

A matrix model for 2d de Sitter

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Strings 2024, CERN
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based on **WIP** with **Lorenz Eberhardt, Beatrix Mühlmann and Victor Rodriguez**

Motivation

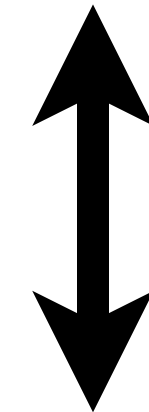
- There is a **dearth of precise, controllable models of de Sitter quantum gravity**
- Many recent approaches to dS_2 gravity [Anninos Hofman 17; Maldacena Turiaci Yang 19; Cotler Jensen Maloney 19; Anninos Mühlmann 21, 23; Cotler Jensen 23, 24; ...] but no unifying picture has emerged
- Recent stringy embeddings of AdS_2 JT gravity [Stanford & Turiaci discussion today] via semiclassical limits of the $(2,p)$ **minimal string** [Seiberg Stanford; ...] and of the **Virasoro minimal string** [SC Eberhardt Mühlmann Rodriguez 23] contextualize the holographic duality with a double-scaled matrix integral [Saad Shenker Stanford 19]
- Stringy realization of dS_2 ?

A two-dimensional string landscape

Persistent paradigm:

Worldsheet: matter CFT \oplus Liouville CFT \oplus b c ghosts

central charge: c_m $c_L = 26 - c_m$ $c_{gh} = -26$

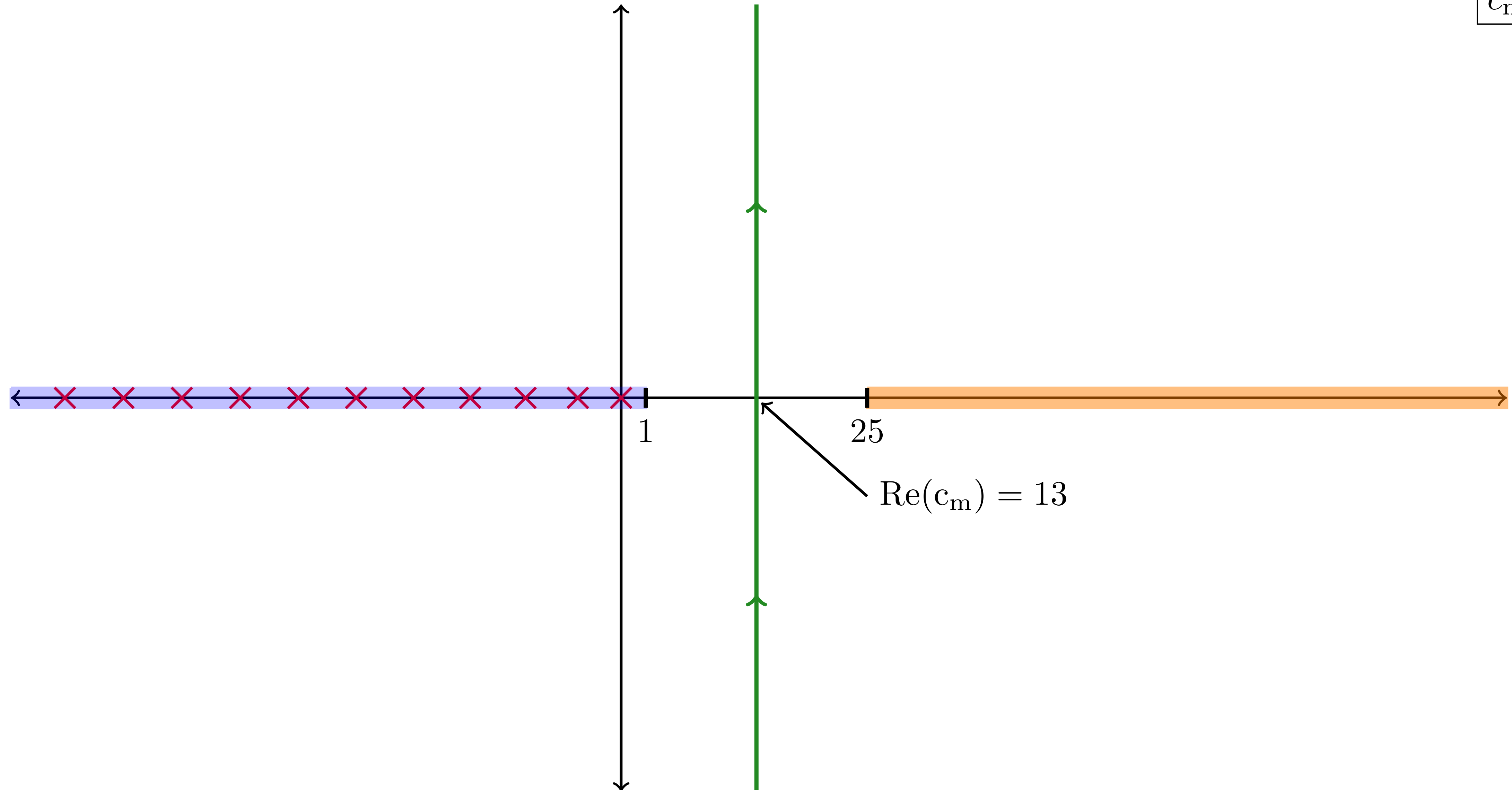


Double-scaled matrix integral

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{N^2}} [dM] e^{-N \text{Tr} V(M)}$$

A two-dimensional string landscape

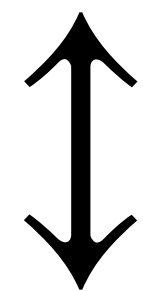
c_m



A landscape of string/matrix model holographic dualities

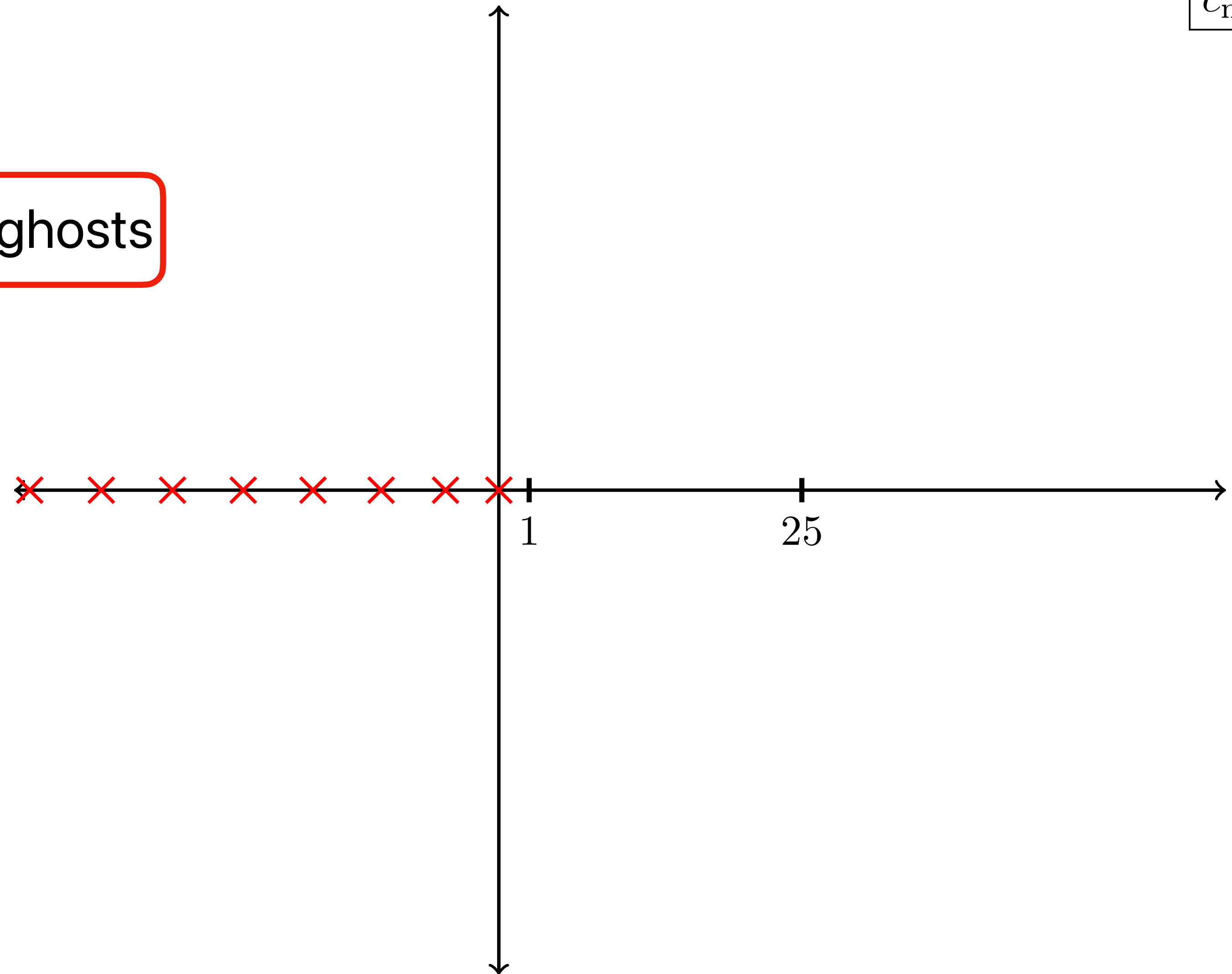
$(2,p)$ minimal string

$(2,p)$ minimal model \oplus Liouville CFT \oplus ghosts



Double-scaled one-matrix integral

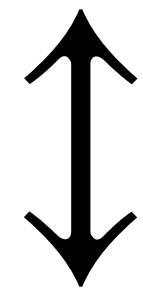
$$\rho_0(E) = \sinh \left(\frac{p}{2} \operatorname{arccosh}(1 + E) \right)$$



A landscape of string/matrix model holographic dualities

$(2,p)$ minimal string

$(2,p)$ minimal model \oplus Liouville CFT \oplus ghosts



Double-scaled one-matrix integral

$$\rho_0(E) = \sinh\left(\frac{p}{2} \operatorname{arccosh}(1 + E)\right)$$

$p \rightarrow \infty$



JT gravity

$$\rho_0(E) = \sinh(\sqrt{E})$$

[Saad Shenker Stanford 19;
Seiberg Stanford]

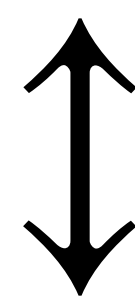
[Brezin Kazakov 90; Gross Migdal 90; Douglas Shenker 90; ...]

