

The Squashed, Stretched and Warped Gets Perturbed

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Talk at 4th Sakharov Conference
May 22, 2009

Introduction

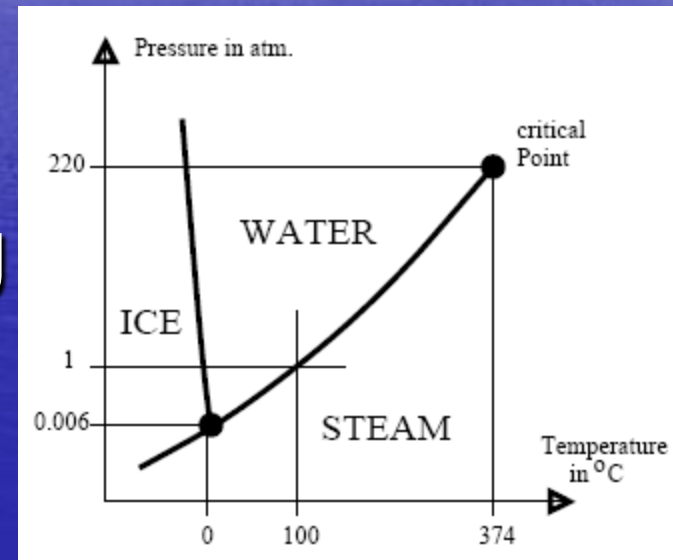
- The gauge theory on coincident M2 branes has been a **hot topic** over the past year.
- This is a long-standing problem: how to find the world volume theory on coincident supermembranes in 11-dimensional M-theory. This is harder than the description of D-branes in string theory that is known explicitly at small string coupling.
- But M-theory is inherently strongly coupled: one can think of it as the strong coupling limit of a 10-dimensional superstring theory. What to do?

- The research on AdS_5/CFT_4 has rekindled interest in the maximally super-symmetric 4-d gauge theory and provided a host of information about its strongly coupled limit. See the January 2009 Physics Today article by I.K., J.Maldacena.
- This conformal gauge theory is becoming **'The Harmonic Oscillator of 4-d Gauge Theory'** in that it may be exactly solvable.
- It has provided a **'hyperbolic cow'** approximation to various phenomena at strong coupling.



AdS₄/CFT₃

- Besides describing all of known particle physics, Quantum Field Theory is important for understanding the vicinity of certain phase transitions, such as the all-important water/vapor transition.
- Here we are interested in a 3-d (Euclidean) QFT.



- This transition is in the 3-d Ising Model Universality Class.
- Other common transitions are described by 3-d QFT with $O(N)$ symmetry.
- 3-d theories are also very important in describing 2-d quantum systems, such as those in the Quantum Hall effect, high- T_c superconductors, etc.
- Can we find a 'Harmonic Oscillator' of 3-d Conformal Field Theory ?

O(N) Sigma Model

- Describes 2nd order phase transitions in statistical systems with O(N) symmetry.

$$S = \int d^3x \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi^a)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2N} (\phi^a \phi^a)^2 \right]$$

- IR fixed point can be studied using the Wilson-Fisher expansion in $\epsilon=4-d$.
- The model simplifies in the large N limit since it possesses conserved currents

$$J_{(\mu_1 \dots \mu_s)} = \phi^a \partial_{(\mu_1} \dots \partial_{\mu_s)} \phi^a + \dots$$

Higher Spin Gauge Theory

- An AdS_4 dual of the large N sigma model was proposed. IK, Polyakov (2002)
- It is the Fradkin-Vasiliev gauge theory of an infinite number of interacting massless higher-spin gauge fields.
- There is no small AdS curvature limit. This makes the theory difficult to study in the dual AdS formulation. This is an interesting problem for the future.

M2 Brane Theory

- The theory on N coincident M2-branes has $\mathcal{N}=8$, the maximum possible supersymmetry in 3 dimensions.
- When N is large, its dual description is provided by the weakly curved $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7$ background in 11-dimensional M-theory.
- This dual description is tractable and makes many non-trivial predictions.

