

## 0.1 Elliptic Genus Computation

The Elliptic genus for 2d  $\mathcal{N} = (0, 2)$  theories was computed via localisation in [?, ?]. Writing schematically it is given by

$$\text{Ell}(q, a) = \text{Tr}_R \left[ (-1)^F q^{H-} \prod a^f \right]. \quad (1)$$

A  $\mathcal{N} = (0, 2)$  chiral multiplet  $\Phi$  in representations  $R$  of  $G \times F$  contributes to Ell

$$\text{Ell}_{\Phi, R}(q, a) = \prod_{\rho \in R} i \frac{\eta(q)}{\theta_1(a^\rho; q)}. \quad (2)$$

Similarly, a  $\mathcal{N} = (0, 2)$  Fermi multiplet  $\Psi$  contributes

$$\text{Ell}_{\Psi, R}(q, a) = \prod_{\rho \in R} i \frac{\theta_1(a^\rho; q)}{\eta(q)}. \quad (3)$$

Finally we present the formula for the  $\mathcal{N} = (0, 2)$  Vector multiplet  $V$

$$\text{Ell}_{V, G}(q, a) = (i\eta(q))^{2 \text{rank } G} \prod_{\alpha \in G} i \frac{\theta_1(a^\alpha; q)}{\eta(q)}, \quad (4)$$

which is that of a Fermi multiplet in the adjoint representation of  $G$ . The vector multiplets should be paired with the corresponding integration over the maximal torus of  $G$

$$\frac{1}{|W(G)|} \oint_{T[G]} \prod_{n=1}^{\text{rank } G} \frac{da_n}{2\pi i a_n}, \quad (5)$$

which is essentially the Haar measure divided by the Vandermonde determinant.  $W(G)$  is the Weyl group of  $G$  and the contour is taken over  $|a| = 1$ .

### 0.1.1 M-Strings Index without Defect

The partition functions corresponding to each  $\mathcal{N} = (0, 2)$  multiplet read

$$\text{Ell}_Y = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n+1}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1 \left( \mathfrak{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{t}}{\mathfrak{q}}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n+1,J}}; Q_\tau \right)}, \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{Y}} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n-1}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1 \left( \frac{1}{\mathfrak{c}} \sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{t}}{\mathfrak{q}}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n-1,J}}; Q_\tau \right)}, \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\zeta = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I,J=1}^{K_n} i \frac{\theta_1 \left( \frac{\mathfrak{q}}{\mathfrak{t}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n,J}}; Q_\tau \right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\Upsilon = \prod_{n=1}^M (\text{i}\eta(Q_\tau))^{2K_n} \prod_{I \neq J} \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Ell}_X = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I,J=1}^{K_n} \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{q} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{X}} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I,J=1}^{K_n} \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{t}^{-1} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (11)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\lambda = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n+1}} \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{c} \sqrt{\mathfrak{q} \mathfrak{t}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n+1,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (12)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\lambda}} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n-1}} \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{\sqrt{\mathfrak{q} \mathfrak{t}}}{\mathfrak{c}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{y_{n-1,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (13)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\phi = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{A=1}^N \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{q}}{\mathfrak{t}}} \frac{y_{n,I}}{x_{n,A}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\phi}} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{A=1}^N \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{q}}{\mathfrak{t}}} \frac{x_{n,A}}{y_{n,I}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (15)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\psi = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{A=1}^N \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{c}^{-1} \frac{y_{n,I}}{x_{n-1,A}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (16)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\psi}} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{I=1}^{K_n} \prod_{A=1}^N \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{c}^{-1} \frac{x_{n+1,J}}{y_{n,I}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}. \quad (17)$$

### 0.1.2 M-Strings Index with Defects

We now list the result of performing the  $\mathbb{Z}_k$  orbifold.

$$\text{Ell}_Y^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{(n+1)(i-1)}} \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{c} \sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{t}}{\mathfrak{q}}} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{(n+1)(i-1),J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (18)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\Upsilon^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k (\text{i}\eta(Q_\tau))^{2K_{ni}} \prod_{I \neq J} \text{i} \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{ni,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (19)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{Y}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{(n-1)i}} \text{i} \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\mathfrak{c}^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{\mathfrak{t}}{\mathfrak{q}}} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{(n-1)i,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (20)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\zeta^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n(i+1)}} i \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{q}{t} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{n(i+1),J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (21)$$

$$\text{Ell}_X^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{n(i+1)}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\frac{q}{t} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{n(i+1),J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (22)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{X}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I,J=1}^{K_{ni}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(t^{-1} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{ni,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (23)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\lambda^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{(n+1)i}} i \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{cqt}{t} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{(n+1)i,J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (24)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\lambda}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{J=1}^{K_{(n-1)(i-1)}} i \frac{\theta_1\left(\frac{qt}{c} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{y_{(n-1)(i-1),J}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (25)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\phi^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{A=1}^{N_{ni}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\sqrt{\frac{q}{t}} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{x_{ni,A}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (26)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\phi}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{A=1}^{N_{(i-1)}} i \frac{\eta(Q_\tau)}{\theta_1\left(\sqrt{\frac{q}{t}} \frac{x_{n(i-1),A}}{y_{ni,I}}; Q_\tau\right)}, \quad (27)$$

$$\text{Ell}_\psi^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{A=1}^{N_{(n-1)i}} i \frac{\theta_1\left(c^{-1} \frac{y_{ni,I}}{x_{(n-1)i,A}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}, \quad (28)$$

$$\text{Ell}_{\tilde{\psi}}^{\mathbb{Z}_k} = \prod_{n=1}^M \prod_{i=1}^k \prod_{I=1}^{K_{ni}} \prod_{A=1}^{N_{(n+1)(i-1)}} i \frac{\theta_1\left(c^{-1} \frac{x_{(n+1)(i-1),A}}{y_{ni,I}}; Q_\tau\right)}{\eta(Q_\tau)}. \quad (29)$$

Clearly each  $\text{Ell}_P^{\mathbb{Z}_k}$  is invariant under the action (??).

