

Notes on Quiver Gauge Theories

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Abstract

These notes are meant as a work support. The goal is to reproduce and regroup the basics of quiver gauge theories.

Last updated on March 8, 2022.

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1 | The brane-world paradigm

We consider our world to be a slice in the ten-dimensional spacetime of type II superstring theory, i.e. the worldvolume of a D3-brane. More precisely, we consider a stack of n D3-branes in order to have a $U(n)$ gauge group. The spacetime is therefore not necessarily $\mathbb{R}^{1,9}$ but of the more general form

$$M = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times M^{(6)}.$$

This is the so-called *brane-world paradigm*.

Independently from string theory, we ask to have $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetry for the 4-dimensional worldvolume theory. This constrains the transverse space $M^{(6)}$ to be compact, complex, Kähler and to have $SU(3)$ holonomy, see appendix B. Namely, $M^{(6)}$ must be a Calabi-Yau threefold.

If we let the worldvolume of the D3-branes carry the requisite gauge theory while the bulk contains gravity, we can relax the compactness condition and study non-compact threefolds. In other words, $M^{(6)}$ is taken to be an affine variety that locally models a Calabi-Yau threefold. Intuitively, this can be understood as a Kaluza-Klein compactification where we take the size of the compact dimensions to infinity. The four-dimensional gravity coupling constant being inversely proportional to this quantity, there is no gravity in this limit. This makes the analysis much simpler and therefore also serves as an argument to ignore gravity in the worldvolume theory. Thus far, we have n D3-branes on which there is a $U(n)$ gauge group and transverse to which gravity propagates.

The only smooth Calabi-Yau threefold is \mathbb{C}^3 so we are lead to consider singular Calabi-Yau manifolds or, more precisely, Calabi-Yau orbifolds. We usually denote $S \equiv M^{(6)}$ to remind us of the singular aspect. String theory being a theory of extended objects, it is well-defined on such singularities. We will see that this singular structure of the geometry will break $U(n)$ into products of gauge groups.

From the point of view of the orbifold, the D3-brane is a point. Consequently, there is a crucial relationship between the D3-brane worldvolume theory and the Calabi-Yau singularity: the former parametrizes the latter. In other words, the classical vacuum of the gauge theory should be, in explicit coordinates, the defining equation of S .

Mathematically, this brane-world paradigm is the realization of branes as supports of vector bundles (sheaf). Gauge theories on branes are intimately related to algebraic constructions of stable bundles, i.e. holomorphic or algebraic vector bundles that are stable in the sense of geometric invariant theory. In particular, D-brane gauge theories manifest as a natural description of symplectic quotients and their resolutions in geometric invariant theory.

To summarize in more mathematical terms, our D-branes, together with the stable vector bundle (sheaf) supported thereupon, resolves the transverse Calabi-Yau orbifold which is the vacuum for the gauge theory on the worldvolume as a GIT quotient (?).

We consider n D3-branes carrying a $U(n)$ gauge group on various orbifolds of \mathbb{R}^6 . Requiring $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetry for the worldvolume theory imposes that the transverse space must be a Calabi-Yau orbifold. Ignoring gravity for the worldvolume theory and if we want more interesting cases, we can actually consider the larger class of non-compact singular Calabi-Yau spaces.

2 | The simplest case: $S = \mathbb{C}^3$

2.1 | Generalities

Let us by studying the simplest configuration where the transverse Calabi-Yau space is non-singular, i.e. it is a proper smooth Calabi-Yau threefold. The only smooth Calabi-Yau threefold is $S = \mathbb{C}^3$. In this case, the spacetime is simply flat space $\mathbb{R}^{1,9} = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times \mathbb{R}^6$ with a choice a complex structure on \mathbb{R}^6 . As mentioned above, the worldvolume theory has a $U(n)$ gauge group. Type IIB superstring theory is a ten-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theory so it has 32 supercharges. The presence of the branes breaks the Lorentz symmetry of $\mathbb{R}^{1,9}$ as

$$SO(1,9) \rightarrow SO(1,3) \times SO(6), \quad (2.1)$$

whereby breaking half of the supersymmetries, see appendix B. We are thus left with 16 supercharges. In four dimensions, this corresponds to $\mathcal{N} = 4$. The worldvolume theory for $S = \mathbb{C}^3$ is therefore $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 4$ $U(n)$ SCFT gauge theory. This worldvolume theory, obtained in the non-singular case $S = \mathbb{C}^3$, is called the *parent theory*.

Note that the D3-brane will warp the flat space metric to that of $AdS_5 \times S^5$ and the bulk geometry is not strictly \mathbb{C}^3 . However, as stated above, we are only concerned with the local gauge theory and not with gravitational back-reaction, therefore it suffices to consider S as \mathbb{C}^3 .

