

Quantum Integrable Systems from Conformal Blocks

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This talk attempts to discuss the following questions:

- ▶ Are there more systematic or even more efficient ways to obtain conformal blocks in various dimensions and set up?
- ▶ Can one extend the correspondence between the degenerate correlation functions and quantum integrable systems in $d = 2$ dim. CFTs to $d > 2$ dim. CFTs?
- ▶ If so, how general such a correspondence is?

Let us begin with the four point function of scalar conformal primary operator $\phi_i(x)$ with scale dimension Δ_i in d -dim. CFTs:

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1)\phi_2(x_2)\phi_3(x_3)\phi_4(x_4) \rangle = \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{24}^2}\right)^a \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{13}^2}\right)^b \frac{F(u, v)}{(x_{12}^2)^{\frac{(\Delta_1+\Delta_2)}{2}} (x_{34}^2)^{\frac{(\Delta_3+\Delta_4)}{2}}} \quad (1)$$

where $x_{ij} = x_i - x_j$, $a = \frac{\Delta_2 - \Delta_1}{2}$, $b = \frac{\Delta_3 - \Delta_4}{2}$ and $F(u, v)$ is a function of conformally invariant cross ratios:

$$u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = z\bar{z}, \quad v = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = (1-z)(1-\bar{z}). \quad (2)$$

Decomposing the four point function further into contributions from the individual exchanged primary operators $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}$ and its descendants:

$$\langle \phi_1(x_1)\phi_2(x_2)\phi_3(x_3)\phi_4(x_4) \rangle = \sum_{\{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}\}} \lambda_{12\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}} \lambda_{34\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}} \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}}(x_i) \quad (3)$$

$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}}(x_i)$ is “conformal partial wave” and $\lambda_{ij\mathcal{O}_{\Delta, l}}$ are “OPE coefficients.”.

Conformal invariance also fixes $\mathcal{W}_{\Delta,l}(x_i)$ into:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(x_i) = \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{24}^2}\right)^a \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{13}^2}\right)^b \frac{G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v)}{(x_{12}^2)^{\frac{(\Delta_1+\Delta_2)}{2}} (x_{34}^2)^{\frac{(\Delta_3+\Delta_4)}{2}}} \quad (4)$$

where $G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v)$ is the “Conformal Block” for $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}$ conformal family.

The four point functions need to satisfy crossing symmetry equation when e. g. $\phi_1(x_1) \leftrightarrow \phi_3(x_3)$:

$$\sum_{\{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}\}} \lambda_{12\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}} \lambda_{34\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}} G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v) = \frac{u^{\frac{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}{2}}}{v^{\frac{\Delta_2+\Delta_3}{2}}} \sum_{\{\mathcal{O}'_{\Delta,l}\}} \lambda_{14\mathcal{O}'_{\Delta,l}} \lambda_{32\mathcal{O}'_{\Delta,l}} G_{\mathcal{O}'_{\Delta,l}}(v, u) \quad (5)$$

For unitary CFTs, if we know $G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v)$ exactly or at least some approximate forms, then assuming $\lambda_{12\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}} \lambda_{34\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}} \geq 0$, and start numerically putting bounds on spectrum of $\{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}\}$.

[See Rychkov, Simmons-Duffin 16 for reviews]

Determining $G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v)$ for general four point functions remains difficult, one way is to consider “quadratic Casimir operator”: [Dolan-Osborn 03, 11]

$$\hat{\mathbf{C}}_2 = \frac{1}{2} L^{AB} L_{AB} = \frac{1}{2} (L_1 + L_2)_{AB} (L_1 + L_2)^{AB} \quad (6)$$

where $L_{i,AB}$ is Lorentz generator in $d + 2$ -dimensional embedding space.

For scalar primaries, we can define following differential operators:

$$\begin{aligned} D_z^{(a,b,c)} &= z^2(1-z)\partial_z^2 - ((a+b+1)z^2 - cz)\partial_z - abz, \\ D_{\bar{z}}^{(a,b,c)} &= \bar{z}^2(1-\bar{z})\partial_{\bar{z}}^2 - ((a+b+1)\bar{z}^2 - c\bar{z})\partial_{\bar{z}} - ab\bar{z}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) = D_z^{(a,b,c)} + D_{\bar{z}}^{(a,b,c)} + 2\varepsilon \frac{z\bar{z}}{z-\bar{z}} ((1-z)\partial_z - (1-\bar{z})\partial_{\bar{z}}), \quad (8)$$

where $\varepsilon = \frac{d-2}{2}$ enters as free parameter.

