## Lecture 1

## Yangian Symmetry and the Dilatation operator

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## Before we begin ...

# Integrability in Gauge and String Theory 2016 

## 22-26 August Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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## Recap

# $\mathcal{N}=4$ super Yang-Mills 


drosophila melanogaster

## $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM - The drosophila of quantum field theory

Field content of $\mathcal{N}=4 \mathrm{SYM}:$

- One gauge field/gluon
$A_{\mu}=A_{\mu}^{n} T^{n}$
$T^{n}: \operatorname{SU}(N)$ generators
- Six real scalars

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \phi^{i}=\phi^{i, n} T^{n} \\
& \psi^{a \alpha}=\psi^{a \alpha, n} T^{n}, \bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}}=\bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}, n} T^{n}
\end{aligned}
$$

- Four complex fermions

All fields transform in the adjoint rep of $\mathrm{SU}(N): \quad U(x)=e^{i \xi^{n}(x) T^{n}}$

$$
A_{\mu} \rightarrow U(x)\left(A_{\mu}+\partial_{\mu}\right) U^{\dagger}(x) \quad\left(\phi^{i}, \psi^{a \alpha}, \bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}}\right) \rightarrow U(x)\left(\phi^{i}, \psi^{a \alpha}, \bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}}\right) U^{\dagger}(x)
$$

## Action:

$$
\begin{aligned}
S_{\mathcal{N}=4}=\frac{1}{g_{\mathrm{YM}}^{2}} \int \mathrm{~d}^{4} x \operatorname{Tr}\{ & -\frac{1}{2} F_{\mu \nu}^{2}-\left(D_{\mu} \phi^{i}\right)^{2}-\frac{1}{2}\left[\phi^{i}, \phi^{j}\right]\left[\phi_{i}, \phi_{j}\right]-2 \bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}} \sigma_{\mu, \alpha \dot{\alpha}} D^{\mu} \psi^{a \alpha} \\
& \left.-\psi^{a \alpha} \sum_{a b}^{i} \varepsilon_{\alpha \beta}\left[\phi_{i}, \psi^{b \beta}\right]-\bar{\psi}_{a}^{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{\Sigma}^{i, a b} \varepsilon_{\dot{\alpha} \dot{\alpha}}\left[\phi_{i}, \bar{\psi}_{d}^{\dot{\beta}}\right]\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM has two freely tunable parameters ( $N, g_{\mathrm{YM}}$ ) and we shall consider the theory in the planar limit $\left(N \rightarrow \infty, g_{\mathrm{YM}} \rightarrow 0\right.$ with $\lambda:=g_{\mathrm{YM}}^{2} N=$ const. $)$.

## $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM - Symmetries

Global symmetries of the classical theory:

| Symmetry | Generators | Algebra |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Translations | $\mathrm{P}^{\mu}$ |  |  |
| Lorentz-trans. | $\mathrm{M}^{\mu \nu}$ | $\mathfrak{s o}(2,4) \simeq$ |  |
| conf. boosts | $\mathrm{K}^{\mu}$ | $\mathfrak{s u}(2,2)$ |  |
| Dilatations | D |  | $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$ |
| Supertranslations | $\mathrm{Q}_{a \alpha}, \overline{\mathrm{Q}}_{\dot{\alpha}}^{a}$ |  |  |
| Superboosts | $\mathrm{S}^{a \alpha}, \overline{\mathrm{~S}}_{a}^{\alpha}$ |  |  |
| R-Symmetry | $\mathrm{R}^{a}{ }_{b}$ | $\mathfrak{s u}(4)$ |  |

Symmetries of the quantized theory:

$$
\beta\left(g_{\mathrm{YM}}\right)=0 \quad \rightarrow \text { Symmetry algebra } \mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4) \text { is unbroken }
$$

## Yangian Symmetry: A hallmark of integrability

The Yangian algebra $Y[\mathfrak{g}]$ of a semi-simple Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ is a quantum algebra spanned by
[Drinfeld]

$$
\text { Level-0: }\left\{\mathrm{J}^{\kappa}\right\} \quad \text { Level- } 1:\left\{\widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa}\right\}
$$

satisfying the following axioms
(1) Lie Algebra

$$
\begin{aligned}
& {\left[\mathrm{J}^{\kappa}, \mathrm{J}^{\rho}\right]=f^{\kappa \rho}{ }_{\delta} \mathrm{J}^{\delta}} \\
& {\left[\mathrm{J}^{\kappa}, \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\rho}\right]=f^{\kappa \rho} \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\delta}} \\
& {\left[\mathrm{J}^{\kappa},\left[\widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\rho}, \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\delta}\right]\right]+\text { cyclic }=f^{\kappa \mu}{ }_{\sigma} f^{\rho \nu}{ }_{\omega} f^{\delta \eta}{ }_{\gamma} f_{\mu \nu \eta} \mathrm{J}^{(\sigma} \mathrm{J}^{\omega} \mathrm{J}^{\gamma)}}
\end{aligned}
$$

(2) Level-one Relation
(3) Serre Relation
$Y(\mathfrak{g})$ is an infinite-dimensional, graded algebra.