2.2 | Matter content

As discussed in appendix A, there is only one $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 4$ SCFT theory, up to a choice of gauge group G . In our case, $G = U(n)$. The isometry group of the transverse space \mathbb{R}^6 is $SO(6) \cong SU(4)$. These global symmetries of worldvolume theory lead to the R-symmetry group $SU(4)_R$. The only $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supermultiplet can be rewritten in terms of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supermultiplets as follows:

$$[\mathcal{N} = 4 \text{ vector multiplet}] : V = (\lambda_\alpha, A_\mu, D) \oplus \Phi_A = (\phi^A, \psi_\alpha^A, F^A). \quad (2.2)$$

with $A = 1, 2, 3$. In other words, after removing the auxiliary fields, the matter content is

- a $U(n)$ gauge field A_μ which transforms as a singlet under $SU(4)_R$:

$$\text{Gauge transformation} : A_\mu \mapsto U A_\mu U^{-1} + U \partial_\mu U^{-1}, \quad U \in U(n) \quad (2.3)$$

$$\text{R-symmetry} : A_\mu \mapsto A_\mu. \quad (2.4)$$

- 4 Weyl fermions $\psi_\alpha^a \equiv (\lambda_\alpha, \psi_\alpha^1, \psi_\alpha^2, \psi_\alpha^3)$ that transform under the adjoint of $U(n)$ and are mixed together under the representation $\mathbf{4}$ of $SU(4)_R$. This means that each fermion ψ^a takes values in $\mathfrak{u}(n)$ and we denote the components by ψ_{IJ}^a ($I, J = 1, \dots, n$). Explicitly:

$$\text{Gauge transformation} : \psi^a \mapsto U \psi^a U^\dagger, \quad U \in U(n), \quad (2.5)$$

$$\text{R-symmetry} : \psi^a \mapsto R_b^a \psi^b, \quad R \in SU(4)_R. \quad (2.6)$$

Note that this gives us $4n^2$ Weyl fermions in total.

- 3 complex scalar fields ϕ^A transforming under the adjoint representation of $U(n)$ and under the two-times anti-symmetric representation of $SU(4)_R$. This means that each ϕ^A takes values in $\mathfrak{u}(n)$ and we denote the components by ϕ_{IJ}^A . Recall that $SU(4) \cong SO(6)$ so the action of the R-symmetry can be seen as the $\mathbf{3}$ of $SU(3) \subset SU(4)_R$ acting on three complex

scalars ϕ^1 or equivalently as the $\mathbf{6}$ of $\mathrm{SO}(6)_R$ acting on 6 real scalars X^m , the real and imaginary parts of the ϕ^A . Explicitely:

$$\text{Gauge transformation : } X^m \mapsto UX^mU^\dagger, \quad U \in \mathrm{U}(n), \quad (2.7)$$

$$\text{R-symmetry : } X^m \mapsto R^m_n X^n, \quad R \in \mathrm{SO}(6)_R. \quad (2.8)$$

Note that this gives $6n^2$ real scalars in total. They are the superpartners of the fermions(?).

Note that the gauge group $\mathrm{U}(n)$ can also be seen as the group of isometries the metric space \mathbb{C}^n to itself, i.e. $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n)$. From this point of view, the transformations (2.3)-(2.8) can be summarized as

$$A_\mu \in \mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n), \quad (2.9)$$

$$\psi \in \mathbf{4} \otimes \mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n), \quad (2.10)$$

$$X \in \mathbf{6} \otimes \mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n). \quad (2.11)$$

3 | Projection to daughter theories

3.1 | Generalities

When the transverse space is singular, the worldvolume theory corresponds to a specific projection of the parent theory that we found in the smooth case $S = \mathbb{C}^3$. We call it the *daughter theory*. This projections depends on the type of singularity that one considers.

We now wish to pick a discrete group Γ and which acts non-trivially on \mathbb{R}^6 . There are several possibilities:

- $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(4)$ naturally acts on \mathbb{R}^6 . This does not require a choice of complex structure. We get an $\mathcal{N} = 0$ theory.
- $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(3)$ naturally acts on \mathbb{C}^3 , this also requires a choice of complex structure on \mathbb{R}^6 . We get an $\mathcal{N} = 1$ theory.
- $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(2)$ naturally acts on the second factor of $\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^2$, so this requires a choice of complex structure on \mathbb{R}^6 . We get an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theory.

For now, we are interested with $\mathcal{N} = 1$ theories so we consider $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(3)$ with the action

$$\cdot : \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma \times \mathbb{C}^3 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}^3 \\ (\gamma, z) & \longmapsto & \gamma \cdot z \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.1)$$

is the representation of Γ coming from the fundamental representation of $\mathrm{SU}(3)$, so \cdot is just the matrix product. We can see that the origin is always a fixed point so this action is never free. Since \mathbb{C}^3 is a smooth manifold, this makes \mathbb{C}^3/Γ an orbifold. Note this case naturally includes the case $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(2)$ too, just not the case $\Gamma \in \mathrm{SO}(6)$.

Note that if Γ is a general finite group the condition that \mathbb{C}^3/Γ is an Calabi-Yau orbifold means that there must exist a resolution of this orbifold such that the corresponding smooth space is Calabi-Yau, i.e. a crepant resolution. Existence of such a resolution constrains Γ (?), see appendix E.

