



LXX International conference "NUCLEUS – 2020",

13 October 2020

# Bottom-up holographic approach to meson spectroscopy

**Sergey Afonin**

Saint Petersburg State University



**The main problem:**  
**QCD is strongly coupled!**

**Analytical approach – only models**

**Possible solution: Dual theory**

# Examples of strong-weak duality

(1). In (1+1)-dimensional space-time: The Sine-Gordon model and Thirring model

$$\mathcal{L}_{SG} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \frac{\alpha}{\beta^2} (\cos(\beta\phi) - 1)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_T = i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - m_f \bar{\psi}\psi - \frac{\kappa}{2} (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu \psi)^2$$

$$\frac{4\pi}{\beta^2} = 1 + \frac{\kappa}{\pi}$$

are the same at quantum level if

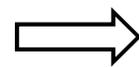
(2). In (3+1)-dimensional space-time: Seiberg duality

It is a nonabelian extension of Montonen-Olive electric-magnetic duality

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E_i \rightarrow B_i & B_i \rightarrow -E_i & \\ \overline{e \rightarrow e_m} & \Longrightarrow & \text{Electrically charged fermion} \longrightarrow \text{Magnetic monopole} \end{array}$$

Charges are quantized:

$$ee_m \sim 1$$



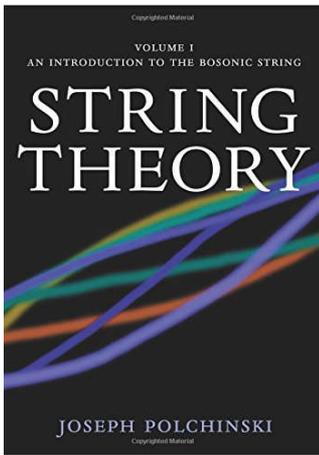
$$e \sim \frac{1}{e_m}$$

A possible way of the origin of dualities: The quantum theory is unique but one may make a change of variables in the path integral defining this theory,

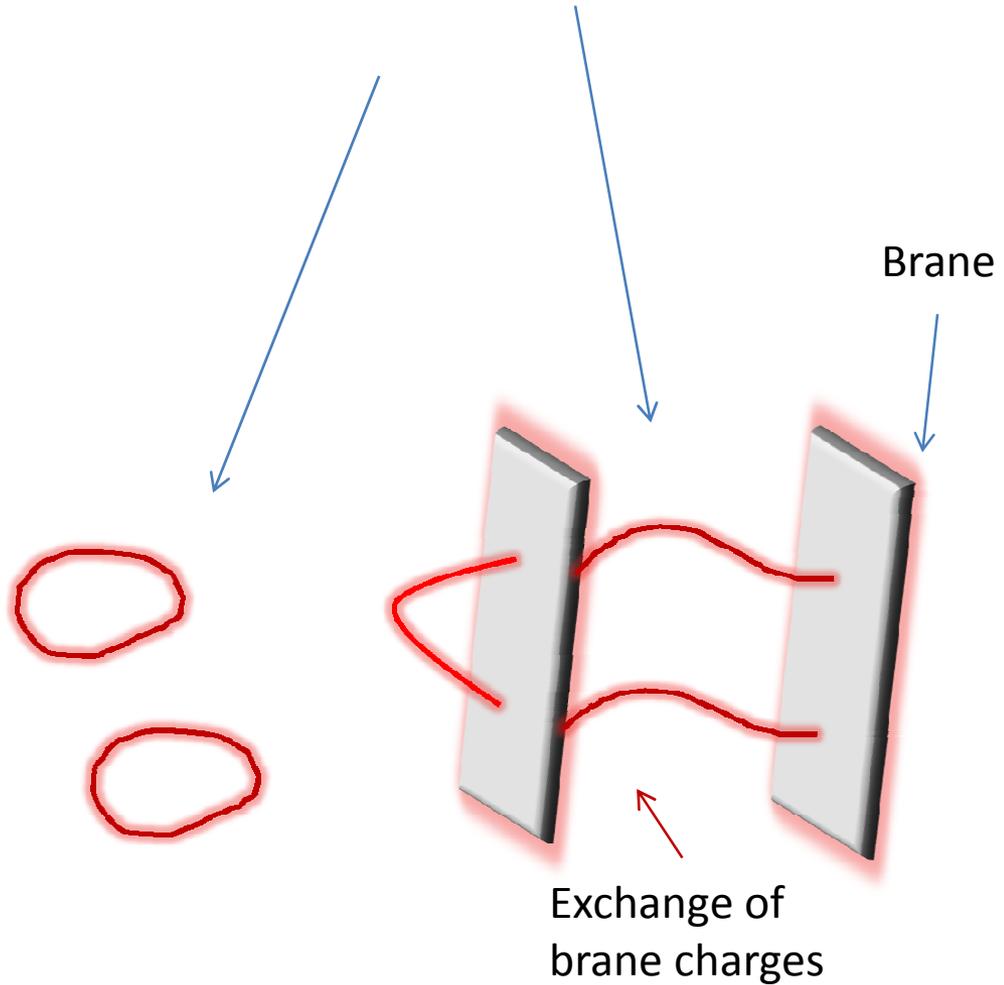
$$Z[J_k] = \int \mathcal{D}\phi_j e^{i \int d^D x (L[\phi_j] + J_k \mathcal{O}_k[\phi_j])}$$