## 0.2 Review of the 5d Index Localisation

We describe in more detail, following [?], the localisation of the superconformal index

$$Z(s, p, v, \mathbf{q}_A) = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_{\mathbb{S}^4}} \left[ (-1)^F e^{-\beta\delta} s^{-2J_R - 2J_R^R} p^{-2J_L} v^{2J_L^R} \prod_{A=1}^N \mathbf{q}_A^{K_A} \right]. \quad (30)$$

It receives contributions only from those states which satisfy the BPS condition (??). After Wick rotation to Euclidean time  $X^5 = i\tau_E$  the index  $Z$  admits a path integral representation on  $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^4$

$$Z(s, p, v, \mathbf{q}_A) = \int_{C(\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^4)} [\mathcal{D}\Phi] e^{-S_E[\Phi]}. \quad (31)$$

The insertion of chemical potentials results in twisted boundary conditions upon going around the  $\mathbb{S}^1$

$$\Phi(\tau_E + \beta) = (-1)^F e^{-\beta(-2J_R - 3J_R^R)} s^{-2J_R - 2J_R^R} p^{-2J_L} v^{2J_L^R} \Phi(\tau_E). \quad (32)$$

The twisted boundary conditions (30) may be taken into account by shifting time derivatives

$$\partial_{\tau_E} \rightarrow \hat{\partial}_{\tau_E} = \partial_{\tau_E} + (2 - i\epsilon_+)J_R + (3 - i\epsilon_+)J_R^R - i\epsilon_-J_L + 2mJ_L^R \quad (33)$$

and giving periodic boundary conditions to all fermions to account for the insertion of  $(-1)^F$ . To perform the localisation we deform the Lagrangian by the  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$  exact term

$$\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L} + t \{ \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, V \}, \quad (34)$$

$t$  may then be taken to infinity in which case the path integral localises around the set of saddle points of  $\{ \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, V \} = 0$ . The supersymmetry transformation  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} + \tilde{\mathbf{S}}$  is parametrised by the Killing spinor

$$\varepsilon = \varepsilon_q + \varepsilon_s = e^{\frac{1}{2}\theta_1\gamma^{51}} e^{\frac{1}{2}\theta_2\gamma^{12}} e^{\frac{1}{2}\theta_3\gamma^{23}} e^{\frac{1}{2}\theta_4\gamma^{34}} (\varepsilon_0^q + \gamma^5 \varepsilon_0^s). \quad (35)$$

where  $\varepsilon_0^q, \varepsilon_0^s$  are constant spinors corresponding to  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{S}}$ .  $\varepsilon$  satisfies the Killing spinor equation

$$\hat{\nabla}_\mu \varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \gamma_\mu \gamma^5 \tilde{\varepsilon} \quad (36)$$

where  $\hat{\nabla}$  denotes the covariant derivative on  $\mathbb{S}^4 \times \mathbb{S}^1$  with the twisted time derivative (31) and  $\tilde{\varepsilon} = -\varepsilon_q + \varepsilon_s$ . The square of the supercharge  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} + \tilde{\mathbf{S}}$  is then given by

$$\delta_\varepsilon^2 = -i\mathcal{L}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial\tau_E}} + iG - \epsilon_+J_R - \epsilon_+J_R^R - \epsilon_-J_L + 2mJ_L^R \quad (37)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_v$  denotes the Lie derivative and  $G$  denotes a gauge transformation. We then choose  $V$  such that

$$\{ \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, V \} = \delta_\varepsilon \left( (\delta_\varepsilon \lambda)^\dagger \lambda \right) \quad (38)$$

upon taking the  $t \rightarrow \infty$  limit the path integral for the vector multiplets localises onto the critical points of the potential

$$\begin{aligned} (\delta_\varepsilon \lambda)^\dagger \lambda = & F_{\tau_E \mu} F^{\tau_E \mu} + \cos^2 \frac{\theta_1}{2} \left( F_{ij}^- - \omega_{ij}^- \phi \right)^2 + \sin^2 \frac{\theta_1}{2} \left( F_{ij}^+ - \omega_{ij}^+ \right)^2 \\ & + \left( \hat{\nabla}_\mu \phi \right)^2 - D^2 \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

which is positive semi-definite (recall that in Euclidean signature  $D$  is pure imaginary)  $F_{ij}^\pm = \frac{1}{2} (F_{ij} \mp \star_4 F_{ij})$  and

$$\omega_{ij}^+ = \frac{i}{2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_1}{2}} \tilde{\varepsilon}^+ \gamma^5 \gamma^{ij} \varepsilon^+, \quad \omega_{ij}^- = \frac{i}{2 \cos^2 \frac{\theta_1}{2}} \tilde{\varepsilon}^- \gamma^5 \gamma^{ij} \varepsilon^-, \quad (40)$$

$$\omega_{ij}^+ \omega^{+ij} = \omega_{ij}^- \omega^{-ij} = 1. \quad (41)$$

Here  $\varepsilon^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma^5)\varepsilon$ ,  $\tilde{\varepsilon}^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma^5)\tilde{\varepsilon}$ . The classical saddle points of the potential (37) are given by  $F_{\tau_E\mu} = D^A = 0$  while  $\phi$  is covariantly constant everywhere on  $\mathbb{S}^4$ . On the other hand, by the Bianchi identity, the second and third terms of (37) imply that away from the north and south poles we have  $F_{ij} = \phi = 0$ . Note also that (anti-)self-dual instantons ( $F^- = 0$ )  $F^+ = 0$  can be localised at (north)south-pole. The index hence factorises as in (??)

$$Z = \int \prod_{A=1}^N [da_A] Z_{\text{south}}(a_{A,n}, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, m, \mathbf{q}_A) Z_{\text{north}}(a_{A,n}, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, m, \mathbf{q}_A^{-1}) \quad (42)$$

After the gauge fixing we have a BRST operator  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} + \tilde{\mathbf{S}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Q}$  and may make a cohomological formulation of the supercharge  $\mathfrak{Q}$ . The bosonic and fermionic fields may be regarded as differential forms on a supermanifold  $\mathcal{X}$  such that they form a  $\mathfrak{Q}$ -complex

$$\mathfrak{Q}\Phi_{b,f} = \Phi'_{f,b}, \quad \mathfrak{Q}\Phi'_{f,b} = \mathfrak{Q}^2\Phi_{b,f} \quad (43)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{Q}^2 &= \mathcal{L}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau_E}} - \frac{a}{\beta} - i\epsilon_+(J_R + J_R^R) - i\epsilon_-J_L + 2imJ_L^R \\ &= \mathcal{L}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau_E}} - \frac{a}{\beta} + i\epsilon_1(J_{12} - J_R^R) + i\epsilon_2(J_{34} - J_R^R) + 2imJ_L^R. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

We now study the  $\mathfrak{Q}^2$ -equivariant cohomology of  $\mathcal{X}$ . After expanding the gauge fixed  $\mathfrak{Q}$  invariant terms to quadratic order the Gaussian integrals may be evaluated. Due to cancelations due to pairing by the  $\mathfrak{Q}$ -complex (41) the 1-loop contributions take the form [?]

$$Z^{\text{1-loop}} = \sqrt{\frac{\det_{\text{coker } D} \mathfrak{Q}^2|_f}{\det_{\text{ker } D} \mathfrak{Q}^2|_b}} \quad (45)$$

where  $D$  is the quadratic operator in (36).  $Z^{\text{1-loop}}$  may computed using the equivariant Atiyah-Singer index theorem. The fixed point of the torus action of  $\mathfrak{Q}^2$  (42) are the north and south poles. In a neighbourhood of the north pole  $D$  is isomorphic to the anti-self-dual complex  $(d, d^-)$

$$\Omega^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1 \xrightarrow{d^-} \Omega^{2-}, \quad (46)$$

while at the south pole  $D$  is isomorphic to the self-dual complex  $(d, d^+)$

$$\Omega^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1 \xrightarrow{d^+} \Omega^{2+}, \quad (47)$$

where  $(\Omega^{2-})$   $\Omega^{2+}$  denotes the space of (anti-)self-dual 2-forms. For concreteness let us focus on the south pole. At the south pole we may choose local coordinates  $z_1, z_2$  parametrisng  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . The torus action acts on those coordinates by  $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (e^{i\epsilon_1}z_1, e^{i\epsilon_2}z_2)$ . Furthermore we expand the elements of the self-dual

complex in eigenmodes of the circle momenta  $\Phi = \sum_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} \Phi_p e^{\frac{2\pi i p}{\beta}}$ . The equivariant index for the vectors multiplets is then given by

$$\text{ind}_{\text{vec}} D = -\frac{1 + e^{i\beta\epsilon_+}}{2(1 - e^{i\epsilon_1})(1 - e^{i\epsilon_2})} \sum_{A=1}^N \sum_{n \neq m} e^{\frac{i}{\beta}(a_{A,n} - a_{A,m})} \sum_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{\frac{2\pi i p}{\beta}}. \quad (48)$$