The prescription is straihgt-forward: we can use the elements $\gamma \in \Gamma$ to project out that states that are not Γ -invariant. That is, only the the fields such that

$$\gamma A_\mu \gamma^{-1} = A_\mu, \quad (3.2)$$

$$R(\gamma)\gamma\psi_{IJ}\gamma^{-1} = \psi_{IJ}, \quad (3.3)$$

$$R(\gamma)\gamma X_{IJ}\gamma^{-1} = X_{IJ} \quad (3.4)$$

are kept in the spectrum. Note that the fields that transform non-trivially under R-symmetry also have an extra induced action of Γ , according to (2.9)-(2.11). The R-symmetry untouched by Γ will be the resulting R-symmetry of daughter theory.

3.2 | Representation theory realization

Let $\{(\rho_i, V_i)\}_{i \in I}$ be a complete set of irreducible representations of Γ . Since Γ is finite, it is particular compact and those representation can be taken to be unitary. Moreover, i takes a finite number of values. Let us consider a representation of Γ on \mathbb{C}^n , we denote it (ρ, \mathbb{C}^n) and also take it to be unitary. In that case, $\rho(\gamma) \in U(n)$. One can show that $\rho(\gamma)\omega\rho(\gamma)^{-1} \in \mathfrak{u}(n)$ for any $\omega \in \mathfrak{u}(n)$. In other words, we can construct a representation of Γ on $\mathfrak{u}(n)$ from the representation (ρ, \mathbb{C}^n) :

$$\text{Ad} : \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma & \longrightarrow & \text{GL}(\mathfrak{u}(n)) \\ \gamma & \longmapsto & \text{Ad}_\gamma \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.5)$$

with

$$\text{Ad}_\gamma : \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{u}(n) & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{u}(n) \\ \omega & \longmapsto & \text{Ad}_\gamma(\omega) \equiv \rho(\gamma)\omega\rho(\gamma)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3.6)$$

Note that even though this representation looks like the adjoint representation, it is not, because it not on the Lie algebra of Γ . We use this representation in the expression (3.2)-(3.4).

We can decompose (ρ, \mathbb{C}^n) as follows:

$$(\rho, \mathbb{C}^n) = \bigoplus_{i \in I} (\rho_i, V_i)^{N_i} \quad (3.7)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i \in I} (\mathbf{1}^{N_i} \otimes \rho_i, \mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes V_i) \quad (3.8)$$

were N_i are integer multiplicities $((\rho_i, V_i)^{N_i} \equiv (\rho_i, V_i)^{\oplus N_i})$ and $\mathbf{1}$ is the trivial representation, so Γ acts trivially on the \mathbb{C}^{N_i} . We have $\sum_i N_i \dim(\rho_i) = n$. The rewritting (3.8) will be useful later on.

After the projection, the resulting gauge group is given by the Γ -invariant part of the gauge group, that is $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n)^\Gamma$. We use the superscript Γ to indicate that we only keep the trivial representations in the decomposition, that is, we only keep that subspaces of that transform trivially. First, we can see that by Schur's lemma (?)

$$(V_i \otimes V_j^*)^\Gamma = \delta_{ij} \quad (3.9)$$

Now since $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n) = \mathbb{C}^n \otimes (\mathbb{C}^n)^*$, we can see that

$$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n)^\Gamma = (\mathbb{C}^n \otimes (\mathbb{C}^n)^*)^\Gamma \quad (3.10)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} ((\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes V_i) \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j} \otimes V_j^*)^\Gamma)^\Gamma \quad (3.11)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} (\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j})^* \otimes V_i \otimes V_j^*)^\Gamma \quad (3.12)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} (\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j})^*)^\Gamma \otimes (V_i \otimes V_j^*)^\Gamma \quad (3.13)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_i})^* \quad (3.14)$$

so the daughter gauge group is

$$G_{\text{proj}} = \bigotimes_{i \in I} \text{U}(N_i). \quad (3.15)$$

Now it turns out that in the low energy effective field theory the $\text{U}(1)$ factor of every $\text{U}(N_i)$ decouples (?) so the resulting gauge group is in fact

$$G_{\text{proj}} = \bigotimes_{i \in I} \text{SU}(N_i). \quad (3.16)$$

For the matter fields, the reasoning is similar but we now wish to compute $(\mathcal{R} \otimes \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n))^\Gamma$ with $\mathcal{R} = \mathbf{4}, \mathbf{6}$:

$$(\mathcal{R} \otimes \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C}^n))^\Gamma = \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} (\mathcal{R} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes V_i) \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j} \otimes V_j)^*)^\Gamma \quad (3.17)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} (\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j})^*)^\Gamma \otimes (V_i \otimes V_j^*)^\Gamma \quad (3.18)$$

$$= \bigoplus_{i,j \in I} a_{ij}^{\mathcal{R}} (\mathbb{C}^{N_i} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{N_j})^*) \quad (3.19)$$

with

$$\mathcal{R} \otimes \rho_i = \bigoplus_{j \in I} a_{ij}^{\mathcal{R}} \rho_j (?). \quad (3.20)$$

Using the orthogonality of characters of irreducible non-equivalent representations, we get that

$$a_{ij}^{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{1}{|\Gamma|} \sum_{\gamma=1}^r r_\gamma \chi^{\mathcal{R}}(\gamma) \chi^i(\gamma) \chi^j(\gamma)^* \quad (3.21)$$

where r_γ is the order of the conjugacy class containing γ and χ^i is the character of ρ_i .

