

# Strongly Coupled $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM via Integrability

Simon Ekhammar

2406.02698 with Nikolay Gromov and Paul Ryan



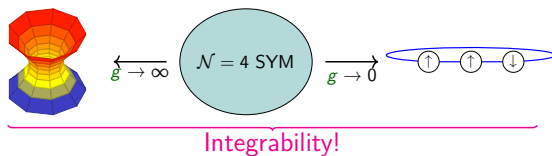
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# The Big Picture

- Planar  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  Super-Yang Mills exhibits integrability [Minahan,Zarembo '03,Beisert '03,Beisert

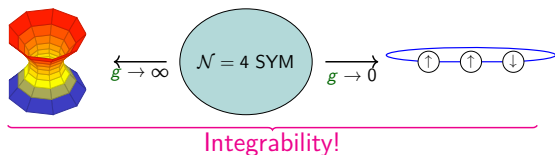
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- We have a strong handle on the spectrum!

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \bar{\mathcal{O}}(y) \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|x-y|^{2\Delta}} \leftarrow \text{Computable!}$$

$$\mathcal{O} \simeq \text{tr} \nabla^S Z^L$$

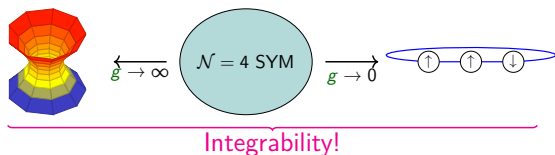
Focus of today

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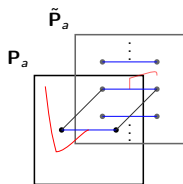
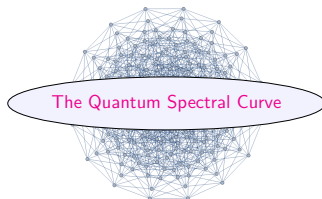
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$$\mathcal{O} \simeq \text{tr} \nabla^S Z^L$$

$\hookrightarrow$  Scalar field

- Most powerful tool on the market? **QSC!** [Gromov, Kazakov, Leurent, Volin '13'14]

$$\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_a = \mu_{ab} \mathbf{P}^b$$



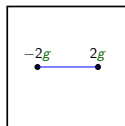
# Content of the QSC

- The QSC is a set of 256 Q-functions, they depend on 1 complex parameter:  $u$ . The simplest Q-functions are called  $\mathbf{P}_a$ ,  $a = 1, \dots, 4$

$\mathbf{P}_a(u)$

Spectral parameter

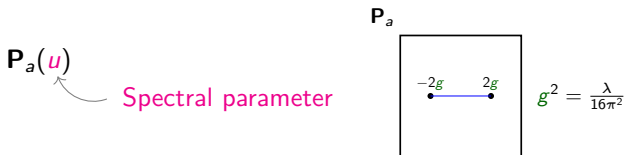
$\mathbf{P}_a$



$$g^2 = \frac{\lambda}{16\pi^2}$$

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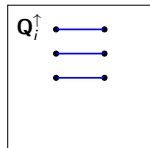
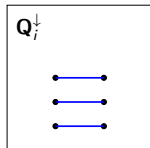
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- From  $P_a$  we can build new functions  $Q_i^{\uparrow/\downarrow}$  from a 4th order Baxter equation

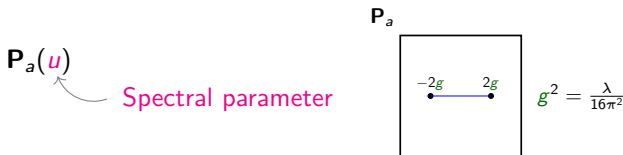
$D_i$  are functions of  $P_a$

$$D_2 Q_i(u + 2i) + D_1 Q_i(u + i) + D_0 Q_i(u) + D_{-1} Q_i(u - i) + D_{-2} Q_i(u - 2i) = 0$$



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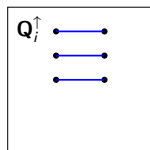
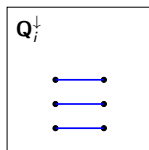
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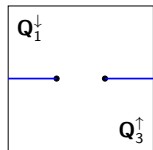
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- Glue together  $\{\mathbf{Q}_1^{\uparrow/\downarrow}, \mathbf{Q}_3^{\uparrow/\downarrow}\}$  and  $\{\mathbf{Q}_2^{\uparrow/\downarrow}, \mathbf{Q}_4^{\uparrow/\downarrow}\}$  to form a **long-cut function**



## Finding $\Delta$

- Where is  $\Delta$ ? Asymptotics  $(\mathcal{O} \sim \text{tr} \nabla^S Z^L)$

$$\mathbf{P}_a \sim \{u^{-\frac{L}{2}-1}, u^{-\frac{L}{2}}, u^{\frac{L}{2}-1}, u^{\frac{L}{2}}\}, \quad \mathbf{Q}_i \sim \{u^{\frac{\Delta-S}{2}+1}, u^{\frac{\Delta+S}{2}}, u^{\frac{-\Delta-S}{2}-1}, u^{\frac{-\Delta+S}{2}-2}\}.$$



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- Name of the game: Find all Q-functions and read of  $\Delta$ !

# Elevator pitch for the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ QSC

Analytic weak coupling computations

- available ("Black box")

[Marboe, Volin 18']

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{K}} \propto \text{tr} \Phi_I \Phi^I$$



$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= 12g^2 - 48g^4 + 336g^6 \\ &+ (-2496 + 576\zeta_3 - 1440\zeta_5)g^8 \\ &+ \dots \end{aligned}$$

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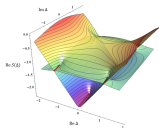
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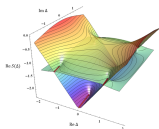
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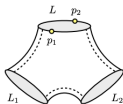
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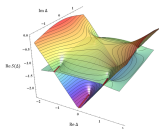
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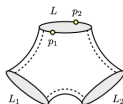
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- There also exists many exciting variations and deformations:

[Gromov, Levkovich-Maslyuk '15]



[Klabbers, van Tongeren '17]



[Gromov et al '17]



# Some More Recent Topics

- The Hagedorn Temperature using QSC [Harmark, Wilhelm '17-'21, SE, Minahan, Thull '23, Harmark '24]

$$T_H^{\text{AdS}_{d+1}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{2\alpha'}} + \frac{d}{8\pi} \quad \leftarrow \text{[Urbach '22, Maldacena (unpublished)]}$$

