

# Holography & a codimension-2 defect CFT

Dimitrios Zoakos

University of Patras



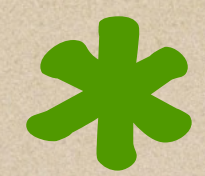
UNIVERSITY OF  
**PATRAS**  
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΠΑΤΡΩΝ

December 2025, Athens Xmas Workshop

Based on work with G. Georgiou & G. Linardopoulos

JHEP 09 (2025) 105 (arXiv:2506.14505) & in progress

# Synopsis



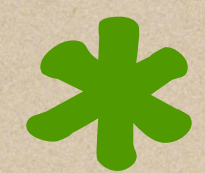
Motivation - state of the art



The D5-brane - Embedding & BF bound



Holographic 1pt function of  $T_{\mu\nu}$



Holographic 1pt function of chiral primary operators



Field theory approach & 1pt functions at weak coupling



Comparing strong & weak coupling results



Conclusions & future directions

# Motivation - state of the art

CFT dynamics in the presence of defects describes a plethora of physical systems, e.g. boundaries/interfaces to objects such as WL, strings and branes.

Defect breaks, partially or even completely, the conformal symmetry of the ambient CFT  $\Rightarrow$  renders the calculation of observables much more involved



Characteristics  
of the dCFT

{ defect preserves some amount of SUSY?  
BC's associated with the defect are integrable?  
co-dimension of the defect?

Main focus  $\Rightarrow$  codimension-2 defects in the context of gauge/gravity duality

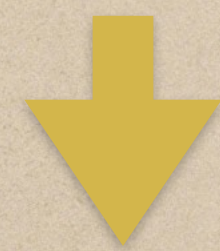
AdS/CFT  $\Rightarrow$  defects correspond to extended objects in the bulk  $\Rightarrow$  e.g. probe branes wrapping appropriate submanifolds of the  $AdS_5 \times S^5$



Codimension-1 case: D3/D5 brane intersection

Defect in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  is realized by a stack of D3-branes ending on a D5-brane, preserving  $\mathcal{N}=(4,4)$  supersymmetry on the defect.

Holographic dual: Probe D5-brane wrapping  $AdS_4 \times S^2$  inside  $AdS_5 \times S^5$



Codimension-2 case

Natural holographic duals are branes with a worldvolume that contains an  $AdS_3$  factor and wraps internal cycles



encodes the conformal symmetry on the defect



Codimension-2 case: Gukov-Witten defect

Holographic description: a probe D3 wrapping an  $AdS_3 \times S^1$  - preserves 1/2 SUSY

FT side: classical solutions with non-zero diagonal vevs for some of the scalar fields

Vevs exhibit a simple pole on the defect  $\Rightarrow$  Spacetime dependence dictated by  
conformal invariance



Very limited list of examples

# The D5-brane

The symmetry of the induced metric is

$AdS_3 \times S^1 \times S^2$  & it ends on 2d

submanifold on the boundary of  $AdS$

Embedding ansatz

Depends on 2 parameters

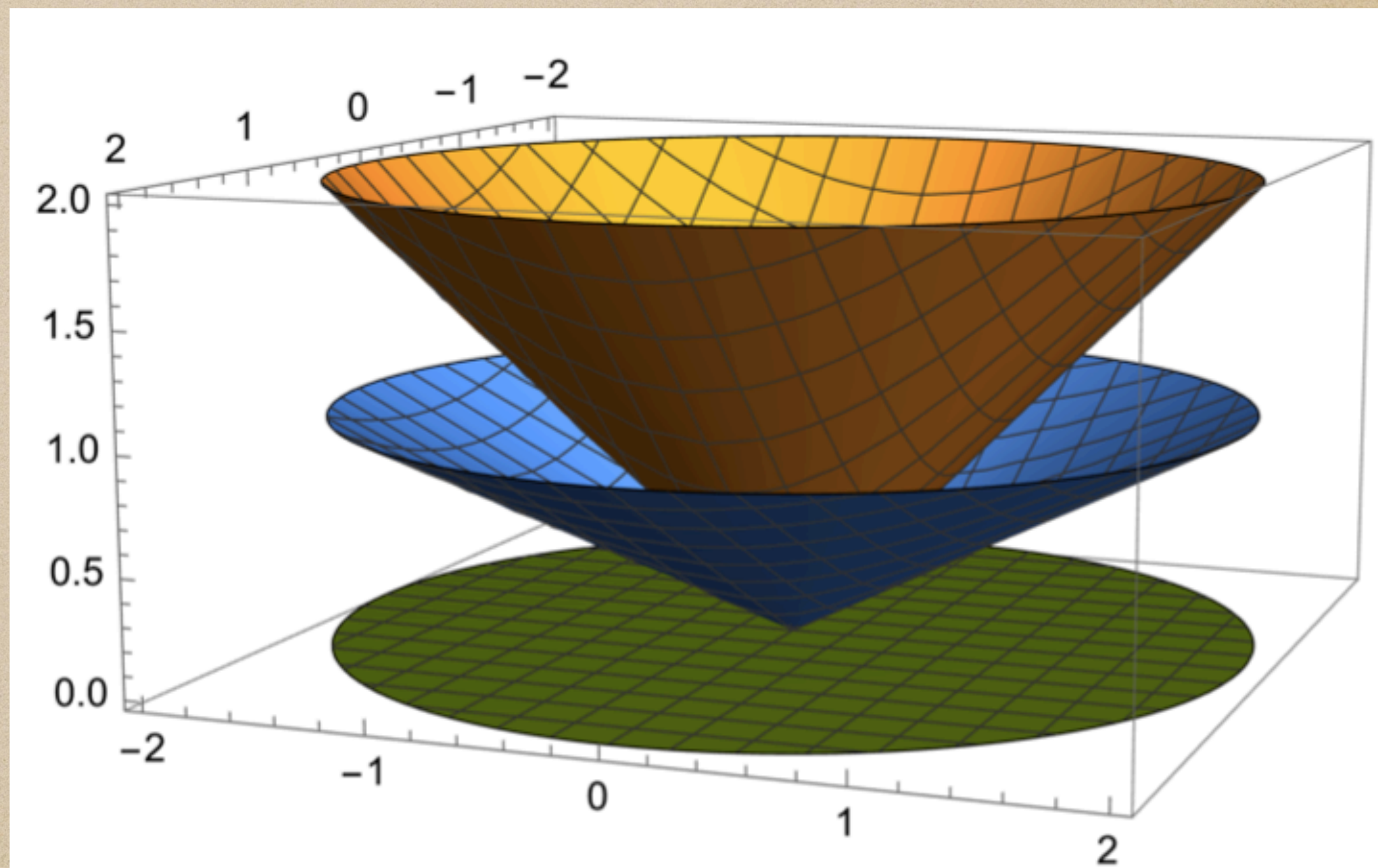
$$\tilde{\psi} = 0, \quad \tilde{\beta} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \tilde{\gamma} = 0 \quad \& \quad z = \sigma r$$

