# $\mathcal{W}_\infty$ and integrability

#### Tomáš Procházka

#### Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics (LMU Munich) Institute of Physics (AS CR Prague)

February 2, 2021

# What are W-algebras?

- ugly cousins of Virasoro algebra
- very natural generalization of Virasoro algebra
- rich algebraic structure and representation theory
- appear in many areas of mathematical physics
- they have very different descriptions,
   e.g. VOA description (CFT) vs Yangian description (integrability)
- in certain sense one particular example is a continuation of harmonic oscillator → 2d chiral free boson → W<sub>1+∞</sub> (natural numbers → partitions → 3d/plane partitions partitions)

Examples of areas where W-algebras show up:

- integrable hierarchies of PDE (KdV/KP)  $\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{W}$  is quant. KP
- (old) matrix models
- quantum Hall effect
- topological strings
- 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  instanton partition functions (AGT 2009)
- AdS<sub>3</sub>/CFT<sub>2</sub> with higher spins (Gaberdiel/Gopakumar 2010)
- 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  SCFTs (BLLPRvR 2013)
- twisted M-theory (Costello 2016)
- KW-twisted  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM at junction of three codimension 1 defects (Gaiotto, Rapčák 2017)
- mathematics: geometric representation theory (equivariant cohomology of various moduli spaces)

# Zamolodchikov $\mathcal{W}_3$ algebra

 $\mathcal{W}_3$  algebra constructed by Zamolodchikov (1984) has a stress-energy tensor (Virasoro algebra) with OPE

$$T(z)T(w)\sim rac{c/2}{(z-w)^4}+rac{2T(w)}{(z-w)^2}+rac{\partial T(w)}{z-w}+reg.$$

and additional spin 3 primary field W(w)

$$T(z)W(w) \sim \frac{3W(w)}{(z-w)^2} + \frac{\partial W(w)}{z-w} + reg.$$

To close the algebra we need to find the OPE of W with itself consistent with associativity (Jacobi, crossing symmetry...).

The result:

$$W(z)W(w) \sim \frac{c/3}{(z-w)^6} + \frac{2T(w)}{(z-w)^4} + \frac{\partial T(w)}{(z-w)^3} \\ + \frac{1}{(z-w)^2} \left(\frac{32}{5c+22}\Lambda(w) + \frac{3}{10}\partial^2 T(w)\right) \\ + \frac{1}{z-w} \left(\frac{16}{5c+22}\partial\Lambda(w) + \frac{1}{15}\partial^3 T(w)\right) + reg.$$

A is a quasiprimary 'composite' (spin 4) field,

$$\Lambda(z) = (TT)(z) - \frac{3}{10}\partial^2 T(z).$$

The algebra is non-linear  $\rightsquigarrow$  not a Lie algebra in the usual sense

- the representation theory significantly simplifies if one studies families of algebras rather than isolated algebras
- one such family are the algebras  $W_N[c]$  which are generated by spins  $2, 3, \ldots, N$  [cousins of Virasoro algebra]
- there are various ways of constructing algebras of this family:
  - direct OPE bootstrap (at lower N)
  - 2 Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction (Hamiltonian reduction from affine Lie algebra  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}(N)$ , either classical or quantum BRST)
  - Goddard-Kent-Olive coset construction

$$\frac{\mathfrak{su}(n)_k \times \mathfrak{su}(n)_1}{\mathfrak{su}(n)_{k+1}} \simeq \frac{\mathfrak{u}(k+1)_n}{\mathfrak{u}(k)_n \times \mathfrak{u}(1)}$$

Iree field representations (Miura transformation) - more later

But the OPEs are still not very encouraging:

$$\begin{split} U_{3}(z)U_{4}(w) &\sim \frac{1}{(z-w)^{7}} \left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)n\left(4\alpha^{2}\left(\alpha^{2}(n(5n-9)+1)-3n+4\right)+1\right)1\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{(z-w)^{6}} \left(\frac{1}{6}(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)\left(6\alpha^{4}n(2n-3)+\alpha^{2}(10-9n)+1\right)U_{1}(w)\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{(z-w)^{5}} \left(-\alpha(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)\left(-4\alpha^{2}+3\alpha^{2}n-1\right)(U_{1}U_{1})(w) \right. \\ &+ \alpha(n-3)(n-2)\left(4\alpha^{2}n^{2}-4\alpha^{2}n-n-2\right)U_{2}(w) \\ &- \frac{1}{2}\alpha^{2}(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)\left(4\alpha^{2}n(2n-3)-3n+2\right)U_{1}'(w)\right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{(z-w)^{4}} \left(-\alpha(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)\left(\alpha^{2}(3n-4)-1\right)(U_{1}'U_{1})(w) \right. \\ &- \frac{1}{2}(n-3)(n-2)\left(2\alpha^{2}(n-1)-1\right)(U_{1}U_{2})(w) \\ &+ (n-3)\left(\alpha^{2}\left(n^{2}+2\right)-3\right)U_{3}(w) \\ &- \frac{1}{4}\alpha^{2}(n-3)(n-2)(n-1)\left(4\alpha^{2}n(2n-3)-3n+2\right)U_{1}''(w) \\ &+ \alpha(n-3)(n-2)\left(\alpha^{2}(n-1)n-1\right)U_{2}'(w)\right) \\ &+ \cdots \end{split}$$

# Gaberdiel/Gopakumar triality

- one can make one step further and consider algebra  $\mathcal{W}_\infty$  generated by currents of spin 2,3,... [or  $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$  if we include spin 1]
- the resulting algebra depends rationally on two parameters,  $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}[c,\lambda] \quad c,\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  (GG, Linshaw)
- $\bullet\,$  this is analogous to the higher spin / fuzzy sphere algebra

$$\frac{\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{so(3)})}{\langle X^2+Y^2+Z^2-(\lambda^2-1)\rangle}$$

interpolating between all algebras of  $N \times N$  matrices

• to get  $W_N[c]$  from  $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}[c, \lambda]$  we put  $\lambda = N \in \mathbb{N}$  and quotient out the ideal generated by spins N + 1 and higher

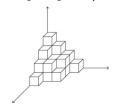
• an important observation (Gabediel/Gopakumar): given c and  $\lambda$ , we can actually find two other values of  $\lambda$  with identical OPEs,  $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}[c, \lambda_1] \simeq \mathcal{W}_{\infty}[c, \lambda_2] \simeq \mathcal{W}_{\infty}[c, \lambda_3]$ 

$$rac{1}{\lambda_1}+rac{1}{\lambda_2}+rac{1}{\lambda_3}=0, \qquad c=(\lambda_1-1)(\lambda_2-1)(\lambda_3-1)$$

- this redundant parametrization manifests the triality symmetry S<sub>3</sub> permuting λ<sub>j</sub>
- $\bullet$  this discrete symmetry controls many aspects of representation theory of  $\mathcal{W}_\infty$
- e.g. MacMahon function as vacuum character of the algebra (*enumerating all local fields in the algebra*)

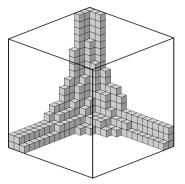
$$\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1-q^n)^n} = 1 + q + 3q^2 + 6q^3 + 13q^4 + 24q^5 + 48q^6 + \cdots$$

• The same generating function is well-known to count the plane partitions (3d Young diagrams)



- triality acts by permuting the coordinate axes
- restriction to  $W_N$  corresponds to max N boxes in one of the directions (the simplest truncations of  $W_\infty$ )

• the box counting can be generalized to degenerate primaries (not only vacuum rep) by allowing 2d Young diagram asymptotics



• counting exactly as in topological vertex  $\rightsquigarrow$  topological vertex can be interpreted as being a character of (maximally) degenerate  $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$  representations

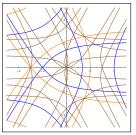
 $\mathcal{W}_\infty$  Yangian  $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix

### Truncations, minimal models

- for  $\lambda_3=N$  we have  $\mathcal{W}_\infty o \mathcal{W}_N$  (i.e.  $\lambda_3=2$  is Virasoro)
- more general truncations: the vacuum rep has a singular vector at level  $(N_1 + 1)(N_2 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$  if

$$\frac{N_1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{N_2}{\lambda_2} + \frac{N_3}{\lambda_3} = 1$$

