# Combinatorics of RSOS paths

Pierre Mathieu



(partly with Patrick Jacob)

# The (R)SOS models

• Variables: heights  $\ell_i$  at the vertices of a square lattice

► SOS:  $l_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ 

- Defining condition  $|\ell_i \ell_i| = 1$  for *i*, *j* nearest neighbors
- Interaction defined for the 4 sites of a paquette via w

$$a \bigsqcup_{b}^{c} w(a,b,c,d)$$

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▶ RSOS version:  $\ell_i \in \{1, 2\cdots, p-1\}$  and

$$\eta^{8V} = \frac{K(p-p')}{p}$$

[Andrews-Baxter-Forrester; Forrester-Baxter]

# Scaling limit at criticality : minimal models

Transition from regimes III to IV:

critical theory related to M(p', p) with

$$c = 1 - 6 \frac{(p - p')^2}{pp'}$$

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unitary case: p' = p - 1

Local state probabiblities: use CTM:

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Regime III: [Kyoto group]

configuration sum  $\equiv$  sum over paths = Virasoro character

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General goal: derive the

fermionic characters (= GF in a manifestly positive form) constructively from RSOS paths by via their 'particle content'

 Focus here: display a weight preserving bijection between certain Dick paths (RSOS) to new Motzkin-type paths (generalized Bressoud)

# Defining RSOS paths and relating paths to states

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# RSOS(p', p) paths (regime-III)

#### Configurations

- Configuration = sequence of values of the  $\ell_i \in \{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$  $(0 \le i \le L)$
- with  $|\ell_i \ell_{i+1}| = 1$
- ► and the boundary conditions:
  ℓ<sub>0</sub>, ℓ<sub>L-1</sub> and ℓ<sub>L</sub> fixed

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#### Paths

- A path is the contour of a configuration.
- Path = sequence of NE or SE edges
- ► choice ℓ<sub>L-1</sub> = ℓ<sub>L</sub> + 1: fixed last edge: SE

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A typical RSOS(p',7) configuration:  $\ell_0 = 1$ ,  $\ell_{19} = 4$ ,  $\ell_{20} = 3$ 



A typical RSOS(p',7) configuration:  $\ell_0 = 1$ ,  $\ell_{19} = 4$ ,  $\ell_{20} = 3$ 



and the corresponding path (with  $\ell_{20} = 3$ )



 A typical RSOS(p',7) path :  $\ell_0 = 1$  and  $\ell_{20} = 3$  and final SE



A typical RSOS(p',7) path :  $\ell_0 = 1$  and  $\ell_{20} = 3$  and final SE



But this corresponds to a state for which model ? (value of p'?)

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- ...and to which module (r,s)?
- ...and what is its conformal dimension?

# Weighting the path

The dependence of the path upon the parameter p' is via the weight:

$$\tilde{W} = \sum_{i=1}^{L-1} \tilde{W}_i$$





The expressions of  $\tilde{w}_i/i$  for the extrema

	p' = 2		p'=3		p'=6	
h	max	min	max	min	max	min
6	-3	_	-2	_	0	—
5	-2	4	-2	3	0	0
4	-2	3	-1	2	0	0
3	-1	2	-1	2	0	0
2	0	2	0	1	0	0
1	_	1	—	1	—	0

The weight function is not positive

# Weight vs conformal dimension

- Classes of paths are specified by l<sub>0</sub> and l<sub>L</sub>
- Ground-state path = unique path with minimal weight, given  $\ell_0, \ell_L$
- This path represents a highest-weight state
- Let its weight be W<sup>2</sup><sub>gs</sub>
- The relative weight

 $\Delta \tilde{\mathbf{W}} = \tilde{\mathbf{W}} - \tilde{\mathbf{W}}_{gs}$ 

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is the (relative) conformal dimension (function of p')

#### Generating functions for paths

The GF is the q-enumeration of the paths

$$X^{(p',p)}_{\ell_0,\ell_L}(q) = \sum_{ ext{paths with}} q^{\Delta ilde{w}}$$

 $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$  fixed

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For  $L \rightarrow \infty$ : when is this a character of M(p', p)?

