



# Algebra-Geometric Bootstrapping from OPE Decoupling

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(local) SCFT is  
defined by CFT data

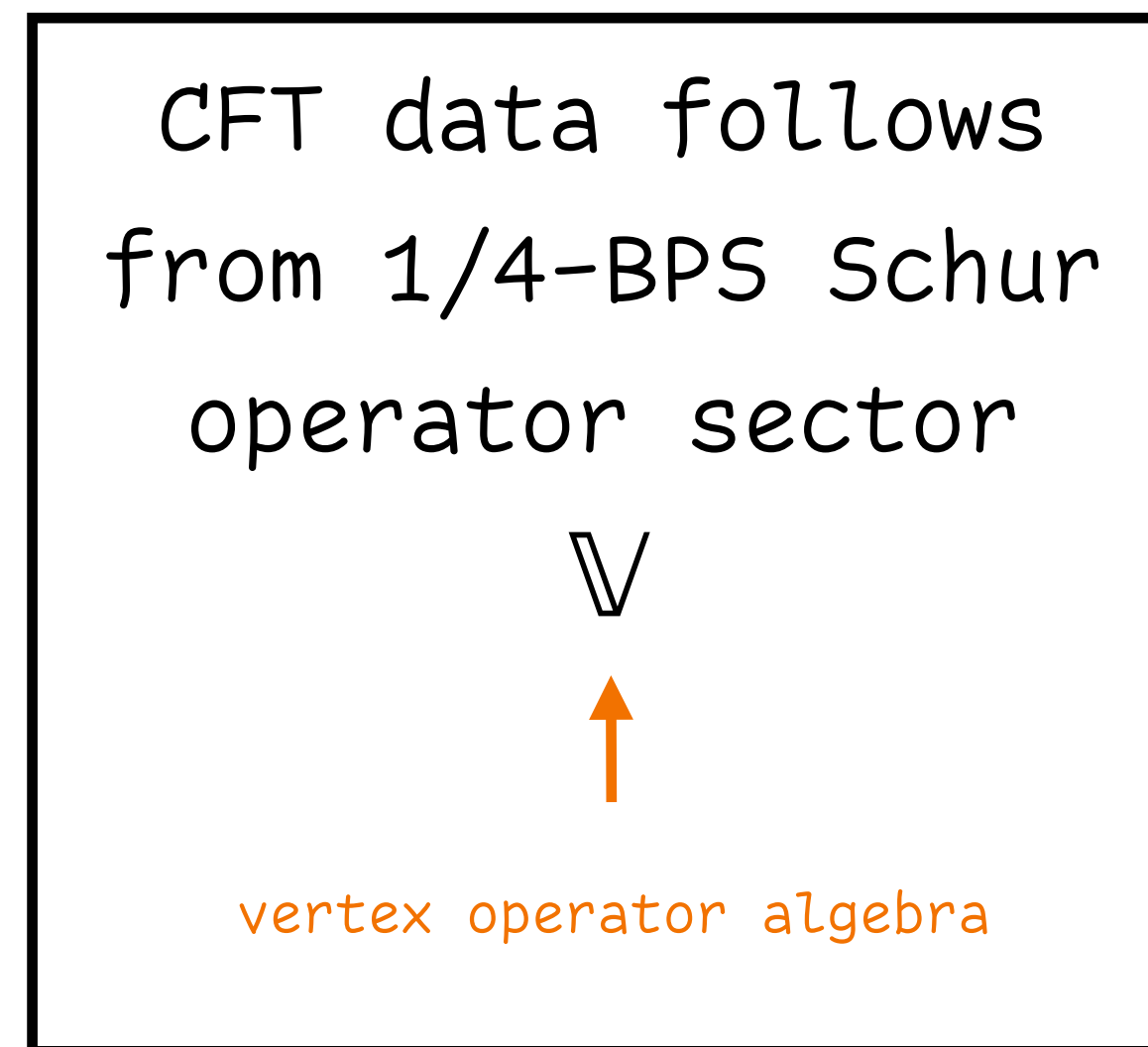
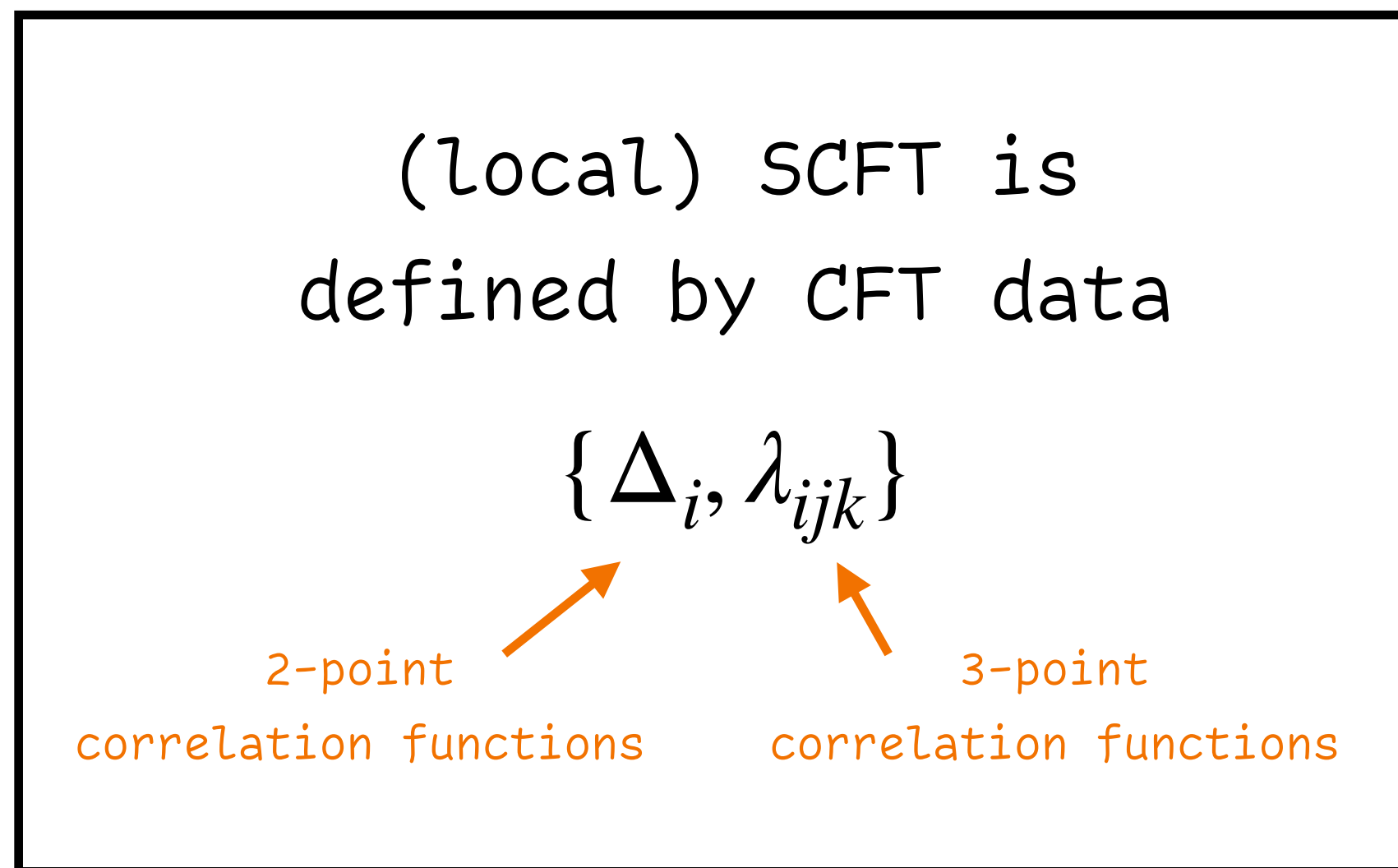
$$\{\Delta_i, \lambda_{ijk}\}$$

