# Efficient Rules for All Conformal Blocks: A Dream Come True

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#### arXiv:2002.09007 [hep-ph]

Also see: arXiv:1905.00036 [hep-ph], arXiv:1906.12349 [hep-ph] arXiv:1907.08599 [hep-ph], arXiv:1907.10506 [hep-ph]

with Jean-François Fortin, Wen-Jie Ma, and Witold Skiba

# Why Study Conformal Field Theories (CFTs)?

CFTs describe universal physics of scale invariant critical points:

- continuous phase transitions in condensed matter and statistical systems
- fixed points of RG flows

Provide a handle on

- Universal structure of the landscape of QFTs
- Quantum gravity via the AdS/CFT correspondence and holography

- String theory
- Black holes

# The Conformal Bootstrap

The conformal bootstrap program seeks to systematically apply

- conformal symmetry
- crossing symmetry
- unitarity/reflection positivity

conditions to map out and solve the space of allowed CFTs



Figure: Allowed region for 3D Ising Model [El-Showk, Paulos, Poland, Rychkov, Simmons-Duffin, Vichi, '12; '14]

### The Ultimate Dream

- Tremendous progress both on the numerical and analytic fronts! e.g. Ferrara et al. (1971, 1973), Dobrev et al. (1976, 1977), Polyakov (1974), Dolan & Osborn (2001, 2004, 2011), Poland et al. (2012), Simmons-Duffin (2014), El-Showk et al. (2014), Kos et al. (2014, 2015, 2016), Costa & Hansen (2015), Rejon-Barrera & Robbins (2016), Echeverri et al. (2016), Costa et al. (2016), Fortin & Skiba (2016, 2019), Karateev et al. (2017), Poland & Simmons-Duffin (2019)
- Dream: to classify and solve the entire landscape of CFTs and predict their observables
- CFTs are signposts in the landscape of QFTs!



QFTs: Renormalization group flows from UV to IR fixed points



 Large classes of QFTs as relevant deformations of small subset of CFTs

Part I: Setting the Stage

- A Little Bit of Background on CFTs
- Goal: Efficient Rules for Arbitrary Conformal Blocks

- Embedding Space OPE Formalism
- Three- and Four-Point Functions
- Bases of Tensor Structures

Part II: The Rules

• Tensor Structures for Towers of Exchanged Operators

- Projection Operators to Exchanged Representations
- Diagrammatic Notation
- Rule for Rotation Matrices
- Rule for Conformal Blocks
- Examples
- Conclusions and Outlook

#### What is a CFT?

A special quantum field theory invariant under the conformal transformations:

$$g'_{\mu
u}(x') = c(x)\delta_{\mu
u}$$

Jacobian:

$$J = rac{\partial x'^{\mu}}{\partial x^{
u}} = b(x) M^{\mu}{}_{
u}(x), \quad M \in SO(d)$$

- Preserve angles
- Locally look like a rotation followed by a scale transformation  $x \to \lambda x$



Two kinds of operators in CFTs:

 quasi-primaries [K<sub>μ</sub>, O<sup>(x)</sup>(0)] = 0: transform simply under conformal transformations, e.g.

$$x \to x', \quad \mathcal{O}^{(x)}(x) \to \tilde{\mathcal{O}}^{(x)}(x') = b(x)^{-\Delta} \mathcal{O}^{(x)}(x)$$

- descendants: don't!
- Complete spectrum of operators: primaries+infinite towers of descendants
- Organic observables in CFTs: *M*-point correlation functions of operators, ⟨*O*<sup>(x)</sup>(x<sub>1</sub>)...*O*<sup>(x)</sup>(x<sub>M</sub>)⟩

- Well-defined objects appearing in expansion of the four-point functions
- Capture contributions of particular exchanged operators in the OPE

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 $\bullet$  Similar to an expansion in spherical harmonics  $Y_\ell^m$  but for CFTs

Impose crossing symmetry



Interchanging  $x_1 \leftrightarrow x_3$  gives the crossing symmetry condition:

$$\sum_{\Delta,\ell} \lambda_{\mathcal{O}}^2 g_{\Delta,\ell}(u,v) = \sum_{\Delta,\ell} \lambda_{\mathcal{O}}^2 g_{\Delta,\ell}(v,u)$$

Goal: Efficient Rules for Arbitrary Conformal Blocks

- Approach based on embedding space OPE formalism given in Fortin, VP, Skiba (2019)
- Conformal blocks expressed as specific linear combinations of Gegenbauer polynomials in a special variable, with a unique substitution rule ascribed to each polynomial piece
- Applying each rule term-by-term directly generates the complete conformal block in terms of a four-point tensorial generalization of the Exton G-function (∝ scalar exchange block in ⟨SSSS⟩)

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Procedure for determining a given block:

- Writing down the relevant group theoretic input data: the projection operators and tensor structures
- Identifying the specific linear combination of Gegenbauer polynomials along with the associated substitution rules for each piece

In this work: Wish to make this approach systematic  $\Rightarrow$  Derive a set of general rules

Replace the product of two local quasi-primary operators by an infinite sum of operators at some point on the lightcone:

$$\mathcal{O}_{i}(\eta_{1})\mathcal{O}_{j}(\eta_{2}) = (\mathcal{T}_{12}^{\boldsymbol{N}_{i}}\boldsymbol{\Gamma})(\mathcal{T}_{21}^{\boldsymbol{N}_{j}}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}) \cdot \sum_{k} \sum_{a=1}^{N_{ijk}} \frac{{}_{a}c_{ij}{}_{a}^{k} t_{ij}^{12k}}{(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{2})^{p_{ijk}}}$$
$$\cdot \mathcal{D}_{12}^{(d,h_{ijk}-n_{a}/2,n_{a})}(\mathcal{T}_{12\boldsymbol{N}_{k}}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}) * \mathcal{O}_{k}(\eta_{2})$$

where

$$p_{ijk} = rac{1}{2}( au_i + au_j - au_k), \qquad h_{ijk} = -rac{1}{2}(\chi_i - \chi_j + \chi_k), \ au_\mathcal{O} = \Delta_\mathcal{O} - \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{O}, \qquad \chi_\mathcal{O} = \Delta_\mathcal{O} - \xi_\mathcal{O}, \qquad \xi_\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{O} - \lfloor \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{O} 
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• Most convenient form for computing *M*-point correlation functions

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#### The Embedding Space

Embedding space  $\mathcal{M}^{d+2}$ :



 A natural habitat for the conformal group: (d + 2)-dimensional hypercone where operators live

$$\eta^2 \equiv g_{AB} \eta^A \eta^B = 0$$

 Light rays in one-to-one correspondence with position space points

### The Embedding Space (cont.)

Coordinates on the hypercone:

$$\eta^{\boldsymbol{A}} = (\eta^{\mu}, \eta^{\boldsymbol{d}+1}, \eta^{\boldsymbol{d}+2})$$

• 
$$\lambda\eta^{A}$$
 identified with  $\eta^{A}$  for  $\lambda>0$ 

Connection to position space:

$$x^{\mu} = \frac{\eta^{\mu}}{-\eta^{d+1} + \eta^{d+2}}$$

In the embedding space,

- Conformal transformations act linearly: Conformal group becomes like Lorentz group!
- All operators in *d*-dimensional CFT need to somehow be lifted to M<sup>d+2</sup>.

