

# Classification of $\mathcal{N} = 6$ theories of ABJM type

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. SUSY enhancement

## 3. Classification

## 4. Summary

# Motivation

## $\mathcal{N} = 8$ Lagrangian [Bagger-Lambert, Gustavsson]

- Relevant to the study of M2-branes
- Classification via 3-algebra [Papadopoulos, Gauntlett-Gutowski]  
[Nagy]

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## $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Lagrangian [Gaiotto-Witten]

- Arose from the study of boundary cond. of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $d = 4$ .
- Lagrangians clearly related to BLG...

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- Lagrangians clearly related to BLG...

## $\mathcal{N} = 6$ Lagrangian [Aharony-Bergman-Jafferis-Maldacena]

- Membrane on orbifolds.
- Enhancement mechanism quite understandable.
- Lagrangians clearly related to Gaiotto-Witten...

# Motivation

## Aim

- classification of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  lagrangians
- classification of  $\mathcal{N} = 6$  lagrangians
- Better understanding of relations among [BLG,GW,ABJM]

[Hosomichi-Lee-Lee-Lee-Park] appeared one week before ours.

- Theirs use their  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  formalism.
- Ours use more pedestrian  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  formalism.
- Today's talk combine aspects of both.

Completely new class of Lagrangians unfolding in front of my eyes.  
[BLG, Gaiotto-Witten, ABJM]

Simply Amazing.

Aren't Lagrangians with arbitrary  $(d, \mathcal{N})$  totally explored in 1980s ?

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I just love Lie algebras.



## 1. Introduction

## 2. SUSY enhancement

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1. Introduction

**2. SUSY enhancement**

3. Classification

4. Summary

## $d = 4$ $\mathcal{N} = 2$ in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ notation

- $V, \Phi_p$ : adjoint of  $G$
- $Q_a, \tilde{Q}^a$ : chiral multiplets in  $R$  and  $R^*$
- $W = T^{pa}{}_b Q_a \tilde{Q}^b \Phi_p$  with a specific coef.
- has  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R \curvearrowright Q, \tilde{Q}^\dagger$
- **Not Manifest** in  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  formalism

## When $Q, \tilde{Q}$ are adjoints

- $W = f^{pqr} Q_p \tilde{Q}_q \Phi_r$  has  $\mathbf{SU}(3)_F$
- **Manifest** in  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  formalism
- do **not** commute with  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R$
- combine to form  $\mathbf{SU}(4)_R \curvearrowright Q, \tilde{Q}, \Phi$ .

# SUSY enhancement

## When $Q, \tilde{Q}$ are adjoints

- $W = f^{pqr} Q_p \tilde{Q}_q \Phi_r$  has  $\mathbf{SU}(3)_F$
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## In 3d

- classically conformal  $\rightarrow$  quartic superpotential
- [Schwarz,2004] tried to use four adjoints
- no suitable  $f^{pqrs}$ , contrary to 4d case with  $f^{pqr}$ .

*We now know how to circumvent this...*

# $\mathcal{N}$ -extended susy in 3d

- the same number of supercharges with  $\mathcal{N}/2$ -extended susy in 4d
- $\mathrm{SO}(\mathcal{N})_R$  symmetry

$\mathcal{N}$	$\phi$	$\psi$	$Q$	
3	2	2	3	hyper
4	2	2'	4	hyper
	2'	2	4	twisted-hyper
5	4	4	5	
6	4	4	6	
7	8	8	7	
8	$8_S$	$8_C$	$8_V$	ultra
	$8_C$	$8_S$	$8_V$	twisted-ultra

- These multiplets don't have vectors in it ! Only possible in 3d
- need not be adjoint !

# Super Chern-Simons in 3d

- $\mathcal{N} = 2$  formalism in 3d  $\simeq$   $\mathcal{N} = 1$  formalism in 4d.
- $\mathcal{N} = 2$  super CS for arbitrary  $G$ , chiral matter  $Q$ , superpotential  $W$

$$S = kS_{\mathcal{N}=2CS} + \int d^4\theta Q^\dagger e^V Q + \int d^2\theta W + c.c.$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 3$  when chiral matters are  $A$  in  $R$ ,  $B$  in  $R^*$ ,  $\Phi$  in adjoint

$$S = kS_{\mathcal{N}=2CS} + k \int d^2 \text{tr} \Phi^2 + c.c. \\ + \int d^4\theta (A^\dagger e^V A + B^\dagger e^{-V} B) + \int d^2\theta (A\Phi B) + c.c.$$

