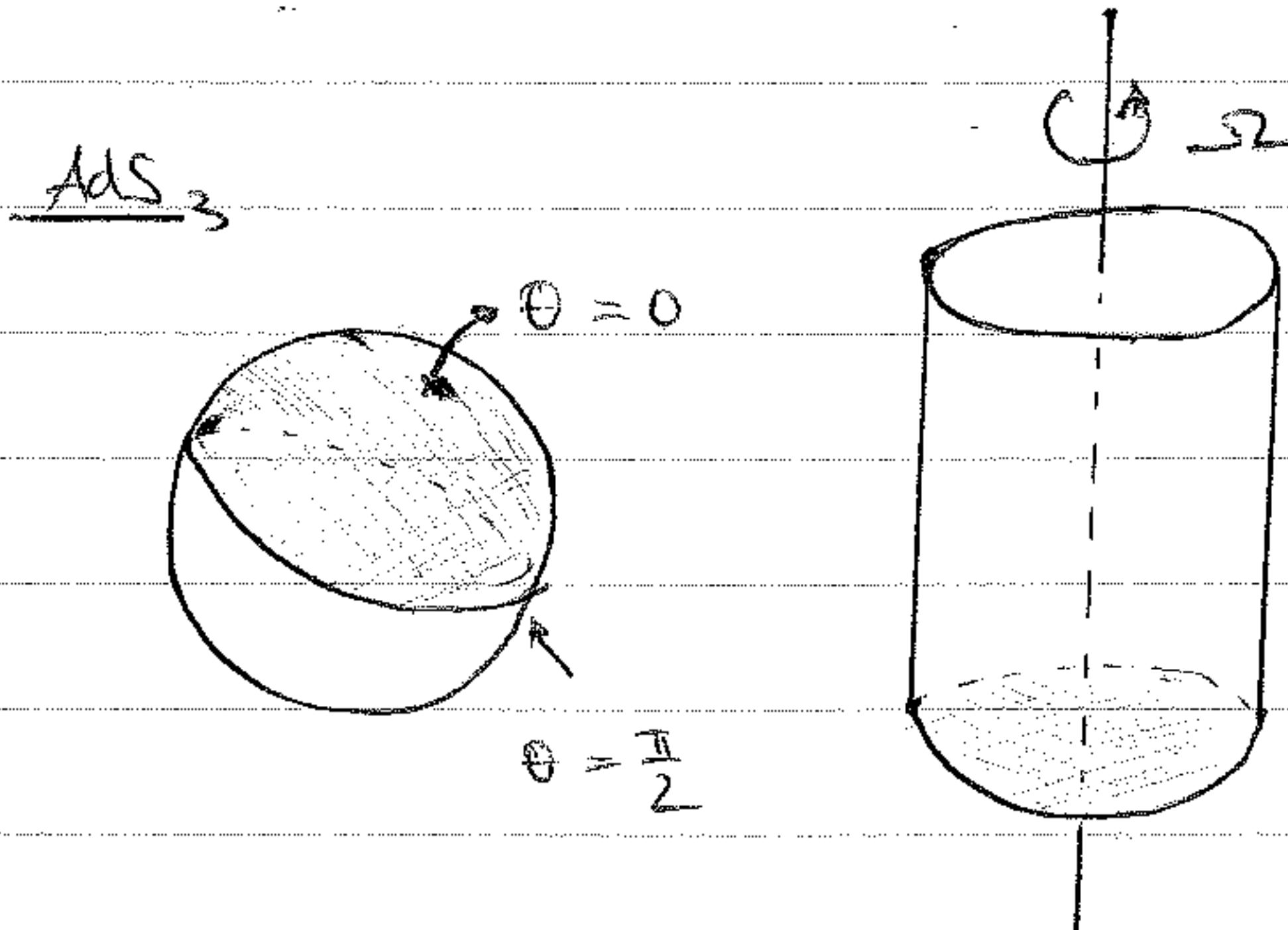
τ wraps on S^1 , to obtain a causal spacetime, the S^1 needs to be an unwrapped (i.e. take $-\infty < \tau < +\infty$ without identifications)

