

Some aspects of open string tachyon dynamics

1. Classical tachyon dynamics in open string theory
2. Closed string emission
3. Completeness of open string description
4. Two dimensional string theory

During this talk I shall try to emphasize the **open problems** in this field.

Notations and conventions:

We shall set

$$\hbar = 1, \quad c = 1, \quad \alpha' = 1$$

g_s : closed string coupling constant

We shall be studying D-branes in bosonic string theory or unstable D-branes or brane-antibrane systems in type II string theory.

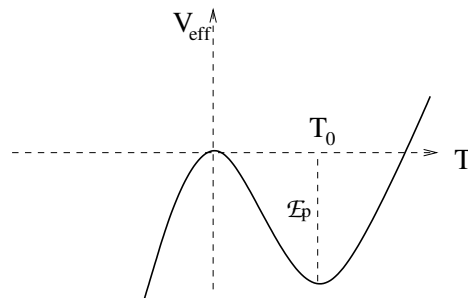
Each of these systems is characterized by the existence of tachyonic modes.

Define \mathcal{E}_p to be the total energy / unit p -volume of the system.

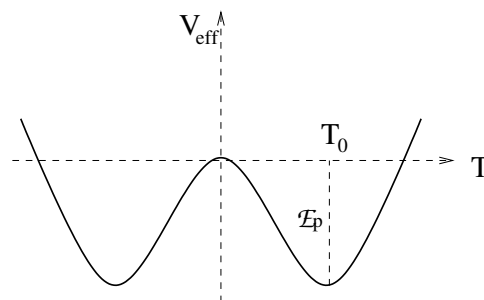
$\mathcal{E}_p = \text{tension}$ for a single unstable D_p brane in bosonic or type II string theory.

$\mathcal{E}_p = \text{twice the tension}$ of a BPS D-brane for $D_p - \bar{D}_p$ system in type II string theory.

Shape of tree level tachyon effective potential $V_{eff}(T)$ for a D- p -brane in bosonic string theory:



Shape of $V_{eff}(T)$ for non-BPS D- p -brane in type II string theory:



For $Dp-\bar{D}p$ system we have to revolve this figure about the vertical axis to get the tachyon potential as a function of complex T .

1. At $T = T_0$ the total energy density vanishes identically.

$$V_{eff}(T_0) + \mathcal{E}_p = 0$$

$T = T_0$ configuration describes the vacuum of string theory without any D-brane.

2. Thus around this minimum there are no physical open string excitations.

3. Time independent but space-dependent classical solutions of the equations of motion of T represent lower dimensional D-branes.

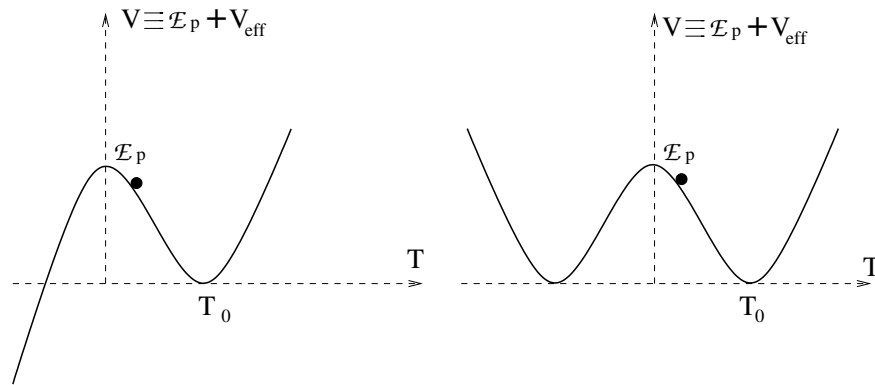
Example: On a non-BPS D_p -brane of type II string theory, a kink solution interpolating between $\pm T_0$ represents a BPS $D-(p-1)$ -brane.

The **indirect** evidence for these results come from various studies based mainly on **conformal field theory** techniques, **non-commutative** solitons, **boundary** string field theory, etc.

The **direct** evidence comes from **numerical** results in Witten's cubic open bosonic **string field theory** and Berkovits' superstring field theory.

However despite many attempts there has not been any progress in finding **analytical solutions in these string field theories representing either the tachyon vacuum or the classical solutions representing lower dimensional D-branes.**

Time dependent solutions:



What happens if we **displace** the **tachyon** field away from the maximum of the potential and let it **roll** down according to its classical **equations of motion**?

Consider spatially **homogeneous** solution for simplicity.

Had T been an **ordinary scalar** field, there would be a **two parameter** family of solutions labelled by the **initial values** of T and its time derivative $\partial_0 T$.

Even in **string theory** we can construct a **two parameter** family of time dependent solutions describing the rolling of the tachyon away from its maximum.

Detailed computation shows that as $x^0 \rightarrow \infty$, the rolling tachyon approaches a configuration of

Energy density $\mathcal{E} = \text{constant}$

Pressure $p = 0$

Dilaton charge density $Q = 0$

We shall outline the **procedure** for constructing the solution for D-branes in **bosonic** string theory.

Equations of motion of the tachyon near 0:

$$(\partial_0^2 + m^2)T = \mathcal{O}(T^2), \quad m^2 = -1$$

Solution:

$$T(x^0) = \lambda \cosh(x^0 + a) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$

λ, a : constants of integration

$$T(x^0) = \lambda \cosh(x^0 + a) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$

To order λ this corresponds to deforming the world-sheet CFT by a boundary term:

$$\lambda \int dt \cosh(X^0(t) + a)$$

t : parameter labelling the boundary of the world-sheet.

Since T is on-shell, this is guaranteed to be a marginal deformation to order λ .

In this case it turns out to be a marginal deformation to all orders in λ .

→ gives a two parameter family of CFT's

→ two parameter family of time dependent solutions of classical equations of motion.

The same method works for superstring theory.

General case:

Suppose the theory has n tachyons T_1, \dots, T_n with $\text{mass}^2 = -m_1^2, \dots, -m_n^2$.

Let V_1, \dots, V_n be the **zero momentum vertex operators** for these tachyons.

Then at the **linearized** level we have a **$2n$ -parameter** family of **solution**

$$T_k = \lambda_k \cosh(m_k x^0 + a_k)$$

for arbitrary constants λ_k, a_k .

This corresponds to **deforming** the world-sheet theory with the **boundary perturbation**:

$$\sum_k \lambda_k \int dt V_k(t) \cosh(m_k X^0(t) + a_k)$$

Since each tachyon is on-shell this is guaranteed to be **marginal** to linear order in λ_k .

Beginning with this solution one can solve the β function = 0 equations iteratively.

Result: in the generic case it is possible to construct a $2n$ parameter family of boundary CFT's with boundary interaction of the form:

$$\sum_k \lambda_k \int dt V_k(t) \cosh(\omega_k(\vec{\lambda}) X^0(t) + a_k)$$

with

$$\omega_k(\vec{\lambda}) = m_k + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$

$\omega_k(\vec{\lambda})$ can be calculated by systematically solving the β -function=0 equations.

A variant of this procedure can be used to construct a $2n$ parameter family of classical solutions in the open string field theory.

Open question: Does this $2n$ parameter family of solutions exhaust the time dependent solutions that one can construct involving the n -tachyons?

Had these tachyons been ordinary scalar fields with at most two derivative terms in the action, the answer would be yes.

However open string field theory has interaction terms with arbitrarily large number of derivatives.

Hence there could be other solutions.

On the other hand if there are really additional solutions, then we expect that upon quantization they will give rise to new states which are not seen in perturbative quantization of open string theory.

Note: The **problem** associated with **higher derivative** terms is a generic problem in **all string theories** and is not specific to open string theory.

Even for **closed** strings, the **effective field theory** computed from the β -function vanishing condition, as well as the full **closed string field theory** action, has **higher derivative** terms.

This **apparently** leads to **additional solutions** to the equations of motion, which, if present, will give rise to **additional** quantum **states** which are **not present** in the spectrum of **string** theory.

We come face to face with this problem when we try to construct supersymmetric **black hole** solutions in the presence of **higher derivative** terms.

The **effective lagrangian density** of closed string theories often contains higher derivative terms of the form:

$$\sqrt{-\det g} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$$

Supersymmetrization → many more terms

We can try to construct **BPS black hole** solutions taking these additional terms into account.

Boundary condition on various fields: **Smoothness** at the **horizon**.

Evolving the fields in the **radial direction** one finds that in the **asymptotic region** various **fields** start **oscillating** about the **expected** asymptotic values.

This is possible because these various fields have additional oscillatory solutions of the linearized equations of motion due to the presence of higher derivative terms.

Example: Consider a scalar field ϕ with action

$$\frac{1}{2} \int d^{p+1}x \phi \partial_\mu \partial^\mu (1 + M^{-2} \partial_\mu \partial^\mu) \phi$$

Solutions of the equations of motion:

$$\phi = A e^{ik \cdot x}$$

with $k^2 = 0$ or $k^2 = M^2$.

Similarly, due to the presence of higher derivative terms, metric and various other fields have additional oscillatory solutions and these are responsible for oscillatory behaviour of the metric of the black hole in the asymptotic region.

However these **additional** oscillatory **solutions** must be **unphysical**, since otherwise by **quantizing** these oscillatory solutions we shall get **additional states** which are **not present** in the **spectrum** of **string theory**.

Resolution: We must **redefine fields** to **remove** these solutions.

Define $\psi = \left(1 + M^{-2} \partial^\mu \partial_\mu\right)^{1/2} \phi$

Then the action is

$$\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \psi \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \psi$$

Under this field redefinition the solutions $\phi = A e^{ik \cdot x}$ with $k^2 = M^2$ gets mapped to $\psi = 0$.

Similar **field redefinitions** need to be carried out for the **metric** and **other fields**.

When the **black hole** solution is **expressed** in terms of these **new** field variables, the **oscillations** must **disappear**.

How does the **solution near the **horizon** look in terms of these **new variables**?**

Coming back to **open** string theory one might **contemplate** three **possibilities**:

1. **Cubic open string field theory** automatically uses the **right** choice of **variables** and hence the only continuous **parameters** labelling a classical solution correspond to **boundary condition** on the physical **fields** and their **first derivatives**.

2. Cubic open string field theory contains **additional parameters** labelling its classical solutions, but these parameters are **spurious** and **disappear** from the solution once we make the **'right'** choice of field variables.

3. Cubic open string field theory contains **additional parameters** labelling its classical solutions, and these parameters **cannot** be **removed** by field redefinitions.

Which of these possibilities is correct???

So far we have considered **tree** level open string field theory **ignoring** possible **backreaction** due to **closed** string **emission** from the brane.

The **rolling tachyon** solution on the D-brane acts as a classical **source** for all the **closed** string **fields**.

→ produces a **classical** closed string **field configuration**.



a state $|\Psi_c\rangle$ of **ghost** number **two** in the two dimensional CFT

Equation of motion of $|\Psi_c\rangle$

$$(Q_B + \bar{Q}_B)|\Psi_c\rangle = |\mathcal{B}\rangle$$

$(Q_B + \bar{Q}_B)$: BRST charge

$|\mathcal{B}\rangle$: Boundary state describing the rolling tachyon solution

Solution in Siegel gauge:

$$|\Psi_c\rangle = (L_0 + \bar{L}_0)^{-1} (b_0 + \bar{b}_0) |\mathcal{B}\rangle$$

L_n, \bar{L}_n : total Virasoro generators

$b_n, \bar{b}_n, c_n, \bar{c}_n$: ghost oscillators

Solution:

$$|\Psi_c\rangle = (L_0 + \bar{L}_0)^{-1} (b_0 + \bar{b}_0) |\mathcal{B}\rangle$$

In Minkowski space $(L_0 + \bar{L}_0)$ has zero eigenvalues.

→ the solution is ambiguous.

Hartle-Hawking prescription: Solve this in Euclidean space and then replace $x \rightarrow ix^0$.

We can divide $|\mathcal{B}\rangle$ into two parts:

$$|\mathcal{B}\rangle = |\mathcal{B}_1\rangle + |\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$$

1. $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ and $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ are separately BRST invariant.
2. $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ approaches a finite limit as $x^0 \rightarrow \pm\infty$.

$|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ contains exponentially growing terms in these limits.

3. The time dependence of various terms in $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ is determined from the requirement of BRST invariance.

Time dependence of $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ is not determined from BRST invariance.

4. In the limit where the initial D-brane energy density goes to zero, only $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ contributes to $|\Psi_c\rangle$.

Results for Dp -brane with all tangential directions compactified on a torus (either in bosonic or superstring theory)

Closed string field produced by $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$

$$|\Psi_c^{(1)}\rangle = (L_0 + \bar{L}_0)^{-1} (b_0 + \bar{b}_0) |\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$$

has the following features:

1. The field configuration is essentially independent of the energy of the brane (up to a shift of the time coordinate x^0).
2. The total amount of energy in all the closed string modes is infinite.
3. The contribution to the energy of a closed string mode of mass m_N comes predominantly from modes with momentum $|\vec{k}_\perp| \sim (m_N)^{1/2}$ along directions transverse to the brane and of winding $|w_\parallel| \sim (m_N)^{1/2}$ along directions tangential to the brane.

Since the Dp -brane has a finite energy, the total energy carried by the closed string fields cannot really be infinite.

There should be an upper cut-off on the energy of the emitted closed string \sim the Dp -brane mass $\sim 1/g_s$

Using the upper cut-off the results are modified as follows:

1. All the energy of the wrapped Dp -brane is radiated away into closed strings.
2. Most of the emitted energy is carried by closed strings of mass $\sim \frac{1}{g_s}$.
3. Typical momentum of an emitted closed string along directions transverse to the brane is of order $(g_s)^{-1/2}$.
4. Typical winding of an emitted closed string along directions tangential to the brane is of order $(g_s)^{-1/2}$.

From this analysis it would seem that the effect of closed string emission invalidates the tree level open string analysis.

However comparison of the properties of the final state closed strings with those inferred from the tree level open string analysis points to an alternative interpretation.

1) Tree level **open** string **analysis** tells us that the final system has:

$$Q/T_{00} = 0$$

Q: **Dilaton** charge **density**

On the other hand we know that the **closed** string world-sheet does **not** couple to the zero momentum **dilaton**.

$$s_{world-sheet} = \int d^2z (G_{\mu\nu}(X) + B_{\mu\nu}(X)) \partial_z X^\mu \partial_{\bar{z}} X^\nu$$

Thus the final state **closed** strings carry **zero** total **dilaton** charge.

This shows that the **dilaton** charge of the final state **closed** strings **agrees** with that computed in the **open** string description.

2) Tree level **open** string analysis tells us that the final system has:

$$p/T_{00} = 0$$

On the other hand, **closed** string analysis tells us that the final closed strings have **momentum/mass** and **winding/mass** $\sim \sqrt{g_s}$

For such a system

$$p/T_{00} \sim g_s \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad g_s \rightarrow 0$$

Thus the **pressure** of the final state **closed** strings **match** the result computed in the **open** string description.

Conclusion: Properties of the **final** state calculated from tree level **open** string analysis **agree** with the properties of the final state **closed** strings into which the D-brane decays.

Such **agreements** also **hold** for more **general** cases.

Consider the '**decay**' of a D_p -brane along x^1, \dots, x^p plane, with an **electric field** e along the x^1 axis.

The **final state** is characterized by its energy-momentum tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$, source $S_{\mu\nu}$ for anti-symmetric tensor field $B_{\mu\nu}$ and the dilaton charge Q .

Non-zero charges in $x^0 \rightarrow \infty$ limit

$$T^{00} = \Pi e^{-1}, \quad T^{11} = -\Pi e, \quad S^{01} = \Pi$$

Π : a **parameter** labeling the solution

These tree level **open** string results again **agree** exactly with the properties of the final state **closed** strings into which the D-brane decays.

This leads to the following **conjecture**:

Open string theory provides a **description** of the rolling tachyon system which is **dual** to the description in terms of **closed** string emission.

We could give a completely **consistent** description of the dynamics of the D-brane **without** ever having to talk about **closed** strings.

Note: This conjecture does **not** require that quantum **open** string theory on a given system of unstable D-branes should be able to describe an **arbitrary closed string state** in the full string theory.

However the **open** string theory describes **all** the quantum states which are **produced** in the decay of this **D-brane**.

In this sense, the **open** string theory on each D-brane system is a **consistent** quantum mechanical system that **encodes**, in a highly **non-local** manner, **part** of the **information** about the full string theory.

A given **system** of **D-branes** is like a **part** of the **hologram** describing the **full** string theory.

What about the field produced by $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$?

1. In the $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0$ limit the fields produced by $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ vanish.

→ the only contribution comes from $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ and our previous results hold.

2. For $\mathcal{E} > 0$, the fields produced by $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ grow exponentially in the past and future.

→ another possible source of large backreaction of closed string fields on open string dynamics.

However if the earlier conjecture is correct then the open string dynamics should be consistent without taking into account the backreaction due to closed strings.

According to this conjecture the **growth** of the **closed** string fields should indicate a **breakdown** of the **closed** string description rather than of the open string description.

Analogy: For many **D-branes** the **closed** string fields produced by the brane become **singular** near the **origin**.

→ **breakdown** of the description of the D-brane in terms of weakly coupled **closed** string fields.

But the description in terms of **weakly** coupled open string theory does **not** get affected by this **divergence**.

Can we find a precise **test of the conjecture that despite the apparently large backreaction due to closed string fields, the open string field theory describes the complete dynamics of the D-brane?**

Two dimensional string theory

Continuum description: based on the world-sheet action:

$$s_{X^0} + s_L + s_{ghost}$$

s_{X^0} : Time-like scalar field X^0 with $c = 1$

s_L : A Liouville field theory of a scalar field φ with a potential $e^{2\varphi}$ and a background charge $Q = 2$ so that $c = 1 + 6Q^2 = 25$

For large negative φ the potential is small and φ behaves like a free field.

Also for large negative φ the dilaton $= Q\varphi$ is large and negative and hence the string coupling is small.

s_{ghost} : Usual action for ghost fields b, c, \bar{b}, \bar{c}

Physical **closed** string **spectrum**: A single **massless scalar** field ψ in (1+1) dimensions labelled by X^0 and φ .

For large negative φ the **vertex operator** for ψ carrying φ **momentum** P and **energy** E is:

$$e^{(1+iP)\varphi} e^{iEX^0}$$

Besides this there are **discrete states** carrying discrete momentum and energy.

These are labelled by **SU(2)** quantum numbers (j, m) with $-(j-1) \leq m \leq (j-1)$ and have **vertex operators** (for large -ve φ):

$$e^{(1+j)\varphi} V_{j,m}$$

$V_{j,m}$: Vertex operator of a higher level **primary** state in the $c = 1$ CFT of a scalar field X^0 .

$$V_{j,m} \sim e^{2mX^0} \times \text{world-sheet derivatives of } X^0$$

This theory admits a **D0-brane**.

1. **Neumann** boundary condition on X^0 and **ghosts**
2. **'Dirichlet'** boundary condition on φ .

Given this, we can now **deform** the conformal field theory by **boundary interaction**:

$$\lambda \int dt \cosh X^0(t)$$

to construct a one parameter family of **rolling tachyon** solutions.

Boundary state $|\mathcal{B}\rangle$ of this theory can be constructed explicitly.

As before we can divide $|\mathcal{B}\rangle$ into **two** parts $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ and $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$, each of which are separately **BRST invariant**.

We can calculate the **closed** string fields produced by $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ and $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ following the same procedure as before.

Results:

1. $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ produces a classical ψ field background.
2. This field configuration is **independent** of the D0-brane **energy** \mathcal{E} up to a **shift** in the **time** coordinate.
3. The **total energy** carried by this field configuration is **infinite**.
4. $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ produces closed string fields associated with **discrete states**.
5. Since **vertex operators** for **discrete** states $\propto e^{2mX^0}$, these fields **grow exponentially** in the far future or the far past.
6. **Fields** produced by $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ **vanish** at $\mathcal{E} = 0$.

These results are very **similar** to the corresponding results in the **critical** string theory.

Does the **backreaction** due to **closed** strings **invalidate** the classical **open** string results?

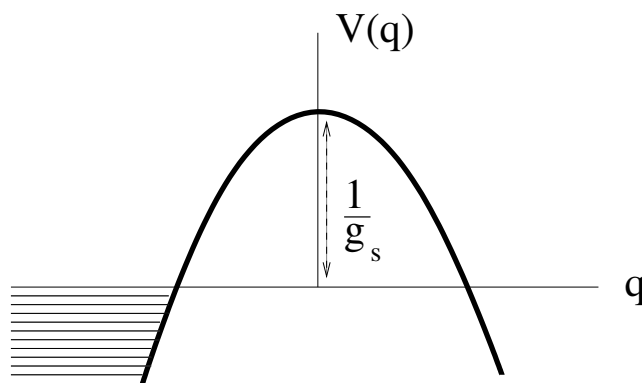
Fortunately for this two dimensional string theory we have an **alternative** formulation based on **matrix model**.

