

# Dualities

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in the Wilderness of Orientifolds

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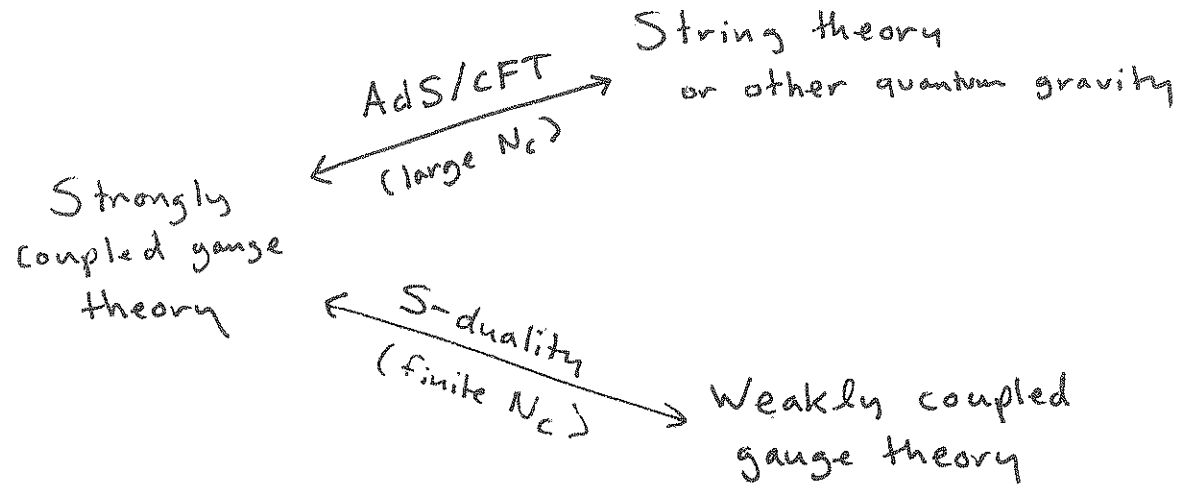
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Based on: JHEP 1310 (2013) 007 (1210.7799)  
JHEP 1310 (2013) 006 (1307.1701)  
& forthcoming work

# Motivation

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## Why study dualities?



\* Can use dualities to better understand strong coupling in gauge theories

\* Gauge theory dualities can help us learn more about string theory

Symbiotic relationship between gauge theory and string theory

# Motivation II

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## Why strong coupling?

- \* QCD is strongly coupled at low energies
- \* Anthropics: If we live in landscape of vacua then other vacua may have different strongly coupled / confining gauge groups
- \* Move away from the lamppost...

## Why string theory?

- \* Consistent theory of quantum gravity (only one?)
  - \* Playground of dualities
  - \* Symbiosis w/ gauge theories via AdS/CFT
- ( Why supersymmetry? )
- \* Needed for computability

# Example #1

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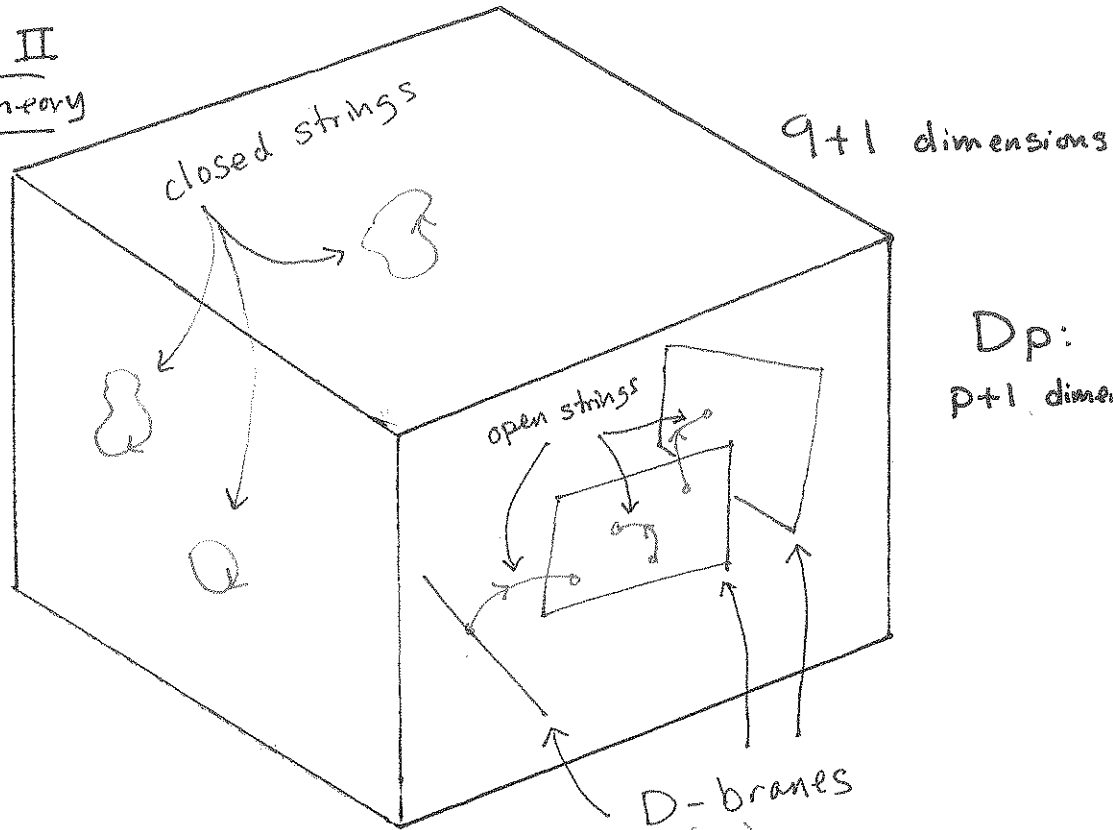
Source-free Maxwell's eqns:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 & \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \\ \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} = 0 & \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \end{array}$$

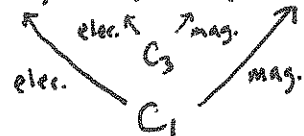
- \* Invariant under  $\vec{E} \rightarrow \vec{B}$ ,  $\vec{B} \rightarrow -\vec{E}$   
(  $F_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\rho\sigma}$  )
- \* "Electromagnetic duality" also holds  
in full quantum theory  
↳ but this theory is free
- \* Adding sources <sup>✓</sup> usually spoils the duality  
(charged particles)  
... except in some special cases

# Example #2

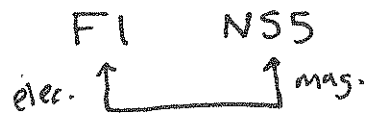
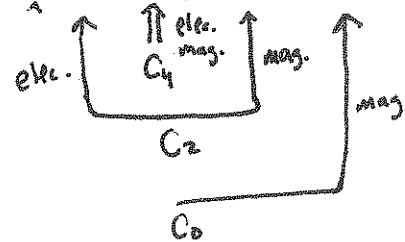
Type II  
String theory



IIA: D0, D2, D4, D6, D8



IIB: D1, D3, D5, D7, (D9)

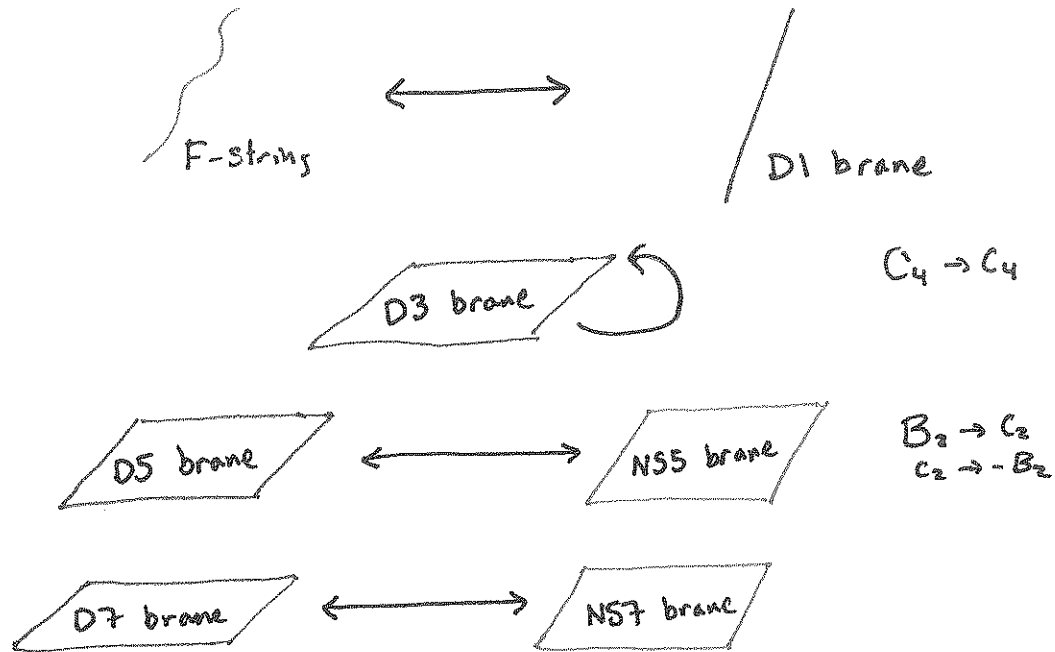


+ D-branes ...