#### Essential Ingredients of the Formalism

• OPE differential operator  $\mathcal{D}_{12}^{(d,h_{ijk}-n_a/2,n_a)}$ 

- Projection operators  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{ij}^{\mathbf{N}}$
- Half-projection operators  $\mathcal{T}_{12}^{\pmb{N}_i}\Gamma$
- Tensor structures  $_{a}t_{ij}^{12k}$
- Special metric  $\mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB}$

#### OPE differential operator

OPE differential operator  $\mathcal{D}_{12}^{(d,h_{ijk}-n_a/2,n_a)}$  given by

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h,n)A_1\cdots A_n} = rac{1}{(\eta_1\cdot\eta_2)^{rac{n}{2}}}\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2(h+n)}\eta_j^{A_1}\cdots\eta_j^{A_n}, 
onumber \ \mathcal{D}_{ij}^2 = (\eta_i\cdot\eta_j)\partial_j^2 - (d+2\eta_j\cdot\partial_j)\eta_i\cdot\partial_j$$

- Explicit action of this operator known for any relevant quantity!
- Consequence: Its action can be accounted for by simple substitution rules on specific quantities

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• Useful for computation of conformal blocks

Ferrara et al. (1971, 1973), Fortin, Skiba (2019)

• Projection operators:  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{ij}^{\mathbf{N}}$  in place to restrict operators to the proper representations

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Operators satisfy the essential properties:

- **1** the projection property  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N} \cdot \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N'} = \delta_{N'N} \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N}$ ,
- **2** the completeness relation  $\sum_{\boldsymbol{N}|n_v} fixed \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{\boldsymbol{N}} = 1 traces$ ,
- **3** the tracelessness condition  $g \cdot \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N} = \gamma \cdot \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N} = \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N} \cdot g = \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N} \cdot \gamma = 0$

with  $n_v$  the total number of vector indices

• Half-projection operators  $(\mathcal{T}^{N})^{\mu_{1}\cdots\mu_{n_{v}}\delta}_{\alpha_{1}\cdots\alpha_{n}}$  to general irreps N

$$n = 2S = 2\sum_{i=1}^{r-1} N_i + N_r, \quad n_v = \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} iN_i + r\lfloor N_r/2 \rfloor$$

•  $\delta$  spinor index only present for odd  $N_r$  in odd d

• Encode transformation properties of operators  $\mathcal{O}^{\textit{N}}$  ,  $\mathcal{O}^{\textit{N}} \sim \mathcal{T}^{\textit{N}}$ 

$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha_{1}\cdots\alpha_{n}}^{\mathbf{N}} = (\mathcal{T}^{\mathbf{N}})_{\alpha_{1}\cdots\alpha_{n}}^{\delta\mu_{n_{v}}\cdots\mu_{1}} \mathcal{O}_{\mu_{1}\cdots\mu_{n_{v}}\delta}^{\mathbf{N}}, \\ \mathcal{O}_{\mu_{1}\cdots\mu_{n_{v}}\delta}^{\mathbf{N}} = (\mathcal{T}_{\mathbf{N}})_{\mu_{1}\cdots\mu_{n_{v}}\delta}^{\alpha_{n}\cdots\alpha_{1}} \mathcal{O}_{\alpha_{1}\cdots\alpha_{n}}^{\mathbf{N}}$$

• Essentially square roots of projection operators:

$$\mathcal{T}_{N} * \mathcal{T}^{N} = \hat{\mathcal{P}}^{N}$$

- Are transverse objects to match the transversality of operators
- Serve to translate the spinor indices carried by each operator to "dummy" vector and spinor indices

Tensor structures  $_{a}t_{ijk}^{12}$  are

- Determined by three irreps of operators in 3-point function  $\langle \mathcal{O}^{N_i} \mathcal{O}^{N_j} \mathcal{O}^{N_k} \rangle$
- Serve to intertwine N<sub>i</sub>, N<sub>j</sub>, and N<sub>k</sub> into a symmetric traceless representation
- Number N<sub>ijk</sub> of symmetric irreducible representations appearing in N<sub>i</sub> ⊗ N<sub>j</sub> ⊗ N<sub>k</sub> matches number of OPE coefficients

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• Set of all  $_{a}t_{ijk}^{12}$  forms basis for a vector space

For general irreps of the Lorentz group, necessary to properly remove traces!

• For this, require a new embedding space metric:

$$\mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB} = g^{AB} - \frac{\eta_i^A \eta_j^B}{(\eta_i \cdot \eta_j)} - \frac{\eta_i^B \eta_j^A}{(\eta_i \cdot \eta_j)}$$

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Special metric is doubly-transverse and symmetric:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB} &= \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{BA} = \mathcal{A}_{ji}^{AB} = \mathcal{A}_{ji}^{BA}, \\ \eta_{iA} \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB} &= \eta_{jA} \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB} = 0, \\ \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AC} \mathcal{A}_{ijC}^{B} &= \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB}, \end{aligned}$$

Same trace as in position space:

$$\mathcal{A}_{ijA}^{A} = d$$

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#### From Position Space to Embedding Space

Building blocks:

- $g^{\mu\nu}$
- ϵ<sup>μ1···μd</sup>
- $\gamma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_n}$

Relationship between position-space and embedding space quantities:

$$g^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{12}^{AB} = g^{AB} - \frac{\eta_1^A \eta_2^B}{(\eta_1 \cdot \eta_2)} - \frac{\eta_1^B \eta_2^A}{(\eta_1 \cdot \eta_2)},$$
  

$$\epsilon^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_d} \rightarrow \epsilon_{12}^{A_1 \cdots A_d} = \frac{1}{(\eta_1 \cdot \eta_2)} \eta_{1A'_0} \epsilon^{A'_0 A'_1 \cdots A'_d A'_{d+1}} \eta_{2A'_{d+1}} \mathcal{A}_{12A'_d}^{A_d} \cdots \mathcal{A}_{12A'_1}^{A_1},$$
  

$$\gamma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_n} \rightarrow \Gamma_{12}^{A_1 \cdots A_n} = \Gamma^{A'_1 \cdots A'_n} \mathcal{A}_{12A'_n}^{A_n} \cdots \mathcal{A}_{12A'_1}^{A_1} \quad \forall n \in \{0, \dots, r\}.$$

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Most general embedding space 3-point function:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{i}(\eta_{1})\mathcal{O}_{j}(\eta_{2})\mathcal{O}_{m}(\eta_{3}) \rangle = \\ \frac{(\mathcal{T}_{12}^{N_{i}}\Gamma)^{\{Aa\}}(\mathcal{T}_{21}^{N_{j}}\Gamma)^{\{Bb\}}(\mathcal{T}_{31}^{N_{m}}\Gamma)^{\{Ee\}}}{(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{2})^{\frac{1}{2}(\tau_{i}+\tau_{j}-\chi_{m})}(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{3})^{\frac{1}{2}(\chi_{i}-\chi_{j}+\tau_{m})}(\eta_{2}\cdot\eta_{3})^{\frac{1}{2}(-\chi_{i}+\chi_{j}+\chi_{m})}} \\ \cdot \sum_{a=1}^{N_{ijm}} {}_{a}c_{ijm}(\mathscr{G}_{(a)}^{ij|m})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}}$$

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•  $(\mathscr{G}^{ij|m}_{(a|})_{aA}_{bB}_{eE})$  - "3-point" conformal blocks