A landscape of string/matrix model holographic dualities

c_m

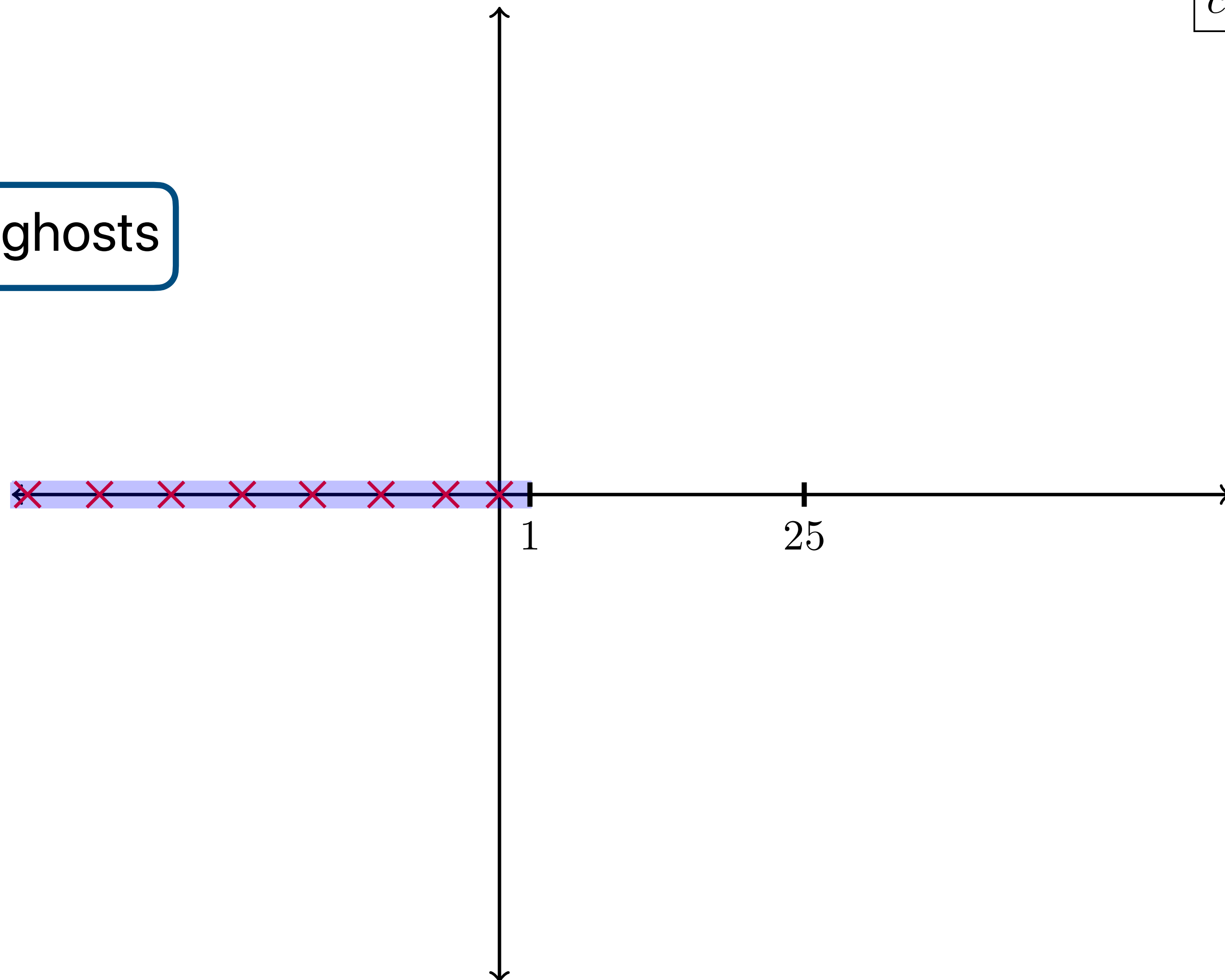
(p, q) minimal string

(p, q) minimal model \oplus Liouville CFT \oplus ghosts



Double-scaled **two-matrix integral**

$$x(z) = T_p(z), \quad y(z) = T_q(z)$$



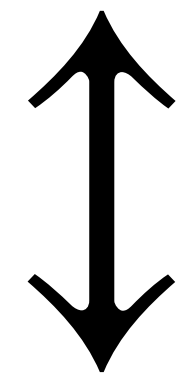
[Kazakov 86; Boulatov Kazakov 87; ...; Eynard 02; Seiberg Shih 04; ...]

A landscape of string/matrix model holographic dualities

"Virasoro minimal string (VMS)"

c_m

Liouville CFT \oplus timelike Liouville CFT \oplus ghosts
 $c \geq 25$ $26 - c \leq 1$



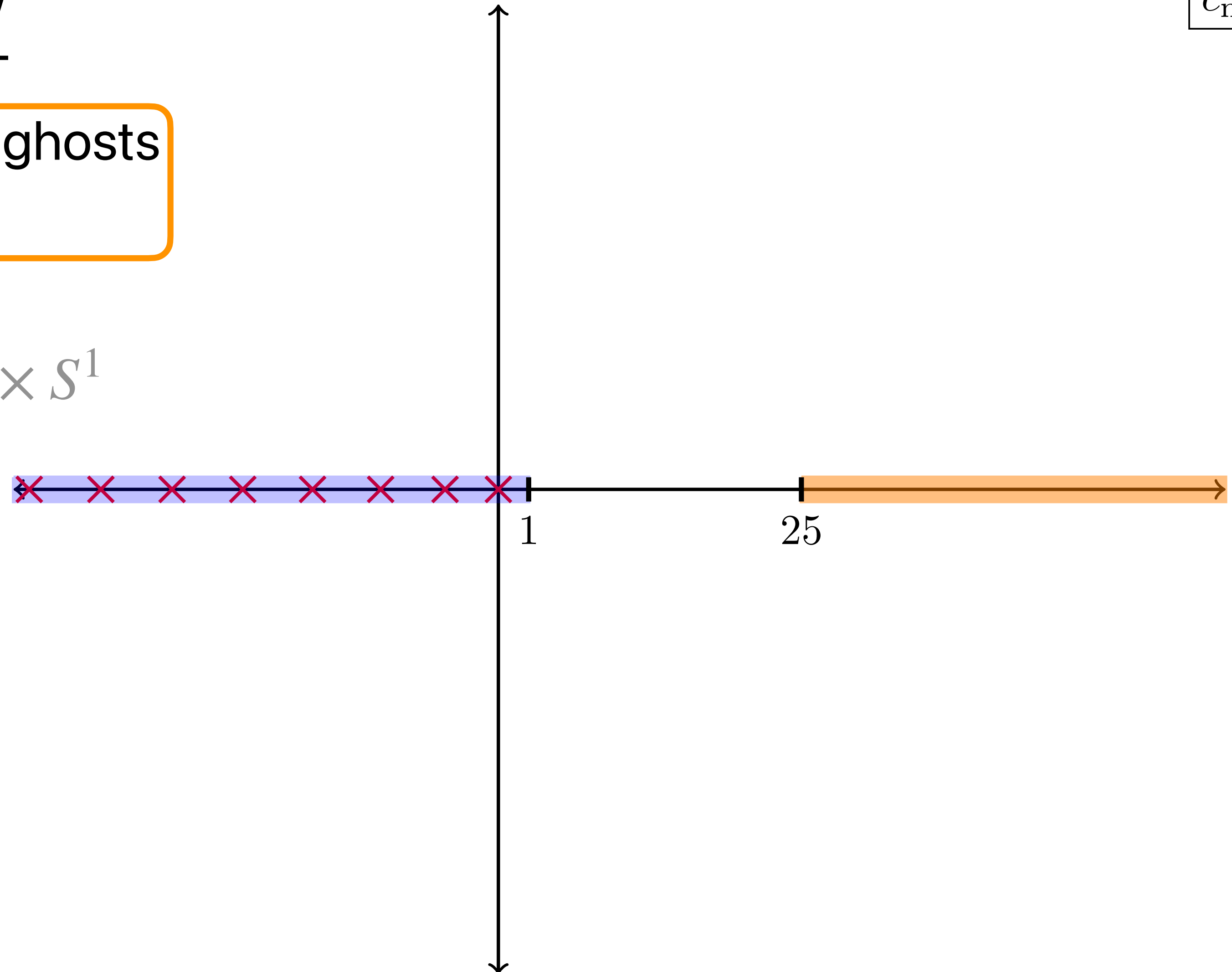
3d gravity/Virasoro TQFT on $\Sigma \times S^1$

Double-scaled **one-matrix integral**

$$\rho_0^{(b)}(E) = \frac{\sinh(2\pi b\sqrt{E})\sinh(2\pi b^{-1}\sqrt{E})}{\sqrt{E}}$$

String amplitudes $V_{g,n}^{(b)}$: polynomials
 deformations of Weil-Petersson volumes

[SC Eberhardt Mühlmann Rodriguez 23]

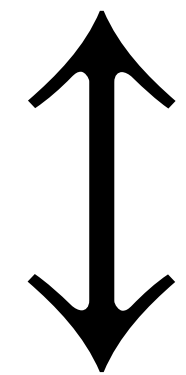


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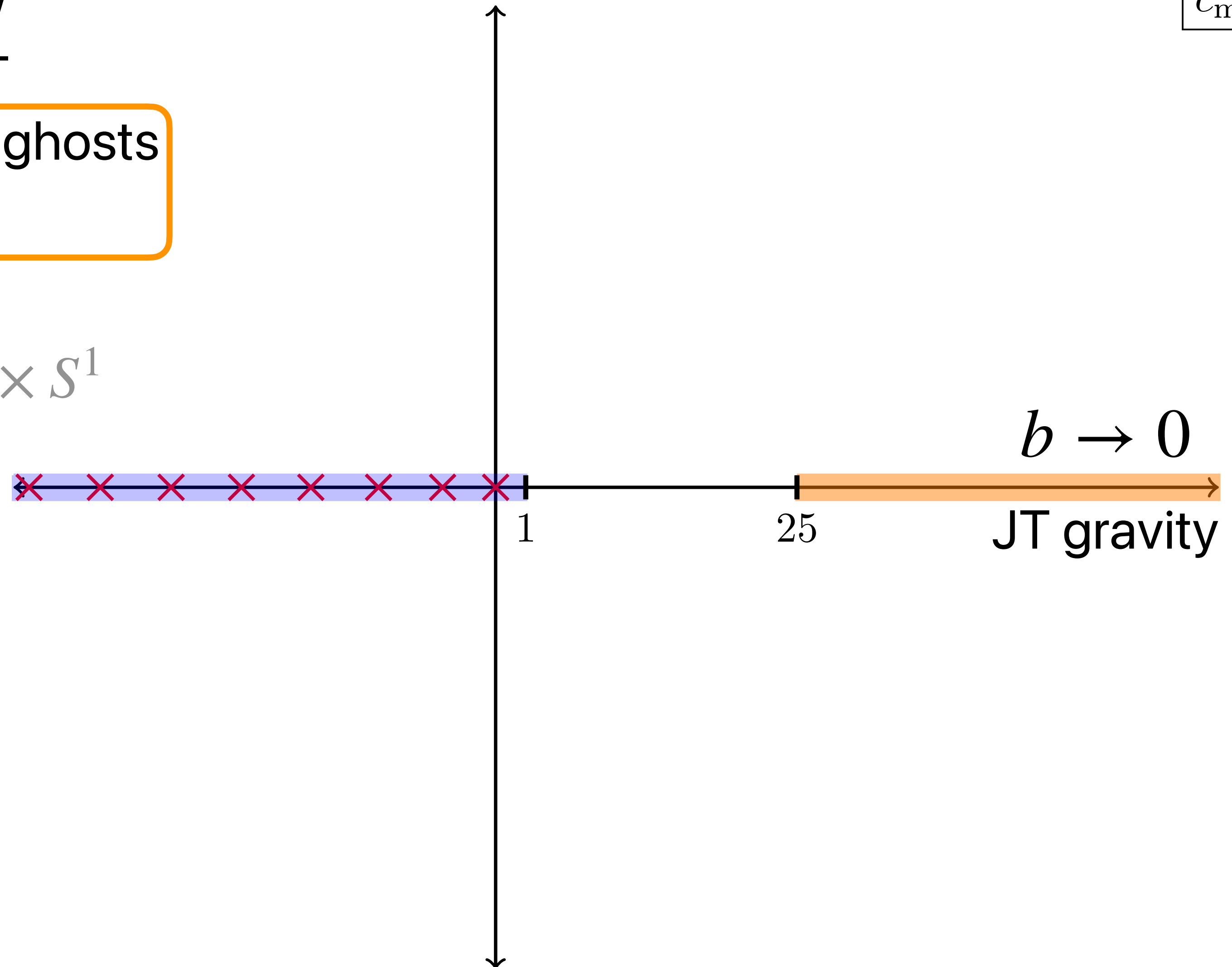
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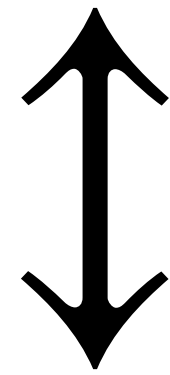