# Example #2

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Type IIB string theory is self-dual



$$g_s \rightarrow 1/g_s$$

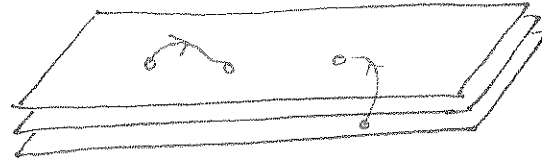
S-duality!

for  $C_0 = 0$   
in general  $\tau \rightarrow -1/\tau$   
where  $\tau \equiv C_0 + i/g_s$

# D3 branes & S-duality

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D3 has 4d worldvolume gauge theory:



Gauge bosons  
are F-string  
excitations

But  $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}$  under S-duality

... gauge field transforms:  $F_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\rho\sigma}$

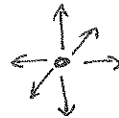
Electromagnetic duality!

What is this theory?

This is  $\mathcal{N}=4$  vector multiplet.

For  $N$  D3's, get

$SU(N)$   $\mathcal{N}=4$  SYM



\* 6 real scalars  
control position  
in transverse space

vector  
of  $SO(6)$

\* 4 Weyl fermions

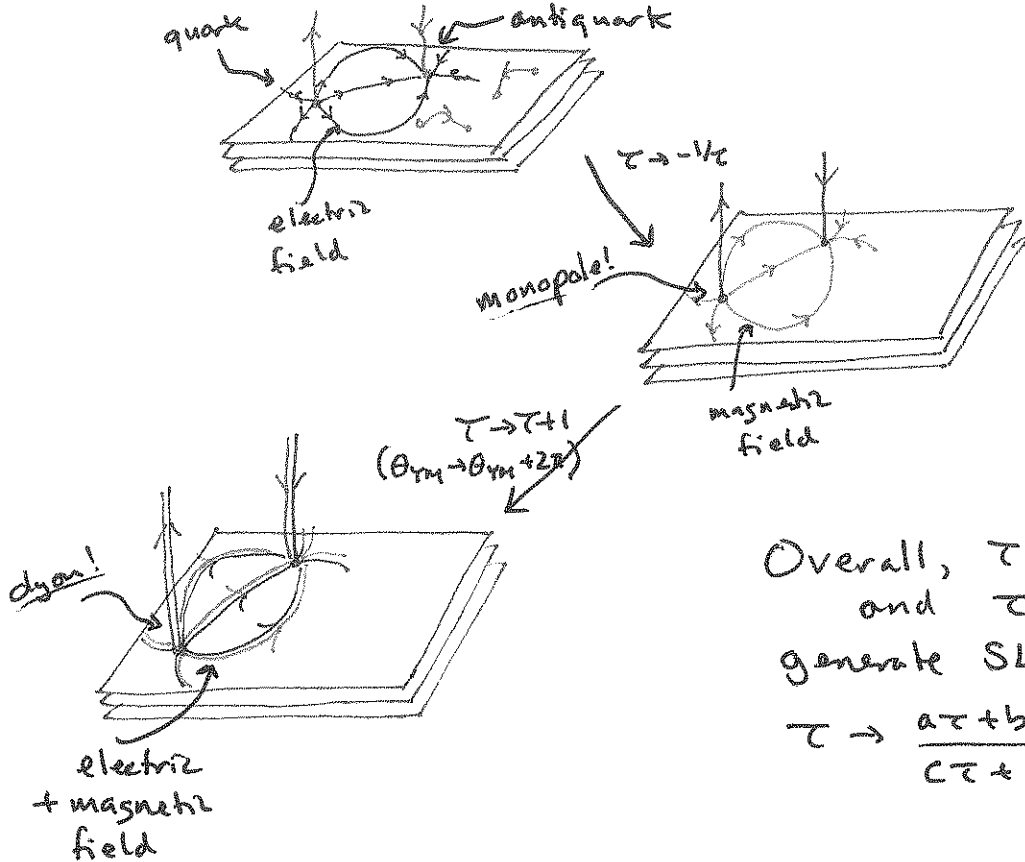
spinor  
of  $SO(6)$

\* 1 gauge boson

$$\tau = C_0 + i/g_s = \frac{\theta_{YM}}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g_{YM}^2}$$

# Monopoles & Dyons

Consider attaching long strings:



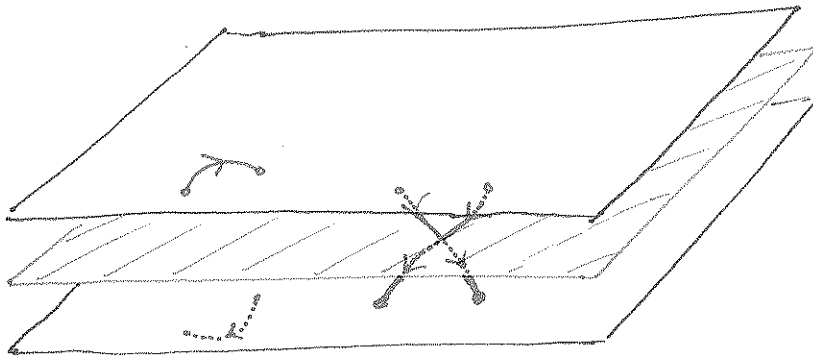
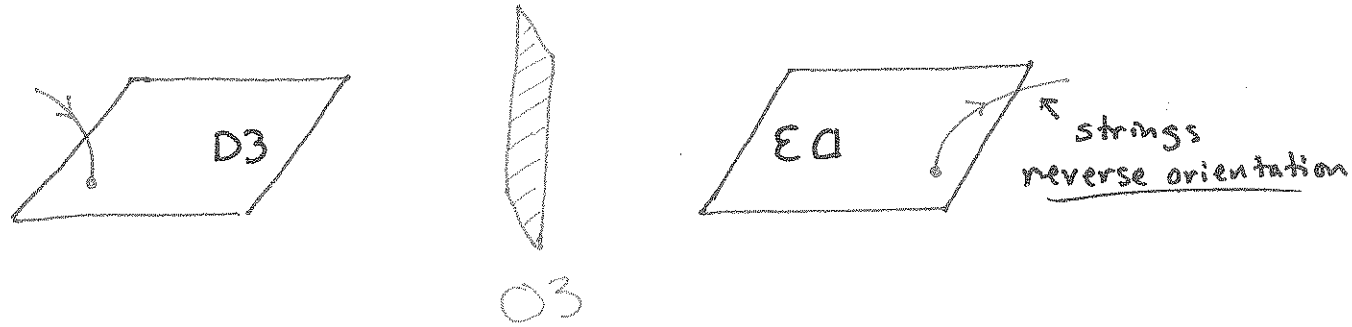
Overall,  $\tau \rightarrow -1/\tau$   
and  $\tau \rightarrow \tau + 1$   
generate  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$

$$\tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d} \quad (ad - bc = 1)$$



# Orientifolds

Now we introduce orientifold planes:



D3 brane can interact w/ its own image  $\Rightarrow$  extra light states, enhanced gauge group on top of O-plane, e.g.  $U(1) \rightarrow Sp(2)$  (O3<sup>+</sup>)