$$A = \frac{\kappa}{2\pi\alpha'} \cos\beta d\gamma \quad \text{with} \quad \kappa = -\frac{4 + \sigma^2}{\sigma\sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} \quad (0 < \sigma < 2\sqrt{2})$$

Horizontal green plane  $\Rightarrow$  boundary of  $AdS$

& vertical axis  $\Rightarrow$  holographic coordinate  $z$ .

	$x_0$	$x_1$	$r$	$\psi$	$z$	$\tilde{\psi}$	$\tilde{\beta}$	$\tilde{\gamma}$	$\beta$	$\gamma$
D3	•	•	•	•						
D5 probe	•	•	•	•					•	•



D5-brane with  $x_0, x_1, \beta$  &  $\gamma$  suppressed

Blue surface  $\Rightarrow$  D5 brane & the orange is the critical surface after which the D5 becomes unstable.



From the figure depicting the D5-brane

D5-brane intersects AdS bdy at  $z=r=0 \Rightarrow$  defect is a 2-dimensional plane  $\mathbb{R}^{(1,1)}$  that extends along 2/4 directions of the boundary ( $x_0$  &  $x_1$ )  $\Rightarrow$  defect of codim-2

To quantize the flux impose  $\Rightarrow k = - \int_{S^2} \frac{F}{2\pi} \Rightarrow k = \frac{\kappa}{\pi\alpha'} = \frac{\kappa\sqrt{\lambda}}{\pi}$

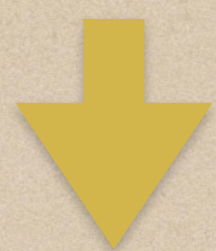


The induced metric on the D5-brane, after a change of variables

$$ds_{ind}^2 = \frac{1 + \sigma^2}{\sigma^2} \frac{-dx_0^2 + dx_1^2 + d\hat{r}^2}{\hat{r}^2} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} d\psi^2 + d\beta^2 + \sin^2 \beta d\gamma^2$$

$AdS_3 \times S^1 \times S^2$  symmetry of the D5 brane becomes apparent

Examine the stability of the solution  $\Rightarrow$  fluctuations of the transverse coordinates acquire masses which are **above** the BF bound  $\Rightarrow m^2 \geq -1$



From the point of view of the D5-brane these fluctuations behave as scalars propagating on  $AdS_3$

Introduce fluctuations around the D5-brane solution for the world-volume gauge field & for transverse coordinates

Interested in the time evolution of the fluctuations (detect tachyon instabilities)  $\Rightarrow$  dependence only on the time coordinate  $x_0$



Transformation from time  $x_0$  to proper time  $s$

$$\delta z''(s) - \sigma^2 \delta z(s) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad m_z^2 = -\sigma^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sigma \leq 1$$



puts a **stronger constraint** than  $\sigma \leq 2\sqrt{2}$

EOMs for  $\delta\tilde{\beta}$ ,  $\delta\tilde{\gamma}$  and  $\delta A$  are trivially satisfied and EOM for  $\delta\tilde{\psi}$  does not put any further constraint on  $\sigma$

# Holographic 1pt function of $T_{\mu\nu}$



important observable

Codimension 2 defect

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle = 0$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{theory without any defect} \\ \text{Codimension 1 defect} \end{array} \right.$



Conformal invariance constrains space-time structure up to a function  $\mathbf{h}(g_{YM}, N)$

