The four-supercharge bootstrap

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Based on:

N. Bobev, S. El-Showk, D. Mazac, MFP [1502.04124], [1503.02081]

EuroStrings 2015, DAMTP

Outline

- Motivation
- Superconformal algebras in *D* dimensions.
- Superconformal Casimir and conformal blocks.
- Bootstrap.
- Lunch!



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Outline



Superconformal algebras in *D* dimensions.

3 Superconformal Casimir and conformal blocks.



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The Conformal Bootstrap

- Solve theories bottom up requiring only basic ingredients: unitarity, conformal symmetry, crossing.
- Initiated in the 70's with Ferrara, Gatto, Grillo, Parisi and Polyakov.
- Modern approach initiated by Rattazzi, Rychkov, Tonni and Vichi in 2008.
- Constrains and can even determine possible spectra of CFTs.

El-Showk, MFP '12

- Provides broad, non-perturbative results.
- Some analytic results (large spin, large *N*), but mostly numerics.

Fitzpatrick, Kaplan, Poland, Simmons-Duffin '12; Komargodski, Zhiboedov '12; Alday, Bissi, Lukowski '14 '15

• Progress made possible due to computational as well as important technical advances, most notably the work of F. Dolan and H. Osborn.

Dolan, Osborn (et al) '00 - '11

• Public bootstrap packages are now available! - JuliBootS and SDPB.

MFP '14; D. Simmons-Duffin '15

Exhibit 1: Bounds



• Bounding conformal dimension of leading scalar operator in the operator product expansion:

$$\sigma \times \sigma = 1 + \varepsilon + \dots$$

Exhibit 2: Spectra



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Adding symmetries

• Both flavour and spacetime (i.e. super) symmetries have been considered.

Rattazzi, Rychkov, Vichi '10; Poland, Simmons-Duffin, Vichi '10, '11

- Results less general, but in principle more constraining. Technically, symmetry fixes relative OPE coefficients of conformal primaries.
- Supersymmetry allows interplay between exact results from SUSY, and non-pertubative information from bootstrap: e.g. non-renormalization of superpotential (possibly with *a* or *F* maximization) can fix dimensions of chiral operators, and in some cases even the stress tensor two point function.
- The promise of bootstrap: to determine the dimensions of unprotected operators to high accuracy. Protected quantities allow us to zoom in on a desired theory, and/or act as a cross-check of results.
- More generally, clearly interesting to constrain the space of superconformal field theories from several perspectives, be they theoretical or phenomenological.

Bootstrapper's To-Do-List

	Spacetime				
SUSY (Q's)	D=1	D=2	D=3	D=4	
0	 Image: A second s	 Image: A set of the set of the	 Image: A set of the set of the	 Image: A second s	
2	X	X	√	-	
4	X	X	X	 Image: A start of the start of	
8	X	X	X	1	
16	X	X	1	 Image: A second s	

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Bootstrapper's To-Do-List

	Spacetime						
SUSY (Q's)	D=1	1 <d<2< th=""><th>D=2</th><th>2<d<3< th=""><th>D=3</th><th>3<d<4< th=""><th>D=4</th></d<4<></th></d<3<></th></d<2<>	D=2	2 <d<3< th=""><th>D=3</th><th>3<d<4< th=""><th>D=4</th></d<4<></th></d<3<>	D=3	3 <d<4< th=""><th>D=4</th></d<4<>	D=4
0	 ✓ 	1	 Image: A start of the start of	 ✓ 	 Image: A set of the set of the	1	 ✓
2	X	X	X	X	 Image: A set of the set of the	-	-
4	X	X	 Image: A set of the set of the	 Image: A set of the set of the	 Image: A set of the set of the	 Image: A set of the set of the	 ✓
8	X	X	X	X	X	X	 ✓
16	X	X	X	X	X	1	 ✓

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• In D = 4 a mysterious kink appears around $\Delta_{\Phi} = 1.41$.

Poland, Simmons-Duffin, Vichi '11

• We will determine spectrum of chiral operators of this theory as well as its central charge, and examine the fate of the kink as *D* → 2.