- $SU(2)_R \curvearrowright (A, B^\dagger)$
- no kinetic term for  $\Phi$   $\rightarrow$  can be integrated out

# $\mathcal{N} = 3$ super Chern-Simons in 3d

- $\mathcal{N} = 3$  when chiral matters are  $A$  in  $R$ ,  $B$  in  $R^*$

$$S = kS_{\mathcal{N}=2CS} + \int d^4\theta (A^\dagger e^V A + B^\dagger e^{-V} B) \\ + \int d^2\theta f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} A^a B^{\bar{b}} A^c B^{\bar{d}} + c.c.$$

- $f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} = (k^{-1})_{pq} T_{a\bar{b}}^p T_{c\bar{d}}^q$
- this can have enhanced symmetry,
- which does not commute with  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R \rightarrow$  enhanced SUSY !



## Example: $\mathcal{N} = 4$

- Take  $G = U(N)_k \times U(N)_{-k}$ ,  $A$  and  $B^\dagger$  in the bifundamental
- $W = \text{tr } \Phi_1^2 - \text{tr } \Phi_2^2 + \text{tr } AB\Phi_1 + \text{tr } BA\Phi_2$   
 $\rightarrow W = \text{tr}(AB)^2 - \text{tr}(BA)^2 = 0 !$
- has  $\mathbf{U}(1)_A \times \mathbf{U}(1)_B$  acting on  $A$  and  $B$  separately
- does **not** commute with  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R \curvearrowright A, B^\dagger$ .

	$A$	$\psi_A$	$B$	$\psi_B$
$J_3 \in \mathbf{SU}(2)_R$	+1	-1	-1	+1
$\mathbf{U}(1)_A$	+1	+1	0	0
$\mathbf{U}(1)_B$	0	0	+1	+1

- $\mathbf{SO}(4)_R \curvearrowright A, B^\dagger, \mathcal{N} = 4 !$
- [Gaiotto-Witten], although they used  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  formalism ...

## Example: $\mathcal{N} = 6$

- Take  $G = \mathbf{U}(N)_k \times \mathbf{U}(N)_{-k}$ ,  $A_i$  and  $B^{i\dagger}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$
- $W = \text{tr } \Phi_1^2 - \text{tr } \Phi_2^2 + \text{tr } A_i B^i \Phi_1 + \text{tr } B^i A_i \Phi_2$   
 $\rightarrow W = \text{tr}(A_i B^i)^2 - \text{tr}(B^i A_i)^2 = \epsilon^{ij} \epsilon_{ab} \text{tr } A_i B^a A_j B^b$
- has  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_A \times \mathbf{SU}(2)_B$  acting on  $A_{1,2}$  and  $B^{1,2}$  separately
- does **not** commute with  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R \curvearrowright A_{1,2}, B^{1,2\dagger}$ .
- $\mathbf{SU}(4)_R \curvearrowright A_{1,2}, B^{1,2\dagger}$ ,  $\mathcal{N} = 6$  !
- [Aharony-Bergman-Jafferis-Maldacena]

## Example: $\mathcal{N} = 8$

- Take  $G = \mathbf{SU}(2)_k \times \mathbf{SU}(2)_{-k}$ ,  $C_{1,2,3,4} = (A_{1,2}, B^{1,2})$
- $W = \text{tr } \Phi_1^2 - \text{tr } \Phi_2^2 + \text{tr } A_i B^i \Phi_1 + \text{tr } B^i A_i \Phi_2$   
 $\rightarrow W = \text{tr}(A_i B^i)^2 - \text{tr}(B^i A_i)^2 = \epsilon^{ij} \epsilon_{ab} \text{tr } A_i B^a A_j B^b$
- has  $\mathbf{SU}(4)$  acting on  $C_{1,2,3,4}$
- does **not** commute with  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_R \curvearrowright C, C^\dagger$ .
- $\mathbf{SO}(8)_R \curvearrowright C, C^\dagger, \mathcal{N} = 8!$
- [Bagger-Lambert, Gustavsson]

# Half-hypermultiplets

- A hyper of gauge group  $G$  :  $A$  in  $R$  and  $B$  in  $R^*$
- A half-hyper of gauge group  $G$ :  $Q$  in  $R$  which is pseudo-real
- $SU(2)_R$  acts on  $(Q, Q^\dagger)$
- e.g. a doublet of  $SU(2)$ .
- two half-hyper  $Q, \tilde{Q}$  in  $2$  of  $SU(2)$  forms a full-hyper
- Why rarely discussed ?
  - odd number of half-hypers often afflicted with  
Witten's global anomaly
- No need to worry in 3d.

