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# *A Holographic Approach to QCD*

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# Introduction

- AdS/CFT has provided so far controlled/computable examples of confinement, chiral symmetry breaking and hadron spectra of concrete gauge theories
- Its direct application to QCD is made difficult by two (related) problems:
  - ♠ The KK problem of critical examples
  - ♠ The strong curvature problem of non-critical (or hierarchically separated critical examples)
- We will follow the non-critical road, try to understand what we expect from the string theory dual to QCD, and motivate a phenomenological approximation (model).
- We will then use the model to compute experimentally interesting non-perturbative quantities like transport coefficients.

# Potential applications

- Interactions of hadrons at medium or low energy (little or no help from lattice, partial help from chiral perturbation theory)
- Transport coefficients of the deconfined phase (not computable directly from lattice, crucial for understanding current (RHIC) and future (LHC) heavy-ion data)
- The phase structure and properties of dense matter (not computable from lattice, important for understanding properties of nuclei, and dense nuclear matter, like neutron stars)
- Exploring the strong dynamics of other QCD-like theories, eg.
- ♠ N=1 super- QCD. (a very interesting toy model and may be relevant for nature)
- ♠ Technicolor theories

# A string theory for QCD:(Very) basic expectations

- Pure  $SU(N_c)$   $d=4$  YM at large  $N_c$  is expected to be dual to a string theory in 5 dimensions only. Essentially a single adjoint field  $\rightarrow$  a single extra dimension.
- ♠ The four vector components are related by the expected Lorentz invariance of the vacuum.
- ♠ Therefore: a single eigenvalue distribution  $\rightarrow$  an extra dimension
- ♠ Intuition well tested in several matrix models including the “old-ones”.
- ♠ The counting of dimensions can become complicated by the presence of several fields, “evanescent dimensions” and the knowledge/structure of RG topography.

- The theory becomes asymptotically free and conformal at high energy
- Following on N=4 intuition we might expect that  $\ell_{AdS} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow$  singularity.
- There are several possibilities for such singularities:
  - (a) They are “mirage”: the geometry stabilizes at  $\ell \sim \ell_s$ . (different examples from WZW models and DBI actions).
  - (b) The singularity is resolved by the stringy or higher dimensional physics. The true string metric is regular (some examples from higher dimensional resolutions)
  - (c) The singularity remains (not our case we think)
- The N=4 relation  $\ell^4 \sim \lambda \sim \frac{1}{\log r}$ . seems to indicate a naked singularity.
- Another possibility is that the classical saddle point solution should asymptote to a regular but stringy ( $\ell = \ell_s$ )  $AdS_5$ . This option has several advantages and provides a lot of mileage:
  - ♠ It allows in principle the machinery of holography to be applied
  - ♠ It realizes the geometrical implementation of the asymptotic conformal symmetry of YM theory in the UV.

# The low energy spectrum

♠ In YM only  $\text{Tr}[FF]$  and maybe  $\text{Tr}[F \wedge F]$  have a source. However many operators can have a vev. We expect  $\langle O_\Delta \rangle \sim (\Lambda_{QCD})^\Delta$ .

♠ If that is the case this implies that many stringy states will have non-trivial profiles in the vacuum solution.

♠ Operators of higher dimension are not important in the UV (that's why we can truncate the RG flow). In the bulk, they have positive  $m^2$ , that suppresses their solutions.

These are scalar YM operators with  $\Delta_{UV} > 4 \rightarrow m^2 > 0$  or higher spin fields.

- But higher dimension operators may become important in the IR.

♠ Indications from SVZ sum rules plus data suggest that the coefficients of higher dimension operators are “unnaturally” small.

- It seems a reasonable assumption to neglect all  $\Delta > 4$  fields when looking for the vacuum solution.

- What are all gauge invariant YM operators of dimension 4 or less?

- They are given by  $Tr[F_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma}]$ .

Decomposing into U(4) reps:

$$(\square \otimes \square)_{\text{symmetric}} = \square \oplus \begin{matrix} \square \\ \square \\ \square \end{matrix} \quad (1)$$

We must remove traces to construct the irreducible representations of  $O(4)$ :

$$\square = \underline{\square} \oplus \underline{\square} \oplus \bullet, \quad \begin{matrix} \square \\ \square \\ \square \end{matrix} = \bullet$$

The two singlets are the scalar (dilaton) and pseudoscalar (axion)

$$\phi \leftrightarrow Tr[F^2], \quad a \leftrightarrow Tr[F \wedge F]$$

The traceless symmetric tensor

$$\underline{\square} \rightarrow T_{\mu\nu} = Tr \left[ F_{\mu\nu}^2 - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} F^2 \right]$$



is the conserved stress tensor dual to a massless graviton in 5d reflecting the translational symmetry of YM.

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline & \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow T_{\mu\nu;\rho\sigma}^4 = \text{Tr}[F_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{2}(g_{\mu\rho}F_{\nu\sigma}^2 - g_{\nu\rho}F_{\mu\sigma}^2 - g_{\mu\sigma}F_{\nu\rho}^2 + g_{\nu\sigma}F_{\mu\rho}^2) + \frac{1}{6}(g_{\mu\rho}g_{\nu\sigma} - g_{\nu\rho}g_{\mu\sigma})F^2]$$

It has 10 independent d.o.f, it is not conserved and it should correspond to a similar **massive** tensor in 5d. We do not expect it to play a non-trivial role in the large- $N_c$ , YM vacuum also for reasons of Lorentz invariance.

♠ Operators with  $\Delta = 5$  are given by  $\text{Tr}[\nabla_\mu F_{\nu\rho} F_{\sigma\tau}]$  (with  $\nabla$  being the gauge covariant derivative) while operators with  $\Delta = 6$  are given by  $\text{Tr}[\nabla_\mu F_{\nu\rho} \nabla_{\mu'} F_{\sigma\tau}]$  and  $\text{Tr}[F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu'\nu'} F_{\rho\sigma}]$ .

One is expected to correspond to the NS antisymmetric tensor,

$$B_{\mu\nu} \sim \text{Tr}[F_{[\mu a} F^{ab} F_{b\nu]}] + \frac{1}{4} F_{ab} F^{ab} F_{\mu\nu}$$

and should be massive with a UV mass  $M = \frac{4}{\ell_{\text{AdS}}}$ . This happens via mixing with the  $C_2$  RR tensor.

♠ Therefore we will consider

$$T_{\mu\nu} \leftrightarrow g_{\mu\nu}, \text{tr}[F^2] \leftrightarrow \phi, \text{tr}[F \wedge F] \leftrightarrow a$$

# bosonic string or superstring?

- The string theory must have **no on-shell fermionic states at all** because there are no gauge invariant fermionic operators in pure YM. (even in the presence of quarks and modulo baryons that are expected to be solitonic ).
- ♠ We do expect a superstring however since there should be RR fields.
- ♠ A RR field we expect to have is the RR 4-form, as it is necessary to “seed” the  $D_3$  branes responsible for the gauge group.
- It is non-propagating in 5D
- We will see later however that it is responsible for the non-trivial IR structure of the gauge theory vacuum.
- The most solid indication: **There is a direct argument that the axion**, dual to the instanton density  $F \wedge F$  must be a RR field (as in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ ).
- **Therefore the string theory must be a 5d-superstring theory resembling the II-0 class.**

# The minimal effective string theory spectrum

- NS-NS  $\rightarrow g_{\mu\nu} \leftrightarrow T_{\mu\nu}$  ,  $B_{\mu\nu} \leftrightarrow Tr[F]^3$  ,  $\phi \leftrightarrow Tr[F^2]$
- RR  $\rightarrow Spinor_5 \times Spinor_5 = F_0 + F_1 + F_2 + (F_3 + F_4 + F_5)$
- ♠  $F_0 \leftrightarrow F_5 \rightarrow C_4$ , background flux  $\rightarrow$  no propagating degrees of freedom.
- ♠  $F_1 \leftrightarrow F_4 \rightarrow C_3 \leftrightarrow C_0$ :  $C_0$  is the axion,  $C_3$  its 5d dual that couples to domain walls separating **oblique confinement vacua**.
- ♠  $F_2 \leftrightarrow F_3 \rightarrow C_1 \leftrightarrow C_2$ :  $C_2$  mixes with  $B_2$  because of the  $C_4$  flux, and is massive.  $C_1$  is associated with **baryon number** (as we will also see later when we add flavor).
- In an ISO(3,1) invariant vacuum solution, only  $g_{\mu\nu}, \phi, C_0 = a$  can be non-trivial.

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(r)}(dr^2 + dx_4^2) \quad , \quad a(r), \phi(r)$$

## The relevant “defects”

- $B_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow$  Fundamental string ( $F_1$ ). This is the YM (glue) string: fundamental tension  $\ell_s^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$
- Its dual  $\tilde{B}_\mu \rightarrow NS_0$ : Tension is  $\mathcal{O}(N_c^2)$ . It is an effective magnetic baryon vertex binding  $N_c$  magnetic quarks.
- $C_5 \rightarrow D_4$ : Space filling flavor branes. They must be introduced in pairs:  $D_4 + \bar{D}_4$  for charge neutrality/tadpole cancelation  $\rightarrow$  gauge anomaly cancelation in QCD.
- $C_4 \rightarrow D_3$  branes generating the gauge symmetry.

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- $C_3 \rightarrow D_2$  branes : domain walls separating different oblique confinement vacua (where  $\theta_{k+1} = \theta_k + 2\pi$ ). Its tension is  $\mathcal{O}(N_c)$

- $C_2 \rightarrow D_1$  branes: These are the magnetic strings: (strings attached to magnetic quarks) with tension  $\mathcal{O}(N_c)$

- $C_1 \rightarrow D_0$  branes. These are the baryon vertices: they bind  $N_c$  quarks, and their tension is  $\mathcal{O}(N_c)$ .

Its instantonic source when we add flavor is the (solitonic) baryon in the string theory.

- $C_0 \rightarrow D_{-1}$  branes: These are the Yang-Mills instantons.

# The string effective action

- as  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ , only string tree-level is dominant.
- Relevant field for the vacuum solution:  $g_{\mu\nu}, a, \phi, F_5$ .
- The vev of  $F_5 \sim N_c \epsilon_5$ . It appears always in the combination  $e^{2\phi} F_5^2 \sim \lambda^2$ , with  $\lambda \sim N_c e^\phi$ . All higher derivative corrections  $(e^{2\phi} F_5^2)^n$  are  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ .  
A non-trivial potential for the dilaton will be generated already at string tree-level.
- This is not the case for all other RR fields: in particular for the axion as  $a \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

$$(\partial a)^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad , \quad e^{2\phi} (\partial a)^4 = \frac{\lambda^2}{N_c^2} (\partial a)^4 \sim \mathcal{O}(N_c^{-2})$$

Therefore to leading order  $\mathcal{O}(N_c^2)$  we can neglect the axion.

# The UV regime

- In the far UV, the space should asymptote to AdS<sub>5</sub>.
- The 't Hooft coupling should behave as ( $r \rightarrow 0$ )

$$\lambda \sim \frac{1}{\log(r\Lambda)} + \dots \rightarrow 0, \quad r \sim \frac{1}{E}$$

- The effective action to leading order in  $N_c$  is

$$S_{eff} \sim \int d^5x \sqrt{g} e^{-2\phi} \left( F(R, \xi) + 4(\partial\phi)^2 \right), \quad \xi \equiv -e^{2\phi} \frac{F_5^2}{5!}$$

- For weak background fields

$$F = \frac{2\delta c}{3\ell_s^2} + R + \frac{1}{2}\xi + \mathcal{O}(R^2, R\xi, \xi^2), \quad \delta c = 10 - 5 = 5$$

The equation for the four form is

$$\nabla^\mu \left( F_\xi F_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \right) = 0, \quad F_\xi F_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \frac{N_c}{\ell_{AdS}} \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}}{\sqrt{g}} \rightarrow \xi F_\xi(\xi, R)^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{\ell_{AdS}^2}$$

We may use the alternative action where the 4-form is “integrated-out”

$$S_{\text{tree}} = M^3 N_c^2 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \left[ 4 \frac{\partial \lambda^2}{\lambda^2} + F(R, \xi) - 2\xi F_\xi(R, \xi) \right] \quad , \quad \xi F_\xi^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{\ell_{AdS}^2}$$

To continue further we must solve  $\xi F_\xi^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{\ell_{AdS}^2}$ . There are several possibilities:

- (a)  $\xi \rightarrow 0$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  (turns out to be inconsistent with equations of motion).
- (b)  $\xi \rightarrow \xi_*(R)$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ .

$$F \simeq c_0(R) + \frac{c_1(R)}{2} (\xi - \xi_*(R))^2 + \mathcal{O} [(\xi - \xi_*(R))^3]$$

$$\xi \equiv \xi_*(R) + \delta\xi \simeq \xi_*(R) - \frac{\lambda}{c_1(R) \ell_{AdS} \sqrt{\xi_*(R)}} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$



The gravitational equation implies that for AdS to be the leading solution (at  $\lambda = 0$ ) we must have

$$c_0(R_*) = 0 \quad , \quad \left. \frac{\partial c_0(R)}{\partial R} \right|_{R=R_*} = 0$$

$F$  is therefore zero to next order and the first non-trivial contribution is at quadratic order

$$F(R, \xi) = \frac{\lambda^2}{2c_1(R_*) \ell_{AdS}^2 \xi_*(R_*)} + \frac{1}{2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 c_0(R)}{\partial R^2} \right|_{R=R_*} (R - R_*)^2 + \dots$$

Solving the equations we find the one-loop  $\beta$ -function coefficients as

$$b_0 = \frac{\ell_{AdS} \sqrt{\xi_*(R_*)}}{16}$$

and the correction subleading correction to the  $AdS_5$  metric

$$e^A = \frac{\ell}{r} \left[ 1 + \frac{w}{\log(\Lambda r)} + \dots \right] \quad , \quad \delta R = \frac{40w}{\ell^2 \log(\Lambda r)} + \dots$$

$$w = \frac{-5 + \frac{\delta \xi_*(R_*)}{\delta R} R_*}{c_0''(R_*)} \frac{\xi_*(R_*)}{80R_*}$$

- This turns out to be a regular expansion of the solution in powers of

$$\frac{P_n(\log \log(r\Lambda))}{(\log(r\Lambda))^n}$$

- Effectively this can be rearranged as a “perturbative” expansion in  $\lambda(r)$ . In the case of running coupling, the radial coordinate can be substituted by  $\lambda(r)$ .

- Using  $\lambda$  as a radial coordinate the solution for the metric can be written

$$E \equiv e^A = \frac{\ell}{r(\lambda)} \left[ 1 + c_1 \lambda + c_2 \lambda^2 + \dots \right] = \ell \left( e^{-\frac{b_0}{\lambda}} \right) \left[ 1 + c'_1 \lambda + c'_2 \lambda^2 + \dots \right] \quad , \quad \lambda \rightarrow 0$$

# The axion

Similar arguments lead to an action of the form

$$S = N_c^2 S_{g,\phi} + S_{axion} + \dots$$

$$S_{axion} \sim \int d^5x \sqrt{g} G(R, \lambda) (\partial a)^2$$

- Higher powers of  $(\partial a)^2$  are subleading in  $N_c$ .
- We may therefore find the solution using the solution of the metric-dilaton system.

# UV conclusions

**Conclusion 1:** The asymptotic  $AdS_5$  is stringy, but the rest of the geometry is "perturbative around the asymptotics". We cannot however do computations even if we know the structure.

**Conclusion 2:** It has been a mystery how can one get free field theory at the boundary. This is automatic here since all non-trivial connected correlators are proportional to positive powers of  $\lambda$  that vanishes in the UV.

# The IR regime: general ex[ectations

- Here the situation is more obscure. The constraints/input will be: confinement, discreteness of the spectrum and mass gap.
- We do expect that  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  (or becomes large) at the IR bottom.
- Intuition from N=4 and other 10d strongly coupled theories suggests that in this regime there should be an (approximate) **two-derivative description of the physics**.
- The simplest solution with this property is the linear dilaton solution with

$$\lambda \sim e^{Qr} \quad , \quad V(\lambda) \sim \delta c = 10 - D \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{constant} \quad , \quad R = 0$$

- Self-consistency of this assumption implies that the string frame curvature should vanish in the IR.
- **This property persists with potentials  $V(\lambda) \sim (\log \lambda)^P$** . Moreover all such cases have confinement, a mass gap and a discrete spectrum (except the P=0 case).
- **At the IR bottom (in the string frame) the scale factor vanishes, and 5D space becomes (asymptotically) flat.**

# Improved Holographic QCD: a model

- We would like to write down a model that captures the holographic behavior of YM:
- The basic fields will be  $g_{\mu\nu}, \phi, a$ . We can neglect  $a$  when studying the basic vacuum solution (down by  $N_c^{-2}$ ).
- In the IR the action should have two derivatives and admit solutions with weak curvature (in the string frame)

$$S_{\text{Einstein}} = M^3 N_c^2 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left[ R - \frac{4(\partial\lambda)^2}{3\lambda^2} + V(\lambda) \right], \quad \lambda = N_c e^\phi$$

- Although in the UV we expect higher derivatives to be important we will extend this by demanding that the solution is asymptotically  $AdS_5$  and the 't Hooft coupling will run logarithmically.
- Although we do not expect this simple model to capture all aspects of YM dynamics we will see that it goes a long way.

# The UV solution

- In order to obtain an AdS<sub>5</sub> solution  $V$  should become a constant when  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ .

- We therefore write an expansion for the potential in the UV as

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left( 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \lambda^n \right)$$

- The potential should be strictly monotonic to drive the theory to strong coupling without IR fixed points.

- In particular, the UV fixed point should NOT be a minimum of the potential.

- The vacuum solution ansatz is

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(r)} (dr^2 + dx^\mu dx_\mu) \quad , \quad \lambda(r)$$

and is the most general one that preserves 4d Poincaré invariance.

- We may choose the holographic “energy” scale as the scale factor in the Einstein frame

$$E = e^{A_E}$$

This asymptotes properly in the UV,  $E \sim 1/r$ , is everywhere monotonic and becomes zero in the IR. This is a choice (scheme). Physical quantities do not depend on it.

