Black hole perturbations from Liouville correlators

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Outline

- Introduction
- A brief introduction to Liouville CFT
- 3 punctured sphere: the hypergeometric equation
- 4 punctured sphere: the Heun equation
- AdS₅ black holes perturbations and holography

This talk is based on

- G. Bonelli, C.I., D. Panea Lichtig and A. Tanzini. "Irregular Liouville correlators and connection formulae for Heun functions". In: (Jan. 2022). arXiv: 2201.04491 [hep-th]
- M. Dodelson, A. Grassi, C.I., Lichtig, D. Panea Lichtig and A. Zhiboedov. In: (2022). arXiv: 2206.xxxxx [hep-th]

Introduction

Solving for black holes perturbations means solving the PDE

$$(\Box - m^2)\Phi = 0$$

If \square is separable this reduces to a 2nd order ODE.

Imposing boundary conditions:

$$\Phi = \Phi_{in}^{h} = (r - R_{+})^{\#} (1 + \mathcal{O}(r - R_{+})) =$$

= $\mathcal{A}\Phi_{1}^{\infty} + \mathcal{B}\Phi_{2}^{\infty}$.

 ${\cal A}$ and ${\cal B}$ are the so called connection coefficients: they analytically continue the local solution near the horizon to the local solution at infinity.

Introduction

A lot of physics is contained in A and B:

- quasinormal modes $(\mathcal{B}(\omega_n) = 0)$,
- response functions ($\sim \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{B}$),
- Love numbers,
- ...

To compute the connection coefficients of an ODE is a hard problem, that has surprising relations with 2d CFT (and 4d gauge theories).

This connection will allow us to find A and B in terms of CFT data.

To see how the story goes, let us take a step back.

- It is an interacting CFT with coupling b,
- central charge $c = 1 + 6Q^2$ with $Q = b + b^{-1}$,
- diagonal and continuous spectrum of primaries of weight $\Delta_{\alpha} = \frac{Q^2}{4} \alpha^2$ with $\alpha \in i\mathbb{R}$,
- degenerate Verma modules for $2\alpha_{m,n} = -mb nb^{-1}$,
- the 3 point functions are known explicitly (DOZZ formulas) in terms of special functions Υ (\sim double gamma functions).

Product of operators can be series expanded (OPE):

$$V_{lpha_t}(t)V_{lpha_0}(0) = \int_{i\mathbb{R}} dlpha C_{lpha_t,lpha_0}^lpha t^{\Delta-\Delta_1-\Delta_0} \left(V_lpha(0) + c_1tL_{-1}V_lpha(0) + \mathcal{O}(t^2)
ight)$$

Inserting the OPE in a correlator we find the conformal block (CB) expansion

$$egin{aligned} \langle V_{lpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{lpha_{1}}(1) V_{lpha_{t}}(t) V_{lpha_{0}}(0)
angle = \ & = \int_{i\mathbb{R}} dlpha C_{lpha_{\infty},lpha_{1},lpha} C_{lpha_{t},lpha_{0}}^{lpha} \left| t^{\Delta-\Delta_{1}-\Delta_{0}}(1+\mathcal{O}(t))
ight|^{2} \,. \end{aligned}$$

Different expansions (e.g. $t \sim 0$ and $t \sim 1$) of the correlators agree (crossing symmetry).

Null vectors decouple from correlators.

$$\langle \prod_{i=1}^n V_{\alpha_i}(z_i) \left(b^{-2} L_{-1}^2(z) + L_{-2}(z) \right) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) \rangle = 0.$$

This turns into a PDE for $\langle \prod_{i=1}^n V_{\alpha_i}(z_i) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) \rangle$ (BPZ equation). In the semiclassical limit

$$b \rightarrow 0$$
, $b\alpha_i = a_i$ fixed

it reduces to a 2nd order ODE with $(z-z_i)^{-2}$ singularities. OPE with $V_{\alpha_{2,1}}$ is easy:

$$V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z)V_{\alpha_{i}}(z_{i}) = \sum_{+} C_{\alpha_{2,1},\alpha_{i}}^{\alpha_{i} \pm \frac{b}{2}}(z-z_{i})^{\frac{bQ}{2} \mp \alpha_{i}}V_{\alpha_{i} \mp}(0) + \mathcal{O}\left((z-z_{i})^{\frac{bQ}{2} \mp \alpha_{i} + 1}\right)$$

and provides local expansions of the solution of the ODE.

