

Bootstrapping an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ fixed point

Pedro Liendo

DESY Hamburg

February 3 2018

*“Non-perturbative and numerical approaches to Quantum Gravity,
String Theory and Holography”*

ICTS Bangalore

There are several approaches to study crossing:

- **Virasoro symmetry.** In $2d$ the enhancement to Virasoro allows for an exact solution: the celebrated minimal models.
[Belavin, Polyakov, Zamolodchikov]
- **The numerical bootstrap.** Powerful numerical techniques that constrain the low-lying spectrum.
[Poland, Rattazi, Rychkov, Simmons-Duffin, Tonni, Vichi]
- **The analytical bootstrap.** Analytic constraints for operators with high spin.
[Alday, Poland, Kaplan, Komargodski, Fitzpatrick, Simmons-Duffin, Zhiboedov]
- **Solvable truncation.** In supersymmetric theories there is a solvable truncation of the crossing equations.
[C. Beem, M. Lemos, PL, W. Peelaers, L. Rastelli, B. van Rees]

Stress-tensor correlator

Correlators of $T(z)$ capture a truncation of $\langle J_R J_R J_R J_R \rangle$

$$\langle T(0)T(z)T(1)T(\infty) \rangle \sim 1 + \frac{z^4}{(1-z)^4} + \frac{8}{2c_{2d}}z^2 + \dots$$

We can expand it in $4d$ conformal blocks

$$\sum_{\mathcal{O}} \lambda_{\mathcal{O}}^2 G_{\mathcal{O}}(z, \bar{z})$$

and solve for an infinite number of OPE coefficients.

Stress-tensor correlator

Correlators of $T(z)$ capture a truncation of $\langle J_R J_R J_R J_R \rangle$

$$\langle T(0)T(z)T(1)T(\infty) \rangle \sim 1 + \frac{z^4}{(1-z)^4} + \frac{8}{2c_{2d}}z^2 + \dots$$

We can expand it in $4d$ conformal blocks

$$\sum_{\mathcal{O}} \lambda_{\mathcal{O}}^2 G_{\mathcal{O}}(z, \bar{z})$$

and solve for an infinite number of OPE coefficients.

Assuming absence of higher-spin currents [Maldacena, Zhiboedov (2011)]

$$\lambda_{\mathcal{O}_0}^2 = \left(2 - \frac{11}{15c_{4d}} \right)$$

A universal bound

Unitarity of the $4d$ theory implies

$$c_{4d} \geq \frac{11}{30}$$

The bound is quite universal, we had a minimal set of assumptions:

- $\mathcal{N} = 2$ superconformal symmetry.
- A stress-tensor or locality.
- That the theory is interacting.

The canonical rank one theories

There is a “canonical” set of theories, they have the simplest Coulomb branch geometries (can also be constructed in F-theory)

G	A_0	A_1	A_2	D_4	E_6	E_7	E_8
-----	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

The canonical rank one theories

There is a “canonical” set of theories, they have the simplest Coulomb branch geometries (can also be constructed in F-theory)

G	A_0	A_1	A_2	D_4	E_6	E_7	E_8
c	$\frac{11}{30}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{7}{6}$	$\frac{13}{6}$	$\frac{19}{6}$	$\frac{31}{6}$
k	—	$\frac{8}{3}$	3	4	6	8	12

Table: Central charges for canonical $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories. [Tachikawa, Aharony (2007)]

The canonical rank one theories

There is a “canonical” set of theories, they have the simplest Coulomb branch geometries (can also be constructed in F-theory)

G	A_0	A_1	A_2	D_4	E_6	E_7	E_8
c	$\frac{11}{30}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{7}{6}$	$\frac{13}{6}$	$\frac{19}{6}$	$\frac{31}{6}$
k	—	$\frac{8}{3}$	3	4	6	8	12

Table: Central charges for canonical $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories. [Tachikawa, Aharony (2007)]

Most of them are *strongly interacting* with no known Lagrangian description. **We need the bootstrap!**

The “simplest” $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT

There is an Argyres-Douglas theory that saturates the bound.