\hookrightarrow universal covering of hyperboloid

To study the causal structure, it is convenient to introduce a new coordinate Θ with $\tan \Theta = \sinh g$ ($0 \leq \Theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$)

$$\Rightarrow ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{\cos^2 \Theta} (-d\tau^2 + d\Theta^2 + \sin^2 \Theta d\underline{s}^2)$$

A conformal rescaling gives $ds'^2 = -d\tau^2 + d\Theta^2 + \sin^2 \Theta d\underline{s}^2$



This is the metric of one-half

τ of the Einstein static universe

$$\mathbb{R} \times S^2$$

one half because $(0 \leq \Theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2})$

Equator at $\Theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ is a

boundary of the space with the topology S^2

The boundary also extends in τ -direction

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The boundary of conformally compactified AdS_{p+2} is identical to the conformal compactification of flat space!

another set of useful coordinates \rightarrow POINCARÉ coordinates

$$x_0 = \frac{1}{2y} (1 + y^2 (L^2 + \bar{x}^2 - t^2))$$

$$x_i = Ly_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, p).$$

$$x_{p+1} = \frac{1}{2y} (1 - y^2 (L^2 - \bar{x}^2 + t^2))$$

$$x_{p+2} = Ly_l$$

$(y, t, \bar{x}) \quad (0 < y, \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p)$ Poincaré coordinates

covers only half

$$ds^2 = L^2 \left(\frac{dy^2}{y^2} + y^2 (-dt^2 + d\bar{x}^2) \right) \text{ of the hyperboloid}$$

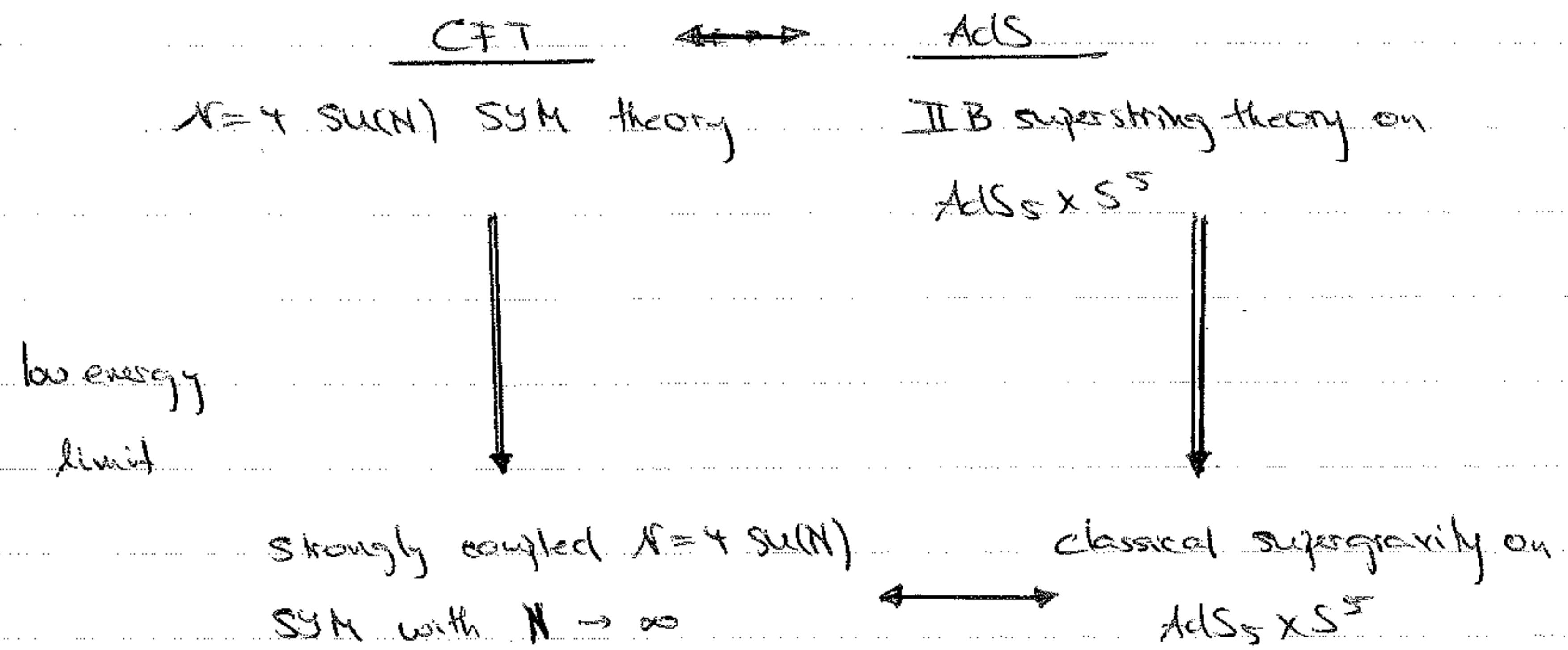
Curvature: AdS space has a constant negative curvature