Crossing symmetry for degenerate correlators requires

$$egin{aligned} & \langle \prod_{i=1}^n V_{lpha_i}(z_i) V_{lpha_{2,1}}(z)
angle \sim \ & \sim (\mathsf{DOZZ\ factors}) imes \left| \sum_{\pm} (z-z_1)^{rac{bQ}{2} \pm blpha_1} + \dots
ight|^2 \ & \sim (\mathsf{DOZZ\ factors}) imes \left| \sum_{\pm} (z-z_2)^{rac{bQ}{2} \pm blpha_2} + \dots
ight|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Liouville CFT analytically continues the series from z_1 to z_2 .

Can we exploit crossing symmetry constraints to solve connection problems?

The takeaway message is that the semiclassical Liouville correlator

$$\langle \prod_{i=1}^n V_{\alpha_i}(z_i) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) \rangle_{sc}$$

solves an ODE with n regular singularities at z_i .

OPE provides a local expansion around the z_i with leading exponent α_i .

DOZZ coefficients make sure that these expansions glue (connection formulas?).

Remark:

These correlators are (**AGT**) dual to 4d $\mathcal{N}=2$ partition functions. This provides an explicit combinatorial expression.

3 punctured sphere: the hypergeometric equation

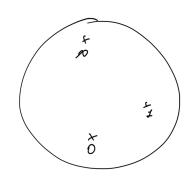
The BPZ equation of

$$\langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty)V_{\alpha_{1}}(1)V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z)V_{\alpha_{0}}(0)\rangle$$

is the hypergeometric equation.

Hypergeometrics defined as

$$_{2}F_{1}(a,b;c,z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n}(b)_{n}}{(c)_{n}} \frac{z^{n}}{n!}.$$

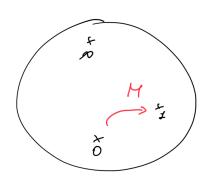


$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Local solutions near 0, 1 are} \\ z^{\frac{bQ}{2}\pm\alpha_0}(1-z)^{\frac{bQ}{2}+\alpha_1}{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}+b\left(\alpha_1\pm\alpha_0+\alpha_\infty\right),\frac{1}{2}+b\left(\alpha_1\pm\alpha_0-\alpha_\infty\right);1\pm2b\alpha_0,z\right)\,, \\ z^{\frac{bQ}{2}+\alpha_0}(1-z)^{\frac{bQ}{2}\pm\alpha_1}{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}+b\left(\alpha_0\pm\alpha_1+\alpha_\infty\right),\frac{1}{2}+b\left(\alpha_0\pm\alpha_1-\alpha_\infty\right);1\pm2b\alpha_1,1-z\right) \end{array}$$

The series converges up the next insertion (singularity), but it can be analytically continued:

$$_2F_1(a, b; c, z) =$$
 $= M_{++} _2F_1(\dots, 1-z) +$
 $+ M_{+-} (1-z)^{c-a-b} _2F_1(\dots, 1-z) ,$

where



$$M_{++} = \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(c-a-b)}{\Gamma(c-a)\Gamma(c-b)}, \quad M_{+-} = \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(a+b-c)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}$$

 M_{ab} are the **connection coefficients** ($\sim A, B$) for hypergeometric eqn.

They interplay with the 3 point functions to ensure **crossing symmetry**:

$$\begin{split} & \langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{\alpha_{1}}(1) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) V_{\alpha_{0}}(0) \rangle = \\ & = \sum_{\pm} C_{\alpha_{\infty},\alpha_{1},\alpha_{0\pm}} C_{\alpha_{2,1},\alpha_{0}}^{\alpha_{0\pm}} \left| z^{\frac{bQ}{2} \pm \alpha_{0}} (1-z)^{\frac{bQ}{2} + \alpha_{1}} {}_{2}F_{1}(\dots,z) \right|^{2} = \\ & = \sum_{\pm} C_{\alpha_{\infty},\alpha_{1},\alpha_{0\pm}} C_{\alpha_{2,1},\alpha_{0}}^{\alpha_{0\pm}} \left| \sum_{\pm'} M_{\pm\pm'} (1-z)^{\frac{bQ}{2} \pm'\alpha_{1}} z^{\frac{bQ}{2} + \alpha_{0}} {}_{2}F_{1}(\dots,1-z) \right|^{2} = \\ & = \sum_{\pm} C_{\alpha_{\infty},\alpha_{0},\alpha_{1\pm}} C_{\alpha_{2,1},\alpha_{1}}^{\alpha_{1\pm}} \left| (1-z)^{\frac{bQ}{2} \pm \alpha_{1}} z^{\frac{bQ}{2} + \alpha_{0}} {}_{2}F_{1}(\dots,1-z) \right|^{2} \,. \end{split}$$

The requirement of crossing symmetry puts strong constraints on the $M_{\pm\pm'}$.

In fact, from the C's one can compute the $M_{\pm\pm'}$ (and viceversa).

connection formulas for the CBs \sim crossing symmetry

The *C*'s ensure crossing symmetry of correlators with arbitrarily many insertions, so we can play the same game with more complicated correlators to obtain connection coefficients for more complicated ODEs.

4 punctured sphere: the Heun equation

We now add an insertion

$$\Psi(z,t) = \langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{\alpha_{1}}(1) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) V_{\alpha_{t}}(t) V_{\alpha_{0}}(0) \rangle$$

It satisfies the BPZ equation

$$\begin{split} &\left(\partial_z^2 + b^2 \frac{\Delta_1}{(z-1)^2} - b^2 \frac{\Delta_1 + t\partial_t + \Delta_t + z\partial_z + \Delta_{2,1} + \Delta_0 - \Delta_\infty}{z(z-1)} + b^2 \frac{\Delta_t}{(z-t)^2} + b^2 \frac{t}{z(z-t)} \partial_t - b^2 \frac{1}{z} \partial_z + b^2 \frac{\Delta_0}{z^2} \right) \Psi = 0 \,. \end{split}$$

This is a PDE, but (since $b^2\Delta_{2,1}=\mathcal{O}(b^2)$, while $b^2\Delta_i=\mathcal{O}(1)$)

$$b^2t\partial_t \Psi(z,t) = t\partial_t b^2 \langle V_{\alpha_\infty}(\infty) V_{\alpha_1}(1) V_{\alpha_t}(t) V_{\alpha_0}(0) \rangle + \mathcal{O}(b^2) \,.$$

To evaluate $t\partial_t$ we expand in CB for $t\sim$ 0 (WLOG) and select an intermediate momentum α

$$\begin{split} u := & t \partial_t b^2 \langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{\alpha_1}(1) \Pi_{\alpha} V_{\alpha_t}(t) V_{\alpha_0}(0) \rangle + \mathcal{O}(b^2) = \\ = & b^2 \left(\Delta_{\alpha} - \Delta_t - \Delta_0 \right) + \mathcal{O}(t) + \mathcal{O}(b^2) \,. \end{split}$$

This gives $u(a = b\alpha)$ (Matone relation).

As $b \to 0$ the BPZ equation reduces to an ODE with 4 regular singularities at $0, t, 1, \infty$ (**Heun equation**).

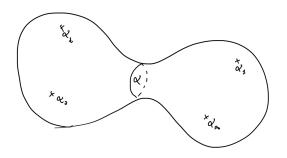
u appears as a parameter that in the Heun literature is known as the accessory parameter.