This leads to different Lagrangians in the classical limit.

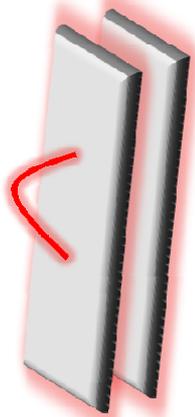
Likely even the dimension  $D$  can be changed!



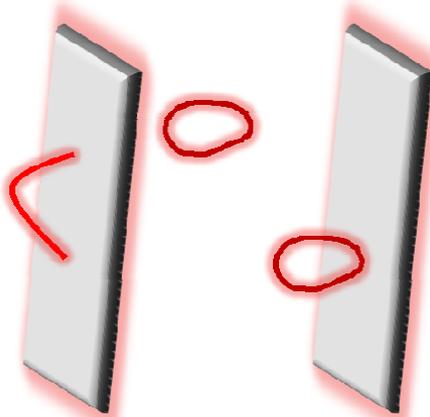
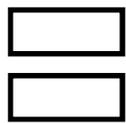
# Strings: Closed and Open



# THE CONCEPT

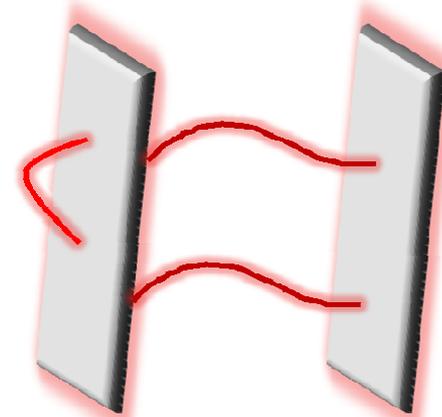


D-brane interaction  
(at low energies)



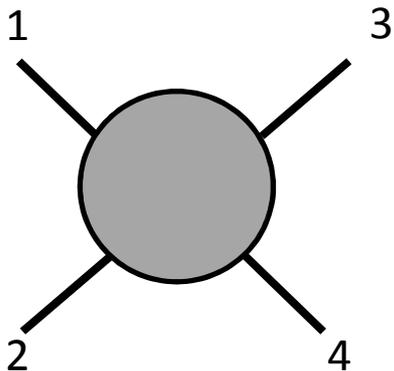
via closed strings  
(= gravitation)

OR

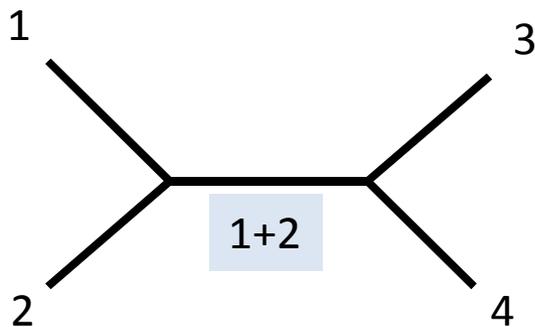
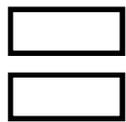


via open strings  
(= gauge theory)

## A remote analogy with dual description of hadron scattering via resonance exchange

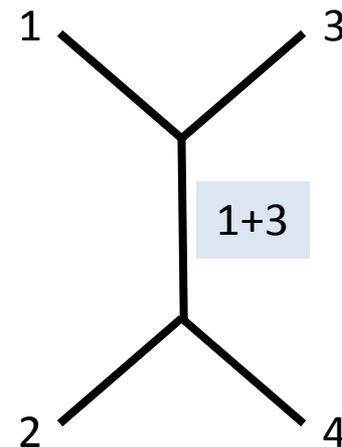


hadron interaction  
(at low energies)



annihilation (= direct) channel

OR



exchange (= cross) channel

Consider 2 parallel D-branes:

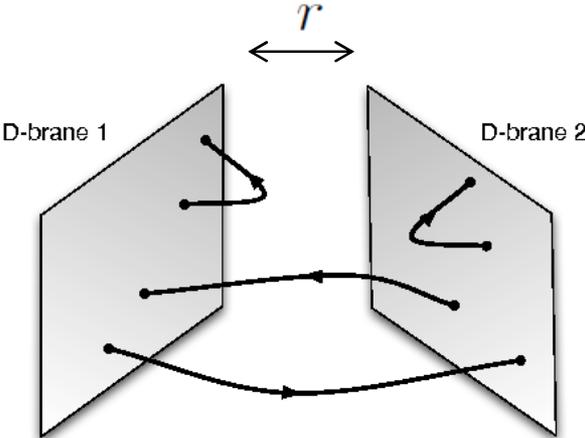
4 vector fields  $A_{\mu}^{11}, A_{\mu}^{22}, A_{\mu}^{12}, A_{\mu}^{21}$

In the limit  $r \rightarrow 0$  we will arrive at

$U(2)$  =  $U(1) \times SU(2)$  gauge theory!

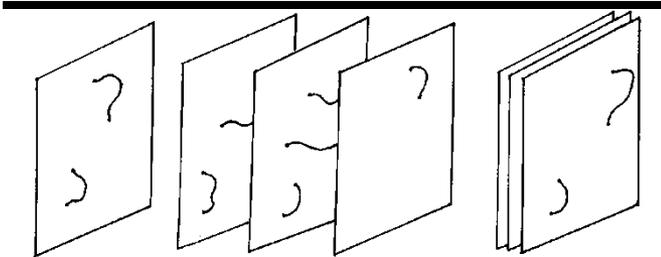
decouples (describes the motion of the whole system)

$$g_{\text{YM}}^2 = 2(2\pi)^{p-2} g_s (\alpha')^{\frac{p-3}{2}}$$



Stack of  $N$  coincident  $D_3$  branes describes

$\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM theory with  $SU(N)$  gauge group!



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \text{tr} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu}^2 - (D_{\mu} \phi_i)^2 - i \bar{\lambda}_I \gamma^{\mu} D_{\mu} \lambda^I + O(\phi^4) + O(\lambda \lambda \phi) \right]$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} := F_{\mu\nu}^a t^a$$

$$g_{\text{YM}}^2 = 4\pi g_s$$

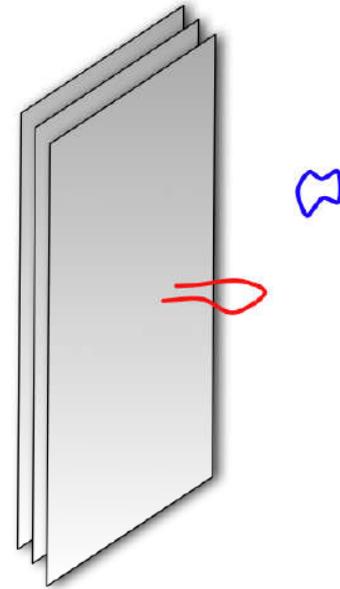
- gauge field  $A_{\mu}$ ,
  - 6 scalar fields  $\phi_i$ ,  $\leftarrow$  scalar fields  $\mathbf{X}(x^m)$  – 6 brane excitations normal to  $D_3$  !
  - 4 Weyl fermions  $\lambda_I$
- ( $D_3$  brane breaks 6 translational symmetries  $\rightarrow$  6 Goldstone bosons)

# Stack of $N_c$ coincident $D_3$ -branes at low energies

(less than the string scale  $1/l_s$  when only the massless string states can be excited)

## 1. Description in terms of gauge fields:

$$\underline{SU(N_c) \mathcal{N} = 4 \text{ SYM}} \quad + \quad \text{free closed strings}$$



Indeed, schematically we have for the effective action of the massless modes,

$$S = S_{\text{bulk}} + S_{\text{brane}} + S_{\text{int}}$$

$$S_{\text{bulk}} \sim \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int \sqrt{g} \mathcal{R} \sim \int (\partial h)^2 + \kappa (\partial h)^2 h + \dots,$$

where we have written the metric as  $g = \eta + \kappa h$ .

Similarly,  $S_{\text{int}} \sim \kappa$ .