- We may now solve the equations perturbatively in  $\lambda$  around  $\lambda = 0$  and  $r = 0$  (this is a weak coupling expansion) to find

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = L - \frac{b_1}{b_0} \log L + \frac{b_1^2}{b_0^2} \frac{\log L}{L} + \left( \frac{b_1^2}{b_0^2} + \frac{b_2}{b_0} \right) \frac{1}{L} + \frac{b_1^3}{2b_0^3} \frac{\log^2 L}{L^2} + \dots$$

$$L \equiv -b_0 \log(r\Lambda)$$

$$e^A = \frac{\ell}{r} \left[ 1 + \frac{4}{9 \log r\Lambda} + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{\log \log r\Lambda}{\log^2 r\Lambda} \right) \right]$$



The identification is

$$c_1 = \frac{8}{9}b_0 \quad , \quad c_2 = \frac{23 b_0^2 - 36 b_1}{3^4} \quad , \quad c_3 = -2 \frac{324 b_2 + 124 b_0^3 + 189 b_1 b_0}{3^7}$$

with

$$V = \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left[ 1 + c_1 \lambda + c_2 \lambda^2 + c_3 \lambda^3 + \dots \right]$$

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d \log E} \equiv \beta(\lambda) = -b_0 \lambda^2 + b_1 \lambda^3 + b_2 \lambda^4 + \dots$$

♠ The asymptotic expansion of the potential is in one-to-one correspondence with the perturbative  $\beta$ -function.

# Organizing the vacuum solutions

- The  $\beta$ -function can be mapped uniquely to the dilaton potential  $V(\lambda)$ .
- A useful variable is the phase variable

$$X \equiv \frac{\lambda'}{3\lambda A'} = \frac{\beta(\lambda)}{3\lambda}$$

- We can introduce a (pseudo)superpotential

$$V(\lambda) = \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^3 \left[ W^2 - \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\partial W}{\partial \Phi}\right)^2 \right]$$

and write the equations in a first order form:

$$A' = -\frac{4}{9}W \quad , \quad \Phi' = \frac{dW}{d\Phi}$$

$$\beta(\lambda) = -\frac{9}{4}\lambda \frac{d \log W}{d \log \lambda}$$

- ♠ The equations have three integration constants: (two for  $\Phi$  and one for  $A$ ) One is fixed by  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  in the UV. The other is  $\Lambda$ . The one in  $A$  is the choice of energy scale.

## The IR regime: II

For any asymptotically  $AdS_5$  solution ( $e^A \sim \frac{\ell}{r}$ ):

- The scale factor  $e^{A(r)}$  is monotonically decreasing

*Girardello+Petrini+Porrati+Zaffaroni  
Freedman+Gubser+Pilch+Warner*

- Moreover, there are only three possible, mutually exclusive IR asymptotics:

♠ *there is another asymptotic  $AdS_5$  region, at  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\exp A(r) \sim \ell'/r$ , and  $\ell' \leq \ell$  (equality holds if and only if the space is exactly  $AdS_5$  everywhere);*

♠ there is a curvature singularity at some finite value of the radial coordinate,  $r = r_0$ ;

♠ there is a curvature singularity at  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , where the scale factor vanishes and the space-time shrinks to zero size.

# Wilson-Loops and confinement

- Calculation of the static quark potential using the vev of the Wilson loop calculated via an F-string worldsheet.

*Rey+Yee, Maldacena*

$$T E(L) = S_{\text{minimal}}(X)$$

We calculate

$$L = 2 \int_0^{r_0} dr \frac{1}{\sqrt{e^{4A_S(r)} - e^{4A_S(r_0)}}}.$$

It diverges when  $e^{A_S}$  has a minimum (at  $r = r_*$ ). Then

$$E(L) \sim T_f e^{2A_S(r_*)} L$$

- **Confinement**  $\rightarrow A_S(r_*)$  is finite. This is a more general condition that considered before as  $A_S$  is not monotonic in general.
- Effective string tension

$$T_{\text{string}} = T_f e^{2A_S(r_*)}$$

# An assessment of IR asymptotics

- We define the superpotential  $W$  as

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{4}{3}\lambda^2 \left(\frac{dW}{d\lambda}\right)^2 + \frac{64}{27}W^2$$

- We parameterize the UV ( $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ) and IR asymptotics ( $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ) as

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} [1 + \mathcal{O}(\lambda)] \quad , \quad V(\lambda) \sim V_\infty \lambda^Q (\log \lambda)^P$$

- All confining solutions have an IR singularity.

There are three types of solution for  $W$ :

- The “Good type” (single solution)

$$W(\lambda) \sim (\log \lambda)^{\frac{P}{2}} \lambda^{\frac{Q}{2}}$$

It leads to a “good” IR singularity, confinement, a mass gap, discrete spectrum of glueballs and screening of magnetic charges if

$$\frac{8}{3} > Q > \frac{4}{3} \quad \text{or} \quad Q = \frac{4}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad P > 0$$

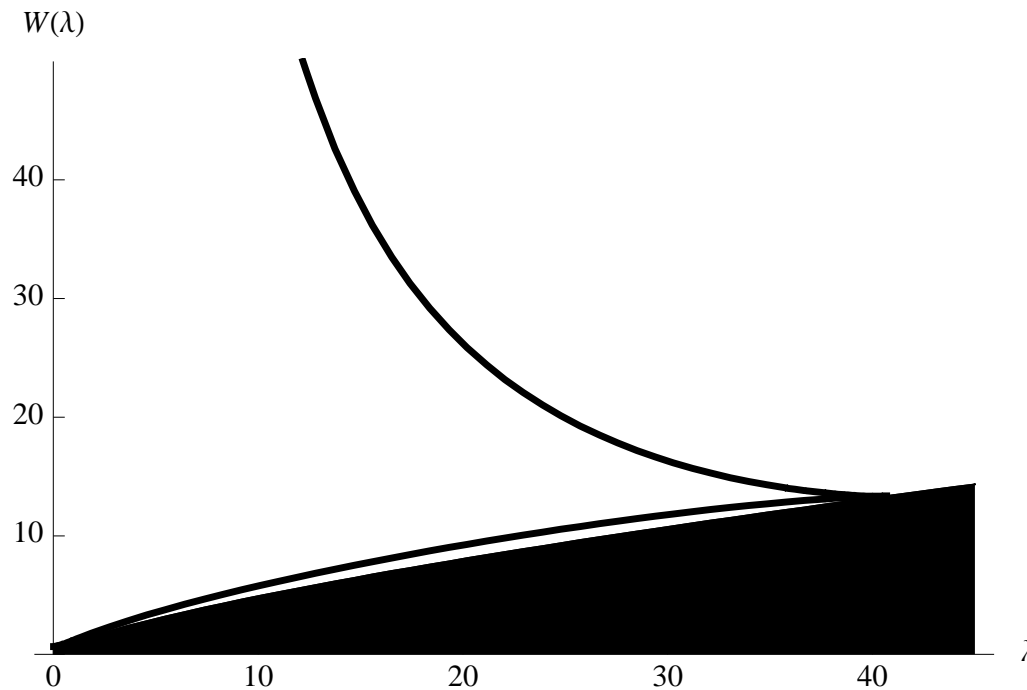
- The asymptotic spectrum of glueballs is linear if  $Q = \frac{4}{3}$  and  $P = \frac{1}{2}$ .

- The “Bad” type. This is a one parameter family of solutions with

$$W(\lambda) \sim \lambda^{\frac{4}{3}}$$

It has a bad IR singularity.

- ♠ The “Ugly” type. This is a one parameter family of solutions. In such solutions there are two branches but they never reach the IR  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ . Instead  $\lambda$  goes back to zero



# Comments on confining backgrounds

- For all confining backgrounds with  $r_0 = \infty$ , although the space-time is singular in the Einstein frame, the string frame geometry is asymptotically flat for large  $r$ . Therefore only  $\lambda$  grows indefinitely.
- String world-sheets do not probe the strong coupling region, at least classically. The string stays away from the strong coupling region.
- Therefore: singular confining backgrounds have generically the property that the singularity is *repulsive*, i.e. only highly excited states can probe it. This will also be reflected in the analysis of the particle spectrum (to be presented later)
- The confining backgrounds must also screen magnetic color charges. This can be checked by calculating 't Hooft loops using  $D_1$  probes:
  - ♠ All confining backgrounds with  $r_0 = \infty$  and most at finite  $r_0$  screen properly
  - ♠ In particular “hard-wall” AdS/QCD confines also the magnetic quarks.

# Selecting the IR asymptotics

The  $Q = 4/3$ ,  $0 \leq P < 1$  solutions have a singularity at  $r = \infty$ . They are compatible with

- Confinement (it happens non-trivially: a minimum in the string frame scale factor )
- Mass gap+discrete spectrum (except  $P=0$ )
- “good+repulsive” singularity
- $R \rightarrow 0$  justifying the original assumption. More precisely: the string frame metric becomes flat at the IR .

♠ It is interesting that the lower endpoint:  $P=0$  corresponds to linear dilaton and flat space (string frame). It is confining with a mass gap but continuous spectrum.

- For linear asymptotic trajectories for fluctuations (glueballs) we must choose  $P = 1/2$

$$V(\lambda) \simeq \lambda^{\frac{4}{3}} \sqrt{\log \lambda} + \text{subleading} \quad \text{as} \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$



# The axion background

- The axion solution can be interpreted as a "running"  $\theta$ -angle
- This is in accordance with the absence of UV divergences (all correlators  $\langle Tr[F \wedge F]^n \rangle$  are UV finite), and Seiberg-Witten type solutions.
- The axion action is down by  $1/N_c^2$

$$S_{axion} = -\frac{M_p^3}{2} \int d^5x \sqrt{g} Z(\lambda) (\partial a)^2$$

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} Z(\lambda) = Z_0 \left[ 1 + c_1 \lambda + c_2 \lambda^2 + \dots \right] \quad , \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} Z(\lambda) = c_a \lambda^d + \dots \quad , \quad d = 4$$

- The equation of motion is

$$\ddot{a} + \left( 3\dot{A} + \frac{\dot{Z}(\lambda)}{Z(\lambda)} \right) \dot{a} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \dot{a} = \frac{C e^{-3A}}{Z(\lambda)}$$

- The full solution is

$$a(r) = \theta_{UV} + 2\pi k + C \int_0^r dr \frac{e^{-3A}}{Z(\lambda)} \quad , \quad C = \langle Tr[F \wedge F] \rangle$$

- $a(r)$  is a running effective  $\theta$ -angle. Its running is **non-perturbative**,

$$a(r) \sim r^4 \sim e^{-\frac{4}{b_0\lambda}}$$

- The vacuum energy is

$$E(\theta_{UV}) = -\frac{M^3}{2} \int d^5x \sqrt{g} Z(\lambda) (\partial a)^2 = -\frac{M^3}{2} C a(r) \Big|_{r=0}^{r=r_0}$$

- Consistency requires to impose that  $a(r_0) = 0$ . This determines  $C$  and

$$E(\theta_{UV}) = \frac{M^3}{2} \text{Min}_k \frac{(\theta_{UV} + 2\pi k)^2}{\int_0^{r_0} \frac{dr}{e^{3A} Z(\lambda)}}$$

$$\frac{a(r)}{\theta_{UV} + 2\pi k} = \frac{\int_r^{r_0} \frac{dr}{e^{3A} Z(\lambda)}}{\int_0^{r_0} \frac{dr}{e^{3A} Z(\lambda)}}$$

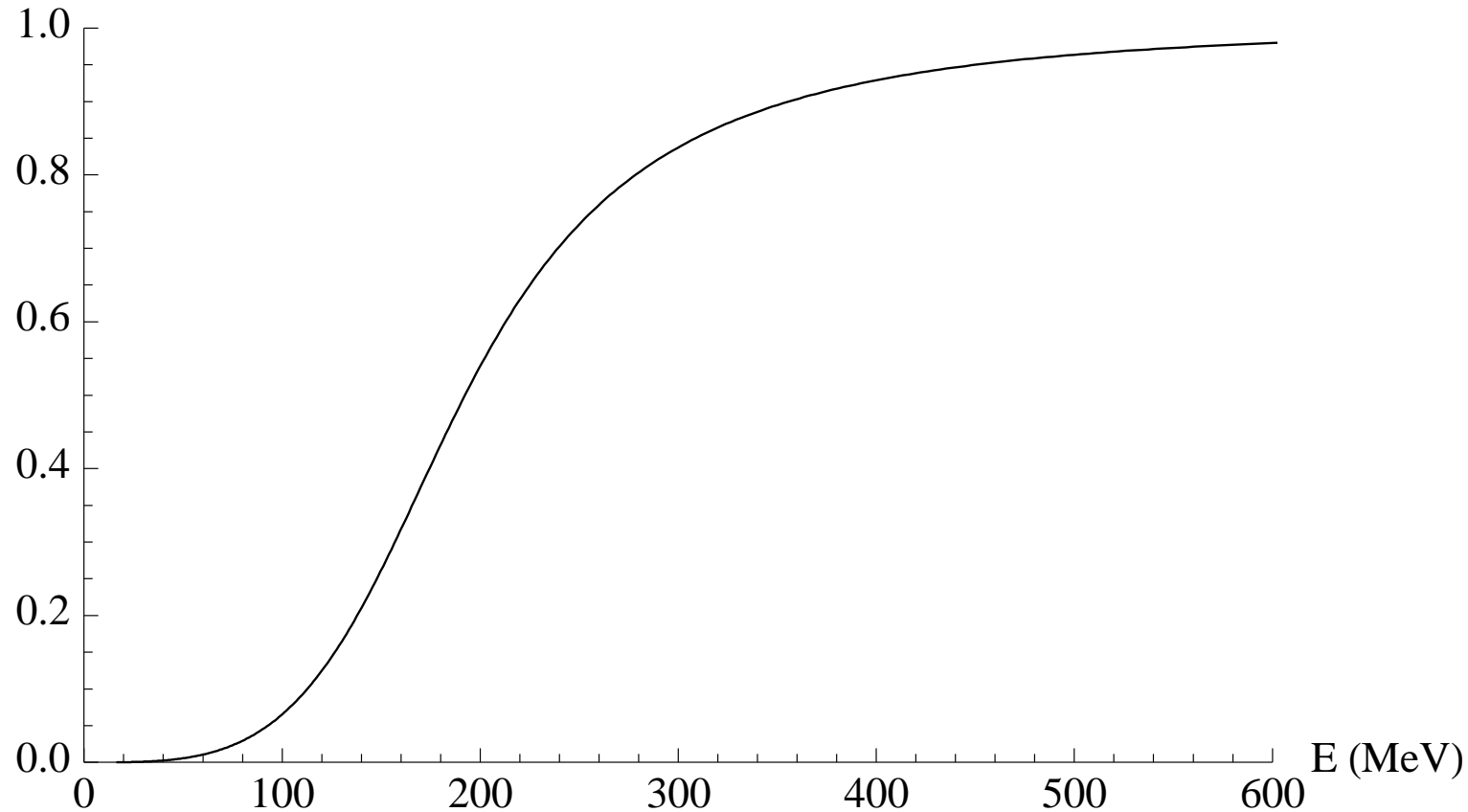
- The topological susceptibility is given by

$$E(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \chi \theta^2 + \mathcal{O}(\theta^4) \quad , \quad \chi = \frac{M^3}{\int_0^{r_0} \frac{dr}{e^{3A} Z(\lambda)}}$$

- The effective  $\theta$ -angle “runs” also in the D4 model for QCD, and also vanishes in the IR

$$\theta(U) = \theta(1 - U_0^3/U^3)$$

- $\frac{\theta}{\theta_{UV}}$  In Improved Holographic QCD:



We have taken:  $Z(\lambda) = Z_0(1 + c_a\lambda^4) \simeq 133(1 + 0.26\lambda^4)$

# Particle Spectra: generalities

- Linearized equation:

$$\ddot{\xi} + 2\dot{B}\dot{\xi} + \square_4\xi = 0 \quad , \quad \xi(r, x) = \xi(r)\xi^{(4)}(x), \quad \square\xi^{(4)}(x) = m^2\xi^{(4)}(x)$$

- Can be mapped to Schrodinger problem

$$-\frac{d^2}{dr^2}\psi + V(r)\psi = m^2\psi \quad , \quad V(r) = \frac{d^2B}{dr^2} + \left(\frac{dB}{dr}\right)^2 \quad , \quad \xi(r) = e^{-B(r)}\psi(r)$$

- Mass gap and discrete spectrum visible from the asymptotics of the potential.

- Large  $n$  asymptotics of masses obtained from WKB

$$n\pi = \int_{r_1}^{r_2} \sqrt{m^2 - V(r)} \, dr$$

- Spectrum depends only on initial condition for  $\lambda$  ( $\sim \Lambda_{QCD}$ ) and an overall energy scale ( $e^A$ ) that must be fixed.