- A general prediction of the AdS/CFT duality is that the number of degrees of freedom on a large number N of coincident M2-branes scales as $N^{3/2}$

I.K., A. Tseytlin (1996)

- This is much smaller than the N^2 scaling found in the 4-d SYM theory on N coincident D3-branes (as described by the dual gravity). Gubser, I.K., Peet (1996)

What is the M2 Brane Theory?

- It is the Infrared limit of the D2-brane theory, the $\mathcal{N}=8$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory in 2+1 dimensions, i.e. it describes the degrees of freedom at energy much lower than $(g_{\text{YM}})^2$
- The number of such degrees of freedom $\sim N^{3/2}$ is much lower than the number of UV degrees of freedom $\sim N^2$.
- Is there a more direct way to characterize the Infrared Scale-Invariant Theory?

The BLG Theory

- In a remarkable development, Bagger and Lambert, and Gustavsson formulated an SO(4) Chern-Simons Gauge Theory with manifest $\mathcal{N}=8$ superconformal gauge theory. In Van Raamsdonk's SU(2)xSU(2) formulation,

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^3x \text{tr} \left[-(\mathcal{D}^\mu X^I)^\dagger \mathcal{D}_\mu X^I + i\bar{\Psi}^\dagger \Gamma^\mu \mathcal{D}_\mu \Psi \right. \\ \left. - \frac{2if}{3} \bar{\Psi}^\dagger \Gamma^{IJ} (X^I X^J \Psi + X^J \Psi^\dagger X^I + \Psi X^I X^J) - \frac{8f^2}{3} \text{tr} X^{[I} X^{J} X^{K]} X^{\dagger[K} X^J X^{\dagger I]} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2f} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda} (A_\mu \partial_\nu A_\lambda + \frac{2i}{3} A_\mu A_\nu A_\lambda) - \frac{1}{2f} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda} (\hat{A}_\mu \partial_\nu \hat{A}_\lambda + \frac{2i}{3} \hat{A}_\mu \hat{A}_\nu \hat{A}_\lambda) \right]$$

$$X^* = -\epsilon X \epsilon$$

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

- X^I are the 8 fields transforming in (2,2), which is the 4 of SO(4)

$$X^I = \frac{1}{2} (x_4^I \mathbb{1} + i x_i^I \sigma^i)$$

$\mathcal{N}=2$ Superspace Formulation

- Define bi-fundamental superfields rotated by $SU(4)_{\text{flavor}}$ symmetry

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= Z(x_L) + \sqrt{2}\theta\zeta(x_L) + \theta^2 F(x_L), \\ \bar{Z} &= Z^\dagger(x_R) - \sqrt{2}\bar{\theta}\zeta^\dagger(x_R) - \bar{\theta}^2 F^\dagger(x_R) \end{aligned}$$

$$Z^{\dagger A} := -\varepsilon(Z^A)^T \varepsilon = X^{\dagger A} + iX^{\dagger A+4}$$

- The superpotential is Benna, IK, Klose, Smedback,

$$W = \frac{1}{4!} \epsilon_{ABCD} \text{tr} Z^A Z^{\dagger B} Z^C Z^{\dagger D}$$

- Using $SO(4)$ gauge group notation,

$$W = -\frac{1}{8 \cdot 4!} \epsilon_{ABCD} \epsilon^{abcd} Z_a^A Z_b^B Z_c^C Z_d^D$$

The ABJM Theory

- Aharony, Bergman, Jafferis and Maldacena argued that the correct description of a pair of M2-branes is slightly different. It involves $U(2) \times U(2)$ gauge theory.
- The $SU(4)$ flavor symmetry is not manifest because of the choice of complex combinations

$$Z^1 = X^1 + iX^5,$$

$$Z^2 = X^2 + iX^6,$$

$$W_1 = X^{3\dagger} + iX^{7\dagger}$$

$$W_2 = X^{4\dagger} + iX^{8\dagger}$$

- The manifest flavor symmetry is $SU(2) \times SU(2)$

$$W = \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_{AC} \epsilon^{BD} \text{tr} Z^A W_B Z^C W_D$$

- For N M2-branes ABJM theory easily generalizes to $U(N) \times U(N)$. The theory with Chern-Simons coefficient k is then conjectured to be dual to $AdS_4 \times S^7/Z_k$ supported by N units of flux.
- For $k > 2$ this theory has $\mathcal{N}=6$ supersymmetry, in agreement with this conjecture. In particular, the theory has manifest $SU(4)$ R-symmetry.

