

Higher spin gravity, pre-Calabi-Yau, Formality and Convex geometry

Calabi-Yau day

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- **Higher spin gravity** is one of ideas to construct/solve models of quantum gravity, which is heavily based on ∞ -dim symmetry
- **Higher spin symmetry** is an application of the usual Deformation Quantization, also present in simple CFT's
- **Chiral HiSGRA** is a $4d$ model of quantum gravity that via AdS/CFT is related to $3d$ CFT's aka second order phase transitions (Ising). Equations of motion are given by (AKSZ) Poisson sigma-model that originates from a **pre-Calabi-Yau** algebra.
- A_∞ -maps are given by Kontsevich-like integrals over convex polygons. The first two maps are thanks to (Shoikhet-Tsygan)-Kontsevich formality. It would be great to understand why



Outline

- a bit of physical context: higher spin gravities and where (why) to find them; **More:** Snowmass paper, ArXiv: 2205.01567
- Formal field theories and L_∞ -algebras or Q -manifolds
- From L_∞ to A_∞ and back again
- Poisson sigma-model, pre-Calabi-Yau algebras
- Structure maps and convex geometry, Stokes theorem
- Relation to (Shoikhet-Tsygan)-Kontsevich Formality

Everything is based on the works with Alexey Sharapov, Richard Van Dongen and Arseny Sukhanov

Why higher spins?

Physical context

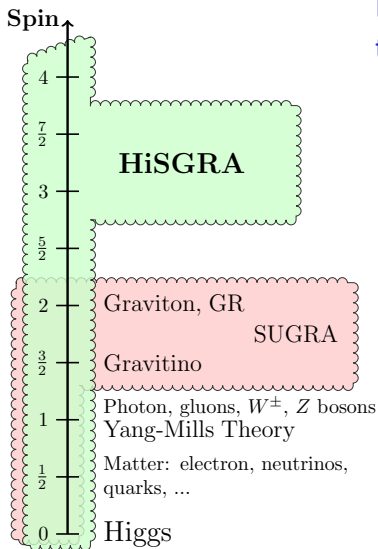
Why higher spins?

Standard context: quantum gravity problem

Standard assumption: to solve the problem without going too far from the well-established concept of particles/fields

Particles: [Wigner, 1939](#) explained that particles = unitary irreducible representations of the space-time symmetry group (e.g. Poincare). In $4d$ one can “observe” massive or massless particles with spin $s = 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \dots$ or helicity $\lambda = 0, \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm 1, \pm\frac{3}{2}, \pm 2, \dots$

Questions: what are the options to have interactions? Which ones incorporate gravity? Which ones are quantum consistent? Are all options accessible? ...



Different spins lead to very different types of theories/physics:

- $s = 0$: Higgs
- $s = 1/2$: Matter

- $s = 1$: Yang-Mills, Lie algebras
- $s = 3/2$: SUGRA and supergeometry, graviton \in spectrum
- $s = 2$: GR and Riemann Geometry, no color

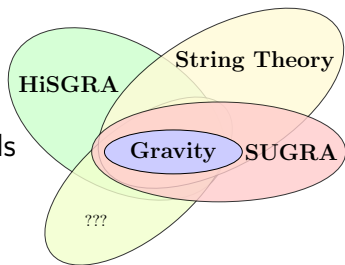
- $s > 2$: HiSGRA and String theory, ∞ states, graviton is there too!

Why massless higher spins?

- string theory
- divergences in (SU)GRA's
- Quantum Gravity via AdS/CFT

→ quantization of gravity →

- unbounded spin $\rightarrow \infty$ many fields
- UV \rightarrow massless



HiSGRA = the smallest extensions of gravity by massless, i.e. gauge, higher spin fields. Vast gauge symmetry should render it finite.

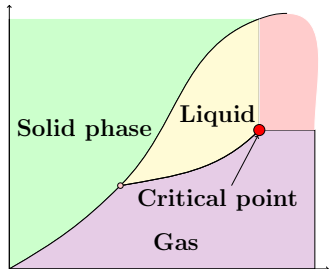
Chiral HiSGRA in brief

The smallest higher spin gravity in $4d$, $s = 0, (1), 2, (3), \dots$; (Metsaev; Ponomarev, E.S.) can be thought of as a higher-spin extension of both SDYM and SDGR.

