

Toward precision holography in type IIA with Wilson loops

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ABSTRACT: We study the one-loop effective action of certain classical type IIA string configurations in $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3$. These configurations are dual to Wilson loops in the $\mathcal{N} = 6$ $U(N)_k \times U(N)_{-k}$ Chern-Simons theory coupled to matter whose expectation values are known via supersymmetric localization. We compute the one-loop effective actions using two methods: perturbative heat kernel techniques and full ζ -function regularization. We find that the result of the perturbative heat kernel method matches the field theory prediction at the appropriate order while the ζ -function approach seems to lead to a disagreement.

KEYWORDS: AdS-CFT Correspondence, Wilson, 't Hooft and Polyakov loops

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1 Introduction

The AdS/CFT correspondence explicitly realizes the notion that certain field theories admit an equivalent description in terms of string theories. The most prominent and precise examples of such equivalences are: (i) the duality between $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills in four dimensions and type IIB string theory on $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ and (ii) $\mathcal{N} = 6$ supersymmetric Chern-Simons with gauge group $U(N)_k \times U(N)_{-k}$ coupled to matter in three dimensions and type IIA string theory on $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3$.

The advent of localization techniques has provided a plethora of exact results relevant for the field theory sides of this correspondence, that is, for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM [1] and for ABJM [2]. In the context of the AdS/CFT correspondence, it is then natural to extrapolate the exact field theory results to the regime where they could be directly compared with the supergravity and semiclassical approximations. This approach was attempted very early on in the insightful work of Drukker, Gross and Tseytlin [3]; it did not, however, lead to a match with the field theory prediction. This discrepancy motivated much work [4–7] that largely confirmed the original discrepancy. A recent revival of this line of effort took place in [8, 9] which considered, on the gravity side, the one-loop effective actions corresponding to the ratio of the expectation values of the $\frac{1}{4}$ to the $\frac{1}{2}$ BPS Wilson loops. Various groups have made important subsequent contributions to this question [10] and recently a precise match has been described, for the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM case, [11] after imposing a diffeomorphism preserving cutoff.

In this manuscript we take one step in the direction of extending some of the techniques developed thus far to the context of the AdS/CFT pair $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3/\text{ABJM}$. We hope that by turning our attention to the AdS_4/ABJM pair we can gather complementary information to the one already available and ultimately learn about string perturbation theory in curved backgrounds with Ramond-Ramond fluxes. There are, indeed, a number of exact results obtained via localization of the ABJM theory starting with the free energy of the theory on S^3 [2] but most importantly to us there are various exact results for supersymmetric Wilson loops for the $\frac{1}{2}$ BPS [12] and, more recently, for the $\frac{1}{6}$ BPS configuration [13]. We consider one-loop effective actions of string configurations dual to those supersymmetric Wilson loops in ABJM. Our focus is in understanding some aspects of the picture of precision holography, that is, the matching of sub-leading corrections on the string theory side with the prediction of field theory. As the first step in attacking the $\mathcal{N} = 6$ case, in this first work we provide all the details to set the wheels of precision holography in $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3/\text{ABJM}$ with Wilson loops in motion.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We briefly review the field theory status of the expectation values of the relevant Wilson loops in section 2. In section 3 we discuss the classical string configurations and in section 4 we present the quadratic fluctuations. The string theory semiclassical one-loop effective action is equivalent to the computations of quotients of determinants. In section 5 we consider the perturbative computation of determinants to first non-trivial order in the latitude angle θ_0 . Section 6 tackles the computation of the one-loop effective actions using ζ -function regularization. We conclude with some comments and open problems in section 6. We relegate a number of more technical aspects

to a series of appendices, including: conventions [A](#), geometric data [B](#), an explicit discussion of regularity conditions for the gauge fields [C](#), and details of the fermionic reduction [D](#).

2 The $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS latitude Wilson loop

The ABJM theory is a three-dimensional Chern-Simons-matter theory with $U(N)_k \times U(N)_k$ gauge group where the subindices indicate the Chern-Simons level [\[14\]](#). The matter sector contains four complex scalar fields C_I , ($I = 1, 2, 3, 4$) in the bifundamental representation $(\mathbf{N}, \bar{\mathbf{N}})$ and the corresponding complex conjugate in the $(\bar{\mathbf{N}}, \mathbf{N})$ representation; the theory also contains fermionic superpartners (see [\[14\]](#) for details).

To build $\frac{1}{6}$ supersymmetric Wilson loops, one starts considering only one of the gauge fields of the whole $U(N) \times U(N)$ gauge group, denoted by A_μ . To preserve supersymmetry we need to include a contribution from the matter sector. The main intuition comes from the construction of supersymmetric Wilson loops in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM. However, in the absence of adjoint fields, an appropriate combination of bi-fundamentals, C_I , namely [\[15–17\]](#) is required:

$$W_{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{1}{\dim[\mathcal{R}]} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{P} \int \left(iA_\mu \dot{x}^\mu + \frac{2\pi}{k} |\dot{x}| M_J^I C_I \bar{C}^J \right) ds, \tag{2.1}$$

where \mathcal{R} denotes the representation. It was shown in [\[15–17\]](#) that the above operator preserves $\frac{1}{6}$ of the 24 supercharges when the loop is a straight line or a circle and the matrix takes the form $M_J^I = \text{diag}(1, 1, -1, -1)$.

A remarkable result of [\[2\]](#) was to show that the computation of the vacuum expectation values of these Wilson loops reduces to a matrix model. Namely, the Wilson loop vev is obtained by inserting $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}} e^{\mu_i}$ inside the following partition function:

$$Z(N, k) = \frac{1}{(N!)^2} \int \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d\mu_i}{2\pi} \frac{d\nu_i}{2\pi} \frac{\prod_{i<j} \left(2 \sinh \frac{\mu_i - \mu_j}{2} \right)^2 \left(2 \sinh \frac{\nu_i - \nu_j}{2} \right)^2}{\prod_{i,j} \left(2 \cosh \frac{\mu_i - \nu_j}{2} \right)^2} \exp \left[\frac{ik}{4\pi} \sum_i (\mu_i^2 - \nu_i^2) \right]. \tag{2.2}$$

A particularly impressive exact result was the computation of the supersymmetric free energy of ABJM on S^3 in terms of Airy functions [\[18, 19\]](#) which elucidated various aspects of the interpolation between weak and strong coupling in the context of ABJM. The results that are more relevant for our current work pertain exact evaluations of Wilson loops. The construction of the Wilson loop presented above in equation [\(2.1\)](#) does not capture the $\frac{1}{2}$ BPS string configurations. These involved the introduction of a superconnection [\[20\]](#). The exact expectation values of the $\frac{1}{2}$ - and certain $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS Wilson loops were presented in [\[12\]](#) and take the general form

$$\langle W_{\square}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \text{csc} \left(\frac{2\pi}{k} \right) \frac{\text{Ai} \left[\left(\frac{2}{\pi^2 k} \right)^{-1/3} \left(N - \frac{k}{24} - \frac{7}{3k} \right) \right]}{\text{Ai} \left[\left(\frac{2}{\pi^2 k} \right)^{-1/3} \left(N - \frac{k}{24} - \frac{1}{3k} \right) \right]}, \tag{2.3}$$

where the denominator is recognized as the partition function of the ABJM theory obtained in [\[21, 22\]](#). The above result and many others in this class are exact to all orders in $1/N$,

up to exponentially small corrections in N . Recently, in [13], a matrix model for the exact evaluation of the latitude BPS Wilson loops has been proposed. The expectation value for any genus of the fermionic (in the sense of the superconnection [20]) latitude Wilson loop is given in terms of Airy functions by (see equations (1.3) and (5.44) in [13]),

$$\langle W_F^{\frac{1}{6}}(\nu) \rangle_\nu = -\frac{\nu \Gamma(-\frac{\nu}{2}) \text{Ai}\left[\left(\frac{2}{\pi^2 k}\right)^{-1/3} \left(N - \frac{k}{24} - \frac{6\nu+1}{3k}\right)\right]}{2^{\nu+2} \sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{3-\nu}{2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi\nu}{k}\right) \text{Ai}\left[\left(\frac{2}{\pi^2 k}\right)^{-1/3} \left(N - \frac{k}{24} - \frac{1}{3k}\right)\right]}, \quad (2.4)$$

where $\nu = \sin(2\alpha) \cos \theta_0$, the angle α can be freely chosen and determines the coupling to matter, the geometric parameter we are interested in is θ_0 , and $0 \leq \nu \leq 1$. The beautiful result above is the culmination of an impressive series of papers [23–26] (see also [27, 28]).

The fermionic latitude Wilson loop maps to a type IIA string configuration in the $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3$ background with endpoints moving in a circle inside \mathbb{CP}^3 . When expanded to the regime of validity of the holographic computation, namely, taking the leading genus-zero expansion in the above, it has been shown to coincide with the semi-classical string computation of the $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS Wilson loop expectation value [29].

$$\langle W_F^{\frac{1}{6}}(\nu) \rangle_\nu|_{g=0} = -\iota \frac{2^{-\nu-2} \kappa^\nu \Gamma(-\frac{\nu}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{\nu}{2}\right)} \quad (2.5)$$

We will consider the ratio of $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS Wilson loop expectation value with the $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS one, dual to a circular Wilson loop. Therefore, the field theory prediction to be matched to our computation of the one-loop effective action of the string configuration takes the form ($\nu = \cos \theta_0$)

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \Gamma_{\text{effective}}^{\text{1-loop}}(\theta_0) &= \ln \left[\frac{\langle W_F^{\frac{1}{6}}(\nu) \rangle_\nu}{\langle W_F^{\frac{1}{2}}(1) \rangle_1} \right] = \ln \left(\frac{1}{\pi} \cot \left(\pi \frac{\cos \theta_0}{2} \right) \right) - \ln \left(\sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) \\ &\quad + 2 \ln \Gamma \left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) - \ln (\Gamma(\cos \theta_0)) - \ln (\cos \theta_0) \quad (2.6) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4). \end{aligned}$$

Anticipating the use of a perturbative result using heat kernel techniques, in the last line above we have expanded the field theory answer for small latitude angle θ_0 .

3 String configurations dual to supersymmetric Wilson loops

In this section we review the classical string configurations dual to the fermionic latitude family of BPS Wilson loops. We present these results for the convenience of the reader and to set up our notation but refer the interested reader to the original literature [15–17] for the $\frac{1}{2}$ BPS configuration and [29] for the latitude $\frac{1}{6}$ BPS configuration.

3.1 The $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{CP}^3$ background

The Euclidean AdS_4 (EAdS_4) metric is written as an $\mathbb{H}_2 \times S^1$ foliation,

$$ds_{\text{EAdS}_4}^2 = \cosh^2 u (\sinh^2 \rho d\psi^2 + d\rho^2) + \sinh^2 u d\phi^2 + du^2. \quad (3.1)$$

Similarly, the metric on CP^3 is taken to be

$$ds_{\text{CP}^3}^2 = \frac{1}{4} \left[d\alpha^2 + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\vartheta_1^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta_1 d\varphi_1^2) + \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\vartheta_2^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta_2 d\varphi_2^2) + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\chi + \cos \vartheta_1 d\varphi_1 - \cos \vartheta_2 d\varphi_2)^2 \right]. \quad (3.2)$$

The full metric is

$$ds^2 = L^2 (ds_{\text{EAdS}_4}^2 + 4 ds_{\text{CP}^3}^2), \quad L^2 = \frac{R^3}{4k}. \quad (3.3)$$

Finally, the other background fields read

$$e^\Phi = \frac{2L}{k}, \quad F_{(4)} = -\frac{3ikL^2}{2} \text{vol}(\text{AdS}_4), \quad F_{(2)} = \frac{k}{4} dA, \quad (3.4)$$

where

$$\text{vol}(\text{AdS}_4) = \cosh^2 u \sinh u \sinh \rho d\psi \wedge d\rho \wedge du \wedge d\phi, \quad (3.5)$$

$$A = \cos \alpha d\chi + 2 \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \cos \vartheta_1 d\varphi_1 + 2 \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \cos \vartheta_2 d\varphi_2. \quad (3.6)$$

The factor of i in $F_{(4)}$ is due to the Euclidean continuation. The 2-form is proportional to the Kahler form in \mathbb{CP}^3 .

3.2 Classical string solution

The classical 1/6-BPS string solution we are interested in has

$$\begin{aligned} u = 0, & & \rho' = -\sinh \rho, & & \psi = \tau, \\ \alpha = 0, & & \vartheta_1' = -\sin \vartheta_1, & & \varphi_1 = \tau. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

The induced metric is then

$$ds^2 = L^2 A (d\tau^2 + d\sigma^2), \quad A = \sinh^2 \rho + \sin^2 \vartheta_1^2 = \rho'^2 + \vartheta_1'^2. \quad (3.8)$$

The solution to (3.7) involves the latitude parameter θ_0 . We write,

$$\sinh \rho = \frac{1}{\sinh \sigma}, \quad \sin \vartheta_1 = \frac{1}{\cosh(\sigma + \sigma_0)}, \quad \cos \theta_0 = \tanh \sigma_0. \quad (3.9)$$

The induced geometry is disk shaped and asymptotes AdS_2 at the boundary. The 1/2-BPS limit corresponds to $\sigma_0 \rightarrow \infty$, and the induced geometry then becomes an exact AdS_2 .

3.3 Symmetries of the classical solution

We start by recalling that the background geometry is constructed out from coset spaces $\text{AdS}_4 = \text{SO}(2,3)/\text{SO}(1,3)$ and $\mathbb{CP}^3 = \text{SU}(4)/\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)$.

Before gauge-fixing, the string embedding is characterized by 10 worldsheet scalars $x^m(\tau, \sigma)$ and a 10-dimensional Majorana spinor θ whose dynamics is determined by the type IIA Green-Schwarz action (more details below). The symmetries of the theory are:

- Local:

- Diffeomorphisms:

$$\delta_\xi x^m = \xi^a \partial_a x^m, \quad \delta_\xi \theta = \xi^a \partial_a \theta, \quad (3.10)$$

where ξ^a is an arbitrary worldsheet vector field.

