

Theories of Class F and Their Anomalies

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- 1 Introduction: Theories of Class S
- 2 Part I: Theories of Class F [CL, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki]
 - M5-brane wrapping $C_{g,n}$ fibration
 - 4d theories with varying couplings and duality defects
 - determine anomaly polynomials, I_6 , from I_8
- 3 Part II: Compactifications of Class F
 - class F on complex curve C with topological duality twist
 - 2d chiral SCFTs with anomaly polynomial I_4
 - compare with AdS₃ duals of D3-branes on C with varying τ
[Couzens, CL, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki, Wong]
- 4 Part III: Extensions
 - more examples of fibral dimensional reductions

Introduction: Class S

Class S are 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories [Gaiotto]

→ twisted dimensional reduction of the 6d $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ SCFT on $C_{g,n}$

→ $C_{g,n}$ a complex curve, with genus g and n punctures

$$M_6 = M_4 \times C_{g,n}$$

- Couplings in 4d depend on complex structure moduli of $C_{g,n}$
- Class S are generically non-Lagrangian and strongly coupled
- Information about degrees of freedom of these theories can be obtained from their anomalies

A theory with an anomaly under group G

$\Rightarrow Z$ not invariant under G -transformation of fields with parameter δ

$$\mathcal{A}_\delta = \int_{M_D} I_D$$

An anomaly can be captured by a formal $D + 2$ -form on spacetime M_D via Wess–Zumino descent

$$I_{D+2} = dI_{D+1}^{(0)}, \quad \delta I_{D+1}^{(0)} = dI_D^{(1)}$$

The contribution to the anomaly polynomial, I_{D+2} from a chiral fermion is

$$ch(F_{\mathbf{R}})\hat{A}(M_D)|_{D+2\text{-form}},$$

for fermion in representation \mathbf{R} of symmetry group G

Anomalies for 6d (2, 0) SCFT

The 6d (2, 0) SCFT of type G has anomaly polynomial

[Witten; (Freed), Harvey, Minasian, Moore; Intriligator; Yi; Ohmori, Shimizu, Tachikawa, Yonekura]

$$I_8 = \frac{r_G}{48} \left[p_2(N_5) - p_2(M_6) + \frac{1}{4} (p_1(N_5) - p_1(M_6))^2 \right] + \frac{h_G^\vee d_G}{24} p_2(N_5)$$

N_5 : $SO(5)$ R-symmetry bundle

M_6 : 6d spacetime

r_G, d_G, h_G^\vee : rank, dimension, dual Coxeter number of G

I_8 is formal expansion in Chern roots of

$$T_{M_6} \leftrightarrow \pm\lambda_1, \pm\lambda_2, \pm\lambda_3$$

$$N_5 \leftrightarrow \pm n_1, \pm n_2, 0$$

Anomalies for class S from $C_{g,n}$ have been computed

[Gaiotto, (Maldacena); Chacaltana, Distler, (Tachikawa); Tachikawa]

→ without punctures can be determined from I_8

[Bah, Beem, Bobev, Wecht; Alday, Benini, Tachikawa]

(See [Bah, Nardoni] for extensions including punctures)

Let $M_6 = M_4 \times C_g$ and $\pm\lambda_3$ Chern roots of T_{C_g}

Topological twist

$$n_1 = 2r - \lambda_3, \quad n_2 = 2\alpha,$$

where α is Chern root of $SU(2)_R$ and r of $U(1)_R$

$$\int_{C_g} I_8 = (g-1) \left[- \left(\frac{4}{3} d_G h_G^\vee + r_G \right) c_2(R) c_1(R) + \frac{1}{3} r_G c_1(R)^3 - \frac{1}{12} r_G c_1(R) p_1(M_4) \right]$$

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Part I: Theories of Class F

Consider the 6d (2, 0) theory on a fibration M_6 ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_{g,n} & \hookrightarrow & M_6 \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & M_4 \end{array}$$

- 4d theory when $\text{vol}(C_{g,n}) \rightarrow 0$
- fibration is trivial \Rightarrow class S
- complex structure of $C_{g,n}$ varies over spacetime
- couplings vary over spacetime
- global fibration \Rightarrow monodromies in mapping class group \mathcal{MCG}_g