In the end, we can see that the matter fields become a total of $a_{ij}^{\mathbf{4}}$ bi-fundamental fermions and $a_{ij}^{\mathbf{6}}$ bi-fundamental bosons transforming as the $(\mathbf{N}_i, \bar{\mathbf{N}}_j)$ of $\text{SU}(N_i) \times \text{SU}(N_j)$ under the products of gauge groups.

3.3 | Field content, quivers and McKay graphs

A convenient way to represent the matter content of a daughter theory is to use *quiver diagrams*. A quiver is a finite oriented graph such that each node i represents a gauge factor $\text{SU}(N_i)$ and each arrow $i \rightarrow j$ represents a bi-fundamental field transforming under $(\mathbf{N}_i, \bar{\mathbf{N}}_j)$. The *adjacency matrix* A of the graph is a $k \times k$ with k being the number of nodes (gauge factors) whose elements A_{ij} are the number of arrows (bi-fundamental fields) from i to j . In other words, from (3.19), the adjacency matrix of the fermions has elements $A_{ij} = a^{\mathbf{4}}$ and the one of the scalars has elements $A_{ij} = a^{\mathbf{6}}$.

On the other hand, given finite group Γ , a representation (ρ_W, W) and a complete set of irreducible representations $\{(\rho_i, V_i)\}_{i \in I}$ of the latter, one can a McKay graph (or quiver) as follows:

1. Draw a vertex for every representation (ρ_i, V_i) .

2. For every representation (ρ_i, V_i) , compute the decomposition

$$(\rho_W, V_W) \otimes (\rho_i, V_i) = \bigoplus_j (\rho_j, V_j)^{\oplus n_{ij}}$$

where n_{ij} is the multiplicity of (ρ_j, V_j) in the decomposition of $(\rho_W, V_W) \otimes (\rho_i, V_i)$.

3. For every $n_{ij} > 0$, draw n_{ij} arrows from the vertex of (ρ_i, V_i) to the one of (ρ_j, V_j) .

From (7) we see that $n_{ij} = a_{ij}^{\mathcal{R}}$ and therefore that the matter quivers that we defined previously are exactly the McKay graph associated to the matter representation in question. Or, put differently, the matter content of the daughter theory is encapsulated in the McKay graphs of Γ and with respect to \mathcal{R} with $\mathcal{R} = \mathbf{4}$ for spinors and $\mathcal{R} = \mathbf{6}$ for scalars. This very important point allows us to use known results on McKay graphs such as the McKay correspondence for example.

3.4 | $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories

Let us consider that Γ is a finite subgroup of $SU(2) \subset SU(3)$. It naturally acts on \mathbb{C}^3 through its fundamental representation $\mathbf{2}$ as $\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{2}$ (only acts on 2 coordinates).

3.5 | $\mathcal{N} = 1$ theories

3.6 | String theory realization

We discuss a type II theory with a subsector of Dp -branes for a given p ($p = 0, 2, 4, 6, 8$ for type IIA and $p = -1, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9$ for type IIB).

3.7 | $S = \mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_n$

Let us consider the representation (ρ, \mathbb{C}^n) of \mathbb{Z}_n . A complete set of irreducible representations of \mathbb{Z}_n is given by $\{(\rho_k, V_k)\}_{k=1, \dots, n-1}$ with $V_k = \mathbb{C}$ and

$$\rho_i(g) = \zeta_n^k \tag{3.22}$$

where g is the generator of \mathbb{Z}_n . The representation (ρ, V) can be decomposed as

$$(\rho, V) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{n-1} N_i(\rho_i, V_i). \tag{3.23}$$

In other words, it is equivalent to the representation

$$\rho(g) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & \cdots & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ \vdots & & & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & & \xi_n^{n-1} & \\ 0 & & \cdots & & \xi_n^{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} N_0 \quad \left. \begin{matrix} \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} \right\} N_{n-1} \tag{3.24}$$

Since $\dim \rho_i = 1$, $N \equiv \sum_i N_i = \dim V$.