$\mu, \nu = 0, 1$ : coordinates  
along the surface defect  
 $R^2$  embedded in  $R^4$

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \mathbf{h} \frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}}{r'^4}, \quad \langle T_{ij} \rangle = \frac{\mathbf{h}}{r'^4} (4 n_i n_j - 3 \delta_{ij}) \quad \& \quad \langle T_{\mu i} \rangle = 0$$

$r' \Rightarrow$  radial distance  
of the position of  
 $T_{\mu\nu}$  from the defect

Choosing the position of the operator  
 $T_{\mu\nu}$  at the boundary to be  $x^m = \{0, 0, 0, r'\}$



Unit vector normal to the defect

$$\langle T_{00} \rangle = \langle T_{11} \rangle = \langle T_{33} \rangle = \frac{\mathbf{h}}{r'^4} \quad \& \quad \langle T_{22} \rangle = -3 \frac{\mathbf{h}}{r'^4} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \langle T^m_m \rangle = 0$$

$\mathfrak{h}$  contains the particularities of the specific defect CFT  $\Rightarrow$  Calculation at strong coupling using holography



$T_{ij}$  is dual to the fluctuations of the AdS metric  $g_{mn} = \hat{g}_{mn} + \delta g_{mn}$

1pt function of the SE tensor in the presence of a "heavy" object (Dp-brane) is

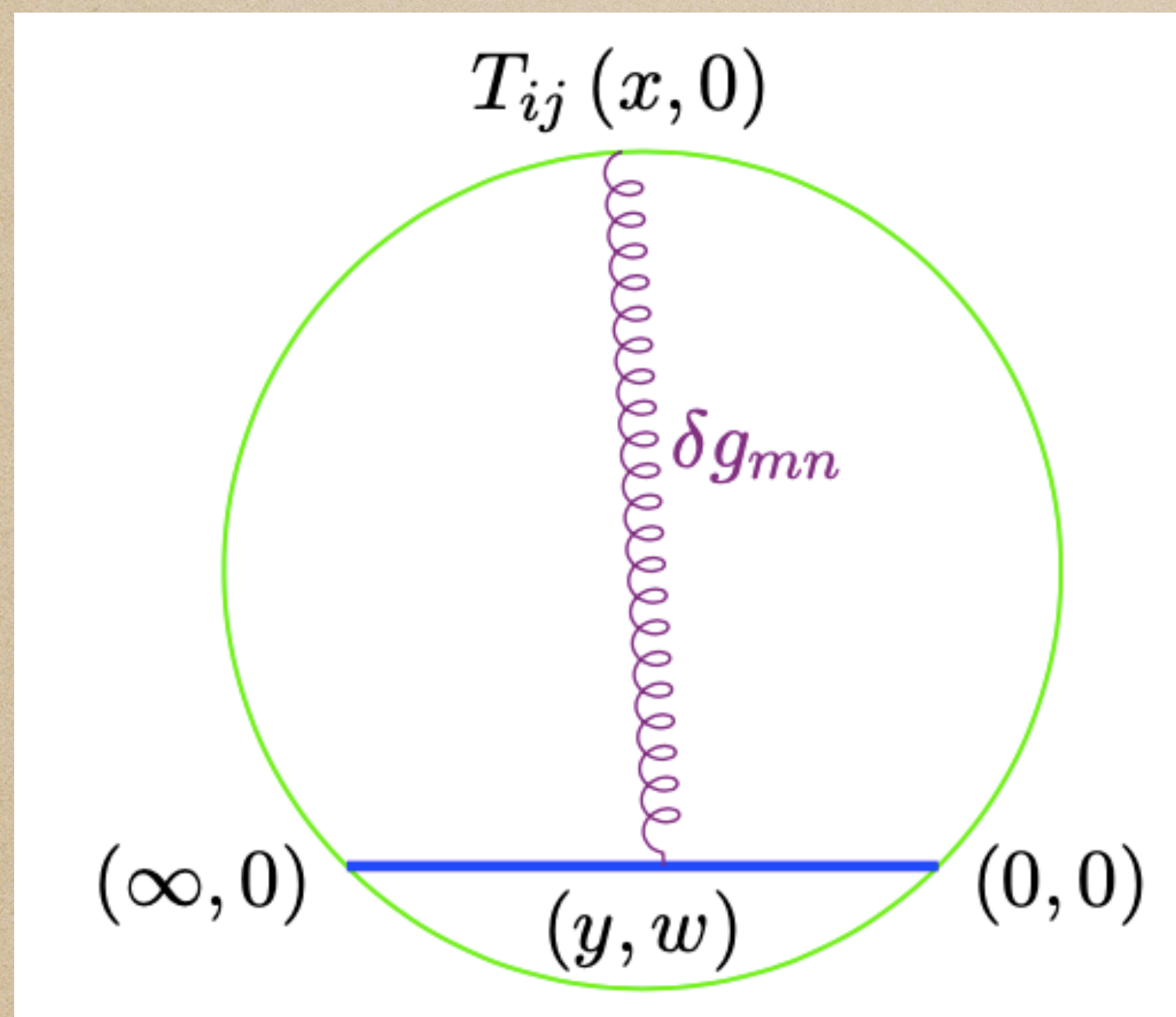
$$\langle T_{ij}(x) \rangle_{\text{brane}} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \delta g_{ij}(x, z) \cdot \frac{1}{Z_{\text{brane}}} \int D\Upsilon e^{-S_{\text{brane}}[\Upsilon]} \right\rangle_{\text{bulk}}$$