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• In D = 4 a mysterious kink appears around $\Delta_{\Phi} = 1.41$.

Poland, Simmons-Duffin, Vichi '11

- We will determine spectrum of chiral operators of this theory as well as its central charge, and examine the fate of the kink as *D* → 2.
- Spoiler: we still don't know what it is!

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- In D = 2, we explore NS-NS sector of $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ theories.
- Infinite family of minimal models, superpotential $\mathcal{W} = \Upsilon^{k+2}, \Upsilon|_{\theta=0} = \Phi$.

$$c = \frac{3k}{k+2}$$

• In general $(k \ge 2)$, have a family

$$\Delta_{\Phi} = \frac{1}{k+2}, \qquad \Delta_{[\Phi\bar{\Phi}]} = \frac{4}{k+2}, \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \Delta_{[\Phi\bar{\Phi}]} = 4\Delta_{\Phi}$$

• For k = c = 1, minimal model is special. Virasoro primaries include identity and single chiral Φ , with

$$\Delta_{\Phi} = 1/3, \qquad \Phi \times \bar{\Phi} = 1$$

- First (quasi)-primary in OPE above is scalar with dimension 2 inside identity multiplet.
- If we recover the minimal models with our methods this will act as a cross-check on other results!

- Our work will constrain the general landscape of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT theories in D = 3.
- There is huge set of such theories! But a particularly simple example is the Wess-Zumino model with cubic superpotential the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ 3d Ising model.
- This model has become of interest as it can seemingly be realized in nature. It describes a certain quantum critical point on the surface of 3d topological insulators.
 S.-S. Lee, '06; P. Ponte and S.-S Lee '14; Grover, Sheng, Vishwanath '13
- We will be able to determine unprotected quantities in this model, which determine approach to criticality i.e. critical exponents.
- Theory of a single chiral field, cubic superpotential:

$$[\Phi] = rac{D-1}{3}, \quad \Phi^2 = 0, \quad [\Phi \bar{\Phi}] = 2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

• From our point of view this is a useful goal in what should be thought of as initial investigations of SCFTs in D = 3, one that in particular is accessible perturbatively via ϵ -expansion.

Why arbitrary *D*?

- Conformal blocks, and indeed bootstrap naturally allows for any *D*.
- In principle, theories could be defined in these dimensions via systems on fractal lattices.
 Golden, MEP '14; Mandelbrot et al '80, '84.
- Three birds (D = 2, 3, 4) with one stone. Actually, ∞ birds.
- Fractional D allows us to track theories across dimensions, compare with ϵ -expansion. El-Showk.MFP.Poland.Rychkov.Simmons-Duffin,Vichi '13



• Anomalous dimensions of σ and ε for Wilson-Fisher fixed point – bootstrap in black, 5-loop Borel resummed ϵ -expansion in orange.

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Outline



2 Superconformal algebras in *D* dimensions.

Superconformal Casimir and conformal blocks.



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- Our construction relies on a (somewhat) formal construction of the superconformal algebra for arbitrary *D*.
- Similar constructions exist (trivially) for non-supersymmetric case (it's just so(d+1, 1)), and also for super-Poincaré algebras.
- Our results are consistent at the level of traces, and reproduce correct algebras in integer dimensions at the end of the day you may argue this is what matters.
- The superalgebra allows for determination of representations in OPE of chiral operators; unitarity bounds; construction of the conformal Casimir. This information is required for the bootstrap.
- A non-trivial cross-check is that using the (super)-conformal blocks obtained using the algebra, one can decompose (generalized) free field correlation functions in any dimension with *positive* coefficients much like in the non-susy case.

The list of generators includes:

- $P_i, K_i, D, M_{ij}, i, j = 1, ..., D$ conformal group generators.
- The U(1) R-charge generator R.
- Poincaré supercharges $Q^+_{\alpha}, Q^-_{\dot{\alpha}}$.
- Superconformal charges $S^{\dot{\alpha}+}, S^{\alpha-}$.
- $M_{\hat{i}\hat{j}}, \hat{i}, \hat{j} = D + 1, \dots, 4$ rotations in internal space (act as R-symmetries).