Taking the limit  $l_s \rightarrow 0$  ( $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$ ) we have  $\kappa \sim g_s \alpha'^2 \rightarrow 0$

In addition all higher derivative terms in the brane action vanish, leaving just the pure  $SU(N_c) \mathcal{N} = 4 \text{ SYM}$

**Thus we obtain two decoupled systems!**

## 2. Gravitational description:

$$ds^2 = H^{-1/2} (-dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2) + H^{1/2} (dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_5^2)$$

$$H = 1 + \frac{R^4}{r^4}$$

$$R^4 = 4\pi g_s N_c \ell_s^4 \leftarrow (\alpha')^2$$

$$r^2 = y_1^2 + \dots + y_6^2$$

$r \gg R \implies H \simeq 1 \implies$  **flat space**

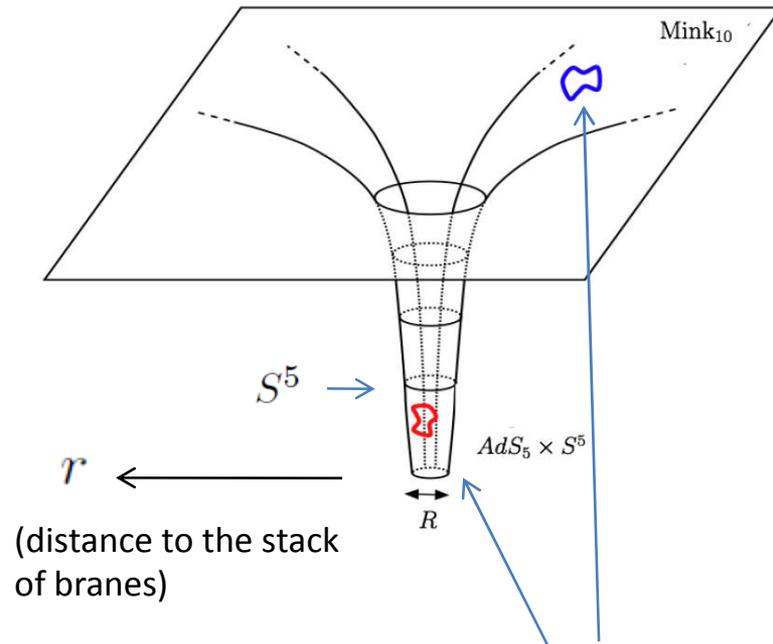
$r \ll R \implies ds^2 = ds_{AdS_5}^2 + R^2 d\Omega_5^2$ ,

where

$$ds_{AdS_5}^2 = \frac{r^2}{R^2} (-dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2) + \frac{R^2}{r^2} dr^2$$

$$\parallel ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{z^2} (-dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2 + dz^2) \text{ where } r = R^2/z$$

(Poincaré coordinates; locally  $M_4$  near each  $z_0$ !)



Do not interact!