$$
\left[\widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa}, \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\rho}\right]=f^{\kappa \rho} \widehat{\widehat{J}}^{\delta}+X^{\kappa \rho}(\mathrm{J}, \widehat{\mathrm{~J}})
$$

Coproduct:

$$
\Delta\left(\mathrm{J}^{\kappa}\right)=\mathrm{J}^{\kappa} \otimes \mathbb{1}+\mathbb{1} \otimes \mathrm{J}^{\kappa} \quad \Delta\left(\widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa}\right)=\widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa} \otimes \mathbb{1}+\mathbb{1} \otimes \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa}+\frac{1}{2} f^{\kappa}{ }_{\rho \delta} \mathrm{J}^{\delta} \otimes \mathrm{J}^{\rho}
$$

Tensor space representation(spin chains, scattering amplitudes, etc.):

$$
\mathrm{J}^{\kappa}=\sum_{i} \mathrm{~J}_{i}^{\kappa} \quad \widehat{\mathrm{J}}^{\kappa}=\sum_{i} c_{i} \mathrm{~J}_{i}^{\kappa}+f^{\kappa}{ }_{\rho \delta} \sum_{i<j} \mathrm{~J}_{i}^{\delta} \mathrm{J}_{j}^{\rho}
$$

- Symmetry generators get deformed by radiative corrections but algebra is stable

$$
J^{a}(\lambda)=J^{a}+\delta J^{a}(\lambda) \quad \text { with } \quad\left[J^{a}(\lambda), J^{b}(\lambda)\right]=f_{c}^{a b} J^{c}(\lambda)
$$

- Dilatation operator:

Scaling dimensions $\Delta_{\mathcal{A}}$ are eigenvalues of the dilatation operator $D(\lambda)=D+\delta D(\lambda)$

$$
D(\lambda)|\mathcal{O}\rangle=\Delta_{\mathcal{A}}|\mathcal{O}\rangle \quad \text { with } \quad|\mathcal{O}\rangle=\sum_{\left\{i_{k}\right\}} c^{i_{1} \ldots i_{L}}\left|X_{i_{1}} \ldots X_{i_{L}}\right\rangle
$$

- Captured by mixing matrix $Z$ of renormalization of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{A}}$

$$
\delta D \sim Z^{-1} \mu \frac{d Z}{d \mu}
$$

Constructable from Feynman diagrammatics

- $\delta D$ is invariant under $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
{\left[D, J^{a}\right] } & =\underbrace{\Delta^{a}}_{\text {number }} J^{a} \Rightarrow\left[D(\lambda), J^{a}(\lambda)\right]=\Delta^{a} J^{a}(\lambda) \\
& \Rightarrow \quad\left[D, \delta J^{a}\right]+\left[\delta D, J^{a}\right]=\Delta^{a} \delta J^{a}
\end{aligned}
$$

in perturbation thy operators only mix with other operators of the same classical dimension, hence $\left[D, \delta J^{a}\right]=\Delta^{a} \delta J^{a}$ thus

$$
\left[\delta D, J^{a}\right]=0
$$

- One loop dilatation operator:

Look at simple subsector closed under renormalization
$X=\phi_{1}+i \phi_{2} \quad Y=\phi_{3}+i \phi_{4} \quad Z=\phi_{5}+i \phi_{6}$

- Groundstate: $\left|0_{L}\right\rangle \hat{=} \operatorname{Tr}\left(Z^{L}\right) \quad$ indeed $\Delta_{0_{L}}=0$ ( $1 / 2 \mathrm{BPS}$ state)
- Consider excitations (insert $W$ 's) $\Rightarrow \mathrm{SU}(2)$ sector $\quad|\uparrow\rangle \hat{=} Z|\downarrow\rangle \hat{=} W$ $\operatorname{Tr}(Z \ldots Z W Z \ldots W) \hat{=}|\uparrow\rangle \otimes \ldots|\uparrow\rangle \otimes|\downarrow\rangle \otimes|\uparrow\rangle \otimes \ldots|\uparrow\rangle$
- $\delta D$ is invariant under $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$

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$$
\operatorname{Tr}(Z \ldots Z W Z . . W) \hat{=}|\uparrow\rangle \otimes \ldots|\uparrow\rangle \otimes|\downarrow\rangle \otimes|\uparrow\rangle \otimes \ldots|\uparrow\rangle
$$

- Explixit computation in $\operatorname{SU}(2)$ sector yields

$$
\delta D_{S U(2)}=\frac{\lambda}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{L}\left(\mathbf{1}_{k}-\mathbb{P}_{k, k+1}\right)+\mathcal{O}\left(\lambda^{2}\right) \quad \mathbb{P}_{k, k+1}=\vec{\sigma}_{k} \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{k+1}
$$

- Obviously $\delta D_{S U(2)}$ is invariant under su(2): For $J_{a} \in \operatorname{su}(2)$

$$
\left[J_{a}, \delta D_{S U(2)}\right]=0 \quad \text { with } \quad J_{a}=\frac{1}{2 i} \sum_{k=1}^{L} \sigma_{a, k}
$$

- Yangian symmetry $Y[\mathfrak{s u}(2)]$

Level one generators (in trivial evaluation representation):

$$
\hat{J}_{a}=\epsilon_{a b c} \sum_{1 \leq k<j \leq L} J_{b, j} J_{c, k}
$$

Note: Definition singles out site 1 and L! Breaks cyclicity.