$$R_{\mu\nu\lambda\delta} = -\frac{1}{L^2} (g_{\mu\delta} g_{\nu\lambda} - g_{\mu\lambda} g_{\nu\delta})$$

Lecture 2: AdS/CFT

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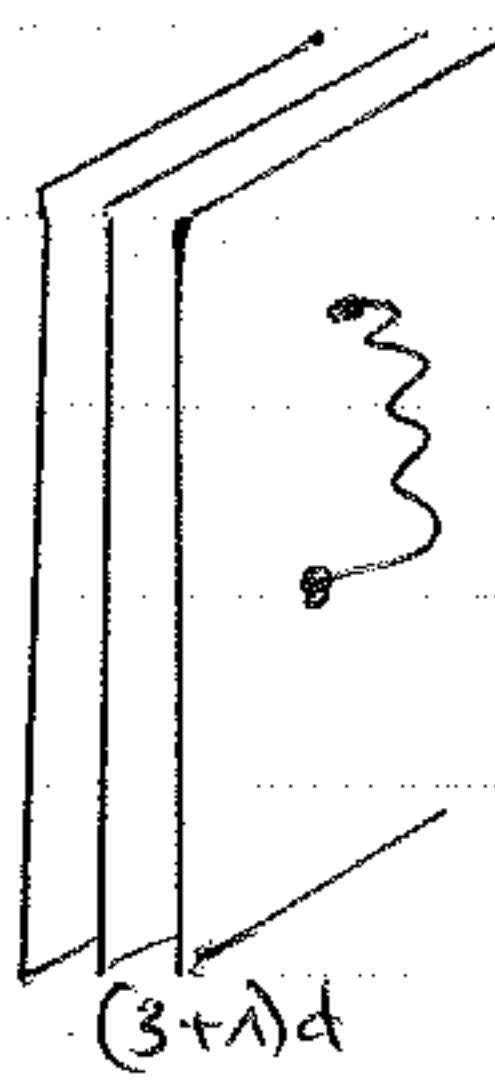
Last time:



The equivalence arises from considering N coincident D3-branes within superstring theory. D3-branes have two different interpretations.

① open string perspective

D3-branes (D stands for Dirichlet boundary conditions) are $(3+1)$ -dimensional hyperplanes in flat $d=9+1$ spacetime on which open strings can end.



At low energies when the string coupling $g_s \rightarrow 0$ and the inverse string tension $\alpha' = l_s^2 \rightarrow 0$, the dynamics of open strings are described by $Sl(N)$ $N=4$ SYM theory living on the world volume of the D3-branes with $g_{YM}^2 = 2\pi g_s$.

In the Maldacena limit, where $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$ with $a = \frac{r}{\alpha'} \rightarrow 0$ fixed, for r being any distance, the open string decouple from the closed

(8)

String excitations in the surrounding 10d flat spacetime.

Low-energy theory: $N=4$ SYM + 10d supergravity

② Closed string perspective (reliable for $g_s N \gg 1$)

D-branes are solitonic solutions of the low-energy of superstrings, i.e. supergravity. They are sources for the gravitational fields which curve the surrounding spacetime. The curvature is proportional to $\frac{1}{(g_s N)^2}$. The N D3-branes are massive charged objects sourcing the various fields of supergravity.