A landscape of string/matrix model holographic dualities

"|Liouville|² string theory"

Liouville CFT \oplus Liouville CFT \oplus ghosts

$$c_+ = 13 + i\mathbb{R} \quad c_- = 13 - i\mathbb{R}$$

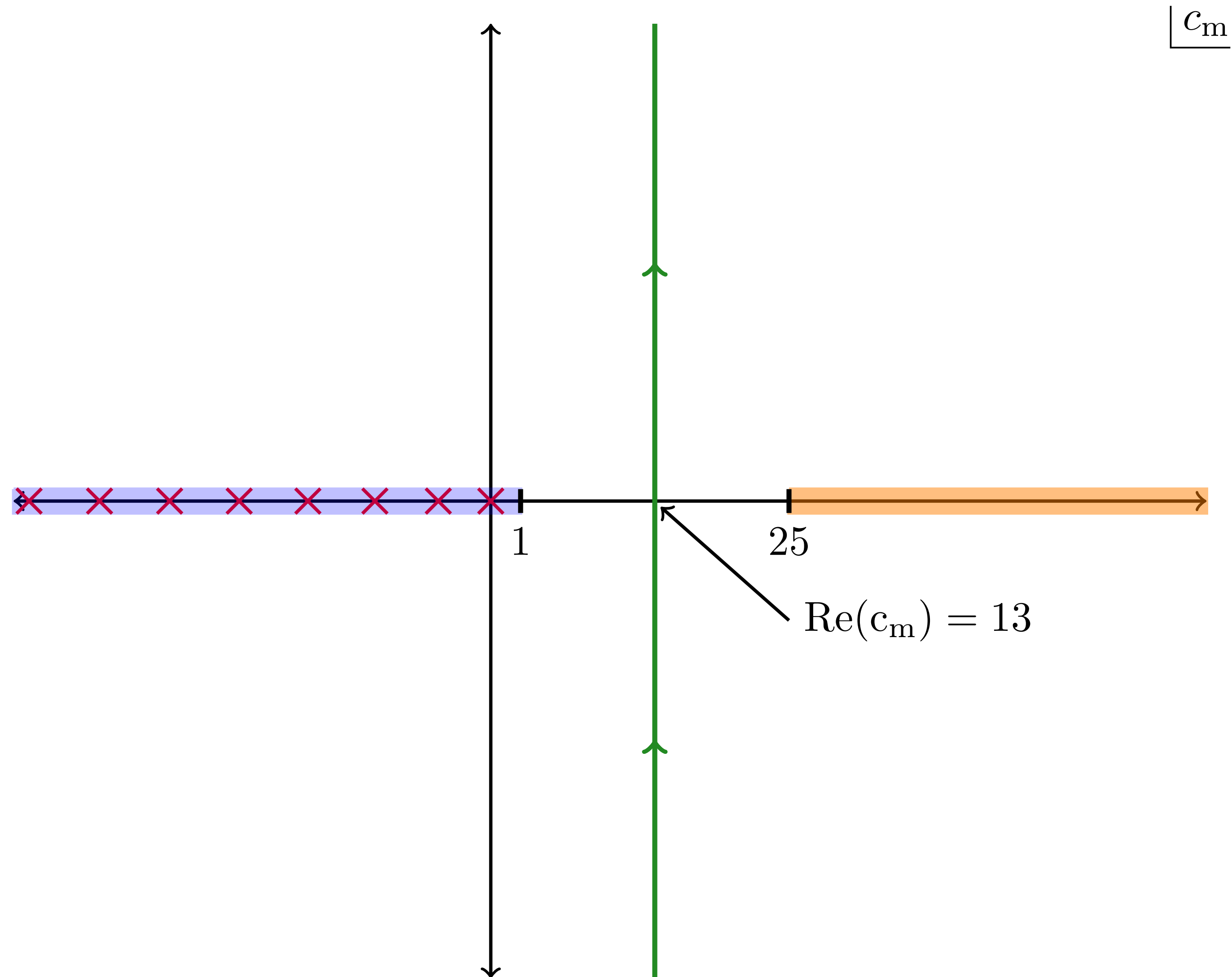


Double-scaled **two-matrix integral**

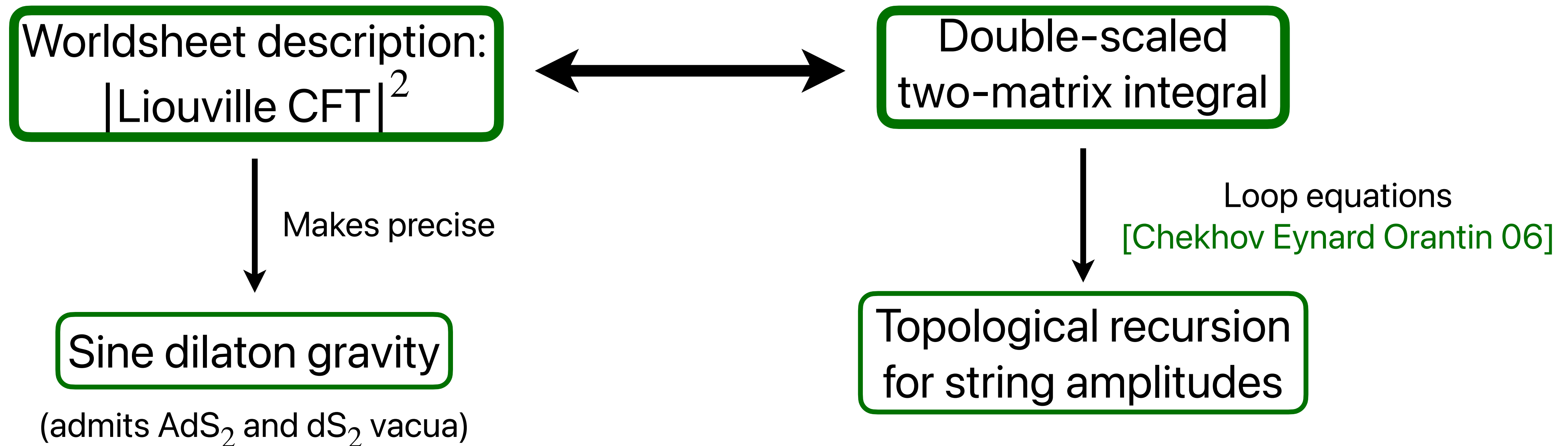
$$x(z) = -2 \cos(\pi b^{-1} \sqrt{z}), \quad y(z) = 2 \cos(\pi b \sqrt{z})$$

String amplitudes $A_{g,n}^{(b)}$ computed by
topological recursion

[SC Eberhardt Mühlmann Rodriguez WIP]



Today: $|\text{Liouville}|^2$ string theory



- A precise and controllable holographic duality that includes dS_2

Plan

- The worldsheet theory and sine dilaton gravity
- String amplitudes
- The dual matrix integral and topological recursion

The worldsheet theory

Sine dilaton gravity

- A field redefinition maps the worldsheet theory to **2d dilaton gravity** with a **sine potential** (see also [\[Blommaert Mertens Papalini 24; Blommaert talk today\]](#))