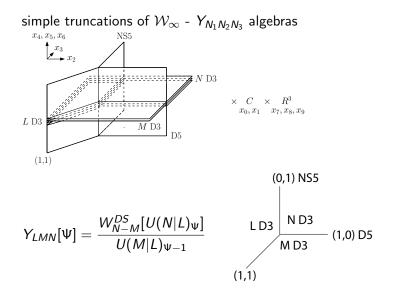
• imposing 2 conditions: minimal models



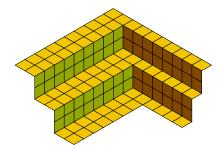
• example:  $Y_{k,k+1,0}$  gives k-th unitary minimal models of  $\mathcal{W}_N$ 

 $\mathcal{W}_\infty$  Yangian  $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix

### Brane construction (Gaiotto-Rapčák)



- the combinatorics of box counting generalizes also to double truncations (minimal models) - periodic plane partitions / tilings of cylinder
- example: Ising model  $c = \frac{1}{2}$  has  $\lambda = (2, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{1}{2})$  and is  $Y_{002} \cap Y_{210}$



 adding boxes to this configuration (respecting periodicity) reproduces all characters of W<sub>N</sub> minimal models (these are usually written as sums of affine Weyl groups / theta functions...)

# Yangian of $\widehat{\mathfrak{gl}(1)}$

The Yangian of  $\mathfrak{gl}(1)$  (Arbesfeld-Schiffmann-Tsymbaliuk) is an associative algebra with generators  $\psi_j, e_j, f_j, j \ge 0$  and relations

$$0 = [e_{j+3}, e_k] - 3[e_{j+2}, e_{k+1}] + 3[e_{j+1}, e_{k+2}] - [e_j, e_{k+3}] + \sigma_2 [e_{j+1}, e_k] - \sigma_2 [e_j, e_{k+1}] - \sigma_3 \{e_j, e_k\} 0 = [f_{j+3}, f_k] - 3[f_{j+2}, f_{k+1}] + 3[f_{j+1}, f_{k+2}] - [f_j, f_{k+3}]$$

$$+\sigma_{2}[f_{j+1}, f_{k}] - \sigma_{2}[f_{j}, f_{k+1}] + \sigma_{3}\{f_{j}, f_{k}\}$$

$$0 = [\psi_{j+3}, e_k] - 3[\psi_{j+2}, e_{k+1}] + 3[\psi_{j+1}, e_{k+2}] - [\psi_j, e_{k+3}] + \sigma_2 [\psi_{j+1}, e_k] - \sigma_2 [\psi_j, e_{k+1}] - \sigma_3 \{\psi_j, e_k\}$$

$$0 = [\psi_{j+3}, f_k] - 3[\psi_{j+2}, f_{k+1}] + 3[\psi_{j+1}, f_{k+2}] - [\psi_j, f_{k+3}] + \sigma_2 [\psi_{j+1}, f_k] - \sigma_2 [\psi_j, f_{k+1}] + \sigma_3 \{\psi_j, f_k\}$$

$$0 = [\psi_j, \psi_k]$$
  
$$\psi_{j+k} = [e_j, f_k]$$

'initial/boundary conditions'

$$\begin{aligned} [\psi_0, e_j] &= 0, & [\psi_1, e_j] &= 0, & [\psi_2, e_j] &= 2e_j, \\ [\psi_0, f_j] &= 0, & [\psi_1, f_j] &= 0, & [\psi_2, f_j] &= -2f_j \end{aligned}$$

and finally the Serre relations

$$0 = \operatorname{Sym}_{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \left[ e_{j_1}, [e_{j_2}, e_{j_3+1}] \right], \ 0 = \operatorname{Sym}_{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \left[ f_{j_1}, [f_{j_2}, f_{j_3+1}] \right].$$

Parameters  $h_1, h_2, h_3 \in \mathbb{C}$  constrained by  $h_1 + h_2 + h_3 = 0$  and

$$\sigma_2 = h_1 h_2 + h_1 h_3 + h_2 h_3 \sigma_3 = h_1 h_2 h_3.$$

We have both commutators and anticommutators in defining quadratic relations (but no  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  grading) - for  $\sigma_3 \neq 0$  not a Lie (super)-algebra.