Anatz for D3-brane solutions of the equations of motion of IIB supergravity in $(9+1)$ -dim is

$$\text{metric } ds^2 = H(r)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \underbrace{g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu}_{\text{in 3+1 dim}} + H(r)^{\frac{1}{2}} \underbrace{dy^i dy^j}_{\text{in 6 dim}}^2$$

$$\text{dilaton } \exp(2\Phi(r)) = g_s^2 \quad r^2 = \sum_{i=4}^9 y_i^2$$

$$4\text{-form } C_{44} = (1 - H(r)^{-1}) dx^0 \wedge dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \wedge dx^3$$

This ansatz has the symmetry $SO(3,1) \times SO(6)$

The Gom of 10d super imply that $H(r)$ is a harmonic function, and in particular

$$H(r) = 1 + \frac{L^4}{r^4}, \quad L^4 = 4\pi g_s N \alpha'^2.$$

Write

$$dy^i dy^j = dr^2 + r^2 dS_5^2, \text{ the metric reads}$$

$$ds^2 = H(r)^{-\frac{1}{2}} g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + H(r)^{\frac{1}{2}} (dr^2 + r^2 dS_5^2).$$

There are two asymptotic regions: $r \rightarrow \infty$ and $r \rightarrow 0$. For $r \rightarrow \infty$, $H(r) \approx 1$ and we recover 10d flat space. The region for $r \ll 1$ is called the NEAR-HORIZON region.

There are both closed strings in flat space and closed strings in (9) the near-horizon region. In the Maldacena limit $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$ with L' fixed, the strings in the two regions decouple from each other.

Note that in this limit

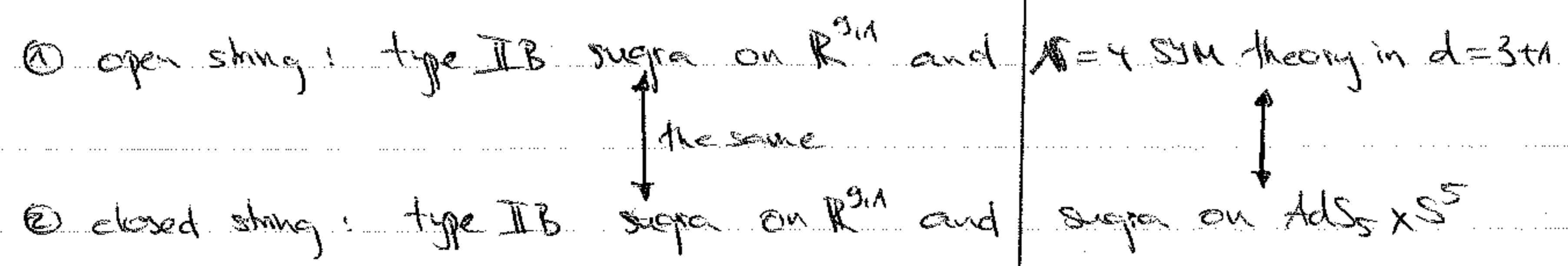
$$\frac{L'}{r_+} = 4\pi g_s N \frac{\alpha'^2}{r_+} = 4\pi g_s N \underbrace{\left(\frac{\alpha'}{r_+} \right)}_{\text{const}} \underbrace{(\alpha')^2}_{\rightarrow 0} \rightarrow \infty ,$$

i.e. we zoom into the near-horizon region where $\ell(r) \sim \frac{L'}{r_+}$. Then the D3-brane metric becomes

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{L'} \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + \frac{L^2}{r^2} dr^2 + L^2 d\Omega_5^2 .$$

This is the metric of $AdS_5 \times S^5$.

Now! Both from the open and from the closed string perspective, we have two decoupled low-energy theories in the low-energy limit,



Maldacena's conjecture

First check of correspondence: symmetries agree!

$$\begin{array}{ccc} N=4 & SO(4,2) \times SU(4)_R \\ \text{conformal} & \cong SO(6) \end{array}$$

$$AdS_5 \times S^5 \quad SO(4,2) \times SO(6)$$

Different versions (different strengths) of conjecture

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① strong form : holds for all values of N and g_s

$N=4$ $SU(N)$ SYM is equivalent to IIB superstring theory
for all g_s and N ($\neq 0$)

② 't Hooft limit : keep $\lambda = g_s^2 N = \text{fixed}$, $N \rightarrow \infty$

CFT : only planar diagrams

AdS : classical strings theory : $g_s = 0, \alpha' \neq 0$

③ In addition, take $\lambda = g_s^2 N$ to be large $\Rightarrow g_s = 0, \alpha' = 0$

\Rightarrow AdS : classical sigma

CFT : strong coupled theory

Field operator map

1-1 map between gauge invariant operators in CFT and fields in the supergravity theory.