2-point  
correlation functions

3-point  
correlation functions

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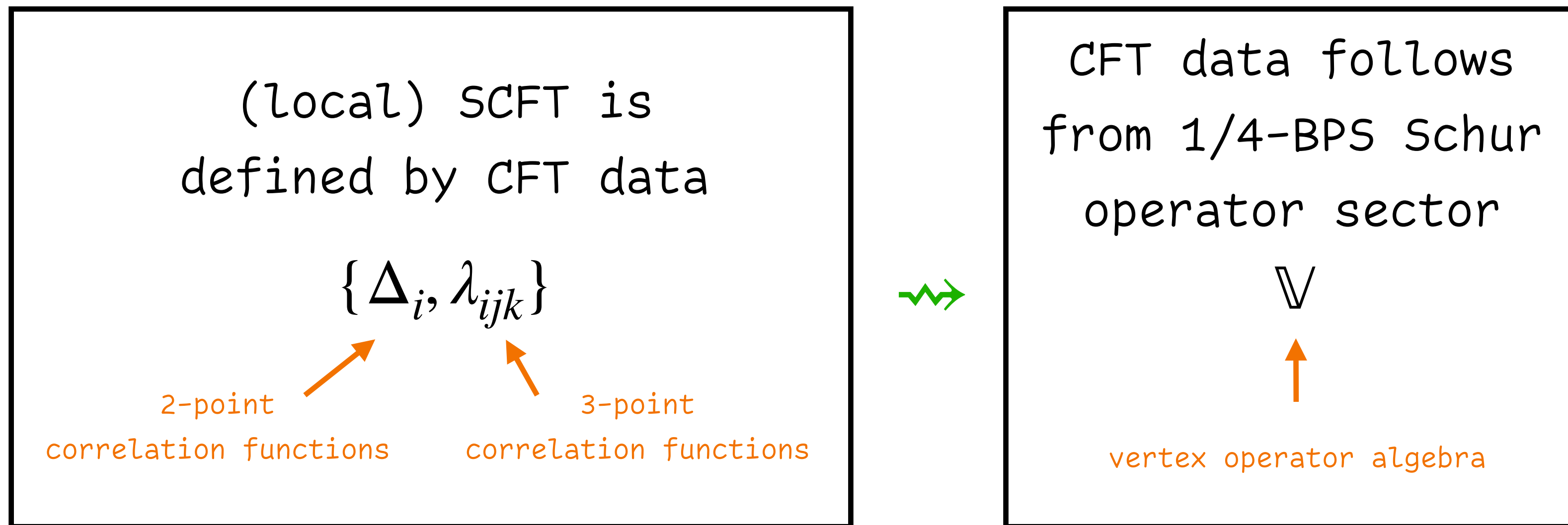
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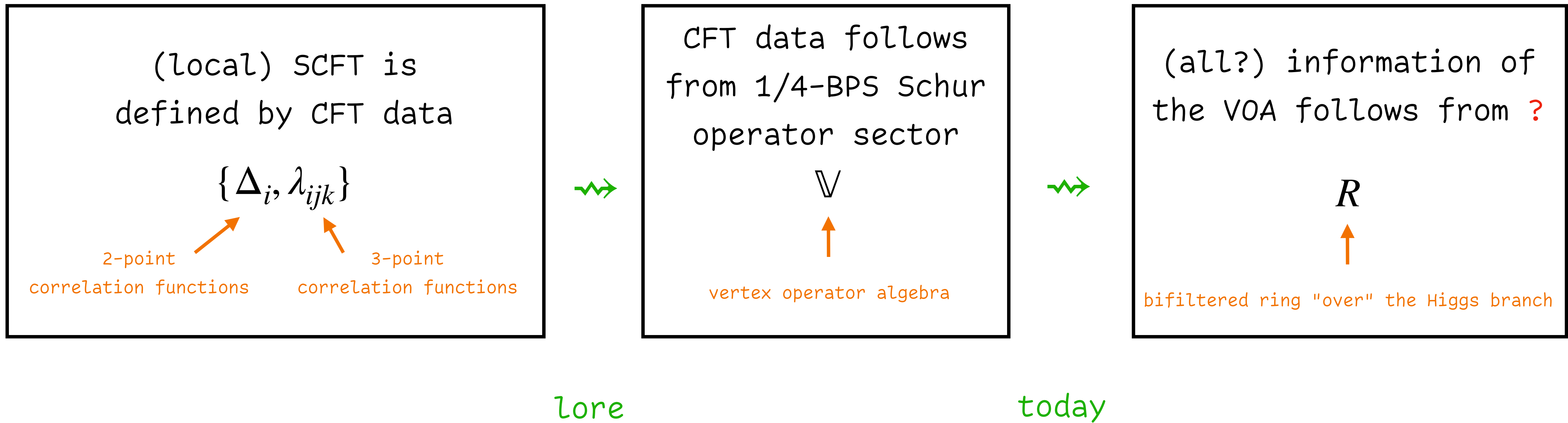
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Strings & Geometry