- κ -symmetry:

$$\delta_\kappa x^m = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^m \delta_\kappa \theta, \quad \delta_\kappa \theta = (1 + \Gamma_F) \kappa, \quad \Gamma_F = \frac{\epsilon^{ab}}{2\sqrt{-g}} \Gamma_{ab} \Gamma_{11}, \quad (3.11)$$

where κ is an arbitrary 10-dimensional Majorana spinor and worldsheet scalar.

- Global:

- Target space isometries:

$$\delta_\lambda x^m = K^m, \quad \delta_\lambda \theta = K^a \partial_a \theta - \frac{1}{4} (\nabla_m K_n - \nabla_n K_m) \Gamma^{mn} \theta, \quad (3.12)$$

where K^m is any target space Killing vector and $K_a = \partial_a x^m K_m$.

- Target space supersymmetries:

$$\delta_\epsilon x^m = -\frac{i}{2} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^m \delta_\epsilon \theta, \quad \delta_\epsilon \theta = \epsilon, \quad D_m \epsilon = 0, \quad (3.13)$$

where ϵ is any target space Killing spinor.

Given a classical solution (with fermions set to zero, $\theta = 0$), the preserved bosonic symmetries correspond to the set of transformations satisfying

$$\delta x^m = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad K^m + \epsilon^a \partial_a x^m = 0. \quad (3.14)$$

In other words, the target space isometries inherited by the solution are those that leave the embedding invariant up to worldsheet diffeomorphisms. Contracting this condition with $g_{mn} \partial_a x^n$ we can solve

$$\epsilon^a = -K^a, \quad (3.15)$$

where $K_a = \partial_a x^m K_m$. This in turn implies that, in order to generate a symmetry, the Killing vector must satisfy

$$K^m = g^{ab} \partial_a x^m \partial_b x^n K_n. \quad (3.16)$$

The logic for the fermionic symmetries is the same. The ones preserved by the background are those satisfying

$$\delta\theta = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \epsilon + (1 + \Gamma_F)\kappa = 0. \quad (3.17)$$

These are target space supersymmetries which can be compensated by a local κ -symmetry transformation. Multiplying by $(1 - \Gamma_F)$, we find that

$$(1 - \Gamma_F)\epsilon = 0. \quad (3.18)$$

This is the usual condition for preserved supersymmetries. This condition is in fact sufficient since then we can solve

$$\kappa = -\frac{1}{2}\epsilon. \quad (3.19)$$

For the case at hand, we find that the $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{CP}^3$ Killing vectors

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= \partial_\psi + \partial_{\varphi_1}, \\ K_2 &= \partial_\phi, \\ K_3 &= -\cos\varphi_2 \partial_{\vartheta_2} + \cot\vartheta_2 \sin\varphi_2 \partial_{\varphi_2} + \frac{\sin\varphi_2}{\sin\vartheta_2} \partial_\chi, \\ K_4 &= \sin\varphi_2 \partial_{\vartheta_2} + \cot\vartheta_2 \cos\varphi_2 \partial_{\varphi_2} + \frac{\cos\varphi_2}{\sin\vartheta_2} \partial_\chi, \\ K_5 &= \partial_{\varphi_2} \\ K_6 &= \partial_\chi, \end{aligned} \quad (3.20)$$

generate a symmetry of the solution. The first Killing vector must be accompanied by a translation in the worldsheet coordinate τ such that $\epsilon_{cl}^\tau = -\lambda_{cl}$ and $\epsilon_{cl}^\sigma = 0$; it corresponds to an isometry of the induced geometry. The rest have zero norm on the worldsheet so $\epsilon_{cl}^a = 0$. Altogether we have a $\underbrace{\text{U}(1)}_{K_1} \times \underbrace{\text{U}(1)}_{K_2} \times \underbrace{\text{SU}(2)}_{K_3, K_4, K_5} \times \underbrace{\text{U}(1)}_{K_6}$ symmetry.

The geometric interpretation of the symmetries is most easily seen in the embedding coordinates of $\text{EAdS}_4 \subset \mathbb{R}^5$ and the Hopf fibration $S^1 \hookrightarrow S^7 \rightarrow \text{CP}^3$:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= X_0^2 - X_1^2 - X_2^2 - X_3^2 - X_4^2, & X_0 &= \cosh u \cosh \rho, \\ ds^2 &= -dX_0^2 + dX_1^2 + dX_2^2 + dX_3^2 + dX_4^2, & X_1 &= \cosh u \sinh \rho \cos \psi, \\ & & X_2 &= \cosh u \sinh \rho \sin \psi, \\ & & X_3 &= \sinh u \cos \phi, \\ & & X_4 &= \sinh u \sin \phi, \\ z_1 &= \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \cos \frac{\vartheta_1}{2} e^{\frac{i}{2}(\varphi_1 + \frac{\chi}{2})}, & z_3 &= \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} \cos \frac{\vartheta_2}{2} e^{\frac{i}{2}(\varphi_2 - \frac{\chi}{2})}, \\ z_2 &= \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \frac{\vartheta_1}{2} e^{\frac{i}{2}(-\varphi_1 + \frac{\chi}{2})}, & z_4 &= \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \frac{\vartheta_2}{2} e^{\frac{i}{2}(-\varphi_2 - \frac{\chi}{2})}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

The worldsheet has $z_3 = z_4 = 0$.

In the next section we will consider perturbations of the string embedding around the classical solution and look at the transformation properties of the fluctuations under the

preserved symmetries. It will prove convenient to take linear combinations of K_3 , K_4 and K_5 that have a simple action on the fluctuations. We find that such combinations are

$$K'_3 = \cos(\vartheta_2^{cl}) \left(\sin(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_3 + \cos(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_4 \right) + \sin(\vartheta_2^{cl}) K_5, \quad (3.22)$$

$$K'_4 = \cos(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_3 - \sin(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_4, \quad (3.23)$$

$$K'_5 = \sin(\vartheta_2^{cl}) \left(\sin(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_3 + \cos(\varphi_2^{cl}) K_4 \right) - \cos(\vartheta_2^{cl}) K_5, \quad (3.24)$$

$$K'_3 = \cos(\vartheta_2^{cl}) \sin(\varphi_2 - \varphi_2^{cl}) \partial_{\vartheta_2} + \left(\cot \vartheta_2 \cos(\vartheta_2^{cl}) \cos(\varphi_2 - \varphi_2^{cl}) + \sin \vartheta_2^{cl} \right) \partial_{\varphi_2} \\ + \frac{\cos(\vartheta_2^{cl}) \cos(\varphi_2 - \varphi_2^{cl})}{\sin \vartheta_2} \partial_\chi, \quad (3.25)$$

where ϑ_2^{cl} and φ_2^{cl} are the (constant) values that the coordinates ϑ_2 and φ_2 take on the classical solution. We shall drop the primes henceforth.

4 Quadratic fluctuations

Having reviewed the classical solution dual to the $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS latitude Wilson loop and its symmetries, in this section we derive the corresponding spectrum of quadratic fluctuations. There has already been some previous work for the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS configuration in [30] and [31] whose spectrum is a limit of our result. We will start by giving a general expression for the quadratic fluctuations of the type IIA string in $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{CP}^3$ and then specialize to the case of the $\frac{1}{6}$ BPS string dual to the latitude Wilson loop. In what follows, target-space indices are denoted by m, n, \dots , world-sheet indices are a, b, \dots , while the directions orthogonal to the string are represented by i, j, \dots . All corresponding tangent space indices are underlined.

4.1 Type IIA strings on $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{CP}^3$

In the bosonic sector, the string dynamics is dictated by the Nambu-Goto (NG) action

$$S_{\text{NG}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-g}, \quad (4.1)$$

where g_{ab} is the induced metric on the world sheet and $g = \det g_{ab}$. Our first goal in this section is to consider perturbations $x^m \rightarrow x^m + \varepsilon y^m$, $\varepsilon \ll 1$, around any given classical embedding and find the quadratic action that governs them. To this purpose, let us choose convenient vielbeins for the $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{CP}^3$ metric that are properly adapted to the study of fluctuations. Using the local $\text{SO}(9, 1)$ symmetry, we can always pick a frame $E^{\underline{m}} = (E^a, E^{\underline{i}})$ such that the pullback of E^a onto the world-sheet forms a vielbein for the induced metric, while the pullback of $E^{\underline{i}}$ vanishes. Of course, these are nothing but the 1-forms dual to the tangent and normal vectors fields, respectively. The Lorentz symmetry is consequently broken to $\text{SO}(1, 1) \times \text{SO}(8)$. Having made this choice we may define the fields

$$\chi^{\underline{m}} \equiv E^{\underline{m}}_m y^m, \quad (4.2)$$

and gauge fix the diffeomorphism invariance by freezing the tangent fluctuations, namely, by requiring

$$\chi^a = 0. \tag{4.3}$$

The physical degrees of freedom are then parameterized by the normal directions $\chi^{\underline{i}}$. In this gauge the variation of the induced metric is

$$\varepsilon^{-1} \delta g_{ab} = -2H_{\underline{a}b} \chi^{\underline{i}} + \nabla_a \chi^{\underline{i}} \nabla_b \chi^{\underline{j}} \delta_{\underline{ij}} + \left(H_{\underline{ia}}{}^c H_{\underline{jb}c} - R_{\underline{minj}} \partial_a x^m \partial_b x^n \right) \chi^{\underline{i}} \chi^{\underline{j}}, \tag{4.4}$$

where $H^{\underline{i}}_{\underline{ab}}$ is the extrinsic curvature of the embedding and

$$\nabla_a \chi^{\underline{i}} = \partial_a \chi^{\underline{i}} + \mathcal{A}^{\underline{ij}}{}_a \chi_{\underline{j}} \tag{4.5}$$

is the world-sheet covariant derivative, which includes the SO(8) normal bundle connection $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{ij}}{}_a$. These objects, as well as the world-sheet spin connection w^{ab} , are related to the pullback of the target-space spin connection Ω^{mn} by

$$w^{ab} = P[\Omega^{ab}], \quad H^{\underline{i}}_{\underline{ab}} = P[\Omega^{\underline{i}}_{\underline{a}}]_a e^a_b, \quad \mathcal{A}^{\underline{ij}} = P[\Omega^{\underline{ij}}], \tag{4.6}$$

where $e^a_a = P[E^a]_a$ is the induced geometry vielbein. Using the well-known expansion of the square root of a determinant, a short calculation shows that, to quadratic order, the NG action becomes

$$S_{\text{NG}}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-g} \left(g^{ab} \nabla_a \chi^{\underline{i}} \nabla_b \chi^{\underline{j}} \delta_{\underline{ij}} - \left(g^{ab} H_{\underline{ia}}{}^c H_{\underline{jb}c} + \delta^{ab} R_{\underline{aibj}} \right) \chi^{\underline{i}} \chi^{\underline{j}} \right), \tag{4.7}$$

where we have used the equations of motion $g^{ab} H^{\underline{i}}_{\underline{ab}} = 0$ and written $g^{ab} R_{\underline{minj}} \partial_a x^m \partial_b x^n = \delta^{ab} R_{\underline{aibj}}$. The continuation of this expression to Euclidean signature is straightforward.

Let us now discuss the fermionic degrees of freedom. In Lorentzian signature, the type IIA string involves a single 10-dimensional Majorana spinor θ . At quadratic order, the Green-Schwarz (GS) action that controls its dynamics on $\text{AdS}_4 \times \mathbb{CP}^3$ is given by

$$S_{\text{GS}} = \frac{i}{4\pi\alpha'} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-g} \bar{\theta} \left(g^{ab} - \frac{\epsilon^{ab}}{\sqrt{-g}} \Gamma_{11} \right) \Gamma_a D_b \theta, \tag{4.8}$$

where the symbol ϵ^{ab} is a density with $\epsilon^{\tau\sigma} = 1$, $\Gamma_a = \Gamma_m \partial_a x^m$ is the pullback of the 10-dimensional Dirac matrices and $\Gamma_{11} \equiv \Gamma_{0123456789}$. Also, $D_a = \partial_a x^m D_m$ is the pullback of the spacetime covariant derivative appearing in the supersymmetry variation of the gravitino, which includes the contribution from the RR fluxes. Explicitly,

$$D_a = \partial_a x^m \nabla_m + \frac{1}{8} e^\Phi [\not{F}_{(2)} \Gamma_{11} + \not{F}_{(4)}] \Gamma_a. \tag{4.9}$$

The above action can be simplified considerably. Indeed, given our choice of vielbein we have

$$D_a = \nabla_a - \frac{1}{2} H^{\underline{i}}{}_a{}^{\underline{a}} \Gamma_{\underline{ai}} + \frac{1}{8} e^\Phi [\not{F}_{(2)} \Gamma_{11} + \not{F}_{(4)}] \Gamma_a, \tag{4.10}$$

where the world-sheet covariant derivative ∇_a includes the normal bundle connection $\mathcal{A}^{\underline{ij}}{}_a$, that is,

$$\nabla_a = \partial_a + \frac{1}{4} w^{ab} \Gamma_{\underline{ab}} + \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{A}^{\underline{ij}}{}_a \Gamma_{\underline{ij}}. \tag{4.11}$$

Using the relation $\epsilon^{ab}\Gamma_a = \sqrt{-g}\Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma^b$, it is easy to see that the terms proportional to the extrinsic curvature drop out from the action because of the equations of motion $H_{ab}^i\Gamma^a\Gamma^b = H_{ab}^i g^{ab} = 0$. Then,

$$S_{\text{GS}} = \frac{i}{4\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-g} \bar{\theta} (1 - \Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}) \Gamma^a \left(\nabla_a + \frac{1}{8} e^\Phi [\not{F}_{(2)}\Gamma_{11} + \not{F}_{(4)}] \Gamma_a \right) \theta. \quad (4.12)$$

Now, in addition to diffeomorphism invariance and local Lorentz rotations, the full string action enjoys the local κ -symmetry

$$\delta_\kappa \theta = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}) \kappa, \quad \delta_\kappa x^m = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^m \delta_\kappa \theta. \quad (4.13)$$

It is then possible to gauge fix to

$$\frac{1}{2} (1 - \Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}) \theta = \theta \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta} (1 - \Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}) = \bar{\theta}, \quad (4.14)$$

resulting in

$$S_{\text{GS}} = \frac{i}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-g} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^a \left(\nabla_a + \frac{1}{8} e^\Phi [-\not{F}_{(2)}\Gamma_{\underline{01}} + \not{F}_{(4)}] \Gamma_a \right) \theta. \quad (4.15)$$

Finally, we will need the Euclidean continuation of the action:

$$S_{\text{GS}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^a \left(\nabla_a + \frac{1}{8} e^\Phi (i\not{F}_{(2)}\Gamma_{\underline{01}} + \not{F}_{(4)}) \Gamma_a \right) \theta. \quad (4.16)$$

The κ -symmetry fixing becomes $i\Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}\theta = \theta$ where now $\Gamma_{11} \equiv -i\Gamma_{\underline{0123456789}}$. We will take this expression as our starting point; all quantities involved are intrinsically Euclidean, including the fluxes and Dirac matrices.