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[Bigazzi, Canneti, Cotrone, Mück+Castellani '23, '24]

$$+ \sqrt{\alpha'} \frac{d(d+1) - 8d \log(2)}{16\sqrt{2}\pi} + \alpha' \frac{(d+2)(4d-1)d}{256\pi} + \mathcal{O}((\alpha')^{\frac{3}{2}})$$

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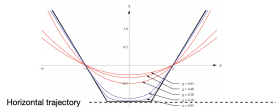
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- The higher twist BFKL spectrum of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  [Klabbers, Preti, Szécsényi '23, SE, Gromov, Preti '24]

Twist 3 ex: (matches perfectly with [Kotikov, Lipatov, Rej, Staudacher, Velizhanin '07])



$$S(\Delta) + 2 = 2g - 4g^2\chi(\Delta) - \frac{2\pi^2}{3}g^3$$

$$+ 24 \left( \frac{\pi^2}{18}\chi(\Delta) + \chi''(\Delta) + \frac{7\zeta_3}{6} \right) g^4 + \mathcal{O}(g^5)$$

$$\chi(\Delta) = \Psi \left( \frac{1-\Delta}{2} \right) + \Psi \left( \frac{1+\Delta}{2} \right) + 2\gamma_E$$

# Strong coupling

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- Various methods exists for "long operators"  $L, S \rightarrow \infty$ . Ex: Bethe Ansatz [Gleb Arutyunov, Frolov, Staudacher '04] and semi-classical quantisation [Gromov, Serban, Shenderovich, Volin '11]

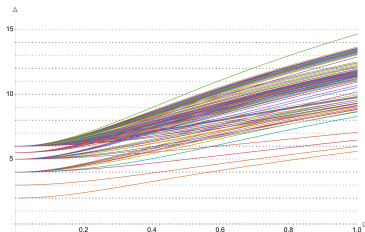
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- We will focus on the most difficult regime:

Focus: **Strong Coupling** and **Short Operators**.  
(ex. Konishi  $\mathcal{O}_K = \text{tr} \nabla^2 Z^2$ ).

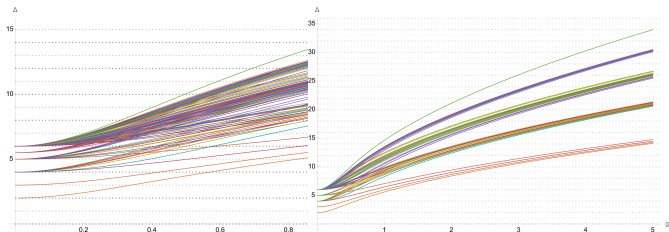
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- The QSC can produce numerical results [Gromov,Levkovich-Maslyusk,Sizov '15,Hegedus,Konczer '16,Gromov,Hegedus,Julius,Sokolova '23]



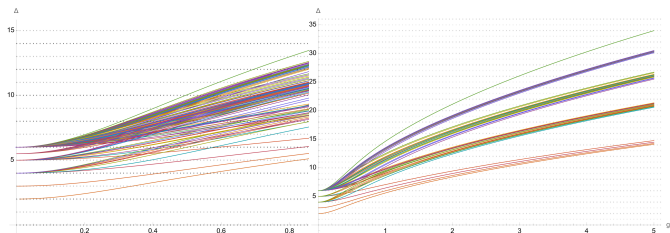
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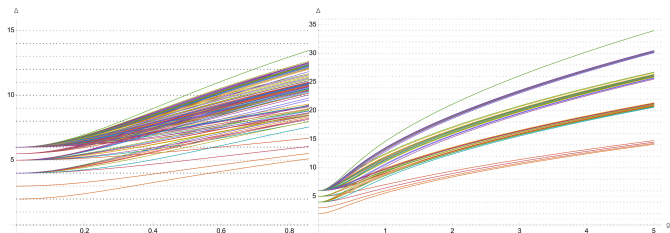


- Some results for the simplest  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  family.

$$\Delta_{\text{Konishi}} = 2\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} + 2\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}}} + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 3\zeta_3\right)\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{3}{4}}} + \left(\frac{15}{2}\zeta_5 + 6\zeta_3 + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{5}{4}}}$$

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- But **very little** is known about most other states

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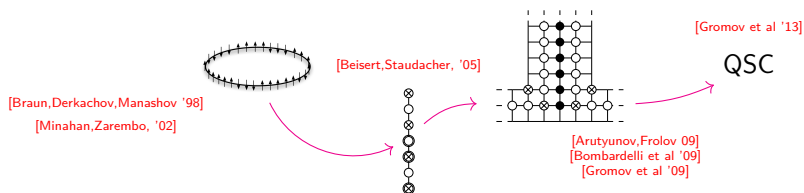
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- 4 **Results** for the strong coupling spectrum.



# Crash Course On Q-Systems

# Cheating and taking short-cuts

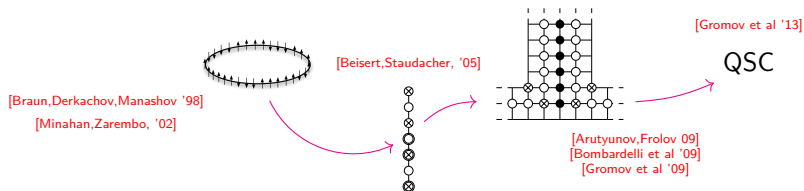
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- To speed up I will follow the quicker path

Spin Chains  $\implies$  Q-functions  $\implies$  QSC  $\implies$  Results!

## $\mathcal{N} = 4$ and spin chains

- Local gauge-invariant operators in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ :

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{tr } \mathcal{V}_1 \mathcal{V}_2 \dots \mathcal{V}_L \quad \mathcal{V} = \{ \Phi_I, \psi_{\alpha,i}, \bar{\psi}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i, \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}^+, \mathcal{F}_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^- \} + \text{Derivatives}$$

↑ 6 scalars

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- Recall, we want to compute the conformal dimension. In perturbation theory  $\Delta = \Delta^0 + g^2 \gamma_{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(g^4)$

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- In the simplest possible case  $\mathcal{V} = \{Z, X\} = \{\Phi_1 + i\Phi_2, \Phi_5 + i\Phi_6\}$

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{tr } ZXZZ \dots X \leftrightarrow |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\uparrow \dots \downarrow\rangle \quad \mathcal{H} = 2g^2 \sum_{l=1}^L (1 - \mathbb{P})$$

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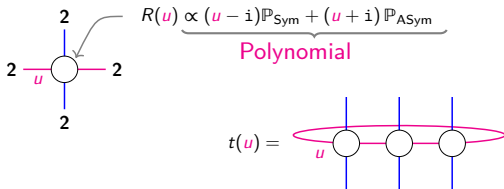
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- $\mathcal{H}$  is an **integrable** Hamiltonian.

