



# Nicolai-fest

Golm, September 6-8

**Most has been said already about Hermann's unique personality, and contributions to physics**

To paraphrase Murat and Francois:

**Hermann is the best living approximation to  
our image of a physicist in the (romantic)  
pre-war era**

His long views, tolerant and demanding attitude to physics, care for his students and younger colleagues, have earned him *(in addition to a higher state of bliss)* *the friendship and respect of us all.*

We heard a lot about Hermann's major contributions to N=8 supergravity, and its exceptional symmetries.

Much less about some of his other important inputs, like the **Nicolai map**, or the dW-H-N matrix model of the **supermembrane**.

[one of most tantalizing hints about M theory]

One other aspect of Hermann's personality, as befits the Renaissance man that he is, is his **appreciation of fine wine.**

This field of human activity has its own sophisticated theories, its **landscape** and its **swampland**, and it is subject to more direct experimental verification.

As we have realized one day with Slava chez Jean-Pierre, wine-theorists have also independently discovered **branes.**



If you type brane in weekipedia, that's what you get:\*

**Brane** may refer to:

- [Membrane \(M-theory\)](#), a spatially extended mathematical concept that appears in M-theory
- Brane, archaic name of Bordeaux wine producer [Château Brane-Cantenac](#)
- Brane-Mouton, archaic name of Bordeaux wine producer [Château Mouton Rothschild](#)

\* Our branes have been discovered later, and have not yet been produced in the laboratory, so they are cited first !

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY HERMANN*

# *AdS4 / CFT3* & *localization of gravity*

Costas Bachas  
(Ecole Normale, Paris)

based on:

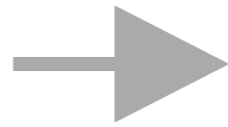
**CB, J. Estes**, *arXiv:1103.2800 [hep-th]*

**B. Assel, CB, J. Estes, J. Gomis**, *1106.4253 [hep-th]*

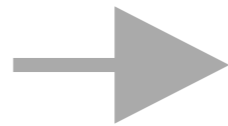
*1209.xxxx [hep-th]*

Standard Hypothesis:

**4D Graviton**



is **massless**



couples **universally**  
to all forms of matter & radiation

**Can it be otherwise ?**



These properties are automatic in any **compactification** of string theory (*or higher-dim. theory of gravity*).

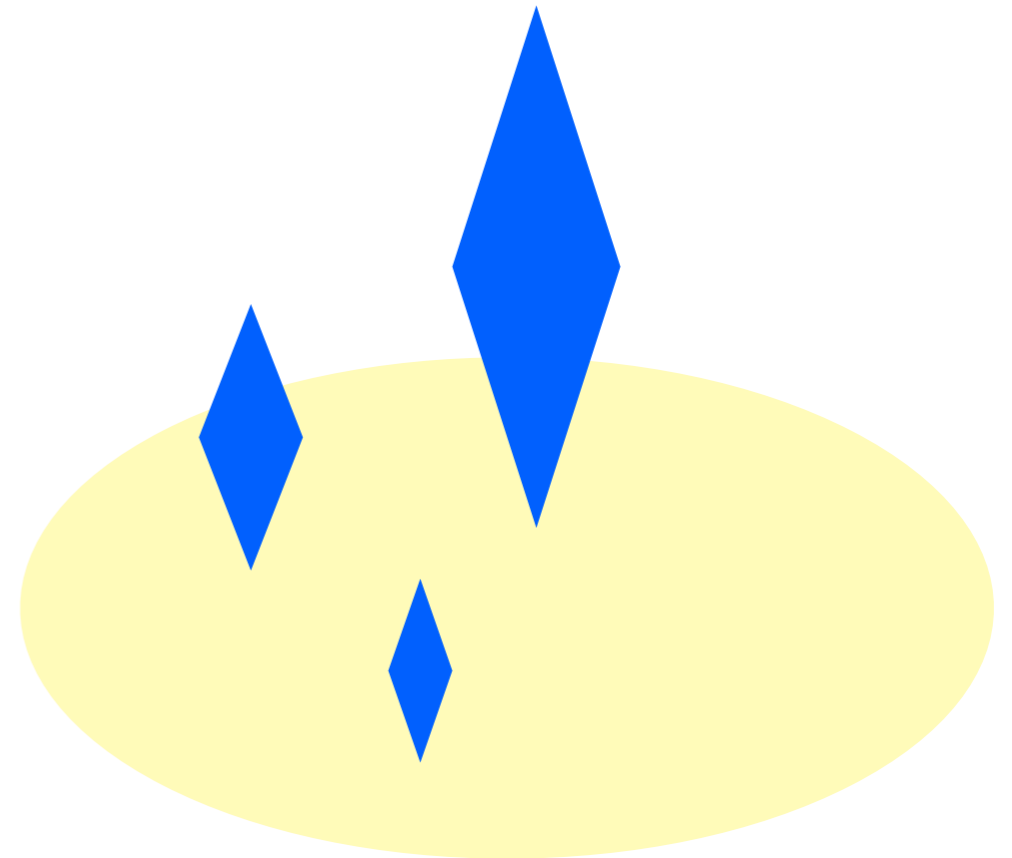
[Note: I will stick with classical 2-derivative (super)gravities]

## KK reduction for spin 2:

Consider *warped-(A)dS* vacuum,

$$\widehat{ds}^2 = e^{2A(y)} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) dx^\mu dx^\nu + \hat{g}_{ab}(y) dy^a dy^b$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{M}}_4 &= \text{AdS}_4, \mathbb{M}_4, \text{dS}_4 \\ k &= -1, 0, 1 \end{aligned}$$



Consistent reduction of (spin-2) metric perturbations:

$$ds^2 = e^{2A} (\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}) dx^\mu dx^\nu + \hat{g}_{ab} dy^a dy^b ,$$

with  $h_{\mu\nu}(x, y) = h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}(x) \psi(y)$

where

$$(\bar{\square}_x^{(2)} - \lambda) h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\nabla}^\mu h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = \bar{g}^{\mu\nu} h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = 0 .$$

**Pauli-Fierz equations**  $(\lambda = m^2 + 2k)$

Linearizing the Einstein equations  $R_{MN} - \frac{1}{2}g_{MN}R = T_{MN}$

leads to a **universal Schrödinger problem** in the 6D transverse space:

depends only on geometry,  
not on “matter” fields

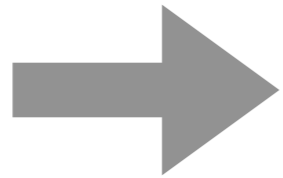
Brandhuber, Sfetsos;  
Csaki, Erlich, Hollowood, Shirman;  
CB, Estes

$$-\frac{e^{-2A}}{\sqrt{[\hat{g}]}} (\partial_a \sqrt{[\hat{g}]} \hat{g}^{ab} e^{4A} \partial_b) \psi = m^2 \psi$$

mass operator  $\mathcal{M}$

Using the standard norm  $\|\psi\|^2 = \int [dy] e^{2A} \psi^* \psi$  one finds :

$$\langle \psi, \mathcal{M}^2 \psi \rangle = \int [dy] e^{4A} \partial_a \psi^* \partial^a \psi$$



$$\mathcal{M}^2 \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{M}^2 = 0 \longrightarrow \psi_0 = \text{constant}$$



A massless 4D graviton requires

$$\int [dy] e^{2A} < \infty \quad (\text{automatic for smooth compactification})$$



Its couplings are **universal**:

$$\int [dy] e^{2A} \psi_0 \phi_i^* \phi_j = \psi_0 \delta_{ij}$$

*(To be contrasted to fields with lower spin, whose 4D massless modes can have non-trivial dependence on the “internal” space)*

To avoid these conclusions:

- 4D graviton must be massive
- transverse space must be non-compact

A model for this was proposed ten years ago by **Karch & Randall:**

### Thin **AdS<sub>4</sub>** brane in **AdS<sub>5</sub>** bulk

cf also Randall, Sundrum;  
Dvali, Gabadadze, Porrati; .....

$$I_{\text{KR}} = -\frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^4x dy \sqrt{g} \left( R + \frac{12}{L^2} \right) + \lambda \int d^4x \sqrt{[g]_4} ,$$

