

# Amplitudes from M2 and M5 branes

Yu-tin Huang

Arkani-Hamed, Chen, Dennen, Gang, Koh, Lee, Lipstein, Rozali, Siegel, Xie

UCLA/IAS

TAMU-March-2012

# Why amplitudes?

Amplitudes can be viewed as auxiliary object at the bottom of perturbative tower:

- Begin with the S-matrix:  $\langle g^- g^- g^+ g^+ \rangle$



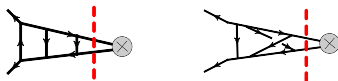
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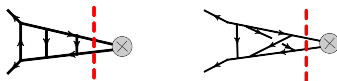
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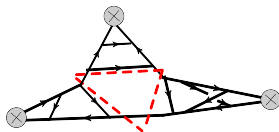
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- Controls the branch cut structure of correlation functions:  $\langle \mathcal{O}(1) \mathcal{O}(2) \mathcal{O}(3) \rangle$



# The return of analytic S-matrix

Analytic approach: understanding perturbative physics without relying on an underlying Lagrangian

- Casts old concepts in new light:

$$A_n = \sum c^{(4)} \text{[square diagram]} + c^{(3)} \text{[triangle diagram]} + c^{(2)} \text{[bubble diagram]} + R$$

$$c_2 \rightarrow \beta \text{ function}, \quad c_3 = 0 \rightarrow N = 4 \text{ SYM}, N = 8 \text{ SG}, N = 2?,$$

- Reveals new symmetries or dualities:
  - Dual superconformal symmetry (Yangian) for planar N=4 SYM,
  - Dual superconformal symmetry (Yangian) for planar ABJM.
  - Not understood in the string side
  - UV finiteness of N=4 SUGRA (3Loops) Bern, Davies, Dennen, me
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The equation shows the analytic S-matrix  $A_n$  as a sum of terms. The first term is  $c^{(4)}$  multiplied by a square diagram with four external legs. The second term is  $c^{(3)}$  multiplied by a triangle diagram with three external legs. The third term is  $c^{(2)}$  multiplied by a bubble diagram with two external legs. The sum is followed by a plus sign and the letter  $R$ .

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This allows the perturbative tower to be controlled by the lowest-point non-trivial element:



(SYM)



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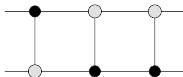
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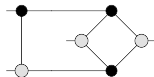
Example: Leading singularities determine the integrand of  $X$  for N=4 SYM

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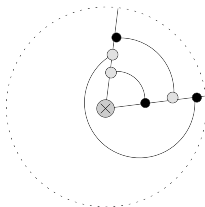


Equivalent to Dual superconformal symmetry

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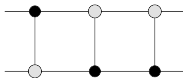
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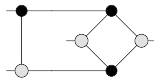
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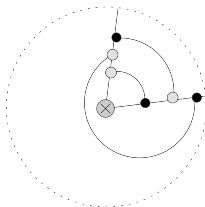


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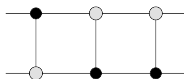
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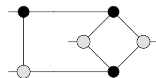
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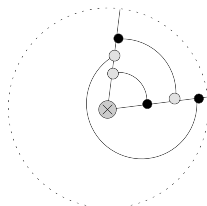


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← Lorentz  
← little

$$P^2 = 0 \rightarrow P^{AB} = \lambda^{Aa} \lambda^B_a, \quad \text{Lorentz}(A) \times \text{little}(a) - \text{littlegroup} = D - 1$$

$$D = 3, 4, 6$$

$$\text{OSp}(N|4) \text{ (M2)}, \quad \text{SU}(2, 2|N) \text{ (D3)}, \quad \text{OSp}^*(8|N) \text{ (M5)}$$

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All the superconformal generators can be written as acting on  $\lambda$  space.

- Determined the three-point S-matrix via symmetries.
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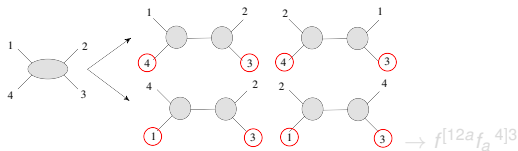
## Example: Yang-Mills

- Super Poincare uniquely fix  $A_3 = \frac{\delta^4(P)\delta^8(Q)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 31 \rangle} f^{123}$



$$A_4|_{s \rightarrow 0} \sim \frac{A_3 \times A_3}{s}$$

- Cut constructibility:



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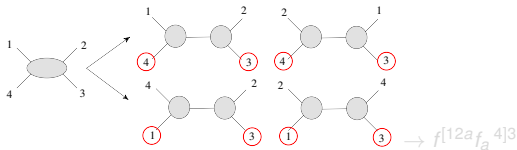
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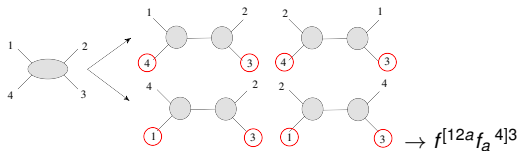
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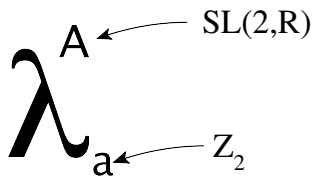
# Outline

1 3-dimensions

2 6-dimensions

# Three-dimensions

D=3



$SL(2, \mathbb{R})$

$Z_2$



$$\mathcal{N} = 8$$

Consider  $\mathcal{N} = 8$   $OSp(8|4)$

The superconformal generators  $(\lambda^\alpha, \eta^I)$ :

$$P^{\alpha\beta} = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \quad (3)$$

$$Q_I^\alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\lambda^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^I} + \lambda^\alpha \eta_I) \quad (16)$$

$$M^\alpha{}_\beta = \lambda^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\beta} - \delta^\alpha{}_\beta \lambda^\gamma \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\gamma} \quad (3)$$

$$D = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\alpha} + 1) \quad (1)$$

$$R^I{}_J = \eta^I \eta_J - \frac{1}{2} \delta^I{}_J \quad (28)$$

$$S_\alpha^I = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\eta^I \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\alpha} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^I}) \quad (16)$$

$$K_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda^\beta} \quad (3).$$

$$\mathcal{N} = 8$$

- **D**  $A_n = \sum_i^n \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_i^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_i^\alpha} + 1)$   $A_n=0$ : only even S-matrix elements are non-trivial.
- $OSp(8|4)$ :  $A_4 = \delta^3(P)\delta^8(Q)/\langle ij\rangle\langle kl\rangle\langle mn\rangle$
- Vanishing factorization  $A_4 = \delta^3(P)\delta^8(Q)/\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 31\rangle f^{abcd}$  totally antisymmetric!
- Cut constructability requires  $f^{[abcd} f_d{}^e]fg} = 0$

Symmetry and factorization properties recover the content of BLG.

Reduction to  $\mathcal{N} = 6$ , ABJM.

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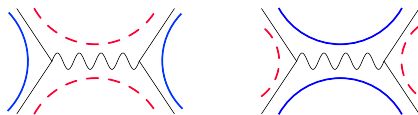
## Intro on ABJM

Field content:

$U(N)_k \times U(N)_{-k}$  gauge fields  $(A_{ab}^\mu, \bar{A}^{\mu ab})$ ,

$SU(4)$  bi-fundamental matter  $(\phi_a^I b, \psi_a^I b, \bar{\phi}_I^a b, \bar{\psi}_I^a b)$

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{CS} + \mathcal{L}_{\phi, Kin} + \mathcal{L}_{\psi, Kin} + \mathcal{L}_{4\phi^2\psi^2} + \mathcal{L}_{6\phi^6}$$



Parity invariance  $k \leftrightarrow -k$ ,  $A_n \sim k^{n/2-1}$ :

Cyclic invariant by one site for  $n/2 \in \text{even}$

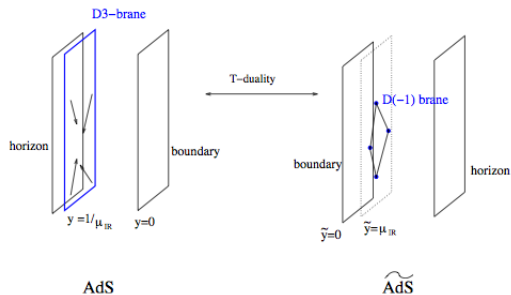
Cyclic invariant for  $n/2 \in \text{odd}$

→ Only receives contribution from even loops

# Strong Coupling

For  $N, k \rightarrow \infty$   $\lambda = N/k$  dual to IIA string in  $AdS_4 \times CP_3$

Flash back to  $N=4$  SYM/  $AdS_5 \times S_5$  Beisert, Ricci, Tseytlin, Wolf, Maldacena, Berkovits



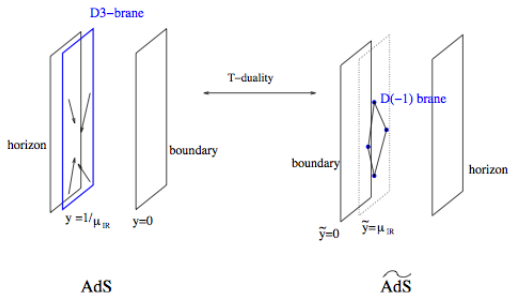
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# Weak Coupling (N=4SYM)

Dual conformal symmetry: [Drummond, Henn, Smirnov, Sokatchev](#)

$$A_4^{1\text{ loop}} = \text{st } A_4^{\text{tree}} \quad \begin{array}{c} y_2 \\ | \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ | \quad | \\ y_0 \\ | \quad | \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ | \\ y_4 \\ y_3 \quad y_1 \end{array}$$

$$I_4 = \int dy_0^4 \frac{1}{y_{01}^2 y_{02}^2 y_{03}^2 y_{04}^2}, \quad \text{Ic} [\text{st } I_4] = \text{st } I_4$$

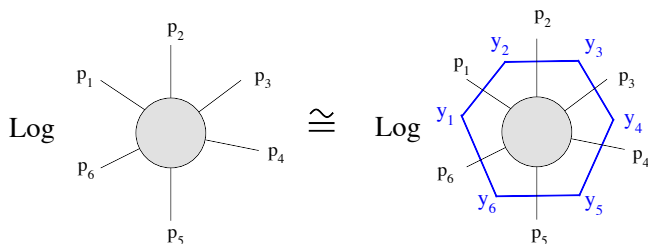
Dual superconformal symmetry:

$$\text{Ic} [A_n^{\text{tree}}] = \left( \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^2 \right) A_n^{\text{tree}}$$

A symmetry for all loop planar integrand [Drummond, Henn, Korchemsky, Sokatchev, Bern, me](#)

# Weak Coupling (N=4SYM)

Amplitude/Wilson-Loop Duality: Drummond, Henn, Korchemsky, Sokatchev



# ABJM

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Adam, Dekel, Oz; Grassi, Sorokin, Wulff “Fermionic T-duality cannot be implemented for AdS backgrounds of OSp cosets”

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However, [Lipstein, me](#)

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$OSp(6|4)$  Yangian symmetry [Bargeer, Biesert, Loebert, Meneghelli](#)

The dual space is

$$P \rightarrow x, \quad Q^{I\alpha} \rightarrow \theta^{I\alpha}, \quad R^{IJ} \rightarrow y^{IJ}$$

One should T-dualize 3 directions in  $AdS_4$  and 3 in  $CP^3$ . Does this make any difference?

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# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

The four-cusp Wilson loop: **Henn, Plefka, Weigandt**

$$\square_{\text{wavy left}} + \square_{\text{wavy right}} = 0$$

$$\square_{\text{wavy left, shaded circle}} + \square_{\text{two wavy lines left}} + \square_{\text{wavy left, shaded circle}} + \dots = 0$$

$$\langle W_4^{\text{ABJM}} \rangle = 1 + \frac{N^2}{k^2} \left[ - \left( \frac{(-\mu^2 x_{13}^2)^{2\epsilon}}{(2\epsilon)^2} + \frac{(-\mu^2 x_{24}^2)^{2\epsilon}}{(2\epsilon)^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2 \left( \frac{x_{13}^2}{x_{24}^2} \right) + \text{const.} \right]$$

$$\langle W_4^{\text{N=4SYM}} \rangle = 1 + \frac{g^2 N}{8\pi^2} \left[ - \left( \frac{(-\mu^2 x_{13}^2)^\epsilon}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{(-\mu^2 x_{24}^2)^\epsilon}{\epsilon^2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2 \left( \frac{x_{13}^2}{x_{24}^2} \right) + \text{const.} \right]$$

# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

The four-cusp Wilson loop: Henn, Plefka, Weigandt

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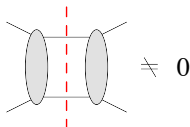
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## ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

One-loop puzzle: Chen, Me

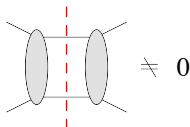


Dual conformal invariance tells us

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_4^{1\text{-loop}} &= \int \mathcal{D}^3 X_5 \frac{\epsilon(5, 1, 2, 3, 4)}{X_{51}^2 X_{52}^2 X_{53}^2 X_{54}^2} \\
 &= \int \frac{d^3 l_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{2l_1^2 \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho} p_1^\mu p_2^\nu p_4^\rho + 2s \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho} l_1^\mu p_1^\nu p_4^\rho}{l_1^2 (l_1 - p_1)^2 (l_1 - p_1 - p_2)^2 (l_1 + p_4)^2} \\
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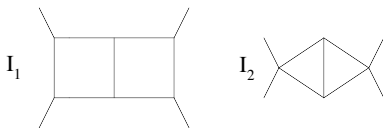
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# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

Two-loop result: [Chen, Me](#)



$$I_1^{2\text{-Loop}} \equiv \int \mathcal{D}^3 X_5 \mathcal{D}^3 X_6 \frac{16\epsilon(5, 1, 2, 3, 4)\epsilon(6, 1, 2, 3, 4)}{X_{51}^2 X_{53}^2 X_{54}^2 X_{56}^2 X_{61}^2 X_{63}^2 X_{62}^2 X_{42}^2}$$

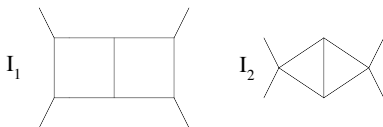
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Feynman diagrams: [Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio](#)

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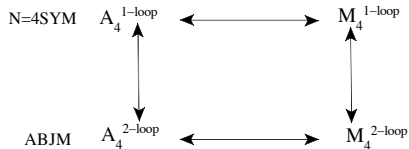
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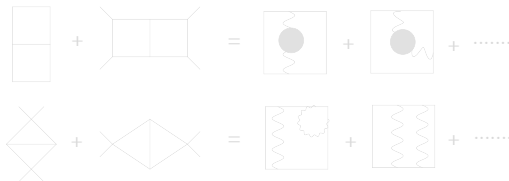
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# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

Interesting equivalence at four points:

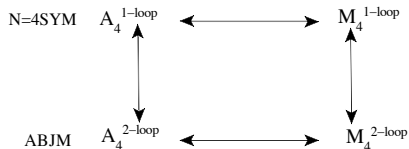


Refinement of duality:

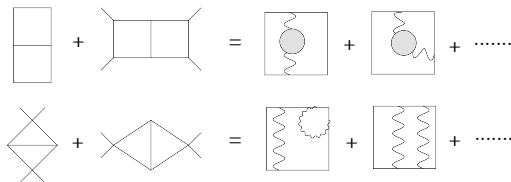


# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

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# ABJM Amplitude/Wilson-Loops

## Extensions:

- $N = 4$  SYM  $W_n^{1\text{-loop}} = \text{ABJM } W_n^{2\text{-loop}}$  has been numerically checked to  $n$ -point:  
Weigandt
- All loop duality: BDS a solution to "both"  $N=4$  SYM and ABJM?

$$\text{Log} \frac{A_4}{A_4^{\text{tree}}} = [\text{IR div}] + \frac{f_{\text{SYM}}(\lambda)}{4} \text{Log}^2 \left( \frac{s}{t} \right) + \text{const.} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

The answer is correct for ABJM if

$$f_{\text{CS}}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} f_{\text{SYM}}(\lambda) \Big|_{\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{4\pi} \rightarrow h(\lambda)}$$

The correspondence matches to all order in  $\epsilon$  [Bianchi, Leoni, Penati](#)

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# ABJM Summary

- Dual superconformal symmetry is a symmetry of planar ABJM
- Close relation to N=4 SYM: *Conjectured to be an exact map*
- Validity for BDS for ABJM implies this to be a symmetry at strong coupling

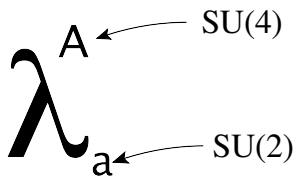


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# Six-dimensions

D=6



# Three-point kinematics

$$4\text{D: } s_{ij} = \langle ij \rangle [j\bar{i}] = 0 \rightarrow \begin{cases} [ij] = 0, & \langle ij \rangle \neq 0 \\ \langle ij \rangle = 0, & [ij] \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$6\text{D: } \langle i_\alpha | j_{\dot{\alpha}} \rangle \equiv \lambda_i^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}_{j\dot{\alpha}}$$

$$\langle i_\alpha | j_{\dot{\alpha}} \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} [ij] & 0 \\ 0 & -\langle ij \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det(\langle i_\alpha | j_{\dot{\alpha}} \rangle) = 0 \rightarrow \langle i_\alpha | j_{\dot{\alpha}} \rangle = u_i \tilde{u}_j$$

$$u_i^\alpha w_{i\alpha} = 1, \quad \tilde{u}_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{w}_{i\dot{\alpha}} = 1$$

- Three point amplitude:  $A(u_i, \tilde{u}_i, w_i, \tilde{w}_i)$
- Invariant under: [ C. Cheung, D O'Connell (08)]

$$u_i \rightarrow \alpha u_i, \quad \tilde{u}_i \rightarrow \alpha^{-1} \tilde{u}_i, \quad w_i \rightarrow \alpha^{-1} w_i, \quad \tilde{w}_i \rightarrow \alpha \tilde{w}_i$$

- Invariant under

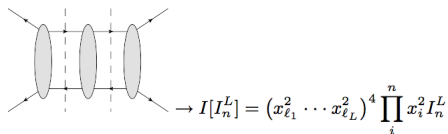
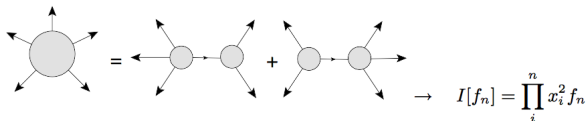
$$w_i \rightarrow w_i + b_i u_i, \quad \tilde{w}_i \rightarrow \tilde{w}_i + c_i \tilde{u}_i$$

# $\mathcal{N} = (1, 1) \text{SYM}$

$$A_3 = (u_{1a}u_{2b}w_{3c} + u_{1a}w_{2b}u_{3c} + w_{1a}u_{2b}u_{3c})(\tilde{u}_{1a}\tilde{u}_{2b}\tilde{w}_{3c} + \tilde{u}_{1a}\tilde{w}_{2b}\tilde{u}_{3c} + \tilde{w}_{1a}\tilde{u}_{2b}\tilde{u}_{3c})$$

$$A_4 = \delta^6(P) \frac{\delta^4(Q)\delta^4(\tilde{Q})}{st} \equiv \delta^6(P)\delta^4(Q)\delta^4(\tilde{Q})f_4$$

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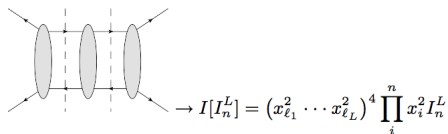
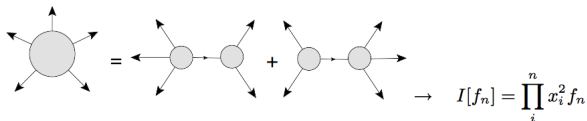


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$\mathcal{N} = (1, 1)SYM$ 

- 6D  $N=(1,1)$  SYM is **Dual conformal symmetry without conformal symmetry** **Dennen, me**
- True for tree level maximal SYM in arbitrary D. **Caron-Hout, O'Connell**

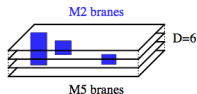
$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

On-shell SU(2):  $(\psi^{Ia}[8], B_{(ab)}[3], \phi^{[IJ]}[5])$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(\eta^a, \hat{\eta}^a) &= \phi + \eta^a \psi_a + \hat{\eta}^a \psi'_a + \eta^2 \phi' + \hat{\eta}^2 \phi'' + (\eta^a \hat{\eta}_a) \phi''' + \eta_{(a} \hat{\eta}_{b)} B^{(ab)} \\ &+ \hat{\eta}^2 \eta^b \bar{\psi}_b + \eta^2 \hat{\eta}^b \bar{\psi}'_b + \eta^2 \hat{\eta}^2 \phi'''' \end{aligned}$$

On-shell SUSY:  $\eta^b = (\frac{1}{2}, 0)$  and  $\hat{\eta}^b = (0, \frac{1}{2})$  of  $\text{Sp}(2) \times \text{Sp}(2) \in \text{Sp}(4)$

D=11



Conformal amplitudes does not exists (Huang, Lipstein [10])

What is the minimum symmetry one can impose to obtain an on-shell amplitude?

$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

Is there a  $\langle B_{ab}(1)B_{cd}(2)B_{cd}(3) \rangle$

- **Little group:**  $A_3$  polynomial of degree 6 in  $(u, w)$
- $\alpha$ -scale invariance:  $A_3 \sim uuuwww$
- $\beta$ -shift invariance: No solutions

Little group+Lorentz invariance  $\rightarrow$  forbids three-point interaction for self-dual tensors



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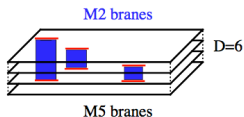
$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

Tensors have to couple to particles of other spin:

$$\langle B_{(ad)}(1)A_{bd\dot{2}}(2)A_{(cf)}(3) \rangle = (u_{1a}u_{2b}w_{3c} + u_{2b}u_{3c}w_{1a} + u_{3c}u_{1a}w_{2b})u_{1d}\tilde{u}_{2\dot{e}}\tilde{u}_{3\dot{f}}$$

→ The degrees of freedom are incorrect?

D=11



Look for  $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0), (1, 0)$  SUSY involving self-dual tensors

$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

We now look for general  $\mathcal{A}_3(u, w, \tilde{u}, \tilde{w}, \eta, \hat{\eta})$

On-shell 8+8 SUSY charges:

$$Q^{A-} = \lambda^{Aa} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^a}, \quad Q^{A+} = \lambda^{Aa} \eta_a, \quad \hat{Q} = Q / \{\eta : \hat{\eta}\}$$

- **Sp(2) × Sp(2) R-symmetry invariance:**  $\mathcal{A}_n \sim \eta^n \hat{\eta}^n$
- **SUSY:**  $Q^{A-}, Q^{A+} \mathcal{A}_n = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_n \sim \Delta(Q) f(\eta, \hat{\eta})$

$$\Delta(Q) \equiv (\mathbf{u}_1 \mathbf{u}_2 + \mathbf{u}_2 \mathbf{u}_3 + \mathbf{u}_3 \mathbf{u}_1) \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \mathbf{w}_i \right), \quad \mathbf{u}_i = u_i^a \eta_{ia}$$

- **$\alpha$ -scaling invariance:**  $f(\eta, \hat{\eta}) \rightarrow \alpha^{-1} f(\eta, \hat{\eta})$

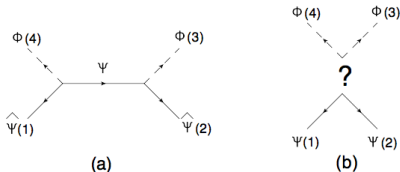
$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

Look for  $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0), (1, 0)$  SUSY involving self-dual tensors:

- No  $\mathcal{A}_3$  involving two tensors  $B_{\mu\nu}$  (unless graviton)
- Non-gravitation  $\mathcal{A}_3$  involving one tensor:

$$\mathcal{L}_3 \sim \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau\nu} B_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} F_{\tau\nu}$$

Appears in supergravity actions Can this be self-consistent without gravitation degrees of freedom?

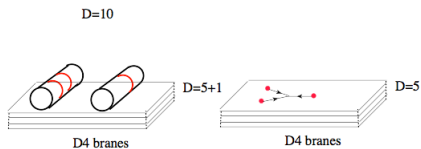


$$\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$$

- Imposing vanishing factorization on the four-point,  $\mathcal{A}_4 = \delta^6(P)\delta^4(Q)\delta^4(\hat{Q})$

$$A_4 \sim H^4$$

- One can reduce to  $D=5$ ,  $SU(4) \rightarrow USp(2, 2)$  allows  $\langle i_a | j_b \rangle$ :



→ No three-point KK coupling

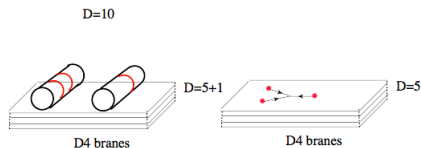
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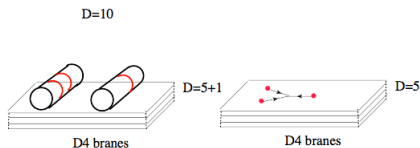


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# Conclusion

- Un expect Dual Super Conformal invariance of ABJM
- All loop equivalence between four-point 4D  $N=4$  SYM / 3D ABJM
- Dual conformal without conformal in 6D
- Sharpening the difficulty of interacting self-dual tensors theories in 6D.