



Walking technicolor: testing infrared conformality with exact results in two dimensions

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Conformal invariance...

- Conformal invariance is typically connected with an infrared (IR) fixed point.
- There the coupling constant stops running and thus becomes scale invariant.
- A general feature is that all correlation functions are given by power laws.
- Perturbatively, if you add enough fermions to SU(N) Yang-Mills theory, it becomes conformal.

... on the lattice.

- A finite lattice is not well suited to study a conformal theory.
- There are two intrinsic scales which you can never truly get rid of, the lattice spacing a and the lattice extent L.
- Nevertheless, lattice calculations are the method of choice for nonperturbative investigation of QFT's.
- It is important to control the deformations of the conformal theory induced by a lattice and by external masses.



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A first example: zero momentum Green's functions

Let some field have an anomalous scaling dimension Δ. The Green's functions in coordinate and Fourier space are related:

$$(x^2)^{-(d-2)/2-\Delta} \Leftrightarrow (p^2)^{-1+\Delta}$$



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Let some field have an anomalous scaling dimension Δ. The Green's functions in coordinate and Fourier space are related:

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Now let us add a mass deformation to this, G(p) = (p² + m²)^{-1+Δ}.
 A short calculation suggests that for large separations the zero spatial momentum temporal correlator is given by:

$$G(t,\vec{p}=0) \propto \left(\frac{t}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}-\Delta} K_{\frac{1}{2}-\Delta}(mt) \overset{mt\gg1}{\propto} \frac{e^{-mt}}{t^{\Delta}}$$

Turned into analysis method of lattice correlators (*Iwasaki et al.*) but does not apply on the lattice!





Can lattice simulations be used to study a conformal theory?

- Three important questions to answer:
 - 1. How do the two intrinsic scales, *a*, *L*, modify the conformal behavior?
 - 2. Can we observe power law decay or power law corrected exponential decay on the lattice?
 - 3. Can a mass deformation be used to obtain anomalous dimensions?



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- Three important questions to answer:
 - 1. How do the two intrinsic scales, *a*, *L*, modify the conformal behavior?
 - 2. Can we observe power law decay or power law corrected exponential decay on the lattice?
 - 3. Can a mass deformation be used to obtain anomalous dimensions?
- Answers from exactly solvable models in 2*d*:
 - 1. The critical Ising model (1 and 2).
 - 2. The Sommerfield model (3).





1. Critical 2*d* **Ising model**

In an infinite volume the spin-spin correlation is given by:

$$\langle \sigma(0,0)\sigma(x,t)
angle \propto \left(x^2+t^2
ight)^{-\Delta}$$

 $\Delta = \frac{1}{8}$ is the scaling dimension of the spin field.



1. Critical 2*d* **Ising model**

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• On a torus with size $L_s \times L_t \equiv L \times (\tau L)$, $\tau = \frac{N_t}{N_s}$ we have:

$$\langle \sigma(\mathbf{0},\mathbf{0})\sigma(x,t)\rangle \propto |\vartheta_1(z,q)|^{-rac{1}{4}}\sum_{\nu=1}^4 \left|\vartheta_{\nu}(rac{z}{2},q)
ight|$$

 $\vartheta_{\nu}(z,q)$ is the ν 'th Jacobi theta function with $q = \exp(-\pi\tau)$ and $z = \frac{\pi}{L}(x + it)$.

We sum over x to obtain the zero spatial momentum correlator:

$$C(t,q,L) \propto \cosh\left(\frac{\pi}{4L}\left(t-\frac{\tau L}{2}\right)\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(c_n q^{2n} \cosh\left(\frac{\pi(4n+\frac{1}{4})}{L}\left(t-\frac{\tau L}{2}\right)\right)\right) + q^{\frac{1}{4}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(c_n^q q^n \cosh\left(\frac{\pi(2n-\frac{1}{4})}{L}\left(t-\frac{\tau L}{2}\right)\right)\right) + \mathcal{O}(q^2), \ q = e^{-\pi\tau}$$

The coefficients c_n and c_n^q depends on *n* and *L* and can be exactly calculated.

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The coefficients c_n and c_n^q depends on *n* and *L* and can be exactly calculated.