Need to restrict  $\ell_L$ :

the tail of the path must lie in one of the RSOS vaccua

#### A new weight function for the paths

[Foda-Lee-Pugai-Welsh]

- Make the defining rectangle looks p'-dependent
- Color the p'-1 strips between the heights *h* and *h*+1 for which:

$$\left\lfloor \frac{hp'}{p} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{(h+1)p'}{p} \right\rfloor - 1.$$

Solutions:

$$h = h_t \equiv \left\lfloor \frac{tp}{p'} \right\rfloor$$
 for  $1 \leq t \leq p' - 1$ .

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Our RSOS(p', 7) path



#### Our RSOS(p', 7) path



The same path for the RSOS(2,7) model.



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The same path for the RSOS(3,7) model.



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The same path for the RSOS(4,7) model.



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The same path for the RSOS(5,7) model.



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The same path for the RSOS(6,7) model.



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# Scoring vertices



$$u_i = \frac{1}{2}(i - \ell_i + \ell_0), \qquad v_i = \frac{1}{2}(i + \ell_i - \ell_0)$$

Our RSOS(2,7) path with the "scoring vertices"

$$\circ \leftrightarrow u_i = \frac{1}{2}(i - \ell_i + \ell_0) \qquad \bullet \leftrightarrow v_i = \frac{1}{2}(i + \ell_i - \ell_0)$$



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w = 1 + 1 + 2 + 7 + 5 + 8 + 9 + 8

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#### Remark: this weighting is absolute

The ground-state path for the case  $\ell_0 = 1$  and  $\ell_L = 3$ 



The weight is absolute:

$$w_{as} = 0 \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad w - w_{as} = w$$

# A constraint on $\ell_L$

• Tails in colored bands have weight w = 0

Or: colored bands correspond to the RSOS vacua

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Such tails are the proper ends for infinite paths

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• Tails in colored bands have weight w = 0

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Such tails are the proper ends for infinite paths

Previous question: When is

$$X_{\ell_0,\ell_L}^{(p',p)}(q) = \sum_{\substack{\text{paths with}\\ \ell_r \text{ and } \ell_r \text{ fixed}}} q^{\Delta \tilde{w}}$$

 $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$  fixed

a character of M(p',p) for  $L \to \infty$ ?

Answer: When

$$\ell_L = \left\lfloor \frac{tp}{p'} \right\rfloor$$
 with  $1 \le t \le p' - 1$ 

#### Module identification vs boundaries

$$\ell_L = \left\lfloor \frac{tp}{p'} \right\rfloor$$
 with  $1 \le t \le p' - 1$ 

• There is no constraints on  $\ell_0$ 

 $1 \leq \ell_0 \leq p - 1$ 



#### Module identification vs boundaries

$$\ell_L = \left\lfloor \frac{t\rho}{\rho'} 
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ceil$$
 with  $1 \le t \le \rho' - 1$ 

There is no constraints on l<sub>0</sub>

 $1 \leq \ell_0 \leq p - 1$ 

How can we relate the Kac labels r, s where

$$1 \le s \le p - 1$$
  $1 \le r \le p' - 1$ 

to  $\ell_0$  and t?

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Comparing the ranges suggests

 $s = \ell_0$  and r = t

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# A bit of Virasoro representation theory

M(p',p) irreducible modules:

Highest-weight states of conformal dimensions

$$h_{r,s} = \frac{(pr - p's)^2 - (p - p')^2}{4pp'} = h_{p' - r, p - s}$$

$$1 \le r \le p' - 1$$
 and  $1 \le s \le p - 1$ 

Highest-weight modules are completely degenerate

#### Embedding pattern of singular vectors



#### Paths vs states

▶ Paths are blind to *h*<sub>*r*,s</sub>:

$$w = h - h_{r,s}$$

with *r*, *s* fixed by  $\ell_0$  and  $\ell_L$  (but yet to be fixed)

 $\Rightarrow$  w cannot fix r,s

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Recall

#### RSOS= restriction of SOS

Restriction of the space of states: captured by the defining strip

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Recall

#### RSOS= restriction of SOS

Restriction of the space of states: captured by the defining strip

Release the restrictions and identify the first two removed paths: candidates for the primitive SV

$$w_1 = rs$$
  $w_2 = (p'-r)(p-s)$ 

# Identify singular vectors: extend the band structure



# First singular vector: path below



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• The first excluded path from below has w = 1:

• Thus: the module with  $l_0 = 1$  and t = 1 has a SV at level 1

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# Second singular vector: path above