Most general embedding space 4-point function:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{i}(\eta_{1})\mathcal{O}_{j}(\eta_{2})\mathcal{O}_{k}(\eta_{3})\mathcal{O}_{l}(\eta_{4}) \rangle =$$

$$\frac{(\mathcal{T}_{12}^{N_{i}}\Gamma)^{\{Aa\}}(\mathcal{T}_{21}^{N_{j}}\Gamma)^{\{Bb\}}(\mathcal{T}_{34}^{N_{k}}\Gamma)^{\{Cc\}}(\mathcal{T}_{43}^{N_{j}}\Gamma)^{\{Dd\}}}{(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{2})^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha_{12}}(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{3})^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha_{13}}(\eta_{1}\cdot\eta_{4})^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha_{14}}(\eta_{3}\cdot\eta_{4})^{\frac{1}{2}\alpha_{34}}}$$

$$\cdot \sum_{m} \sum_{a=1}^{N_{ijm}} \sum_{b=1}^{N_{klm}} {}_{a}c_{ij}^{m}{}_{b}\alpha_{klm}(\mathscr{G}_{(a|b]}^{ij|m|kl})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{cC\}\{dD\}\}}$$

with

$$\alpha_{12} = (\tau_i - \chi_i + \tau_j + \chi_j), \quad \alpha_{13} = (\chi_i - \chi_j + \chi_k - \chi_l), \\ \alpha_{14} = (\chi_i - \chi_j - \chi_k + \chi_l), \quad \alpha_{34} = (-\chi_i + \chi_j + \tau_k + \tau_l)$$

•  $(\mathscr{G}_{(a|b]}^{ij|m|kl})_{aA}_{bB}_{cC}_{dD}$  - "4-point" conformal blocks

Two kinds of bases arise naturally in the context of the formalism:

- OPE basis (a)
- Output Designment Provide A Contract of Contract of

Three-point blocks in the two bases related via rotation matrices

$$\mathscr{G}_{(\mathsf{a}|}^{ij|m} = \sum_{\mathsf{a}'=1}^{N_{ijm}} (R_{ijm}^{-1})_{\mathsf{a}\mathsf{a}'} \mathscr{G}_{[\mathsf{a}'|}^{ij|m}, \quad {}_{\mathsf{a}}\mathsf{c}_{ijm} = \sum_{\mathsf{a}'=1}^{N_{ijm}} {}_{\mathsf{a}'} \alpha_{ijm} (R_{ijm})_{\mathsf{a}'\mathsf{a}}$$

where  ${}_{a}\alpha_{ijm}$  are the associated 3-point function coefficients, implying

$$\sum_{a=1}^{N_{ijm}} {}_{a}c_{ijm}\mathscr{G}_{(a)}^{ij|m} = \sum_{a=1}^{N_{ijm}} {}_{a}\alpha_{ijm}\mathscr{G}_{[a]}^{ij|m}$$

#### Bases of Tensor Structures (cont.)

- Three-point basis [a is the natural one for 3-point functions!
- 3-point conformal blocks in this basis:

$$\mathscr{G}_{[\mathsf{a}]}^{ij|m} = \bar{\eta}_3 \cdot \mathsf{\Gamma}_{\mathsf{a}} \mathsf{F}_{ijm}^{12}(\mathcal{A}_{12}, \mathsf{\Gamma}_{12}, \epsilon_{12}; \mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_3)$$

•  $\overline{\eta}_3 \cdot \Gamma$  appears only if  $\xi_k = \frac{1}{2}$ , *i.e.* the exchanged quasi-primary operator is fermionic

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Arbitrary 3-point functions simply obtained by enumerating basis  $\{_{a}F_{ijm}^{12}\}$  made from

- $\mathcal{A}_{12}$ 's
- $\Gamma_{12}$ 's
- $\epsilon_{12}$ 's

•  $\mathcal{A}_{12}\cdot ar{\eta}_3$ 's

#### Bases of Tensor Structures (cont.)

- Conformal blocks feature simplest form in mixed OPE-three-point basis: *G*<sup>ij|m|kl</sup><sub>(a|b]</sub> (Fortin, VP, Skiba (2019))
- For the conformal bootstrap: most convenient to work in the pure three-point basis
- Pure three-point blocks obtained from mixed ones via

$$\mathscr{G}_{[a|b]}^{ij|m|kl} = \sum_{a'=1}^{N_{ijm}} (R_{ijm})_{aa'} \mathscr{G}_{(a'|b]}^{ij|m|kl}$$

- So, strategy is to determine
  - 1 Mixed basis blocks  $\mathcal{G}_{(a|b]}^{ij|m|kl}$
  - Potation matrices (R<sub>ijm</sub>)<sub>aa'</sub>

#### Tensor Structures for Towers of Exchanged Operators

- Consider tensor structures for exchanged towers of quasi-primary operators  $N_m + \ell e_1$
- If seed irrep N<sub>m</sub> + ℓ<sub>min</sub>e<sub>1</sub> can be exchanged, so can N<sub>m</sub> + ℓe<sub>1</sub> for any ℓ ≥ ℓ<sub>min</sub>

Idea:

- **1** Take  $\ell$ -dependence into account once and for all (fixed)
- **2** Just compute seed part  $N_m + \ell_{min} e_1$  (varies)
  - Both  $\mathbf{N}_m$  and  $\ell_{\min}$  depend on the irreps of the operators of interest

# Tensor Structures for Towers of Exchanged Operators (cont.)

• Therefore, for exchanged quasi-primary operators in  $N_m + \ell e_1$ , three-point basis can be separated as

$${}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+\ell} = {}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+i_{b}}(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{2})^{\ell-i_{b}},$$

$${}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+\ell} = {}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+i_{a}}(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})^{\ell-i_{a}} \rightarrow {}_{a}t^{12}_{ij,m+\ell} = {}_{a}t^{12}_{ij,m+i_{a}}(\mathcal{A}_{12})^{\ell-i_{a}}$$
with
$$(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{2})_{E''_{i_{b}+1}} \cdots (\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{2})_{E''_{\ell}}$$

$$(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E_{i_{a}+1}} \cdots (\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E_{\ell}}$$

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the symmetrized  $\ell$ -dependent parts of the respective tensor structures

# Tensor Structures for Towers of Exchanged Operators (cont.)

- "Special" parts of tensor structures  ${}_{a}t^{12}_{ij,m+i_{a}}$  and  ${}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+i_{b}}$  fixed by knowledge of the specific irreps in question
- OPE basis obtained from three-point basis by replacing  ${\cal A}_{12}\cdot \bar\eta_3 o {\cal A}_{12}$
- with the extra *F* index contracting with the OPE differential operator

For example,

$$(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_3)_{\mathcal{E}_{i_a+1}} \cdots (\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_3)_{\mathcal{E}_{\ell}} \to \mathcal{A}_{12\mathcal{E}'_{i_a+1}\mathcal{F}_{i_a+1}} \cdots \mathcal{A}_{12\mathcal{E}'_{\ell}\mathcal{F}_{\ell}}$$

Case of symmetric traceless  $\ell e_1$  exchange in  $\langle SVSV \rangle$ : Tensor structures are

$$\begin{split} b &= 1: \qquad ({}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = (\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\bar{\eta}}_{2})_{D}[(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\bar{\eta}}_{2})_{E''}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{b}t^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}\{F''\}} = \mathcal{A}_{34DF''}(\mathcal{A}_{34E''F''})^{\ell}, \\ b &= 2: \qquad ({}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = \mathcal{A}_{34DE_{1}''}[(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\bar{\eta}}_{2})_{E''}]^{\ell-1} \\ &\to ({}_{b}t^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = \mathcal{A}_{34DE_{1}''}(\mathcal{A}_{34E''F''})^{\ell-1}, \\ a &= 1: \qquad ({}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}} = (\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{B}[(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{a}t^{12,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}}^{\{Ee\}\{F\}} = \mathcal{A}_{12B}{}^{F}(\mathcal{A}^{EF}_{12})^{\ell}, \\ a &= 2: \qquad ({}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}} = \mathcal{A}_{12BE_{1}}[(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E}]^{\ell-1} \\ &\to ({}_{a}t^{12,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}}^{\{Ee\}\{F\}} = \mathcal{A}_{12B}{}^{E_{1}}(\mathcal{A}^{EF}_{12})^{\ell-1} \end{split}$$