## $\mathfrak{su}_2$ spin chain I

- Consider a homogeneous  $\mathfrak{su}_2$  spin chain. This model has an R-matrix from which we can find a Lax matrix and then a transfer-matrix



The diagram illustrates the R-matrix and transfer matrix for the  $\mathfrak{su}_2$  spin chain. On the left, a vertex is shown as a circle with four legs: two horizontal legs labeled '2' and 'u', and two vertical legs labeled '2'. An arrow points from the vertex to the R-matrix expression. The R-matrix is given by  $R(u) \propto (u - i)\mathbb{P}_{\text{Sym}} + (u + i)\mathbb{P}_{\text{ASym}}$ , with the word "Polynomial" written in pink below the expression. To the right, the transfer matrix  $t(u)$  is shown as a horizontal chain of three vertices, each with a vertical leg labeled '2'. The first vertex has a horizontal leg labeled 'u'. A pink oval encloses the three vertices.

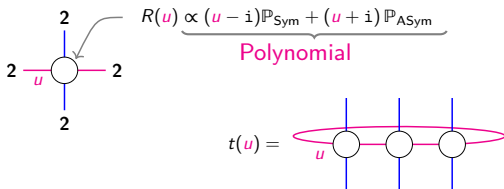
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The diagram shows an R-matrix vertex on the left, represented as a circle with four legs. The top and bottom legs are blue and labeled '2'. The left and right legs are pink and labeled '2'. A pink parameter 'u' is written below the left leg. An arrow points from the text 'Polynomial' to the R-matrix equation. To the right, the transfer matrix  $t(u)$  is shown as a trace of three R-matrix vertices, with a pink oval encircling them.

$$R(u) \propto \underbrace{(u - i)^{\mathbb{P}_{\text{Sym}}} + (u + i)^{\mathbb{P}_{\text{ASym}}}}_{\text{Polynomial}}$$

$$t(u) = \text{Tr} \left( \begin{array}{c} | \\ \circ \\ | \end{array} \begin{array}{c} | \\ \circ \\ | \end{array} \begin{array}{c} | \\ \circ \\ | \end{array} \right)$$

- The eigenvalues of  $t(u)$ : (Dressed Vacuum Form)

$$t(u) = \left(u - \frac{i}{2}\right)^L \frac{Q_1^{[2]}}{Q_1} + \left(u + \frac{i}{2}\right)^L \frac{Q_1^{[-2]}}{Q_1} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \\ \leftarrow \end{array} \right. \text{Q-function!}$$

where  $f^{[n]} = f\left(u + \frac{i}{2}n\right)$ .

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$$t(u) = \left(u - \frac{i}{2}\right)^L \frac{Q_1^{[2]}}{Q_1} + \left(u + \frac{i}{2}\right)^L \frac{Q_1^{[-2]}}{Q_1} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Q-function!} \end{array} \right.$$

where  $f^{[n]} = f\left(u + \frac{i}{2}n\right)$ .

- $Q_1$  is a polynomial  $Q_1 = \prod_{i=1}^M (u - u_i)$  and asymptotic of  $Q_1$  encodes the quantum number  $M$ .



## $\mathfrak{su}_2$ spin chain I

- Consider a homogeneous  $\mathfrak{su}_2$  spin chain. This model has an R-matrix from which we can find a Lax matrix and then a transfer-matrix

$$R(u) \propto (u - i)^{\mathbb{P}_{\text{Sym}}} + (u + i)^{\mathbb{P}_{\text{ASym}}}$$

Polynomial

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- In particular:

$$\gamma(2) = 2g^2 \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{1}{u_i^2 + \frac{1}{4}}$$

## $\mathfrak{su}_2$ spin chain II

- Can introduce **polynomial**  $Q_2$  and write  $t(u)$  in polynomial form:

$$t(u) = Q_1^{[2]} Q_2^{[-2]} - Q_1^{[-2]} Q_2^{[2]} = \begin{vmatrix} Q_1^{[2]} & Q_1^{[-2]} \\ Q_2^{[2]} & Q_2^{[-2]} \end{vmatrix}$$

$Q_1, Q_2$  must satisfy the **QQ/Wronskian**-relation

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$$\prod_{j \neq i}^M \frac{u_i - u_j + i}{u_i - u_j - i} = \left( \frac{u_i + \frac{i}{2}}{u_i - \frac{i}{2}} \right)^L, \quad Q_1 = \prod_{i=1}^M (u - u_i).$$

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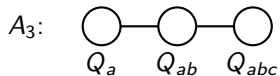
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- Yet another way to attack the same problem is to use a **Baxter equation**. It is given as

$$\left(u - \frac{\mathbf{i}}{2}\right)^L Q_a^{[2]} - t(u) Q_a + \left(u + \frac{\mathbf{i}}{2}\right)^L Q_a^{[-2]} = 0, \quad \begin{vmatrix} Q_a^{[2]} & Q_a & Q_a^{[-2]} \\ Q_1^{[2]} & Q_1 & Q_1^{[-2]} \\ Q_2^{[2]} & Q_2 & Q_2^{[-2]} \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

## $\mathfrak{su}_N$ Q-systems

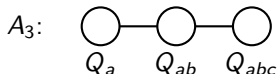
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# $\mathfrak{su}_N$ Q-systems

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- The various Q-functions are related by functional equations **QQ-relations**:  
 $A = 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, \dots$

$$Q_{Aa}^+ Q_{Ab}^- - Q_{Aa}^- Q_{Ab}^+ = Q_{Aab} Q_A,$$

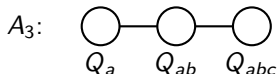
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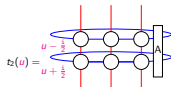
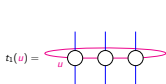
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- We can once again formulate a **Baxter equation**. For simplicity  $\mathfrak{su}_3$ :

$$(u - i)^L Q_a^{[3]} - t_1(u) Q_a^+ + t_2(u) Q_a^- - (u + i)^L Q_a^{[-3]} = 0$$



$$\begin{vmatrix} Q_3^{[3]} & Q_2^{[1]} & Q_1^{[-1]} & Q_0^{[-3]} \\ Q_2^{[3]} & Q_1^{[1]} & Q_0^{[-1]} & Q_{-1}^{[-3]} \\ Q_1^{[3]} & Q_0^{[1]} & Q_{-1}^{[-1]} & Q_{-2}^{[-3]} \\ Q_0^{[3]} & Q_{-1}^{[1]} & Q_{-2}^{[-1]} & Q_{-3}^{[-3]} \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

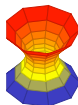
# Supersymmetric Q-systems

- For  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM we need a supersymmetric  $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$  Q-system. Start from two separate  $\mathfrak{su}(4)$  Q-systems.