Such theories will be denoted

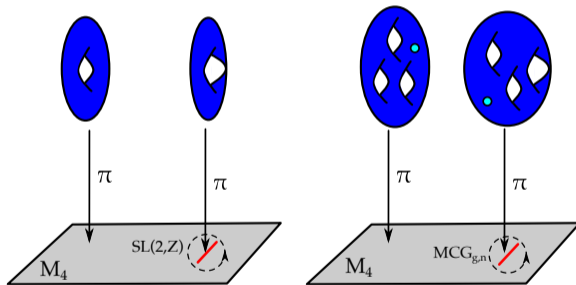
$$T[C_g, \mathcal{F}, G]$$

where \mathcal{F} is the data describing the fibration

The $C_{g,n}$ fibration has singular fibers

\Rightarrow couplings undergo monodromy in $\mathcal{MCG}_{g,n}$

\rightarrow S-duality transformation



Class F: 4d supersymmetric field theories with consistent global network of duality defects

Simplest case $\rightarrow g = 1, n = 0$

$\rightarrow \mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM with a non-trivial τ -profile over M_4

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ with spacetime dependent coupling has recently been studied in
[Martucci; Haghighat, Murthy, Vafa, Vandoren; Assel, Schäfer-Nameki; CL,
Schäfer-Nameki, Weigand; Choi, Fernandez-Melgarejo, Sugimoto; ...]

Degrees of freedom living on duality defects was studied in

[Martucci; Assel, Schäfer-Nameki]

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM arises as worldvolume theory of D3-brane stack in IIB

\rightarrow coupling τ in 4d comes from 10d axio-dilaton τ^{IIB}

\rightarrow varying axio-dilaton sourced by 7-branes

\rightarrow duality defects are 3–7 strings

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM with Varying Coupling

Consider $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in a background with holomorphically varying τ
→ there is a local $U(1)$ symmetry from background sector

[Bergshoeff, de Roo, de Wit; Maxfield]

→ $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ action must be compensated by $U(1)$ transformation

[Bachas, Bain, Green; Kapustin, Witten; Martucci; Assel, Schäfer-Nameki]

$$\gamma : \tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \quad \rightarrow \quad e^{i\alpha(\gamma)} \equiv \frac{c\tau + d}{|c\tau + d|} \in U(1)_D$$

We have a $U(1)_D$ connection

$$Q = -\frac{d\tau_1}{2\tau_2}$$

and associated line bundle $\mathcal{L}_D \Rightarrow$ fermions transform as sections of \mathcal{L}_D

→ \mathcal{L}_D is trivial \Rightarrow constant coupling

The gauginos transform under $Spin(1, 3) \times SU(4)_R \times U(1)_D$ as

$$(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{4})_{1/2} \oplus (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, \bar{\mathbf{4}})_{-1/2}$$

A single vector multiplet of abelian $\mathcal{N} = 4$ contributes

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(ch(S_6^+ \otimes \mathcal{L}_D^{1/2}) - ch(S_6^+ \otimes \mathcal{L}_D^{-1/2}) \right) \hat{A}(M_4)$$

S_6^\pm : spin bundles on M_4 under which \pm chirality fermions transform

The anomaly polynomial from each gaugino is

$$I_6^F = \frac{1}{2} c_3(S_6^+) - \frac{1}{2} c_2(S_6^+) c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) + \frac{1}{12} c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)^3 - \frac{1}{12} c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) p_1(M_4)$$

For non-abelian $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM with varying coupling

→ consider theory on Coulomb branch: $G \rightarrow U(1)^{r_G}$

Integrating out massive fermions

⇒ Wess–Zumino interaction terms → contribute to the anomaly

→ for constant coupling contribution is [\[Intriligator\]](#)

$$I_6^{WZ} = \frac{1}{2}(d_G - r_G)c_3(S_6^+)$$

Conjecture: interaction terms contribute in the same way for varying τ

Anomaly polynomial from vector multiplets is

$$I_6 = \frac{1}{2}d_G c_3(S_6^+) - \frac{1}{2}r_G c_2(S_6^+)c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) + \frac{1}{12}r_G c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)^3 - \frac{1}{12}r_G c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)p_1(M_4)$$

There are, in addition, defect modes

→ this is not the complete anomaly polynomial

A theory of class F is specified by $T[C_g, \mathcal{F}, G]$

→ \mathcal{F} denotes data describing the fibration

→ when $C_g = T^2$

$$\mathcal{F} = (f, g, \mathbb{L})$$

→ \mathbb{L} is the *Weierstrass line bundle*

→ f, g are sections of appropriate powers of \mathbb{L}

→ describes τ -profile: how complex structure of T^2 varies over M_4

Note: \mathbb{L} is related to the relative tangent bundle of the fibration

⇒ the connection on \mathbb{L} enters in the 6d spin connection

[Assel, Schäfer-Nameki]