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Only interested in information about the special parts

$$\begin{split} b &= 1: & n_b = \ell + 1, & i_b = 0, & ({}_b t^{34}_{klm})_{DF''} = \mathcal{A}_{34DF''}, \\ b &= 2: & n_b = \ell - 1, & i_b = 1, & ({}_b t^{34}_{kl,m+1})_{DE''_1} = \mathcal{A}_{34DE''_1}, \\ a &= 1: & n_a = \ell + 1, & i_a = 0, & ({}_a t^{12m}_{ij})_B{}^F = \mathcal{A}_{12B}{}^F, \\ a &= 2: & n_a = \ell - 1, & i_a = 1, & ({}_a t^{12,m+1}_{ij})_B{}^{E_1} = \mathcal{A}_{12B}{}^{E_1}. \end{split}$$

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Case of  $\boldsymbol{e}_r + \ell \boldsymbol{e}_1$  exchange in  $\langle SFSF \rangle$ :

$$\begin{split} b &= 1: \qquad ({}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = (C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}[(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{2})_{E''}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{b}t^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}\{F''\}} = (C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}(\mathcal{A}_{34E''F''})^{\ell}, \\ b &= 2: \qquad ({}_{b}F^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = (\bar{\eta}_{2} \cdot \Gamma_{34}C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}[(\mathcal{A}_{34} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{2})_{E''}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{b}t^{34}_{kl,m+\ell})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}} = (\Gamma_{34F''}C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}(\mathcal{A}_{34E''F''})^{\ell} \\ a &= 1: \qquad ({}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}} = (C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{be}[(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{a}t^{12,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}}^{\{EE\}\{F\}} = \delta_{b}{}^{e}(\mathcal{A}^{EF}_{12})^{\ell}, \\ a &= 2: \qquad ({}_{a}F^{12}_{ij,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}} = (\bar{\eta}_{3} \cdot \Gamma_{12}C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{be}[(\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})_{E}]^{\ell} \\ &\to ({}_{a}t^{12,m+\ell})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}}^{\{Ee\}\{F\}} = (\Gamma^{F}_{12})_{b}{}^{e}(\mathcal{A}^{EF}_{12})^{\ell} \end{split}$$

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Only interested in information about the special parts

$$\begin{split} b &= 1: & n_b = \ell, & i_b = 0, & ({}_b t^{34}_{klm})_{de''} = (C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}, \\ b &= 2: & n_b = \ell + 1, & i_b = 0, & ({}_b t^{34}_{klm})_{de''F''} = (\Gamma_{34F''} C_{\Gamma}^{-1})_{de''}, \\ a &= 1: & n_a = \ell, & i_a = 0, & ({}_a t^{12m}_{ij})_b{}^e = \delta_b{}^e, \\ a &= 2: & n_a = \ell + 1, & i_a = 0, & ({}_a t^{12m}_{ij})_b{}^{eF} = (\Gamma_{12}^F)_b{}^e. \end{split}$$

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### Projection Operators to Exchanged Representations

- Projection operator to exchanged irreps appears explicitly in conformal block
- Need  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13}^{\pmb{N}_m+\ell\pmb{e}_1}$

Useful to decompose operators as

$$\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13}^{\boldsymbol{N}_m+\ell\boldsymbol{e}_1} = \sum_t \mathscr{A}_t(d,\ell) \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{13|t}^{\boldsymbol{N}_m+\ell_t\boldsymbol{e}_1} \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d+d_t}^{(\ell-\ell_t)\boldsymbol{e}_1}$$

- Coefficients  $\mathscr{A}_t(d, \ell)$  are constants
- Sum is finite and  $\ell$ -independent
- Number of terms depends on irrep  $N_m$

# Projection Operators to Exchanged Representations (cont.)

- Tensor quantities  $\hat{Q}_{13|t}^{N_m+\ell_t e_1}$  encode information about the special parts of the irrep  $N_m + \ell_t e_1$
- $\mathscr{A}_t(d,\ell)$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{13|t}^{\pmb{N}_m+\ell_t e_1}$  fixed by details of specific exchanged irrep
- Remaining indices carried by shifted projection operators for some d' and  $\ell'$

$$(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d'}^{\ell'\mathbf{e}_{1}})_{E_{\ell}'\cdots E_{1}'}^{E_{1}''\cdots E_{\ell}''} = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \ell'/2 \rfloor} \frac{(-\ell')_{2i}}{2^{2i}i!(-\ell'+2-d'/2)_{i}}$$
$$\mathcal{A}_{13(E_{1}'E_{2}'}\mathcal{A}_{13}^{(E_{1}''E_{2}''}\cdots \mathcal{A}_{13E_{2i-1}'E_{2i}'}\mathcal{A}_{13}^{E_{2i-1}''E_{2i}''}\mathcal{A}_{13E_{2i+1}'}^{E_{2i+1}''}\cdots \mathcal{A}_{13E_{\ell}'}^{E_{\ell}''})$$

• Shifted projectors **not** traceless when  $d_t \neq 0$ 

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- Special indices in special parts need to be extracted
- For this, derived general index separation result for  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d'}^{\ell' \mathbf{e}_1}$

The projection operator to  $e_2 + \ell e_1$  can be decomposed in terms of shifted projectors as (in position space)

t	$(d_t, \ell_t)$	$\mathscr{A}_t(d,\ell)$	$\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_t$
1	(2,0)	$\frac{2}{\ell+2}$	$g_{[ u_1}^{\  u_1'}\cdots g_{ u_2]}^{\  u_2'}$
2	(4, 1)	$\frac{2\ell}{\ell+2}$	$g_{[ u_1}^{\ \                                  $
3	(4, 1)	$\frac{2\ell}{\ell+2}$	$g_{[ u_1}{}^{[ u_1'}g_{ u_2]\mu}g^{ u_2']\mu'}$
4	(2,1)	$-rac{2\ell(-\ell-d/2)(d+\ell-1)}{(\ell+2)(-\ell+1-d/2)(d+\ell-2)}$	$g_{[ u_1}^{\ \ [ u_1'}g_{ u_2]\mu}g^{ u_2']\mu'}$
5	(4,2)	$-rac{2\ell(\ell-1)(-\ell-d/2)}{(\ell+2)(-\ell+1-d/2)(d+\ell-2)}$	$g_{[ u_1\mu}g^{[ u_1'\mu'}g_{ u_2]}^{\ \mu'}g_{\mu}^{\  u_2']}$
6	(4,2)	$-rac{2\ell(\ell-1)}{2(\ell+2)(-\ell+1-d/2)}$	$\begin{pmatrix} g_{[\nu_{1}\mu}g_{\nu_{2}]} & [\nu_{1}'g_{\mu}\nu_{2}']g^{\mu'\mu'} \\ +g^{[\nu_{1}'\mu'}g_{[\nu_{1}} & \nu_{2}']g_{\nu_{2}]} & \mu'g_{\mu\mu} \end{pmatrix}$

Introduce convenient diagrammatic notation for index separation:

• We symbolize shifted projection operator by the vertex

$$(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1})_{\{E'\}}^{\{E''\}} =$$