The “simplest” $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT

There is an Argyres-Douglas theory that saturates the bound.

- Its chiral algebra is the [Yang-Lee model](#).

$$c_{2d} = -12c_{4d} \quad \rightarrow \quad c_{2d} = -\frac{22}{5}$$

The “simplest” $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT

There is an Argyres-Douglas theory that saturates the bound.

- Its chiral algebra is the [Yang-Lee model](#).

$$c_{2d} = -12c_{4d} \quad \rightarrow \quad c_{2d} = -\frac{22}{5}$$

- The vacuum character matches the superconformal index

$$\chi(q) = \mathcal{I}_{Schur}(q)$$

The “simplest” $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT

There is an Argyres-Douglas theory that saturates the bound.

- Its chiral algebra is the [Yang-Lee model](#).

$$c_{2d} = -12c_{4d} \quad \rightarrow \quad c_{2d} = -\frac{22}{5}$$

- The vacuum character matches the superconformal index

$$\chi(q) = \mathcal{I}_{Schur}(q)$$

- The index exhibits “Cardy behavior” [\[Di Pietro, Komargodski \(2014\)\]](#)

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \mathcal{I}_{Schur}(q) \sim e^{\frac{8\pi^2}{\beta}(c_{4d} - a_{4d})} \quad \rightarrow \quad a_{4d} = \frac{43}{120}$$

Supersymmetric theories have interesting moduli spaces of vacua: the “Higgs” branch and the “Coulomb” branch.

For the simplest Argyres-Douglas theory we have the following:

- It has no Higgs branch.
- Its Coulomb branch is parameterized by the vev of a **single scalar** ϕ .

$$\phi \text{ is chiral } (Q_\alpha \phi = 0) \text{ with } \Delta_\phi = \frac{6}{5}$$

Bootstrapping the AD theory

Let us look at

$$\langle \phi(x_1) \bar{\phi}(x_2) \phi(x_3) \bar{\phi}(x_4) \rangle = \frac{1}{|x_{12}|^{\Delta_\phi} |x_{34}|^{\Delta_\phi}} \mathcal{G}(z, \bar{z}), \quad \Delta_\phi = \frac{6}{5}.$$

The superconformal block expansion reads

$$\mathcal{G}(z, \bar{z}) = \sum_{\Delta, \ell} \mathcal{G}_{\Delta, \ell}(z, \bar{z}),$$

where

$$\mathcal{G}_{\Delta, \ell}(z, \bar{z}) = g_{\Delta, \ell}(z, \bar{z}) + b_{\pm} g_{\Delta+1, \ell \pm 1}(z, \bar{z}) + \dots$$

The blocks are known [Fitzpatrick et al. (2014)].

OPE selection rules

The antichiral OPE reads

$$\phi \times \bar{\phi} \sim \mathbf{1} + T + \dots$$

Here T is the stress tensor.

The chiral OPE reads

$$\phi \times \phi \sim \phi^2 + \mathcal{C}_\ell + \dots$$

The operators \mathcal{C}_ℓ is a family of protected multiplets.

The OPE coefficients are **not protected** and there is always a **gap**.

Central charge bound

Let us be agnostic about the value of c

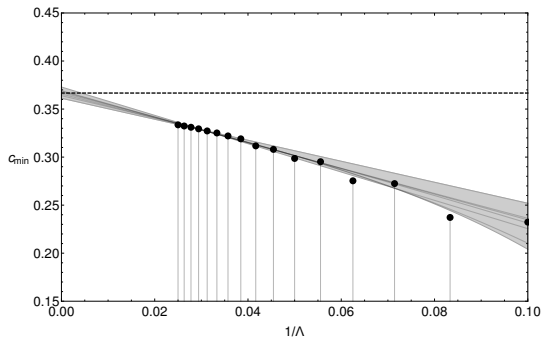


Figure: Minimum central charge for $\Delta_\phi = \frac{6}{5}$.