#### Second singular vector: path above



• The first excluded path from above has w = 6:

• Thus: the module with  $l_0 = 1$  and t = 1 has a SV at level 6

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In our example

$$sr = 1$$
  
 $p'-r)(p-s) = (2-r)(7-s) = 6$ 
 $\Rightarrow$ 
 $s = r = 1$ 

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More generally: SV analysis supports the identification

 $s = \ell_0$  and r = t

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The Virasoro character is

$$\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q) = \lim_{L \to \infty} X_{s, \lfloor \frac{rp}{p'} \rfloor}^{(p',p)}(q)$$

# The first few sates in the M(2,7) vacuum module



These correspond to the first few terms in the character

$$\chi_{1,1}^{(2,7)}(q) = 1 + q^2 + q^3 + 2q^4 + 2q^5 + 3q^6 + \cdots$$

# RSOS paths, Partitions and Bressoud paths

## Partitions: hook differences

- To a partition  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots)$ , i.e.,  $\lambda_i \ge \lambda_{i+1}$
- corresponds a Young diagram, with  $\lambda_i$  boxes in the *i*-th row

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For the box (i,j), the hook difference H(i,j) is

H(i,j) =#boxes in row i -#boxes in column j



$$(\bar{a} \equiv -a)$$

# Partitions: diagonals

• Diagonal *d*: the set of boxes (i, i - d).



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# Partitions with prescribed hook differences (PHD)

[Andrews-Baxter-Bressoud-Burge-Forrester-Viennot]

Introduce 4 numbers

*p*, *p*′, *r*, *s* 

such that

$$1 \le r \le p'-1$$
 and  $1 \le s \le p-1$  and  $p > p' \ge 2$ 

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On the two diagonals

p' - r - 1 and 1 - r

impose the PHD

$$H(i, i - (p' - r - 1)) \le p - p' - s + r - 1$$
  
 $H(i, i - (1 - r)) \ge -s + r + 1$ 



#### $P_{p,s}(p'-r,r;n) = #$ of partitions of *n* with PHD

Let

 $P_{p,s}(p'-r,r;n) = #$  of partitions of *n* with PHD

Then we have the amazing [ABBBFV]

$$\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q) = \sum_{n>0} \mathsf{P}_{p,s}(p'-r,r;n) q^n.$$

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$$\chi_{r,s}^{(p',p)}(q) = \sum_{n\geq 0} \mathsf{P}_{p,s}(p'-r,r;n) q^n.$$

Or

#### RSOS paths $\leftrightarrow$ Partitions PHD

## Partitions with prescribed successive ranks

Special case where

p' = 2 and p = 2k + 1

so that (recall  $1 \le r \le p' - 1$ )

 $r=1 \Rightarrow r-1=p'-r-1=0$ 

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The PHD reduce to

$$-s+2 \leq H(i,i) \leq 2k-1-s$$

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H(i,i): successive ranks [Dyson, Andrews]

# **Restricted partitions**

Partitions with

$$-\mathbf{s}+\mathbf{2} \le H(i,i) \le \mathbf{2k}-\mathbf{1}-\mathbf{s}$$

are in 1-1 correspondence with

• Restricted partitions:  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots)$  s.t.

 $\lambda_i\!-\!\lambda_{i+{\color{black} k}-1}\geq\!2$ 

and containing at most s parts equal to 1

k = 2: combinatorics of the sum-side of the RR identities

are in 1-1 correspondence with

Integer lattice paths

defined in the strip:

$$0 \le x \le \infty$$
,  $0 \le y \le k-1$ 

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with initial point (0, k - s)

- composed of NE, SE and Horizontal edges (H iff y = 0)
- weight = x-position of the peaks

# A Bressoud path for k = 5 and s = 3

$$0 \le y \le k - 1 = 4,$$
  $y_0 = k - s = 2$ 



$$w = 2 + 6 + 10 + 14 + 18 + 27$$

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# A Bressoud path : sequence of charged peaks

Isolated peak:

Charge = height

In a charge complex:

Charge = relative height



The charge ( $\equiv$  particle) content of the path is:

$$m_1 = 2, m_2 = 2, m_3 = 1, m_4 = 1$$

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{Bressoud paths}

as a fermi gas

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For a fixed charge content (fixed {m<sub>j</sub>}): determine the configuration of minimal weight (mwc)