- scalar glueballs

$$B(r) = \frac{3}{2}A(r) + \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{\beta(\lambda)^2}{9\lambda^2}$$

- tensor glueballs

$$B(r) = \frac{3}{2}A(r)$$

- pseudo-scalar glueballs

$$B(r) = \frac{3}{2}A(r) + \frac{1}{2} \log Z(\lambda)$$

- Universality of asymptotics

$$\frac{m_{n \rightarrow \infty}^2(0^{++})}{m_{n \rightarrow \infty}^2(2^{++})} \rightarrow 1 \quad , \quad \frac{m_{n \rightarrow \infty}^2(0^{+-})}{m_{n \rightarrow \infty}^2(0^{++})} = \frac{1}{4}(d-2)^2$$

predicts  $d = 4$  via

$$\frac{m^2}{2\pi\sigma_a} = 2n + J + c,$$

# Summary

- We argued that an Einstein dilaton system with a potential can capture some important properties of YM: asymptotic freedom in the UV and confinement in the IR

$$S \sim \int \left[ R - \frac{4}{3}(\partial\phi)^2 + V(\phi) \right]$$

- The potential is regular in the UV

$$V \rightarrow \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left[ 1 + c_1\lambda + c_2\lambda^2 + \dots \right]$$

- In the IR it should behave as

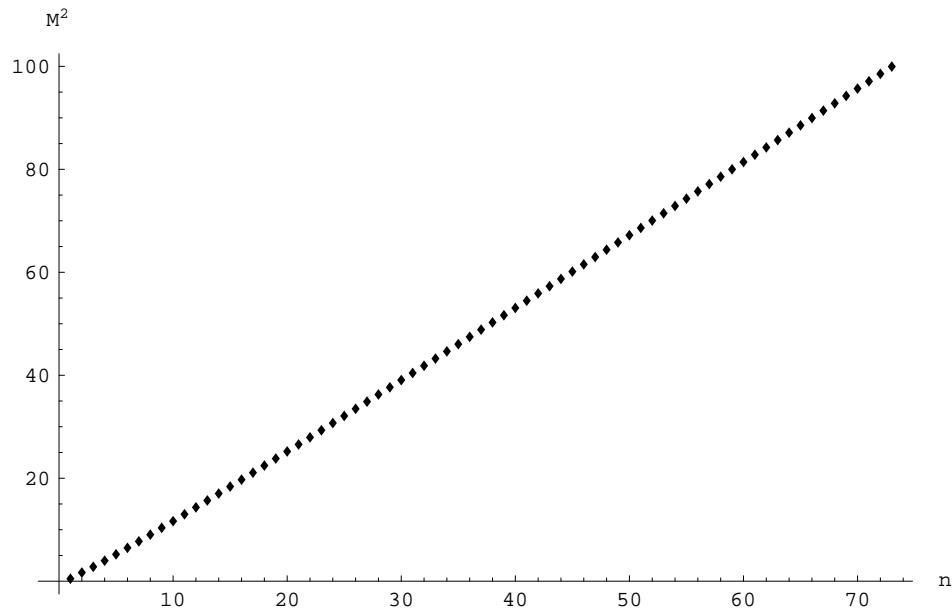
$$V \sim \lambda^{\frac{4}{3}}(\log \lambda)^P$$

for linear trajectories  $P = 1/2$ .

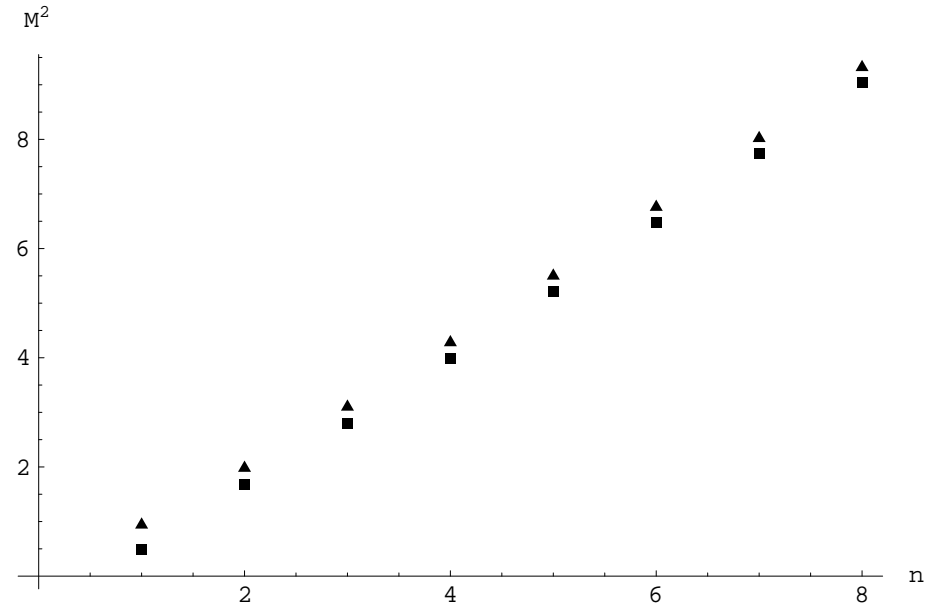
- We can solve the equations of motion with  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  in the UV.
- The solutions have only one parameter:  $\Lambda_{QCD}$

- The intermediate behavior of the potential is not fixed (phenomenological parameters).
- The axion solution is non-trivial, non-perturbative and it asymptotes to zero in the IR.

# Linearity of the glueball spectrum



(a)



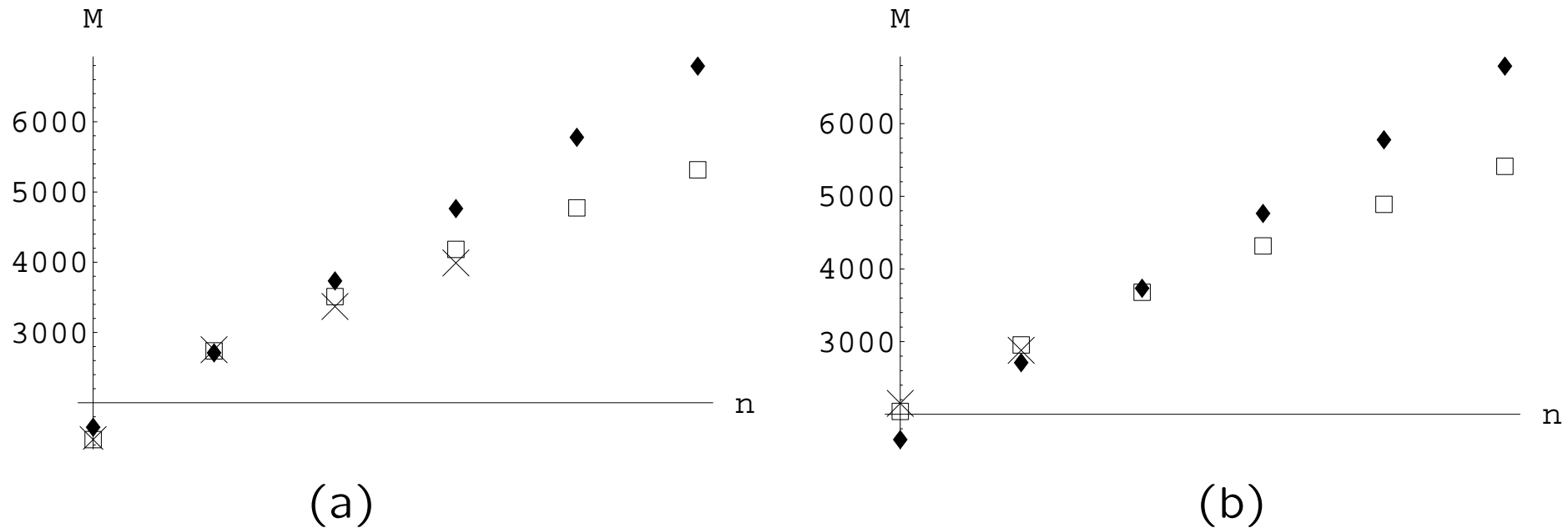
(b)

(a) Linear pattern in the spectrum for the first 40  $0^{++}$  glueball states.  $M^2$  is shown units of  $0.015\ell^{-2}$ .

(b) The first 8  $0^{++}$  (squares) and the  $2^{++}$  (triangles) glueballs. These spectra are obtained in the background I with  $b_0 = 4.2, \lambda_0 = 0.05$ .



# Comparison with lattice data (Meyer)



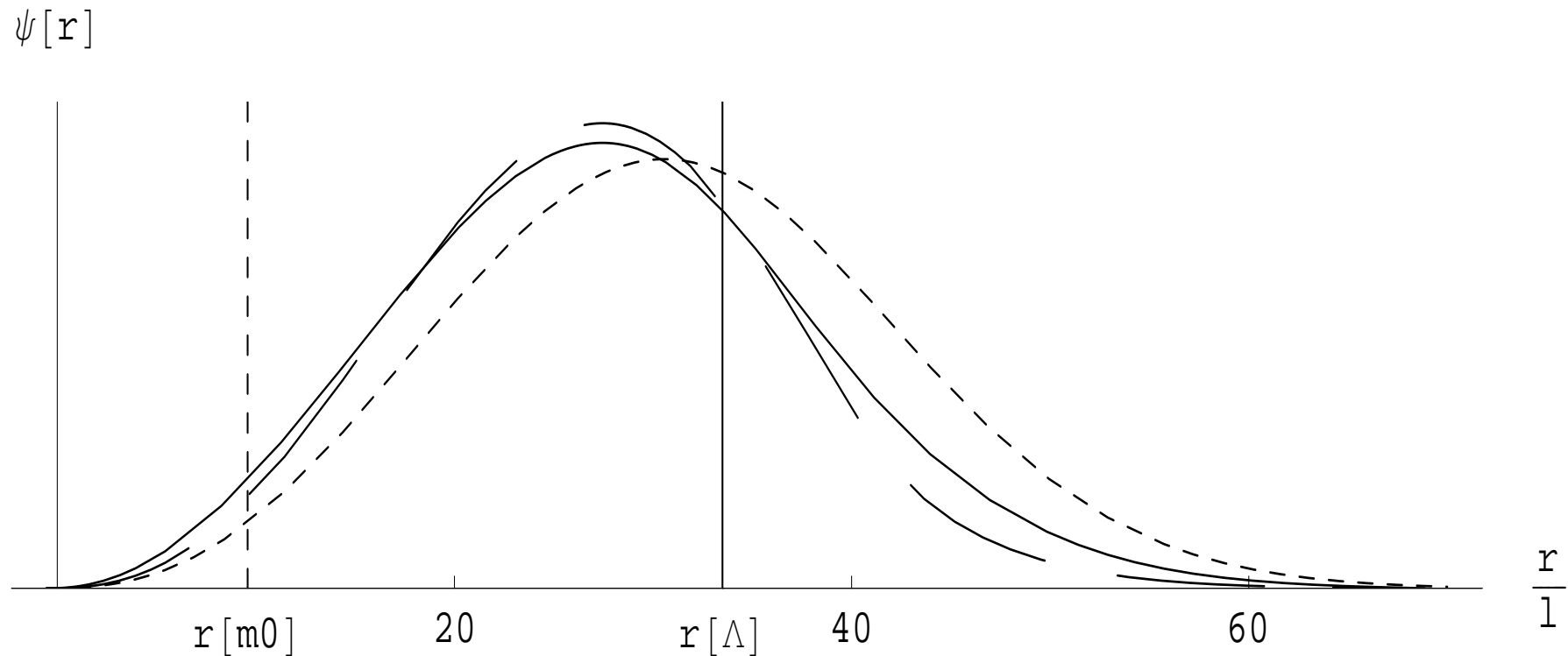
Comparison of glueball spectra from our model with  $b_0 = 4.2, \lambda_0 = 0.05$  (boxes), with the lattice QCD data from [Ref. I \(crosses\)](#) and the AdS/QCD computation (diamonds), for (a)  $0^{++}$  glueballs; (b)  $2^{++}$  glueballs. The masses are in MeV, and the scale is normalized to match the lowest  $0^{++}$  state from Ref. I.

# The fit to glueball lattice data

$J^{PC}$	Ref I (MeV)	Our model (MeV)	Mismatch	$N_c \rightarrow \infty$	Mismatch
$0^{++}$	<b>1475 (4%)</b>	<b>1475</b>	0	<b>1475</b>	0
$2^{++}$	2150 (5%)	2055	4%	2153 (10%)	5%
$0^{-+}$	<b>2250 (4%)</b>	<b>2243</b>	0		
$0^{++*}$	<b>2755 (4%)</b>	<b>2753</b>	0	2814 (12%)	2%
$2^{++*}$	2880 (5%)	2991	4%		
$0^{-+*}$	3370 (4%)	3288	2%		
$0^{++**}$	3370 (4%)	3561	5%		
$0^{++***}$	3990 (5%)	4253	6%		

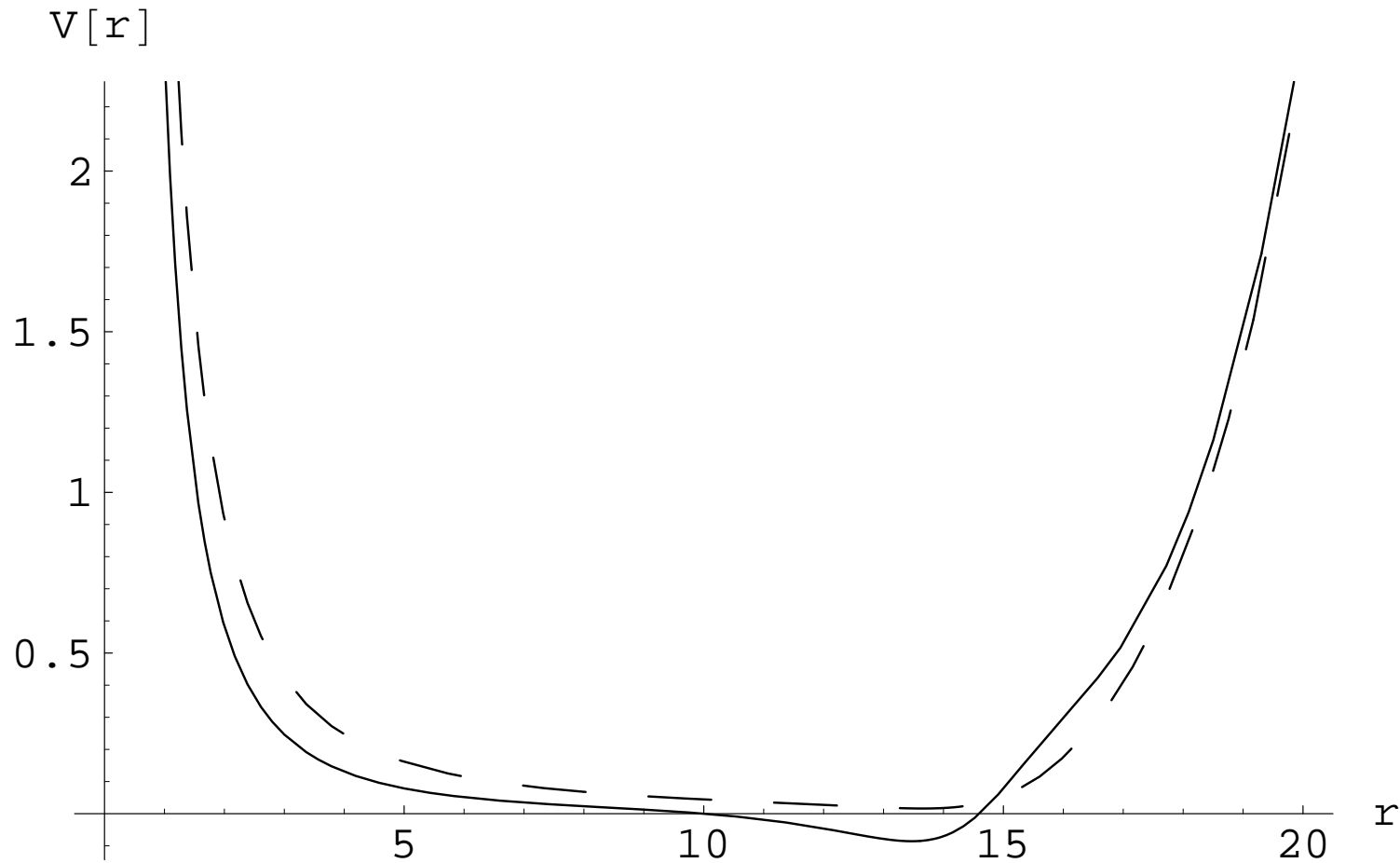
Comparison between the glueball spectra in Ref. I and in our model. The states we use as input in our fit are marked in red. The parenthesis in the lattice data indicate the percent accuracy.

# The glueball wavefunctions



Normalized wave-function profiles for the ground states of the  $0^{++}$  (solid line),  $0^{-+}$  (dashed line), and  $2^{++}$  (dotted line) towers, as a function of the radial conformal coordinate. The vertical lines represent the position corresponding to  $E = m_{0^{++}}$  and  $E = \Lambda_p$ .

# Comparison of scalar and tensor potential



Effective Schrödinger potentials for scalar (solid line) and tensor (dashed line) glueballs. The units are chosen such that  $\ell = 0.5$ .

## Adding flavor

- To add  $N_f$  quarks  $q_L^I$  and antiquarks  $q_R^{\bar{I}}$  we must add (in 5d) space-filling  $N_f D_4$  and  $N_f \bar{D}_4$  branes.  
(tadpole cancellation=gauge anomaly cancellation)

- The  $q_L^I$  should be the “zero modes” of the  $D_3 - D_4$  strings while  $q_R^{\bar{I}}$  are the “zero modes” of the  $D_3 - \bar{D}_4$

- The low-lying fields on the  $D_4$  branes ( $D_4 - D_4$  strings) are  $U(N_f)_L$  gauge fields  $A_\mu^L$ . The low-lying fields on the  $\bar{D}_4$  branes ( $\bar{D}_4 - \bar{D}_4$  strings) are  $U(N_f)_R$  gauge fields  $A_\mu^R$ . They are dual to the  $J_L^\mu$  and  $J_R^\mu$

$$\delta S_A \sim \bar{q}_L^I \gamma^\mu (A_\mu^L)^{IJ} q_L^J + \bar{q}_R^{\bar{I}} \gamma^\mu (A_\mu^R)^{\bar{I}\bar{J}} q_R^{\bar{J}} = \text{Tr}[J_L^\mu A_\mu^L + J_R^\mu A_\mu^R]$$

- There are also the low lying fields of the ( $D_4 - \bar{D}_4$  strings), essentially the string-theory “tachyon”  $T_{I\bar{J}}$  transforming as  $(N_f, \bar{N}_f)$  under the chiral symmetry  $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$ . It is dual to the quark mass terms

$$\delta S_T \sim \bar{q}_L^I T_{I\bar{J}} q_R^{\bar{J}} + \text{complex conjugate}$$

- The interactions on the flavor branes are weak, so that  $A_\mu^{L,R}, T$  are as sources for the quarks.