4.2 Bosonic fluctuations

Putting everything together we find that the action that governs the bosonic fluctuations is

$$S_{(2,3)} = \frac{L^2}{\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \left(g^{ab} (\partial_a \chi^{23})^* \partial_b \chi^{23} + \frac{2 \sinh^2 \rho}{\sqrt{g}} |\chi^{23}|^2 \right), \quad \chi^{23} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi^2 + i\chi^3), \quad (4.17)$$

$$S_{(4,5)} = \frac{L^2}{\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \left(g^{ab} (D_a^{\mathcal{A}} \chi^{45})^* D_b^{\mathcal{A}} \chi^{45} - \frac{2m^2}{\sqrt{g}} |\chi^{45}|^2 \right), \quad \chi^{45} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi^4 + i\chi^5), \quad (4.18)$$

$$S_{(6,7)} = \frac{L^2}{\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \left(g^{ab} (D_a^{\mathcal{B}} \chi^{67})^* D_b^{\mathcal{B}} \chi^{67} - \frac{\sin^2 \vartheta_1}{2\sqrt{g}} |\chi^{67}|^2 \right), \quad \chi^{67} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi^6 + i\chi^7), \quad (4.19)$$

$$S_{(8,9)} = \frac{L^2}{\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \left(g^{ab} (D_a^{\mathcal{B}} \chi^{89})^* D_b^{\mathcal{B}} \chi^{89} - \frac{\sin^2 \vartheta_1}{2\sqrt{g}} |\chi^{89}|^2 \right), \quad \chi^{89} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\chi^8 + i\chi^9), \quad (4.20)$$

where

$$m = \frac{\sinh \rho \sin \vartheta_1(\rho)}{\cosh \rho - \cos \vartheta_1(\rho)}, \quad (4.21)$$

and the U(1) covariant derivatives read

$$D^{\mathcal{A}} = d + i\mathcal{A}, \quad D^{\mathcal{B}} = d + i\mathcal{B}, \quad (4.22)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} &\equiv \mathcal{A}^{45} = \left(1 - \frac{\cosh \rho \cos \vartheta_1(\rho) + 1}{\cosh \rho + \cos \vartheta_1(\rho)} \right) d\tau, \\ \mathcal{B} &\equiv \mathcal{A}^{67} = \mathcal{A}^{89} = \frac{1}{2} (\cos \vartheta_1(\rho) - 1) d\tau. \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

We have factored out the radius L from the metric and the fluctuations. Notice that the $U(1) \times U(1) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetry structure is evident, with χ^{67} and χ^{89} forming a doublet.

4.3 Fermionic fluctuations

For the case at hand, the fermionic action reads

$$S_{\text{GS}} = \frac{L^2}{\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{g} \bar{\theta} (\Gamma^a \nabla_a + M) \theta, \quad (4.24)$$

where

$$\nabla_\tau = \partial_\tau + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma^{01} w + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma^{45} \mathcal{A} + \frac{1}{2} (\Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}) \mathcal{B}, \quad (4.25)$$

$$\nabla_\sigma = \partial_\sigma, \quad (4.26)$$

$$M = \frac{i\Gamma^{01}}{4A} ((3\Gamma^{23} - \Gamma^{45}) (\sinh^2 \rho - \sin^2 \vartheta_1(\rho) \Gamma^{0145}) + (\Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}) A). \quad (4.27)$$

Here \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are the connections defined above in equation (4.23), A is the conformal factor of the induced worldsheet metric defined in (3.8) and w the worldsheet spin connection given by (B.18).

As for the bosons we have extracted the radius L from the metric and rescaled the fermionic fields by $L^{1/2}$. The symmetry of the action under the $U(1) \times U(1) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ bosonic subgroup follows from the fact that all the objects involved commute with the preserved generators (3.22).

4.4 One-loop effective action

The induced world-sheet geometry is that of the 2d Euclidean manifold \mathcal{M} with the metric¹

$$\begin{aligned} ds_{\mathcal{M}}^2 &= M(\rho) (d\rho^2 + \sinh^2 \rho d\tau^2), \\ M(\rho) &= 1 + \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho}, \quad \sin \theta(\rho) = \frac{\sinh \rho \sin \theta_0}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0} \end{aligned} \quad (4.28)$$

where $0 \leq \theta_0 \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ is the latitude angle. $\theta_0 = 0$ corresponds to the $\frac{1}{2}$ - BPS solution.

¹To simplify the notation, in the following sections we renamed $\theta(\rho) \equiv \vartheta_1(\rho)$.

The difference in 1-loop effective actions of $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS string with respect to the $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS is

$$e^{-\Delta\Gamma_{\text{effective}}^{1\text{-loop}}(\theta_0)} = \left[\frac{\left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{4+}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{4+}(0)}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{4-}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{4-}(0)}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{5+}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{5+}(0)}\right) \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{5-}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{5-}(0)}\right) \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{6+}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{6+}(0)}\right) \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{6-}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{6-}(0)}\right)}{\left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_1(0)}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{2+}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{2+}(0)}\right) \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{2-}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{2-}(0)}\right) \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{3+}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{3+}(0)}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{3-}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{3-}(0)}\right)^2} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (4.29)$$

where the bosonic spectrum of operators is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0) &= M^{-1}(-g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu + 2), \\ \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(\theta_0) &= M^{-1}(-g^{\mu\nu}D_\mu^a D_\nu^a + V_2), & D_\mu^a &= \nabla_\mu \pm \iota\mathcal{A}_\mu, \\ \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(\theta_0) &= M^{-1}(-g^{\mu\nu}D_\mu^b D_\nu^b + V_3), & D_\mu^b &= \nabla_\mu \pm \iota\mathcal{B}_\mu. \end{aligned} \quad (4.30)$$

Effective 2d fermionic operators $\mathcal{O}_{i\pm}$ ($i = 4, 5, 6$) are obtained by a judicious choice of the 10d Gamma matrices (see (D.2)). Calling α, β, γ the eigenvalues of $\Gamma^{45}, \Gamma^{67}, \Gamma^{89}$ respectively, the 10d operator appearing in (4.24) take a block diagonal form with entries

$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(\theta_0) = M^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(-\iota \left(\not{D} + \frac{1}{4} \not{\partial} \ln M \right) - \iota \Gamma_{01} (m + V) + \alpha W \right), \quad (4.31)$$

The operators in (4.29) are defined as:

$$\mathcal{O}_{4,\alpha} \equiv \mathcal{O}_{\alpha,\beta,-\beta}, \quad \mathcal{O}_{5,\alpha} \equiv \mathcal{O}_{\alpha,\alpha,\alpha}, \quad \mathcal{O}_{6,\alpha} \equiv \mathcal{O}_{\alpha,-\alpha,-\alpha}. \quad (4.32)$$

Explicitly we have $\mathcal{A}_\rho = \mathcal{B}_\rho = 0$, $\mathcal{A}_\tau = \mathcal{A}(\rho)$, $\mathcal{B}_\tau = \mathcal{B}(\rho)$ with $g_{\mu\nu}$ and ∇_μ evaluated for the AdS₂ metric,

$$D_\mu = \nabla_\mu + \iota \frac{\alpha}{2} \mathcal{A}_\mu + \iota \frac{\beta + \gamma}{2} \mathcal{B}_\mu, \quad (4.33)$$

and

$$\mathcal{A}(\rho) = 1 - \frac{1 + \cosh \rho \cos \theta(\rho)}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta(\rho)}, \quad \mathcal{B}(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} (\cos \theta(\rho) - 1), \quad (4.34)$$

$$V_2(\rho) = -\frac{\partial_\rho \mathcal{A}(\rho)}{\sinh \rho}, \quad V_3(\rho) = -\frac{\partial_\rho \mathcal{B}(\rho)}{\sinh \rho}, \quad (4.35)$$

$$V(\rho) = \frac{(1 - 3\beta\gamma)}{4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{M(\rho)}} - \frac{\alpha(\beta + \gamma)}{4} \sqrt{M(\rho)} - m, \quad (4.36)$$

$$W(\rho) = \frac{1 - 3\beta\gamma}{4} \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sqrt{M(\rho)} \sinh^2 \rho}. \quad (4.37)$$

Here m corresponds to the value of potential, V , at $\rho = \infty$.

$$m = \frac{(1 - 3\beta\gamma)}{4} - \frac{\alpha(\beta + \gamma)}{4} \quad (4.38)$$

For completeness we quote that

$$\cos \theta(\rho) = \frac{1 + \cosh \rho \cos \theta_0}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0}. \quad (4.39)$$

It is important to mention that the $\mathcal{O}_{6,\alpha}$ operators give rise to asymptotically massless fermions.

5 One-loop effective action: perturbative heat kernel

We now proceed to evaluate fluctuations determinant using the heat kernel techniques. To evaluate the determinants we will exploit the fact that heat kernel techniques for AdS₂ are well-developed [7, 32, 33]. More precisely, we will use perturbation theory valid in the limit when the induced world-sheet geometry can be considered as a small deformation of AdS₂ govern by the deformation parameter θ_0 . This approach has been successfully applied the holographic perturbative computation of a ratio of Wilson loops expectation values [10]. Namely, we will expand around the parameter $\alpha = \theta_0^2$, where the near AdS₂ geometry corresponds to the latitude in $S^2 \subset S^5$ parametrized by angle θ_0 . For $\theta_0 = 0$, the worldsheet metric reduces to AdS₂. Under the conditions clarified below we will be able to determine the first leading order correction to the string partition function by the perturbative expansion of the heat kernels.

Let \mathcal{M} be a d dimensional smooth compact Riemannian manifold with metric g_{ij} and \mathcal{O} be a second order elliptic operator of the Laplace type. Then, we can define the logarithm of the determinant using ζ -function regularization as,

$$\log \text{Det}_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{O} = -\zeta'_{\mathcal{O}}(0), \tag{5.1}$$

The ζ function is related to the integrated heat kernel by the Mellin transform,

$$\zeta_{\mathcal{O}}(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{s-1} K_{\mathcal{O}}(t), \quad K_{\mathcal{O}}(t) = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \text{tr} K_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x; t), \tag{5.2}$$

where by construction, $K_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t)$ satisfies the heat conduction equation

$$(\partial_t + \mathcal{O}_x) K_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) = 0, \tag{5.3}$$

with the initial condition

$$K_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; 0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \delta^{(d)}(x - x') \mathbb{I}. \tag{5.4}$$

Let us now assume that the manifold \mathcal{M} can be viewed as a deformation of another manifold $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$. Namely, for $\alpha = 0$ we have $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$ with metric \bar{g}_{ij} ; we further assume that in this limit the spectral problem can be solved exactly and seek to construct the solution for \mathcal{M} . We can expand $K_{\mathcal{O}}$ and subsequently $\text{Det}_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{O}$ in perturbation theory in α :

$$\begin{aligned} g_{ij} &= \bar{g}_{ij} + \alpha \tilde{g}_{ij} + O(\alpha^2), \\ \mathcal{O} &= \bar{\mathcal{O}} + \alpha \tilde{\mathcal{O}} + O(\alpha^2), \\ K_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) &= \bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) + \alpha \tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) + O(\alpha^2), \end{aligned} \tag{5.5}$$

such that $\bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t)$ satisfies (5.3) and (5.4).

It can be shown [10], that $\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t)$ can be solved from

$$(\partial_t + \bar{\mathcal{O}}_x) \tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) + \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_x \bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) = 0, \tag{5.6}$$

with the initial condition

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t) = -\frac{\tilde{g}}{2 \tilde{g}^{3/2}} \delta^{(d)}(x - x') \mathbb{I}. \quad (5.7)$$

The trace of heat kernel can be written as;

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(t) = -t \int d^d x \sqrt{\tilde{g}} \operatorname{tr} [\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_x \bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(x, x'; t)]_{x=x'}. \quad (5.8)$$

In perturbation theory, the ζ -function and the determinant takes the form

$$\log \operatorname{Det}_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{O} = -\bar{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}}(0) + -\alpha \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}}(0) + O(\alpha^2), \quad (5.9)$$

$$\tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}}(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{s-1} \tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}}(t). \quad (5.10)$$

In our context, the string partition function corresponding to the Wilson loop in the gauge theory is given by

$$Z = \langle W(\lambda, \alpha) \rangle \equiv e^{-\Gamma}, \quad \Gamma = \sqrt{\lambda} \Gamma^{(0)}(\alpha) + \Gamma^{(1)}(\alpha) + O(\lambda^{-1/2}) \quad (5.11)$$

where $\Gamma^{(0)}(\alpha)$ is the classical piece and object of current interest is $\Gamma^{(1)}(\alpha)$, which corresponds to the one-loop corrections to the string action. In particular, we are interested in evaluating $\tilde{\Gamma}^{(1)}(0)$.

5.1 Circular Wilson loop

In the limit $\theta_0 = 0$, or $\sigma_0 = \infty$, the operators take the following form;

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bosons:} \quad & \bar{\mathcal{O}}_1 = -\Delta_{\rho, \tau} + 2, \quad \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{2\pm} = \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{3\pm} = -\Delta_{\rho, \tau} \\ \text{Fermions:} \quad & \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} = -\iota \not{\nabla}_{\rho, \tau} + \iota m \sigma_3 \end{aligned} \quad (5.12)$$

where $4m = \alpha + \beta + \gamma - 3\alpha\beta\gamma$ with $\alpha, \beta, \gamma = \pm 1$ as follows from the spinor reduction described in appendix D.