One may compute the 1-loop determinants for the hypermultiplets by localisation. In that case the differential operator  $D$  for the hypermultiplet is isomorphic to a Dirac complex

$$\Omega(\tfrac{1}{2}, 0) \xrightarrow{D_{\text{Dirac}}} \Omega(0, \tfrac{1}{2}). \quad (49)$$

The equivariant index at the south pole reads

$$\text{ind}_{\text{hyp}} = \frac{e^{i\epsilon_+/2}}{(1 - e^{i\epsilon_1})(1 - e^{i\epsilon_2})} \sum_{A=1}^N \sum_{m=1}^{M_A} \sum_{n=1}^{M_{A+1}} e^{\frac{i}{\beta}(a_{A,n} - a_{A+1,m}) + im} \sum_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{\frac{2\pi i p}{\beta}}. \quad (50)$$

### 0.3 Refined Topological String Computation

The partition function for  $M$  M5-branes on  $A_{N-1}$  is equivalent to the refined topological string partition function of certain Calabi-Yau 3-folds  $X_{M,N}$

$$Z_{\text{refined}}^{\text{top}}(X_{M,N}) = Z^{\text{M-theory}} \left( (A_{N-1} \times \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^4 \ltimes T^2}_{M \text{ M5-branes}} \times \mathbb{R}) \right) \quad (51)$$

$$= \left( \prod_{A=1}^N Z_{U(1)}^{(A)} \right) Z_M^{A_{N-1}}, \quad (52)$$

where  $Z_{U(1)}^{(A)}$  is the partition function for a single M5-brane. The Calabi-Yau 3-folds arise as the M-theory lift of the dual  $(p, q)$ -brane web construction. The  $(p, q)$  web is obtained by compactifying the setup of Table ?? along  $X^6$ . This gives rise to the 5d quiver gauge theories  $\mathcal{N}_{M,N}$  supported on the D4-branes with  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  supersymmetry. The defects become D4'-branes. T-dualising along the Taub-Nut circle  $X^8$  results the setup of Table 1. After turning on mass deformation we end up with a  $(p, q)$ -brane web. We may now lift the IIB setup on  $\mathbb{S}^1$  to M-theory on  $T^2$ .  $(p, q)$ -branes corresponds to the degeneration of the  $(p, q)$  cycle of the  $T^2$  as we vary along the  $X^5, X^7$  base. Hence the  $(p, q)$ -brane web lifts to M-theory on a non-compact, elliptically fibered  $CY_3$  whose toric diagram is given by the  $(p, q)$ -web itself. We compute the refined A-model open string amplitude for the strip geometry using the refined topological vertex formalism [?, ?]. The refined topological vertex is labelled by three Young diagrams and is given by

$$C_{\lambda\mu\nu}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\mu^T\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{\frac{\|\mu\|^2 + \|\nu\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\nu}(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \sum_{\eta} \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}} \right)^{\frac{|\lambda| + |\eta| - |\mu|}{2}} s_{\lambda^T/\eta}(\mathbf{t}^{-\rho} \mathbf{q}^{-\nu}) s_{\mu/\eta}(\mathbf{t}^{-\nu^T} \mathbf{q}^{-\rho}) \quad (53)$$

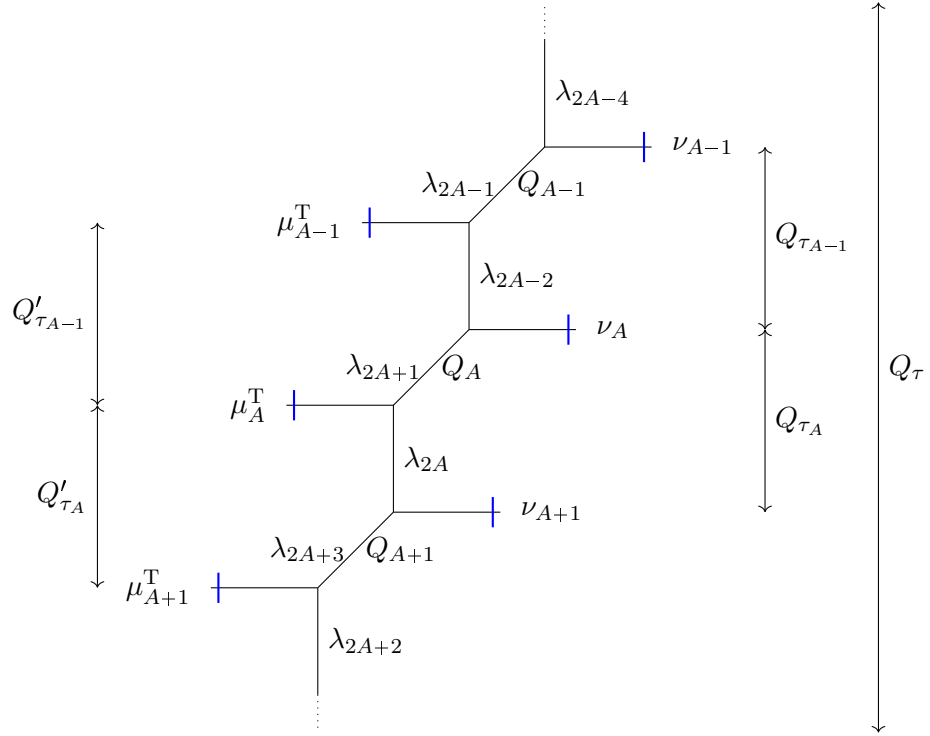


Figure 1: *Strip geometry which builds the partition function of for the  $A_{N-1}$  geometry. Blue lines denote the direction of the refined topological vertex. The dotted lines indicate the fact that we are dealing with the partial compactification of the strip geometry.*

	$\mathbb{C}_{\epsilon_1}$		$\mathbb{C}_{\epsilon_2}$		$\mathbb{S}^1$	$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{S}^1$	$\mathbb{R}^3$		
	$X^1$	$X^2$	$X^3$	$X^4$	$X^5$	$X^7$	$X^8$	$X^9$	$X^{10}$	$X^{11}$
$N \ NS5$	—	—	—	—	—	—	·	·	·	·
$M \ D5$	—	—	—	—	—	·	—	·	·	·
$K \ F1$	·	·	·	·	—	—	·	·	·	·
$k \ D3'$	·	·	—	—	—	·	·	—	·	·