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Where

$$\mathbf{P}^a = \chi^{ab} \mathbf{P}_b, \quad \mathbf{Q}^i = \chi^{ij} \mathbf{Q}_j, \quad \chi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.1)$$

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- Once again there is a Baxter equation:

$$\mathbf{Q}_i^{[4]} D_0 - \mathbf{Q}_i^{[2]} D_1 + \mathbf{Q}_i D_2 + D_3 \mathbf{Q}_i^{[-2]} + D_4 \mathbf{Q}_i^{[-4]} = 0$$

$$D_0 = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{P}_1^{[2]} & \mathbf{P}_1 & \mathbf{P}_1^{[-2]} & \mathbf{P}_1^{[-4]} \\ \mathbf{P}_2^{[2]} & \mathbf{P}_2 & \mathbf{P}_2^{[-2]} & \mathbf{P}_2^{[-4]} \\ \mathbf{P}_3^{[2]} & \mathbf{P}_3 & \mathbf{P}_3^{[-2]} & \mathbf{P}_3^{[-4]} \\ \mathbf{P}_4^{[2]} & \mathbf{P}_4 & \mathbf{P}_4^{[-2]} & \mathbf{P}_4^{[-4]} \end{vmatrix}$$

## Quick Recap of $\mathfrak{psu}_{2,2|4}$ Q-systems

- Important set of Q-functions:

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$$\mathbf{P}_a \simeq_{u \rightarrow \infty} A_a u^{\{-\frac{L}{2}-1, -\frac{L}{2}, \frac{L}{2}-1, \frac{L}{2}\}}$$

$\mathfrak{so}_6$  quantum numbers

$$\mathbf{Q}_i \simeq_{u \rightarrow \infty} B_i u^{\{\frac{\Delta-S}{2}+1, \frac{\Delta+S}{2}, -\frac{\Delta-S}{2}-1, -\frac{\Delta+S}{2}-2\}}$$

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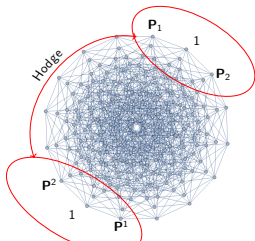
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- $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$  are related through a **Baxter** equation.
- One can also define a plethora of additional Q-functions related through finite difference equations. We won't need them.



$$Q_{Aa|Ii}^+ Q_{A|I}^- - Q_{Aa|Ii}^- Q_{A|I}^+ = Q_{Aa|I} Q_{A|Ii}$$

$$Q_{Aa|I}^+ Q_{Ab|I}^- - Q_{Aa|I}^- Q_{Ab|I}^+ = Q_{Aab|I} Q_{A|I}$$

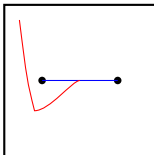
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# The Quantum Spectral Curve

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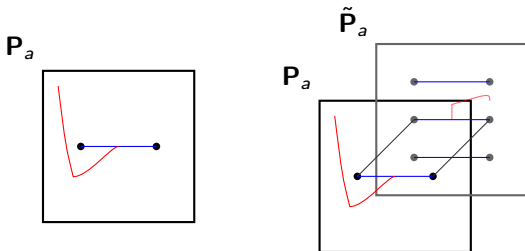
$\mathbf{P}_a$





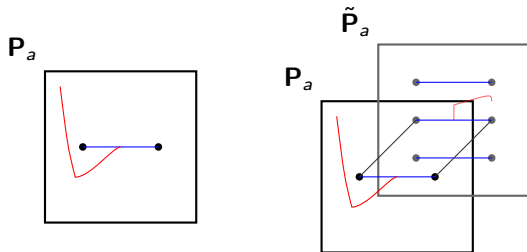
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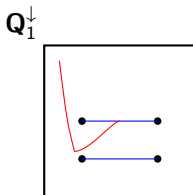


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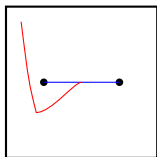
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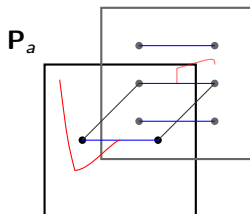
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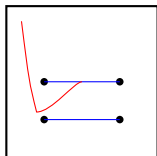


$\tilde{\mathbf{P}}_a$

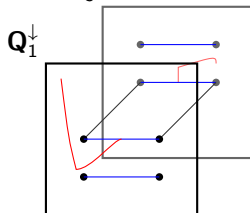


- Slightly more complicated for  $\mathbf{Q}_i$ :

$\mathbf{Q}_1^\downarrow$

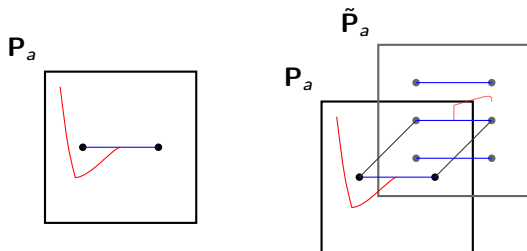


$\mathbf{Q}_3^\uparrow$

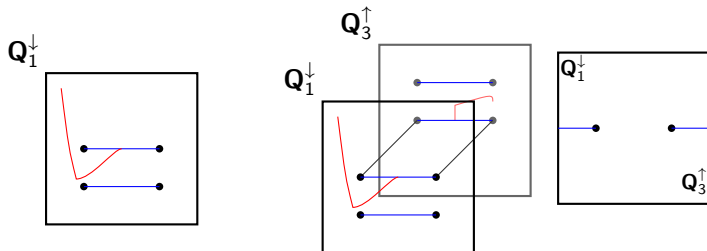


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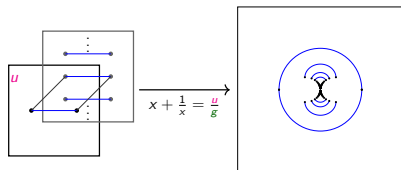
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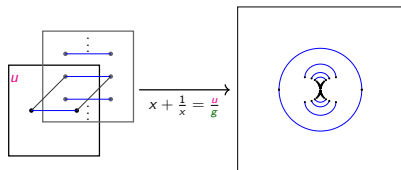
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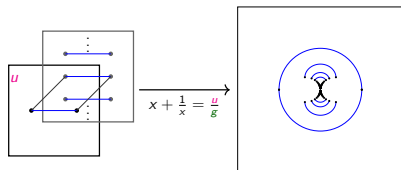
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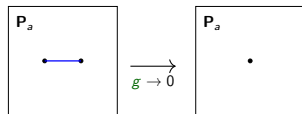


- Parameterise  $\mathbf{P}_a$  as

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At weak coupling,  $g \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x \rightarrow \frac{u}{g} + \dots$ ,

- the cuts collapses and we find a **rational spin chain**.