SU(4)_R Symmetry

- The global symmetry rotating the 6 supercharges is SO(6)~SU(4). The classical action of this theory indeed has this symmetry. Benna, IK, Klose, Smedback

$$V^{\text{bos}} = -\frac{L^2}{48} \text{tr} \left[Y^A Y_A^\dagger Y^B Y_B^\dagger Y^C Y_C^\dagger + Y_A^\dagger Y^A Y_B^\dagger Y^B Y_C^\dagger Y^C \right. \\ \left. + 4Y^A Y_B^\dagger Y^C Y_A^\dagger Y^B Y_C^\dagger - 6Y^A Y_B^\dagger Y^B Y_A^\dagger Y^C Y_C^\dagger \right]$$

$$V^{\text{ferm}} = \frac{iL}{4} \text{tr} \left[Y_A^\dagger Y^A \psi^{B\dagger} \psi_B - Y^A Y_A^\dagger \psi_B \psi^{B\dagger} + 2Y^A Y_B^\dagger \psi_A \psi^{B\dagger} - 2Y_A^\dagger Y^B \psi^{A\dagger} \psi_B \right. \\ \left. - \epsilon^{ABCD} Y_A^\dagger \psi_B Y_C^\dagger \psi_D + \epsilon_{ABCD} Y^A \psi^{B\dagger} Y^C \psi^{D\dagger} \right].$$

Y^A , $A=1,\dots,4$, are complex $N \times N$ matrices.

$$Y^A = \{Z^1, Z^2, W^{1\dagger}, W^{2\dagger}\}$$

Enhanced Symmetry

- For $k=1$ or 2 the global symmetry should enhance to $SO(8)$ according to the ABJM conjecture. This is not seen in the classical lagrangian but should appear in the quantum theory.
- The key to it are probably the 'monopole' operators that create singular monopole field configurations at a point. They create magnetic flux in a diagonal $U(1)$ subgroup and are charged under the remaining gauge groups.
- For $k=1$ the singly-charged operator is $(e^\tau)_{\hat{a}}^a$ and the doubly-charged one $(e^{2\tau})_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}^{ab} = (e^{2\tau})_{\hat{b}\hat{a}}^{ba}$

Relevant Deformations

- The M2-brane theory may be perturbed by relevant operators that cause it to flow to new fixed points with reduced supersymmetry. Benna, IK, Klose, Smedback; IK, Klose, Murugan; Ahn
- For example, a quadratic superpotential deformation, allowed for $k=1, 2$, may preserve $SU(3)$ flavor symmetry

$$\Delta W = m(\mathcal{Z}^4)^a_{\hat{a}}(\mathcal{Z}^4)^b_{\hat{b}}(e^{-2\tau})^{\hat{a}\hat{b}}_{ab}$$

Squashed, stretched and warped

- The dual AdS_4 background of M-theory should also preserve $\mathcal{N}=2$ SUSY and $\text{SU}(3)$ flavor symmetry. Such an extremum of gauged SUGRA was found 25 years ago by Warner. Upon uplifting to 11-d Corrado, Pilch and Warner found a warped product of AdS_4 and of a 'stretched and squashed' 7-sphere:

$$ds_{11}^2 = \Delta^{-1} ds_4^2 + 3^{3/2} L^2 \Delta^{1/2} ds_7^2(\rho, \chi), \quad \Delta \equiv (\xi \cosh \chi)^{-\frac{4}{3}}$$

- The squashing parameter is ρ ; the stretching is χ

$$ds_8^2(\rho, \chi) = g_{IJ} dx^I dx^J = dx^I Q_{IJ}^{-1} dx^J + \frac{\sinh \chi^2}{\xi^2} (x^I J_{IJ} dx^J)^2$$

$$Q = \text{diag} \{ \rho^{-2}, \rho^{-2}, \rho^{-2}, \rho^{-2}, \rho^{-2}, \rho^{-2}, \rho^6, \rho^6 \}$$

$$\xi^2 \equiv x^I Q_{IJ} x^J$$

- The four complex coordinates

$$z^1 = x^1 + ix^2, \quad z^2 = x^3 + ix^4, \quad z^3 = x^5 + ix^6, \quad w = x^7 - ix^8$$

$$|z^1|^2 + |z^2|^2 + |z^3|^2 + |w|^2 = 1$$

may be expressed in terms of the 7 angles.