At strong coupling, path integral is **dominated by a saddle point**  $\Rightarrow$  corresponds to the classical solutions  $\Upsilon_{c1}$  describing the embedding of the Dp-brane

Expanding the Dp-brane action around the classical solution, cancels the partition function and the 1pt function becomes

$$\langle T_{ij}(x) \rangle_{\text{brane}} = - \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \delta g_{ij}(x, z) \cdot \left( \frac{\partial S_{\text{brane}}[\mathbb{Y}_{\text{cl}}]}{\partial \delta g_{mn}} \Big|_{\delta g_{mn}=0} \cdot \delta g_{mn}(y, w) \right) \right\rangle_{\text{bulk}}$$



$T_{\mu\nu}$  sits at the point  $(x, 0)$  on the boundary of AdS &  $(y, w)$  is a point on the Dp-brane

Generic variation of a probe Dp-brane action with respect to  $g_{mn}$

$$\frac{\partial S_{\text{brane}}[\mathbb{Y}]}{\partial \delta g_{mn}} = \frac{T_p}{2g_s} \int d^{p+1} \zeta \sqrt{h} h^{ab} \partial_a \mathbb{Y}^m \partial_b \mathbb{Y}^n$$

Substitute everything in the expression for the 1pt func of  $T_{\mu\nu} \Rightarrow$  use the classical solution for the Dp brane & the bulk-to-boundary propagator for the graviton



perform a 6-dimensional integral

$$\langle T_{22} \rangle = -3 \langle T_{00} \rangle = -3 \langle T_{11} \rangle = -3 \langle T_{33} \rangle = -3 \left[ -\frac{\lambda^{3/2} (2\sigma^2 + 1)}{6\pi^3 \sigma^3 \sqrt{8 - \sigma^2} g_{YM}^2} \right] \frac{1}{r'^4}$$

**h**<sup>strong</sup>

This result has precisely the form that is dictated by conformal invariance

# Holographic 1pt function of chiral primary operators

The 1pt function is non-zero only when the CPO respects the  $SO(3) \times SO(3)$  symmetry of the defect brane  $\Rightarrow$  choose the proper spherical harmonic



one of the most important data in defect CFTs

perturb the Euclidean action

$$\mathcal{L}_{DBI}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\det H} \left( H_{sym}^{-1} \right)^{ab} \partial_a X^M \partial_b X^N h_{MN} \quad \& \quad \frac{\mathcal{L}_{WZ}^{(1)}}{2\pi\alpha'} = F_{\beta\gamma} \frac{1}{4!} \epsilon^{abcd} (Pa)_{abcd}$$

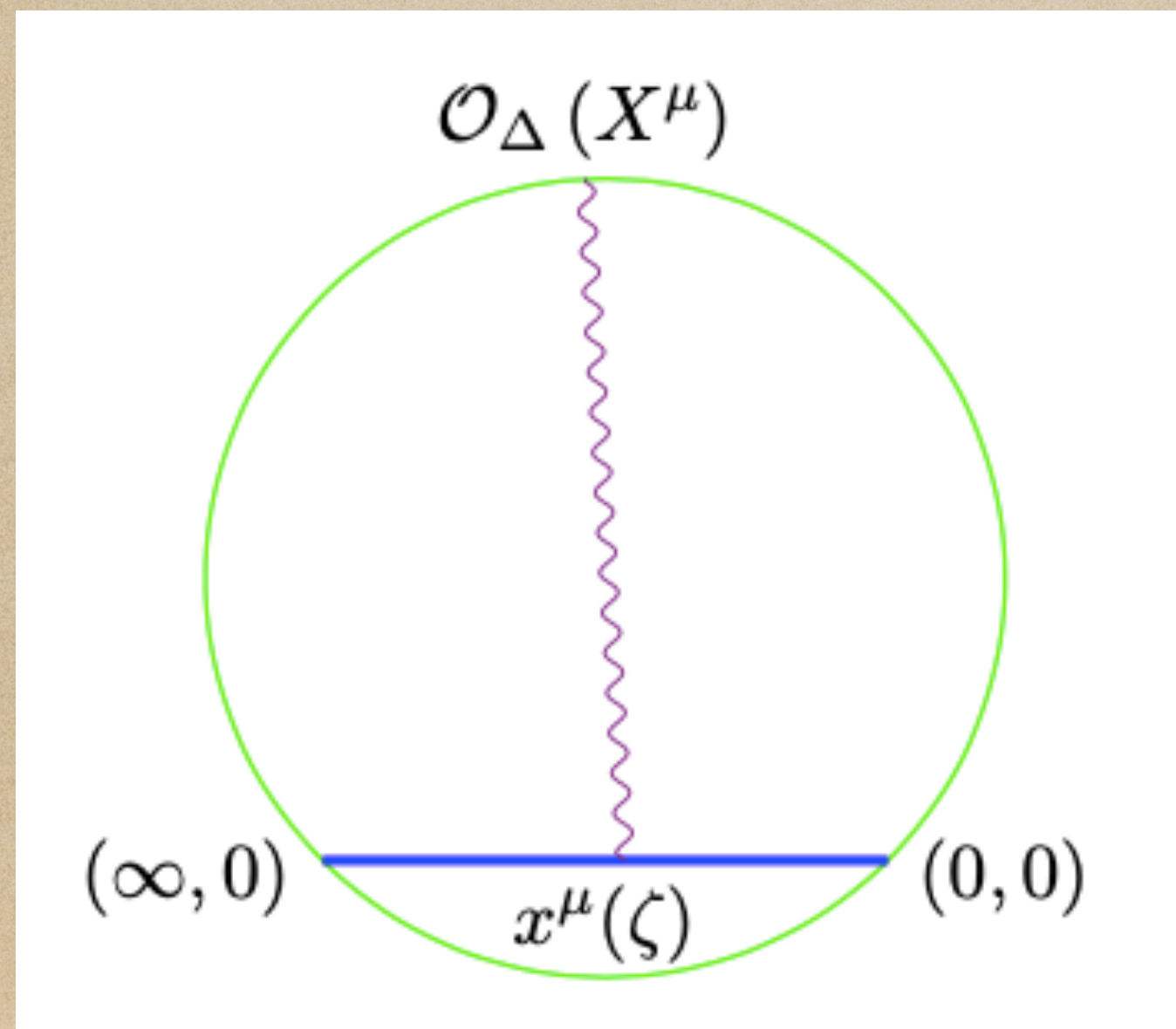
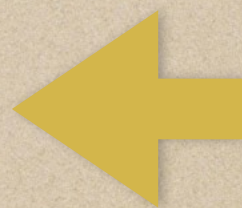
induced metric on the D5