Admits all signs of cosmological constant λ . It is integrable (Ponomarev) and one-loop finite (Tran, Tsulaia, E.S.) at least for $\lambda = 0$. Relation to twistors (Tran; Herfray, Krasnov, E.S.; Tran, Adamo)

Via AdS/CFT correspondence it is dual to a subsector of (Chern-Simons) vector models ($3d$ Ising, etc.). It should imply the recently discovered $3d$ bosonization duality

Simple model of quantum gravity, which captures some physics and is related to pre-Calabi-Yau ...



Q -manifolds, L_∞
and Formal Field Theories

Let us be given a Q -manifold (view it locally as an L_∞ -algebra)

$$\Omega^\bullet(M), d^2 = 0 \quad \begin{array}{c} \Phi(x, dx) \\ \curvearrowright \\ \text{PTM} \end{array} \rightarrow N \quad \Phi, Q^2 = 0$$

then we can always write a sigma-model:

$$d\Phi = Q(\Phi)$$

Any PDE can be cast into such a form ... (Barnich, Grigoriev)

Other names: Free Differential Algebras (Sullivan), in physics: (van Nieuwenhuizen; Fre, D' Auria); FDA=unfolding (Vasiliev), AKSZ (AKSZ); gauged PDE (Grigoriev, Kotov); string field theory (Zwiebach)

Any PDE can be cast into such a form ...

It requires no work for Chern-Simons theory “in any d ”

$$dA = \frac{1}{2}[A, A] = A \star A$$

where $A \equiv A_\mu dx^\mu$ takes values in some Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} or associative.

Here, $N = (\mathfrak{g}[1], [\bullet, \bullet])$, e.g. in local coordinates A^i we have

$$Q = f_{ij}^k A^i A^j \frac{\partial}{\partial A^k}$$

As L_∞ we have $l_1 = 0$ and $l_2(\bullet, \bullet) = [\bullet, \bullet]$

Any PDE can be cast into such a form ...

Flat space is still a flat connection $dA = \frac{1}{2}[A, A]$

$$de^a = \omega^{a,b} \wedge e^b \quad \text{no torsion}$$

$$d\omega^{a,b} = \omega^{a,c} \wedge \omega^{c,b} \quad \text{Riemann vanishes}$$

vielbein $e^a \equiv e^a_\mu dx^\mu$; spin-connection $\omega^{a,b} \equiv \omega^{a,b}_\mu dx^\mu$,
so that metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu} = e^a_\mu e^b_\nu \eta_{ab}$

Minkowski space = flat Poincare algebra connection

anti-de Sitter space = flat $so(3, 2) \sim sp(4)$ connection

How to add gravitational waves?

Einstein equations inside-out **Riemann=Weyl** instead of **Ricci** = 0

$$de^a = \omega^{a,b} \wedge e^b \quad \text{no torsion}$$

$$d\omega^{a,b} = \omega^{a,c} \wedge \omega^{c,b} + e_m \wedge e_n C^{ab,mn} \quad \text{Einstein is here! } l_3!$$

$$dC^{ab,mn} = Q(\dots) \quad \text{Bianchi for Weyl}$$

vielbein $e^a \equiv e^a_\mu dx^\mu$; spin-connection $\omega^{a,b} \equiv \omega^{a,b}_\mu dx^\mu$;

Weyl tensor $C^{ab,cd}$ and its descendants. Riemann = Weyl + Ricci

As L_∞ we have $l_1 = 0$, $l_2 = \text{Poincare}$ or $so(3, 2)$, $so(4, 1)$...

$$d\omega = l_2(\omega, \omega) + l_3(\omega, \omega, C) + l_4(\omega, \omega, C, C) + \dots,$$

$$dC = l_2(\omega, C) + l_3(\omega, C, C) + \dots$$

For “typical” theories we have one-form ω and zero-form C

From L_∞ to A_∞

Why A_∞ ?