- Integrating out the quarks, generates an effective action  $S_{flavor}(A_\mu^{L,R}, T)$ , so that  $A_\mu^{L,R}, T$  can be thought as effective  $q\bar{q}$  composites, that is : mesons

- On the string theory side: integrating out  $D_3 - D_4$  and  $D_3 - \bar{D}_4$  strings gives rise to the DBI action for the  $D_4 - \bar{D}_4$  branes in the  $D_3$  background:

$$S_{flavor}(A_\mu^{L,R}, T) \longleftrightarrow S_{DBI}(A_\mu^{L,R}, T) \quad \text{holographically}$$

- In the "vacuum" only  $T$  can have a non-trivial profile:  $T^{I\bar{J}}(r)$ . Near the  $AdS_5$  boundary ( $r \rightarrow 0$ )

$$T^{I\bar{J}}(r) = M_{I\bar{J}} r + \dots + \langle \bar{q}_L^I q_R^{\bar{J}} \rangle r^3 + \dots$$

- A typical solution is  $T$  vanishing in the UV and  $T \rightarrow \infty$  in the IR. At the point  $r = r_*$  where  $T = \infty$ , the  $D_4$  and  $\bar{D}_4$  branes “fuse”. The true vacuum is a brane that enters folds on itself and goes back to the boundary. A non-zero  $T$  breaks chiral symmetry.
- When  $m_q = 0$ , the meson spectrum contains  $N_f^2$  massless pseudoscalars, the  $U(N_f)_A$  Goldstone bosons.
- The WZ part of the flavor brane action gives the Adler-Bell-Jackiw  $U(1)_A$  axial anomaly and an associated Stueckelberg mechanism gives an  $O\left(\frac{N_f}{N_c}\right)$  mass to the would-be Goldstone boson  $\eta'$ , in accordance with the Veneziano-Witten formula.
- We can derive formulae for the anomalous divergences of flavor currents, when they are coupled to an external source.
- $T=0$  is always a solution. However it is excluded from the absence of IR boundary for the flavor branes: **Holographic Coleman-Witten theorem**.
- Fluctuations around the  $T$  solution for  $T, A_\mu^{L,R}$  give the spectra (and interactions) of various meson trajectories.
- A GOR relation is satisfied (for an asymptotic AdS<sub>5</sub> space)

$$m_\pi^2 = -2 \frac{m_q}{f_\pi^2} \langle \bar{q}q \rangle \quad , \quad m_q \rightarrow 0$$

# The tachyon DBI action

- The flavor action is the  $D_4 - \bar{D}_4$  action:  $S[T, A^L, A^R] = S_{DBI} + S_{WZ}$

$$S_{DBI} = \int dr d^4x \frac{N_c}{\lambda} \text{Str} \left[ V(T) \left( \sqrt{-\det \left( g_{\mu\nu} + D_{\{\mu} T^\dagger D_{\nu\}} T + F_{\mu\nu}^L \right)} + \sqrt{-\det \left( g_{\mu\nu} + D_{\{\mu} T^\dagger D_{\nu\}} T + F_{\mu\nu}^R \right)} \right) \right]$$

$$D_\mu T \equiv \partial_\mu T - iT A_\mu^L + iA_\mu^R T \quad , \quad D_\mu T^\dagger \equiv \partial_\mu T^\dagger - iA_\mu^L T^\dagger + iT^\dagger A_\mu^R$$

transforming covariantly under flavor gauge transformations

$$T \rightarrow V_R T V_L^\dagger \quad , \quad A^L \rightarrow V_L (A^L - iV_L^\dagger dV_L) V_L^\dagger \quad , \quad A^R \rightarrow V_R (A^R - iV_R^\dagger dV_R) V_R^\dagger$$

- For the vacuum structure and spectrum  $Str = Tr$ .



# The tachyon WZ action

- The WZ action is given by

*Kennedy+Wilkins, Kraus+Larsen, Takayanagi+Terashima+Uesugi*

$$S_{WZ} = T_4 \int_{M_5} C \wedge \text{Str} \exp [i2\pi\alpha' \mathcal{F}]$$

- $M_5$  is the world-volume of the D4- $\overline{\text{D4}}$  branes that coincides with the full space-time.

- $C$  is a formal sum of the RR potentials  $C = \sum_n (-i)^{\frac{5-n}{2}} C_n$ ,

- $\mathcal{F}$  is the curvature of a superconnection  $\mathcal{A}$ :

$$i\mathcal{A} = \begin{pmatrix} iA_L & T^\dagger \\ T & iA_R \end{pmatrix}, \quad i\mathcal{F} = \begin{pmatrix} iF_L - T^\dagger T & DT^\dagger \\ DT & iF_R - TT^\dagger \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{F} = d\mathcal{A} - i\mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A} \quad , \quad d\mathcal{F} - i\mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{F} + i\mathcal{F} \wedge \mathcal{A} = 0$$

- Under (flavor) gauge transformation it transforms homogeneously

$$\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} V_L & 0 \\ 0 & V_R \end{pmatrix} \mathcal{F} \begin{pmatrix} V_L^\dagger & 0 \\ 0 & V_R^\dagger \end{pmatrix}$$

- Expanding:

$$S_{WZ} = T_4 \int C_5 \wedge Z_0 + C_3 \wedge Z_2 + C_1 \wedge Z_4 + C_{-1} \wedge Z_6$$

where  $Z_{2n}$  are appropriate forms coming from the expansion of the exponential of the superconnection.

- $Z_0 = 0$ , signaling the global cancelation of 4-brane charge, which is equivalent to the cancelation of the gauge anomaly in QCD.

$$Z_2 = d\Omega_1 \quad , \quad \Omega_1 = iS \text{Tr}(V(T^\dagger T)) \text{Tr}(A_L - A_R) - \log \det(T) d(\text{Str} V(T^\dagger T))$$

*Casero+Kiritsis+Paredes*

- This term provides the Stuckelberg mixing between  $\text{Tr}[A_\mu^L - A_\mu^R]$  and the QCD axion that is dual to  $C_3$ . Dualizing the full action we obtain

$$S_{CP-odd} = \frac{M^3}{2N_c^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{g} Z(\lambda) (\partial a + i\Omega_1)^2$$

$$= \frac{M^3}{2} \int d^5x \sqrt{g} Z(\lambda) \left( \partial_\mu a + \zeta \partial_\mu V(\tau) - \sqrt{\frac{N_f}{2}} V(\tau) A_\mu^A \right)^2$$

$$\zeta = \Im \log \det T \quad , \quad A_L - A_R \equiv \frac{1}{2N_f} A^A \mathbf{I} + (A_L^a - A_R^a) \lambda^a$$

- This term is invariant under the  $U(1)_A$  transformations, reflecting the QCD  $U(1)_A$  anomaly.

$$\zeta \rightarrow \zeta + \epsilon \quad , \quad A_\mu^A \rightarrow A_\mu^A - \sqrt{\frac{2}{N_f}} \partial_\mu \epsilon \quad , \quad a \rightarrow a - N_f \epsilon V(\tau)$$

- This is responsible for the mixing between the QCD axion and the  $\eta'$   $\rightarrow$  we have two scalars  $a, \zeta$  and an (axial) vector,  $A_\mu^A$ . Then an appropriate linear combination of the two scalars will become the  $0^{-+}$  glueball field while the other will be the  $\eta'$ . The transverse (5d) vector will provide the tower of  $U(1)_A$  vector mesons.

- The term  $C_1 \times Z_4 \sim V C_1 [F_L \wedge F_L + F_R \wedge F_R] + \dots$  couples the flavor instanton density to the baryon vertex.

- Using  $Z_6 = d\Omega_5$  we may rewrite the last term as

$$\int F_0 \wedge \Omega_5 \quad , \quad F_0 = dC_{-1}$$

$F_0 \sim N_c$  is nothing else but the dual of the five-form field strength. This term then provides the correct Chern-Simons form that reproduces the flavor anomalies of QCD. It contains the tachyon non-trivially

*Casero+Kiritsis+Paredes*

- To proceed further and analyze the vacuum solution we set  $T = \tau \mathbf{1}$  and set the vectors to zero. Then the DBI action collapses to

$$S[\tau, A_M] = N_c N_f \int dr d^4x e^{-\Phi} V(\tau) \sqrt{-\det(g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu \tau \partial_\nu \tau)}$$

We assume the following tachyon potential, motivated/calculated in studies of tachyon condensation:

$$V(\tau) = V_0 e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2} \tau^2}$$

where  $\mu$  has dimension of mass. It is fixed by the requirement that  $\tau$  has the correct bulk mass to couple to the quark bilinear operator on the boundary.

# Tachyon dynamics

- In the vacuum the gauge fields vanish and  $T \sim 1$ . Only DBI survives

$$S[\tau] = T_{D_4} \int dr d^4x \frac{e^{4A_s(r)}}{\lambda} V(\tau) \sqrt{e^{2A_s(r)} + \dot{\tau}(r)^2} \quad , \quad V(\tau) = e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2}\tau^2}$$

- We obtain the nonlinear field equation:

$$\ddot{\tau} + \left(3\dot{A}_S - \frac{\dot{\lambda}}{\lambda}\right) \dot{\tau} + e^{2A_S} \mu^2 \tau + e^{-2A_S} \left[4\dot{A}_S - \frac{\dot{\lambda}}{\lambda}\right] \dot{\tau}^3 + \mu^2 \tau \dot{\tau}^2 = 0.$$

- In the UV we expect

$$\tau = m_q r + \sigma r^3 + \dots \quad , \quad \mu^2 \ell^2 = 3$$

- We expect that the tachyon must diverge before or at  $r = r_0$ . We find that indeed it does **at the (dilaton) singularity**. For the  $r_0 = \infty$

backgrounds

$$\tau \sim \exp \left[ \frac{2}{a} \frac{R}{\ell^2} r \right] \quad \text{as} \quad r \rightarrow \infty$$

- Generically the solutions have spurious singularities:  $\tau(r_*)$  stays finite but its derivatives diverges because:

$$\tau \sim \tau_* + \gamma \sqrt{r_* - r}.$$

The condition that they are absent determines  $\sigma$  as a function of  $m_q$ .

- The easiest spectrum to analyze is that of vector mesons. We find ( $r_0 = \infty$ )

$$\Lambda_{glueballs} = \frac{1}{R}, \quad \Lambda_{mesons} = \frac{3}{\ell} \left( \frac{\alpha \ell^2}{2R^2} \right)^{(\alpha-1)/2} \propto \frac{1}{R} \left( \frac{\ell}{R} \right)^{\alpha-2}.$$

This suggests that  $\alpha = 2$  preferred also from the glue sector (linear trajectories).

# Shortcomings

Not everything is perfect: There are some shortcomings localized at the UV

- The conformal anomaly (proportional to the curvature) is incorrect.
- Shear viscosity ratio is constant and equal to that of N=4 sYM.  
(This is not expected to be a serious error in the experimentally interesting  $T_c \leq T \leq 4T_c$  range.)

Both of the above need Riemann curvature corrections.

- Many other observables come out very well both at  $T=0$  and finite  $T$

# Finite temperature

The theory at finite temperature can be described by:

(1) The “thermal vacuum solution”. This is the zero-temperature solution we described so far with time periodically identified with period  $\beta$ .

(2) “black-hole” solutions

$$ds^2 = b(r)^2 \left[ \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} - f(r) dt^2 + dx^i dx^i \right], \quad \lambda = \lambda(r)$$

♠ We need VERY UNUSUAL boundary conditions: The dilaton (scalar) is diverging at the boundary so that  $\lambda \sim e^\phi \rightarrow \frac{1}{\log r} \rightarrow 0$

♠ The boundary AdS is NOT at a minimum of the potential.

• Such type of solutions have not been analyzed so far in the literature.



# General phase structure

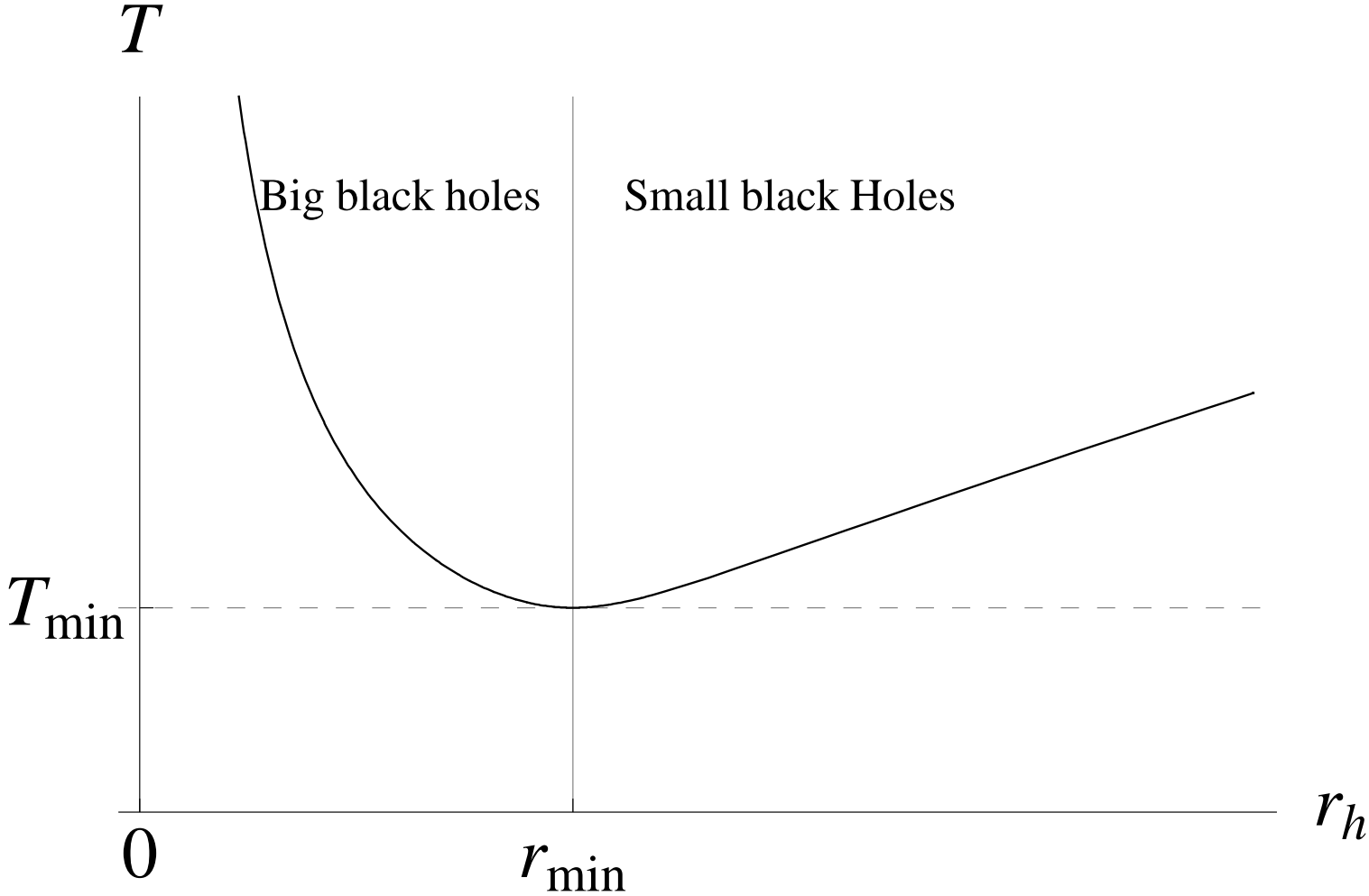
- For a general potential (with no minimum) the following can be shown :
  - There exists a phase transition at finite  $T = T_c$ , if and only if the zero- $T$  theory confines.*
  - This transition is of the first order for all of the confining geometries, with a single exception described in iii:*
  - In the limit confining geometry  $b_0(r) \rightarrow e^{-Cr}$ ,  $\lambda_0 \rightarrow e^{\frac{3}{2}Cr}$ , (as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ ), the phase transition is of the second order and happens at  $T = 3C/4\pi$ .*

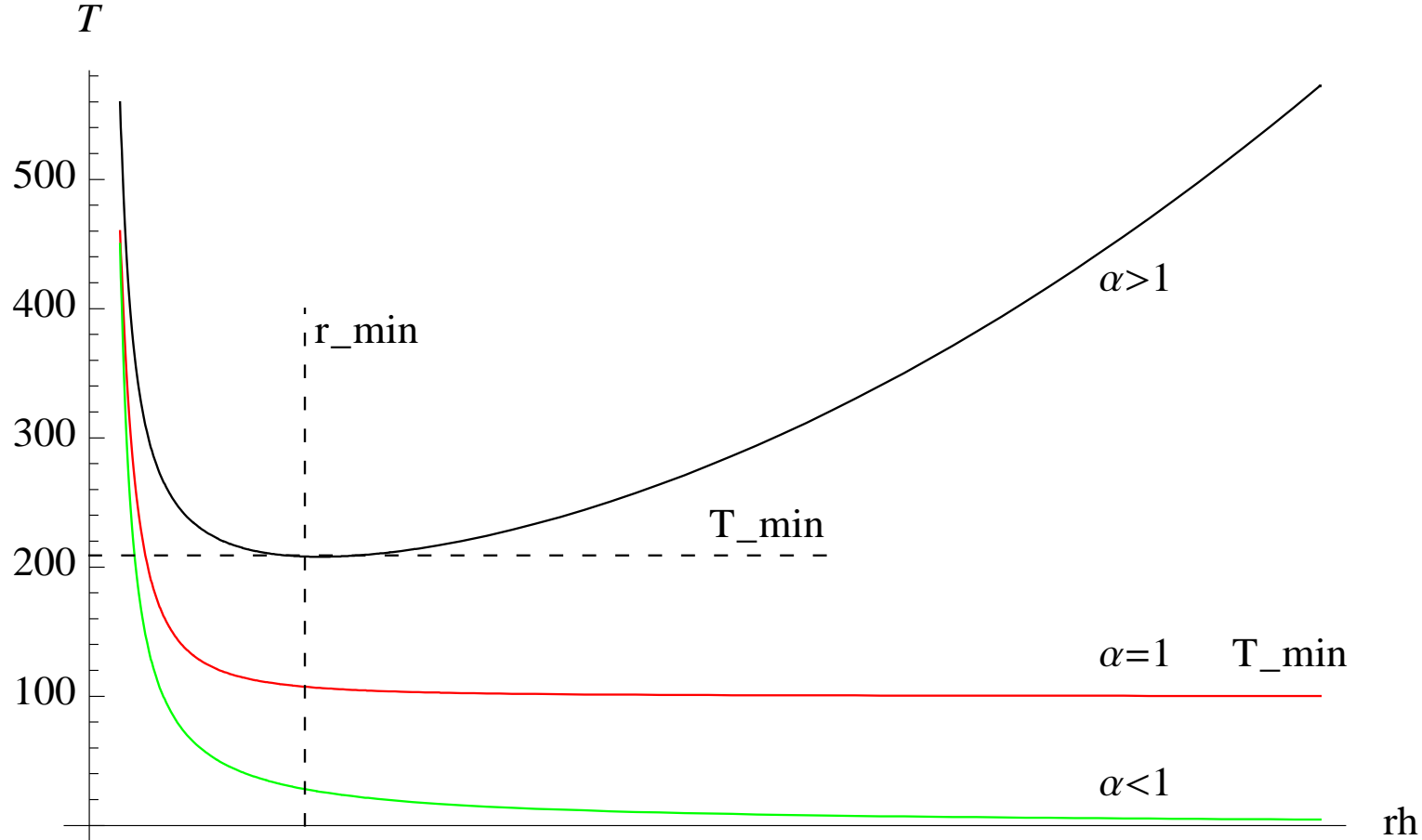
This is the linear dilaton vacuum solution in the IR.
  - All of the non-confining geometries at zero  $T$  are always in the black hole phase at finite  $T$ . They exhibit a second order phase transition at  $T = 0^+$ .*

# Finite-T Confining Theories

- There is a minimal temperature  $T_{min}$  for the existence of Black-hole solutions
- When  $T < T_{min}$  only the “thermal vacuum solution” exists: it describes the confined phase at small temperatures.
- For  $T > T_{min}$  there are two black-hole solutions with the same temperature but different horizon positions. One is a “large” BH the other is “small”.
- When  $T > T_{min}$  three competing solutions exist. The large BH has the lowest free energy for  $T > T_c > T_{min}$ . It describes the deconfined “Gluon-Glass” phase.

