

Gravity and holography in lower dimensions II

(3.1) Virasoro algebra from near horizon symmetries

Starting with the $u(1)_k$ current algebra

$$[J_n, J_m] = \frac{k}{2} n \delta_{n+m, 0}$$

prove that the twisted Sugawara construction

$$L_n = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} J_{n-p} J_p + i n J_n$$

yields a Virasoro algebra $[L_n, L_m]$ with central charge $c = 6k$. Moreover, calculate the commutator $[L_n, J_m]$. From a CFT_2 perspective, is J a primary field?

(3.2) Global AdS_3 in near horizon state space?

Consider exact solutions of AdS_3 Einstein gravity (with unit AdS radius) adapted to a near horizon expansion,

$$ds^2 = dr^2 - \kappa^2 \sinh^2 r dt^2 + 2\kappa\omega \sinh^2 r dt d\varphi + (\gamma^2 \cosh^2 r - \omega^2 \sinh^2 r) d\varphi^2$$

with arbitrary (but fixed) κ and arbitrary (state-dependent) ω and γ . Show that these spacetimes, despite of being locally AdS_3 , are not locally asymptotically AdS_3 in the Brown–Henneaux sense. Determine the values for κ , ω and γ such that the metric above is global AdS_3 .

(3.3) Near horizon microstates for BTZ

Consider as BTZ microstates $u(1)_k$ descendants of the vacuum,

$$|\mathcal{B}(\{n_i^\pm\})\rangle = \prod_{\{n_i^\pm > 0\}} (J_{-n_i^+}^+ J_{-n_i^-}^-) |0\rangle$$

labelled by positive integers n_i^\pm , where the vacuum obeys the usual highest weight conditions $J_n^\pm |0\rangle = 0$ for $n \geq 0$. Assuming the integers obey the constraints

$$\sum_i n_i^\pm = c \Delta^\pm \gg 1$$

count the number of different descendants in the limit where $c \Delta^\pm$ are large positive integers. Finally, take the logarithm of that number and compare with Cardy's entropy formula, where c is the central charge and Δ^\pm the eigenvalues of the Virasoro zero mode.

These exercises are due on April 20th 2021.

Hints/comments:

- To calculate $[L_n, L_m]$ it is useful to first calculate $[L_n, J_m]$ (which you need anyhow for this exercise), exploiting the commutator identity $[AB, C] = A[B, C] + [A, C]B$. For the last question recall that a weight h primary field Φ must obey the commutation relations $[L_n, \Phi_m] = ((h-1)n - m)\Phi_{n+m}$.
- For the first part expand at large r and check whether or not you obtain the Fefferman–Graham form $dr^2 + e^{2r} \gamma_{ij}^{(0)} dx^i dx^j + \dots$ with fixed $\gamma_{ij}^{(0)}$. For the last part recall that global AdS_3 has the line-element

$$ds^2 = dr^2 - \cosh^2 r d\bar{t}^2 + \sinh^2 r d\bar{\varphi}^2$$

and note that ‘values’ may be interpreted generously, in particular allowing for complex numbers.

- The number $p(N)$ of partitions of the integer N into positive integers in the limit of large N is given by the Hardy–Ramanujan formula

$$p(N) \simeq \frac{1}{4N\sqrt{3}} \exp\left(2\pi\sqrt{\frac{N}{6}}\right).$$

Knowing this, the exercise should be straightforward. If you need a reminder of the Cardy formula, here it is:

$$S = 2\pi \left(\sqrt{\frac{c\Delta^+}{6}} + \sqrt{\frac{c\Delta^-}{6}} \right)$$

For more physics background on these proposed BTZ black hole microstates see 1607.00009 and 1705.06257.