Table 1: *Type-IIB*  $(p, q)$ -brane web.

where  $\rho = \{-1/2, -3/2, -5/2, \dots\}$ ,  $s_{\lambda/\eta}(x)$  is the skew Schur function and

$$\tilde{Z}_\nu(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = \prod_{(l,p) \in \nu} \frac{1}{1 - \mathbf{q}^{\nu_l - p} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_p^T - l + 1}}. \quad (54)$$

$\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{t}$  are related torus action  $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (e^{2\pi i \epsilon_1} z_1, e^{2\pi i \epsilon_2} z_2)$  on  $\mathbb{C}^2$  by

$$\mathbf{q} = e^{2\pi i \epsilon_1}, \quad \mathbf{t} = e^{-2\pi i \epsilon_2}. \quad (55)$$

The framing factors are

$$f_\nu(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = (-1)^{|\nu|} \mathbf{t}^{\frac{\|\nu^T\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\nu\|^2}{2}}, \quad \tilde{f}_\nu(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}\right)^{\frac{|\nu|}{2}} f_\nu(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}). \quad (56)$$

### 0.3.1 Without Defect - M-Strings Review

Applying the standard rules of the refined topological vertex formalism [?] the partition function for the strip geometry Figure 1 is

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}, Q'_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \sum_{\{\lambda\}} \prod_{A=1}^N \left\{ (-Q_A)^{|\lambda_{2A+1}|} (-Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A})^{|\lambda_{2A}|} \right. \\ &\quad \times C_{\lambda_{2A}^T \lambda_{2A+1}^T \mu_A^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) C_{\lambda_{2A+2} \lambda_{2A+1} \nu_A}(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \left. \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

note that, since we partially compactify the strip geometry (dotted lines in the figure) we identify the indices  $A \sim A + N$ .  $Q_\tau = \prod_{A=1}^N Q_{\tau_A} = \prod_{A=1}^N Q'_{\tau_A}$ . Inserting the explicit expression for the vertex we have

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}, Q'_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \prod_{A=1}^N \left\{ \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu_A^T\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu_A\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu_A^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \tilde{Z}_{\nu_A}(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \sum_{\{\lambda\}, \{\sigma\}} \left[ (-Q_A)^{|\lambda_{2A+1}|} \left(-\frac{Q_{\tau_A}}{Q_A}\right)^{|\lambda_{2A}|} s_{\lambda_{2A}/\sigma_{2A}}(\mathbf{t}^\rho \mathbf{q}^{\mu_A^T}) \right. \\ &\quad s_{\lambda_{2A+1}^T/\sigma_{2A}}(\mathbf{q}^{\rho + \frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_A - \frac{1}{2}}) s_{\lambda_{2A+2}^T/\sigma_{2A+1}}(\mathbf{q}^\rho \mathbf{t}^{\nu_A}) \\ &\quad \left. \left. s_{\lambda_{2A+1}/\sigma_{2A+1}}(\mathbf{q}^{\nu_A^T - \frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{t}^{\rho + \frac{1}{2}}) \right] \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$



The method for simplifying this product was given in [?, ?]. Consider

$$G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) := \prod_{A=1}^N \left( (-Q_A)^{|\lambda_{2A+1}|} \left( \frac{-Q_{\tau_A}}{Q_A} \right)^{|\lambda_{2A}|} \right. \\ \left. \times s_{\lambda_{2A}/\sigma_{2A}}(X_A) s_{\lambda_{2A+2}^T/\sigma_{2A+1}}(Y_A) s_{\lambda_{2A+1}^T/\sigma_{2A}}(Z_A) s_{\lambda_{2A+1}/\sigma_{2A+1}}(W_A) \right) \quad (59)$$

with the products over  $A$  are defined modulo  $N$ . We now apply repeatedly the identities (??), (??) and (??). We have

$$G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) = \prod_{A=1}^N (-Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A})^{|\sigma_{2A}|} (-Q_A)^{|\sigma_{2A+1}|} \\ \times s_{\sigma_{2A}^T/\lambda_{2A}}(Y_{A-1}) s_{\sigma_{2A-1}^T/\lambda_{2A}^T}(-Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_A) s_{\sigma_{2A}^T/\lambda_{2A+1}^T}(-Q_A W_A) \\ \times s_{\sigma_{2A+1}^T/\lambda_{2A+1}}(Z_A) \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} (1 - Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Z_{A;l} W_{A;p}) \quad (60)$$

$$G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) = \prod_{A=1}^N (-Q_{\tau_A})^{|\lambda_{2A+1}|} \\ \times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Z_{A;l} W_{A;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} W_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1;l} Z_{A;p})} \\ \times s_{\lambda_{2A+1}^T/\sigma_{2A}^T}(Y_{A-1}) s_{\lambda_{2A}/\sigma_{2A}^T}(-Q_{\tau_A} W_A) s_{\lambda_{2A}^T/\sigma_{2A-1}^T}(-Q_{A-1} Z_{A-1}) \\ \times s_{\lambda_{2A+1}/\sigma_{2A+1}^T}(-Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1}) \quad (61)$$

$$G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) = \prod_{A=1}^N (-Q_{\tau_A})^{|\sigma_{2A}|} \\ \times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{(1 - Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Z_{A;l} W_{A;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} W_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1;l} Z_{A;p})} \right. \\ \left. \times (1 - Q_{A-1} Z_{A-1} Q_{\tau_A} W_A) (1 - Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1} Y_{A-1}) \right\} \\ \times s_{\sigma_{2A}/\lambda_{2A+1}^T}(-Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1}) s_{\sigma_{2A}/\lambda_{2A}}(-Q_{\tau_{A-1}} Z_{A-1}) \\ \times s_{\sigma_{2A-1}/\lambda_{2A}^T}(Q_{\tau_A} W_A) s_{\sigma_{2A+1}/\lambda_{2A+1}}(Q_{\tau_A} Y_{A-1}) \quad (62)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) &= \prod_{A=1}^N (-Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A})^{|\lambda_{2A}|} (-Q_A)^{|\lambda_{2A+1}|} \\
&\quad s_{\lambda_{2A+1}^T / \sigma_{2A}} (Q_{A-1} Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} Z_{A-1}) s_{\lambda_{2A} / \sigma_{2A}} (Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_A X_{A+1}) \\
&\quad s_{\lambda_{2A+1} / \sigma_{2A+1}} (Q_{\tau_{A+1}} W_{A+1}) s_{\lambda_{2A+2}^T / \sigma_{2A+1}} (Q_{\tau_A} Y_{A-1}) \\
&\quad \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{(1 - Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Z_{A;l} W_{A;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} W_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_A X_{A+1;l} Z_{A;p})} \right. \\
&\quad \frac{(1 - Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Y_{A-1;l} X_{A+1;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} Q_{A-1} Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1;l} Z_{A-1;p})} \\
&\quad \left. \frac{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} Q_{A-1} W_{A;l} Z_{A-1;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_{\tau_A} Y_{A-1;l} W_{A+1;p})} \right\}. \tag{63}
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, this can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) &= \\
&\quad \prod_{A=1}^N \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{(1 - Q_A^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} X_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_A Z_{A;l} W_{A;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} W_{A;l} Y_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_A X_{A+1;l} Z_{A;p})} \right. \\
&\quad \times \frac{(1 - Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_A} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Y_{A-1;l} X_{A+1;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau_A} Q_{A-1} W_{A;l} Z_{A-1;p})}{(1 - Q_{\tau_A} Q_{A-1} Q_{A+1}^{-1} Q_{\tau_{A+1}} X_{A+1;l} Z_{A-1;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_{\tau_A} Y_{A-1;l} W_{A+1;p})} \left. \right\} \tag{64} \\
&\quad G^{(N)} \left( \frac{Q_{\tau_{A+1}} Q_A X_{A+1}}{Q_{A+1}}, Q_{\tau_A} Y_{A-1}, \frac{Q_{A-1} Q_{\tau_A} Z_{A-1}}{Q_A}, Q_{\tau_{A+1}} W_{A+1}; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