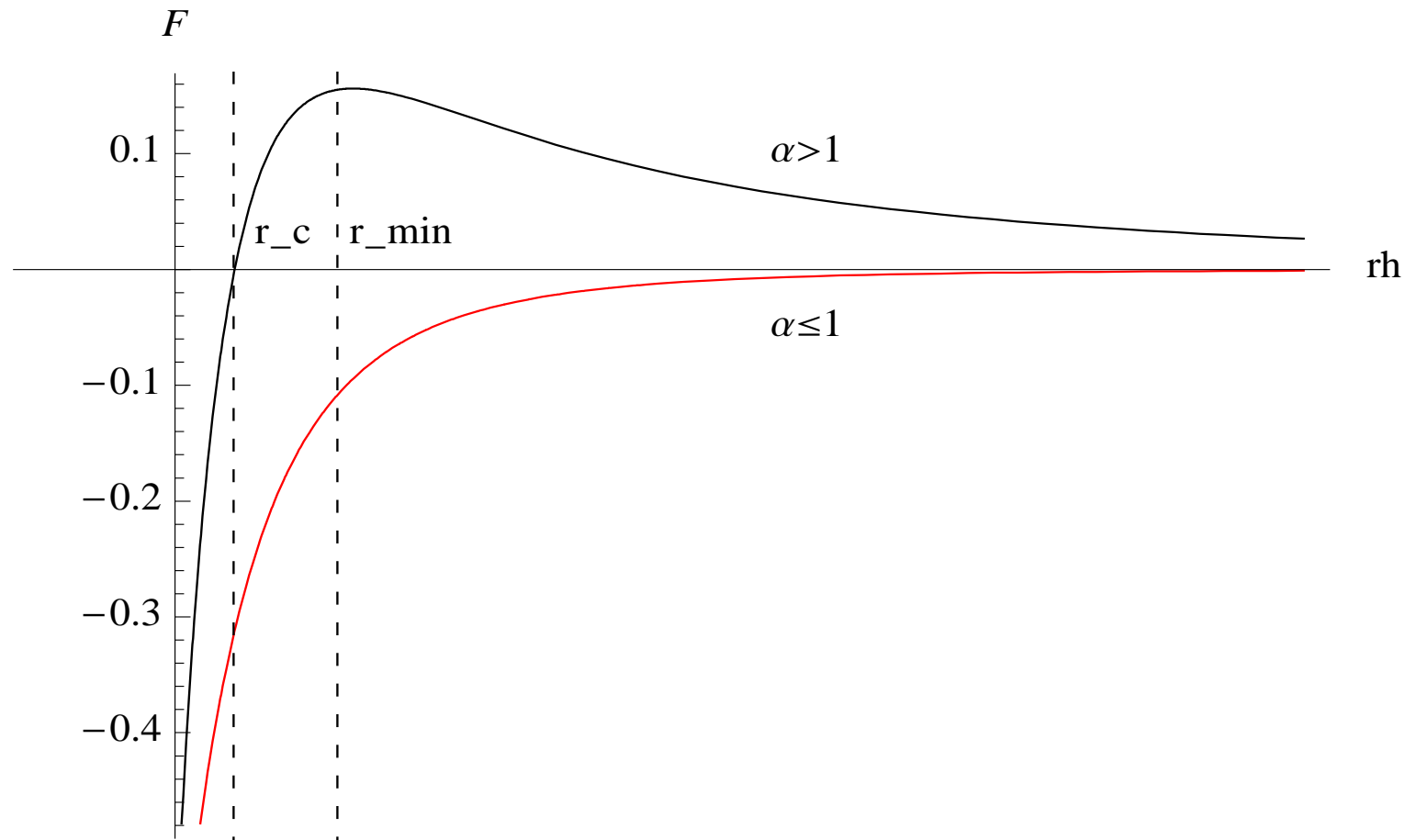
# Temperature versus horizon position





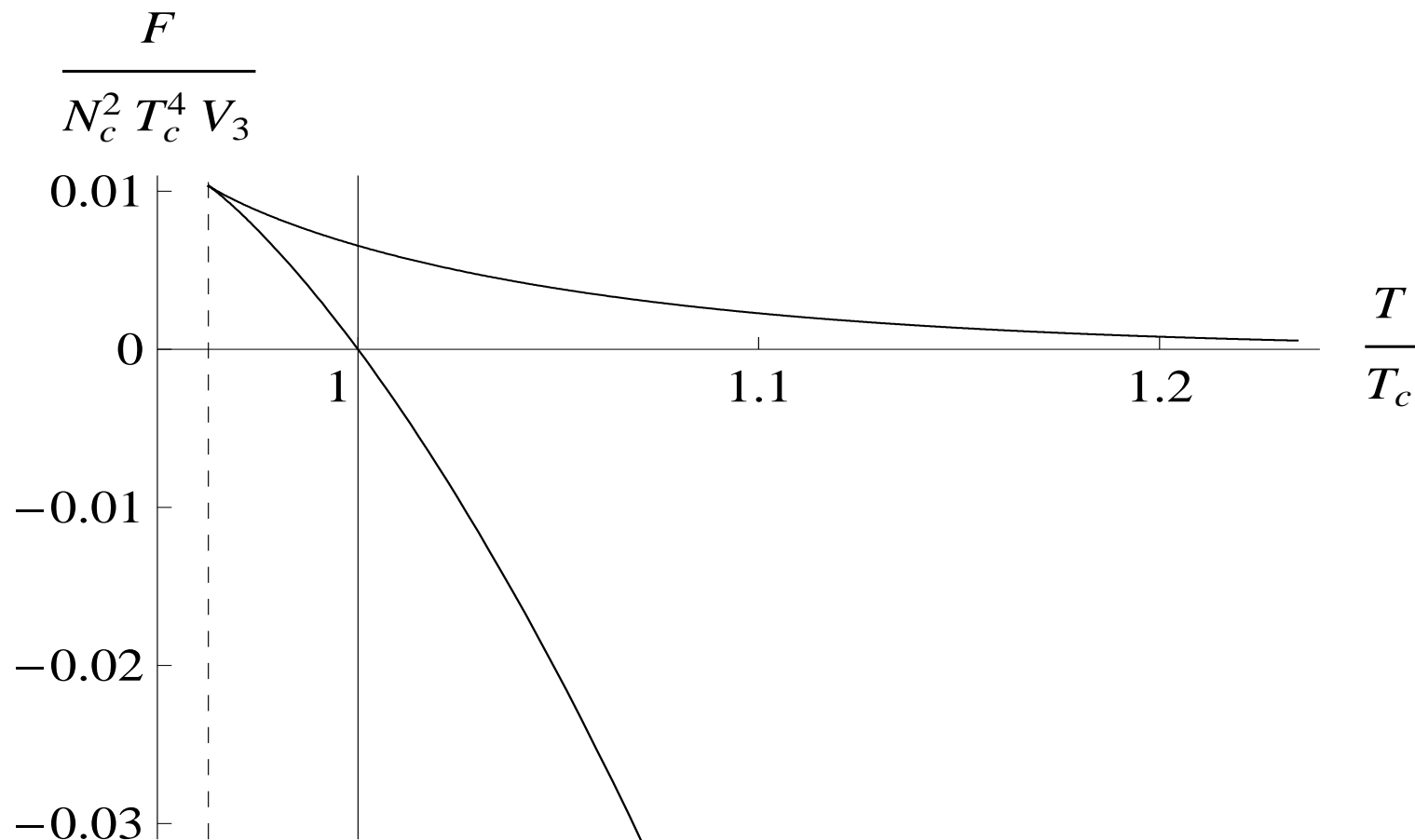
We plot the relation  $T(r_h)$  for various potentials parameterized by  $a$ .  $a = 1$  is the critical value below which there is only one branch of black-hole solutions.

# Free energy versus horizon position



We plot the relation  $\mathcal{F}(r_h)$  for various potentials parameterized by  $a$ .  $a = 1$  is the critical value below which there is no first order phase transition .

# The transition in the free energy



# The free energy

- The free energy is calculated from the action as a boundary term for both the black-holes and the thermal vacuum solution. They are all UV divergent but their differences are finite.

$$\frac{\mathcal{F}}{M_p^3 V_3} = 12\mathcal{G}(T) - T S(T)$$

- $\mathcal{G}$  is the temperature-dependent gluon condensate  $\langle Tr[F^2] \rangle_T - \langle Tr[F^2] \rangle_{T=0}$  defined as

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \lambda_T(r) - \lambda_{T=0}(r) = \mathcal{G}(T) r^4 + \dots$$

- It is  $\mathcal{G}$  that breaks conformal invariance essentially and leads to a non-trivial deconfining transition (as  $S > 0$  always)
- The axion solution must be constant above the phase transition (black-hole). This is the only regular solution. (the would be normalizable solution diverges at the BH horizon). Therefore  $\langle F \wedge F \rangle$  vanishes in agreement with indications from lattice data.

# The conformal anomaly in flat space

- In YM we have the following anomaly equation in flat space:

$$T_{\mu}^{\mu} = \frac{\beta(\lambda_t)}{4\lambda_t^2} \text{Tr}[F^2],$$

- Defining the pressure  $p$  and energy density  $\rho$ ,

$$p = -\frac{\mathcal{F}}{V_3}, \quad \rho = \frac{\mathcal{F} + TS}{V_3},$$

the trace is

$$\langle T_{\mu}^{\mu} \rangle_R = \rho - 3p = 60M_p^3 N_c^2 \mathcal{G}(T) = \frac{\beta(\lambda_t)}{4\lambda_t^2} (\langle \text{Tr}[F^2] \rangle_T - \langle \text{Tr}[F^2] \rangle_o),$$

- The left hand side is the trace of the renormalized thermal stress tensor,  $\langle T_{\mu}^{\mu} \rangle_R = \langle T_{\mu}^{\mu} \rangle - \langle T_{\mu}^{\mu} \rangle_o$ , and it is proportional to  $\mathcal{G} \sim \langle \text{Tr}[F^2] \rangle$ ,



# Parameters

- We have 3 initial conditions in the system of graviton-dilaton equations:

♠ One is fixed by picking the branch that corresponds asymptotically to

$$\lambda \sim \frac{1}{\log(r\Lambda)}$$

♠ The other fixes  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{QCD}$ .

♠ The third is a gauge artifact as it corresponds to a choice of the origin of the radial coordinate.

- We parameterize the potential as

$$V(\lambda) = \frac{12}{\ell^2} \left\{ 1 + V_0\lambda + V_1\lambda^{4/3} \left[ \log \left( 1 + V_2\lambda^{4/3} + V_3\lambda^2 \right) \right]^{1/2} \right\},$$

- We fix the one and two loop  $\beta$ -function coefficients:

$$V_0 = \frac{8}{9}b_0 \quad , \quad V_2 = b_0^4 \left( \frac{23 + 36b_1/b_0^2}{81V_1^2} \right)^2, \quad \frac{b_1}{b_0^2} = \frac{51}{121}.$$

and remain with two leftover arbitrary (phenomenological) coefficients.

- We also have the Planck scale  $M_p$

Asking for correct  $T \rightarrow \infty$  thermodynamics (free gas) fixes

$$(M_p \ell)^3 = \frac{1}{45\pi^2} \quad , \quad M_{\text{physical}} = M_p N_c^{\frac{2}{3}} = \left( \frac{8}{45\pi^2 \ell^3} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \simeq 4.6 \text{ GeV}$$

- The fundamental string scale. It can be fixed by comparing with lattice string tension

$$\sigma = \frac{b^2(r_*) \lambda^{4/3}(r_*)}{2\pi \ell_s^2},$$

$$\ell/\ell_s \sim \mathcal{O}(1).$$

- $\ell$  is not a parameter due to a special "scaling" pseudosymmetry:

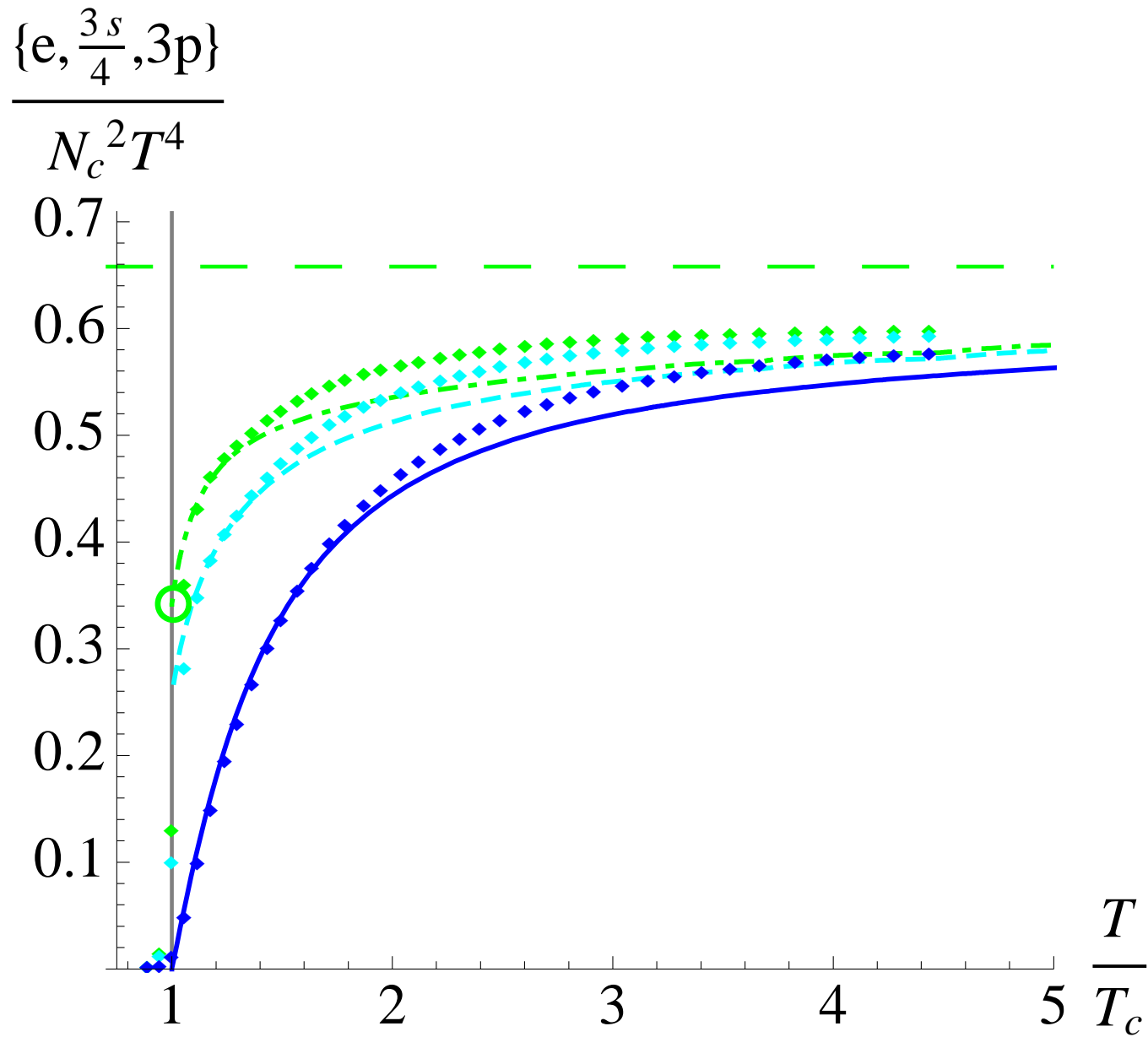
$$e^\phi \rightarrow \kappa e^\phi \quad , \quad g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \kappa^{\frac{4}{3}} g_{\mu\nu} \quad , \quad \ell \rightarrow \kappa^{\frac{2}{3}} \ell \quad , \quad \ell_s \rightarrow \kappa^{\frac{2}{3}} \ell_s \quad , \quad V(e^\phi) \rightarrow V(\kappa e^\phi)$$

