

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY  
Department of Physics

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**Theoretical Physics master thesis**

**D-brane gauge theories with spontaneous  
supersymmetry braking through freely acting orbifolds**

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## **Abstract**

In the context of String Theory, freely acting orbifolds have proven to be an effective method of spontaneously breaking supersymmetry (cite). The effects on the spectrum of the closed string in type IIB String Theory have been studied in detail in (cite), and this thesis aims to explore the effects of the SUSY breaking in the open string spectrum. Here we first show how the open string spectrum is affected in general by the orbifold action, and we calculate the full orbifold projection on a specific example of D1/D5 brane system. This system is closely linked to black hole solutions of the low energy supergravity, and in the last section we give predictions as to how the orbifold projection acts on the low energy worldvolume CFT and thus the black hole thermodynamics in the system with broken supersymmetry.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Outline

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## 1.2 Objectives

## **2. Preliminaries**

In this chapter we will present some basic concepts necessary to later build

### **2.1 Type IIB string theory**

#### **2.1.1 D-branes**

### **2.2 Orbifolds**



### 3. Open string spectrum

#### 3.1 $D_p$ - $D_p$ spectrum

#### 3.2 $D_p$ - $D(p+4)$ spectrum

#### 3.3 $D1/D5$ spectrum

## **4. Orbifolds**

### **4.1 Orbifold compactification**

### **4.2 Orbifold group action on the spectrum**

Representations of the rotation group  $\rightarrow$  action by the orbifold group (discrete  $SO(4)$  rotations). So non-trivial charges.

## **5. D-brane gauge theories**

### **5.1 Gauge theory on a single brane and dimensional reduction**

### **5.2 Gauge theory of the D1/D5 system**

### **5.3 Coulomb and Higgs branch**

## **6. Infrared limit and Black Hole thermodynamics**

### **6.1 IR SCFT = black hole thermodynamics**

### **6.2 Predictions of IR limit in orbifold context**

## **7. Conclusions**

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# Appendices

## **A. Spinors in various dimensions**

### **A.1 Weyl Spinors in $D = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10$**

### **A.2 Majorana condition**

### **A.3 Table of irreducible spinors in even dimensions**