$Q$  : half-hyper in  $R$ .

$$W = k^{pq}\Phi_p\Phi_q + t_{ab}^p\Phi_p Q^a Q^b \rightarrow W = f_{abcd}Q^a Q^b Q^c Q^d$$

where

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^q$$

$R$  pseudo-real  $\rightarrow t_{ab}^p = t_{ba}^p$ . Suppose furthermore  $f_{a(bcd)} = 0$ .

$$\rightarrow W = 0. \rightarrow \mathbf{U}(1)_F \curvearrowright Q.$$

	$Q$	$\psi_Q$
$J_3 \in \mathbf{SU}(2)_R$	+1	-1
$\mathbf{U}(1)_F$	+1	+1

Enhancement to  $\mathbf{SO}(4)_R = \mathbf{SU}(2) \times \mathbf{SU}(2)$ . [Gaiotto-Witten]

$Q_{1,2}$  : two half-hypers in  $R$ .  $\mathbf{SO}(2)_F \curvearrowright Q_{1,2}$ .

$$W = k^{pq} \Phi_p \Phi_q + t_{ab}^p \Phi_p Q_i^a Q_i^b \rightarrow W = f_{abcd} Q_i^a Q_i^b Q_j^c Q_j^d$$

where

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^p$$

$R$  pseudo-real  $\rightarrow t_{ab}^p = t_{ba}^p$ . Suppose furthermore  $f_{a(bcd)} = 0$ .

$$\rightarrow W = f_{abcd} \epsilon^{ij} \epsilon^{kl} Q_i^a Q_j^b Q_k^c Q_l^d.$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{SU}(2)_F \curvearrowright Q_{1,2}.$$

Enhancement to  $\mathbf{USp}(4)_R \curvearrowright (Q_{1,2}, Q_{1,2}^\dagger)$  [Hosomichi-Lee<sup>3</sup>-Park]

$$\mathcal{N} = 6$$

$A_{1,2}$  in  $R$ ,  $B^{1,2}$  in  $R^*$ ,  $\mathbf{SU}(2)_F \curvearrowright A_{1,2}, B^{1,2}$ .

$$W = k^{pq} \Phi_p \Phi_q + t_{a\bar{b}}^p \Phi_p A_i^a B^{\bar{b}i} \rightarrow W = f_{abcd} A_i^a B^{\bar{b}i} A_j^c B^{\bar{d}j}$$

where

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{a\bar{b}}^p t_{c\bar{d}}^p$$

Suppose furthermore  $f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} = -f_{c\bar{b}a\bar{d}}$ .

$$\rightarrow W = f_{abcd} \epsilon^{ik} \epsilon_{jl} A_i^a B^{\bar{b}j} A_k^c B^{\bar{d}l}.$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{SU}(2)_A \curvearrowright A_{1,2}, \quad \mathbf{SU}(2)_B \curvearrowright B^{1,2}.$$

Enhancement to  $\mathbf{SU}(4)_R \curvearrowright (A_{1,2}, B_{1,2}^\dagger)$  [ABJM]

$A_{1,2}$  in  $R$ ,  $B^{1,2}$  in  $R^* = R$ , strictly real.

$$W = k^{pq} \Phi_p \Phi_q + t_{ab}^p \Phi_p A_i^a B^{bi} \rightarrow W = f_{abcd} A_i^a B^{bi} A_j^c B^{dj}$$

where

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^q$$

$R$  strictly real:  $t_{ab}^p = -t_{ba}^p$ . Suppose furthermore  $f_{abcd} = f_{[abcd]}$ .

$$\rightarrow W = f_{abcd} \epsilon^{ijkl} C_i^a C_j^b C_k^c C_l^d.$$

$$\rightarrow \mathrm{SU}(4)_F \curvearrowright C_{1,2,3,4} = (A_{1,2}, B^{1,2})$$

Enhancement to  $\mathrm{SO}(8)_R \curvearrowright (C_{1,2,3,4}, C_{1,2,3,4}^\dagger)$ .