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# Spoiler: The Macdonald Index from Geometry

[Kang, CL, Song]

**Proposal [KLS]:** For each 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  SCFT, there exists a bifiltered ring  $R$  such that

$$I_{\text{Mac}}(q, T) = \text{HS}_{q, q, T}(\text{gr}(J_{\infty}(R)))$$

and

$$\mathcal{H} = \text{Spec}(R)_{\text{red}} .$$

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Goal: explain what each of these symbols mean

give evidence that they hold for certain (Argyres--Douglas) SCFTs

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counting  
protected,  
1/4-BPS operators

$\text{Spec}(R)$  = an affine (bi-filtered) **scheme** which reduces to the **Higgs branch**

# Explaining the Proposal

$$\text{HS}_{q,q,T}(\text{gr}(J_\infty(R)))$$

# Bifiltered Rings: A Simple Construction

a simple way to construct an explicit bifiltered ring is

let  $S = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be the bigraded ring with bigrading  $\deg(x_i) = (a_i, b_i)$   $\longrightarrow S = \bigoplus_{p,q \in \mathbb{Z}} S_{p,q}$

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example:  $R = \mathbb{C}[x, y]/(x^2 + y^3)$  with  $\deg(x) = (3, 2)$ ,  $\deg(y) = (2, 1)$

bi-degree (6,4)      bi-degree (6,3)

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a bifiltration on  $S/I$  is  $F_{p,q}R = \text{image of } \left( \bigoplus_{p' \leq p, q' \leq q} S_{p',q'} \right) \text{ in } R$

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we will use this construction ubiquitously!

note: the Hilbert series is defined for graded rings, not filtered rings

# What is an... Associated Graded Ring

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define  $\text{gr}_{p,q}(R) = \frac{F_{p,q} R}{F_{p-1,q} R \oplus F_{p,q-1} R}$  then  $\text{gr}(R) = \bigoplus_{p,q} \text{gr}_{p,q}(R)$  is bigraded

example:  $R = \mathbb{C}[x, y]$

$$F_{p,q} R = \{ \text{polynomials } P(x, y) \text{ with } \deg_{x,y}(P) \leq (p, q) \}$$

$$\text{gr}_{p,q}(R) = \{ \text{polynomials } P(x, y) \text{ with } \deg_{x,y}(P) = (p, q) \}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{gr}(R) = \mathbb{C}[x, y] \text{ with } \deg(x) = (1, 0), \deg(y) = (0, 1)$$

# What is a... Jet Scheme

consider a polynomial ring:

$$R = \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m] / (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_r)$$

no assumption of filtration or grading

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formally expand as a power series:  $x_j \rightarrow x_j(t) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^n x_j^{(\alpha)} t^\alpha$

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then, we can define a new ring

$$J_n(R) = \mathbb{C}[x_1^{(0)}, \dots, x_1^{(n)}, \dots, x_m^{(0)}, \dots, x_m^{(n)}] / (f_1^{(0)}, \dots, f_1^{(n)}, \dots, f_r^{(0)}, \dots, f_r^{(n)})$$