Gravitational redshift:  $r \rightarrow 0$

$$E_\infty = \frac{r}{R} E_h \rightarrow 0$$

**In the strong gravity region, the 10-dimensional metric factorizes into**

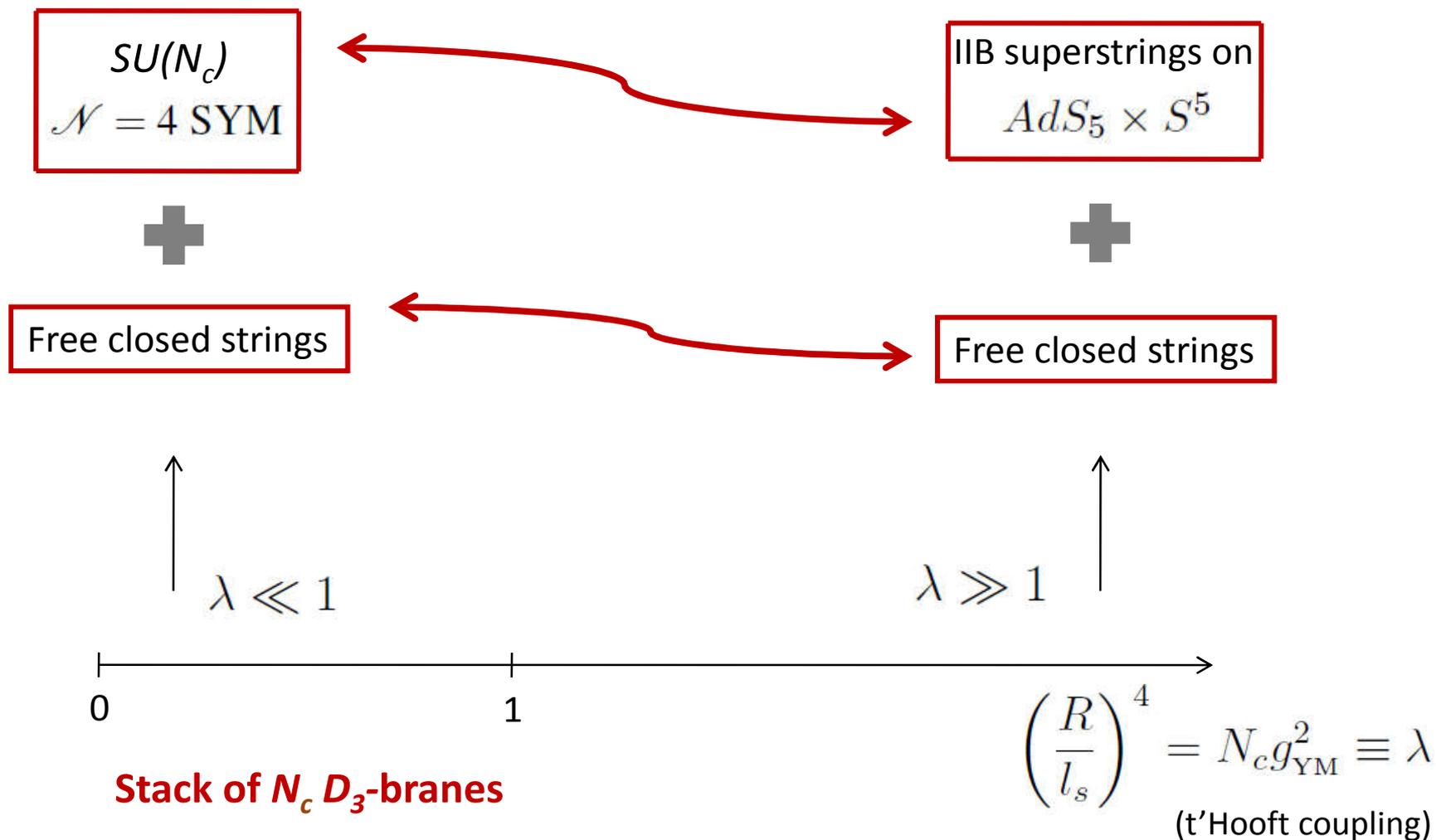
$$AdS_5 \times S^5$$

**Thus we obtain two decoupled systems again!**

# The conjecture of holographic duality

J. Maldacena, "The Large N limit of superconformal field theories and supergravity," *Adv. Theor. Math. Phys.* **2** (1998) 231, hep-th/9711200.

(the most cited work in theoretical physics!)



# The resulting hypothesis

## AdS/CFT correspondence (= gauge/gravity duality = holographic duality)

is a conjectured equivalence between a quantum gravity (in terms of string theory) compactified on anti-de Sitter space (**AdS**) and a Conformal Field Theory (**CFT**) on AdS boundary

The most promoted example (Maldacena, 1997):

---

Type IIB string theory on  $AdS_5 \times S^5$   
in the low-energy (i.e. supergravity)  
approximation



$\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM theory with  $SU(N)$  gauge  
group on  $AdS_5$  boundary (= 4D Minkowski)  
in the limit  $g^2 N \gg 1$

---

Essential ingredient: a one-to-one mapping of the global symmetries

Isometries of  $S^5 \Leftrightarrow SO(6)$  R-symmetry of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  Super Yang-Mills theory

Isometries of  $AdS_5 \Leftrightarrow$  Conformal group  $SO(2,4)$  in 4D space

$$S^5: X_1^2 + X_2^2 + X_3^2 + X_4^2 + X_5^2 + X_6^2 = R^2 \quad AdS_5: X_1^2 + X_2^2 - X_3^2 - X_4^2 - X_5^2 - X_6^2 = R^2$$

The term "Holography": Realization of the t'Hooft holographic principle (1993)

## Essence of the holographic method

$$\langle e^{\int d^d x J(x) \mathcal{O}(x)} \rangle_{\text{CFT}} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-S[\phi, g]} \Big|_{\phi(x, \partial \text{AdS}) = J(x)}$$

generating functional

action of dual gravitational theory  
evaluated on classical solutions

AdS boundary

$$\Pi_n \equiv \langle \mathcal{O}_{I_1}(x_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_{I_n}(x_n) \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi^{I_1}(x_1)} \dots \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi^{I_n}(x_n)} S[\phi, g]$$