- The equations of motion are satisfied with

$$\rho = 3^{\frac{1}{8}}, \quad \chi = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{arccosh} 2$$

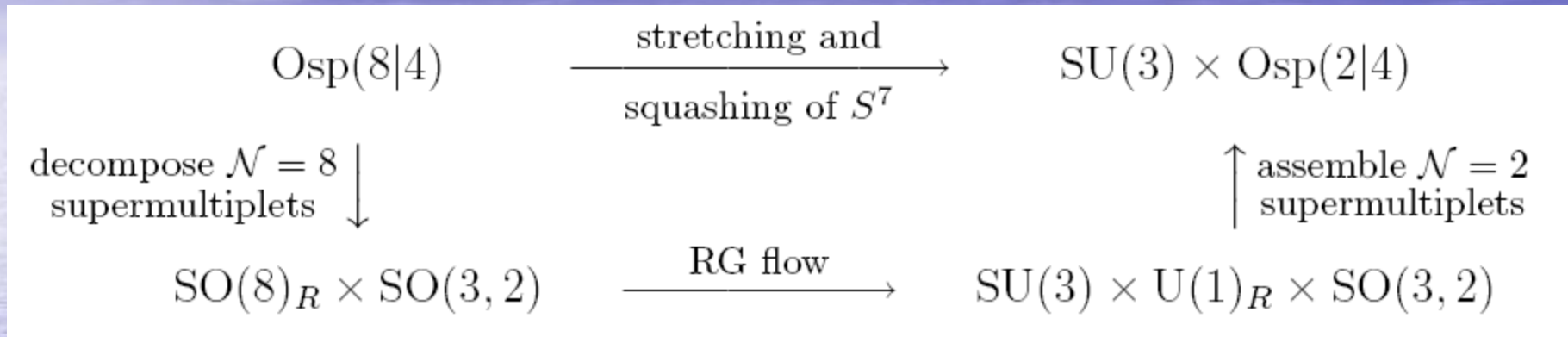
$$A_{(3)} = \frac{3^{3/4}}{4} e^{3r/L} dx^0 \wedge dx^1 \wedge dx^2 + C_{(3)} + C_{(3)}^*$$

$$C_{(3)} = \frac{3^{11/4} L^3}{4 (z^i \bar{z}_i + 3w\bar{w})} [z^{[1} dz^2 \wedge dz^3] \wedge d\bar{w} - \bar{w} dz^1 \wedge dz^2 \wedge dz^3]$$

- The internal components break parity (Englert). They preserve a flavor SU(3), and a U(1) R-symmetry

$$\frac{1}{3} (z^i \partial_{z^i} - \bar{z}_i \partial_{\bar{z}_i}) + w \partial_w - \bar{w} \partial_{\bar{w}}$$

The Spectrum via Group Theory



- There are only two ways of breaking the $\text{SO}(8)$ R-symmetry consistent with the $\text{Osp}(2|4)$ symmetry in the IR:

$$[a, b, c, d] \rightarrow \begin{cases} [a, b]_{\left(\frac{a}{3} + \frac{2b}{3} + d\right)\varepsilon} & \text{Scenario I,} \\ [a, b]_{-\left(\frac{2a}{3} + \frac{4b}{3} + c + d\right)\varepsilon} & \text{Scenario II} \end{cases}$$

