

# Non-rational $\widehat{su}(2)$ cosets and Liouville field theory

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## Lemma

A tensor product of the highest weight representations of the affine  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  algebra: the Verma module  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$  and  $\mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon} = \mathcal{V}^{1,\epsilon}/\text{rad } \mathcal{V}^{1,\epsilon}$  with  $\epsilon = 0, \frac{1}{2}$ , decomposes as:

$$\mathcal{V}^{k,j} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon} \cong \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{V}^{k+1,j_n} \otimes \mathcal{V}^{c,\Delta_n},$$

where  $\mathcal{V}^{c,\Delta_n}$  is the Virasoro Verma module.



- $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  is a Lie algebra with basis  $\{J_n^\pm, J_n^0\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \cup \{K\}$  and nonzero commutators

$$[J_n^0, J_m^\pm] = \pm J_{n+m}^\pm, \quad [J_n^+, J_m^-] = 2J_{n+m}^0 + n\delta_{n+m}K, \quad [J_n^0, J_m^0] = \frac{n}{2}\delta_{n+m}K.$$



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- Let  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2^+$  be the subalgebra of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  generated by  $J_0^+$  and  $\{J_n^a\}_{n \geq 1}$ .  
Verma module  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$  is the quotient of the universal enveloping algebra of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  by the left ideal generated by  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2^+ \cup \{K - k, J_0^0 - j\}$ . The image of  $\mathbf{1}$  in  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$  is denoted by  $v_{k,j}$ .



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- Every irreducible, highest weight module over  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  is isomorphic to some (unique)  $\mathcal{H}^{k,j} = \mathcal{V}^{k,j} / \text{rad}(\mathcal{V}^{k,j})$ , where  $\text{rad}(\mathcal{V}^{k,j})$  is the union of all proper submodules of  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$ .



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- This explains  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$ .



- With the help of the local currents  $J^a(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{J_n^a}{z^{n+1}}$ , one defines for  $k \neq -2$  the Sugawara field:

$$T(z) = \frac{1}{k+2} \left( : J^0(z) J^0(z) : + \frac{1}{2} : J^+(z) J^-(z) : + \frac{1}{2} : J^-(z) J^+(z) : \right).$$



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- Its modes, defined as  $T(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{L_n}{z^{n+2}}$  generate the Virasoro algebra  $\text{Vir}$  with the central charge  $c_k = \frac{3k}{k+2}$ .





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- Let  $\mathbf{Vir}^+$  be the subalgebra of  $\mathbf{Vir}$  generated by  $\{L_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ .  
Verma module  $V^{c,\Delta}$  is the quotient of the universal enveloping algebra of  $\mathbf{Vir}$  by the left ideal generated by  $\mathbf{Vir}^+ \cup \{L_0 - \Delta\}$ .



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- This (partially) explains  $\mathcal{V}^{k+1,j_n} \otimes V^{c,\Delta_n}$  in

$$\mathcal{V}^{k,j} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon} \cong \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{V}^{k+1,j_n} \otimes V^{c,\Delta_n},$$



- Let  $\mathfrak{f}$  be the Lie superalgebra spanned by odd  $\{\psi_n^i, \bar{\psi}_n^i\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}}^{i=1,2}$  and even  $I$ , with only nonzero superbrackets

$$[\psi_n^i, \bar{\psi}_m^j] = \delta_{n+m,0} \delta^{ij} I.$$

The Fock space  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined as the quotient of  $U\mathfrak{f}$  by the left ideal generated by  $\{\psi_n^i, \bar{\psi}_n^i\}_{n>0}^{i=1,2} \cup \{I - 1\}$ .  $f_0$  is the image of  $1$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $f_{\frac{1}{2}} = \bar{\psi}_{-\frac{1}{2}}^1 f_0$ .



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Modes of the currents:

$$K^a(z) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 \tau_{i,j}^a : \bar{\psi}^i(z) \psi^j(z) :,$$

where  $\tau^0 = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^3$ ,  $\tau^\pm = \frac{1}{2} (\sigma^1 \pm i \sigma^2)$ , satisfy the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  algebra with  $k = 1$ .



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### Proposition

$\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{F}$  generated by  $f_\epsilon$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$ .