For a fibration $\pi : M_6 \rightarrow M_4$ with $\pi^{-1}(x) = C_g$ then

$$I_6 \supset \int_{\text{fiber}} I_8 = \pi_* I_8$$

For an elliptic fibration $\pi : M_6 \rightarrow M_4$ we

$$\pi_* I_8 = \frac{r_G}{48} \left[\pi_* \left(-p_2(M_6) + \frac{1}{4} p_1(M_6)^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} p_1(N_5) \pi_* p_1(M_6) \right]$$

The spin bundle associated to N_5 , $S(N_5)$, will become an $SO(5)$ subbundle of the $SO(6)$ R-symmetry bundle of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

→ we only see anomalies sensitive to this subbundle

→ the $SO(6)$ R-symmetry is emergent \Rightarrow not seen directly

Determining $I_6 \Rightarrow$ we must calculate these pushforwards

To determine the integral over the fiber of I_8 we need to know the pushforward of polynomials in the Chern classes of M_6 onto M_4

$$\pi_* c(M_6) = 12c_1(\mathbb{L})c(M_4)(1 + \mathcal{O}(c_1(\mathbb{L}), \dots))$$

The prefactor is *universal* – it is identical for any elliptic fibration
→ can compute universal part of I_6 – independent of τ -profile

One finds

$$I_6 = \pi_* I_8 = \left[-\frac{1}{2} r_G c_2(S(N_5)) c_1(\mathbb{L}) - \frac{1}{24} (-6r_G) c_1(\mathbb{L}) p_1(M_4) + \dots \right]$$

Comparison with the direct, bulk(!), 4d anomaly polynomial

$$I_6 = \left[-\frac{1}{2} r_G c_2(S_6^+) c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) - \frac{1}{24} (2r_G) c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) p_1(M_4) + \dots \right]$$

Given $\mathbb{L} = \mathcal{L}_D$ [Assel, Schäfer-Nameki]

→ first term is identical

→ second term differs by $8r_G$

→ defect degrees of freedom contribute to $c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) p_1(M_4)$ anomaly

→ later: on compactification to 2d, known defect contribution

[CL, Schäfer-Nameki, Weigand]

There is not a universal construction of all $g > 1$ C_g fibrations
→ consider special case of plane curve fibrations

Take a line bundle $\mathcal{J} \rightarrow M_4$ and hypersurface M_6 in the projective bundle

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{J}^a \oplus \mathcal{J}^b)$$

of degree $dH + ec_1(\mathcal{J})$

→ the genus of the fibered curve is

$$g = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2}$$

→ for $g = 1$ line bundle $\mathcal{J} = \mathbb{L}$

→ bundle measures the non-triviality of the fibration

→ connection on \mathcal{J} is $U(1)_D$ connection

The C_g fiber now has non-trivial curvature
→ partial topological twist along the fiber

$$n_1 = 2r - (c_1(M_6) - c_1(M_4) + (e - a - b)c_1(\mathcal{J})), \quad n_2 = 2\alpha$$

→ notice: if fibration is trivial, twist is just with $c_1(C_g) \Rightarrow$ class S

After twisting one can pushforward

$$I_6 = \pi_* I_8 = \kappa_1 c_2(R) c_1(R) + \kappa_2 c_1(R)^3 + \kappa_3 c_1(R) p_1(M_4) + c_1(\mathcal{J})(\dots)$$

Question: intrinsic 4d description of such anomaly polynomials?

Part II: Compactifications to 2d

Specialise: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM where τ varies over 2d subspace of M_4 , Σ
 \Rightarrow 2d chiral SCFTs
 \rightarrow corresponding to D3-branes wrapping Σ in F-theory

Two alternate approaches to compare with:

- 1 abelian $\mathcal{N} = 4$ compactified on Σ with topological duality twist
[Haghighat, Murthy, Vafa, Vandoren; CL, Schäfer-Nameki, Weigand]
Topological duality twist (TDT): To preserve SUSY compensate non-trivial transformation of supercharges under holonomy of C and $U(1)_D$ by R-symmetry transformation. [Martucci]
 \rightarrow explicit reduction of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ vector multiplet
- 2 AdS₃ solutions of F-theory
 \rightarrow Type IIB solutions where 10d axio-dilaton varies over spacetime, with monodromies in the $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ duality group
[Couzens, CL, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki, Wong; Couzens, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki]

AdS₃/CFT₂ Solutions of F-theory

F-theory geometrizes the axio-dilaton ($\tau = C_0 + ie^{-\phi}$) in Type IIB

→ Type IIB $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ S-duality acts on τ [Vafa], [Morrison, Vafa]