The integrated AdS₂ heat kernel and ζ -function for the massive Laplace operator $-\Delta + m^2$ is known to be,

$$\bar{K}_{-\Delta+m^2}(t) = \frac{V_{\text{AdS}_2}}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty dv v \tanh(\pi v) e^{-t(v^2+m^2+\frac{1}{4})} \quad (5.13)$$

$$\bar{\zeta}_{-\Delta+m^2}(s) = \frac{V_{\text{AdS}_2}}{\pi} \left[\frac{(m^2 + \frac{1}{4})^{1-s}}{2(s-1)} - 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{(e^{2\pi v} + 1)(v^2 + m^2 + \frac{1}{4})^s} \right]. \quad (5.14)$$

The regularized determinants for $\theta_0 = 0$ bosonic operators becomes

$$\bar{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_1}(0) = -\frac{25}{12} + \frac{3}{2} \log 2\pi - 2 \log A, \quad (5.15)$$

$$\bar{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{2\pm}}(0) = \bar{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{3\pm}}(0) = -\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{2} \log 2\pi - 2 \log A, \quad (5.16)$$

where A is the Glaisher constant. The spectrum of the bosonic fluctuations correspond to 2 massive scalars ($m^2 = 2$) and 6 massless scalars.

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\Gamma}_B^{(1)}(0) &= -\frac{2}{2} \zeta'_{\mathcal{O}_1}(0) - \frac{6}{2} \zeta'_{\mathcal{O}_{2\pm,3\pm}}(0) \\ &= \frac{7}{3} - 3 \log 2\pi + 8 \log A\end{aligned}\tag{5.17}$$

The standard expression for the AdS₂ heat kernel corresponding to the square of the massive Dirac operator $-\not{\nabla} + m \Gamma^3$ is,

$$\bar{K}_{-\not{\nabla}^2+m^2}(t) = \frac{V_{\text{AdS}_2}}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dv v \coth(\pi v) e^{-t(v^2+m^2)}\tag{5.18}$$

and the ζ -function is given by

$$\bar{\zeta}_{-\not{\nabla}^2+m^2}(s) = \frac{V_{\text{AdS}_2}}{\pi} \left[\frac{(m^2)^{1-s}}{2(s-1)} + 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{(e^{2\pi v} - 1)(v^2 + m^2)^s} \right].\tag{5.19}$$

In the present case, the fermionic excitations involve 2 modes with $m^2 = 0$ and 6 modes with $m^2 = 1$. Then,

$$\bar{\zeta}'_{m^2=0}(0) = \frac{1}{3} - 4 \log A\tag{5.20}$$

$$\bar{\zeta}'_{m^2=1}(0) = -\frac{5}{3} - 4 \log A + 2 \log 2\pi\tag{5.21}$$

The final contribution from fermions results,

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\Gamma}_F^{(1)}(0) &= -\frac{2}{2} \bar{\zeta}'_{m^2=0}(0) - \frac{6}{2} \bar{\zeta}'_{m^2=1}(0) \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{7}{3} + 8 \log A - 3 \log 2\pi \right).\end{aligned}\tag{5.22}$$

Thus, the one-loop correction in the circular Wilson loop case becomes

$$\bar{\Gamma}^{(1)}(0) = \bar{\Gamma}_B^{(1)}(0) - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\Gamma}_F^{(1)}(0) = 0\tag{5.23}$$

This result certainly requires further scrutiny.² Here we simply note that, as it stands, it does not agree with the field theory prediction of (2.3) in the string theory limit given by

$$\langle W_{\square}^{\frac{1}{2}} \rangle = \frac{e^{\pi\sqrt{2\lambda}}}{8\pi\lambda} + O(\lambda^{-1/2})\tag{5.24}$$

It also does not agree with a Gelfand-Yaglom based computation which further involved numerical evaluation [31]. We leave a proper treatment of the expectation value of the half BPS Wilson loop to a separate work. Here we are mostly concerned with the ratio of expectation values.

²We acknowledge various discussions in the summer of 2015 with Jewel Ghosh regarding the heat kernel approach to the one-loop effective action of the half BPS configuration.

5.2 Difference of one-loop effective actions

The perturbative expansion of the relevant operators here,

$$\mathcal{O}_i(\theta_0) = \bar{\mathcal{O}}_i + \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i \theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4), \quad i = 1, 2\pm, 3\pm \quad (5.25)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(\theta_0) = \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} + \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} \theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4), \quad (5.26)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}^2(\theta_0) = \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}^2 + \theta_0^2 \{ \bar{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} \} + O(\theta_0^4). \quad (5.27)$$

where $\{..\}$ denotes the anticommutator of two differential operators.

In the expansion scheme of (5.5), the corresponding perturbative operator is

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_1 &= \frac{1}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} (\Delta_{\rho,\tau} - 2), \\ \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{2\pm} &= \frac{1}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \left[\Delta_{\rho,\tau} - \frac{1}{2} (1 \pm \iota \partial_\tau) \right] \\ \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{3\pm} &= \frac{1}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \left[\Delta_{\rho,\tau} - \frac{\sinh^2 \rho}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} (2 \pm \iota \partial_\tau) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (5.28)$$

for the bosonic second order operators. While, for the first order fermionic operator, we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(\theta_0) &= \frac{1}{2(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \left[\iota \not{\nabla} + \frac{\sinh \rho}{1 + \cosh \rho} (\iota \Gamma^0) + \Gamma^1 \left(\frac{\alpha(1 - \cosh \rho)^2}{2} - \frac{\beta + \gamma}{4} \sinh^2 \rho \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{(-1 + 3\beta\gamma)}{2} (\iota \Gamma_{01}) + \frac{\alpha(1 - 3\beta\gamma)}{2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (5.29)$$

Bosons: substituting the $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_1$ in (5.8), we get,

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(t) = -t \int_0^{2\pi} d\tau \int_0^\Lambda d\rho \frac{\sinh \rho}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \left[(\Delta_{\rho,\tau} - 2) \bar{K}_{-\Delta+2}(\rho, \tau, \rho', \tau'; t) \right]_{\rho=\rho', \tau=\tau'} \quad (5.30)$$

We know that \bar{K} satisfies, the following equation,

$$(\partial_t - \Delta_{\rho,\tau} + 2) \bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(\rho, \tau, \rho', \tau'; t) = 0 \quad (5.31)$$

Thus, plugging it back in (5.30), we obtain

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(t) = -t \int_0^{2\pi} d\tau \int_0^\Lambda d\rho \frac{\sinh \rho}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \partial_t \bar{K}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(\rho, \tau, \rho, \tau; t) \quad (5.32)$$

Now we can take the limit $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ and using the integral representation of heat kernel \bar{K}

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(t) = \frac{t}{2} \int_0^\infty dv v \tanh(\pi v) \left(v^2 + \frac{9}{4} \right) e^{-t(v^2+9/4)} \quad (5.33)$$

Using $\tanh(\pi v) = 1 - 2/(e^{2\pi v} + 1)$ and we can write the corresponding ζ -function as,

$$\tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(s) = \int_0^\infty dv \frac{s v}{2(v^2 + 9/4)^s} - \int_0^\infty dv \frac{s v}{(e^{2\pi v} + 1)(v^2 + 9/4)^s} \quad (5.34)$$

The first integral converges only for $\text{Re } s > 1$, we can first integrate over v and then analytically continue to all values of s

$$\tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(s) = \frac{s}{4(s-1)} \left(\frac{9}{4}\right)^{1-s} - s \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{(e^{2\pi v} + 1)(v^2 + 9/4)^s}. \quad (5.35)$$

The final result is

$$\tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_1}(0) = -\frac{7}{12}. \quad (5.36)$$

In the case of $\mathcal{O}_{2\pm}$, we add the contribution from \mathcal{O}_{2+} and \mathcal{O}_{2-} to get rid of the ∂_τ term, this substantially simplifies the calculation. Then,

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_{2+}}(t) + \tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_{2-}}(t) = t \int_0^\infty dv \left[\left(v^2 + \frac{5}{4}\right) v \tanh(\pi v) e^{-t(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})} \right], \quad (5.37)$$

$$\tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{2+}}(s) + \tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{2-}}(s) = s \int_0^\infty dv v \frac{(v^2 + \frac{5}{4})}{(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})^{1+s}} - 2s \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{e^{2\pi v} + 1} \frac{(v^2 + \frac{5}{4})}{(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})^{1+s}}. \quad (5.38)$$

So,

$$\tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{2+}}(0) + \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{2-}}(0) = -\frac{1}{6} + \gamma. \quad (5.39)$$

Similarly, for the operator $\mathcal{O}_{3\pm}$, we get

$$\tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_{3+}}(t) + \tilde{K}_{\mathcal{O}_{3-}}(t) = t \int_0^\infty dv \left[\left(v^2 + \frac{3}{4}\right) v \tanh(\pi v) e^{-t(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})} \right]. \quad (5.40)$$

Then,

$$\tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{3+}}(s) + \tilde{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{3-}}(s) = \int_0^\infty dv sv \frac{(v^2 + \frac{3}{4})}{(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})^{1+s}} - 2s \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{e^{2\pi v} + 1} \frac{(v^2 + \frac{3}{4})}{(v^2 + \frac{1}{4})^{1+s}}, \quad (5.41)$$

which gives

$$\tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{3+}}(0) + \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{3-}}(0) = -\frac{1}{6} + \frac{\gamma}{2}, \quad (5.42)$$

where γ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

The total contribution for bosonic operators is simply given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Gamma}_B^{(1)} &= -\frac{2}{2} \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_1}(0) - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{2+}}(0) - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{2-}}(0) - \frac{2}{2} \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{3+}}(0) - \frac{2}{2} \tilde{\zeta}'_{\mathcal{O}_{3-}}(0) \\ &= \frac{5}{6} - \gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (5.43)$$

Fermions: an important computational ingredient in case of fermions is

$$\begin{aligned} \{\bar{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma}\} = \{\bar{\mathcal{O}}, \tilde{\mathcal{O}}\} &= \frac{1}{(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \nabla_{\rho,\tau}^2 - \frac{m(1 - 3\beta\gamma)}{2(1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \\ &+ \frac{\iota X(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho (1 + \cosh \rho)^2} \partial_\tau, \end{aligned} \quad (5.44)$$

where

$$X(\rho) = \frac{\alpha(1 - \cosh \rho)^2}{2} - \frac{\beta + \gamma}{4} \sinh^2 \rho. \quad (5.45)$$

One can derive formal expressions which can be evaluated for the cases of interest, we skip some intermediate steps that involve Mellin transform from the heat kernel to the zeta function. In particular, we obtain

$$\delta\zeta_F(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{s-1} \delta K(t) = \int_0^\infty dv \frac{sv \left(v^2 + 2m^2 + m \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right)}{(v^2 + m^2)^{s+1}} \coth \pi v \quad (5.46)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty dv \frac{sv(v^2 + 2m^2)}{(v^2 + m^2)^{s+1}} + 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{sv(v^2 + 2m^2 + m \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2})}{(v^2 + m^2)^{s+1}(e^{2\pi v} - 1)} \quad (5.47)$$

$$= \frac{m^{1-2s} \left(m(-1 + 2s) + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2}(s-1) \right)}{2(s-1)} + 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{sv(v^2 + 2m^2)}{(v^2 + m^2)^{s+1}(e^{2\pi v} - 1)}, \quad (5.48)$$

thus giving

$$\delta\zeta'_F(0) = -\frac{1}{2}m \left(m + \left(m + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right) \ln m^2 \right) + 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v \left(v^2 + 2m^2 + m \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right)}{(v^2 + m^2)(e^{2\pi v} - 1)} \quad (5.49)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}m \left(m + \left(m + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right) \ln m^2 \right) + 2 \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{(e^{2\pi v} - 1)} \quad (5.50)$$

$$+ 2m \left(m + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right) \int_0^\infty dv \frac{v}{(v^2 + m^2)(e^{2\pi v} - 1)} \quad (5.51)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}m \left(m + \left(m + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right) \ln m^2 \right) + \frac{1}{12} + m \left(m + \frac{\alpha(\beta+\gamma)}{2} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2} \ln m^2 - \frac{1}{2|m|} - \psi(|m|) \right), \quad (5.52)$$

where $\psi(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \Gamma(x)$ is the digamma function.

In particular, for $\mathcal{O}_{6,\alpha}$ operators, which have $m = 0$, we obtain

$$\delta\zeta'_F(0) = -\frac{5}{12}. \quad (5.53)$$

While operators $\mathcal{O}_{4,\alpha}$ having $m = 1$ lead to

$$\delta\zeta'_F(0) = -\frac{11}{12} + \gamma. \quad (5.54)$$

Finally $\mathcal{O}_{5,\alpha}$ operators have $m = -1$ and give

$$\delta\zeta'_F(0) = -\frac{5}{12}. \quad (5.55)$$

Adding the fermionic contributions leads to

$$\delta\zeta_F^{\text{tot}}(s) = \frac{1}{2} \left[2 \times \left(-\frac{5}{12} \right) + 4 \times \left(-\frac{11}{12} + \gamma \right) + 2 \times \left(-\frac{5}{12} \right) \right] = -\frac{8}{3} + 2\gamma. \quad (5.56)$$

Since the total bosonic contribution (5.43) follows from

$$\delta\zeta_B^{\text{tot}}(s) = -\frac{5}{3} + 2\gamma, \tag{5.57}$$

the total one-loop perturbative contribution results

$$\delta\zeta_B^{\text{tot}}(0) - \delta\zeta_F^{\text{tot}}(0) = \left(-\frac{5}{3} + 2\gamma\right) - \left(-\frac{8}{3} + 2\gamma\right) = 1. \tag{5.58}$$

Finally,

$$\Delta\Gamma_{\text{effective}}^{1\text{-loop}}(\theta_0) = \frac{1}{2}\theta_0^2, \tag{5.59}$$

which agrees, at the given order, with the field theory prediction (cf. (2.6)).

6 One-loop effective action: zeta function regularization

In this section we follow our previous work [34, 35] where we developed a regularization in the case of radial determinants that coincides with ζ -function regularization in various cases. There are various reasons to tackle the problem using these methods. First, one would obviously like to go beyond the small θ_0 limit and obtain an expression that is valid in the whole range of θ_0 . Second, by construction, our regularization is diffeomorphic invariant and works directly on the disk; other approaches [8, 9, 11] rely on mapping the problem from the disk to the cylinder. Although these latter methods have proven to be quite effective it is conceptually satisfying to deal with the problem directly on the disk.