The +, - supercharges can transform a priori under different spinor representations of $SO(D) \times SO(4 - D)$, which however should be two-dimensional (indices run from 1 to 2).

• The starting point is the anticommutators

$$\{Q_{\alpha}^{+}, Q_{\dot{\alpha}}^{-}\} = \Sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{i} P_{i}, \{S^{\dot{\alpha}+}, S^{\alpha-}\} = \bar{\Sigma}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} K_{i},$$

The $\Sigma, \bar{\Sigma}$ play the role of gamma matrices in generic dimensions.

• The supercharges transform under rotations as

$$egin{aligned} & [M_{ij}, \mathcal{Q}^+_lpha] = (m_{ij})_lpha^eta \mathcal{Q}^+_eta\,, \ & [M_{ij}, \mathcal{Q}^-_lpha] = (ilde{m}_{ij})^{\doteta}_{\ \dotlpha} \mathcal{Q}^-_{eta}\,, \ & [M_{ij}, S^{\dotlpha+}] = -(ilde{m}_{ij})^{\dotlpha}_{\ eta} S^{\doteta+}\,, \ & [M_{ij}, S^{lpha-}] = -(m_{ij})_eta^lpha S^{eta-}\,, \end{aligned}$$

• Jacobi identities for the triplets $[P_i, K_j, Q_{\alpha}^+]$ and $[P_i, K_j, Q_{\dot{\alpha}}^-]$ imply

$$\Sigma_j \bar{\Sigma}_i = \delta_{ij} + 2im_{ij} ,$$

$$\bar{\Sigma}_i \Sigma_j = \delta_{ij} + 2i\tilde{m}_{ij} .$$

• Taking the symmetric parts implies that the Σ_i tensors satisfy the Clifford algebra

$$\Sigma_i \bar{\Sigma}_j + \Sigma_j \bar{\Sigma}_i = 2\delta_{ij} ,$$

$$\bar{\Sigma}_i \Sigma_j + \bar{\Sigma}_j \Sigma_i = 2\delta_{ij} ,$$

 Taking the antisymmetric parts leads to explicit formulas for the rotation generators in terms of Σ_i

$$m_{ij} = -\frac{i}{4} (\Sigma_j \bar{\Sigma}_i - \Sigma_i \bar{\Sigma}_j) ,$$

$$\tilde{m}_{ij} = -\frac{i}{4} (\bar{\Sigma}_i \Sigma_j - \bar{\Sigma}_j \Sigma_i) .$$

• We will take the tensors with hatted indices to satisfy the same relations, so that different algebras relate by dimensional reduction.

• It remains to fix {*S*, *Q*}. General form consistent with all Jacobis except those involving three fermions:

$$\{S^{\alpha-}, Q^+_{\beta}\} = \delta^{\alpha}_{\ \beta} (\mathbf{i}D - aR) + (m_{ij})^{\ \alpha}_{\beta} M_{ij} + b(m_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}})^{\ \alpha}_{\beta} M_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}}, \\ \{S^{\dot{\alpha}+}, Q^-_{\dot{\beta}}\} = \delta^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\ \dot{\beta}} (\mathbf{i}D + aR) + (\tilde{m}_{ij})^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\ \dot{\beta}} M_{ij} + b(\tilde{m}_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}})^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\ \dot{\beta}} M_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}},$$

• From $[Q^+, Q^-, S^-]$ we get

$$\bar{\Sigma}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}\Sigma_{\beta\dot{\beta}}^{i} = \frac{2a+1}{2}\delta_{\beta}^{\alpha}\delta_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\alpha}} + (m_{ij})_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\tilde{m}_{ij})_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\alpha}} + b(m_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}})_{\beta}^{\alpha}(\tilde{m}_{\tilde{i}\tilde{j}})_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\alpha}}.$$

• Taking trace and using Clifford algebra we get

$$\operatorname{tr}(\Sigma^i \bar{\Sigma}_i) = 2d$$
, $a = \frac{d-1}{2}$.