To calculate correlation functions in $AdS_5 \times S^5$, it is convenient to work in Euclidean AdS_5 .

$\{ (z_0, \vec{z}) , z_0 > 0, \vec{z} \in \mathbb{R}^4 \}$ with metric

$$ds^2 = z_0^{-2} (dz_0^2 + d\vec{z}^2) \quad ; \text{ boundary at } z_0 \rightarrow 0,$$

$$2H = R^4$$

$(z_0 \rightarrow 0)$ is a coordinate singularity and not curvature singularity.

It is natural to assume that $SU(N)$, $N=4$ SYM theory lives on this boundary of AdS_5 . On the field theory side, look at typical operators in "simple" representations of the symmetry group.

On the AdS side we decompose all fields in to Kaluza-Klein-towers on S^5 .

for scalar field

(ii)

$$\varphi(z, y) = \sum_{\Delta=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{\Delta}(z) Y_{\Delta}(y) \quad , \text{ i.e. expand in spherical harmonics on } S^5$$

on AdS₅ on S⁵

The 10d equation of motion gives

$$(\Delta z + m_{\Delta}^2) \varphi_{\Delta}(z) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad m_{\Delta}^2 = \Delta(\Delta-4) \quad \& \\ \Delta \text{ is the scale dim. of } \varphi_{\Delta}.$$

The two independent solutions are characterized by their asymptotics:

$$\varphi_{\Delta}(z_0, z) \sim \begin{cases} z_0^{\Delta} & \text{normalizable} \\ z_0^{4-\Delta} & \text{non-normalizable} \end{cases}$$
$$\varphi_{\Delta}(z_0, z) \underset{z \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \langle 0 \rangle z_0^{\Delta} + \bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}(z) z_0^{4-\Delta}$$

+ +
YEV source

The boundary values of supergravity field φ is the source for an operator \hat{O} in the dual quantum field theory!

at mapping between correlation functions in the CFT and the dynamics of SUGRA is given as follows:

- 1) in CFT : generating functional $W[\bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}]$ for all correlations of operators \hat{O}_{Δ}

$$\exp \{-W[\bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}]\} = \langle \exp \left[- \int d^4 z \bar{\varphi}_{\Delta} \hat{O}_{\Delta} \right] \rangle$$