The gauge field configurations that are left invariant under the action of \mathbb{Z}_n are therefore the ones that satisfy

$$\rho(g)A_\mu\rho(g)^{-1} = A_\mu \quad (3.25)$$

for all $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n$. The constrained is easily solved by using the bi-index notation $A_{\mu;i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}$ ($i, j = 1, \dots, n-1, \alpha_i, \beta_i = 1, \dots, N_i$) for the component of the gauge fields. From (3.24), we can see that

$$A_{\mu;i\alpha_i,j\beta_j} \mapsto \rho_i(g)A_{\mu;i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}\rho_j(g)^{-1} = \zeta_n^{i-j}A_{\mu;i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}. \quad (3.26)$$

thus only the configurations with $A_{\mu;i\alpha_i,j\beta_j} = 0$ if $i \neq j$ are invariant. The gauge field has therefore a block diagonal form:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} A_{00} & & & \\ & A_{11} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & A_{n-1,n-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.27)$$

with $A_{ij} \equiv (X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j})_{\alpha_i=0,\dots,N_i,\beta_j=0,\dots,N_j}$. The block A_{ii} transforms under \mathbb{Z}_n as $(\rho_i, V_i)^{N_i}$. Consequently, the gauge group is now broken to

$$G_{\text{proj}} = \bigotimes_{i=0}^{n-1} \text{U}(N_i), \quad (3.28)$$

the biggest subgroup of $\text{U}(n)$ that preserves those form of configurations.

Let us take

$$R(g) = \rho_0^{\oplus n}(g) = \begin{bmatrix} \xi_n & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \xi_n \end{bmatrix}. \quad (3.29)$$

The scalar field configurations that are left invariant satisfy

$$R(g)^m {}_n\rho(g)X^n\rho(g)^{-1} = X^m \quad (3.30)$$

for all $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n$. Using bi-index notations, this becomes

$$X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}^m \mapsto \xi_n \delta_n^m \rho_i(g)X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}^n \rho_j(g)^{-1} = \xi^{i-j+1} X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}^m \quad (3.31)$$

thus only the configurations with $X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j}^n = 0$ if $i - j + 1 \neq 0$ are left invariant. The scalar fields have a block off-diagonal form:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & X_{01} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & X_{12} & \cdots & 0 \\ & & & \ddots & \\ X_{n-1,1} & 0 & & \cdots & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.32)$$

with $X_{ij} \equiv (X_{i\alpha_i,j\beta_j})_{\alpha_i=0,\dots,N_i,\beta_j=0,\dots,N_j}$. The block X_{ij} is an $N_i \times N_j$ block and transforms under the representation $(\mathbf{N}_i, \overline{\mathbf{N}}_j)$ of $\text{U}(N_i) \times \text{U}(N_j)$:

$$X_{i,i+1} \in \mathbf{N}_i \otimes \overline{\mathbf{N}}_j \simeq \text{Hom}(V_{i+1}, V_i).$$

Finally, anomaly cancellation imposes that the number a fields transforming in \mathbf{N}_j is equal to the number of fields transforming in $\overline{\mathbf{N}}_j$. This results in a constrain on the N_i 's:

$$(?). \quad (3.33)$$

For $n = 2$ or $n = 3$ this implies that all N_i 's must be equal.

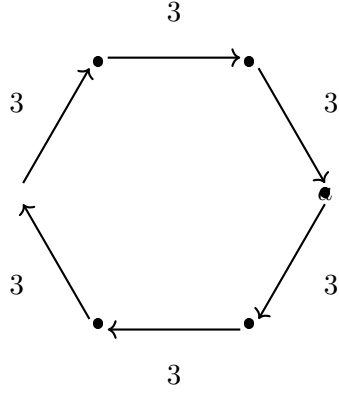


Figure 1: Quiver of the \mathbb{Z}_n daughter theory.

3.8 | $S = \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$

S	Gauge group	Matter content
\mathbb{C}^3	$U(n)$	Φ_{IJ}^6, Ψ_{IJ}^4
$\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_n$		
$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$		

Table 1: Worldvolume theory in terms of S .

A | $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills theory in four dimensions

A.1 | Superconformal group $SU(2, 2|4)$ and its representations

Conformal transformations and supersymmetries do not commute so the presence of conformal symmetry in addition to $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetry leads to an even larger group of symmetry known as the *superconformal group*. In the $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 4$ case, the superconformal group is the super group¹ $SU(2, 2|4)$. The different component of the latter are

- **Conformal symmetries:** they form the 15-dimensional subgroup $SO(2, 4)$ and are generated by $P_\mu, M_{\mu\nu}, K_\mu$ and D .
- **R-symmetry:** they form the 15-dimensional subgroup $SO(6)_R$ and are generated by T^A ($A = 1, \dots, 15$).
- **Poincaré supersymmetries:** they form the 16-dimensional sub group (?) and are generated by Q_α^I and $\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I$.
- **Conformal supersymmetries:** they form the 16-dimensional subgroup (?) and are generated by $S_{\alpha I}$ and $\bar{S}^{\dot{\alpha} I}$.

Conformal invariance of this theory can be seen as a consequence of the non-renormalization theorems.

A.2 | Matter content

For $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 4$, there is one kind of supermultiplet, the vector multiplet. The decomposition of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ vector superfield in terms of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ representations is as follows:

$$[\mathcal{N} = 4 \text{ vector multiplet}] : V = (\lambda_\alpha, A_\mu, D) \oplus \Phi_A = (\phi^A, \psi_\alpha^A, F^A). \quad (\text{A.1})$$

with $A = 1, 2, 3$, i.e. in terms of one vector supermultiplet and three chiral scalar supermultiplets. The propagating degrees of freedom are therefore a vector field, six scalars and four gauginos.