→ auxiliary elliptic fibration over compactification space

→ complex structure τ of torus above $b \in B$ is axio-dilaton b

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{E}_\tau & \hookrightarrow & Y \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & B \supset \Sigma \end{array}$$

→ singular fibers \Rightarrow 7-branes sourcing τ

→ elliptic fibration \Rightarrow consistent configuration of (p, q) 7-branes

D3-branes in F-theory

$SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ of axio-dilaton $\Rightarrow SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ Montonen–Olive duality of $\mathcal{N} = 4$

→ natural home of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM with varying coupling

2d SCFTs arise in “string sector” of F-theory

→ D3-branes on $\Sigma \subset B$

Strings of 6d $\mathcal{N} = (1, 0)$ SCFTs

[del Zotto, Lockhart]

- tensionless strings are hallmark of superconformal symmetry in 6d
- instanton part of 6d Nekrasov PF \leftrightarrow elliptic genera of strings

Strings of 6d $\mathcal{N} = (1, 0)$ Supergravities [Haghighat, Murthy, Vafa, Vandoren]

- 5d BPS black holes arise from 6d BPS strings on S^1
- microstate counting of strings in 6d \rightarrow macroscopic entropy

General Solutions for IIB with AdS₃ Factor and (0, 2) SUSY

Consider **general** Type IIB solutions with an AdS_p factor preserving some supersymmetry

→ no previously known solutions with full $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ monodromy

→ for poles in τ^{IIB} see [Couzens], [D'Hoker, Gutperle, Uhlemann]

Dual CFTs can be difficult to understand

(p, q) 7-branes \Rightarrow genuinely non-perturbative effects

General starting point:

$$ds^2 = e^{2A} ds^2(\text{AdS}_3) + ds^2(M_7)$$

$$F_5 = (1 + *)\text{vol}(\text{AdS}_3) \wedge F^{(2)}$$

To preserve (0, 2) SUSY solve Killing spinor equation

$$\nabla_M \epsilon + \frac{i}{192} \Gamma^{P_1 P_2 P_3 P_4} F_{M P_1 P_2 P_3 P_4} \epsilon = 0$$

General solution

[Couzens, CL, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki, Wong]

[Couzens, Martelli, Schäfer-Nameki]

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \hookrightarrow & M_7 \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & M_6 \end{array}$$

S^1 fibration provides $U(1)_r$ R-symmetry of $(0, 2)$

τ variation combines into an auxiliary Kähler elliptic fibration M_8 over M_6 with non-trivial constraint

$$\square_8 R_8 - \frac{1}{2} R_8^2 + R_{8ij} R_8^{ij} = 0$$

First consider more SUSY

$\rightarrow (0, 4)$ SUSY \Rightarrow dual to strings in 6d, F-theory on CY_3

Requiring (0, 4) is highly constrained $A = \text{const}$ and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \hookrightarrow & S^3/\Gamma & & Y_3 & \leftrightarrow & \mathbb{E}_\tau \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ M_6 = & & S^2 & \times & B_2 & & \end{array}$$

Killing spinors transform in $(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1})$ of S^3 isometry

$$SO(4) = SU(2)_r \times SU(2)_L$$

$SU(2)_r \rightarrow$ superconformal R-symmetry

$SU(2)_L \rightarrow$ additional flavour symmetry when $\Gamma = 1$

We preserve the same SUSY for $\Gamma \subset SU(2)_L$ finite subgroup

General F-theory solution of Type IIB SUGRA dual to 2d (0, 4) is

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{E}_7 \hookrightarrow Y_3 \\ \downarrow \\ \text{AdS}_3 \times S^3/\Gamma \times B_2 \end{array}$$

with F_5 flux

$$F_5 = (1 + *)\text{vol}(\text{AdS}_3) \wedge J_B$$

J_B is Kähler form on B Poincaré dual to a curve Σ

$\Rightarrow \Sigma$, wrapped by D3-brane, ample in B

$$\text{Central charge: } c_R = 3N^2 \Sigma \cdot \Sigma + 3N c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma$$

Generalisation of previously known solutions:

$$\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times T^4 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{AdS}_3 \times S^3 \times K3$$

$T[T^2, \mathcal{F}]$ on Σ

Consider $T[T^2, \mathcal{F}]$ on Σ with \mathcal{L}_D supported on Σ

$\rightarrow I_4 = \int_{\Sigma} I_6$ only has contributions from universal part of I_6