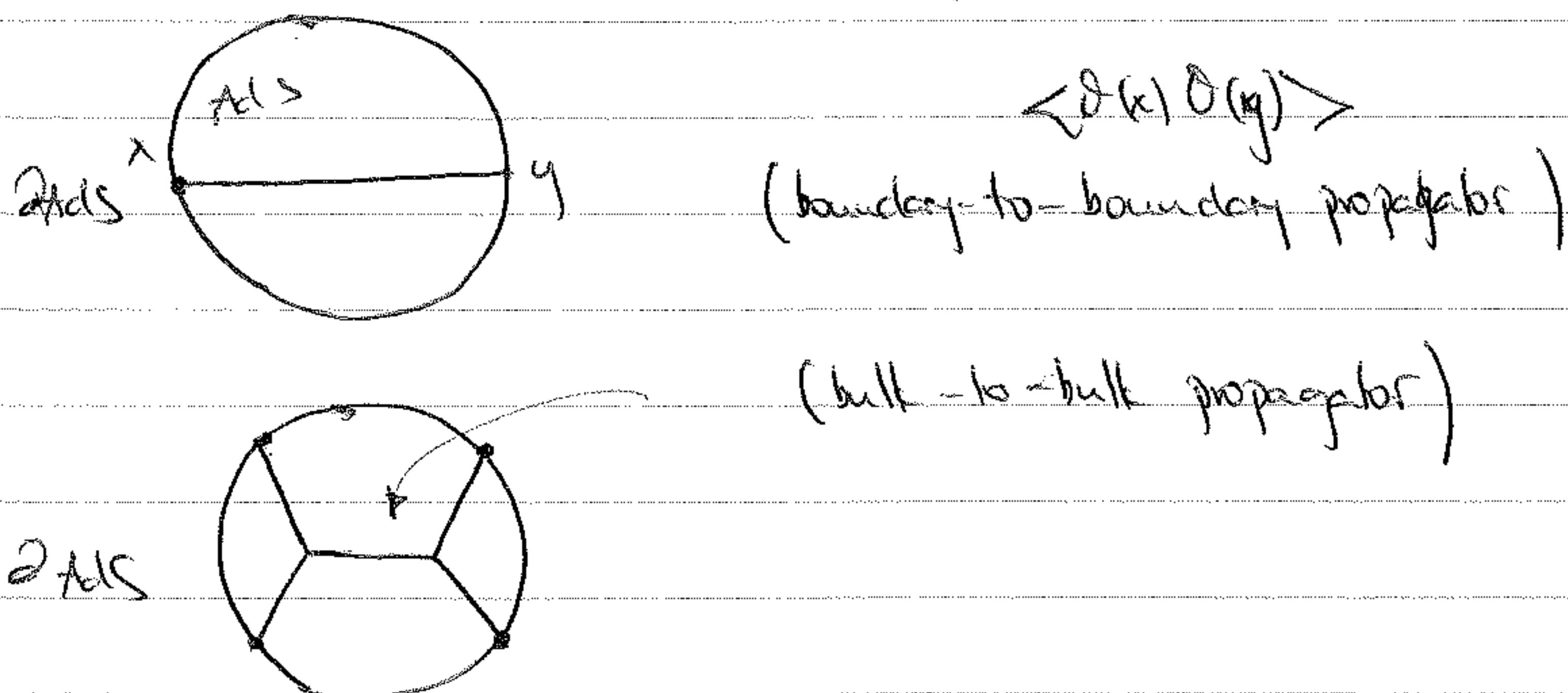
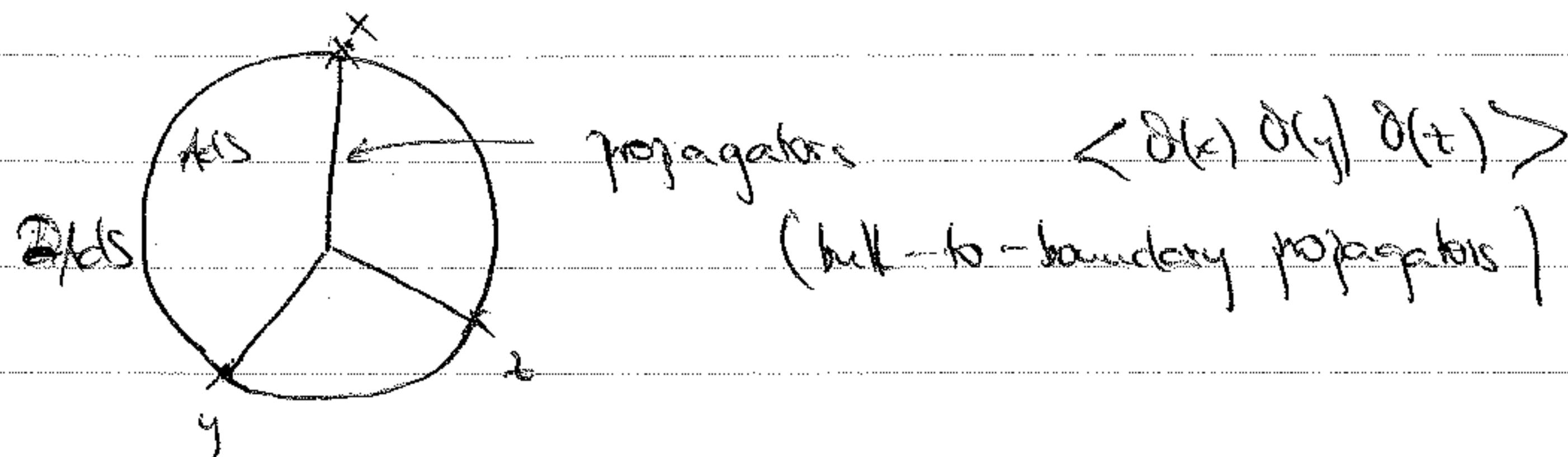
→ Formula for AdS/CFT conjecture

$$W[\bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}] \stackrel{!}{=} \int [\bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}] \Big|_{\lim_{z_0 \rightarrow 0} \bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}(z_0=0) = \bar{\varphi}_{\Delta}(z) z_0^{4-\Delta}}$$

classical super action on AdS₅ × S⁵

Witten diagrams for computing correlation fct.