Introducing generating functions

$$e(u) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{e_j}{u^{j+1}}, \quad f(u) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{f_j}{u^{j+1}}, \quad \psi(u) = 1 + \sigma_3 \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_j}{u^{j+1}}$$

the first set of formulas above (almost) simplify to

$$e(u)e(v) = \varphi(u-v)e(v)e(u), \quad f(u)f(v) = \varphi(v-u)f(v)f(u),$$
  
$$\psi(u)e(v) = \varphi(u-v)e(v)\psi(u), \quad \psi(u)f(v) = \varphi(v-u)f(v)\psi(u)$$

with rational structure function (scattering phase in BAE)

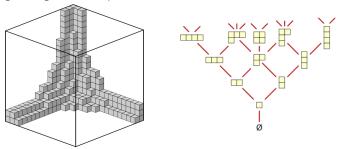
$$\varphi(u) = \frac{(u+h_1)(u+h_2)(u+h_3)}{(u-h_1)(u-h_2)(u-h_3)}$$

The representation theory of the algebra is much simpler in this Yangian formulation and it is controlled by this single function

the generating functions  $\psi(u), e(u)$  and f(u) typically act as

$$egin{aligned} \psi(u) \left| \Lambda 
ight
angle &= \psi_0(u) \prod_{\square \in \Lambda} arphi(u-h_\square) \left| \Lambda 
ight
angle \ e(u) \left| \Lambda 
ight
angle &= \sum_{\square \in \Lambda^+} rac{E(\Lambda o \Lambda + \square)}{u-h_\square} \left| \Lambda + \square 
ight
angle \end{aligned}$$

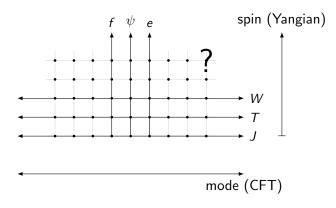
where the states  $|\Lambda\rangle$  are associated to geometric configurations of boxes (plane partitions,...) and where  $h_{\Box} = \sum_{j} h_{j} x_{j}(\Box)$  is the weighted geometric position of the box.



 $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}$  Yangian  $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix

Two different descriptions of the algebra:

- usual CFT point of view with local fields J(z), T(z), W(z), ... with increasingly complicated OPE as we go to higher spins
- Yangian point of view (Arbesfeld-Schiffmann-Tsymbaliuk) where all the spins are included in the generating functions  $\psi(u), e(u)$  and f(u) but accessing higher mode numbers is difficult



How to connect these two descriptions?

- the parameters can be identified as  $\lambda_j \sim \frac{1}{h_i}$
- the generators with low spin and mode can be identified

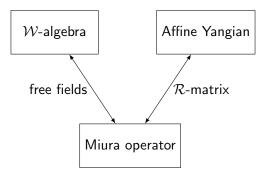
$$\psi_2 = 2L_0, \quad e_0 = J_{-1}, \quad f_0 = -J_{+1}$$
  
 $\psi_3 = (W_3 + ...)_0 + \sigma_3 \sum_{m>0} (3m-1)J_{-m}J_m$ 

(cut & join operator, *not a zero mode of a local field*, Hilbert transform ↔ Benjamin-Ono equation)

- this is sufficient to find the map spin by spin, but what is the more conceptual way to understand the map?
- $\bullet$  Negut: closed form of the map  $\mathcal{W} \to \mathcal{Y}$  using shuffle algebra

### Miura operator

very powerful (free field rep, coproduct, integrability)



• consider the following factorization of *N*-th order differential operator

$$(\partial + \partial \phi_1(z)) \cdots (\partial + \partial \phi_N(z)) = \sum_{j=0}^N U_j(z) \partial^{N-j}$$

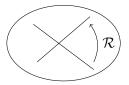
with N commuting free fields  $\partial \phi_j(z) \partial \phi_k(w) \sim \delta_{jk}(z-w)^{-2}$ 

- OPEs of  $U_j$  generate  $\mathcal{W}_N$  and furthermore are quadratic  $\rightsquigarrow$  free field representations of  $\mathcal{W}_\infty$
- *W<sub>N</sub>* ↔ quantization of the space of *N*-th order differential operators as Hamiltonian system (*KdV<sub>N</sub>* and *KP* hierarchies)