	Scenario I	Scenario II
Hyper	$[n + 2, 0]_{\frac{n+2}{3}}, [0, n + 2]_{-\frac{n+2}{3}}$	$[n + 2, 0]_{-\frac{2n+4}{3}}, [0, n + 2]_{\frac{2n+4}{3}}$
Vector	$[n + 1, 1]_{\frac{n}{3}}, [1, n + 1]_{-\frac{n}{3}}$	$[n + 1, 1]_{-\frac{2n}{3}}, [1, n + 1]_{\frac{2n}{3}}$
Gravitino	$[n + 1, 0]_{\frac{n+1}{3}}, [0, n + 1]_{-\frac{n+1}{3}}$	$[n + 1, 0]_{-\frac{2n-1}{3}}, [0, n + 1]_{\frac{2n-1}{3}}$
Graviton	$[0, 0]_n, [0, 0]_{-n}$	$[0, 0]_0, [0, 0]_0$

- We find that Scenario I gives $SU(3) \times U(1)_R$ quantum numbers in agreement with the proposed gauge theory, where they are schematically given by

	Z^A	ζ^A	Z_A^\dagger	ζ_A^\dagger	Z^4	ζ^4	Z_4^\dagger	ζ_4^\dagger	x	θ	$\bar{\theta}$
SU(3)	3	3	$\bar{\mathbf{3}}$	$\bar{\mathbf{3}}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dimension	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	1	$\frac{3}{2}$	1	$\frac{3}{2}$	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$
R-charge	$+\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{2}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$+\frac{2}{3}$	+1	0	-1	0	0	+1	-1

Spin-2 Perturbations

- Consider graviton perturbations in AdS

with

$$h^i_i = 0, \quad \partial^i h_{ij} = 0$$

$$\phi = h^i_j$$

satisfy the minimal scalar equation

$$\square\phi = 0$$

$$\phi = \Phi(x^i, r)Y(y^\alpha)$$

$$\square_4\Phi(r, x^i) - m^2\Phi(r, x^i) = 0$$

For the (p, q) irrep of $SU(3)$, we find the angular dependence IK, Pufu, Rocha

$$Y(y^\alpha) = a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_p}^{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q} \left(\prod_{k=1}^p z^{i_k} \right) \left(\prod_{l=1}^q \bar{z}_{j_l} \right) w^{n_r} \\ \times \begin{cases} {}_2F_1(-j, 3 + p + q + j + n_r; 3 + p + q; 1 - w\bar{w}) & \text{if } n_r \geq 0 \\ {}_2F_1(-j + n_r, 3 + p + q + j; 3 + p + q; 1 - w\bar{w}) & \text{if } n_r < 0. \end{cases}$$

- The R-charge is

$$R = \frac{1}{3}(p - q) + n_r$$

- For the j -th KK mode the mass-squared is

$$m^2 = \frac{1}{L^2} \left[2j^2 + 2j|n_r| + n_r^2 + 2j(p + q + 3) + \frac{1}{3}n_r(p - q) + |n_r|(3 + p + q) + \frac{1}{9}(p^2 + q^2 + 4pq + 15p + 15q) \right].$$

- The operator dimension is determined by

$$\Delta(\Delta - 3) = m^2 L^2$$

- For operators in the MGRAV and SGRAV multiplets

$$\Delta = |R| + 3$$



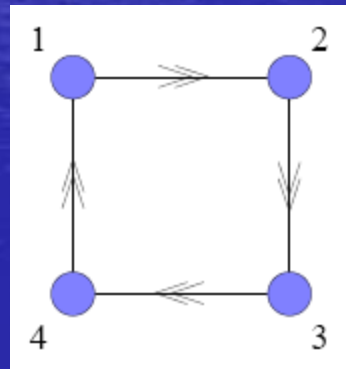
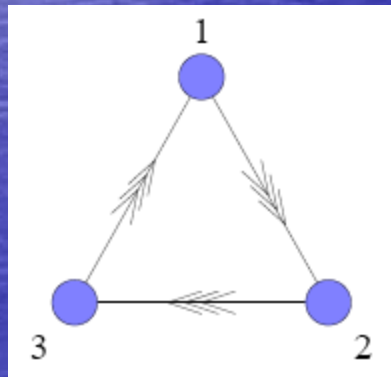
- Here are the low lying operators

$$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} = \bar{D}_{(\alpha} \bar{Z}_A D_{\beta)} Z^A + i \bar{Z}_A \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\alpha\beta} Z^A$$