Recap: everything's equations of motion can be formulated as L_∞

$$d\Phi = l_2(\Phi, \Phi) + l_3(\Phi, \Phi, \Phi) + \dots = Q(\Phi)$$

Often-times $\Phi = \{C, \omega\}$, i.e. $L = L_0 \oplus L_1$, note $\deg l_k = -1$.

HiSGRA are gauge theories that gauge $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{A})$ for an associative algebra \mathbf{A} and should be able to gauge $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{A} \otimes \text{Mat}_N)$ as well, which leads to Yang-Mills gaugings and super-symmetry, if needed. $\text{Lie}(\mathbf{A} \otimes \text{Mat}_N)$ knows about \mathbf{A} .

All HiSGRA have additional structure: L_∞ originates from an A_∞ via the symmetrization map, e.g. $l_2(\omega, C) = m_2(\omega, C) + m_2(C, \omega)$

Now, $m_2(\bullet, \bullet)$ defines an associative algebra \mathbf{A} . In HiSGRA it is just \star -product algebra, e.g. Moyal \star aka Weyl algebra $A_n \sim C[x^i, \partial_i]$

Initial data: associative algebra \mathbf{A}_0 , its bimodule M , say $M \sim \mathbf{A}_0$:

$$m_2(a, b) = ab \quad m_2(a, u) = au \quad m_2(u, a) = -ua \quad a, b \in A^1 \quad u \in A^0$$

is an \mathbf{A}_∞ algebra with $A^1 \sim \mathbf{A}_0$, $A^0 \sim M \sim \mathbf{A}_0$. **How to deform?**

If \mathbf{A}_0 is soft and we have a family of associative algebras \mathbf{A}_ν

$$a \circ (b \circ c) = (a \circ b) \circ c \quad a \circ b = ab + \sum \phi_k(a, b) \nu^k$$

$\phi_1 \in HH^2(\mathbf{A}_0, \mathbf{A}_0)$, then we can construct all higher maps, e.g.

$$m_3(a, b, u) = \phi_1(a, b) u \quad a, b \in A^1 \quad u, v \in A^0$$
$$m_4(a, b, u, v) = \phi_2(a, b) uv + \phi_1(\phi_1(a, b), u) v$$

The maps are nontrivial! The model is integrable!

Recap: soft associative algebras can be used to construct A_∞ -algebras. Passing to L_∞ we get a formal integrable theory of type

$$d\Phi = Q(\Phi)$$

in other words, we can travel as

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} A_0 & \rightarrow & A_\nu & \rightarrow & A_\infty & \rightarrow & L_\infty \sim Q^2 = 0 \\ m_2 & & & & m_{k>2} & & l_k \end{array}$$

Where to find soft associative algebras?

- 1) Deformation quantization of Poisson Manifolds. **solved!**
- 2) Deformation quantization of Poisson Orbifolds. **unsolved!**
- 3) ???

DQ of the algebra of functions on some Poisson manifold \mathcal{M}

$$f \star g = f \cdot g + \hbar \{f, g\} + \text{Kontsevich}$$

In the case of flat \mathbb{R}^{2n} the solution is Moyal-Weyl star-product

$$(f \star g)(y) = f(y) \exp \frac{1}{2} \left[\overleftarrow{\partial}_A \pi^{AB} \overrightarrow{\partial}_B \right] g(y) \quad y^A \in \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

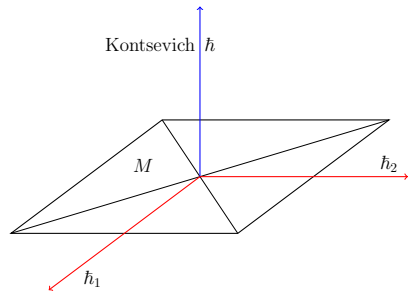
Higher spin symmetry is just a set of specific examples of DQ.

In practice, we have coadjoint orbits of, say $so(d, 2)$, $so(d, 1)$, i.e. Lorentz, (anti)-de Sitter algebras.