The steps (58)-(61) may then be iterated  $N - 1$  more times until one finds

$$\begin{aligned}
G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) &= \\
&\quad G^{(N)}(Q_{\tau} X_A, Q_{\tau} Y_A, Q_{\tau} Z_A, Q_{\tau} W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) \\
&\quad \times \prod_{A,B=1}^N \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{(1 - Q_{\tau} Q_{AB}^{-1} X_{A;l} Y_{B;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau}^2 Q_{AB}^{-1} X_{A;l} Y_{B;p})}{(1 - \tilde{Q}'_{AB} Z_{A;l} X_{B;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau} \tilde{Q}'_{AB} Z_{A;l} X_{B;p})} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \frac{(1 - Q_{AB} Z_{A;l} W_{B;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau} Q_{AB} Z_{A;l} W_{B;p})}{(1 - \tilde{Q}_{AB} Y_{A;l} W_{B;p}) (1 - Q_{\tau} \tilde{Q}_{AB} Y_{A;l} W_{B;p})} \right\} \tag{65}
\end{aligned}$$

here  $Q_{\tau} = \prod_{A=1}^N Q_{\tau_A}$ . Now we perform (58)-(63) an infinite number of times and use the fact that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} G^{(N)}(Q_{\tau}^r X_A, Q_{\tau}^r Y_A, Q_{\tau}^r Z_A, Q_{\tau}^r W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) = \prod_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - Q_{\tau}^r}, \tag{66}$$

provided  $|Q_\tau| < 1$ . Hence

$$G^{(N)}(X_A, Y_A, Z_A, W_A; Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}) = \prod_{r,l,p=1}^{\infty} (1 - Q_\tau^r)^{-N^2} \prod_{A,B=1}^N \prod_{r,l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - Q_\tau^r Q_{AB}^{-1} X_{A;l} Y_{B;p}) (1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} Q_{AB} Z_{A;l} W_{B;p})}{(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}'_{AB} Z_{A;l} X_{B;p}) (1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}_{AB} Y_{A;l} W_{B;p})}. \quad (67)$$

All in all, the partition function for the strip geometry reads

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}, Q'_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = & \prod_{A=1}^N \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu_A^T\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu_A\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu_A^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_{\nu_A}(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\ & \times \prod_{A,B=1}^N \prod_{l,p,r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} Q_{AB} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_{A;l} - p + 1/2} \mathbf{q}^{\nu_{B;p}^T - l + 1/2})}{(1 - Q_\tau^r) (1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}_{BA} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_{B;l} - p + 1} \mathbf{q}^{\nu_{A;p}^T - l})} \\ & \times \prod_{A,B=1}^N \prod_{l,p,r=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - Q_\tau^r Q_{AB}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_{B;l} - p + 1/2} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_{A;p}^T - l + 1/2})}{(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}'_{AB} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_{A;l} - p} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_{B;p}^T - l + 1})} \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

where we define  $Q_\tau := \prod_{A=1}^N Q_{\tau_A}$ . We may then define the domain wall partition function

$$D_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}, Q'_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) := \frac{Z_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})}{Z_{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}^{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})} \quad (69)$$

which may be expressed in terms of  $\mathcal{N}_{\nu,\mu}(Q; \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{t})$  (??)

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_N}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_N}(Q_A, Q_{\tau_A}, Q'_{\tau_A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = & \prod_{A=1}^N \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu_A^T\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu_A\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu_A^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_{\nu_A}(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\ & \times \prod_{A,B=1}^N \prod_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathcal{N}_{\mu_A \nu_B}(Q_\tau^{r-1} Q_{AB} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{N}_{\nu_B \mu_A}(Q_\tau^r Q_{AB}^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})}{\mathcal{N}_{\mu_A \mu_B}(Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}'_{AB}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{N}_{\nu_A \nu_B}(Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q}_{AB} \frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})} \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

where

$$Q_{AB} = Q_A \prod_{i=1}^{A-1} Q_{\tau_i} \prod_{j=B}^N Q_{\tau_j} \bmod Q_\tau, \quad (71)$$

$$\tilde{Q}_{AB} = \begin{cases} \prod_{i=B}^{A-1} Q_{\tau_i} & A > B, \\ Q_\tau & A = B, \\ Q_\tau / \prod_{i=A}^{B-1} Q_{\tau_i} & A < B, \end{cases} \quad (72)$$

$$\tilde{Q}'_{AB} = \frac{Q_A}{Q_B} \tilde{Q}_{AB}. \quad (73)$$

The M5-brane partition function on  $A_{N-1}$  singularity is then given by

$$Z_{\text{M5}}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}, Q_{f,n,A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = Z_{\text{rel.}} Z_M^{A_{N-1}}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}, Q_{f,n,A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \quad (74)$$

where

$$Z_M^{A_{N-1}}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}, Q_{f,n,A}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_{\{\vec{\mu}_n\}} \left( \prod_{n=1}^{M-1} \prod_{A=1}^N (-Q_{f,n,A})^{|\mu_{n,A}|} \right) Z_{M, \{\vec{\mu}_n\}}^{A_{N-1}}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}), \quad (75)$$

$$Z_{U(1)}^{(n)} := Z_{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}^{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}, Q'_{\tau_{n,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}), \quad (76)$$

$$Z_{\text{rel.}} = \prod_{n=1}^M Z_{U(1)}^{(n)}, \quad (77)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{M, \vec{\mu}_n}^{A_{N-1}}(Q_{n,A}, Q_{\tau_{n,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= D_{\mu_{1,1} \dots \mu_{1,N}}^{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}(Q_{1,A}, Q_{\tau_{1,A}}, Q'_{\tau_{1,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \\ &\times D_{\mu_{2,1} \dots \mu_{2,N}}^{\mu_{1,1} \dots \mu_{1,N}}(Q_{2,A}, Q_{\tau_{2,A}}, Q'_{\tau_{2,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \\ &\times \dots \times D_{\emptyset \dots \emptyset}^{\mu_{M-1,1} \dots \mu_{M-1,N}}(Q_{M,A}, Q_{\tau_{M,A}}, Q'_{\tau_{M,A}}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}). \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