AdS<sub>5</sub> radius

brane tension

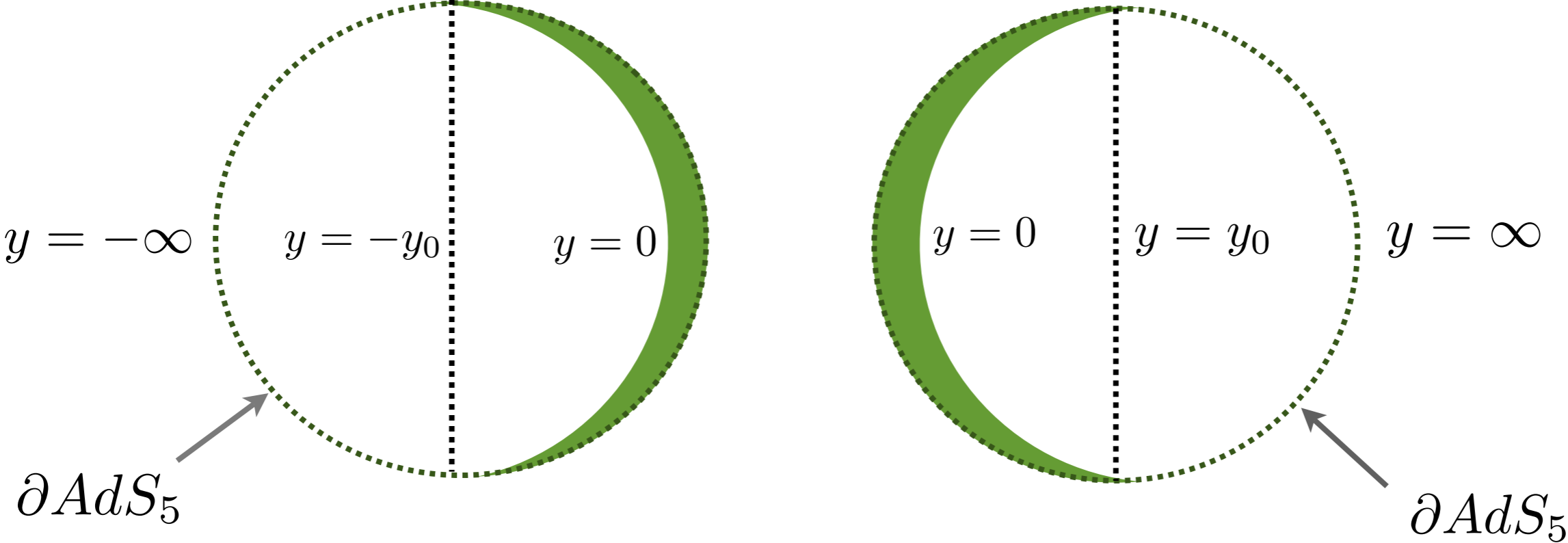
$$ds^2 = L^2 \cosh^2 \left( \frac{y_0 - |y|}{L} \right) \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + dy^2$$

AdS<sub>4</sub> foliation

Brane radius of curvature:  $\ell = L \cosh(y_0/L) = \frac{L}{\sqrt{1 - \kappa_5^2 \lambda L/6}} \gg L$

can be tuned so that

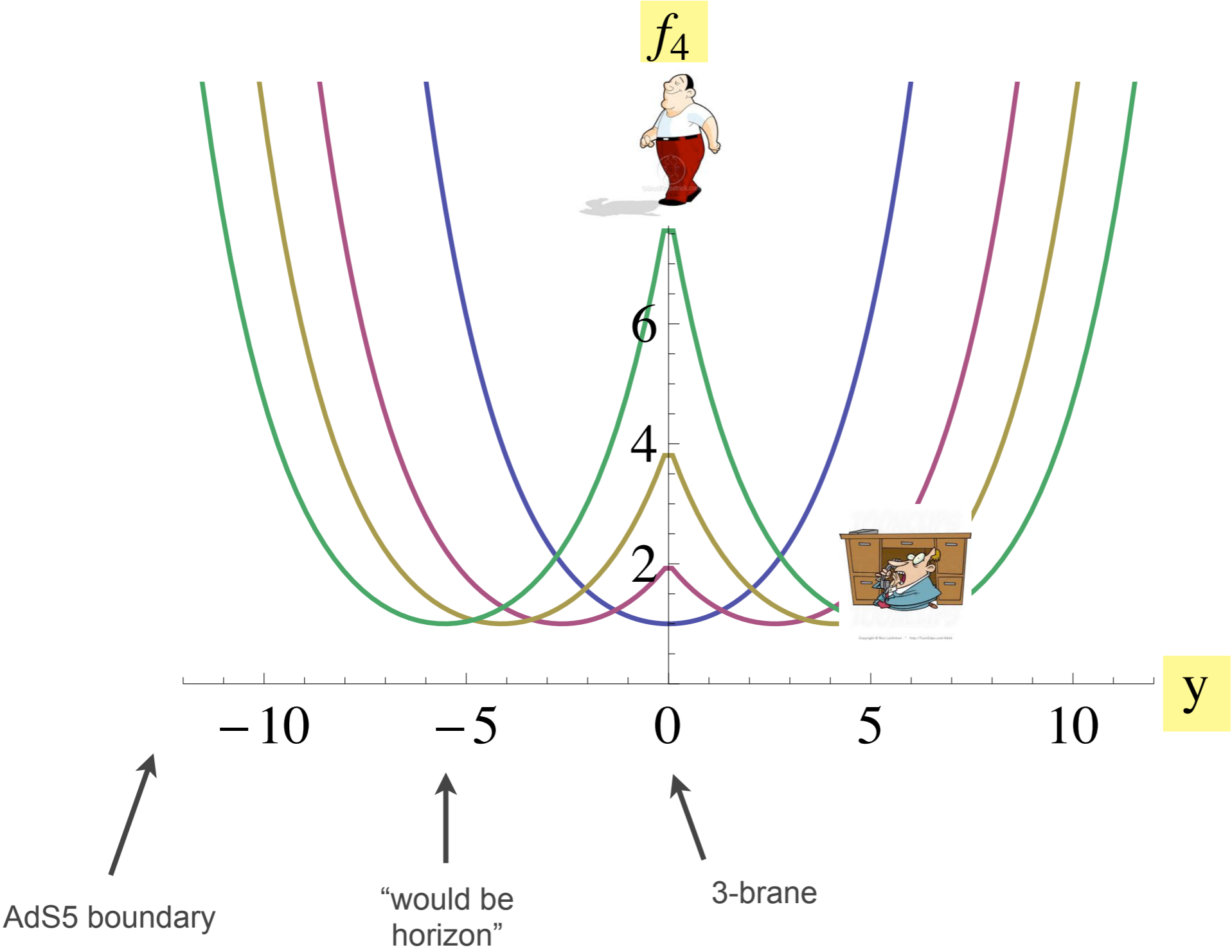
Two slices of AdS5 glued along a AdS4 brane:



(cut away green slices and glue)

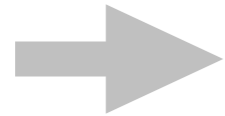


# Warp factor as function of transverse coordinate:

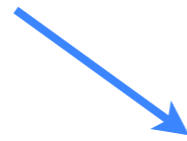


(Randall-Sundrum II)

## Spectrum :

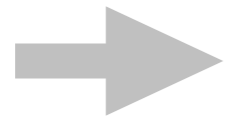


one nearly-constant, **nearly massless** mode



vanishes near bottom  
of warp factor wells

$$\ell^2 m_0^2 \simeq \frac{3L^2}{2\ell^2}$$



two infinite towers of nearly AdS5 modes



supported at bottom of  
wells

$$\ell^2 m^2 \simeq (2n + 1)(2n + 4)$$

$$n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Their wavefunctions are **exponentially suppressed** at the brane position, so they are **hidden from 4D gravity**:

$$\int [dy] e^{2A} \psi_0 \phi_h^* \phi_h \ll \psi_0$$

No conventional effective 4D theory, but physics does look 4D at

$$L \ll r \ll \ell$$

Newton's law:

$$8\pi G_N \simeq \kappa_5^2/L \quad \longleftarrow \text{as in usual KK}$$

$$V_{\text{Newton}} + \Delta V \simeq -\frac{G_N m_1 m_2}{r} \left(1 + \gamma \frac{L^2}{r^2} + \dots\right)$$

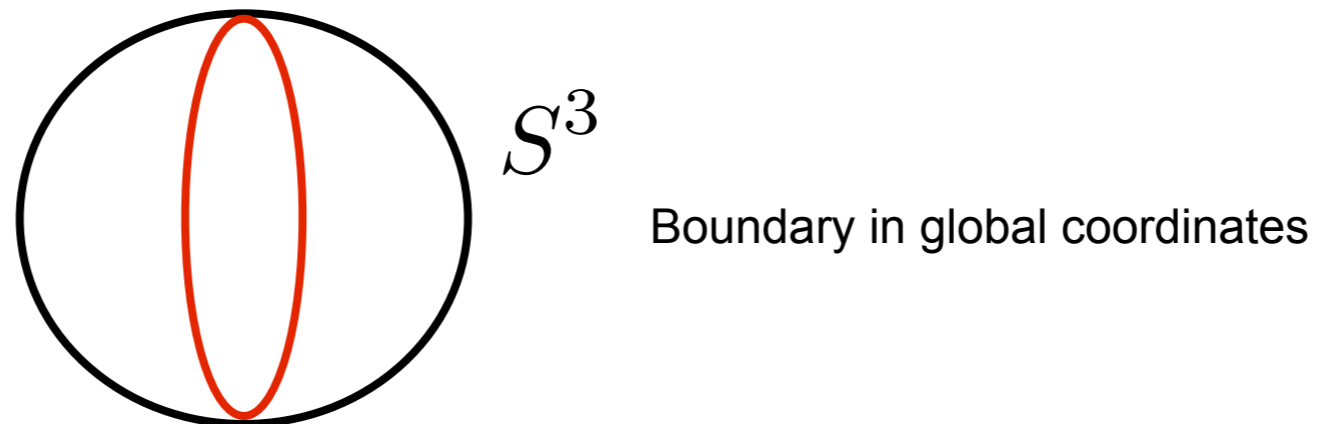
↑  
*unlike standard KK*

Warning: this is not a model for the Universe, since  $\Lambda_{\text{eff}} < 0$

But **any** long-distance modification of Einstein gravity is  
(potentially) interesting!