• Similar considerations involving $[Q^+, Q^+, S^-]$ fix b = -1

We can check the algebra in integer *D*:

- In D = 4 we obtain by construction the super algebra sl(4|1). The value a = (D-1)/2 = 3/2 leads to the usual chirality condition $\Delta = 3q/2$.
- In D = 3 we obtain osp(2|4), with the identification $\sum_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{i} = (\sigma_{i})_{\alpha}^{\dot{\alpha}}$ the Pauli matrices. Dotted and undotted indices are equivalent.
- In D = 2 obtain NS-NS sector of $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ superalgebra, $sl(2|1)_l \times sl(2|1)_r$. Rotation in 3,4 become extra R-symmetry.
- Bonus: in D = 1 obtain psu(1, 1|2). U(1) R-symmetry may be projected out, but rotations in 2, 3, 4 become SU(2) R-symmetry.

Outline



2 Superconformal algebras in *D* dimensions.

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Crossing and conformal blocks

• Conformal symmetry fixes kinematic dependence of four-point function.

$$\langle \Phi_1(x_1)\Phi_2(x_2)\Phi_3(x_3)\Phi_4(x_4)\rangle = \frac{|x_{24}|^{\Delta_{12}}|x_{14}|^{\Delta_{34}}}{|x_{14}|^{\Delta_{12}}|x_{13}|^{\Delta_{34}}} \frac{g(z,\bar{z})}{|x_{12}|^{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}|x_{34}|^{\Delta_3+\Delta_4}}$$

with $z\bar{z} = x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 / x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2$, $(1-z)(1-\bar{z}) = x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 / x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2$.

• On the other hand, the Operator Product Expansion gives

$$\Phi_1 \times \Phi_2 \simeq \sum_{\mathcal{O}} c_{12}^{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{O}$$

• Primary operators and their derivatives (descendants) come together in *conformal blocks*:

$$g(z,\bar{z}) = \sum_{\mathcal{O}} c_{12}^{\mathcal{O}} c_{34}^{\mathcal{O}} \boldsymbol{G}_{\mathcal{O}}(z,\bar{z})$$

• For instance, in D = 2 blocks are *known* products of hypergeometric functions.

The superconformal Casimir

• Using the superconformal algebra one constructs the Casimir operator.

$$C_{2} = C_{2}^{b} - \frac{1}{2}M_{\hat{i}\hat{j}}M_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} - \frac{d-1}{4}R^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\left[S^{\dot{\alpha}+}, Q^{-}_{\dot{\alpha}}\right] + \left[S^{\alpha-}, Q^{+}_{\alpha}\right]\right) \,.$$

with C_2^b the non-SUSY Casimir. Coefficients above are fixed by the superconformal algebra.

• We consider its action on a correlation function involving two chiral fields, $\Delta_{1,3} = \frac{D-1}{2} q_{1,3}:$

$$\langle \Phi_1(x_1)\Phi_2(x_2)\Phi_3(x_3)\Phi_4(x_4)\rangle = \frac{|x_{24}|^{\Delta_{12}}|x_{14}|^{\Delta_{34}}}{|x_{14}|^{\Delta_{12}}|x_{13}|^{\Delta_{34}}} \frac{g(z,\bar{z})}{|x_{12}|^{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}|x_{34}|^{\Delta_3+\Delta_4}}$$

• Chirality condition is necessary so that action of Casimir does not map to correlator of fermions. Dimensions are otherwise arbitrary.

The superconformal blocks

• Conformal block expansion in (13) channel is usual one (non-SUSY), but in (12), (14) we get superconformal blocks.

$$g(z,\bar{z}) = \sum_{\mathcal{O}} c_{12}^{\mathcal{O}} c_{34\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{G}_{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}},s_{\mathcal{O}}}^{\Delta_{12},\Delta_{34}}(z,\bar{z}).$$

• Conformal blocks are eigenfunctions of Casimir operator. Action of Casimir takes form of second order differential operator:

$$\tilde{D}_2(z,\bar{z},\partial_z,\partial_{\bar{z}})\mathcal{G}^{\Delta_{12},\Delta_{34}}_{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}},s_{\mathcal{O}}}(z,\bar{z})=0$$

• Can be solved:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{\Delta,s} &= G_{\Delta,s} + a \, G_{\Delta+1,s+1} + b \, G_{\Delta+1,s-1} + c \, G_{\Delta+2,s} \\ [\mathcal{O}]_{\rm s.c.} &= [O] + [Q \bar{Q} O] + [Q \bar{Q} O] + [Q^2 \bar{Q}^2 O] \end{aligned}$$

• Matches previously known results in D = 2, 4. Also, leads to positive decomposition of generalized free field correlation function in arbitrary dimension.