Note that the gluing requires

$$Q'_{\tau_{n+1,A}} = Q_{\tau_{n,A}} \implies \tilde{Q}'_{n+1,AB} = \tilde{Q}_{n,AB}. \quad (79)$$

It may be shown that [?] (76) may be written as

$$\begin{aligned} Z_M^{A_{N-1}} &= \sum_{\{\mu_{n,A}\}} \prod_{n=1}^{M-1} \prod_{A=1}^N \left( \bar{Q}_{f,n,A}^{|\mu_{n,A}|} \right) \prod_{(l,p) \in \mu_{n,A}} \prod_{B=1}^N \frac{\theta_1(z_{n,AB}(l,p)|\tau) \theta_1(w_{n,AB}(l,p)|\tau)}{\theta_1(u_{n,AB}(l,p)|\tau) \theta_1(v_{n,AB}(l,p)|\tau)} \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

where

$$e^{2\pi i z_{n,AB}(l,p)} = Q_{n+1,AB}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{-\mu_{n,A;l}+p-1/2} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_{n+1,B;p}^T+l-1/2} \quad (81)$$

$$e^{2\pi i w_{n,AB}(l,p)} = Q_{n,BA}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_{n,A;l}-p+1/2} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_{n-1,B;p}^T-l+1/2} \quad (82)$$

$$e^{2\pi i u_{n,AB}(l,p)} = \hat{Q}_{n,BA}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_{n,A;l}-p} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_{n,B;p}^T-l+1} \quad (83)$$

$$e^{2\pi i v_{n,AB}(l,p)} = \hat{Q}_{n,AB}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_{n,A;l}+p-1} \mathbf{q}^{-\mu_{n,B;p}^T+l} \quad (84)$$

and

$$\bar{Q}_{f,n,A} = \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}} \right)^{\frac{N-1}{2}} Q_{f,n,A} \left( \prod_{A=1}^N Q_{n,A} \right), \quad \hat{Q}_{n,AB} = \begin{cases} 1 & A = B, \\ \tilde{Q}_{n,AB} & A \neq B. \end{cases} \quad (85)$$

The authors of [?] were, remarkably, able to show

$$Z_M^{A_{N-1}} = Z_{\text{string}} \quad (86)$$

where  $Z_{\text{string}}$  is the same as in (??).

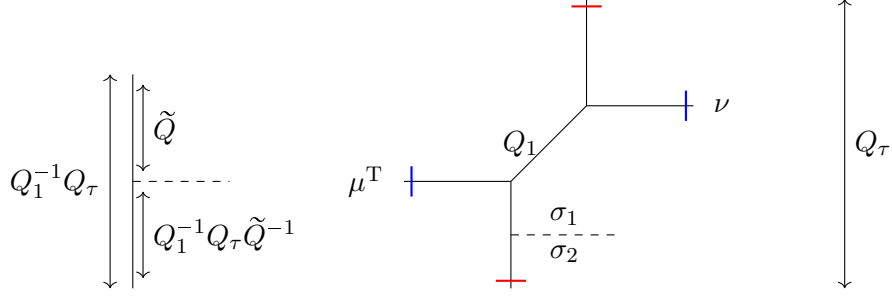


Figure 2: Left: Assignment of Kähler parameters for the Lagrangian brane Right: Strip geometry for the  $A_0$  singularity with a single Lagrangian brane corresponding to the defect. The blue lines denote the preferred direction of the refined topological vertex. The red lines denote the direction periodic identification.

### 0.3.2 With Minimal Defect

Let us consider the minimal type defects in the  $A_0$  theory. By minimal we mean the defects of type

$$\rho = [(M - k), \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_{k \text{ times}}] . \quad (87)$$

The relation between the string Elliptic genus and refined topological partition function in the presence of a defect of type  $2 = 1 + 1$  has been studied in [?]. We can compute the domain wall partition function (68) in the presence of a D3'-brane ending on D5-brane. The effect of the Lagrangian brane is to insert the factor

$$\text{tr}_{\sigma_1^T}(X) \text{tr}_{\sigma_2^T}(X^{-1}) = s_{\sigma_1^T}(x) s_{\sigma_2^T}(x^{-1}) . \quad (88)$$

Where we assume that the brane has framing factor exponents  $p = 1$ . The refined open topological string amplitude for the strip geometry with  $N = 1$  with a single Lagrangian brane

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) = & \sum_{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2} \left\{ (-Q_1)^{|\lambda_2|} (-Q_1^{-1}Q_\tau)^{|\lambda_1|} (-\tilde{Q}^{-1}Q_1^{-1}Q_\tau)^{|\sigma_1|} (-\tilde{Q})^{|\sigma_2|} \right. \\ & \times s_{\sigma_1^T}(x) s_{\sigma_2^T}(x^{-1}) C_{(\lambda_1^T \otimes \sigma_1) \lambda_2^T \mu^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) C_{(\lambda_1 \otimes \sigma_2) \lambda_2 \nu}(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \left. \right\} . \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

From (87) after expanding out the topological vertex we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_{\tau_1}, \tilde{Q}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu^T\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_\nu(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\
&\sum_{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2} \left\{ \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}} \right)^{\frac{|\eta_1| - |\eta_2|}{2}} (-Q_1)^{|\lambda_2|} (-Q_1^{-1} Q_{\tau_1})^{|\lambda_1|} \right. \\
&\times s_{\sigma_1^T} \left( \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_1^{-1} Q_{\tau_1} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}} x \right) s_{\sigma_2^T} \left( \tilde{Q} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}}} x^{-1} \right) s_{(\lambda_1 \otimes \sigma_1^T)/\eta_2} \left( \mathbf{t}^\rho \mathbf{q}^{\mu^T} \right) \\
&\times s_{\lambda_2^T/\eta_2} \left( \mathbf{t}^\mu \mathbf{q}^\rho \right) s_{(\lambda_1^T \otimes \sigma_2^T)/\eta_1} \left( \mathbf{q}^\rho \mathbf{t}^\nu \right) s_{\lambda_2/\eta_1} \left( \mathbf{q}^{\nu^T} \mathbf{t}^\rho \right) \left. \right\}. \tag{90}
\end{aligned}$$