The solution of the ODE is given by the $b \rightarrow 0$ limit of the CBs of

$$\Psi_{\Delta} = \langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{\alpha_{1}}(1) V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z) \Pi_{\Delta} V_{\alpha_{t}}(t) V_{\alpha_{0}}(0) \rangle$$

 Ψ_{Δ} can be series expanded doing OPEs

$$V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z)V_{\alpha_i}(z_i) \propto z^{\frac{bQ}{2}\pm\alpha_i}, \quad V_{\alpha_{2,1}}(z)\Pi_{\Delta} \propto z^{\frac{bQ}{2}\pm\alpha_i}$$



 Ψ_{Δ} is crossing symmetric:

$$egin{aligned} \Psi_{\Delta} &= \sum_{\pm} \mathcal{C}_{lpha_{\infty},lpha_{1},lpha} \mathcal{C}^{lpha}_{lpha_{t},lpha_{0\pm}} \mathcal{C}^{lpha_{0\pm}}_{lpha_{2,1},lpha_{0}} \left| \mathfrak{F}^{(0)}_{\pm}(t,z)
ight|^{2} = \ &= \sum_{\pm} \mathcal{C}_{lpha_{\infty},lpha_{1},lpha} \mathcal{C}^{lpha}_{lpha_{0},lpha_{t\pm}} \mathcal{C}^{lpha_{t\pm}}_{lpha_{2,1},lpha_{t}} \left| \mathfrak{F}^{(t)}_{\pm}(t,t-z)
ight|^{2} \,. \end{aligned}$$

 \mathfrak{F}_{\pm} are the CB, and as b o 0

$$\mathcal{F} \sim \lim_{b \to 0} \mathfrak{F}$$

satisfies the Heun equation.

Plugging in the crossing relation the Ansatz

$$\mathfrak{F}_{\pm}^{(0)}(t,z) = \sum_{\pm'} M_{\pm\pm'} \mathfrak{F}_{\pm'}^{(t)}(t,t-z)$$

we find

$$\sum_{\pm} C^{lpha}_{lpha_t,lpha_{0\pm}} C^{lpha_{0\pm}}_{lpha_{2,1},lpha_0} \left| \sum_{\pm'} M_{\pm\pm'} \mathfrak{F}^{(t)}_{\pm'}(t,t-z) \right|^2 =$$
 $= \sum_{\pm} C^{lpha}_{lpha_0,lpha_{t\pm}} C^{lpha_{t\pm}}_{lpha_{2,1},lpha_t} \left| \mathfrak{F}^{(t)}_{\pm}(t,t-z) \right|^2 .$

These constraints allow us to solve for M. As $b \rightarrow 0$...

we find the connection coefficients

$$\mathcal{F}_{\pm}^{(0)}(t,z) = \sum_{\pm'} M_{\pm\pm'} \mathcal{F}_{\pm'}^{(t)}(t,t-z)$$

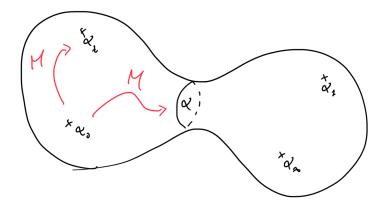
$$M_{\pm\pm'} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\mp'2a_t\right)\Gamma\left(1\pm2a_0\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\pm a_0\mp'a_t+a\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\pm a_0\mp'a_t-a\right)}$$

They are the hypergeometric ones, except for one crucial difference: the intermediate dimension $a(=b\alpha)$ appears.

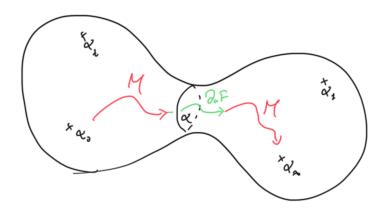
In the ODE, a does not appear, but u(a) does.

$$u = \sum_{n} c_n(a_i, a)t^n \Longrightarrow a = \sum_{n} k_n(a_i, u)t^n$$
.

One finds the same from 0 $\sim \alpha_{0}$ to the thin tube region $\sim \alpha$



When crossing the tube, one picks up two M's, and an extra factor.



Explicitly the connection coefficients from 0 and ∞ reads

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{\sigma=\pm} \frac{\Gamma(-2\sigma a)\Gamma(1+2\theta a_0)t^{-\sigma a}e^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}\partial_a F}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\theta a_0-\sigma a+a_t\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}+\theta a_0-\sigma a-a_t\right)} \times \\ &\times \frac{\Gamma(1-2\sigma a)\Gamma(-2\theta' a_\infty)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\sigma a-\theta' a_\infty+a_1\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\sigma a-\theta' a_\infty-a_1\right)} \,. \end{split}$$

where

$$F = \lim_{b \to 0} b^2 \log \langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty) V_{\alpha_1}(1) \Pi_{\Delta} V_{\alpha_t}(t) V_{\alpha_0}(0) \rangle.$$

We found connection formulas for \mathcal{F} .