- Fix  $\kappa \neq 0$  and let  $\mathfrak{w}$  be the Lie algebra spanned by  $a_n, \beta_n, \gamma_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , with commutators

$$[\gamma_m, \beta_n] = \delta_{m+n}l, \quad [a_m, a_n] = \frac{m}{2}\delta_{m+n}l.$$



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- Using

$$\partial\phi(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{a_n}{z^{n+1}}, \quad \beta(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\beta_n}{z^{n+1}}, \quad \gamma(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\gamma_n}{z^n}.$$

we define the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  currents with  $k = \kappa^2 - 2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} J^+(z) &= \beta(z), & J^0(z) &= \gamma(z)\beta(z) + \kappa\partial\phi(z), \\ J^-(z) &= -\gamma(z)^2\beta(z) - 2\kappa\gamma(z)\partial\phi(z) - k\partial\gamma(z). \end{aligned}$$



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Sugawara construction with the fields above gives:

$$T(z) = -:\beta(z)\partial\gamma(z): + :\partial\phi(z)\partial\phi(z): - \kappa^{-1}\partial^2\phi(z).$$



- $\mathfrak{w}$ -module  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j}$  is defined as the quotient of  $U\mathfrak{w}$  by the left ideal generated by  $\{a_0 + \kappa^{-1}(j+1), l-1\} \cup \{\beta_{n+1}, \gamma_n, a_{n+1}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ . Let  $\widetilde{w}_{\kappa,j}$  be the image of 1 in  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j}$ .



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- Fields  $J^a$  in  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j}$  are defined by

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This redefinition does not affect the formula for the Sugawara field.



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### Proposition

If  $(k, j)$  are such that  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$  is irreducible, then the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$ -module maps

$$s : \mathcal{V}^{k,j} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j}, \quad \widetilde{s} : \mathcal{V}^{k,j} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j},$$

determined by  $s(v_{k,j}) = w_{\kappa,j}$  and  $\widetilde{s}(v_{k,j}) = \widetilde{w}_{\kappa,j}$ , respectively, are bijections.



- In the space  $\otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon} = \mathcal{V}^{k,j} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$  we have two commuting sets of currents:  $J^a(z)$  inherited from  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j}$  and  $K^a(z)$  inherited from  $\mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$ . The combined currents

$$\mathcal{J}^a(z) = J^a(z) + K^a(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\mathcal{J}_n^a}{z^{n+1}}$$

make  $\otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon}$  a representation of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  at level  $k+1$ .





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- Let  $k \notin \{-2, -3\}$  and let  $T^J, T^K$  and  $T^{\mathcal{J}}$  be the Sugawara fields constructed from the respective currents. Then

$$T^{\text{Vir}}(z) = T^J(z) + T^K(z) - T^{\mathcal{J}}(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{L_n^{\text{Vir}}}{z^{n+2}}.$$

is the Virasoro current with central charge  $c_k^{\otimes} = c_k + c_1 - c_{k+1}$ . It commutes with  $\mathcal{J}^a(z)$ , hence  $\mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon}$  is a representation of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2 \oplus \text{Vir}$ , where  $\text{Vir}$  is the Virasoro algebra spanned by  $L_n^{\text{Vir}}$ .



## Tensor product: free field modules

Let  $\otimes \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon} = \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$  and  $\otimes \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon} = \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$ .



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Define

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\rho_n}{z^{n+1}} = \rho(z) = -\gamma^2(z)K^+(z) + 2\gamma(z)K^0(z) + K^-(z) + \partial\gamma(z) \quad \text{in } \otimes \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon},$$

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{\tilde{\rho}_n}{z^{n+1}} = \tilde{\rho}(z) = -\gamma^2(z)K^-(z) + 2\gamma(z)K^0(z) + K^+(z) - \partial\gamma(z) \quad \text{in } \otimes \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon}.$$

and let for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = \rho_{-2n-1} \cdots \rho_{-1}(w_{\kappa,j} \otimes f_{\epsilon}) \in \otimes \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon},$$

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Let  $\otimes \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon} = \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$  and  $\otimes \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon} = \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j} \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}^{1,\epsilon}$ .

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## Proposition

$w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n, \tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n$  are nonzero elements annihilated by  $\{\mathcal{J}_n^a, L_n^{\text{Vir}}\}_{n>0}$  and  $\mathcal{J}_0^+$  and

$$\mathcal{J}_0^0 w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = (j + \epsilon - n)w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n, \quad L_0^{\text{Vir}} w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = (\Delta_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^{\otimes} + n^2)w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{J}_0^0 \tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = (j + \epsilon + n)\tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n, \quad L_0^{\text{Vir}} \tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = (\Delta_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^{\otimes} + n^2)\tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n,$$

where  $\Delta_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^{\otimes} = \Delta_{\kappa,j} + \Delta_{1,\epsilon} - \Delta_{\kappa+1,j+\epsilon}$ .