**Can the KR model be embedded in string theory ?**

(holographic duals to conformal domain walls of CFT<sub>4</sub>)



Two beautiful developments got us started:

Lunin; Gomis, Romelsberger

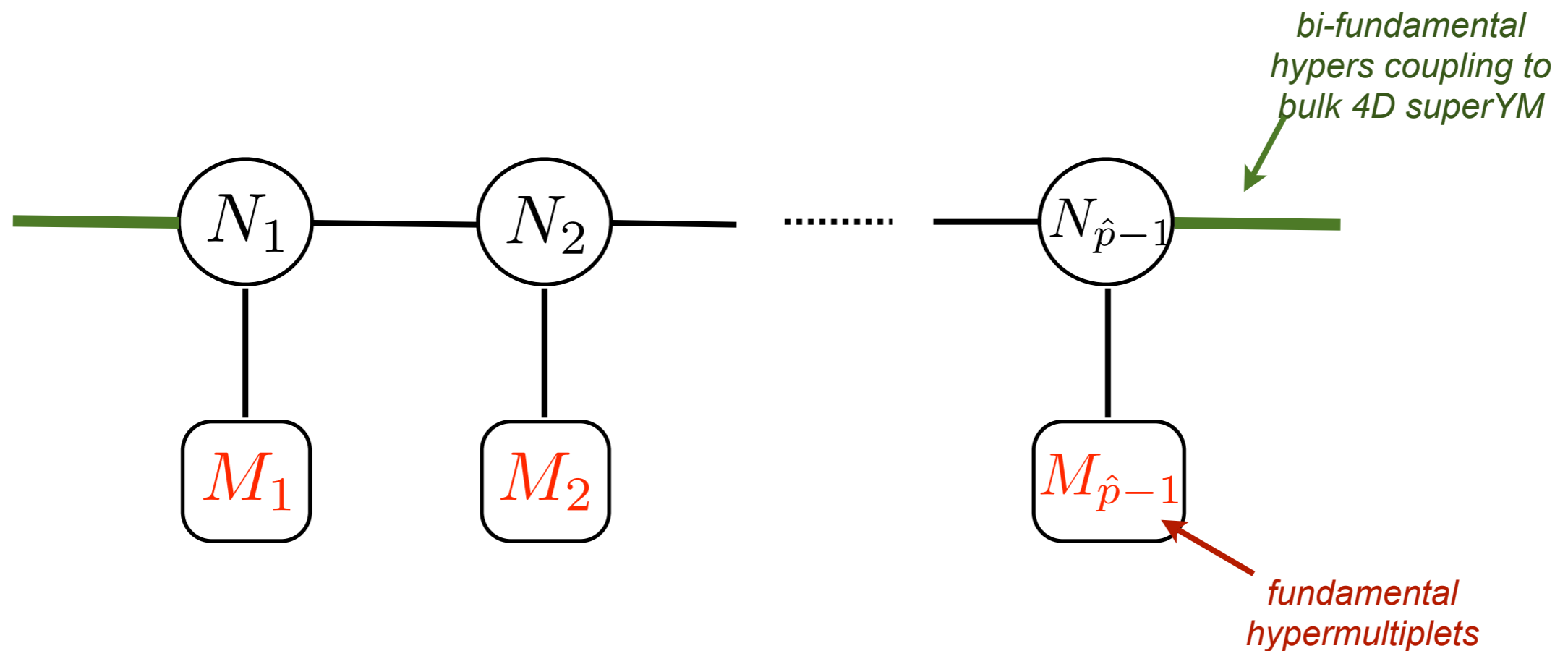
➔ **D'Hoker, Estes & Gutperle '07** found the **general local form** of type-IIB supergravity solutions with  $OSp(2, 2|4) \supset SO(2, 3) \times SO(3) \times SO(3)$  supersymmetry.

➔ This is the symmetry of conformal 1/2-BPS domain walls in N=4 D=4 super-Yang-Mills theory, which were classified by **Gaiotto & Witten '08**

DeWolfe, Freedman, Ooguri; .....

To address our question, we established the precise dictionary between these two works. Bonus: some new results on AdS<sub>4</sub>/CFT<sub>3</sub>, which is for several reasons the most interesting of holographic dualities.

The Gaiotto-Witten domain walls support **linear-quiver N=4 CFT3s**



$$U(N_1) \times U(N_2) \times \cdots \times U(N_{\hat{p}-1})$$

gauge group

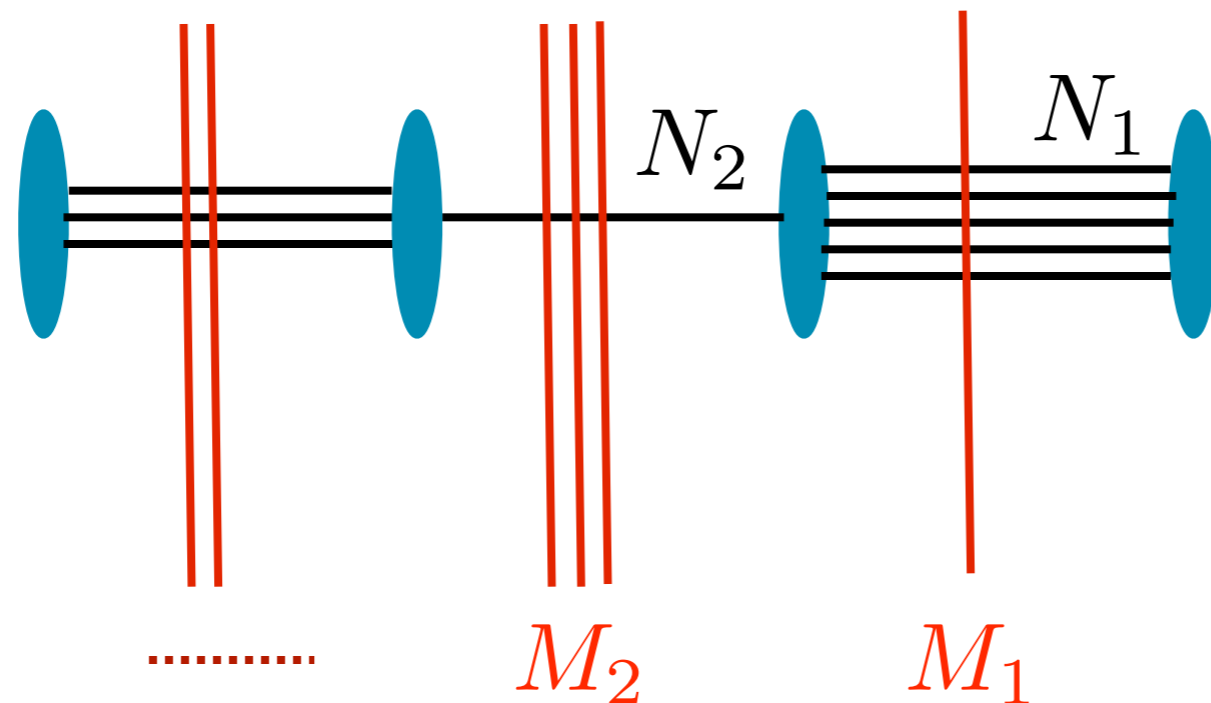
$$U(M_1) \times U(M_2) \times \cdots \times U(M_{\hat{p}-1})$$

**manifest** global symmetry

$$U(\hat{M}_1) \times U(\hat{M}_2) \times \cdots \times U(\hat{M}_{p-1})$$

**hidden** global symmetry

Engineered on D3-branes suspended/intersecting NS5- and D5- branes



Hanany-Witten

Mirror symmetry exchanges NS5 with D5 (Intriligator, Seiberg; de Boer, Hori, Ooguri, Oz; .....