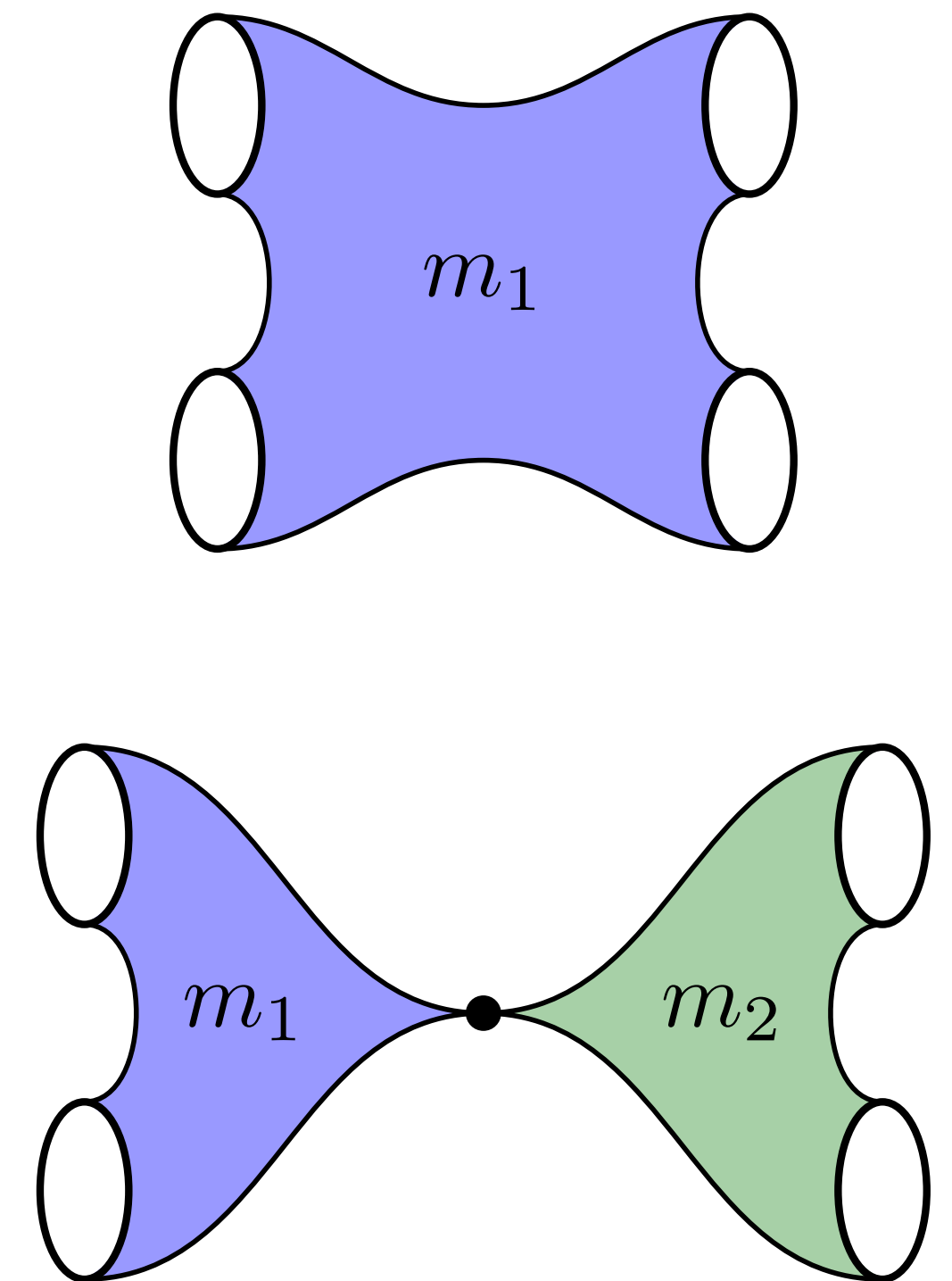
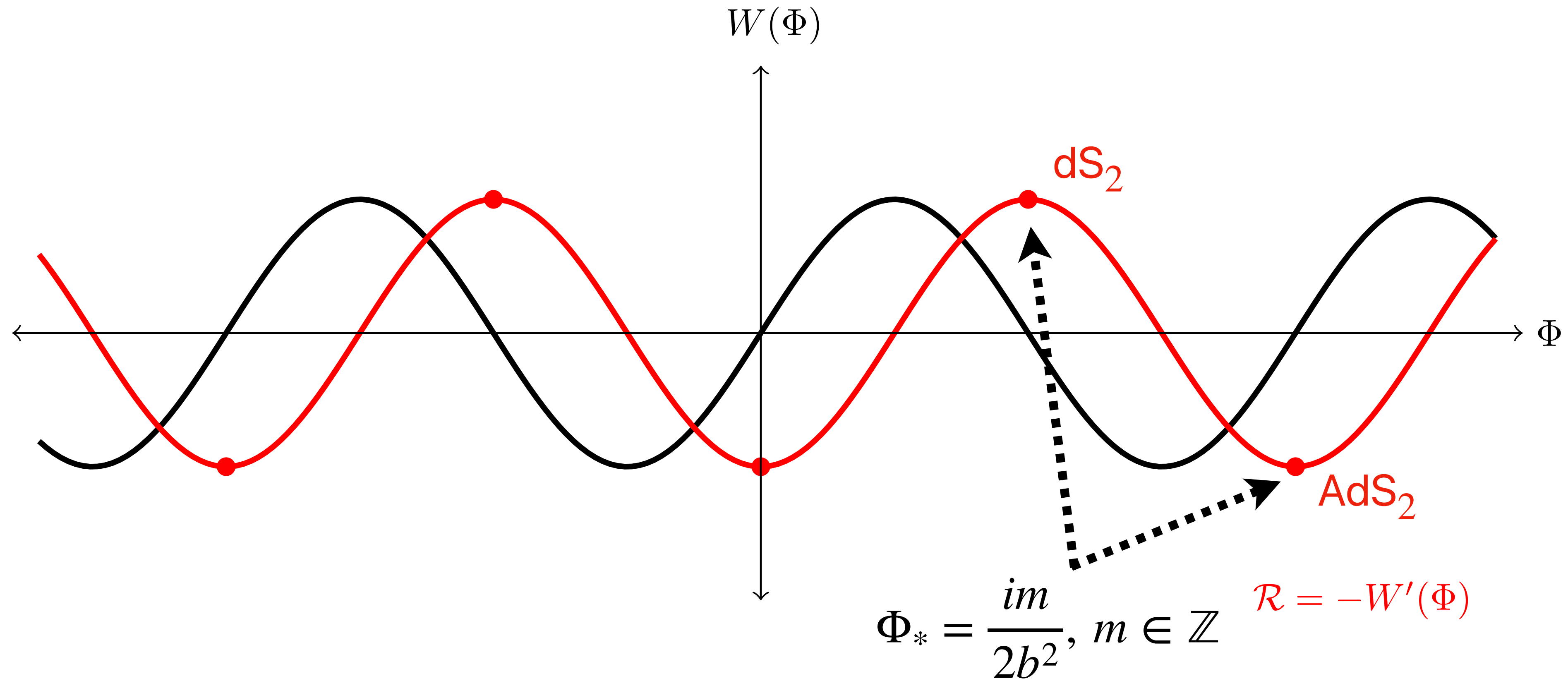
$$S_{\Sigma}[\Phi, g] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} d^2x \sqrt{g} (\Phi \mathcal{R} + W(\Phi)) + (\text{bdy term} + \text{Euler term}),$$

$$W(\Phi) \propto \sin(2\pi i b^2 \Phi) \quad (i b^2 \in \mathbb{R})$$

- Classical solutions: constant $\Phi_* = \frac{im}{2b^2}$, ($m \in \mathbb{Z}$)

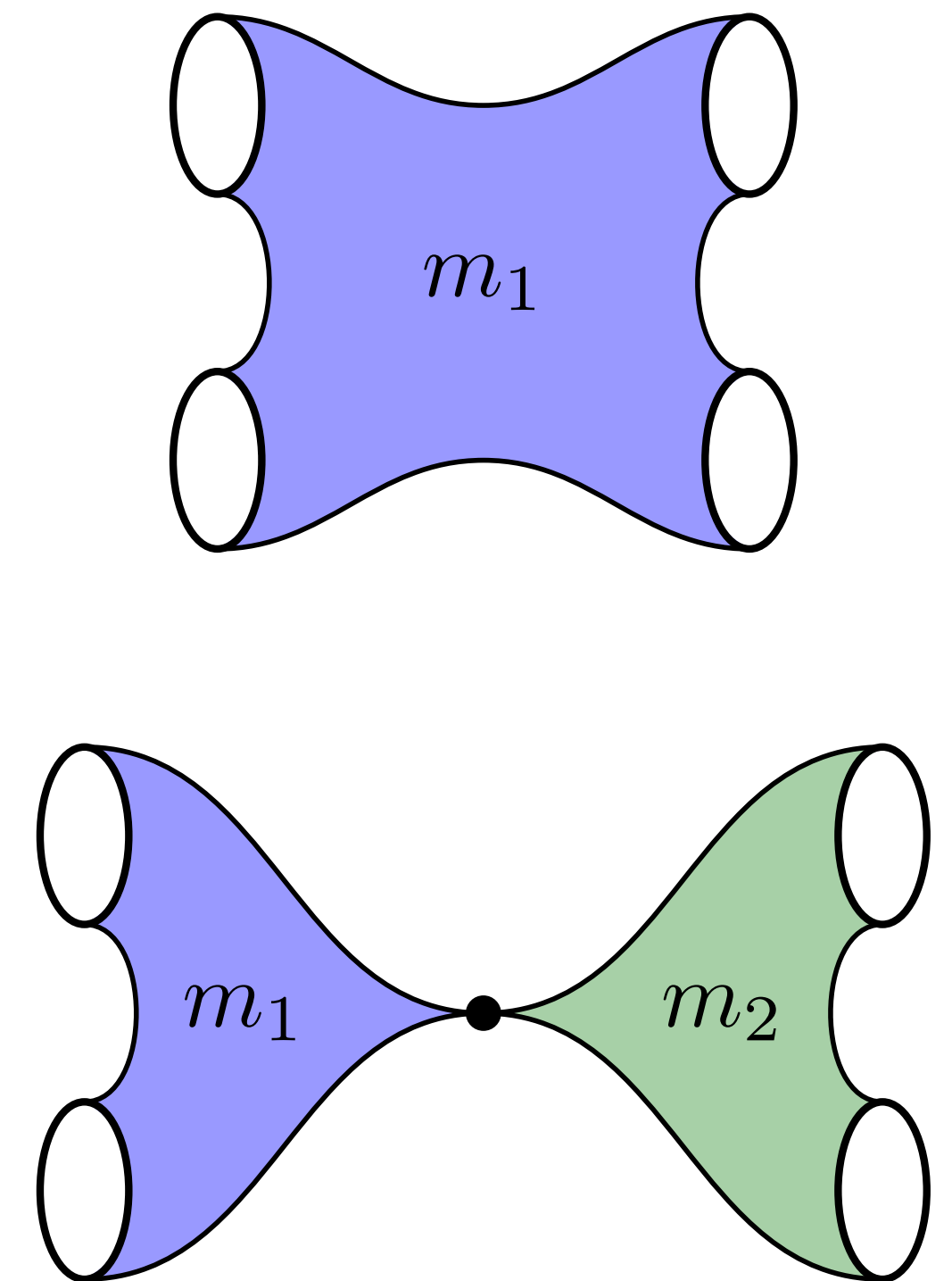
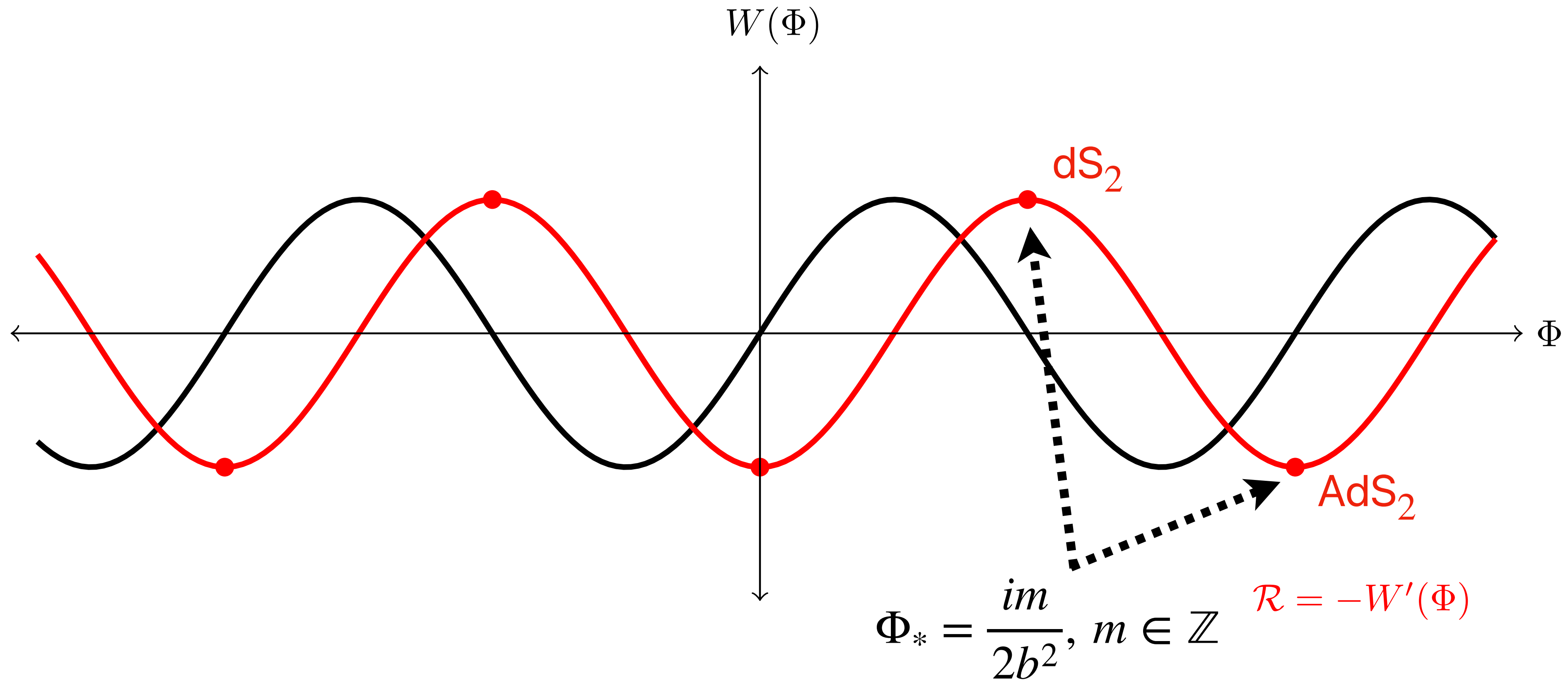
$$\mathcal{R} = -W'(\Phi_*)$$

dS_2 and AdS_2 vacua



“Transitions
between universes”

dS₂ and AdS₂ vacua



“Transitions between universes”