	$[p, q]_R$	j	n_r	Δ	$m^2 L^2$	Operator
*	$[0, 0]_0$	0	0	3	0	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)}$
*	$[0, 0]_{\pm 1}$	0	± 1	4	4	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^4, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_4$
	$[0, 1]_{-\frac{1}{3}}, [1, 0]_{\frac{1}{3}}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{145})$	$\frac{16}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_A, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^A$
*	$[0, 0]_{\pm 2}$	0	± 2	5	10	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (Z^4)^2, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\bar{Z}_4)^2$
	$[0, 0]_0$	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{41})$	8	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (1 - 4a^2 Z^4 \bar{Z}_4)$
	$[0, 1]_{-\frac{4}{3}}, [1, 0]_{\frac{4}{3}}$	0	-1, 1	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{337})$	$\frac{64}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_A \bar{Z}_4, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z_A Z^4$
	$[0, 1]_{\frac{2}{3}}, [1, 0]_{-\frac{2}{3}}$	0	-1, 1	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{313})$	$\frac{58}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_A Z^4, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z_A \bar{Z}_4$
	$[0, 2]_{-\frac{2}{3}}, [2, 0]_{\frac{2}{3}}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{217})$	$\frac{34}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_{(A} \bar{Z}_{B)}, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^{(A} Z^{B)}$
	$[1, 1]_0$	0	0	4	4	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (Z^A \bar{Z}_B - \frac{1}{3} \delta_B^A Z^C \bar{Z}_C)$
	$[0, 0]_{\pm 1}$	1	± 1	$\frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{65})$	14	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (2 - 5a^2 Z^4 \bar{Z}_4) Z^4, \text{c.c.}$
*	$[0, 0]_{\pm 3}$	0	± 3	6	18	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (Z^4)^3, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\bar{Z}_4)^3$
	$[1, 0]_{-\frac{5}{3}}, [0, 1]_{\frac{5}{3}}$	0	-2, +2	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{553})$	$\frac{118}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^A (\bar{Z}_4)^2, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_A (Z^4)^2$
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{1}{3}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{1}{3}}$	1	0	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{505})$	$\frac{106}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^A (1 - 5a^2 \bar{Z}_4 Z^4), \text{c.c.}$
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{7}{3}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{7}{3}}$	0	2, -2	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{601})$	$\frac{130}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^A (Z^4)^2, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_A (\bar{Z}_4)^2$
	$[1, 1]_{\pm 1}$	0	± 1	5	10	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (Z^A \bar{Z}_B - \frac{1}{3} \delta_B^A Z^C \bar{Z}_C) Z^4, \text{c.c.}$
	$[2, 0]_{-\frac{1}{3}}, [0, 2]_{\frac{1}{3}}$	0	-1, 1	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{409})$	$\frac{82}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^{(A} Z^{B)} \bar{Z}_4, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_{(A} \bar{Z}_{B)} Z^4$
	$[2, 0]_{\frac{5}{3}}, [0, 2]_{-\frac{5}{3}}$	0	1, -1	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{457})$	$\frac{94}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^{(A} Z^{B)} Z^4, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_{(A} \bar{Z}_{B)} \bar{Z}_4$
	$[2, 1]_{\frac{1}{3}}, [1, 2]_{-\frac{1}{3}}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{6}(9 + \sqrt{313})$	$\frac{58}{9}$	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (Z^{(A} Z^{B)} \bar{Z}_C - \frac{1}{3} \delta_C^{(A} Z^{B)} Z^D \bar{Z}_D), \text{c.c.}$
	$[3, 0]_1, [0, 3]_{-1}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{33})$	6	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^{(A} Z^{B} Z^{C)}, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_{(A} \bar{Z}_{B} \bar{Z}_{C)}$

Further Directions

- Other examples of $\text{AdS}_4/\text{CFT}_3$ dualities with $\mathcal{N}=1,2,3,\dots$ supersymmetry are being studied by many groups.
- Various famous quivers assume new identities: M^{111} , Q^{222} , etc.



- Ultimate Hope: to find a 'simple' dual of a 3-d fixed point realized in Nature.