The main outcome of [34] is a prescription for computing ζ -function regularized determinants of radial operators in asymptotically AdS₂ spacetimes. The result for bosons is

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}^{\text{free}}} &= \ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}_0}{\det \mathcal{O}_0^{\text{free}}} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left(\ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}_l}{\det \mathcal{O}_l^{\text{free}}} + \ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{-l}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{-l}^{\text{free}}} + \frac{2}{l} \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \right) - 2\left(\gamma + \ln \frac{\mu}{2}\right) \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \\ &\quad + \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \sinh \rho \ln(\sinh \rho) V - q^2 \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{\sinh \rho}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

$$\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \sinh \rho V, \tag{6.2}$$

whereas for fermions, it reads

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}^{\text{free}}} &= \sum_{l=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} \left(\ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}_l}{\det \mathcal{O}_l^{\text{free}}} + \ln \frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{-l}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{-l}^{\text{free}}} + \frac{2}{l + \frac{1}{2}} \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \right) - 2\left(\gamma + \ln \frac{\mu}{2}\right) \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \\ &\quad + \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \sinh \rho \ln(\sinh \rho) \left((m + V)^2 - W^2 - m^2 \right) \\ &\quad - q^2 \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{\sinh \rho} - \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \sinh \rho W^2, \end{aligned} \tag{6.3}$$

$$\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} d\rho \sinh \rho \left((m + V)^2 - W^2 - m^2 \right), \tag{6.4}$$

6.1 Bosons

We now proceed to apply the prescription above to the different bosonic operators.

6.1.1 $\mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0)$

The action for these fluctuations is

$$\mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0) = M^{-1}(-g^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu + 2) \quad (6.5)$$

We see that the rescaled operator does not depend on θ_0 , meaning that these fluctuations contribute only with an anomaly [35],

$$\begin{aligned} \ln\left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_1(0)}\right) &= \theta_0 \sin\theta_0 + \frac{1}{2}\sin^2\frac{\theta_0}{2} + \left(\frac{7}{3} + 2\cos\theta_0\right)\ln\cos\frac{\theta_0}{2} \\ &= \frac{7}{12}\theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4) \end{aligned} \quad (6.6)$$

6.1.2 $\mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(\theta_0)$

For these charged fluctuations, we have,

$$\ln\left(\frac{\det\mathcal{O}_{\text{AdS}_2}(\theta_0)}{\det\mathcal{O}_{\text{AdS}_2}(0)}\right) = \ln\frac{\psi_0(\theta_0)}{\psi_0(0)} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty}\left(\ln\frac{\psi_l(\theta_0)}{\psi_l(0)} + \ln\frac{\psi_{-l}(\theta_0)}{\psi_{-l}(0)} - \frac{D}{l}\right) + F + D\gamma, \quad (6.7)$$

where

$$D \equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh\rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) \quad (6.8)$$

$$F \equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \left(\sinh\rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) \ln\left(\frac{\sinh\rho}{2}\right) - \frac{\mathcal{A}(\rho)^2}{\sinh\rho}\right), \quad (6.9)$$

Explicitly, the relevant operator in AdS_2 is

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{AdS}_2} = -\frac{1}{\sinh\rho}\partial_\rho(\sinh\rho\partial_\rho) + \frac{(l - \mathcal{A}(\rho))^2}{\sinh^2\rho} + V_{\text{AdS}_2}, \quad (6.10)$$

where the gauge field and the potential read

$$\mathcal{A}(\rho) = -\frac{(\cosh\rho - 1)^2(1 - \cos\theta_0)}{\cosh^2\rho + 2\cosh\rho\cos\theta_0 + 1}, \quad V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) = \frac{\partial_\rho\mathcal{A}(\rho)}{\sinh\rho}. \quad (6.11)$$

Notice that we can write this as

$$\mathcal{A}(\rho) = \sinh\rho\partial_\rho W(\rho), \quad W(\rho) = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{(\cosh\rho + 1)^2}{\cosh^2\rho + 2\cosh\rho\cos\theta_0 + 1}\right). \quad (6.12)$$

This fact allows us to write the solution to the equation of motion as

$$f_l(\rho) = \tanh^{-l}\left(\frac{\rho}{2}\right)e^{W(\rho)}\left(A + B\int d\rho\frac{\tanh^{2l}\left(\frac{\rho}{2}\right)e^{-2W(\rho)}}{\sinh\rho}\right). \quad (6.13)$$

For the case at hand, the regular solution at $\rho = 0$ is

$$f_l(\rho) = \begin{cases} 2^{-(l+\frac{1}{2})} \sqrt{1 + \cos \theta_0} \tanh^{-l} \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right) \frac{\cosh \rho + 1}{\sqrt{\cosh^2 \rho + 2 \cosh \rho \cos \theta_0 + 1}} & l < 0 \\ \frac{2^{l+\frac{1}{2}} \tanh^l \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right)}{(l+2) \sqrt{1 + \cos \theta_0}} \frac{\sqrt{\cosh^2 \rho + 2 \cosh \rho \cos \theta_0 + 1}}{\cosh \rho + 1} \left(l + \frac{(\cosh \rho + 1)^2 (1 + \cos \theta_0)}{\cosh^2 \rho + 2 \cosh \rho \cos \theta_0 + 1} \right) & l > 0 \end{cases} .$$

We then find

$$\psi_l(\theta_0) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1 + \cos \theta_0}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} & l \leq 0 \\ \left(\frac{1 + \cos \theta_0}{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{l + 1 + \cos \theta_0}{l + 2} \right) & l \geq 0 \end{cases} . \quad (6.14)$$

Next, we compute the integrals

$$\begin{aligned} D &\equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) \\ &= -2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} , \\ F &\equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \left(\sinh \rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2} \right) - \frac{A(\rho)^2}{\sinh \rho} \right) , \\ &= -\frac{\theta_0}{2} \sin \theta_0 + (2 + \cos \theta_0) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} , \end{aligned} \quad (6.15)$$

The anomaly contribution is given by

$$\begin{aligned} I &\equiv \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[m^2 + V_{\text{AdS}_2} - \frac{1}{6} R + \frac{1}{12} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \int d\rho \sinh \rho \ln M V_{\text{AdS}_2} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} . \end{aligned} \quad (6.16)$$

Putting everything together we get

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(0)} \right) &= \ln \frac{\psi_0(\theta_0)}{\psi_0(0)} + \sum_{l=1}^\infty \left(\ln \frac{\psi_l(\theta_0)}{\psi_l(0)} + \ln \frac{\psi_{-l}(\theta_0)}{\psi_{-l}(0)} - \frac{D}{l} \right) + F + D\gamma + I \\ &= \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \ln \Gamma \left(2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) - 2 \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + 2\gamma \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\ &\quad - \frac{\theta_0}{2} \sin \theta_0 + (2 + \cos \theta_0) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - 2\gamma \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\ &= -\ln \Gamma(\cos \theta_0) - \ln \cos \theta_0 + \left(\frac{7}{3} + 2 \cos \theta_0 \right) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} . \end{aligned} \quad (6.17)$$

As before, the small θ_0 expansion coincides with the results of [10] and (5.39)

$$\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(0)} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{6} - \gamma \right) \theta_0^2 + \mathcal{O}(\theta_0^4) . \quad (6.18)$$

6.1.3 $\mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(\theta_0)$

The relevant operator in AdS_2 is now

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{AdS}_2} = -\frac{1}{\sinh \rho} \partial_\rho (\sinh \rho \partial_\rho) + \frac{(l - \mathcal{B}(\rho))^2}{\sinh^2 \rho} + V_{\text{AdS}_2}, \quad (6.19)$$

where the gauge field and the potential read

$$\mathcal{B}(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\cosh \rho - 1)(1 - \cos \theta_0)}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0}, \quad V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) = -\frac{\partial_\rho \mathcal{B}(\rho)}{\sinh \rho}. \quad (6.20)$$

Notice that we can write this as

$$\mathcal{B}(\rho) = \sinh \rho \partial_\rho W(\rho), \quad W(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{(\cosh \rho - 1)(\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right). \quad (6.21)$$

This fact allows us to write the solution to the equation of motion as

$$f_l(\rho) = \tanh^l \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right) e^{-W(\rho)} \left(A + B \int d\rho \frac{\tanh^{-2l} \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right) e^{2W(\rho)}}{\sinh \rho} \right). \quad (6.22)$$

For the case at hand, the regular solution at $\rho = 0$ is

$$f_l(\rho) = \begin{cases} 2^l \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tanh^{l-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{\sinh \rho}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0}} & l > 0 \\ \frac{\tanh^{-l+\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{\rho}{2} \right)}{2^{l+1} (l-1) \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0}{\sinh \rho}} \left(2l - \frac{(\cosh \rho - 1)(1 + \cos \theta_0)}{\cosh \rho + \cos \theta_0} \right) & l < 0 \end{cases}. \quad (6.23)$$

We then find

$$\psi_l(\theta_0) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1 + \cos \theta_0}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} & l \leq 0 \\ \left(\frac{1 + \cos \theta_0}{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{l - \frac{1 + \cos \theta_0}{2}}{l - 1} \right) & l > 0 \end{cases}. \quad (6.24)$$

Next, we compute the integrals

$$\begin{aligned} D &\equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) = -\sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2}, \\ F &\equiv \int_0^\infty d\rho \left(\sinh \rho V_{\text{AdS}_2}(\rho) \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2} \right) - \frac{A(\rho)^2}{\sinh \rho} \right) = 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2}, \\ I &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \int d\rho \sinh \rho \ln M V_{\text{AdS}_2} \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.25)$$

Putting everything together we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(0)} \right) &= \ln \frac{\psi_0(\theta_0)}{\psi_0(0)} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \left(\ln \frac{\psi_l(\theta_0)}{\psi_l(0)} + \ln \frac{\psi_{-l}(\theta_0)}{\psi_{-l}(0)} - \frac{D}{l} \right) + F + D\gamma + I \\
&= \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \ln \Gamma \left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) - 2 \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \gamma \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\
&\quad + 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \gamma \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\
&\quad + \frac{3}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\
&= - \ln \Gamma \left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{5}{3} + \cos \theta_0 \right) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + 2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{6.26}$$

The small θ_0 expansion is

$$\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(0)} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{6} - \frac{\gamma}{2} \right) \theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4), \tag{6.27}$$

which coincides with the perturbative heat kernel approach (5.42).

Summary: the total bosonic contribution is,

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{2} \left[2 \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_1(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_1(0)} \right) + 2 \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{2\pm}(0)} \right) + 4 \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{3\pm}(0)} \right) \right] = \\
&= \frac{\theta_0}{2} \sin \theta_0 + 5 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \left(\frac{19}{3} + 5 \cos \theta_0 \right) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \\
&\quad - 2 \ln \Gamma \left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) - \ln (\Gamma(\cos \theta_0)) - \ln (\cos \theta_0) \\
&= \left(\frac{5}{6} - \gamma \right) \theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4)
\end{aligned} \tag{6.28}$$

which matches the perturbative heat kernel calculation (5.43).

6.2 Fermions

The effective 2d fermions operators (4.31) involve gauge couplings to the normal bundle (see (4.33)). Three different operators (4.32) appear in the computation of the 1-loop effective action.

6.2.1 $\mathcal{O}_{4\pm}(\theta_0)$

This case corresponds to vanishing coupling to the \mathcal{B}_μ gauge field. Then, the following quantities simplifies to:

$$D_\mu = \nabla_\mu + \iota \frac{\alpha}{2} \mathcal{A}_\mu, \quad V(\rho) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M(\rho)}} - 1, \quad W(\rho) = \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sqrt{M(\rho)} \sinh^2 \rho}. \tag{6.29}$$

Take $\Gamma^0 = \sigma_1$, $\Gamma^1 = \sigma_2$, and consider operators of the form,

$$\mathcal{O}_\alpha(\theta_0) = -\iota\mathcal{D} + V_1 \tag{6.30}$$

where

$$V_1 = -\frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} \iota\sigma_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \left(\sigma_3 + \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right). \tag{6.31}$$

Using circular symmetry, we expand into Fourier components. Explicitly,

$$\iota \mathcal{O}_l = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\iota}{\sqrt{M}} \left(1 + \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) & \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} - \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{\alpha \mathcal{A}}{2 \sinh \rho} \\ \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} + \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{\alpha \mathcal{A}}{2 \sinh \rho} & \frac{\iota}{\sqrt{M}} \left(-1 + \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) \end{pmatrix} \tag{6.32}$$

The relevant integrals in (6.3)–(6.4) give

$$\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \left((m+V)^2 - m^2 - W^2 \right) = \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tag{6.33}$$

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2} \right) \left((m+V)^2 - m^2 - W^2 \right) = v 2 \cos \theta_0 \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tag{6.34}$$

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho W^2 = -\frac{1}{2} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + 2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tag{6.35}$$

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{\sinh \rho} = -\sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - 2 \log \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tag{6.36}$$

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{\mathcal{B}^2}{\sinh \rho} = -\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \log \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \tag{6.37}$$

The Weyl anomaly contribution results,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[(m+V)^2 - W^2 + \frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[2 - M + \frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{7}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + \frac{11}{6} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \end{aligned} \tag{6.38}$$

For $\alpha = 1$ we obtain

$$\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}_{4+}(\theta_0)}{\det \mathcal{O}_{4+}(0)} \right) = \frac{\theta_0}{2} \sin \theta_0 + \left(\frac{7}{3} + 2 \cos \theta_0 \right) \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \ln \Gamma(\cos \theta_0) - \ln \cos \theta_0 \tag{6.39}$$

6.2.2 $\mathcal{O}_{5\pm}(\theta_0)$

In this case,

$$D_\mu = \nabla_\mu + \iota\alpha \left(\frac{\mathcal{A}_\mu}{2} + \mathcal{B}_\mu \right), \quad V(\rho) = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{M}} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{M} + 1, \quad W(\rho) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sqrt{M} \sinh^2 \rho}. \tag{6.40}$$