# Miura transformation and $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix

- the embedding of  $\mathcal{W}_N$  in the bosonic Fock space  $\mathcal{F}^{\otimes N}$  depends on the way we order the fields
- $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix as transformation (intertwiner) between two embeddings,  $\mathcal{R}: \mathcal{F}^{\otimes 2} \to \mathcal{F}^{\otimes 2}$

$$(\partial + \partial \phi_1)(\partial + \partial \phi_2) = \mathcal{R}^{-1}(\partial + \partial \phi_2)(\partial + \partial \phi_1)\mathcal{R}$$

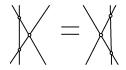


• actually have three different elementary Miura corresponding to three different asymptotics, always of the dressing form

$$(\partial + \partial \phi(z)) = e^{-\phi(z)} \partial^{\#} e^{\phi(z)}$$

•  ${\cal R}$  defined in this way satisfies the Yang-Baxter equation (two ways of reordering 321 
ightarrow 123)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{12}(u_1 - u_2) \mathcal{R}_{13}(u_1 - u_3) \mathcal{R}_{23}(u_2 - u_3) &= \\ &= \mathcal{R}_{23}(u_2 - u_3) \mathcal{R}_{13}(u_1 - u_3) \mathcal{R}_{12}(u_1 - u_2) \end{aligned}$$



- the spectral parameter u the global U(1) charge
- $\bullet~\mathcal{R}\text{-matrix}$  satisfying YBE  $\rightsquigarrow$  apply the algebraic Bethe ansatz

• spin chain of length  $N \rightsquigarrow W_N$  algebra (level N Yangian)

- consider an *auxiliary* Fock space  $\mathcal{F}_A$  and a *quantum* space  $\mathcal{F}_Q \equiv \mathcal{F}_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes \mathcal{F}_N$
- we associate to this the monodromy matrix  $\mathcal{T}_{AQ} : \mathcal{F}_A \otimes \mathcal{F}_Q \to \mathcal{F}_A \otimes \mathcal{F}_Q$  defined as

$$\mathcal{T}_{AQ} = \mathcal{R}_{A1} \mathcal{R}_{A2} \cdots \mathcal{R}_{AN}$$

 if the individual *R*-matrices satisfies the YBE, *T* will also satisfy YBE with respect to two auxiliary spaces *A* and *B*

$$\mathcal{R}_{AB}\mathcal{T}_{A}\mathcal{T}_{B}=\mathcal{T}_{B}\mathcal{T}_{A}\mathcal{R}_{AB}$$

• the algebra of matrix elements of  $\mathcal{T}$  satisfying this equation is the Yangian (in RTT presentation)

- in our situation the Fock-Fock *R*-matrix controlling the commutation relations of Yangian has rows and columns labeled by Young diagrams (~→ infinite number of generators)
- we can however restrict to simple matrix elements, i.e. upper left corner of the *R*-matrix

$$\mathcal{H} = \langle 0 |_A \, \mathcal{T} \, | 0 
angle_A \,, \quad \mathcal{E} = \langle 0 |_A \, \mathcal{T} \, | 1 
angle_A \,, \quad \mathcal{F} = \langle 1 |_A \, \mathcal{T} \, | 0 
angle_A$$

• the YBE now implies relations between these operators like

$$0 = [\mathcal{H}(u), \mathcal{H}(v)]$$

(infinite set of commuting Hamiltonians) or

$$(u - v + h_3)\mathcal{H}(u)\mathcal{E}(v) = (u - v)\mathcal{E}(v)\mathcal{H}(u) + h_3\mathcal{H}(v)\mathcal{E}(u)$$

(ladder operators)

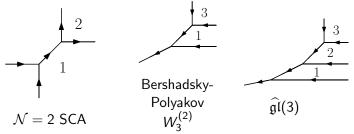
• these generating functions can be related to AST Yangian

$$\psi(u) = \frac{u + \sigma_3 \psi_0}{u} \frac{\mathcal{H}(u + h_1)\mathcal{H}(u + h_2)}{\mathcal{H}(u)\mathcal{H}(u + h_1 + h_2)}$$
$$e(u) = h_3^{-1}\mathcal{H}(u)^{-1}\mathcal{E}(u)$$
$$f(u) = -h_3^{-1}\mathcal{F}(u)\mathcal{H}(u)^{-1}$$

