

# W-algebras

① Oberwolfach, Juni 99  
Methods for calculating  
explicit formulas for  
conformal characters  
of W-algebras

- Key-words:
- arises in 2-dim CFT
  - special vertex-oper. algebra
  - rel. to Kac-Moody algebras

$W \cong (\mathcal{F}, \omega_0)$  where

- $\mathcal{F}$  (super) Lie algebra extend. Virasoro algebra  $\mathcal{V}$   
( $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{C}[\dots, L_{-1}, L_0, L_1, \dots]$ )

$$[L_m, L_n] = (n-m)L_{m+n} + \frac{n^3-n}{12} \delta_{m,-n} C$$
$$[L_n, C] = 0$$

satisfying certain axioms (analyticity cond. on  $[, ]$ )

- in partic.  $[C, \mathcal{F}] = 0$

- $\omega_0 : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \text{End}(H_{\omega_0})$  a "lowest-weight repr"  
(vacuum rep)  
satisfy. cert. axioms  
in partic.:  $\omega_0$  invar.,  $\omega_0(C) = c \cdot \text{identity}$   
 $c = \text{central charge of } W$

~~$H_{\omega_0} =$~~

lowest-weight repr. of  $W$ :  $\omega : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \text{End}(H_\omega)$  Lie-algebra rep.  
+ cert. axioms

in partic.:  $H_\omega = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H_\omega^n$

s.t.  $H_\omega^n = \omega(L_0)$ -eigenspace of eigenvalue  $h+n$   
some fixed  $h \in \mathbb{R}$  (indep. of  $n$ ),  $\dim H_\omega^n < \infty$   
 $h = \text{conformal dimension of } \omega$

$$\chi_\omega = \text{tr} \left( q^{L_0 - \frac{c}{24}}, H_\omega \right) = q^{h - \frac{c}{24}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\dim H_\omega^n) q^n \in \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

conformal character of  $\omega$