(dS₂ solutions in $(-, -)$ signature as in [Cotler Jensen 24])

The worldsheet CFT

Liouville CFT \oplus (Liouville CFT)* \oplus b c ghosts

$$c_+ = 13 + i\mathbb{R} \quad c_- = 13 - i\mathbb{R} \quad c_{\text{gh}} = -26$$

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- The worldsheet theory is defined by the non-perturbative **CFT data**:

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- The worldsheet theory is defined by the non-perturbative **CFT data**:

- Central charge:

$$c = 1 + 6(b + b^{-1})^2$$

$$b \in e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}}\mathbb{R}$$

- Spectrum:

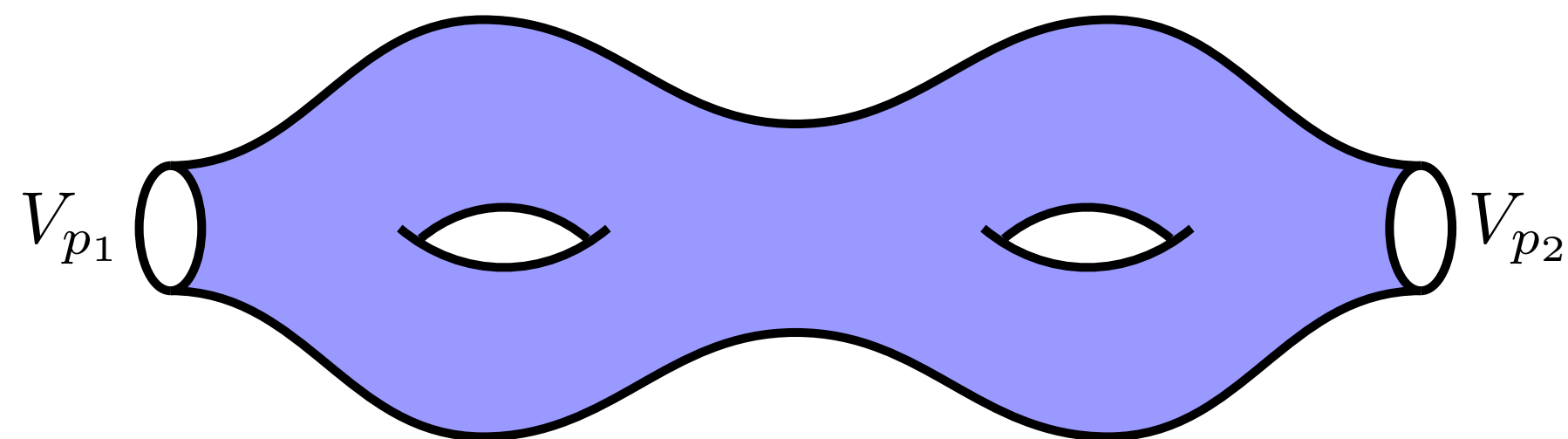
continuum $\{V_p\}$

$$h_p = \bar{h}_p = \frac{c-1}{24} - p^2$$

- OPE data:

$$\langle V_{p_1} V_{p_2} V_{p_3} \rangle_{g=0}^{(b)} = C_b(p_1, p_2, p_3)$$

"DOZZ formula"



String amplitudes

String amplitudes

- We will focus on the particular choice:

$$b \in e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R} \leftrightarrow c \in 13 + i\mathbb{R}$$
$$p_j \in e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R} \leftrightarrow h_j \in \frac{1}{2} + i\mathbb{R}$$

- On-shell vertex operators:

$$\mathcal{V}_p = c \bar{c} V_p^{(b)} V_{ip}^{(-ib)}$$

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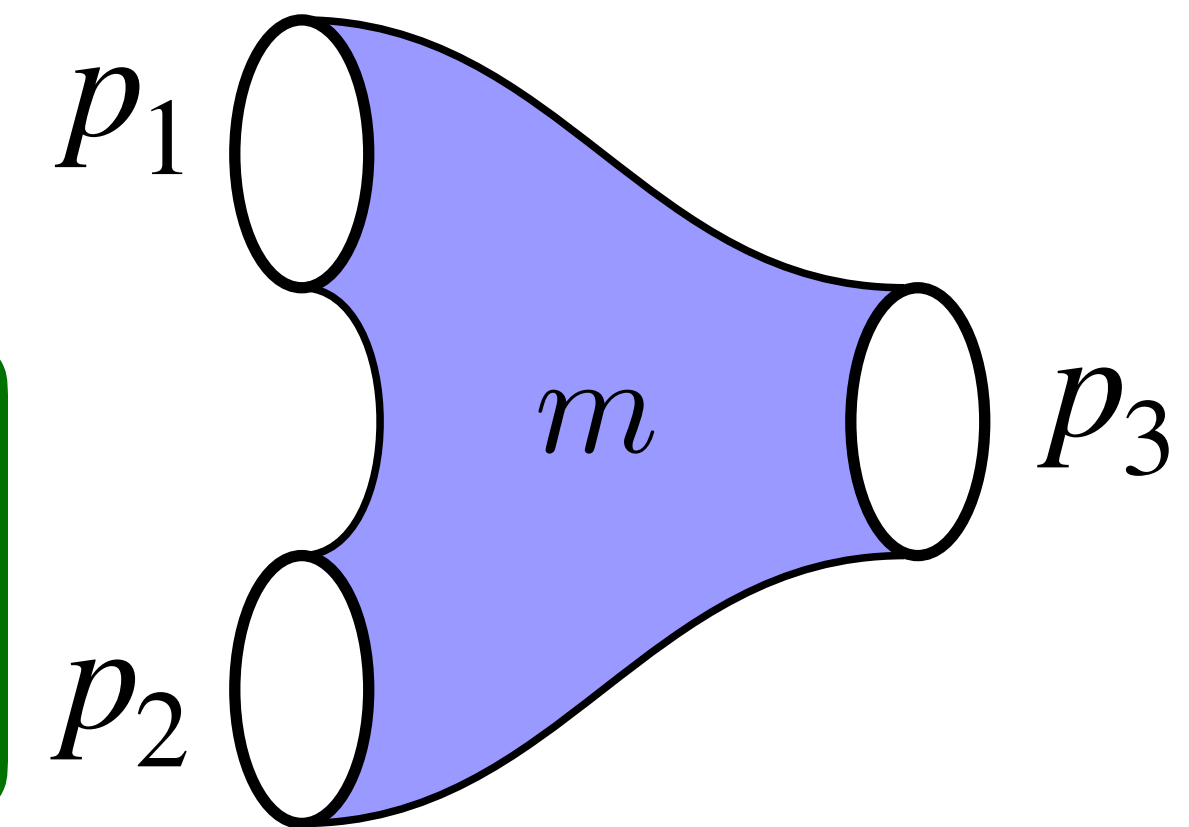
$$A_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{N}_b(p_j) \right) \int_{\mathcal{M}(\Sigma_{g,n})} \left| \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^n V_{p_j} \right\rangle_g^{(b)} \right|^2 \times (\text{b c ghosts})$$

- **Absolutely convergent** integral over moduli space
- Invariant under **swap symmetry** $b \rightarrow -ib, p_j \rightarrow ip_j$

Sphere three-point amplitude

- The simplest observable in the theory is the sphere three-point amplitude

$$A_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^3 \mathcal{N}_b(p_j) \right) C_b(p_1, p_2, p_3) C_{-ib}(ip_1, ip_2, ip_3)$$
$$= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{2b(-1)^m \sin(2\pi m b p_1) \sin(2\pi m b p_2) \sin(2\pi m b p_3)}{\sin(\pi m b^2)}$$



General string amplitudes

$$A_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^n \mathcal{N}_b(p_j) \right) \int_{\mathcal{M}(\Sigma_{g,n})} \left| \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^n V_{p_j} \right\rangle_g^{(b)} \right|^2 \times (\text{b c ghosts})$$

↑ Complicated!

- Harness **analytic structure** & **swap symmetry** to bootstrap amplitude
 - **Poles** associated with resonances of Liouville CFT correlators
 - **Discontinuities** when moduli integral ceases to converge

String amplitudes from Feynman diagrams

- Bootstrap systematically implemented with **simple diagrammatic rules**
 - Diagrams correspond to different **degenerations of the worldsheet**
 - **VMS quantum volume** $V_{g,n}^{(b)}$ [SC Eberhardt Mühlmann Rodriguez 23] arises as a **string vertex**

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$$\sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \text{Diagram 1} + \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \text{Diagram 2} + 2 \text{ permutations}$$

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$$\sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \begin{array}{c} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1) \quad \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_4) \\ \text{[Diagram: Blue annulus with four holes, labeled } m_1 \text{]} \\ \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_2) \quad \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_3) \end{array} + \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \begin{array}{c} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1) \quad \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_4) \\ \text{[Diagram: Two annuli meeting at a vertex, labeled } m_1 \text{ and } m_2 \text{]} \\ \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_2) \quad \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_3) \end{array} + 2 \text{ permutations}$$

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$$A_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} + \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, q)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \frac{b(-1)^{m_2} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(q, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} + 2 \text{ permutations}$$

$\sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)}$

$\sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, q)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \frac{b(-1)^{m_2} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(q, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} + 2 \text{ permutations}$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 A_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = & \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \int 2q dq \sin(2\pi m_1 b q) \sin(2\pi m_2 b q) \\
 & + \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, q)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \frac{b(-1)^{m_2} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(q, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \int 2q dq \sin(2\pi m_1 b q) \sin(2\pi m_2 b q)
 \end{aligned}$$

The diagrammatic representation shows two terms. The first term is a blue genus-2 surface with four external legs labeled with momenta p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4 and sine functions $\sin(2\pi m_1 b p_i)$. The second term is a blue genus-1 surface with two external legs p_1, p_2 meeting a central vertex, which then meets a green genus-1 surface with two external legs p_3, p_4 . Arrows indicate the mapping from the mathematical terms to the diagrams.