## Fit and comparison

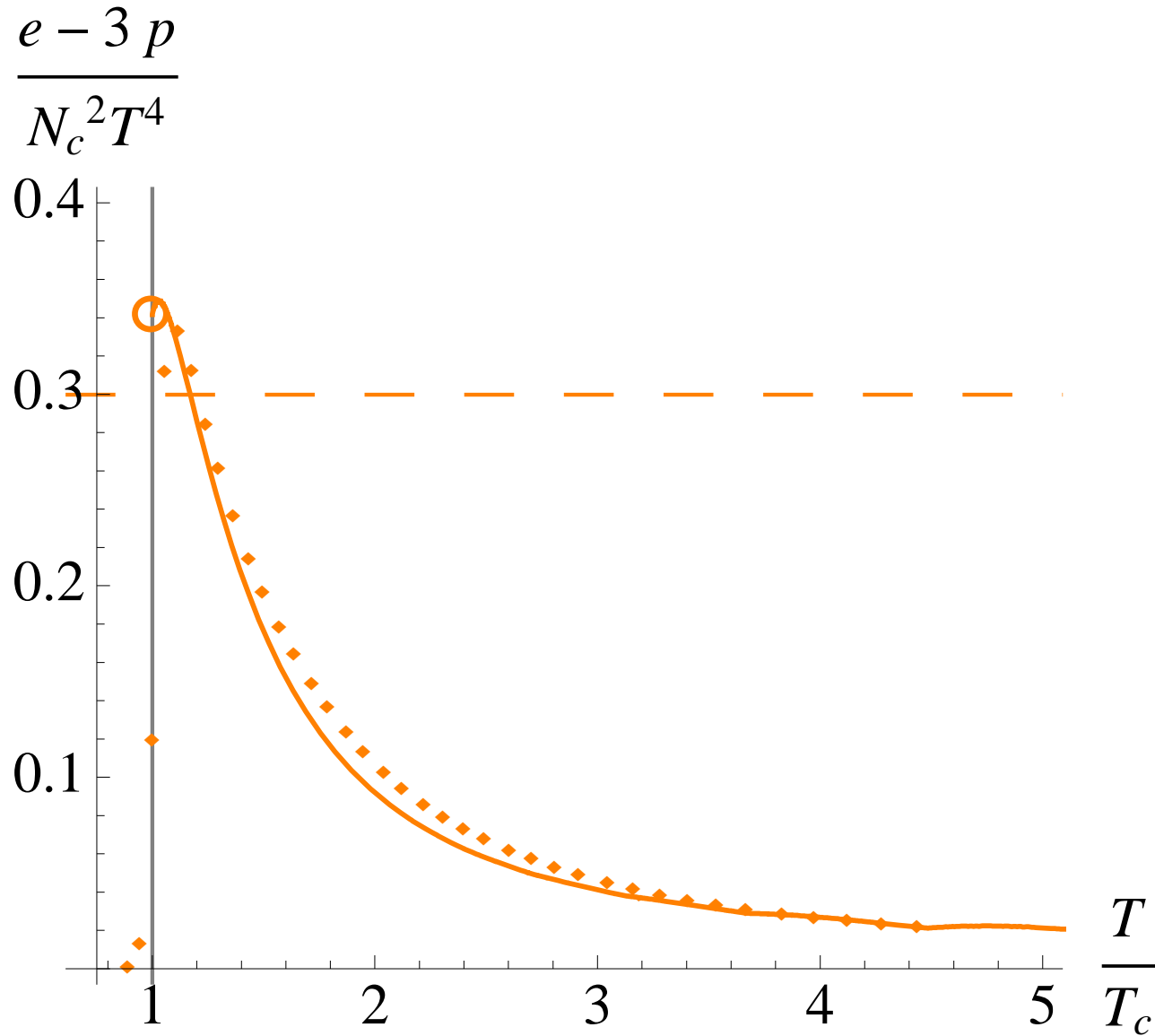
	HQCD	lattice $N_c = 3$	lattice $N_c \rightarrow \infty$	Parameter
$[p/(N_c^2 T^4)]_{T=2T_c}$	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	-	$V1 = 14$
$L_h/(N_c^2 T_c^4)$	<b>0.31</b>	0.28 (Karsch)	<b>0.31</b> (Teper+Lucini)	$V3 = 170$
$[p/(N_c^2 T^4)]_{T \rightarrow +\infty}$	$\pi^2/45$	$\pi^2/45$	$\pi^2/45$	$M_p \ell = [45\pi^2]^{-1/3}$
$m_{0^{++}}/\sqrt{\sigma}$	<b>3.37</b>	3.56 (Chen )	<b>3.37</b> (Teper+Lucini)	$\ell_s/\ell = 0.92$
$m_{0^{-+}}/m_{0^{++}}$	<b>1.49</b>	<b>1.49</b> (Chen )	-	$c_a = 0.26$
$\chi$	<b>(191 MeV)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>(191 MeV)<sup>4</sup></b> (DeLDebbio)	-	$Z_0 = 133$
$T_c/m_{0^{++}}$	0.167	-	0.177(7)	
$m_{0^{*++}}/m_{0^{++}}$	1.61	1.56(11)	1.90(17)	
$m_{2^{++}}/m_{0^{++}}$	1.36	1.40(4)	1.46(11)	
$m_{0^{*-+}}/m_{0^{++}}$	2.10	2.12(10)	-	

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*“ $SU(N)$  gauge theories in four dimensions: Exploring the approach to  $N = \infty$ ,”* JHEP **0106**, 050 (2001) [[arXiv:hep-lat/0103027](#)].
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# Thermodynamic variables



# Equation of state



# The pressure from the lattice at different N

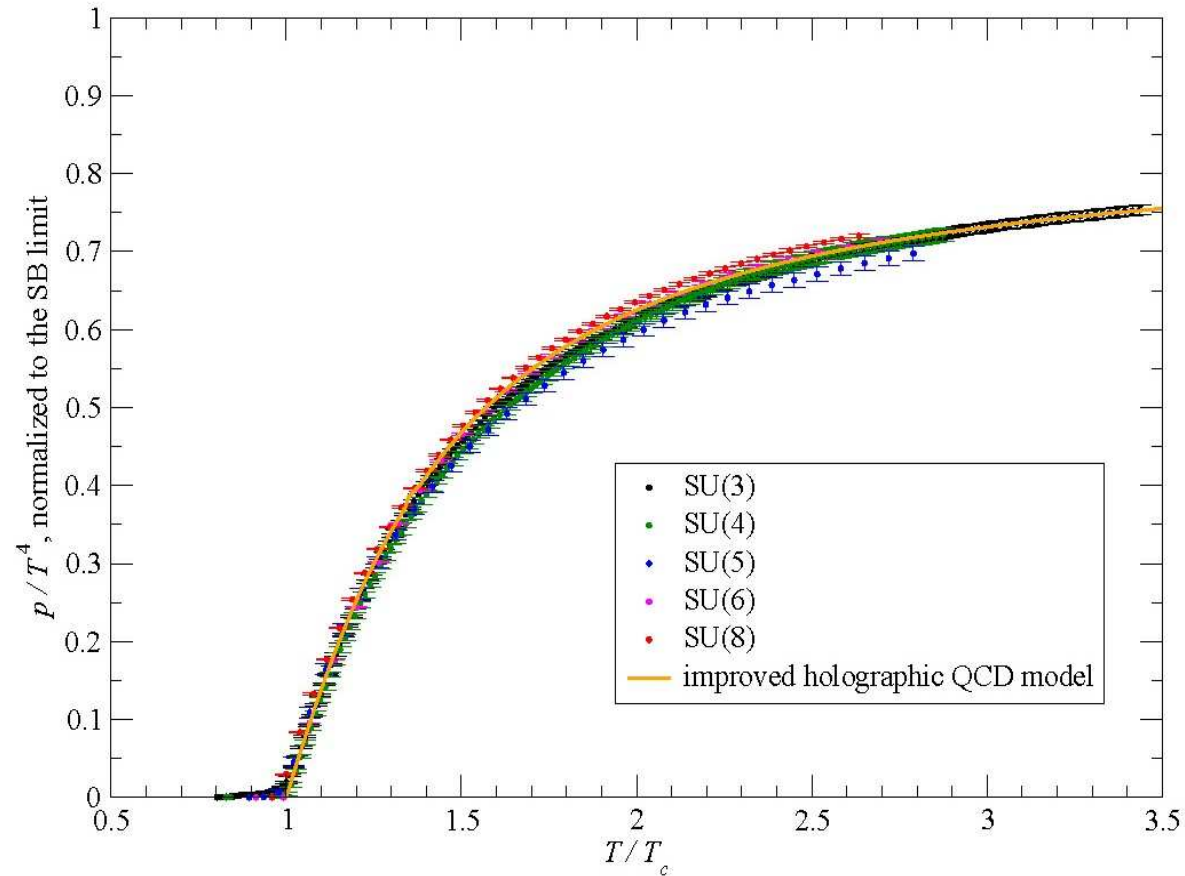


Figure 1: (Color online) The dimensionless ratio  $p/T^4$ , normalized to the lattice SB limit  $\pi^2(N^2 - 1)R_I(N_t)/45$ , versus  $T/T_c$ , as obtained from simulations of  $SU(N)$  lattice gauge theories on  $N_t = 5$  lattices. Errorbars denote statistical uncertainties only. The results corresponding to different gauge groups are denoted by different colors, according to the legend. The yellow solid line denotes the prediction from the improved holographic QCD model from ref. [75] (with a trivial, parameter-free rescaling to our normalization).

Marco Panero arXiv: 0907.3719

# The entropy from the lattice at different N

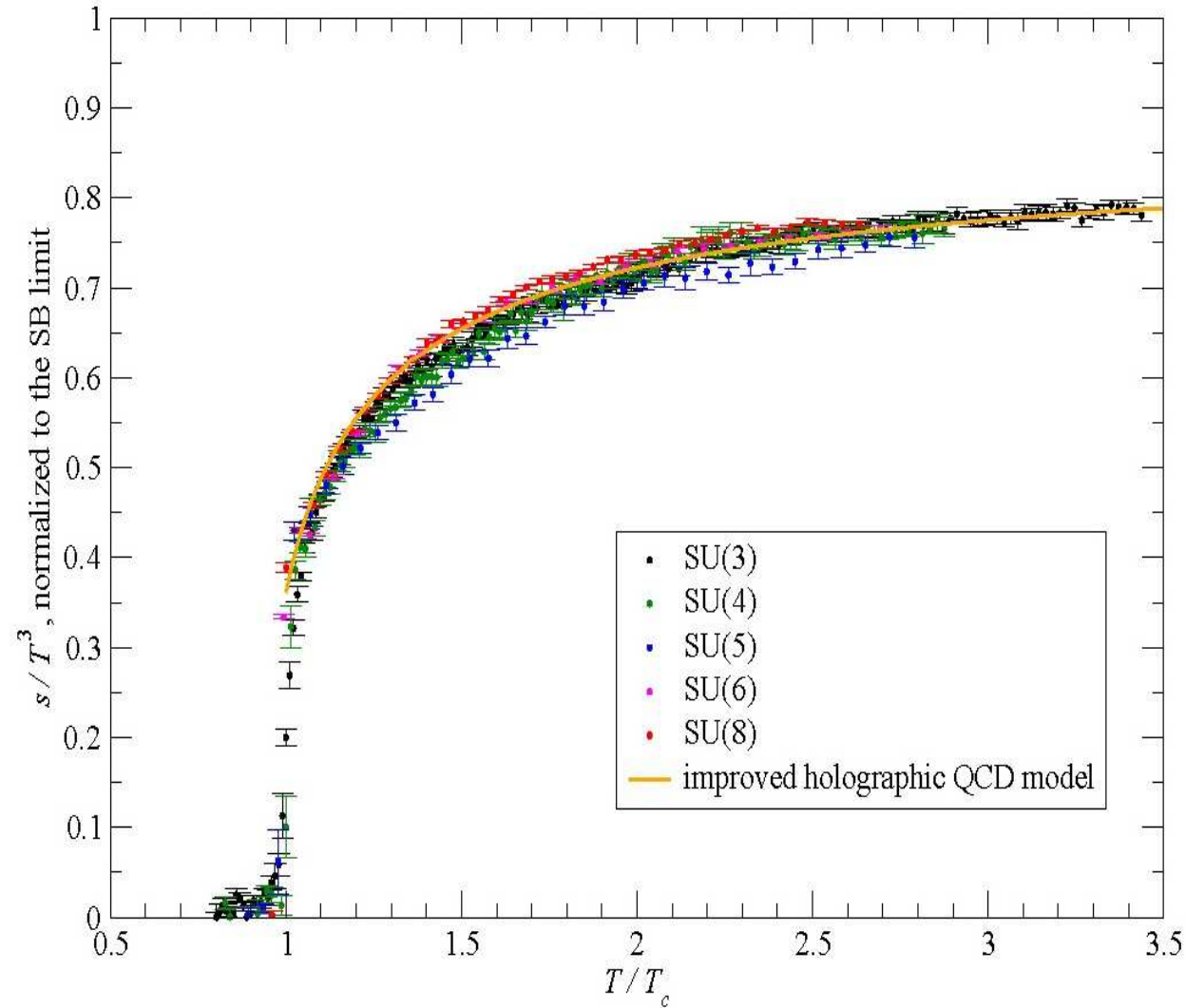


Figure 4: (Color online) Same as in fig. 1, but for the  $s/T^3$  ratio, normalized to the SB limit.

Marco Panero arXiv: 0907.3719



# The trace from the lattice at different N

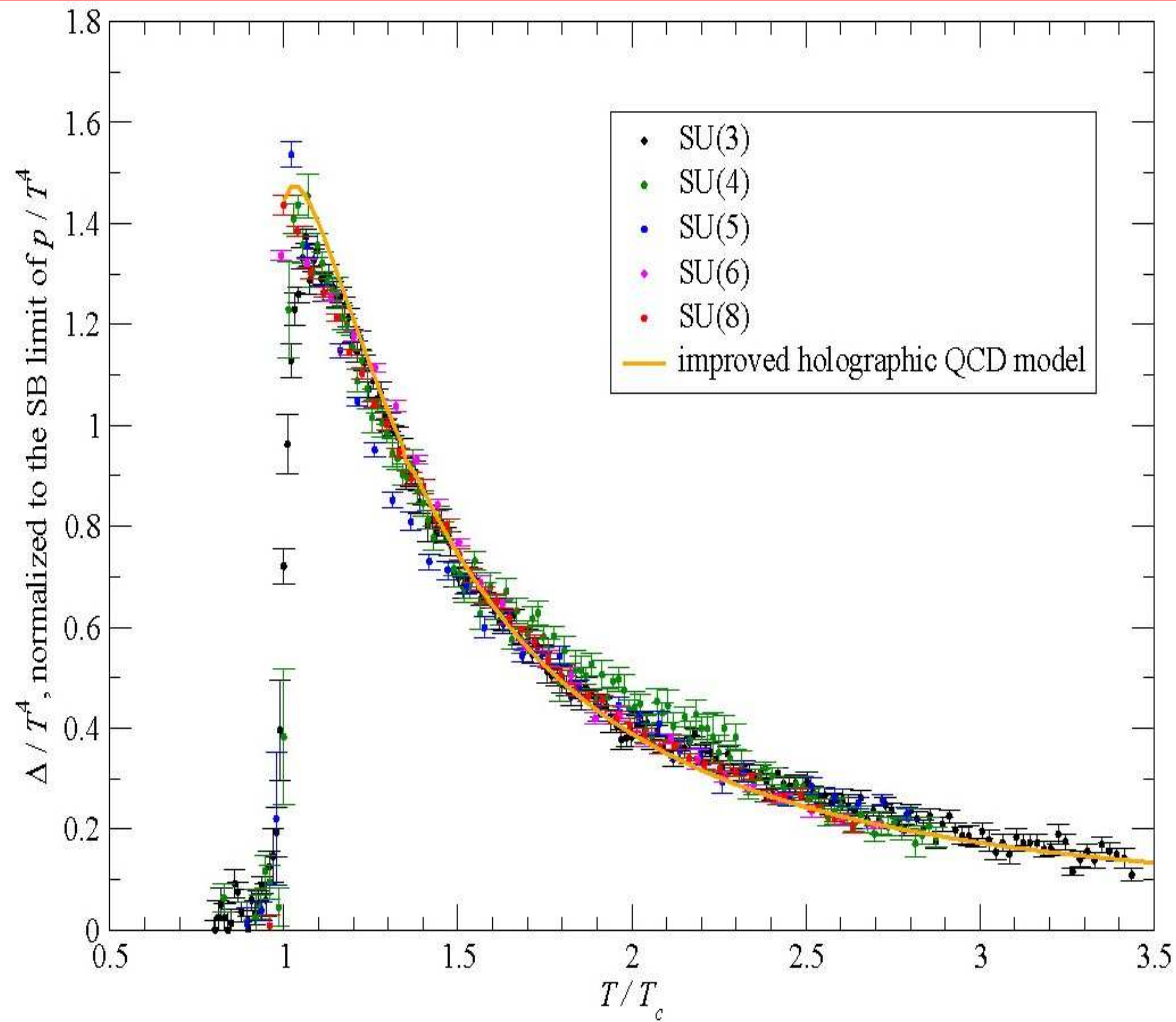
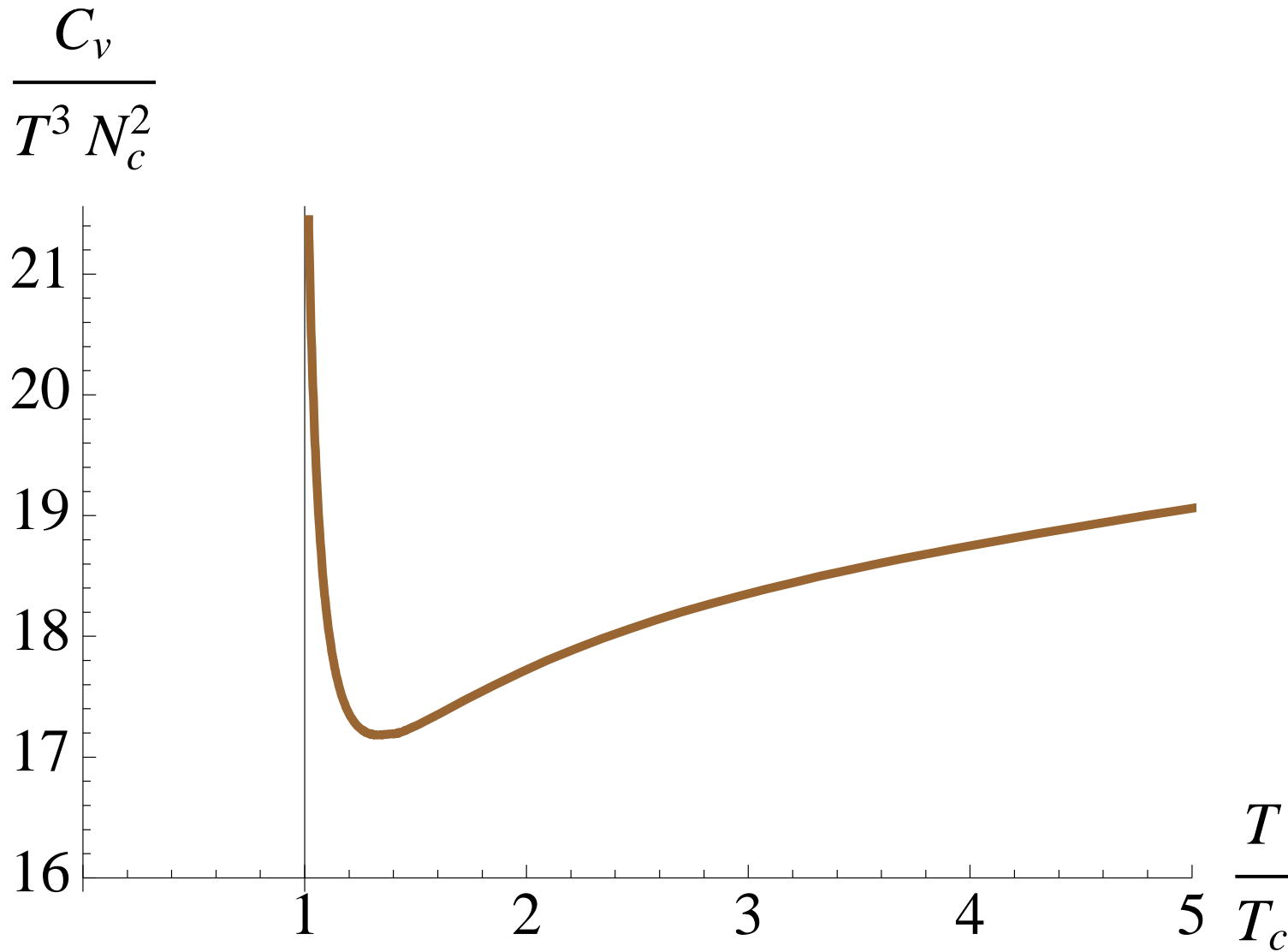