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Crossing Symmetry



- Crossing, or associativity of the OPE implies sum of blocks in one of the channels matches sum in another one.
- Non-trivial constraint on both OPE coefficients and spectrum.
- Bootstrap: solve these constraints numerically in a Taylor series.

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Crossing Equations

• Equality of the OPEs in the three channels (12), (13), (14) leads to three crossing equations:

$$\sum_{\mathcal{O}} |c^{\mathcal{O}}_{\Phi\bar{\Phi}}|^2 \left(egin{array}{c} \mathcal{F}^{\Delta_{\Phi}}_{\Delta,s} \ ilde{\mathcal{F}}^{\Delta_{\Phi}}_{\Delta,s} \ ilde{\mathcal{H}}^{\Delta_{\Phi}}_{\Delta,s} \end{array}
ight) + \sum_{\mathcal{P}} |c^{\mathcal{P}}_{\Phi\Phi}|^2 \left(egin{array}{c} 0 \ F^{\Delta_{\Phi}}_{\Delta,s} \ -H^{\Delta_{\Phi}}_{\Delta,s} \end{array}
ight) = 0 \,,$$

with the operators

- $\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{O}: & \Delta \geq s+d-2 & s=0,1,2,\ldots, \\ \\ \mathcal{P}: \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta = 2\Delta_{\Phi}+s\,, & s=0,2,\ldots, \\ \Delta = d-2\Delta_{\Phi}\,, & s=0,\ \Delta_{\Phi} \leq d/4\,, \\ \Delta \geq |2\Delta_{\Phi}-(d-1)|+s+(d-1)\,, & s=0,2,\ldots. \end{array} \right. \end{array}$
- $F, H, \tilde{F}, \tilde{H}$ are kinematically determined functions which are related to (super)conformal blocks.
- Structure above relies on the precise form of the superconformal algebra.

Charged OPE

• \mathcal{P} operators appearing in $\Phi \times \Phi$ OPE (dashed operator only appears for s = 0).



• Expect something interesting may happen at D/4 and (D-1)/2.

Scalar operator bounds

• These are bounds from analysing correlator of (anti-)chirals $\langle \Phi \bar{\Phi} \Phi \bar{\Phi} \rangle$, with OPE $\Phi \times \bar{\Phi} = 1 + [\Phi \bar{\Phi}] + \dots$



• The dashed vertical lines correspond to $\Delta_{\Phi} = \frac{D-1}{3}$. This is dimension of chiral in WZ model with cubic superpotential. Lines perfectly line up with kinks in the bounds.



• The blue crosses mark the exact dimensions of operators from various superconformal minimal models. The cross at $(\frac{1}{3}, 2)$ corresponds to the super-Ising model (i.e. the k = 1 super-Virasoro minimal model). Close to the origin the bound approaches $\Delta_{\bar{\Phi}\phi} = 4\Delta_{\Phi}$ as for superminimal models.

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Closer look:
$$D = 2$$



- Perfect agreement for *k* = 1, *k* = 2 minimal models. For others agreement is only asymptotic.
- Leading OPE coefficients can be also be checked for *k* = 1 model, with good agreement. We're on the right track!



- Three kinks: first we conjecture to be the critical Wess-Zumino model. Second occurs at $\Delta_{\Phi} = D/4 = 3/4$. Third is the continuation of the mysterious kink in D = 4.
- The value D/4 coincides with the decoupling of a possible operator in the charged OPE, namely $Q^2 \Psi$ (Ψ becomes free field).