Using circular symmetry, we can expand the operator into Fourier components. Let

$$\psi_l(\rho) = \begin{bmatrix} u_l(\rho) \\ v_l(\rho) \end{bmatrix} \tag{6.41}$$

with $l \in \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$. The radial problem becomes, $\mathcal{O}_l \psi_l = 0$, where

$$\mathcal{O}_l = -\iota \sigma_1 \left(\partial_\rho + \frac{1}{2} \coth \rho + \frac{1}{4} \partial_\rho \ln M \right) - \frac{1}{\sinh \rho} \sigma_2 \left(l + \frac{\alpha}{2} \mathcal{A} + \alpha \mathcal{B} \right) + \sigma_3 (-1 + V) + \alpha W. \quad (6.42)$$

Explicitly,

$${}^\iota \mathcal{O}_l^\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\iota}{2\sqrt{M}} \left(-1 - M - \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) & \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} - \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{\alpha (\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \\ \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} + \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{\alpha (\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} & \frac{\iota}{2\sqrt{M}} \left(1 + M - \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6.43)$$

For $\alpha = 1$, the operator reduces to

$${}^\iota \mathcal{O}_l = \begin{pmatrix} -\iota \sqrt{M} & \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} - \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \\ \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} + \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} & \frac{\iota}{\sqrt{M}} \end{pmatrix} \quad (6.44)$$

and the system of equations become,

$$\left(\partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} - \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) v_l(\rho) - \iota \sqrt{M} u_l(\rho) = 0, \quad (6.45)$$

$$\left(\partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} + \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) u_l(\rho) + \iota \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} v_l(\rho) = 0. \quad (6.46)$$

Introducing

$$D^\pm \equiv \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} \pm \left(\frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right), \quad (6.47)$$

we start solving the second order equation for $v_l(\rho)$. It takes the form,

$$\sqrt{M} D^+ \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} D^- v_l \right) - v_l = 0, \quad (6.48)$$

which we rewrite as,

$$-\frac{1}{\sinh \rho} \partial_\rho (\sinh \rho \partial_\rho v_l(\rho)) + \frac{(l + \mathcal{X})^2}{\sinh^2 \rho} v_l(\rho) - \frac{\partial_\rho \mathcal{X}}{\sinh \rho} v_l(\rho) = 0, \quad (6.49)$$

with

$$\mathcal{X} = \sinh \rho \left(-\frac{\coth \rho}{2} - \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} \right) + \frac{\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B}}{2}. \quad (6.50)$$

The solution is

$$v_l(\rho) = \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-l + \frac{1}{2}} e^{-\mathcal{W}(\rho)} \left(C_1 + C_2 \int d\rho \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{2l-1} \frac{e^{2\mathcal{W}(\rho)}}{\sinh \rho} \right), \quad (6.51)$$

$$\partial_\rho \mathcal{W}(\rho) = \frac{\mathcal{X}(\rho) + \frac{1}{2}}{\sinh \rho}.$$

As before, we fix constants C_1 and C_2 by demanding regularity at the origin ($\rho = 0$). For $l \geq 1/2$, we find

$$v_l^+(\rho) = C_2 \frac{(2l + \cosh \rho)}{(4l^2 - 1) \sinh \frac{\rho}{2}} \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{l + \frac{1}{2}} \quad (6.52)$$

which gives

$$u_l^+(\rho) = -C_2 \frac{2\iota \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} (\cos \theta_0 + \cosh \rho)}{(4l^2 - 1) \sqrt{1 + \cosh^2 \rho + 2 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho}} \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{l-\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (6.53)$$

For $l \leq -1/2$,

$$v_l^-(\rho) = C_1 \cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-l+\frac{1}{2}} \quad (6.54)$$

and

$$u_l^-(\rho) = C_1 \frac{\iota (2l - \cosh \rho) (\cos \theta_0 + \cosh \rho)}{2 \cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \sqrt{1 + \cosh^2 \rho + 2 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho}} \left(\tanh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-l-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (6.55)$$

The relevant formulas in this case, corresponding to $m = -1$, are

$$((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \quad (6.56)$$

$$\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho ((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \quad (6.57)$$

and

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2} \right) ((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \quad (6.58)$$

together with

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho W^2 = -\frac{1}{8} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \quad (6.59)$$

The Weyl anomaly contribution in this case results,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[(m + V)^2 - W^2 + \frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[1 + \frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{\theta_0}{2} \sin \theta_0 + 2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \log \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{6} \log \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (6.60)$$

6.2.3 $\mathcal{O}_{6\pm}(\theta_0)$

In this case,

$$D_\mu = \nabla_\mu + \iota\alpha \left(\frac{\mathcal{A}_\mu}{2} - \mathcal{B}_\mu \right), \quad V(\rho) = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{M}} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{M}, \quad W(\rho) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sqrt{M} \sinh^2 \rho}. \quad (6.61)$$

Consider an operator of form,

$$\mathcal{O}_\alpha(\theta_0) = -\iota \not{D} + V, \quad (6.62)$$

where

$$V = -\frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} \iota \sigma_1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{M}} \left((-1 + M) \sigma_3 - \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right). \quad (6.63)$$

Using circular symmetry, we can expand this into Fourier components. Explicitly,

$$\iota \mathcal{O}_l^\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\iota}{2\sqrt{M}} \left(-1 + M - \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) & \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} - \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{\alpha (\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \\ \partial_\rho + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_\rho M}{4M} + \frac{\iota}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{\alpha (\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} & \frac{\iota}{2\sqrt{M}} \left(1 - M - \alpha \frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sinh^2 \rho} \right) \end{pmatrix} \quad (6.64)$$

For $\alpha = 1$, the system of equations decouples,

$${}^{\iota}\mathcal{O}_l = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \partial_{\rho} + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} - \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \\ \partial_{\rho} + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} + \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} & \frac{\iota(1-M)}{\sqrt{M}} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6.65)$$

Taking

$$\psi_l(\rho) = \begin{bmatrix} u_l(\rho) \\ v_l(\rho) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (6.66)$$

the equation then becomes:

$$\left(\partial_{\rho} + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} - \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} - \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) v_l(\rho) = 0, \quad (6.67)$$

$$\left(\partial_{\rho} + \frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} + \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) u_l(\rho) + \iota \frac{1-M}{\sqrt{M}} v_l(\rho) = 0. \quad (6.68)$$

Solving for $v_l(\rho)$ gives,

$$v_l(\rho) = C_1 \left(\sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{l-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-l-\frac{5}{2}} (\cos \theta_0 + \cosh \rho), \quad (6.69)$$

where C_1 is a constant. Using this solution, we can now solve equation for $u_l(\rho)$,

$$u_l'(\rho) + \left(\frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} + \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) u_l(\rho) + \iota \frac{1-M}{\sqrt{M}} v_l(\rho) = 0. \quad (6.70)$$

The integrating factor for this equation is,

$$\begin{aligned} I(\rho) &= \text{Exp} \left[\int d\rho \left(\frac{\coth \rho}{2} + \frac{\partial_{\rho} M}{4M} + \frac{l}{\sinh \rho} + \frac{(\mathcal{A}-2\mathcal{B})}{2 \sinh \rho} \right) \right] \\ &= \left(-\iota \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{l+\frac{1}{2}} \left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-l-\frac{3}{2}} \sqrt{3 + 4 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho + \cosh(2\rho)}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.71)$$

Then, full solution takes the form,

$$\begin{aligned} u_l(\rho) &= \frac{1}{I(\rho)} \left[\int d\rho I(\rho) \left(-\iota \frac{1-M}{\sqrt{M}} v_l(\rho) \right) + C_2 \right] \\ &= \left[C_1 \frac{2^{\frac{3}{2}+l} \iota (2+2l+\cosh \rho) \left(\sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}+2l} \sin^2 \theta_0}{(3+8l+4l^2) \left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\sinh \rho \right)^l \sqrt{3+4 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho + \cosh(2\rho)}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + C_2 \frac{\left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}+l} \left(-\iota \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}-l}}{\sqrt{3+4 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho + \cosh 2\rho}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (6.72)$$

Demanding the solution to be regular at the origin fixes $C_2 = 0$ for $l \geq 1/2$ and $C_1 = 0$ for $l \leq -1/2$. For $l \leq -1/2$,

$$u_l^-(\rho) = C_2 \frac{\left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}+l} \left(-\iota \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}-l}}{\sqrt{3+4 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho + \cosh 2\rho}}, \quad (6.73)$$

and for $l \geq 1/2$,

$$u_l^+(\rho) = C_1 \frac{2^{\frac{3}{2}+l} l (2 + 2l + \cosh \rho) \left(\sinh \frac{\rho}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}+2l} \sin^2 \theta_0}{(3 + 8l + 4l^2) \left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\sinh \rho\right)^l \sqrt{3 + 4 \cos \theta_0 \cosh \rho + \cosh(2\rho)}}, \quad (6.74)$$

$$v_l^+(\rho) = C_1 \left(\sinh \frac{\rho}{2}\right)^{l-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\cosh \frac{\rho}{2}\right)^{-l-\frac{5}{2}} (\cos \theta_0 + \cosh \rho). \quad (6.75)$$

The relevant formulas in the present case $m = 0$ case are,

$$((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho ((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \quad (6.76)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2}\right) ((m + V)^2 - m^2 - W^2) = 0 \quad (6.77)$$

together with

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho W^2 = -\frac{1}{8} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \quad (6.78)$$

The Weyl anomaly contribution in this case follows from,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[(m + V)^2 - W^2 + \frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} \ln M \left[\frac{1}{12} R - \frac{1}{24} \nabla^2 \ln M \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} - \frac{1}{6} \log \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (6.79)$$

The total contribution from the $\mathcal{O}_{5\pm}$ and $\mathcal{O}_{6\pm}$ cases is

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}^{\text{free}}} \right) &= -2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})^2}{\sinh \rho} - 2 \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{(\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})^2}{\sinh \rho} \\ &\quad - 2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{(\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})^2}{\sinh \rho} - 2 \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{(\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})^2}{\sinh \rho} \\ &\quad - 4 \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho W^2 \\ &= -\int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{\sinh \rho} - 4 \int_0^\infty d\rho \frac{\mathcal{B}^2}{\sinh \rho} - 4 \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho W^2 \end{aligned} \quad (6.80)$$

Thus,

$$\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}^{\text{free}}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + 6 \log \left(\cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) \quad (6.81)$$

6.3 One-loop effective action

The total zeta-function at the origin is

$$\hat{\zeta}_{\text{tot}}(0) = 2\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_1}(0) + \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{2+}}(0) + \hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{2-}}(0) + 2\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{3+}}(0) + 2\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_{3-}}(0) - 2\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_+}(0) - 2\hat{\zeta}_{\mathcal{O}_-}(0) \quad (6.82)$$

where \mathcal{O}_\pm are fermionic contributions arising from the $\mathcal{O}_{4\pm}(\theta_0)$ operators. Adding up the pieces we find

$$4 \left((1+V)^2 - W^2 - 1 \right) - 2V_2 - 4V_3 = \nabla^2 \ln M \quad (6.83)$$

which vanishes when integrated,

$$\int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \nabla^2 \ln M = \sinh \rho \partial_\rho \ln M|_0^\infty = 0, \quad \hat{\zeta}_{\text{tot}}(0) = 0. \quad (6.84)$$

The contributions from gauge field are seen to vanish,

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 \times (1)^2 \mathcal{A}^2 + 1 \times (-1)^2 \mathcal{A}^2 + 2 \times (1)^2 \mathcal{B}^2 + 2 \times (-1)^2 \mathcal{B}^2 - 2 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \mathcal{A}^2 - 2 \times \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \mathcal{A}^2 \\ & - 1 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \times (\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})^2 - 1 \times \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (\mathcal{A} + 2\mathcal{B})^2 \\ & - 1 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})^2 - 1 \times \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (\mathcal{A} - 2\mathcal{B})^2 \\ & = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (6.85)$$

The contribution from W^2 term in the fermionic potential is non-trivial

$$\begin{aligned} W^2 : & \quad -4 \times \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \left(\frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{\sqrt{M} \sinh^2 \rho} \right)^2 - 4 \times \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \left(-\frac{\sin^2 \theta(\rho)}{2\sqrt{M} \sinh^2 \rho} \right)^2 \\ & = \frac{5}{2} \theta_0 \sin \theta_0 - 10 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (6.86)$$

The Weyl anomaly has different contributions, they are:

- Potential and mass terms

$$4 \left((1+V)^2 - W^2 \right) + 2 \times 1 - 2 \times 2 - 2 \times V_2 - 4 \times V_3 = -R + \nabla^2 \ln M \quad (6.87)$$

- Curvature and conformal terms

$$\left(8 \times \left(\frac{1}{12}\right) - 8 \times \left(-\frac{1}{6}\right) \right) R + \nabla^2 \ln M \left(8 \times \left(-\frac{1}{24}\right) - 8 \times \left(\frac{1}{12}\right) \right) = 2R - \nabla^2 \ln M. \quad (6.88)$$

The contribution from the conformal factor cancels and the total contribution from Weyl anomaly results simply from the curvature term,

$$\text{anomaly} : \quad \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{g} R \ln M = - \left(\theta_0 \sin \theta_0 + 4 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) \quad (6.89)$$

The contribution from $\ln(\sinh \rho)$ integrals involve the same combination of potentials as $\hat{\zeta}_{\text{tot}}(0)$, which when added to the Weyl anomaly gives,

$$\text{anomaly} + \ln \sinh \rho : \quad \int_0^\infty d\rho \sinh \rho \left(\frac{1}{2} R \ln M + \ln \left(\frac{\sinh \rho}{2} \right) \nabla^2 \ln M \right) = -2 \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2}. \quad (6.90)$$

The final result for the 1-loop effective action results

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta\Gamma_{\text{effective}}^{1\text{-loop}}(\theta_0) &= \frac{5}{4}\theta_0 \sin \theta_0 - 5 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2} + 2 \ln \cos \frac{\theta_0}{2} + 2 \ln \Gamma\left(\cos^2 \frac{\theta_0}{2}\right) \\
 &\quad - \ln(\Gamma(\cos \theta_0)) - \ln(\cos \theta_0) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4}\theta_0^2 + O(\theta_0^4)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{6.91}$$

This result does not agree with the field theory expectation. Although our regularization is diffeomorphic invariant there might be ambiguities that need to be understood better. At the moment we can track the discrepancy between the two methods to an ambiguity in the treatment of the $m = 0$ fermionic modes, we will return to this question elsewhere. It seems that a more expeditious way to get at the exact answer might follow the approach of [11, 36] who mapped the spectral problems from the disk to the cylinder with the incorporation of an explicit diffeomorphic invariant cutoff; we hope to report on such explorations in an upcoming publication.

