

Instanton effects on extended strings from $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Silviu S. Pufu, Princeton University

Based on [arXiv:2305.08297](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.08297) with V. Rodriguez and Y. Wang and earlier work with D. Binder, S. Chester, M. Green, Y. Wang, C. Wen

CERN, June 7, 2023

Introduction

- This talk is about QFT calculations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory which have string theory interpretations.
- In string theory, we study **scattering amplitudes**.
- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a CFT \rightarrow we study **correlation functions**.
- Last few years: lots of quantitative **precision tests**.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators at large $N \implies$ graviton scattering amplitude.
- So far: many impressive checks
- **This talk:** new string theory scattering amplitudes from CFT.

Introduction

- This talk is about QFT calculations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory which have string theory interpretations.
- In string theory, we study **scattering amplitudes**.
- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a CFT \rightarrow we study **correlation functions**.
- Last few years: lots of quantitative **precision tests**.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators at large $N \implies$ graviton scattering amplitude.
- So far: many impressive checks
- **This talk:** new string theory scattering amplitudes from CFT.

Introduction

- This talk is about QFT calculations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory which have string theory interpretations.
- In string theory, we study **scattering amplitudes**.
- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a CFT \rightarrow we study **correlation functions**.
- Last few years: lots of quantitative **precision tests**.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators at large $N \implies$ graviton scattering amplitude.
- So far: many impressive checks
- **This talk:** new string theory scattering amplitudes from CFT.

Introduction

- This talk is about QFT calculations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory which have string theory interpretations.
- In string theory, we study **scattering amplitudes**.
- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a CFT \rightarrow we study **correlation functions**.
- Last few years: lots of quantitative **precision tests**.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators at large $N \implies$ graviton scattering amplitude.
- So far: many impressive checks
- **This talk:** new string theory scattering amplitudes from CFT.

Introduction

- This talk is about QFT calculations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory which have string theory interpretations.
- In string theory, we study **scattering amplitudes**.
- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a CFT \rightarrow we study **correlation functions**.
- Last few years: lots of quantitative **precision tests**.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators at large $N \implies$ graviton scattering amplitude.
- So far: many impressive checks
- **This talk:** new string theory scattering amplitudes from CFT.

Introduction

What's new?

- Integrated correlator of **2 local ops** and a **Wilson (or 't Hooft or Wilson-'t Hooft) line** \mathbb{W}

$$\int d^4x d^4y \mu(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \langle \mathcal{O}(\vec{x}) \mathcal{O}(\vec{y}) \mathbb{W} \rangle$$

in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in “very strong coupling” limit.

- Implications for scattering of gravitons from long strings.

Plan:

- First, context: Review of older work on 4-pt integrated correlator in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM and relation to 4-pt scattering amplitudes
- Then: 2-pt integrated correlator in presence of Wilson loop and interpretation

Introduction

What's new?

- Integrated correlator of **2 local ops** and a **Wilson (or 't Hooft or Wilson-'t Hooft) line** \mathbb{W}

$$\int d^4x d^4y \mu(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \langle \mathcal{O}(\vec{x}) \mathcal{O}(\vec{y}) \mathbb{W} \rangle$$

in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in “very strong coupling” limit.

- Implications for scattering of gravitons from long strings.

Plan:

- First, context: Review of older work on 4-pt integrated correlator in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM and relation to 4-pt scattering amplitudes
- Then: 2-pt integrated correlator in presence of Wilson loop and interpretation

Graviton scattering in 10d type IIB string theory

- $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering of **gravitons + superpartners**

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \boxed{\mathcal{A}_{2 \rightarrow 2} = \underbrace{\delta^{16}(Q)}_{\text{polarizations}} f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})}$$

(where \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} (and $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t}$) are Mandelstam invariants) is captured by the 10d *effective action*:

$$S_{10d} = \int d^{10}x \sqrt{g} \left[R + \ell_s^6 R^4 + \ell_s^{10} D^4 R^4 + \ell_s^{12} D^6 R^4 + \dots \right] \\ + (\text{SUSic completion})$$

- String theory has parameters: $\alpha' = \ell_s^2$, string coupling $g_s = \langle e^{-\phi} \rangle$, and $\chi = \langle C_0 \rangle$. Denote $\tau = \chi + i/g_s$.
- $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ is known in various limits:
 - 3 lowest orders in g_s^2 at all orders in $\ell_s \times$ momentum.
 - 4 lowest orders in $\ell_s \times$ momentum at all orders in g_s and χ .