Using the identity (??) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_{\tau_1}, \tilde{Q}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu^T\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_\nu(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\
&\sum_{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}} \right)^{\frac{|\eta_1| - |\eta_2|}{2}} (-Q_1)^{|\lambda_2|} (-Q_1^{-1} Q_{\tau_1})^{|\lambda_1|} c_{\lambda_1 \sigma_1^T}^{\gamma_1} c_{\lambda_1^T \sigma_2^T}^{\gamma_2} \right. \\
&\times s_{\sigma_1^T} \left( \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_1^{-1} Q_{\tau_1} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}} x \right) s_{\sigma_2^T} \left( \tilde{Q} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}}} x^{-1} \right) s_{\gamma_1/\eta_2} \left( \mathbf{t}^\rho \mathbf{q}^{\mu^T} \right) \\
&\times s_{\lambda_2^T/\eta_2} \left( \mathbf{t}^\mu \mathbf{q}^\rho \right) s_{\gamma_2^T/\eta_1} \left( \mathbf{q}^\rho \mathbf{t}^\nu \right) s_{\lambda_2/\eta_1} \left( \mathbf{q}^{\nu^T} \mathbf{t}^\rho \right) \left. \right\}. \tag{91}
\end{aligned}$$

Now apply the identity (??) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_{\tau_1}, \tilde{Q}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu^T\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_\nu(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\
&\sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ (-Q_1)^{|\lambda_2|} \left( \frac{-Q_{\tau_1}}{Q_1} \right)^{|\lambda_1|} s_{\gamma_1/\lambda_1} \left( \frac{Q_{\tau_1}}{\tilde{Q} Q_1} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}} x \right) s_{\gamma_1/\eta_2} \left( \mathbf{t}^\rho \mathbf{q}^{\mu^T} \right) \right. \\
&s_{\gamma_2^T/\lambda_1^T} \left( \tilde{Q} \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}}} x^{-1} \right) s_{\lambda_2^T/\eta_2} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{q}}{\mathbf{t}}} \mathbf{t}^\mu \mathbf{q}^\rho \right) s_{\gamma_2^T/\eta_1} \left( \mathbf{q}^\rho \mathbf{t}^\nu \right) s_{\lambda_2/\eta_1} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\mathbf{t}}{\mathbf{q}}} \mathbf{q}^{\nu^T} \mathbf{t}^\rho \right) \left. \right\}. \tag{92}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore let us consider

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, A, B; a, b) &= \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ (a)^{|\lambda_1|} (b)^{|\lambda_2|} s_{\gamma_1/\lambda_1}(A) \right. \\
&s_{\gamma_2^T/\lambda_1^T}(B) s_{\gamma_1/\eta_2}(X) s_{\lambda_2^T/\eta_2}(Y) s_{\gamma_2^T/\eta_1}(Z) s_{\lambda_2/\eta_1}(W) \left. \right\} \tag{93}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, U, A, B; a, b) &= \\
&\sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ (a)^{|\gamma_1|} (b)^{|\gamma_1|} s_{\lambda_1/\gamma_1}(aX) s_{\lambda_1^T/\gamma_2}(Z) s_{\eta_2^T/\lambda_2^T}(W) \right. \\
&s_{\eta_1^T/\lambda_2}(bY) s_{\eta_1/\gamma_2}(B) s_{\eta_2/\gamma_1}(bA) \left. \right\} \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bY_l W_p)}{(1 - A_l X_p)(1 - B_l Z_p)} \tag{94}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, U, A, B; a, b) &= \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ (a)^{|\eta_2|} (b)^{|\lambda_1|} s_{\gamma_1^T/\lambda_1}(bZ) \right. \\
&\times s_{\gamma_2^T/\lambda_1^T}(aX) s_{\lambda_2/\eta_2^T}(bA) s_{\gamma_1^T/\eta_2}(aW) s_{\lambda_2^T/\eta_1^T}(B) s_{\gamma_2^T/\eta_1}(bY) \Big\} \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bY_l W_p)(1 + aX_l Z_p)(1 + bA_l W_p)(1 + bY_l B_p)}{(1 - A_l X_p)(1 - B_l Z_p)}
\end{aligned} \tag{95}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, U, A, B; a, b) &= \sum_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \eta_1, \eta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2} \left\{ (a)^{|\lambda_2|} (b)^{|\lambda_1|} s_{\lambda_1/\gamma_1^T}(aW) \right. \\
&\times s_{\lambda_1^T/\gamma_2^T}(bY) s_{\eta_2/\lambda_2}(aB) s_{\eta_2/\gamma_1^T}(bZ) s_{\eta_1/\lambda_2^T}(bA) s_{\eta_1/\gamma_2^T}(aX) \Big\} \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bY_l W_p)(1 + aX_l Z_p)(1 + bA_l W_p)(1 + bY_l B_p)(1 + bB_l A_p)}{(1 - A_l X_p)(1 - B_l Z_p)(1 - abW_l Z_p)(1 - abY_l X_p)}
\end{aligned} \tag{96}$$

Which is, again, rather similar to our original expressions:

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, A, B; a, b) &= G(bZ, aW, aX, bY, aB, bA; a, b) \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bY_l W_p)(1 + aX_l Z_p)(1 + bA_l W_p)(1 + bY_l B_p)(1 + bB_l A_p)}{(1 - A_l X_p)(1 - B_l Z_p)(1 - abW_l Z_p)(1 - abY_l X_p)}
\end{aligned} \tag{97}$$

So, repeating steps (92) to (94) again we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, A, B; a, b) &= G(Q_\tau X, Q_\tau Y, Q_\tau Z, Q_\tau W, Q_\tau A, Q_\tau B; a, b) \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bY_l W_p)(1 + aX_l Z_p)(1 + bA_l W_p)(1 + bY_l B_p)(1 + bB_l A_p)}{(1 - A_l X_p)(1 - B_l Z_p)(1 - abW_l Z_p)(1 - abY_l X_p)} \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + Q_\tau bY_l W_p)(1 + Q_\tau aX_l Z_p)(1 + Q_\tau bA_l W_p)}{(1 - Q_\tau A_l X_p)(1 - Q_\tau B_l Z_p)(1 - Q_\tau^2 W_l Z_p)} \\
&\times \prod_{l,p=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 + bQ_\tau Y_l B_p)(1 + Q_\tau bB_l A_p)}{(1 - Q_\tau^2 Y_l X_p)}
\end{aligned} \tag{98}$$

where  $Q_\tau := ab$  so again iterating the steps (92) to (96) an infinite number of times and using

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} G(Q_\tau^r X, Q_\tau^r Y, Q_\tau^r Z, Q_\tau^r W, Q_\tau^r A, Q_\tau^r B; a, b) = \prod_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 - Q_\tau^r} \tag{99}$$