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$J_n(R)$  is naturally a graded ring with "jet" grading  $\deg(x_j^{(\alpha)}) = \alpha$

further: if  $R$  is bifiltered,  $J_n(R)$  inherits the bifiltration

inherited bifiltration + jet grading defines a trifiltration on  $J_n(R)$

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the coordinate ring of the arc space occurs when we take the limit

$$J_\infty(R) = \lim_{\substack{\rightarrow \\ n}} J_n(R)$$

# Algebra-Geometric Bootstrapping

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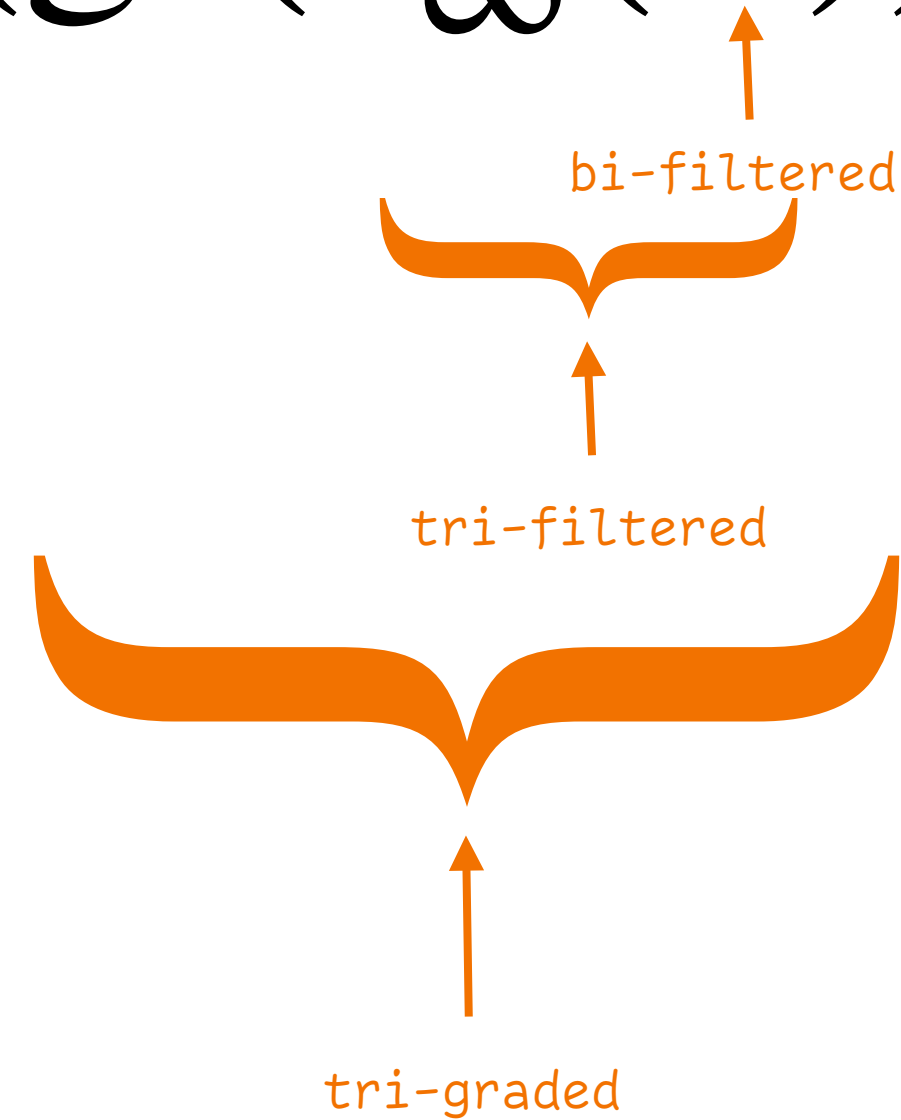
bi-filtered