The Lagrangian is very much constrained by $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetry. First, the chiral superfields Φ^A should transform in the adjoint representation of the gauge group G , since internal symmetries commute with supersymmetry. This means that all fields transform in the adjoint of G .

Moreover, there is a large R-symmetry group, $SU(4)_R$. The four Weyl fermions transform in the fundamental of $SU(4)_R$, while the six real scalars in the two times anti-symmetric representation, which is nothing but the fundamental representation of $SO(6)$. The auxiliary fields are singlets under the R-symmetry group. Using $\mathcal{N} = 1$ superfield formalism the Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SYM}}^{\mathcal{N}=4} = & \frac{1}{32\pi} \text{Im} \left(\tau \int d^4x \text{tr}(W^\alpha W_\alpha) \right) + \int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} \text{tr} \sum_{A=1}^3 \bar{\Phi}^A e^{2gV} \Phi^A \\ & - \int d^2\theta \sqrt{2g} \text{tr} \Phi_1 [\Phi_2, \Phi_3] + \text{h.c.} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where the commutator in the third term appears for the same reason as for the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ Lagrangian. Notice that the choice of a single $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetry generator breaks the full $SU(4)_R$ R-symmetry to $SU(3) \times U(1)_R$. The three chiral superfields transform in the **3** of $SU(3)$

¹Supermanifold which is also a group with smooth product and inverse maps.

and have R-charge $R = 2/3$ under the $U(1)_R$. It is an easy but tedious exercise to perform the integration in superspace and get an explicit expression in terms of fields. Finally, one can solve for the auxiliary fields and get an expression where only propagating degrees of freedom are present, and where $SU(4)_R$ invariance is manifest (the fact that the scalar fields transform under the fundamental representation of $SO(6)$, which is real, makes the R-symmetry group of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory being at most $SU(4)$ and not $U(4)$, in fact).

A.3 | Dynamical phases

The scalar potential in (A.2) can be written in a rather compact form in terms of the six real scalars X^i making up the three complex scalars ϕ^A and reads

$$V = \frac{1}{2}g^2 \text{tr} \sum_{i,j=1}^6 [X_i, X_j]^2. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

The positive definite behavior of the Cartan-Killing form on the compact gauge algebra \mathfrak{g} implies that each term in the sum is positive or zero. In other words, $V = 0$ is equivalent to

$$[X^i, X^j] = 0, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 6. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

These equations admit two classes of solutions:

- $\langle X^i \rangle = 0$ for all $i = 1, \dots, 6$. This is the *superconformal phase*. Neither the gauge symmetry nor the superconformal symmetry is broken. The physical states and operators are gauge invariant and transform under unitary representations of $SU(2, 2|4)$.
- $\langle X^i \rangle \neq 0$ for at least one i . This is the *spontaneously broken Coulomb phase*. The gauge algebra \mathfrak{g} is going to be broken to $U(1)^r$, where $r \equiv \text{rank } \mathfrak{g}$. The low energy behavior is then the one of r copies of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ $U(1)$ gauge theories. Superconformal symmetry is spontaneously broken since the non-zero VEV $\langle X^i \rangle$ sets a scale.

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ Yang-Mills theory. There is only one $D = 4, \mathcal{N} = 4$ Yang-Mills theory and it contains 3 $\mathcal{N} = 1$ chiral scalar supermultiplet and 1 $\mathcal{N} = 1$ vector supermultiplet (up to g and τ). This theory is conformal and can be recovered from dimensional reduction of $D = 10, \mathcal{N} = 1$ Yang-Mills on \mathbb{T}^6 .

B | Calabi-Yau compactification

Requiring $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetry is equivalent to asking that the configuration resulting from compactification has at least one Killing spinor (covariantly constant spinor). This constant spinor then defines a residual supersymmetry by contracting with the local supersymmetry current. On real 6-folds, spinors transform under $SO(6)$. We are therefore looking for the biggest subgroup of $SO(6)$ that leaves a component of the spinor invariant. In that case the spinor $(1, 0, 0, 0)$ is covariantly conserved, i.e. is a Killing spinor. Using the fact that $SO(6) \cong SU(4)$, one can clearly see that this subgroup is $SU(3)$. Our transverse space must therefore have $SU(3)$ holonomy such that the parallel transport of the spinor $(1, 0, 0, 0)$ under any closed loop is a lower $SU(3)$ rotation.