$h_{\mu\nu}$  &  $a_4$ : fluctuations of the metric & of the RR form in terms of the SUGRA field which is dual to the CPO

CPO is located at the boundary point

$$X^\mu = (X_0, X_1, r', \psi', 0)$$

$x^\mu(\zeta)$  denotes an arbitrary point on the D5 brane  
Wavy line represents the fluctuations of the metric & of the 4-form.



1st order fluctuation of the DBI term, for the specific D5-brane embedding ansatz

$$\mathcal{L}_{DBI}^{(1)} = \frac{-\Delta s \sin \beta}{2 r^3 \sigma^3 \sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} \left[ 40 + \frac{16 \sigma^2}{K^2} \left[ (x_0 - X_0)^2 + (x_1 - X_1)^2 + r^2(1 + \sigma^2) + r'^2 \right]^2 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{32}{\sigma^2} + \left[ 17 \sigma^2 - \frac{32(1 + \sigma^2)}{K} \left[ (x_0 - X_0)^2 + (x_1 - X_1)^2 + r^2(1 + \sigma^2) + r'^2 \right] \right] \right]$$

SUGRA field  $s$  which is dual to the CPO

$$K = z^2 + (x_0 - X_0)^2 + (x_1 - X_1)^2 + r^2 + r'^2 - 2 r r' \cos(\psi - \psi')$$



Substitute the value of  $s$  & start integrating with respect to  $x_0, x_1, r, \psi, \beta$  &  $\gamma$

$$\mathcal{L}_{DBI}^{Contribution} = + \frac{1}{r'^{\Delta}} \frac{2^{4-\Delta} \pi^3}{(1 + \Delta) \sigma \sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} \left[ \Xi_1 \Psi_1 + \Xi_2 \Psi_2 + \Xi_3 \Psi_3 \right] c_{\Delta} Y_{\Delta}(0)$$

$$\Xi_1 = \frac{8(5\Delta^2 + \Delta - 4)\sigma^2 + \Delta(17\Delta - 15)\sigma^4 + 32\Delta(\Delta + 1)}{(1 - \Delta)\sigma^2}$$

$$\Xi_2 = 32(\Delta\sigma^2 + \Delta + 1), \quad \Xi_3 = -16\Delta\sigma^2$$

$$\Xi_4 = (1 - \Delta)\sigma^2, \quad \Xi_5 = \Delta - \Xi_4$$

$P_\delta^{|k|}(x)$ : associated Legendre polynomials

$$\Psi_1 = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\chi \sin^{\Delta-3} \chi P_{\Delta-2}^{(0)} \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sin^2 \chi} \right)$$

$$\Psi_2 = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\chi \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sin^2 \chi} \sin^{\Delta-3} \chi P_{\Delta-1}^{(0)} \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sin^2 \chi} \right)$$

$$\Psi_3 = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\chi \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sin^2 \chi \right] \sin^{\Delta-3} \chi P_{\Delta}^{(0)} \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sin^2 \chi} \right)$$

$\Psi_1, \Psi_2$  &  $\Psi_3$  cannot be calculated for generic values of  $\Delta$ ;  
however, for specific values of  $\Delta$  the integrals can be performed