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Level one generator in $\mathrm{su}(2)$ sector

$$
\hat{J}_{a}=\epsilon_{a b c} \sum_{1 \leq k<j \leq L} J_{b, j} J_{c, k}
$$

- One shows: $\quad \epsilon_{a b c}\left[J_{b} \otimes J_{c}, \sigma_{d} \otimes \sigma_{d}\right]=J_{a} \otimes \mathbf{1}-\mathbf{1} \otimes J_{a}$
- Thus with $\delta D_{S U(2)}=\sum_{k=1}^{L}\left(\mathbf{1}_{k}-\mathbb{P}_{k, k+1}\right)$

$$
\left[\hat{J}_{a}, \delta D_{S U(2)}\right]=J_{a, 1}-J_{a, L} \hat{=} J_{a} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \ldots \otimes \mathbf{1}-\mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \ldots \otimes J_{a}
$$

- Hence $\delta D_{S U(2)}$ is invariant up to boundary terms!
- Consequence on non-cyclicity of $\hat{J}$.


## Full $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$ spin chain

Message: Surprisingly little changes

- Let $V_{F}$ be 1-particle states in free $\mathcal{N}=4 \mathrm{SYM}$
- $\delta D$ acts on 2-particle states in $V_{F} \otimes V_{F}$
- Decomposition of $V_{F} \otimes V_{F}$ into irreps of $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$ surprisingly simple

$$
V_{F} \otimes V_{F}=\bigoplus_{j=0}^{\infty} V_{j}
$$

$j$ characterizes the multiplet whose conformal primary is an $R$-singlet of angular momentum ( $j-2$ ).

- Quadratic Casimir operator of the 2-particle system acts as

$$
J_{12}^{2} V_{j}=\left(J_{1}^{a}+J_{2}^{a}\right)^{2} V_{j}=j(j+1) V_{j} \quad j=0,1,2, \ldots
$$

Just as in SU(2)!

- Allows us to write an $\mathfrak{p s u}(2,2 \mid 4)$ invariant ansatz for the one-loop dilatation operator $\delta D$ :

$$
\delta D=\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} h(j) P_{12, j} \quad P_{12, j}: \text { Projector of } V_{F} \otimes V_{F} \text { on } V_{j}
$$

- Yangian symmetry $\left[\hat{J}^{a}, \delta D\right]=J_{1}^{a}-J_{L}^{a}$ demands $h(j)=\sum_{n=1}^{j} \frac{2}{n}$
- Proof:

Define $\hat{J}_{i j}^{a}:=f_{b c}^{a} J_{i}^{a} J_{j}^{b}$. We note $\hat{J}_{i j}^{a}=\frac{1}{4}\left[J_{i j}^{2}, q_{i j}^{a}\right]$ with $q_{i j}^{a}:=J_{i}^{a}-J_{j}^{a}$.

$$
\Rightarrow \quad\left[\delta D_{i j}, \hat{J}_{i j}^{a}\right]=\frac{1}{4}\left[\delta D_{i j},\left[\hat{J}_{i j}^{2}, q_{i j}\right]\right]
$$

Important relation (w/o proof) $\quad q_{i j}^{a}: V_{j} \rightarrow V_{j-1} \oplus V_{j+1}$

$$
q_{i j}^{a}|\lambda(j)\rangle=\left|\chi^{a}(j-1)\right\rangle+\left|\rho^{a}(j+1)\right\rangle
$$

Let's us conclude

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Rightarrow\left[\delta D_{i j}, \hat{J}_{i j}^{a}\right]|\lambda(j)\rangle=\ldots=\frac{j}{2}(h(j)-h(j-1))\left|\chi^{a}(j-1)\right\rangle \\
& +\frac{j+1}{2}(h(j+1)-h(j))\left|\rho^{a}(j+1)\right\rangle \\
& \stackrel{!}{=} q_{i j}^{a}|\lambda(j)\rangle=\left|\chi^{a}(j-1)\right\rangle+\left|\rho^{a}(j+1)\right\rangle \\
& \Rightarrow \quad h(j)-h(j-1)=\frac{2}{j} \text {. }
\end{aligned}
$$

- Thus Yangian symmetry, which here means that

$$
\left[\hat{J}^{a}, \delta D\right]=J_{1}^{a}-J_{L}^{a}
$$

completely determines the one loop anomalous dimensions in the theory!

- Result is consistent with explicit field theory compuations
- Note: Yangian only a symmetry of the "bulk" Hamiltonian.
- At higher loop orders the deformations of $J^{a}(\lambda)$ and $\hat{J}^{a}(\lambda)$ can be constructed based on a preserved algebra. Result now unique due to possible similarity transformations $J^{a} \rightarrow X J^{a} X^{-1}$.