However ${\cal F}$ is only proportional to what are called Heun functions (\sim Frobenius series) in literature.

Namely

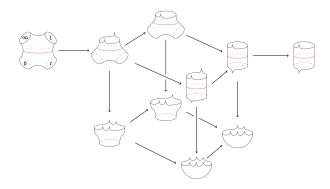
$$\mathcal{F}_{\pm}^{(0)}(t,z) \sim e^{\frac{\mp}{2}\partial_{a_0}F} z^{\frac{1}{2}\pm a_0} (1+\mathcal{O}(t,z)) = e^{\frac{\mp}{2}\partial_{a_0}F} \mathcal{H}_{\pm}^{(0)}(z,t) \,.$$

 $H_{\pm}^{(0)}(z,t)$ is what you get plugging a series Ansatz in the Heun (semiclassical BPZ) equation.

$$H_{\pm}^{(0)}(z,t) = \sum_{\pm'} e^{\frac{\pm'}{2} \partial_{a_0} F} M_{\pm\pm'} H_{\pm'}^{(t)}(t-z,t) \,.$$

These are the connection formulas for the Heun functions.

We can collide singularities and solve for the connection problem of confluent Heun functions



Confluent cases involve irregular CFT states that behave like coherent states for the Virasoro algebra, that is

$$L_{-1}|\mu,\Lambda\rangle = \mu\Lambda|\mu,\Lambda\rangle, \ L_{-2}|\mu,\Lambda\rangle = \Lambda^2|\mu,\Lambda\rangle$$

and

$$L_{-1}|\Lambda^2\rangle = \Lambda^2|\Lambda^2\rangle$$

They are obtained by colliding primary insertions.

Via the collision limit one can compute DOZZ factors of irregular correlators and find the connection coefficients.

All this can be recasted in 4d gauge theory language, since

$$\langle V_{\alpha_{\infty}}(\infty)V_{\alpha_1}(1)\Pi_{\Delta}V_{\alpha_t}(t)V_{\alpha_0}(0)\rangle=\mathcal{Z}^{SU(2)}_{\mathcal{N}=2}(m_1,m_2,m_3,m_4,a,t)\,.$$

The relation u(a) here appears as

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = a\sigma_3, \ u = \langle \mathsf{Tr} \Phi^2 \rangle = a^2 + \dots$$

And

 $F \sim \log \mathcal{Z}$ is the prepotential of the theory .

Colliding primaries in the CFT \sim decoupling masses in the gauge theory.

Remark:

The duality with gauge theory is useful since these $\mathcal{N}=2$ partition functions are known exactly (**Nekrasov partition functions**).

Let's summarize what we found:

- Semiclassical CB solve the Heun equation,
- Crossing symmetry + knowledge of 3 point functions allows us to compute connection coefficients for the Heun functions,
- Most of the complication lies in inverting u(a) to find a(u).

The spherically symmetric BH metric in AdS_5 is

$$ds^{2} = -f(r)dt^{2} + f(r)^{-1}dr^{2} + r^{2}d\Omega,$$

with

$$f(r) = \left(1 - \frac{R_+^2}{r^2}\right) (r^2 + R_+^2 + 1).$$

Scalar perturbations on this background satisfy.

$$(\Box - m^2)\phi = 0.$$

The problem is separable.

$$\phi = \int d\omega \sum_{\ell,\vec{m}} e^{-i\omega t} Y_{\ell\vec{m}} \psi(r),$$

gives

$$\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\partial_r\left(r^3f(r)\partial_r\right)+\frac{\omega^2}{f(r)}-\frac{\ell(\ell+2)}{r^2}-m^2\right)\psi(r)=0.$$

Imposing that the perturbation is ingoing in the horizon

$$\psi = (r - R_{+})^{-\frac{i\omega}{2}\frac{R_{+}}{2R_{+}^{2}+1}} + \dots =$$

$$= \mathcal{A}(\omega, \ell)(r^{-2-\sqrt{4+m^{2}}} + \dots) + \mathcal{B}(\omega, \ell)(r^{-2+\sqrt{4+m^{2}}} + \dots)$$

