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4d SCFTs in different guises: **a 6d reveal**

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Based on arXiv:2203.08829[Jacques Distler, MJK, Craig Lawrie] 2212.11983 [J. Distler, Grant Elliot, MJK, C. Lawrie]

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That is not tangible?!

Let's add conformal symmetry — exists at the fixed points of RG flows between QFTs

When do two **CFTs** describe the same physics?

• If they have the same conformal data $\{\Delta_i, \lambda_{ijk}\}$

Still not tangible!

- 2-pt correlations 3-pt correlations
- If they have the same "invariants"?

What is the minimal set of invariants that can distinguish any pair of CFTs?

Higher-dimensional origins help!

→ Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L} = \frac{\mathrm{Im}[\tau]}{4\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + D_{\mu} \phi_i D^{\mu} \phi_i + \frac{1}{2} \left[\phi_i, \phi_j \right] \left[\phi_i, \phi_j \right] \right) - \frac{\mathrm{Re}[\tau]}{4\pi} F_{\mu\nu} \star F^{\mu\nu} + \mathscr{L}_{fermions}$$

with complexified coupling $\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + \frac{4\pi i}{g^2}$.

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They have different vector boson spectrum

→ Lagrangian: (all fields in adjoint rep. of gauge group G)

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Prove this using higher-dimensional origin!

Top-down perspectives give insights via "geometrization"

Compactifications and Geometry



Montonen-Olive $SL(2,\mathbb{Z})$ and $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM

6d (2,0) SCFT of type \mathfrak{g} $S_{\mathfrak{g}}$ Compactify on T^2 4d super Yang—Mills $S_{\mathfrak{g}}\langle T^2 \rangle$

Coupling constant $\tau =$ Torus complex structure τ

 $SL(2,\mathbb{Z})$ self-duality group

Geometrization of $SL(2,\mathbb{Z})$

Our interest today



Similarly: 6d (2,0) to 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT (class \mathcal{S})

A twisted compactification on a punctured Riemann surface



6d (2,0) SCFT*n*-punctured, genus gof type gRiemann surface

puncture data = codim-2 defects on 6d (2,0) SCFT

Type IIB on an orbifold $\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma_{\mathfrak{g}}$ [Witten]

[Gaiotto][Gaiotto,Moore,Neitzke]

Another way: 6d (1,0) to 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT



Two different geometric ways to build 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFTs:



4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ "conventional" invariants

 \rightarrow Central charges a and c

(or equivalently, the number of vectors and hypers)

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \frac{c}{16\pi^2} W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} W^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - \frac{a}{16\pi^2} E_4 + \cdots \qquad \begin{cases} n_\nu = 4(2a-c) \\ n_h = -4(4a-5c) \end{cases}$$

➡ The flavor symmetry group + the flavor central charges

$$\langle J^i_{\mu}(x)J^j_{\nu}(0)\rangle = \frac{3k_i}{4\pi^4}\,\delta^{ij}\,\frac{x^2\eta_{\mu\nu}-2x_{\mu}x_{\nu}}{x^8}$$

- Coulomb branch operator spectrum
- Schur Index and Hall—Littlewood Index (up to computable order)

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- Coulomb branch operator spectrum Would these invariants uniquely identify the theory?
- Schur Index and Hall—Littlewood Index

In low-ranks, these data (or even subsets) suffices to uniquely characterize the theory.

Example: Minahan–Nemeschansky

 \Rightarrow A rank-one 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SCFT with Coulomb branch generators

$$\Delta = 6$$
 and $(a, c) = \left(\frac{95}{24}, \frac{31}{6}\right)$

is unique. It must be the $(E_8)_{12}$ Minahan–Nemeschansky theory. [Argyres, Lotito, Lu, Martone]

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For higher rank cases, these "conventional invariants" are not sufficient [Distler, MJK, Lawrie]
 With the second sec

6d (1,0) "conventional" invariants

➡ Anomaly polynomial

$$I_{8} = \frac{\alpha}{24}c_{2}(R)^{2} + \frac{\beta}{24}c_{2}(R)p_{1}(T) + \frac{\gamma}{24}p_{1}(T)^{2} + \frac{\delta}{24}p_{2}(T) + \sum_{a}\operatorname{Tr}F_{a}^{2}\left(\kappa_{a}p_{1}(T) + \nu_{a}c_{2}(R) + \sum_{b}\rho_{ab}\operatorname{Tr}F_{b}^{2}\right) + \sum_{a}\mu_{a}\operatorname{Tr}F_{a}^{4}$$

➡ The continuous flavor symmetry group

➡ The discrete flavor symmetry group

When Higgsing $(\mathfrak{so}_{4k}, \mathfrak{so}_{4k})$ conformal matter by two very-even nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{so}_{4k} , the two SCFTs appear to differ by a discrete \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry.

Use the 6d (1,0) perspective to answer when two 4d class S theories are isomorphic

Which theories to consider?

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

Consider pairs of class S theories where

- ➡ the **genus** of the Riemann surface is the same ,
- → the 6d (2,0) origin is the same
- → all but two of the n punctures are the same.

When are these theories isomorphic?

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]



More restrictions

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

The pair of theories are evidently not isomorphic if they possess different conventional invariants.

- Consider pairs with the subset of conventional invariants are the same:
 - \circ The central charges a and c
 - The flavor symmetry algebras and levels
 - The graded Coulomb branch dimensions
 - The Higgs branch dimension

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

For any class S theory, the complex structure moduli of the punctured Riemann surface parametrize exactly-marginal deformations of the SCFT.

Take a degeneration limit:

$$S_{\mathfrak{g}}\langle C_{g,n}\rangle\{O_{1},O_{2},\cdots,O_{n}\}$$

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

Reduces further down to:



[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

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Construct suitable pairs (O_1, O_2) and (O'_1, O'_2) such that the resulting 4d SCFTs have all the same conventional invariants.

Consider class S theories with different punctured spheres



→ They have the same conventional invariants. [Distler, Elliot]

Consider class S theories with different punctured spheres



They have the same conventional invariants. [Distler, Elliot]
Not sufficient to decide that they are identical

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

→ Consider their 6d (1,0) parent theories.



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Distinguishing 6d (1,0) SCFTs

➡ Considering when n is large,

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]



they do not match. Their curve configurations are different. In fact, their anomaly polynomial is different.

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

➡ Consider n=4 with following punctures:



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Recall:

The Higgs branch flows of 4d class S theories and their 6d (1,0) parents are isomorphic.

[Baume, MJK, Lawrie]

[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

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Recall:

The Higgs branch flows of 4d class S theories and their 6d(1,0)parents are isomorphic.

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\Rightarrow We exhaustively worked out for type (e_7, e_7) theories.



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[Distler, Elliot, MJK, Lawrie]

- \Rightarrow We exhaustively worked out for type (e_7, e_7) theories.
- ➡ We showed that this methodology works for numerous type ADE theories, and expect to work more in general class S.
- ➡ General Methodology:



Infinitely-many pairs of 4d SCFTs with distinct constructions are shown to describe the same physics!

Future directions

- ➡ There exists class S theories which has the same "conventional" invariants but does not have 6d (1,0) prescriptions.
- ➡ For example:



 $I_{Schur} = 1 + 37\tau^2 + 853\tau^4 + 15305\tau^6 + 233552\tau^8 + 3168458\tau^{10} + O(\tau^{11})$

→ The 6d perspective nevertheless gives us a hint to look for a \mathbb{Z}_2 automorphism between such pairs of theories.

Thank you for listening!