Institut Henri Poincaré

11 rue Pierre et Marie Curie, 75231 Paris cedex 05

String Theory in Greater Paris

Rencontres Théoriciennes

"Supergravité, théorie des cordes et théorie M"

Jeudi 15 Novembre 2018, 10:00

Andy O'bannon

University of Southampton

Wilson Surface Central Charge

M-theory is currently our best candidate for a theory of everything, but remains mysterious. We know M-theory has M2- and M5-branes. The low-energy theory on a stack of coincident M2-branes is well-understood : it is maximally supersymmetric Chern-Simons-matter theory. However, the low-energy theory on a stack of coincident M5-branes remains poorly-understood : it is a maximally supersymmetric theory of self-dual strings with zero tension. In this talk I will discuss one type of probe of the M5-brane theory, namely self-dual strings with infinite tension. These play a role analogous to Wilson lines in gauge theories, but are two-dimensional surfaces rather than lines, and hence are called Wilson surfaces. I will describe holographic calculations of entanglement entropy associated with these infinite-tension self-dual strings, from which we extract a key parameter characterizing them, their central charge. This provides a count of the number of massless degrees of freedom living on them, and thus may shed light on some of the fundamental degrees of freedom of M-theory.

Institut Henri Poincaré, salle 314, 3ème étage

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