The simplest example: Moyal-Weyl \star -product on \mathbb{R}^{2n} gives Weyl algebras $\mathbf{A}_n = C[q^i, p_j]$, $[p_i, q^j] = \delta_i^j$ and $sp(2n) \in \mathbf{A}_n$, $sp(2) \sim so(2, 1)$, $sp(4) \sim so(3, 2)$ — relativistic symmetries. To be gauged!

Usually, a Poisson Manifold \mathcal{M} has some symmetries ...

More generally we can think of crossed product $C(M) \rtimes \Gamma$ or orbifold $C(M)/\Gamma$ for any discrete group Γ of symmetries of M



There are new directions of Deformation Quantization

(Halbout, Tang).

For $A_n \rtimes \Gamma$ explicit solution is found (Sharapov, E.S.) \leftarrow (AFLS)

Open problem: Formality Conjecture for Orbifolds.

For Chiral HiSGRA we need to understand just $\mathbb{R}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$

Deformations of Poisson Orbifold: Weyl Algebra

The Weyl algebra A_1 , $[q, p] = i\hbar$ is rigid, i.e. there is no deformation of $f(q, p) \star g(q, p)$ as associative algebra. But A_1^e is soft!

Suppose we need a reflection $Rf(q, p)R = f(-q, -p)$, realized as

$$R^2 = 1 \qquad RqR = -q \qquad RpR = -p$$

Algebra $A_1 \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$ is soft (Wigner; Yang; Mukunda; ...):

$$[q, p] = i\hbar + i\nu R$$

Even $R(f) = f$ lead to $gl_\lambda = U(sp_2)/(C_2 - \lambda(\lambda - 1))$ (Feigin) aka fuzzy-sphere. For integer $\lambda \sim \nu$ algebra gl_λ reduces to gl_n

This is thanks to $HH^2(A_1, A_1^*) = \mathbb{C}$ and the cocycle was obtained (Feigin, Felder, Shoikhet) from Shoikhet-Tsygan-Kontsevich formality

Chiral Higher Spin Gravity
pre-Calabi-Yau
and Convex Geometry

For Chiral HiSGRA **higher-spin symmetry** is $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_1^\lambda$, $[p, q] = \lambda$, in particular, for $\lambda = 0$ we have commutative algebra $\mathbb{C}[q, p]$

The bimodule is \mathbf{A}^* and \mathbf{m}_2 encode this data in \mathbf{A}_∞

$$\text{free: } d\Phi = \mathbf{m}_2(\Phi, \Phi) \quad \Phi = \{\mathbf{A}_\infty^1 \sim \omega \sim \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}_\infty^0 \sim C \sim \mathbf{A}^*\}$$

The theory gauges Weyl algebra \mathbf{A} and we ask for interactions $\mathbf{m}_{k>2}$

We should also tensor this \mathbf{A}_∞ with some associative algebra B to have the correct $4d$ interpretation. B is a free param of the model.

We have got \mathbf{m}_k the long way and observed at the end that they form pre-Calabi-Yau algebra ...

Now, it is better to write $\Phi = \{\omega_i, C^j\}$ since we have \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{A}^*

The equations of motion are **4d** Poisson sigma-model

$$dC^i = \pi^{ij}(C) \omega_j, \quad d\omega_k = \frac{1}{2} \partial_k \pi^{ij}(C) \omega_i \omega_j,$$

Master Hamiltonian $S = \frac{1}{2} \pi^{ij}(C) \omega_i \omega_j$ obeys the master equation

$$\{S, S\} = \frac{\partial S}{\partial C^i} \frac{\partial S}{\partial \omega_i} = 0 \quad \Omega = dC^i \wedge d\omega_i$$

This is still $d\Phi = \mathbf{Q}(\Phi)$ for \mathbf{Q} being the Hamiltonian vector field

$$\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Q}^J(\Phi) \frac{\partial}{\partial \Phi^J} = \frac{\partial S}{\partial C^i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega_i} + \frac{\partial S}{\partial \omega_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial C^i}$$

pre-Calabi-Yau is a non-commutative Poisson structure, $[\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{S}]_{nc} = 0$