tri-filtered

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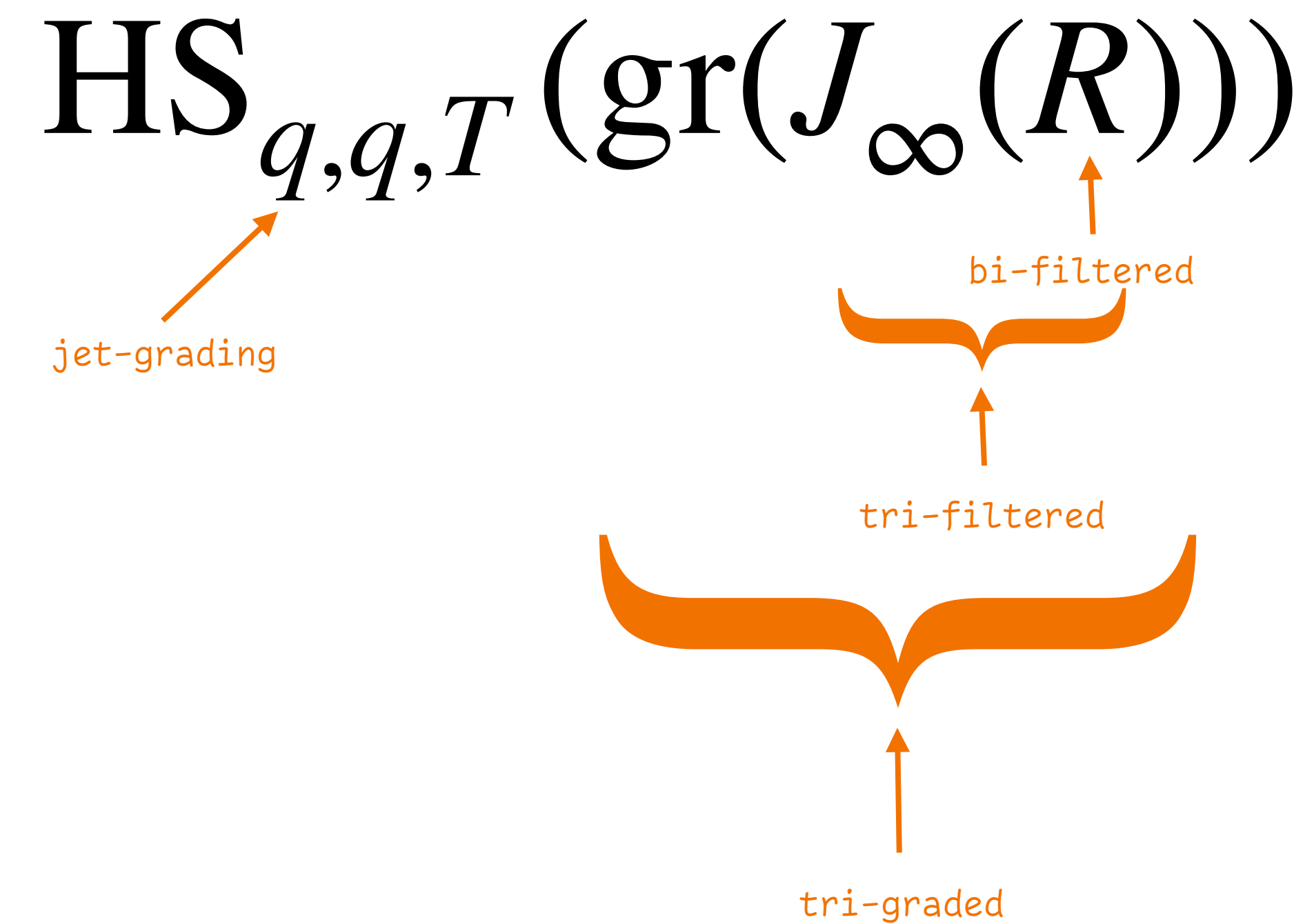
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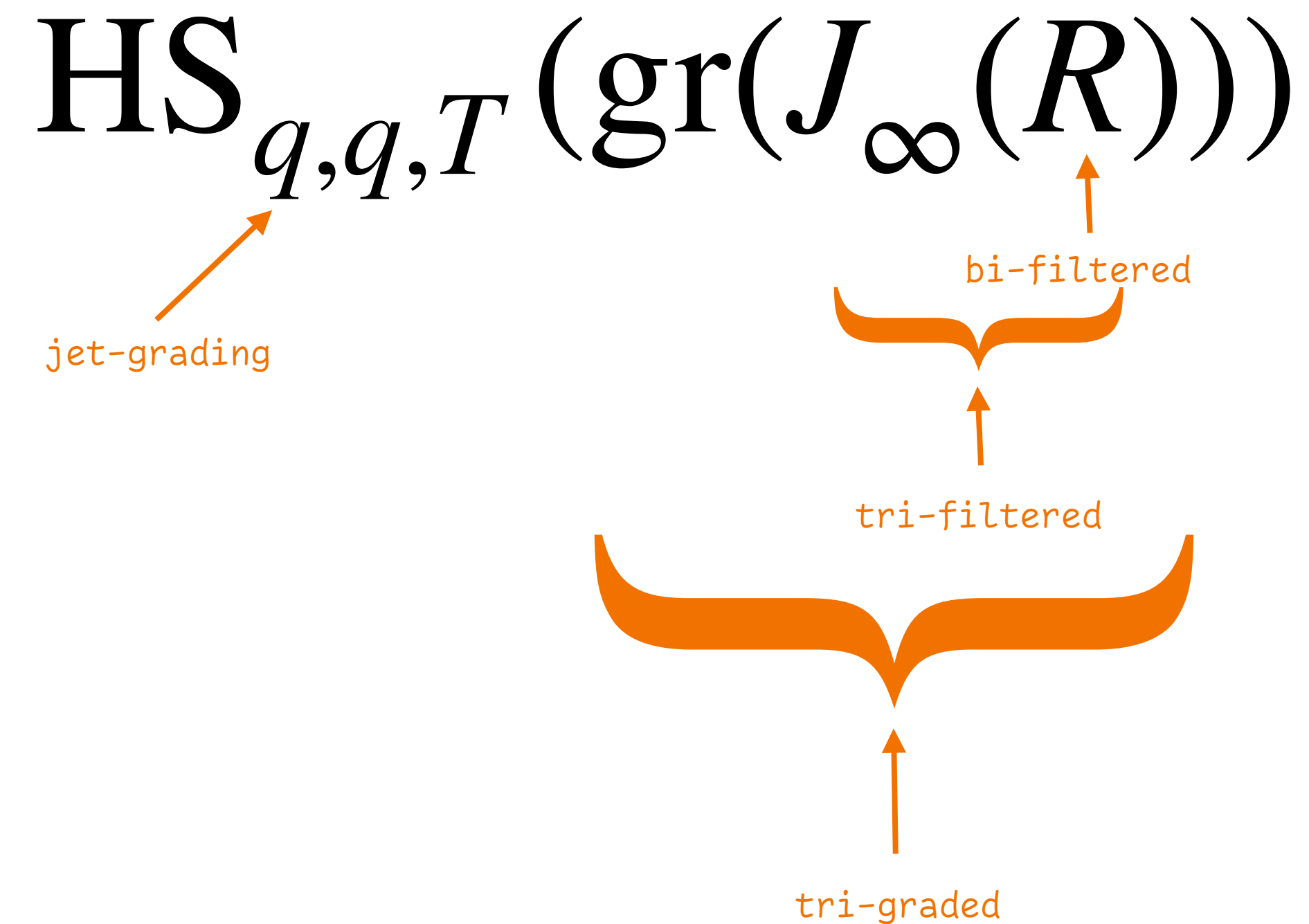
# Algebro-Geometric Bootstrapping

[Kang, CL, Song]



# Algebra-Geometric Bootstrapping

[Kang, CL, Song]



- challenges:
- (technical)  $J_\infty(R)$  has infinity-many generators and relations
  - (technical)  $J_\infty(R)$  has non-trivial syzygies  $\rightarrow$  must determine Groebner basis
  - (conceptual) how do we determine  $R$  for a given SQFT?