$$Sp(2n) = USp(2n)$$

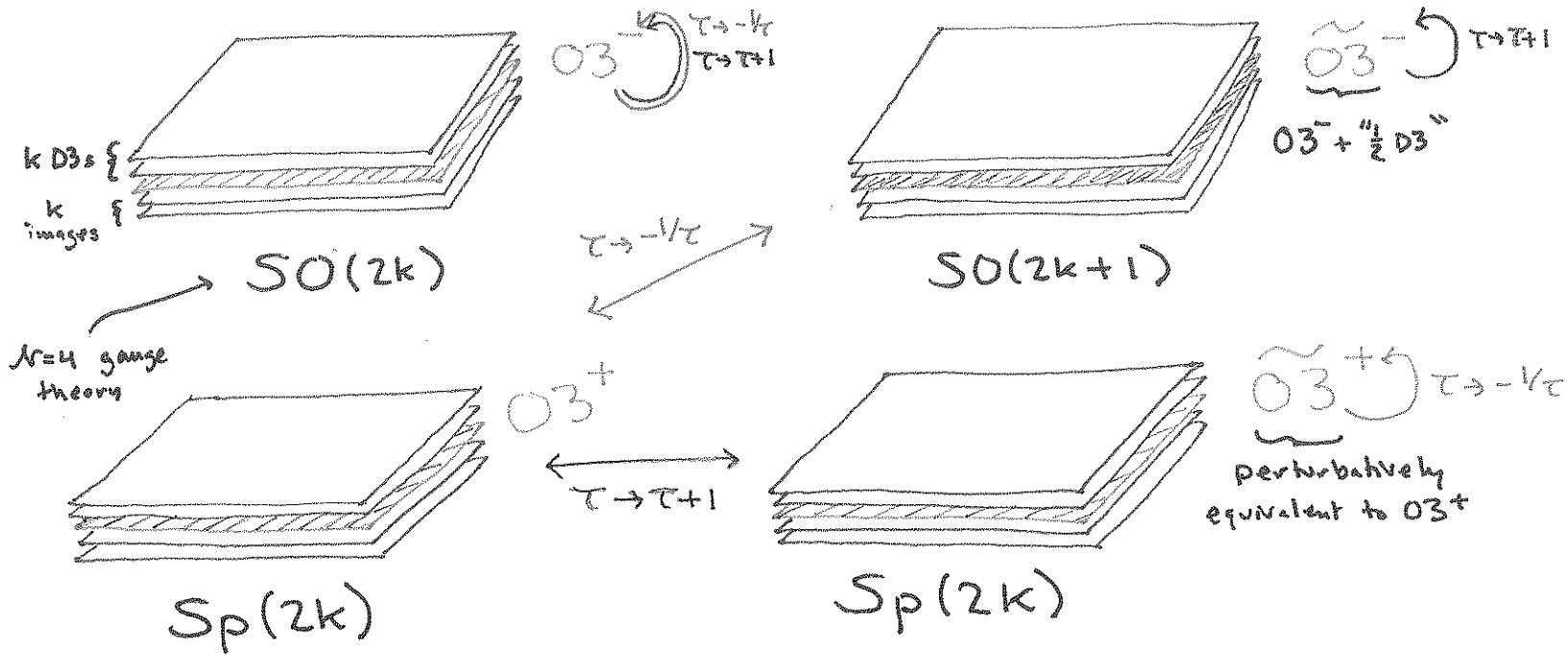
$2n \times 2n$  unitary matrices s.t.

$$M \Omega M^T = \Omega$$

for  $\Omega = -\Omega^T$   
symplectic form

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & & \\ -1 & 0 & & & \\ & & 0 & 1 & \\ & & & -1 & 0 & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

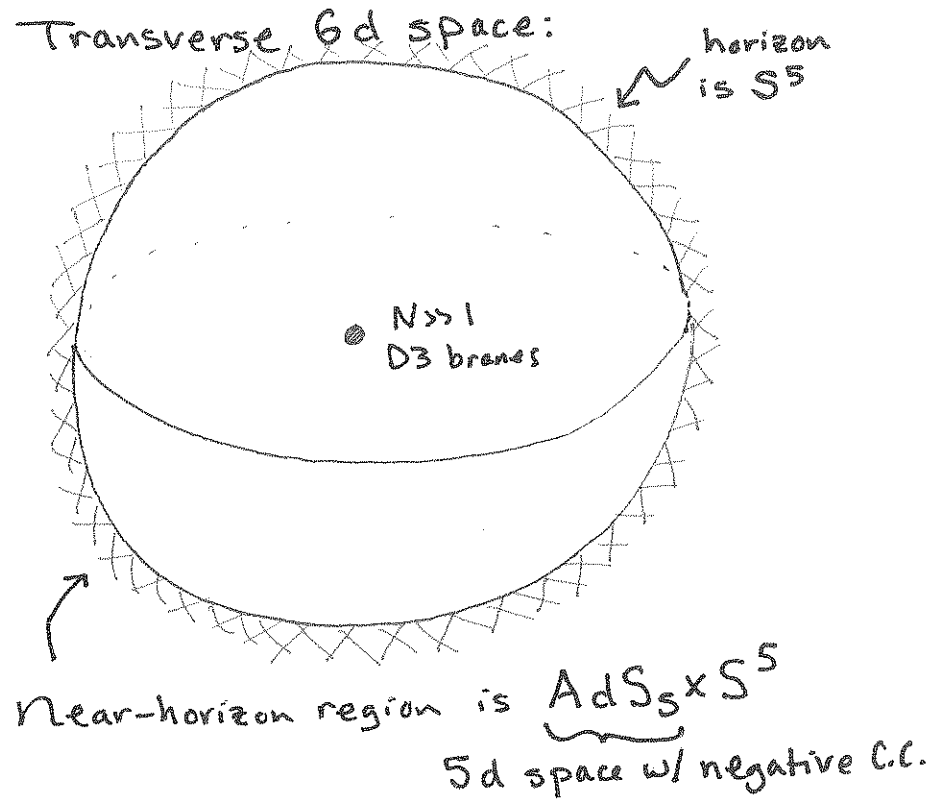
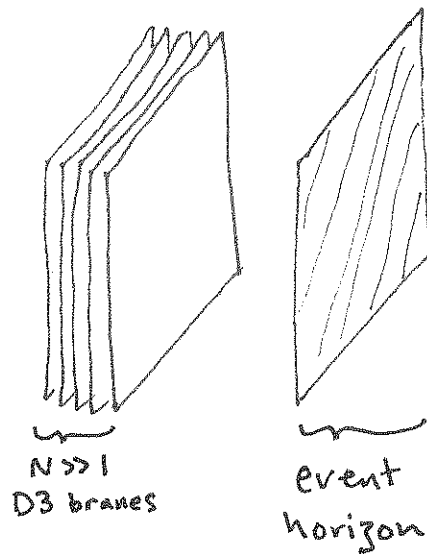
# O3-planes & $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$



Electromagnetic duality can change the gauge group b/c O-plane is not always  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  invariant.

# The closed-string picture ( $g_s N \gg 1$ )

Closed strings see things differently:



Maldacena '97: Closed strings in the near-horizon region are dual to the 4d worldvolume gauge theory on the branes

\* Very general

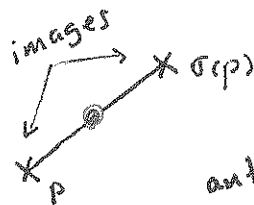
# Orientifolds & AdS/CFT

Different orientifold planes must give different near-horizon geometries.

\* Orientifold implies a projection

$$p \sim \sigma(p)$$

$$(\sigma(\vec{x}) = -\vec{x}, \vec{x} = 6d \text{ vector})$$



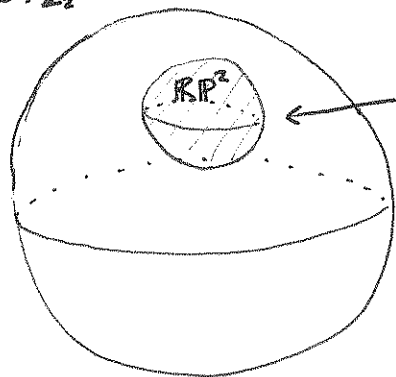
antipodal pts identified

↳ near horizon geometry is  $AdS_5 \times S^5/\mathbb{Z}_2$

Witten '98:  $O3^\pm, \tilde{O}3^\pm$  distinguished non-trivial

two form connection:

$$S^5/\mathbb{Z}_2 = RP^5$$



wrap D5 brane

$$B_2, C_2 \in H^3(S^5/\mathbb{Z}_2, \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$$