Graviton scattering in 10d type IIB string theory

- $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering of **gravitons + superpartners**

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \boxed{\mathcal{A}_{2 \rightarrow 2} = \underbrace{\delta^{16}(Q)}_{\text{polarizations}} f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})}$$

(where \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{t} (and $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{t}$) are Mandelstam invariants) is captured by the 10d *effective action*:

$$S_{10d} = \int d^{10}x \sqrt{g} \left[R + \ell_s^6 R^4 + \ell_s^{10} D^4 R^4 + \ell_s^{12} D^6 R^4 + \dots \right] \\ + (\text{SUSic completion})$$

- String theory has parameters: $\alpha' = \ell_s^2$, string coupling $g_s = \langle e^{-\phi} \rangle$, and $\chi = \langle C_0 \rangle$. Denote $\tau = \chi + i/g_s$.
- $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ is known in various limits:
 - 3 lowest orders in g_s^2 at all orders in $\ell_s \times$ momentum.
 - 4 lowest orders in $\ell_s \times$ momentum at all orders in g_s and χ .

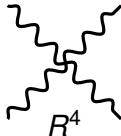
Graviton scattering at tree level

- At leading order in string coupling g_s , i.e. tree level (see Polchinski (12.4.30)):

$$f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) \sim \frac{\Gamma(-\frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{s})\Gamma(-\frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{t})\Gamma(-\frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{u})}{\Gamma(1 + \frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{s})\Gamma(1 + \frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{t})\Gamma(1 + \frac{1}{4}\alpha'\mathbf{u})} + O(g_s^2)$$

- Further expansion at small momentum gives interpretation in terms of diagrams:

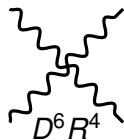
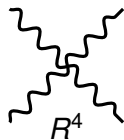
$$f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{\mathbf{stu}}}_{\text{SG}} + \underbrace{\ell_s^6 \frac{\zeta(3)}{32}}_{R^4} + \underbrace{\ell_s^{10} \frac{\zeta(5)}{2^{10}} (\mathbf{s}^2 + \mathbf{t}^2 + \mathbf{u}^2)}_{D^4 R^4} + \underbrace{\ell_s^{12} \frac{\zeta(3)^2}{2^{11}} \mathbf{stu}}_{D^6 R^4} + \dots + O(g_s^2)$$



Small momentum expansion

- Small momentum at fixed $\tau = \chi + i/g_s$ [Green, Gutperle, Vanhove, Sethi; Wang, Yin '15]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = & \underbrace{\frac{1}{\mathbf{stu}}}_{\text{SG tree}} + \underbrace{\ell_s^6 \frac{g_s^{\frac{3}{2}}}{64} E(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{R^4} + \underbrace{\ell_s^8 g_s^2 f_{R|R}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})}_{\text{SG one-loop}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\ell_s^{10} \frac{\mathbf{s}^2 + \mathbf{t}^2 + \mathbf{u}^2}{2^{11}} g_s^{\frac{5}{2}} E(\frac{5}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{D^4 R^4} + \underbrace{\ell_s^{12} \frac{\mathbf{stu}}{2^{12}} g_s^3 \mathcal{E}(3, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{D^6 R^4} + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$



Eisenstein series

- The Eisenstein series are **modular invariants** defined by

$$E(s, \tau, \bar{\tau}) = \sum_{(m,n) \neq (0,0)} \frac{\tau_2^s}{|m + n\tau|^{2s}}, \quad \tau \equiv \tau_1 + i\tau_2.$$

- For example,

$$E\left(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) = \frac{2\zeta(3)}{g_s^{\frac{3}{2}}} + \frac{2\pi^2}{3} g_s^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{8\pi}{\sqrt{g_s}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_{-2}(k)}{k} K_1\left(\frac{2\pi k}{g_s}\right) \cos(2\pi k\chi)$$

where $\sigma_p(k) = \sum_{d|k} d^p$.

- The last term is non-perturbative in g_s :

$$g_s^{\frac{3}{2}} E\left(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) = 2\zeta(3) + \frac{2\pi^2}{3} g_s^2 + e^{-\frac{2\pi}{g_s}} \cos(2\pi\chi) \left[4\pi g_s^{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{3}{4} g_s^{\frac{5}{2}} + \dots \right] \\ + e^{-\frac{4\pi}{g_s}} \cos(4\pi\chi) \left[\dots \right] + \dots$$

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: vector field A_μ + scalars X_I ($I = 1, \dots, 6$) + fermions in adjoint of $SU(N)$, w/ gauge coupling

$$\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g^2}, \quad \lambda = g^2 N.$$

- Limits:

- 't Hooft strong coupling: N large w/ λ fixed, then λ large (In this limit, $g \rightarrow 0$)
- “very strong coupling”: N large with τ fixed
- Dual: IIB strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$, with $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4}$, $g_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$, $\chi = \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$.

- Operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{IJ} = \text{tr} \left(X_I X_J - \frac{\delta_{IJ}}{6} X_K X_K \right)$$

has $\Delta = 2$ and is $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS. Same multiplet as stress tensor.

$$\text{AdS/CFT} \implies \mathcal{O} \longleftrightarrow (\text{metric} + 4\text{-form}) \text{ fluctuations}$$

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: vector field A_μ + scalars X_I ($I = 1, \dots, 6$) + fermions in adjoint of $SU(N)$, w/ gauge coupling

$$\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g^2}, \quad \lambda = g^2 N.$$

- Limits:

- 't Hooft strong coupling: N large w/ λ fixed, then λ large (In this limit, $g \rightarrow 0$)

- “very strong coupling”: N large with τ fixed

- Dual: IIB strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$, with $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4}$, $g_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$, $\chi = \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$.

- Operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{IJ} = \text{tr} \left(X_I X_J - \frac{\delta_{IJ}}{6} X_K X_K \right)$$

has $\Delta = 2$ and is $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS. Same multiplet as stress tensor.

$$\text{AdS/CFT} \implies \mathcal{O} \longleftrightarrow (\text{metric} + 4\text{-form}) \text{ fluctuations}$$

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: vector field A_μ + scalars X_I ($I = 1, \dots, 6$) + fermions in adjoint of $SU(N)$, w/ gauge coupling

$$\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g^2}, \quad \lambda = g^2 N.$$

- Limits:

- 't Hooft strong coupling: N large w/ λ fixed, then λ large (In this limit, $g \rightarrow 0$)
- “very strong coupling”: N large with τ fixed
- Dual: IIB strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$, with $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4}$, $g_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$, $\chi = \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$.

- Operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{IJ} = \text{tr} \left(X_I X_J - \frac{\delta_{IJ}}{6} X_K X_K \right)$$

has $\Delta = 2$ and is $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS. Same multiplet as stress tensor.

$$\text{AdS/CFT} \implies \mathcal{O} \longleftrightarrow (\text{metric} + 4\text{-form}) \text{ fluctuations}$$

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM correlators

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: vector field A_μ + scalars X_I ($I = 1, \dots, 6$) + fermions in adjoint of $SU(N)$, w/ gauge coupling

$$\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g^2}, \quad \lambda = g^2 N.$$

- Limits:

- 't Hooft strong coupling: N large w/ λ fixed, then λ large (In this limit, $g \rightarrow 0$)

- “very strong coupling”: N large with τ fixed

- Dual: IIB strings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$, with $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4}$, $g_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$, $\chi = \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$.

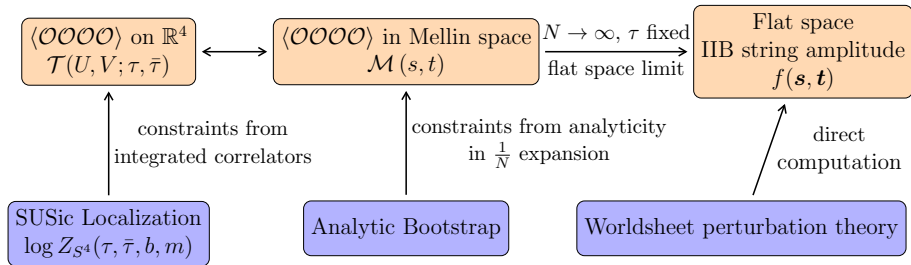
- Operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{IJ} = \text{tr} \left(X_I X_J - \frac{\delta_{IJ}}{6} X_K X_K \right)$$

has $\Delta = 2$ and is $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS. Same multiplet as stress tensor.

$$\text{AdS/CFT} \implies \mathcal{O} \longleftrightarrow (\text{metric} + 4\text{-form}) \text{ fluctuations}$$

Relation b/w SYM correlator and graviton scattering



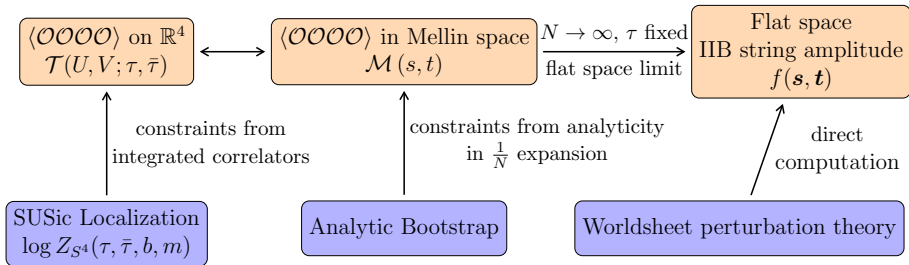
- **SUSY** \implies $\langle \mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O} \rangle$ is expressed in terms of a single function \mathcal{T} :

$$\langle \mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O}\mathcal{O} \rangle = (\text{free part}) + (\text{prefactor})\mathcal{T}(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau})$$

where, with $\vec{x}_{ij} = \vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j$,

$$U = \frac{\vec{x}_{12}^2 \vec{x}_{34}^2}{\vec{x}_{13}^2 \vec{x}_{24}^2}, \quad V = \frac{\vec{x}_{14}^2 \vec{x}_{23}^2}{\vec{x}_{13}^2 \vec{x}_{24}^2}$$