# How to Find the Bifiltered Rings

we propose: "decoupling" in the space of CFT data  
⇒ captures foundational information about the CFT

OPE of local operators

$$O \times O' = \sum_{O''} \lambda_{OO'O''} O''$$

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Question: how much information of the theory can  
be recovered from OPE decoupling?

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this can be translated into the algebraic condition  $x^{n+1} = 0$

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decoupling in OPEs of 4d Schur operators can be found by  
studying null relations in the vertex operator algebra


under the SCFT  $\leftrightarrow$  VOA correspondence [\[Beem, Lemos, Liendo, Peelaers, Rastelli, van Rees\]](#)

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for  $(A_1, A_{2n})$  the associated VOA is  $M(2, 2n+3)$  which contains a null state at level  $2n+2$  of the schematic form

$$((L_{-2})^{n+1} + \dots) \Omega$$

  
↑ strong generator      ↓ vacuum state



**Examples: Higgs branch = point**

# Example: The $(A_2, A_3)$ Argyres--Douglas SCFT

[Kang, CL, Song]

the VOA associated to  $(A_{k-1}, A_{n-1})$  with  $\gcd(k, n) = 1$  is a W-algebra  
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**Level 5**

$$\left( W_{-3}L_{-2} - \frac{10}{7}W_{-5} \right) \Big|_{\Omega, c = -\frac{114}{7}} \rangle \quad (\text{B.3})$$

**Level 6**

$$\left( \frac{102}{49}L_{-6} - \frac{24}{7}L_{-4}L_{-2} - \frac{6}{7}(L_{-3})^2 + (L_{-2})^3 - \frac{39}{7}(W_{-3})^2 \right) \Big|_{\Omega, c = -\frac{114}{7}} \rangle \quad (\text{B.4})$$

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the  $n$ th jet scheme is

$$J_n(R) = \mathbb{C}[x_0, y_0, \dots, x_n, y_n] / I_n$$

where the ideal is generated by

$$\sum_{\substack{i, j \geq 0 \\ i + j = m}} x_i x_j - \sum_{\substack{i, j, k \geq 0 \\ i + j + k = m}} y_i y_j y_k, \quad \sum_{\substack{i, j \geq 0 \\ i + j = m}} x_i y_j \quad (m = 0, \dots, n)$$

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to determine the Hilbert series up to  $q^{13}$  we study  $J_{11}(R)$ , which has 24 polynomials in  $I_{11}$

→ we use Macaulay2 to find a Groebner basis

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{HS}_{q, q, T}(\text{gr}(J_\infty(R))) &= 1 + q^2 T + q^3 (T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^4 (2T^2 + T) + q^5 (2T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^6 (2T^3 + 3T^2 + T) + q^7 (3T^3 + 3T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^8 (T^4 + 5T^3 + 4T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^9 (2T^4 + 7T^3 + 4T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{10} (5T^4 + 9T^3 + 5T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{11} (8T^4 + 11T^3 + 5T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{12} (2T^5 + 13T^4 + 14T^3 + 6T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{13} (4T^5 + 17T^4 + 16T^3 + 6T^2 + T) + \dots \end{aligned} = I_{\text{Mac}}(q, T) \text{ [Agarwal, Lee, Song]}$$

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$$\left( \frac{27}{4}L_{-6} - \frac{21}{4}L_{-4}L_{-2} - \frac{51}{32}(L_{-3})^2 + (L_{-2})^3 - \frac{279}{16}(W_{-3})^2 \right) \left| \Omega, c = -23 \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.5})$$

**Level 7**

$$\left( -\frac{5}{8}W_{-7} - \frac{3}{8}L_{-4}W_{-3} - \frac{11}{4}W_{-5}L_{-2} - \frac{3}{16}W_{-4}L_{-3} + W_{-3}L_{-2}L_{-2} \right) \left| \Omega, c = -23 \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$\left( L_{-3}L_{-2}^2 - \frac{9}{4}L_{-5}L_{-2} + \frac{27L_{-7}}{8} - \frac{15}{8}L_{-4}L_{-3} - \frac{93}{8}W_{-4}W_{-3} \right) \left| \Omega, c = -23 \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.7})$$

**Level 8**

$$\left( \frac{1413}{5}L_{-8} - 15L_{-6}L_{-2} - \frac{531}{20}L_{-5}L_{-3} - \frac{1011}{100}(L_{-4})^2 + \frac{1599}{10}W_{-5}W_{-3} + \frac{369}{40}(W_{-4})^2 - \frac{48}{5}L_{-4}(L_{-2})^2 - \frac{15}{4}(L_{-3})^2L_{-2} + (L_{-2})^4 - \frac{123}{2}(W_{-3})^2L_{-2} \right) \left| \Omega, c = -\frac{186}{5} \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.8})$$