Homomorphisms  $s, \tilde{s}$  induce maps

$$s : \otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon} \rightarrow \otimes \mathcal{W}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon}, \quad \tilde{s} : \otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon} \rightarrow \otimes \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}^{\kappa,j,\epsilon}.$$

We have

## Proposition

For every  $\kappa \neq 0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\epsilon \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$  there exist polynomials  $p_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j), \tilde{p}_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j)$  in  $j$ , unique up to scalars, such that

$$v_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = p_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j) s^{-1}(w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n), \quad \tilde{v}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n = \tilde{p}_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j) \tilde{s}^{-1}(\tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n)$$

are defined and nonzero for every  $j \in \mathbb{C}$ . These are highest weight vectors satisfying eigenvalue equations for  $\mathcal{J}_0^0$  and, if  $k \neq -3$  so that  $T^{\text{Vir}}$  is defined, also eigenvalue equations for  $L_0^{\text{Vir}}$ .



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One can write down the form of  $p_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j)$  and  $\tilde{p}_{\kappa,\epsilon}^n(j)$  explicitly. The calculation requires the knowledge of determinants of maps  $\mathbf{s}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{s}}$ , some information about the Wakimoto representation of the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  singular vectors and uses special properties of vectors  $w_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n, \tilde{w}_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n$ .



The CFT models with chiral symmetry given by  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2$  are well known:

- the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_k$  WZNW model, equivalent, under the general  $G \leftrightarrow G^{\mathbb{C}}/G$  duality, to the  $H_3^+ = SL(2, \mathbb{C})/SU(2)$  coset model at the level  $k' = -k$ ; the structure constants of the latter have been calculated by the conformal bootstrap method [Teschner];



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- we also have full information about the Liouville field theory, with the symmetry algebra given by  $\text{Vir}$ .



$$\otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j,\epsilon} \ni v_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n \mapsto \Phi(v_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n | z) \in \text{Hom}(\otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j_1,\epsilon}, \otimes \mathcal{V}^{k,j_3,\epsilon})$$



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- The  $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_k \times \widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_1$  Ward identities allow to express correlation function of three  $\Phi(v_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n | z)$  fields as a product of the three-point conformal block  $\rho[\dots]$  and structure constants of the models  $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_k \times \widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_1$ ;



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- one can compute explicitly the block  $\rho[\dots]$  and check, that the correlation function of three  $\Phi(v_{\kappa,j,\epsilon}^n | z)$  fields is equal to the product of structure constants of the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{su}}(2)_{k+1} \times \text{Vir}$  model.



The equivalence

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is suggested by the GKO coset construction of the minimal models

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Since

$$SV(m) \times V(1) \sim \frac{\widehat{su}(2)_m \times \widehat{su}(2)_2}{\widehat{su}(2)_{m+2}} \times \frac{\widehat{su}(2)_1 \times \widehat{su}(2)_1}{\widehat{su}(2)_2}$$

$$V(m+1) \times V(m) \sim \frac{\widehat{su}(2)_{m+1} \times \widehat{su}(2)_1}{\widehat{su}(2)_{m+2}} \times \frac{\widehat{su}(2)_m \times \widehat{su}(2)_1}{\widehat{su}(2)_{m+1}}$$

then, if we relax the condition that  $m$  is an integer, then the formula

$$SV\text{ir} \times V(1) \sim \text{Vir} \times \text{Vir}'$$

relating an  $N = 1$  superconformal Liouville field theory (times a free fermion) to a pair of Liouville fields, is also expected (and holds).





There are different possible extensions of this results:

- One may expect that the continuous spectra generalization of the GKO construction will work for the  $N=1$  supersymmetric case

$$\widehat{su}(2)_k \times \widehat{su}(2)_2 \sim N=1 \text{ super-Liouville} \times \widehat{su}(2)_{k+2} .$$

and, more generally, for the general  $\widehat{su}(2)$  quotients involving the para-Liouville theories:

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- The findings may be interesting for the  $TFT_3/CFT_2$  and  $AdS_3/CFT_2$  relations.