Relation b/w SYM correlator and graviton scattering



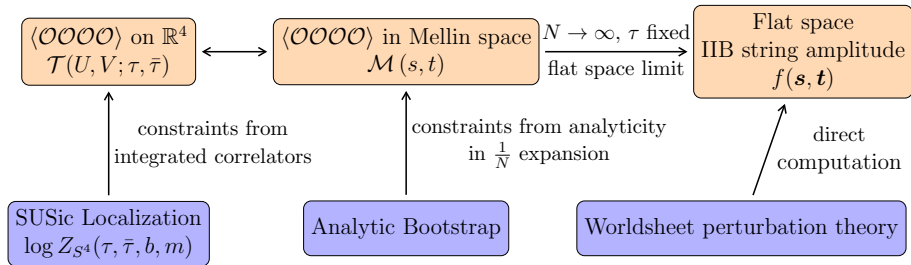
- Mellin space (with $u = 4 - s - t$):

$$\mathcal{T}(U, V) = \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \frac{ds dt}{(4\pi i)^2} \mathcal{M}(s, t) U^{\frac{s}{2}} V^{\frac{u}{2}-2} \Gamma\left(\frac{4-s}{2}\right)^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{4-t}{2}\right)^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{4-u}{2}\right)^2$$

- $\mathcal{M}(s, t)$ is the AdS analog of the scattering amplitude $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$.
- $N \rightarrow \infty, \tau$ fixed: $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ extracted from large s, t limit of $\mathcal{M}(s, t)$

[Giddings '99; Polchinski '99; Susskind '99; Penedones '10; Fitzpatrick, Kaplan '11]

Relation b/w SYM correlator and graviton scattering



Integrated correlators (can be computed using SUSic localization)

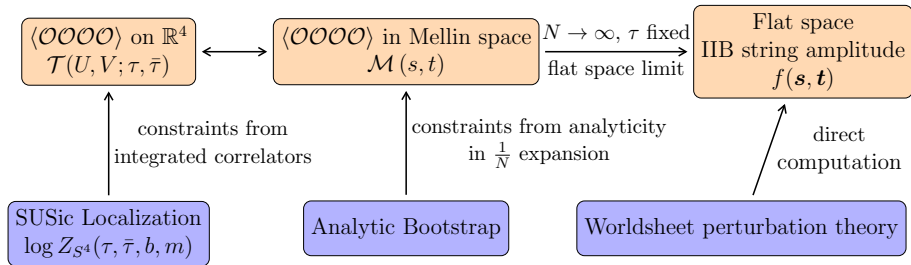
[Binder, Chester, SSP, Wang '19; Chester, SSP '20] :

$$(\text{Im } \tau)^2 \partial_{\tau} \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{\substack{m=0 \\ b=1}} = \int dU dV \mu_1(U, V) \mathcal{T}(U, V),$$

$$\partial_m^4 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{\substack{m=0 \\ b=1}} = (\text{free part}) + \int dU dV \mu_2(U, V) \mathcal{T}(U, V).$$

where μ_1 and μ_2 are SUSY-preserving measures.

Relation b/w SYM correlator and graviton scattering

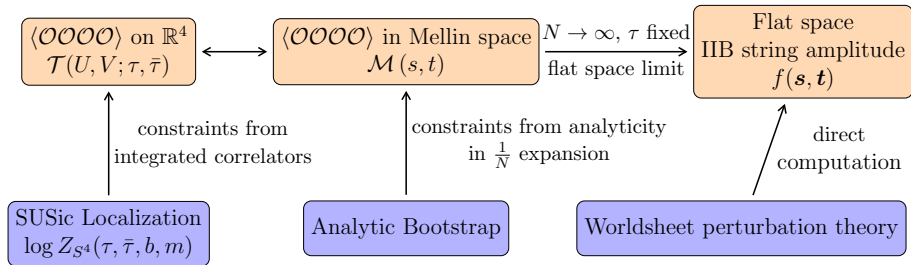


Analytic bootstrap:

- At each order in deriv expansion, $\mathcal{M}(s, t)$ is determined by **analyticity** + **crossing** + **SUSY** up to a few constants
- 2 constants at each order can be fixed using the derivs of Z_{S^4} .
- Can (re)derive low-energy expansion of $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ from $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM!

Take-away: Same fns of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ appear in derivs of $\log Z_{S^4}$ and in $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ at low orders in derivative expansion. (E.g. the Eisenstein series!!)

Relation b/w SYM correlator and graviton scattering



Analytic bootstrap:

- At each order in deriv expansion, $\mathcal{M}(s, t)$ is determined by **analyticity** + **crossing** + **SUSY** up to a few constants
- 2 constants at each order can be fixed using the derivs of Z_{S^4} .
- Can (re)derive low-energy expansion of $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ from $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM!

Take-away: Same fns of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ appear in derivs of $\log Z_{S^4}$ and in $f(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ at low orders in derivative expansion. (E.g. the Eisenstein series!!)

How do we see the Eisenstein series from Z_{S^4} ?

- [Pestun '07]: S^4 partition fn of $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ theory (i.e. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM deformed by an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ -preserving mass m for the adj hyper)

$$Z_{S^4} = \int d^{N-1} a \prod_{i < j} (a_i - a_j)^2 e^{-\frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} \sum_i a_i^2} Z_{\text{pert}}(a_i, m) |Z_{\text{inst}}(a_i, \tau, m)|^2$$

- Z_{pert} comes from perturbative contribution

$$Z_{\text{pert}}(a_i, m) = \frac{H^2(a_i - a_j)}{H(m)^{N-1} \prod_{i \neq j} H(a_i - a_j + m)}$$

where $H(x) = e^{-(1+\gamma)x^2} G(1 + ix)G(1 - ix)$.