## QSC at strong coupling



# What Happens at Strong Coupling?

- Search for an equivalent picture at **Strong Coupling** [Hegedüs, Konczer '16]!

$$\mathbf{P}_a \propto \sum_m^{\infty} \frac{d_{a,m}}{(x^2 - 1)^m} \longrightarrow \underbrace{\tilde{p}_{1,2} = -\tilde{p}_{3,4}}_{\text{quasi-momenta}} = 2\pi\mathcal{L} \frac{x}{x^2 - 1}$$

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$$\rho_1 = x^{\frac{L}{2}-1} \left( \mathbf{P}_1(x) - \mathbf{P}_3\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right), \quad \rho_2 = x^{\frac{L}{2}-1} \left( \mathbf{P}_2(x) - \mathbf{P}_4\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right).$$

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- Why?

$$\begin{cases} \text{Classically} & \tilde{p}_1\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - \tilde{p}_3(x) = 0 \\ \text{Quantum} & \underbrace{\mathbf{P}_1\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - \mathbf{P}_3(x)}_{\mathbf{P}\mu\text{-system}} \simeq_{x \neq \pm 1} 0 \end{cases}$$

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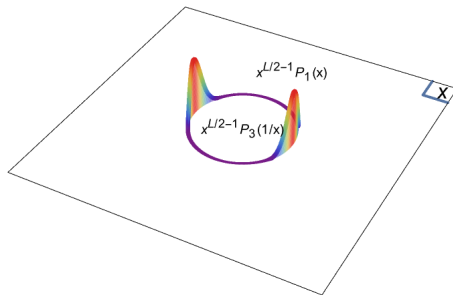
$$P_a \propto \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_{a,m}}{(2m+1)^m} \longrightarrow \tilde{n}_{3,4} = -\tilde{p}_{3,4} = 2\pi \mathcal{L} \frac{x}{x^2-1}$$

- Information

$$\rho_1 = x^{\frac{L}{2}}$$

- Original  $P$  matrix

$$P_1 =$$



energies:

$$\left( \tilde{p}_1\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) - \tilde{p}_3(x) \right)$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{2\pi i} \frac{\rho_1(y)}{\frac{1}{x} - y}$$

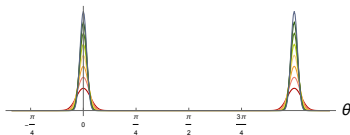
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$\text{P}\mu\text{-system}$

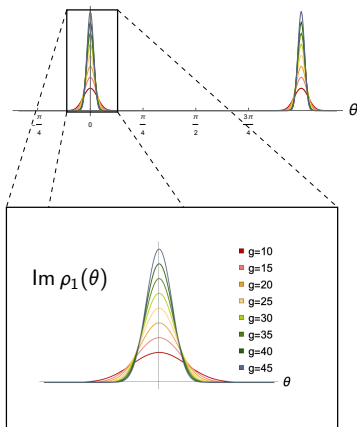
# Some magic

- Let's look at  $\rho_1$  in more detail



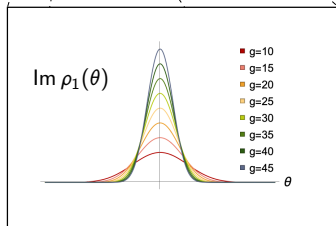
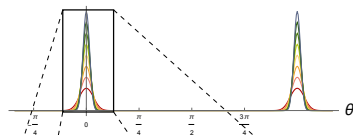
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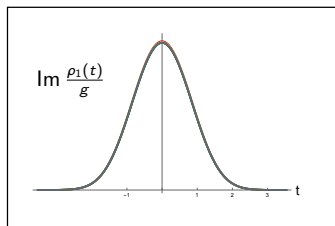


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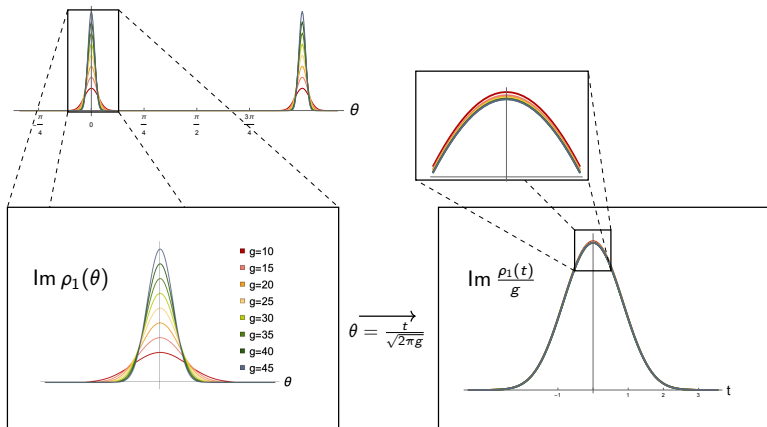
$$\theta = \frac{t}{\sqrt{2\pi g}}$$