"twisted"  
b/c  $\sigma^* B_2 = -B_2$

↳ can't contract to a point b/c

$$H_2(S^5/\mathbb{Z}_2, \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$$

nontrivial

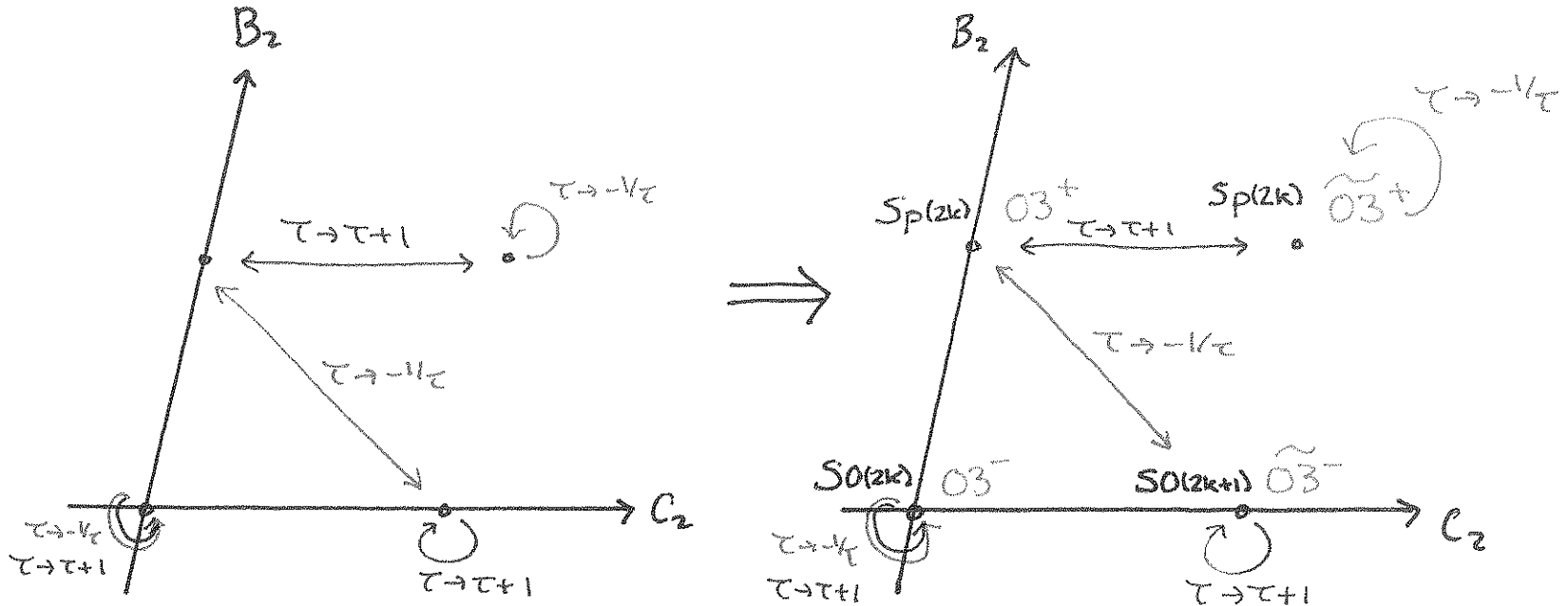
Same as above by Poincaré duality

Dropping D5 through horizon induces nontrivial  $C_2$  torsion

# Orientifolds & AdS/CFT II

$\tau \rightarrow -1/\tau$  takes  $B_2 \rightarrow C_2, C_2 \rightarrow -B_2$

$\tau \rightarrow \tau+1$  takes  $B_2 \rightarrow B_2, C_2 \rightarrow C_2 + B_2$



SO:

Closed strings

$SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$   
action on  $B_2, C_2$   
torsion

Open strings

$SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$   
action on  $O3$   
planes



# Into the woods...

EM duality of  $\mathcal{N}=4$  gauge theories a beautiful subject

But...

Very limited in scope

- \* Maximal SUSY
- \* No chirality
- \* Only adjoint matter

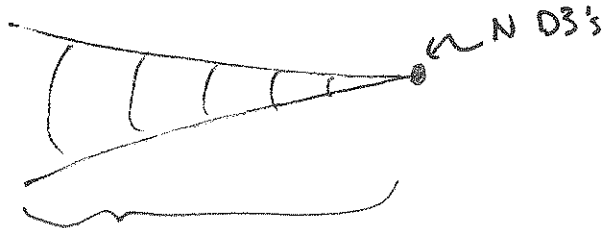


Special class of S.T. backgrounds:

D3's in  $\mathbb{R}^6$  (w/o flux)

Look a little further from the lamppost:

D3 branes @ singularities



preserves  $\mathcal{N}=1$  if geometry is Calabi-Yau

Why singularities?

\* Branes in smooth background only see their immediate vicinity at low energies

\* Any smooth space looks flat after zooming in enough

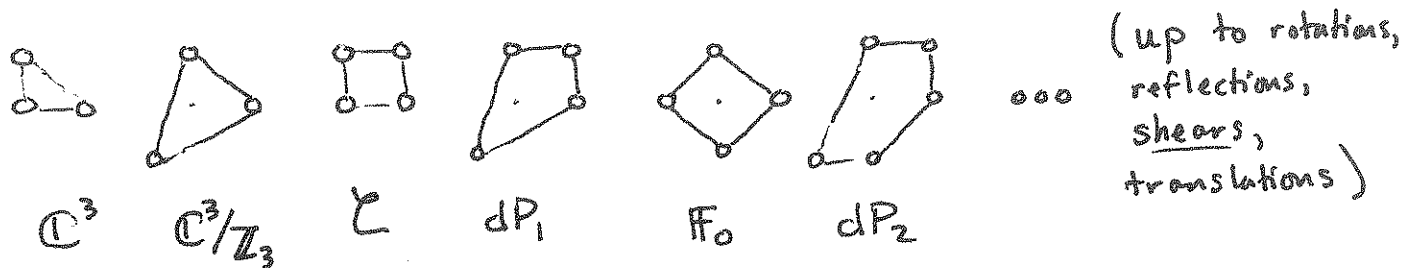
⇒ Only way to change the IR is to put branes @ singularity (or w/ background flux)

# Toric Singularities

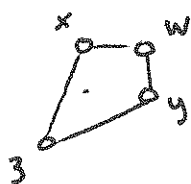
\* We'll focus on a class of singularities:

Toric singularities ( $\cong U(1)^3$  or larger isometry)

\* These are classified by convex rational polytopes:



\* Geometry can be read off:



Identity under:  $\omega / M_x M_y M_z M_w = 1 \quad (\prod_i M_i = 1)$

$x \rightarrow M_x x \quad M_x M_w M_z^{-1} = 1 \quad (\prod_i M_i^{p_i} = 1)$

$y \rightarrow M_y y \quad M_y M_w M_z^{-1} = 1 \quad (\prod_i M_i^{q_i} = 1)$

Solution is  $M_x = M_y = M_z^{-2}$   
 $M_w = M_z^3$

So "dP<sub>1</sub>" is the space:

$$\mathbb{C}^* \begin{array}{cccc} x & y & z & w \\ \hline 2 & 2 & -1 & -3 \end{array}$$

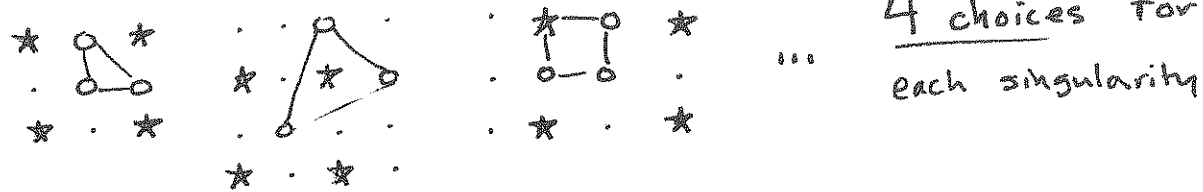
# Toric Orientifolds

Generalize this to orientifolds...

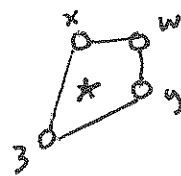
\* need to specify involution,  $\sigma$  ( $\sigma(p)$  is "mirror image" of  $p$ )

\* Focus on special class such that  $U(1)^3$  unbroken:

Choice of  $\sigma$  is choice of even sublattice:



\* How to read off involution:



$$\sigma: \begin{aligned} x &\rightarrow \tilde{m}_x x \\ y &\rightarrow \tilde{m}_y y \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} w/ \tilde{m}_x \tilde{m}_y \tilde{m}_z \tilde{m}_w &= -1 & (\prod_i \tilde{m}_i &= -1) \\ \tilde{m}_x \tilde{m}_w \tilde{m}_z^{-1} &= 1 & (\prod_i \tilde{m}_i^{p_i} &= 1) \\ \tilde{m}_y \tilde{m}_w \tilde{m}_z^{-1} &= 1 & (\prod_i \tilde{m}_i^{q_i} &= 1) \end{aligned}$$

Pick any one solution, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{m}_z = \tilde{m}_w \quad \tilde{m}_w &= 1 \\ \tilde{m}_x = \tilde{m}_y = \tilde{m}_z &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_i = q_i = 0$  lies on chosen sublattice

$dP_1$  orientifold

	x	y	z	w
$C^*$	2	2	-1	-3
$\sigma: \mathbb{Z}_2$	-	-	-	+



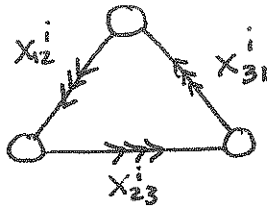
# Toric gauge theories

What kind of gauge theory lives on the D3 branes?

Quiver gauge theory:

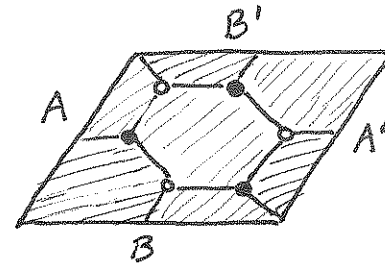
(Moose diagram)

$\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$ :



← same gauge theory →

Brane tiling



$$W = \epsilon_{ijk} X_{12}^i X_{23}^j X_{31}^k$$

Here:  $\mathcal{Q} = (S)U(N)$  + adjoint vector mult.  
(gauge boson + gaugino)

$$\textcircled{1} \rightarrow \textcircled{2} = X^{\textcircled{m_1}} \textcircled{n_2} \text{ fund. under 1, antifund. under 2}$$

$X$  = chiral mult = Weyl spinor  
+ c'plex scalar

Superpotential built from loops  
in the quiver

Bipartite graph on torus  
(glue  $A \leftrightarrow A'$  and  $B \leftrightarrow B'$ )

\* Face  $\leftrightarrow (S)U(N)$  gauge group (+ vector mult)

\* Edge  $\leftrightarrow$  bifund. chiral mult.