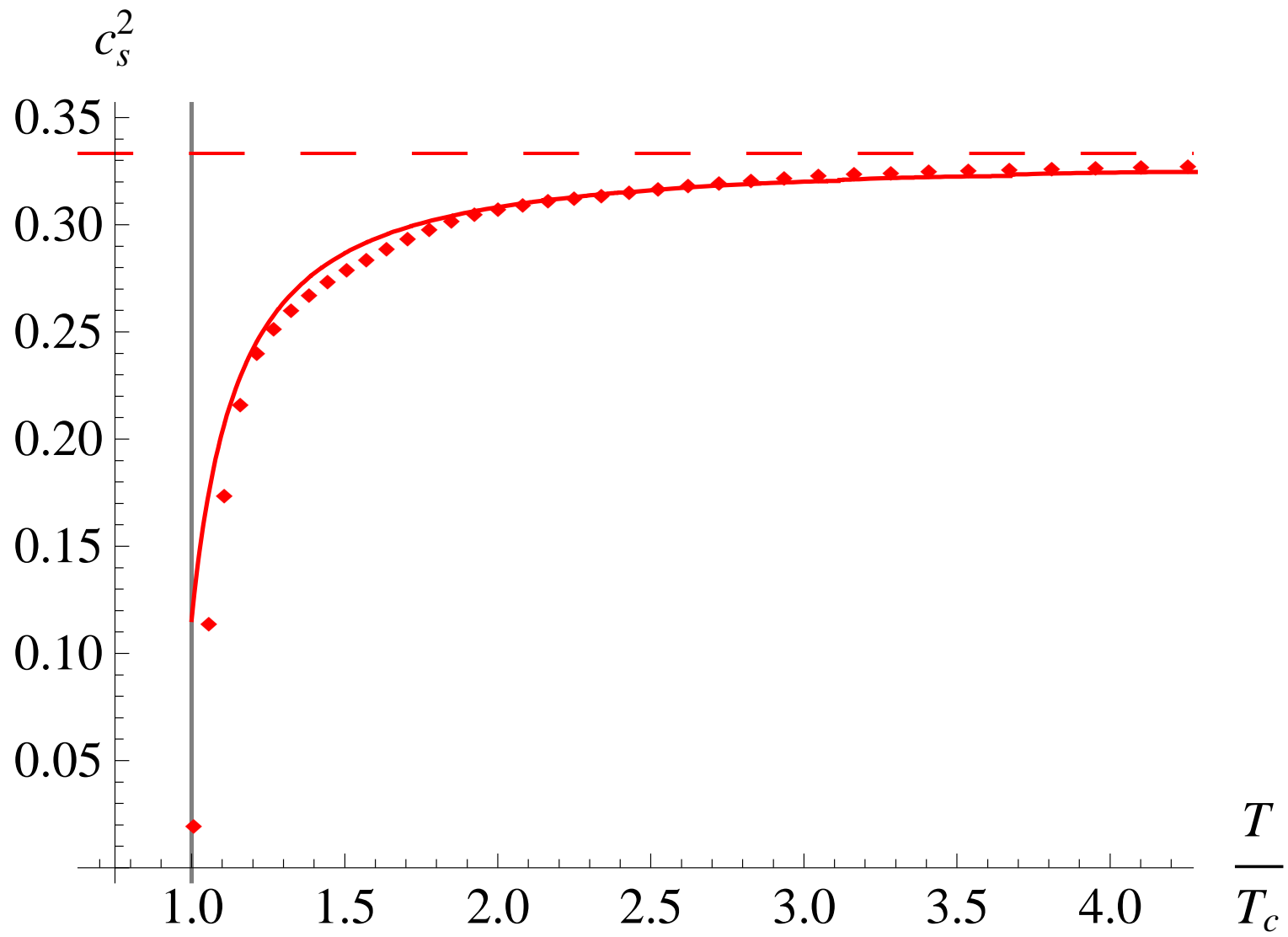
Figure 2: (Color online) Same as in fig. 1, but for the  $\Delta/T^4$  ratio, normalized to the SB limit of  $p/T^4$ .

Marco Panero arXiv: 0907.3719

# The specific heat

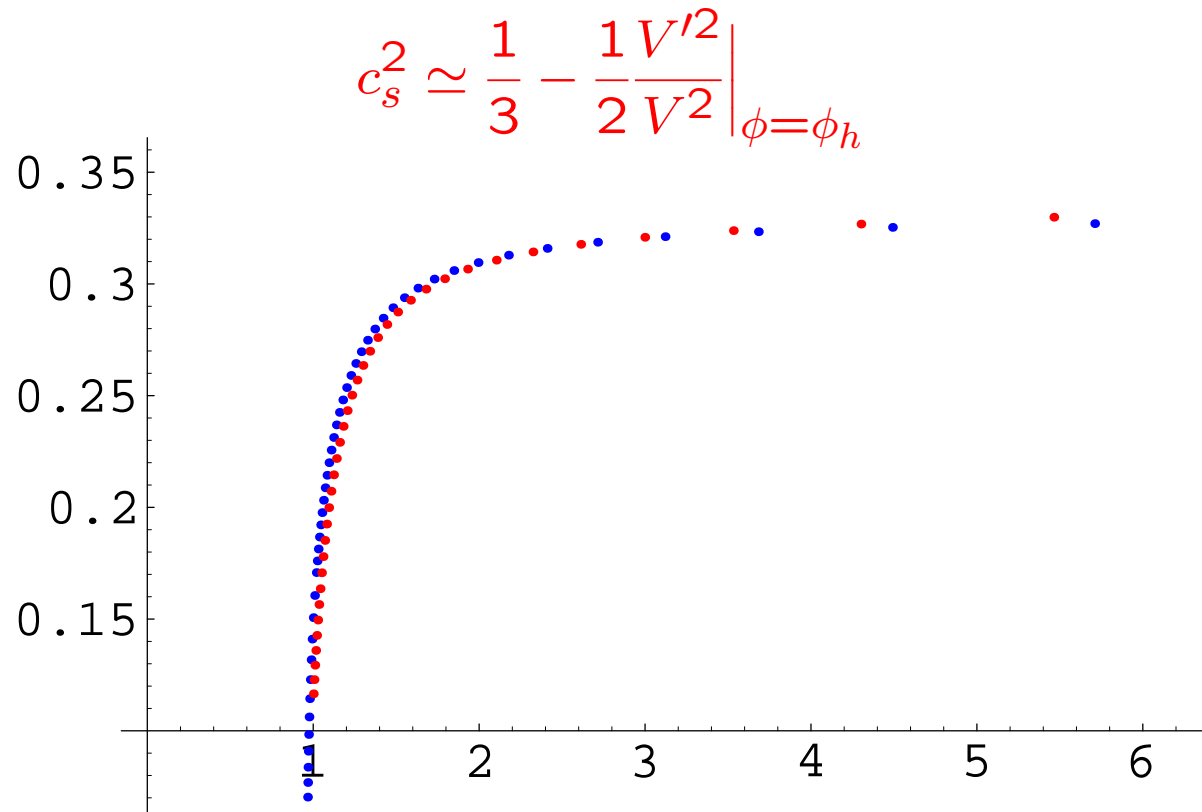


# The speed of sound



# Comparing to Gubser+Nelore's formula

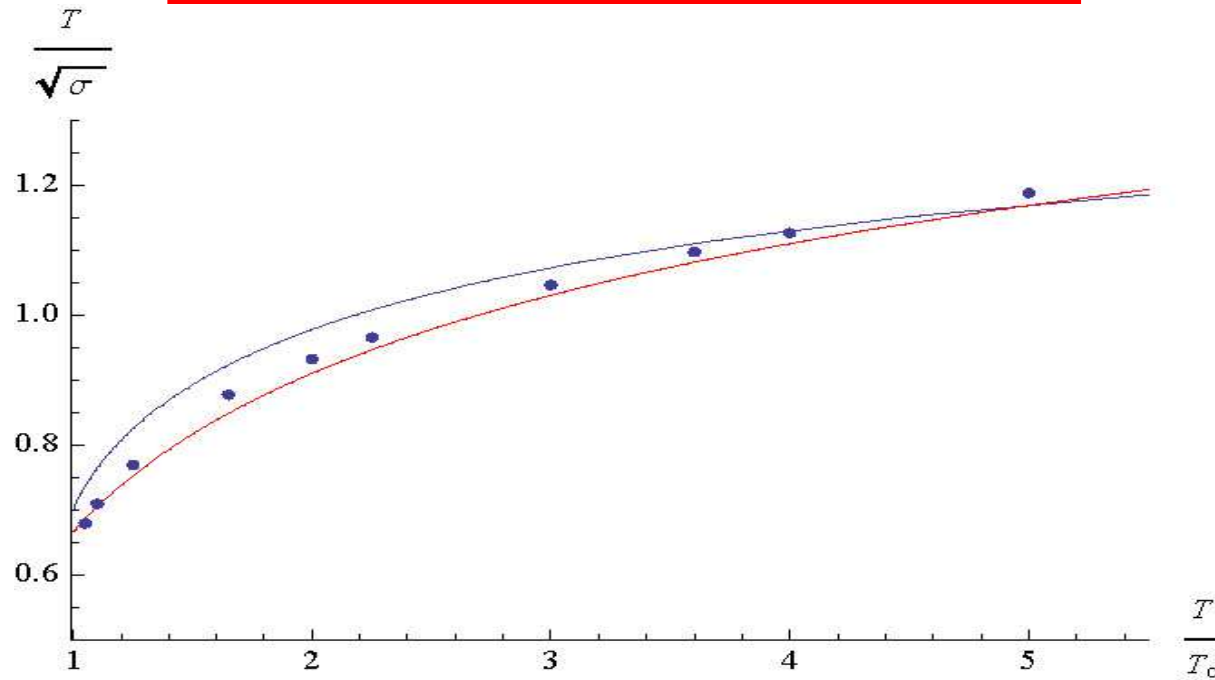
- Gubser+Nelore proposed the following approximate formula for the speed of sound



*Gursoy (unpublished) 2009*

- **Red curve**=numerical calculation, **Blue curve**=Gubser's adiabatic/approximate formula.

# Spatial string tension



*G. Boyd et al. 1996*

- The blue line is the spatial string tension as calculated in Improved hQCD, with no additional fits.

*Nitti (unpublished) 2009*

- The red line is a semi-phenomenological fit using

$$\frac{T}{\sqrt{\sigma_s}} = 0.51 \left[ \log \frac{\pi T}{T_c} + \frac{51}{121} \log \left( 2 \log \frac{\pi T}{T_c} \right) \right]^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

*Alanen+Kajantie+Suur-Uski, 2009*

# Open problems

## THEORETICAL:

- Investigate further the structure of the string dual of QCD. Try to control the UV physics (to which RR flux plays little role).

## MORE PRACTICAL:

- Re-Calculate quantities relevant for heavy ion collisions: jet quenching parameters, drag force and correlators of fluctuations determining the langevin diffusion of heavy quarks
- Calculate the finite-temperature Polyakov loops and Debye screening lengths in various symmetry channels.
- Investigate quantitatively the meson sector
- Calculate the phase diagram in the presence of baryon number.

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Thank you for your Patience



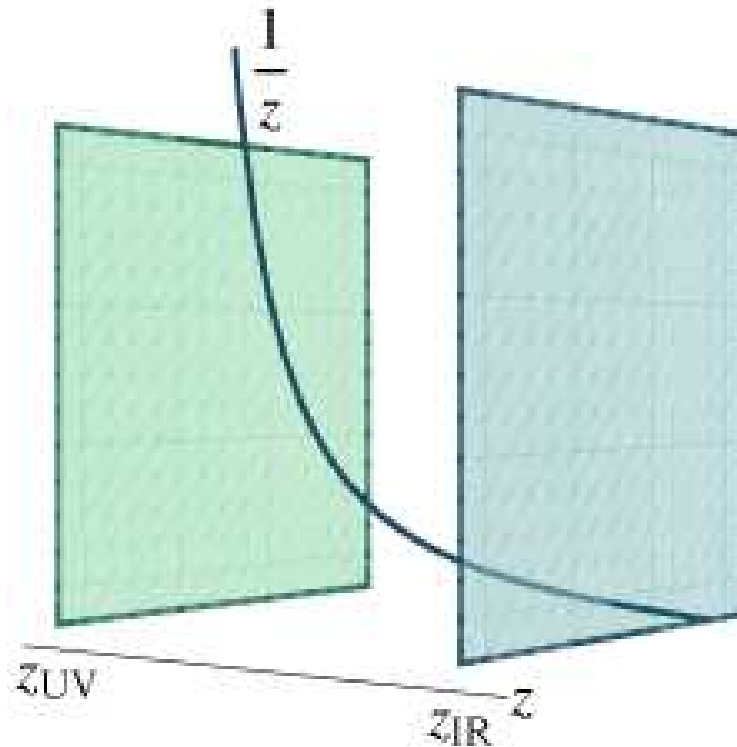
# AdS/QCD

♠ A basic phenomenological approach: use a slice of  $\text{AdS}_5$ , with a UV cutoff, and an IR cutoff. *Polchinski+Strassler*

♠ It successfully exhibits confinement (trivially via IR cutoff), and power-like behavior in hard scattering amplitudes

♠ It may be equipped with a bifundamental scalar,  $T$ , and  $U(N_f)_L \times U(N_f)_R$ , gauge fields to describe mesons. *Erlich+Katz+Son+Stepanov, DaRold+Pomarol*

Chiral symmetry is broken by hand, via IR boundary conditions. The low-lying meson spectrum looks "reasonable".



## ♠ Shortcomings:

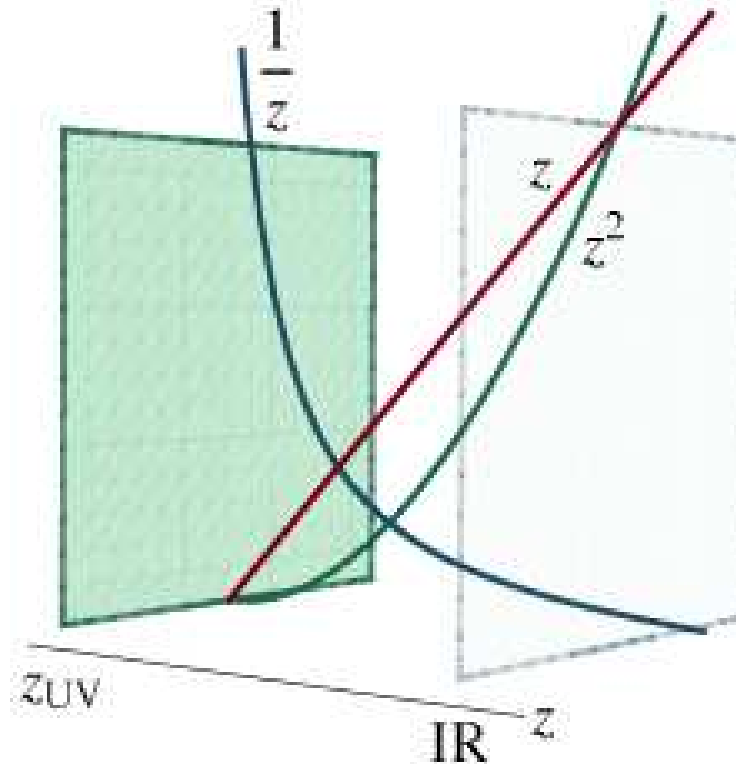
- The glueball spectrum does not fit very well the lattice calculations. It has the wrong asymptotic behavior  $m_n^2 \sim n^2$  at large  $n$ .
- Magnetic quarks are confined instead of screened.
- Chiral symmetry breaking is input by hand.
- The meson spectrum has also the wrong UV asymptotics  $m_n^2 \sim n^2$ .
- at finite temperature there is a deconfining transition but the equation of state is trivial (conformal) (e-2p) and the speed of sound is  $c_s^2 = \frac{1}{3}$ .

