

# AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub> in Type IIB

## Part II: Dualities, tests and applications

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Strings, Branes and Gauge Theories  
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arXiv: 1606.01254, 1611.09411, 1703.08186, 1705.01561,  
1706.00433, 1802.07274, 1805.11914, 1806.07898, 1806.08374  
with E. D'Hoker, M. Gutperle, A. Karch, C. Marasinou, A. Trivella,  
O. Varela, O. Bergman, D. Rodríguez-Gómez, M. Fluder

# Introduction

Higher-dimensional CFTs are interesting:

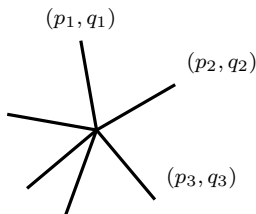
- mysterious, non-Lagrangian
- interesting implications for  $d \leq 4$
- string/M-theory connections ...



5d SCFTs: often fixed points for asymptotically safe gauge theories, large classes engineered in Type IIB via 5-brane webs

## Recap

Any planar 5-brane junction realizes 5d SCFT on intersection point



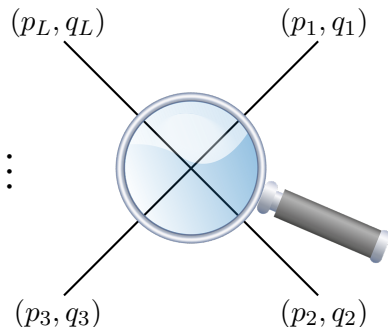
$$p_i, q_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\sum p_i = \sum q_i = 0$$

Characterized entirely by external 5-brane charges. May or may not have gauge theory deformations.

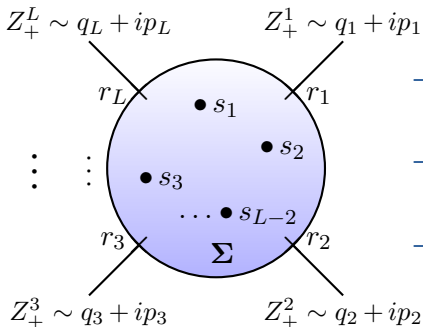
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Supergravity solutions for fully localized 5-brane intersections, constructed directly as “near-horizon” limit:



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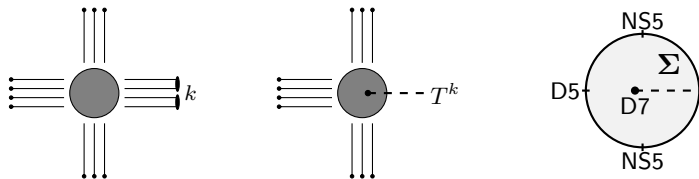


- $AdS_6 \times S^2 \times \Sigma$  with  $\Sigma = \text{disc}$   
5-branes emerge at poles on  $\partial\Sigma$
- parametrized entirely by residues  
= conserved 5-brane charges
- $AdS_6 + 16 \text{ susies} = F(4)$

Naturally fit to string theory picture. “Large  $N$ ”: all  $(p_i, q_i)$  large.

## Recap

Claim: poles  $\sim$  groups of 5-branes that are unconstrained by  $s$ -rule.  
Constrained junctions realized by bringing 7-branes into web:



Supergravity:  $\Sigma = \text{disc with puncture}(s)$ ,  $[p, q]$  7-brane monodromy

Position of puncture on  $\Sigma \longleftrightarrow$  choice of face in which 7-brane is placed with no 5-branes attached(?)

# AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub> in Type IIB

Goal of this talk: convincing case for proposed identifications and dualities, first lessons on 5d SCFTs

# AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub> in Type IIB

## Outline

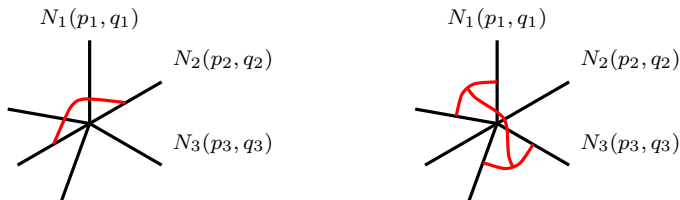
- Testing AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub> with stringy operators
- Holographic  $S^5$  partition functions and EE, # d.o.f.
- QFT partition functions: Precision test of AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub>
- (Massive) spin-2 fluctuations



– Testing  $\text{AdS}_6/\text{CFT}_5$  with strings –

## Testing $\text{AdS}_6/\text{CFT}_5$ with strings

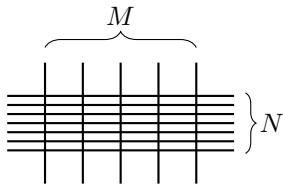
5-brane picture: gauge invariant operators from strings and string junctions connecting external 5-branes



Supergravity: operators with  $\Delta = \mathcal{O}(N) \leftrightarrow$  probe strings or string junctions in supergravity background ( $1 \ll \Delta \ll \mathcal{F}(S^5)$ ).

Strategy: study gauge theory deformations, identify stringy BPS operators, extrapolate to SCFT, compare to supergravity

## Stringy operators in $+_{N,M}$ theories

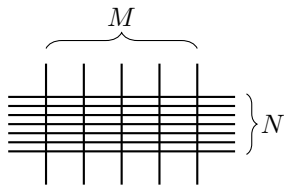


$$[N] - SU(N)^{M-1} - [N]$$

$$SU(N)^2 \times U(1)_B^M \times U(1)_I^{M-1}$$

$$\subset SU(N)^2 \times SU(M)^2 \times U(1)$$

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$$M_j^i = (x^{(1)} \cdots x^{(M)})_j^i$$

$$(\mathbf{N}, \bar{\mathbf{N}}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})$$

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2}M$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{2}M$$

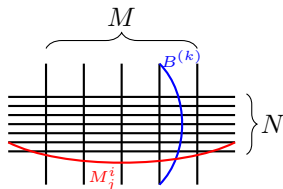
$$B^{(k)} = \det(x^{(k)})$$

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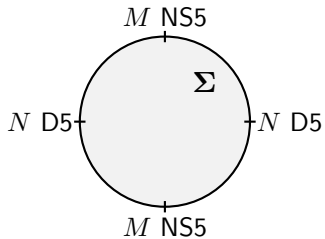
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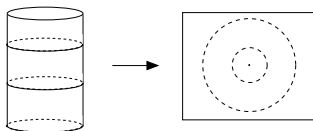
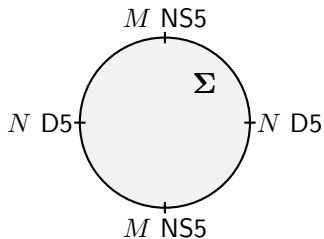
$$B^{(k)} = \det(x^{(k)}) \quad \subset (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{M}, \bar{\mathbf{M}}) \quad \Delta = \frac{3}{2}N \quad Q = \frac{1}{2}N$$

$M_j^i \sim$  F1 between D5,  $B^{(k)} \subset$  D1 between NS5. S-dual quiver deformation realizes all D1 operators, subset of F1 operators.

## Stringy operators in $+_{N,M}$ solution

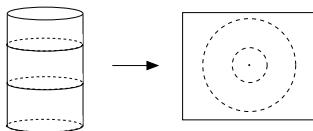
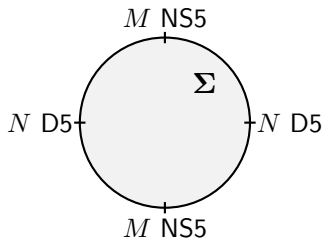


## Stringy operators in $+_{N,M}$ solution



global  $AdS_6/CFT_5$  on  $\mathbb{R} \times S^4$   
 $AdS_6 \partial_t \leftrightarrow$  dilation:  $\Delta = \mathcal{H}$

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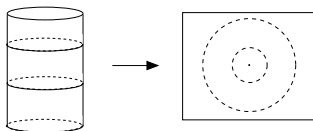
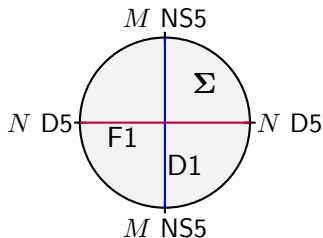
Action and EOM for  $(p, q)$  string along  $t$  and  $\Sigma$ :

$$S_{(p,q)} = -2T \int d^2\xi f_6 \rho |w'| \sqrt{q \mathcal{M} q} \quad q \mathcal{M} q = e^{2\phi} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\chi \\ -\chi & \chi^2 + e^{-4\phi} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix}$$

$$0 = \frac{\bar{w}''}{\bar{w}'} - \frac{w''}{w'} + (\bar{w}' \partial_{\bar{w}} - w' \partial_w) \ln (f_6^2 \rho^2 q^T \mathcal{M} q)$$



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F1 between D5 poles, D1 between NS5 poles:

$$\Delta_{F1} = \frac{3}{2}M$$

$$\Delta_{D1} = \frac{3}{2}N$$

Solve EOM, scaling dimensions match field theory exactly



## Stringy operators in $+_{N,M}$ solution

$R$ -charge of string states from coupling to  $SU(2)$  bulk gauge field fluctuation dual to  $R$ -symmetry current ( $S^2$  isometries).

Relevant part from KK ansatz +  $SU(2)$  gauge invariance:

$$\begin{aligned} dx^\mu &\rightarrow dx^\mu + K_I^\mu A^I & K_I &\sim S^2 \text{ Killing vector fields} \\ \delta C_{(2)} &= d\mathcal{C} \wedge f_I A^I + \dots & df_I &= \star_{S^2} K_I \end{aligned}$$

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$(p, q)$  strings couple to  $\delta C_{(2)}$  through WZ term

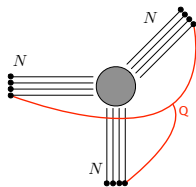
$$Q_{(p,q)} = T \int_{\Sigma_{(p,q)}} (p \operatorname{Re}(d\mathcal{C}) - q \operatorname{Im}(d\mathcal{C}))$$

$$\implies Q_{F1} = \frac{1}{2}M \quad Q_{D1} = \frac{1}{2}N$$



# Stringy operators in $T_N$

[Benini, Benvenuti, Tachikawa '09]



ext. 5-branes can be connected with  
D1-F1-(1, -1) triple string junction

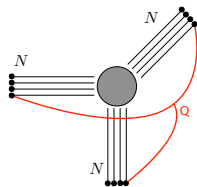
$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2}(N - 1) \quad Q = \frac{1}{2}(N - 1)$$

$(\mathbf{N}, \mathbf{N}, \mathbf{N})$  of  $SU(N)^3$  global symmetry

4d version in [Gaiotto, Maldacena]

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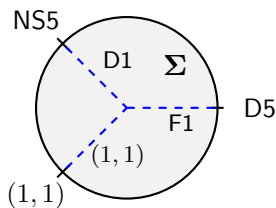
4d version in [Gaiotto, Maldacena]

Triple junction in supergravity:

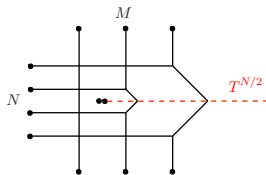
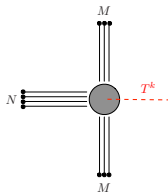
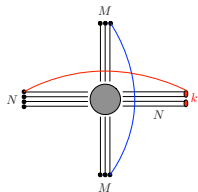
$$z_{F1} = \xi \quad z_{D1} = e^{\pi i/3} \xi \quad z_{(1,1)} = e^{2\pi i/3} \xi$$

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2}N \quad Q = \frac{1}{2}N$$

Agrees with  $T_N$  operator at large  $N$ . ✓✓

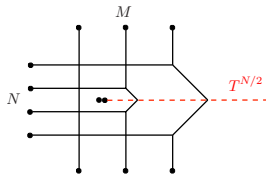
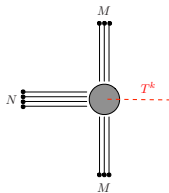
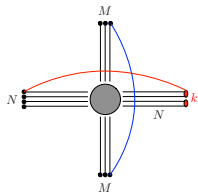


# Stringy operators in $\dagger_{N,M,k}$



$$[N] - (N)^{M - \frac{N}{k} - 1} - \begin{matrix} (N) \\ | y \\ [k] \end{matrix} - (N - k) - (N - 2k) - \dots - (k)$$

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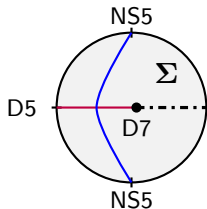
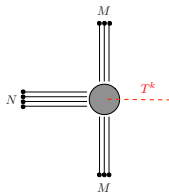
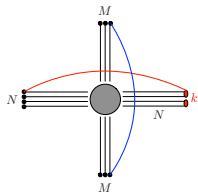


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$$\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{b}}^a = [x_1 \cdots x_{M - \frac{N}{k}} y]_{\tilde{b}}^a \quad \Delta = \frac{3}{2} \left( M - \frac{N}{k} + 1 \right) \quad Q = \frac{1}{3} \Delta$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{(i)} = \det x_i \quad \Delta = \frac{3}{2} N \quad Q = \frac{1}{2} N$$

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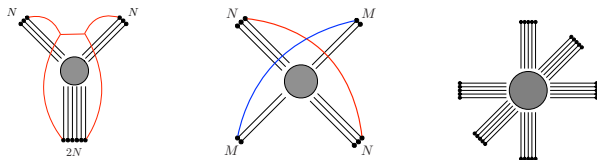
D1, F1 in supergravity agree on  $\Delta$  and  $Q$  at large  $N, M$





# Spectrum of high-dimension operators

Similar stories for  $Y_N$ ,  $X_{N,M}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_N$



Precise quantitative agreement of field theory analyses and supergravity results on scaling dimensions at large  $N$  ✓

Confirms brane junction interpretation for solutions without and for solutions with monodromy. ✓

Holographic  $S^5$  partition functions  
and entanglement entropies, # d.o.f.

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$$S_{\text{EE}}(\text{disc})|_{\text{finite}} \stackrel{?}{=} -\mathcal{F}(S^5)$$

8d min. surface wrapping  $S^2$  and  $\Sigma$       on-shell action,  $C_{(4)} = 0$   
total derivative [Okuda, Trancanelli '08]

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Computations free from conceptual subtleties – No divergences from poles, no finite contributions. ✓

## Entanglement entropy vs. free energy

EE factorizes into geometric and theory-dependent part

$$S_{\text{EE}} = \frac{1}{4G_{\text{N}}} \times \text{Area}(\gamma_4) \times \frac{8\text{Vol}_{\text{S}^2}}{3} \int_{\Sigma} d^2w \kappa^2 \mathcal{G}$$

$S^5$  partition function from renormalized on-shell action

$$S_{\text{IIB}}^{\text{E}} = -\frac{5\text{Vol}_{\text{S}^2}}{3G_{\text{N}}} \text{Vol}_{\text{AdS}_6, \text{ren}} \sum_{\ell \neq k, m \neq n} Z^{[\ell k]} Z^{[mn]} \\ \times \int_{-\infty}^{r_{\ell}} dx \ln \left| \frac{x - r_k}{r_{\ell} - r_k} \right| \ln \left| \frac{x - r_m}{r_m - r_n} \right| \frac{1}{x - r_n}$$

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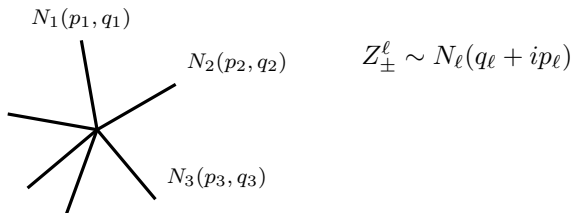
Related as expected,  $S_{\text{EE}}(\text{disc})|_{\text{finite}} = -\mathcal{F}(S^5)$





## General scaling of # d.o.f.

In general  $\mathcal{F}(S^5)$  depends on all 5-brane charges in junction

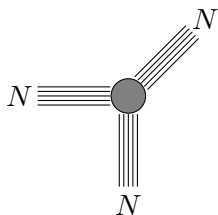


Simple behavior under homogeneous rescaling of all charges:

$$N_i \rightarrow \alpha N_i \quad \forall i \quad \implies \quad \mathcal{F}(S^5) \rightarrow \alpha^4 \mathcal{F}(S^5)$$

Compare  $\alpha^{5/2}$  for  $USp(N)$  theory from D4/D8/O8 [Jafferis, Pufu]

## Examples



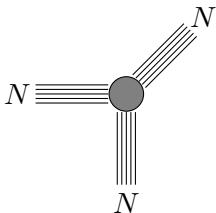
5d  $T_N$  theory w/ gauge theory deformation

$$N - SU(N - 1) \times \cdots \times SU(2) - 2$$

[Benini, Benvenuti, Tachikawa '09; Bergman, Zafrir '14]

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{sugra}}(S^5) = -\frac{27}{8\pi^2} \zeta(3) N^4$$

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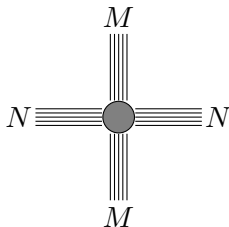
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NS5/D5 intersection:

[Aharony, Hanany, Kol '97]

$$N - SU(N)^{M-1} - N$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{sugra}}(S^5) = -\frac{189}{16\pi^2} \zeta(3) N^2 M^2$$



Field theory partition functions  
and precision tests of  $\text{AdS}_6/\text{CFT}_5$

## Field theory partition functions

Strategy: study gauge theory deformation to obtain SCFT results.  
5d SYM partition function on (squashed)  $S^5$  [Källen et al.; H.-C. Kim,  
S. Kim;Imamura;Lockhart,Vafa]

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Remaining challenge for zero instanton partition functions:

$$\mathcal{Z}_0 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{i,j} d\lambda_i^{(j)} \exp(-\mathcal{F})$$

Gauge group node becomes effectively continuous parameter at large  $N$ . Scaling of  $\lambda_i^{(j)}$  not necessarily homogeneous.

## Field theory partition functions

Numerical evaluation [Herzog, Klebanov, Pufu, Tesileanu]: Replace saddle point eq. by set of particles w/ coordinates  $\lambda_i^{(j)}$  in potential  $\mathcal{F}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \lambda_i^{(j)}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \lambda_i^{(j)}(t)} = -\frac{d\lambda_i^{(j)}(t)}{dt}$$

Equilibrium configurations are solutions to saddle point equation. Approximate solutions from late-time behavior of  $\lambda_i^{(j)}(t)$ .

## Field theory partition functions

Numerical evaluation [Herzog, Klebanov, Pufu, Tesileanu]: Replace saddle point eq. by set of particles w/ coordinates  $\lambda_i^{(j)}$  in potential  $\mathcal{F}$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \lambda_i^{(j)}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \lambda_i^{(j)}(t)} = -\frac{d\lambda_i^{(j)}(t)}{dt}$$

Equilibrium configurations are solutions to saddle point equation. Approximate solutions from late-time behavior of  $\lambda_i^{(j)}(t)$ .

→ Zero instanton saddle point approximation to  $\mathcal{F}(S^5)$ , conformal central charge  $C_T$  from squashing deformations [Chang, Fluder, Lin, Wang]



## Field theory partition functions

Explicit numerical results for  $S^5$  partition functions for

$$T_N : \quad 2 \leq N \leq 52 \quad +_{N,M} : \quad 2 \leq N, M \leq 30$$

Computationally more expensive conformal central charges:

$$T_N : \quad 2 \leq N \leq 22 \quad +_{N,M} : \quad 2 \leq N, M \leq 15$$

## Field theory partition functions

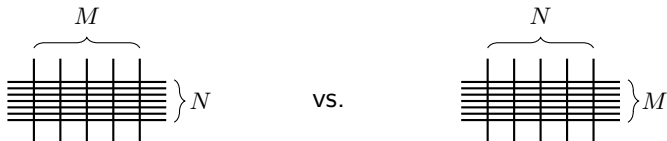
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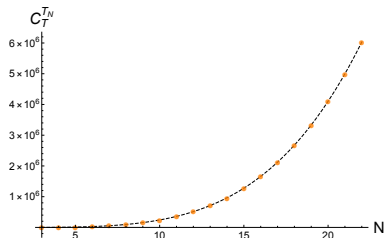
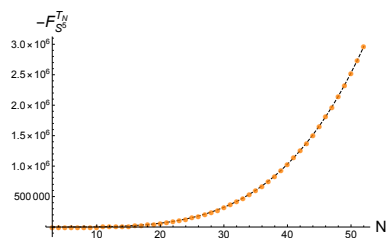
$+_{N,M}$  consistency check: SCFT partition functions obtained from quiver and S-dual quiver should agree



Relative “error”  $\rightarrow 0$  for large  $N, M$ . Below 1% for  $N, M \geq 16$  ✓

# Field theory partition functions

Results for  $T_N$ :



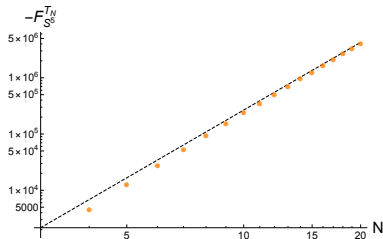
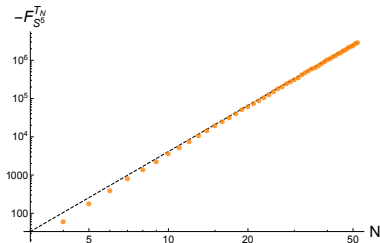
Numerical results as dots, degree-4 polynomial from least-squares fit as dashed line.  $F_{S^5}$  on the left,  $C_T$  on the right.

Clear quartic scaling, as predicted holographically.



# Precision test of AdS<sub>6</sub>/CFT<sub>5</sub>

Comparison to supergravity:

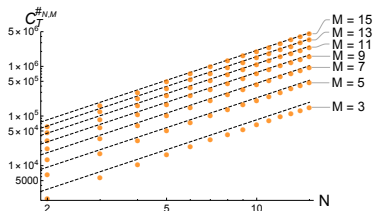
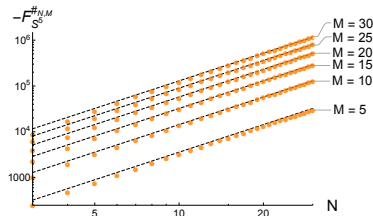


Supergravity: 
$$F_{S^5} = -\frac{27}{8\pi^2} \zeta(3) N^4 \quad C_T = \frac{2160}{\pi^4} \zeta(3) N^4$$

Coefficients of leading terms, extracted via fit of numerical results to degree-4 polynomial, agree within 1‰ ✓

## Field theory partition functions

Results for  $+_{N,M}$ : for fixed  $N$  clear quadratic scaling with  $M$ , and for fixed  $M$  clear quadratic scaling with  $N$  ✓



$$\text{Supergravity: } F_{S^5} = -\frac{189}{16\pi^2} \zeta(3) N^2 M^2 \quad C_T = \frac{7560}{\pi^4} \zeta(3) N^2 M^2$$

Coefficients of leading terms, extracted via fit of numerical results to degree-2 polynomial in  $NM$ , agree within 2% ✓

– Massive spin-2 excitations –

## Massive spin-2 excitations

Identifying fluctuations non-trivial: non-trivial background, weak symmetry constraints  $\rightarrow$  large set of coupled PDE's on  $\Sigma$ .

Spin-2 fluctuations exclusively from metric  $\rightarrow$  decoupling trivial.  
Used for warped  $AdS_4$  fluctuations by [Bachas,Estes '11].

5d SCFTs should have conserved  $T_{\mu\nu} \sim$  massless  $AdS_6$  graviton.  
Decoupling of states on external 5-branes?

## Massive spin-2 excitations

Metric perturbation on unit-radius  $AdS_6$ :

$$ds^2 = f_6^2 (ds_{AdS_6}^2 + \delta g) + \hat{g}_{ab} dy^a dy^b$$

With  $h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}$  transverse-traceless

$$\delta g = h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} \phi_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m} dx^\mu dx^\nu \quad \square_{AdS_6} h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = (M^2 - 2) h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}$$

Type IIB EOM reduce to:

$$6\partial_a (\mathcal{G}^2 \eta^{ab} \partial_b \phi_{\ell m}) - \ell(\ell + 1) (9\kappa^2 \mathcal{G} + 6|\partial\mathcal{G}|^2) \phi_{\ell m} + M^2 \kappa^2 \mathcal{G} \phi_{\ell m} = 0$$



## Massive spin-2 excitations

Two families of *universal*, regular and normalizable solutions:

$$(i) \quad \phi_{\ell m} = \mathcal{G}^\ell \quad M^2 = \Delta(\Delta - 5) \quad \Delta = 5 + 3\ell$$

$$(ii) \quad \phi_{\ell m}^{(1)} + i\phi_{\ell m}^{(2)} = \mathcal{G}^\ell (\mathcal{A}_+ - \bar{\mathcal{A}}_-) \quad \Delta = 6 + 3\ell$$

$M^2 \geq 3\ell(3\ell + 5)$  for regular solutions, saturated by (i).

Massless graviton for  $M = \ell = 0 \sim 5d$  conserved  $T_{\mu\nu}$ . ✓

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Match  $Q^4$  descendants in  $B_2, A_4$  multiplets with scalar primaries  $\Delta_{B_2}^{\text{prim.}} = 3 + 3\ell$  and  $\Delta_{A_4}^{\text{prim.}} = 4 + 3\ell$  [Cordova,Dumitrescu,Intriligator]

Universal part in spectrum of dual SCFTs. Similarities to massive IIA [Passias,Richmond '18], different in details and interpretation.

– Summary & Outlook –

## Summary

Holographic interpretation of solutions appears consistent:  
poles/external 5-branes decouple, 5d conserved  $T_{\mu\nu}$

Quantitative match of stringy operators in supergravity solutions  
to string theory picture and field theory predictions.

Field theory partition functions and conformal central charges  
match supergravity predictions for  $T_N$  and  $+_{N,M}$ .

First lessons:  $N^4$  d.o.f., universal  $\Delta = \mathcal{O}(1)$  operators, stringy  
spectrum for theories with no suitable gauge theory deformations.

# Outlook

Compelling picture for  $AdS_6/CFT_5$  in Type IIB: large classes of solutions, coherent string theory interpretation, match to SCFTs.

Full fluctuation spectrum  $\sim \Delta = \mathcal{O}(1)$  operators. (Consistent) KK reduction to 6d gauged supergravity? Non-universal parts?

More stringy operators and op.'s corresponding to e.g. D3 branes.

Correlation functions, defects, Wilson lines, more tests, ...  
Classification of large- $N$  SCFTs?

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**Thank you!**