- Z_{inst} comes from instantons at the poles of S^4 and is complicated: sum of N -tuples of Young diagrams that represent contour integrals [Nekrasov '02; Nekrasov, Okounkov '03]
- For $\partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{m=0}$ only rectangular Young diagrams contribute!

How do we see the Eisenstein series from Z_{S^4} ?

- Compute

$$\partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{m=0} = \langle Z''_{\text{pert}}(a_i, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle Z''_{\text{inst}}(a_i, \tau, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle \bar{Z}''_{\text{inst}}(a_i, \bar{\tau}, 0) \rangle_{GMM}$$

by writing each term as an expectation value in the **Gaussian matrix model**. Use **resolvents** & **topological recursion** & **Mellin transforms** to systematically evaluate each term [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; SSP, Rodriguez, Wang '23].

- Expand in very strong coupling limit (large N , fixed τ) [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; Dorigoni, Green, Wen '21]:

$$(\text{Im } \tau)^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{\substack{m=0 \\ b=1}} = \underbrace{\frac{N^2}{4}}_{\text{SG}} - \underbrace{\frac{3\sqrt{N}}{16\pi^{3/2}} E(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{R^4} + \underbrace{\frac{45}{2^8 \pi^{5/2} \sqrt{N}} E(\frac{5}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{D^4 R^4} + \dots$$

(Recall $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4} = g^{1/2} N^{1/4}$, so k derivs $\sim N^{-k/4}$.)

How do we see the Eisenstein series from Z_{S^4} ?

- Compute

$$\partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{m=0} = \langle Z''_{\text{pert}}(a_i, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle Z''_{\text{inst}}(a_i, \tau, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle \bar{Z}''_{\text{inst}}(a_i, \bar{\tau}, 0) \rangle_{GMM}$$

by writing each term as an expectation value in the **Gaussian matrix model**. Use **resolvents** & **topological recursion** & **Mellin transforms** to systematically evaluate each term [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; SSP, Rodriguez, Wang '23].

- Expand in very strong coupling limit (large N , fixed τ) [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; Dorigoni, Green, Wen '21]:

$$(\text{Im } \tau)^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{\substack{m=0 \\ b=1}} = \underbrace{\frac{N^2}{4}}_{\text{SG}} - \underbrace{\frac{3\sqrt{N}}{16\pi^{3/2}} E(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{R^4} + \underbrace{\frac{45}{2^8 \pi^{5/2} \sqrt{N}} E(\frac{5}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{D^4 R^4} + \dots$$

(Recall $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4} = g^{1/2} N^{1/4}$, so k derivs $\sim N^{-k/4}$.)

How do we see the Eisenstein series from Z_{S^4} ?

- Compute

$$\partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{m=0} = \langle Z''_{\text{pert}}(\mathbf{a}_i, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle Z''_{\text{inst}}(\mathbf{a}_i, \tau, 0) \rangle_{GMM} + \langle \bar{Z}''_{\text{inst}}(\mathbf{a}_i, \bar{\tau}, 0) \rangle_{GMM}$$

by writing each term as an expectation value in the **Gaussian matrix model**. Use **resolvents** & **topological recursion** & **Mellin transforms** to systematically evaluate each term [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; SSP, Rodriguez, Wang '23].

- Expand in very strong coupling limit (large N , fixed τ) [Chester, Green, SSP, Wang, Wen '19, '20; Dorigoni, Green, Wen '21]:

$$(\text{Im } \tau)^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \partial_m^2 \log Z_{S^4} \Big|_{\substack{m=0 \\ b=1}} = \underbrace{\frac{N^2}{4}}_{\text{SG}} - \underbrace{\frac{3\sqrt{N}}{16\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}} E(\frac{3}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{R^4} + \underbrace{\frac{45}{2^8 \pi^{\frac{5}{2}} \sqrt{N}} E(\frac{5}{2}, \tau, \bar{\tau})}_{D^4 R^4} + \dots$$

(Recall $\frac{L}{\ell_s} = \lambda^{1/4} = g^{1/2} N^{1/4}$, so k derivs $\sim N^{-k/4}$.)