7 Conclusions

In this manuscript we have discussed in detail the construction of the quadratic fluctuations for the string configuration dual to the general latitude Wilson loop in ABJM theory. We have paid particular attention to the various symmetries of the configurations and shown how they serve as a guiding avatar in the structure of fluctuations. At the semiclassical level the computation of the one-loop effective action is equivalent to the computation of determinants. We employed two methods for computing such determinants. The perturbative heat kernel method has lead to agreement with the expected field theory answer in the limit of small latitude angle. The ζ -function regularization method is non-perturbative but does not seem to lead to the expected field theory answer as it stands. We have previously developed the ζ -function approach in [34] and applied it to the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ context in [35] motivated by the goal of constructing a regularization that is explicitly diffeomorphic invariant. The key new ingredient in this work that introduces extra ambiguities with respect to our earlier efforts is the fact that some of the modes correspond to massless fermions. The situation is not completely satisfactory but sheds light on deficiencies and advantages of the various methods used to tackle questions of precision holography with Wilson loops. For example, some of the puzzles we face were confronted in the realm of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM and paved the way leading to perfect matching with the field theory answer in [11]. There the computations of the determinants was mapped from the disk to the cylinder. We hope to revisit our computations using a similar approach.

One interesting property of the duality pair we discuss is that it admits two very natural limits. Here we focused on the 't Hooft limit where $\lambda = N/k$ is kept fixed as N is taken very large. It would be interesting to explore the M-theory limit, where k is kept fixed, beyond the leading order as well; some preliminary results were reported in [30]. Exploring quantum corrections in this context might ultimately shed light on various intricate quantum properties of M2 branes.

It would also be interesting to explore similar issues for Wilson loops in higher dimensional representations. Classical results were presented in [15, 16]; at the quantum level some preliminary results have been presented in [37] for the gravity configurations and a sub-leading analysis of the matrix model was presented in [38]. The prospects for precision holography in this case are improved due to the fact that the corresponding quadratic fluctuations live in the odd-dimensional world-volumes of the corresponding D2 and D6 branes [37]. Heat kernel techniques are considerably simplified in odd-dimensional spaces since the contributions arise exclusively from zero or boundary modes.

Recently, in the case of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, the expectation value of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS Wilson loop has been computed on the gravity side by taking the ratio of two of the limits of the latitude string [36]. We hope that a similar analysis in the case of ABJM Wilson loops will shed light on various aspects of precision holography in IIA, our work provides most of the required ingredients.

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A Conventions

Ten-dimensional target-space indices are denoted by m, n, \dots , two-dimensional world-sheet indices are a, b, \dots , while the directions orthogonal to the string are represented by i, j, \dots . All corresponding tangent space indices are underlined.

In Euclidean signature the Dirac matrices satisfy

$$\Gamma_{\underline{m}}^\dagger = \Gamma_{\underline{m}}, \quad \Gamma_{\underline{m}}^2 = 1, \tag{A.1}$$

and the chirality matrix is

$$\Gamma_{11} \equiv -i\Gamma_{\underline{0123456789}}, \quad \Gamma_{11}^\dagger = \Gamma_{11}, \quad \Gamma_{11}^2 = 1. \tag{A.2}$$

The charge conjugation intertwiners C_\pm are such that

$$C_\pm \Gamma_{\underline{m}} C_\pm^{-1} = \pm \Gamma_{\underline{m}}^T, \quad C_\pm \Gamma_{11} C_\pm^{-1} = -\Gamma_{11}^T, \quad C_\pm^T = \pm C_\pm. \tag{A.3}$$

Majorana spinors are defined as

$$\psi^T C_\pm = \psi^\dagger \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \psi^* = \pm C_\pm \psi. \tag{A.4}$$

In Lorentzian signature we have

$$\Gamma_{\underline{m}}^\dagger = \Gamma_{\underline{0}} \Gamma_{\underline{m}} \Gamma_{\underline{0}}, \quad \Gamma_{\underline{0}}^2 = -1, \quad \Gamma_{\underline{m} \neq 0}^2 = 1. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

and the chirality matrix reads

$$\Gamma_{11} \equiv \Gamma_{\underline{0123456789}}, \quad \Gamma_{11}^\dagger = \Gamma_{11}, \quad \Gamma_{11}^2 = 1. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

B Geometric data

In this appendix we collect all the geometric formulae necessary to compute the spectrum of excitations of the 1/6-BPS string.

We start by writing the target space fields. The Euclidean AdS₄ (EAdS₄) metric is written as an $\mathbb{H}_2 \times S^1$ foliation,

$$ds_{\text{EAdS}_4}^2 = \cosh^2 u (\sinh^2 \rho d\psi^2 + d\rho^2) + \sinh^2 u d\phi^2 + du^2, \quad (\text{B.1})$$

with $u \geq 0$, $\rho \geq 0$, $\psi \sim \psi + 2\pi$ and $\phi \sim \phi + 2\pi$. The metric on \mathbb{CP}^3 is taken to be

$$ds_{\mathbb{CP}^3}^2 = \frac{1}{4} \left[d\alpha^2 + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\vartheta_1^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta_1 d\varphi_1^2) + \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\vartheta_2^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta_2 d\varphi_2^2) + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\chi - (1 - \cos \vartheta_1) d\varphi_1 + (1 - \cos \vartheta_2) d\varphi_2)^2 \right], \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where $0 \leq \alpha \leq \pi$, $0 \leq \vartheta_1 \leq \pi$, $0 \leq \vartheta_2 \leq \pi$, $\varphi_1 \sim \varphi_1 + 2\pi$, $\varphi_2 \sim \varphi_2 + 2\pi$ and $\chi \sim \chi + 4\pi$. The full EAdS₄ \times \mathbb{CP}^3 metric with radius L is then

$$ds^2 = L^2 (ds_{\text{EAdS}_4}^2 + 4 ds_{\mathbb{CP}^3}^2). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

The other background fields read

$$e^\Phi = \frac{2L}{k}, \quad F_{(4)} = -\frac{3ikL^2}{2} \text{vol}(\text{AdS}_4), \quad F_{(2)} = \frac{k}{4} J, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

where

$$\text{vol}(\text{AdS}_4) = \cosh^2 u \sinh u \sinh \rho d\psi \wedge d\rho \wedge du \wedge d\phi, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$J = -2 \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} d\alpha \wedge (d\chi - (1 - \cos \vartheta_1) d\varphi_1 + (1 - \cos \vartheta_2) d\varphi_2) - 2 \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 d\vartheta_1 \wedge d\varphi_1 - 2 \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_2 d\vartheta_2 \wedge d\varphi_2. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

The factor of i in $F_{(4)}$ is due to the Euclidean continuation. The 2-form is proportional to the Kahler form in \mathbb{CP}^3 .

Target space indices are labeled by m, n, \dots , worldvolume indices are a, b, \dots , directions orthogonal to the string are denoted by i, j, \dots . The corresponding target space indices are underlined.

The choice of adapted EAdS₄ × CP³ vielbein $E^m = (E^a, E^i)$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
 E^0 &= L A^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\cosh^2 u \sinh^2 \rho \dot{\psi} d\psi + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin^2 \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 d\varphi_1 \right), \\
 E^1 &= L B^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left(\cosh^2 u \rho' d\rho + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta_1' d\vartheta_1 \right), \\
 E^2 &= L du, \\
 E^3 &= L \sinh u d\phi, \\
 \begin{pmatrix} E^4 \\ E^5 \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Delta & \sin \Delta \\ -\sin \Delta & \cos \Delta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} L B^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cosh u \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} (\rho' d\vartheta_1 - \vartheta_1' d\rho) \\ L A^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cosh u \sinh \rho \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 (\dot{\psi} d\varphi_1 - \dot{\varphi}_1 d\psi) \end{pmatrix}, \\
 E^6 &= L \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} d\vartheta_2, \\
 E^7 &= L \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_2 d\varphi_2, \\
 E^8 &= L d\alpha, \\
 E^9 &= L \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \frac{\alpha}{2} (d\chi - (1 - \cos \vartheta_1) d\varphi_1 + (1 - \cos \vartheta_2) d\varphi_2)
 \end{aligned} \tag{B.7}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(u, \rho, \alpha, \vartheta_1) &= \cosh^2 u \sinh^2 \rho \dot{\psi}^2 + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin^2 \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1^2, \\
 B(u, \rho, \alpha, \vartheta_1) &= \cosh^2 u \rho'^2 + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta_1'^2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{B.8}$$

Here $\dot{\psi} = \frac{d\psi}{d\tau}$ and $\dot{\varphi}_1 = \frac{d\varphi_1}{d\tau}$ are constant numbers while $\rho' = \frac{d\rho}{d\sigma}$ and $\vartheta_1' = \frac{d\vartheta_1}{d\sigma}$ are understood as functions of ρ and ϑ_1 , respectively. Also, Δ is an arbitrary function of ψ and φ_1 describing and SO(2) rotation of the canonical frames and it is to be chosen at our convenience. The standard EAdS₄ × CP³ vielbein is recovered for $\rho' = 1$, $\vartheta_1' = 0$, $\dot{\psi} = 1$ and $\dot{\varphi}_1 = 0$, and $\Delta = 0$. For the 1/6-BPS solution, $\rho' = -\sinh \rho$, $\vartheta_1' = -\sin \vartheta_1$ and $\dot{\psi} = \dot{\varphi}_1 = 1$. The standard and the adapted vielbein are related by the local Lorentz transformation

$$S = e^{\Delta J_{45}} e^{a J_{05}} e^{b J_{14}},$$

where

$$\cos a = \frac{\cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi}}{\sqrt{A}}, \quad \sin a = \frac{\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1}{\sqrt{A}}, \tag{B.9}$$

$$\cos b = \frac{\cosh u \rho'}{\sqrt{B}}, \quad \sin b = \frac{\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta_1'}{\sqrt{B}}. \tag{B.10}$$

Notice that for $\rho' = -\dot{\psi} \sinh \rho$ and $\vartheta_1' = -\dot{\varphi}_1 \sin \vartheta_1$ we have

$$b = a + \pi. \tag{B.11}$$

For reasons to be explained below, we shall set Δ such that $\Delta = \tau$ on the worldsheet.

The adapted vielbein has the desired property that upon taking the pullback onto the worldsheet

$$P[E^a] = e^a, \quad a = 0, 1, \tag{B.12}$$

$$P[E^i] = 0, \quad i = 2, \dots, 9, \tag{B.13}$$

where

$$e^0 = \sqrt{A} d\tau, \quad e^1 = \sqrt{A} d\sigma, \quad (\text{B.14})$$

is a vielbein for the induced geometry

$$ds_{\text{ind}}^2 = A (d\tau^2 + d\sigma^2). \quad (\text{B.15})$$

The conformal factor reads

$$A(\sigma) = \sinh^2 \rho + \sin^2 \vartheta_1 = \frac{1}{\sinh^2 \sigma} + \frac{1}{\cosh^2(\sigma + \sigma_0)}. \quad (\text{B.16})$$

The worldsheet spin connection, the extrinsic curvature and the normal bundle gauge fields are given by, respectively,

$$w^{ab} = P[\Omega^{ab}], \quad H^i_{ab} = P[\Omega^i_a] e^a_b, \quad \mathcal{A}^{ij} = P[\Omega^{ij}], \quad (\text{B.17})$$

where Ω^{mn} is the target space spin connection. For the $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS string we find

$$w^{01} = \frac{A'}{2A} d\tau \equiv w d\tau, \quad (\text{B.18})$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{45} = \frac{\cosh \rho \cos \vartheta_1 + 1}{\cosh \rho + \cos \vartheta_1} d\tau - P[d\Delta] = (\tanh(2\sigma + \sigma_0) - \dot{\Delta}) d\tau, \quad (\text{B.19})$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{67} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos \vartheta_1) d\tau = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \tanh(\sigma + \sigma_0)) d\tau, \quad (\text{B.20})$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{89} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \cos \vartheta_1) d\tau = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \tanh(\sigma + \sigma_0)) d\tau, \quad (\text{B.21})$$

and

$$H^4_a{}^b = \frac{m}{\sqrt{A}} \begin{pmatrix} -\cos \Delta & \sin \Delta \\ \sin \Delta & \cos \Delta \end{pmatrix}, \quad H^5_a{}^b = \frac{m}{\sqrt{A}} \begin{pmatrix} \sin \Delta & \cos \Delta \\ \cos \Delta & -\sin \Delta \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B.22})$$

where

$$m = \frac{\sinh \rho \sin \vartheta_1}{\cosh \rho - \cos \vartheta_1} = \frac{1}{\cosh(2\sigma + \sigma_0)}. \quad (\text{B.23})$$

For the purpose of computing the spectrum of fluctuations we will chose Δ such that

$$P[d\Delta] = d\tau \quad (\text{e.g. } \Delta = \psi). \quad (\text{B.24})$$

The reason for this choice is that the gauge fields

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \mathcal{A}^{45} = (\tanh(2\sigma + \sigma_0) - 1) d\tau, \quad (\text{B.25})$$

$$\mathcal{B} \equiv \mathcal{A}^{67} = \mathcal{A}^{89} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \tanh(\sigma + \sigma_0)) d\tau, \quad (\text{B.26})$$

are then regular at the center of the disk $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$, where the 1-form $d\tau$ is not well defined. Indeed³ $\mathcal{A} \sim e^{-4\sigma}$ and $\mathcal{B} \sim e^{-2\sigma}$ as $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$. They also vanish in the 1/2-BPS limit $\sigma_0 \rightarrow \infty$. Notice that

$$w - \mathcal{A} = 1 - \cosh \rho - \cos \vartheta_1, \quad \partial_\sigma \mathcal{A} = 2m^2, \quad \partial_\sigma \mathcal{B} = -\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \vartheta_1. \quad (\text{B.27})$$

These relations prove to be useful when casting the equations of motion in a simple form.