Pre-Calabi-Yau/Master action

Let $y^A = \{q, p\}$ with constant $\epsilon^{AB} = -\epsilon^{BA}$. Moyal-Weyl reads

$$(f \star g)(y) = \exp[p_{01} + p_{02} + \lambda p_{12}] f(y_1)g(y_2) \Big|_{y_i=0}$$

with $[y^A, y^B]_\star = 2\lambda\epsilon^{AB}$ and

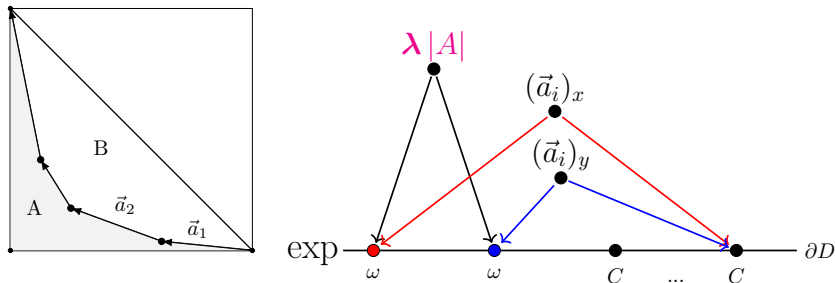
$$p_0 \equiv y \qquad p_i \equiv \partial_{y_i} \qquad p_{ij} = \epsilon_{AB} p_i^A p_j^B$$

In general, we have poly-differential operators

$$S(\omega, \omega, C, \dots, C) = S(p_a, p_b, p_1, \dots, p_n) \omega(y_a)\omega(y_b) C(y_1)\dots C(y_n) \Big|_{y_\bullet=0}$$

Our $\epsilon^{AB} = \text{const}$, so all bulk “Kontsevich” graphs simplify and the maps exponentiate

Explicit answer for all maps, e.g. $S(\omega, \omega, C, \dots, C)$:



(Sharapov, E.S., Van Dongen) the configuration space is of convex polygons B or swallowtails A , related to Grassmannian

$$S(p_a, p_b, p_1, \dots, p_n) = \int (p_{ab})^n \exp[*\lambda p_{ab} + \sum *p_{ai} + \sum *p_{bi}]$$

The proof of A_∞ is by Stokes theorem: $\int_C d\Omega = \int_{\partial C} \Omega$

Collecting pieces of the puzzle

In general, we have integrable models $d\Phi = Q(\Phi)$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbf{A}_0[\hbar = \lambda] & \rightarrow & \mathbf{A}_\nu & \rightarrow & \mathbf{A}_\infty & \rightarrow & \mathbf{L}_\infty \sim Q^2 = 0 \\ m_2 & & & & m_{k>2} & & l_k \end{array}$$

In the pre-Calabi-Yau case of Chiral HiSGRA

$$dC^i = \pi^{ij}(C) \omega_j, \quad d\omega_k = \frac{1}{2} \partial_k \pi^{ij}(C) \omega_i \omega_j.$$

$\mathbf{m}_2(a, b) = \text{Moyal-Weyl}$, $\mathbf{m}_3(a, b, u) \sim \phi(a, b) \star u$ where $\phi \in HH^2(A_1, A_1^*)$ and the 2-cocycle obtained (Feigin, Felder, Shoikhet) from Shoikhet-Tsygan-Kontsevich formality

We see a small piece of a bigger formality where $\pi^{AB} = \text{const}$, so only boundary “Kontsevich” graphs survive.

- Chiral HiSGRA is a simple model of quantum gravity that is also directly related to the physics of second order phase transitions via AdS/CFT
- Its equations of motion are given by a $4d$ Poisson sigma-model that originates from a pre-Calabi-Yau algebra, where $\mathbf{A} = C[y_1, y_2]$ or $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_1$ (Weyl algebra)
- $\mathbf{m}_2 = \star$, $\mathbf{m}_3 \sim HH^2(A, A^*)$ Shoikhet-Tsygan-Kontsevich formality/Poisson orbifolds; higher (resummed) maps = Kontsevich-like integrals over convex polygons; proof via Stokes theorem
- More: integrable models from soft associative algebras via A_∞
- We see just a tip of the iceberg ...