$\Sigma \subset B_2 \subset CY_3 \Rightarrow$ R-symmetry bundle decomposes

$$S_6^+ \rightarrow N^+ \otimes U \oplus N^- \otimes \bar{U}$$

$\rightarrow N^{\pm}$: $SU(2)_{\pm}$ bundles – transverse rotations to CY

$\rightarrow U$: $U(1)$ bundle – normal to $\Sigma \subset B_2$

Integrating I_6 :

$$I_4 = d_G \left(c_2(N^-) - c_2(N^+) \right) \int_{\Sigma} c_1(U) \\ - \frac{1}{2} r_G \left(c_2(N^+) + c_2(N^-) - \frac{1}{2} p_1(M_2) \right) \int_{\Sigma} c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)$$

Topological duality twist relates

$$c_1(U) = -\frac{1}{2}c_1(T_\Sigma) + \frac{1}{2}c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)$$

and for 6d supersymmetry [Bianchi, Collinucci, Martucci]

$$\mathcal{L}_D = \mathcal{O}(-K_B)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} I_4 = & c_2(N^-) \left(\frac{1}{2}d_G \Sigma \cdot \Sigma - \frac{1}{2}r_G c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma \right) \\ & + c_2(N^+) \left(-\frac{1}{2}d_G \Sigma \cdot \Sigma - \frac{1}{2}r_G c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{4}r_G c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma p_1(TW_2). \end{aligned}$$

Matches AP for strings in 6d [Berman, Harvery; Shimizu, Tachikawa]

Central charge:

$$c_R = 6k_+ = 3d_G \Sigma \cdot \Sigma + 3r_G c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma$$

Matches AdS₃ supergravity dual

Similar comparisons

→ APs for abelian $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM on $\Sigma \subset B \subset K3, CY_3, CY_4, CY_5$

→ directly from zero-mode spectrum [CL, Schäfer-Nameki, Weigand]

Recall: $\mathcal{N} = 4$ bulk AP differed from AP from integrating I_8 by

$$8r_G c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) p_1(M_4)$$

In 2d this is

$$8r_G c_1(B) \cdot \Sigma p_1(M_4)$$

→ exact gravitational anomaly contribution from defects/3–7 strings

[CL, Schäfer-Nameki, Weigand]

Part III: Extensions

6d Conformal Matter Theories on T^2 Fibration

Recently a large class of 6d (1,0) SCFTs has been found

[Heckman, Morrison, (Rudelius,) Vafa; Bhardwaj]

→ can equally consider compactifications on fiber of C_g fibration

In [Ohmori, Shimizu, Tachikawa, Yonekura] shown that compactification of 6d (2,0) of type G on punctured S^2 is the same as (G, G) minimal conformal matter [Del Zotto, Heckman, Tomasiello, Vafa] on T^2

→ the reduction on a T^2 fibration should be in class F

→ generalised bifundamental with varying coupling

$I_8^{(G,G)}$ known from [Ohmori, Shimizu, Tachikawa, Yonekura] and

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_* I_8^{(G,G)} = & \left[\frac{N}{2} (|\Gamma|(r_G + 1) - 2) - \frac{d_G}{2} \right] c_2(R)c_1(\mathbb{L}) + \left[\frac{N}{4} - \frac{d_G}{24} \right] c_1(\mathbb{L})p_1(B) \\ & - \left[\frac{1}{4} \left(\text{tr}_{\text{adj}} F_0^2 + \text{tr}_{\text{adj}} F_N^2 \right) \right] c_1(\mathbb{L}) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Duality twisted compactification to 2d on Σ agrees with

[Apruzzi, Hassler, Heckman, Melnikov]

1 Conclusions

→ Duality defects \Rightarrow new terms in anomaly polynomial of 4d SUSY theories

$$I_6 = \frac{1}{2}d_G c_3(\mathcal{S}_6^+) - \frac{1}{2}r_G c_2(\mathcal{S}_6^+)c_1(\mathcal{L}_D) - \frac{1}{24}(-6r_G)c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)p_1(T_4) - \frac{61}{4}r_G c_1(\mathcal{L}_D)^3$$

→ Seen by reducing 6d (2, 0) AP along fiber of C_g fibration

→ for T^2 fibration, interpretation as $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM with varying coupling

→ 4d theories compactified on Σ match known AdS₃ duals

2 Future Directions

→ Punctures – anomaly analysis as in [Bah, Nardoni]

→ Realisations of hyperelliptic fibrations – general $\mathcal{N} = 2$ theories

→ Duality defects

→ Fibral dimensional reductions of different theories – 6d $\mathcal{N} = (1, 0), \dots$