

# Gauge Theories and Dessins d'Enfants

YANG-HUI HE

Dept of Mathematics, City University, London;  
School of Physics, NanKai University, China;  
Merton College, University of Oxford

Pre-Strings, Seoul, Korea; June 2013

# Acknowledgements

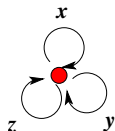
- 0511287, B. Feng, YHH, K. Kennaway, C. Vafa
- 0608050, 0701063: S. Benvenuti, B. Feng, A. Hanany, YHH
- 0801.1585, 0801.3477: D. Forcella, A. Hanany, YHH, A. Zaffaroni
- 0909.2879: J. Hewlett, YHH
- 1204.1065, 1107.4101, 1104.5490 Hanany, YHH, Jejjala, Pasukonis, Ramgoolam, Rodriguez-Gomez
- 1201.3633 YHH, J. McKay and 1211.1931 YHH, J. McKay J. Read

# SUSY gauge theories with product gauge groups

- **Brane World:** D3-brane  $\perp$  6D space  $\mathcal{M}$ 
  - world-volume: 3+1D with SUSY Yang-Mills and product gauge group;  
**QUIVER THEORY**
  - TRANSVERSE: local (affine, singular) Calabi-Yau 3-fold (cone over Sasaki-Einstein 5-manifold);
  - D3 probes the geometry of  $\mathcal{M}$
- from Alg Geo perspective, AdS/CFT is dialogue between quiver gauge theory and affine CY variety:
  - $\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow$  Gauge Theory: Geometrical Engineering
  - Gauge Theory  $\longrightarrow \mathcal{M}$ : Forward Algorithm

# Two most famous SCFTs in 4-D

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $U(N)$  Yang-Mills
  - 3 adjoint fields  $X, Y, Z$  with superpotential
$$W = \text{Tr}(X[Y, Z]) = \text{Tr}(XYZ - XZY)$$
  - Original AdS/CFT:  $N$  D3-branes transverse to flat  $\mathbb{R}^6$

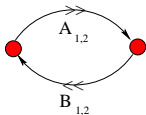


NODE = Gauge Group

ARROW = Bi-fundamental (Adj) Field

- QUIVER = Finite graph (label =  $\text{rk}(\text{gauge factor})$ ) + relations from SUSY
  - Matter Content: Nodes + arrows
  - Relations (F-Terms):  $D_i W = 0 \rightsquigarrow [X, Y] = [Y, Z] = [X, Z] = 0$
- # gauge factors =  $N_g = 1$ ; # fields =  $N_f = 3$ ; # terms in  $W = N_w = 2$

- Klebanov-Witten  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  “conifold” Theory
  - $SU(N) \times SU(N)$  gauge theory with 4 bi-fundamental fields



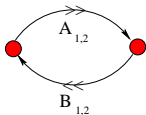
	$SU(N)$	$SU(N)$
$A_{i=1,2}$	$\square$	$\overline{\square}$
$B_{j=1,2}$	$\overline{\square}$	$\square$

$$W = \text{Tr}(\epsilon_{il} \epsilon_{jk} A_i B_j A_l B_k)$$

QUIVER

- string-theory realization:  $N$  D3-branes transverse to the conifold singularity:
 
$$\{uv = wz\} \subset \mathbb{C}^4$$
- # gauge factors =  $N_g = 2$ ; # fields =  $N_f = 4$ ; # terms in  $W = N_w = 2$
- Observatio Curiosa:  $N_g - N_f + N_w = 0$
- true for almost all known cases in  $AdS_5/CFT_4$

- Klebanov-Witten  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  “conifold” Theory
  - $SU(N) \times SU(N)$  gauge theory with 4 bi-fundamental fields