A defect CFT \longleftrightarrow open-closed string system example

- So far: CFT 4-pt function \longleftrightarrow $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering of closed strings
- For the **rest of talk**, another setup: open-closed amplitudes in type IIB string theory.
- $1 \rightarrow 1$ scattering of a graviton from a 1/2-BPS extended string (long fundamental string, D1-brane, or (p, q) -string)

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \mathcal{A}_{1 \rightarrow 1} = \underbrace{\delta^8(Q_{\parallel})}_{\text{polarizations}} f_{\mathbb{L}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$$

$$\mathbf{s} = 2p_{1\parallel}^2 = 2p_{2\parallel}^2, \quad \mathbf{t} = p_1 \cdot p_2.$$



- Setup is not $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ invariant. Under $\tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$, we have

$$(p \quad q) \rightarrow (p \quad q) \begin{pmatrix} a & -c \\ -b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

A defect CFT \longleftrightarrow open-closed string system example

- So far: CFT 4-pt function \longleftrightarrow $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering of closed strings
- For the **rest of talk**, another setup: open-closed amplitudes in type IIB string theory.
- $1 \rightarrow 1$ scattering of a graviton from a 1/2-BPS extended string (long fundamental string, D1-brane, or (p, q) -string)

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \mathcal{A}_{1 \rightarrow 1} = \underbrace{\delta^8(Q_{\parallel})}_{\text{polarizations}} f_{\perp}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$$

$$\mathbf{s} = 2p_{1\parallel}^2 = 2p_{2\parallel}^2, \quad \mathbf{t} = p_1 \cdot p_2.$$



- Setup is not $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ invariant. Under $\tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$, we have

$$(p \quad q) \rightarrow (p \quad q) \begin{pmatrix} a & -c \\ -b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

What's known

- Much less is known about this setup. Schematically:

$$S = S_{10d} + \int d^2x \sqrt{-g} \left[\text{DBI} + R^2 + D^2 R^2 + D^4 R^2 + \dots \right].$$

R = ambient space-time curvature, D = tangential deriv.

- Amplitude known **only** at leading order in g_s (*disk diagram*) for D1-brane and $(n, 1)$ string. For **D1-brane** [Garousi-Myers '96; Hashimoto, Klebanov '96; Basu '08]:

$$f_{\mathbb{L}} \propto \frac{\ell_s^4 \Gamma(\frac{\alpha' \mathbf{s}}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{\alpha' \mathbf{t}}{2})}{\Gamma(1 + \frac{\alpha'(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t})}{2})} + O(g_s) = \underbrace{\frac{4}{\mathbf{st}}}_{\text{SG+DBI}} - \underbrace{\frac{\pi^2}{6} \ell_s^4}_{R^2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t}) \zeta(3) \ell_s^6}_{D^2 R^2} + \dots + O(g_s)$$

- $O(g_s)$ not fully understood—*annulus diagram diverges!*
- Small momentum, all orders in g_s : Coeffs of R^2 , $D^2 R^2$, $D^4 R^2$, etc. should be fns of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$. NOT modular invariant and **not known**.

Extended string \longleftrightarrow CFT defect

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: two-pt function of \mathcal{O} in presence of 1/2-BPS line defect (Wilson line, 't Hooft line, (p, q) Wilson-'t Hooft dyonic line)

[Barrat, Liendo, Plefka '20]

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{L} \rangle = (\text{prefactor}) \mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{L}}(U, V)$$

$$U = \frac{\mathbf{x}_1^\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_2^\perp}{|\mathbf{x}_1^\perp| |\mathbf{x}_2^\perp|}, \quad V = \frac{(\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2)^2}{|\mathbf{x}_1^\perp| |\mathbf{x}_2^\perp|}$$

- Simplest case: Wilson loop $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{W}$ in fundamental representation:

$$\mathbb{W} = \text{tr}_{\text{fund}} P \exp \left[i \oint ds (A_\mu(x(s)) \dot{x}^\mu(s) + X_6(x(s)) |\dot{x}(s)|) \right].$$

- On S^4 , can compute

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}} = \partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{W} \rangle \Big|_{m=0} = \text{integrated } \langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{W} \rangle$$

using localization. (Insert $\sum_j e^{2\pi a_j}$ in matrix model.)

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ relates amplitudes $\langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{W} \rangle$ to $\langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{L} \rangle$ with coprime (p, q) .

Extended string \longleftrightarrow CFT defect

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: two-pt function of \mathcal{O} in presence of 1/2-BPS line defect (Wilson line, 't Hooft line, (p, q) Wilson-'t Hooft dyonic line)

[Barrat, Liendo, Plefka '20]

$$\text{SUSY} \implies \langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{L} \rangle = (\text{prefactor}) \mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{L}}(U, V)$$

$$U = \frac{\mathbf{x}_1^\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_2^\perp}{|\mathbf{x}_1^\perp| |\mathbf{x}_2^\perp|}, \quad V = \frac{(\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2)^2}{|\mathbf{x}_1^\perp| |\mathbf{x}_2^\perp|}$$

- Simplest case: Wilson loop $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{W}$ in fundamental representation:

$$\mathbb{W} = \text{tr}_{\text{fund}} P \exp \left[i \oint ds (A_\mu(x(s)) \dot{x}^\mu(s) + X_6(x(s)) |\dot{x}(s)|) \right].$$