# Fundamental Identities

## $\mathcal{N} = 8$ [Gustavsson]

$$f^{efg}{}_b f^{cba}{}_d + f^{fea}{}_b f^{cbg}{}_d + f^{gaf}{}_b f^{ceb}{}_d + f^{age}{}_b f^{cfb}{}_d = 0$$

equivalent to

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^q, \quad f_{abcd} = -f_{cbad}.$$

## $\mathcal{N} = 6$ [Bagger-Lambert]

$$f^{efg}{}_b f^{cba}{}_d + f^{fea}{}_b f^{cbg}{}_d + f^{*gaf}{}_b f^{ceb}{}_d + f^{*age}{}_b f^{cfb}{}_d = 0$$

equivalent to

$$f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{a\bar{b}}^p t_{c\bar{d}}^q, \quad f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} = -f_{c\bar{b}a\bar{d}}.$$

N.B. our  $f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}}$  = their  $f_{acd\bar{b}}$

# Summary

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^p$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$  if half-hyper in  $R$  pseudo-real, and

$$f_{a(bcd)} = 0$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 5$  if two half-hypers in  $R$  pseudo-real and

$$f_{a(bcd)} = 0$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 6$  if two hypers in  $R \oplus R^*$  and

$$f_{a\bar{b}\bar{c}\bar{d}} = -f_{c\bar{b}\bar{a}\bar{d}}$$

- $\mathcal{N} = 8$  if two hypers in  $R \oplus R^*$ ,  $R$  strictly real, and

$$f_{abcd} = -f_{cbad}$$

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$$\mathcal{N} = 4, 5$$

The conditions

$$f_{abcd} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p t_{cd}^p, \quad t_{ab}^p = t_{ba}^p$$

and

$$f_{a(bcd)} = 0$$

are equivalent to the Jacobi identity of a superalgebra [Gaiotto-Witten]

$$[B^p, B^q] = f^{pq}{}_r B^r,$$

$$[B^p, F_a] = t_{ab}^p J^{bc} F_c,$$

$$\{F_a, F_b\} = (k^{-1})_{pq} t_{ab}^p B^q.$$

$t_{ab}^p$  : pseudoreal

$J^{bc}$  : the fundamental antisymmetric tensor.

N.B. Info on  $k$  also encoded in the superalgebra !

# Lie superalgebra

Classification done by [Kac,Scheunert-Nahm-Rittenberg].

Assume the bosonic part = semisimple +  $\mathbf{U}(1)$ s

	boson	fermion
$\mathbf{PSU}(N N)$	$\mathbf{SU}(N) \times \mathbf{SU}(N)$	$\mathbf{N} \times \bar{\mathbf{N}} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{N}} \times \mathbf{N}$
$\mathbf{SU}(N M)$	$\mathbf{SU}(N) \times \mathbf{SU}(M) \times \mathbf{U}(1)$	$\mathbf{N} \times \bar{\mathbf{M}} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{M}} \times \mathbf{N}$
$\mathbf{OSp}(N 2M)$	$\mathbf{SO}(N) \times \mathbf{USp}(2M)$	$\mathbf{N} \times 2\mathbf{M}$
$D(2, 1; \alpha)$	$\mathbf{SO}(4) \times \mathbf{USp}(2)$	$2 \times 2' \times 2$
$G(3)$	$G_2 \times \mathbf{USp}(2)$	$7 \times 2$
$F(4)$	$\mathbf{SO}(7) \times \mathbf{USp}(2)$	$8 \times 2$
$P(N)$	$\mathbf{SU}(N + 1)$	sym. $\oplus$ antisym.
$Q(N)$	$\mathbf{SU}(N + 1)$	adj.

$P(N)$ ,  $Q(N)$  are really weird objects, e.g. no invariant supertrace.  
Their fermionic parts are not pseudoreal, etc.

$$\mathcal{N} = 6, 8$$

$\mathcal{N} = 6$  is when the pseudoreal representation decomposes as  $R \oplus R^*$

gauge group	matter
$\mathbf{SU}(N) \times \mathbf{SU}(N)$	$\mathbf{N} \times \bar{\mathbf{N}} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{N}} \times \mathbf{N}$
$\mathbf{SU}(N) \times \mathbf{SU}(M) \times \mathbf{U}(1)$	$\mathbf{N} \times \bar{\mathbf{M}} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{M}} \times \mathbf{N}$
$\mathbf{SO}(2) \times \mathbf{USp}(2M)$	$2\mathbf{M}_{+1} \oplus 2\mathbf{M}_{-1}$

N.B. Vector representation  $\mathbf{N}$  of  $\mathbf{SO}(N)$  is reducible only for  $N = 2$  !