String amplitudes from Feynman diagrams

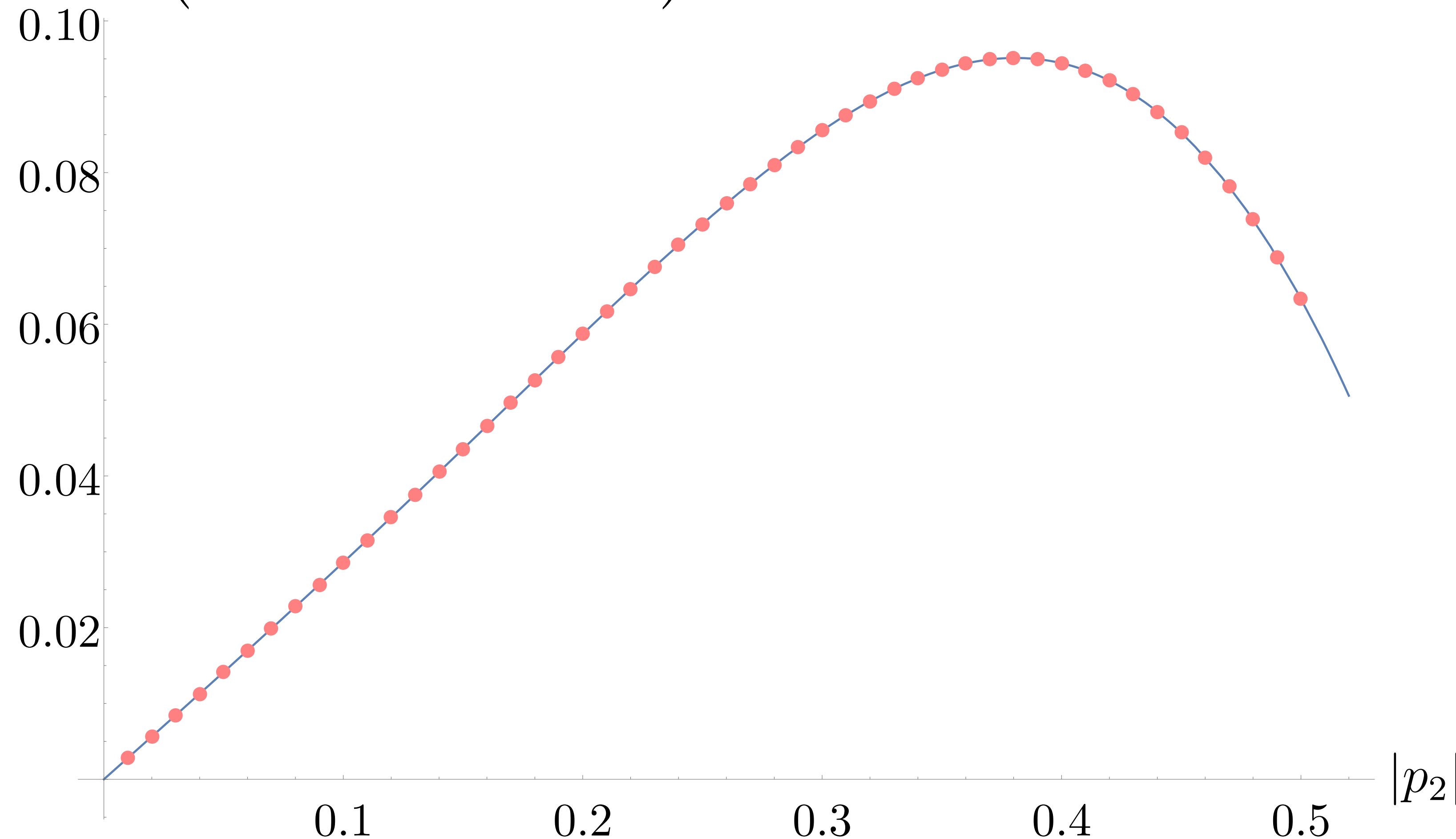
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$$A_{1,1}^{(b)}(p_1) = \sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{1,1}^{(b)}(p_1)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1) \int 2q dq \sin(2\pi m_1 b q)^2 + \sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{b(-1)^{m_1} V_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, q, q)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1)$$

Sphere four-point amplitude: numerical verification

- Direct numerical integration over moduli space

$$A_{0,4}^{(b=\frac{e}{\pi}e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}})}\left(\frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}}}{3}, e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}}|p_2|, \frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}}}{7}, \frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}}}{4}\right)$$



Error $< 10^{-5} \%$

Example: torus two-point amplitude

$$A_{1,2}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2) =$$

The diagram illustrates the decomposition of the torus two-point amplitude $A_{1,2}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2)$ into five terms. The terms are:

- A blue torus with a white arc labeled m_1 .
- A blue torus with a white arc labeled m_1 connected to a green torus with a white arc labeled m_2 at a central vertex.
- A blue torus with a white arc labeled m_1 connected to a green torus with a white arc labeled m_2 at a central vertex.
- A blue torus with a white arc labeled m_1 connected to a green torus with a white arc labeled m_2 at a central vertex.
- A blue torus with a white arc labeled m_1 connected to a green torus with a white arc labeled m_2 at two central vertices.

The dual matrix integral and topological recursion

The dual matrix integral

- Claim: |Liouville|² string theory is precisely dual to a **double-scaled two-matrix integral**

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{2N^2}} [dM_1][dM_2] e^{-N \text{Tr}(V_1(M_1) + V_2(M_2) - M_1 M_2)}$$

- Characterized by the spectral curve:

$$x(z) = -2 \cos(\pi b^{-1} \sqrt{z}), \quad y(z) = 2 \cos(\pi b \sqrt{z})$$

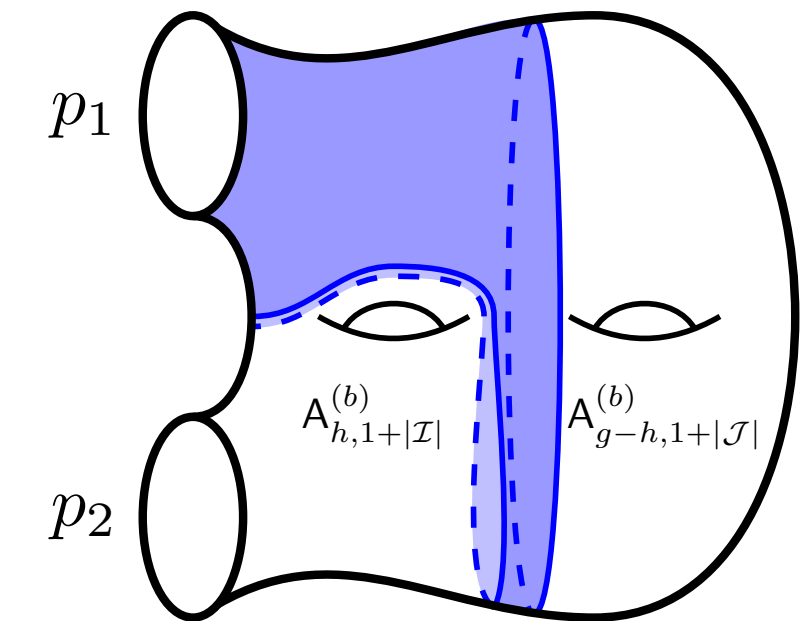
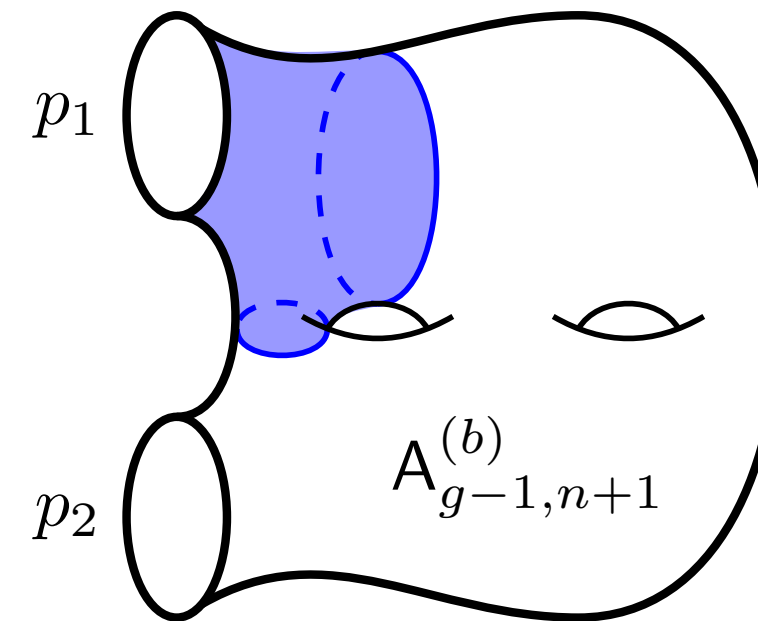
Remarkably similar to the ordinary (p, q) minimal string!

cf. e.g. [\[Seiberg Shih 04\]](#)

- Leading density of eigenvalues: $\rho_0(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sinh(-\pi i b^2) \sin\left(-i b^2 \text{arccosh}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\right), \quad x \geq 2$

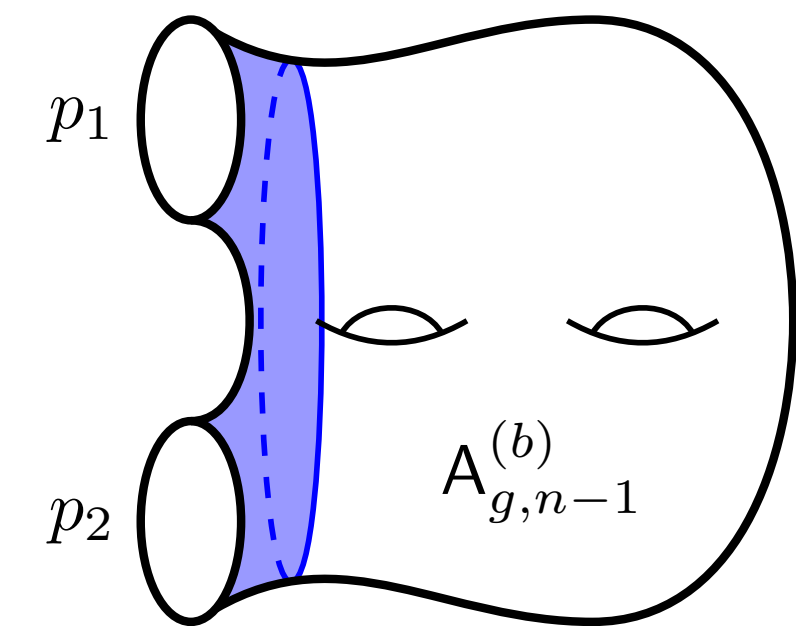
Topological recursion for string amplitudes

- The loop equations for the matrix integral [Chekhov Eynard Orantin 06] translate into a **recursion relation** for the string amplitudes (cf. [Mirzakhani 06; Eynard Orantin 07])



$$p_1 \mathbf{A}_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \mathbf{p}) = \int 2q dq 2q' dq' H_b(q + q', p_1) \mathbf{A}_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, q, q') \left(\mathbf{A}_{g-1, n+1}^{(b)}(q, q', \mathbf{p}) + \sum_{h=0}^g \sum_{I \sqcup J = \{2, \dots, n\}} \mathbf{A}_{h, 1+|I|}^{(b)}(q, \mathbf{p}_I) \mathbf{A}_{g-h, 1+|J|}^{(b)}(q', \mathbf{p}_J) \right)$$

$$- \sum_{j=2}^n \int 2q dq \left(H_b(q, p_1 + p_j) + H_b(q, p_1 - p_j) \right) \mathbf{A}_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_j, q) \mathbf{A}_{g, n-1}^{(b)}(q, \mathbf{p} \setminus p_j)$$



$$H_b(x, y) = \frac{y}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma} du \frac{\sin(4\pi ux) \sin(4\pi uy)}{\sin(2\pi bu) \sin(2\pi b^{-1}u)}$$

Essentially identical to recursion kernel for quantum volumes $V_{g,n}^{(b)}$ in VMS!