(2)



Lecture 3:

last time:

strongly coupled CFT \leftrightarrow weakly coupled gravity on AdS

The AdS₅ space has SO(4,2) symmetry and it has a boundary. It is natural to assume that the CFT (which has also SO(4,2) sym.) lives on the boundary of AdS₅.

Then the boundary value $\bar{\Psi}_\Delta$ of supergravity fields may be viewed as sources for the field theory operators.

$$\frac{\delta W}{\delta \bar{\Psi}_\Delta(x) \delta \bar{\Psi}_\Delta(y)} = \langle \delta(x) \delta(y) \rangle$$

Asymptotic behaviors of the SUGRA fields near the boundary?

$$\Phi_\Delta(z_0, \bar{z}) \sim \langle \theta_\Delta \rangle z_0^\Delta + \bar{\Phi}_\Delta z_0^{4-\Delta}$$

$$e^{-W[\bar{\Phi}_\Delta]} = \left\langle \exp \left(- \int d^4 z \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{H}} \bar{\Phi}_\Delta \theta_\Delta \right) \right\rangle$$

Gravity dual of finite temperature field theory

• Maldacena November 1997 \rightarrow AdS/CFT

- Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov Feb. 1998

\rightarrow correlation fct., field-operator map

- Witten, April 1998 \rightarrow finite temperature

see e.g. NAGOO review May 99

AdS Schwarzschild black hole

Show relation to thermal field theory using the Euclidean signature metric

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{L^2} \left(f(r) dt^2 + dx^2 \right) + \frac{L^2}{r^2} \frac{1}{f(r)} dr^2 + L^2 d\Omega_5^2$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{r_H^4}{r^4} \quad r_H : \text{location of the Schwarzschild horizon}$$

Euclidean metric defined only outside the horizon. We want to show

that regularity at the horizon is obtained only if T is periodic.

Period $\sim \beta = \frac{1}{T}$ then identified with inverse temperature.

Hawking temperature of black hole becomes the temperature of the field theory on the boundary.

Consider behaviour of the metric near $r \approx r_H$

$$ds^2 = \frac{4r_H}{L^2} (r - r_H) dt^2 + \frac{L^2}{4r_H} \frac{1}{(r - r_H)} dr^2$$

May be rewritten as (24)

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{r_H} \left(ds^2 + g^2 \frac{4r_H^2}{L^2} dr \right), \quad g^2 = r - r_H$$

This corresponds to the metric of a plane in polar polar coordinates $ds^2 = d\varphi^2 + g^2 d\theta^2$ if we identify $\theta = \frac{\tau L + \eta}{L^2}$.

Otherwise there is a conical singularity!
→ deficit angle

Periodicity of θ translates into periodicity of τ with period

$$\frac{2r_H}{L^2} \beta = 2\pi$$

$$T = \beta / \beta \Rightarrow r_H = T \pi L^2$$

↑ Hawking temperature of AdS Schwarzschild BH

On the boundary, we also have compactified Euclidean time in $d=4 \Rightarrow$ finite temperature field theory!

Simplest possibility of defining a finite temperature field theory:
Wick-rotate to Euclidean signature,

compactify imaginary time → inverse temperature!

Partition fct.

$$Z_E = T_F e^{-\beta H} = \sum_{\text{all } \beta\text{-periodic states}} \langle \psi_p | e^{-\beta H} | \psi_p \rangle$$

$$= \int D\varphi e^{-S_E[\varphi]}$$

all β -periodic states

Goal: Thermodynamics in finite temperature field theory (15)
further generalization: finite density

Application: 1) quark-gluon plasma strongly coupled!