\* Vertex  $\leftrightarrow$  superpotential term



(coefficient +1 (-1)  
for white (black))

# Quivers v. Tilings

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- ★ Quivers are more general
- ★ Superpotential must be specified in addition

★ Brane tilings possible for specific class of  $\mathcal{N}=1$  gauge theories

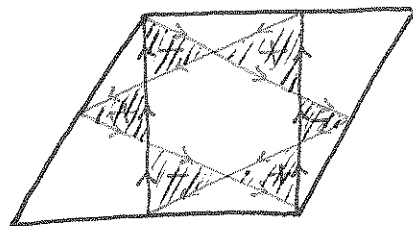
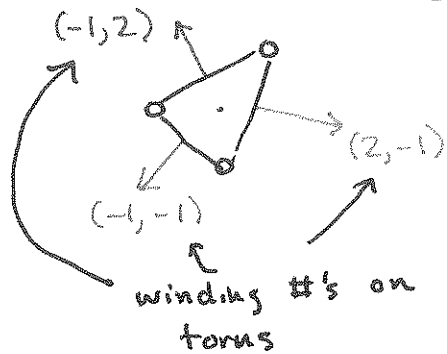
★ Superpotential is built in

← This is exactly the class we are interested in  
(gauge theories of D3's @ toric singularities)

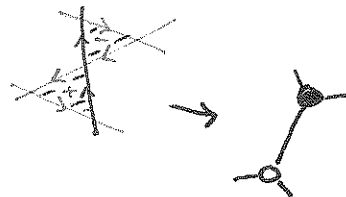
... quivers are still useful & more intuitive

# The inverse algorithm

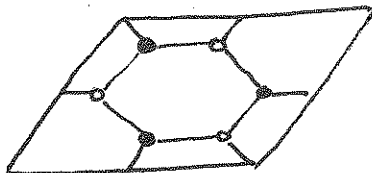
How to find the right brane tiling from toric diagram?



← shade oriented faces



We get:



(same as before)

BUT "algorithm" is ambiguous...  
could have multiple solutions.

\*In this case, find that the different "phases" are Seiberg dual to each other

⇒ IR physics is the same

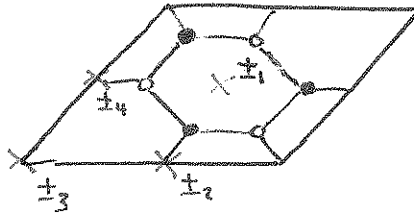
"Toric duality"

# Orientifold gauge theories

(Franco, Hanany, Krefl, Park, Uvarov, Vegh '07)

Orientifold gauge theories can be found by "orientifolding" the theory:

e.g.



For the  $U(1)^3$ -inv. case

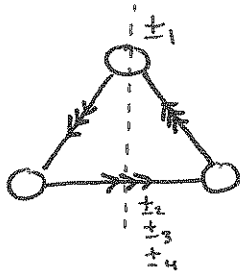
where  $\pm_1 \pm_2 \pm_3 \pm_4 = -1$  ( $= (-1)^{N_w}$ )

$N_w = \#$  of white nodes



orientifold exchanges white  $\leftrightarrow$  black

OR:

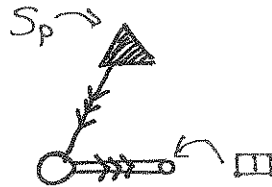
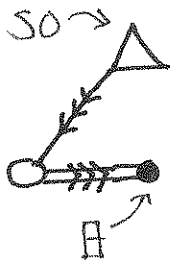


where  $+ (-)$  fixed face (node)  $\rightarrow$   $SO$  ( $Sp$ ) gauge grp.

$+ (-)$  fixed edge  $\rightarrow$  symmetric (antisymmetric) tensor matter  
( $\square$  or  $\square$ )

Notation:

"quiverfold"

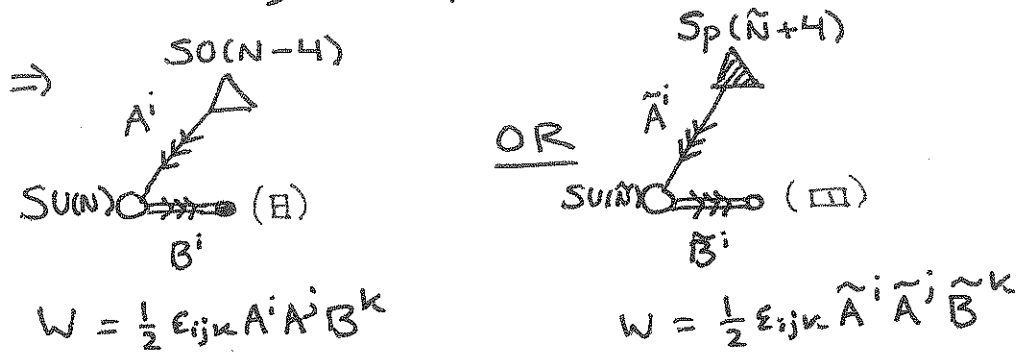


# New $\mathcal{N}=1$ dualities

(García-Etxebarria, BJK, Wrase, '12)

Look at these examples in detail:

\* Only anomaly-free cases are for  $\pm_2 = \pm_3 = \pm_4$



Observation: These two theories are dual  
for odd  $N$ ,  $N = \tilde{N} + 3$

Checks: \* Anomaly matching

\* Moduli space matching

\* Matching of superconformal index

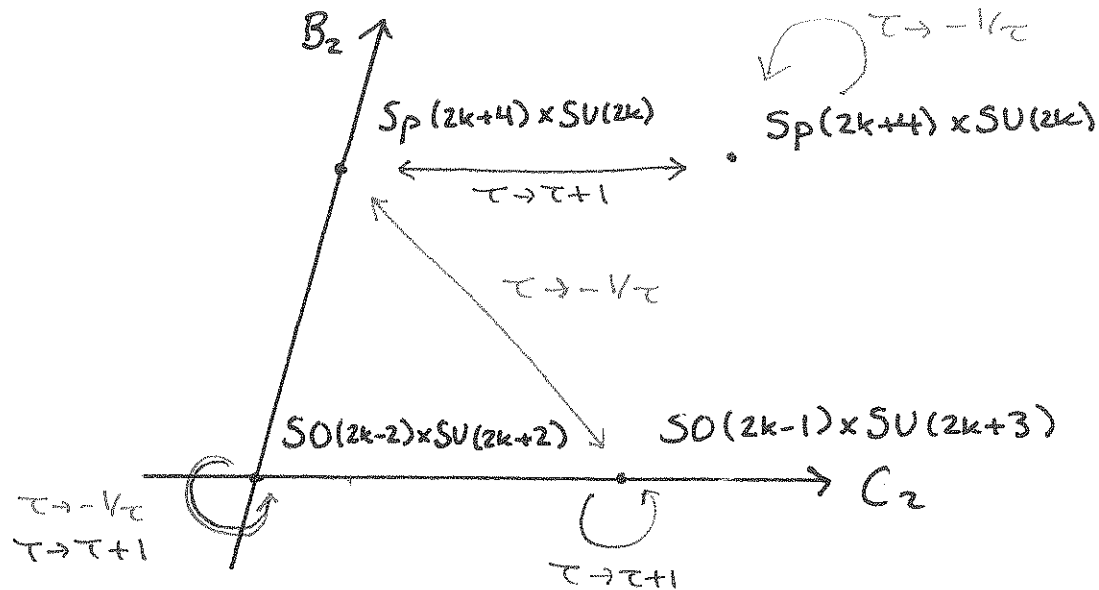
\* Low  $N$  checks

# The AdS dual

What distinguishes the gravity duals?

\* As in  $N=4$  cases,  $H_2(S^3/\mathbb{Z}_6, \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}) = \mathbb{Z}_2$

Can argue that right torsion assignments are:  
(I. G-E, B. H., T. W.) '13)




So the observed duality comes from  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  in  $\mathbb{I}\mathbb{B}$   
just like EM duality!