That's all!

Thank you for your attention!

- A. Sharapov, E. Skvortsov, R. Van Dongen; **Chiral higher spin gravity and convex geometry**; arXiv:2209.01796
- A. Sharapov, E. Skvortsov, A. Sukhanov, R. Van Dongen; **More on Chiral Higher Spin Gravity and convex geometry**; arXiv:2209.15441
- E. Skvortsov, A. Sharapov; **Chiral Higher Spin Gravity in $(\mathbf{A})dS_4$ and secrets of Chern-Simons Matter Theories**; arXiv:2205.15293
- A. Sharapov, E. Skvortsov; **Formal Higher Spin Gravities**; arXiv:1901.01426
- A. Sharapov, E. Skvortsov; **Formal Higher-Spin Theories and Kontsevich-Shoikhet-Tsygan Formality**; arXiv:1702.08218

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What Higher Spin Problem is: Field theory approach

A massless spin- s particle can be described by a rank- s tensor

$$\delta\Phi_{\mu_1\dots\mu_s} = \nabla_{\mu_1}\xi_{\mu_2\dots\mu_s} + \text{permutations}$$

which generalizes $\delta A_\mu = \partial_\mu\xi$, $\delta g_{\mu\nu} = \nabla_\mu\xi_\nu + \nabla_\nu\xi_\mu$

Fronsdal, Berends, Burgers, Van Dam, Bengtsson², Brink, ...

Problem: find a nonlinear completion (action, gauge symmetries)

$$S = \int (\nabla\Phi)^2 + \mathcal{O}(\Phi^3) + \dots \quad \delta\Phi\dots = \nabla.\xi\dots + \dots$$

and prove that it is UV-finite, hence a Quantum Gravity model

Warning: brute force does not seem to work! Bekaert, Boulanger, Leclercq; Taronna; Roiban, Tseytlin; Ponomarev; Taronna, Sleight; ...

3d massless, conformal and partially-massless (Blencowe; Bergshoeff, Stelle; Campoleoni, Fredenhagen, Pfenninger, Theisen; Henneaux, Rey; Gaberdiel, Gopakumar; Grumiller; Grigoriev, Mkrtychyan, E.S.; Pope, Townsend; Fradkin, Linetsky; Lovrekovic; ...), $S = S_{CS}$ for a HS extension of $sl_2 \oplus sl_2$ or $so(3, 2)$

$$S = \int \omega d\omega + \frac{2}{3}\omega^3$$

4d conformal (Tseytlin, Segal; Bekaert, Joung, Mourad; Adamo, Tseytlin; Basile, Grigoriev, E.S.; ...), higher spin extension of Weyl gravity, local Weyl symmetry tames non-localities

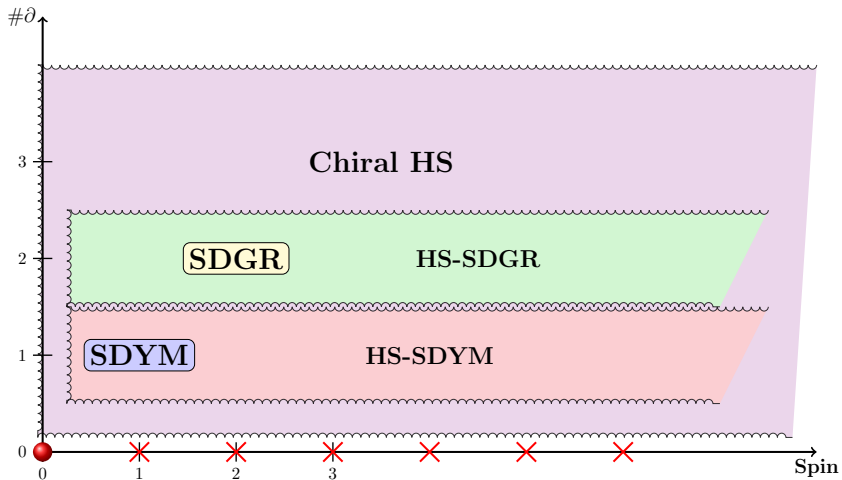
$$S = \int \sqrt{g} (C_{\mu\nu, \lambda\rho})^2 + \dots$$

4d massless chiral (Metsaev; Ponomarev, E.S.; Ponomarev; E.S., Tran, Tsulaia, Sharapov, Van Dongen, ...). The smallest HiSGRA with propagating fields.