• $q = 0 = e^{-\pi\tau}$ corresponds to a cylindrical geometry:

$$C(t,0,L) \propto e^{-\frac{\pi}{4}\frac{t}{L}} \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e^{-4n\pi \frac{t}{L}}\right)$$

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- Perfect matching of correlators after re-scaling the dimensions
 ⇔ Conformal behavior.
- Effective mass plateau says nothing about conformal behavior





From exponentials to a power law

• The Euclidean time correlator is related to the spectral density:

$$C(t) \propto \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}\omega \, \rho(\omega) \boldsymbol{e}^{-\omega t}.$$

Each exponential decay, ω_n = n^δ_L in C(t) corresponds to a delta function in ρ(ω).

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- Each exponential decay, $\omega_n = n_L^{\delta}$ in C(t) corresponds to a delta function in $\rho(\omega)$.
- Taking $L \to \infty$, i.e. the level spacing to zero, leads to an integral over the delta functions and $\rho(\omega) = c\left(\frac{\omega L}{\delta}\right)$ where c(x) is the continuous version of the coefficients c_n , (*cf. M. Stephanov arXiv:0705.3049*).
- Since $L \to \infty$ we will probe the large *n* asymptotic of c_n :

$${\it C}_{\it I\! I} \propto {\it I\! I}^{-lpha} \Rightarrow
ho(\omega) \propto \omega^{-lpha}$$



An explicit calculation

• For the Ising model in a cylinder we find $c_n = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{8}+n)^2}{(n!)^2 \Gamma(\frac{1}{8})^2}$ for $L \to \infty$.





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• This implies $\rho(\omega) \propto \omega^{-\frac{7}{4}}$ which is what we expect:

$$(x^{2}+t^{2})^{-\frac{1}{8}} \Rightarrow (p^{2}+\omega^{2})^{-1+\frac{1}{8}} = \{p=0\} = \omega^{-\frac{7}{4}} \propto \rho(\omega)$$

Consequences

• We find that there is a mass $\frac{\pi}{4L}$ even though the theory should be massless.

There is no power law correction to the exponential decay. Instead, as $L \to \infty$, a continuum of excitations emerge to give a massless correlator.

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- A finite temporal extent introduces new corrections, $\sim e^{-\frac{\pi\tau}{4}}e^{-\delta Et}$, which are exponentially suppressed by the aspect ratio.
- These new states may conceal the true ground state mass $\frac{\pi}{4L}$, even at $L \to \infty$. Large τ essential.



2. The 2d Sommerfield model

C. M. Sommerfield, Ann. Phys. 26 (1964) 1, H. Georgi and Y. Kats, JHEP 1002 (2010) 065

The Sommerfield Lagrangian is given by:

$$\mathcal{L} = ar{\psi}(i\partial \!\!\!/ - eA\!\!\!\!/)\psi - rac{1}{4}F^{\mu
u}F_{\mu
u} + rac{m_0^2}{2}A^{\mu}A_{\mu}$$

- It is the Schwinger model with a mass term for the vector boson, i.e. there is no gauge symmetry.
- In the infrared it becomes scale-invariant (cf. Thirring model) and has anomalous dimensions.



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- Solved by introducing: $A_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} \mathcal{V} + \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \partial^{\nu} \mathcal{A}$ and $\Psi = e^{ie(\mathcal{V} + \mathcal{A}\gamma^5)} \psi$.
- Fermion becomes free:

$$\mathcal{L} = i \bar{\Psi} \partial \!\!\!/ \Psi + \frac{m_0^2}{2} \partial_\mu \mathcal{V} \partial^\mu \mathcal{V} + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A} (\partial_\mu \partial^\mu)^2 \mathcal{A} - \frac{m^2}{2} \partial_\mu \mathcal{A} \partial^\mu \mathcal{A} \qquad m^2 = m_0^2 + \frac{e^2}{\pi}$$



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The fermionic 2-point function is given by a product of a free fermionic Green's function and a bosonic correction:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0 | \mathrm{T}\psi_{\alpha}(x)\psi_{\beta}^{*}(0) | 0 \rangle = & \langle 0 | \mathrm{T}\Psi_{\alpha}(x)\Psi_{\beta}^{*}(0) | 0 \rangle \\ & \times \langle 0 | \mathrm{T}e^{-ie(\mathcal{V}(x) + \mathcal{A}(x)\gamma^{5})}e^{-ie(\mathcal{V}(0) + \mathcal{A}(0)\gamma^{5})} | 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

 The bosonic correction can be calculated in a closed form and is given by an exponential of massless and massive bosonic Green's functions.