After the change of variable

$$z = \frac{r^2}{r^2 + R_+^2 + 1}, \ \psi(r) = (r^3 f(r) z'(r)) \chi(z)$$

the radial equation reduces to the Heun equation with

$$t = \frac{R_{+}^{2}}{2R_{+}^{2} + 1}, \ a_{0} = 0, \ a_{1} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{m^{2}}{4}},$$
$$a_{t} = \frac{i\omega}{2} \frac{R_{+}}{2R_{+}^{2} + 1}, \ a_{\infty} = \frac{\omega}{2} \frac{\sqrt{R_{+}^{2} + 1}}{2R_{+}^{2} + 1},$$

$$u = \frac{\ell(\ell+2) + 2(R_+ - R_0) + R_+ \mu^2}{4R_0} + \frac{R_+}{R_0} \frac{\omega^2}{4(R_0 - R_+)} \Rightarrow a = -\frac{\ell+1}{2} + \dots,$$

where $R_0 = -1 - R_+$ and $R_+ \sim M$ (the BH mass) for $M \ll 1$.

In AdS one can define the QNMs as the frequencies s.t. $\psi(\infty)=0$.

$$\psi(r \to \infty) \sim \mathcal{B}r^{\sqrt{4+m^2}-2}$$

QNMs boundary conditions require $\mathcal{B} = 0$, that is

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\sigma=\pm} \frac{\Gamma(1-2\sigma a)\Gamma(-2\sigma a)\Gamma\left(1-2\frac{i\omega}{2}\frac{\sqrt{R_+}}{1+2R_+}\right)\Gamma\left(2\sqrt{1+\frac{m^2}{4}}\right)t^{\sigma a}e^{-\frac{\sigma}{2}}\partial_a F}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{i\omega}{2}\frac{\sqrt{R_+}}{1+2R_+}-\sigma a\right)^2\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\sigma a+\sqrt{1+\frac{m^2}{4}}+\frac{\omega}{2}\frac{\sqrt{1+R_+}}{1+2R_+}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}-\sigma a+\sqrt{1+\frac{m^2}{4}}-\frac{\omega}{2}\frac{\sqrt{1+R_+}}{1+2R_+}\right)}=0$$

To solve this is easier than it seems. One finds

$$\omega_{n\ell} = \omega_{n\ell}^{(0)} + \sum_{i \ge 1} \gamma_i M^i + i \sum_{k \ge 1} f_k M^{\ell + \frac{1}{2} + k}$$

with

$$\begin{split} &\omega_{n\ell}^{(0)} = \Delta + \ell + 2n\,, \\ &\gamma_1 = -\frac{\Delta^2 + \Delta(6n-1) + 6n(n-1)}{2(\ell+1)}\,, \\ &f_1 = -\frac{2^{-4\ell\pi^2}}{(\ell+1)^2} \omega_{n\ell}^{(0)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\Delta + n + \ell\right)}{\Gamma\left(\Delta + n - 1\right)} \frac{(n+\ell+1)!}{n!\Gamma\left(\frac{\ell+1}{2}\right)^4}\,, \end{split}$$

where $m^2 = \Delta(\Delta - 4)$.

The same quantities have been computed in the holographic CFT via heavy-light light cone bootstrap to the first orders in $1/\ell$ [Li, Zhang; Karlsson, Kulaxizi, Parnachev, Tadic; . . .].

Our results agree with the literature and easily extend to all orders.

...and holography

Moreover, $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{B}\sim$ thermal 2-pt function of two light operators of weight Δ in the boundary CFT.

Our formula provides an explicit result, prone to analytic and numerical exploration.

More about this in our forthcoming work...

Conclusions and future directions

- Liouville CFT provides us an effective method to compute connection formulas of a class of ODEs,
- These formulas have a large number of applications in gravitational physics and their holographic counterpart,
- Many other black holes (and microstates) to explore,
- The same method can be applied to find connection formulas of a larger class of ODEs.

Thanks for the attention!