- Solid, dotted, dashed lines represent metrics of the form  $\mathcal{A}_{13E'E'}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_{13}^{E''E''}$ , and  $\mathcal{A}_{13E'}^{E''}$ , respectively
- A line is associated to metrics with one special index, a loop to metrics with two special indices

For example, the index separation identity

$$(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell \mathbf{e}_{1}})_{\{E'\}}^{\{E''\}} = \mathcal{A}_{13E'_{s}}^{(E''} (\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d+2}^{(\ell-1)\mathbf{e}_{1}})_{\{E'\}}^{\{E''\})} \\ + \frac{\ell - 1}{2(-\ell + 2 - d/2)} \mathcal{A}_{13E'_{s}(E'} \mathcal{A}_{13}^{(E''E''} (\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d+2}^{(\ell-2)\mathbf{e}_{1}})_{\{E'\}}^{\{E''\})}$$

is represented as



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Can determine the rotation matrix from the relation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathscr{G}_{(\mathsf{a}|}^{ij|m+\ell} &= \sum_{\mathsf{a}'=1}^{\mathsf{N}_{ij,m+\ell}} (\mathsf{R}_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{\mathsf{a}\mathsf{a}'} \,\bar{\eta}_3 \cdot \mathsf{\Gamma}_{\mathsf{a}'} \mathsf{F}_{ij,m+\ell}^{12} (\mathcal{A}_{12},\mathsf{\Gamma}_{12},\epsilon_{12};\mathcal{A}_{12}\cdot\bar{\eta}_3) \\ &= \sum_{\mathsf{a}'=1}^{\mathsf{N}_{ij,m+\ell}} (\mathsf{R}_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{\mathsf{a}\mathsf{a}'} \,\bar{\eta}_3 \cdot \mathsf{\Gamma}_{\mathsf{a}'} \mathsf{F}_{ij,m+i_{\mathsf{a}'}}^{12} (\mathcal{A}_{12},\mathsf{\Gamma}_{12},\epsilon_{12};\mathcal{A}_{12}\cdot\bar{\eta}_3) (\mathcal{A}_{12}\cdot\bar{\eta}_3)^{\ell-i_{\mathsf{a}'}}, \end{aligned}$$

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using the symmetry properties of the irreps of the three quasi-primary operators in question

Rotation matrix determined from

$$\begin{split} &\sum_{a'=1}^{N_{ij,m+\ell}} (R_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{aa'} (a'F_{ij,m+i_{a'}}^{12})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{eE\}\{F\}} (\mathcal{A}_{12} \cdot \bar{\eta}_{3})^{\ell-i_{a'}} \\ &= (-1)^{2\xi_{m}(r+1)} (at_{ij,m+i_{a}}^{12})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{e'E'\}\{F\}} (C_{\Gamma}\Gamma_{F}C_{\Gamma}^{-1})^{e'}{}_{e} \times \\ &\sum_{r_{0},r_{3},s_{0},s_{3},t \geq 0} \sum_{q_{0},q_{1},q_{2},q_{3} \geq 0} a^{\kappa} (q,r_{0},r_{3},s_{0},s_{3},t) \\ &\times \sum_{\sigma} g_{E_{\sigma(1)}}^{E'_{\sigma(1)}} \cdots g_{E_{\sigma(r_{0})}}^{E'_{\sigma(r_{0})}} \bar{\eta}_{3}^{E'_{\sigma(r_{0}+1)}} \cdots \bar{\eta}_{3}^{E'_{\sigma(r_{0}+r_{3})}} (g_{E}^{(Z)})^{s_{0}} (\bar{\eta}_{3}^{Z})^{s_{3}} \\ &\times S_{(q_{0},q_{1},q_{2},q_{3})} \frac{Z^{n_{v}^{m+i_{a}}+2\xi_{m}+n_{a}-\ell_{a}-r_{0}-r_{3}-s_{0}-s_{3}}}{E_{\sigma_{v}^{m+i_{a}}-r_{0}}} (-\bar{\eta}_{2E})^{\ell_{a}-s_{0}} \end{split}$$

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• Totally symmetric S-tensor: structure built from g's,  $\bar{\eta}_1$ s,  $\bar{\eta}_2$ s,  $\bar{\eta}_3$ s

$$egin{aligned} S^{A_1\cdots A_{ar q}}_{(q_0,q_1,q_2,q_3)} &= g^{(A_1A_2}\cdots g^{A_{2q_0-1}A_{2q_0}}ar\eta_1^{A_{2q_0+1}}\cdotsa\eta_1^{A_{2q_0+q_1}}\ & imes ar\eta_2^{A_{2q_0+q_1+1}}\cdotsar\eta_2^{A_{2q_0+q_1+q_2}}ar\eta_3^{A_{2q_0+q_1+q_2+1}}\cdotsar\eta_3^{A_{ar q}},\ &ar q &= 2q_0+q_1+q_2+q_3 \end{aligned}$$

- Z indices  $Z \in \{E'_{\sigma(r_0+r_3+1)}, \dots, E'_{\sigma(n_v^{m+i_a})}, F^{n_a-\ell_a+2\xi_m}\}$
- $_{a}\kappa^{ij|m+\ell}_{(\boldsymbol{q},r_{0},r_{3},s_{0},s_{3},t)}$  coefficients comprised from various Pochhammer symbols, e.g.  $(\Delta_{m+\ell} + n_{v}^{m} + \xi_{m} + \ell - r_{0})_{h_{ij,m+\ell} + n_{a}/2 - \ell + i_{a} - s_{0} + t - q_{0} - q_{1}}$

Conformal blocks in the mixed basis (a|b] given by

(

$$\begin{aligned} \mathscr{G}_{(a|b]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}\{cC\}\{dD\}} &= \sum_{t} \mathscr{A}_{t}(d,\ell) \sum_{j_{a},j_{b}\geq 0} \binom{i_{a}}{j_{a}} \binom{i_{b}}{j_{b}} \times \\ &\frac{(-\ell_{t})_{i_{a}-j_{a}}(-\ell_{t})_{i_{b}-j_{b}}(-\ell+\ell_{t})_{j_{a}}(-\ell+\ell_{t})_{j_{b}}}{(-\ell)_{i_{a}}(-\ell)_{i_{b}}} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{r,r',r''\geq 0\\(-\ell)_{i_{a}}(-\ell)_{i_{b}}}} (-1)^{\ell-\ell'-i_{a}+r'_{1}+r'_{2}} \frac{(-2)^{r'_{3}+r''_{3}}\ell'!}{(d'/2-1)_{\ell'}} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{r,r',r''\geq 0\\r+2r'_{0}+r'_{1}+r'_{2}=j_{a}\\r+2r''_{0}+r'_{1}+r''_{2}=j_{b}\\r'_{0}+r'_{1}+r'_{3}=r''_{0}+r''_{1}+r''_{3}}} (-1)^{\ell-\ell'-i_{a}+r'_{1}+r'_{2}} \frac{(-2)^{r'_{3}+r''_{3}}\ell'!}{(d'/2-1)_{\ell'}} \\ &\times \mathscr{C}_{j_{a},j_{b}}^{(d+d_{t},\ell-\ell_{t})}(r,r',r'') \left(C_{\ell'}^{(d'/2-1)}(X)\right)_{s_{(a|b)}^{ij|m+\ell|kl}(t,j_{a},j_{b},r,r',r'')} \end{aligned}$$