2) condensed matter systems; superfluids & superconductors

$$\text{In thermal field theory} \quad Z = \int d\phi e^{-S_E(\phi)} \propto e^{-S_E[\phi^*]}$$

saddle point approximation

In AdS/CFT we can also do it for the metric

$$Z \stackrel{!}{=} Z_{\text{grav}} = e^{-S_E[g^*]}$$

AdS/CFT

Evaluate gravitation action at saddle point \Rightarrow free energy

$$S_E[g] = -\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int d^{d+1}x \sqrt{g} \left[R + \frac{d(d-1)}{L^2} \right] +$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{r=0}^{d+1} d^d x \sqrt{g} \left(-2K + \frac{2(d-1)}{L^2} \right) \sqrt{g}$$

exterior curvature $K = g^{rr} \nabla_r n_r$

$g^{rr} \equiv \text{induced metric at } r \rightarrow 0$

saddle point \hat{g} solution to the equation of motion

\rightarrow AdS Schwarzschild metric!

With this metric as

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{r^2} \left(-f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + dx^i dx^j \right), f(r) = 1 - \frac{r^d}{r_H^d}$$

(here the boundary is at $r \rightarrow 0$)

Evaluate action on solution:

$$S_E = -\frac{L^{d+1}}{2\kappa^2 r_H^d} \frac{V_{d-1}}{T} = \frac{-(4\pi)^d L^{d-1} V_{d-1} T^{d-1}}{2\kappa^2 d^d}$$

$$U = 4\pi g_F N \alpha'^2$$

For staying in the classical gravity regime, spacetime needs to (16)

be highly curved, $\frac{L^{d-1}}{k^2} \ll 1 \Rightarrow N \rightarrow \infty$

$$F = -T \ln Z = T S_E[g^*] = -\frac{(4\pi)^d L^{d-1} V_{d-1} T^d}{2\pi^2 d!}$$

[↑] free energy

$$\text{entropy: } S = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} = \frac{(4\pi)^d L^{d-1} V_{d-1} T^{d-1}}{2\pi^2 d^{d-1}}$$

Consistency check: The expression for the entropy is equal to the area of the event horizon divided by $4G_N = \frac{k^2}{2\pi}$. This area/entropy relation is universal for event horizon.

Finite density and chemical potential in a quantum field theory

Consider a QFT with a $U(1)$ gauge symmetry and a scalar and a fermion charged under this symmetry

$$\mathcal{L} = (\bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi + i \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi) + \frac{1}{g^2} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + i\gamma_\mu$$

Let's give the time-component of χ_μ a non-vanishing expectation value $\langle \chi_0 \rangle = \mu \Rightarrow \chi_0 = \langle \chi_0 \rangle + \delta \chi_0$

This generates a potential of the form

$\mu \rightarrow \text{chemical potential}$

$$V = -\underbrace{\mu^2 \bar{\psi}^\mu \psi}_{\text{upside-down mass term}} - \underbrace{\mu \bar{\chi}^\mu \chi}_{\text{mass term}}$$

$\bar{\chi}^\mu = \hat{N}$ number operator

\rightarrow generates instability

$$\text{Gibbs energy (free energy)} \quad \mathcal{G} = E - TS - \mu N$$

(4)

How do we realize this in gauge/gravity duality?

→ consider charged black hole : Reissner-Nordström - black hole

On gravity side : metric $g_{\mu\nu}$, U(1) gauge field A_μ

EOM (Einstein's Eq.)

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{d(d-1)}{2L^2} g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\kappa^2}{g^2} \left(F_{\mu\rho} F^\rho_\nu - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} F^{\rho\sigma} \right)$$

Solution : Reissner-Nordström AdS black hole (kinetic regular)

• Metrics

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{r^2} \left(-f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + dz \cdot dx \right)$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \left(1 + \frac{r_H^2 \mu}{r^2} \right) \left(\frac{r}{r_H} \right)^d + \frac{r_H^2 \mu^2}{8} \left(\frac{r}{r_H} \right)^{2(d-1)}$$

$$\text{with } \gamma = \frac{(d-1)L^2 g^2}{(d-2)r^2}$$

• Gauge field $A_t(r) = \gamma \left(1 + \left(\frac{r}{r_H} \right)^{d-2} \right)$

Near the boundary $f_+(r)$ will give the VEV and the source which correspond to the chemical potential and the density.

→ We generalized gauge/gravity duality to finite temperature and density

→ applications to strongly coupled systems!

(quark-gluon plasma, superconductors)