

Chern-Simons Theories and AdS/CFT

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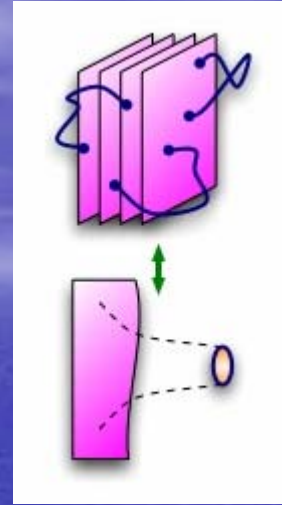


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Introduction

- Recent progress has led to realization that coincident membranes in M-theory are described by Chern-Simons gauge theories coupled to massless matter.
- This appears to solve a long-standing problem which was 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?

D-Branes vs. Geometry



- Dirichlet branes (Polchinski) realize maximally supersymmetric gauge theories.
- A stack of N D3-branes realizes $\mathcal{N}=4$ supersymmetric $SU(N)$ gauge theory. It also creates a curved background of 10-d theory of closed superstrings (artwork by E. Imeroni)

$$ds^2 = \left(1 + \frac{L^4}{r^4}\right)^{-1/2} \left(- (dx^0)^2 + (dx^i)^2\right) + \left(1 + \frac{L^4}{r^4}\right)^{1/2} (dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_5^2)$$

which for small r approaches

$$AdS_5 \times S^5$$

whose radius is related to the coupling by

$$L^4 = g_{\text{YM}}^2 N \alpha'^2$$

- For example, two calculations of absorption of massless states agree exactly. i.k.

Super-Conformal Invariance

- In the $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM theory there are 6 scalar fields (it is useful to combine them into 3 complex scalars: Z, W, V) and 4 gluinos interacting with the gluons. All the fields are in the adjoint representation of the $SU(N)$ gauge group.
- Comparing with QCD, the Asymptotic Freedom is canceled by the extra fields; the gauge coupling g_{YM} does not depend on the Energy. The theory is invariant under scale transformations $x^\mu \rightarrow a x^\mu$. It is also invariant under space-time inversions. Such a theory is called (super) conformal.

The AdS₅/CFT₄ Duality

Maldacena; Gubser, IK, Polyakov; Witten

- Relates conformal gauge theory in 4 dimensions to string theory on 5-d Anti-de Sitter space times a 5-d compact space. For the $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM theory this compact space is a 5-d sphere.
- The geometrical symmetry of the AdS₅ space realizes the conformal symmetry of the gauge theory.
- The AdS_d (hyperbolic) space is

$$(X^0)^2 + (X^d)^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} (X^i)^2 = L^2 .$$

with metric

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{z^2} \left(dz^2 - (dx^0)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{d-2} (dx^i)^2 \right)$$

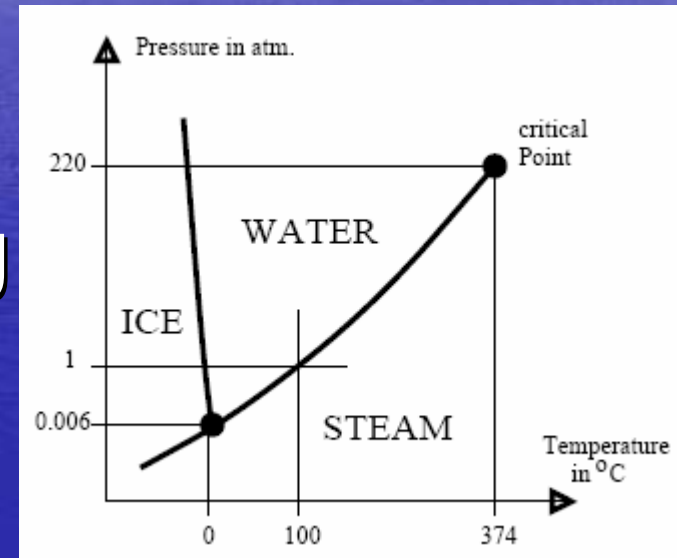


- When a gauge theory is strongly coupled, the radius of curvature of the dual AdS_5 and of the 5-d compact space becomes large: $\frac{L^2}{\alpha'} \sim \sqrt{g_{\text{YM}}^2 N}$
- String theory in such a weakly curved background can be studied in the effective (super)-gravity approximation, which allows for a host of explicit calculations. Corrections to it proceed in powers of $\frac{\alpha'}{L^2} \sim \lambda^{-1/2}$
- Feynman graphs instead develop a weak coupling expansion in powers of λ . At weak coupling the dual string theory becomes difficult.

- The research on $\text{AdS}_5/\text{CFT}_4$ 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 served as a '**hyperbolic cow**' approximation, for example, to some phenomena observed in Heavy Ion Colliders.

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 CFT's are also important in describing 2-d quantum critical systems, such as those in the high- T_c superconductors, Quantum Hall Effect, 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 $\mathfrak{M}_d = 4-d$.
- The model simplifies in the large N limit since it possesses conserved currents with all even spin

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

Higher Spin Gauge Theory

- An AdS_4 dual of the large N sigma model was proposed. I.K., Polyakov (2002)
- It is the Fradkin-Vasiliev gauge theory of an infinite number of interacting massless gauge fields with all even spins.
- Large N makes the dual theory semi-classical, but there is no small AdS curvature limit. This makes the theory difficult to study in the dual AdS formulation.