# Orbifolds in general


(I. G-E, B. H., T. W. '13; Bianchi et al, '13)

\* Let's generalize to other orbifolds (3-sided T.D.'s) subject to two restrictions:

I. Isolated singularity:

NOT e.g.  extended singularity

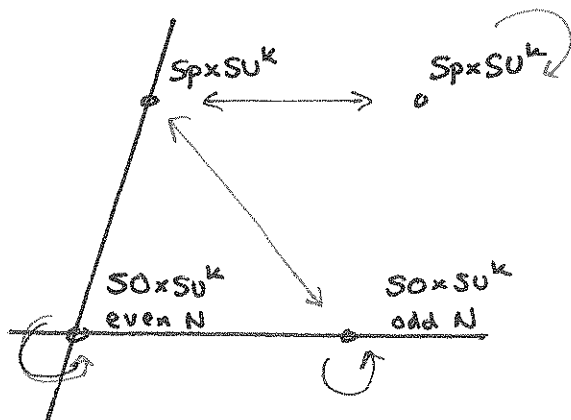
II. Compact O-planes

NOT e.g.  O7 plane extends to "∞"

Then in general can show  $G = SO \times SU \times SU \dots$   $\int$  even or odd  $N$   
OR  $G = Sp \times SU \times SU \dots$   $\int$  even  $\tilde{N}$

$$H_2(S^5/\mathbb{Z}_{2k+1}, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_2$$

$\Rightarrow$   
guess



★ Anomaly matching  
 Checked explicitly  
 for:



$$\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_{2k+1}$$

$$z_{1,2} \rightarrow e^{2\pi i/n} z_{1,2}$$

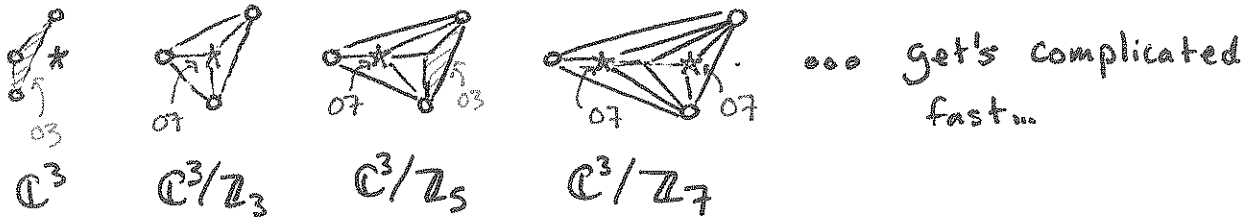
$$z_3 \rightarrow e^{-4\pi i/n} z_3$$

$n=2k+1$ :

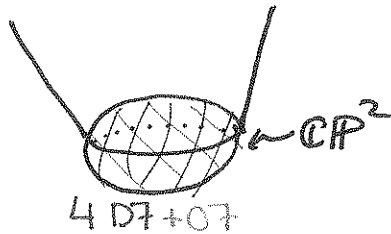
# Brane interpretation

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Resolve the singularity:



e.g.  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$ :



\* Action of  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  on the branes hard to track

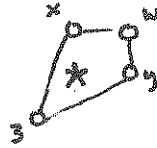
... done using F-theory / fractional branes for  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$   
(I. G-E, BJH, T.W., '13).



# Beyond orbifolds

(I. G-E, BSH, T.W., '12 & forthcoming)

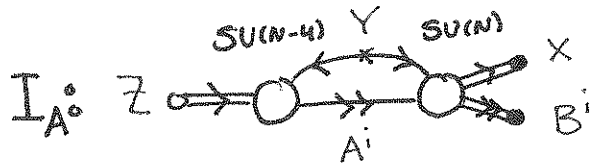
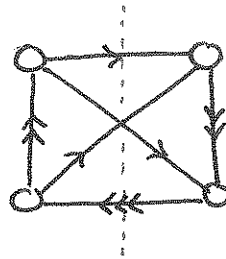
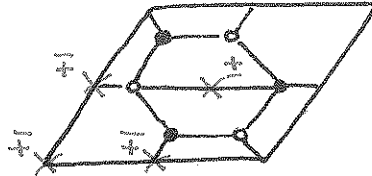
Consider  $dP_1$  orientifold:



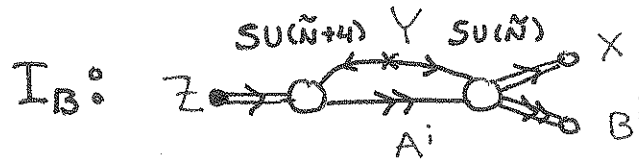
$C^*$	$x$	$y$	$z$	$w$
	$2$	$2$	$-1$	$-3$
$Z_2$	$-$	$-$	$-$	$+$

\* Only one phase

\* Tiling is



$$W = \epsilon_{ij} B^i A^j Y + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ij} X A^i Z A^j$$



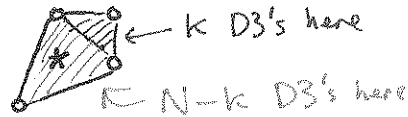
$$W = \epsilon_{ij} B^i A^j Y + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ij} X A^i Z A^j$$

These theories are dual for odd  $N$ ,  $N = \tilde{N} + 2$   
 ( not dual for even  $N$  )

# A puzzle

What happens for even  $N, \tilde{N}$ ?

Look at partial resolution:



Get (from  $I_A$ ):  $Sp(k)$

$$SO(N-4-k) + SO(N-k) \Rightarrow \underline{k \text{ even}}$$

... but with  $Sp(k)$  component (w/  $N=4$ ) not self-dual, so  $I_A$ , even  $N$  not self-dual. (Similarly for  $I_B$ , even  $\tilde{N}$ )

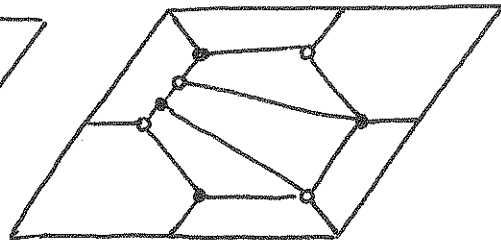
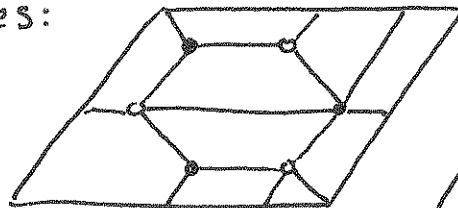
So where are their duals?

A bigger puzzle: Consider  $dP_2$  orientifold:



Two phases:

Neither admits an involution



# Insight from the gravity dual

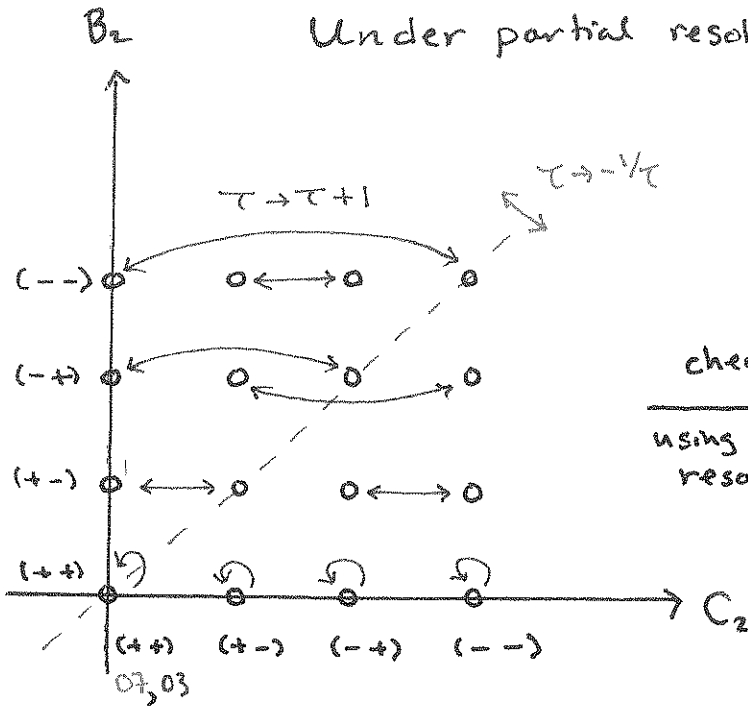
We find  $H_2\left(\frac{S^2 \times S^3}{\mathbb{Z}_2}, \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}\right) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2$

Under partial resolution:

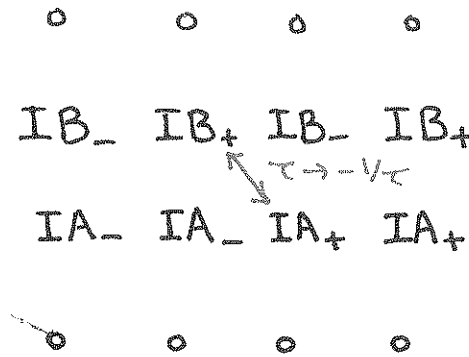
torsion for 07



torsion for 03



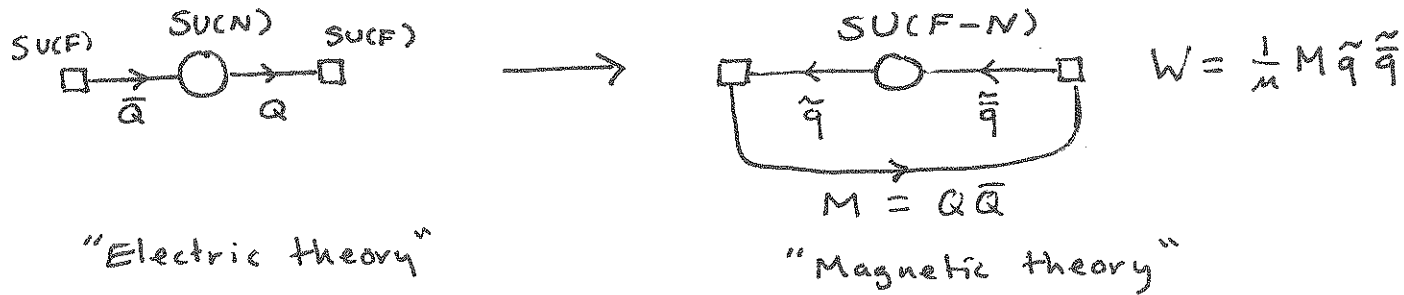
check  
using partial  
resolution



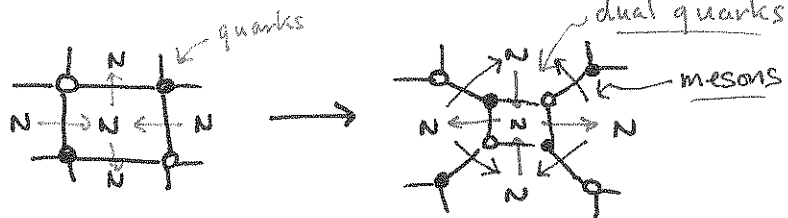
where + (-) subscript  
denotes the case where  
 $S \equiv N-1 = \tilde{N}+1$  is even (odd)

★ Explains  $IA_+ \leftrightarrow IB_+$   
duality, but first/last row still missing ...

# Seiberg duality & tilings

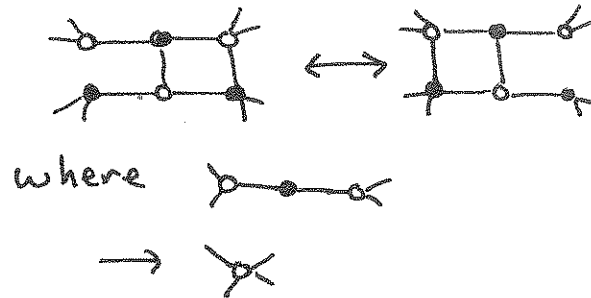


S.D. in brane tilings:



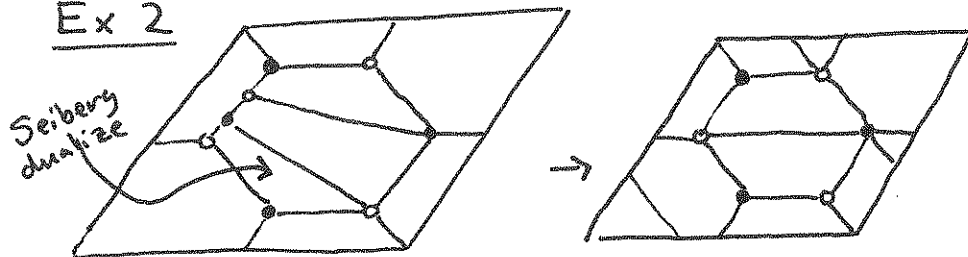
$F = 2N$   
 $\Rightarrow F - N = N$

Ex:



upon integrating out massive fields

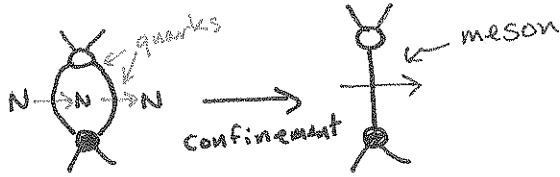
Ex 2



Relates phases of  $dP_2$  as expected.

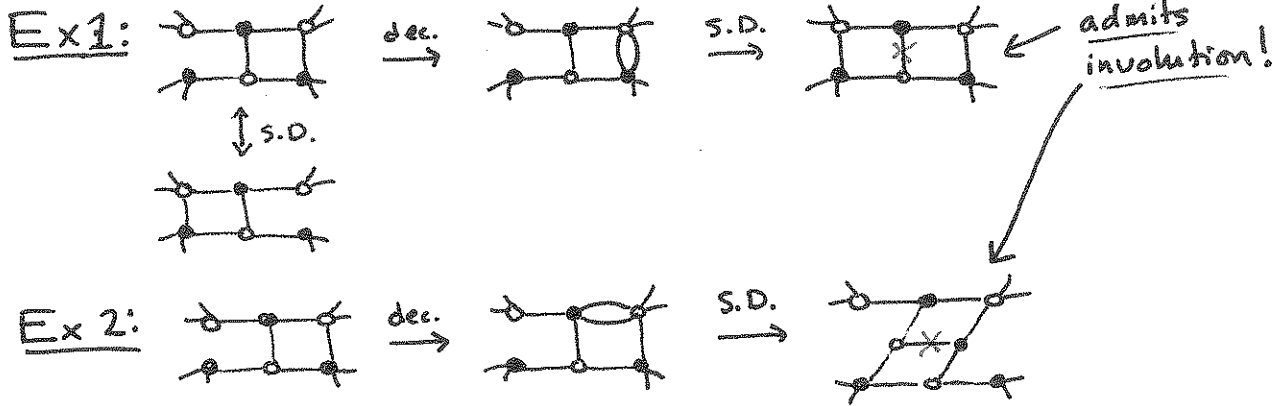
# (De)confinement

Another example of S.D. in brane tilings:



$F = N$   
 $\Rightarrow F - N = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  no magnetic gauge group!

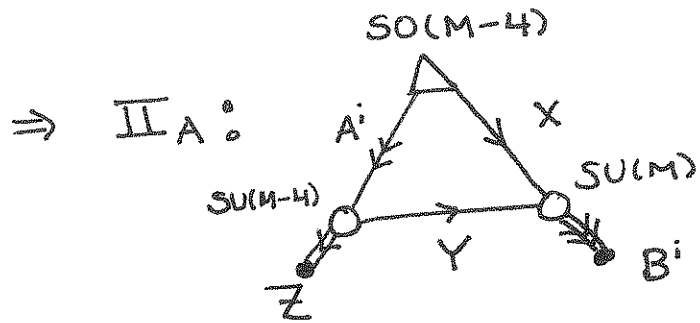
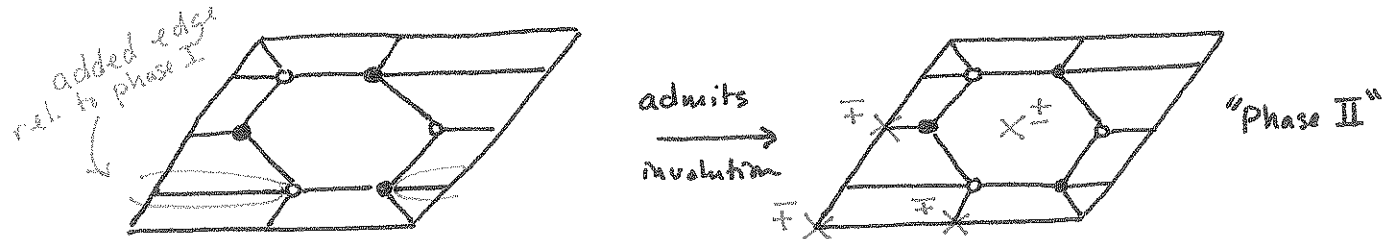
Actually, this is confinement w/ chiral symmetry breaking  
 $\Rightarrow$  have to be a bit careful  
 ... but ignore this subtlety for now



So deconfinement allows new involutions...

# $dP_1$ phase II

Use method of Ex. 1 to construct new phase for  $dP_1$ :



$$W = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ij} A^i A^j Z + \epsilon_{ij} A^i Y B^j X$$

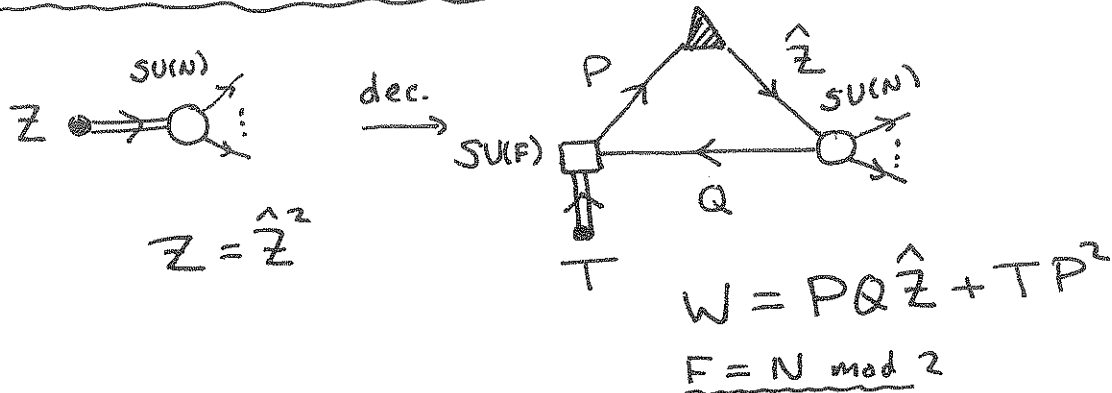
Can this fill in any of the gaps ... ?