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With the associated substitution rule

$$\begin{split} s_{(a|b)}^{ij|m+\ell|kl}(t,j_{a},j_{b},r,r',r'') &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}}\alpha_{3}^{s_{3}}\alpha_{4}^{s_{4}}x_{3}^{r_{3}}x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to \mathsf{Sym}_{\{E_{s}'\},\{E_{s}''\}} \\ (-1)^{2\xi_{m}}({}_{a}t_{ij}^{12,m+i_{a}})_{\{aA\}\{bB\}}^{\{Ee\}\{F\}}(g_{E_{s}E_{s}})^{r_{0}'}(\mathcal{S}_{E_{s}}^{E_{s}''})^{r}[(\mathcal{S}\cdot\bar{\eta}_{4})_{E_{s}}]^{r_{2}'} \\ & \left(G_{(\ell'-\ell+2r_{3}',n_{a}-\ell,n_{3}',n_{4}',n_{5}'}^{ij}\right)^{E_{s}''r_{1}''}F''^{4\xi_{m}}F''^{n_{b}-\ell+i_{b}}F''^{\ell}t^{-i_{b}+j_{b}}}(\bar{\eta}_{2}^{E})^{\ell_{t}-i_{a}+j_{a}} \\ & (\Gamma_{F''}\bar{\eta}_{3}\cdot\Gamma\mathcal{S}^{n_{v}^{m}+\ell_{t}}\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{13|t}^{N_{m}+\ell_{t}e_{1}}\Gamma_{F''})_{eE^{n_{v}^{m}}(E^{\ell_{t}-i_{a}+j_{a}}E_{s}^{i_{a}-j_{a}})} \\ & [(\bar{\eta}_{2}\cdot\mathcal{S})^{E_{s}''}]^{r_{2}''}(g^{E_{s}''E_{s}''})^{r_{0}''}({}_{b}t_{kl,m+i_{b}}^{34})_{\{cC\}\{dD\}\{e''E''\}}\{F''\}}(\mathcal{A}_{34E''F''})^{\ell_{t}-i_{b}+j_{b}}) \end{split}$$

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• Gegenbauer polynomials  $C_n^{(\lambda)}(X)$  in the special variable

$$X = \frac{(\alpha_4 - \alpha_2)x_4 - (\alpha_3 - \alpha_2)x_3}{2}, \qquad x_3 = \frac{u}{v}, \quad x_4 = u$$

- G<sup>ij|m+ℓ|kl</sup><sub>(n1,n2,n3,n4,n5)A1···An</sub> related to tensorial generalization of Exton G function that appears in ⟨SSSS⟩ scalar exchange blocks
- $G_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)A_1\cdots A_n}^{ij|m+\ell|kl}$  totally symmetric in all of its indices

• Special combination of Gs is ubiquitous:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S}_{A}{}^{B} &= g_{A}{}^{B} G_{(0,0,0,0,0)}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} - G_{(0,0,2,0,0)A}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} \bar{\eta}_{1}^{B} \\ &- \bar{\eta}_{3A} (G_{(0,0,2,2,0)}^{ij|m+\ell|kl})^{B} + (G_{(0,0,4,2,0)}^{ij|m+\ell|kl})_{A}{}^{B} \end{split}$$

- Appears either by itself or via contractions with embedding space coordinates η
  <sub>2</sub>, η
  <sub>4</sub>, e.g. as in (η
  <sub>2</sub> · S)<sup>E</sup><sub>s</sub>, (S · η
  <sub>4</sub>)<sub>Es</sub>
- $\Gamma_{F''}$ s,  $\bar{\eta}_3 \cdot \Gamma$  present only if exchanged operator is fermionic,  $\xi_m = \frac{1}{2}$
- Special part  $\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_{13|t}^{N_m + \ell_t e_1}$  of projector  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13}^{N_m + \ell e_1}$  contracts with Gs, Ss, and tensor structures

#### Properties of G

Substitution rules necessitate the multiplication of several G's according to

$$G_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)A^n}^{ij|m+\ell|kl}G_{(m_1,m_2,m_3,m_4,m_5)B^m}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} = G_{(n_1+m_1,n_2+m_2,n_3+m_3,n_4+m_4,n_5+m_5)A^nB^m}^{ij|m+\ell|kl}$$

Moreover, G satisfies the contiguous relations

$$\begin{split} g \cdot G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)} &= 0, \\ \bar{\eta}_1 \cdot G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)} &= G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3-2,n_4,n_5)}, \\ \bar{\eta}_2 \cdot G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)} &= G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1+2,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)}, \\ \bar{\eta}_3 \cdot G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)} &= G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3-2,n_4-2,n_5)}, \\ \bar{\eta}_4 \cdot G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3,n_4,n_5)} &= G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(n_1,n_2,n_3-2,n_4,n_5+2)} \end{split}$$

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• Useful for facilitating contractions

# Example: $\ell \boldsymbol{e}_1$ Exchange in $\langle SVSV \rangle$

With the aid of diagrams, it is easy to extract indices as needed

$$\begin{split} a &= 1, b = 1: \qquad \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1} = \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \\ a &= 1, b = 2: \qquad \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1} = \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \\ a &= 2, b = 1: \qquad \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1} = \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \\ a &= 2, b = 2: \qquad \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1} = \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \\ \end{array}, \\ a &= 2, b = 2: \qquad \hat{\mathcal{P}}_{13|d}^{\ell e_1} = \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array}, \\ \end{array}, \\ \end{array}$$

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# Example: $\ell e_1$ Exchange in $\langle SVSV \rangle$ (cont.)

These directly lead to four conformal blocks expressed in terms of Gegenbauer polynomials

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{G}_{(1|1]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} &= \frac{\ell!}{(d/2-1)_{\ell}} \left( C_{\ell}^{(d/2-1)}(X) \right)_{s_{(1|1)}^{1}}, \\ \mathcal{G}_{(1|2]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} &= -\frac{(\ell-1)!}{(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-1}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(1|2)}^{1}} + \frac{(\ell-1)!}{(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-2}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(1|2)}^{2}}, \\ \mathcal{G}_{(2|1]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} &= -\frac{(\ell-1)!}{(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-1}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|1)}^{1}} + \frac{(\ell-1)!}{(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-2}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|1)}^{2}}, \\ \mathcal{G}_{(2|2]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} &= \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2+1)_{\ell-2}} \left( C_{\ell-2}^{(d/2+1)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{1}} - \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2+1)_{\ell-2}} \left( C_{\ell-3}^{(d/2+1)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{2}} \\ &- \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2+1)_{\ell-2}} \left( C_{\ell-3}^{(d/2+1)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{3}} - \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-2}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{4}} \\ &+ \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2+1)_{\ell-2}} \left( C_{\ell-4}^{(d/2+1)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{5}} + \frac{(\ell-1)!}{\ell(d/2)_{\ell-1}} \left( C_{\ell-1}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(2|2)}^{6}}. \end{split}$$

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A specific substitution rule is ascribed to each Gegenbauer term. For example,

$$\begin{split} s^{1}_{(1|1)} &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}} \alpha_{3}^{s_{3}} \alpha_{4}^{s_{4}} x_{3}^{r_{3}} x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(0,1,3,1,-1)BD}, \\ s^{1}_{(1|2)} &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}} \alpha_{3}^{s_{3}} \alpha_{4}^{s_{4}} x_{3}^{r_{3}} x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to (\bar{\eta}_{2} \cdot S)_{D} G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(-1,1,0,0,0)B}, \\ s^{1}_{(2|1)} &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}} \alpha_{3}^{s_{3}} \alpha_{4}^{s_{4}} x_{3}^{r_{3}} x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to (S \cdot \bar{\eta}_{4})_{B} G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(-1,-1,2,0,-2)D}, \\ s^{2}_{(2|1)} &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}} \alpha_{3}^{s_{3}} \alpha_{4}^{s_{4}} x_{3}^{r_{3}} x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(-2,-1,3,1,-1)BD} \end{split}$$