Bounds on ϕ^2

Let us put rigorous upper and lower bounds on the OPE coefficient of ϕ^2

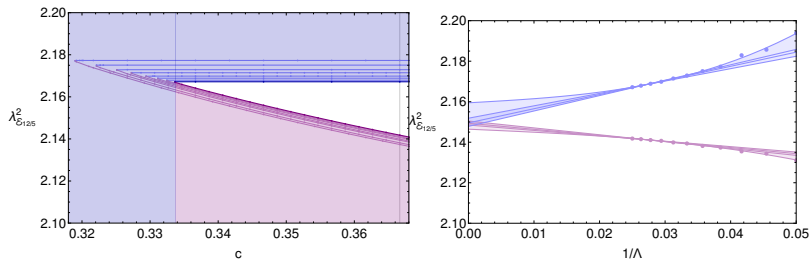


Figure: Numerical upper and lower bounds on the OPE coefficient squared of ϕ^2 .

$$2.1418 \leq \lambda_{\phi^2}^2 \leq 2.1672$$

The inversion formula

There is an inversion formula [Caron-Huot (2017)]:

$$\lambda(\Delta, \ell) \sim \int dDisc \left[\frac{(z\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}}{(1-z)^{\Delta_\phi}(1-\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) \right]$$

CFT data for **s-channel** provided we know the **t-channel**.

The inversion formula

There is an inversion formula [Caron-Huot (2017)]:

$$\lambda(\Delta, \ell) \sim \int dDisc \left[\frac{(z\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}}{(1-z)^{\Delta_\phi}(1-\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) \right]$$

CFT data for **s-channel** provided we know the **t-channel**.

Recall the OPE

$$\phi \times \bar{\phi} = 1 + T + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{G}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) = 1 + |\lambda_{\phi\bar{\phi}T}|^2 \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_T(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) + \dots$$

The inversion formula

There is an inversion formula [Caron-Huot (2017)]:

$$\lambda(\Delta, \ell) \sim \int d\text{Disc} \left[\frac{(z\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}}{(1-z)^{\Delta_\phi} (1-\bar{z})^{\Delta_\phi}} \mathcal{G}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) \right]$$

CFT data for **s-channel** provided we know the **t-channel**.

Recall the OPE

$$\phi \times \bar{\phi} = \mathbf{1} + T + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{G}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) = 1 + |\lambda_{\phi\bar{\phi}T}|^2 \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_T(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) + \dots$$

The inversion formula gives us \mathcal{C}_ℓ at **large** spin ℓ (**analytical bootstrap**).

Numerics vs the inversion formula

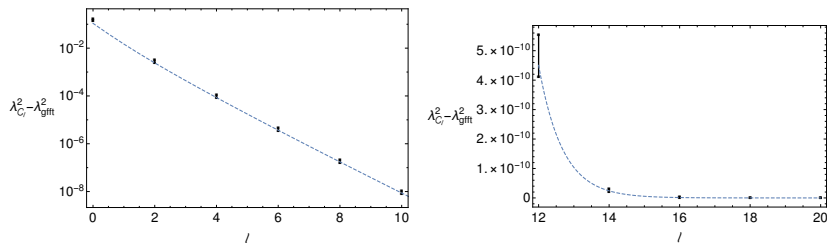


Figure: The dashed line shows the result of CH, where we considered only the contribution of the identity and stress-tensor operators in the non-chiral channel, and thus is an approximate result for sufficiently large spin.

Summary

- The $2d$ chiral algebra naturally selects the “simplest” $\mathcal{N} = 2$ model. Sits of the origin of the theory space, associated chiral algebra is the Yang-Lee model.
- We gave the first step towards bootstrapping the AD theory. Superconformal blocks are known, external dimension $\Delta = 1.2$ is a small number.
- Good agreement between numerics and analytics.
- **To do:** Improve numerics, improve analytics, develop block technology!

Thank you.