we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}
G(X, Y, Z, W, A, B; a, b) &= \prod_{r,l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{(1 + Q_\tau^{r-1} bY_l W_p)(1 + Q_\tau^{r-1} aX_l Z_p)}{(1 - Q_\tau^r)(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} A_l X_p)} \right. \\
&\times \frac{(1 + Q_\tau^{r-1} bA_l W_p)(1 + bQ_\tau^{r-1} Y_l B_p)(1 + Q_\tau^{r-1} bB_l A_p)}{(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} B_l Z_p)(1 - Q_\tau^r W_l Z_p)(1 - Q_\tau^r Y_l X_p)} \Big\}
\end{aligned} \tag{100}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &= \mathbf{t}^{-\frac{\|\nu\|^2}{2}} \mathbf{q}^{-\frac{\|\mu^T\|^2}{2}} \tilde{Z}_{\mu^T}(\mathbf{t}^{-1}, \mathbf{q}^{-1}) \tilde{Z}_\nu(\mathbf{q}^{-1}, \mathbf{t}^{-1}) \\
&\times \prod_{r,l,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{\left(1 - Q_1^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{\mu_l^T - p + 1/2} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_p - l + 1/2}\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \mathbf{t}^{\mu_l - p} \mathbf{q}^{\mu_p^T - l + 1}\right) \left(1 - Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{\nu_l^T - p} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_p - l + 1}\right)} \right. \\
&\frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{q}^{\nu_l^T} \mathbf{t}^{-l + 1/2} x_p\right) \left(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q} Q_1 \mathbf{t}^{\mu_l} \mathbf{q}^{-l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)}{\left(1 - Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{\mu_l^T + 1/2} \mathbf{t}^{-l} x_p\right) \left(1 - \tilde{Q} Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)} \\
&\left. \frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r x_l x_p^{-1}\right) \left(1 - Q_1 Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{t}^{\mu_l - p + 1/2} \mathbf{q}^{\nu_p^T - l + 1/2}\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r\right)} \right\}. \tag{101}
\end{aligned}$$

As before, we define the domain wall partition function; it turns out that it factorises in the following fashion

$$\begin{aligned}
\widehat{D}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) &:= \frac{\widehat{Z}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})}{\widehat{Z}_\emptyset^\emptyset(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q})} \\
&= D_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \widehat{d}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}). \tag{102}
\end{aligned}$$

Where  $D$  is given by (68) and

$$\begin{aligned}
&\widehat{d}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathbf{t}, \mathbf{q}) \\
&= \prod_{r,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \prod_{l=1}^{\ell(\nu^T)} \frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{q}^{\nu_l^T} \mathbf{t}^{-l + 1/2} x_p\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{t}^{-l + 1/2} x_p\right)} \prod_{l=1}^{\ell(\nu)} \frac{\left(1 - \tilde{Q} Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l} \mathbf{t}^{1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)}{\left(1 - \tilde{Q} Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l} \mathbf{t}^{\nu_l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)} \right. \\
&\left. \prod_{l=1}^{\ell(\mu)} \frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q} Q_1 \mathbf{t}^{\mu_l} \mathbf{q}^{-l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q} Q_1 \mathbf{q}^{-l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)} \prod_{l=1}^{\ell(\mu^T)} \frac{\left(1 - Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{1/2} \mathbf{t}^{-l} x_p\right)}{\left(1 - Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{\mu_l^T + 1/2} \mathbf{t}^{-l} x_p\right)} \right\} \tag{103}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \prod_{r,p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \prod_{(l,q) \in \nu} \frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{q}^l \mathbf{t}^{-q + 1/2} x_p\right) \left(1 - \tilde{Q} Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l} \mathbf{t}^{q - 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^r \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{q}^{l-1} \mathbf{t}^{-q + 1/2} x_p\right) \left(1 - \tilde{Q} Q_\tau^{r-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l} \mathbf{t}^{q + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right)} \right. \\
&\left. \prod_{(l,q) \in \mu} \frac{\left(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q} Q_1 \mathbf{t}^q \mathbf{q}^{-l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right) \left(1 - Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{l-1/2} \mathbf{t}^{-q} x_p\right)}{\left(1 - Q_\tau^{r-1} \tilde{Q} Q_1 \mathbf{t}^{q-1} \mathbf{q}^{-l + 1/2} x_p^{-1}\right) \left(1 - Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} Q_\tau^r \mathbf{q}^{l+1/2} \mathbf{t}^{-q} x_p\right)} \right\}. \tag{104}
\end{aligned}$$



is the contribution of the defect to the partition function. It does not quite assemble into a nice form in terms of  $\theta_1$  functions. However, in the unrefined  $\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{t}$  limit:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{d}_\nu^\mu(Q_1, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}, x; \mathfrak{q}, \mathfrak{q}) &= \prod_{p=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \mathfrak{q}^{\frac{|\mu| - |\nu|}{2}} \prod_{(l,q) \in \nu} \frac{\theta_1 \left( \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathfrak{q}^{l-q+1/2} x_p; Q_\tau \right)}{\theta_1 \left( \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathfrak{q}^{l-q-1/2} x_p; Q_\tau \right)} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \prod_{(l,q) \in \mu} \frac{\theta_1 \left( Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathfrak{q}^{l-1/2-q} x_p; Q_\tau \right)}{\theta_1 \left( Q_1^{-1} \tilde{Q}^{-1} \mathfrak{q}^{l+1/2-q} x_p; Q_\tau \right)} \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (105)$$

We may then compute the M5-brane partition function in the presence of the defect labelled by the partition (85) by gluing together  $k$  domain wall partitions of type (100) with  $M - k$  of type (68). This builds the theory labelled by partition  $\rho = [M - k, \underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_k]$ . Hence we write

$$Z_{\text{M5}, \rho} = \left( \prod_{n=1}^{M-k} Z_{U(1)}^{(n)} \right) \left( \prod_{n=M-k+1}^M Z_{U(1), \rho}^{(n)} \right) Z_\rho^{A_0} \quad (106)$$

where,

$$Z_{U(1), \rho}^{(n)}(Q_{n,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_n, x_n; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) = \hat{Z}_\emptyset^\emptyset(Q_{n,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_n, x_n; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \quad (107)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Z_\rho^{A_0}(Q_{f,n,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_n, x_n; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) &:= \sum_{\{\mu_n\}} \left( \prod_{n=1}^{M-1} (-Q_{f,n,1})^{|\mu_n|} \right) \\ &\times D_{\mu_1}^\emptyset(Q_{1,1}, Q_\tau; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \times D_{\mu_2}^{\mu_1}(Q_{2,1}, Q_\tau; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \\ &\times \dots \times D_{\mu_{M-k}}^{\mu_{M-k-1}}(Q_{M-k,1}, Q_\tau; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \\ &\times \hat{D}_{\mu_{M-k+1}}^{\mu_{M-k}}(Q_{M-k+1,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_{M-k+1}, x_{M-k+1}; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \\ &\times \dots \times \hat{D}_\emptyset^{\mu_{M-1}}(Q_{M,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_M, x_M; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}). \end{aligned} \quad (108)$$

By the factorisation (101) it is clear that

$$\begin{aligned} Z_\rho^{A_0}(Q_{f,n,1}, Q_{n,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_n, x_n; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) &:= \sum_{\{\mu_n\}} \left( \prod_{n=1}^{M-1} (-Q_{f,n,1})^{|\mu_n|} \right) \\ &\times Z_{M, \{\vec{\mu}_n\}}^{A_0}(Q_{n,1}, Q_\tau; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \times \hat{d}_{\mu_{M-k+1}}^{\mu_{M-k}}(Q_{M-k+1,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_{M-k+1}, x_{M-k+1}; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}) \\ &\times \dots \times \hat{d}_\emptyset^{\mu_{M-1}}(Q_{M,1}, Q_\tau, \tilde{Q}_M, x_M; \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{q}). \end{aligned} \quad (109)$$