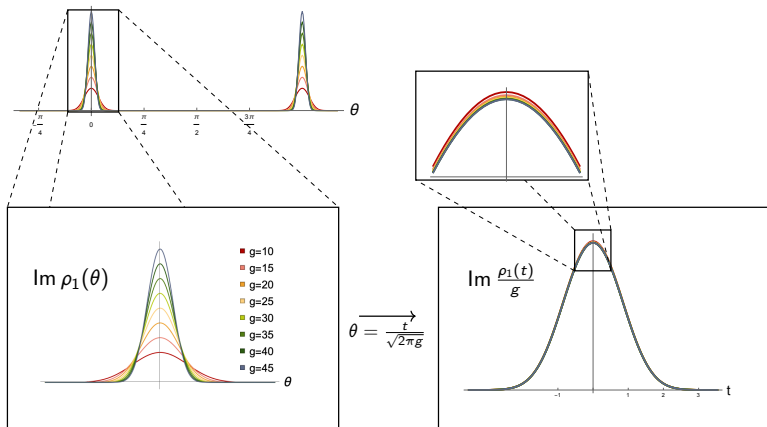
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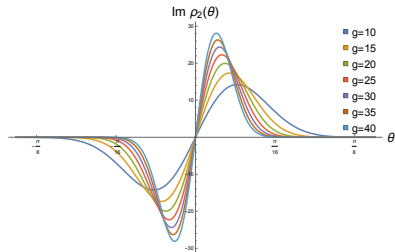
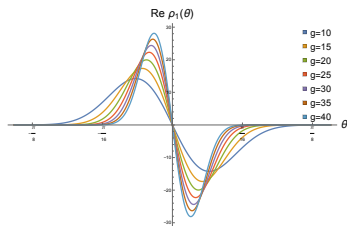
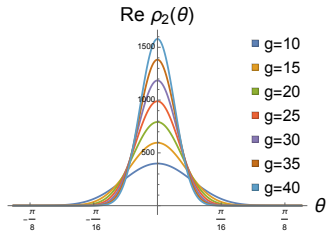
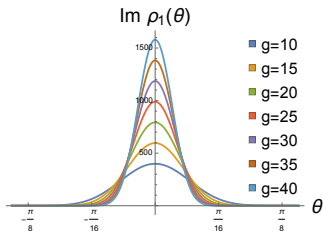
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- There exist a finite limiting shape for  $\rho$  at  $g \rightarrow \infty$ ! We can expand

$$\rho_a = g \rho_a^{(1)} + \sqrt{g} \rho_a^{(\frac{1}{2})} + \rho_a^{(0)} + \dots$$

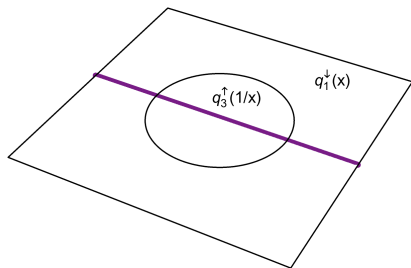
# Pictures of $\rho$



## What about $Q$ ?

- We can find a similar representation for  $Q$ . Define

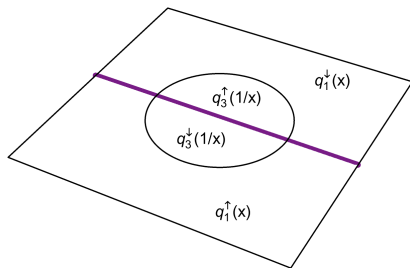
$$\mathbf{q}_1(x) = x^{-\frac{\Delta+S-4}{2}} \mathbf{Q}_1(x), \mathbf{q}_3(x) = x^{\frac{\Delta-S+4}{2}} \mathbf{Q}_3(x)$$



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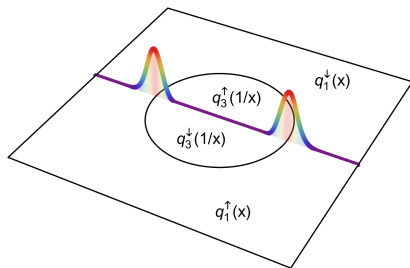
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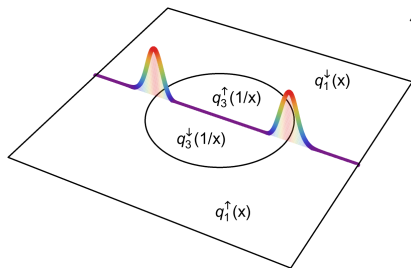
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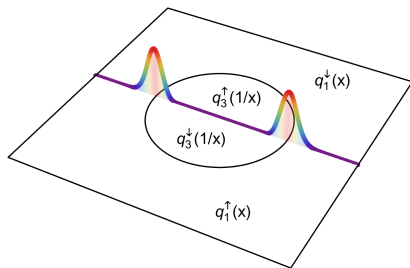


$$\eta_1 = \begin{cases} q_1^\downarrow(u) - q_1^\uparrow(u) & |x| > 1 \\ q_3^\uparrow(u) - q_3^\downarrow(u) & |x| < 1 \end{cases}$$

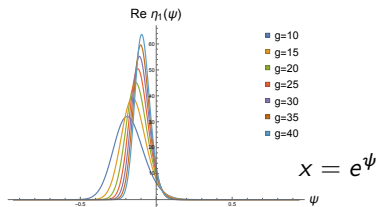
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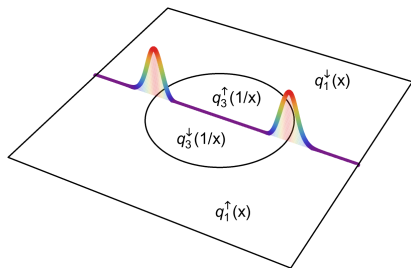




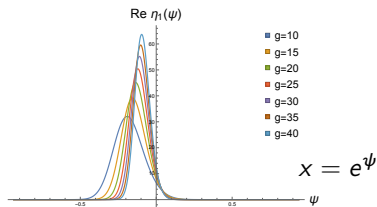
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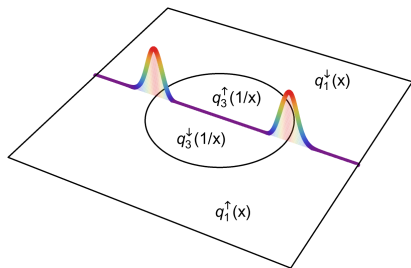
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$$\mathbf{Q}_3 = x^{\frac{-\Delta+S-4}{2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dy}{2\pi i} \frac{\eta_1(y)}{y - \frac{1}{x}}$$

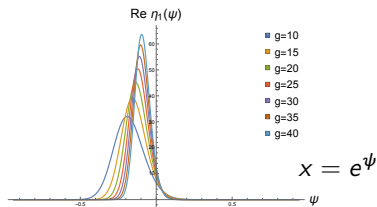
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- The density once again have a well defined expansion:

$$\eta_i(s) = \sqrt{g} \eta_i^{(\frac{1}{2})}(s) + \frac{\eta_i^{(-\frac{1}{2})}(s)}{\sqrt{g}} + \mathcal{O}(g^{-\frac{3}{2}}) \quad x = e^{\frac{s}{\sqrt{2\pi g}}}$$

# Closing the Equations

- Recap: We can express all Q-functions using the **densities**  $\eta_i, \rho_a$ :  
( $\text{tr } \nabla^S Z^L, \Delta \sim \sqrt{2S} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^{-\frac{1}{4}})$ )

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- Ideas:
  - Asymptotic Bethe Ansatz?
  - **Numerics**