$\mathcal{N} = 8$  is when the pseudoreal representation decomposes as  $R \oplus R^*$ , and furthermore  $R$  is strictly real.

gauge group	matter
$\mathbf{SU}(2) \times \mathbf{SU}(2)$	$2 \times 2 \oplus 2 \times 2$

Done. [Hosomichi-Lee-Lee-Park]

## $\mathcal{N} = 6, 8$ contd.

$\mathcal{N} = 6$  fund. identity

$$f_{a\bar{b}c\bar{d}} = -f_{c\bar{b}a\bar{d}}$$

is a special case of  $\mathcal{N} = 4, 5$  fund. identity

$$f_{A(BCD)} = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad t_{AB}^p = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & t_{a\bar{b}}^p \\ -t_{\bar{b}a}^p & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

as discussed in [Hosomichi-Lee<sup>3</sup>-Park].

Martin and I were rather stupid,  
and didn't understand this until we read their paper...

Instead we had (almost) classified directly representations which satisfy the  $\mathcal{N} = 6$  fund. identity when their paper came out.

# $\mathcal{N} = 6, 8$ contd.

We later found our method was quite similar to what Kac and Nahm did 30 years ago.

Yet we submitted our paper on arXiv, with a guilty conscience ...

I explain below how the uniqueness of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  can be proved, without relying on the magic table provided by Nahm & Kac.

$\mathcal{N} = 6$  is a bit more complicated, but of similar flavor.



$$\begin{aligned}
f(a, b, c, d) &= \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{k_l} g_{pq}^{(l)} \langle b | T_{(l)}^p | a \rangle \langle d | T_{(l)}^p | c \rangle \\
&= \sum_{l=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{k_l} \left[ \sum_i \langle b | H_{(l)}^i | a \rangle \langle d | H_{(l)}^i | c \rangle + \right. \\
&\quad \left. \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} \frac{|\alpha|^2}{2} \langle b | E_{(l)}^\alpha | a \rangle \langle d | E_{(l)}^{-\alpha} | c \rangle \right].
\end{aligned}$$

We require

$$f(a, b, c, d) = -f(c, b, a, d)$$

when  $a, b, c, d$  are all real.

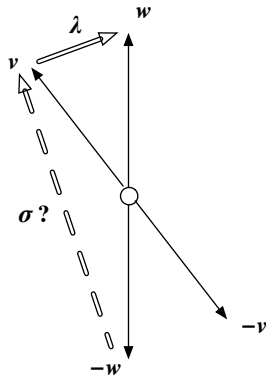
Now, take  $a = |w\rangle + |w\rangle^*$ ,  $b = |v\rangle + |v\rangle^*$   
 where  $w$ : highest weight state,  $|v\rangle = T^{-\lambda}|w\rangle$ .

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -f(a, a, b, b) = f(a, b, a, b) \\ &= \sum_{\ell=1}^L k_{\ell} \sum_{\rho \in \Delta_{\ell}} |(\langle w| + \langle w|^*)T_{\ell}^{\rho}(|v\rangle + |v\rangle^*)|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Contradicts unless there's a root  $\sigma$  s.t.

$$|v\rangle = T^{\sigma}|w\rangle^*.$$

Only two steps  $T^{-\lambda}T^{-\sigma}$   
 from the highest weight  $|w\rangle$  to the lowest  $|-w\rangle$ .



$$\mathcal{N} = 8$$

Only two steps  $T^{-\lambda}T^{-\sigma}$  from the h.w.  $|w\rangle$  to the l.w.  $|-w\rangle$ .

This is a rather strong condition.  $w = (\lambda + \sigma)/2$ .

Implies the length squared (LS) of  $w$  is  $\leq 1$ .

Such representations are rare.

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1. fundamental of $\mathbf{SU}(N)$ ,                                  | LS=1-1/N.     |
| 2. vector of $\mathbf{SO}(N)$ ,                                       | LS=1.         |
| 3. spinor of $\mathbf{SO}(7)$ , $\mathbf{SO}(8)$ , $\mathbf{SO}(9)$ , | LS=3/4, 1, 1. |
| 4. vector of $\mathbf{USp}(2N)$ ,                                     | LS=1/2.       |
| 5. antisymmetric traceless of $\mathbf{USp}(2N)$ ,                    | LS=1          |
| 6. <b>26</b> of $F_4$ .   | LS=1.         |

and combination thereof.

Only  $\mathbf{SU}(2) \times \mathbf{SU}(2)$  with bifundamental is allowed.

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## Reviewed

- SUSY enhancement à la ABJM from  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  to  $\mathcal{N} = 4, 5, 6, 8$
- Classification
  - via Lie superalgebra
  - direct analysis ...

## To be done

- Dynamics of newly found  $\mathcal{N} = 5, 6$  theories ?
- $\mathcal{N} = 4, 5$  theory in terms of 3-algebras ?
- Non-ABJM-type enhancement ? unlikely, but not ruled out ...