- Define the composite operator O ≡ ψ
 ¹/₂(1 + γ⁵)ψ = ψ^{*}₂ψ₁ (cf. meson/pion). This operator will have an anomalous dimension at low energies.
- Using the Operator Product Expansion of a product of two ψ 's one can show (Georgi & Kats) that:

$$\left< 0 | \mathrm{T} \mathcal{O}(x) \mathcal{O}(0) | 0 \right> = \mathcal{C}(x)^4 \, |\mathcal{S}_0(x)|^2 \, ,$$

where $S_0(x)$ is a free fermion propagator and C(x) is due to the bosons.

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• Using the asymptotic behaviors of C(x) and $S_0(x)$ one finds

$$\langle 0|\mathrm{T}\mathcal{O}(x)\mathcal{O}(0)|0
angle \propto egin{cases} (x^2)^{-1}, & xm \ll 1\ (x^2)^{-1-\gamma_\mathcal{O}}, & xm \gg 1 \end{cases}$$

where
$$\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv -\frac{e^2}{\pi m^2} = -\frac{1}{1+\frac{m_0^2\pi}{e^2}}$$
 is the anomalous dimension of \mathcal{O} .

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On the lattice

- In principle straightforward to calculate the propagator on the lattice.
- We can also add a bare mass, m_q, to the fermion to measure the anomalous mass dimension.
- $N_f = 4$ (naive lattice fermions) is similar to $N_f = 1$, *except* when $m_0 \rightarrow 0$ (Schwinger model).

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- $N_f = 4$ (naive lattice fermions) is similar to $N_f = 1$, *except* when $m_0 \rightarrow 0$ (Schwinger model).
- Note: if Lm_q is small, fermionic spatial boundary conditions start to play a role:
 - Periodic boundary conditions $\Rightarrow \vec{p}_x = \vec{0}$ fermion, power law corrections in 1/L.
 - Anti-periodic boundary conditions $\Rightarrow |\vec{p}_x| \ge \frac{\pi}{L}$.

Results

- We consider both periodic and anti-periodic boundary conditions.
- With zero quark mass we obtain (for apbc) the composite mass

$$m_{\mathcal{O}}=rac{2\pi}{L}(1+\gamma_{\mathcal{O}}), \quad \gamma_{\mathcal{O}}=-rac{e^2}{\pi m^2}$$
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Note how this is analogous to the Ising case.

- We then calculate $m_{\mathcal{O}}$ as a function of the mass deformation m_q .
- Lattice of size $N_s \times (16N_s)$ with $8 \le N_s \le 96$. Also three different values of $Lm \in \{3, 5, 10\}$ and $\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} \in \{-\frac{5}{6}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{6}\}$.

Numerical exact results $C(t) \sim e^{-m_o \frac{t}{L} - \frac{m_e}{\tau} (\frac{t}{L})^2}$



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Anti-periodic boundary conditions with mass deformation m_q



DPHYS Department of Physics Single anomalous dimension y_m , exact result: $y_m = 1$



 $y_m = 1.100$

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Effective $y_m(N_s)$



Discretization errors with $y_m = 1$ fixed to exact value

$$c_1 = 62.424, c_2 = -2507.945$$



Corrections to scaling (cf. Cheng et al. arXiv:1401.0195)



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Comparison apbc and pbc







Direct test of scale invariance: compare correlators C(t) in lattice $L^3 \times L_t$ with $C(\lambda t)$ in lattice $(\lambda L)^3 \times \lambda L_t$.





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- Periodic boundary conditions allows zero meson mass but may come with high computational costs.
- It is mandatory to use a large aspect ratio N_t/N_s because of excited states.
- It is necessary to consider corrections to scaling and discretization errors to obtain correct anomalous dimensions.

Thank you for your attention!







Ising model \Leftrightarrow Free fermions

- The 2*d* Ising model can be reformulated in terms of free staggered fermions with pbc and apbc in space and time (4 combinations).
- At criticality all bc's are equally important and are averaged over (cf. the four Jacobi theta functions).
- The apbc contributions are related to the 1/L mass.