**Level 9**

$$\left( -\frac{123}{8}L_{-3}W_{-3}^2 - \frac{123}{4}L_{-2}W_{-4}W_{-3} - \frac{1}{16}15L_{-3}^3 + L_{-2}^3L_{-3} - \frac{141}{5}L_{-6}L_{-3} - \frac{111}{20}L_{-4}L_{-2}L_{-3} - \frac{27}{10}L_{-5}L_{-2}^2 + \frac{11061L_{-9}}{25} \right) \quad (\text{B.9})$$

$$\left( -\frac{1587}{50}L_{-5}L_{-4} - \frac{309}{10}L_{-7}L_{-2} + \frac{246}{5}W_{-5}W_{-4} + \frac{4797}{40}W_{-6}W_{-3} \right) \left| \Omega, c = -\frac{186}{5} \right\rangle$$

$$\left( L_{-2}^3W_{-3} - \frac{42}{11}L_{-2}^2W_{-5} - \frac{877}{121}L_{-2}W_{-7} - \frac{9}{11}L_{-3}L_{-2}W_{-4} - \frac{51}{11}L_{-4}L_{-2}W_{-3} + \frac{777}{121}L_{-3}W_{-6} + \frac{596}{121}L_{-4}W_{-5} + \frac{38}{121}L_{-5}W_{-4} \right) \quad (\text{B.10})$$

$$\left( -\frac{15}{11}L_{-3}^2W_{-3} + \frac{948}{121}L_{-6}W_{-3} + \frac{27620}{1331}W_{-9} - \frac{138}{11}W_{-3}^3 \right) \left| \Omega, c = -\frac{490}{11} \right\rangle$$

# Example: The $(A_2, A_{N>3})$ Argyres--Douglas SCFT

[Kang, CL, Song]

the null relations in the relevant  $W_3$ -algebra are also known [Agarwal, Lee, Song]

**Level 6**

$$\left( \frac{102}{49}L_{-6} - \frac{24}{7}L_{-4}L_{-2} - \frac{6}{7}(L_{-3})^2 + (L_{-2})^3 - \frac{39}{7}(W_{-3})^2 \right) \left| \Omega, c = -\frac{114}{7} \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$\left( \frac{27}{4}L_{-6} - \frac{21}{4}L_{-4}L_{-2} - \frac{51}{32}(L_{-3})^2 + (L_{-2})^3 - \frac{279}{16}(W_{-3})^2 \right) \left| \Omega, c = -23 \right\rangle \quad (\text{B.5})$$

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thus we can derive the rings!

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{HS}_{q,q,T}(\text{gr}(J_\infty(R))) &= 1 + q^2T + q^3(T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^4(2T^2 + T) + q^5(T^3 + 2T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^6(3T^3 + 3T^2 + T) + q^7(4T^3 + 3T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^8(3T^4 + 6T^3 + 4T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^9(5T^4 + 8T^3 + 4T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{10}(T^5 + 9T^4 + 10T^3 + 5T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{11}(3T^5 + 13T^4 + 12T^4 + 5T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{12}(8T^5 + 19T^4 + 15T^3 + 6T^2 + T) \\ &+ q^{13}(14T^5 + 24T^4 + 17T^3 + 6T^2 + T) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

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matches with the Macdonald indices as worked out in [Agarwal, Lee, Song]

# $(A_{k-1}, A_{N-1})$ and Jacobian Rings

[Kang, CL, Song]

when  $\gcd(k, N) = 1$ , all known bifiltered rings are Jacobian rings:

$$S = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}], \quad \deg(x_i) = (i+1, i)$$

$$R = S / (\partial_{x_1} P^{N+k+1}, \dots, \partial_{x_{k-1}} P^{N+k+1})$$

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$$\begin{aligned} (A_2, A_1) : & \quad P^6(x, y) = x^3 + y^2, \\ (A_2, A_3) : & \quad P^8(x, y) = y^4 + x^2 y, \\ (A_2, A_4) : & \quad P^9(x, y) = x^3 + x y^3, \\ (A_2, A_6) : & \quad P^{11}(x, y) = x^3 y + x y^4, \\ (A_2, A_7) : & \quad P^{12}(x, y) = y^6 + \sqrt{30} x^2 y^3 + x^4, \\ (A_2, A_9) : & \quad P^{14}(x, y) = y^7 + \sqrt{21} x^2 y^4 + x^4 y, \\ (A_2, A_{10}) : & \quad P^{15}(x, y) = x^5 + \frac{10}{\sqrt{6}} x^3 y^3 + x y^6. \end{aligned}$$

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for generic  $\beta$  the ring  $R = \mathbb{C}[x_2, x_3]/(\partial_{x_2} P, \partial_{x_3} P)$  does not reproduce the Schur limit of the Macdonald index via algebro-geometric bootstrapping

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a syzygy of  $(q, p)$ -degree  $(k + N + 2, 1)$  is a  
relation-between-relations in the first jet scheme

$$J_1(R) = \mathbb{C}[x_{2,0}, x_{3,0}, x_{2,1}, x_{3,1},] / (f_{2,0}, f_{3,0}, f_{2,1}, f_{3,1})$$

$f_{d,p}$  = coefficient of  $t^p$  in jet  
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$$\alpha_1 x_{2,0} x_{2,1} f_{3,0} + \alpha_2 x_{2,0}^2 f_{3,1} + \alpha_3 x_{3,1} f_{2,0} + \alpha_4 x_{3,0} f_{2,1} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

with non-zero  $\alpha_i$

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$$\text{with non-zero } \alpha_i \Rightarrow \beta = \sqrt{21}$$

# On the Principle of Syzygy Maximization

[Kang, CL, Song]

in fact, matching with the closed form expression of the Schur limit of the Macdonald index

$$I_{(A_{k-1}, A_{N-1})}(q) = \text{PE} \left[ \frac{q^2 + q^3 + \cdots + q^k - q^{N+1} - q^{N+2} - \cdots - q^{N+k-1}}{(1-q)(1-q^{k+N})} \right]$$

is **only** possible if

$R$  is a complete intersection,

$$\beta_{2, (k+N+1, 1)}(J_1 R) = \beta_{2, (k+N+2, 1)}(J_1 R) = 1$$

Betti number  $\beta_{2, (q, p)}$  counts the number of minimal syzygies of bidegree  $(q, p)$

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surprising: this **uniquely** fixes all coefficients