# Numerics

# The Numerical Algorithm: Main Idea

- For numerics we parameterize the densities: Polynomials

$$\rho_a = e^{2\pi(u-2g)} \sum c_{a,n} \mathcal{P}_n(\theta), \quad \eta_i = e^{-2\pi(u-2g)} \sum d_{i,n} \mathcal{Q}_n(\psi).$$

( $x = e^{i\theta} = e^\psi$ )



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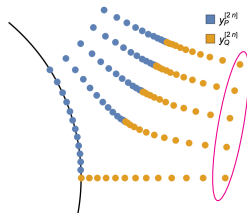
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Polynomials

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Compute  $\mathbf{P}_a, \mathbf{Q}_i$  on a set of probe points and find  $\mathbf{Q}^{(B)}/\mathbf{P}^{(B)}$  on the real line/unit circle using

Baxter



$$\mathbf{Q}_i^{(B)}(y_p) = \sum_{n=1}^4 D_n \mathbf{Q}_i(y_p^{[2n]})$$

Baxter

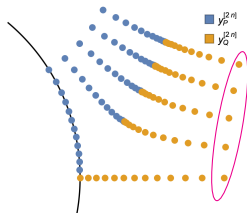
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- Find new densities  $\rho_a^{(B)}, \eta_i^{(B)}$ , ex:

$$\rho_1^{(B)} = x^{\frac{L}{2}-1} \left( \mathbf{P}_1^{(B)}(x) - \mathbf{P}_3^{(B)}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right)$$

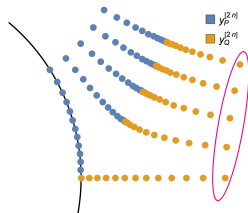
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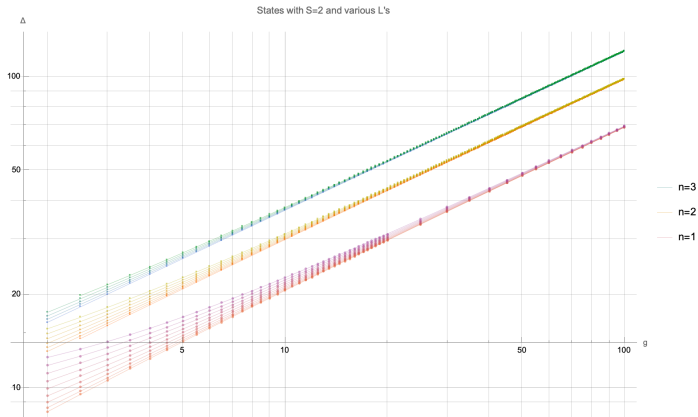
$$\rho_1^{(B)} = x^{\frac{L}{2}-1} \left( \mathbf{P}_1^{(B)}(x) - \mathbf{P}_3^{(B)}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right)$$

- Finally, find new  $c_{a,n}$  and  $d_{i,n}$  by minimizing

$$\rho_a - \rho_a^{(B)}, \quad \eta_i - \eta_i^{(B)}.$$

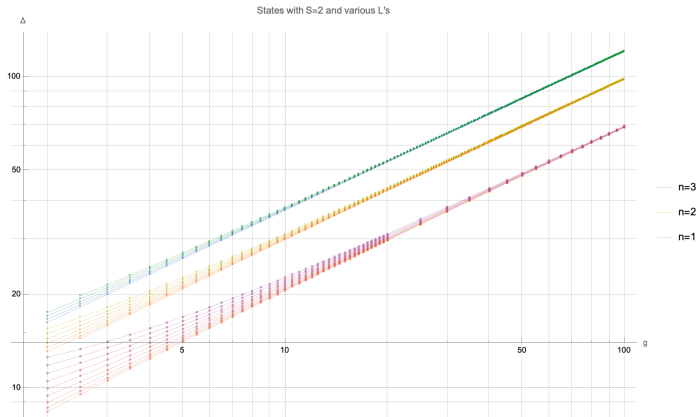
# Numerical Algorithm: Result

Example for  $\text{tr} \nabla^2 Z^L$



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Example for  $\text{tr } \nabla^2 Z^L$



- This is really strong coupling  $\lambda = 16\pi^2 g^2 \implies \lambda \sim 10^6$

# Analytic Results

## Konishi and Friends

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$$\begin{aligned}(\Delta + 2)^2 - L^2 &= S \left( \sqrt{\lambda} A_1 + A_2 + \frac{A_3}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \dots \right) + S^2 \left( B_1 + \frac{B_2}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{B_3}{\lambda} + \dots \right) \\ &+ S^3 \left( \frac{C_1}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{C_2}{\lambda} + \frac{C_3}{\lambda^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) + S^4 \left( \frac{D_1}{\lambda} + \frac{D_2}{\lambda^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right) + S^5 \frac{E_1}{\lambda^{\frac{5}{2}}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

Quasi-classics  
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- From our numerics we find with accuracy  $10^{-21}$

$$C_3 = \frac{13}{16} L^2 - \frac{15}{4} \zeta_5 + 21 \zeta_3 - 9 \zeta_3^2 + \frac{131}{128}$$

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■ Konishi ( $L = 2, S = 2$ )

$$\Delta_{\text{Konishi}} = 2\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} - 2 + 2\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{1}{4}}} + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 3\zeta_3\right)\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{3}{4}}} + \left(6\zeta_3 + \frac{15}{2}\zeta_5 + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{5}{4}}}$$

$$\left(-\frac{81\zeta_3^2}{4} + \frac{\zeta_3}{4} - 40\zeta_5 - \frac{315\zeta_7}{16} - \frac{27}{16}\right)\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{7}{4}}} \quad \text{New!}$$

$$n = 2$$

- Naive generalisation for  $\text{tr } \nabla^S Z^L, \Delta \sim \sqrt{4S} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^0), (n = 2)$

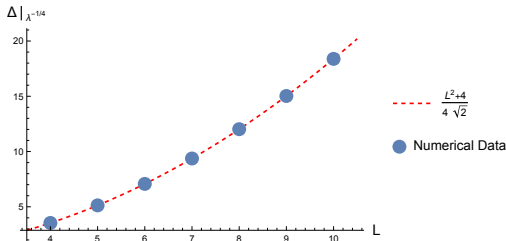
$$\Delta_{n=2, S=2}^{\text{Expected}} = 2\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} - 2 + \frac{(L^2 + 4)}{4\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}}} + \frac{-4L^4 + 96L^2 - 64(96\zeta_3 + 11)}{512\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{3}{4}}}$$