(Almost) invariant description in terms of **linking numbers**:

$$i \text{ th D5} \quad \ell_i = (\text{net \# of D3-branes ending on it from left}) + (\# \text{ of NS5 to its right})$$

$$j \text{ th NS5} \quad \hat{\ell}_j = (\text{net \# of D3-branes ending on it from right}) + (\# \text{ of D5 to its left})$$

Focus on 3D gauge theories (coupling to 4D YM: slight complication)

Gaiotto-Witten conjectured that these **flow to non-trivial SCFT** whenever

$$\# \text{ hypers} \geq 2N_a \quad \text{for each gauge group}$$

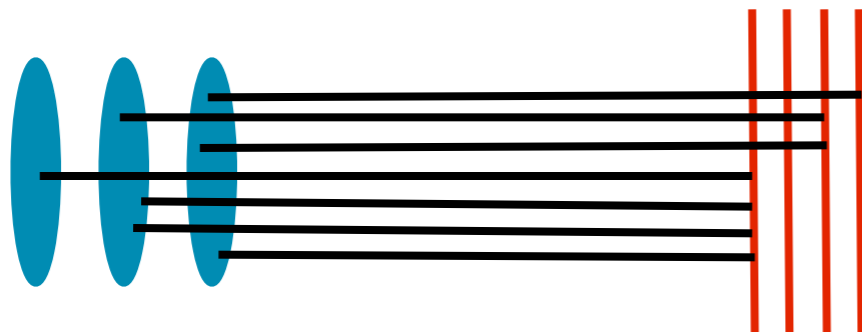
(complete Higgsing)

These conditions translate to  $\hat{l}_1 \geq \hat{l}_2 \cdots \geq \hat{l}_{\hat{p}} > 0$  (labelled from right to left)

while also  $l_1 \geq l_2 \cdots \geq l_p > 0$  (labelled from left to right)

Move all NS5 to the left of all D5  $\implies$

$$\sum l_i = \sum \hat{l}_j = N$$



two partitions  $\rho$  &  $\hat{\rho}$

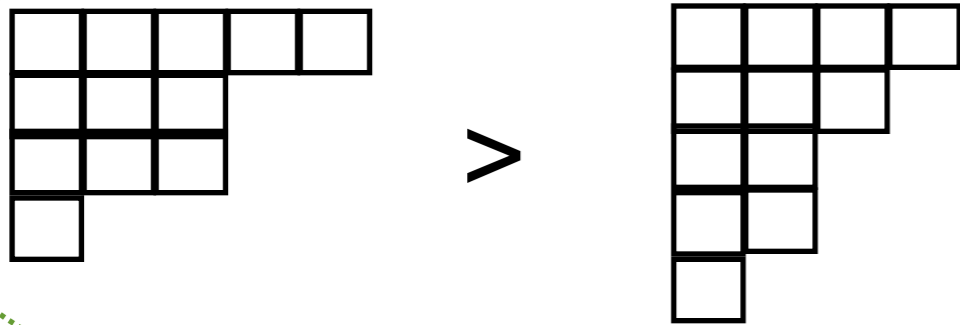


Supersymmetry (s-rule) implies the (partial ordering) constraints

$$\rho^T > \hat{\rho}$$

( # of boxes in first  $n$  columns of  $\rho$   $>$  # boxes in first  $n$  rows of  $\hat{\rho}$   $\forall n$  )

e.g.



arise in many contexts related  
to Nahm's equations

Nakajima; Kronheimer;  
CB, Hoppe, Pioline; ....

Summarize: **non-trivial N=4 SCFT<sub>3</sub>**  $T_{\rho}^{\hat{\rho}}(SU(N))$

conjectured for any pair of partitions obeying these constraints

The IIB solutions are  $\text{AdS}_4 \times \text{S}_2 \times \text{S}_2$  fibrations over a Riemann surface basis  $\Sigma$ . Local solutions are determined by two harmonic functions  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ . Modulo an  $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$  rotation:

**metric :**  $ds^2 = f_4^2 ds_{\text{AdS}_4}^2 + f_1^2 ds_{\text{S}_1^2}^2 + f_2^2 ds_{\text{S}_2^2}^2 + 4\rho^2 dzd\bar{z} ,$

$$f_4^8 = 16 \frac{N_1 N_2}{W^2} , \quad f_1^8 = 16 h_1^8 \frac{N_2 W^2}{N_1^3} , \quad f_2^8 = 16 h_2^8 \frac{N_1 W^2}{N_2^3}$$

$$\rho^8 = \frac{N_1 N_2 W^2}{h_1^4 h_2^4}$$

**dilaton :**  $e^{4\phi} = \frac{N_2}{N_1}$

where  $W = \partial h_1 \bar{\partial} h_2 + \bar{\partial} h_1 \partial h_2 = \partial \bar{\partial} (h_1 h_2) ,$

$$N_1 = 2h_1 h_2 |\partial h_1|^2 - h_1^2 W , \quad N_2 = 2h_1 h_2 |\partial h_2|^2 - h_2^2 W .$$

There are also p-form backgrounds:  $F_5$ ,  $H_3$ ,  $F_3$   
expressed in terms of the dual harmonic functions:

$$h_1 = -i(\mathcal{A}_1 - \bar{\mathcal{A}}_1) \quad \rightarrow \quad h_1^D = \mathcal{A}_1 + \bar{\mathcal{A}}_1$$

$$h_2 = \mathcal{A}_2 + \bar{\mathcal{A}}_2 \quad \rightarrow \quad h_2^D = i(\mathcal{A}_2 - \bar{\mathcal{A}}_2)$$

and the (normalized) volume forms of the (pseudo)spheres:

$$\omega^{0123} \quad AdS_4$$

$$\omega^{45} \quad S_1^2$$

$$\omega^{67} \quad S_2^2$$

Note: the constant parts of  $Re(\mathcal{A}_1)$  and  $Im(\mathcal{A}_2)$  are pure gauge.

**3-forms** :  $H_{(3)} + iF_{(3)} = \omega^{45} \wedge db_1 + i\omega^{67} \wedge db_2$

$$b_1 = 2ih_1 \frac{h_1 h_2 (\partial h_1 \bar{\partial} h_2 - \bar{\partial} h_1 \partial h_2)}{N_1} + 2h_2^D$$

where:

$$b_2 = 2ih_2 \frac{h_1 h_2 (\partial h_1 \bar{\partial} h_2 - \bar{\partial} h_1 \partial h_2)}{N_2} - 2h_1^D$$

**5-form** :  $F_{(5)} = -4 f_4^4 \omega^{0123} \wedge \mathcal{F} + 4 f_1^2 f_2^2 \omega^{45} \wedge \omega^{67} \wedge (*_2 \mathcal{F}) ,$

where

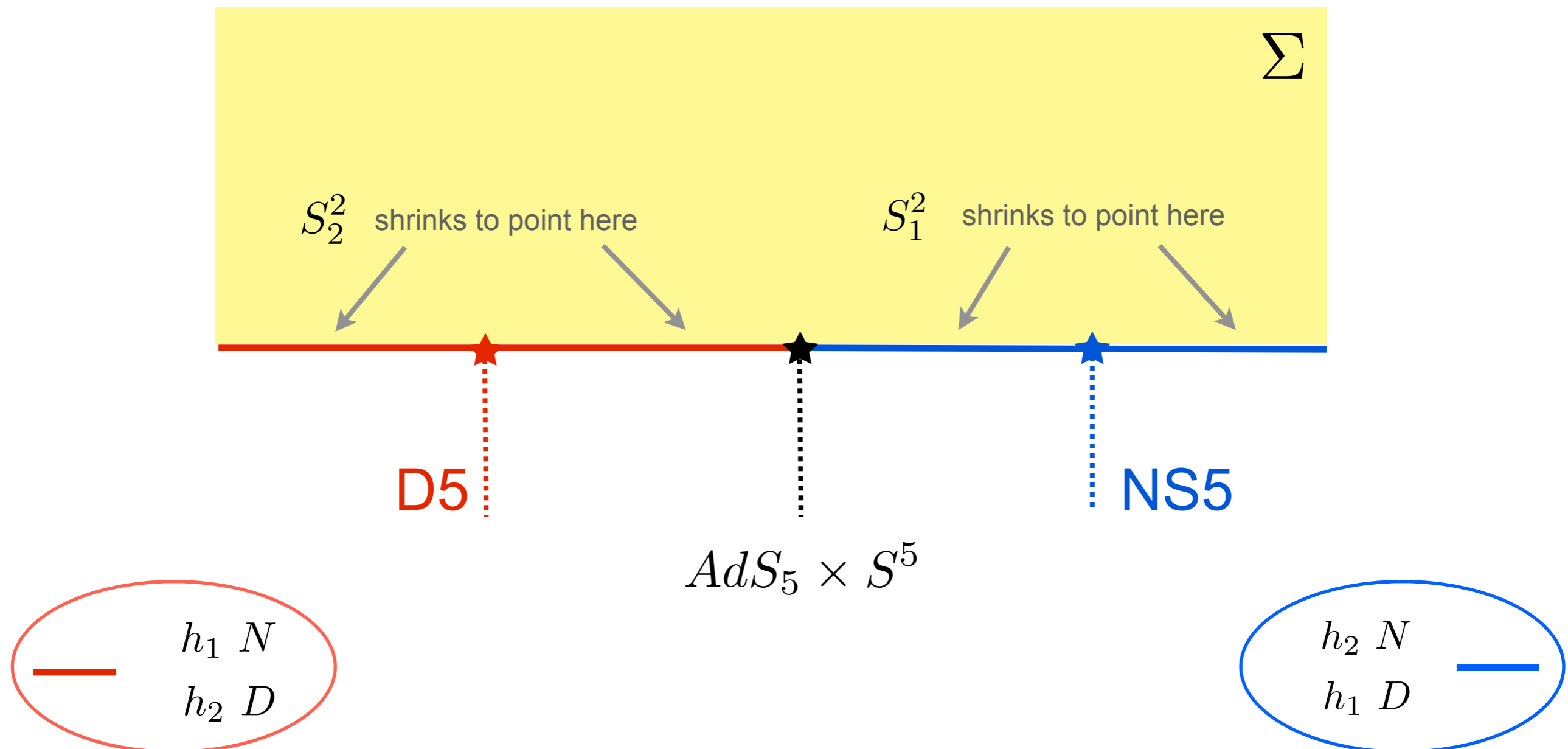
$$f_4^4 \mathcal{F} = dj_1 \quad \text{with} \quad j_1 = 3\mathcal{C} + 3\bar{\mathcal{C}} - 3\mathcal{D} + i \frac{h_1 h_2}{W} (\partial h_1 \bar{\partial} h_2 - \bar{\partial} h_1 \partial h_2)$$