Setting $G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(u, v) = F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})$ which is symmetric $z \leftrightarrow \bar{z}$, the action of $\hat{\mathbf{C}}_2$ is

$$\Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, 0) \cdot F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) = \mathbf{c}_2(\lambda_+, \lambda_-) F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}), \quad \lambda_{\pm} = \frac{\Delta \pm l}{2}. \quad (9)$$

In addition, we also have “quartic Casimir operator” :

$$\hat{\mathbf{C}}_4 = \frac{1}{2} L^{AB} L_{BC} L^{CD} L_{DA}. \quad (10)$$

The action of $\hat{\mathbf{C}}_4$ on primary scalars is also expressed as eigen-equation:

$$\Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, 0) \cdot F_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) = \mathbf{c}_4(\lambda_+, \lambda_-) F_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}), \quad (11)$$

$$\Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) = \left[\frac{z\bar{z}}{z - \bar{z}} \right]^{2\epsilon} \left[D_z^{(a,b,c)} - D_{\bar{z}}^{(a,b,c)} \right] \left[\frac{z - \bar{z}}{z\bar{z}} \right]^{2\epsilon} \left[D_z^{(a,b,c)} - D_{\bar{z}}^{(a,b,c)} \right]. \quad (12)$$

The quadratic and quartic Casimir operators are by definition commuting:

$$[\hat{\mathbf{C}}_2, \hat{\mathbf{C}}_4] = 0 \implies [\Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c), \Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c)] = 0. \quad (13)$$

Explicit closed expressions of scalar conformal blocks are only available in even-dim. CFTs in terms of following functions [Dolan-Osborn 11]:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^\pm(z, \bar{z}) = g_{\lambda_+}(z)g_{\lambda_-}(\bar{z}) \pm g_{\lambda_+}(\bar{z})g_{\lambda_-}(z), \quad (14)$$

$$g_\lambda(x) = z^\lambda {}_2F_1(a + \lambda, b + \lambda; 2\lambda; x). \quad (15)$$

$$d = 2/\varepsilon = 0 : F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(0)}(z, \bar{z}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{F}_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^+(z, \bar{z}),$$

$$d = 4/\varepsilon = 1 : F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(1)}(z, \bar{z}) = \frac{1}{l+1} \left(\frac{z\bar{z}}{z-\bar{z}} \right) \mathcal{F}_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^-(z, \bar{z}),$$

$$d = 6/\varepsilon = 2 : F_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(2)}(z, \bar{z}) = 5 \text{ terms of } \mathcal{F}_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^-(z, \bar{z}).$$

For general ε however, relying on iterative approach/recurrence relation

[Rychkov-Hogervorst 13, Costa-Hansen-Penedones-Trevisani 16]

$$G_{\mathcal{O}_{\Delta,l}}(r, \cos \theta) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_j B_{n,j} r^{\Delta+n} \hat{\mathcal{C}}_j^\varepsilon(\cos \theta), \quad B_{n,j} \geq 0 \quad (16)$$

where $re^{i\theta} = \frac{z}{(1+\sqrt{1-z})^2}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{C}}_j^\varepsilon(x)$ is normalized Gegenbauer polynomial.

QIS from Conformal Blocks

Here we consider a quantum integrable system given by Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H}_{\text{BC}_2} = - \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}^2} \right) + 2\mathbf{a} \left(\frac{(\mathbf{a} - K_{u\bar{u}})}{\sinh^2(u - \bar{u})} + \frac{(\mathbf{a} - \tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}})}{\sinh^2(u + \bar{u})} \right) \\ + \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{b} - K_u)}{\sinh^2 u} - \frac{\mathbf{b}'(\mathbf{b}' - K_u)}{\cosh^2 u} \right) + \left(\frac{\mathbf{b}(\mathbf{b} - K_{\bar{u}})}{\sinh^2 \bar{u}} - \frac{\mathbf{b}'(\mathbf{b}' - K_{\bar{u}})}{\cosh^2 \bar{u}} \right).$$

This is called “Hyperbolic Calogero-Sutherland spin chain of BC_2 , where

Permutation : $K_{u\bar{u}}f(u, \bar{u}) = f(\bar{u}, u)$, $\tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}}f(u, \bar{u}) = f(-\bar{u}, -u)$,

Reflection : $K_u f(u, \bar{u}) = f(-u, \bar{u})$, $K_{\bar{u}} f(u, \bar{u}) = f(u, -\bar{u})$.