Worldsheet description:
 $|\text{Liouville CFT}|^2$

Makes precise

Sine dilaton gravity

(admits AdS_2 and dS_2 vacua)



Double-scaled
two-matrix integral

Loop equations
[Chekhov Eynard Orantin 06]

Topological recursion
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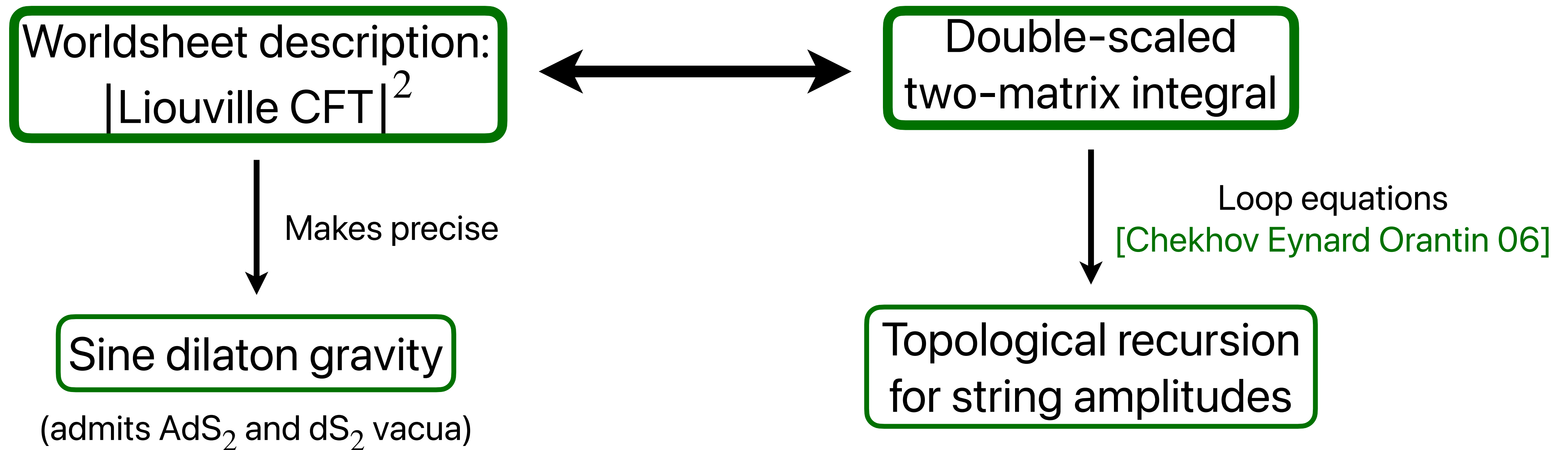


Double-scaled
two-matrix integral

Loop equations
[Chekhov Eynard Orantin 06]

Topological recursion
for string amplitudes

Thank you!



- Some questions:

- How to connect these discussions to the $c = 1$ matrix model? (Matrix quantum mechanics vs. matrix integrals) [...; Moore Plesser Ramgoolam; ...; Balthazar Rodriguez Yin; Sen; ...]
- Is there a 3d description? ($SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ structure on worldsheet)
Relation to [Narovlansky Verlinde Zhang 23, 24]?

Thank you!

Bonus slides

Liouville theory and sine dilaton gravity

- Lagrangian formulation of the worldsheet theory:

$$S_L^+[\phi] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2x \sqrt{\tilde{g}} \left(\tilde{g}^{ij} \partial_i \phi \partial_j \phi + (b_+ + b_+^{-1}) \tilde{R} \phi + \mu e^{2b_+ \phi} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} b_+ \in e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R} \\ \mu \in i\mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

$$S_L^-[\bar{\phi}] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2x \sqrt{\tilde{g}} \left(\tilde{g}^{ij} \partial_i \bar{\phi} \partial_j \bar{\phi} + (b_- + b_-^{-1}) \tilde{R} \bar{\phi} + \bar{\mu} e^{2b_- \bar{\phi}} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} b_- = -ib_+ \\ \bar{\mu} \in e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

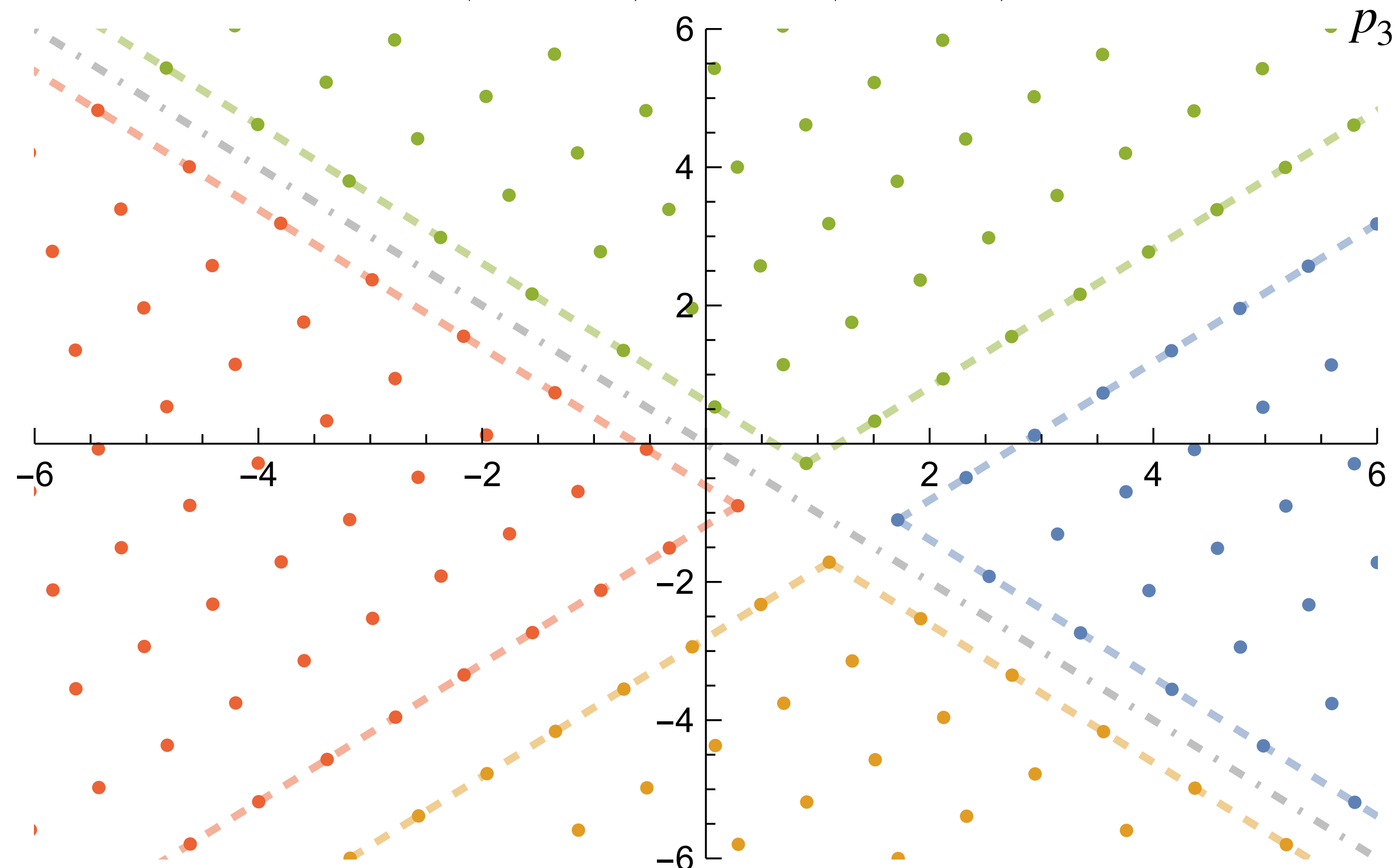
- Field redefinition:

$$\phi = b_+^{-1} \rho + \pi b_+ \Phi, \quad \bar{\phi} = b_-^{-1} \rho + \pi b_- \Phi, \quad g = e^{2\rho} \tilde{g}$$

Sphere three-point amplitude

- $A_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3)$ has simple poles for

$$p_1 \pm p_2 \pm p_3 = \left(r + \frac{1}{2}\right)b + \left(s + \frac{1}{2}\right)b^{-1}, \quad r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$$



$$b \in e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R}$$

$$p_1, p_2 \in e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R}$$

Sphere three-point amplitude

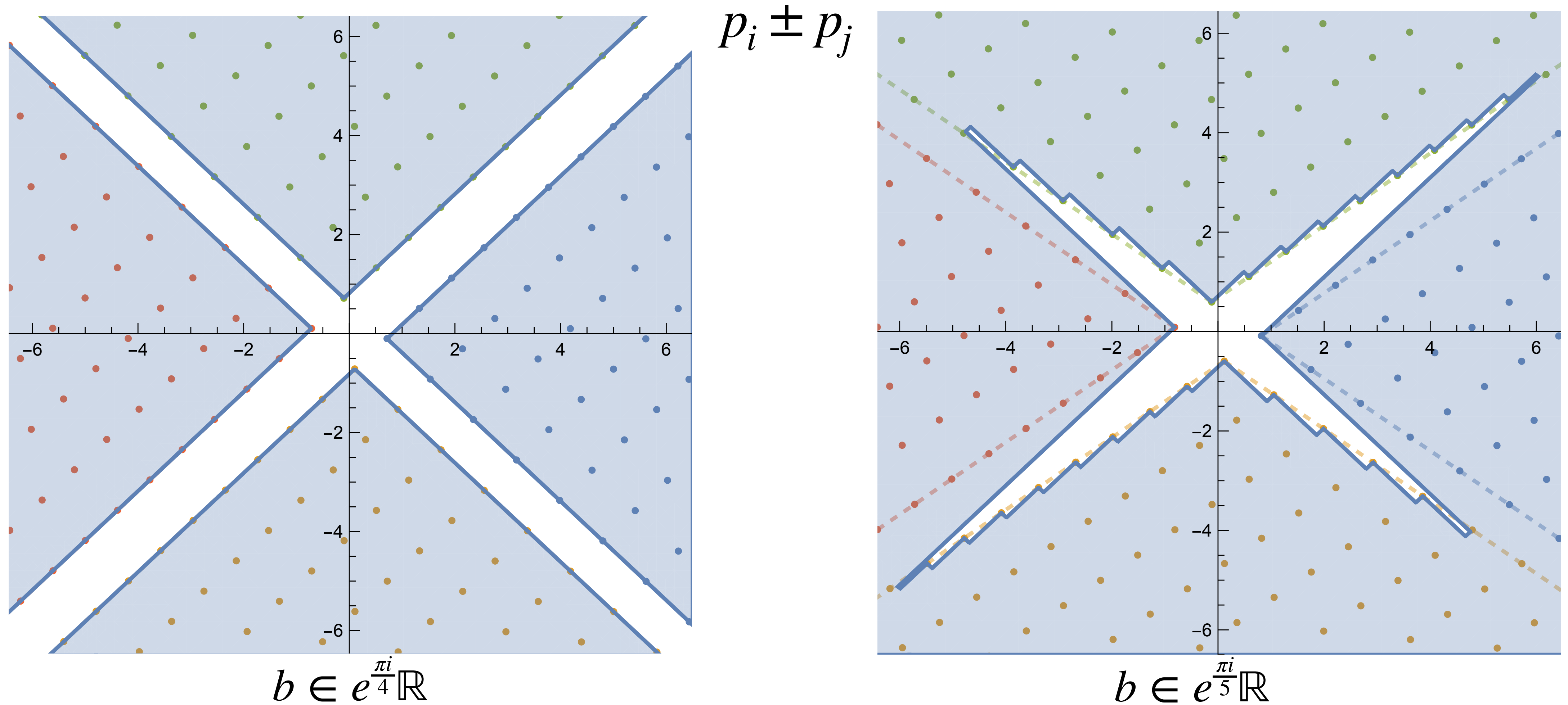
$$A_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3) = \frac{ib \eta(b^2)^3 \prod_{j=1}^3 \vartheta_1(2bp_j | b^2)}{2\vartheta_3(bp_1 \pm bp_2 \pm bp_3 | b^2)}$$