C | Properties of D-branes in type II theories

The minimal irreducible representation in 10 dimensions is a Majorana-Weyl representation of dimension 8. In type II theories, we have $\mathcal{N} = (1, 1)$ for IIA and $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ for IIB. Because of the string origin of the generators, the two supersymmetry generators ϵ_L and ϵ_R (Majorana-Weyl spinors) satisfy

$$\epsilon_L = \Gamma_{11}\epsilon_L, \quad \epsilon_R = \eta\Gamma_{11}\epsilon_R \quad (\text{C.1})$$

with $\eta = +1$ for IIB and $\eta = -1$ for IIA theory. For a Dp -brane, the supersymmetry projections is the following:

$$\epsilon_L = \Gamma_0 \dots \Gamma_p \epsilon_R. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

In other words, the supersymmetries with generators of the form

$$Q_\alpha + \Gamma_0 \dots \Gamma_p \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}} \quad (\text{C.3})$$

are preserved by the Dp -brane while the one with generators of the form

$$Q_\alpha - \Gamma_0 \dots \Gamma_p \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}} \quad (\text{C.4})$$

are broken. They violate the boundary conditions. Since there is the same number of generators of the form (C.3) than of the form (C.4), exactly half of the supersymmetry is broken. The idea that one spacetime direction would break one supercharge could be reasonable if supersymmetries were transforming as vectors which not the case; supercharges transform as spinors. It would also be incompatible with the T-duality because two branes of different dimensions must have the same number of unbroken supercharges if there is a T-duality relating them: the number of unbroken supercharges is the same for all dual descriptions (a necessary condition for the equivalence). And indeed, in the correct theory, that's the case. Every type II D-brane breaks half of the supercharges.

To obtain the previous relations, we start by the ones from M-theory and compactify the 11th direction, getting type IIA theory. Γ_{11} then plays the role of the chiral projector in 10 dimensions; the supersymmetry parameters are related by $\epsilon_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \Gamma_{11})\epsilon$ and $\epsilon_R = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \Gamma_{11})\epsilon$. The relations for type IIB theory are then obtained by T-duality. Under a T-duality over the \hat{i} direction, the supersymmetry parameters transform as

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_L &\mapsto \epsilon_L, \\ \epsilon_R &\mapsto \Gamma_i \epsilon_R. \end{aligned}$$

The tension of a Dp -brane is given by

$$T_p = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^p g_s l_s^{p+1}}. \quad (\text{C.5})$$

This completely fixes the Newton constant: the tension of electric-magnetic duals must satisfy:

$$T_p T_{D-p-4} = \frac{2\pi}{16\pi G_D}. \quad (\text{C.6})$$

In ten dimensions, this gives $G_{10} = 8\pi^6 g_s^2 l_s^8$.

The dualities are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{S-duality} : g_s &\mapsto \frac{1}{g_s}, & l_s^2 &\mapsto g_s l_s^2, \\ \text{T-duality} : R &\mapsto \frac{l_s^2}{R}, & g &\mapsto g_s \frac{l_s}{R}. \end{aligned}$$

D | The McKay correspondence

D.1 | Finite subgroups of $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$

The first thing to recall is that every finite subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathrm{SU}(2, \mathbb{C})$ and vice-versa, so we equivalently talk about the subgroups of $\mathrm{SU}(2)$. The finite subgroups of $\mathrm{SU}(2)$, called the *binary polyhedral groups*, are the doubles covers of the finite subgroups of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ that are called *polyhedral groups*. They simply constitutes the symmetries of the Platonic solids. The groups fall into two infinite series, associated to the regular polygons, as well as three exceptional, associated with the 5 regular polyhedra: the tetrahedron (self-dual), the cube (and its dual octahedron), the icosahedron (and its dual dodecahedron).

More precisely, the finite subgroups of $\mathrm{SU}(2)$ are

- \mathbb{Z}_n : cyclic group of order n ($n \geq 2$) generated by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \zeta_m & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta_m^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.1})$$

- $2\mathcal{D}_n$: *binary dihedral groups* of order $4n$ ($n \geq 1$) generated by

$$A \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_{2m} & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta_{2m}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B \equiv \begin{bmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.2})$$

- $2\mathcal{T}$: *binary tetrahedral group* of order 24 generated by D_2 and

$$C \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_8 & \zeta_8^3 \\ \zeta_8 & \zeta_8^7 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.3})$$

- $2\mathcal{O}$: *binary octahedral group* of order 48 generated by \mathcal{T} and

$$D \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_8^3 & 0 \\ 0 & \zeta_8^5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.4})$$

- $2\mathcal{I}$: *binary icosahedral group* of order 120 generated by

$$E \equiv -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_5^4 - \zeta_5 & \zeta_5^2 - \zeta_5^3 \\ \zeta_5^2 - \zeta_5^3 & \zeta_5 - \zeta_5^4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad F \equiv -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} \zeta_5^2 - \zeta_4^4 & \zeta_5^4 - 1 \\ 1 - \zeta_5 & \zeta_5^3 - \zeta_5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.5})$$

with $\zeta_m \equiv e^{i\frac{2\pi}{m}}$ such that $(\zeta_m)^m = 1$.