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imposing a geometric extremization condition on syzygies of the **first(!)** jet scheme is sufficient to fix  $R$  uniquely **and recovers the Schur index of  $(A_{k-1}, A_{N-1})$**

# On the Principle of Syzygy Maximization

[Kang, CL, Song]

Theory	Polynomial $P(x_2, x_3, \dots)$
$(A_2, A_3)$	$x_2^4 + x_2x_3^2$
$(A_2, A_4)$	$x_2^3x_3 + x_3^3$
$(A_2, A_6)$	$x_2^4x_3 + x_2x_3^3$
$(A_2, A_7)$	$\frac{1}{30}x_2^6 + x_2^3x_3^2 + x_3^4$
$(A_2, A_9)$	$\frac{1}{21}x_2^7 + x_2^4x_3^2 + x_2x_3^4$
$(A_2, A_{10})$	$x_2^6x_3 + x_2^3x_3^3 + \frac{3}{50}x_3^5$
$(A_2, A_{12})$	$\frac{3}{35}x_2^7x_3 + x_2^4x_3^3 + x_2x_3^5$
$(A_2, A_{13})$	$\frac{5}{72}x_2^9 + x_2^6x_3^2 + x_2^3x_3^4 + \frac{2}{25}x_3^6$
$(A_2, A_{15})$	$\frac{8}{7875}x_2^{10} + \frac{4}{35}x_2^7x_3^2 + x_2^4x_3^4 + x_2x_3^6$
$(A_2, A_{16})$	$\frac{1}{8}x_2^9x_3 + x_2^6x_3^3 + x_2^3x_3^5 + \frac{2}{21}x_3^7$
$(A_2, A_{18})$	$\frac{8}{3087}x_2^{10}x_3 + \frac{20}{147}x_2^7x_3^3 + x_2^4x_3^5 + x_2x_3^7$
$(A_2, A_{19})$	$\frac{1}{396}x_2^{12} + \frac{1}{6}x_2^9x_3^2 + x_2^6x_3^4 + x_2^3x_3^6 + \frac{3}{28}x_3^8$
$(A_2, A_{21})$	$\frac{3}{249704}x_2^{13} + \frac{3}{686}x_2^{10}x_3^2 + \frac{15}{98}x_2^7x_3^4 + x_2^4x_3^6 + x_2x_3^8$
$(A_2, A_{22})$	$\frac{125}{19404}x_2^{12}x_3 + \frac{25}{126}x_2^9x_3^3 + x_2^6x_3^5 + x_2^3x_3^7 + \frac{7}{60}x_3^9$
$(A_3, A_4)$	$\frac{1}{10}x_2^5 + x_2^2x_3^2 + x_2x_4^2 + x_3^2x_4$
$(A_3, A_6)$	$\frac{9}{2}x_2^4x_4 + x_2^3x_3^2 + x_2x_3^2x_4 + \frac{1}{108}x_3^4 + x_4^3$
$(A_3, A_8)$	$\frac{x_2^5x_4}{120} + \frac{x_2^4x_3^2}{72} + \frac{x_2^2x_3^2x_4}{3} + \frac{x_2x_3^3}{18} + x_2x_4^3 + x_3^2x_4^2$
$(A_3, A_{10})$	$\frac{x_2^8}{47029248} + \frac{x_2^5x_3^2}{7776} + \frac{x_2^4x_4^2}{1296} + \frac{x_2^3x_3^2x_4}{54} + \frac{x_2^2x_4^4}{18}$ $+ x_2x_3^2x_4^2 + x_3^4x_4 + x_4^4$
$(A_4, A_5)$	$\frac{61776859}{5}x_2^6 + 184899x_2^4x_4 + 10368x_2^3x_3^2 + x_2^2x_3x_5$ $+ 861x_2^2x_4^2 + x_2x_3^2x_4 + x_2x_5^2 + x_3^4 + x_3x_4x_5 + x_4^3$

for each theory, a single geometrically determined polynomial is sufficient to determine (all?) information about the 1/4-BPS operators

**Examples: Higgs branch  $\neq$  point**

# Example: The $(A_1, D_3)$ Argyres--Douglas SCFT

[Kang, CL, Song]

$$R = \mathbb{C}[x, y, z, w]/(w - (xz + y^2), wx, wy, wz)$$
$$\deg(x) = \deg(y) = \deg(z) = (1,1), \quad \deg(w) = (2,1)$$

the  $(A_1, D_{2n+1})$  theories have recently been studied in  
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the flavor-refined Macdonald index for  $(A_1, D_3)$ ! matches with [Buican, Nishinaka]

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what about the bifiltration structure from the VOA perspective?

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# Example: The $(A_1, A_5)$ Argyres--Douglas SCFT

[Kang, CL, Song]

$$R = \mathbb{C}[x, y, z, w]/(xy + z^3 - zw, wx, wy, (xy + z^3)z)$$

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fun fact:  $R$  also comes from syzygy-maximization of a Jacobian ring

stay tuned: [Kang, CL, Song]

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Thank you!

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we can compute to arbitrary large order working over finitely-generated rings

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$$J_n(R) = \mathbb{C}[x_0, y_0, \dots, x_n, y_n]/I_n$$

where ideal  $I_n$  is  
generated by

$$\sum_{\substack{i, j \geq 0 \\ i + j = m}} x_i x_j - \sum_{\substack{i, j, k \geq 0 \\ i + j + k = m}} y_i y_j y_k$$

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example:  $R = \mathbb{C}[x, y]$

$$F_{p,q}R = \{ \text{polynomials } P(x, y) \text{ with } \deg_{x,y}(P) \leq (p, q) \}$$