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Example:  $m_1 = 3$ ,  $m_2 = 2$ ,  $m_3 = 1$  ( $y_0 = 0$ ):



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• Evaluate its weight: above  $w_{mwc} = 1 + 3 + 5 + 8 + 12 + 17$ 

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Example:  $m_1 = 3$ ,  $m_2 = 2$ ,  $m_3 = 1$  ( $y_0 = 0$ ):



• Evaluate its weight: above  $w_{mwc} = 1 + 3 + 5 + 8 + 12 + 17$ 

In general

$$w_{\mathsf{mwc}} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{k-1} \min(i,j) \, m_i \, m_j$$

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► Move the particles (peaks) in all possible ways and *q*-count them Ex: consider m<sub>1</sub> = 3




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Rule 1: Identical particles are impenetrable (hard-core repulsion): Ex: move the rightmost by 9, the next by 6 and the third by 4

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Rule 1: Identical particles are impenetrable (hard-core repulsion): Ex: move the rightmost by 9, the next by 6 and the third by 4



Generating factor for these moves
= the number of partitions with at most three parts:

$$\frac{1}{(1-q)(1-q^2)(1-q^3)} \equiv \frac{1}{(q)_3} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{(q)_{m_1}}$$

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Rule 2: Particles of different charges can penetrate Consider the successive displacements of the peak 1 in 3:



 Every move of 1 unit increases the weight by 1 independently of the presence of higher charged particles

i.e. 
$$\frac{1}{(q)_{m_1}}$$
 is generic

The same holds for the other particles:

factor 
$$\frac{1}{(q)_{m_j}}$$
 for each type  $1 \le j \le k-1$ 

Generating functions for all paths with fixed charge content

$$G(\{m_j\}) = \frac{q^{w_{\mathsf{mwc}}}}{(q)_{m_1} \dots (q)_{m_{k-1}}}$$

with

$$w_{\mathsf{mwc}} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{k-1} \min(i,j) \, m_i \, m_j$$

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Full generating function:

$$G = \sum_{m_1, \cdots, m_{k-1}} G(\{m_j\}) = \sum_{m_1, \cdots, m_{k-1}=0}^{\infty} \frac{q^{N_1^2 + \dots + N_{k-1}^2 + N_1 + \dots + N_{k-1}}}{(q)_{m_1} \cdots (q)_{m_{k-1}}}$$

with  $N_i$  defined as

$$N_j = m_j + \cdots + m_{k-1}$$

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- This is the fermionic character of the M(2,2k+1) vacuum module (FNO)
- Bressoud paths have a clear particle interpretation

# Particles in RSOS paths

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### RSOS(2, 2k+1) vs Bressoud paths

▶ RSOS(2, 2k+1) paths  $\leftrightarrow$  Partitions  $PSR \leftrightarrow$  Bressoud paths



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Search for a direct bijection:

▶ RSOS(2,2k + 1) paths  $\leftrightarrow$  Bressoud paths

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▶ RSOS(2, 2k+1) paths  $\leftrightarrow$  Partitions  $PSR \leftrightarrow$  Bressoud paths

Search for a direct bijection:

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Objective: identify particles in (generic) RSOS paths

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E.g. in the RSOS(2,7) path



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E.g. in the RSOS(2,7) path



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E.g. in the RSOS(2,7) path



Observations:

- Peak above the yellow band: pair o with weight = position of o
- Valley below the yellow band: pair • with weight = position of •

### Transformation of the RSOS(2, p) paths

These observations suggest to transform the RSOS(2,7) path



# Transformation of the RSOS(2, p) paths

These observations suggest to transform the RSOS(2,7) path



by flattening the colored band



#### redefine the vertical axis



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and fold the lower part onto the upper one



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#### redefine the vertical axis



and fold the lower part onto the upper one



the result is a Bressoud path: weight = *x* position of the peaks:

$$w = 2 + 9 + 14 + 17$$

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Is this 1-1?