$$\partial \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A}_1 \partial \mathcal{A}_2 - \mathcal{A}_2 \partial \mathcal{A}_1$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \bar{\mathcal{A}}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 + \mathcal{A}_1 \bar{\mathcal{A}}_2$$

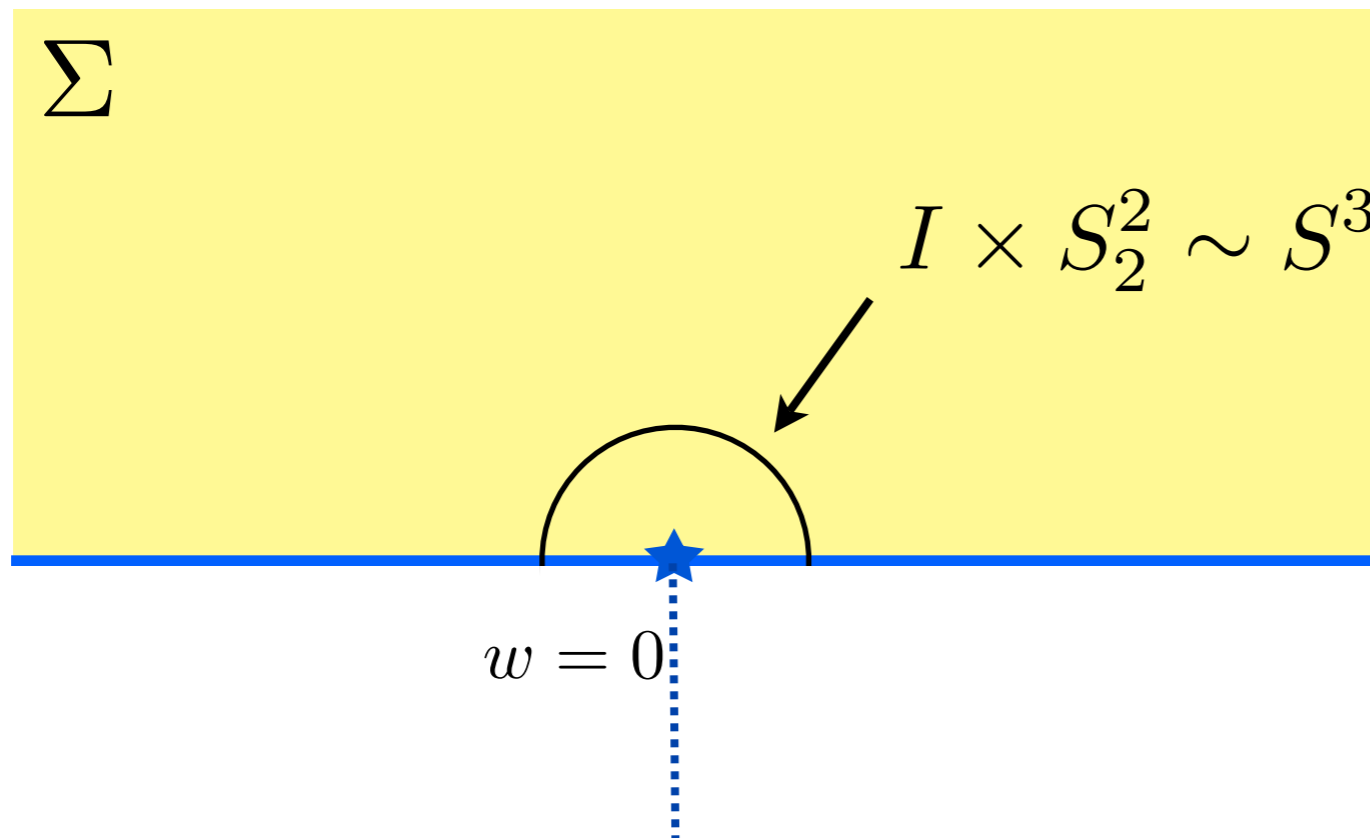
The surface  $\Sigma$  can have **boundaries** which are **interior points** of the 10D geometry. For this, require either  $h_1$  to have a **Dirichlet** condition and  $h_2$  a **Neumann** condition, or vice versa. One 2-sphere then shrinks to zero, and the geometry is (locally)  $\sim AdS_4 \times S^2 \times \mathcal{D}^2$

**Asymptotic regions arise as singularities on boundary:**



# Local form of **NS5 singularity**:

(For **D5-brane**: exchange roles of  $\mathcal{A}_1$  and  $\mathcal{A}_2$  )



$$\mathcal{A}_1 \simeq \pi \hat{\ell} + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 \simeq -\hat{M} \log w + \dots$$

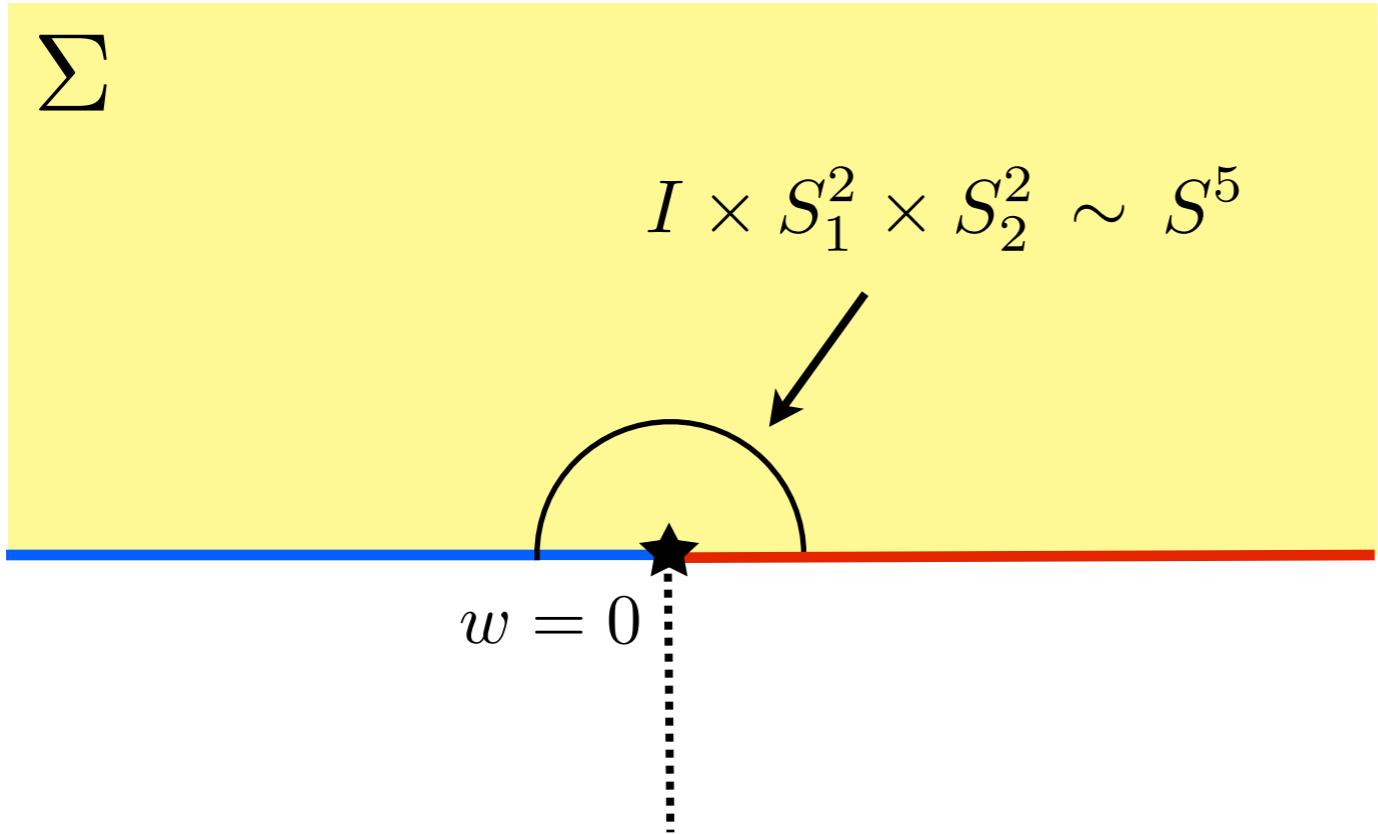
$$\hat{M} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int_{S^3} H_3$$