- On S^4 , can compute

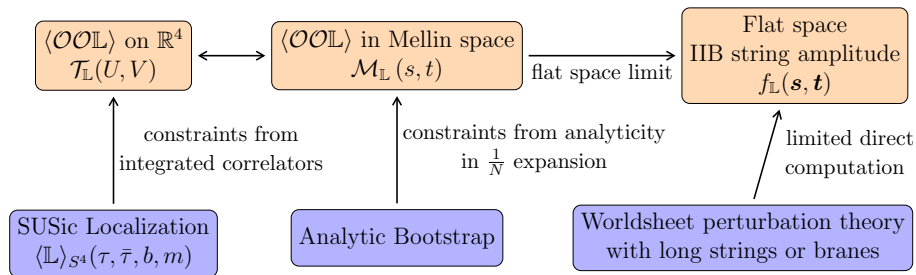
$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}} = \partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{W} \rangle \Big|_{m=0} = \text{integrated } \langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{W} \rangle$$

using localization. (Insert $\sum_i e^{2\pi a_i}$ in matrix model.)

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ relates amplitudes $\langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{W} \rangle$ to $\langle \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \mathbb{L} \rangle$ with coprime (p, q) .

Scattering from extended string from CFT

Expect similar connections, but **more conjectural** in this case:



Expect:

Same fns of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ appear in derivs of $\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle \big|_{m=0}$ and in $f_{\mathbb{L}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ at low orders in the derivative expansion.

Two-point function in presence of Wilson loop

- For line operator \mathbb{L} , expand

$$\partial_m^2 \log \langle \mathbb{L} \rangle \Big|_{m=0} = \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, -1/2} \sqrt{N} + \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 0} + \frac{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 1/2}}{\sqrt{N}} + \frac{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 1}}{N} + \frac{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 3/2}}{N^{3/2}} + \dots$$

- For $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{W}$ (Wilson loop), matrix model gives [SSP, Rodriguez, Wang '23]:

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, -1/2} = g,$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 0} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\pi^2}{3},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 1/2} = \frac{3}{8g} - \frac{g^3}{32},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 1} = \frac{3(1 + 4\zeta(3))}{8g^2} + \frac{g^6}{11520} - \frac{3g^2}{2\pi^2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \cos(k\theta) K_2(8\pi^2 k/g^2) \sigma_{-2}(k),$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 3/2} = \frac{3(21 + 64\zeta(3))}{128g^3} - \frac{g}{256} + \frac{7g^5}{10240} - \frac{g^9}{1935360} + (\text{non-pert})$$

- We determined $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, k}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ for $k \leq 3/2$. NOT modular invariant.

Two-point function in presence of 't Hooft loop

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ duality relates \mathbb{W} to \mathbb{L} for Wilson-'t Hooft loops \longleftrightarrow (p, q) -strings.
- For example, S-duality **when $\theta = 0$** gives for the 't Hooft loop \mathbb{T} :

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, -1/2} = \frac{4\pi}{g},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 0} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\pi^2}{3},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 1/2} = \frac{-\frac{8\pi^4}{g^3} + \frac{3}{8}g}{4\pi},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 1} = \frac{24\pi\zeta(3)}{g^4} - \frac{\pi^2}{g^2} + \frac{\pi}{6} + \frac{3g^2}{128\pi^2} + \frac{3g}{2\pi^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{8\pi^2}{g^2}} \left(1 - \frac{25g^2}{64\pi^2} + \mathcal{O}(g^4) \right) + \mathcal{O}\left(e^{-\frac{16\pi^2}{g^2}}\right).$$

- Finite number of perturbative terms + infinite number of non-perturbative corrections for both \mathbb{W} and \mathbb{T} !

Two-point function in presence of 't Hooft loop

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ duality relates \mathbb{W} to \mathbb{L} for Wilson-'t Hooft loops \longleftrightarrow (p, q) -strings.
- For example, S-duality **when $\theta = 0$** gives for the 't Hooft loop \mathbb{T} :

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, -1/2} = \frac{4\pi}{g},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 0} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\pi^2}{3},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 1/2} = \frac{-\frac{8\pi^4}{g^3} + \frac{3}{8}g}{4\pi},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T}, 1} = \frac{24\pi\zeta(3)}{g^4} - \frac{\pi^2}{g^2} + \frac{\pi}{6} + \frac{3g^2}{128\pi^2} + \frac{3g}{2\pi^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{8\pi^2}{g^2}} \left(1 - \frac{25g^2}{64\pi^2} + \mathcal{O}(g^4) \right) + \mathcal{O}\left(e^{-\frac{16\pi^2}{g^2}}\right).$$

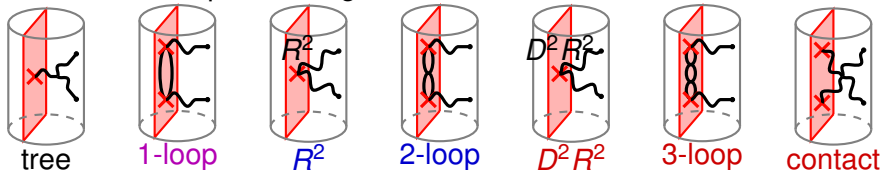
- Finite number of perturbative terms + infinite number of non-perturbative corrections for both \mathbb{W} and \mathbb{T} !