The output of the holographic models: Correlation functions

Poles of the 2-point correlator  $\rightarrow$  mass spectrum

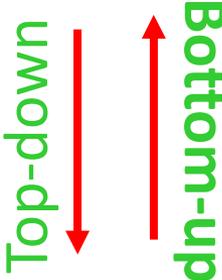
Residues of the 2-point correlator  $\rightarrow$  decay constants

Residues of the 3-point correlator  $\rightarrow$  transition amplitudes ( $\rightarrow$  formfactors)

Alternative way for finding the mass spectrum is to solve e.o.m.  $\phi(x_\mu, z) = e^{ixp} \phi(z)$

**Holographic QCD** – a program for implementation of holographic duality for QCD following some recipes from the AdS/CFT correspondence

**String theory**



← We will discuss

**QCD**

## 5D Anti-de Sitter space

$$\tau^2 + y_0^2 - y_1^2 - y_2^2 - y_3^2 - y_4^2 = R^2$$

$$u = \tau + y_4 \quad v = \tau - y_4$$

$$uv + y_\mu^2 = R^2$$

$$ds^2 = dudv + dy_\mu dy^\mu$$

Exclude  $v$  and introduce

$$z = \frac{R^2}{u}, \quad x_\mu = \frac{z}{R} y_\mu$$

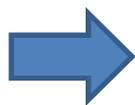
$$ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{z^2} (dx_\mu dx^\mu - dz^2)$$

invariant under dilatations

$$x_\mu \rightarrow \rho x_\mu, \quad z \rightarrow \rho z$$

4D Minkowski space at  $z \rightarrow 0$

$$p_x = -i\partial_x = \frac{R}{z} p_y$$



**Physical meaning of z: Inverse energy scale**

holographic coordinate

# Bottom-up holographic models

Typical ansatz:

$$S = \int d^4x dz \sqrt{g} F(z) \mathcal{L} \quad F(0) = 1$$

5D Anti-de Sitter space

$$ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{z^2} (dx_\mu dx^\mu - dz^2), \quad z > 0$$

Vector mesons:

$$\begin{aligned} z = \epsilon \rightarrow 0 \quad V_M(x, \epsilon) &\leftrightarrow \bar{q} \gamma_\mu q & \text{or} & \quad V_M(x, \epsilon) \leftrightarrow \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \vec{\tau} q \\ A_M(x, \epsilon) &\leftrightarrow \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q & \text{or} & \quad A_M(x, \epsilon) \leftrightarrow \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \vec{\tau} q \end{aligned}$$

From the AdS/CFT recipes:  $m_5^2 R^2 = (\Delta - J)(\Delta + J - 4) \quad J = 0, 1$

**Masses of 5D fields are related to the canonical dimensions of 4D operators!**

In the given cases:  $\Delta = 3, J = 1 \Rightarrow m_5^2 = 0$  gauge 5D theory!

## Hard wall model

(Erlich et al., PRL (2005); Da Rold and Pomarol, NPB (2005))

The AdS/CFT dictionary dictates: local symmetries in 5D  $\rightarrow$  global symmetries in 4D

The chiral symmetry:  $SU_L(2) \times SU_R(2)$

The typical model describing the chiral symmetry breaking and meson spectrum:

$$S = \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ |DX|^2 + 3|X|^2 - \frac{1}{4g_5^2} (F_L^2 + F_R^2) \right\} \quad 0 < z \leq z_m$$

$$D_\mu X = \partial_\mu X - iA_{L\mu}X + iXA_{R\mu}, \quad A_{L,R} = A_{L,R}^a t^a, \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu - i[A_\mu, A_\nu].$$

The pions are introduced via  $X = X_0 \exp(i2\pi^a t^a)$       $t^a = \sigma^a / 2$

$$V = (A_L + A_R)/2 \quad A = (A_L - A_R)/2 \quad m_5^2 R^2 = (\Delta - J)(\Delta + J - 4)$$