The quantum integrability of a Quantum Integrable System is ensured by the existence of *commuting conserved charges*:

$$[\hat{I}_j, \hat{I}_k] = 0, \quad \frac{d\hat{I}_k}{dt} = [\hat{I}_k, \hat{H}] = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, N. \quad (17)$$

They are most easily constructed from the commuting Dunkl operators:

[Finkel et al 12]

$$\hat{J}_u^{(\mathbf{a})} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} - \left[\frac{\mathbf{b}}{\tanh \frac{u}{2}} + \frac{\mathbf{b}'}{\coth \frac{u}{2}} \right] K_u - \mathbf{a} \left[\frac{\tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}}}{\tanh \frac{u+\bar{u}}{2}} + \frac{K_{u\bar{u}}}{\tanh \frac{u-\bar{u}}{2}} \right],$$

$$\hat{J}_{\bar{u}}^{(\mathbf{a})} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}} - \left[\frac{\mathbf{b}}{\tanh \frac{\bar{u}}{2}} + \frac{\mathbf{b}'}{\coth \frac{\bar{u}}{2}} \right] K_{\bar{u}} - \mathbf{a} \left[\frac{\tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}}}{\tanh \frac{u+\bar{u}}{2}} - \frac{K_{u\bar{u}}}{\tanh \frac{u-\bar{u}}{2}} \right],$$

There are two independent commuting integrals of motion:

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}}_2 = \hat{H}_{\text{BC}_2} = - \left(\hat{J}_u^{(\mathbf{a})} \right)^2 - \left(\hat{J}_{\bar{u}}^{(\mathbf{a})} \right)^2, \quad \hat{\mathcal{I}}_4 = - \left(\hat{J}_u^{(\mathbf{a})} \right)^4 - \left(\hat{J}_{\bar{u}}^{(\mathbf{a})} \right)^4. \quad (18)$$

Now we establish the following exact mapping between QIS and CFT:

[Isachenkov-Schomerus 16, HYC-Qualls 16]

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c), \Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) \right] = 0 &\iff \left[\hat{\mathcal{I}}_2^{(\text{BC}_2)}, \hat{\mathcal{I}}_4^{(\text{BC}_2)} \right] = 0, \\ G_{O_{\Delta, l}}(z, \bar{z}) &\iff \psi_{\lambda_+, \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}). \end{aligned}$$

The first step is to look for the appropriate commutator-preserving similarity transformation:

$$\Delta_{2,4}^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) \longrightarrow \chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) \Delta_{2,4}^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) \frac{1}{\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} \quad (19)$$

to relate CFT Casimirs to the commuting quantum integrals of motion. The desired transformation is given by the following double-cover map:

$$z(u) = -\frac{1}{\sinh^2 u} \longleftrightarrow e^{u(z)} = -\frac{z}{(1 + \sqrt{1-z})^2}, \quad \text{c.f. radial expansion}$$

$$\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z(u), \bar{z}(\bar{u})) = \frac{[(1-z(u))(1-\bar{z}(\bar{u}))]^{\frac{a+b-c}{2} + \frac{1}{4}}}{[z(u)\bar{z}(\bar{u})]^{\frac{1-c}{2}}} \left[\frac{z(u) - \bar{z}(\bar{u})}{z(u)\bar{z}(\bar{u})} \right]^\varepsilon.$$

Direct computation shows when acting on symmetric $f(u, \bar{u}) = f(\bar{u}, u)$:

$$\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) \Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) \frac{1}{\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} = -\frac{1}{4} \mathcal{I}_2 = -\frac{1}{4} H_{BC_2},$$

$$\mathbf{a} = \varepsilon, \quad \mathbf{b} = (a - b) + \frac{1}{2}, \quad \mathbf{b}' = (a + b - c) + \frac{1}{2}. \quad (20)$$

Notice when $\varepsilon = 0$ or $\varepsilon = 1$, i. e. $d = 2$ or $d = 4$, pair-wise interactions both vanish (Pöschl-Teller). More generally we have the correspondence:

$$\psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}) = \chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z(u), \bar{z}(\bar{u})) F_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z(u), \bar{z}(\bar{u}))$$

The eigenfunction is manifestly symmetric under $u \leftrightarrow \bar{u}$, and has been constructed by Koornwinder and collaborators, and we obtain:

$$\frac{(z\bar{z})^a}{(-4)^\Delta (16)^a} F_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})$$

$$= e^{-(\chi+a)(u+\bar{u})} \times \lim_{q \rightarrow 1^-} \hat{K}_{L, \bar{L}}^{(2)}(e^u, e^{\bar{u}}; q, q^\varepsilon, q^{-\chi-a}; q^{a-b-1}, -q^{a+b+1}, 1, -1).$$

(L, \bar{L}) are two row partitions, $L - \bar{L} = l$, $\bar{L} = \frac{1}{2}[(\Delta - l)]$, $\chi = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta - l) - \bar{L}$.