The coefficients c_n and c_n^q

Recall the Ising propagator on a torus of size $L \times (\tau L)$:

$$C(t, x, L, \tau) \equiv \langle \sigma(0, 0) \sigma(x, t) \rangle \propto |\vartheta_1(z, q)|^{-\frac{1}{4}} \sum_{\nu=1}^{4} |\vartheta_{\nu}(\frac{z}{2}, q)|$$

Defining $u = e^{-\frac{\pi t}{L}}$, to lowest order in q, the magnitude of the theta functions are given by:

$$\begin{vmatrix} \vartheta_1 \left(\frac{x+it}{\pi L}, q \right) \end{vmatrix} = q^{\frac{1}{4}} u^{-1} \left(1 + u^4 - 2u^2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}x\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \left| \vartheta_2 \left(\frac{x+it}{\pi L}, q \right) \right| = q^{\frac{1}{4}} u^{-1} \left(1 + u^4 + 2u^2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \left| \vartheta_3 \left(\frac{x+it}{\pi L}, q \right) \right| = \left| \vartheta_4 \left(\frac{x+it}{\pi L}, q \right) \right| = 1 \end{aligned}$$

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Inserting this yields

$$C(t, x, L, q) = q^{-1/16} u^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(1 + u^4 - 2u^2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right) \right)^{-\frac{1}{8}} \\ \times \left(2 + q^{\frac{1}{4}} u^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\left(\left(1 + u^2 - 2u^1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \left(1 + u^2 + 2u^1 \cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right) \right)$$

We discard the overall $q^{-\frac{1}{8}}u^{\frac{1}{4}}$ and expand the expressions containing the cosines in order to sum over *x*. Note that $u^{\frac{1}{4}} = e^{-\frac{\pi}{4L}t}$ is the leading order decay. We also treat the *q*-independent and *q*-dependent parts separately.

q-independent part

An expansion in powers of *u* gives

$$\left(1 + u^4 - 2u^2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)\right)^{-\frac{1}{8}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} {\binom{-\frac{1}{8}}{n}} \left(u^4 - 2u^2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)\right)^n$$

= $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} {\binom{-\frac{1}{8}}{n}} \sum_{m=0}^n {\binom{n}{m}} (-2)^m u^{4n-2m} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)^m$

We can now sum over *x* term by term using:

$$\frac{1}{L}\sum_{x=0}^{L-1}\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)^{m} = 2^{-2r} \left(\binom{2r}{r} + 2\sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{2r}{L} \rfloor} \binom{2r}{r+\frac{nL}{2}} \right) \delta_{m,2r}$$



This gives:

$$C(t, p_{x} = 0, L, 0) \propto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} {\binom{-\frac{1}{8}}{n}} \sum_{r=0}^{n} {\binom{n}{2r}} u^{4(n-r)} \left({\binom{2r}{r}} + 2\sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor \frac{L}{L} \rfloor} {\binom{2r}{r+\frac{mL}{2}}} \right)$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u^{4n} \sum_{r=0}^{n} {\binom{-\frac{1}{8}}{n+r}} {\binom{n+r}{2r}} \left({\binom{2r}{r}} + 2\sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor \frac{2r}{L} \rfloor} {\binom{2r}{r+\frac{mL}{2}}} \right)$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u^{4n} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{8}+n\right)^{2}}{(n!)^{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^{2}} + \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor \frac{2n}{L} \rfloor} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}-n+\frac{mL}{2}\right)^{-1}\Gamma\left(1+n+\frac{mL}{2}\right)^{-1}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{8}-n-\frac{mL}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(1+n-\frac{mL}{2}\right)}} \right)}_{C_{n}}$$

q-dependent part

For the *q*-dependent part we have to expand three roots before we can sum over x. After expanding we find that we need to calculate the following sums:

$$\frac{1}{L}\sum_{x=0}^{L-1}\cos\left(\frac{2\pi x}{L}\right)^{r}\cos\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)^{2p}$$
$$=2^{-r-2p}\sum_{n=0}^{r}\binom{r}{n}\left(\binom{2p}{p+r-2n}+2\sum_{q=1}^{\lfloor\frac{r+p}{L}\rfloor}\binom{2p}{p+r-2n+qL}\right)$$





Using this we find the coefficient

$$c_n^q = \sum_{m=0}^n \sum_{r=\max(2m-n,0)}^m \sum_{p=0}^{n+r-2m} (-1)^r \binom{\frac{1}{2}}{n+r+p-2m} \binom{n+r+p-2m}{2p} \times \binom{-\frac{1}{8}}{m} \binom{m}{r} \left(\sum_{k=0}^r \binom{r}{k} \binom{2p}{p+r-2k} + 2 \sum_{q=1}^{\lfloor \frac{r+p}{L} \rfloor} \binom{2p}{p+r-2k+qL} \right)$$