WZ contribution



$$\mathcal{L}_{WZ}^{(1)} = 4i\kappa \sin\beta \sqrt{g^{AdS}} \left[ g^{zz} \partial_z - \sigma g^{rr} \partial_r \right] s$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{WZ}^{Contribution} = \frac{1}{r'^{\Delta}} \frac{2^{7-\Delta} \pi^3 (4 + \sigma^2)}{(\Delta - 1) \sigma^3 \sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} \left[ \Xi_4 \Psi_2 + \Xi_5 \Psi_1 \right] c_{\Delta} Y_{\Delta}(0)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_\Delta(r') \rangle^{(strong)} = \frac{i^\Delta 2^{-\Delta - \frac{3}{2}}}{\pi \sqrt{\Delta}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta + 2}{\Delta + 1}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\Delta - 1} \frac{1}{r'^\Delta} \\ \times \left[ (9\Delta^2 - 15\Delta + 8) \Psi_1 - 8(\Delta - 1)(3\Delta - 1)\Psi_2 + 16(\Delta - 1)\Delta\Psi_3 \right]$$



For  $\Delta = 4$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_4(r') \rangle^{(strong)} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{16 \sqrt{15} \pi} \frac{1}{r'^4} \frac{1 + \sigma^2}{\sigma^5 \sqrt{8 - \sigma^2}} (5\sigma^4 + 56\sigma^2 + 96)$$



straightforward to evaluate the result for CPOs of arbitrary large  $\Delta$

# Field theory approach & 1pt functions at weak coupling

What is the dual to the D5-brane defect CFT?

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4} = \frac{2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \text{tr} \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \varphi_i)^2 + \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \not{D} \psi + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \Gamma^{i+3} [\varphi_i, \psi] + \frac{1}{4} [\varphi_i, \varphi_j]^2 \right\}$$



EOMs of the bosonic fields with  $A_\mu = 0$

$$[\partial_\nu \varphi_i, \varphi_i] = 0 \quad \& \quad \partial^\mu \partial_\mu \varphi_i = [\varphi_j, [\varphi_j, \varphi_i]] \quad \xrightarrow{\varphi_i(r')} \quad \frac{d^2 \varphi_i}{dr'^2} + \frac{1}{r'} \frac{d\varphi_i}{dr'} = [\varphi_j, [\varphi_j, \varphi_i]]$$

Ansatz that solves the EOMs



FT dual of the D5-probe

$$\varphi_i = 0 \quad \& \quad \varphi_{i+3} = \varphi_{i+3}^{\text{cl}}(r') = \frac{1}{r'} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} (t_i)_{k \times k} & 0_{k \times (N-k)} \\ 0_{(N-k) \times k} & 0_{(N-k) \times (N-k)} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times N} \quad \text{with } i = 1, 2, 3$$

## Comments

- ◆ The choice of the solution is **dictated** by the fact the D5-brane sits at  $\tilde{\psi} = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  implies that only the 3 scalars related to  $S^2(\beta, \gamma)$  should have non-zero vevs  
 $\Rightarrow \varphi_4, \varphi_5$  &  $\varphi_6$
- ◆  $t_i$  realise a  $k$ -dimensional irreducible representation of  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$
- ◆ In the dual gravity description,  $k$  corresponds to the integer flux through the  
 $S^2(\beta, \gamma) \subset S^5$
- ◆ Solution scales as  $\frac{1}{r'}$   $\Rightarrow$  Manifestation of the conformal symmetry
- ◆ the symmetry of the brane is  $AdS_3 \times S^1 \Rightarrow$  existence of  $S^1$ - related to the angle  
 $\psi \Rightarrow$  expectation value of the scalar fields **should not depend** on  $\psi$

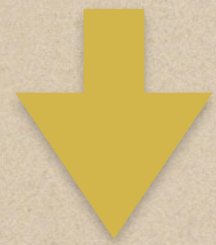
# 1pt function of $T_{\mu\nu}$ at weak coupling

The relevant part of  $T_{\mu\nu}$  containing only scalars

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{scalars})} = \frac{2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \cdot \text{tr} \left\{ \frac{2}{3} (\partial_\mu \varphi_i) (\partial_\nu \varphi_i) - \frac{1}{3} \varphi_i (\partial_\mu \partial_\nu \varphi_i) - \frac{1}{6} \eta_{\mu\nu} \left[ (\partial_\rho \varphi_i)^2 + \frac{1}{2} [\varphi_i, \varphi_j]^2 \right] \right\}$$

↑  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 6$

Substituting the classical solution  
we obtain the form that is dictated  
from conformal invariance


$$\mathbf{h}^{(\text{weak})} = -\frac{1}{48g_{\text{YM}}^2} (k^2 - 1)k$$

# 1pt function of chiral primary operators at weak coupling

Symmetry of D5-brane  $\Rightarrow$  only operators respecting the  $SO(3) \times SO(3)$  symmetry can have non-zero 1pf

The most generic CPO of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM can be written as

$$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta I}(x) \equiv \frac{(8\pi^2)^{\frac{\Delta}{2}}}{\lambda^{\frac{\Delta}{2}} \sqrt{\Delta}} C_I^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta} \text{Tr} \left[ \varphi_{i_1}(x) \varphi_{i_2}(x) \dots \varphi_{i_\Delta}(x) \right]$$

Scalars of the theory

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1 I_1}(x) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_2 I_2}(y) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{I_1 I_2} \delta_{\Delta_1 \Delta_2}}{|x - y|^{2\Delta_1}} \iff \sum_{i_1 \dots i_\Delta = 1}^6 C_{I_1}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta} C_{I_2}^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta} = \delta_{I_1 I_2}$$