String theory interpretation

- At each order, **tree level diagrams** + **loop diagrams**:

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, -1/2} \sqrt{N}}_{\text{tree}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 0}}_{\text{1-loop}} + \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 1/2}}{\sqrt{N}}}_{\substack{R^2, \\ \text{2-loop}}} + \underbrace{\frac{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{L}, 1}}{N}}_{\substack{D^2 R^2, \\ \text{3-loop,} \\ \text{bulk contact}}} + \dots$$

- Some examples of diagrams are:



- At each order in $1/\sqrt{N}$, the contact and loop diagrams can be distinguished by their $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ dependence!

Conjecture for graviton scattering amplitude

- Let me make a **conjecture** for $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{W}$ (**Wilson loop**) \longleftrightarrow **fundamental string**
- Bulk **effective** action is Nambu-Goto $+R^2 + D^2 R^2 + D^4 R^2 + \dots$, but better to think about it in terms of scattering amplitude.
- Scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}_{1 \rightarrow 1} = (\text{prefactor}) f_{\mathbb{W}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$, where:

$$f_{\mathbb{W}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{\mathbf{s}\mathbf{t}} + \ell_s^2 f_{1\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \ell_s^4 \left(f_{2\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_1 g_s^2}_{R^2} \right) \\ + \ell_s^6 \left(f_{3\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + g_s^2 f_{\text{bulk contact}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_2 g_s \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 1}(\tau, \bar{\tau})(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t})}_{D^2 R^2} \right) + \dots$$

- Apply $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ to this formula \implies scattering from (p, q) strings.

Conjecture for graviton scattering amplitude

- Let me make a **conjecture** for $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{W}$ (**Wilson loop**) \longleftrightarrow **fundamental string**
- Bulk **effective** action is Nambu-Goto $+R^2 + D^2 R^2 + D^4 R^2 + \dots$, but better to think about it in terms of scattering amplitude.
- Scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}_{1 \rightarrow 1} = (\text{prefactor}) f_{\mathbb{W}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$, where:

$$f_{\mathbb{W}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{\mathbf{st}} + \ell_s^2 f_{1\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \ell_s^4 \left(f_{2\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_1 g_s^2}_{R^2} \right) + \ell_s^6 \left(f_{3\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + g_s^2 f_{\text{bulk contact}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_2 g_s \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{W}, 1}(\tau, \bar{\tau})(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t})}_{D^2 R^2} \right) + \dots$$

- Apply $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ to this formula \implies scattering from (p, q) strings.

Conjecture for graviton scattering amplitude

- D1-brane at $\chi = 0$: $\mathcal{A}_{1 \rightarrow 1} = (\text{prefactor}) f_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$, where:

$$f_{\mathbb{T}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{1}{\mathbf{st}} + \ell_s^2 g_s f_{1\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \ell_s^4 \left(g_s^2 f_{2\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_1}_{R^2} \right) + \ell_s^6 \left(g_s^3 f_{3\text{-loop}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + g_s f_{\text{bulk contact}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t}) + \underbrace{c_2 g_s^2 \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T},1}(\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t})}_{D^2 R^2} \right) + \dots$$

where

$$g_s^2 \mathcal{I}_{\mathbb{T},1} = \frac{3\zeta(3)}{2\pi} - \frac{\pi g_s}{4} + \frac{\pi g_s^2}{6} + \frac{3g_s^3}{32\pi} + \frac{3g_s^3}{\pi} e^{-\frac{2\pi}{g_s}} \left(1 - \frac{25g_s}{16\pi} + \mathcal{O}(g_s^2) \right) + \mathcal{O}\left(e^{-\frac{4\pi}{g_s}}\right)$$

- $\zeta(3)$ matches disk amplitude [Hashimoto, Klebanov '96; Basu '08].

Conclusion

- We determined new functions of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ that appear in the effective actions at orders $D^2 R^2$ and $D^4 R^2$ on extended (p, q) -strings.

Didn't talk about:

- Actual computations using matrix model

For the future:

- Make connections precise between two-pt function in presence of line defect and graviton scattering from a long string.
- Generalization to Wilson loops in other irreps \rightarrow effective action on D3- and D5-branes.

Conclusion

- We determined new functions of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ that appear in the effective actions at orders $D^2 R^2$ and $D^4 R^2$ on extended (p, q) -strings.

Didn't talk about:

- Actual computations using matrix model

For the future:

- Make connections precise between two-pt function in presence of line defect and graviton scattering from a long string.
- Generalization to Wilson loops in other irreps \rightarrow effective action on D3- and D5-branes.

Conclusion

- We determined new functions of $(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ that appear in the effective actions at orders $D^2 R^2$ and $D^4 R^2$ on extended (p, q) -strings.

Didn't talk about:

- Actual computations using matrix model

For the future:

- Make connections precise between two-pt function in presence of line defect and graviton scattering from a long string.
- Generalization to Wilson loops in other irreps \rightarrow effective action on D3- and D5-branes.