IKKT model for fuzzy H_4 (Steinacker, Sperling, Fredenhagen, Tran)

The theories avoid all no-go's, as close to Field Theory as possible

Russian doll of theories



Contractions (Ponomarev; Tran; Krasnov, E.S., Tran)

Higher spin symmetry: free CFT's

Let's take any free CFT, e.g. free boson or free fermion

$$\square\phi = 0$$

$$\not{\partial}\psi = 0$$

We find the stress-tensor J_{ab} and infinitely many (even spin) *higher spin conserved tensors* $J_{a_1\dots a_s}$, aka **higher spin currents**:

$$J_s = \phi\partial\dots\partial\phi + \dots$$

$$J_s = \bar{\psi}\gamma\partial\dots\partial\psi + \dots$$

They are quasi-primary at the unitarity bound and have $\Delta = d + s - 2$.

The associated algebra of charges is a **higher spin algebra**, not surprisingly it is given by the DQ of the orbit that corresponds to these free fields. This definition is relevant for AdS/CFT ...

Miracle: in $3d$ $\mathfrak{hs}(\square\phi) \sim \mathfrak{hs}(\not{\partial}\psi) \sim A_2^e$

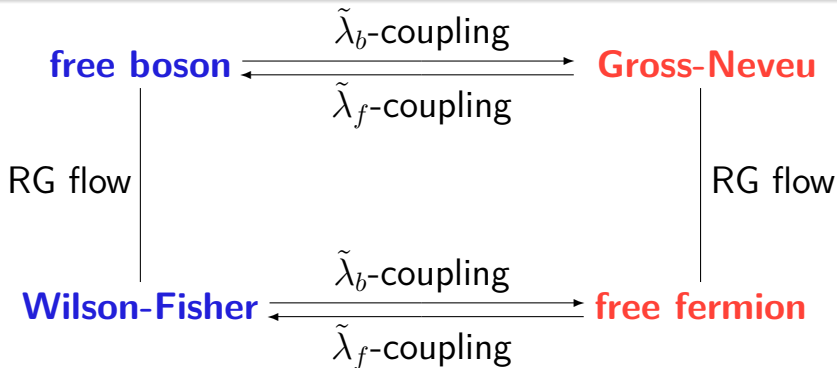
Chern-Simons Matter theories and dualities

In AdS_4/CFT_3 one can do much better — there exists a large class of models, Chern-Simons Matter theories (extends to ABJ(M))

$$\frac{k}{4\pi} S_{CS}(A) + \text{Matter} \begin{cases} (D\phi^i)^2 & \text{free boson} \\ (D\phi^i)^2 + g(\phi^i\phi^i)^2 & \text{Wilson-Fisher (Ising)} \\ \bar{\psi}\not{D}\psi & \text{free fermion} \\ \bar{\psi}\not{D}\psi + g(\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 & \text{Gross-Neveu} \end{cases}$$

- describe physics (Ising, quantum Hall, ...)
- break parity in general (Chern-Simons)
- two parameters $\lambda = N/k$, $1/N$ (λ continuous for N large)
- exhibit remarkable dualities, e.g. **3d bosonization duality** (Aharony, Alday, Bissi, Giombi, Karch, Maldacena, Minwalla, Prakash, Seiberg, Tong, Witten, Yacobi, Yin, Zhiboedov, ...)

Chern-Simons Matter theories and dualities



The simplest gauge-invariant operators are $J_s = \phi D \dots D \phi$ or $J_s = \bar{\psi} \gamma D \dots D \psi$, which are dual to higher spin fields.

Currents are slightly non-conserved $\partial \cdot J = \frac{1}{N} [JJ]$

$\gamma(J_s)$ at order $1/N$ (Giombi, Gurucharan, Kirillin, Prakash, E.S.) confirm the duality. Many other tests!