Tensors  $C_I^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta}$  are symmetric and traceless in the indices  $i_1 \dots i_\Delta$

Normalization for  $C_I^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta}$  implies the normalization of 2pf of the operators

Spherical harmonics of  $S^5$  can be written as  $\Rightarrow Y_{\Delta I} = C_I^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_\Delta} \hat{x}_{i_1} \hat{x}_{i_2} \dots \hat{x}_{i_\Delta}$

Substitute the classical solution



$\hat{x}_i$ 's are components  
of a unit vector

$$\hat{x}_1^2 + \hat{x}_2^2 + \hat{x}_3^2 = s_{\tilde{\psi}}^2$$

$$\hat{x}_3^2 + \hat{x}_4^2 + \hat{x}_4^2 = c_{\tilde{\psi}}^2$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^6 \hat{x}_i^2 = 1$$

For each even  $\Delta = 2l$  there is a unique  $SO(3) \times SO(3)$  symmetric CPO  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\Delta(x')$



$$\langle \mathcal{O}_\Delta(x') \rangle^{(weak)} = \frac{(8\pi^2)^{\frac{\Delta}{2}} (k^2 - 1)^{\Delta/2} k}{\lambda^{\frac{\Delta}{2}} \sqrt{\Delta} (2\sqrt{2}r')^\Delta} Y_\Delta(0)$$

# Comparing **strong** & **weak coupling** results

Agreement between the leading term in the expressions for the weak & strong

coupling in the limit  $\frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} = \frac{\kappa}{\pi} \gg 1$

non-trivial test of the correspondence



Similar agreement for the CPOs in the codim-1 SUSY D3-D5 & non-SUSY D3-D7

Situation reminiscent of the BMN limit  $\Rightarrow$  engineer a quantity (here:  $\frac{\lambda}{k^2}$ ,

BMN:  $\frac{\lambda}{J^2}$ ) which can be taken to be small at weak/strong coupling



Then one compares the observables **order by order** in the small quantity

## 1pt function of $T_{\mu\nu}$

$$\frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} = \frac{\kappa}{\pi} \gg 1 \quad \xrightarrow{\kappa = \frac{4+\sigma^2}{\sigma\sqrt{8-\sigma^2}}} \quad \sigma \rightarrow 0 \quad \& \quad k = \frac{\sqrt{2\lambda}}{\pi\sigma} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{h}^{(weak)} = \mathbf{h}^{(strong)} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{24g_{YM}^2} \frac{\lambda^{3/2}}{\pi^3\sigma^3}$$

## 1pt function of CPO's

Expanding weak & strong coupling expressions near  $\sigma = 0$ , we find agreement!!!



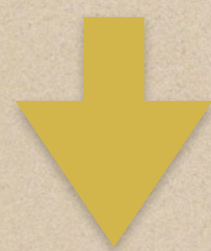
For  $\Delta = 4$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_4(r') \rangle^{(weak)} = \langle \mathcal{O}_4(r') \rangle^{(strong)} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{10}} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\pi\sigma^5} \frac{1}{r'^4} + \dots$$

## Comments:

- ♦ dots denote subleading terms in the large  $\frac{k}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \sim \frac{1}{\sigma}$  expansion -  
generically do not agree between weak and strong coupling
- ♦ we have checked that the agreement persists at least up to  $\Delta = 40$

the leading term of the 1pf for CPOs  
of generic dimension  $\Delta = 2l$  is



$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(r') \rangle^{(weak)} = \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(r') \rangle^{(strong)} = (-1)^{\frac{\Delta}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta+2}{\Delta(\Delta+1)}} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\pi \sigma^{\Delta+1}} \frac{1}{r'^{\Delta}} = (-1)^{\frac{\Delta}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta+2}{\Delta(\Delta+1)}} \frac{\pi^{\Delta} k^{\Delta+1}}{2^{(\Delta+1)/2} \lambda^{\Delta/2}} \frac{1}{r'^{\Delta}}$$

Expression derived by expanding  
the weak coupling result

# Conclusions & future directions

New holographic duality: a non-SUSY defect CFT & its gravity dual

**FT side:** defect is a flat 2d plane  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{(1,1)}$  or  $\mathbb{R}^2$

**Gravity side:** novel solution of a D5 brane depending on a parameter  $0 < \sigma \leq 1 \Rightarrow$  wraps an  $S^2 \subset S^5 \Rightarrow$  carries  $k$  units of flux  $\Rightarrow$  induced metric symmetry  $AdS_3 \times S^1 \times S^2 \Rightarrow$  brane ends on  $\mathbb{R}^{(1,1)} \Rightarrow$  codim-2 defect

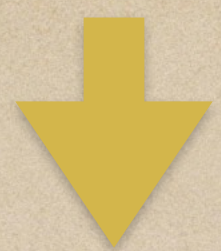
Holographically calculated the 1pf function of  $T_{\mu\nu}$  & CPO

Weak coupling: Calculations using the classical solution that is dual to D5 brane

Appropriate limit  $\Rightarrow$  agreement between the weak & strong coupling results

Agreement provides strong evidence in favor of the proposed duality

In our case  $\langle T^m_m \rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow$  both the spacetime & the defect itself are flat