Is this 1-1?



is also related to



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Is this 1-1?



is also related to



But this has a final NE edge: enforcing a final SE: 1-1 relation,

Flatten all colored bands

- Flatten all colored bands
- ▶ But restrictions are required: e.g., RSOS(6,7):



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• Restriction to  $p \ge 2p' - 1$ : isolated colored bands

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- Restriction to  $p \ge 2p' 1$ : isolated colored bands
- Flatten all colored bands

Fold the part below the first band

- Restriction to  $p \ge 2p' 1$ : isolated colored bands
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Fold the part below the first band

Result: generalized Bressoud paths defined in

$$0 \le y \le p - p' - \left\lfloor \frac{p}{p'} \right\rfloor$$

...with H edges allowed at height

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \left\lfloor \frac{tp}{p'} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{p}{p'} \right\rfloor - t + 1 \qquad (1 \le t \le p' - 1)$$

(with a condition relating the parity of successive H edges and the change of direction of the path)

- Restriction to  $p \ge 2p' 1$ : isolated colored bands
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(with a condition relating the parity of successive H edges and the change of direction of the path)

...and

#### w = (half) x position of the (half) peaks

Our RSOS(3,7) path



Our RSOS(3,7) path



is transformed into



with H edges allowed at y = 0, 1 but not y = 2

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Our RSOS(3,7) path



is transformed into



$$w = 2 + 5 + 9 + 19 + \frac{1}{2}(7 + 11 + 13 + 15)$$

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Similary, our RSOS(4,7) path



is transformed into:



H edges at y = 0, 1, 2 and

$$w = 14 + \frac{1}{2}(4 + 8 + 10 + 16 + 18) - (w_{gs} = 1)$$

RSOS(3,11) (case p = 3k + 2): 3 particles



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RSOS(3,11) (case p = 3k + 2): 3 particles



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RSOS(3,11) (case p = 3k + 2): 3 particles




## Fermi-gas analysis of the B(p', 2p'+1) paths

RSOS(5,11): 4 particles



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### Fermi-gas analysis of the B(p', 2p'+1) paths

RSOS(5,11): 4 particles



1 breather and kinks-antikinks of topological charge from 1 to 3

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# Fermi-gas analysis of the B(p', 2p'-1) paths

RSOS(6,11): 4 particles



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# Fermi-gas analysis of the B(p', 2p'-1) paths

RSOS(6,11): 4 particles



kinks-antikinks of topological charge from 1 to 4 no breathers

### Particle content of RSOS paths

Numbers of kinks = number of vacua -1

kinks interpolate between yellow bands

#kinks = (p'-1)-1

Numbers of breathers = number bands below the first yellow one

$$\#\text{breathers} = \left\lfloor \frac{p}{p'} \right\rfloor - 1$$

no breathers if p < 2p'

Match the spectrum of the restricted sine-Gordon model with

$$\frac{\beta^2}{8\pi} = \frac{p'}{p}$$

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### A duality relation

► The finitized (polynomial e.g., L < ∞) form of the character allows for a duality relation

$$q \rightarrow rac{1}{q}$$

Under this transformation

$$M(p',p) \rightarrow M(p-p',p)$$

#### ► Bands under duality: colored ↔ white

# Duality $M(\mathbf{p'},\mathbf{p}) \rightarrow M(\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{p'},\mathbf{p})$ in color

#### Compare RSOS(3,7)



vs RSOS(4,7)



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- ► The transformation of RSOS(p', p) to B(p', p) paths is a key step for a direct fermi-gas analysis; it makes the particle interpretation transparent
- ► The particle interpretation match that of RSG which is a \$\phi\_{1,3}\$-perturbation of \$M(p',p)\$ (= scaling limit of \$\mathbb{RSOS}(p',p)\$ in regime III)

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- More to be extracted from this?
- Can this be lifted to a CFT interpretation?

### M(k+2,2k+3) fermionic character

From the direct Fermi-gas analysis (k particles, no breathers)

$$\chi_{1,1}^{(k+2,2k+3)}(q) = \sum_{m_1,\dots,m_k} \frac{q^{mBm+Cm}}{(q)_{p_0}} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} {m_i + p_i \brack m_j},$$

where

$$B_{i,j} = B_{j,i}$$
  $B_{i,j} = (2i-1)j$  if  $i \le j$  and  $C_j = j$ 

and

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}_q = \begin{cases} & \frac{(q)_a}{(q)_{a-b}(q)_b} & \text{if } 0 \le b \le a, \\ & 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and

$$p_j = 2m_{j+2} + 4m_{j+2} + \dots + 2(k-j+1)m_k$$

so that

#### $p_0 =$ number of half peaks