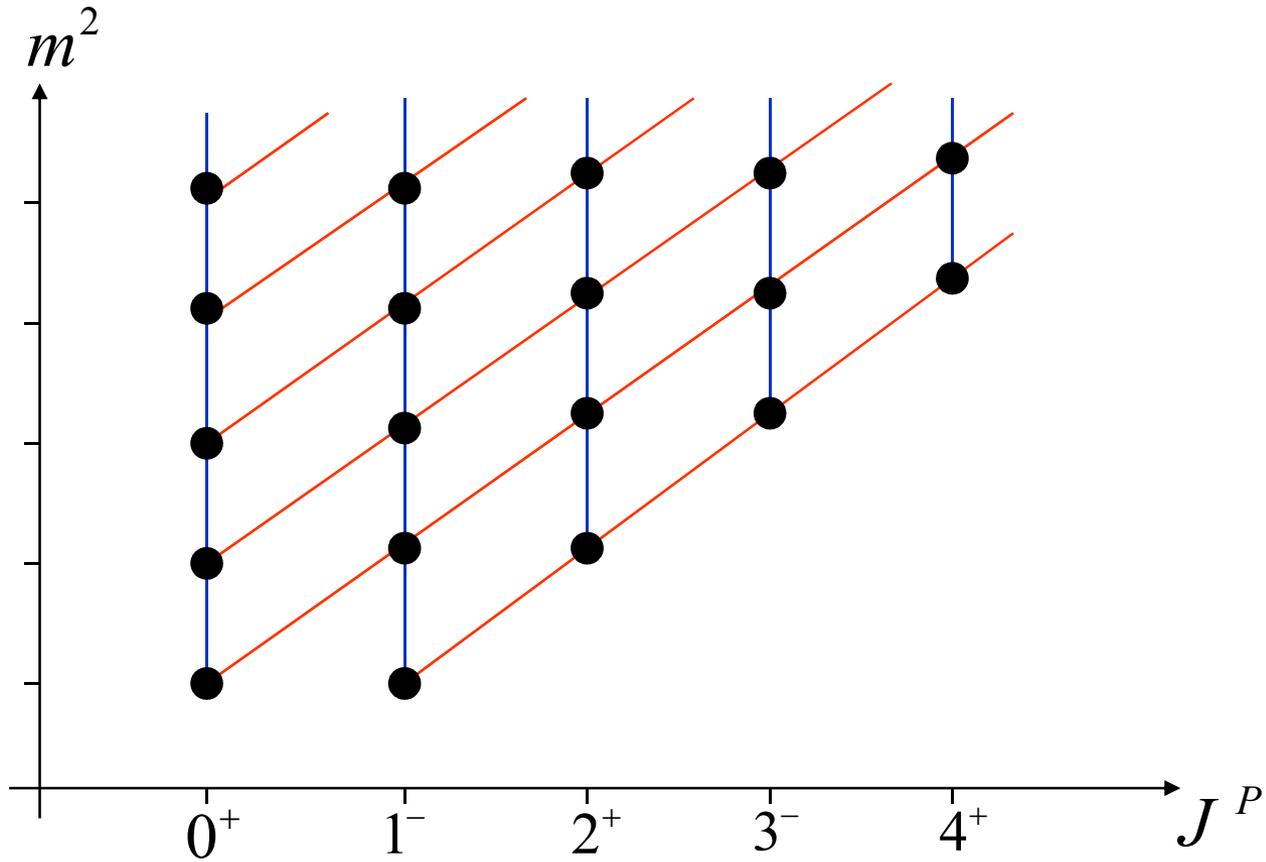
At  $z = z_m$  one imposes certain gauge invariant boundary conditions on the fields.

4D: $\mathcal{O}(x)$	5D: $\phi(x, z)$	$J$	$\Delta$	$(m_5)^2$
$\bar{q}_L \gamma^\mu t^a q_L$	$A_{L\mu}^a$	1	3	0
$\bar{q}_R \gamma^\mu t^a q_R$	$A_{R\mu}^a$	1	3	0
$\bar{q}_R^\alpha q_L^\beta$	$(2/z)X^{\alpha\beta}$	0	3	-3

**Chiral symmetry  
breaking – yes**

**Regge spectrum – no!**

# Regge and radial Regge linear trajectories



$$m^2(J) = m_0^2 + \alpha' J \quad - \quad \text{Regge trajectories}$$

$$m^2(n) = \mu_0^2 + \alpha n \quad - \quad \text{Radial Regge trajectories}$$

## Soft wall model (Karch et al., PRD (2006))

$$g_{MN} dx^M dx^N = e^{2A(z)} (dz^2 + \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu) \quad \Phi = \Phi(z)$$

$$I = \int d^5x \sqrt{g} e^{-\Phi} \mathcal{L}$$

The IR boundary condition is that the action is finite at  $z = \infty$

Plane wave ansatz:  $V_\mu(x, z) = \varepsilon_\mu e^{ipx} v(z) \quad p^2 = m^2 \quad \text{Axial gauge} \quad V_z = 0$

E.O.M.:  $\partial_z (e^{-B} \partial_z v_n) + m_n^2 e^{-B} v_n = 0 \quad B = \Phi(z) - A(z)$