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Rotation matrix for this case:

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### Example: $e_r + \ell e_1$ Exchange in $\langle SFSF \rangle$

Projection operator to  $\boldsymbol{e}_r + \ell \boldsymbol{e}_1$ :

Since  $i_a = i_b = 0$  for all tensor structures, no need to extract any indices

All four different blocks have the same form:

$$\forall a, b : \mathscr{G}_{(a|b]}^{ij|m+\ell|kl} = \frac{\ell!}{(d/2)_{\ell}} \left( C_{\ell}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(a|b)}^{1}} \\ + \frac{\ell!}{2(d/2)_{\ell}} \left( C_{\ell-1}^{(d/2)}(X) \right)_{s_{(a|b)}^{2}}$$

But different substitution rules due to the tensor structures and the different values of  $n_a$  and  $n_b$ , e.g.

$$\begin{split} s^{1}_{(1|1)} &: \alpha_{2}^{s_{2}} \alpha_{3}^{s_{3}} \alpha_{4}^{s_{4}} x_{3}^{r_{3}} x_{4}^{r_{4}} \to -(\Gamma_{F''} \bar{\eta}_{3} \cdot \Gamma \Gamma_{F''} C_{\Gamma}^{-T})_{bd} \left( G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(0,0,4,3,-1)} \right)^{F''^{2}} \\ &= -2(\Gamma_{F''} C_{\Gamma}^{-T})_{bd} \left( G^{ij|m+\ell|kl}_{(0,0,2,1,-1)} \right)^{F''} \end{split}$$

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Rotation matrix for this case:

$$\begin{split} (R_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{1,1} &= 0, \\ (R_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{1,2} &= (-1)^{r} {}_{1} \kappa_{(0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0)}^{ij|m+\ell}, \\ (R_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{2,1} &= (-1)^{r+1} \left[ {}_{2} \kappa_{(0,0,1,0,0,0,0,1,0)}^{ij|m+\ell} - \frac{1}{2} {}_{2} \kappa_{(0,0,1,0,0,0,1,0,1)}^{ij|m+\ell} - \frac{1}{2} {}_{2} \kappa_{(0,0,1,0,0,0,1,0,1)}^{ij|m+\ell} + {}_{2} \kappa_{(0,0,1,1,0,0,0,0,0)}^{ij|m+\ell} + {}_{d_{2}} \kappa_{(1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0)}^{ij|m+\ell} \right], \\ (R_{ij,m+\ell}^{-1})_{2,2} &= 0. \end{split}$$

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where r is the rank of the Lorentz group

# Conclusions and Outlook

- Established a set of efficient rules for determining all possible four-point conformal blocks in the context of embedding space OPE formalism
- Require knowledge of fundamental group theoretic quantities: projection operators of external and exchanged quasi-primary operators
- Projectors imply two tensor structures for left  ${at_{ij}^{12,m+\ell}}_{aA}{BB}^{Ee}F$  and right  ${bt_{kl,m+\ell}^{34}}_{cC}{dD}{e''E''}F''$  OPE
- Input data: Projection operators and tensor structures
- Rules allow us to generate global conformal blocks for any exchanged Lorentz representation

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# Conclusions and Outlook (cont.)

- Conformal blocks given in terms of linear combinations of Gegenbauer polynomials in a specific variable X, coupled with associated substitution rules
- Introduced diagrammatic notation to easily determine appropriate linear combinations of Gegenbauer polynomials
- Blocks have simplest form in the mixed OPE-three-point basis
- $\bullet\,$  For bootstrap, need to change to pure three-point basis  $\Rightarrow\,$  rotation matrices
- In future: Use these rules to derive blocks for 4-point functions of conserved currents and energy-momentum tensors and other operators of theoretical interest

# **THANK YOU!**

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# **Backup Slides**

# What is a CFT?

A CFT is invariant under the conformal group SO(1, d - 1):

- Poincaré algebra
- dilatations
- special conformal transformations
- Conformal algebra:



$$[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\lambda\rho}] = -(s_{\mu\nu})_{\lambda}{}^{\delta}M_{\delta\rho} - (s_{\mu\nu})_{\rho}{}^{\delta}M_{\lambda\delta},$$
$$[M_{\mu\nu}, P_{\lambda}] = -(s_{\mu\nu})_{\lambda}{}^{\rho}P_{\rho}, \quad [M_{\mu\nu}, K_{\lambda}] = -(s_{\mu\nu})_{\lambda}{}^{\rho}K_{\rho},$$
$$[P_{\mu}, D] = iP_{\mu}, \quad [K_{\mu}, D] = -iK_{\mu}, \quad [P_{\mu}, K_{\nu}] = 2i(g_{\mu\nu}D - M_{\mu\nu})$$
where

$$(s_{\mu\nu})^{\lambda\rho} = i(\delta_{\mu}{}^{\lambda}\delta_{\nu}{}^{\rho} - \delta_{\mu}{}^{\rho}\delta_{\nu}{}^{\lambda}), \quad [s_{\mu\nu}, s_{\lambda\rho}] = -(s_{\mu\nu})_{\lambda}{}^{\lambda'}s_{\lambda'\rho} - (s_{\mu\nu})_{\rho}{}^{\rho'}s_{\lambda\rho'}$$

Two kinds of operators in CFTs:

 quasi-primaries [K<sub>μ</sub>, O<sup>(x)</sup>(0)] = 0: transform simply under conformal transformations, e.g.

$$x \to x', \quad \mathcal{O}^{(x)}(x) \to \tilde{\mathcal{O}}^{(x)}(x') = b(x)^{-\Delta} \mathcal{O}^{(x)}(x)$$

- descendants: don't!
- Complete spectrum of operators: primaries+infinite towers of descendants
- Organic observables in CFTs: *M*-point correlation functions of operators, ⟨*O*<sup>(x)</sup>(x<sub>1</sub>)...*O*<sup>(x)</sup>(x<sub>M</sub>)⟩

### The Embedding Space

Embedding space  $\mathcal{M}^{d+2}$ :



 A natural habitat for the conformal group: (d + 2)-dimensional hypercone where operators live

$$\eta^2 \equiv g_{AB} \eta^A \eta^B = 0$$

 Light rays in one-to-one correspondence with position space points

### The Embedding Space (cont.)

Coordinates on the hypercone:

$$\eta^{\boldsymbol{A}} = (\eta^{\mu}, \eta^{\boldsymbol{d}+1}, \eta^{\boldsymbol{d}+2})$$

• 
$$\lambda\eta^{A}$$
 identified with  $\eta^{A}$  for  $\lambda>0$ 

Connection to position space:

$$x^{\mu} = \frac{\eta^{\mu}}{-\eta^{d+1} + \eta^{d+2}}$$

In the embedding space,

- Conformal transformations act linearly: Conformal group becomes like Lorentz group!
- All operators in *d*-dimensional CFT need to somehow be lifted to M<sup>d+2</sup>.

Uplift based on quasi-primary operators with spinor indices only and standard projection operators (Fortin & Skiba (2019)) Idea:

• Start with a quasi-primary operator in position space  $\mathcal{O}^{(x)}$  in a general irrep of SO(1, d-1):  $\mathbf{N}^{\mathcal{O}} = \{N_1^{\mathcal{O}}, \dots, N_r^{\mathcal{O}}\}$ 

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- Lift it to a quasi-primary  $\mathcal{O}$  in the embedding space in an irrep of SO(2, d):  $\mathbf{N}_{E}^{\mathcal{O}} = \{0, N_{1}^{\mathcal{O}}, \dots, N_{r}^{\mathcal{O}}\}$
- exact for the defining representations,
- true in general up to the removal of traces

With this,

- Scalars uplift to scalars, spinors to spinors, *i*-index antisymmetric tensors to (i+1)-index antisymmetric tensors
- Advantage: Approach treats fermions and bosons on an equal footing

From the perspective of the Dynkin indices, everything looks the same!