# The “soft wall”

♠ The asymptotic spectrum can be fixed by introducing a **non-dynamical** dilaton profile  $\Phi \sim r^2$  (soft wall)

*Karch+Katz+Son+Stephanov*

● It is not a solution of equations of motion: the metric is still AdS: Neither  $g_{\mu\nu}$  nor  $\Phi$  solves the equations of motion.



# General criterion for confinement

- the geometric version:

A geometry that shrinks to zero size in the IR is dual to a confining 4D theory if and only if the Einstein metric in conformal coordinates vanishes as (or faster than)  $e^{-Cr}$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , for some  $C > 0$ .

- It is understood here that a metric vanishing at finite  $r = r_0$  also satisfies the above condition.

- ♠ the superpotential

A 5D background is dual to a confining theory if the superpotential grows as (or faster than)

$$W \sim (\log \lambda)^{P/2} \lambda^{2/3} \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow \infty, \quad P \geq 0$$

- ♠ the  $\beta$ -function A 5D background is dual to a confining theory if and only if

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\beta(\lambda)}{3\lambda} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \log \lambda = K, \quad -\infty \leq K \leq 0$$

(No explicit reference to any coordinate system) Linear trajectories correspond to  $K = -\frac{3}{16}$

# Classification of confining superpotentials

Classification of confining superpotentials  $W(\lambda)$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  in IR:

$$W(\lambda) \sim (\log \lambda)^{\frac{P}{2}} \lambda^Q, \quad \lambda \sim E^{-\frac{9}{4}Q} \left( \log \frac{1}{E} \right)^{\frac{P}{2Q}}, \quad E \rightarrow 0.$$

- $Q > 2/3$  or  $Q = 2/3$  and  $P > 1$  leads to confinement and a singularity at finite  $r = r_0$ .

$$e^A(r) \sim \begin{cases} (r_0 - r)^{\frac{4}{9Q^2-4}} & Q > \frac{2}{3} \\ \exp \left[ -\frac{C}{(r_0-r)^{1/(P-1)}} \right] & Q = \frac{2}{3} \end{cases}$$

- $Q = 2/3$ , and  $0 \leq P < 1$  leads to confinement and a singularity at  $r = \infty$  The scale factor  $e^A$  vanishes there as

$$e^A(r) \sim \exp[-Cr^{1/(1-P)}].$$

- $Q = 2/3, P = 1$  leads to confinement but the singularity may be at a finite or infinite value of  $r$  depending on subleading asymptotics of the superpotential.

♠ If  $Q < 2\sqrt{2}/3$ , no *ad hoc* boundary conditions are needed to determine the glueball spectrum  $\rightarrow$  One-to-one correspondence with the  $\beta$ -function This is unlike standard AdS/QCD and other approaches.

- when  $Q > 2\sqrt{2}/3$ , the spectrum is not well defined without extra boundary conditions in the IR because both solutions to the mass eigenvalue equation are IR normalizable.

## Confining $\beta$ -functions

A 5D background is dual to a confining theory if and only if

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\beta(\lambda)}{3\lambda} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \log \lambda = K, \quad -\infty \leq K \leq 0$$

(No explicit reference to any coordinate system). Linear trajectories correspond to  $K = -\frac{3}{16}$

- We can determine the geometry if we specify  $K$ :
- $K = -\infty$ : the scale factor goes to zero at some finite  $r_0$ , not faster than a power-law.
- $-\infty < K < -3/8$ : the scale factor goes to zero at some finite  $r_0$  faster than any power-law.
- $-3/8 < K < 0$ : the scale factor goes to zero as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  faster than  $e^{-Cr^{1+\epsilon}}$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ .
- $K = 0$ : the scale factor goes to zero as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  as  $e^{-Cr}$  (or faster), but slower than  $e^{-Cr^{1+\epsilon}}$  for any  $\epsilon > 0$ .

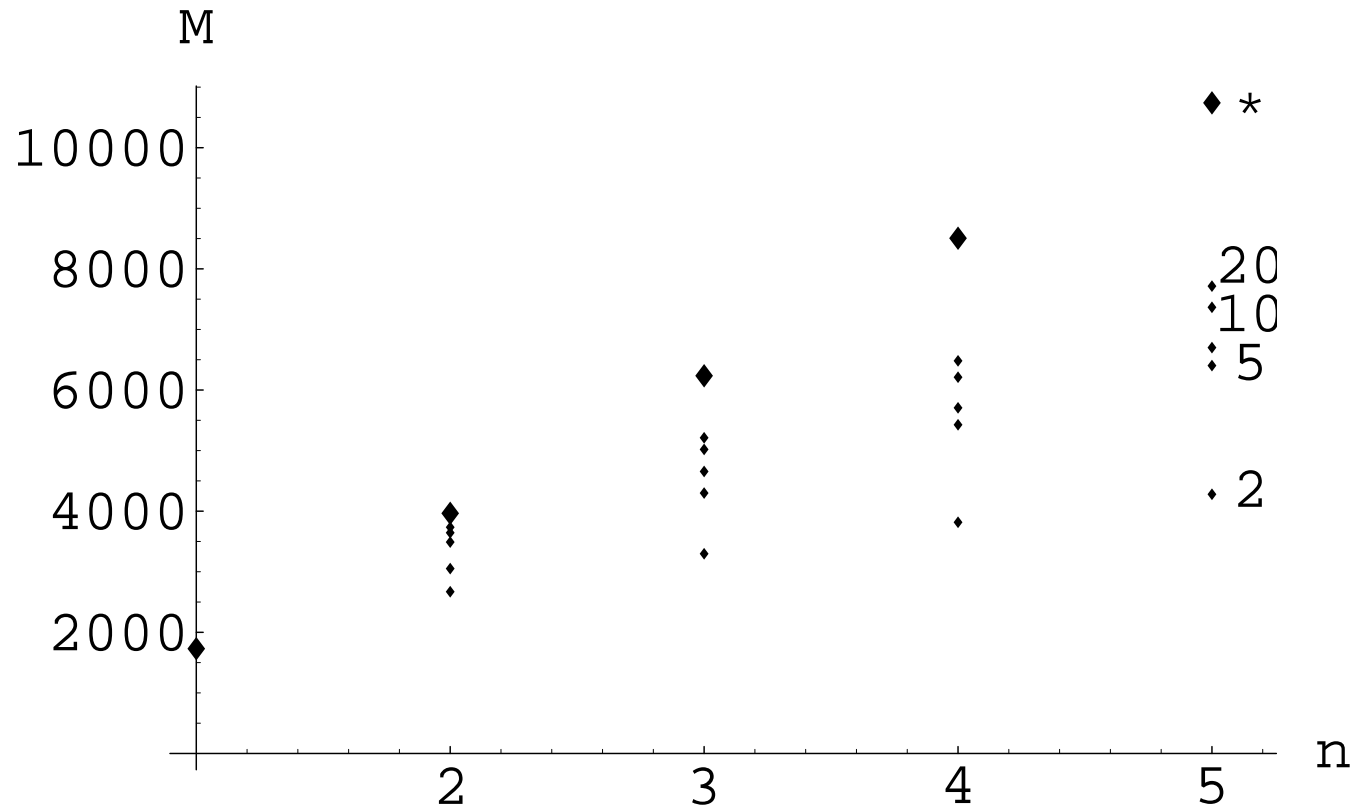
The borderline case,  $K = -3/8$ , is certainly confining (by continuity), but whether or not the singularity is at finite  $r$  depends on the subleading terms.

# The lattice glueball data

$J^{++}$	Ref. I ( $m/\sqrt{\sigma}$ )	Ref. I (MeV)	Ref. II ( $mr_0$ )	Ref. II (MeV)	$N_c \rightarrow \infty(m/\sqrt{\sigma})$
0	3.347(68)	1475(30)(65)	4.16(11)(4)	1710(50)(80)	3.37(15)
0*	6.26(16)	2755(70)(120)	6.50(44)(7)	2670(180)(130)	6.43(50)
0**	7.65(23)	3370(100)(150)	NA	NA	NA
0***	9.06(49)	3990(210)(180)	NA	NA	NA
2	4.916(91)	2150(30)(100)	5.83(5)(6)	2390(30)(120)	4.93(30)
2*	6.48(22)	2880(100)(130)	NA	NA	NA
$R_{20}$	1.46(5)	1.46(5)	1.40(5)	1.40(5)	1.46(11)
$R_{00}$	1.87(8)	1.87(8)	1.56(15)	1.56(15)	1.90(17)

Available lattice data for the scalar and the tensor glueballs. Ref. I = [H. B. Meyer, \[arXiv:hep-lat/0508002\]](#). and Ref. II = [C. J. Morningstar and M. J. Peardon, \[arXiv:hep-lat/9901004\]](#) + [Y. Chen et al., \[arXiv:hep-lat/0510074\]](#). The first error corresponds to the statistical error from the continuum extrapolation. The second error in Ref.I is due to the uncertainty in the string tension  $\sqrt{\sigma}$ . (Note that this does not affect the mass ratios). The second error in the Ref. II is the estimated uncertainty from the anisotropy. In the last column we present the available large  $N_c$  estimates according to [B. Lucini and M. Teper, \[arXiv:hep-lat/0103027\]](#). The parenthesis in this column shows the total possible error followed by the estimations in the same reference.

# $\alpha$ -dependence of scalar spectrum



The  $0^{++}$  spectra for varying values of  $\alpha$  that are shown at the right end of the plot. The symbol  $*$  denotes the AdS/QCD result.



## B<sub>2</sub> – C<sub>2</sub> mixing

- B<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> are typically massless.
- In the presence of C<sub>4</sub> flux, this is not the case:

$$S = -M^3 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{e^{-2\phi}}{2 \cdot 3!} H_3^2 + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3!} F_3^2 + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 5!} F_5^2 \right], \quad F_3 = dC_2, \quad H_3 = dB_2, \quad F_5 = dC_4 - C_2 \wedge H_3$$

The equations of motion that stem from this action are\*

$$\nabla^\mu (e^{-2\phi} H_{3,\mu\nu\rho}) + \frac{1}{4} F_{5,\nu\rho\alpha\beta\gamma} F_3^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0, \quad \nabla^\mu F_{3,\mu\nu\rho} + \frac{1}{4} F_{5,\nu\rho\alpha\beta\gamma} H_3^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0$$

$$\nabla^\mu F_{5,\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad F_{5,\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} = \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} 2N_c}{\sqrt{g} 3\ell_s}$$

Substituting

$$\nabla^\mu (e^{-2\phi} H_{3,\mu\nu\rho}) + \frac{N_c}{6\ell_s} \frac{\epsilon_{\nu\rho\alpha\beta\gamma}}{\sqrt{g}} F_3^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0, \quad \nabla^\mu F_{3,\mu\nu\rho} + \frac{N_c}{6\ell_s} \frac{\epsilon_{\nu\rho\alpha\beta\gamma}}{\sqrt{g}} H_3^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0$$

We finally decouple the equations:

$$\nabla^\mu \left[ \nabla^\nu (e^{-2\phi} H_{3,\mu\rho\sigma} + \text{cyclic}) + \frac{N_c^2}{12 \cdot 5! \ell_s^2} H_{3,\nu\rho\sigma} \right] = 0$$

and a similar one for F<sub>3</sub>. This equation has uniform N<sub>c</sub> scaling for e<sup>ϕ</sup> ∼ λ/N<sub>c</sub>

- Both B<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> combine to a massive two-tensor, that is dual to the C – odd non-conserved operator  $Tr[F_{[\mu a} F^{ab} F_{b\nu]} + \frac{1}{4} F_{ab} F^{ab} F_{\mu\nu}]$  with UV dimension 6.

RETURN

## $D_0 - F_1$ charges

We may dualize  $C_2 \rightarrow C_1$

$$(F_3)_{\mu\nu\rho} = \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau}}{2\sqrt{g}} \left( F^{\sigma\tau} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} B^{\sigma\tau} \right) \quad , \quad F = dC_1$$

The equations become

$$\nabla^\mu \left( e^{-2\phi} H_{\mu\nu\rho} \right) + \left( \frac{N_c}{2\ell_s} \right)^2 B_{\nu\rho} + \frac{N_c}{4\ell_s} F_{\nu\rho} = 0 \quad , \quad \nabla^\sigma \left( F_{\sigma\tau} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} B_{\sigma\tau} \right) = 0$$

and stem from a Stueckelberg-type action

$$S = -M^3 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{e^{-2\phi}}{2 \cdot 3!} H_3^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left( F_{\mu\nu} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} B_{\mu\nu} \right)^2 + \frac{2N_c^2}{9\ell_s^2} \right]$$

Under  $B_2$  gauge transformations  $C_1$  transforms

$$\delta B_2 = d\Lambda_1 \quad , \quad \delta C_1 = -\frac{N_c}{\ell_s} \Lambda_1$$

- This implies that  $N_c$  units of fundamental string charge can cancel one unit of  $C_1$  charge.

RETURN

# $D_1 - NS_0$ charges

We now dualize  $B_2 \rightarrow \tilde{B}_1$

$$e^{-2\phi}(H_3)_{\mu\nu\rho} = \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau}}{2\sqrt{g}} \left( \tilde{F}^{\sigma\tau} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} C^{\sigma\tau} \right) \quad , \quad \tilde{F} = d\tilde{B}_1$$

The equations become

$$\nabla^\mu ((F_3)_{\mu\nu\rho}) + e^{2\phi} \left( \frac{N_c}{2\ell_s} \right)^2 C_{\nu\rho} + e^{2\phi} \frac{N_c}{4\ell_s} \tilde{F}_{\nu\rho} = 0 \quad , \quad \nabla^\sigma \left[ e^{2\phi} \left( F_{\sigma\tau} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} B_{\sigma\tau} \right) \right] = 0$$

and stem from a Stuckelberg-type action

$$S = -M^3 \int d^5x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3!} F_3^2 + \frac{e^{2\phi}}{4} \left( \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{N_c}{\ell_s} C_{\mu\nu} \right)^2 + \frac{2N_c^2}{9\ell_s^2} \right]$$

Under  $C_2$  gauge transformations  $C_1$  transforms

$$\delta C_2 = d\Lambda_1 \quad , \quad \delta \tilde{B}_1 = -\frac{N_c}{\ell_s} \Lambda_1$$

- This implies that  $N_c$  units of fundamental D-string charge can cancel one unit of  $\tilde{B}_1$  charge.

RETURN

## Bosonic string or superstring? II

- Consider the axion  $a$  dual to  $Tr[F \wedge F]$ . We can show that it must come from a RR sector.

In large- $N_c$  YM, the proper scaling of couplings is obtained from

$$\mathcal{L}_{YM} = N_c Tr \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda} F^2 + \frac{\theta}{N_c} F \wedge F \right] , \quad \zeta \equiv \frac{\theta}{N_c} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

It can be shown

$$E_{YM}(\theta) = N_c^2 E_{YM}(\zeta) = N_c^2 E_{YM}(-\zeta) \simeq C_0 N_c^2 + C_1 \theta^2 + C_2 \frac{\theta^4}{N_c^2} + \dots \quad \text{Witten}$$

In the string theory action

$$S \sim \int e^{-2\phi} [R + \dots] + (\partial a)^2 + e^{2\phi} (\partial a)^4 + \dots , \quad e^\phi \sim g_{YM}^2 , \quad \lambda \sim N_c e^\phi$$
$$\sim \int \frac{N_c^2}{\lambda^2} [R + \dots] + (\partial a)^2 + \frac{\lambda^2}{N_c^2} (\partial a)^4 + \dots , \quad a = \theta [1 + \dots]$$

RETURN

# Detailed plan of the presentation

- Title page 1 minutes
- Collaborators 2 minutes
- Introduction 4 minutes
- Potential applications 6 minutes
- A string theory for QCD:(Very) basic expectations 10 minutes
- The low energy spectrum 21 minutes
- Bosonic string or superstring? 26 minutes
- The minimal string theory spectrum 31 minutes
- The relevant “defects” 34 minutes
- The string effective action 36 minutes
- The UV regime 48 minutes
- The axion 49 minutes
- UV conclusions 51 minutes
- The IR regime: general expectations 55 minutes

- Improved Holographic QCD: a model 57 minutes
- The UV solution 64 minutes
- Organizing the vacuum solutions 67 minutes
- The IR regime, II 69 minutes
- Wilson loops and confinement 73 minutes
- An assessment of IR asymptotics 78 minutes
- Comments on confining backgrounds 81 minutes
- Selecting the IR asymptotics 84 minutes
- The axion background 92 minutes
- Particle Spectra: generalities 98 minutes
- Linearity of the glueball spectrum 100 minutes
- Comparison with lattice data (Meyer) 102 minutes
- The fit to Meyer Lattice data 105 minutes
- The glueball wavefunctions 106 minutes
- Comparison of scalar and tensor potential 107 minutes

- Adding flavor 117 minutes
- The tachyon DBI action 120 minutes
- The tachyon WZ action 131 minutes
- Tachyon dynamics 135 minutes
- Shortcomings 137 minutes

## FINITE TEMPERATURE

- Finite temperature 139 minutes
- The general phase structure 141 minutes
- Finite-T confining theories 143 minutes
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