Substitution  $v_n = e^{B/2} \psi_n$

$$-\psi_n'' + U(z) \psi_n = m_n^2 \psi_n \quad U(z) = \frac{1}{4}(B')^2 - \frac{1}{2}B''$$

With the choice  $B = \Phi - A = az^2 + \log z \quad \longrightarrow \quad U = a^2 z^2 + \frac{3}{4z^2}$

One has the radial Schroedinger equation for harmonic oscillator with orbital momentum  $L=1$

$$-\psi'' + \left[ z^2 + \frac{L^2 - 1/4}{z^2} \right] \psi = E\psi \quad E = |a|m$$

To have the Regge like spectrum:  $\Phi = az^2$

To have the AdS space in UV asymptotics:  $A = -\log z \quad \longrightarrow \quad e^{2A} = \frac{1}{z^2}$

The spectrum:  $m_n^2 = 4|a|(n+1) \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

The extension to massless higher-spin fields leads to (for  $a > 0$ )

$$m_{n,J}^2 = 4a(n + J)$$

Generalization to the arbitrary intercept  $m_n^2 = 4|a|(n + 1 + b)$

$$e^{-az^2} \rightarrow \Gamma(1 + b)U^2(b, 0; az^2)e^{-az^2} \quad (\text{Afonin, PLB (2013)})$$

 Tricomi function

Calculation of vector 2-point correlator:

$$W_{4D}[\varphi_0(x)] = S_{5D}[\varphi(x, \epsilon)]$$

4D Fourier transform

source



$$V^\mu(q, z) = v(q, z) V_0^\mu(q) \quad v(q, \epsilon) = 1$$

E.O.M.:

$$\partial_z \left( \frac{e^{-az^2}}{z} \partial_z v \right) + \frac{e^{-az^2}}{z} q^2 v = 0$$

Action on the solution

$$I = \int d^4x V_0^\mu V_{0\mu} \frac{e^{-az^2}}{z} v \partial_z v \Big|_{z=\epsilon}^{z=\infty}$$

$$\int d^4x e^{iqx} \langle J_\mu(x) J_\nu(0) \rangle = (q_\mu q_\nu - q^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \Pi_V(-q^2)$$

$$\Pi_V(-q^2) = c^2 \frac{\partial_z v}{q^2 z} \Big|_{z=\epsilon}$$

$$v(q, z) = \Gamma \left( 1 - \frac{q^2}{4|a|} \right) e^{(a-|a|)z^2/2} U \left( \frac{-q^2}{4|a|}, 0; |a|z^2 \right)$$

$$\Pi_V(-q^2) = c^2 \left[ \frac{a - |a|}{q^2} - \frac{1}{2} \psi \left( 1 - \frac{q^2}{4|a|} \right) \right] + \text{const}$$

$$\Pi_V(-q^2) = c^2 \left[ \frac{a - |a|}{q^2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2|a|}{4|a|(n+1) - q^2} \right] + \text{const}$$

$$\Pi_V(Q^2)_{Q^2 \rightarrow \infty} = \frac{c^2}{2} \left[ \log \left( \frac{4|a|}{Q^2} \right) - \frac{2a}{Q^2} + \frac{4a^2}{3Q^4} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{a^4}{Q^8} \right) \right] \quad Q^2 = -q^2$$

$$\Pi_V(Q^2)_{\text{OPE}} = \frac{N_c}{24\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{\mu^2}{Q^2} \right) + \frac{\alpha_s}{24\pi} \frac{\langle G^2 \rangle}{Q^4} + \xi \frac{\langle \bar{q}q \rangle^2}{Q^6} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{\mu^8}{Q^8} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad c^2 = \frac{N_c}{12\pi^2}$$

## Possible extensions

- Various modifications of metrics and of dilaton background
- Alternative descriptions of the chiral symmetry breaking
- Inclusion of additional vertices (Chern-Simon, ...)
- Account for backreaction of metrics caused by the condensates (dynamical AdS/QCD models)
- Construction of acceptable AdS/QCD models from a 5D gravitational setup

## Some applications

- Meson, baryon and glueball spectra
- Low-energy strong interactions (chiral dynamics)
- Hadronic formfactors
- Description of anomalies in QFT
- Thermodynamic effects (QCD phase diagram)
- Condensed matter (high temperature superconductivity *etc.*)
- ...

## Deep relations with other approaches

- Light-front QCD
- Soft wall models: QCD sum rules in the large- $N_c$  limit
- Hard wall models: Chiral perturbation theory supplemented by infinite number of vector and axial-vector mesons
- Renormgroup methods

Thank you  
for your attention!