Generically

2d defect  $(y^a, a = 1, 2)$  embedded in a  $D$ -dim space  $(X^m(y), m = 0, 1, \dots, D-1) \Rightarrow$

Weyl anomaly associated with the defect is

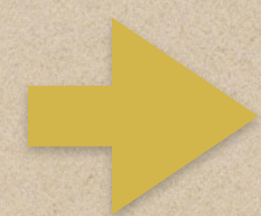
$$\langle T^m_m \rangle_{\text{def}} = -\frac{1}{24\pi} \left( b \mathcal{R}_{\text{def}} + d_1 Y_{ab}^\mu Y_{\mu}^{ab} - d_2 W_{ab}^{ab} \right)$$

defect's intrinsic  
scalar curvature

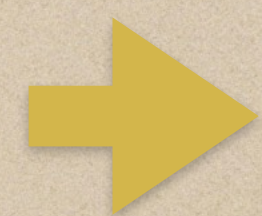
traceless part of the  
second fundamental form

pullback of the Weyl  
tensor to the defect

$b, d_1$  &  $d_2 \Rightarrow$   
defect central  
charges



$$\mathbf{h} = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{3\text{vol}(S^{D-3})} \frac{D-3}{D-1} d_2$$



Strong/weak coupling  
agreement for  $d_2$  Weyl  
anomaly coefficient

$D$  is the # of dimensions that the defect lives  $\Rightarrow D=4$



Future directions

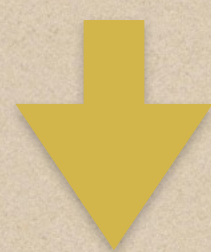
Calculate the remaining anomaly coefficients -  $b$  &  $d_1$

Include a new type of defect D5 brane that interpolates between  
the D3/D3 & D3/D5 intersections

symmetry of the D5 brane  $\Rightarrow AdS_3 \times S^1 \times S^2$

brane solution depends on 2 parameters  $\sigma$  &  $\rho \Rightarrow$  a combination of  $\sigma$  &  $\rho$  determines the value of an angle  $\tilde{\psi}_0 \Rightarrow$  radius of  $S^2/S^1$  is  $\cos \tilde{\psi}_0 / \sin \tilde{\psi}_0$

as the radius of  $S^2$  increases the radius of the  $S^1$  decreases



two endpoints

$$\rho = \sqrt{\frac{8\sigma^2 + 8}{8 - \sigma^2}}$$

$\cos \tilde{\psi}_0 = 1 \Rightarrow$  radius of the  $S^2$  becomes maximal &  $S^1$  shrinks to a point

$$ds_{ind}^2 = \frac{1}{r^2 \sigma^2} (-dx_0^2 + dx_1^2 + (1 + \sigma^2)dr^2) + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} d\psi^2 + (d\beta^2 + \sin^2 \beta d\gamma^2)$$

$\rho \rightarrow 1 \Rightarrow \cos \tilde{\psi}_0 = 0 \Rightarrow$  size of the  $S^2$  goes to zero  $\Rightarrow$  2 of the directions of the D5-brane shrink to zero  $\Rightarrow$  D3-brane

$$ds_{ind}^2 = \frac{1}{r^2 \sigma^2} (-dx_0^2 + dx_1^2 + (1 + \sigma^2)dr^2) + \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}\right) d\tilde{\gamma}^2$$

SUSY D3 brane solution which realizes the gravity dual of the Gukov-Witten surface operators

Thank you

# Supersymmetry

Study Poincare & conformal SUSY's preserved by the solution

Study the SUSY  
variation of the gaugino



# of independent spinors for which the SUSY variation is zero is the # of the preserved (super)-conformal symmetries

CFT metric:  $ds^2 = -(dx^0)^2 + (dx^1)^2 + dr^2 + r^2$  with  $\delta\psi = \left( \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} \Gamma^{\mu\nu} + D_\mu \varphi_i \Gamma^{\mu i+3} - \frac{i}{2} [\varphi_i, \varphi_j] \Gamma^{i+3 j+3} \right) \epsilon_1$   
Poincare SUSY variation

Inserting the classical solution



$\mu$  runs from 0 to 3 while  $i$  runs from 1 to 6

$$\delta\psi = -\frac{x'_2}{r^3} \Gamma^{2,i+6} \epsilon_1 \otimes \mathcal{T}_i - \frac{x'_3}{r^3} \Gamma^{3,i+6} \epsilon_1 \otimes \mathcal{T}_i + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2} r^2} \epsilon_{ijkl} \Gamma^{i+6,j+6} \epsilon_1 \otimes \mathcal{T}_l \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{T}_i = \begin{bmatrix} (t_i)_{k \times k} & 0_{k \times (N-k)} \\ 0_{(N-k) \times k} & 0_{(N-k) \times (N-k)} \end{bmatrix}_{N \times N}$$



focusing on the term proportional to  $\frac{x'^2}{r^3} \Rightarrow \delta\psi = 0 \Rightarrow \Gamma^{2,i+6} \epsilon_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \epsilon_1 = 0$

None of the 16 SUSY's of the background is preserved in the presence of the defect

Analysis of the superconformal SUSY's transformations  $\Rightarrow$  all superconformal symmetries are broken