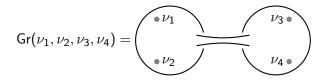
 using *R*-matrix one can find these Yangian generators systematically following the algorithm of QISM (the only input is the Miura operator ∂ + J(z))

# Generalizations

• gluing: generalizations to more complicated VOAs obtained by gluing  $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}$  as basic building block as in topological vertex formalism for toric Calabi-Yaus; this is particularly natural from Gaiotto-Rapcak point of view (TP & Rapcak)



- matrix W<sub>∞</sub>: many properties are unchanged if we replace *gl*(1) → *gl*(*M*) (Eberhardt & TP), is there higher integrability such as Zamolodchikov's tetrahedron equation?
- Grassmannians: there exists three (conjecturally four) parametric generalization of  $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}$  that allows construction of even larger class of VOAs including the unitary Grassmannians, Lagrangian (ortho-unitary) Grassmannians,  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SCA,  $\mathfrak{d}(2, 1, \alpha)$  and conjecturally has pentality symmetry  $\mathcal{S}_5$  (Eberhardt & TP)



# Questions

Many possible directions (work in progress...)

- Bethe equations (BLZ, Litvinov), interpolating classes of commuting ILW Hamiltonians (Yangian-local BLZ)
- elliptic Calogero-Moser models and modularity
- ODE/IM correspondence, quantum spectral curve and WKB, *B*-model of topological string, topological recursion



- construction of the 4-parametric Grassmannian algebra, maybe ODE/IM can give hints
- string or SYM realizations M-theory interpretation of many elements (Gaiotto-Rapcak), can this lead to some interesting predictions not expected from CFT/integrability point of view?

Thank you!

How does the  $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix look like?

- a fermionic form obtained by A. Smirnov by studying the large N limit of gl(N) R-matrix - complicated
- a bosonic formula is not known so far, but results of Nazarov-Sklyanin can be interpreted as matrix elements of *R*-matrix in mixed representation where the two bosonic Fock spaces are associated to different asymptotic directions

$$\mathcal{R}(u) = \mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{u} \sum_{j>0} a_{-j} a_j + \frac{1}{2! u(u+1)} \sum_{j,k>0} (a_{-j} a_{-k} + a_{-j-k}) (a_j a_k + a_{j+k})$$
  
$$- \frac{1}{3! u(u+1)(u+2)} \sum_{j,k,l>0} (a_{-j} a_{-k} a_{-l} + a_{-j-k} a_{-l} + a_{-j-l} a_{-k} + a_{-k-l} a_{-j} + 2a_{-j-k-l}) (\dots) + \dots$$

with  $a_j \equiv a_j^{(1)} - a_j^{(2)}$ .

 $\mathcal{W}_{\infty}$  Yangian  $\mathcal{R}$ -matrix

#### Truncations and conjectural 4-parametric algebra

The truncation curves are best parametrized if we introduce additional *two* parameters  $\nu_4 = 1$  and  $\nu_5 = -1$ . The central charge becomes

$$c = (\lambda_1 - 1)(\lambda_2 - 1)(\lambda_3 - 1)(\lambda_4 - 1)(\lambda_5 - 1)$$
  
where  $\lambda_j = (\nu_1 + \nu_2 + \nu_3 + \nu_4 + \nu_5)/\nu_j$  and so  
 $\frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\lambda_2} + \frac{1}{\lambda_3} + \frac{1}{\lambda_4} + \frac{1}{\lambda_5} = 1$ 

We find a truncation at level

$$(N_1 + 1)(N_2 + 1)(N_3 + 1)(N_4 + 1)(N_5 + 1)$$

if the parameters  $\lambda_i$  satisfy

$$\frac{N_1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{N_2}{\lambda_2} + \frac{N_3}{\lambda_3} + \frac{N_4}{\lambda_4} + \frac{N_5}{\lambda_5} = 1$$

just like in  $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ .