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Abstract

One of the challenges in using the AdS/CFT correspondence to study quantitatively how space, time and gravity emerges from a quantum theory is that one does not know in general how to interpolate between the two sides of the duality. In the planar limit with infinite N, an integrable spin chain has been found that can provide a quantitative unifying framework enabling an interpolation between planar gauge theory and tree-level string theory. Can one do something like this also for finite N where gravity and black holes are part of the game? We propose another kind of limit of the AdS/CFT correspondence in which one gets a type of quantum mechanical theory called Spin Matrix theory that generalizes spin chains to finite N. We review that in the limit giving SU(2) Spin Matrix theory, one can use it to interpolate between the gauge theory and string theory sides both for tree-level string theory and for interacting D-branes (Giant Gravitons). Moreover, we show that the Spin Matrix theory limits of string theory on AdS5 x S5 result in non-relativistic strings moving in a certain type of non-relativistic geometry.