This allows us to **analyse** the various **questions** we raised earlier not only at the string tree level, but to **all orders** in string **perturbation theory**.

The **matrix** model description is equivalent to a theory of **free fermions** moving in an **inverted harmonic oscillator** potential.

Hamiltonian

$$h = \frac{1}{2}p^2 - \frac{1}{2}q^2 + \frac{1}{g_s}$$



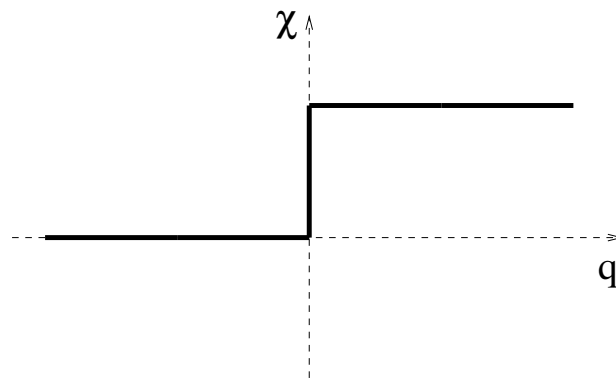
The **energy** levels **below zero** are **filled**, and **above zero** are **empty**.

Since to all orders in **perturbation** theory we can **ignore tunneling** between the two sides, we shall concentrate on the **negative q** side.

For **large negative q** the fermion behaves like a **relativistic fermion**.

Close to the **fermi level**, we can **bosonize** the second quantized fermion field to a **scalar** field $\chi(q, x^0)$.

A **single fermion** excited from the fermi level corresponds to a **step function** in the scalar field χ .



$\chi(q, x^0)$ is related to the scalar field $\Psi(\varphi, x^0)$ in the continuum description.

$$\int dq e^{-iPq} \chi(q, x^0) \\ = \frac{\Gamma(iP)}{\Gamma(-iP)} \int d\varphi e^{-iP\varphi} \Psi(\varphi, x^0)$$

Using this we can convert the $\Psi(\varphi, x^0)$ background produced by $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$ to $\chi(q, x^0)$.

→ precisely gives a step function describing a single excited fermion!

Conclusion: A single D0-brane in the two dimensional string theory corresponds to a single fermion excited from the fermi level to an excited level.

This also explains the **origin** of the **infinite energy** in the Ψ field produced by $|\mathcal{B}_1\rangle$

This is due to the **step function** form of χ .

A step function **costs** an **infinite energy** due to infinite **spatial derivative**.

In the **fermionic description** this **infinite** energy is due to the exact **localization** of the fermion at a spatial **point**.

→ causes **infinite uncertainty** in **momentum**.

Thus the **classical energy** of the **closed string** field configuration is **infinite** because it includes the effect of infinite **momentum uncertainty** of the D0-brane that is strictly **localized** in **position** space.

Note: Our **analysis** establishing the **correspondence** between the **D0-brane** and **single fermion** excitations has been done for fermion energy \mathcal{E} close to the **Fermi level**.

From the **continuum** viewpoint this requirement comes from the fact that the effect of $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$, which has been **ignored** so far, can be ignored only in the $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow 0$ limit.

From the **matrix model** side this requirement comes from the fact that the **bosonization** of the fermion system in terms of a **single scalar** holds only **close** to the **fermi level**.

However given the **identification** of the **D0-brane** with a **single fermion** state for $\mathcal{E} \simeq 0$, it is natural to **assume** that this identification **holds** for all energy (i.e. **all \mathcal{E}**)

From this analysis we conclude that the quantum **dynamics** of a single **D0-brane** is described by the **inverted harmonic oscillator** Hamiltonian

$$\hat{h} = \frac{1}{2}\hat{p}^2 - \frac{1}{2}\hat{q}^2 + \frac{1}{g_s}$$

with a sharp **cut-off** on the **energy** levels:

$$\mathcal{E} > 0$$

This **cutoff** is due to the Pauli **exclusion principle**.