The bosonic corrections

We need to calculate

$$B(x) = \langle 0 | \mathrm{T} e^{-ie(\mathcal{V}(x) + \mathcal{A}(x)\gamma^5)} e^{-ie(\mathcal{V}(0) + \mathcal{A}(0)\gamma^5)} | 0 \rangle.$$

Perform Wick contractions with:

$$\int d^2 x \, e^{ipx} \langle 0 | T \mathcal{V}(x) \mathcal{V}(0) | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{m_0^2 p^2}$$
$$\int d^2 x \, e^{ipx} \langle 0 | T \mathcal{A}(x) \mathcal{A}(0) | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{(p^2)^2 + m^2 p^2} = \frac{1}{m^2} \left(\frac{1}{p^2 + m^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right)$$

One finds

$$B(x) = \frac{C_0(x)}{C(x)^{\kappa_{\alpha\beta}}}, \quad \kappa_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} 1, & \alpha \neq \beta \\ -1, & \alpha = \beta \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{split} C_0(x) &= \exp\left[\frac{e^2}{m_0^2} \left(D(x,0) - D(0,0)\right)\right] \\ C(x) &= \exp\left[\frac{e^2}{m^2} \left(\left(D(x,m) - D(0,m)\right) - \left(D(x,0) - D(0,0)\right)\right)\right] \\ D(x,m) &= \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 p}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 + m^2} \end{split}$$

which defines the C(x) used in the O propagator.





The composite correlator

To derive the composite two-point correlator we start by considering the free fermion four-point correlator:

$$G_{\text{free}}^{(4)} = \langle 0 | \mathrm{T} \psi_{\alpha_2}^*(x_2) \psi_{\alpha_1}(x_1) \psi_{\beta_2}^*(y_2) \psi_{\beta_1}(y_1) | 0 \rangle$$

which after Wick contractions becomes

$$-S_0^{\alpha_1\alpha_2}(x_1-x_2)S_0^{\beta_1\beta_2}(y_1-y_2)+S_0^{\alpha_1\beta_2}(x_1-y_2)S_0^{\beta_1\alpha_2}(y_1-x_2),$$

where the free fermion two-point function is given by

$$S_0^{\alpha_1\alpha_2}(x) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}p^2}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{e^{ipx}}{p^2 + m^2} \times \begin{cases} m, & \alpha_1 \neq \alpha_2\\ (p_1 - ip_2), & \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 1\\ (p_1 + ip_2), & \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 2 \end{cases}$$



The bosonic contribution is given by

$$\prod_{i< j} C_0(x_i-x_j)^{\eta_{ij}}C(x_i-x_j)^{\eta_{ij}\kappa_{ij}},$$

with the sign factors depending on which two fermionic fields are contracted via

$$\eta_{ij} = \begin{cases} +1, & \psi \text{ and } \psi^* \\ -1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \kappa_{ij} = \begin{cases} +1, & \alpha = \beta \\ -1, & \alpha \neq \beta \end{cases}$$

Since $\mathcal{O} = \psi_2^* \psi_1$ we will be interested in the case $\alpha_1 = \beta_2 \neq \alpha_2 = \beta_1$ and $x_1 \to x_2 \equiv x, \ y_1 \to y_2 \equiv y$. We thus get the full four point function

$$G^{(4)} = \frac{C_0(x_1 - x_2)C_0(y_1 - y_2)}{C(x_1 - x_2)C(y_1 - y_2)}C(x - y)^4 S_0^{11}(x - y)S_0^{22}(x - y).$$

Using a leading order operator product expansion of two fermionic fields we find

$$\mathrm{T}\psi_{2}^{*}(x_{2})\psi_{1}(x_{1}) pprox c(x_{2}-x_{1})\psi_{2}^{*}\psi_{1}(x_{2}) pprox c(x_{2}-x_{1})\mathcal{O}(x_{2}),$$

which gives

$$G^{(4)} = c(x_2 - x_1)c(y_2 - y_1)\langle 0|T\mathcal{O}(x)\mathcal{O}(y)|0\rangle.$$

Comparing to the previous slide we see that we should take $c(x) = C_0(x)/C(x)$ to arrive at

$$\langle 0|\mathrm{T}\mathcal{O}(x)\mathcal{O}(0)|0
angle = C(x)^4 \left|S_0^{11}(x)\right|^2$$