Not quite! The global symmetries don't match!

# Deconfinement & Flavors

We were too cavalier about deconfinement.

c.f. e.g. Berkooz '95:  $Sp(N+F-4)$



\* Extra matter fields

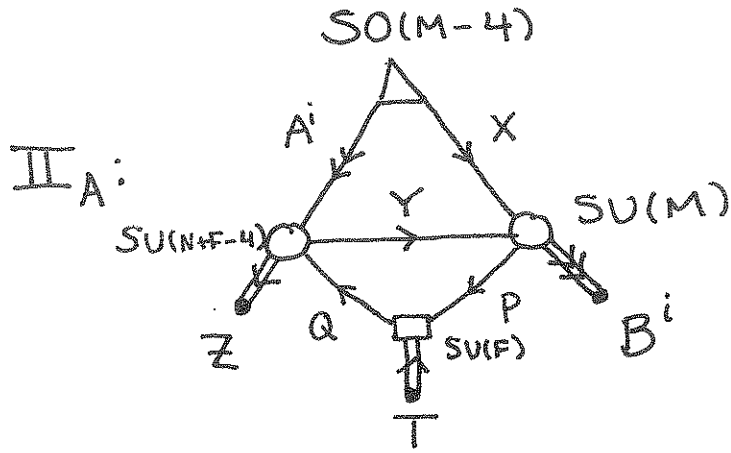
$T, P, Q + W(\hat{P}, \hat{Q}, \hat{Z})$

are engineered to remove constraints  
on the confined meson (e.g. being rank-deficient)

\* Also needed to match global symmetries

# Phase II "with flavors"

With more care, we find:



$$W = \epsilon_{ij} A^i Y B^j X + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ij} A^i A^j Z + Y P Q + T Q^2 Z$$

} similar to formally ~~some~~ as adding flavor D7 branes

\* Can show using S. D., deconfinement, that all values of  $F$  lead to same IR physics, up to parity.

\* Anomalies match w/ phase I for  $M = N+1 = S+2$

⇒ 4 theories:  $IIA^+$ ,  $IIA^-$ ,  $IIA^+$ ,  $IIA^-$

← flavor parity (-)D7  
↑ color parity (-)D5

Right # to fill the bottom row...



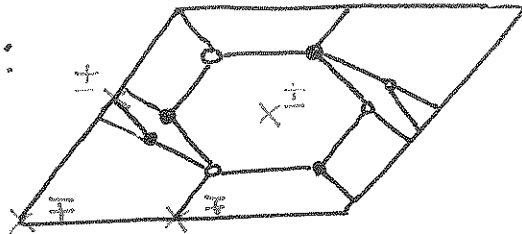
# Phase III

\*  $\text{II}_B$  ( $\text{II}_A$  w/  $SO \rightarrow Sp$ ,  $\square \rightarrow \square$ ) doesn't seem to work

... look elsewhere for theories to fill top row.

\* Apply deconfinement method of Ex. 2 to get another phase:

Phase III:

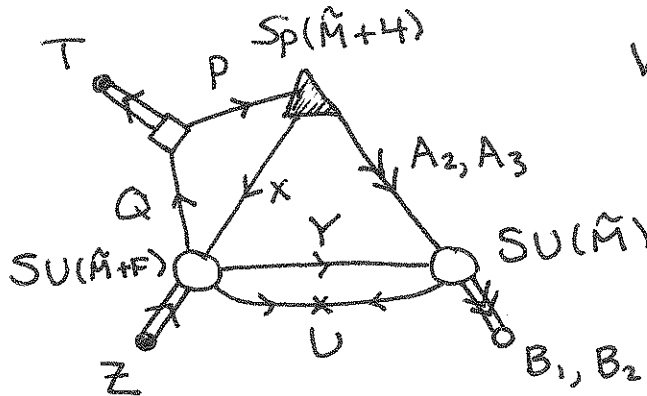


$SU(2)$  is hidden  
(only  $U(1) \subset SU(2)$  manifest)  
but otherwise symmetries match

$\Rightarrow \text{III}_B$ :

Anomaly matching:

$$\boxed{\tilde{M} = 5 - 2}$$



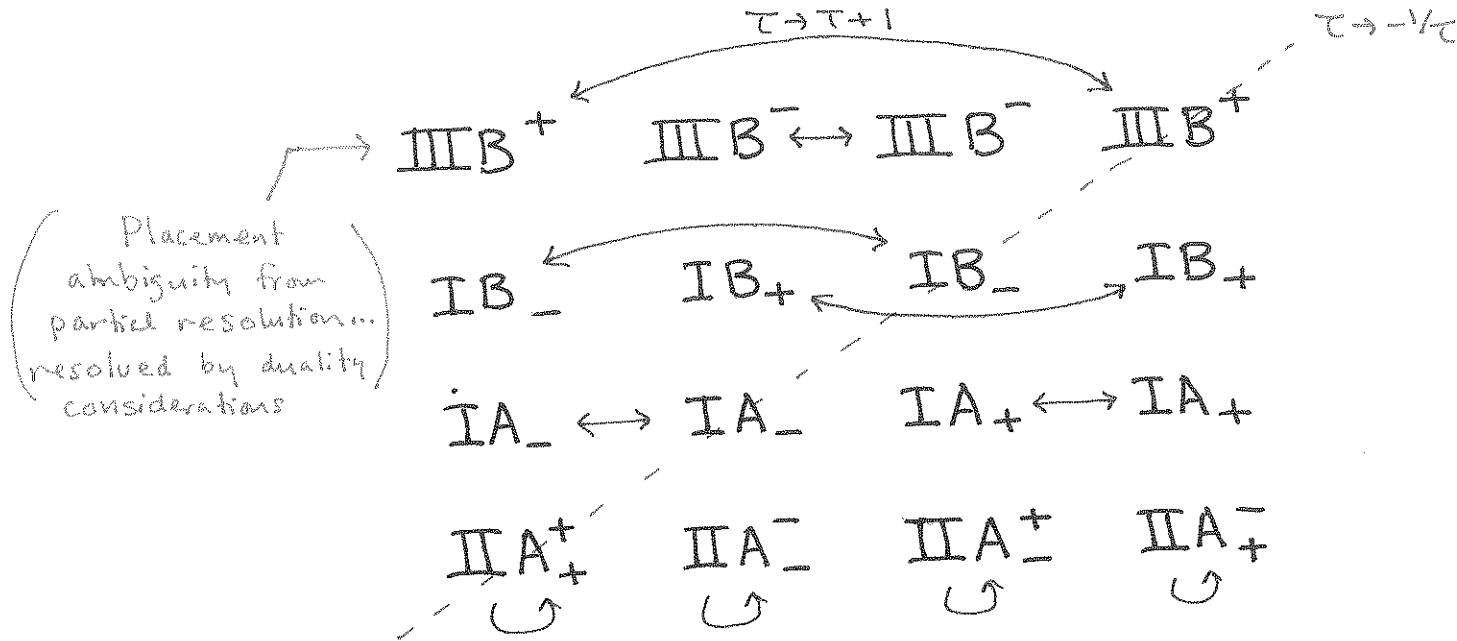
$$W = A_2 A_3 B_1 + X U A_2 + Z Y U + X Y B_2 A_3 + X P Q + T Q^2 Z$$

$\Rightarrow$  two theories,  $\text{III}_B^+$ ,  $\text{III}_B^-$  ↪ flavor parity

Right # for top row

# Torsion & dualities

Now we can fill in the square using partial resolution:



Predicts the dualities:

$IA_- \leftrightarrow IIA_-^-$   
 $IB_- \leftrightarrow IIA_+^+$   
 $III B^+ \leftrightarrow IIA_+^-$   
 $IA_+ \leftrightarrow IB_+ \leftrightarrow III B^-$

... checked by computing the superconformal index to high order. ✓

# Conclusions

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- \*  $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$  invariance of type IIB string theory gives a broad (largely unexplored) class of  $\mathcal{N}=1$  gauge theory dualities ... generalizing EM duality.
  - \* These dualities reveal our incomplete understanding of D3 branes @ orientifold singularities.
  - \* Dualities provide a highly non-trivial check on any attempt to solve the problem (as w/  $dP_1$  above)
  - \*  $dP_1$  example now seems understood ... other examples under study ( $F_0, dP_2, dP_3, \dots$ )
  - \* In general,  $H_2(Y/\mathbb{Z}_2, \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}) = \mathbb{Z}_2^k$  where  $k+z = \#$  of sides of toric dia.  
grows rapidly!
- ... this is the "wilderness" of orientifolds.