The variables (p, q) are like the **open string** degrees of freedom living on the **D0-brane**.

Thus there must be a **map** from this inverted harmonic oscillator system (**IHO**) to the open string field theory (**OSFT**) describing the dynamics of the D0-brane.

At present this **map** between **IHO** and **OSFT** is not known.

In the **IHO** description the various **classical solutions** are explicitly **known**.

Thus if we can find this **map** then using it we should be able to construct **classical solutions** in **OSFT**.

e.g. in **IHO** the **tachyon vacuum** corresponds to a **trajectory** at the **Fermi level**.

Its **image** will give the **tachyon vacuum** in **OSFT**.

We also see that in the **IHO** description a general **time dependent** solution is labelled by precisely **two parameters**.

Thus once we understand the **map** between **IHO** and **OSFT**, we should be able to address the role of **higher derivative** terms in **OSFT**.

The analysis also provides **support** for the **conjecture** that the **dynamics** of a **D0-brane** can be described **completely** using **open string** field theory without any need to couple it to closed strings.

The **IHO** with an energy **cut-off** is a **consistent** quantum mechanical system in its own right.

It describes only the **single fermion** excitations in the theory.

Thus it **encodes**, in a highly **non-local** manner, **partial information** about the full two dimensional string theory.

Given this **correspondence** between **D0-branes** and **single fermion** excitations, we can now seek an **interpretation** of the exponentially growing terms in $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$.

It turns out that a particle moving in an **inverted harmonic oscillator** potential has **infinite** number of **conserved charges**.

$$e^{(l-k)x^0} (q-p)^l (q+p)^k, \quad l, k: \text{ integers}$$

These conserved charges are in one to one **correspondence** with the **coefficients** of the **exponentially growing** terms appearing in $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ in the continuum theory.

Thus the natural interpretation of the exponentially growing terms in $|\mathcal{B}_2\rangle$ is that they **encode** information about conserved **charges** of the D0-brane.

Clearly from the point of view of **matrix** model these exponentially growing charges **do not** invalidate the '**open** string description' in which we describe the system as a single particle moving in an **inverted harmonic oscillator** potential.

This is again consistent with the **conjecture** that **open** string field theory gives a **complete description** of a D-brane system without any need to take into account backreaction due to closed strings.

The **matrix model** description of two dimensional string theory, while resolving some of the earlier questions, raises a new **puzzle**.

What is the **continuum description of **hole** states?**

Proposal 1. Take the boundary state of the D0-brane, **analytically continue** the energy parameter \mathcal{E} to **negative** value, and **change** the sign of the **boundary state**.

The new state carries conserved **charges** appropriate for a **hole**.

However the **closed** string **field** configuration produced by this boundary state, instead of producing an **anti-kink** configuration as appropriate for a **hole**, produces a **kink**.

This seems to be **inconsistent** with the idea that this boundary state describes a hole state.

Also **if** this proposal is **correct**, then a **similar construction** can be carried out for the boundary states of ordinary D-branes in **critical** string theory.

This will imply existence of **new** type of **D-branes** in **critical** string theory.

→ seems **unlikely**.

Proposal 2. In the presence of **linear dilaton** background, an ordinary **D-brane** experiences a **force** that **pushes** it **towards** the **strong coupling** region.

We can have **rolling D0-brane** solutions which travel **from** the region of **finite φ** towards **large negative φ** , reaches a **turning point** whose position depends on the energy of the brane, and **turns back** towards the finite φ region.

We could **identify** these states as **hole** states.

A summary of some of the open problems

1. Construct **analytically** classical **solutions** in **open string field theory** describing tachyon vacuum and other solutions.

2. Understand the role of **higher derivative** terms in open string field theory.

Do they give rise to **more solutions** than what is expected from counting of physical states in the theory?

3. Find a **precise test** for the **conjecture** that **open string field theory** is a completely **consistent** quantum theory describing the dynamics of a system of D-branes.

4. Find the **relation** between **IHO** and **OSFT** for two dimensional string theory.

5. Find the correct description of **hole** states in **continuum** description of two dimensional string theory.