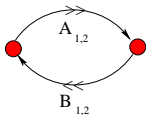
	$SU(N)$	$SU(N)$
$A_{i=1,2}$	$\square$	$\overline{\square}$
$B_{j=1,2}$	$\overline{\square}$	$\square$

$$W = \text{Tr}(\epsilon_{il} \epsilon_{jk} A_i B_j A_l B_k)$$

QUIVER

- string-theory realization:  $N$  D3-branes transverse to the conifold singularity:
 
$$\{uv = wz\} \subset \mathbb{C}^4$$
- # gauge factors =  $N_g = 2$ ; # fields =  $N_f = 4$ ; # terms in  $W = N_w = 2$
- Observatio Curiosa:  $N_g - N_f + N_w = 0$
- true for almost all known cases in  $AdS_5/CFT_4$

- Klebanov-Witten  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  “conifold” Theory
  - $SU(N) \times SU(N)$  gauge theory with 4 bi-fundamental fields



	$SU(N)$	$SU(N)$
$A_{i=1,2}$	$\square$	$\overline{\square}$
$B_{j=1,2}$	$\overline{\square}$	$\square$

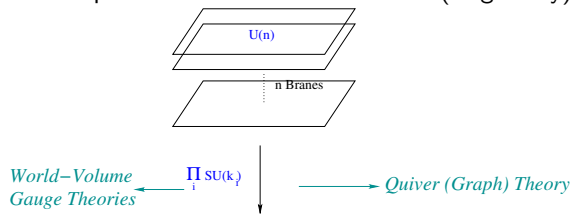
$$W = \text{Tr}(\epsilon_{il} \epsilon_{jk} A_i B_j A_l B_k)$$

QUIVER

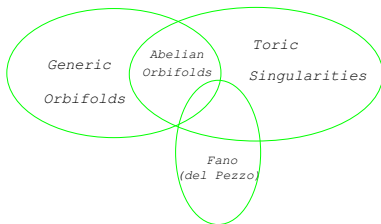
- string-theory realization:  $N$  D3-branes transverse to the conifold singularity:
 
$$\{uv = wz\} \subset \mathbb{C}^4$$
- # gauge factors =  $N_g = 2$ ; # fields =  $N_f = 4$ ; # terms in  $W = N_w = 2$
- Observatio Curiosa:  $N_g - N_f + N_w = 0$
- true for almost all known cases in  $AdS_5/CFT_4$

# Brane probes: Paradigm

Stack of  $n$  parallel branes  $\perp$  a Calabi-Yau (singularity)  $\mathcal{M}$ :



## Algebraic (Gorenstein) Singularities



Orbifolds:

$$\mathbb{C}^3 / (\Gamma \subset SU(3))$$

Toric:

e.g., conifold,  $Y^{p,q}$ ,  
 $L^{p,q} \dots$

Fano (del Pezzo):

e.g.,  $dP_{0,\dots,8}$



# Gauge Theory Moduli Space & CY Geometry

$$S = \int d^4x \left[ \int d^4\theta \Phi_i^\dagger e^V \Phi_i + \left( \frac{1}{4g^2} \int d^2\theta \text{Tr} \mathcal{W}_\alpha \mathcal{W}^\alpha + \int d^2\theta W(\Phi) + \text{h.c.} \right) \right]$$

$$W = \text{superpotential} \quad V(\phi_i, \bar{\phi}_i) = \sum_i \left| \frac{\partial W}{\partial \phi_i} \right|^2 + \frac{g^2}{4} (\sum_i q_i |\phi_i|^2)^2$$

- VACUUM  $\sim \boxed{V(\phi_i, \bar{\phi}_i) = 0} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{\partial W}{\partial \phi_i} = 0 & \text{F-TERMS} \\ \sum_i q_i |\phi_i|^2 = 0 & \text{D-TERMS} \end{cases}$
- $\mathcal{M} :=$  vacuum moduli space = space of solutions to F and D-flatness  
= some complex variety
- If  $\mathcal{M}$  CY3, can realize in string theory as D3-brane probing  $\mathcal{M}$
- for  $N$ -branes, get  $Sym^N \mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}^N / \Sigma_N$

# Hilbert Series: a Fundamental Generating Function

- $\mathcal{M}$  ideal in graded polynomial ring  $\sim$  affine cone over (weighted) projective variety:  $I = \bigoplus_k I_k \rightsquigarrow f(t) = g_1(t) = \sum_n a_n t^n =$  Hilbert Series of  $\mathcal{M} \sim$  generating function of Chiral ring

- Single to Multi-Trace: pure combinatorics **Plethystic Exponential**

(Littlewood)

$$g_\infty(t) = PE[f(t)] = \exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{f(t^k) - f(0)}{k}\right) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - t^n)^{-a_n}$$

Bosonic oscillator partition function

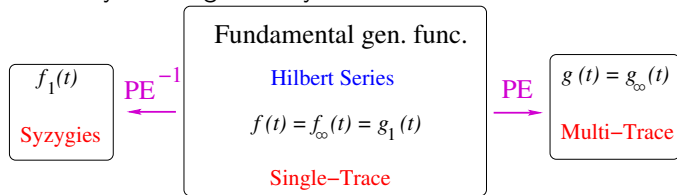
- Inverse: **Plethystic Logarithm** (Analytic!)

$$f(t) = PE^{-1}(g(t)) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu(k)}{k} \log(g(t^k))$$

$\mu(k)$  is the Möbius function  $\mu(k) = \begin{cases} 0 & k \text{ has one or more repeated prime factors} \\ 1 & k = 1 \\ (-1)^n & k \text{ is a product of } n \text{ distinct primes} \end{cases}$

# The Plethystic Programme

- Geometry  $\leftarrow$  Gauge Theory  $\rightarrow$  Combinatorics

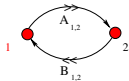


- e.g. Conifold:  $4t - t^2 \leftarrow f(t) = \frac{1+t}{(1-t)^3} \rightarrow \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - t^n)^{-(n+1)^2}$
- **Applicable to all gauge theories**, not just D-brane probes: Lagrangian  $\Rightarrow$  F,D-Flat  $\Rightarrow$  Vacuum Moduli Space  $\mathcal{M} \Rightarrow f_1 = \text{Syzygy}(\mathcal{M}) \Rightarrow f = PE[f_1] \Rightarrow g = PE^2[f_1]$

# Gauge Theories with $\mathcal{M}$ Affine Toric CY3

- By far the largest class known and studied
- World-volume physics and Geometry of  $\mathcal{M} \sim$  Combinatorial Data  $\sim$  (integer cones  $\sigma$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^r$ -lattice); (CY3  $\rightsquigarrow$  planar toric diag)
- Explicit Ricci-flat metric known for infinite families  $Y^{p,q}$ ,  $L^{abc}$  (inc. conifold); [Candelas-de la Ossa, Cvetič, Gauntlett, Hanany, Pope, Sparks, Waldram ...]
- $N_g - N_f + N_w = 0$  is Euler relation for a torus!
  - $N_W$  is even with each field appearing exactly twice with opposite sign
  - Toric (binomial) ideal: F-terms are of form “monomial = monomial”
  - associate black/white with +/- terms in  $W$
- Toric Quiver theory = Bi-partite periodic planar Graph brane-tiling or dimer model; Get a beautiful web of inter-connections
- Cf. *Reviews of Kennaway and of Yamazaki*

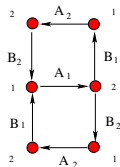
# D-branes, Tilings and Dimers



Quiver

$$W = \text{Tr}(A_1 B_1 A_2 B_2 - A_1 B_2 A_2 B_1)$$

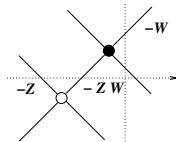
Draw on torus



Periodic Quiver

W encoded

Graph Dual



Dimer Model

Period Tiling of Plane

Geometric Engineering

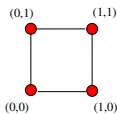
Newton Polynomial

Kastelyn Matrix

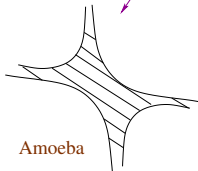
$$\det K(Z, W)_{1 \times 1} = 1 - Z - W - W Z$$

Projection

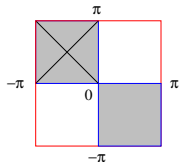
Projection



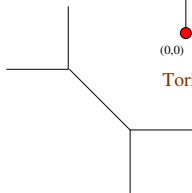
Toric Diagram



Amoeba



Alga



(p,q)-Web

Graph Dual

# Permutation Triple & Riemann Existence

- Label edges in dimer (SCFT fields) as  $\{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and consider **cycle notations** in  $\Sigma_d$  (in the *same* orientation)

$$\text{Valency Data} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \sigma_{Black} & := (i_1 i_2 \dots i_k)_{B_1} \dots (i_1 i_2 \dots i_k)_{B_n} \dots \\ \sigma_{White} & := (j_1 j_2 \dots j_k)_{W_1} \dots (i_1 i_2 \dots i_k)_{W_n} \dots \end{cases}$$

**Permutation Triple:** Define  $\sigma_0 = \sigma_{Black}$ ,  $\sigma_1 = \sigma_{White}$ ,  $\sigma_0 \sigma_1 \sigma_\infty = \mathbb{I}_{\Sigma_d}$   
recognize as  $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\})$

- Thm** [Riemann Existence]: Meromorphic functions (rational maps) on Riemann surface  $S$  are in 1:1 with permutation rep of  $\pi_1$  of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  minus ramification points.
- COR:** rational maps from dimer on  $T^2$  to  $\mathbb{P}^1 \simeq$  permutation triples.

# Grothendieck's Dessin d'Enfant

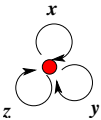
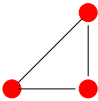
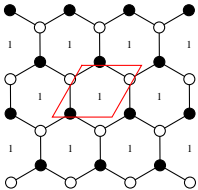
- Ramification data:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} r_0(1), r_0(2), \dots, r_0(B) \\ r_1(1), r_1(2), \dots, r_1(W) \\ r_\infty(1), r_\infty(2), \dots, r_\infty(I) \end{array} \right\}$  plus connectivity  $\simeq$  dimer on torus  $\simeq$  quiver gauge theory with toric  $\mathcal{M} \simeq$  permutation triple

$$\sigma_0 = (\dots)_{r_0(1)} (\dots)_{r_0(2)} \dots (\dots)_{r_0(B)}, \quad \sigma_1 = (\dots)_{r_1(1)} (\dots)_{r_1(2)} \dots (\dots)_{r_1(W)}$$

- **Belyĭ Map:** rational map  $\beta : \Sigma \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  ramified only at  $(0, 1, \infty)$ 
  - **Theorem [Belyĭ]:**  $\beta$  exists  $\Leftrightarrow \Sigma$  can be defined over  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$
  - $(\beta, \Sigma)$  Belyĭ Pair
  - **Dessin d'Enfants** =  $\beta^{-1}([0, 1] \in \mathbb{P}^1)$  is a *bi-partite graph* on  $\Sigma$ : label  $\beta^{-1}(0)$  black and  $\beta^{-1}(1)$  white, then  $\beta^{-1}(\infty)$  lives one per face
  - Grothendieck: !!!
- Typical existence theorem

# AdS/CFT and Dessins

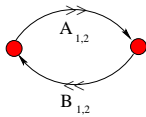
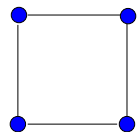
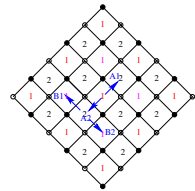
- Matter content and interaction of SUSY gauge theory with toric moduli space is specified by Belyi pair
- Our most familiar example of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills:

Theory	Toric Diag	Belyi Pair	Dessin on $T^2$ (dimer)
 <p><math>W = \text{Tr}(X[Y, Z])</math></p>	 <p><math>\mathcal{M} \simeq \mathbb{C}^3</math></p>	$y^2 = x^3 + 1$ $\beta(x, y) = \frac{y+1}{2}$ $\sigma_0 = \sigma_1 = \sigma_\infty$ $= (123)$	

- Rmk: Absolute Galois group  $Gal(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$  acts *faithfully* over the dessin, even on subsets like dessin on  $\mathbb{P}^1$  or  $T^2$ ... Relation to Langlands???

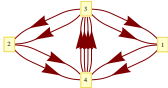
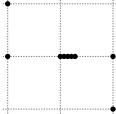
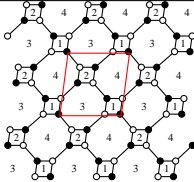


- Conifold

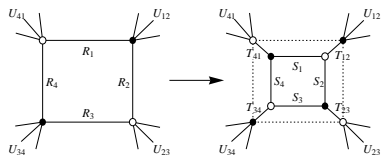
Theory	Toric Diag
 <p data-bbox="246 476 672 528"><math>W = \text{Tr}(\epsilon_{il}\epsilon_{jk}A_iB_jA_lB_k)</math></p>	 <p data-bbox="768 445 1207 497"><math>\mathcal{M} \simeq \{uv - wz = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C}^4</math></p>
Belyĭ Pair	Dessin on $T^2$ (dimer)
<p data-bbox="233 621 589 673"><math>y^2 = x(x - 1)(x - \frac{1}{2})</math></p> <p data-bbox="233 683 480 735"><math>\beta(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{2x-1}</math></p> <p data-bbox="246 828 672 870"><math>\sigma_0 = (1234), \sigma_1 = (1234),</math></p> <p data-bbox="246 890 493 932"><math>\sigma_\infty = (12)(34)</math></p>	

# Plethora of Non-Trivial Examples

e.g., Cone over  $F_0 \simeq \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$  (zeroth Hirzebruch surface); *In Piam Memoriam ...*

Theory	Toric Diag
 $w = x_{14}^1 x_{43}^4 x_{31}^2 + x_{14}^2 x_{43}^2 x_{31}^1 + x_{24}^1 x_{43}^1 x_{32}^1 + x_{24}^2 x_{43}^3 x_{32}^2 - x_{43}^1 x_{31}^1 x_{14}^1 - x_{43}^2 x_{32}^2 x_{24}^1 - x_{43}^3 x_{31}^2 x_{14}^2 - x_{43}^4 x_{32}^2 x_{24}^2$	 <p><math>\mathcal{M} \simeq \text{Hirzebruch } 0</math></p>
Belyĭ Pair	Dessin on $T^2$ (dimer)
$y^2 = x - x^3$ $\beta(x, y) = \frac{i(x^2 - \sqrt[3]{-1})^3}{3\sqrt{3}x^2(x^2 - 1)}$	

- Can capture many interesting physical phenomena, e.g. **Seiberg Duality**



so-called “Urban Renewal”

- Klein- $j$  of  $\tau$ -parametre of (isoradial) dimer is Seiberg-invariant
- SUSY **R-charges**:  $a$ -maximization or by volume minimization of SE
  - R-charges and normalized volume of dual geometry are *algebraic numbers*
  - Degree of transcendence over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is Seiberg-invariant
- Many open puzzles: e.g. matching  $\tau$  of isoradial dimer with that of  $T^2$  in mirror  $T^3$ -fibration and that of dessin

# Grothendieck, 1984

This discovery, which is technically so simple, made a very strong impression on me, and it represents a decisive turning point in the course of my reflections, a shift in particular of my centre of interest in mathematics, which suddenly found itself strongly focussed. **I do not believe that a mathematical fact has ever struck me quite so strongly as this one, nor had a comparable psychological impact.**

This is surely because of the very familiar, non-technical nature of the objects considered, of which any child's drawing scrawled on a bit of paper (at least if the drawing is made without lifting the pencil) gives a perfectly explicit example. To such a dessin we find associated subtle arithmetic invariants, which are completely turned topsy-turvy as soon as we add one more stroke.