M2 Brane Theory

- The theory on N coincident M2-branes has $N=8$, the maximum possible supersymmetry in 3 dimensions.
- When N is large, its dual description is provided by the weakly curved $AdS_4 \times S^7$ background in 11-dimensional M-theory which is essentially described by Einstein gravity coupled to other fields.
- 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). The normalization of entropy is $3/4$ of that in the free theory.
Gubser, I.K., Peet (1996)

What is the M2 Brane Theory?

- It is the Infrared limit of the D2-brane theory, the $N=8$ 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 recent development, Bagger and Lambert, and Gustavsson formulated an SO(4) Chern-Simons Gauge Theory with manifest N=8 superconformal gauge theory. In Van Raamsdonk's SU(2)xSU(2) formulation,

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

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

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

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

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

- It was suggested that this theory describes two coincident M2-branes, but some of the details were hard to pin down.
- Since the \mathcal{M}_2 matrix makes sense only for the $SU(2)$ gauge group, it was also not clear how to generalize this construction to more than two M2-branes.

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.
- Let us form unconstrained complex matrices

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

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

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

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

- This breaks the manifest global symmetry to $SU(2) \times SU(2)$, but in fact the symmetry is higher.

- For N M2-branes ABJM theory easily generalizes to $U(N) \times U(N)$ gauge group. 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. This corresponds to N M2-branes placed at the orbifold C^4/Z_k which multiplies each of the 4 complex coordinates by $e^{2\pi i/k}$ $y^A \rightarrow e^{2\pi i/k} y^A$
- For $k > 2$ this theory has $N=6$ supersymmetry, in agreement with this conjecture. In particular, the theory has manifest $SO(6) \sim SU(4)$ R-symmetry.

SU(4)_R Symmetry

- The classical action of this theory indeed has this symmetry. Benna, IK, Klose, Smedback

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

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

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

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

- Since $L=8\alpha'/k$, the gauge theory is perturbative when N/k is small. The dual gravity is reliable when it is large.

- The SU(4) symmetry currents have the standard structure

$$j_{\mu B}^A = \text{Tr} \left[Y^A \mathcal{D}_\mu Y_B^\dagger - (\mathcal{D}_\mu Y^A) Y_B^\dagger + i\psi^{\dagger A} \gamma^\mu \psi_B \right]$$

- In fact, there is also a U(1) current (the trace part) which enhances the symmetry to U(4).
- For k=1 or 2 the global symmetry should enhance to SO(8) according to the ABJM conjecture. In order to write the 12 additional currents we have to employ the 'monopole operators' such as $(\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{ab}^{\hat{a}\hat{b}}$

$$J_\mu^{AB} = \mathcal{M}^{-2} \left[Y^A \mathcal{D}_\mu Y^B - \mathcal{D}_\mu Y^A Y^B + i\psi^{\dagger A} \gamma^\mu \psi^{\dagger B} \right]$$

Monopole Operators

- They modify the behavior of fields near an insertion point to create a U(1) magnetic flux through a 2-sphere surrounding the point

Borokhov, Kapustin, Wu

Kapustin, Witten

$$A = \frac{H}{2} \frac{\pm 1 - \cos \theta}{r} d\varphi$$

- For a U(N) gauge theory, the generator H describes the U(1) embedding. Due to Dirac quantization, it is labeled by a set of integers:

$$H = \text{diag}(q_1, \dots, q_N)$$

$$q_1 \geq q_2 \dots \geq q_N$$

- With Chern-Simons level k, these operators transform under U(N) as a representation with a Young tableaux with kq_1, kq_2, \dots, kq_N rows.

- In a recent paper, Benna, Klose and I studied the monopole operators in the $U(N) \times U(N)$ ABJM theory with $H = \hat{H}$
- For example, the operators like $(\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{ab}^{\hat{a}\hat{b}}$ appearing in the $SO(8)$ R-symmetry currents correspond to $kq_1 = k\hat{q}_1 = 2$
- We have shown that the monopole insertion does not alter the 'naïve' global charges and dimensions of these currents.

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 while making one of the 4 superfields massive.

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 4-d supergravity was found 25 years ago by Warner. Upon uplifting to 11-d we find a warped product of AdS_4 and of a 'stretched and squashed' 7-sphere.
- Spectrum of multiplets in gauged SUGRA may be compared with the gauge theory.

	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 dual 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

- In this theory, we find, for example fermionic operators of R-charge $-1/3$ and dimension $7/6$. They are dual to fermionic fields in the AdS_4 whose masses and charges seem to fall in the 'interesting range' pointed out in the work by Faulkner, Liu, McGreevy and Vegh; Schalm and Zaanen.

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

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

- 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	$T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} Z^A, T_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \bar{Z}_4$
	$[0, 1]_{-\frac{1}{3}}, [1, 0]_{\frac{1}{3}}$	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 $N=1,2,3,\dots$ supersymmetry are being studied by many groups.
- Ultimate Physics Goal: to find a 'simple' dual of a 3-d strongly interacting fixed point realized in Nature.