[Zamolodchikov 05]

- With a suitable identification of the parameters, this combination has recently appeared as the boundary two-point function in double-scaled SYK (cf. [Narovlansky, Verlinde, Zhang 23, 24])

Sphere four-point amplitude: domain of analyticity

- The wedges of divergence associated with the branch cuts carve out a domain of analyticity in the $p_i \pm p_j$ plane that is non-compact if $b \in e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} \mathbb{R}$, and compact otherwise



Sphere four-point amplitude: solution

- A solution is given by:

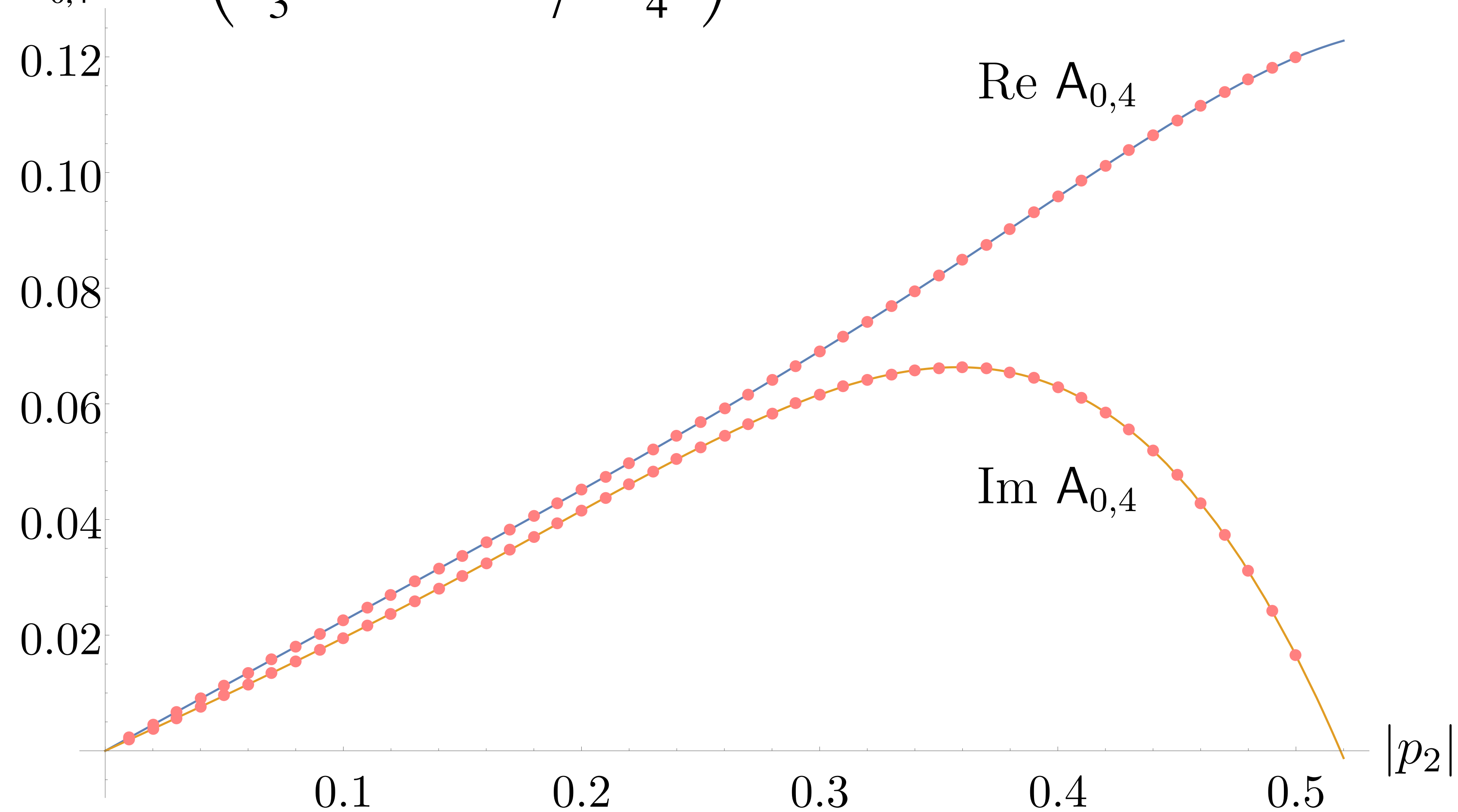
$$\begin{aligned}
 A_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = & - \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{m_1+m_2} \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_1) \sin(2\pi m_1 b p_2) \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_3) \sin(2\pi m_2 b p_4)}{\pi^2 \sin(\pi m_1 b^2) \sin(\pi m_2 b^2)} \\
 & \times \left(\frac{1}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} - \frac{1 - \delta_{m_1, m_2}}{(m_1 - m_2)^2} \right) + 2 \text{ perms} \\
 & + \sum_{m_1=1}^{\infty} \frac{2b^2 \left(\prod_{j=1}^4 \sin(2\pi m_1 p_j) \right) V_{0,4}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4)}{\sin(\pi m_1 b^2)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Discontinuities $\sim \int' 2p dp A_{0,3}^{(b)}(p_1, p_2, p) A_{0,3}^{(b)}(p, p_3, p_4)$

Sphere four-point amplitude: numerical verification

- Direct numerical integration over moduli space for other values of the parameters

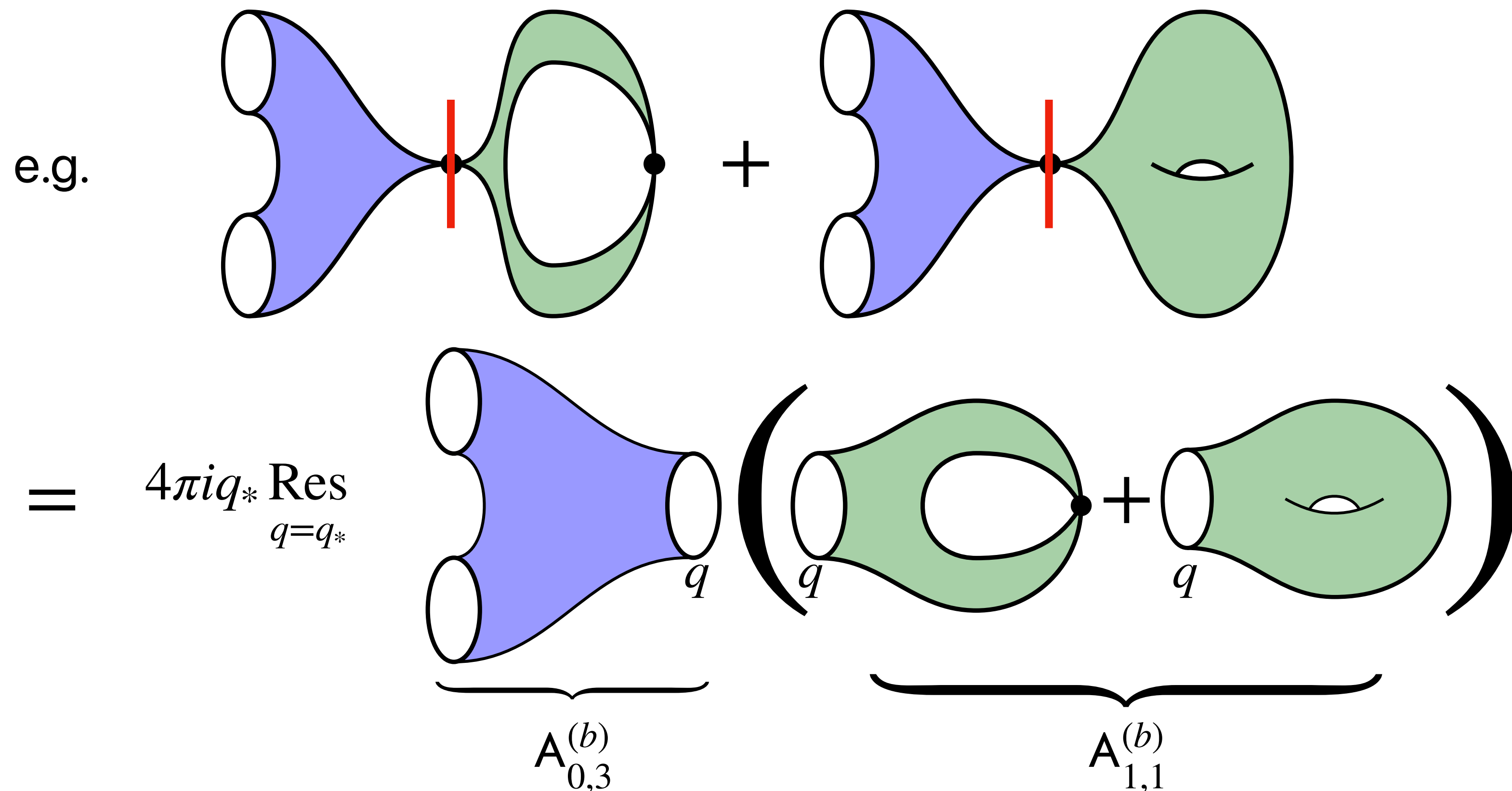
$$A_{0,4}^{(b=\frac{e}{\pi}e^{3\pi i/13})} \left(\frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{7}}}{3}, e^{-\frac{\pi i}{6}} |p_2|, \frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{5}}}{7}, \frac{e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}}}{4} \right)$$



Error $< 10^{-5} \%$

Discontinuities of string amplitudes from cutting Feynman diagrams

$$\text{Disc}_{q_*=0} A_{g,n}^{(b)}(\mathbf{p}) = 2\pi i q_* \left(\text{Res}_{q=\frac{1}{2}q_*} A_{g-1,n+2}(q, q, \mathbf{p}) + 2 \sum_{h=0}^g \sum_{I \sqcup J = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}} \text{Res}_{q=q_*} A_{h,1+|I|}^{(b)}(q, \mathbf{p}_I) A_{g-h,1+|J|}^{(b)}(q, \mathbf{p}_J) \right)$$



Topological recursion and string amplitudes

- Initial data for topological recursion:

$$\omega_{0,1}^{(b)}(z) = -\frac{2\pi \sin(\pi b^{-1}\sqrt{z})\cos(\pi b\sqrt{z})}{b\sqrt{z}}dz \qquad \omega_{0,2}^{(b)}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{dz_1 dz_2}{(z_1 - z_2)^2}$$

- String amplitudes are simply related to the $\omega_{g,n}^{(b)}(z_1, \dots, z_n)$ differentials by inverse Laplace transform

$$\begin{aligned} A_{g,n}^{(b)}(p_1, \dots, p_n) &= \int_{\gamma} \left(\prod_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{4\pi i} \frac{e^{2\pi i p_j w_j}}{p_j} \right) \omega_{g,n}^{(b)}(w_1, \dots, w_n) \qquad (w_j = \sqrt{z_j}) \\ &= \sum_{m_1, \dots, m_n=1}^{\infty} \text{Res}_{z_1=m_1^2 b^2} \cdots \text{Res}_{z_n=m_n^2 b^2} \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{\cos(2\pi p_j \sqrt{z_j})}{p_j} \omega_{g,n}^{(b)}(z_1, \dots, z_n) \end{aligned}$$