← **# NS5 branes**

$$\hat{M} \hat{\ell} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^4} \int_{S^3 \times S^2_1} (F_5 + C_2 \wedge H_3)$$

← **D3-brane Page charge**

Local form of  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ :



$$\mathcal{A}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{w}}(a_1 + b_1 w + \dots)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{w}}(a_2 + b_2 w + \dots)$$

$$n = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^4} \int_{S^5} F_5 = \frac{(a_2 b_1 - a_1 b_2)}{2\pi}$$

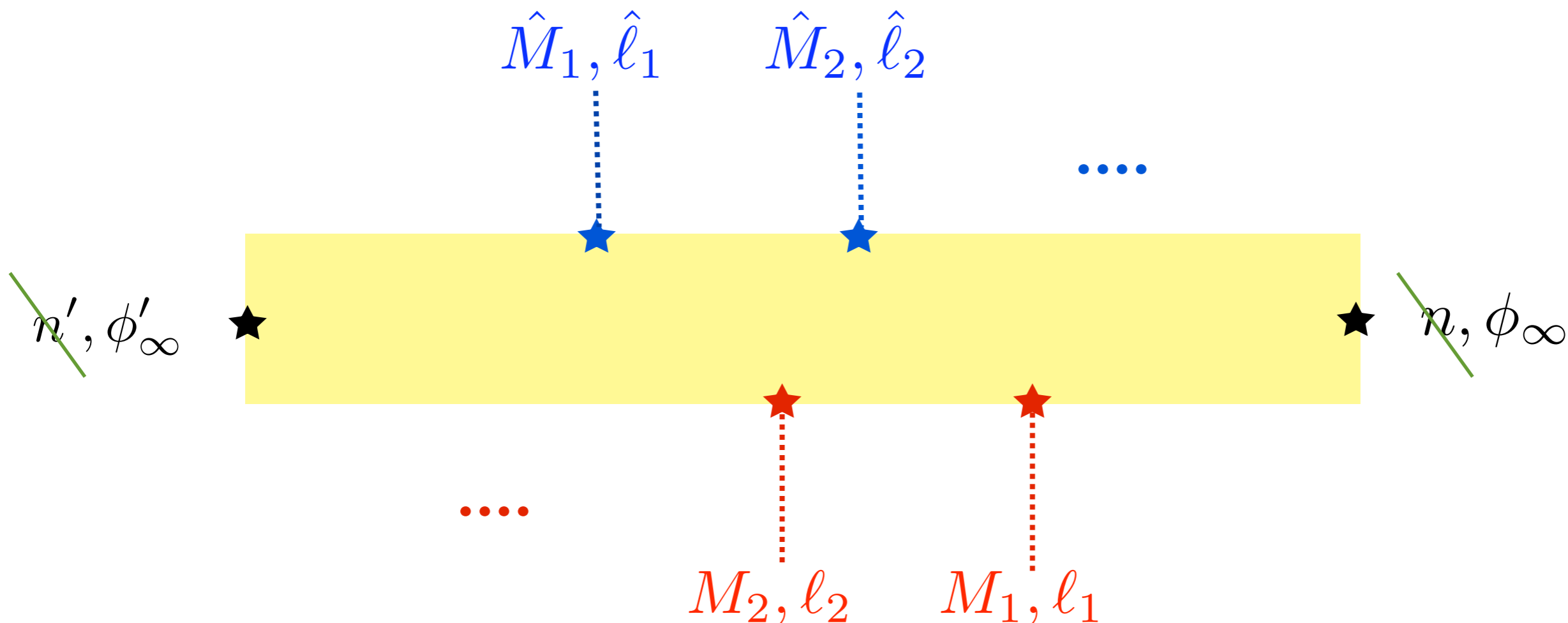
← D3 charge

Limit  $a_1, a_2 \rightarrow 0$  gives a smooth capping-off of geometry

Solution for linear quivers

$$h_1 = \left[ -i\alpha \sinh(z - \beta) - \sum_{a=1}^q \gamma_a \ln \left( \tanh \left( \frac{i\pi}{4} - \frac{z - \delta_a}{2} \right) \right) \right] + c.c.$$

$$h_2 = \left[ \hat{\alpha} \cosh(z - \hat{\beta}) - \sum_{b=1}^{\hat{q}} \hat{\gamma}_b \ln \left( \tanh \left( \frac{z - \hat{\delta}_b}{2} \right) \right) \right] + c.c.$$



Parameter count:

$$\{M_a, \ell_a, \hat{M}_b, \hat{\ell}_b\} \longleftrightarrow \{\gamma_a, \delta_a, \hat{\gamma}_b, \hat{\delta}_b\}$$



May have **zero, one** or **two** asymptotic  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  regions,  
**more leads to conical singularities.**

All parameters in first case are discrete: no N=4 moduli .

→ **Global** symmetries of CFT3 realized as gauge symmetries on 5-branes



→ Can show that linking numbers define two partitions obeying the  
**Young-tableau inequalities**

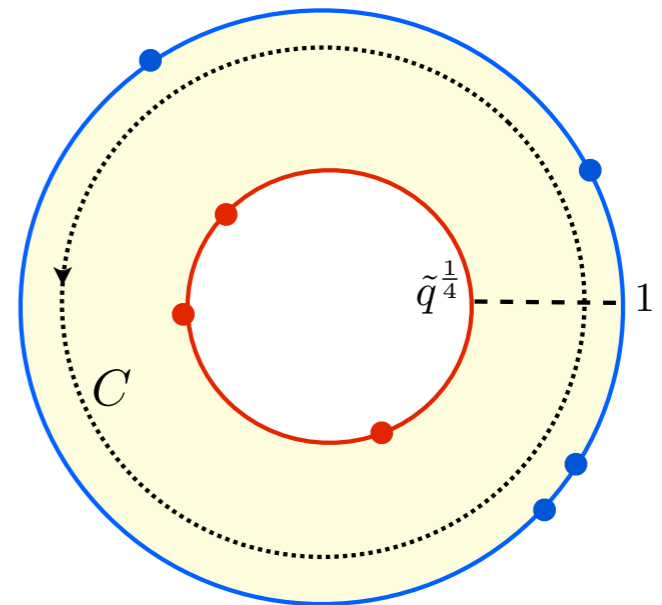
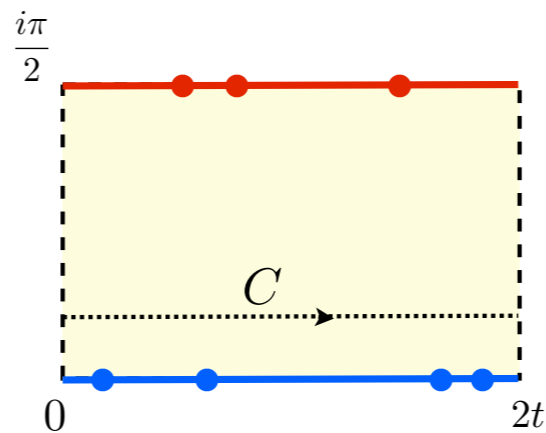


One-to-one correspondence with Gaiotto-Witten SCFT3s

# Solution for circular quivers

$z$

$w$



$$\mathcal{A}_1 = -i \sum_{a=1}^p \gamma_a \ln \left( \frac{\vartheta_1(q|\nu_a)}{\vartheta_2(q|\nu_a)} \right) + \varphi_1$$

$$i\nu_a = -\frac{z - \delta_a}{2\pi} + \frac{i}{4}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = -\sum_{b=1}^{\hat{p}} \hat{\gamma}_b \ln \left( \frac{\vartheta_1(q|\hat{\nu}_b)}{\vartheta_2(q|\hat{\nu}_b)} \right) + i\varphi_2$$

$$i\hat{\nu}_b = \frac{z - \hat{\delta}_b}{2\pi}$$

Annulus modulus  $\longleftrightarrow$   $K = \#$  of winding D3 branes

**Cannot** couple to 4D sYM, i.e. add asymptotic  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  regions

Modified Young tableaux inequalities, guaranteeing complete Higgsing:

$$\hat{\rho} < \rho^T + K$$

Several calculations/observations concerning this rich set of holographic dualities, that I have no time to discuss here. Just mention some:

- Free energy on  $S^3$  from sugra = from CFT:

checked that for  $T(SU(N))$  and some related theories

$$F = \frac{1}{2} N^2 \ln N + \mathcal{O}(N^2)$$

non-trivial

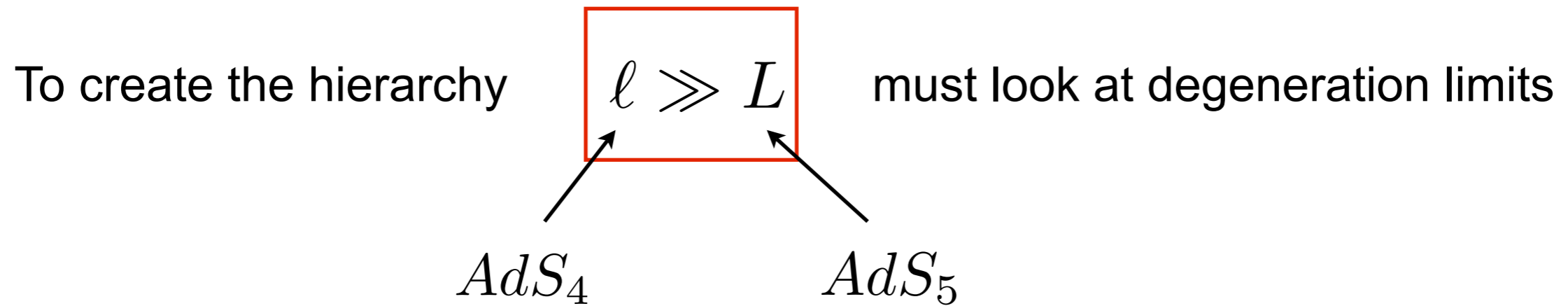
**Assel, Estes, Yamazaki**

using results of Benvenuti & Pasquetti;  
Nishioka, Tachikawa, Yamazaki

- Large  $K$  corresponds to  $t \rightarrow 0$  ; T-dual to ABJM-like theories.

- $SL(2, \mathbb{Q})$  transformations generalize mirror symmetry in planar limit

## Let's return now to the original question



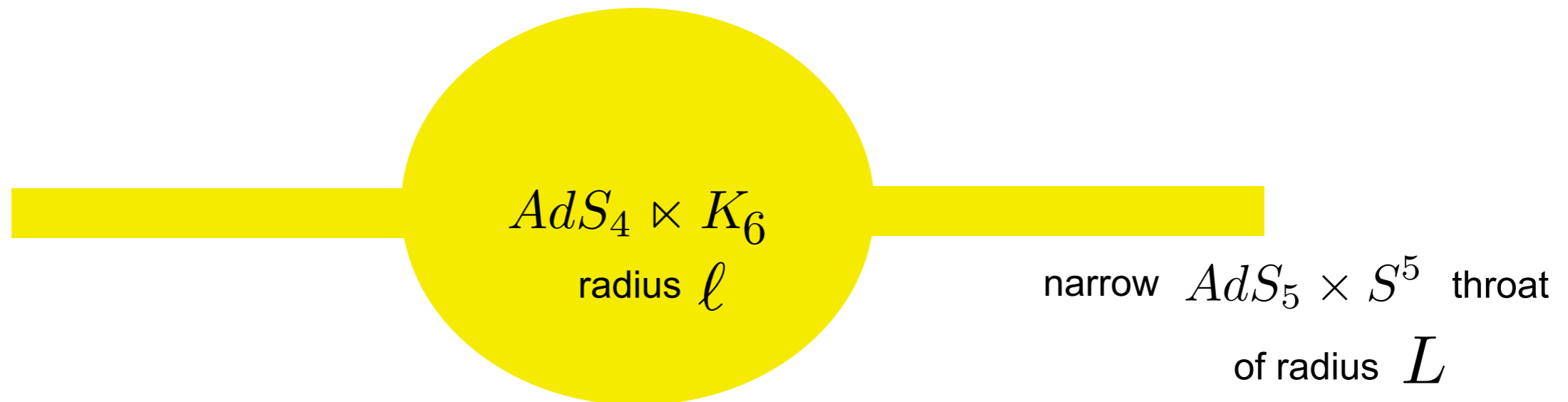
- Factorize 5-brane singularities  
Pinch annulus  $t \rightarrow \infty$  } “Worm-branes”  
(Janus throats)

- Cap-off  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  (small rank for bulk D=4 SYM group)  
 $\alpha, \hat{\alpha} \rightarrow 0$

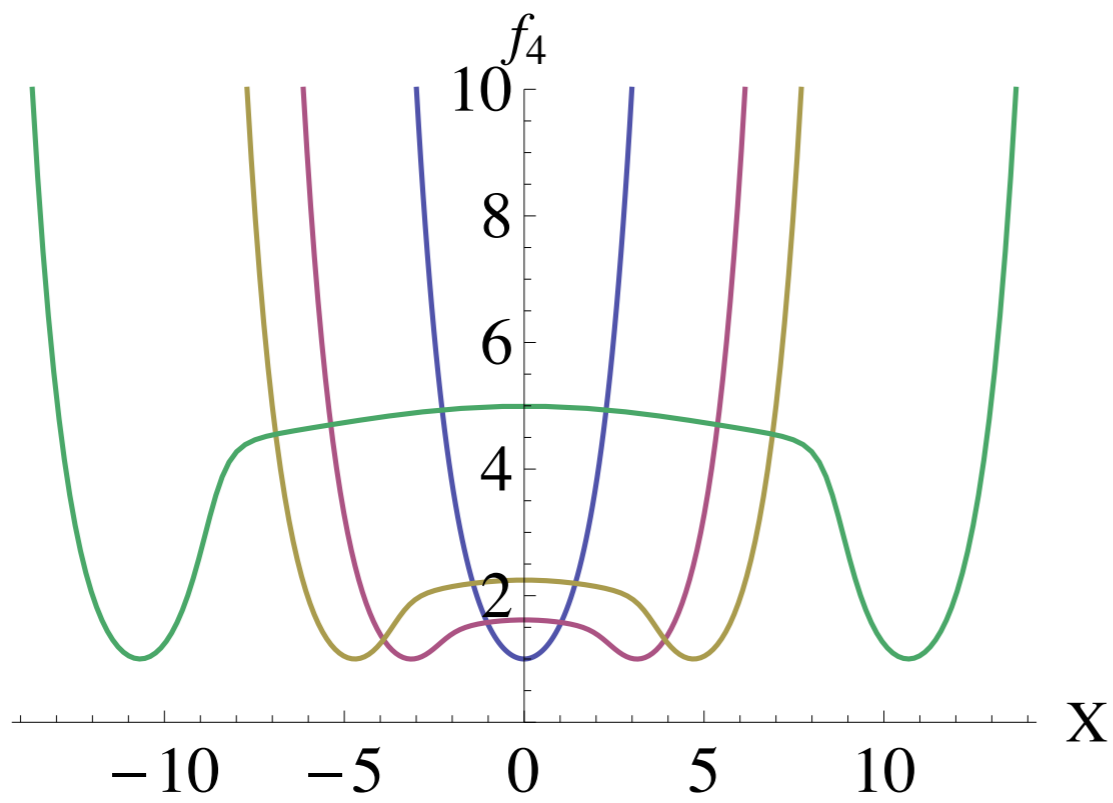
This is possible, provided there are both NS5s and D5s (*to stabilize dilaton*) ;  
The **lowest AdS4 spin-2 mode** has a (tiny) mass and non-universal couplings.