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- Third term vs data

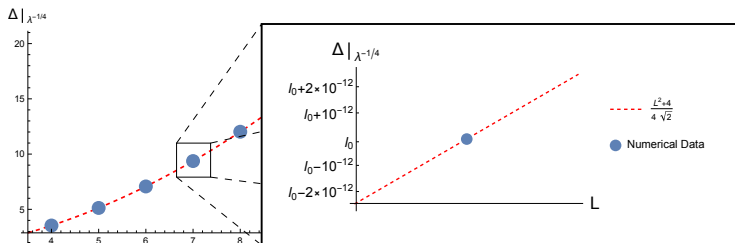


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- The fourth term?

$$512\sqrt{2}\Delta^{\text{Fit}}|_{\lambda^{-\frac{3}{4}}} = -4.0386 L^4 + 102.2702 L^2 - 8370.5094$$

$$512\sqrt{2}\Delta^{\text{Expected}}|_{\lambda^{-\frac{3}{4}}} = -4.0000 L^4 + 96.0000 L^2 - 8089.4376$$

$$n = 2$$

- Naive generalisation for  $\text{tr } \nabla^2 Z^L, \Delta \sim \sqrt{8} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^0), (n = 2)$

$$\Delta_{n=2, S=2}^{\text{Expected}} = 2\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}} - 2 + \frac{L^2 + 4}{4\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{1}{4}}} + \frac{-4L^4 + 96L^2 - 64(96\zeta_3 + 11)}{512\sqrt{2} \lambda^{\frac{3}{4}}}$$

- The fourth term? Add  $\frac{1}{L^2}$ !

$$512\sqrt{2}\Delta^{\text{Fit}}|_{\lambda^{-\frac{3}{4}}} = -4.0000 L^4 + 96.0003 L^2 - 8089.4 - \frac{3067.8}{L^2} - \frac{6317.6}{L^4}$$

$$512\sqrt{2}\Delta^{\text{Expected}}|_{\lambda^{-\frac{3}{4}}} = -4.0000 L^4 + 96.0000 L^2 - 8089.4$$



## A little bit of analytics

- Where is  $L$  injected into the QSC?

$$\mathbf{P}_a \simeq \mathbb{A}_a u^{-M_a}, \quad \underbrace{\implies}_{\text{QQ-relations}} \begin{cases} \mathbb{A}_1 \mathbb{A}_4 = \frac{64 i \pi^2}{L(L+1)} g^2 + \dots \\ \mathbb{A}_2 \mathbb{A}_3 = \frac{64 i \pi^2}{L(L-1)} g^2 + \dots \end{cases}$$

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$$\left( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt t \rho_1^{(\frac{3}{2})}(t) \right)^2 \propto \frac{L^2 - 18 \pm \sqrt{L^4 - 4L^2 + 36}}{(L^2 - 9)(L^2 - 1)}$$

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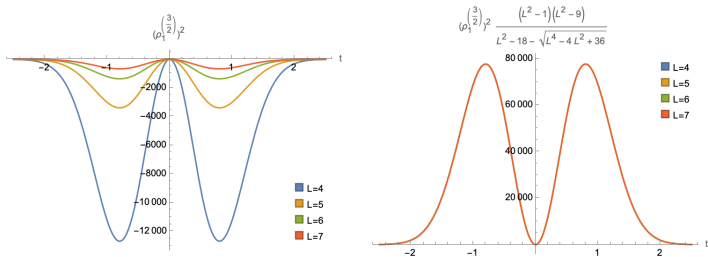
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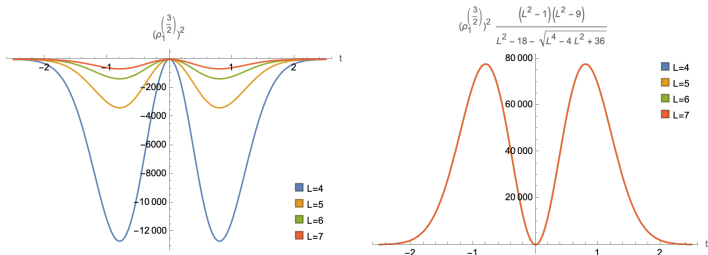
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- Natural guess: Fit  $\{L^4, L^2, 1, \sqrt{L^4 - 4L^2 + 36}\}$ .

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- Numerics gives

$$\begin{aligned}(\Delta_{n=2,S=2} + 2)^2 &= 8\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}} + (L^2 + 4) + \frac{\frac{5L^2}{2} - \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{L^4 - 4L^2 + 36} - 48\zeta_3 - 8}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \\ &+ \frac{6L^2 - \frac{3(2L^4 - 5L^2 + 18)}{\sqrt{L^4 - 4L^2 + 36}} + 240\zeta_5 + 24\zeta_3 - 1}{\lambda} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)\end{aligned}$$

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 \mathcal{M} &= \left( 8\sqrt{\lambda} + 4 + L^2 + \frac{\frac{5L}{2} - 48\zeta_3 - 8}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{6L^2 + 40\zeta_5 + 24\zeta_3 - 1}{\lambda} \right) \mathbb{1}_{2 \times 2} \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- For higher  $n$  we expect much more intricate mixing, how do we understand this? Is  $\mathcal{M}$  some integrable Hamiltonian?



## Conclusion and Outlook

# Conclusion

- The QSC can be formulated in terms of a novel set of **densities**.
- The densities have a well behaved limit as  $g \rightarrow \infty$
- We developed a new numerical algorithm which remains efficient for strong coupling.
- Using high precision data we deduced new corrections to Konishi and found a novel analytic structure for other states.

# Outlook

- Main Task: Develop efficient analytic algorithm
- Missing Ingredient: How to fix  $\rho, \eta$  to leading order. Ideas: ABA, (quasi-classical) string theory or conformal bootstrap?
- Understand the new "mixing" structure. Look at higher trajectories.
- Can we understand densities as "transverse coordinates" [Passerini, Plefka, Semenoff, Young '10]
- Input strong coupling data into bootstrap? [Caron-Huot, Coronado, Trinh, Zahrae '22]  
Generalise to Wilson lines? [Cavaglia, Gromov, Julius, Preti '21]
- Improv upon AdS<sub>4</sub> [Bombardelli, Cavaglià, Conti, Tateo '18]? AdS<sub>3</sub>? Make contact with AdS<sub>3</sub>  
TBA? [Frolov, Sfondrini '21]
- Hexagons at strong coupling? [Basso, Georgoudis, Klemenchuk Sueiro '22][Bercini, Homrich, Vieira '22]

# And before its all over