The quartic Casimir $\Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c)$ is also expressed in terms of $\hat{\mathcal{I}}_2$ and $\hat{\mathcal{I}}_4$. First we can show that acting on $\psi_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u})$:

$$\left(J_u^{(0)}\right)^2 - \left(J_{\bar{u}}^{(0)}\right)^2 = 4\chi_{a,b,c}^{(0)}(z, \bar{z}) \left[D_z^{(a,b,c)} - D_{\bar{z}}^{(a,b,c)} \right] \frac{1}{\chi_{a,b,c}^{(0)}(z, \bar{z})}. \quad (21)$$

Next define following combinations of Dunkl and permutation operators:

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} = \hat{\mathcal{J}}_u^{(\varepsilon)} + \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\bar{u}}^{(\varepsilon)} + 2\varepsilon\tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}}, \quad \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} = \hat{\mathcal{J}}_u^{(\varepsilon)} - \hat{\mathcal{J}}_{\bar{u}}^{(\varepsilon)} + 2\varepsilon K_{u\bar{u}}$$

We can show that:

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{\mathcal{L}}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}) = t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) \left[\left(J_u^{(0)}\right)^2 - \left(J_{\bar{u}}^{(0)}\right)^2 \right] \frac{1}{t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} \psi_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}),$$

$$t^{(\varepsilon)}(z(u), \bar{z}(\bar{u})) = [\sinh(u + \bar{u}) \sinh(u - \bar{u})]^\varepsilon. \quad (22)$$

Using the invariance of $\psi_{\lambda_+\lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u})$ under reflection and permutation.

While above expression is invariant under K_u and $K_{\bar{u}}$, however crucially:

$$\begin{aligned} K_{u\bar{u}} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}) &= -\hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}), \\ \tilde{K}_{u\bar{u}} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}) &= -\hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}(u, \bar{u}), \end{aligned}$$

These properties in turn imply:

$$\begin{aligned} &\hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)} \\ &= \frac{1}{t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} \left[\left(J_u^{(0)} \right)^2 - \left(J_{\bar{u}}^{(0)} \right)^2 \right] t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(+)} \hat{L}_{u\bar{u}}^{(-)} \psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)} \\ &= \frac{1}{t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} \left[\left(\hat{J}_u^{(0)} \right)^2 - \left(\hat{J}_{\bar{u}}^{(0)} \right)^2 \right] t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})^2 \left[\left(\hat{J}_u^{(0)} \right)^2 - \left(\hat{J}_{\bar{u}}^{(0)} \right)^2 \right] \frac{\psi_{\lambda_+ \lambda_-}^{(\varepsilon)}}{t^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})}. \end{aligned}$$

This precisely equals to the transformed $\Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c)$ and expanding

$$\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z}) \Delta_4^{(\varepsilon)}(a, b, c) \frac{1}{\chi_{a,b,c}^{(\varepsilon)}(z, \bar{z})} = -\frac{1}{8} \mathcal{I}_4 + \frac{1}{16} \mathcal{I}_2^2 + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2} \mathcal{I}_2 + \varepsilon^4. \quad (23)$$

Generalizations

- ▶ We can extend the analysis to scalar conformal blocks in SCFTs using their Casimir operators, e. g. for four SUSY [Bobev et al 15]:

$$\Delta_2^{(\varepsilon)}(a+1, b, 1) \cdot F_{\lambda_+, \lambda_-}^{4\text{susy}}(z, \bar{z}) = c_2^{4\text{susy}}(\lambda_+, \lambda_-) F_{\lambda_+, \lambda_-}^{4\text{susy}}(z, \bar{z}) \quad (24)$$

Identical hyperbolic CS system arises after the similarity transformation. Similarly for eight SUSYs, the eigenfunctions are related to non-SUSY ones via a multiplicative factor and simple parameter shifts.

- ▶ Viewing scalar conformal blocks as the orthogonal eigenfunctions of hyperbolic CS system, they serve as natural basis for expanding other conformal blocks once space-time spins are taken care of.

$$\psi_e^{(\rho)}(u, \bar{u}) = \frac{1}{[\sinh(u + \bar{u}) \sinh(u - \bar{u})]^{2\rho}} \sum_{(m,n) \in \text{Oct}_e^{(\rho)}} c_{m,n}^e \psi_{\rho_1+m, \rho_2+n}^{a_e, b_e, c_e}(u, \bar{u}),$$

[Echeverri et al 15, 16]

Future Directions

- ▶ Do higher point correlation functions also have underlying correspondence with quantum integrable systems.
- ▶ Can the correspondence with QIS extends to Virasoro or W_N blocks in 2d CFTs beyond degenerate vertex operators?
- ▶ Is this connection with quantum integrable system accidental? Via AdS/CFT conformal block computations, can we see similar structures in gravity side? 2 points \rightarrow 3 points \rightarrow 4 points?