(Assel, CB, unpublished)

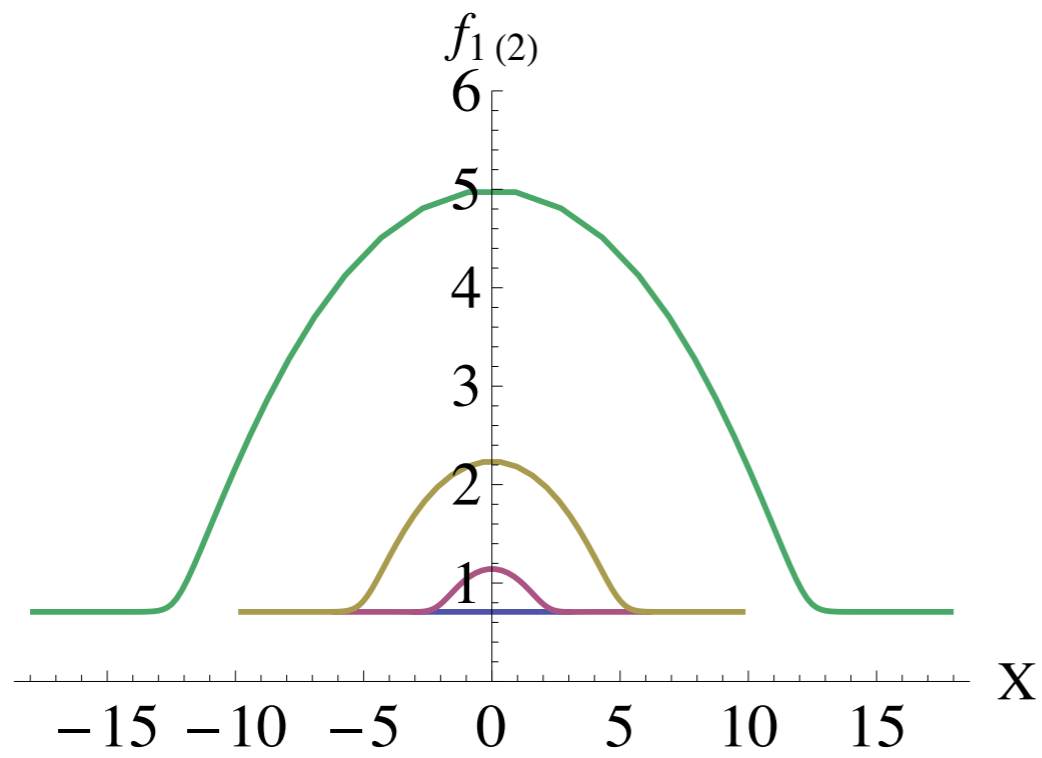
**But**, as in other efforts to create classical hierarchies, **spacetime decompactifies**



**Gravity is never 4-dimensional !**



warp factor



sphere radii

## What we need:

- An AdS4/CFT3 pair for which the **compact space stays small**  
( $T_{\mu\nu}$  and few other operators, then **large gap**)

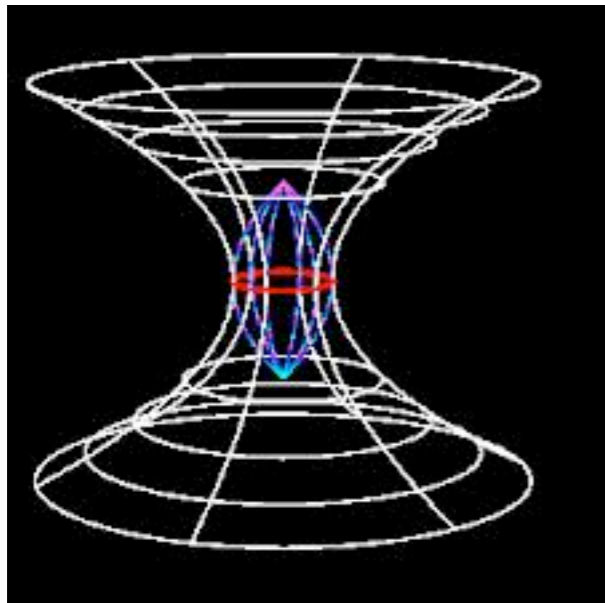
interesting, and hard problem by itself

cf Tsimpis

- Couple CFT3 to SYM4 **without destabilizing fixed point**

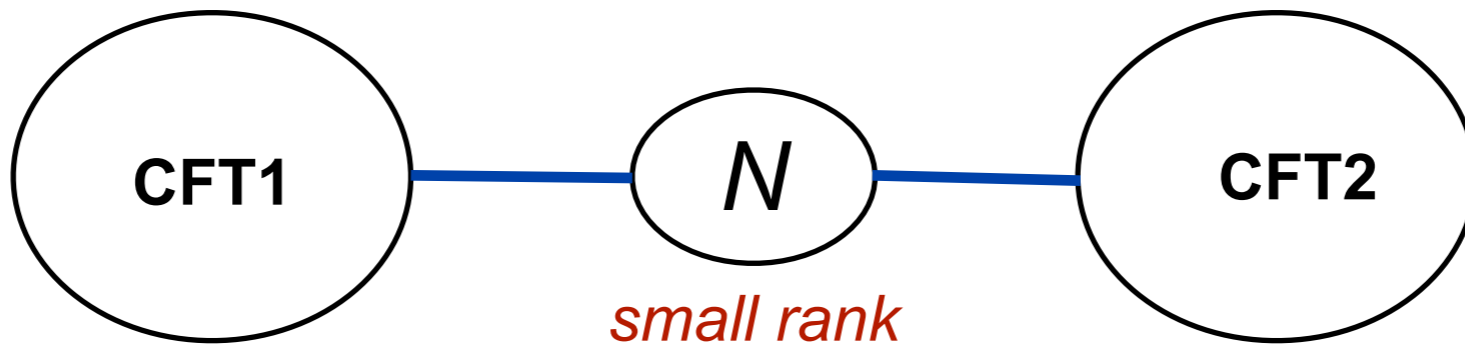
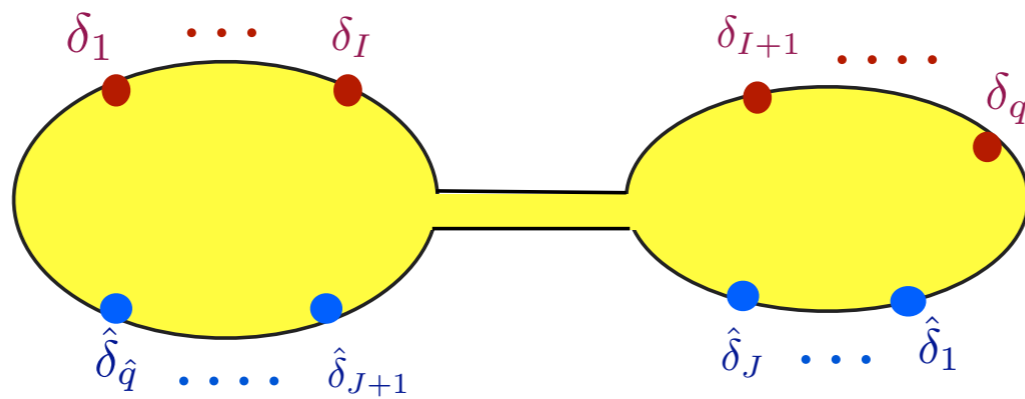
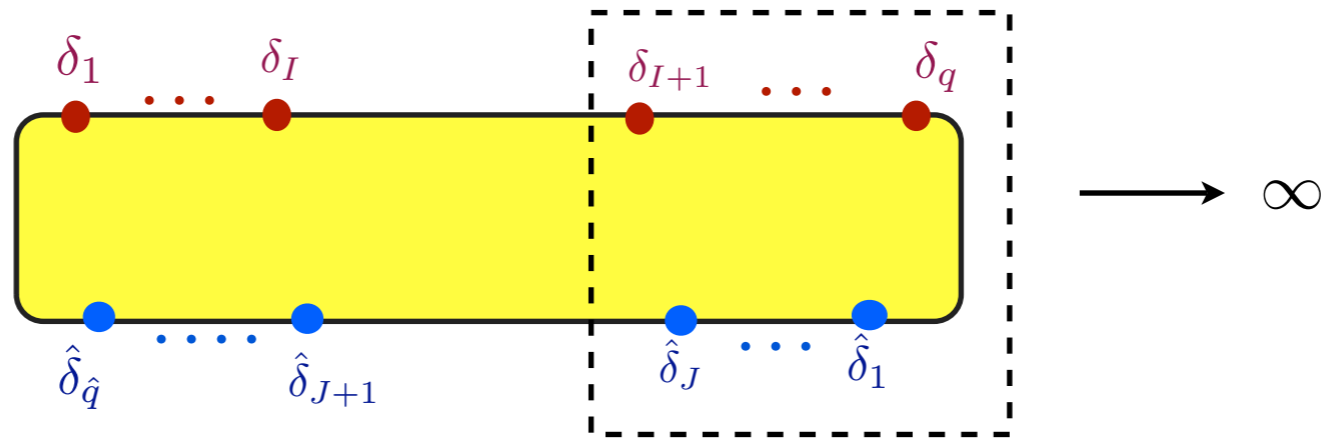
need understanding of geometric singularities





More generally, the solutions presented here are examples of Einstein-Rosen extended bridges (“**worm-branes**”)

whose properties can be studied using gauge theory



# Summary

Found a **large class of type-IIB backgrounds**, that are duals of the Gaiotto-Witten  $N=4$  SCFT3s , and of their circular-quiver extensions.

[These are AdS4 compactifications with localized 5-branes]

**Degeneration** limits correspond to **couplings via small-rank** gauge groups.  
Failed to localize 4D gravity, because the brane fattens to 10D spacetime.  
Interesting worm-brane geometries

as opposed to local multitrace couplings, e.g.  
Kiritsis, Niarchos; Aharony, Clark, Karch