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• Hills: upper bounds on $[\Phi\bar{\Phi}]$. Valleys: central charge of the solution saturating the bound. As accuracy is increased, both sets of curves converge, with a sharp transition at 2/3 = (D-1)/3



- The operator Φ^2 decouples from OPE precisely at $\Delta_{\Phi} = 2/3$. Consistent with chiral ring relation $\Phi^2 = 0$ for WZ model.
- There is also decoupling at the location of the third kink $\Delta_{\Phi} \sim 0.86$. Suggests this might be a physical solution.

ϵ -expansion



$$\Delta_{[\Phi\bar{\Phi}]} - 2 = -0.283 \epsilon^2 + 7.76 \times 10^{-3} \epsilon + 7.17 \times 10^{-5} \epsilon^{-3} \epsilon^{-3$$

• Results consistent with $\Delta_{\Phi\bar{\Phi}} = 2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$ derived from ϵ expansion.

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Summary: Wess-Zumino model in D = 3

• These are our most accurate results so far:

$\Delta_{\Phi} = 1/2 + \eta/2$	$\frac{2}{3}$ (exact)
$\Delta_{[\bar{\Phi}\Phi]} = 3 - 1/\nu$	1.9098(20)
$\Delta_{[Q^4\bar{\Phi}\Phi]} = 3 + \omega$	3.9098(20)
$\Delta_{[\bar{\Phi}\Phi]'}$	5.3(1)
$\Delta_{J'}$	5.25(25)
C_T	4.3591(20)

• Our C_T is consistent with exact results from localization on a squashed sphere: Imamura, Yokoyama'11

$$\left. \frac{C_T}{C_T^{\text{free}}} \right|_{\text{exact}} = 0.7268, \qquad \left. \frac{C_T}{C_T^{\text{free}}} \right|_{\text{bootstrap}} = 0.72652(33)$$

• Furthermore we have agreement with ϵ -expansion, and the relation $\Phi^2 = 0$.

Second kink?

- Properties: chiral of dimension D/4; decoupling of field $(Q^2 \Psi)$ from OPE; central charge becomes that of *three* chiral fields in D = 4
- Suggests there exists weakly coupled fixed point in ϵ expansion.
- Non-trivial check on a possible guess: central charge can be computed in D = 3 given superpotential.
- We were able to find precise agreement only for strange choice: field theory actually contains *five* chiral superfields, but one of them has the wrong sign kinetic term, so that in terms of C_T , they effectively appear as three chiral superfields.
- Superpotential $W = (X^2 + Z^2 + W^2 + V^2)Y$, *F*-maximization leads to $\Delta_Y < 1/2$, which is below the unitarity bound, and signals that the field *Y* is actually free $\Rightarrow \Delta_X = \Delta_Z = \Delta_W = \Delta_V = 3/4$.
- Admittedly odd, but at the fixed point non-unitary field decouples so maybe ok... (someone) should check *ϵ*-expansion.

The third kink



- Theory corresponds to local minima of C_T same behaviour as say Ising model.
- $\Phi^2 = 0$ decouples.
- In D = 2 seems to merge onto k = 1 minimal model. $2 + \epsilon$ expansion?
- Several hints that this may be physical. $\Phi^2 = 0$ is important hint, but we haven't been able to make a good guess for the theory.

Conclusions

- We constructed superconformal algebra in any *D*.
- We have conjecturally found the Wess-Zumino model in any *D*, and determined low lying spectrum.
- We have found a possible new (interesting?) theory accessible in perturbation theory. More generally, idea of exploring non-unitarily driven fixed points is interesting.
- Our approach to superalgebras generalizes to 8 supercharge case bootstrap (4,4) in D = 2, $\mathcal{N} = 4$ in D = 3, $\mathcal{N} = 2$ in D = 4, $\mathcal{N} = 1$ in D = 5 and (1,0) in D = 6.
- What is the third kink? Is it physical?
- In D = 3 many interesting theories for which we know C_T and protected spectrum. Imposing extra constraints may lead us to find them in our bounds, determine unprotected spectrum.