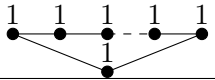
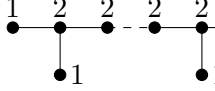
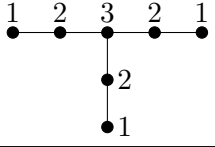
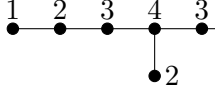
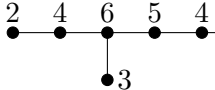
$\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SU}(2)$	Platonic solids	McKay graph	Variety
\mathbb{Z}_n		 $(n \text{ nodes})$	$z^n + xy = 0$
$2\mathcal{D}_n$	n -polygon	 $(n + 3 \text{ nodes})$	$x^2 + y^2 z + z^{n-1} = 0$
$2\mathcal{T}$	tetrahedron	 (7 nodes)	$x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0$
$2\mathcal{O}$	cube octahedron	 (8 nodes)	$x^2 + y^3 + yz^3 = 0$
$2\mathcal{I}$	icosahedron dodecahedron	 (9 nodes)	$x^2 + y^3 + z^5 = 0$

Table 2: Binary polyhedral groups and their McKay graphs. Labels over the vertices are the dimension of the representation. We erase the arrow ends if they go in both directions and erase the label if it is equal to 1.

D.2 | Simple Lie algebras

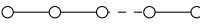
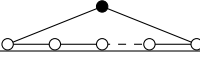
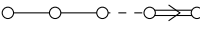
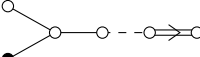
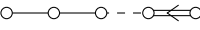
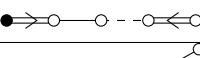
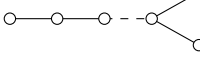
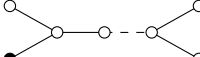
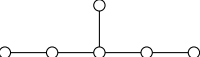

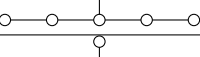
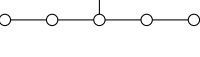
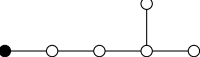
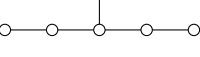

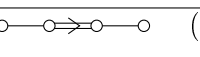
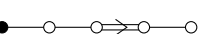
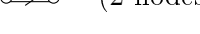
Simple Lie algebra	Simply laced	Dynkin diagram Extended Dynkin diagram
$\mathfrak{sl}(n+1, \mathbb{C}), n \geq 1$	yes	A_n :  (n nodes) \tilde{A}_n :  ($n+1$ nodes)
$\mathfrak{so}(2n+1, \mathbb{R}), n \geq 2$	no	B_n :  ((?) nodes) \tilde{B}_n :  ((?) nodes)
$\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{C}), n \geq 3$	no	C_n :  ((?) nodes) \tilde{C}_n :  ((?) nodes)
$\mathfrak{so}(2n, \mathbb{R}), n \geq 4$	yes	D_n :  (n nodes) \tilde{D}_n :  ((?) nodes)
\mathfrak{e}_6	yes	E_6 :  (6 nodes) \tilde{E}_6 :  (6 nodes)
\mathfrak{e}_7	yes	E_7 :  (7 nodes) \tilde{E}_7 :  (8 nodes)
\mathfrak{e}_8	yes	E_8 :  (8 nodes) \tilde{E}_8 :  (9 nodes)
\mathfrak{f}_4	no	F_4 :  (4 nodes) \tilde{F}_4 :  (5 nodes)
\mathfrak{g}_2	no	G_2 :  (2 nodes) \tilde{G}_2 :  (3 nodes)

Figure 2: Simple Lie algebras and their (extended) Dynkin diagrams.

D.3 | Classical McKay correspondence

D.4 | Geometrical McKay correspondence

E | Calabi-Yau manifolds, orbifolds and crepant resolutions

Simply put, a *Calabi-Yau manifold* is a Kähler manifold with trivial canonical bundle or, equivalently, with a Kähler metric whose global holonomy is contained in $SU(n)$. This is equivalent

to having a trivial canonical bundle.

A *Calabi-Yau orbifold* is the quotient of a smooth Calabi-Yau manifold by a discrete group action which generically has fixed points. From an algebraic geometry perspective we can try to resolve the orbifold singularity. A resolution (X, π) of \mathbb{C}^n/Γ is a non-singular complex manifold X of dimension n with a proper biholomorphic map

$$\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n/\Gamma \tag{E.1}$$

that induces a biholomorphism between dense open sets. A resolution (X, π) of \mathbb{C}^n/Γ is called a *crepant resolution*² if the canonical bundles of X and \mathbb{C}^n/Γ are isomorphic, i.e.

$$K_X \cong \pi^*(K_{\mathbb{C}^n/\Gamma}).$$

Since Calabi-Yau manifolds have trivial canonical bundle, to obtain a Calabi-Yau structure on X one must choose a crepant resolution of singularities.

It turns out that the amount of information we know about a crepant resolution of singularities of \mathbb{C}^n/Γ depends dramatically on the dimension n of the orbifold:

- $n = 2$: a crepant resolution always exists and is unique. Its topology is entirely described in terms of the finite group Γ (via the McKay correspondence).
- $n = 3$: a crepant resolution always exists but it is not unique; they are related by flops. However all the crepant resolutions have the same Euler and Betti numbers: the *stringy* Betti and Hodge numbers of the orbifold.
- $n \geq 4$: very little is known; crepant resolution exists in rather special cases. Many singularities are terminal, which implies that they admit no crepant resolution.

²For a resolution of singularities we can define a notion of discrepancy. A crepant resolution is a resolution without discrepancy.

List of Markers

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