³Near the center of the disk the metric becomes $ds^2 = dr^2 + r^2 d\tau^2$, with $r = 2e^{-\sigma} \sqrt{1 + e^{-2\sigma_0}}$. Regularity of the gauge fields requires that $d\tau$ be multiplied by r^n , $n \geq 2$, as $r \rightarrow 0$.

Finally, the contractions involving the Riemann tensor that we need are

$$\delta^{ab} R_{\underline{aibj}} = \begin{cases} -\frac{2 \sinh^2 \rho}{A} & \underline{i} = \underline{j} = \underline{2}, \underline{3} \\ \frac{\sin^2 \vartheta_1}{2A} & \underline{i} = \underline{j} = \underline{6}, \underline{7}, \underline{8}, \underline{9} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.28})$$

It is useful to invert the vielbein in order to write the RR fields that enter in the spinor action and Killing equation. We will set $\Delta = 0$ in this computation and then argue that some of the results do not depend on Δ . For generality we leave ρ' , ϑ'_1 , ψ and $\dot{\varphi}_1$ arbitrary. We have,

$$\cosh u \sinh \rho d\psi = \frac{1}{L\sqrt{A}} \left(\cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} E^0 - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 E^{\underline{5}} \right), \quad (\text{B.29})$$

$$\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 d\varphi_1 = \frac{1}{L\sqrt{A}} \left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 E^0 + \cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} E^{\underline{5}} \right), \quad (\text{B.30})$$

$$\cosh u d\rho = \frac{1}{L\sqrt{B}} \left(\cosh u \rho' E^{\underline{1}} - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 E^{\underline{4}} \right), \quad (\text{B.31})$$

$$\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} d\vartheta_1 = \frac{1}{L\sqrt{B}} \left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 E^{\underline{1}} + \cosh u \rho' E^{\underline{4}} \right). \quad (\text{B.32})$$

These relations imply that

$$F_{(4)} = -\frac{3ik}{2L^2\sqrt{AB}} \left(\cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} E^0 - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 E^{\underline{5}} \right) \wedge \left(\cosh u \rho' E^{\underline{1}} - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 E^{\underline{4}} \right) \quad (\text{B.33})$$

$$\wedge E^{\underline{2}} \wedge E^{\underline{3}}, \quad (\text{B.34})$$

$$F_{(2)} = -\frac{k}{2L^2\sqrt{AB}} \left(-\left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 E^0 + \cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} E^{\underline{5}} \right) \wedge \left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 E^{\underline{1}} + \cosh u \rho' E^{\underline{4}} \right) \right) \quad (\text{B.35})$$

$$+ \sqrt{AB} (E^{\underline{6}} \wedge E^{\underline{7}} + E^{\underline{8}} \wedge E^{\underline{9}}), \quad (\text{B.36})$$

which allows us to compute the following quantities needed for the fermionic fluctuations:

$$\mathcal{F}_{(4)} = -\frac{3ik}{2L^2\sqrt{AB}} \left(\cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} \Gamma^0 - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 \Gamma^{\underline{5}} \right) \left(\cosh u \rho' \Gamma^{\underline{1}} - \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 \Gamma^{\underline{4}} \right) \Gamma^{23} \quad (\text{B.37})$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{(2)} = -\frac{k}{2L^2\sqrt{AB}} \left(-\left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \dot{\varphi}_1 \Gamma^0 + \cosh u \sinh \rho \dot{\psi} \Gamma^{\underline{5}} \right) \left(\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} \vartheta'_1 \Gamma^{\underline{1}} + \cosh u \rho' \Gamma^{\underline{4}} \right) \right) \quad (\text{B.38})$$

$$+ \sqrt{AB} (\Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}), \quad (\text{B.39})$$

and

$$\frac{1}{8} e^{\Phi} \Gamma^a \not{F}_{(4)} \Gamma_{\underline{a}} = \frac{3i}{4L\sqrt{AB}} \left(\cosh^2 u \sinh \rho \rho' \dot{\psi} \Gamma^{01} + \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \vartheta_1' \dot{\varphi}_1 \Gamma^{45} \right) \Gamma^{23}, \quad (\text{B.40})$$

$$\frac{1}{8} e^{\Phi} \Gamma^a \not{F}_{(2)} \Gamma_{11} \Gamma_{\underline{a}} = \frac{1}{4L\sqrt{AB}} \left(\cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \sin \vartheta_1 \vartheta_1' \dot{\varphi}_1 \Gamma^{01} + \cosh^2 u \sinh \rho \rho' \dot{\psi} \Gamma^{45} \right) \quad (\text{B.41})$$

$$+ \sqrt{AB} (\Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}) \Gamma_{11}. \quad (\text{B.42})$$

On the $\frac{1}{6}$ -BPS solution the fermionic mass term becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{8} e^{\Phi} \Gamma^a (\not{F}_{(2)} \Gamma_{11} + \not{F}_{(4)}) \Gamma_{\underline{a}} &= \frac{1}{4LA} \left(\sinh^2 \rho (-3i\Gamma^{0123} + (-\Gamma^{45} + \Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}) \Gamma_{11}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sin^2 \vartheta_1 (-3i\Gamma^{2345} + (-\Gamma^{01} + \Gamma^{67} + \Gamma^{89}) \Gamma_{11}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that only quantities that are invariant under rotations in the 4 – 5, 6 – 7 and 8 – 9 planes appear in the last two expressions. Therefore, these are also valid for arbitrary choices of Δ . In particular, they hold in the rotated frame where the connections are regular.

C Regular gauge fields and spinors

The discussion about the regularity of the gauge fields is important because it is coupled to the periodicity of the fields. On general grounds, we expect regular bosonic/fermionic fields to be periodic/anti-periodic. Since a gauge transformation can change the periodicity of the fields, we must make sure that we are working in a regular gauge when we Fourier expand.

Let us see how the analysis of regularity works out in the present case. The wordsheet metric is

$$ds^2 = A(\sigma) (d\tau^2 + d\sigma^2), \quad A(\sigma) = \sinh^2 \rho(\sigma) + \sin^2 \vartheta_1(\sigma), \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where the functions $\rho(\sigma)$ and $\vartheta_1(\sigma)$ are defined by

$$\sinh \rho = \frac{1}{\sinh \sigma}, \quad \sin \vartheta_1 = \frac{1}{\cosh(\sigma + \sigma_0)}. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

The topology is that of a disk with $0 < \sigma$ and $\tau \sim \tau + 2\pi$. The center of the disk is $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$ where the geometry is flat. To see this, expand near $\sigma = \infty$ to get

$$ds^2 \approx 4e^{-2\sigma} (1 + e^{-2\sigma_0}) (d\tau^2 + d\sigma^2). \quad (\text{C.3})$$

Now let

$$r = 2e^{-\sigma} \sqrt{1 + e^{-2\sigma_0}}. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

Then,

$$ds^2 \approx dr^2 + r^2 d\tau^2. \quad (\text{C.5})$$

This is flat space indeed.

Switching to Cartesian coordinates we have

$$x = r \cos \tau, \quad y = r \sin \tau. \quad (\text{C.6})$$

The 1-forms transform accordingly:

$$dr = \frac{xdx + ydy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}, \quad d\tau = \frac{-ydx + xdy}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad (\text{C.7})$$

The important fact to remember is that the coordinates (x, y) , as well as the 1-forms dx and dy are everywhere well defined. Notice then that neither dr nor $d\tau$ are well defined as $r \rightarrow 0$, but the combination $dr^2 + r^2 d\tau^2$ is. Also, the 1-form rdr is well defined as $r \rightarrow 0$ with $rdr \rightarrow 0$. In contrast,

$$rd\tau = \frac{-ydx + xdy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}, \quad (\text{C.8})$$

is ill-defined as $r \rightarrow 0$ since the value of the limit depends on the direction in which we approach the origin. This means that only 1-forms involving the combinations

$$r^n d\tau, \quad n \geq 2, \quad (\text{C.9})$$

are well defined at $r = 0$, where they vanish.

Going back to the worldsheet, the above discussion means that the 1-form $d\tau$ must appear as

$$e^{-n\sigma} d\tau, \quad n \geq 2, \quad (\text{C.10})$$

in the gauge fields. In our case we find that

$$\mathcal{A} = \tanh(2\sigma + \sigma_0) d\tau \approx (1 - 2e^{-4\sigma - 2\sigma_0}) d\tau, \quad (\text{C.11})$$

$$\mathcal{B} = -\frac{1}{2} \tanh(\sigma + \sigma_0) d\tau \approx \left(-\frac{1}{2} + e^{-2\sigma - 2\sigma_0} \right) d\tau, \quad (\text{C.12})$$

where we have expanded at large σ . We see that these gauge fields are not regular at the center of the disk. However, after a gauge transformation we have

$$\mathcal{A} = (\tanh(2\sigma + \sigma_0) - 1) d\tau \approx -2e^{-4\sigma - 2\sigma_0} d\tau, \quad (\text{C.13})$$

$$\mathcal{B} = -\frac{1}{2} (\tanh(\sigma + \sigma_0) - 1) d\tau \approx e^{-2\sigma - 2\sigma_0} d\tau. \quad (\text{C.14})$$

These gauge fields are then regular.

D Dimensional reduction of spinors

Given the symmetries of our problem, the natural way to decompose the ten-dimensional rotations group is

$$\text{SO}(10) \supset \underbrace{\text{SO}(2)}_{\gamma} \times \underbrace{\text{SO}(2)}_{\rho} \times \underbrace{\text{SO}(2)}_{\tau} \times \underbrace{\text{SO}(2)}_{\lambda} \times \underbrace{\text{SO}(2)}_{\kappa}, \quad (\text{D.1})$$

corresponding to the (0, 1), (2, 3), (4, 5), (6, 7) and (8, 9) tangent directions, respectively. Under this decomposition, a possible representation of the 10-dimensional gamma matrices is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma_{\underline{a}} &= \gamma_{\underline{a}} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}, & \underline{a} &= 0, 1, \\
 \Gamma_{\underline{i}} &= (-i\gamma_{0\underline{1}}) \otimes \rho_{\underline{i}} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}, & \underline{i} &= 2, 3, \\
 \Gamma_{\underline{i}} &= (-i\gamma_{0\underline{1}}) \otimes (-i\rho_{2\underline{3}}) \otimes \tau_{\underline{i}} \otimes \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}, & \underline{i} &= 4, 5, \\
 \Gamma_{\underline{i}} &= (-i\gamma_{0\underline{1}}) \otimes (-i\rho_{2\underline{3}}) \otimes (-i\tau_{4\underline{5}}) \otimes \lambda_{\underline{i}} \otimes \mathbf{1}, & \underline{i} &= 6, 7, \\
 \Gamma_{\underline{i}} &= (-i\gamma_{0\underline{1}}) \otimes (-i\rho_{2\underline{3}}) \otimes (-i\tau_{4\underline{5}}) \otimes (-i\lambda_{6\underline{7}}) \otimes \kappa_{\underline{i}}, & \underline{i} &= 8, 9,
 \end{aligned} \tag{D.2}$$

where we named the Dirac matrices associated to each factor as displayed above. This basis is tailored for the choice ($\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$ are Pauli matrices)

$$\gamma_{\underline{0}} = \rho_{\underline{2}} = \tau_{\underline{4}} = \lambda_{\underline{6}} = \kappa_{\underline{8}} = \sigma_1, \quad \gamma_{\underline{1}} = \rho_{\underline{3}} = \tau_{\underline{5}} = \lambda_{\underline{7}} = \kappa_{\underline{9}} = \sigma_2. \tag{D.3}$$

The chirality operator is then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma_{11} &\equiv -i\Gamma_{\underline{0123456789}} \\
 &= \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_3,
 \end{aligned} \tag{D.4}$$

and the charge conjugation intertwiners C_{\pm} become

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_+ &= \Gamma_{\underline{02468}} & C_- &= \Gamma_{\underline{13579}} \\
 &= \sigma_1 \otimes (-i\sigma_2) \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes (-i\sigma_2) \otimes \sigma_1, & &= \sigma_2 \otimes (i\sigma_1) \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes (i\sigma_1) \otimes \sigma_2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{D.5}$$

A 10-dimensional spinor can be decomposed in terms of 2-dimensional ones as

$$\psi = \sum_{s_i = \pm} \psi_{s_2 s_4 s_6 s_8} \otimes \eta_{s_2} \otimes \eta_{s_4} \otimes \eta_{s_6} \otimes \eta_{s_8}, \tag{D.6}$$

where

$$\eta_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \eta_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{D.7}$$

This provides an explicit projection onto Γ^{23} , Γ^{45} , Γ^{67} and Γ^{89} eigenspaces, with corresponding eigenvalues $-i\alpha\beta\gamma$, $i\alpha$, $i\beta$ and $i\gamma$ which we use in the main body of the text.⁴

The Majorana conjugate is

$$\bar{\psi}^M = \psi^T C_+ \tag{D.8}$$

$$= \sum_{s_i = \pm} s_2 s_6 \bar{\psi}_{s_2 s_4 s_6 s_8}^M \otimes \eta_{-s_2}^T \otimes \eta_{-s_4}^T \otimes \eta_{-s_6}^T \otimes \eta_{-s_8}^T, \tag{D.9}$$

with

$$\bar{\psi}_{s_2 s_4 s_6 s_8}^M \equiv \psi_{s_2 s_4 s_6 s_8}^T \sigma_1. \tag{D.10}$$

Thus, Majorana spinors satisfy

$$\psi^\dagger = \bar{\psi}^M \iff s_2 s_6 \bar{\psi}_{s_2 s_4 s_6 s_8}^M = \psi_{-s_2 -s_4 -s_6 -s_8}^\dagger. \tag{D.11}$$

⁴The κ -symmetry fixing in Euclidean language is $i\Gamma_{\underline{01}}\Gamma_{11}\theta = \theta$, where $\Gamma_{11} = -i\Gamma_{\underline{0123456789}}$. This translates to $\Gamma^{23}\theta = -i\alpha\beta\gamma\theta$.

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