• Uplift makes universal treatment of all quasi-primary operators in arbitrary irreps of the Lorentz group possible.

Seek most useful differential operator  ${}_{a}\mathcal{D}^{k}_{ij}(\eta_1,\eta_2)$  for quasi-primary operators in general irreducible representations of the Lorentz group.

- What are our options?
- Only consistent first order operators:

$$\Theta = \eta^{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^{A}}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{AB} = i \left( \eta_{A} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^{B}} - \eta_{B} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^{A}} \right)$$

• Unique consistent second order operator: Thomas-Todorov

$$\mathcal{K}_{A} = \left(\eta^{B}\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta^{B}} + \frac{d}{2}\right)\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta^{A}} - \frac{1}{2}\eta_{A}\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta_{B}}\frac{\partial}{\partial\eta^{B}}$$

# A Brief History of the OPE Differential Operator

 $\Theta$  doesn't work: Cannot generate descendants!

Left with:

- *L*<sub>AB</sub>
- $\mathcal{K}_A$
- $(\mathcal{L}^2)_{AB}$
- With two embedding space coordinates η<sub>i</sub> and η<sub>j</sub>, only one independent operator well-defined on the lightcone!

Inspired by Ferrara et al. (1971, 1972, 1973),

Candidate OPE differential operator:

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{A} \equiv \frac{1}{(\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}}} [-i(\eta_{i} \cdot \mathcal{L}_{j})^{A} - \eta_{i}^{A}\Theta_{j}] = (\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{A}_{ij}^{AB} \partial_{jB}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij}^2 \equiv \mathcal{D}_{ij}^A \mathcal{D}_{ijA} = (\eta_i \cdot \eta_j)\partial_j^2 - \eta_i \cdot \partial_j (d_E - 4 + 2\Theta_j)$$
$$= (\eta_i \cdot \eta_j)\partial_j^2 - (d_E - 2 + 2\Theta_j)\eta_i \cdot \partial_j$$

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### A Brief History of the OPE Differential Operator

• Candidate has many nice properties!

Notably,

$$\begin{split} [\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{A}, \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}] &= \frac{2h}{(\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \eta_{i}^{A} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}, \\ [\Theta_{i}, \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}] &= h \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}, \quad [\Theta_{j}, \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}] = -h \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h}, \\ \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h} \eta_{j}^{A} - \eta_{j}^{A} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h} &= 2h(\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{A} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2(h-1)} - h(d+2h-2) \eta_{i}^{A} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2(h-1)} \end{split}$$

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But difficult to work with!

Motivated by last commutation relation, instead find

Winning candidate

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij|h}^{A} = \frac{\eta_{j}^{A}}{(\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2} + 2h\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{A} - h(d+2h-2)\frac{\eta_{i}^{A}}{(\eta_{i} \cdot \eta_{j})^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

• Embedding space OPE differential operator

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h,n)A_1\cdots A_n} \equiv \mathcal{D}_{ij|h+n}^{A_n}\cdots \mathcal{D}_{ij|h+1}^{A_1}\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2h} = \frac{1}{(\eta_i\cdot\eta_j)^{\frac{n}{2}}}\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{2(h+n)}\eta_j^{A_1}\cdots \eta_j^{A_n}$$

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Fortin, Skiba (2019)
## An OPE Differential Operator

Properties:

- well-defined on the lightcone
- fully symmetric and traceless with respect to embedding space metric g<sub>AB</sub>
- satisfies simple contiguous relations
- very convenient, as evident from

$$\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h,n)A_1\cdots A_n}\eta_j^{A_{n+1}}\cdots \eta_j^{A_{n+k}} = (\eta_i\cdot\eta_j)^{rac{k}{2}}\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h-k,n+k)A_1\cdots A_{n+k}}$$
  
 $= rac{1}{(\eta_i\cdot\eta_j)^{rac{n}{2}}}\mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h+n,0)}\eta_j^{A_1}\cdots \eta_j^{A_{n+k}}.$ 

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Fractional derivative  $\Rightarrow$  a sort of analytic continuation

Enter a special tensorial object:

$$I_{ij}^{(d,h,n;\boldsymbol{p})A_1\cdots A_n} = \mathcal{D}_{ij}^{(d,h,n)A_1\cdots A_n} \prod_{a\neq i,j} \frac{1}{(\eta_j \cdot \eta_a)^{p_a}}$$

Naturally arises in computation of *M*-point correlation functions!

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Fortin, Skiba (2019)

In terms of homogeneized coordinates  $\bar{\eta}_i$ :

$$egin{aligned} & T_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;m{p})} = (-2)^h (ar{p})_h (ar{p}+1-d/2)_h x_m^{ar{p}+h} \ & \sum_{\substack{\{q_r\}\geq 0\ ar{q}=n}} S_{(m{q})} x_m^{ar{q}-q_0-q_i} K_{ij;k\ell;m}^{(d,h;m{p};m{q})}(x_m;m{y};m{z}), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S_{(\boldsymbol{q})}^{A_1 \cdots A_{\bar{q}}} = g^{(A_1 A_2} \cdots g^{A_{2q_0-1} A_{2q_0}} \bar{\eta}_1^{A_{2q_0+1}} \cdots \bar{\eta}_1^{A_{2q_0+q_1}} \cdots \bar{\eta}_M^{A_{\bar{q}-q_M+1}} \cdots \bar{\eta}_M^{A_{\bar{q}}}$$

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with 
$$ar{q} = 2q_0 + \sum_{r\geq 1} q_r$$
  
It's totally symmetric in all of its indices!

 $\bar{l}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;\mathbf{p})}$  satisfies some convenient contiguous relations:

$$g \cdot \overline{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;\boldsymbol{p})} = 0,$$

$$\begin{split} \bar{\eta}_{i} \cdot \bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;\boldsymbol{p})} &= \bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h+1,n-1;\boldsymbol{p})}, \\ \bar{\eta}_{j} \cdot \bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;\boldsymbol{p})} &= (-2)(-h-n)(-h-n+1-d/2)\bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n-1;\boldsymbol{p})}, \\ \bar{\eta}_{a} \cdot \bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h,n;\boldsymbol{p})} &= \bar{I}_{ij;k\ell}^{(d,h+1,n-1;\boldsymbol{p}-\boldsymbol{e}_{a})} \end{split}$$

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Upshot: We know the exact action of the embedding space differential operator for any quantity of interest!

- Set of all  $_{a}t_{ijk}^{12}$  forms basis for a vector space
- Equivalently, seen as intertwiners contracting four irreps into a singlet:

$${}_{a}t^{12}_{ijk} = (\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{12}^{N_{i}})(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{21}^{N_{j}})(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{12}^{N_{k}})(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_{21}^{n_{a}e_{1}}) \cdot {}_{a}t^{12}_{ijk}$$

- Fourth representation: Symmetric traceless
- Purpose: To restrict the <sub>a</sub>t<sup>12</sup><sub>ijk</sub> onto the appropriate irreps N<sub>i</sub>, N<sub>j</sub>, N<sub>k</sub>, and n<sub>a</sub>e<sub>1</sub>

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